

City Partners with SMUD to Bring Local Art to Life



Thanks to the CEF, 30 utility and traffic signal boxes have been wrapped throughout the community at 26 different locations. Photo: City of Rancho Cordova

City of Rancho Cordova

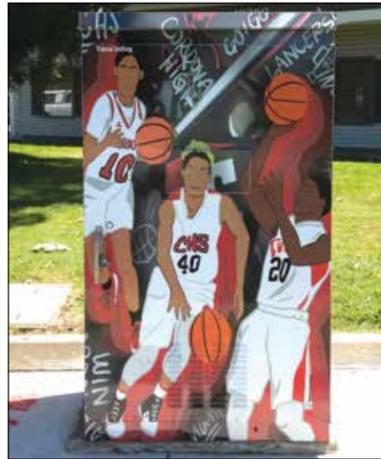
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The City of Rancho Cordova is committed to fostering a beautiful and creative community. To support this commitment, the city, in partnership with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), sought artists from throughout the region to design artwork to wrap 30 utility and traffic signal boxes throughout the community at 26 different locations. The program was supported by the city's Community Enhancement Fund, a half-cent sales tax measure that was approved in 2014.

"We are thrilled to highlight such colorful work designed by regional artists in our community," said Stacy Delaney, Community Enhancement Fund Analyst for the city. "The utility and traffic signal boxes used in the program were strategically selected to ensure that residents from throughout the city would be able to experience and enjoy them."

Each utility or traffic signal box is owned by either SMUD or the city and features colorful images of local landmarks, nature and wildlife, graphic patterns and more.

"We're proud to bring beauty and art to the City of Rancho Cordova," said SMUD Board President Nancy Bui-Thompson. "These types of partnerships highlight the talent, culture and diversity of this region, and we look forward to continued beautification efforts."

Although this art wrap program is the first of its kind in Rancho Cordova, it will not be



Artist Tiana Uding highlights Cordova High School's strong sports legacy. Photo: City of Rancho Cordova

the last.

"We look forward to exploring new and innovative ways to bring art and culture to our city," added Stacy.

Take a virtual tour of the artists' work online or for a full list of locations, visit CityofRanchoCordova.org/CommunityEnhancementFund.

For information about upcoming Community Enhancement Fund projects, follow the city on social media or sign up for our e-newsletter at CityofRanchoCordova.org/ENews. ★

Cooley Focuses on Rancho Cordova

By Margaret Snider

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- State Assemblyman Ken Cooley spoke at Rancho Cordova Luncheon on June 18 – the last in Zoom format. Referring to the Navigators Monument at Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest, Cooley said, "For many decades, the United States Air Force trained the navigators, who understood celestial navigation, long before the days of satellite tracking and GPS," Cooley said, "so that somebody could thread their way through a difficult circumstance and find their way home . . . giving them a safe tomorrow."

Cooley complimented the Cordova Community Council for their part in bearing up the community during hard times. "At this moment we need (the Council) even more, because we've all had to pull back, change our routine," Cooley said. "People have struggled the last year with . . . a much higher degree of isolation and that always makes the problem seem more daunting."

Cooley referred to the poet Rabindranath Tagore, who won the Nobel Prize for literature 108 years ago. "He said something that I think is almost timeless and certainly something we all need right now," Cooley said. He quoted the poet. "I slept and dreamt that life is joy; I awoke and saw that life was service; I acted and behold, service is joy." The assemblyman added, "We all ought to redouble our efforts and renew our devotion to acting in service to others . . . amplifying the joy in people's lives through acts of good works and service."



Ken Cooley

A representative of District 8 since 2012, Cooley was previously a Rancho Cordova city councilman, mayor and is a lawyer with a long experience as a Boy Scout leader. In the Assembly, among other things, he is the Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee, the Chair of the Select Committee on Foster Care, and Chair of the Joint Rules Committee with responsibility for rebuilding California's aging Capitol Annex.

Cooley's commented on his love of natural beauty and tied it in with the proposed development of the 41-acre Kassis property along the American River in Rancho Cordova. The property is valued as a wildlife habitat, especially for waterfowl, and also as a location where local children have been able to experience nature. "I think that is just an absolutely unique piece of ground that is a part of our community," Cooley said. "It's something that the City Council will need to struggle with, what is the right way to balance development with access for something that serves the interests of the entire community. That, of course, is the true mark of serving in public life, this balancing act, of reconciling public values with private values."

One question asked of Cooley concerned the

extensive homeless camps in Rancho Cordova and throughout the State. "I don't know the solution," Cooley said, "I don't sit on the housing committee, but I know they're putting special funds into schools to support homeless kids . . . repurposing entire hotels to accommodate homeless populations . . . and various kinds of wraparound services. I'm very supportive of that. That to me is kind of our own Rancho model." Another question addressed the difficulty finding affordable housing for people on small, fixed incomes. Cooley supports a return to some component of affordable housing in every housing development. "Policies need to provide a place for all people," Cooley said.

In the prefatory remarks to Cooley's address, Diann Rogers, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked Cooley for voting against several anti-business bills in the Assembly. With the return of open business, Rogers said, "What businesses need are customers. Be customers."

Cordova Community Council executive director Shelly Blanchard declared, "The Rancho Cordova Luncheon will return to the American River Room in City Hall next month, July 16. We are working up a special treat for that luncheon, but you are on notice that (the luncheon) cannot be attended in your jammies any longer."

For more information on Cooley's representation in District 8, see official site at <https://a08.asmdc.org/>. His local office is at Rancho Cordova City Hall, Suite 130. Official phone number is (916) 319-2008. ★

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