



Kimba Madsen, Hilary McCurry and Maggie Langhorn paint together at Sunday's event. Volunteers were assigned shifts and worked in small groups over the weekend to maintain safety and distance.

Painting gets underway led by Muralism at Ash Avenue Boathouse

PHOTOS BY ROBIN KARLSSON

Approximately 70 volunteers of all ages rolled up their sleeves, grabbed their brushes and got to painting this weekend as the nonprofit Muralism began work on the Ash Avenue Boathouse mural honoring late Carpinteria artist Ray Cole.

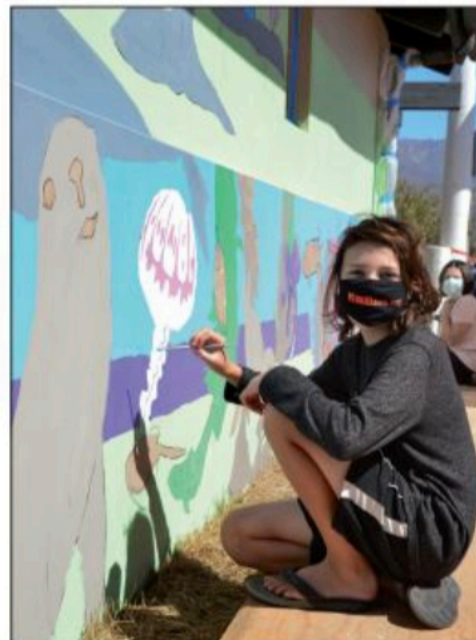
Muralism is dedicated to connecting people with special needs to the community through art. Before the volunteers began painting, paid artists with special needs covered the sidewalks and pressure washed and primed the walls, and then the Muralism team created a paint-by-numbers guide in charcoal on the walls for the volunteers to follow.

Muralism founder and executive director Ernie Merlán said the atmosphere over the weekend was peaceful and nostalgic, with many volunteers sharing their memories of Cole. Volunteers painted in groups of six to 10 at a time to allow for social distancing, and some even brought pieces of Cole's artwork to share with one another during their shifts.

The Boathouse mural is set to be complete by the end of April. To learn more about Muralism and get involved with future community paint days, contact ernie@muralism.org.



Muralism executive director Ernie Merlán, operations manager Sara Cohen, project manager Greg Perea and guest lead artist Kit Brown helped oversee the project.



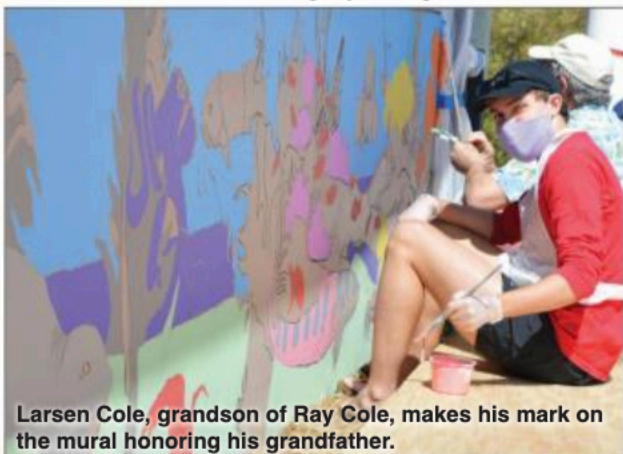
Noah Wade paints a jellyfish while his sister Hannah is painting in the background. The mural features many native marine species and will include a legend so kids can learn about local wildlife.



Marlene Hazen fills in sections of kelp forest that make up the lower half of the marine-themed mural.



Muralism founder Ernie Merlán holds up one portion of the charcoal guide that the team transferred onto the walls of the Boathouse building. Once the paint-by-numbers guide is transferred, volunteers begin painting.



Larsen Cole, grandson of Ray Cole, makes his mark on the mural honoring his grandfather.



Saturday afternoon's volunteers celebrate their work alongside Muralism staff members.