

# 2014 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

## The Lemon Grove History Mural



*The Lemon Grove History Mural installed on the wall of the 1912 bakery building*

The Lemon Grove History Mural is a public benefit project of the Lemon Grove Historical Society, involving the creation by local artists of a 65-foot wide by 18-foot high, five-panel mural depicting the history of the community from prehistory to modern times. The mural is located in the heart of Lemon Grove on the south wall of the historic 1912 Mission Revival bakery building. The mural, the city's first public art installation, interprets the history of the community, promotes a sense of place, and engenders concern for protecting historical resources.

Lemon Grove was officially incorporated in 1977, but the place name as noted on the original train depot dates back to 1888, while the subdivision known as "Lemon Grove" had its origins in 1869. Long before that, the area was inhabited in the late Stone Age (10,000 BCE) by the San Dieguito Complex people. About 1,500 to 1,200 BCE a new group of Yunan-speaking people arrived in the region from the Colorado River Basin and became known by the Spanish *conquistadores* as the Diegueno cultures. All of this history is interpreted through the History Mural panels: Panel 1—World of the Kumeyaay; Panel 2—Spanish Conquest of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century; Panel 3—Mexican Empire 1821-1846; Panel 4—Birth of Lemon Grove 1890-1910; Panel 5—Modern Lemon Grove.

Two local artists, Kathleen Strzelecki and Janne LaValle, developed the artistic concept based on project director Helen Ofield's consultation with historians in the San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego History Center, and San Diego State University. The History Mural faces south and must withstand almost constant sun. The project team consulted with the Getty Museum in Santa Monica, and the City of Los Angeles Public Works Division on the types of paints and coatings suitable for the project. Local businesses and the Public Works division of the City of Lemon Grove donated space in which to paint the panels. The Ohlund family of Lemon Grove gave permission to install the mural on the side of their historic 1912 building that anchors the city's business district. An all-volunteer team, including civic employees from Public Works, installed the panels. Funding came from multiple donations ranging from \$5 to \$5,000. Major supporters included among others, the City of Lemon Grove, the Barona Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Luiseno Band, Viejas Enterprises, General Atomics, and New Pacific Productions.

The History Mural promotes community pride and has become a destination point for school groups, and public tours. The mural makes fine art and historical content accessible for all, regardless of educational or economic background. The two mural artists have continued their unique public service by advising five area schools on the creation of campus murals. The History Mural is in the heart of the City's redevelopment area, which features the Main Street Promenade. The City has installed signage directing people to the History Mural, and will extend the Promenade south to the city line and include signage for historic sites and areas along the path.

View more images of the Lemon Grove History Mural, and get directions to the site:

[http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMJE0Z\\_Lemon\\_Grove\\_History\\_4\\_Murals\\_Lemon\\_Grove\\_CA](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMJE0Z_Lemon_Grove_History_4_Murals_Lemon_Grove_CA)