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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barn Swallows mural completed at the Olympic Pool

Kerrville, Texas (June 28, 2021) – The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department extends its sincerest gratitude to local organizations Big Seed and H-E-B, and Fredericksburg High School students for their recent completion of the “Barn Swallows” mural at the Olympic Pool, 601 Olympic Dr.

The mural was inspired by the family of barn swallows at the pool, whose mud nests are left undisturbed by city staff to provide a safe habitat for this native summer resident. The nest in this outdoor hallway and above the men’s locker room entrance is reused each year by the swallows, who return to Kerrville every June after wintering in Central and South America.

In the evenings, as pool users exit the facility through the locker room hallway, nesting barn swallows swoop in and out feeding hungry babies who, by summer’s end, are strong enough to leave the nest and join the evening hunt for flying insects.

Both male and female swallows build nests and feed their young. Swallows feed largely on flies, but will also eat wasps, beetles, bees, moths, grasshoppers, and other insects. A single swallow can consume as many as 850 insects in a single day.

"Public art has been a storytelling method of humans for thousands of years. This group of students tells the story of the barn swallows that return each summer to nest at the Olympic Pool, depicting two swallows in flight over the water and under the sun. It's a beautiful rendition of a relationship between humans and nature in a uniquely Kerrville context," said Jeremy Walther of Big Seed.

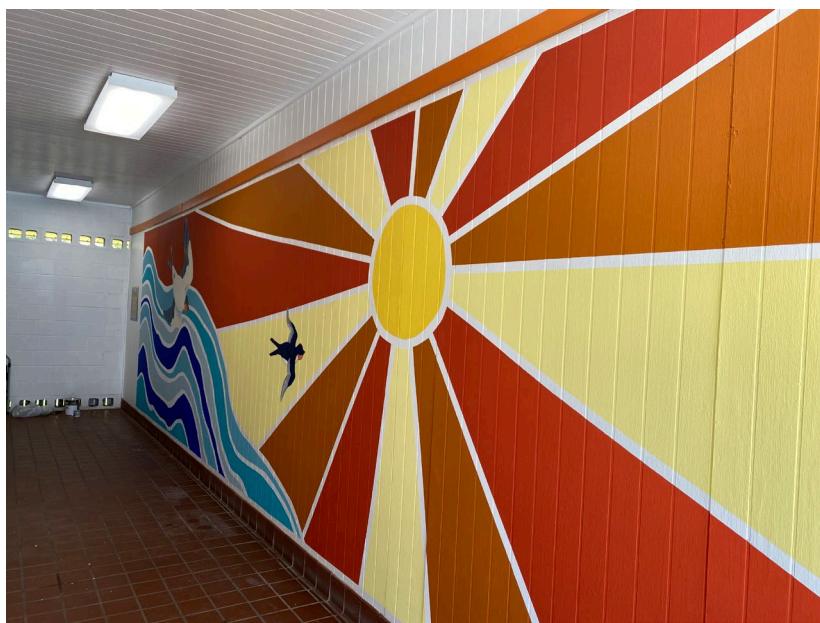
This mural was made possible by Big Seed, supporting young creatives throughout the Kerrville area, with funding from H-E-B. It was designed and installed by students of Fredericksburg High School, including Emma Stewart, Olivia Findley, Lexi Sione, Kennedy West, Whitney Phillips and Journie Valadez, and guided by Julie Mangum.

Director of Parks and Recreation Ashlea Boyle gives gratitude to all that helped make this project come to fruition.

"Thank you Big Seed, H-E-B, and the talented young artists for adding a creative touch to the Olympic Pool and enhancing public art within our community," Boyle said. "Incorporating the swallows and their story in the mural was a neat idea, and I especially enjoy the connection it has to the pool. We look forward to the continuation of public art at our parks and facilities for added flare and uniqueness for our community and visitors to enjoy."

"Through community support, Big Seed hopes to continue expanding opportunities for young creatives throughout the Kerrville area," Walther said. "We are currently working with a student from Tivy High School on a second mural in the Olympic Pool lobby. We are seeking proposals for a third mural for the City of Kerrville at the Kerrville Tennis Complex. More information can be found at www.bigseed.org."

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (830) 257-7300, recreation@kerrvilletx.gov, visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov, or follow us on Facebook at City of Kerrville TX – City Hall or Instagram at cityofkerrville.



BARN SWALLOWS

SUMMERTIME AT THE POOL

During the summer season at the Kerrville Olympic Pool, swimmers share space with families of Barn Swallows, whose mud nests are left undisturbed by City staff, providing safe habitat for this native summer resident.

The nest in this outdoor hallway and above the Men's locker room entrance is reused each year by the Swallows, who return to Kerrville every June after wintering in Central and South America.

In the evenings, as pool users exit the facility through the locker room hallway, nesting Barn Swallows swoop in and out feeding hungry babies who, by summer's end, are strong enough to leave the nest and join the evening hunt for flying insects. Both male and female Swallows build nests and feed their young.

Swallows feed largely on flies, but will also eat wasps, beetles, bees, moths, grasshoppers, and other insects. A single Swallow can consume as many as 850 insects in a single day.

Designed and installed by students of Fredericksburg High School, June 2021: Emma Stewart; Olivia Findley; Lexi Sione; Kennedy West; Whitney Phillips; Journie Valadez; guided by Julie Mangum.

Made possible by Big Seed, supporting young creatives throughout the Kerrville area, with funding from H-E-B.

BIG SEED

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