

# PARK LABREA NEWS BEVERLY PRESS

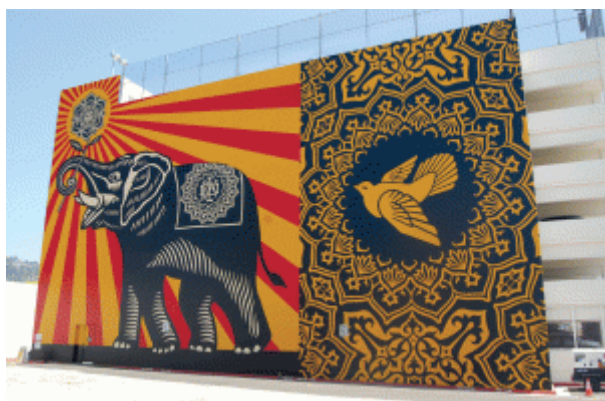
*Serving the Park Labrea, Miracle Mile, Hancock Park and West Hollywood communities since 1946*

## Shepard Fairey Mural Creates Hope for Bright Future

By Matt Wilhalme, 7/28/2011

### Colorful Murals Adorn Walls of New WeHo Library

Historically, the city of West Hollywood has attracted many avant-garde artists, and with the construction of the new West Hollywood Library, street artists have been given a grand canvas to show off their work – the side of the building.



Artist Shepard Fairey painted one of three murals at the West Hollywood Library. (photo by Matt Wilhalme)

The murals, created by the artists Shepard Fairey, Retna and Kenny Schaf showcases the type of creativity and display that makes West Hollywood unique, said Andrew Campbell of the Cultural Affairs Commission.

“I think it just sort of reconfirms [West Hollywood] as a place and an area for cutting edge, interesting, contemporary art,” Campbell said.

Fairey’s graphic work on the library is the largest of his pieces displayed anywhere in world. The artist Retna, who primarily employs a calligraphic style, created the piece on the south wall and Kenny Scharf, who only used spray paint, created his work freehand on the north.

The genesis for the street art displays came from the director of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Jeffrey Deitch, Campbell said.

“We took him on a tour of the library, and he saw these three walls and he thought they would be an interesting companion to their “Art in the Streets” exhibit at the Geffen Contemporary,” Campbell said.

From there, Deitch and MOCA collected the funds to pay for the cost of the displays through sponsorship from Cadillac and Vanity Fair, Campbell said. MOCA already had these three artists in mind for the authorized pieces that will remain until 2012, when a new set of murals and art pieces will take their place.

“Every person I have run into personally has thought it was so cool, but I am sure there are people who this isn’t their cup of tea,” Campbell said. “But that’s one of the great things, if you don’t like this, wait around and there will be something else coming down the pike they might like.”

Since the pieces went up last week, Mayor John Duran has already begun receiving e-mails from members of the community, some who do not like the murals. Duran, however, finds the pieces beautiful.

“Some people like symphony, some people like heavy metal, that’s what you are going to get with art,” Duran said. “I think that we have a council that is willing to risk a bit on art, we won’t ever get a unanimous decision, but we have a majority.”

Fairey’s work on the outside of the building is not his only contribution to the City of West Hollywood. Inside the library, he will also have an installation with a West Hollywood focus.

The library, which is a part of the first phase of the city’s 25th Anniversary Capital Project, cost more than \$17 million to construct and is on schedule and budget.

The library is set for its grand opening on Oct. 1, when members of the community will be invited out for a ceremony that will feature refreshments and tours of the new building.

For information on the city’s new library, visit [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org).