



Third place winner Mark Kenny's design.

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“Art in general is a very important part of culture in communities,” he added.

The commission chose five people to be part of a blind jury from the community, and they were tasked with choosing the mural winners based on the criteria of the project proposal. Eckland’s winning artwork will be painted on the building by volunteers over the course of the summer. Painting started this month, and is slated to finish in September.

The commission has four goals for the mural project: to celebrate the heritage and history of the Clatskanie community, attract visitors and inspire residents, encourage community engagement and to energize interest in cultural assets.

Furnish believes Clatskanie is technically an art desert by the definition of the Oregon Arts Commission, meaning there is minimal access to creative content in the area. Interest in the mural contest has increased. This year’s project received 24 submissions, up from last year’s 14.

Second place honors were given to Audrey Christo, and Mark Kenny took home the third-place prize with his design. Lana Jefferson was awarded the best student submission title.

“I felt like that creative change could drive an improvement in the economy,” Furnish said. “I know the value of exposure and I want to do that for other people. I want to help them sustain a creative career.”

He said last year’s mural, painted by Mark Kenny, has since attracted visitors. The commission plans to continue the mural competition and eventually introduce a sculpture aspect to create a trail that will draw visitors through town.



Best Student Submission winner Lana Jefferson's design.