

## **Daily Breeze**

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Justina Ly

Elementary Students; Aquatic-Themed Artwork Gets a Permanent Exhibit Space

Students from Barton Hill Elementary School have helped produced a piece of artwork good enough to hang in someone else's home, in this case the future home of hundreds of San Pedro residents.

A 3 feet by 6 feet sea-themed tile mural created by fourth-grade students last spring will be presented Tuesday to the Vue, a 16-story, 318-unit luxury condominium complex under construction at Fifth and Palos Verdes Street.

The mosaic was commissioned by the developer of the Vue at a cost of about \$2,500 and was jointly funded by Angels Gate Cultural Center and Pentel, the writing instrument company. The artwork will be dedicated to San Pedro fixture John Olguin.

The tiled artwork, which features 13 sea creatures and one pelican, will be placed by the condominiums pool, which has yet to be constructed. The building is schedule for completion in 2008.

The Vue held a pool dedication in 2006 to Olguin, a lifelong San Pedro resident and marine life advocate, but decided to honor him again with a plaque dedication after the mosaic was completed.

"It only seemed appropriate to dedicate the pool to Mr. Olguin because of his dedication to San Pedro and specifically to water activities," Lauren Cohen, vice president of Galaxy Commercial Holding, the real estate developer of the Vue, said in a prepared statement.

Olguin is a former Los Angeles County lifeguard captain, the director emeritus of Cabrillo Marine Museum, a charter member of the American Cetacean Society, a whale conservation group, and founder of the Cabrillo Whale watch program.

Robin Bott, an art teacher with the Angels Gates Cultural Center's Artists in Classroom program, led the mosaic project at the school last spring. The program provides weekly instructions by professional artists in public school classrooms.

"I'm really proud of the kids for all of their hard work," Bott said.

She worked with 35 students from John Scognamillo's fourth-grade class.

“Anytime you can get someone in the community to work with kids it’s a benefit to them,” Scognamillo said.

His students spent one hour a week for 12 weeks working on the project with Bott.

The students spent the first two weeks watching videos of marine life for inspiration and drawing pictures of sea creatures. Bott also had students practice working together by collaboratively drawing on larger pieces of paper.

“That gave them an idea of what it’s like to work together,” Bott said. “It’s something they weren’t used to, especially with a mosaic project.”

The fourth-grade students completed most of the mosaic, but Bott finished the grouting and leftover tiling at her art studio in Long Beach. “We haven’t seen the finished project yet, but I know they’ll be really proud of themselves,” Scognamillio said of his former students.”

They will have a chance to view the completed mosaic at Tuesday’s dedication ceremony. The event at the Vue is not open to the public and will be attended by Olguin, the Barton Hill students, staff from Angeles Gate Cultural Center and the Vue development team.

The mosaic plaque will be on display for public viewing at the Vue sales center, 222 W. Sixth St., during regular office hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily after the dedication.