

Good Morning Reader

Art students honor Boscov with mural at hotel

BY MATTHEW NOJIRI
READING EAGLE

The students with the Third and Spruce Recreation Center's art club beamed with pride as they showed off their mural celebrating one of Berks County's most notable natives.

On Friday, Danielle Russell, 11, of Exeter Township stood in front of the mural at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel that she painted with her peers in tribute to Albert Boscov. The 87-year-old retail icon, entrepreneur and philanthropist passed away earlier this year.

"It was really amazing," Russell said of the mural. "It took a lot of teamwork. It took a lot of time."

The students in the art program said they loved putting the mural together and learning about Boscov.

"It was amazing to make this and to honor him," said Josiah Jordan, 12, of Reading. "It's just great to look at the mural and how good we did on it."

The mural project is part of the Reading Recreation Commission's larger effort to get the students into the community, said Heather Boyer, program supervisor for the Reading Recreation Commission.

"We want to get these kids into some volunteer roles in the community this year, and they can get a better sense of what Reading has to offer," she said.

The students worked with Kaitlyn Lerch, who works at the recreation



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Students of the Reading Recreation Art Club unveil a mural of Albert Boscov at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel Friday.

commission and as an art teacher in the Reading School District.

Over five days, the students traced a sketch projected on the wall and used different colors to outline and fill it in.

"It was really fun working with the kids and teaching them different painting techniques," Lerch said. "This was my first mural, so we did it all together."

She encouraged the kids to keep going with their art and to look for other big projects to tackle.

"The kids were definitely very proud of what they did, which was the best part," she said.

Diony Deleon, 12, of Reading said he

enjoyed putting the mural together.

"It was a great experience, trying to get all the details," he said. "It was really cool how it pops out and how we used the colors."

Ellen Boscov attended the unveiling and told the kids they should be proud of their work.

The mural included a quote from her father: "How can you do anything positive if you don't believe in yourself?"

She said the quote truly captured her father.

"It gave him a lot of joy to help others," she said.

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