



# Public Communications

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Centennial Mural Celebrates Future Optimistically

### Mural to be Dedicated June 20, Displayed at Winchester Center

A work that depicts the implosion of the Landmark hotel using the Japanese imagery of Speed Racer while capturing the nostalgia of a bygone era and an optimistic nod to the future has been named Clark County's centennial mural.

The mural by second-generation Las Vegan Brian Porray will be printed on a 16-foot-by-12-foot vinyl canvas and mounted on a steel frame on the outside of Clark County's Winchester Theater at 3130 S. McLeod Dr.

Porray grew up admiring the Landmark Hotel, "a real landmark in a city that didn't have many." When the Landmark was finally imploded in 1995, Porray said that the crash was not only

the end of a hotel. “That implosion set the valley in motion as a signal of what’s to come,” as the first domino in a series that rocked and defined the community.

So Porray said his computer-constructed image is not just nostalgic, but an optimistic look at the future, suggested by the Japanese imagery of “Speed Racer” and a portent of the new Las Vegas rising from the dust. “The phoenix is a pretty common symbol seen in all the implosions,” he said.

The mural, called, “Everyone’s a Scientist,” will be dedicated **Saturday, June 20 at noon** during the Backyard Farmers Market at Winchester Park. The ceremony is open to the public. The dedication will be followed by a 2 p.m. concert by the New West Guitar Trio in Winchester Theater. Tickets for the concert are available at Winchester Center or online at [www.AccessClarkCounty.com](http://www.AccessClarkCounty.com).

“Clark County is celebrating its centennial in a variety of ways, with events, discussions, publications, videos and now with a centennial-themed mural from one of our talented young Las Vegas artists. Winchester Center, the county’s hub of performing and visual art, is an excellent place to commemorate the County’s centennial with a creative work,” said Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, who represents the area where Winchester Center is located. The Landmark hotel was located on the northwest corner of Paradise Road and Convention Center Drive in the unincorporated Clark County township of Winchester.

Porray’s mural depicts the implosion of the Landmark Hotel, the implosion he calls “the best of the best,” the one featured in the film “Mars Attacks.” Porray has heightened the scene with imagery adapted from his “Speed Racer” video game. The piece was selected by a seven-member jury of artists and others from a pool of more than 30 works.

Porray earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Nevada, Reno and will complete his Master of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas next year. He has exhibited in Reno, in the United Kingdom, at Cal State University, Long Beach and at several galleries in Las Vegas. He was chosen last year as one of the artists of the second Zap project, near Paradise Park, where he painted art on two utility boxes. He was also one of eight artists selected for the Regional Transportation Commission’s Stop and Glow project.

The vinyl mural is expected to last at least five years. The framework will last indefinitely, so it is hoped that the mural can be replaced with another artist’s work. For more information, call 455-7030 or log on to [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com).

Other centennial events include an exhibit delineating the history of the county, which will open in the rotunda of Clark County Government Center on July 1; the grand opening at the Clark County Museum of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel and a 1910 railroad cottage; monthly history roundtable discussions; the release of “Asphalt Memories: A Dictionary of Clark County Street Names,” a book-length publication; the placement of historical markers; a Web-based history of Clark County; brochures; historical programming on Clark County Television (CCTV) Channel 4 and partnerships with the Clark County School District and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Clark County also secured the naming of the famous “Welcome to Las Vegas” sign to the National Historic Register. The Strip is located in unincorporated Clark County and is not part of any city. The Centennial Web site also features historical information, events listing, trivia contest, link to a geocaching project and a section where residents can share their historical stories.

Clark County was officially formed on July 1, 1909, out of what had been Lincoln County and is named for railroad baron William Andrews Clark. The city of Las Vegas, which includes downtown and the area north of the Strip, was incorporated two years later in 1911. Those

interested in additional information on Clark County's centennial celebrations can visit the Web site at [www.accessclarkcounty.com/100](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/100) or call 455-8200.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."