



CALIFORNIA BANK & TRUST CELEBRATES NEARLY 40 YEARS OF SERVING HILLCREST COMMUNITY WITH MURAL INSTALLATION AT ITS LOCAL BRANCH

Gift of art showcases iconic San Diego neighborhood landmarks around the CB&T Hillcrest Branch

SAN DIEGO – (June 23, 2023) – [California Bank & Trust](#) (CB&T), one of California’s leading banks, is celebrating nearly 40 years of service to the Hillcrest community and surrounding areas with a new mural installation at its local branch. Established in 1985, the CB&T Hillcrest Branch has contributed greatly to the growth and expansion of the neighborhood by providing custom financial services to hundreds of business owners and residents around the area—including Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, North Park and downtown San Diego.

“We are so grateful for and appreciative of our clients who allow us the opportunity to serve this vibrant neighborhood,” said CB&T Hillcrest Branch Vice President and Business Center Manager Tammy Keen. “The mural represents our commitment to championing the people and businesses building California, and the Hillcrest community, and celebrates iconic landmarks that help make San Diego America’s Finest City.”

Central to the mural, which wraps the south and east walls of the building, is a representation of the Hillcrest sign that hangs just a few blocks away, above University Avenue. The mural also includes the historic Balboa Park Tower and Cabrillo Bridge, Harper’s Topiary Garden, gorgeous San Diego skyline and of course, the city’s famous San Diego Zoo. The mural concept was created by local artist Austin Gosswiller and installation began in June 2023. Gosswiller has worked on several mural projects around San Diego County, most recently helping to create the mural at the Portuguese Hall in Point Loma with fellow artist Jack Stricker—who also helped install the CB&T mural.

“I think local art can give a community a sense of cultural identity and pride as well as giving visitors a feel of where they are,” said Gosswiller. “Having grown up in San Diego, the mural installation for CB&T was especially fun and special to us. Not only did we get to use a broad color palette but drawing inspiration from the landmarks in our hometown that we’ve grown up with is an awesome experience.”

Gosswiller and Stricker grew up in Ocean Beach and have known each other since fifth grade.

The gift of art is one element to cement the celebration of a complete renovation of the CB&T Hillcrest Branch building, located at 3737 Fifth Avenue. The makeover embodies a mid-century modern aesthetic to commemorate the original design, which was created by architect Richard George Wheeler in 1961, and complements surrounding buildings to integrate seamlessly into the urban neighborhood today. The building is also home to two current tenants, Alpha Project and CEO SD, Inc., with an additional retail space along Fifth Avenue that is currently being marked for lease.



“We started this project in 2017 and put it on pause due to the pandemic,” said David Russell, senior vice president of corporate real estate facilities at CB&T. “It is incredibly exciting to see this idea come to life and uplift this space for our clients, the Hillcrest and San Diego communities and thousands of visitors each year.”

The Hillcrest Branch mural is one of many ways CB&T gives back to the communities it serves. To learn more about CB&T’s community involvement as well as its commitment to building a strong California, visit www.calbanktrust.com. Connect with CB&T on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

About California Bank & Trust (CB&T): CB&T has been helping Californians and their businesses grow and prosper for 70 years. A division of Zions Bancorporation, N.A. (NASDAQ: ZION), CB&T has been voted “Best Bank” by the *San Diego Union Tribune* for 12 consecutive years, and “Best Commercial Bank” for nine years in a row. Readers of *The Orange County Register* have also voted CB&T as the county’s “Best Bank” for nine consecutive years; and the group has consistently won the Greenwich Excellence Awards for achievement in Middle-Market and Small Business. Its experienced and professional bankers are backed by major resources yet maintain local decision-making authority and regional market and industry expertise. Each is committed to providing clients with valuable economic insights and connecting them with the beneficial business relationships they need in order to succeed. To learn more, visit www.calbanktrust.com.

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