

# Doorway to the future

Clovis takes an artistic turn at publicizing its high-tech push, hoping to open a ...

By Marc Benjamin / The Fresno Bee

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The city of Clovis is calling all doors ...

As part of the city's interest in opening a "portal to technology" and publicizing its effort to build a high-tech business base, the city is seeking help from the art community and residents.

To meld art with technology, city officials want doors for art projects and are asking local artists to build projects using doors for public display.



Former Fresno State track and field coach Red Estes sticks his head through the window of an old car door Wednesday in his backyard shop in Clovis.

"We are looking at Clovis as being the portal to technology, and we felt it was a good public-art installment to tie those two things in," said Shawn Miller, the city's business development manager. "We have a call out to the art community and are looking for sponsors."

Miller hopes residents can donate doors, too.

"It could be anything, refrigerator doors, cupboard doors, car doors," Miller said.

Ultimately, those doors judged as the best art projects could be placed on permanent display as part of the city's public art project.

Red Estes, Fresno State's former track coach, has taken up art as a hobby in recent years and plans to build a door display.

"I have a ton of ideas," said Estes, who lives in Clovis and has a yard filled with his art. "It's a nice segue from the doors idea to technology. It really gives artists unlimited opportunities under that title."

For now, he is considering an old blue car door he collected several years ago when he supervised the recycling program at Fresno State.

Larry Loucks, who works for Vista Media in Fresno, may assist his wife, Merili, in a door project. He said she is still deciding whether she will take on the project. He said he likes the concept of joining art with technology.

"It's great that a city government can co-sponsor it and bring art more into the public eye and have it displayed in a public place," he said.

"Anything that promotes the arts is a fantastic idea, and technology is an art in and amongst itself."

Sierra Vista Mall will use its summer children's program, Kids' Express, to expose young people to art and have children work on the doors project, said Geanie Silva, the Clovis mall's event coordinator.

"It will give them an opportunity to create something that will be on display to the general public," Silva said.

She said the mall plans to host a July reception for the artists to display the doors when the projects are done.

In the past year, the city has undertaken a public art program, which has led to placement of two statues: a cowboy at Clovis and Sierra avenues, and a father and son statue on Fifth Street, just east of Clovis Avenue.

The city's research and technology park, north of Highway 168 on Temperance Avenue, could be the ultimate destination of an artistic door that city officials deem worthy.

"We want to auction them off and then have the proceeds go to the artist and, at some point, they could be retained as public art," Miller said.

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