



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010

**District 7:** Los Angeles & Ventura Counties

**Contact:** Patrick Chandler

**Phone:** 213-897-3630

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Mobile Mural Unveiled on the Hollywood Freeway (US 101)

**LOS ANGELES** - Today the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) unveiled a mural replica of the Galileo, Jupiter, and Apollo mural along the northbound Hollywood Freeway (US 101).

"Our freeway system is a river of humanity and we need those beautiful vistas along the way," Councilmember LaBonge said about the many murals that line freeways and streets. "Vandalism has ruined some of our finest murals, but this program will allow us to keep our views graffiti-free. When I drove the 101 slot today, I thought the mural resembled a framed painting hanging on a La Cienega art shop. It was great to see John Wehrle's art hanging on our wall again."

Damage caused by vandals along Los Angeles freeways costs Caltrans millions of dollars annually. To combat such vandalism, the Caltrans Transportation Art Program, working in conjunction with Wells Fargo, has initiated the Mobile Mural Demonstration Project to try new and innovative ways to improve freeway aesthetics and reduce disruptions to traffic, at no cost to taxpayers. The mural replica will remain in place for 90 days.

"The Mobile Mural Demonstration Project gives Caltrans the ability to work with communities and businesses like Wells Fargo to improve the look of the freeway landscape, make necessary upgrades, and save tax dollars," said, Dan Freeman, deputy district director of maintenance.

Through \$20,000 in grant funds from Wells Fargo, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), and Caltrans are working in conjunction to maintain a mural replica of the Galileo, Jupiter, and Apollo mural that once adorned the northbound side of the Hollywood Freeway (US 101) between Spring Street and Broadway since 1983. The funding will support replication of the mural and costs for LACC and Caltrans to remove and maintain the 75 foot long, 9.5 feet tall, and 60 lbs. mural.

"We have a LA Live area that has been revitalized and is beautiful, and we wanted to bring that same kind of improvement throughout the entire city," said Mark Ingram, Wells Fargo executive vice president of corporate properties.



## NEWS RELEASE

The 1/3-scale replica of the original piece has been placed upon a canvas made of recycled plastic and vinyl fabric. Previously, a lane closure would have to be established and then k-rail placed to close the shoulder for an extended amount of time to service or repaint the piece. The mural can now be mounted and removed for periodic cleanings without impeding traffic. The material should be able to resist most paint types that could be sprayed on to it.

The mural was originally painted by muralist John Wehrle in 1983 for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The material for the mural was made by Tarzana based, Fence Fabric.