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National mural project leaves a mark on Bend

A couple's mission to create murals in all 50 states is one step closer with the completion of a Bend-centric Oregon mural off of Franklin Avenue. The Greetings Tour project began in 2015 when Victor Ving, an artist based in New York City at the time, embarked on a journey with his wife, Lisa Beggs, to paint murals from Alaska to a basketball-court sized mural in Hawaii. The city's Downtown Bend Business Association won a grant out of 36 applicants to become the single mural representing Oregon. The murals are painted in collaboration with local artists in each area, such as Josh Ramp and Janessa Bork of Vivi Design Company in Central Oregon. Inspiration for the art comes from Ving's nearly complete collection of thousands of large-letter postcards from the '40s and '50s that advertised travel. Subtle stories are revealed within each mural, Ving explained. Inspired by conversations with passersby and online, Bend's mural includes hidden details related to history and culture. Look closely to find a silhouette of the former Pilot Butte Drive-in, "The Traveler" sculpture, an homage to the Fourth of July and the Bend Water Pageant. "Hopefully, the mural is meaningful to the community as long as it's there," said Ving. See greetingstour.com. **13**

