

Bisbee vibes captured in verse on colorful hanging banners

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By Lyda Longa



BISBEE — Poetry is in the air on Main Street in Old Bisbee and in Warren. Literally.

Those colorful banners looming over the shops, eateries, bars and across from the Warren Ballpark with white lettering on them, are vertical poems, each one reflecting something that the author likes about Bisbee.

It's the first time the banners - there are eight in all - fly over town and Warren featuring the words of local poets, said Alison Williams, the library services coordinator at the Copper Queen Library.

The banners are the brainchild and creation of Williams, a poet herself and the curator of the library's literary journal aptly titled "Copperopolis."

The poems were written by artists who belong to the Poetry Critique Society, a group that meets monthly at the library to discuss and critique "already-finished work" before it's published, Williams said.

As for the creation and idea of the poetry banners, Williams said she started the process in February and asked participants to pen "vertical poems about Bisbee."

"The poems had to fit on the banners, which are vertical," Williams said. "The poets had to highlight something about Bisbee."

Some of the bards took animals as their muse: "Tunneling mountain javelinas dance in the gulch bathed in moonlight," reads one rune written by Sharon Strachan.

Another focuses on an artsy fence outside a house on Tombstone Canyon: "Twelve ironing boards welded to a steel beam surprising bright fence," by Tina Quinn Durham.

Williams herself wrote one about winter: "The first white petals made me think it was winter fall of spring snow."

The banners have received rave reviews and next year Williams hopes add another four for a total of 12.

