

3-D version of downtown Provo unveiled

Genelle Pugmire - Daily Herald | Posted: Thursday, January 6, 2011 12:18 am

PROVO -- If 3-D is the wave of the viewing future, then Provo's got it in the form of a new exhibit of downtown. Residents don't have to put on special glasses to take an overhead tour of downtown, they can visit a newly unveiled three dimensional display in the lobby of the Provo City Center.

The \$35,000 model is the brain child of Ray Beckham and local designer Rick Kinateder, both members of the Provo Downtown Center Focus group's Civic Beauty Action Group. It was built by Kinateder and his son, Kyle, and took about four months to build.



"It can be modified as changes occur in the downtown area in the future," Kyle Kinateder said.

"We've been talking about this for a couple of years and detailing it for about six months," Rick Kinateder said. "The use of these is made to be an ongoing thing. It's built in three sections so as things develop we can add blocks."

The diorama features buildings, streets, trees, bus rapid transit stations and more in a 6-foot by 11-foot model of the area from 600 West to 100 East on Center Street and from 100 North to 100 South.

"I think there's been such a tremendous work done for downtown," said Councilwoman Sherrie Hall Everett, chairwoman of Provo's Redevelopment Agency. "So many are personally vested in helping our downtown succeed. This model helps to communicate so many things. There are lots of great discussions happening."

The model, which includes the Utah County Convention Center and Nu Skin expansion as though completed, is intended to help the public see the downtown from a new perspective, and possibly help recruit tenants and developers.

"A scale model inspires enthusiasm and imagination in some people," said Provo City redevelopment director Paul Glauser, who oversees the Center Focus project.

"Now that we have a model a lot of ideas can come," Glauser said. "What we're really counting on is it's going to help people change their way of looking at downtown. People start to think a little more clearly about what can be done."

Noticeably intact is the Provo Tabernacle that burned recently. Kinateder said the building was made prior to the fire. According to Beckham, discussions had been held with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on developing the corner. "Tabernacle park was one of our major renovations," Beckham said. Now that project is on hold, but the tabernacle will still be with the display until future decisions are made.

Kinateder donated \$10,000 worth of his services, and Beckham raised the remaining \$25,000 needed from

Utah County, Provo City, Nu Skin, Zions Bank, Wells Fargo, and other businesses and individuals.

They will make a presentation to the Center Focus Implementation Committee on Thursday at 8:40 a.m. in the lobby of the city center. The model will continue to be on public display at the city center for the next several weeks during regular city business hours, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., except for a few occasions when it will be taken to meetings of various groups around the city.