

Downtown Art Discovery Trail

This trail can take around
1 to 2 hours to complete!

Welcome to the **Downtown Art Discovery Trail**, a curated public art experience that highlights the rich creative side of Downtown Huntsville. This self-guided trail features 31 unique installations, ranging from vibrant outdoor murals to impressive sculptures. As you follow the route, the guide provides background details on each artwork and the artists who brought them to life.

Navigating the Trail

On Foot: The vast majority of the artwork is clustered in the walkable downtown core, making for a picturesque stroll through the heart of Huntsville.

By Vehicle: Stops 27 through 31 are marked with dark purple numbers in the guide. Because these outer installations are spread farther apart, a quick drive is recommended to comfortably visit them all.

Make an Adventure of It

The trail seamlessly weaves past some of Downtown Huntsville's best local spots. Turn your art walk into a full outing by stopping along the way to grab a refreshing drink and visit local shops.



FULL MAP OVERVIEW

The complete list of all artwork on trail:

1. Huntsville-Madison County Veteran Memorial
2. Light Arch
3. Light Tree
4. Celestial Symphony
5. Tunneling to Callisto
6. No Straight Lines
7. Gathering
8. Refuge of Change
9. Honest Tallulah
10. A Dali Dream
11. Chandelier Alley
12. Blind Tiger
13. Together We Rise
14. Courthouse Square Works
15. This Girl Can
16. Cydonia
17. Woman with Seven Birds
18. Constant Surprises
19. Welcome to Huntsville
20. Koi
21. The Little Lion of Big Spring Park
22. Gracelyn Rose
23. Eclipse
24. Hare-O-Space, Final Leap
25. Travelers II
26. Aztec Warrior
27. William Hooper Council Park
28. Travelers I
29. We Gather Here to Honor
30. Moon Gate
31. Cosmic Christ

Use your
device to find
directions for
each stop.





1

Huntsville-Madison County Veteran Memorial by Dan Burch

Located at Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Huntsville, the Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Memorial stands as a grand civic tribute to local service members who made the ultimate sacrifice across American history. Designed by architect Ronald W. Farris alongside sculptor Dan A. Burch, the expansive monument blends architectural craftsmanship with deeply personal narrative elements. The site features life-sized bronze statues depicting military figures from various eras, framing black granite walls meticulously engraved with the names of fallen heroes from Madison County. A central fountain, branch flags, and solemn pathways invite visitors to reflect on the immense human cost of freedom.

Beyond its striking physical features, the memorial serves as a cultural and historical anchor for a region with deep-rooted military and aerospace traditions. Positioned near Big Spring International Park, it provides a unifying gathering space for annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, as well as quiet daily contemplation for families and visitors. The monument ensures that the courage and sacrifice of the area's veterans remain a visible part of Huntsville's community identity for generations to come.





2

Light Arch by Christopher Fennell

Located along Jefferson Street in downtown. Created by sculptor Christopher Fennell, "Light Arch" is an inventive public artwork featuring salvaged metal street light poles that curve gracefully overhead like an architectural tree canopy. By breathing new life into discarded urban infrastructure, the glowing structure serves as a welcoming streetscape gateway along the Jefferson Street pedestrian sidewalk.

3

Light Tree by Christopher Fennell

Also created by sculptor Christopher Fennell, "Light Tree" is a sister installation to "Light Arch" located along Jefferson Street. Standing 25 feet tall, the striking public sculpture is crafted from repurposed street lamps. The curved steel posts bundle together to form thick trunk-like bases before branching upward into a dense canopy of glowing globes and lantern fixtures. By reimagining retired municipal light fixtures as an organic, luminous tree, Fennell transforms functional city infrastructure into a captivating streetscape landmark that celebrates creative sustainability and illuminates Huntsville's pedestrian corridor.





Photo by John Dersham

4 *Celestial Symphony* by Jessie Andrews

Created by local artist and muralist Jessie Andrews (also known professionally as "Honeyblood"), "Celestial Symphony" is a vibrant public artwork located by Washington Street. Painted in 2019, the large-scale mural transforms the exterior wall of a commercial building into an imaginative space scape depicting a creative take on a solar system.

Andrews collaborated with local metal design and fabrication studio Drop Metal to incorporate custom, 3D-fabricated aluminum planets into the painted backdrop, adding dynamic depth and texture to the piece.

5 *Tunneling to Callisto* by Drop Metal

Created by Micah Gregg of Drop Metal, "Tunneling to Callisto" is a metal wall sculpture located off Washington Street in downtown. Known for his expert metal design and architectural fabrication work, Gregg crafted the piece to blend sleek industrial craft with space-inspired themes. The title references Callisto, one of Jupiter's prominent moons, subtly echoing Huntsville's identity as the "Rocket City" through a modern, abstract metallic lens.





6 *No Straight Lines* by Peter "Float" Lucker

Created by artist and muralist Peter "Float" Lucker, "No Straight Lines" is a public artwork located in downtown Huntsville. Known for his distinctive geometric style, organic flow, and bold color palettes, Lucker designed the piece to play with perception and movement across an urban canvas. The artwork's sweeping curves and vibrant abstract patterns contrast sharply with the rigid architecture surrounding it, living up to its name by eschewing harsh angles in favor of a fluid visual rhythm that brings creative energy to the city's streetscape.



7 *Gathering* by Robert Bean

Created by artist Robert Bean, "Gathering" is a public mural tucked away on a brick wall of an alley on Clinton Avenue. Painted in monochromatic, grayscale tones, the artwork depicts an intimate, mid-century social gathering featuring jazz musicians, dancers, and patrons sharing a lively evening out. Bean's detailed brushwork and expressive figures capture a timeless sense of community and celebration, seamlessly blending the urban texture of the historic building with an atmospheric narrative that enlivens the downtown streetscape.

The building that the mural was painted on, installed windows down the alley removing a portion of the mural in the process, but majority of the mural is still intact showing how art can prevail structural changes.



8 *Refuge of Change by Drop Metal*

"Refuge of Change" is a space-inspired metal sculpture located on a wall through the alley in Washington Park. Crafted from steel, the piece features an abstract, hollow sphere set against a multi-layered metallic wall design. The artwork subtly echoes Huntsville's "Rocket City" roots through its satellite-like silhouette.

9 *Honest Tallulah by Anna Husband, Esteban Diaz, Kendall René*

"Honest Tallulah" is a public mural located on the exterior wall of Honest Coffee Roasters along Clinton Avenue. The artwork pays tribute to Huntsville native and legendary stage and screen actress Tallulah Bankhead. The design captures Bankhead's glamorous yet fiercely independent spirit, celebrating one of the city's most famous cultural icons right in the heart of downtown.



10

A Dali Dream by Sean Marques

Sean Marques' "A Dali Dream" is a surreal public artwork tucked into the corner of a roof overhang. Nestled high up against the building's architecture, the compact mural draws direct inspiration from Salvador Dalí's iconic paintings. Designed to reward observant pedestrians who happen to look up, the hidden placement brings a quick moment of dreamlike wonder to an ordinary walk.



11

Chandelier Alley by Jessie Andrews

Jessie Andrews' "Chandelier Alley" features a massive abstract mural on the side of a brick building in a pedestrian alley off Clinton Avenue. The bright yellow background on the exterior wall catches passersby's eyes. Its focal point depicts a grand, stylized chandelier composed of vibrant, geometric crystal shards in shades of blue, orange, pink, and teal. This towering composition anchors the alleyway, transforming an unassuming urban corridor into a colorful, light-filled gathering space for the community.



12

Blind Tiger by Ryan Benefield



Photo by McCarley Northway / Hville Blast

Created by artist and muralist Ryan Benefield, "Blind Tiger" is a public mural located on the side of The Blind Tiger speakeasy and next to "Chandelier Alley." The artwork features a majestic tiger set against a rich, moody backdrop. Benefield's design perfectly complements the hidden venue's prohibition-era aesthetic, adding a sleek, fierce presence to the alleyway and capturing the sophisticated vibe of the local cocktail lounge.

13

Together We Rise by Ann Moeller

Created by local artist Ann Moeller, "Together We Rise" is an uplifting public mural located on the exterior wall of the Clinton Avenue Parking Garage facing Jefferson Street. The mural is painted with a vibrant, energetic color palette and sweeping organic forms.

It's central theme centers on solidarity, shared momentum, and collective uplift. The artwork is meant to symbolize how individuals supporting one another create a powerful upward force, reminding the city that true progress and strength are achieved when a community moves forward together.

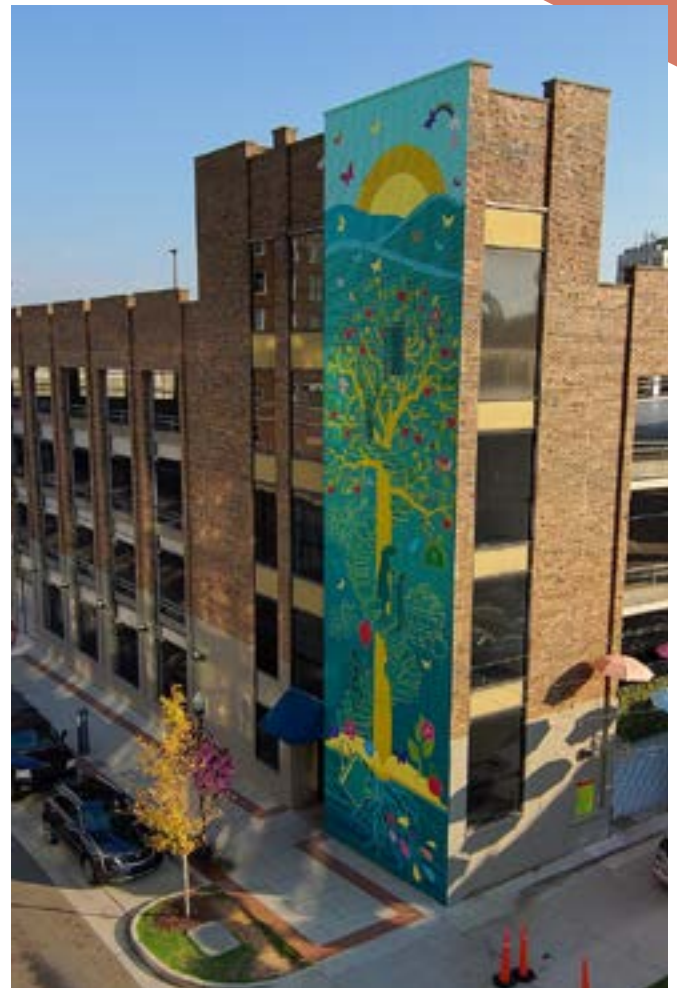


Photo by WeRunRacePhotos.com

14

Courthouse Square Works

The rotating public art installations around Downtown Huntsville's historic Courthouse Square function as a dynamic, open-air gallery, continually reshaping the visual character of the city's civic core. By featuring a regularly changing selection of large-scale sculptures and multi-dimensional works created by regional and national talent, the installations ensure that no two visits to the square feel entirely the same.



MC-24 Instory by Matt Miller



15

This Girl Can by Kimberly Radford

Created by Nashville-based artist Kimberly Radford, "This Girl Can" is a three-story mural located on the exterior of the Clinton Avenue Parking Garage along Washington Street in downtown Huntsville. It was unveiled in 2020 and made possible through a joint initiative between Arts Huntsville and the Women's Economic Development Council.

The mural was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, honoring the history of women's suffrage and civic empowerment. The piece bridges past achievements with future possibilities, standing as a celebration of resilience, female strength, and the ongoing journey of progress across generations.

16

Cydonia by Drop Metal



Created by Micah Gregg of Drop Metal, "Cydonia" is a space-inspired metal wall installation mounted on the exterior brick wall of a building near historic downtown structures. Showcasing Gregg's signature industrial craftsmanship and precision metal fabrication, the piece features a dynamic metallic composition mounted against the historic brick facade.

Thematically, the piece takes its name from Cydonia—a famous region on Mars known for its enigmatic surface formations and the iconic "Face on Mars"—continuing Drop Metal's tradition of weaving space exploration themes into urban public art.

17

Woman with Seven Birds by Russel Whiting

Created by sculptor Russel Whiting, "Woman with Seven Birds" is a direct-carved steel sculpture featured as part of the rotating public art displays near Courthouse Square in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Crafted using Whiting's signature carving technique—where solid steel plates are cut, sculpted, and shaped using an oxy-acetylene torch—the piece displays a distinct, heavily textured surface that showcases the raw, transformative nature of heated metal.



18

Constant Surprises by Jessie Andrews

Created by local artist and muralist Jessie Andrews, "Constant Surprises" is a vibrant ceiling mural located inside a pavilion by the Madison County Courthouse and near the waterfall in Big Spring Park. Painted overhead on the underside of the structure's roof, the artwork features Andrews' signature energetic style, bold colors, and whimsical line work, transforming an everyday covered pedestrian shelter into an immersive canvas.



19

Welcome to Huntsville by Gracie Lenox Nunez

Painted in 2016 by Gracie Lenox Nunez, "Welcome to Huntsville" is a mural that welcomes all to the area. Located on an exterior wall inside Big Spring Park East, this piece was created as part of the City of Huntsville's Public Art Program to serve as a postcard-style photo backdrop for visitors entering the park. The mural features a bright blue background with straightforward lettering accompanied by the local hashtag #hellohsv.

Photo by John Dersham



20

*Koi by
Dustin
Timbrook*



Photo by John Dersham

"Koi" is located on the other side of the building "Welcome to Huntsville" is painted on, along the concrete walls of the parking garage in Big Spring Park. This piece was commissioned as part of a public art initiative organized by Downtown Huntsville Inc. and Arts Huntsville to activate pedestrian walkways along the park.

The mural depicts several oversized, vibrant orange and white koi fish painted directly onto the concrete, positioned to look as if they are swimming alongside the water. The artwork directly references the real population of Japanese koi that inhabit Big Spring Park's waters, which stem from a gift of koi fish sent to the city by Japan in the 1970s.

21

*The Little Lion of
Big Spring Park by
J.F. Hummel*

Created around 1900 by J.F. Hummel & Sons, "The Little Lion of Big Spring Park" is a historic sculpture located by the spring in Big Spring Park.

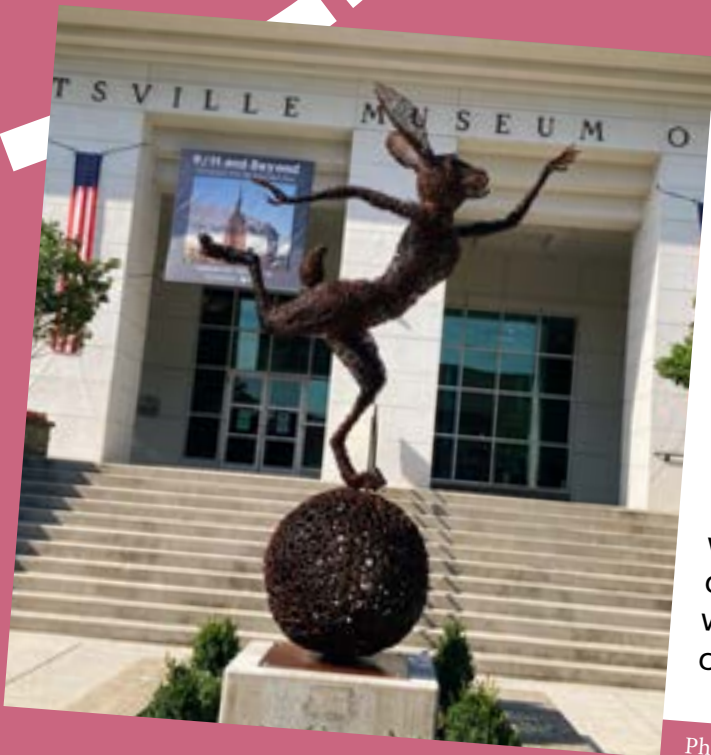
The piece served as an ornamental park feature in the early 20th century before eventually disappearing from its pedestal. In 1990, the sculpture was rediscovered submerged at the bottom of the spring during a cleanup effort, after which it was retrieved, restored, and reinstalled near the water as a preserved historical artifact.

Photo by Brent Moore



22

Gracelyn Rose
by Josh Coté



Installed in October 2021, Gracelyn Rose stands directly in front of the Huntsville Museum of Art. The 400-pound sculpture was funded by Joyce Griffin and donated to the museum's outdoor collection.

Created by North Carolina sculptor Josh Coté over a four-year development period, the 11-foot-tall piece features a hare poised in a ballet arabesque position atop a sphere made of welded recycled scrap pipe. The hare itself was constructed from roughly 9,000 feet of wire, which Coté hand-manipulated and woven using only needle-nose pliers.

Photo by Huntsville Museum of Art

23

Eclipse by
Glenn Dasher

Located outside the Huntsville Museum of Art, Eclipse is a surrealist outdoor sculpture created by Glenn Dasher. Conceptually, the work explores Dasher's interest in iconoclastic monuments by subverting traditional statuary built to immortalize historical moments. By placing pseudo-historical forms out of their expected context, it prompts viewers to reflect on how memory and meaning shift over time. Drawing on Dasher's background in casting and architectural design, the sculpture merges classical elements with surreal fragments, integrating directly into the museum's surrounding landscape.



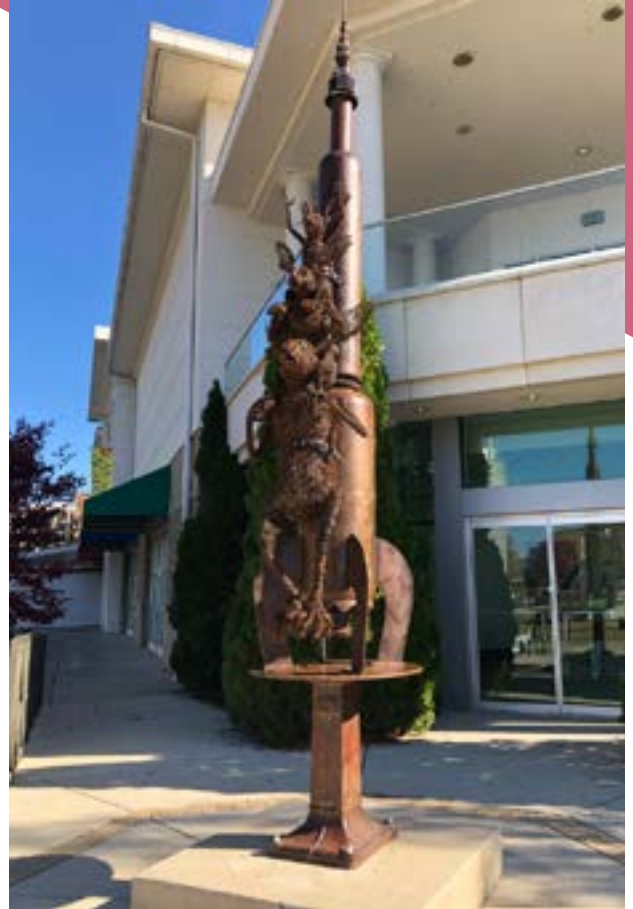
Photo by Glenn Dasher

24

Hare-O-Space, Final Leap by Josh Coté

"Hare-O-Space, Final Leap" depicts three hares strapped to a rocket poised for launch. It's Located outside the Huntsville Museum of Art near Big Spring Park. The title is a play on the word "aerospace," directly referencing the city's connection to rocketry and space exploration.

The piece is constructed using Coté's signature wire lacing technique, where strands of metal wire are woven and bound together to form the sculptural bodies of the hares. This technique gives the sculpture a distinct, open-lattice texture while presenting a humorous take on space flight that ties local history into a playful public art piece.



25

Travelers II by David Dahlquist, Matt Niebuhr, and RDG Planning & Design

Installed in 2022, Travelers II is a public sculpture located along the southern edge of Big Spring Park.

The artwork consists of two arrays of curved steel arches (14 to 16 feet high) featuring star-like perforations backlit with internal LED lighting. It is surrounded by curved, polished-concrete seating.

Conceptually, the piece references human travel through the area across time—from Indigenous peoples who originally used the spring to the city's modern involvement in space flight. The circular shape of the surrounding seating is modeled after ring "travelers," metal components historically used to spin cotton in local textile mills.

Photo by Eric Forrest



26

Aztec Warrior by Glenn Zweygardt

Located on Monroe Street outside the Von Braun Center, Glenn Zweygardt's "Aztec Warrior" is a vertical sculpture combining raw granite with fabricated steel and bronze. Its crowning fanned half-circle nods to traditional Aztec ceremonial headdresses, exploring the structural tension between natural stone and engineered metal to bridge ancient Mesoamerican motifs with modern design.



27

William Hooper Council Park by Dan Burch



Located at William Hooper Council Park on St. Clair Avenue SW—the site of Huntsville's first public African American high school—this bronze sculpture of Dr. William Hooper Council was created by Huntsville sculptor Dan Burch and dedicated in 2020. The artwork depicts Dr. Council standing with a book in hand, commemorating his legacy as a pioneering educator, former enslaved person, and the founder of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M) in 1875.



The sculpture serves as the centerpiece of the historic park, anchoring a site dedicated to preserving the memory of William Hooper Council High School, which operated from 1867 until its closure in 1970. Burch's work pays tribute to Dr. Council's core philosophy of empowerment through education and honors the generations of Black students, teachers, and civic leaders who shaped the city's history.

28

Travelers I by David Dahlquist, Matt Niebuhr, and RDG Planning & Design



Photo by RDG Studios, Thomas Grady Photography

Situated in Huntsville's Community Foundation Park outside Redstone Federal Credit Union, *Travelers I* serves as a welcoming beacon for visitors entering the urban core. The sculpture was realized through a public-private partnership between the City of Huntsville, RCP Companies, Redstone Federal Credit Union, and the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville.

As a companion piece to *Travelers II* in nearby Big Spring Park, the artwork uses a soaring, illuminated steel arch to honor the continuum of people who have shaped the region across generations.

29

We Gather Here to Honor by Angelica Pozo

Created by nationally recognized ceramic artist Angelica Pozo, "*We Gather Here to Honor*" is a public art installation located at Twickenham Square. Known for her vibrant, site-specific architectural ceramics and mosaics, Pozo designed the installation to commemorate the rich legacy of William Hooper Council High School.

The handprints and footprints on the tiles were created through collaborative community workshops organized by Angelica Pozo during the artwork's fabrication. Pozo invited local Huntsville residents to press their painted feet onto the tile surfaces before they were fired and mounted onto the outdoor masonry structures. These prints transform the installation from a passive public monument into a living record of the community.



30

Moon Gate by Glenn Dasher

Created by artist Glenn Dasher and commissioned by the King family, "Moon Gate" is a 21-foot-tall, 25-foot-wide sculpture honoring Olin B. King, founder of SCI Systems, Inc. Blending salvaged limestone columns with modern stainless steel, the piece visually mirrors Huntsville's evolution from a small Southern mill town into a premier space, technology, and arts hub. Visible from the road and for hospital visitors, the monument serves as a lasting tribute to King's legacy and the city's enduring identity.



31

Cosmic Christ by Gordon William Smith

Located on First Baptist Church in downtown Huntsville, "Cosmic Christ"—nicknamed "Eggbeater Jesus"—is a massive mosaic fusing sacred symbolism with the Space Age identity of the "Rocket City." Originally created by Gordon William Smith between 1966 and 1973 using 1.4 million hand-cut glass tiles, the iconic landmark features biblical motifs centered on the recurring number seven. After the original installation began deteriorating, a comprehensive 2022 restoration led by J. Piercey Studios rebuilt the masterpiece using 4.3 million durable smalti glass pieces, preserving its legacy as one of North Alabama's most celebrated civic treasures.

Photo by Ben Darby



Downtown Art Discovery Trail

Thank you for exploring the **Downtown Arts Discovery Trail**! We hope you enjoyed your walk discovering some incredible art and took the opportunity to pop into some local shops along the route.

Discover More Art

Learn About the Trail: Scan the QR code below to view more about each artwork you saw today.

Explore Huntsville's Collection: Ready for your next art adventure? Visit publicartarchive.org to discover the full scope of public art pieces scattered all across the city.

Keep exploring, and thank you for taking part in this public art experience!

Scan here:

