

# THE EVANSVILLE PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR

Evansville's Downtown is a perfect place for walking. The portion of the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage along the riverfront is punctuated by public art. Within a few short blocks from the scenic riverfront are monuments, memorials, and architectural wonders. Nearby is the Haynie's Corner Art District, a developing artists' colony supported by the city and located in a historic neighborhood. The walking tour outlined here offers viewers just a glimpse of the pieces of publicly accessible artworks in Evansville by local and international artists. They are excerpted from the *Evansville Public Art* guide, available at the Evansville Convention & Visitors Bureau, located in the Pagoda near the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science. The suggested route for the Downtown public art walking tour is 2.5 miles – about a one hour stroll. Other pieces of notable public art, not included on the map, but highlighted in the *Evansville Public Art* guide include:

**The Rice Library Limestone Relief** by John McNaughton and Kathryn M. Waters (2006) is on the façade of the David L. Rice Library at the University of Southern Indiana.

**Coal Mine Mural** by Eric Braysmith (2002), **Fish Story** by Matt Campbell (1998), and **Free Me** by Alene Richards Kiefer (1998) are located along the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage between the trailhead at the Heidelbach Canoe Launch and the trailhead near the city's Animal Control Shelter.

**Populace** by Danae Fuller (2002) is located at the Greatland Target Pavilion at Burkhardt Road and East Lloyd Expressway.

**The Weeping Basketball Fountain** (1978, architects Knapp, Given and Condict), erected in memory of the University of Evansville basketball team killed in a plane crash, is at Memorial Plaza on the UE Campus.

**Monarch of the Plains** by Ron Herron (2005) is located in front of the Eykamp Scout Center at 3501 E. Lloyd Expressway.

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*Evansville*  
 Public Art

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# WALKING TOUR

## 1. The Bend in the River

Amy Musia's riverfront creation of stainless steel and granite was the first public artwork commissioned by the city of Evansville in 1993.

## 2. Korean War Memorial

This copper and sandstone monument by Steve Shields captures the camaraderie of soldiers. The memorial, located by the Four Freedoms Monument, was erected in 1992, almost 40 years after the war's end.

## 3. Four Freedoms Monument

The riverfront monument, based on a design by Evansville architect Rupert Condict, was erected in 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. The towering limestone columns represent freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from oppression, and freedom from fear.

## 4. Editorial Without Words

Chris Navarro's bronze sculpture, located in front of the Hadi Temple, is based on a photograph taken at Evansville's Mesker Park and represents an iconic symbol of the Shriners Hospitals for Children worldwide.

## 5. Old Post Office and Customs House

The 19th century Victorian Gothic structure was built during an era of economic power and prosperity in Evansville and once housed federal offices, including the surveyor of customs and the inspector of steamboats.

## 6. Spirit of 1861 and Spirit of 1916

Artist George H. Honig's pair of bronze sculptures flanking the entrance to the Evansville Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Coliseum depict dual themes of war and peace.

## 7. The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

Dedicated in 1890, Henry W. Wolters' colossal structure is a prime example of German Baroque architecture and features the craftsmanship of Franz Engelsmann, sculptor of the 14 allegorical figures that adorn the structure.

## 8. Cooling Tower

In the courtyard behind the Civic Center Complex, Michael Buente's engineering wonder blends style and function. The cylindrical fountain houses the complex's cooling system.

### LEGEND



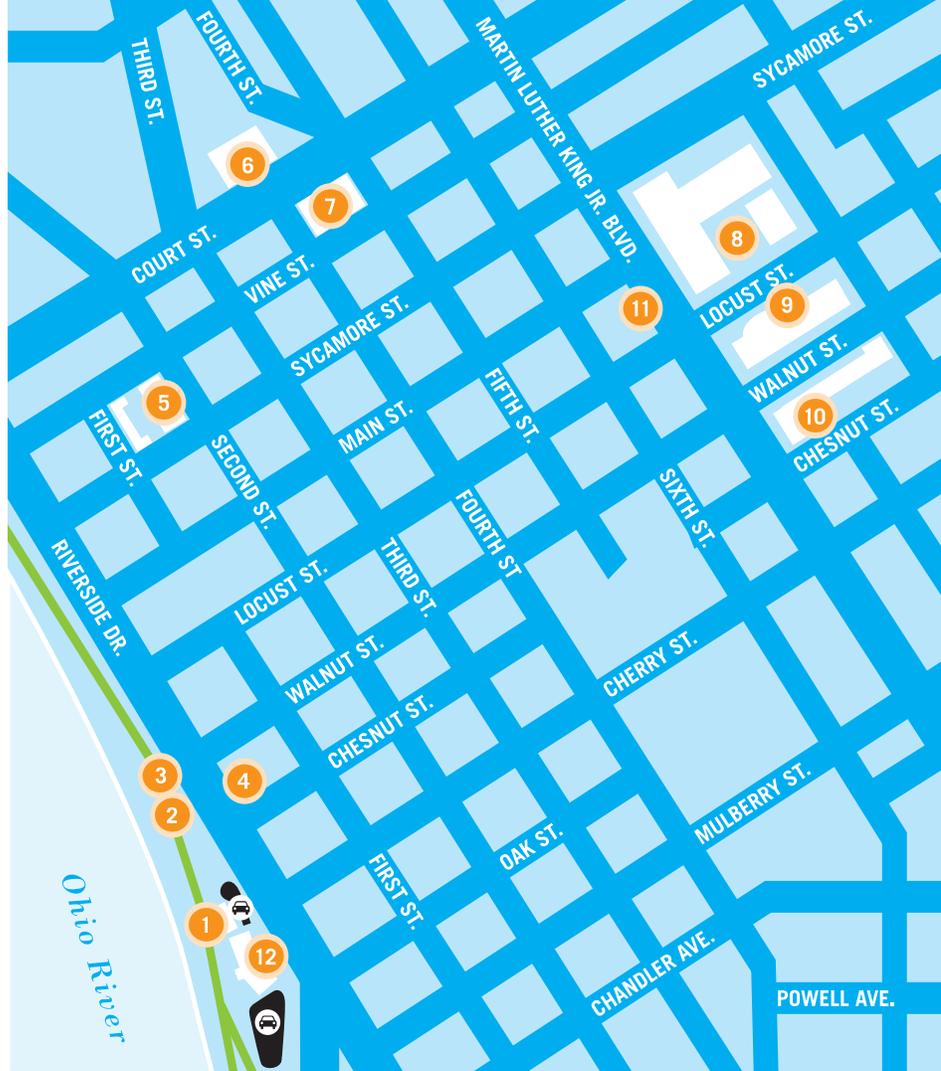
Public Art Location



Parking



Pigeon Creek Greenway



## 9. The World's Largest

John McNaughton's super-sized stainless steel coil, located at the entrance to The Centre, was inspired by "Ripley's Believe It or Not," the chronicler of the weird and wonderful.

## 10. The Tree of Knowledge

Hanging in a surprising fashion from a ceiling in Central Library, John McNaughton's 500-pound tree, sculpted from 15 types of wood and bark, was the first work of public art commissioned by the library in 2005.

## 11. Desert Shield Desert Storm Monument

Steve Shields' copper monument, dedicated in 1993 to the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, is believed to be the first modern war memorial depicting a woman in combat.

## 12. The Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science

### Centennial Gates

Located in the sculpture garden, William Eric Leth's welcoming sculpture was commissioned to celebrate the museum's 100th anniversary.

### Flowing River

John McNaughton's abstract vision of where the Ohio River bends as it reaches Evansville was created for the nation's Bicentennial. It's located in the museum's sculpture garden.

### Night Gates

The playful bronze sculpture, found in the museum's sculpture garden, was relocated to Evansville from its first home in Dante Park in New York City at the request of artist Joan Sherman in 1989.

### The Lady of the Grand

The bust of Lady Liberty, located in the museum's sculpture garden, is a remnant of the Grand Opera House in Downtown Evansville. Designed by brothers James and Merritt Reid in 1889, the building was razed in 1962.

### Earth Mother

Artist Abbott Pattison finished sculpting the imposing marble statue, weighing in at four tons, in 1961. This abstract personification of nature is located in the sculpture garden at the museum.

### Celestial Quest

The stainless steel sculpture, located on the museum's Kuehn Terrace, was created by Evansville native Timothy W. Fitzgerald, who spent his childhood exploring the city's scrap metal yards.

### The Planes of Nature

Don Gummer's postmodern three-layer structure, located on the museum's Kuehn Terrace, was the artist's first museum commission in 1987. It pays "architectural homage" to the distinguishing elements of the city's historic neighborhoods.