WHY PUBLIC ART MATTERS TO MORGANTOWN

Public art offers multi-layered community benefits—to the community as a sense of pride and connectivity; to the artist and arts in general as a supporter and display of creativity and ideas; to residents and visitors as experiencing new perspectives; to the economy as enhancing the value of the area.

In Morgantown, there is a vast array of public art, defined here as publicly accessible art or sites (buildings that house art) but all of it has yet to be documented. By bringing attention to the various locations of outdoor sculptures and murals, and sites like galleries and other buildings that display art, we recognize not only the considerable artistic opportunities for our residents and visitors, but also the effort from our community to embrace the value of the arts.
ENJOY MORGANTOWN’S ART IN THE CITY

From outdoor sculptures and murals to indoor galleries and venues, Morgantown offers many opportunities for experiencing art for free!

The first of its kind, this Morgantown Public Art Guide is hopefully the start of a new conversation around art in Morgantown. Home of the only land-grant institutional Art Museum in the state, an active community arts scene, and buildings that house art across town, this guide exemplifies the authentic and diverse perspectives that make this area the vibrant and exciting community that it is.

Spearheaded by WVU Libraries, the project also models a true collaborative spirit amongst arts organizations, with support from the Art Museum of WVU, the Friends of the Art Museum of WVU, WVU College of Creative Arts, Morgantown Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, The Clio, Little Fish Design Company and Arts Monongahela, our city’s arts council.

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The project, as led by the WVU Libraries, also demonstrates the Libraries’ ability to bring about interdisciplinary and collaborative endeavors and bring resources to bear that benefit the whole community.

Do You Know of Missing Art?
Arts Monongahela is committed to sustaining this project in the future. As this is the first time creating such an ambitious art guide, we recognize that we could have missed a few pieces and sites. If you know anything about public art around you in Morgantown that is not included on this guide or on Clio, please get in touch for future versions. Email Sally Deskins, project director, Exhibits & Programs Coordinator, WVU Libraries at sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-0369 with information.

TAKE AN ANYTIME ONLINE TOUR

For more information on these places in Morgantown and beyond, check out Clio, a free nonprofit website and mobile app developed by Marshall University. Clio connects you with historic and cultural sites across the United States by providing step by step directions along with stories, pictures, videos, and links to books and websites. This Clio tour was developed by WVU Libraries and Clio’s Preserve WV AmeriCorps member. Take the tour at theclio.com.
25 Pamela Marr Quilt, Pamela Marr, 2016
The WVU Interior Design alumni created the quilt, representing the many disciplines of WVU’s Davis College, to celebrate the opening of the new Agricultural Sciences Building. 4100 Agricultural Sciences Building

26 SITE: Evansdale Library
Temporary exhibits as well as several permanent artworks including Preprints for a Post Digital Landscape, a largescale abstract acrylic painting on the 2nd floor by Amy Schlissel created in 2016. 1212 Evansdale Dr.

27 SITE: The Joyce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum
Dedicated to preserving and promoting the social, cultural and technological history of WV’s coal and petroleum industries through collection, research and exhibition. Also featuring permanent temporary and permanent exhibitions. The Joyce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum is open daily. 1549 University Ave.

28 SITE: Art Museum of WVU
The Art Museum of WVU, part of the College of Creative Arts, serves as a cultural and educational resource for WV, providing exhibitions, programs, and preservation of their vast art collections. The Art Museum of WVU houses an art collection of art and objects on display throughout the building. 1549 University Ave.

29 SITE: Nathan Scates Gallery at the Art Museum of WVU
Outside the Art Museum of WVU, the Nathan Scates Garden is a 2.5 acre garden and path including several sculptures and a variety of plants. 35 Pees Arts Dr.

30 SITE: WVU Creative Arts Center Galleries and Outdoor Sculpture
The WVU Creative Arts Center is home to the College of Creative Arts. Inside the lobby interior Terrain, a sculpture by Alison Helen, Director of the School of Art and Design. The CAC also houses the Paul and Laura Mesaros Galleries which host changing exhibitions and permanent displays of Life Sciences Center also houses the Cook-Hayman Pharmacy.

31 Jerry West and Hot Rod Handley Sculptures, Jamie Lester, 2007 and 2016. Larger-than-life-size bronze statues of two famed West Virginia University basketball stars. WVU Coliseum, 3450 Monongahela Blvd.

32 A Father’s Love, Chris Kroll, 2007
John F. Kennedy Memorial and homage to fatherhood, includes bronze statue depicting John F. Kennedy’s father’s casket in 1961, and a base-relief of President Kennedy. The statue recognizes Senator Kennedy’s announcement of his intention to run in the WV primary on February 6, 1960, in Star City, WV. JFK Memorial Park, Leeway St., Star City

33 As Gave Some, Some Gave All, artist unknown, 2011
Bronze sculpture honoring Star City veterans. JFK Memorial Park, Leeway St., Star City

34 Star City Riverfront History Mosaic, Debra Palmer, 2015
Mosaic depicting glass factories, railroad, river barges, “Blue Bridge” and ferry crossing of the area’s past. Star City waterfront, Leeway St., Star City

35 The WVU Coliseum, 3450 Monongahela Blvd.
36 WVU’s Coliseum, 3450 Monongahela Blvd.
37 Mountainlair.
38 Mountaineer Statue.
39 Wall mural depicting a unique collection of 18th and 19th century rural and community life as well as several permanent temporary and permanent exhibitions. The Joyce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum is open daily.