

2015 OAK PARK SCULPTURE WALK

Beginning near Ridgeland Avenue — the shoreline of prehistoric Lake Chicago 13,000 years ago — take a stroll along Chicago Avenue as public art heads down one of Oak Park's most eclectic byways. Many of this year's sculptures (winners of a select, juried competition) have a spiritual bent, and they stand out in this decidedly urban setting. Enjoy your walk — and happy trails!

Start your journey at the NE corner of Chicago and Cuyler avenues. Welcome!

1 "Eye of Uxmal"

James K. Johnson

We begin with a modern take on the Mayan view of art as a means to communicate. The artist intends the arch to shift the viewer from a place of time and activity to one of calm and reflection. The "eye" at the top relates to seasonal sunlight passing through the opening in a slowly changing, daily movement. The vivid color helps make this piece both a gateway and a signpost.

2 "Aviary"

Margot McMahon

McMahon is a lifelong environmentalist whose work involves natural materials. In this case, the birds are resting on fallen branches from local trees. The birds themselves are a collegial sample of the thousands who flock here seasonally — for days or months at a time, or perhaps just the briefest of stops along the flyway to a distant land.

3 "Untitled"

Brett Evangelista

Here the artist is interested in spirituality and the purest sort of prayer, beyond a request or statement, but rather, simply, an attempt at transcendence. By connecting contrasting elements and forms, Evangelista aims to recognize how these shapes and materials work together, not necessarily to serve an end, but rather to recognize a higher presence through their harmony.

4 "Spinning Wheels With No Place To Go"

Jennifer Meyer & PJ Krupa

Oh yes, please turn the pedal. Your effort is worth it, creating a visual and aural effect that's completely disarming. Jennifer Meyer works exclusively in found objects and her whimsical construction asks us to consider all the discards and litter we see around us. These rejects can become expressive, useful, amusing — and artful.

5 "Boundless"

Boyan Marinov

Here is homo sapiens as 600 feet of steel chain. The piece reminds us that the shackles we endure and the weight they bear have less power than our will to break free. In a world of digital and virtual realities, Marinov uses hard, visceral materials to make a tough statement about reality. Plus, he invites comment and interaction — the start of a larger, shared conversation.

6 "Musician"

Maureen Gray

The title says Musician, but the piece also represents a musical instrument. Maureen Gray is expressing what she calls a "universal energy", connecting a musician to her instrument in such concert that they literally become one. As the materials reflect the strength of this bond, the art and the artist cannot be separated... because they are the same.

7 "Public Prayer Booth"

Dylan Mortimer

As in Evangelista's sculpture, this piece also addresses the notion of prayer; but here it is, quite literally, on display. Mortimer aims "to explore the boundaries of faith by blurring the lines where public expression is permitted and prohibited." The idea of prayer as a non-denominational, public utility seems to both honor and de-fuse the importance of individual belief.

8 "Nudge"

Dusty Folwarczny

These steel rings are heavy and aging. But they are not stagnant. The steel oxidizes to protect itself — and in the presence of light, and a breeze, and even our passing by, there is a faint but evident sense of movement, a nudge. Folwarczny calls this "the little whispers you are given in life to keep you headed in the right direction."

9 "Hesitant"

Ben Pierce

As you pass, you can't help but see something through the aqua circle. So stop and look closer, changing your angle of view. More likely than not, you'll focus on something unexpected, something you've not noticed before. The piece's angled iron helps isolate your view. The artist invites you linger a moment, to "stop and smell the roses."

10 "Empty Revisited #2"

Shawn Morin

Inspired by the Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi, Shawn Morin introduces an intimate and unthreatening aspect to granite and steel. The openness of the piece honors Noguchi's notion that there is power in spaces which do not physically or visually exist within a work of art. An almost church-like spirituality is the result.

11 "Black and Bloom"

Karen Gubitza

Karen Gubitza is inspired by the pure, simple forms and textures present in nature. She hand-gathers all of her materials from the Illinois farm where she's restored a native prairie and indigenous pine and hardwood forests. Then Gubitza uses traditional weaving methods to create her fluid, graceful art forms — a successful elevation of craft art to fine art.

12 "Quarks VI"

Guy Bellaver

Our final work lifts spirituality to the cutting edge of modern science. Inspired by high-speed images from the Fermilab proton-antiproton collider, Bellaver's work reduces the explosive movement (black rods) of mass (in blue) into a graceful snapshot of family interaction. The complexity of particle science is frozen in a moment of dance, color, light and space.

Stroll, Admire, Discuss!

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This program was developed by the Oak Park Public Art Advisory Commission and the Village of Oak Park, with support from Visit Oak Park and Illinois Office of Tourism.

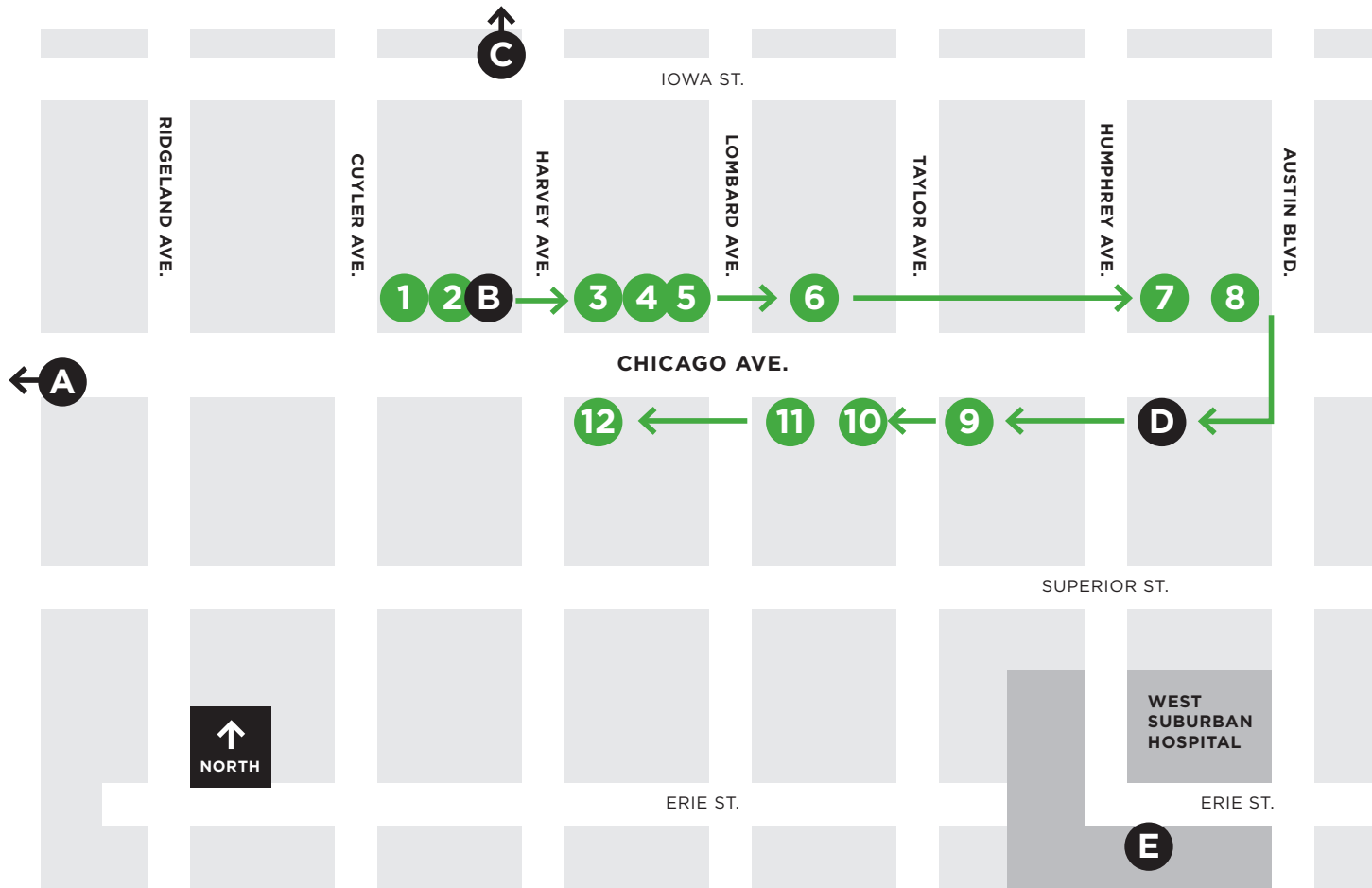
Design: a5 (a5inc.com)

Printing: The Printing Store, Oak Park

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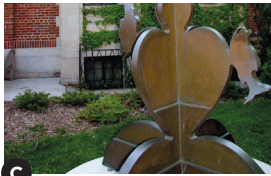
PERMANENT ART COLLECTION



A
Oak Park Art League - Courtyard Sculpture Garden
featuring an outdoor gallery of sculptural work by local artists, 720 Chicago Avenue



B
“Free Transfer”
mosaic mural, 2005, an Oak Park Area Arts Council Off-the-Wall summer mural project, East Wall of Terra Incognito, 246 Chicago Avenue



C
“Keepsake” by Scott Wallace, Bronze, 2002, dedicated to local arts advocate and patron Ed Trinko, Dole Library garden, 255 Augusta Street



D
“Traveler” by Eric W. Stephenson, Welded stainless steel, 2006, collection of the Village of Oak Park



E
“Patient and Caregivers” by Father Anthony Brankin, Bronze, 2010, dedicated in honor of Leonard Saxon M.D., West Suburban Hospital, 3 Erie Court



1
“Eye of Uxmal”
2014
Cor-Ten steel

James K. Johnson
Charleston, IL



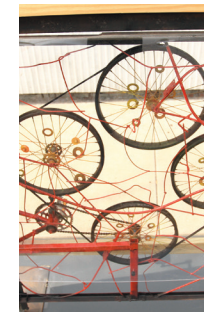
2
“Aviary”
2015
Reclaimed olive, ash, maple, cedar and marble

Margot McMahon
Oak Park, IL



3
(Untitled)
2014
Concrete and Cor-Ten steel

Brett Evangelista
Chicago, IL



4
“Spinning Wheels With No Place To Go”
2015
Bicycle parts, metal, treated lumber and polycarbonate sheets

Jennifer Meyer & PJ Krupa
Lansing, IL



5
“Boundless”
2011
Steel chain

Boyan Marinov
Chicago, IL



6
“Musician”
2013
Steel, rusted

Maureen Gray
Interlochen, MI



7
“Public Prayer Booth”
2007
Aluminum, plastic and vinyl

Dylan Mortimer
Westwood, KS



8
“Nudge”
2013
Salvaged steel

Dusty Folwarczny
Chicago, IL



9
“Hesitant”
2015
Welded steel and paint

Ben Pierce
Cape Girardeau, MO



10
“Empty Revisited #2”
2012
Granite, stone paint, painted steel

Shawn Morin
Bowling Green, OH



11
“Black and Bloom”
2014
Woven with natural reed

Karen Gubitza
Oak Park, IL



12
“Quarks VI”
2010
Mixed media (painted fiberglass and steel rod)

Guy Bellaver
St. Charles, IL

All of our sculptures are owned by the artists, but a number of them are available for sale to both private parties and public institutions. For information on a specific piece, please contact us at sculpturewalk@oak-park.us

Always look both ways when crossing our busy streets. Try to cross only at marked crosswalks and traffic signals.