

Arts, Culture and Classrooms: Partnering with Wichita's Creative Vision



City of Wichita
Arts & Cultural Services

Wichita.gov/Arts



Art by Evan Yazzie
grafixiti.com

Local Arts Agency



There are approx. 4,500 Local Arts Agencies across the country that exists to promote, support, and develop the arts at the local level ensuring a vital presence for the arts throughout America's communities. Agencies work to sustain the health and vitality of the arts and artists locally, while also striving to make the arts accessible to all members of a community.



Why art?



Community Investment and Economic Impact

- To attract and retain businesses and personnel through creative place-making.
- Tourists with interests in arts and culture spend twice as much and stay twice as long when they travel.
- Murals and public art reduce graffiti and property damage.

Cross – Cultural and Civic Engagement

- The arts both cultivate and preserve our culture and history.
- The arts are a safe, yet powerful outlet for us to express our ideas and feelings.
- The arts bridge socio-economic and cultural divides.

Youth Engagement and Arts Education

- Youth who participate in visual and performing arts score significantly higher on standardized tests than non-arts students and hold higher school retention records.
- Youth who participate in visual and performing arts are not only more likely to attend, but graduate college with a bachelor's degree (regardless of their major).



City of Wichita's Cultural Arts Mission & Vision



Mission statement: Ensure everyone has equitable access to cultural arts opportunities by activating and strengthening the creative potential of our community.

Vision statement: Wichita is recognized as a community where artistic expression is an integral part of the city's success, arts thrive, and cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated.

Artwork by Evan Yazzie, Grafixiti



2024-2028 Cultural Arts Strategic Plan



Goal 1: Increase participation of residents, specifically those historically underserved and culturally diverse, in the cultural arts.

Goal 2: Strengthen the capacity of the Division of Arts and Cultural Services in the community.

Goal 3: Increase the impact of City-owned cultural arts assets and facilities.

Goal 4: Support efforts to stimulate the creation of artwork and cultural opportunities.



Areas of Focus



- **Ensure** all residents have equal opportunities to engage in cultural arts;
- **Address** needs of City-owned cultural arts facilities;
- **Engage** strategically with historically underserved populations;
- **Stimulate** creation of new cultural opportunities and new artwork in the community;
- **Identify** anticipated partners.



Cultural Arts Division Responsibilities

- Manage Operations and Programs at Cultural Arts Facilities
- Manage agreements for Cultural Institutions and various partner organizations
- Manage the Public Art Collection
- Administer the Cultural Funding Program
- Provide staff support to boards and committees
- Determine the economic impact of arts and culture organizations
- Connect the arts and culture community of Wichita



Cultural Institutions



Arts Means Business



	AEP4 - 2005	AEP5 - 2010	AEP6 - 2015	AEP - 2022
Total Impact	\$49, 144, 808	\$66,157,686	\$94,725,128	\$184,710,568
Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs	1,512	2,006	2,841	2,929
Organizational Expenditures	\$27,588,190	\$37,094,163	\$43,936,656	\$78,517,922
Audience Spending	\$21,556,618	\$29,063,523	\$50,788,472	\$106,192,646

2022 Arts and Economic Prosperity Study, Americans for the Arts
www.Wichita.gov/155/Arts-Economic-Prosperity



Cultural Funding Program



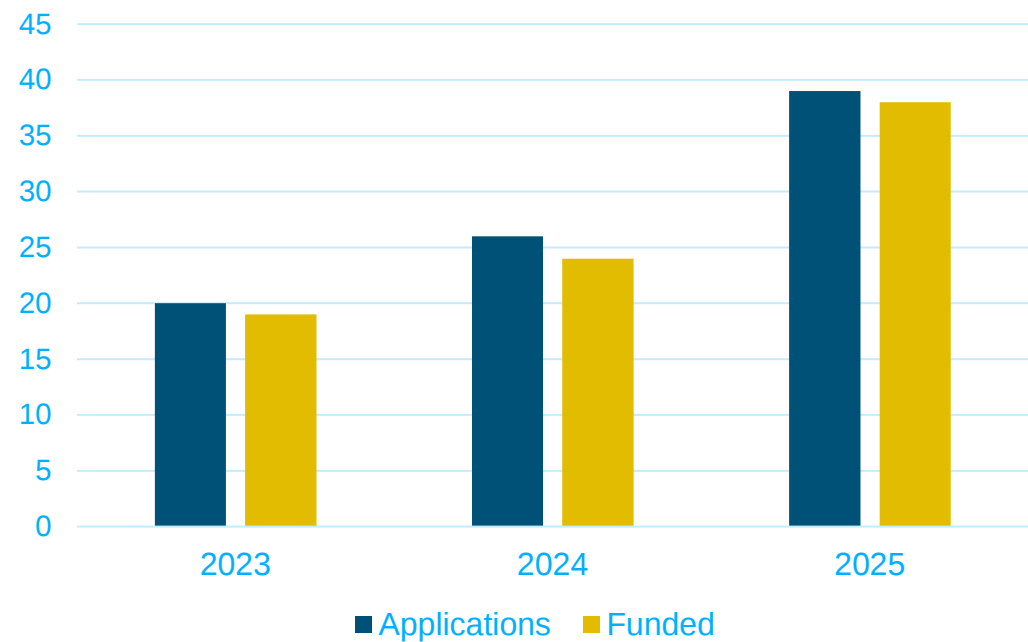
- **Operational Grants:** funding for general operations to arts and culture non-profits that serve Wichita residents
- **Artist Access Grants:** Individual grants for professional development (conferences, workshops, artist residencies, website development, professional presentation expenses)
- **Arts Thrive Grants:** Three \$25,000 project grants were awarded in 2025 to local artists or organizations presenting and art project or program that serve Wichita residents



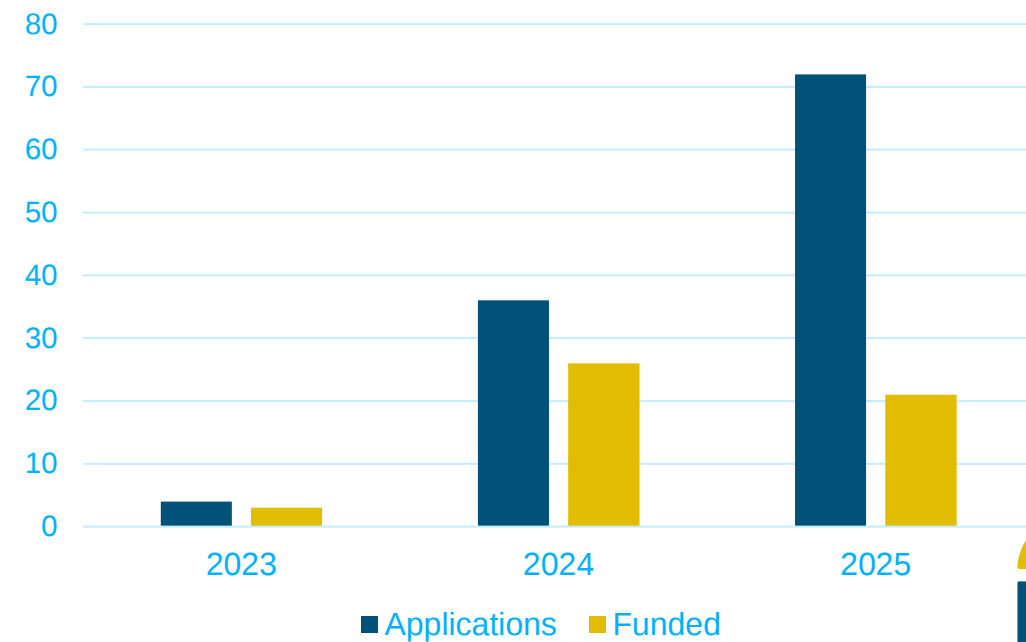
2024 – Cultural Funding Grant Applications Received



Operational Grant Applications & Funded Orgs



Artist Access Grant Applications & Funded Artists



The Inaugural Arts Thrive Grant Opportunity received 49 applications with 3 awards.



Cultural Funding Program – Operational Funding



Large Orgs

Arts Partners
Ballet Wichita
Envision Foundation (Arts Program)
Exploration Place
KMUW
Mark Arts
Music Theatre Wichita
Orpheum Performing Arts Center
PBS Kansas
Ulrich Museum
Wichita Grand Opera
Wichita Public Library Foundation
Wichita Symphony Society

Medium

Forum Theatre Company
Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center
Harvester Arts
Storytime Village
Tallgrass Film Association
The Kansas African American Museum

Small Orgs

A.R.I.S.E.
Juniper Arts Academy
Kansas Bluegrass Association
Laughing Feet Performers
McCormick School Museum
Metropolitan Ballet
Music On Site
Music Youth Partnership
Opera Kansas
Raices de mi Tierra
Regina Klenjoski Dance Company
Tack Flute Foundation
Wichita Asian Association
Wichita Blues Society
Wichita Chamber Chorale
Wichita Community Children's Choir
Wichita Fine Arts Atelier
Wichita Jazz Festival
Wichita Repertory Theatre



2025 Artist Access Grants



Artistic Residencies	5 awards
Conference Attendance	9 awards
Continuing Education	7 awards
Expanded Marketing	2 awards
Workshop Participation	3 awards



Total Community Impact for 2024: City-Supported Organizations



\$102,873,553

Economic Impact

1,432

Local Jobs Supported

1,342

Paid Wichita Artists

474

Paid Non-Local Artists



Total Community Impact for 2024: City-Supported Cultural Arts Organizations



1,411,101

Total Attendance

4,562

Free Arts Events

102,870

School-Aged Children Served

148,711

Underserved Audience Members

1,459

Unique Zip Codes

50

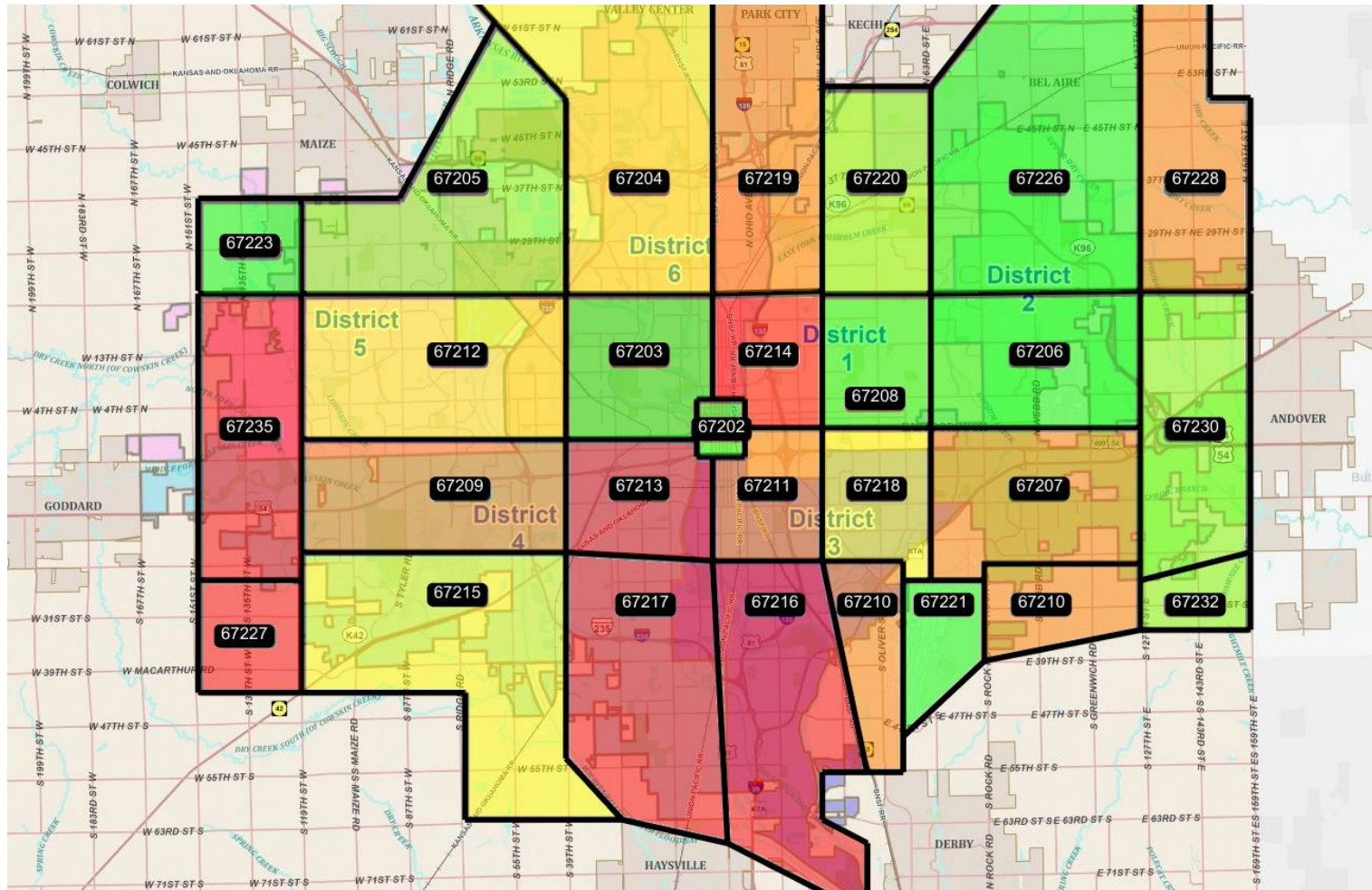
States

46

Countries



Zip Code Impact Map



High Arts Impact



Average Arts Impact



Low Arts Impact



Strategic Areas of Opportunity



Objective 1.1 – “Increase by 10% per year in each zip code the number of underserved residents who access arts and cultural opportunities.”

- Sector concerns about stability in public funding, including state and federal funding (Sunflower Summer Program, Kansas Arts Commission, National Endowment for Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, etc.)

Objective 2.1 – “Increase funding sources and resources for the cultural arts.”

- Growth in the Cultural Funding Program applicant pool meant many organizations received fewer dollars, despite rising costs



Strategic Areas of Opportunity



Objective 3.2 – “Increase the number of cultural arts facilities and assets available to meet community needs.”

- Continued need for affordable performing arts spaces (rehearsal and performance)

Objective 3.3 – “Establish Wichita as a regional hub for cultural arts.”

- Achieving Top 40 City Status for Most-Vibrant Communities is challenging for Wichita as the rubric requires state and federal funding that Kansas does not receive

Objective 4.1 – “Partner with organizations to increase the number of paid professional opportunities for artists and arts organizations in the community.”

- Continued need for affordable fine art studio space
- Continued need for affordable housing for creative workforce, including temporary housing options for residencies



Getting the word out



The SHOUT

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The SHOUT's calendar is sponsored by the City of Wichita's Division of Arts & Cultural Services.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes...	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Brick Conv...	Creature F...	The Power ...	Senior We...	Bloomfield ...	Sips and S...	Riverside Y...
Film Scree...	Monday Bl...	July Arts M...	Knitting Gr...	Opening R...	4th of July ...	Celebrate ...
One Final ...	Learning C...	Fox Seaso...	History: Th...	Community...	First Friday...	Cosplay in ...
Historical ...	Wichita Sk...	Author Eve...	*Weave a n...	1st Thursda...	Red, White...	Sips and S...
Author Tal...		Author Eve...	Singer Son...	Summer C...	Melodrama...	Melodrama...
Theater: *Y...		Pretend Fri...	Live Music:...	The Sham ...	Film Scree...	Live Music:...
Lecture wit...			Weekly Alc...	Live Music:...	Improv sho...	Dinner and...
Live Music:...			Live Music:...		First Friday...	Film Scree...
Live Music:...						Melodrama...
Live Music:...						Film Scree...
						Social Dan...





Free and informal gathering, open to artists and art lovers of all ages and abilities who are interested in learning more about the arts in Wichita. Our goal is to connect creatives throughout our community and spark conversations and collaboration.



Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5 PM – 7 PM

August ARTS MIXR at the Ulrich Museum of Art

Ulrich Museum of Art



Wichita.gov/Arts



- Arts & Economic Prosperity
- Attractions +
- CityArts +
- Cultural Arts Funding
- Cultural Arts Strategic Plan
- Public Art +
- Old Cowtown Museum
- Mid-America All-Indian Museum

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ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES



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The City of Wichita's Division of Arts and Cultural Services is a local art agency that works to support and advance Wichita's arts community and foster collaborations and connections with statewide, regional and national arts partners.

Sign up for Arts & Culture Updates

Receive occasional emails from the Division of Arts and Cultural Services in your inbox. [Subscribe Now.](#)

Current Opportunities



City-related art opportunities, (including jobs, RFPs, RFQs, grants, etc.) are listed here when available.



Public Art – Two Percent for Art Program



Annual Update for 2024

- 9 RFQs for the projects were initiated and received 536 applications
- External participation in the selection committees increased by 180% from 2023
- 58% of opportunities were awarded to Wichita-area Artists, representing \$678,475 in commissions
- 88% of the 2024 Two Percent for Art projects are in or within a half mile of disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Launched Public Art Archive in spring 2024 making the collection accessible to the public
- Staff presented at 13 unique public engagement opportunities about public art
- Received CODAworks Top 100 Public Art Project recognition for the Chester I. Lewis Reflection Park project
- 6 works are currently in restoration



City of Wichita Public Art Collection

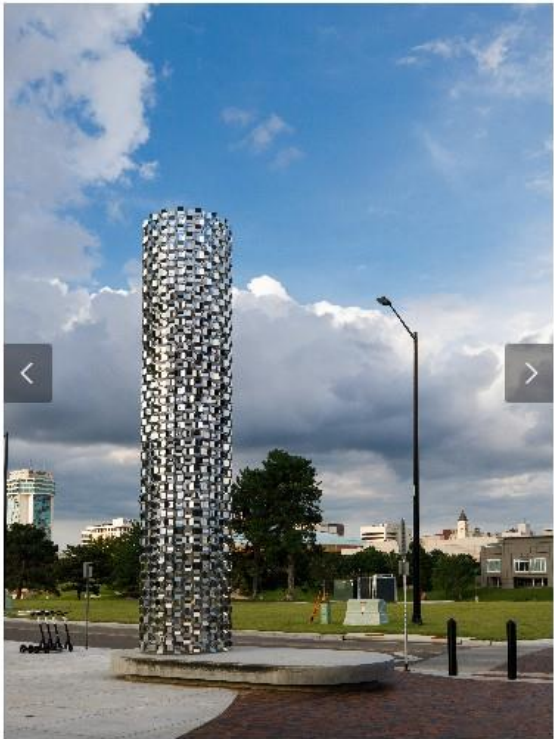


The Division of Arts and Cultural Services manages the City's public art collection, integrating artwork in Wichita's community spaces. The Division stewards the 2% of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project funds in order to ensure appropriate funding, selection, creation, conservation and maintenance of public art.

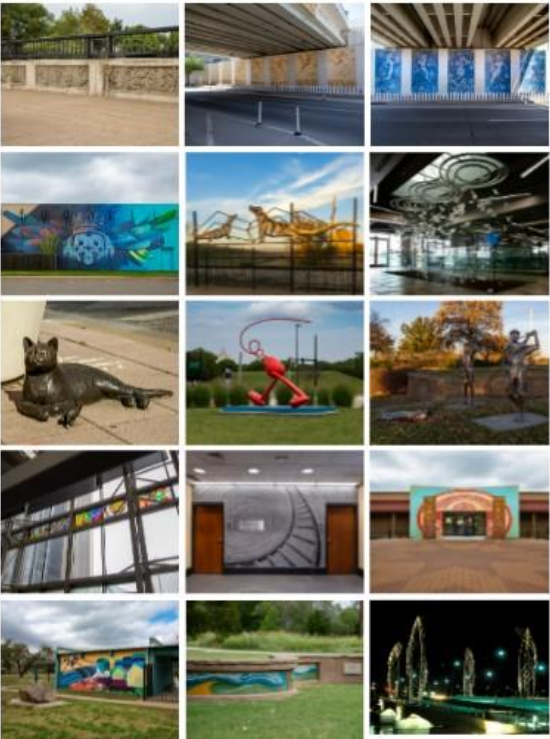
[EXPLORE WICHITA'S FULL COLLECTION](#) →

[WICHITA PUBLIC ART WEBSITE](#) →

Collection Highlights

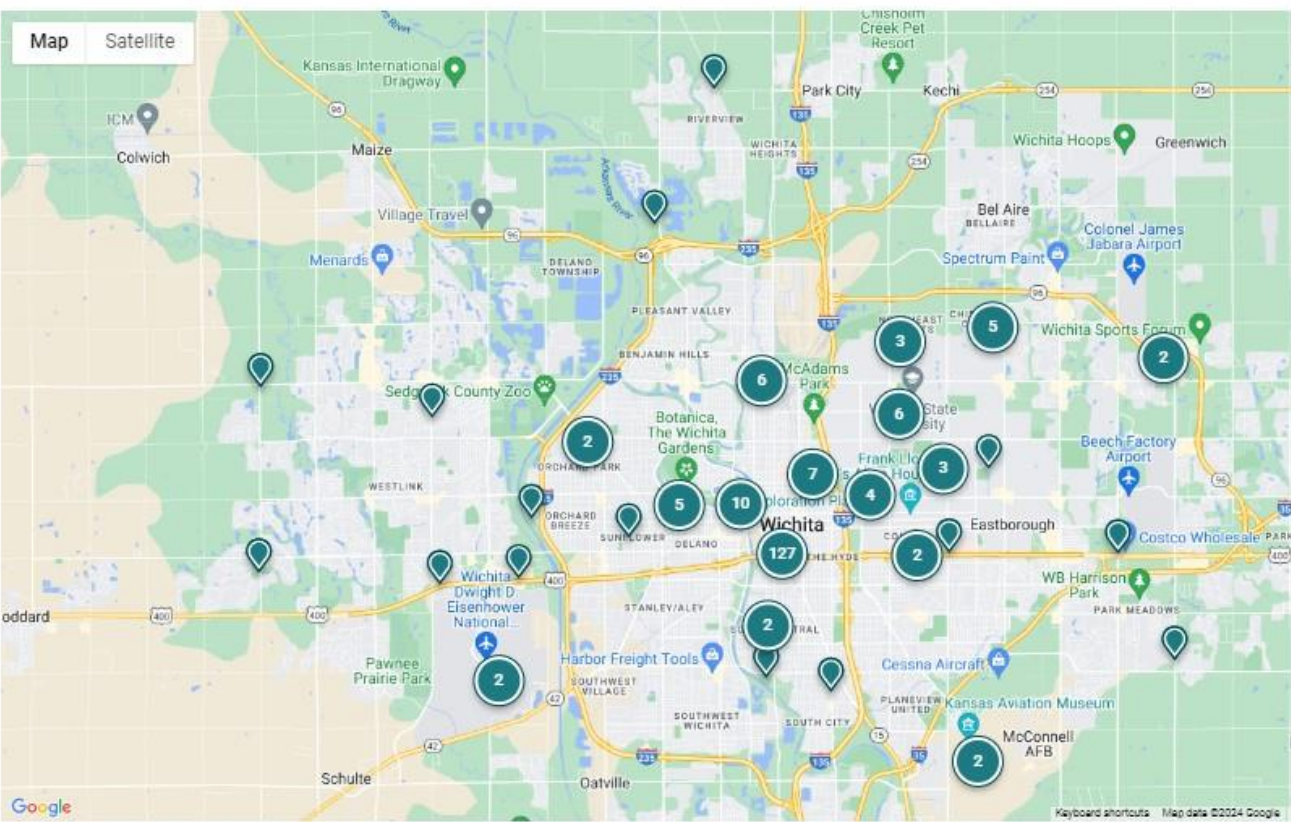


Explore Artworks from the Collection



EXPLORE ALL ARTWORKS →

Explore the Wichita Collection Map



Visitors to publicartarchive.org can explore 300+ works from the City’s collection by title, artist, medium, and location.





The City of Wichita Public Art Collection

A Brief Overview

- The collection **spans 132 years**, dating to the 1892 Gargoyle series by Stephen A. Hesse on the façade of the Sedgwick County Historical Museum.
- The **Two Percent for Art** ordinance was approved in December 2019 to provide funding for the integration of public art into the City's Capital Improvement Projects.
- Today, the collection has over **300 permanent works** located throughout Wichita's urban districts, parks, civic centers, bridges, and roadways.

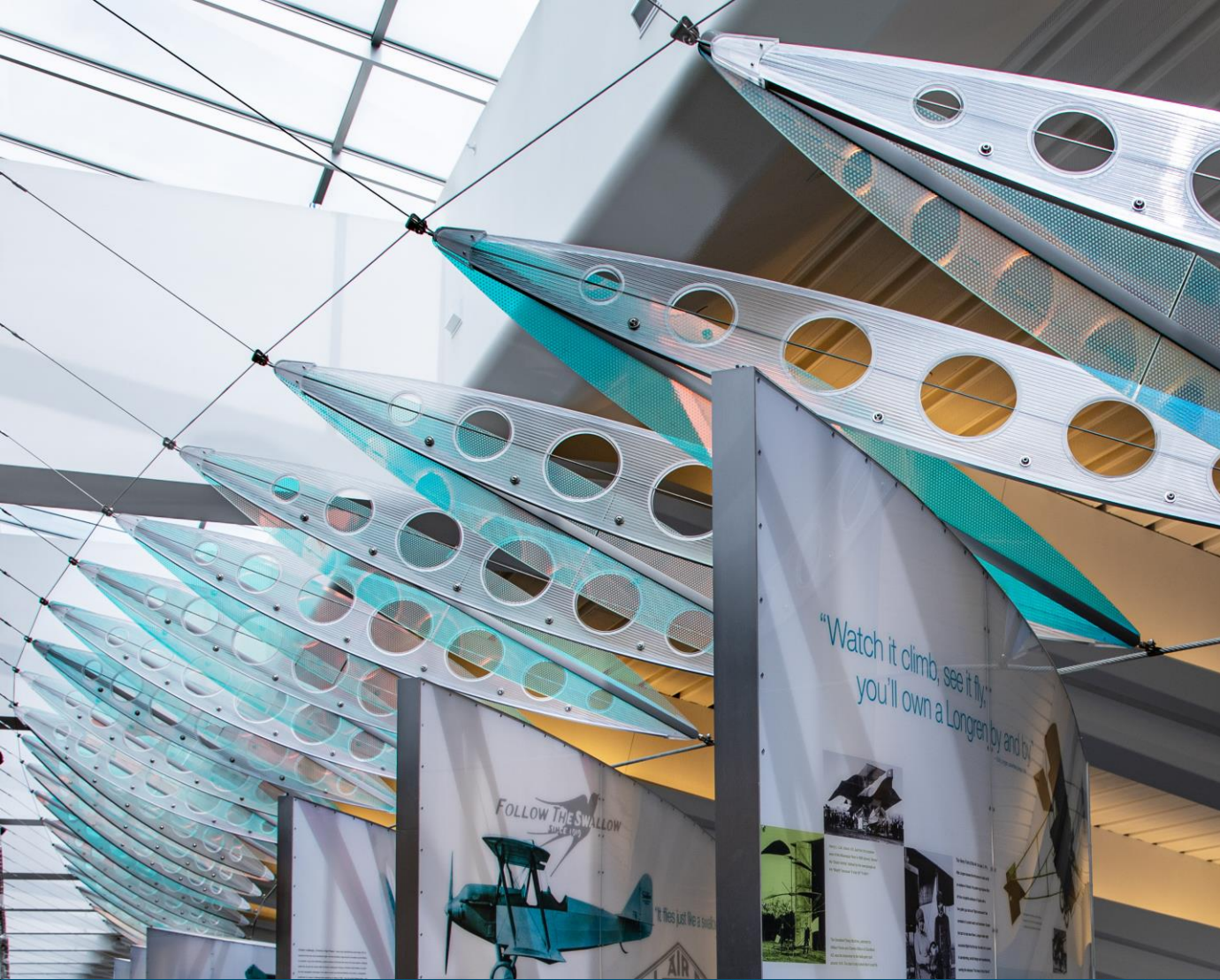
Stephen A. Hesse, *Gargoyle #5*, 1892.



Public art draws people into a shared experience and transforms our city into a welcoming zone for connection, inspiration, and community.

Chester I. Lewis Reflection Park
Artists: Ellamonique Baccus, Matthew Mazzotta



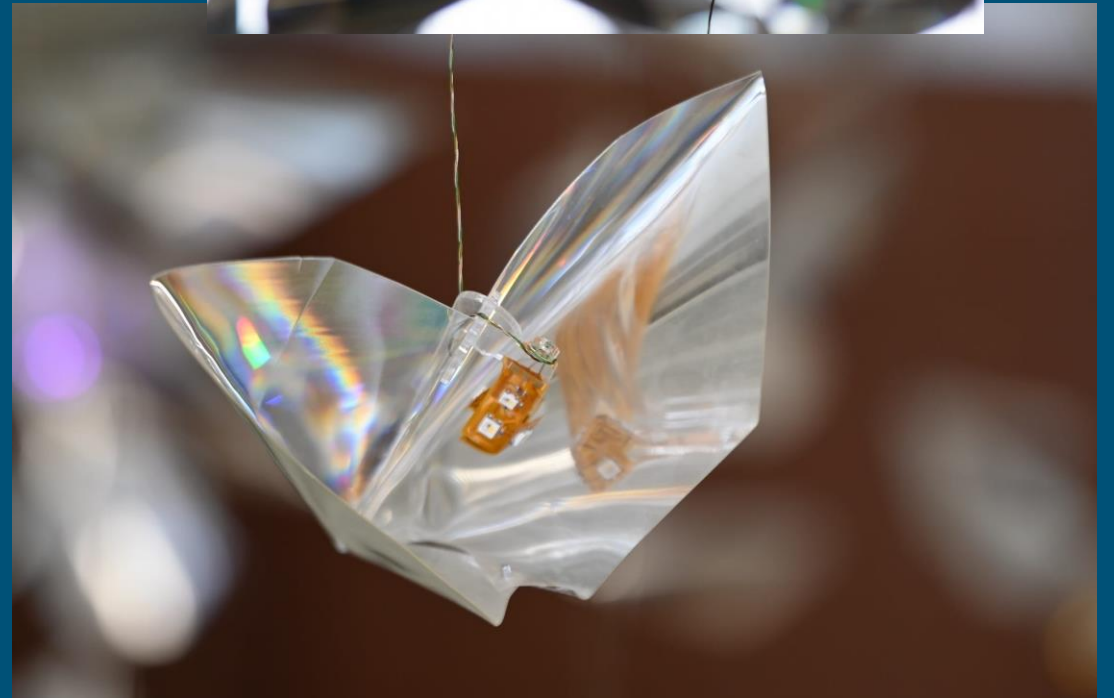


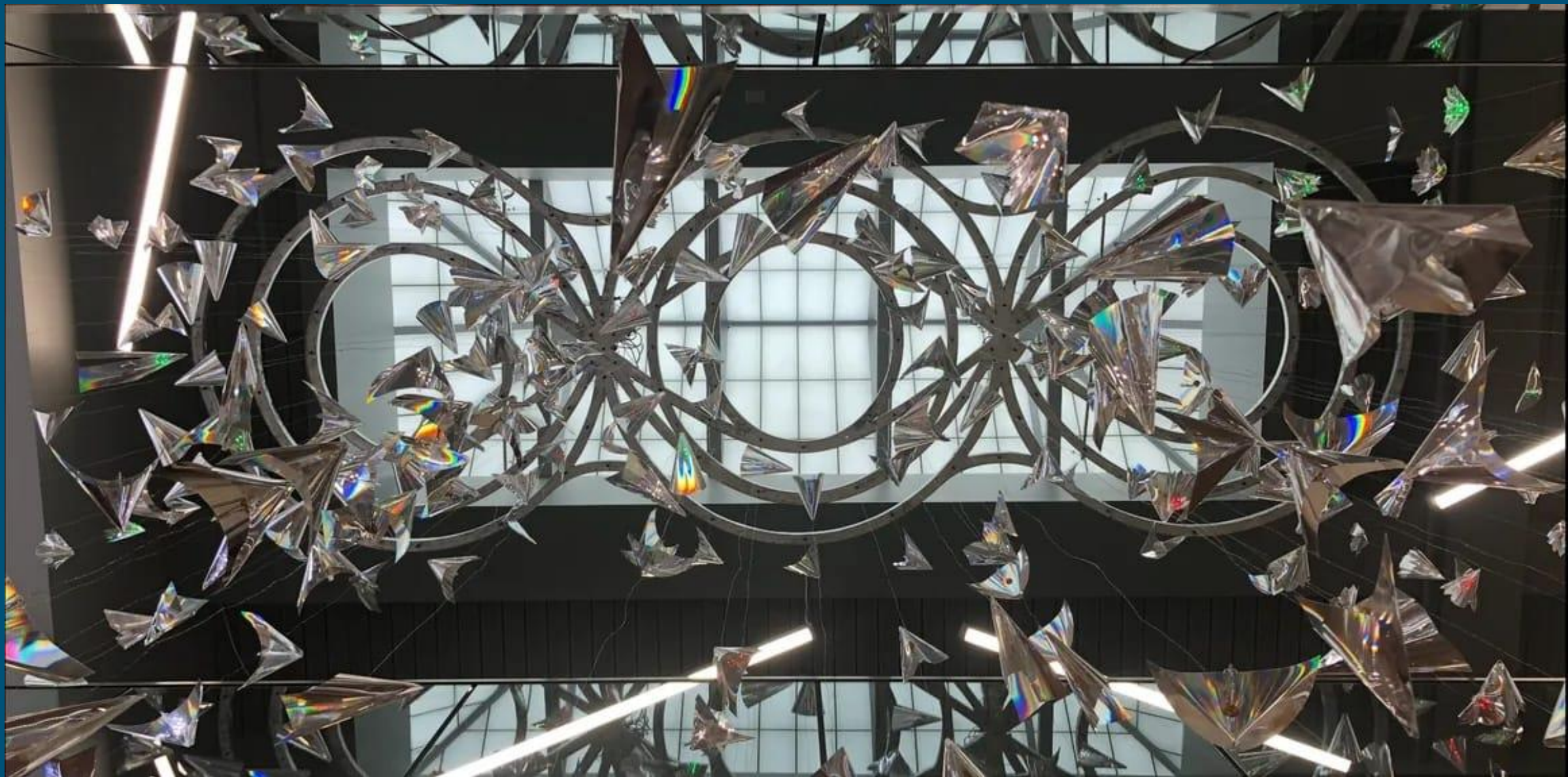
Ed Carpenter, *Aloft*, 2015. Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport Terminal



Lisa Rundstrom, John Harrison, et.al.,
Avian Migrations, 2018. Advanced Learning Library









Vicki Scuri, *East Kellogg Improvements*, 2007-2021. Kellogg from Webb Road to Greenwich



Bruce Moore, *Red Water at Sunset*, 1932. Minisa Bridge





Princess Marie Phillippe, *Joan of Arc (bronze copy)*, cast 1995. Downtown Public Library



Tina Murano, et. al., *Redbud Trail Head 13th & Roosevelt*, 2015. Redbud Trail



Joe Sequiche Morris (Cherokee), *Heritage Pole*, 1986. Mid-America All-Indian Museum





Kent Williams, *Towers*,
2003. Herman Hill Park
Water Center



Constance Ernatt, *California
Stonefly Acroneuria californica*,
2023. Harvest Park Pool



Randal Julian, *Blue Heron*,
1997. Chisholm Creek Park

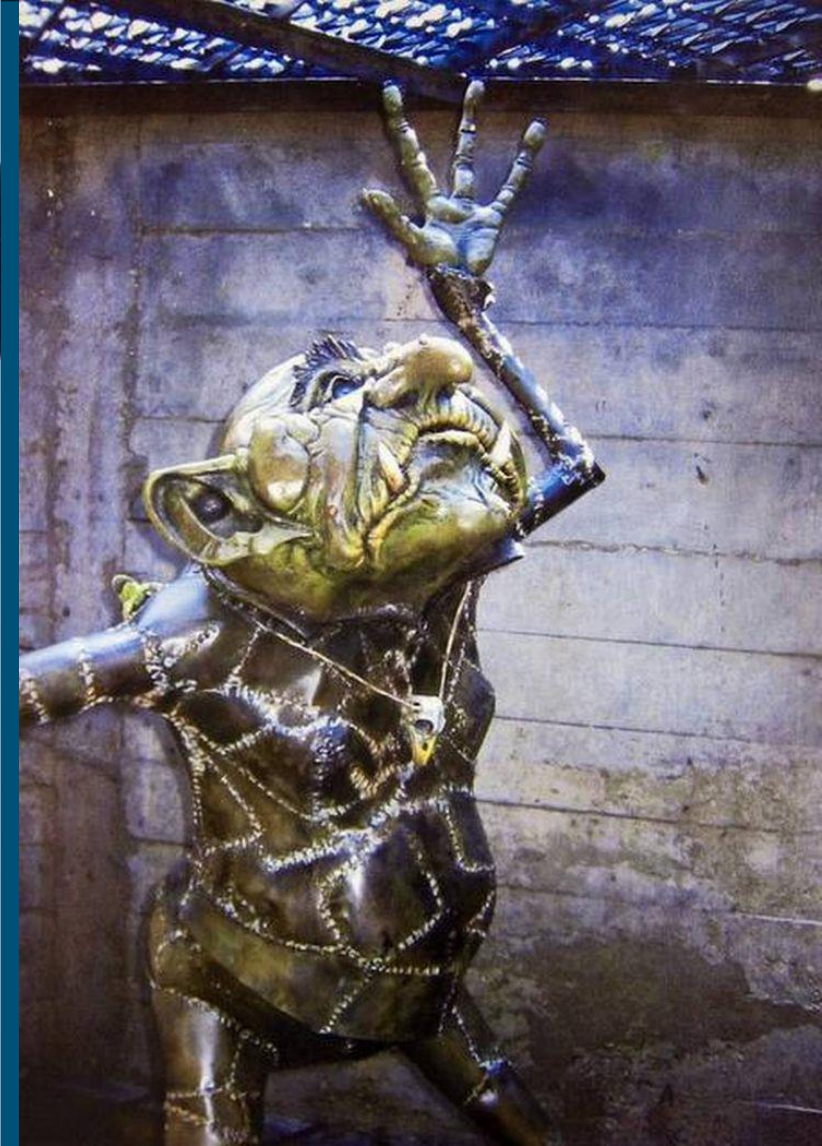




Albert Goldbarth, *The Life of Water Poetry Trail*, 2003.
Herman Hill Park Water Center



Georgia Gerber, *Hawk*, 2000. Douglas & Topeka



Constance Ernatt, *River Troll*, 2007.





Ellamonique Baccus and Armando Minjarez,
Swing for the Fences, 2020. Riverfront Stadium



Kent Williams, et. al., *Grove of Trees*, 2023.
Orchard Park Pool

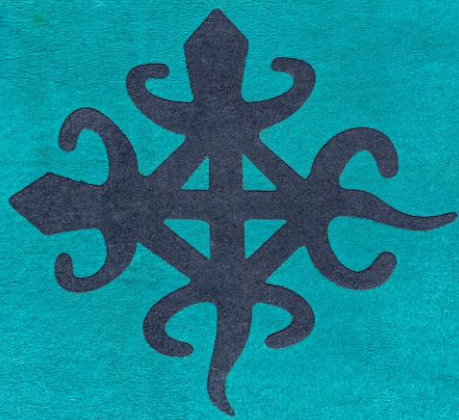




LEARN FROM THE PAST



TRANSFORMATION



UNITY IN DIVERSITY



WISDOM



Heather Byers, *Neighborhood History*, 2022.
Evergreen Community Center & Library



Ellamonique Baccus, *Adinkra Symbols*, 2019. 9th
Street Sidewalk Inlay, I-135 to Hillside



James Rosati, *Tripodal*, 1971. Century II

Leonardo Nierman, *Magic Flight*, 1990.
Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport Terminal





Sijia Chen, *Cloud Field*, Wichita Water Works



Heather Byers, Alford Library Mural





Osman Akan, *Voxel Clouds*, LW Clapp Park. 2025.



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