

2013 OAK PARK SCULPTURE WALK

It's a perfect Summer stroll in Downtown Oak Park, just minutes from the Frank Lloyd Wright and Hemingway Districts, surrounded by world-class sculpture — the winners of a select, juried competition — accompanied by fine food and first-rate shopping. **Start your journey at the Oak Park Visitor's Center. Enjoy!**

1. "Wandering Home" Andrew Arvanetes

Begin your walk near a metal figure that appears to be, well, walking. Arvanetes creates a machine-like object that also represents a stylized human figure. The torso is shaped as a home in motion, with an open, inviting area above for the heart (and soul). The heavy legs are countered by the smooth and graceful gliders; the wings at shoulder height are in rhythm with the implied movement of the legs — perhaps the figure is searching, or on a journey, or, cleverly, "wandering home."

2. "Foos" Duke Oursler

The next sculpture also uses metal and a stylized human, but rather differently — to consider the *potential* of a tiny foosball figure. Oursler addresses the timeless question of taking something small that can "kick" a foosball 25 miles-an-hour and imagining a huge version that could weaponize it to, say, 700 miles-an-hour. The power and whimsy of this magnification are equally plain here, as "Foos" stands now as only a potential threat.

3. "Loss of Signal" Nathan S. Pierce

Pierce's work is an exploration into the traditions of American craftsmanship and architecture. Strongly influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, the artist sees structures as a complement and enhancement of natural spaces, and here they evolve with the introduction of metals and what the sculptor might call a "cultural landscape". The title suggests that underlying the balance and proportion of the piece is the dichotomy — or perhaps a struggle — between nature and modern communication.

4. "Current" Duke Oursler

Composed of carefully oxidized and stabilized metal, this piece is intended to "visually reference the rivers that carve the landscapes of the Midwest." Walking around the piece, one sees a changing profile as the shifting seams and lines reflect eons of ever-changing, ever-moving waters. The resulting landscape appears not to have eroded the earth around it, but rather to have exposed its inherent strength and musculature.

5. "Decision Point" Fisher Stolz

With perhaps the least classifiable sculpture on this year's walk, Fisher Stolz has also created one of its most accessible pieces. Slightly larger than human scale, "Decision Point" invites exploration — the seemingly fragile planes and curves and center point intersect to suggest everything from a horse-drawn hand-plow to The Picasso in Chicago's Daley Plaza. What's your take?

6. "Large Suggestion of a Tree" Luke Russell

Here stands nature formed of solid steel, forged and subjugated by a pneumatic hammer and anvil, joined by MIG welds, and given patina by harsh chemicals and lacquers. The result at the treetops is as lilting and delicate as Paris in the '20s. But the intertwining trunks below hint at the labor and challenge and scars of its inception.

7. "Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis" Robert Pulley

This apparent monolith is composed of 46 irregular blocks of hand-built clay. Using a meticulous "coil" assembly method around an open 5" core, blocks are added, formed, scraped, burnished and finally disassembled for firing and steel-anchored reassembly in a process that, in this case, consumed 4-5 months of work. The result is a sculpture which successfully brings together the human figure, geology and architecture - reflected the artist's mastery of form and texture.

8. "More Wait" Nathan S. Pierce

This work details the artist's personal conflicts with confinement and freedom. In "More Wait", deterioration is the ultimate price of freedom as the wood "stones", over time, break down to the point of freeing themselves from their bars. Ironically, the stones actually appear to be holding up quite well — as the belief system that supports the cage itself begins to break down.

9. "King of Prairie Town" Nicole Beck

Our second homage to Frank Lloyd Wright draws directly on his work by referencing the Bradley House window screens in Kankakee, Illinois. Beck places them in a modern streetscape at the center of a 21st Century Prairie Village — self-sustaining, in harmony with nature, and meeting modern needs. Wright, strolling beneath its light on a summer's evening, would be perfectly at home.

10. "Glider" Steven Lockwood

The idea expressed here is pure form. Whatever Lockwood's inspiration, he succumbs to shape, color, line and texture while creating positive and negative spaces that interact to create a sense of movement. Rather than a direct representation of any common event or memory, "As we exist in front of the piece, it likewise exists in front of us. It intrudes into our comfort zones, stares back at us, and encloses us in its own reality."

11. "Vessel #111" Eric W. Stephenson

The human form returns, now as Cubism, with angular lines and repeated forms. Still, the piece is remarkably poised and balanced, so much so that it proposes a more conventional human form within. Stephenson's background in ceramics leads him to see structures as vessels, where what you see implies something inside. In a modern age, the portals are metal screens and gates, which give our imagination even more to consider.

12. "Three Wise and Weary" Austin I. Collins

A trip to Haiti some years ago inspired a series of 30 works, of which this is one, expressing the power of sculpture to redress "the rawness or brutality of social strife." The structure and figures in this Temple Series do not represent escapism, but rather a contemplative space to consider — and plan for — spiritual, social and political renewal. We feel an almost Grecian nobility and sense of common purpose.

Stroll, Admire, Discuss. (Eat & Shop, too.)

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This program was developed by the Oak Park Public Arts Advisory Commission and the Village of Oak Park, in cooperation with Downtown Oak Park.

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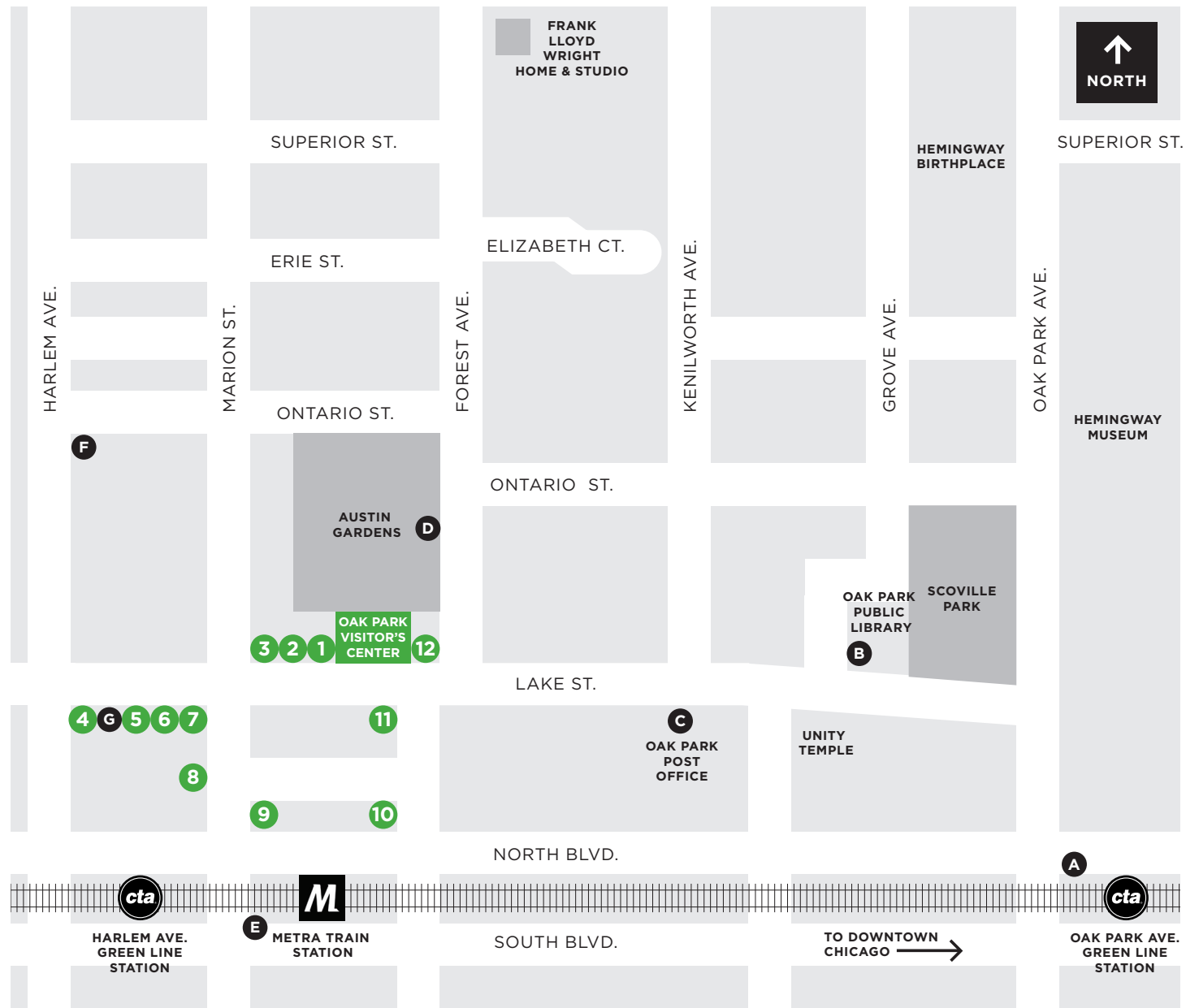


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Now and all through the Summer!
www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk

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Permanent Art Collection

- A** Sculpture - "Innerchange"
- B** Sculpture - "Unity & Growth" & Public Art Gallery (2nd Floor)
- C** WPA Murals
- D** Sculpture - "Pillow"
- E** Sculpture - "I Ams What I Ams" *Coming Soon*
- F** Sculpture - "Arched Rings"
- G** Sculpture - "The Gate"



1
Oak Park Visitor's Center
1010 Lake Street
"Wandering Home"
2012
Stainless Steel
Andrew Arvanetes
Chicago, IL



2
Lake Theatre
1022 Lake Street
"Foes"
2008
Stainless Steel
Duke Oursler
Macomb, IL



3
Chase Bank
1048 Lake Street
"Loss of Signal"
2012
Fabricated Steel
Nathan S. Pierce
Cape Girardeau, MO



4
The Gap
435 N. Harlem Avenue
"Current"
2013
Stainless Steel
Duke Oursler
Macomb, IL



5
Public Parkway
1100 block of Lake
"Decision Point"
2011
Stainless Steel and Limestone
Fisher Stolz
Washington, IL



6
Public Parkway
1100 block of Lake
"Large Suggestion of a Tree"
2013
Solid Steel
Luke Russell
Brookfield, IL

Meet the Artists! Thursday, June 27, 6pm - 8pm. More info at [Facebook.com/VOPNews](https://www.facebook.com/VOPNews)



7
Lake Street Kitchen
1101 Lake Street
"Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis"
2011
Stoneware Clay and Steel
Robert Pulley
Columbus, IN



8
Ten Thousand Villages
121 N. Marion Street
"More Wait"
2011
Solid Steel
Nathan S. Pierce
Cape Girardeau, MO



9
Competitive Foot
102 N. Marion Street
"King of Prairie Town"
2012
Stainless Steel, Solar Panels, Stained Glass and LED Lights
Nicole Beck
Chicago, IL



10
Dental Offices
1002 North Boulevard
"Glider"
2008
Solid Steel
Steven Lockwood
Batavia, IL



11
Community Bank
1001 Lake Street
"Vessel #111"
2010
Stainless Steel, Hand-Blown Glass and Concrete
Eric W. Stephenson
Chicago, IL



12
Corner, Forest & Lake Streets
"Three Wise and Weary"
2012
Mild Steel
Austin I. Collins
Notre Dame, IN

Note: Almost all of our sculptures stand on public walkways near retailers and eating establishments. Thank you for being respectful of shoppers, diners and fellow passers-by.

A Traffic Note: Always look both ways when crossing our often-busy streets. Try to cross only at stoplights and crosswalks.