

Whitehorse Art Walk



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Created by the Yukon Historical & Museums Association
and the Boys & Girls Club of Whitehorse



Whitehorse is a vibrant northern city with a rich heritage and an active arts community. This Art Walk features a selection of 19 pieces of public art — everything from sculptures to murals to bike racks — in the downtown area.

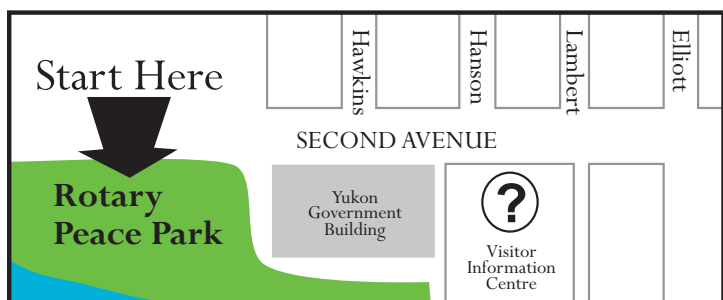
This tour begins at the *Friendship Totem Pole* in Rotary Peace Park and ends on the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. Feel free to follow all or part of the walk and explore other attractions on the way. **Please refer to the map on pages 8 and 9 throughout the tour.**

Use an audio guide to enhance this Art Walk.

The audio guide provides more information on these public art pieces. Download the guide through YHMA’s website, www.heritageyukon.ca, or stop by YHMA’s office at 3126 Third Avenue to sign out an audio player. There, you will also find more information on Yukon’s heritage attractions.

Start Here

Begin the tour in downtown Whitehorse at Rotary Peace Park, located on Second Avenue between the Yukon Government building and the Robert Campbell Bridge.



1 Friendship Totem Pole

Created by Stan Peters, 1973

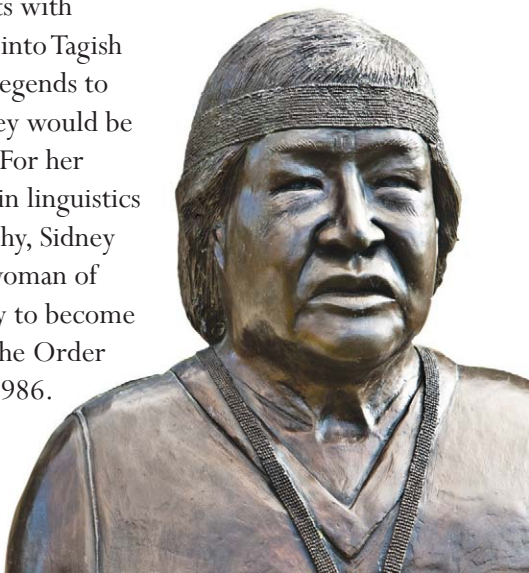
Look for the totem pole near the parking lot in Rotary Peace Park. This totem pole was made to encourage unity and friendship among all Yukoners. From bottom to top it depicts bear, beaver, crow, wolf and thunderbird. Each animal is significant. The bear represents strength; the beaver represents economy and trade; the Crow and the Wolf are two important First Nations clans found in the Yukon; and the thunderbird is a mythological bird found in First Nations legends. The wolf is holding a man, Skookum Jim Mason, in his hands. Mason is one of the men credited with finding the first gold nuggets in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.



2 Bust of Angela Sidney

Created by Chuck Buchanan, 1997

Look for the sculpture beside the totem pole. Angela Sidney had a great love for the stories of her family. To ensure that those stories would be passed on to future generations, she began teaching Tagish traditions to schoolchildren. She also helped many linguists and anthropologists with their research into Tagish language and legends to ensure that they would be remembered. For her contributions in linguistics and ethnography, Sidney was the first woman of native ancestry to become a member of the Order of Canada in 1986.





3 Box of Light

Created by Ken Anderson, 2007

*Cross the Robert Campbell Bridge to Riverdale. This sculpture is on the left side of Lewes Boulevard in front of the Yukon Government, Department of Education building. This sculpture is based on the Tlingit legend *Raven Steals the Sun* which tells how the crafty raven was able to steal the sun, moon and stars for the world. The story's primary characters appear on the box: Raven, the Headman, the Headman's daughter, the stars, the moon and the sun. To hear the story *Raven Steals the Sun* go to Track 4 on your audio guide.*



4 Second Haven Skateboard Park

Created by BYTE and local youth, 2003

The park is across the street from Box of Light. This skateboard park is one of the few places in Whitehorse where graffiti artists are encouraged to practice their art. The City of Whitehorse worked with local skateboarders, youth groups and service groups, such as the Lions Club, to raise funds to make the park a permanent local fixture. In 2003, the organization Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE) partnered with the city to renovate the park. Local youth provided the art.

5 Journey by Water

Created by Alyx Jones, 1986

Look for the large stone sculpture near the south-facing entrance to the Visitor Information Centre. The title of this piece alludes to the long journey salmon make upriver to spawn, their great strength as swimmers and their traditional role in northwest mythology as messengers. It is made from a chunk of locally quarried marble that dates back to the Paleozoic era, making the stone over 541 million years old.





6

Under the Midnight Sun

Created by
Rick Taylor, 1998

Beside the south-facing door of the Visitor Information Centre. This sculpture was commissioned by the Yukon Outfitters Association as a gift from hunters who visit Yukon. Creation of the statue

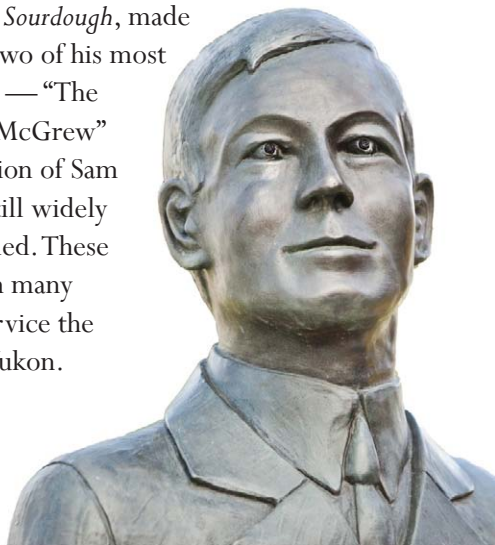
was funded through the sale of 100 small maquettes purchased by non-resident hunters. (Their names are listed on the plaque accompanying the piece.) The sculpture was made in the image of a former world-record holding ram that was guided by Yukon outfitter Alex Van Bibber.

7

Bust of Robert Service

Created by Chuck Buchanan, 1996

*In front of the Visitor Information Centre, near Second Avenue. Robert Service was born in England in 1874. He moved to Canada and took a position with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Whitehorse and later, Dawson City. Although the Klondike Gold Rush was over by the time he arrived in Yukon, Service was inspired by stories of the stampeders. His first book of poems, *Songs of a Sourdough*, made him famous and two of his most renowned poems — “The Shooting of Dan McGrew” and “The Cremation of Sam McGee” — are still widely read and performed. These poems along with many others earned Service the title Bard of the Yukon.*





8 Crow's Yukon Journey

Created by David Ashley
and Bill Oster, 1997

On the north-facing side of the Visitor Information Centre. Illustrating Crow's journey over the developing Yukon, this trompe l'oeil, or "trick of the eye," painting draws your eye across the unfolding panorama.

The first scene shows the world before humans changed the landscape, and then First Nations' traditional use of the land. Next comes the changes in the landscape brought about by early industrialization which continues into the modern world where both natural and man-made elements co-exist.

9 Waves of History

Created by Lise Merchant, 1997

Above the Visitor Information Centre doors. This dramatic work of stained glass is the first in a series called *Waves of History*. The second piece is installed at the opposite entrance. Lise Merchant, the artist who created this series, says she would like viewers to stand in front of these waves of history and be carried away.



Art Walk Map



Robert Service Way



Jim Light Park

Start Here

A

1

2

Rotary Peace Park

7

9

6

5

8

11

10

Hawkins

Hanson

Lambert

Elliott

D

C

B

Main Street

Steel

Wood

Jarvis

Strickland

Alexander

Black

Ogilvie

FIFTH AVENUE

FOURTH AVENUE

THIRD AVENUE

SECOND AVENUE

FIRST AVENUE

17

19

18

13

12

E

15

14

16

PARKING

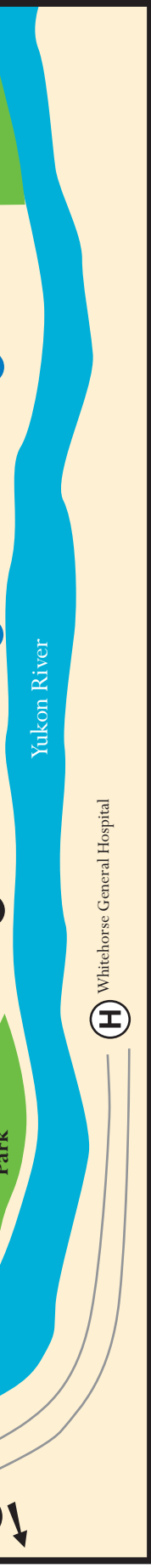
Shipyards Park

G

F

4

3



Start at Rotary Peace Park

1. Friendship Totem Pole
2. Bust of Angela Sidney
3. Box of Light
4. Second Haven Skateboard Park
5. Journey by Water
6. Under the Midnight Sun
7. Bust of Robert Service
8. Crow's Yukon Journey
9. Waves of History
10. Man
11. Building on the Past, Looking to the Future
12. White Horse Bike Rack
13. The Conversation
14. Raven House
15. The Thinker
16. River Walk
17. Däna Näye Mural
18. 2000 Arctic Winter Games Torch
19. Prospector and his Dog

Visitor Attractions

- ★ Yukon Historical & Museums Association
- A. S.S. Klondike, National Historic Site
- B. Log Cabin Skyscraper
- C. Old Log Church Museum
- D. Arts Underground/Hougen Heritage Gallery
- E. MacBride Museum of Yukon History
- F. MCHRS Waterfront Trolley Roundhouse
- G. Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre



10 Man

Created by Keith Wolfe Smarch, 1992

Inside the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre. This startling relief sculpture of red cedar and acrylic paint shows Man as a mythical creature in the time before Raven let light out of the box. According to the story, when light fell on the creatures of the earth “those near the longhouses became human, while the creatures near the water became fish and those near the sky flew into the air and became birds.”

Ask the staff at the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre if you need directions or details on local events, attractions, restaurants or accommodations.



11 Building on the Past, Looking to the Future

Created by Ken Anderson, 2002

Look for the sculpture on the grass behind the Whitehorse Visitor Information Centre. The heads are facing toward the Yukon River. Using marble, Ken Anderson created the heads of Wolf and Crow, the two traditional clans of Yukon First Nations, and placed them atop two steel bases that have a wing jetting out from one side. According to Anderson, this piece symbolizes “the meeting of two different groups of people and two different lifestyles from a historical, present day and future sense.”



12 White Horse Bike Rack

Created by Philippe LeBlond, 2005

In front of Whitehorse City Hall on Second Avenue.

This dynamic sculpture of a white horse is also a functional bike rack. There are many bike racks around the city, each designed to suit its location.

13 The Conversation

Created by Alyx Jones, 1986

On the steps of the Andrew A. Philipsen Law Centre on Second Avenue. This grouping of figures is based on geographical formations found on the Dempster Highway. It also suggests the way that people might gather on the steps of the courthouse for discussion.

From a distance these figures appear larger than life, but they are actually much smaller. In fact, their heads are much too small for their bulky bodies. According to Alyx Jones, this size discrepancy illustrates the gap between the ideal and the actual practice of law.

The figures were made from tyndall and limestone. Look closely to see fossils in the stone.





14 Raven House

Created by Alyx Jones, 2004

Look for the metal house just off the parking lot in Shipyards Park. Raven House is the place of the raven. According to Alyx Jones, its purpose is “to create a place of mystery, intrigue and magic and reflect the character of this bird.” Go inside this piece to see working parts of a locomotive that have been fashioned into the shape of a nest.

15 The Thinker

Created by Béla Simó, 2003

Look for the tall sculpture of two figures sitting within a spiral of poles. According to Béla Simó, The Thinker “is a contemporary portrayal of the basic human act of contemplation.” The marble sculpture is sitting in the center of a ‘whirlwind’ tunnel representing the passage of time and a journey.

At its very roots, this sculpture is meant to evoke the most human act of reflection, but there is also a sense of comfort and support, because the two figures are being held up by the whirlwind.



16 River Walk

Created by Joyce Majiski, 2008-2010

Look for the series of wood and metal posts in Shipyards Park. This sculptural installation may remind you of the steam pipes of sternwheelers that once travelled the Yukon River. In contrast, the metal cutouts signify elements of the natural environment: plants, animal tracks, human footprints, birds and fish. Look down at the path to find these ideas echoed throughout the mosaics.



17 Däna Näye Mural

Created by Colin Alexander, 2005

On Fifth Avenue between Alexander and Black streets. This mural depicts a family and two shadowed faces of a child and an elder. Having gained a reputation as a mural painter, Colin Alexander approached Däna Näye Ventures with the idea of painting a First Nations-themed mural. They agreed to the project and Alexander began work with a great amount of artistic freedom.



18 2000 Arctic Winter Games Torch

Created by Béla Simó, 2000



On the corner of Steele Street and Third Avenue.

The three circles that support the piece each represent a different aspect of the Arctic Winter Games: athletic competition, cultural exhibition and social interaction. The sharp points around the circles represent ulus, traditional Inuit knives with curved blades.

19 Prospector and his Dog

Created by Chuck Buchanan, 1988

On the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue.

A prospector and dog laden with gear was once a common sight in the Yukon. Sculptor Chuck Buchanan created the monument out of bronze to honour the pioneers who travelled to the Yukon in search of gold during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

This sculpture is: “Dedicated to all those who follow their dreams,” which captures the adventurous spirit of the time.





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