A2AC MURALS ACTIVITY BOOK

THE ANN ARBOR ART CENTER
The A2AC Mural Walk is a great way to spend the day seeing a wide variety of amazing public art! This booklet contains a suggested route, information about each mural, and questions and short activities. Please bring along a pencil, marker, or crayon for the activities.

This walk may take about an hour. Need a break along the way? Choose your own adventure and check out some of Ann Arbor’s great restaurants, shops, and small businesses.

Be sure to tag us in your photos at #A2ACMurals.

A huge thank you to the artists and everyone that supported the A2AC Murals crowdfunding campaign to fill downtown with murals! A special thanks to our sponsors and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for understanding the importance of accessible visual art and making these murals come to life!
1. Joey Salamon (S Ashley Parking Lot)
2. Live in Color (A2AC - 117 W Liberty)
3. John Sauve - “Man in the City” (A2AC - 117 W Liberty)
4. Yen Azzaro (Argus Farm Stop - 325 W Liberty St)
5. Gary Horton - “Not Afraid to Dance” (210 S 1st)
6. Dokebi (208 S 1st)
7. Taylor White (200 S 1st)
8. Jacob Dwyer - “Symbiosis of the Red Bellied Woodpecker and the Eastern Bluebird” (Phoenix West, 117 N 1st)
9. Midnight Olive (111 N Ashley)
10. Ann Lewis - “May Her Memory Be Our Innermost Revolution” (123 N Ashley)
11. WC Bevan (Ann/Ashley Parking Structure - 220 N Ashley)
12. Pat Perry (117 S Ashley)
13. Ouizi - “Drifts” (200 S Ashley)
14. Nina Shahin (113 E Liberty)
15. Jesse Kassel (116 E Liberty)
16. TreeTown Murals (922 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti)
Ever wonder how a mural is made? Here’s the scoop!

**PLANNING AND SKETCHING**
The artist looks at the space and creates a pencil sketch or digital sketch of the mural.

The artist typically needs to submit the sketch to the building owner, who may ask for a change here or there. Once the final sketch is approved, the artist may move on to the next step.

**PREPARING THE SURFACE**
Artists may paint directly on a wall or paint on large panels, which may then be installed onto a building. When painting on a wall, the surface may need to be repaired, cleaned, and painted in a solid color before art is added.

**TRANSFERRING THE SKETCH ONTO THE WALL**
Artists may project the image onto the wall and trace over it, use the grid method to scale it up, or free-hand draw the design straight onto the wall.

**PAINTING THE MURAL**
The mural must be able to withstand being in an outdoor environment year-round. Artists often use spray paint and/or house paint, which are durable and do not fade in the sun.

To safely paint very high areas, artists may use a boom crane, scaffolding, and sometimes ladders.

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PAINT A MURAL?**
It varies depending on the weather, the size of the mural, the level of detail in it, etc. On average, many of the murals took anywhere from a few days to two weeks to complete.
IDENTIFY THE SHAPE

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5 

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6 

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12 

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14  

1  

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14  

Find the shapes below in the murals and write the name of the artist at the bottom.

3__________________  4__________________
7__________________  8__________________
11__________________ 12__________________
15__________________ 16__________________
This mural uses colorful geometric and abstract shapes to create a 3-dimensional effect. The goal is to create something that creates joy and brings pride to the community in which it exists.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE TYPE OF ART THAT TRICKS THE EYE WITH THESE SORTS OF SPACIAL ILLUSIONS?

A. Pop Art
B. Op Art
C. Impressionism

COLOR THE IMAGE BELOW IN THE STYLE USED IN THE MURAL.
“Live in Color” is a student group at the University of Michigan. They boost the mood of the campus atmosphere and nearby area with colorful and creative murals. They are influenced by the “psychology of color”—how certain color choices make you feel.

**HOW TO DO THE FOLLOWING COLORS MAKE YOU FEEL?**

Bright Colors ________________  Warm Colors ________________
Dark Colors ________________  Cool Colors ________________

**HOW MANY COLORS ARE REPEATED?** ________________________

**HOW MANY SHAPES ARE REPEATED?** ________________________

Fill this rectangle with shapes you see in the mural. Repeat shapes and vary them in size to make an EXCITING picture.
The Man in the City International Sculpture Project includes 40 sculptures located on the rooftops throughout the City of Detroit and Windsor. It encourages people to look around and become aware of their own sense of place within the City. This installation is best viewed from across the street. **Look up!**

**THE ARTIST DOESN’T JUST CHOOSE RANDOM BUILDINGS- THEY ARE OFTEN HISTORICAL. LIST SEVERAL IMPORTANT PLACES IN ANN ARBOR THAT ANOTHER “MAN IN THE CITY” MIGHT VISIT?**

**IF YOU COULD STAND AT THE TOP OF A BUILDING AND LOOK OVER THE CITY, WOULD YOU FEEL BIG OR SMALL? WHY?**

**COLOR ME!**
This mural shows how our community benefits from the hard work of local and regional farmers who help to produce healthy food for all of us to eat.

Big butterflies, bees, and other insect friends represent how the residents of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor have opportunities to work together and improve the quality of life for everyone in both communities. With all our diversity, no matter which insect we are, we have more things in common than we have differences.

**WHY DO YOU THINK BEES AND BUTTERFLIES ARE SUCH A POWERFUL SYMBOL FOR THIS?**

**WHAT OTHER INSECTS MIGHT YOU ADD TO THIS COMMUNITY? DRAW THEM BELOW!**
Gary Horton’s bright, colorful, and imaginative designs help bring joy and wonder to an area that may otherwise be seen as ordinary. The mural features his robot characters, and the stormy skies and bright red background represent the COVID pandemic times—but these little robot guys are still dancing!

WHAT KIND OF A MOOD DOES THE RED PAINT CREATE?

WHAT IS THE TERM FOR A COLOR SCHEME THAT USES TINTS AND SHADES OF PRIMARILY JUST ONE COLOR.

A. Complementary Colors  
B. Primary Colors  
C. Monochromatic Colors

THE ROBOT LEGS ARE VERY ANGULER LINES. DO THOSE LINES FEEL CALM OR ENERGETIC? WHY?
Chris “Dokebi” Sammons’ signature character, the dokkaebi, is inspired by Korean folklore. They are goblin-like creatures known for playing pranks on humans. Chris’s work has that playful yet naughty spirit in his version of the dokkaebi.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY FOLKLORE OR MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES FROM OTHER CULTURES THAT MIGHT BE SIMILAR TO DOKKAEBI?

DRAW A DOKKAEBI AND DESCRIBE WHAT MISCHIEF IT GETS UP TO.
Our relationship with technology has dramatically changed over the years. Technology has helped us connect, socialize, and share information worldwide.

Some believe it can also create problems in our society, particularly with social media. This mural features human hands immersed in technological imagery. It invites the viewer to think about how the two are woven together.

HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY IMPACTED YOUR LIFE? DO YOU THINK IT’S FOR BETTER OR WORSE?

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WHAT TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE HARD FOR YOU TO LIVE WITHOUT? WHY?

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This painting depicts the “symbiotic” relationship of two native Michigan birds; meaning the birds have a relationship where the things they do benefit each other.

The red bellied woodpecker can be found in Michigan all year and produces holes for both nesting in the spring and roosting in the winter. Here, it’s roosting in a white oak tree.

The Eastern bluebird migrates back to Michigan in the spring. Here, it’s building a nest in the hole the woodpecker left behind.

The mural shows a relationship in the natural world that typically goes unnoticed. It may serve as a small educational experience for some viewers or just a formal graphic art experience for others.

ARTISTS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BRINGING ATTENTION TO IMPORTANT TOPICS. HOW MIGHT THIS MURAL HELP DO THAT?
Olivia Guterson (Midnight Olive) is an “interdisciplinary” artist. This means that she creates art in many different ways and with many different materials.

Olivia is inspired by patterns from her Jewish and Black heritage and her artwork highlights the balance of black and white, busy and still, negative and positive.

She creates her artwork instinctively meaning, she draws as she goes, and she draws what feels right.

**Artist: Midnight Olive | Location: 111 N Ashley**

FILL IN THE IMAGE BELOW WITH DETAILED PATTERNS.
Ann Lewis uses her art to respond to current social and political issues. Her work is often graphic. It uses just a few colors instead of many different colors. This is called a “limited palette”.

This mural highlights the humanity and dignity of women transitioning out of incarceration and back into every-day life.

HOW MIGHT THIS MAZE-LIKE DESIGN SYMBOLIZE PEOPLE NAVIGATING AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES?

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WRITE OUT YOUR NAME IN CAPITAL LETTERS. NOW DRAW A MAZE AROUND IT.
W.C. Bevan’s mural is a high-contrast image full of rhythm and movement. It is influenced by “free-associative” practices and folk art. The artist created the patterns and mural using shapes provided by young artists from the CAN Art & Design program.

HOW DOES THE ARTIST CREATE A SENSE OF RHYTHM & MOVEMENT IN THE MURAL?

HOW IS THIS MURAL DIFFERENT FROM GRAFFITI YOU MIGHT SEE SPRAYED ON A PARKING GARAGE WALL?

FIND THE PATTERNS WHICH USE SHAPES PROVIDED BY ONE OF THE YOUNG ARTISTS.
Pat Perry is a mural artist who often travels from place to place to work. This mural depicts a beautiful landscape where a storm is rolling in, and a person is lost in thought as he holds a small sailboat that reacts to the weather.

SOMETIMES ARTISTS LEAVE THINGS UP TO THE VIEWER TO DECIDE. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS HAPPENING IN THIS MURAL? WHAT IS THE MAN THINKING ABOUT OR FEELING?

SKETCH YOURSELF LOOKING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE. ADD YOUR OWN MEANINGFUL SCENERY & OBJECTS.
Ouizi is best known for her large-scale floral murals, which can be seen in public spaces throughout the United States. “Drifts” features echinacea (the pink flower) and rudbeckia (the yellow flower). It mimics the way wildflowers spread in nature. Maybe you’ve seen these flowers at The Arb?

THIS MURAL WAS PAINTED OVER A BUILDING THAT WAS OFTEN TAGGED WITH GRAFFITI. HOW DO YOU THINK THIS MURAL CHANGED THIS SPACE?
Nina Shahin used color, space, and shape to create a “memoryscape”. A memoryscape is a picture of a place you remember as you see it in your mind.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MAY BE REMEMBERING?**

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**THIS MURAL IS LOCATED IN AN ALLEY. WHY MIGHT AN ALLEY BE A GOOD PLACE FOR A MURAL?**

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**THINK OF A FAVORITE MEMORY. DRAW YOUR OWN ABSTRACT “MEMORYSCAPE” IN 1 MINUTE.**
Jesse Kassel is known for his bold, colorful designs. His art is inspired by graphic design and vintage ads. The design for this mural is inspired by Ann Arbor’s culture, history, and all the cool things it has to offer.

**LOOK AT EACH SECTION OF THE MURAL. WHAT SYMBOLS DO YOU SEE? WHY DO THEY MAKE YOU THINK OF ANN ARBOR?**

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DRAW A SYMBOL THAT REPRESENTS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO OR PLACE TO GO IN ANN ARBOR HERE!
TreeTown Murals partnered with Ypsilanti organization, Growing Hope to design and create a mural that highlights the center’s contributions to the community through service, food, farming, and education.

This mural is meant to attract interest and inspire visitors, residence, and youth to visit and participate in their community farm and educational programs.

**HOW CAN A MURAL HELP ATTRACT INTEREST AND INSPIRE PEOPLE TO VISIT AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR PROGRAMS?**
ABOUT THE A2AC (THE ANN ARBOR ART CENTER)

The A2AC, a 501(3) non-profit organization, has served as a regional hub for the visual arts for over a century, providing a fun and accessible home for artists and art-lovers. Fueled by a passionate community of artists, organizers, instructors, and students, together we challenge perspectives, elevate local artists, and inspire our community through exhibitions, art classes, and immersive art experiences--like the Art in Public initiative.