



BUS AND WALKING TOUR ITINERARY

1. The Center for Visual and Performing Arts

1040 Ridge Road Munster, IN

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts is a multi-purpose facility built to support the cultural and educational needs of the region. The 72,660-square-foot facility, which opened in 1989, provides services for meetings, seminars, banquets, weddings, dinners, theater, and fine arts. The Center is home to the award-winning Theatre at the Center, a professional 416 seat theater that features popular shows year round. The Munster Chamber of Commerce office is housed on the lower level at The Center. Its mission is promoting the varied business and commercial interests found in the community. It is home to one location of South Shore Arts, which has been improving the quality of life along the South Shore for over 75 years. South Shore Arts conducts over 400 classes each year in all media for all ages and presents more than 20 exhibitions each year, showcasing regional, national and international artists and cultures. The South Shore Arts Gift Shop is the largest national retailer of South Shore Posters. The Town of Munster operates Munster Television, which has its studio on the top floor of The Center. Munster is one of the only communities in Northwest Indiana operating its own government television studio. Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra is the region's own premiere classical music organization and features a full season of classical and pop concerts and sponsors a Youth Orchestra and a chorus that is more than 100 members strong.

2. Under the Bridge Studio

10052 S. Ewing Ave. Chicago, IL

Roman Villareal's storefront art studio at 100th Street and Ewing Avenue on the Southeast Side of Chicago and near the Indiana border is called Under the Bridge. The name is fitting; the Chicago Skyway Toll Road curves right above the studio. Under the Bridge Studio was formed in November of 2012 and has regularly been hosting events incorporating the visual arts as well as musical performances for all ages. The work of Chicago artists is made available to the public through exhibitions, openings, art walks, open studios, performances, and opportunities for learning and making art. Under the Bridge Studio was founded in response to the rampant unemployment and crime following the downsizing and closure of many of the region's steel mills in the 1980's, including U.S. Steel South Works, which shut down in 1992. Refusing to give up on their community, Villareal

and some friends founded Under the Bridge in the hope that art could reduce violence and give new life to this struggling part of the city. Once a month there are rock shows at Under the Bridge, organized by life-long resident and Executive Director of Under the Bridge, Roman De Lion.

3. Towle Theater

5205 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN

The Towle Theater, located in downtown Hammond, has brought new theatrical works to Northwest Indiana. It is an ambitious, dynamic environment which challenges its talent and audiences, demands unwavering quality, and nurtures both young and seasoned actors while consistently providing unparalleled experiences through performance and education. Towle Theater is owned and operated by the Hammond Development Corporation, a not-for profit economic development organization that focuses on new business development and workforce issues. Since their establishment in 1981, they have assisted the City of Hammond in developing a flourishing, prosperous community in which business owners and residents can take pride. The Towle Theater upholds the legacy of first class entertainment established by the original Towle Opera House, built in 1903 by the wealthy capitalist and first mayor of Hammond, Marcus M. Towle. The current Towle Theater produces eight shows a year, and is in its eleventh season.

4. Paul Henry's Art Gallery

416 Sibley St. Hammond IN

Paul Henry's Art Gallery carries a full range of fine art, handmade jewelry, sculptures, and pottery. The gallery represents over 170 artists in a wide range of form, style, and media. Located in downtown Hammond, it first opened as a gallery in 2008 offering both visual and musical arts to the Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland art community. Part gallery, part event space, and part vintage hardware store, the space features display cases and shelves dating back to the 1920's. Paul Henry's Art Gallery has been owned by the same family for over 120 years. Founded as P.H. Mueller and Sons in 1887, it was known throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicagoland area as the gold standard in hardware. Many of the artists represented are locals, often stopping in the shop to chat and check out the newest work in the gallery. On most Thursday nights, local musicians drop by for a potluck and open mic night, where they share food, music and an incredible visual display.

**5. “Watch Us Grow” Mural
435 Fayette Street Hammond, IN**

Substation No. 9 opened as the cornerstone of South Shore Arts in 1998. This branch location serves the downtown Hammond Arts District, providing its urban audience with exhibits, classes, a printmaking studio, and community outreach programs. The Substation building was a former NIPSCO Industries electrical substation and was transformed into an urban art center through financial contributions from individuals and businesses. There are two striking murals that cover the sides of Substation No. 9, "The Hugging Wall" by Tom Torlueumke and "Watch Us Grow" by Geoffrey Smalley. A crew of local artists and painters collaborated to complete the murals: Deena Galich of Hobart, Marco Salazar of East Chicago, and Alex Jovanovich, Clinton Mason, Geoffrey Smalley, and Lisa Torleumke, all from Hammond. The mural, which was commissioned by Louis Ortiz, curator of the NiSource corporate art collection, took approximately 10 weeks to complete and required the use of a crane to help the artists reach the top of the wall.

**6. White Ripple Gallery & Co
6725 Kennedy Ave, Hammond, IN**

Founded in 2012 by owner Jocelyn Prue, the White Ripple Gallery & Co. is a 3-story gallery with multiple exhibit rooms, event space, artist studios and workspace, located in Hammond, Indiana. White Ripple Gallery & Co.'s mission is to enhance the cultural experience of the surrounding community, members, and visitors, while engaging the public through a diverse collection of exhibits of the highest standard, accessibility to open art studios, artist-in-residence opportunities, arts education and workshops, and overall exposure to the arts in all of its forms including, the visual, performing, and literary arts. In addition to featuring works by emerging and established artists, they carry a selection of handmade artwork and contemporary crafts by local and regional artists and artisans, including photographic prints, jewelry, crafts, ceramics and pottery, handmade glass, woodworking, fashion, and art supplies.

**South Shore Arts (Conference Host Organization)
1040 Ridge Road Munster, IN**

South Shore Arts is a not-for-profit organization that has been improving the quality of life along the South Shore for over 75 years. It started in the Minas Department Store in downtown Hammond, Indiana with an annual exhibit of regional artists, known today as the Salon Show. Now located in The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana, South Shore Arts opened two branch locations—Substation No. 9, an inner-city art center in downtown Hammond, and the Crown Point Community Art Center in Crown Point—in 1998. South Shore Arts champions the artistic identity of the South Shore by making the arts accessible, essential and a catalyst for change through youth outreach, education for all ages, exhibitions and regional arts services. The South Shore Arts *everykid* program serves approximately 28,000 children and their families each year. Over 400 classes are conducted each year in all media for all ages, including ceramics, photography, painting, drawing, cartooning and acting, in fully equipped studios and classrooms in Munster, Crown Point, and Hammond. More than 20 exhibitions fill four South Shore Arts galleries each year, showcasing regional, national and international artists and cultures. The annual Salon Show, a tradition since 1944, provides artists with \$10,000 in prize money. The Gift Shop is the largest national retailer of South Shore Posters, promoting the artistic identity of Lake Michigan's South Shore. They create awareness of arts events and opportunities through Convergence magazine, their monthly e-newsletter, their online regional arts calendar and Lakeshore Public Television's "Eye on the Arts."

Tour Guide: Sherry Meyer, InSites

Sherry Meyer is a granddaughter of the Calumet, her grandfather having worked at Wisconsin Steel for 40 years. Though she learned early on the challenges of having a family member on the swing shift, the Calumet was a mythical land she never saw until she learned to drive. She's been exploring the Calumet ever since, now as a community builder and urban guide for *InSites*, introducing communities to resources and others, helping them re-network to the larger economy. She has been a member of the Calumet Heritage Partnership board since 2002.