

GARY LANDMARK+
ART GUIDE



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Gary, Indiana is home to U.S. Steel, numerous landmarks, and over 85 public art projects. Several of the art installations have been produced by local organizations, independent artists, and curators. Focused on bringing art outside of traditional settings, a series of murals, creative sculptures, and custom bus shelters have been installed with a commitment to showcasing both emerging and established artists.

The Gary Landmark and Art Guide is an extension of the Gary Public Art Maps and serves as a quick guide to connect this city's rich history with all of the contributing artists, muralists and designers who are contributing to the everchanging landscape. We hope that you embrace our city with love while you explore local surroundings and support Northwest Indiana businesses.

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Gary Land Company Building (1906)

The Gary Land Company building, constructed in 1906 was the first permanent structure in the city of Gary. The Gary Land Company was a real estate, city planning and engineering company in charge of planning and supervising the construction of streets, homes, and sanitary facilities for the new city of Gary. It was also used as Gary's first Town Hall, a school, a post office, and for other business purposes. (1)



Indiana American Water Tower (1909-2020)

In 1909, the 133-foot water tower was built downtown on Gary's west-side. This tower's tank measured 30 feet in diameter and sat on eight 90-foot steel columns. The Gary Heat, Light, and Water Company covered the exposed steel skeleton with a concrete block shell, adorned with a decorative cornice and parapet wall. This unique octagonal landmark was one of the first structures to create the city's skyline and became the centerpiece of Jefferson Park, Gary's first public park.

Emerson School (1909)

When Emerson opened, it contained an auditorium, pool, gymnasium, bank, and a zoo. There were more than seven laboratories, separate band and orchestra rooms, art studios, and rooms for industrial and household arts.



Edison Concept Homes (1910's)

The first Edison Concept homes were built in 1913 by U.S. Steel as a solution to the housing shortage in Gary. These houses were named after inventor Thomas Edison who in 1906, he created a mold and construction system for new concrete houses. Architect Milton Dana Morrill designed a system of reusable modular steel forms which was employed by the Sheet and Tin Plate Company in Gary. This system was used in the construction of these homes that were designed by D. F. Creighton. Out of 86 homes built, 73 remain standing today. (2)

Union Station (1910)

In 1910, Union Station was built in a Beaux-Arts style utilizing the new cast-in-place concrete methods in which, after pouring, the concrete was scored to resemble stone. This iconic structure was designed by M.A. Lang. Union Station was one of the transportation hubs taken by migrants searching for jobs at US Steel. In 2019, the Union Station was designated as a National Landmark. (3)



Miller Town Hall (1911)

The Miller Town Hall is a two-story brick structure constructed in 1911. It served as the administrative building for the town until Miller's annexation into Gary in 1918. It later served as Miller Fire Station #7 from the 1920's until 1975. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. (4)

Gary Bathing Beach Pavilion / Aquatorium (1922)

The bathhouse construction began in 1921 by architect George W. Maher, who also designed the Pavilion. The bathhouse closed in the 1960's, but was restored in the 90's. The Aquatorium was placed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in 1994.



Marquette Pavilion (1924)

The Marquette Park Pavilion, originally named the Recreation Pavilion, was designed by the office of the regionally famous architect, George W. Maher in an eclectic mix of the Prairie School and Italian Renaissance Revival styles. Throughout its lifetime the Marquette Park Pavilion has been a popular site for all types of celebrations, including weddings, civic events, and social gatherings.

City Methodist Church (1925)

Construction of City Methodist Church began in 1925. This church was one of the first million-dollar churches built in the U.S., and was the largest Methodist church in the Midwest. In addition to its sanctuary, the building included storefronts, an auditorium, office spaces, and a gymnasium. At its peak, church membership reached over 3,000 attendees in 1952, but by 1973, membership fell to 320 members and the church was ultimately forced to close its doors in 1975. (5)



Palace Theater (1925)

The Palace Theater showcased its first show in 1925. Live stage shows, vaudeville acts, and motion pictures were all featured at the Palace Theater. This majestic building was designed by John Eberson in an atmospheric style that seated 3000 people. This iconic theater was the longest running theater in Gary which provided nearly 50 years of entertainment. (6)

Stewart Settlement House (1925-1970's)

During the depression of 1921, The Stewart House was created to provide social services such lodging, meals, legal, medical, and employment advice for Gary's black community. This neighborhood center became a vital help for thousands of unemployed WWI veterans and southern blacks who migrated to find jobs at US Steel. In 1925, U.S. Steel, helped fund the settlement house, which was designed by architect W. W. Cooke, in hopes to regulate their workers. It closed in the 1970s and today the site is used as an urban farm.



Knights of Columbus Building (1925)

The Knights of Columbus building was constructed in 1925. This 11-story building was designed by H. L. Porter & R. McNally in a Renaissance Revival and Setback architectural style that reveals a step-like recession in its profile. It has previously been a clubhouse, a hotel, a restaurant, and a sports facility. The building is currently used as apartments. (7)

Gary Heat, Light, and Water (1926)

The Gary Heat, Light and Water building was constructed in 1926. This building was a subsidiary of U.S. Steel who commissioned architect George W. Maher to design a three-story prominent Prairie Style building. This structure was used to house utility employees, and later became the city's general services department.



Hotel Gary / Genesis Towers (1926)

Hotel Gary, a 10-story, 400 room building was erected in 1926. This 2.5 million-dollar structure was designed by Chicago architect Charles Wheeler Nicol and contracted by Marcello Gerometta of Gary. Nicol adorned the façade with rope molds, colonnades, and relief decorated spandrel panels made of terra cotta. The upper crust of society stayed here when visiting Gary, including Frank Sinatra. Its brochure advertised a night's stay away from the dirt and grime of Chicago's Loop. The hotel closed in 1974. It was later renamed Genesis Towers and redeveloped as a senior housing facility in 1981. (8)

City of Gary- City Hall (1927)

City Hall is Gary's most prominent civic structure. It was commissioned as part of Gary's 1924 Gateway Improvement Plan which required a grand entrance into the city from Union Station leading to City Hall, Lake County Superior Courthouse and Gateway Park. Chicago architect, George Maher originally drafted a Prairie-style design but was unable to finish the project. In 1926, Maher's son took over and completed the design in a Neoclassical style resulting in grand Doric colonnades and an iconic gold-colored dome atop this 4-story beauty. (9)



Memorial Auditorium (1927-2020)

Memorial Auditorium was built in 1927 to commemorate the Gary residents who fought and died in World War I. This Italian Renaissance and Spanish Colonial building was designed by architect Joseph Wildermuth. Memorial Auditorium was a 4-story hall and auditorium that stood 65 feet high and had the capacity to seat 5,000 people. Typically, Memorial was used for high school graduations, music festivals, sporting events, conventions, and political rallies.

Lake County Superior Courthouse (1929)

The Lake County Superior Courthouse was constructed in 1929 and designed by Howard Cheney and John Eberson in a Tudor Revival and Classical Revival architectural style. The courthouse is one of the twin civic buildings built to match the perpendicular City Hall. The courthouse stands three-stories tall, topped with a central gold-colored dome upon the octagonal drum with square windows and features Doric columns. (10)



St. John's Hospital (1929-2019)

During the era of segregation in 1929, St. John's Hospital also known as McMitchell Hospital, was built to service the city's black community since blacks were not welcomed in the white only hospitals. This hospital was designed by William Wilson Cooke. With a declining attendance and integration on the rise in Gary, St. John's hospital closed its doors in 1950.

Gary State Bank (1909/1929)

Gary State Bank was originally developed and constructed around 1909 as a 2-story bank. In 1929, this structure was demolished to make way for a 10-story office bank building. This breathtaking building was designed by architect Ivar Viehe-Naess, who worked with Daniel Burnham for 12 years and helped design the flat-iron building in New York City. (11)



U.S. Post Office (1936)

In 1936, this post office was designed by Howard Lovewell Cheney, a supervising architect on the Chicago Tribune Tower. The Gary Post Office building was constructed with Federal Treasury Department funds during President Roosevelt's New Deal Program which was aimed at ameliorating The Great Depression. One of the few remaining Art Deco buildings in Gary, this post office boasts a black granite base and smooth stucco walls. A relief of an American eagle is still visible over the main entrance. (12)

Holy Angels Cathedral (1950)

The Holy Angels Cathedral located at 640 Tyler Street began construction in 1947 and was completed in 1950. This Gothic Revival styled structure was built from Limestone. The completion of this cathedral was long awaited by the Holy Angels parish which was founded by Reverend Thomas F. Jansen in 1906. This parish initially held masses in a tavern at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway.



Gary Public Library and Cultural Center (1964)

In 1910, GPL was awarded a substantial grant of \$50,000 which later increased to \$65,000 for the construction of a main library branch by Andrew Carnegie. This structure was built on donated land from the Gary Land Company and on November 12, 1912, the main library was opened to the public. It was a one-story Classical Revival style building constructed from Bedford Stone and paired with columns supporting a massive entablature. The original Carnegie library faced space limitations and soon became beyond repair. By 1964, a new library was built to accommodate the growing needs of the public. (13)





In 2020, several murals were demolished along with two landmarks in the downtown area. This photo, along with images from pages 22-27, show a few that were lost.



Artist: Gerry "Omen" Guevara

10TH

9TH

8TH

6

GARY

BROADWAY

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

12

1st: 2mil, zach medley, & nathan shwartz.

2nd: sentrock, decay devils, steel city academy, cyfn, wayne thomas abell, robyn seale, petty crimes duo, zerochicago, jill schulthorpe, omen 74, michahl cain, thea bowman academy, real abstract, arce_col, kelloggkiller, chrisduran773, brandon dorsey, afrokill, nonstopbangin, jeff pak, & tanner woodford.

3rd: kelly Knaga, ish Muhammad, zeb, morgan richardson, lucy van der elst + eileen chavez, daw, & justnhale.

5th: justus roe, brian gallardo, jason bord, & tom billings.

8th: nose lanariz, prismo, cwb, parris gill sr, sydney puckett, rese, yams, ubc crew, jeremy & farah.

9th: jesse johnson

10th: gaia & mac blackout.

monroe: nicolas 'ever' escalada & ou35.

SOUTH
SHORE
STOP

GPTC
BUS
STOP



Y PUBLIC ART

DOWNTOWN 2021



pe,
cyfn,

2/20

Gary Public Art

LAKE STREET 2021

Contributing Artists



B

D

A

jennifer taylor,
leslie green,
ish muhammad, rise,
miguee & prism.

B

zore, kuaze, cmk crew,
hebru brantley,
omen 74, flex,
the champ, petty
crimes duo & cisa crew.



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4

LAKE STREET

A

C

C

matthew hoffman,
ubc crew, att crew,
slang, Nuco Villanueva,
kuaze, leslie green,
corky gray, goya, serum,
justus Roe &
ish muhammad.

D

jennifer taylor,
zore, miguee,
shan, seize,
leslie green, &
omen 74.

US 12







Artist: CLAMO



Artist: Heart + Bone Signs



Artist: Felix "Flex" Maldonado Jr.

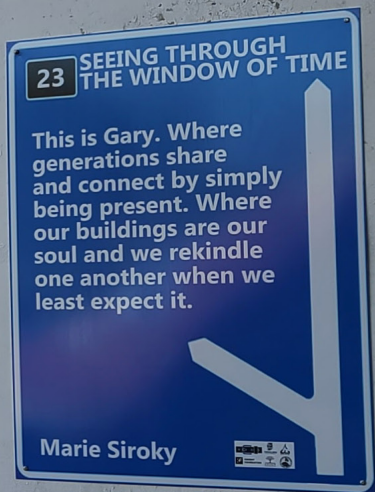


GEN
THAT IS WHY IT
IS SO COMPLIC
ATED ■ PAUL RAND
E

23 SEEING THROUGH
THE WINDOW OF TIME

This is Gary. Where
generations share
and connect by simply
being present. Where
our buildings are our
soul and we rekindle
one another when we
least expect it.

Marie Siroky





@POT_311PQ



Artist: Nicolas “Ever” Escalada

For a deeper look into the artists who contributed to the downtown murals, check out the Gary Public Art Archive + Guide, created by Lauren Pacheco at www.destinationgary.com.







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