



“Mother Road”

Proclaimed the “Mother Road” in John Steinbeck’s classic 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Route 66 was immortalized in the American consciousness. Due to the rapidly changing demands of America, entrepreneurs Cyrus Avery of Tulsa, Oklahoma and John Woodruff of Springfield, Missouri, conceived the idea of linking Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles, California and the pair began their lobbying efforts to promote their idea.

The federal government finally executed its plan for national highway construction. Officially, the numerical designation 66 was assigned to the Chicago-to-Los Angeles Route in the summer of 1926. Unlike the Lincoln, the Dixie, and other highways of its day, Route 66 would not follow a traditionally linear course. Its diagonal course would link hundreds of predominantly rural communities with metropolitan capitals.

By 1938 the 2,300-mile highway was continuously paved from Chicago to Los Angeles. An estimated 200,000 people migrated to California to escape the Dust Bowl of the Midwest, symbolizing the highway as the “road to opportunity.” Almost immediately, the tourist industry began to grow, giving rise to countless tourist courts, motels, service stations, garages and diners.

However, the “Mother Road” would soon be doomed with the passage of the 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act creating a national interstate highway program. By 1970, nearly all segments of the original Route 66 were bypassed by modern highways. As Route 66 was decommissioned, its signs were removed and the “Mother Road” was gone. Even to this day, Route 66 appears on very few current maps. However, most states have Historic Route 66 signs along portions of the road. With the emergence of Route 66 Historical Associations and private groups, the “Mother Road” icon most likely will be preserved for future generations.



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Friends of Community Public Art

Friends of Community Public Art (FCPA) is an artist run, multi-racial, intercultural not-for-profit organization dedicated to the creation, planning, and promotion of community based public art. FCPA is dedicated to provide training for those interested in public art. FCPA seeks to increase the awareness of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor’s rich historical and cultural heritage. FCPA works in cooperation with many local and regional civic and cultural organizations.

For more detailed information about community murals, see FCPA’s book entitled, Murals, The Great Walls of Joliet: Taking History and Heritage into the Future, which explores the extraordinary contemporary public murals created in Joliet, IL between 1991 and 1999. It is available for sale at the University of Illinois Press. Coming in the of Spring 2006, FCPA’s new book entitled, Sculptures, The Great Columns of Joliet, which compiles Joliet’s public sculptures and mosaic columns with corresponding inspired poetry written by local poets. Visit FCPA at www.FCPAOnline.org.



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map and guide



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JOLIET

Route 66



Community Public Art Tour

Community Public Artists strive to make their artistic vision reflect the culture of the community of which they are a part. Integral to this vision is the choice of public locations as their arenas of expression.

Principal funding for artwork provided by the City of Joliet

Artwork key

- ▲ mural
- ◆ sculpture
- mosaic
- * sculpture/mosaic



northwest 101

River Rebirth: The Clean Water Act of 1972

▲ mural, part 1, 12' H x 50' W
part 2, 12' H x 146' W (2002)
Location: retaining wall south-
side of Ruby Street at Broadway
Street
*Dedicated to the awakening of
environmental consciousness and
responsibility, this composition
celebrates and encourages the contin-
ued protection of the Des Plaines
River, its fish and wildlife.*
Lead Artist: Nicole Brints-Viner
Assistant Artist: A. Rountree, J. Richmond

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Mother Nature

* cold cast bronze sculpture, 4' H x
3' W x 2' D, atop a hand cut Italian
glass mosaic covered concrete col-
umn, 7' H x 2' D (2000)
Location: Broadway Greenway
Park on Broadway Street at
Moran Street
*The sculpture and mosaic tell the clas-
sical Egyptian myth of Isis and Osiris,
figures representing the forces of nature.*
Sculpture Lead Artist: Kathleen Farrell
Armature Maker: D. DiBartolo
Model Maker: S. Furst
Assistant Artist: P. McQuarrie
Mosaic Artist: Andrea Rountree



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Spirit of the River

* cold cast bronze sculpture,
5' 3" H x 6" W x 2' D atop a 7" H x
2' D hand cut glass mosaic covered
concrete column, (2002)
Location: Broadway Greenway
Park at 924 N. Broadway St.
*The sculpture of an adolescent boy
sitting in an abstract ring of aquatic
plants and fish represent the renewal
of life in the Des Plaines River.*
Sculpture Lead Artist: Kathleen Farrell
Sculpture Assistant Artists:
D. DiBartolo, A. Bailly, D. DiBartolo,
and S. Chavira
Mosaic Artist: Saul Chavira
Mosaic Assistants: D. Yanchick,
J. Pineda, M. Sharp, S. Salter, and K. Hintze

downtown city center

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United We Stand: Irish Heritage

▲ mural, 10' H x 20' W (1998)
Location: north wall of 121 N.
Chicago Street at Clinton Street
*Highlights include early Irish labor
history.*
Lead Artists: Kathleen Farrell, Kathleen
Scarboro
Assistant Artist: N. Brints-Viner

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Italian Heritage: Ancient Traditions, A New Frontier

▲ mural, 25' H x 18' W (1999)
Location: north wall of 121 N.
Chicago Street at Clinton Street
*Joliet's Italian community brought its
art, music and cuisine when immi-
grating into the area in the late 1800's.*
Lead Artist: Kathleen Scarboro
Assistant Artists: K. Farrell, N. Brints-Viner

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Mexican Mural Heritage Inspiring Joliet Murals

▲ mural, 23' H x 19' W (2000)
Location: north wall of 121 N.
Chicago Street at Clinton Street
*The great 20th century Mexican
muralists, Rivera, Orozco and
Siqueiros, influenced the contempo-
rary Joliet muralists.*
Lead Artist: Jesus Rodriguez
Assistant Artist: I. Silva

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From Slovenia to America

▲ 10 murals, 10' H x 11' W each
(1994-1997)
Location: eastside of Scott Street
at Ohio Street
*Scenes sequentially portray the transi-
tion from traditional life in Slovenia to
life and work in Joliet.*
a. The Procession
b. A Slovene (Ohcet) Wedding
c. The Harvest
d. The Picnic
e. Departure to America
f. Arrival in the City
g. Working in the Steel Mills
h. Slovene Home Making
i. The Playground
j. The Singing Lesson
Lead Artist: Lucija Dragovan
Assistant Artists: L. Brulc, R. Baher,
M. Gregorich

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From the Hands of Ceres: Ode to Will County Farmers

▲ mural, 14' H x 40' W (1998)
Location: eastside of the 500
block of Scott Street
*The mural shows fields of corn and
soybeans and the farmers whose labor
puts nature's bounty on our tables.*
Lead Artists: Kathleen Scarboro,
Kathleen Farrell
Assistant Artist: D. DiBartolo

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E. J. & E. Railroad & Its Mexican Workers

▲ mural, 10' H x 26' W (1998)
Location: westside of the 600
block of Scott Street
*A symbolic history of the Elgin, Joliet
and Eastern Railway and its Mexican
railroad yard workers.*
Lead Artist: Javier Chavira
Assistant Artist: D. DiBartolo

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German Heritage

▲ two murals, 10' H x 35' W (1998)
Location: southside and north-
side of Columbia Street
*Catholic, Lutheran and Jewish German
immigrants are portrayed in successive
images from a photograph album, con-
nected by a flowing banner of the
German national colors, becoming the
red, white, and blue of the American flag.*
a. Immigration, St. John's Church and
nuns working at St. Joseph's
Hospital are shown on the southside.
b. Bluff Street Jewish tailor, St. Peter's
Lutheran Church, images from
farming, a brewery, Sweet Orr
Overall Factory and a delicatessen
are found on the northside.
Lead Artists: Tom Manley, Dante
DiBartolo
Assistant Artist: A. Rountree, N.
Brints-Viner



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Visions of Joliet

▲ indoor mural, 7'6" H x 41' W
(1991)
Location: interior of Union Train
Station, Scott Street at E.
Jefferson Street
*Images of architectural landmarks,
people who have shaped the cultural
heritage of the region, workers, and
industries are woven together around
a view of the Des Plaines River.*
Lead Artist: Alejandro Romero

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Joliet Steam Train

▲ 10 murals, 10' H x 11' W each (1994)
(1991)
Location: northside of E.
Washington Street between
Chicago Street and Scott Street
*Passengers, vendors, entertainers and
passers-by gather around a Rock
Island passenger steam train in the
early part of the twentieth century.*
a. A. Philip Randolph and The
Pullman Porter Union
b. Free Speech
c. Saying Goodbye
d. Eugene Debs & the Railway Union
e. Roasted Peanut Cart
f. Will County Court House
g. The Band Plays A Farewell
h. Waiting for the Train
i. Woodruff Hotel
j. Bicycle Built for Two
Lead Artists: Kathleen Farrell, Kathleen
Scarboro
Assistant Artists: S. Gomez, J.
Chavira, D. DiBartolo

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History at the Crossroads

▲ indoor mural on canvas,
8' H x 7'3" W (2002)
Location: Joliet Area Historical
Museum, 200-204 N. Ottawa
*Mural highlights African, Mexican and
Native Americans as well as union
labor and music in Joliet*
Lead Artist: Jesus Rodriguez
Assistant Artist: I. Silva

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Katherine Dunham: Pioneer in African Dance

* cold cast bronze sculpture, 7' H x
3' W x 2' D atop a 4' H x 2' D ceramic
mosaic covered column, (2001)
Location: in front of Joliet Union
Train Station, Scott and E.
Jefferson Streets
*The sculpture depicts pioneering
African-American dancer and Joliet
native Katherine Dunham in one of her
typical dance poses.*
Sculpture Lead Artist: Kathleen Farrell
Sculpture Assistant Artists:
D. DiBartolo, S. Furst and R. Carlson
Mosaic Artist: Kathleen Farrell
Mosaic Assistant Artists: M. Sharp,
J. Pineda and S. Chavira



southeast 306

The Underground Railroad Hero

* cold cast bronze sculpture / ceram-
ic mosaic. Sculpture: 4'H x 2' W x
1.5'D atop a 6' H x 2' D ceramic mosa-
ic covered concrete column (2002)
*An image of an African-American bar-
ber with a candle lantern is shown. He
welcomes fugitive slaves who secretly
passed through Joliet during the years
before the abolition of slavery as they
continued their journey to Canada and
safety.*
Sculpture Lead Artist: Kathleen Farrell
Sculpture Assistant Artists: D.
DiBartolo, S. Furst, and S. Chavira
Mosaic Artist: Kreshaun McKinney

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Route 66 Sculpture

* cold cast bronze sculpture 6'H x
3'W x 2'D atop a 4' H x 2' D ceramic
mosaic concrete column (2005)
Location: 200-204 N. Ottawa
Lead Artist K. Scarboro
*This sculpture honors the historic
Route 66 highway that runs from
Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles,
California.*
Mosaic Artist: K. Scarboro

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Community Policing: Working with Citizens for a Safer City

* carved limestone sculpture, 4'5 H x
3' w x3'D atop a 3'H x3' D ceramic
mosaic on concrete column (2004)
**Located on the northeast corner
of Chicago St.**
*Carved limestone sculpture featuring a
community policeman with his arms
around three neighborhood homes,
symbolizes the police officer's role in
protecting the community.*
Lead Artist: J. Rodriguez



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