

MURALS

Guide

Throughout our communities, artists have turned building walls and streets into canvases to tell our colorful local stories – some are whimsical, others historical, inspirational or puzzling. They beg you to stand before them and take a photo – exactly what we hope you do!



Southwest
MICHIGAN
BENTON HARBOR • SAINT JOSEPH

Southwest MICHIGAN 「MURALS Challenge」

FIND 10 VIBRANT
MURALS AND EARN
PRIZES!

The Murals Challenge begins October 1 and runs until the first 100 participants claim all the rewards. It's a fun activity all year round.

To play, download the Visit Southwest Michigan app. Each time you find a mural, check in by taking a selfie (or ask someone to shoot a photo of you) in front of it. Be serious or silly, but have fun! Then, upload your shot to the app.

The first 100 people to check in at 10 murals will earn a **\$15 St. Joe Today e-gift card** and a **Southwest Michigan Murals Challenge sticker**. Every year we will design a new sticker to add to your collection. Now, slip into your walking shoes and discover the stories these walls tell!



Download the Visit
Southwest Michigan app



Take a selfie (or ask
someone to shoot a photo)
of you in front of murals



Upload your shot
to the app



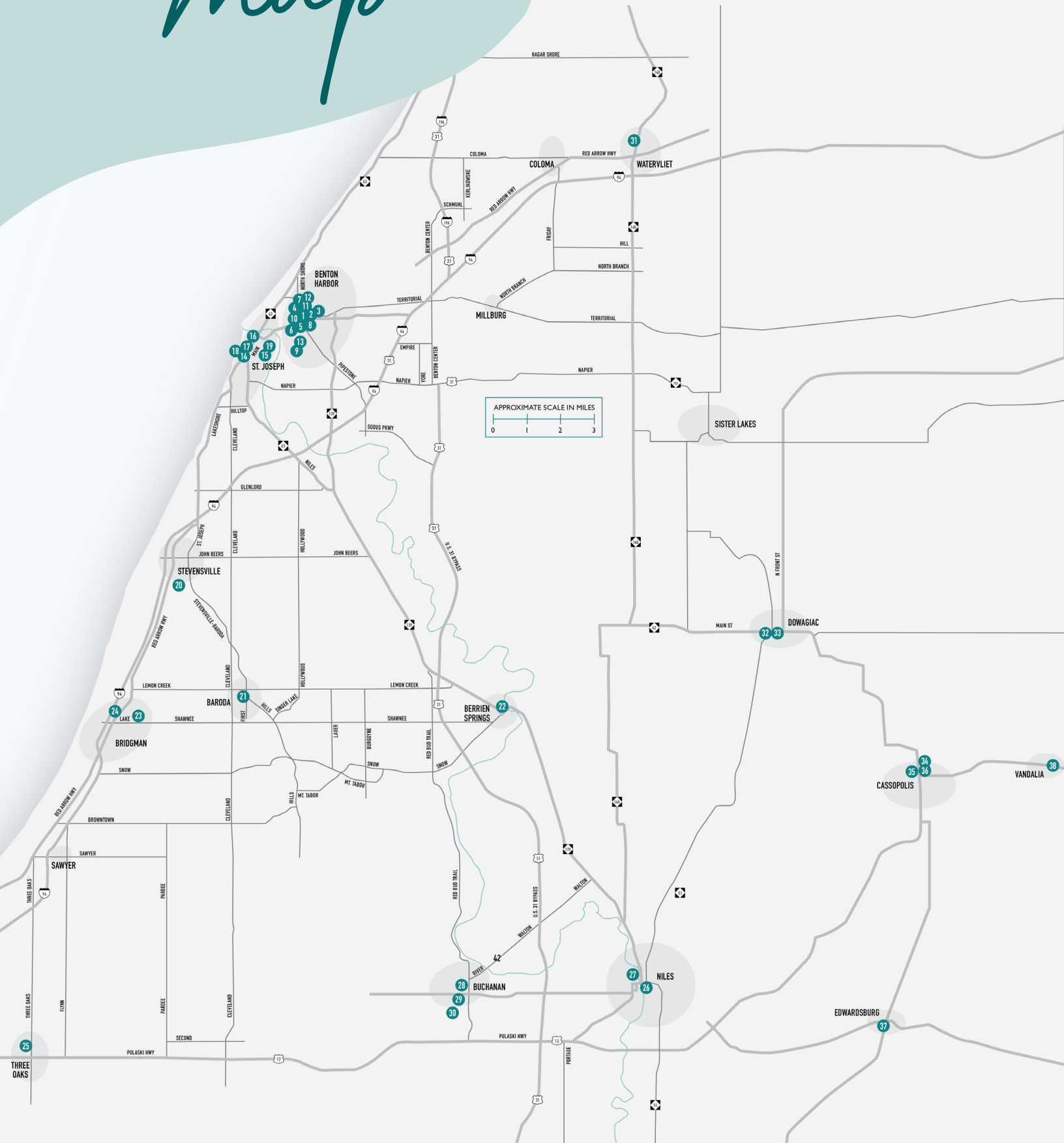
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
MURALS CHALLENGE STICKER

\$15 ST. JOE TODAY
E-GIFT CARD



MURALS *map*

Look for dozens of fantastic murals here!



Benton Harbor

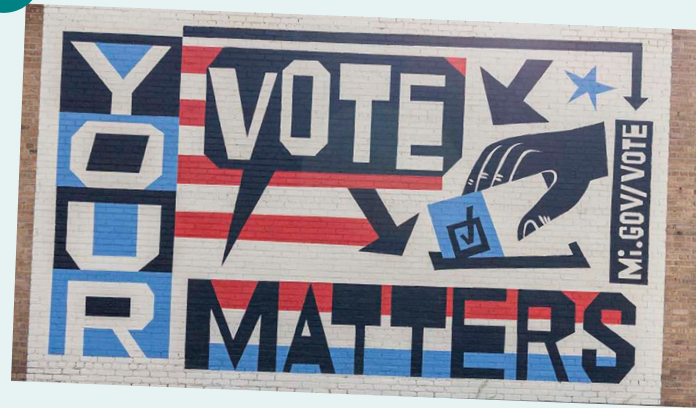
 [133 E. Main St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Jesse Kassel

ACLU VOTE MURAL

This mural was one of eight murals painted across Michigan encouraging people to vote. They were all sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and over 100 nonpartisan partner Michigan organizations. That's not its only purpose, though. The mural is also meant to be a conversation starter for community members about voting rights. At the time, there was especially a focus on voting early via absentee ballots. Detroit-based artist Jesse Kassel painted the patriotic mural.

1



2



 [225 E. Main St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Kim Wood

ANEMEL MURAL

Anemel's co-owner Gabrielle Galbraith was struck by a book that belonged to her grandmother. Artist Kim Wood used the book as inspiration for this mural that depicts Anemel's playful nod to the dusty scenes of old Southwest cartoons. It's in the format of a Loteria game card, which Anemel uses for its dine-in orders. Needless to say, Gabrielle and husband James are very much 90s kids at heart.

3



 [147 5th St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Ari Nadine Waters

ANNA RUSSO SIEBER GALLERY

This Benton Harbor Arts District mural was created in 2024 by an ARS Arts & Culture Center alumnus and recent graduate of Interlochen, to celebrate ARS's 14th anniversary. Waters worked with professional muralist Kim Wood, as part of the ARS continuing education program that supports local young artists.

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 [196 Water St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Tony Hendrick

BRAMMALL SUPPLY COMPANY "TIME BRIDGE BLOSSOMS" MURAL

This colorful collage mural by Tony Hendrick of Grand Ledge, Michigan, depicts key growth periods in the City of Benton Harbor. In the 1800s, this was a prime fruit-growing region; the dredging of the shipping canal led to a thriving tourist industry, followed by an influx of foundries and heavy industry smokestacks dotting the landscape.

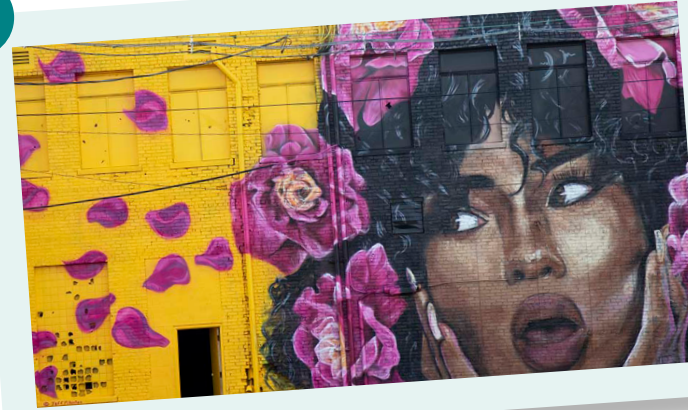
 [92 W. Main St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Jeff Pilikinton

CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE & ST. JOSEPH TODAY MURAL

This beautiful mural thrills everyone who walks behind the Cornerstone Building to see it on West Wall Street between Pipestone and Colfax Avenue. Indiana-based artist Jeff Pilikinton wanted to create a summery, sunshine moment and succeeded with this woman painted on a yellow background with vivid, pink flowers around her. You can often see more of Pilikinton's work at the Chalk the Block Festival each August in downtown St. Joseph.

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 [Corner of West Main Street and Colfax Avenue, Benton Harbor](#)

 Unknown Graffiti Artist

DERRICK ROSE MURAL

NBA player Derrick Rose was tagged by an unknown graffiti artist years ago on this vacant Benton Harbor building. Rose, who played for the Chicago Bulls, was the NBA Rookie of the Year in 2009 and became the youngest player to win the NBA Most Valuable Player Award in 2011 at age 22. He suffered significant knee injuries and was sidelined for the 2012-13 season. The hashtag #TheReturn recalls the flurry of advertisements promoting "The Return of Derrick Rose" to the game and the Chicago Bulls in 2013.

 [210 Water St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Alaina Riedel

MASON JAR CAFE MURAL

The Mason Jar Cafe in the Benton Harbor Arts District is one of the most loved breakfast and lunch destinations in Southwest Michigan. Alaina Riedel's artwork, a colorful explosion of mason jars, plants and whimsical patterns, perfectly complements the cafe's theme. Her predominant use of green and brown tones evokes a sense of nature and freshness, reflecting the Mason Jar chef's commitment to serving wholesome, homemade dishes made with locally sourced food. Go inside to see what all the reviewers are raving about.

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 [Pipestone Alley, Benton Harbor](#)

 Kim Wood and 20+ Community Volunteers

PIPESTONE ALLEY ALLEY STREET MURAL

This vibrant artwork stretches along the sidewalk in the alley leading to Pilikinton's mural on West Wall Street (#5). In 2024, Muralist Kim Wood stenciled her vision and community volunteers filled in her markings with specific colors. The goal was to add more outdoor art to the city and create a community gathering space. Grab lunch from a nearby Arts District restaurant and enjoy it.

 [276 Colfax Ave., Benton Harbor](#)

 Eric Bradford and Jessica Hightower

RAVITRON “THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY” MURAL

This massive timeline mural highlights the impact and contribution of African Americans and women in technology. Their contributions led to the invention of the telephone, GPS, cyber-security, safer space flights, fiber optic cables, the transmission of holograms and more. The mural’s center art, created by Kelise, Phoenix and Sinai from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Southwest Michigan, represents their memories of Benton Harbor and what they can achieve for the future.


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 [Corner of Water and West Main Streets, Benton Harbor](#)

 Marcus Akinlana

STATE OF PROGRESSION MURAL

Painted in 1997 by Marcus Akinlana, State of Progression is an unfinished mural with much to say. Per Akinlana’s website: That year, Benton Harbor’s murder rate was one of the highest in the country despite only having a population of 10,000 people. To bring some positivity to their hometown, two men commissioned a mural to increase community involvement. State of Progression was a community-based acrylic mural created in collaboration with the people of Benton Harbor and fabricated with START youth apprentices and community members.

 [190 Territorial Rd., Benton Harbor](#)

 Eric Bradford

THE BRICK HOUSE VAN HALEN MURAL

Inspiration comes often in the simplest ways. For artist Eric Bradford, it came during his first visit to The Brick House in the Benton Harbor Arts District. He was intrigued by the restaurant’s “Van Halen”- themed menu items. Buoyed by the good mood food, the cool vibe and a personal reckoning with The Brick’s “Smash Burger,” Eric knew what to paint when asked to create a mural. Now, the spirit of rock guitarist Eddie Van Halen in angel wings powers The Brick House “Smash Burger.” Get your shot of the mural and go inside and feel this place lift your mood.

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 [190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor](#)

 Dorothy Jean Carter, Megan Canon and Dean Campillo

THE LIVERY “CONTINUED LEGACY” MURAL

Spanning two buildings that are part of The Livery brewpub, the mural’s bright colors tell the story of Benton Harbor and African American history in a timeline progression. A beautiful woman represents the ancestors who lived in Benton Harbor years ago. Her headdress transitions into a library, symbolizing the knowledge of the people who came before passing it on to the present-day people of Benton Harbor. Fruit trees, sunrises, music notes and other facial portraits pay homage to the area today.

 [215 Colfax Ave., Benton Harbor](#)

 **Brandon Sharpe**

VILLA ENVIRONMENTAL MURAL

This mural appears on the former Whirlpool Archive Museum that opened to celebrate Whirlpool Corporation's 100th anniversary. It depicts the company's growth from the small Upton Machine Co., which produced electric wringer-washers, to a global manufacturer of home appliances employing 59,000 people.

St. Joseph

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 [Lake Bluff Boulevard Staircase, St. Joseph](#)

 **Varies each year**

BLUFF STAIRCASE MURAL

Sometimes you can find a mural painted onto the stairs leading you below the bluff from Lake Street Boulevard. These murals are usually temporary and painted during early summer. They are perspective pieces, so look at them from the bottom of the stairs. Previous paintings include children riding down a slide and butterflies.

 [1101 Broad St., St Joseph](#)

 **Kim Wood**

BOX FACTORY FOR THE ARTS MURAL

The façade takes flight under the artistry of St. Joseph-based Kim Wood. Her mural design "Birds of a Feather, Flock Together" wraps the sides and front of the building in a colorful mix of flora and fauna. Minneapolis mural artist Shawn McCann also assisted in the final work. Before The Box Factory was a gathering place for the community's artists, it was in the paper business. Playing homage to that, Kim chose origami birds for the mural to mimic that history as the bright papers evolve and take flight into something new.

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 [116 State St., St. Joseph](#)

 **Shawn McCann**

HOLT BOSSE SQUIRREL MURAL

This Midwestern mural is nuts enough that you have to see it to believe it! In 2019, advertising agency Holt Bosse partnered with St. Joseph Today to fund a piece of art that isn't squirreling around. This masterpiece created by Minneapolis-based artist Shawn McCann invites you to have your photo taken by a squirrel on the corner of State and Port Streets. How often can you say that?

 [301 State St., St. Joseph](#)

 **Anat Ronen**

SHORELINE ALLEYWAY MURAL

The back of the St. Joseph Today Welcome Center allows a lens into the city as it was decades ago. Houston-based artist Anat Ronen spruced up the alley wall that faces Main Street with a mural showing a family visiting Silver Beach dipping their toes in the water. Chicago's South Shore Line train posters from years ago inspired the art déco-style painting.

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 [410 Vine St., St. Joseph](#)

 **Alaina Riedel**

SILVER BEACH PIZZA MURAL

This whimsical mural is at one of the area's most popular pizzerias. It will make you hungry while kicking your imagination into gear! Created by Alaina Riedel of St. Joseph, it represents a slice of life in this Lake Michigan resort town. The boats have pizza sails and the dragons have pizza wings. After your meal, take a short walk to the beach to see what's really sailing offshore.

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 [721 Pleasant St., St. Joseph](#)

 **Kumpa Tawornprom**

SILVER HARBOR BREWING COMPANY MURAL

Bees buzz above pink flowers on this mural's bright blue background. The simple, but inviting image was crafted by Florida-based artist Kumpa Tawornprom. It pays tribute to bees' vital role in Southwest Michigan's nationally renowned fruit-growing region.

Stevensville

20



 [6201 Red Arrow Highway, Stevensville](#)

 **Rich and Angela Valha**

PEAT'S CIDER SOCIAL MURAL

This mural along this cider/retro-bowling alley's patio is a tribute to resiliency. Three weeks before the cidery was to open, COVID-19 hit. That's when Peat's Cider Social decided to create a patio for outdoor seating and add a large piece of art to encourage groups to take Instagram photos — something you can do today! The mural's artists captured a little bit of bowling, cider, apple blossoms, apples and, yes, flamingos.

Baroda

📍 [8986 First St., Baroda](#)

🎨 **Salvador Rodriguez**

CHILL HILL WINERY MURAL

As you drive through charming downtown Baroda, you'll see a mural of two ladies chillin', dressed in red & white, enjoying a bottle of wine. Mexican artist Salvador Rodriguez painted the relaxing scene. He intimately knows about the wines served here because he works in the local vineyards. Behind the wall is Chill Hill Winery, a little tiki paradise!

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Berrien Springs

22



📍 [107 E. Ferry St., Berrien Springs](#)

KREAMO ADVERTISEMENT MURAL

This brick wall artistry is not so much a mural as a blast to the past. An old Kreamo bread buns advertisement remains faded on the side of a building. Because of its placement, you can snap a photo, but not directly in front of it. The best viewing is from the Harding's parking lot.

Bridgman

📍 [4110 Lake St., Bridgman](#)

🎨 **Sick Fisher**

BRIDGMAN BODY SHOP MURAL

This mural has such brilliant colors and a funky, cartoon-esque design, that you'll be shocked to find out it is a body shop! These fun colors outline the door and windows but give the local business a quirky look. Artist Sick Fisher is known for his vibrant, pixelated style and his ability to transform urban spaces across the United States with his engaging murals. This is one you will gaze at before moving down the road to spend time on Weko Beach.

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📍 [9600 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman](#)

🎨 **Matt Coronado**

HCM WAREHOUSE MURAL

The Harbor Country Mission (HCM) aids those in the surrounding area who live in or on the border of financial poverty. Its network of volunteers and staff provides home repair, home goods distribution, simple appliances and life coaching. The mural is on HCM's 5,000-square-foot warehouse. Artist Matt Coronado uses his bold, vivid style to bring to life the plants along Lake Michigan with butterflies, symbolic of hope and transformation, and a hummingbird, symbolic of resilience, perseverance and happiness.

Three Oaks

📍 [15 N. Elm St., Three Oaks](#)

🎨 Chris Stackowicz

SWEET ON ELM MURAL

If you didn't know what the Sweet on Elm store sells, you will when you see its giant mural! Chris Stackowicz was given free license to design three concepts and store owner Colleen Froehlich chose the candy cabinet theme. You can stand outside and drool over your favorite treats or take your photo with the mural and then go inside and buy the real thing.

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Niles

26



📍 [3 N. 3rd St., Niles](#)

🎨 Chris Stackowicz

IRON SHOE DISTILLERY MURAL

Edwardsburg-based artist Chris Stackowicz's handiwork transformed this old muffler shop into a catch-your-eye distillery when it opened in 2018. Black, white and gray bags of grain, wheat and barrels come together with larger-than-life antique stills — the silver mechanism responsible for distilling spirits. Look for Iron Shoe Distillery's horseshoe logo and, if you are an art lover, see how Stackowicz gave Caravaggio's painting "The Calling of St. Matthew" a new twist with sunlight pouring through a window onto a pile of grain bags. Stackowicz's work also appears on buildings in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Greece, Turkey and Russia.

📍 [218 N. Front St., Niles](#)

🎨 Kelsey Montague

WHAT LIFTS YOU MURAL

Muralist Kelsey Montague is known for painted wings that have spread across the country as part of a movement called #WhatLiftsYou. Previously, Montague painted wings in Nashville for Taylor Swift's album announcement in 2019. New York City, Los Angeles and Seattle are among her other mural locations. Take your photo in front of these wings and tag #WhatLiftsYou.

This mural was made possible with the help of many sponsors, including Remarkable, INC. — a philanthropic nonprofit focused on Niles.

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Buchanan

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📍 [117 N. Red Bud Trail, Buchanan](#)

🎨 Jeff Zimmermann

BUCHANAN BMX WORLD CHAMPION MURAL

In 2020, Buchanan locals gathered for a watch party as one of their own, Hannah Roberts, competed in the summer Olympics. She won the silver medal. She has also claimed BMX World Champion titles in 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The mural, completed in 2022, shows Roberts completing a 360-degree tail whip. She was the first woman in the world to do so in competition. The mural is on the north wall of Honor Credit Union — stop by and take your photo in front of a local and global legend.

 [128 E. Front St., Buchanan](#)

 **Stanley Sessler**

BUCHANAN DISTRICT LIBRARY MURAL

Buchanan's first-generation history is preserved in this mural thanks to help from the University of Notre Dame. Professor Stanley Sessler, then head of the University's art department, created a guide map and painted the actual mural panels now displayed in the library's archives room. Come inside the library to see what life was like when wooden manufacturing was at its height and pioneer railway trains and covered wagons were the only transportation.


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 [W. Smith Street and S. Oak Street, Buchanan](#)

 **Tracy Dippo and Peter Lysy**

MCCOY CREEK TRAIL MURAL

This over-10-foot tall mural created by longtime residents, Tracy Dippo and Peter Lysy, greets people at the head of the McCoy Creek Trail. It tells the story of McCoy Creek's importance to the community and the water mills that harnessed its power and brought industry and settlers to the area. On either side of the trail map are panels featuring photographs and text that convey the creek's and Buchanan's fascinating history with trail walkers.

Waterliet

 [315 N. Main St., Waterliet](#)

 **Eduardo Mrlaylo Diaz**

SIDETRACK CAFE MURAL

Drive into this small town, turn the corner at the light and the Sidetrack Cafe's stunning steam-engine train will be barreling toward you. The mural pays tribute to when the Chicago and Michigan Railroad once serviced this historic sawmill town. The artist, Eduardo Mrlaylo Diaz is renowned for bringing walls to life and this is no exception. A small bench has been added to make picture-taking easier. Then head into the restaurant for coffee and comfort food.

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Dowagiac

32



 [Commercial St., Dowagiac](#)

 **Joe Scola**

WELCOME TO DOWAGIAC MURAL

Inspired by vintage postcards, this mural showcases imagery associated with the greater Dowagiac area. The letter "D" features golfing, "O" a bonfire, "W" the downtown cityscape, "A" fishing, "G" inland lakes, "I" the city flag and dogwood plants, "A" a Dowagiac runner and Southwestern Michigan College runner running on a local trail, and "C" produce.

 [202 Commercial St., Dowagiac](#)

 Ruth Andrews

STARTING A NEW LIFE: DOWAGIAC'S ORPHAN TRAIN STORY MURAL

You can see this heart-stirring mural on the Pennsylvania Street side of the Dowagiac Post Office. Artist Ruth Andrews captures the history of this compassionate town. Working with a dedicated group of community members, the mural memorializes the journey of the first Orphan Train Riders (14 boys), arriving from the harsh streets in New York to a new beginning in Dowagiac in late September 1854. It is a visual reminder of the town's ongoing role in providing hope and opportunity to vulnerable children.

33



Cassopolis

34



 [132 N. Rowland St., Cassopolis](#)

 Ruth Andrews / Jerry Schlundt

FRED ATKINSON CHEVY DEALERSHIP MURAL

Ruth Andrews restored the mural on the Cass County Building. Originally painted by Dowagiac artist Jerry Schlundt in 2007, the mural lets you look through the "window" of the 1950 Fred Atkinson Chevy car dealership showroom that used to be housed in the building.

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 [156 S. Broadway St., Cassopolis](#)

 Ruth Andrews

SANCTUARY AND DELIVERANCE MURAL

This downtown Cassopolis four-panel mural portrays the 1847 Kentucky Raid. It starts with the freedom seekers crossing the Ohio River then the Kentucky slave catchers entering a cabin to take "their property" back to Kentucky. That's followed by the Quakers and other abolitionists confronting the slave catchers at O'Dell's Mill in Vandalia. It ends with the freedom seekers testifying against the slave catchers in court — unheard of at the time — and jubilant when the magistrate found in favor of them on a technicality. You can read more about this extraordinary Underground Railroad story at the mural site.



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 [Corner of State and Broadway Streets, Cassopolis](#)

 Chris Stackowicz

WELCOME TO CASSOPOLIS MURAL

This mural welcomes you as you enter town with its images of Stone and Diamond Lakes on a cloudscape. The artist encourages you to pose in front of the mural's streetscape, becoming a part of the artwork and the community.

Edwardsburg

37

 [69060 Elkhart Rd., Edwardsburg](#)

 Brett Whitacre

EDWARDSBURG “ALL ABOARD!” MURAL

The City of Edwardsburg set out to improve the railroad that runs through town. This mural makes the town’s historic mill a bright spot with its blue skies, rolling hills, houses, a train and the depot that used to be in Edwardsburg. Illinois-based artist Brett Whitacre honored the various nonprofit organizations and donors throughout the mural by adding silhouettes and their names on train cars, an airplane banner and even downtown-style storefronts.



Vandalia

38

 [18058 State St., Vandalia](#)

 Diriki Mose and Mural Makers of New Jersey

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORICAL MARKER MURAL

Vandalia is proud of its role as a station on the Underground Railroad and the role it played in helping nine freedom seekers during the 1847 Kentucky Raid. This mural is on one of the park’s garages. It is based on artwork done by Vandalia native Diriki Mose in the 1990s and was reproduced building-size so visitors and passers-by can see it. It shows Vandalians welcoming the freedom seekers to their community and the symbolic North Star leading the way.



PLAN YOUR MURAL TOUR AND STAY

Look through the choices above and using the map on [page 3](#), plan your day of mural hunting. Visit our [Planning a Trip](#) page for more fun activities and to [book your stay](#) with us. All our hotels are an easy drive (sometimes only a walk away) from our murals. We’re excited to see which murals you share as your favorites on social media!

SHARE
with us

Share your photos and videos of your Southwest Michigan getaway with us. This is an opportunity for your photos to appear on our social media, website or marketing materials. Thanks for sharing your memories!



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