

LUX MURALS AT UNI PLACE

ORIA SIMONINI

LUX CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 2601 N 48TH ST (WEST WALL)

Oria Simonini's mural depicts Amaya – a young third generation Hmong-American girl – enveloped in a vibrant display of color and symbols. The patterns used in the mural are sourced from textiles, an important visual language used by many to pass down history, traditions, and culture. The 3 stencils used on the wall were taken from Hmong paj ntaub (flower cloth); it is said that it comes from Hmong women who communicated with a visual code onto their clothing when their own language was forbidden. The 3 symbols chosen are the elephant's foot (luck), the heart, and the home. Oria was thinking of Amaya's grandparents, who migrated to Nebraska decades ago, and to have Amaya, who is able to reap the "fruits" of their labor and journey, to be surrounded by luck, the home, and love. Finally, the stairs are decorated with birds and flowers from Chiapas, Mexico.

Oria Simonini is a Latinx artist based in Omaha, NE. Her work focuses on the human experience of the highly politicized and polarized topic that is immigration. Oria received her Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018.

Sponsor: The Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel



Mural by Focus Smith



Mural by Focus Smith



Mural by Presley Shellhase

UNI PLACE CREATIVE DISTRICT

Nestled within the historic University Place neighborhood, the UNI Place Creative District invites you to embark on a journey through a world of artistic experiences. From captivating theater productions and soul-stirring musical performances to thought-provoking art exhibitions and enriching art classes, the district is a haven for creativity and culture.

Amidst this creative haven, you'll discover more than ten murals, crafted by artists from around the globe. These murals serve as a vivid backdrop for exploring our parks, cultural institutions, an iconic coffee house, and chic boutiques.

In UNI Place Creative District, you'll find a neighborhood that effortlessly blends the old and the new. Here, you can wander through historic buildings steeped in character, pamper yourself at a hair salon, enroll in an inspiring art class, immerse yourself in the world of theatrical performances, or lose yourself in the beauty of art exhibitions. It's a place where you can indulge in a relaxing massage or express your individuality with a unique tattoo, as well as take a captivating mural tour.

As we look ahead, the creative district is brimming with exciting plans. We envision a calendar filled with community-wide festivals, inspired by the success of the EMERGE LNK Mural Festival. Expect vibrant maker's markets, electrifying musical performances, and captivating theatrical showcases, all designed to bring our community together in celebration.

These cherished cultural institutions, intertwined with emerging businesses and welcoming community spaces, form the very fabric of University Place's distinctive identity. Together, they lay the foundation upon which we aspire to craft a future vibrant with creativity, enriched by diversity, and bound by a strong sense of community.

Written by the Nebraska Arts Council

EXPLORE UNIVERSITY PLACE:

Arts & Entertainment

Archway Studios
Blixt Storefront Theater
Dance Arts
Elder Art Gallery
LUX Center for the Arts
Urban Legends Art Studio

Beauty & Spa

Angel Face Aesthetics
Empowered Healing
Grey Artisan Studios
Maica's Nails & Spa
Salon 27 Eleven
Suds N' Scissors (Pet)

Food & Beverage

Bar 48
DAME
HF Crave
Jerusalem Bakery
Kelly's Produce
Leighton's Pub
Mo Java Cafe
Sabor Latino

Shopping

Copper & Wax Co
Kind Life Dispensary
LUX Center for the Arts
Simply Aishia

Tattoo Studio

Hidden Gem Tattoo
Ink Machine Tattoo & Piercing
Narb Tattoo
NE Electric Tattoo Co
Sly Ink Tattoo

Outdoor

UPCO Park
Seng Park & UNI Place Aquatic Center



LUX COMMUNITY ART ALLEY

The LUX Community Art Alley has been a place for community members to contribute original murals and works of art – collectively creating a colorful and inspiring alleyway people can utilize as a blank canvas, a source of inspiration during a walk through our neighborhood, or even as a backdrop for a photoshoot. It continually reminds us that art and creative expression connects us and can foster something beautiful when we do it together. Stop by and tag #luxartalley on your next visit!

MORE MURALS AT THE LUX:



SARAH ROWE

WILLIAMS CLEANERS | 2541 N 48TH ST (NORTH WALL)

Sarah Rowe is a multimedia artist based in Omaha, NE. Her work opens cross-cultural dialogues by utilizing methods of painting, casting, fiber arts, performance, and Native American ceremony in unconventional ways. Rowe's work is participatory, a call to action, and re-imagines traditional Native American symbolism to fit the narrative of today's global landscape. Drawing from imagery in historic texts, in conjunction with images from Lakota winter counts, Rowe projects her vision of contemporary Indigenous experience into the mix with an offbeat enchantment. Rowe's imagined landscapes are bold and vibrant, containing a shape-shifting bestiary of tales both familiar and strange. Rowe holds a BA in Studio Art from Webster University, studying in St. Louis, MO, and Vienna, Austria. She is of Lakota and Ponca descent.

Sponsor: Bold Nebraska



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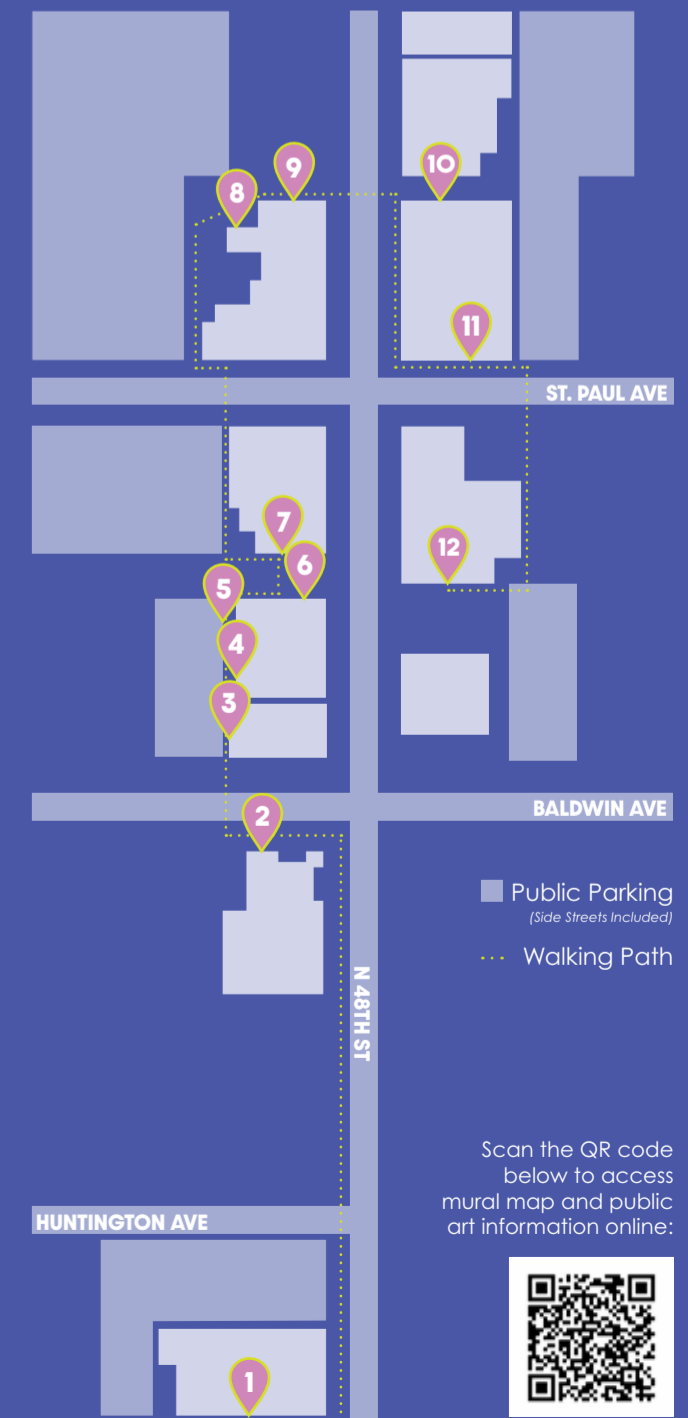


Explore Public Art in the UNI Place Creative District

MURAL MAP

MURAL MAP UNI PLACE CREATIVE DISTRICT

- 1. SHAWN DUNWOODY**
2431 N 48th St (South Wall)
Veterans of Foreign Wars
- 2. SARAH ROWE**
2541 N 48th St (North Wall)
Williams Cleaners
- 3. ORIA SIMONINI**
2601 N 48th St (West Wall)
LUX Center for the Arts
- 4. FOCUS SMITH**
2601 N 48th St (West Wall)
LUX Center for the Arts
- 5. PRESLEY SHELLHASE**
2601 N 48th St (East Wall)
LUX Center for the Arts
- 6. ANA MARIETTA**
2621 N 48th St (North Wall)
Suds N' Scissors
- 7. EDER MUNIZ**
2633 N 48th St (South Wall)
NE Electric Tattoo Co
- 8. SUSIE SHEPHERD**
2719 N 48th St (North Wall)
Blu Velvet
- 9. NOLAN TREDWAY**
2723 N 48th St (North Wall)
Kind Life Dispensary
- 10. WES STALEY**
2722 N 48th St (North Wall)
Empowered Healing
- 11. FOCUS SMITH**
2700 N 48th St (South Wall)
Jerusalem Bakery
- 12. WATIE WHITE**
2626 N 48th St (South Wall)
Blixt Storefront Theater



Public Parking
(Side Streets Included)
Walking Path



Scan the QR code below to access mural map and public art information online.



SHAWN DUNWOODY
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS | 2431 N 48TH ST (SOUTH WALL)

Shawn Dunwoody's mural is a playful love letter to Lincoln and University Place. His energetic spirit radiates through the bold text, playful aesthetic, and epic scale. Shawn's mural pays homage to the neighborhood post office, war veterans, and the BLM movement, while also incorporating visual cues from other Emerge LNK murals. Multiple community members stopped by to help Shawn paint, Dawn from Domino's (located directly across the alley from the mural) even brought pizza to the painters. You can see a peace sign on the bottom left corner of the mural that Shawn added just for Dawn!

Shawn Dunwoody is a visual artist and designer from Rochester, NY and considers himself a "multi-disciplinary creative force for change." Shawn uses his breadth of experience as a director, producer, designer, maker, influencer, developer, and artist to establish cutting edge, creative design in a variety of forms. When creating murals, Shawn taps into the heart of a community by gathering input from community members and folks walking by to inspire the finished work.

Sponsor: UNANIMOUS

What symbolism do you see and what does it mean to you?



NOLAN TREDWAY
KIND LIFE DISPENSARY | 2723 N 48TH ST (NORTH WALL)

Nolan Tredway's quirky pop individualism marks the north of the 48th Street murals. His work most often teeters within this realm and a surrealistic space – interplaying creatures, human figures, and objects in colorful, dream-like scenes. This specific mural was his first piece like it in his hometown, Lincoln! It explores ideas of the past and future. The mural is bisected by an electric pole which Nolan used to his advantage and played into his theme of duality. One unique feature is that this piece floats off the wall to allow the ivy behind it to thrive and interact with the mural!

Nolan Tredway is a local Nebraskan artist, Co-Director of Tugboat Gallery, and Founder of the performance art collective, Kindred. Nolan was raised in the Great North by a mountain and burning forest. He learned the art of storytelling from his time among the Volkos, before studying Art at the University of Nebraska and Function Ortega y Gasset in Toledo, Spain.

Sponsor: Firespring

What role does color play in the murals?
 How do different colors make you feel?

ANA MARIETTA
SUDS N' SCISSORS | 2621 N 48TH ST (NORTH WALL)

Ana Marietta's love of nature comes through with this monumental work featuring fierce great blue herons. She was inspired by the ability artists have to make impossible things come true through art – like fish that fly or birds that can swim. Her hope is to illustrate a scene of a fantastic dream that can inspire a community to imagine and create.

Ana Marietta is an agronomist, sculptor and mural artist. She was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Houston, Texas. Ana graduated from the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez in 2005 where she studied Art and Animal Science. Within her work, Ana incorporates imaginary animals and humanoid beings. Her hybrid creatures portray scenes of peace in times of conflict, in a physically impossible environment to play with the viewers' imagination.

Sponsors: Rhonda Seacrest and the Lincoln Community Foundation



EDER MUNIZ
NE ELECTRIC TATTOO CO | 2633 N 48TH ST (SOUTH WALL)

Eder Muniz brought a piece of Bahia to our little 'burb. His mural embodies the spirit and magic of the natural world – celebrating 'oneness' and the connection between all living things. This eye-catching, vibrant display of color and life encourages us to care for and protect all life forms surrounding us.

Eder Muniz is a self-taught graffiti and mural artist from Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. His bright and vivid murals incorporate animals, human figures, abstract and surreal details to explore the relationship and balance between nature and man. Eder captures the spirit and magic of the natural world in a style all his own.

Sponsors: Ayars & Ayars and Ameritas

What creatures or natural elements do you recognize?
 What is unfamiliar to you?



SUSIE SHEPHERD
BLU VELVET | 2719 N 48TH ST (NORTH WALL)

Susie Shepherd (she/her) is an artist from Northeast Lincoln and has always dreamed of bringing a mural to life. Her work uses watercolor, acrylics, ink, mixed media, and frequently uses the image of a dragonfly to represent the power of transformation. Susie felt called to work in the field of addiction recovery and her greatest joy is seeing the individuals she works with be successful. She is always encouraging the people she works with to try new things and is happy to be a part of their recovery story. Susie is partnering with members in recovery at The Oxford House to bring this mural project to life.

This mural was funded by an NEA Challenge America Grant awarded to NeighborWorks Lincoln.

What theme(s) can you pull from each mural?



WATIE WHITE
BLIXT STOREFRONT THEATER | 2626 N 48TH ST (SOUTH WALL)

Watie White's mural is part of a larger series – '100 People' – featuring woodcut portraits of social change-makers and advocates throughout the region. Each portrait is a thoughtful collaboration between Watie and the individual – with the intention of portraying a genuine, personal, and revealing narrative. Download the '100 People' app to unlock hidden content in augmented reality! Each of the thirteen panels was also selected by the 30+ year tenant, Sandy, from Gaga's Greenery and Flowers. The relationships between the artists and the small businesses hosting the murals were key to the project's success.

Watie White is a painter, printmaker, and public artist based in Omaha, NE. Watie's studio has produced recent public art projects in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity-Omaha, InCommon Community Development, and Justice for Our Neighbors-NE, Omaha healthy Kids Alliance, Omaha Housing Authority and Omaha Public Schools.

Sponsors: The Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel and Cline Williams



FOCUS SMITH
JERUSALEM BAKERY | 2700 N 48TH ST (SOUTH WALL)

This electric mural by Lakota Artists Derek 'Focus' Smith is a trippy Black Hills vision – a vivid symbology of healing come to life. The Bear or "Mato" serves as a focal point and is revered amongst the Lakota as a healer and protector. Once it's knowledge and medicine reach the heart, it becomes wisdom. The saying "speak with your heart" is thus derived from this narrative. Surrounding the bear and heart are two cleansing, healing herbs – cedar and sage – as well as beadwork designs. The background reveals the rolling Black Hills and cathedral spires of South Dakota. Small crosses fill the mural to represent and remember Indian boarding school children. Above the bears head is a "IUP mushroom" in reference to the cultural icon Super Mario Bros. Focus added in layers of meaning to this mural while also teaching/working with the Trauma Warriors, a group of local indigenous youth.

Derek 'Focus' Smith is a Lakota graffiti artist based in Rapid City, SD and Co-Founder of About This Life, Inc. Focus aims to foster awareness, connection, and healing through his illuminating imagery.

Sponsors: Bold Nebraska and Union Bank & Trust

What cultures or demographics do you see represented?