

Denison Arts & Cultural District

Denison is one of Texas' original districts, named in 2009. Our historic downtown also has the longest Main Street business district in Texas and is lined with 19th century buildings. After establishing a Main Street program in 1989, we've seen many improvements and additions to our treasured public spaces. Our public art scene has grown in recent years thanks to the partnership and efforts of the Denison Arts Council.



Heritage Park

324 W Main - Established by non-profit merchant's association, Downtown Denison Inc., where a devastating fire killed fireman T.O. Fulce in 1989. Our premiere Main Street greenspace hosts the majority of our special events with a live performance stage with several sculptures, memorials, and murals.



Forest Park

300 W. Crawford - The city's oldest public space spans nearly thirteen acres. It includes the newly renovated Munson Football Stadium, a recreated historic fountain, renovated 1913 gazebo, and new, all-accessible community playground with splash pad made possible by the Denison Rotary Club.



Katy Plaza

101 E Main - In 1872, Denison was created when the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad came to Texas. In front of the historic Katy Depot you'll find Katy Plaza, a beautiful space with an eternal flame and memorials honoring our heroes and history arranged around a large fountain.

Art is Where you Find it.

Festivals & Events

Come see us during one of our many festivals or special events. Catch a live performance during Music on Main in the summer or check out the Dia de Muertos Festival brought to you by the Denison Arts Council in collaboration with Skiddy Street Puppet Company. See our calendar for all event dates.



Photo Ops

From fun selfies to special occasion professional portraits, our quaint downtown has many interesting features that serve as a great backdrop for photos; like this curious walkway over the 400 block of Music Alley or the little red door in the 300 block of W Chestnut [25].



Art Exhibits

Inside City Hall, you can enjoy "Art in the Hall", a rotating art show, and the City's permanent art collection on display weekdays from 8-5 at 300 W Main.



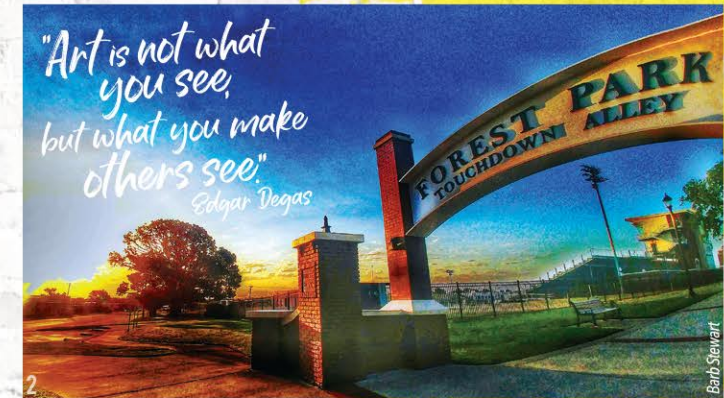
Monumental Art

For years the people of Denison have built monuments to honor our heroes. The 1910 obelisk in the 700 block of W Woodward honors a saloon owner who helped fund our schools. An eternal flame pays tribute to Denison's veterans in Katy Plaza. Look for other memorials there and in Heritage Park.



Also, look for music note bike racks, painted rocks hidden downtown, and the odd painted post, pole, or bathtub. Find the Owl Pole in the pocket park in the 200 block of W Main painted by underground Denison artist Jess Reinhard [26]. Drive north of the depot and locate "The Beast", a bright yellow sculpture by Casni Studio, in the 300 block of N Houston [27]. Watch for these and other creations as you stroll or drive around downtown and discover the artistic side of Denison.

Denison, Texas Public Art Tour



Downtown Denison



DENISON ARTS COUNCIL
www.smalltownbigart.com

Denison Main Street
300 W. Main, Denison, TX 75020
903-464-4452

www.DenisonLive.com
facebook.com/DenisonLive
Instagram & Twitter @Denison_Live

One hour north of Dallas off Highway 75

#CaptureDenison
#DiscoverDenison
#DenisonLive



Murals & Banners

Banners

100-600 blocks of W Main - Every light post on six blocks of Main Street (nearly 100) is decorated with a banner with art by local volunteer artists. In 2018, the Main Street department expanded a project started by artist Michael Williams to bring the art community together with the business community. It is the largest public art collection available for viewing in our region.



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Denison TX

125 W Woodard St - Our most recent addition was painted by Dannielle Sparks. It's located behind Zig Zag Galleries, enter through the gallery during normal business hours for a fun selfie!



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Land of the Brave



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118 W Main - Located by the police station, this patriotic mural of eagle wings was painted by Dallas-based artist Jerod "Dtox" Davies and makes a great photo op.

Frontier Denison

200 W Main - This huge, vintage western scene was painted in 1987 by Vicki Roberson. It was restored in 2019 by international artist, Minerva Dirzo Brito.



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Becoming Me

200 Music Alley - Another great mural by Jerod "Dtox" Davies features butterflies and is a fun photo op!



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Eisenhower Portrait

Corner of W Chestnut & S Burnett - Denison High School graduate and Elvis impersonator, Steven Ray Bohall, painted this classic black & white portrait of President Eisenhower.

Music is Nectar for the Soul

300 Music Alley - Inspired by our vibrant music scene, Casni Studio painted this beautiful gramophone mural in Music Alley behind Heritage Park.



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Sully Sullenberger & Flight 1549



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400 W Main - In 2020, local artist Sydney Sbarbaro Metcalf completed this tribute to Denison native Chesley Sullenberger, depicting the "Miracle on the Hudson" when he landed his disabled plane on the river saving all 155 people on board.

Universe Mural

514 W Main - This creative mural featuring music and outer space, overlooks CJ's Coffee Cafe. It was painted by Sydney Sbarbaro Metcalf in 2015.



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Ashburn's Ice Cream

613 W Main - The recently restored ghost sign for Ashburn's Ice Cream is located on the wall of the famous creamery.

Sculptures

Big Red Guitar

Corner of W Main & Burnett - This signature piece is a larger than life metal sculpture by Casni Studio that celebrates Denison's musical history and Music on Main, our annual summer concert series.



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DAC Man

324 W Main, Heritage Park - The man sculpture was designed and copyrighted by Denison Arts Council as the logo for "Small Town, Big Art" and built by Alfred Robinson. The triangle shape represents a sail for Lake Texoma. The man represents the art community.

Great Blue

324 W Main, Heritage Park - Jerry Tate created this metal sculpture in 2008 to honor DAC President, Michael Williams, for his role in Denison becoming a Texas Cultural Arts District.



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Book of Knowledge

300 W Gandy - Casni Studio created the whimsical sculpture, Book of Knowledge, to stand in front of Denison's public library.

Eisenhower Statue

609 S Lamar, Eisenhower Birthplace - This 11 ft. bronze statue of Ike in his WW2 "Eisenhower Jacket" is one of five sculpted by Robert L. Dean. The others are located at West Point U.S. Military Academy in New York, Eisenhower Presidential Library in Kansas, the American Embassy in London, and in Normandy, France.



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Dumpsters

If you stroll down our alleys you'll find one of our most interesting ongoing public art efforts aimed at activating the alleyways in downtown as inviting, public spaces. The City of Denison enacted a program to get local artists to paint trash dumpsters to brighten up these alley spaces. There are over 15 painted dumpsters so far with most in Music Alley with more being added regularly.



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Interactive Art

Piano Keys Crosswalk

200-400 W Main - In the middle of these three blocks you'll find these fun crosswalks. Mind the traffic and get a photo!



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Playable Art

In 2015, instruments made their way to Denison's historic Main Street. Six outdoor instruments were installed and have drawn young and old alike to Denison's core to make their own music and dance to their own beat.



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