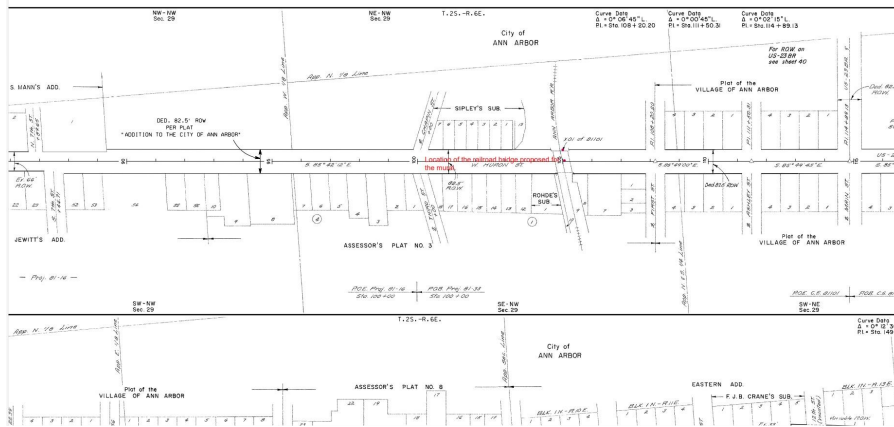
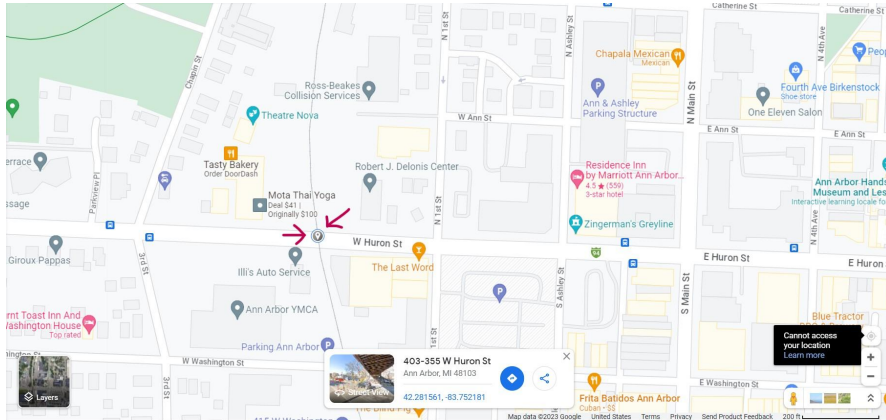


Murals That Bridge

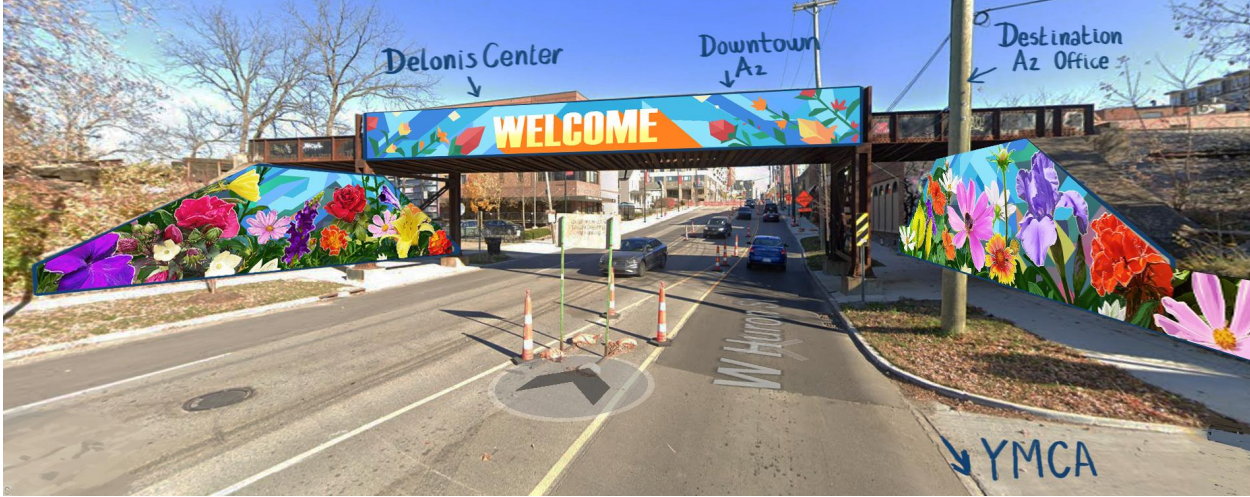
TreeTown Murals // WATCO // City of Ann Arbor

Project Location: Huron St in Ann Arbor, between N First and 3rd St; the murals are to be placed on the WATCO owned railroad - wing walls and fascia beam that goes over the road.



“Murals That Bridge” is a local public art initiative aimed at creating landmark attractions for all who live in and visit Ann Arbor, MI. The railroad metal overpass and concrete underpasses on Huron Street near North First Street, has been identified widely as blighted and as generally unsightly fixtures in very public areas of Ann Arbor. “Murals That Bridge” intends to transform these “gates” to our community into engaging and vibrant art attractions, creating a welcoming feeling for both residents and visitors alike. The project, spearheaded by Lucie & Larry Nisson, as well as TreeTown Murals—both entities who possess great passion, talent, and authority in the space of public art in southwestern Michigan—will physically restore these spaces in an aesthetically pleasing way, followed by bringing newly designed and installed, dynamic art to our community. Funds will be spent on artistic/design and administrative costs, cleanup and priming/repair of the rusted fixtures, as well as on a fundraising and marketing consultant.

Street View Mural Design



Mural Design



Mural Design - Danijel Matanic

Support Material for Form 0525A - Examples of public engagement:

1. Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Endorsement early 2023
2. Related press
 1. https://www.seconddwavemedia.com/concentrate/features/muralsthatbridge0686.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3S-3t_zRex_ep0fcjUjDP_-x-5E34J0J2ttO9GhDIOia025CzRi3z67G4
 2. Lucy Ann Lance Radio broadcast:
https://www.lucyanlance.com/audio/062623/murals.mp3?fbclid=IwAR1VsRU4qaZfW6_cxPSBITK1-TH-aM_DtXGgKTbc6Lactx-Zs0xwUMGaaY
 3. Mlive Article:
<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/07/overpasses-begging-for-beautification-will-benefit-from-new-mural-project-in-ann-arbor.html>
 4. Ann Arbor Observer - September issue
3. All of the adjacent businesses have been notified and invited to provide either financial donations or support in other ways. Including by not limited to:
 1. Destination Ann Arbor (the A2 visitors and convention bureau) committed 5K to the project
 2. Dan Kelly the Director of The Delonis Center believes this will be a beautiful gift to the neighborhood and endorsed the project and the below community participation.
 - i. Murals That Bridge will engage the Delonis residents in helping to paint the mural on one occasion with the Wednesday “Art Break” group. Facilitated by Becky Spangler, Ann Arbor resident.
 3. JP Real Estate - supports the project and owns adjacent properties + will provide contractor parking during the duration of the project.
4. Kickstarter Campaign - 12K raised - 75 community backers
5. Donations from local businesses and community members, Towsley Foundation, local real estate owners - Ed Schaffran & Peter Allen & Associates
6. The project has been publicly endorsed by
 1. Senator Jeff Erwin
 2. Ann Arbor's Mayor Taylor
 3. Former State Rep, Yousef Rabhi
 4. A2 Council Member Erica Briggs
 5. A2 Council Member Jenn Cornell Queen
7. 2 murals were created by youth in June on Miller Ave on the underpasses, this was designed to engage the youth of Ann Arbor in painting murals while also kicking off the Murals That Bridge kickstarter campaign that raised 12K.
8. On site - Community dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony - open to the public to attend, date TBA

Project Timeline: 2023

- September - City Council resolution passes
- September - MDOT approval of Aesthetic Enhancement Criteria & ROW permitting
- September - Northstar Painting bridge restoration - *see attachments for NS work plan - one week - weather depending
- October - TreeTown Murals - paints wing walls and fascia beam with the proposed mural design
 - TTM will start with the fascia beam - also needed a ROW permit
 - TTM will use Nova Color acrylic paint on the wing walls & Sherman Willimas - Sher cryl on the fascia beam and metal surfaces
 - TTM will secure a 45' articulating boom lift to complete the work on the fascia beam; all other ground work will be done with bakers scaffolding and ladders.

Funding Sources and Budget

Murals That Bridge is fiscally sponsored by 501c3 organization Artrain, Inc. The budget for both the Huron St. and the North Main St. bridges is \$357,325. The current funding gap for the project is \$133,750, **with funding fully secured for the Huron Street portion**, and funding still needed to complete the North Main St. portion (project slated for 2024).

Major funders thus far include:

- Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation
- Destination Ann Arbor
- Major Donor - Lucie & Larry Nisson
- Ann Arbor Mayor Chris Taylor, Senator Jeff Irwin, and Ann Arbor City Council Member Erica Briggs
- Shaffran Companies
- Peter Allen & Associates Real Estate
- Columbia Asset Management
- JKK Kellogg Foundation Matching Funds
- Multiple Individual Donors

Additional attachments:

- Hold Harmless Agreement - WATCO & TTM
- Operations & Maintenance Agreement - 3 signatures required (TTM / WATCO / City of Ann Arbor)
- WATCO listed as additional insured on TTM's insurance
- City of Ann Arbor listed as additional insured on TTM's insurance
- *NorthStar Painting - work plan

About TreeTown Murals:

TreeTown Murals is a Michigan-based public art company, run in partnership by artists, Mary Thiefels and Danijel Matanic. For more than 20 years, TreeTown Murals has focused on the design and installation of custom mural projects that result in unique partnerships and compelling, beautiful original artworks in public spaces for broader community enjoyment. Their collaborations with individuals, communities, municipalities, businesses, schools, and neighborhood centers have brought spaces and places to life across Michigan. Their playful, illustrative, bold, and vibrant painting style and the inclusion of unique participatory experiences create landmark murals brought to life by these collaborations and beautifying spaces for all to experience and enjoy.



Mary Thiefels & Danijel Matanic
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Photo: Doug Coombe
“Challenge Everything Create Anything”
2019, Ann Arbor, MI
Commissioned by Destination Ann Arbor