



Completed Project on Huron Street



Future project location on N. Main Street

“Murals That Bridge” - North Main Street

Project Description: “Murals That Bridge” is a two-fold public art initiative aimed at creating landmark attractions for all who live in and visit Ann Arbor, MI. Two prominent locations have been identified as “Gateways” to our community - the two railroad overpasses owned and operated by the private company WATCO, one on North Main St. near the entrance to M-14, and the second on West Huron St. Both have been identified widely as blighted and generally unsightly fixtures in a very public area of Ann Arbor - viewed by thousands of residents and visitors each day.

In the summer of 2024, the Murals That Bridge team, spearheaded by Lucie & Larry Nisson, TreeTown Murals, Constellations Consulting and NorthStar Painting — all entities who possess great passion, talent, and authority in the space of public art in southwestern Michigan — successfully completed the entire restoration and installation of murals both on the fascia beam going over the road and the adjacent “wing walls.” Beautiful murals featuring the word “Welcome” on the west side of the bridge were painted.

With one major project success under their belt, The Murals That Bridge team is now actively fundraising and preparing to do the same restoration and public murals at the North Main Street site. Our goal is not only to improve the aesthetic of the city through completing these massive public art projects, but to also create a welcoming feeling for both residents and visitors. The project has already shown the ability to restore the Huron St. bridge location in an aesthetically pleasing way, bringing newly designed and installed, dynamic art to our community. We are excited to duplicate our efforts on North Main St.

Funds will be spent on artistic/design, administrative costs, fundraising, right of way access, cleanup & restorations of the rusted fixtures, in addition to new “welcoming” murals.

Vision: Through strategic promotional efforts, these projects will gain local, state-wide, and national attention. They will place Ann Arbor in the center of the national conversation about public art and bring beautiful art to our community for all to enjoy and take pride in.

How is the Project Benefiting Youth, Artists, and Businesses in Ann Arbor?

“Murals That Bridge” will hire several Michigan based artists—including youth artists—to assist with painting the North Main St. mural, thereby creating local jobs and contributing to the vibrancy of Ann Arbor’s creative economy. The project includes a partnership with Penny Staps

Professor Bill Burgard and up to 10 of his students for a portion of the planning and painting of the mural on the east side of the trussell.

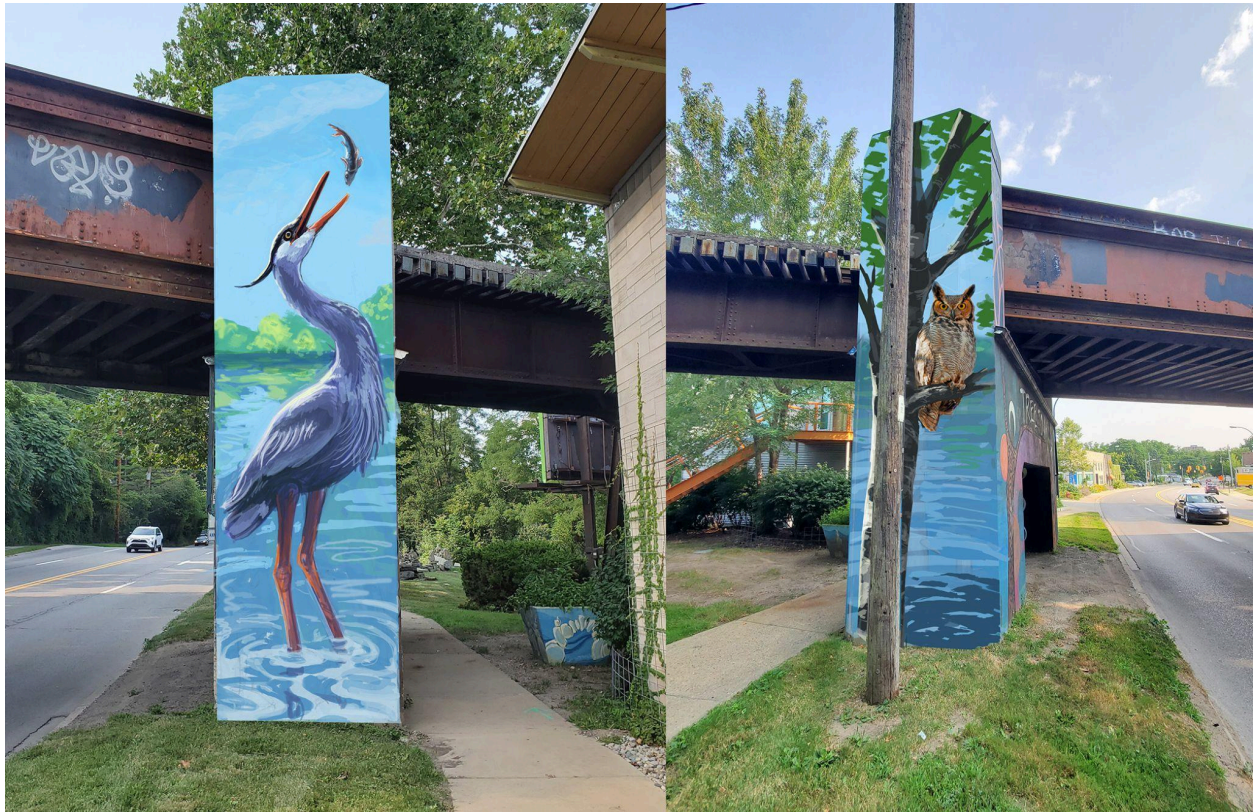
Once the North Main St mural project and restoration is complete, businesses in the area are expected to attract more visitors and patrons, experience increased property values, and enjoy the enhanced aesthetics of the neighborhood. 100's of thousands of visitors will be greeted with a warm "WELCOME" that will be painted on the North side of the fascia beam.

Murals That Bridge Project Updates

As of Spring 2025, we have completed the entire project at Huron St. We have raised partial capital for the North Main St. project from several private donors, and plan to do the mural in summer/fall 2025. The project budget is ~\$150,000, which includes five years worth of maintenance and upkeep. The project has received extensive press coverage from publications like Concentrate Media, The Ann Arbor Observer, MLive, and the Lucy Ann Lance Radio Show. **Donors to date include: Columbia Assets Management, Lucie & Larry Nisson, Peter Allen and Associates, Towsley Foundation, Penny Stamps, & Destination Ann Arbor**

Please direct all questions to Mary Thiefels - Project Coordinator and Managing Partner of TreeTown Murals. treetownmurals@gmail.com // 734-846-4455





FINISHED Huron Project

