

Public Art in Portsmouth, NH

Public Art Review Committee Inventory

As of February 3, 2025

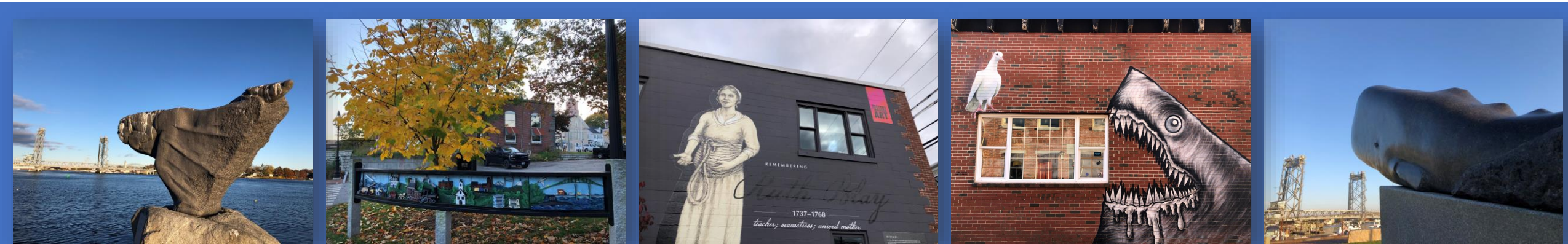


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Downtown

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Ruth Blay Mural

Ruth Blay Mural

This dramatic mural depicts Ruth Blay, who in 1768 was the last woman executed in New Hampshire after being convicted for the concealment of a stillborn illegitimate child.

Artist Information

Terrence Parker, local Portsmouth artist and owner of Terra Firma, and the Friends of Ruth Blay organization collaborated with artist Carl Aichele of Dover, NH and historian Carolyn Marvin to honor Ruth and tell her story. In addition, DBG Design created the graphic and Alex Ross served as the civil engineer.

Material

Polyvinyl graphic glued to the wall

Sponsor Information

Donated by Tod Adelman and commissioned by the Friends of Ruth Blay, a nonprofit organization which focuses on “History Through Art” and seeks to recognize the contributions of historic and marginalized people from Portsmouth’s past.



Directions

Clearly visible from the African Burying Ground, the mural graces the back of the building at 167 Court Street

Installation Date – 2001

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | African Burying Ground Memorial

African Burying Ground Memorial

As a port city in one of the few colonies that did not impose a tariff on slaves, Portsmouth was a major entry-point for slave ships in the late 1600s and early 1700s. The memorial was created on a small portion of a Black burying ground that may contain 200 individuals and consists of the following elements:

- A granite wall with life-sized bronze casts of Mother Africa on one side, and the first African who made the Middle Passage to the shores of Portsmouth in 1645 on the other side.
- A granite path inscribed with a quote from the 1779 Petition for Freedom, granite seating walls, a community plaza, decorative tiles, landscaping, and pedestrian scale lighting.
- The burial vault, marked with a West African Sankofa symbol, is surrounded by stylized figures who represent the collective community of Portsmouth coming together to acknowledge, protect and pay homage to this Burying Ground.
- The ceramic tiles for the fence were created by Middle School students under the direction of Jerome Meadows and Anna Nuttall, Middle School art teacher.
- The remains were re-interred in wooden boxes made by local woodworker Jeffrey Cooper who carved the Sankofa onto the lids of the boxes.
- The tiles represent West African textile designs and the fence represents paddles of slave ships.

Artist Information

Jerome Meadows from Savannah, GA and originally from New York City worked closely with the African Burying Ground Memorial Committee, incorporating the designs of landscape architect Roberta Woodburn of Newmarket, NH to create a space that "Stands for Those Forgotten."

Material

Granite, stone, bronze, ceramic

Sponsor Information

The City of Portsmouth with many contributors identified on a plaque on the first floor in City Hall.



Directions

386 State Street

Installation Date – 2015

Photo credit – Beth Hartnett

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | The Rockingham Lions

The Rockingham Lions

These handsome, cast-iron felines, in place for 150+ years, guard the doorways of the Rockingham Hotel building. Built in France, the lions came to Portsmouth in sections and benefited from restoration efforts to return them to their golden glory.

The Rockingham Hotel is a historic hotel building in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. It was originally built in 1785 as a residence by Woodbury Langdon, prominent merchant and politician. Thomas Coburn converted it into a hotel which opened November 1, 1833. Frank Jones, who was, among other things, mayor of Portsmouth, a US Representative, and a brewer, bought it in 1870. After a fire in 1884, Jones rebuilt it extensively. The only significant part saved from Langdon's mansion was the dining room, which is now the Library Restaurant. The following presidents stayed at the hotel: George Washington, Franklin Pierce, James K. Polk, Chester A. Arthur, William H. Taft and John F. Kennedy.

Artist Information

Original artist – unknown; Restoration work by the Cassidy Bros Forge, in Rowley, MA included completely taking apart the lions, building new stainless-steel connectors and screws, sandblasting the lions inside and out, and re-painting them in gold metallic paint.

Material

Cast iron with stainless steel armature, gold metallic paint

Sponsor Information

Frank Jones, a wealthy Portsmouth brewery owner and Mayor and invested in a variety of enterprises including building the Rockingham Hotel.



Directions

Rockingham Hotel building, 401 State Street

Installation Date – 1872

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | The Rockingham Hotel Terracotta Bas Reliefs

The Rockingham Hotel Terracotta Bas Reliefs

Following a fire in 1884, the Rockingham Hotel was enlarged and remodeled to include a new fifth story with two gables above it. Gable decorations include heroic size busts in terracotta. The left bust portrays Woodbury Langdon, a prominent Portsmouth merchant who commissioned the original wooden building on this site in 1785. The bust on the right depicts Portsmouth's leading industrialist and millionaire brewer Frank Jones who purchased the Rockingham House and expanded the building in 1870.

Artist Information

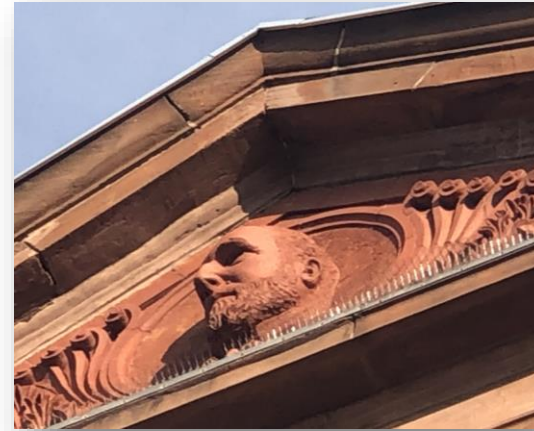
The Massachusetts artist Francis Mortimer Lamb created the terracotta busts and eight terracotta tiles with leaf and flower patterns alternating with portraits depicting spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Material

Terracotta

Sponsor Information

Frank Jones, a wealthy Portsmouth brewery owner, invested his monies in a variety of enterprises including building the Rockingham Hotel.



Directions

Rockingham Hotel building, 401 State Street

Installation Date – 1884

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Music Hall Arch

Music Hall Arch

This large-scale architectural element defines the entrance of Chestnut Street and the establishment of an 'Arts Corridor' that runs from 3S Artspace, past the Music Hall, to the African Burying Ground Memorial.

The artist found inspiration for the design in the historic structures of Portsmouth, such as building thresholds, the organic curl of a furniture pediment, and even the nuts, bolts, and rivets of seacoast bridges and maritime vessels.

Artist Information

The Chestnut Street Arch was designed by Terrence Parker of Terra Firma and fabricated in Lewiston, ME, by Neokraft Signs.

Material

Steel and aluminum coated with bronze and finished with copper that has developed a blue-green patina.

Sponsor Information

The Friends of the Music Hall commissioned the Music Hall Arch. The Labrie Family provided the anchor funds for the arch in honor of their father, Jim Labrie.



Directions

Intersection of Chestnut Street and Market Street

Installation Date – 2018

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Espresso Man Mural

Espresso Man Mural

The Espresso Man is one of two murals that adorn the outside of Napoletana Pizzeria and Bar on Daniel Street in Market Square. The image is a reproduction of a poster the business owner's grandparents brought from Italy in the 1920s.

Artist Information

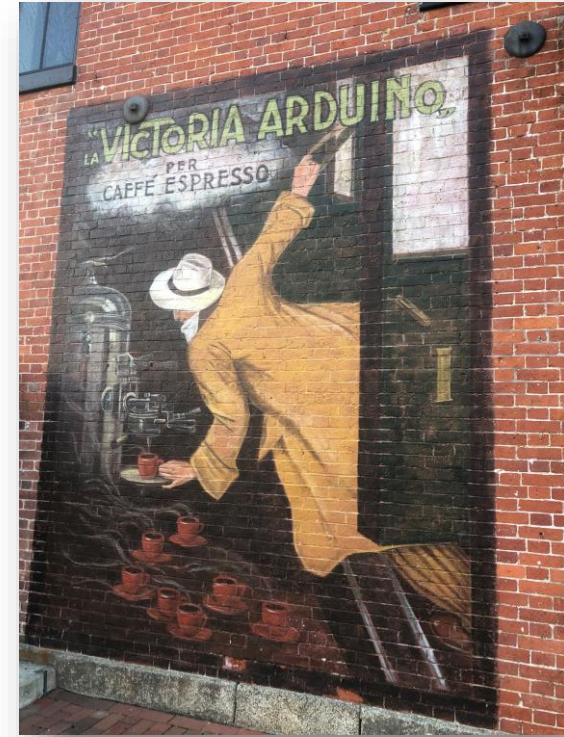
Local artist Liz Persing

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Market Square restaurant owner, Joe Faro



Directions

14 Market Square on the Daniel Street side of the building that houses Napoletana Pizzeria and Bar

Installation Date – 2019

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | San Pellegrino Mural

San Pellegrino Mural

The San Pellegrino mural is one of two murals that adorn the outside of Napoletana Pizzeria and Bar on Daniel Street in Market Square. The image is a reproduction of a poster the business owner's grandparents brought from Italy in the 1920s.

Artist Information

Local artist Liz Persing

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Market Square restaurant owner, Joe Faro



Directions

14 Market Square on the Daniel Street side of the building that houses Napoletana Pizzeria and Bar

Installation Date – 2019

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Commercial Alley Photo Gallery

Commercial Alley Photo Gallery

The outdoor photo gallery includes images of seacoast New Hampshire landmarks including Whaleback Light, Rye Beach, Badger's Island, Fort Foster and the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion. Each of these structures is located adjacent to or on nearby waterways.

Artist Information

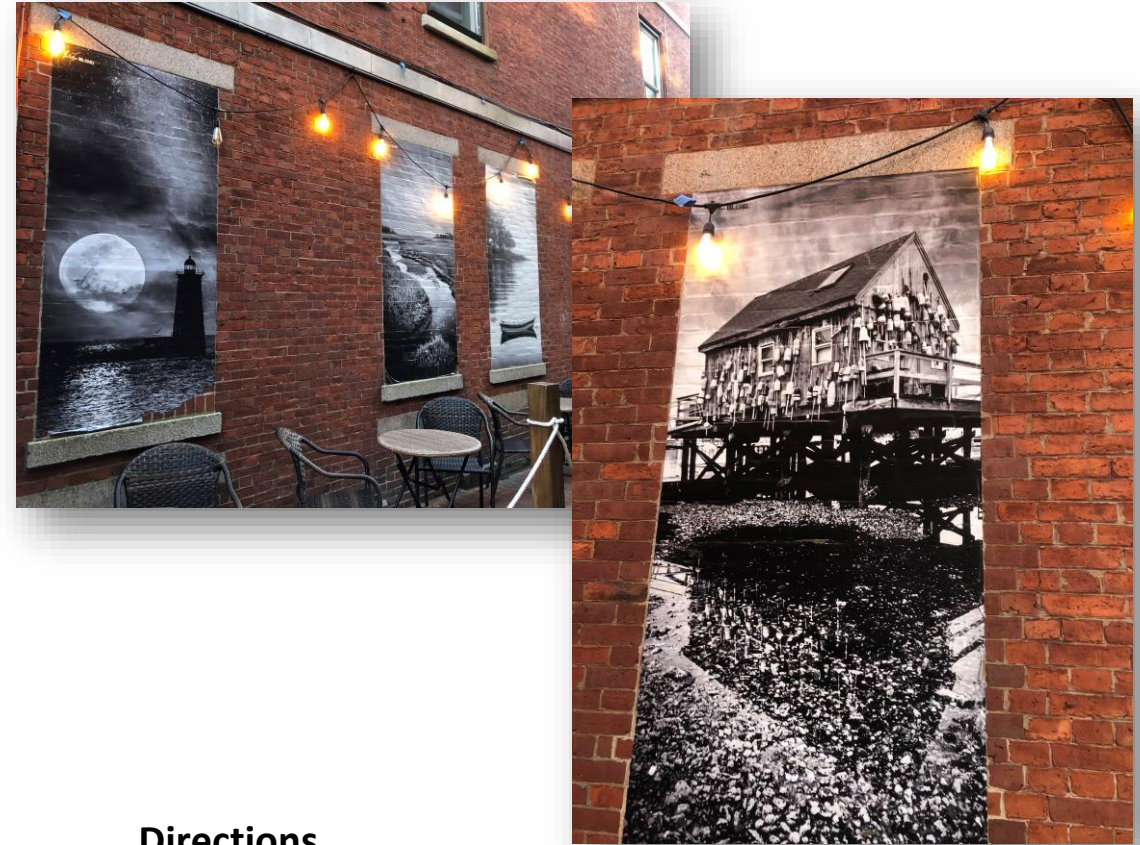
Brian Rene Bergeron of Blend 603

Material

Large format vinyl with adhesive

Sponsor Information

Joanna Kelly, owner, Cup of Joe Cafe & Bar



Directions

Commercial Alley on the side of building that houses Cup of Joe at 31 Market Street

Installation Date – 2020

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Shark and Sea Bird

Shark and Sea Bird Mural

The bird was painted by German artist Case Mclaim. The shark is Shark Toof's signature imagery. The mural is a collaboration between the artists. Note that the composition and juxtaposition of the two images playing with the architecture of the building creates a type of fun tension between characters.

Artist Information

The shark is Shark Toof's signature imagery and German artist Case Mclaim painted the bird.

Material

Spray paint

Sponsor Information

Former Portsmouth Museum of Art's 2011 exhibition "Street a.k.a. Museum"



Directions

Keeping the river to your right, pass the tugboats with the Oar House on your left at 55 Ceres Street

Installation Date – 2011

Photo credit – Beth Hartnett

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle Mural

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle* Mural

The mural features the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle*. The current *Eagle* is the seventh vessel to bear that name. The original was built in 1936 at the Blohm and Voss shipyard in Hamburg, Germany and commissioned as the “Horst Vessel.”

In 1946, she was transferred to the United States and commissioned into service as the United States Coast Guard *Eagle*.

Artist Information

Edward Lawry

Material

Paint on metal (repainted at least twice since installation)

Sponsor Information

David Mahoney Jr, President, Granite State Minerals



Directions

Port of New Hampshire, 555 Market Street

Installation Date – ~1985

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Stars and Stripers

Hearth Food Market – Stars and Stripers

The multi-element sculpture installed in the foyer of the Brick Market building (entrance to Hearth Food Market) honors marine biologist Rachel Carson.

It consists of an ocean cliff (vertical natural granite slab) with seven sea stars, two limpets and one periwinkle all carved of various kinds of granite. The cliff is mounted onto a formal base of polished black granite, on which is also placed a book carved in tan granite, with the following title: The Sea Around Us/Rachel Carson. A total of nine cast aluminum striped bass are installed around the cliff and above it, hanging from the ceiling up into the third floor. The aluminum fish are cast for the artist at the Green Foundry in Eliot, ME.

Artist Information

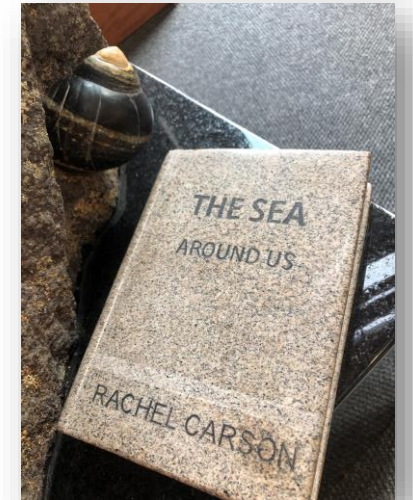
Thomas Berger is a visual artist who focuses on representing and depicting the natural world through three-dimensional works in granite, weathered fieldstone, and cast metal. Much of Berger's work is inspired by the beauty of nature, particularly as it relates to marine life and invertebrate land animals.

Material

Granite and aluminum

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb of Hearth Food Market sponsored the interior and exterior artwork for the Hearth Food Garden.



Directions

Hearth Food Market, 60 Penhallow Street

Installation Date – 2022

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Hearth Food Market Interior Art

Hearth Food Market – Metal Hood and Murals

The beautiful metal hood over the food bar mixes function with form and beauty. With eight sides, each side dedicated to a planet (a symbol of each planet is inconspicuously painted on each side), the hood channels down the fiery heavenly energies. The hood is the ‘hearth’ of Hearth Food Garden, creating the fiery glow of a hearth at the center of the space.

The murals painted on the walls near the back entrance and in the restrooms feature human and animal shapes in the same warm tones echoed throughout the building.

Artist Information

Metal Hood – Sean Kramer

Interior Murals – Flora Bowley

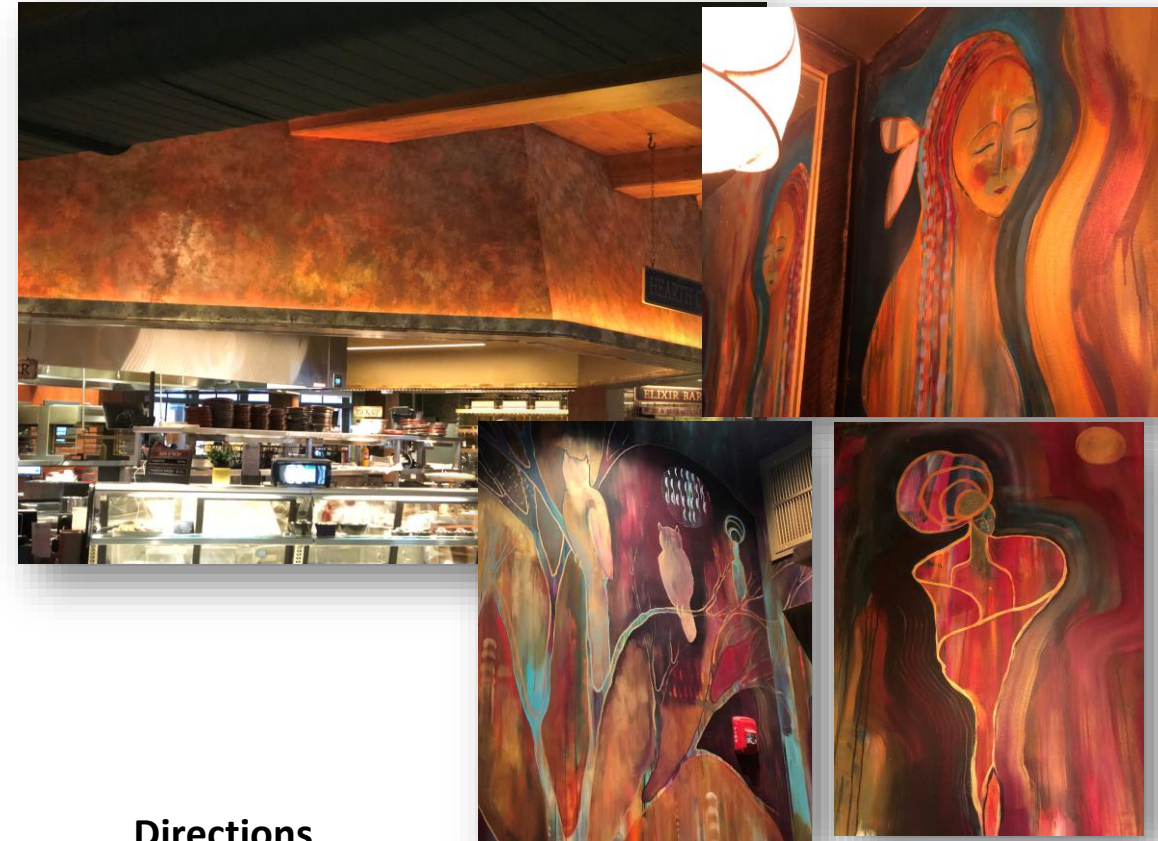
Material

Metal Hood – Materials for the hood include metal leaf (copper and Dutch gold), chemicals to distress the metals, and various paints.

Interior Murals – Acrylic paint and spray paint

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb of Hearth Food Market sponsored the interior and exterior artwork for the Hearth Food Garden.



Directions

Hearth Food Market, 60 Penhallow Street

Installation Date – 2022 and 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Metamorphosis

Hearth Food Market Outdoor Art – Metamorphosis

The Metamorphosis sculptural assembly, nicknamed “Dare to Change,” sits in the pedestrian area of the Hearth Food Market. It consists of a gray caterpillar, a black chrysalis, and an olive-gray stone flower with a white butterfly, all carved from various kinds of granite, and ornamented with 24K gold-leaf.

There is also a butterfly egg on a leaf of the stone flower and a faint engraving of the name “Maria Sibylla Merian / 1647 - 1717,” a renaissance scientific illustrator and entomologist who is honored with this sculptural assembly. The caterpillar and chrysalis can be used for sitting and climbing.

Artist Information

German-born sculptor Thomas Berger is known for his representation of the natural world in his works.

Material

Granite and 24K gold-leaf

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb sponsored the interior and exterior artwork for the Hearth Food Garden.



Directions

The alley behind the Hearth Food Market, 60 Penhallow Street

Installation Date – 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Impact

Hearth Food Market Outdoor Art – Impact

An organic-shaped, curving green wall carves out an intimate enclosure for a gathering space. Tables and chairs nestled inside the wall enhance the semi-private space for people to share a meal, engage in conversation, or simply use the space for quiet reflection.

Artist Information

Vivian Beer, a furniture designer/maker/sculptor based in New England

Material

Formed and fabricated steel with automotive paint

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb sponsored the interior and exterior artwork for the Hearth Food Garden.



Directions

The alley behind the Hearth Food Market, 60 Penhallow Street

Installation Date – 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Woven

Hearth Food Market Outdoor Art – Woven

A sleek, abstracted metal and concrete furniture sculpture combines the aesthetic sensibilities of contemporary design, craft, and sculpture to create a piece of furniture that alters expectations of and interfaces with the domestic landscape.

Artist Information

Vivian Beer, a furniture designer/maker/sculptor based in New England

Material

Formed and fabricated bronze

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb sponsored the interior and exterior artwork for the Hearth Food Garden.



Directions

The alley behind the Hearth Food Market, 60 Penhallow Street

Installation Date – 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Dwyer's Pub Mural Wall

Dwyer's Pub Mural Wall

A mural wall mirroring Miami's vibrant Wynwood Walls including the following: Charly Malpass painted an elephant in a jungle balancing a Guinness beer on its trunk; Lily Raymond painted a bar top piece which included "debris" such as a matchbook, a set of keys and a cocktail napkin; Julia Barrett, painted a woman and two peacocks; and Brie Cosman created a cheerful flock of flamingos.

Artist Information

Julia Barrett, Brie Cosman, Kenley Darling, Charly Malpass, Spencer Macleod and Lily Raymond

Material

Plywood framed paintings

Sponsor Information

Dwyer's Pub owner, Kevin Dwyer with community support as part of the "Hit the Decks" festivities



Directions

Dwyer's Pub, 96 Bridge Street

Installation Date – May 12, 2021

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Shalimar Mandalas Murals

Shalimar Restaurant Mandalas Mural

Six vividly colored circles, called mandalas, inspired by the restaurant's interior color scheme grace two walls of the restaurant's exterior. Mandalas are a geometric configuration of symbols used in various spiritual traditions for focusing attention, as a spiritual guidance tool, for establishing sacred spaces and as an aid to meditation.

Artist Information

Kenley Darling of Portsmouth who also created the Dondero School mandalas (pg. 75) and Scott Chasse of New York

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Shalimar India Restaurant to celebrate 27 years in business



Directions

Shalimar Restaurant, 80 Hanover Street

Installation Date – 2019

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Wilder Mural

Wilder Mural

This mural features geometric shapes in black, blue and rose, brightening an otherwise dark side of the building. Although the Wilder Restaurant's entryway is on Fleet Street, the building's mural is on the side of the building facing Hanover Street.

Artist Information

Portsmouth graphic design company HAM Design (Haigh and Martino), principal, Dillon Haigue

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

The Wilder Restaurant



Directions

The Wilder, 174 Fleet Street

Installation Date – 2017

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Lilacs Mural

Lilacs Mural

The artist's Lilacs mural beautifully depicts NH's state flower. The mural is made of large individual dots that form purple, pink and lilac-colored flowers with green stems. The exuberant and energetic image transforms a bland alley into a work of art. The artist's work focuses on the botanical, as well as nodding to traditional/shamanic Korean folk art and classic Buddhist imagery and symbolism.

Artist Information

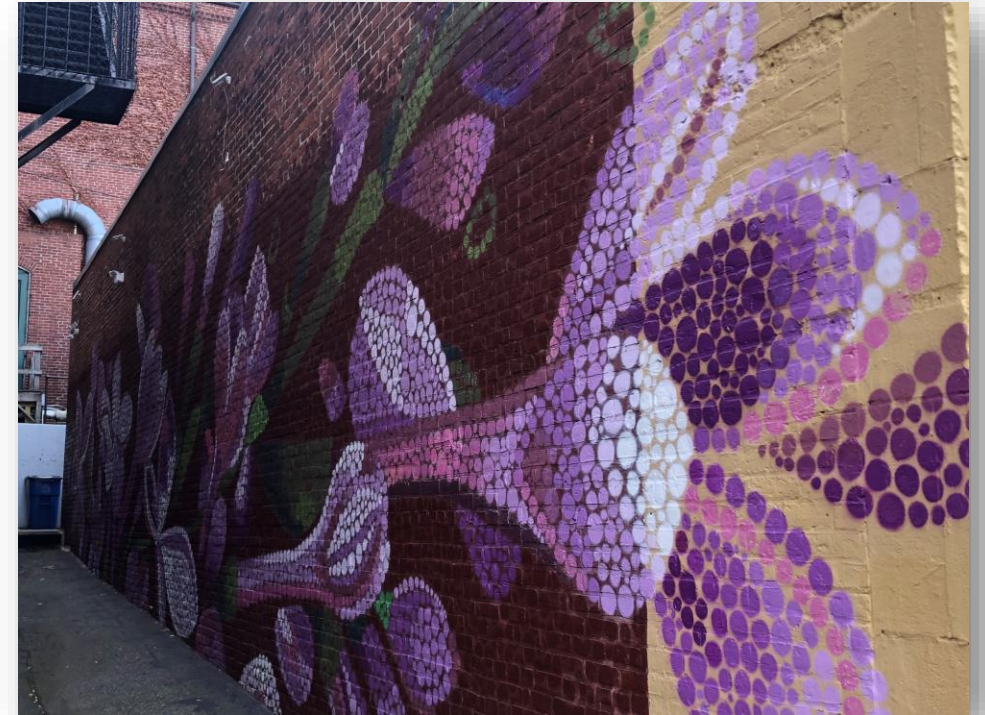
Stratham-based artist Marisa Kang is a muralist and painter who began her art career in Portsmouth at the Button Factory in 2012.

Material

Spray paint

Sponsor Information

CFS Condo Association members, Jay McSharry, Legh Burns and Elizabeth Henry, in support of the Music Hall



Directions

105 Congress Street

Installation Date – September 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Sandy Bowsprit

Sandy Bowsprit

The carved wooden figurehead (nicknamed "Sandy Debris" due to the sanding needed) is an iconic figure of a long-haired woman on the Bow Street wall of the Martingale Wharf restaurant. She is on a scroll resembling a wave with her hand over her heart. "Sandy" was inspired by the historical story of a clipper ship colliding with the Martingale Wharf building.

Artist Information

Steve McHenry, a Portsmouth architect and former woodcarver and sign maker, carved the figurehead in his Eliot, Maine studio. He also worked as the architect of the Bow Street building. The sculpture was milled at the Woodworks studio of Bill Clarke in the Button Factory.

Material

Northern white pine with wood paint finish

Sponsor Information

Mark McNabb, the owner of the Martingale Wharf building



Directions

Martingale Wharf, 99 Bow Street

Installation Date — June 2019

Portsmouth Public Art | Downtown | Vigilance, A Firefighter's Memorial

Vigilance, A Firefighter's Memorial

This memorial fountain located in front of Fire Station #1 on Court Street is dedicated to all of Portsmouth's firefighters, past, present and future.

Complete with two 400-pound bronze firefighters representing the past and present, about 6,000 bricks, and 600 gallons of water circulating through the fountain, the monument was officially unveiled on October 15, 2009.

Artist Information

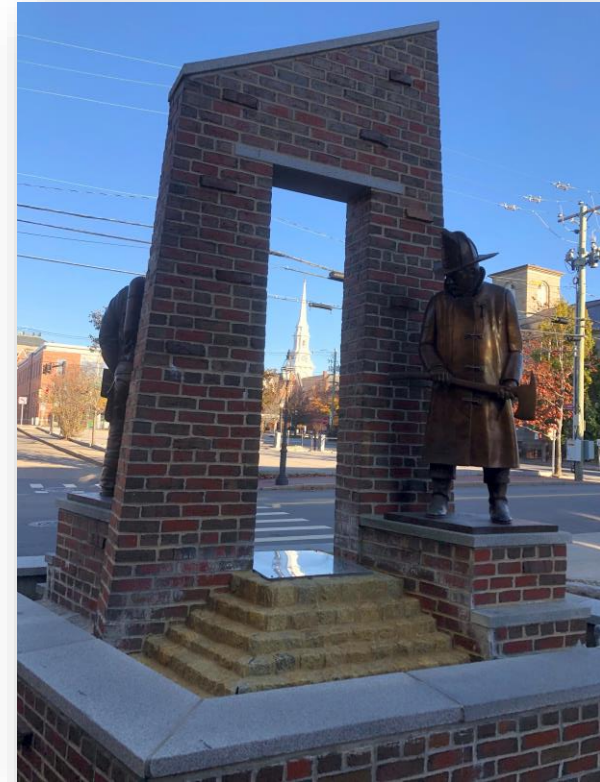
Emile Birch is most known for his large sculptures in communities and corporations throughout the state, including the "New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial" on the State House grounds in Concord, "The Founders Gate" in Exeter, Littleton's beloved "Pollyanna" sculpture and a wooden mosaic designed for Dover's McConnell Community Center.

Material

Bronze and bricks

Sponsor Information

City of Portsmouth, City of Portsmouth Fire Department, Sheraton Harborside Hotel, Greenwood Emergency Vehicles, Eugene and Diana Hersey, Common Man Restaurant, NiSource Charitable Foundation, Granite State Minerals, Joe's Meat Shoppe, Industrial Protection Services, Joni Esperian, Susan Wallack and Dennis Ryan in memory of Ian Esperian, Northern Utilities, Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Robert and Nackey Scagliotti, National Wrecker Inc. Northeast Auctions, Ocean Bank, M. Christine Dwyer, Marple & James.



Directions

170 Court Street

Installation Date — October 15, 2009

Lower State Street/Prescott Park/South End

Hands of Hope, Temple Israel Garden

“Hands of Hope” by sculptor Sumner Weinbaum features two large bronze hands reaching towards the sky. The fingers stretch upward and the palms look well-worn and used. The word HOPE is inscribed on the stone base of the statue. The sculpture has become an interfaith symbol of unity.

During the Hannukah season, a menorah holding eight candles, crafted by Sumner Weinbaum to fit the hands, is inserted. Temple members sing blessings over the candles and Hannukah songs for the traditional eight nights of the holiday.

Artist Information

The late Sumner Weinbaum, of Portsmouth was described as “a man guided by a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism, a creative free-spirited motivator who made an indelible impression on so many during his lifetime as a journalist, writer, businessman, sculptor and philanthropist.”

Material

Bronze and stone

Sponsor Information

Temple Israel



Directions

Temple Israel, 400 State Street

Installation Date – Pending

Portsmouth Public Art | Lower State Street/Prescott Park/South End | Bumblebee Girl

Bumblebee Girl

This small mural using the technique of stenciling and mixed media is part of the artist's body of work that includes creating images of children on unloved walls. His work deals with issues such as child homelessness and the impact of modernity on nature.

Artist Information

Los Angeles-based artist @bumblebeelovesyou

Material

Mixed media

Sponsor Information

Former Portsmouth Museum of Art's 2011 exhibition "Street a.k.a. Museum"



Directions

Café Vonsolln – 79 Daniel Street

Installation Date – 2011

Portsmouth Public Art | Lower State Street/Prescott Park/South End | Jay Smith Bust

Jay Smith Bust at Jay McCance Smith Park

Jay McCance Smith Park is a small pocket green space adjacent to a pathway that leads from State Street to Sheafe Street. The park's circular walkway surrounds a center garden featuring a metallic head, a tribute to Jay McCance Smith, a man who played an important role in the arts and cultural life of Portsmouth.

On Election Day 1976, Jay Smith opened the doors of the 77 Daniel Street property known as The Press Room and ran the business for 26 years. Modeled on the traditional English pub, the Press Room continues to feature diverse musical selections including folk, acoustic, blues and jazz. Jay was also active in the growth of several Portsmouth arts venues, especially The Music Hall.

Artist Information

Kate Crowell, a friend of Jay Smith. A memorial plaque to Kate in the park which reads, "A wildly talented and creative artist. A kind and gentle person." (1976-2021)

Material

Cast concrete

Sponsor Information

Friends of Jay Smith



Directions

147 State Street

Installation Date – 2003

Portsmouth Public Art | Lower State Street/Prescott Park | Portsmouth Memorial Park

Portsmouth Memorial Park

The Portsmouth Memorial Park marks the northbound entrance to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge that connects New Hampshire and Maine over the Piscataqua River.

The “new tribute to American Veterans in Memorial Park” center sculpture was constructed out of the original foundation stones of the previously deconstructed Memorial Bridge.

The Memorial stands in honor of the veterans from all branches of service and includes 990 bricks in the memorial plaza that are engraved with the name of a family member or in gratitude for those who served. In addition to the granite blocks from the bridge foundations, the plaza includes six flagpoles flying the American flag, five US Defense service department medallions and two plaques.

Artist Information

Woodburn & Company Landscape Architecture LLC and James Teetzel co-designed the project JSN Engineering in Portsmouth, NH prepared the engineering and construction drawings for completion by Bernier Corp of Exeter NH.

Material

Granite (from the original Memorial Bridge and bricks)

Sponsor Information

Portsmouth resident James Teetzel, founder of Wilcox Industries covered the cost of the project from design to completion.



Directions

Portsmouth Memorial Park, located at the intersection of State Street (Route 1) and Daniel Street

Installation Date — Veterans Day, November 11, 2013

Portsmouth Public Art | Lower State Street/Prescott Park/South End | Best Friend Mural

Best Friend Mural

This small mural is a sample of the artists' work that is known as sensuous, savage, and remarkable for their powerful dualism. This piece originally had text next to it that read, "he might look scary, but he is my best friend." The artists' tag has also been painted over.

Artist Information

Herakut, part of an artist duo from Germany

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Former Portsmouth Museum of Art's 2011 exhibition "Street a.k.a. Museum"



Directions

Corner of State Street and Washington Street

Installation Date – 2011

Portsmouth Public Art | Lower State Street/Prescott Park/South End | Korean Tiger Mural

Korean Tiger Mural

The artist, Marisa Kang, spent a night in June 2019 painting a mural of a Korean tiger on the side of what was Mr. Kim's restaurant in a style she called "mosaic pointillism." Kang said that her tiger is an homage to the way tigers are depicted in traditional Korean paintings. Against a black background, she created the Korean tiger using dots of sprayed white paint, forming lines that became the larger image.

Artist Information

Stratham-based artist Marisa Kang is a muralist and painter who began her art career in Portsmouth at the Button Factory in 2012. Her work focuses on the botanical, as well as nodding to traditional/shamanic Korean folk art and classic Buddhist imagery and symbolism.

Material

Spray paint

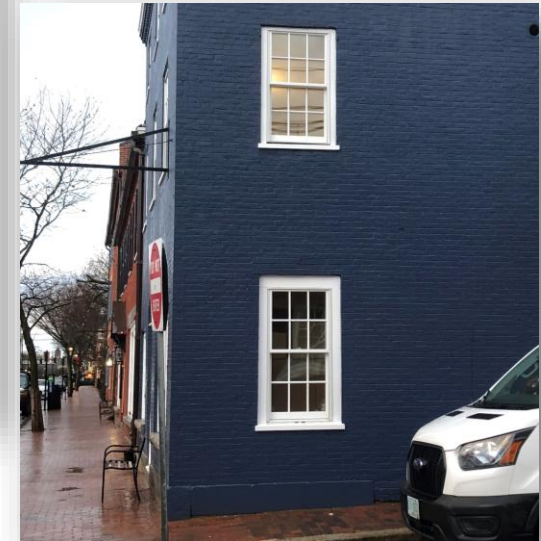
Sponsor Information

Gary Kim, Owner and Chef of Mr. Kim's

2019



2024



Directions

107 State Street

Installation Date – 2019 and painted over 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | Prescott Park | Neptune's Fountain

Neptune's Fountain

“Neptune’s Fountain” was moved to Prescott Park from its original location in front of the Post Office building on Pleasant Street. The fountain was dedicated to Portsmouth native Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey (1885-1911) who died while serving in the Philippines. The memorial, which included a marble base and drinking fountain, was erected in 1912 by Hovey’s family. Six years later, in 1918, a bronze relief portrait of Hovey created by the artist F.W. Allen was added to the base of the fountain. When Pleasant Street underwent changes in 1976, the fountain was relocated to Prescott Park. A brick base, designed by architect Chester Keefe II, replaced the original marble base

Artist Information

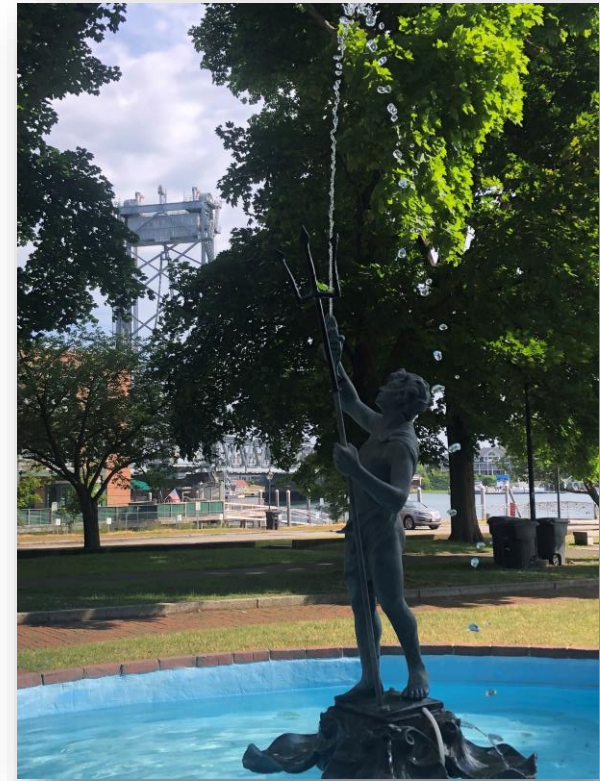
F.W. Allen (bronze relief) and Chester Keefe II (brick base)

Material

Bronze and brick

Sponsor Information

The family of Charles Emerson Hovey



Directions

Prescott Park, 105 Marcy Street

Installation Date – 1912 and 1976

Portsmouth Public Art | Prescott Park | Poetry in Public Places Robert Dunn Poem

Poetry in Public Places Robert Dunn Poem

Robert Dunn was Portsmouth's Poet Laureate between 1999-2001. One of his projects was placing short poems in public places with a total of seven poems installed including along the Piscataqua River waterfront and in the City's High-Hanover Garage.

The North Pier Prescott Park poem reads as follows:

*From here you can see the tide turn like a door on its hinges.
We're just going out.
Do you want anything from the ocean?*

Artist Information

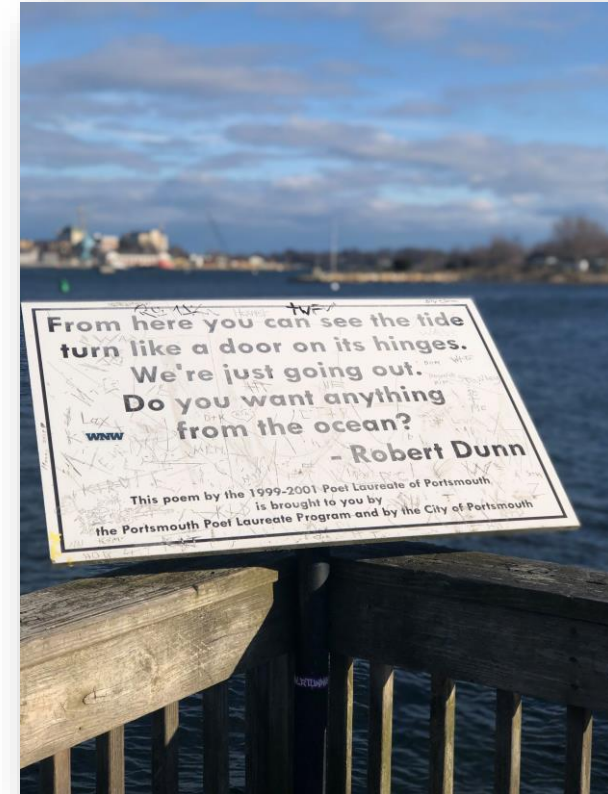
Robert Dunn, Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, 1992-2001

Material

Plexiglass on board

Sponsor Information

The Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program and the City of Portsmouth



Directions

North Pier, Prescott Park, 105 Marcy Street

Installation Date – 1979

Portsmouth Public Art | Prescott Park | Fisherman's Luck

Fisherman's Luck

“Fisherman’s Luck,” simply known as ‘the Whale,’ located in Prescott Park, is an iconic piece of Portsmouth. Thousands of children climb on it year after year and parents chronicle their childhood with pictures atop the Whale.

Artist Information

Cabot Lyford, a prolific artist, who had studios in Maine and New Hampshire, enjoyed a lengthy career culminating as the chairman of the Art Department at Phillips Exeter Academy. Portsmouth is home to many Lyford sculptures.

Material

Granite, same piece of granite that the artist used for “My Mother the Wind” on Four Tree Island (pg. 39).

Sponsor Information

Prescott Park Arts Festival



Directions

Prescott Park, 105 Marcy Street

Installation Date – 1979

Portsmouth Public Art | Prescott Park | Odyssey Fountain

Odyssey Fountain

The modern abstract sculpture, Odyssey—the journey of life, is the centerpiece of the formal gardens of Prescott Park and honors Prescott Park Supervisor Michael Warhurst and his 42 years of service there.

The sculpture is set about an inch underwater, so it appears to be floating. “There is also a different approach to the fountain spray aspect where the water will be made to the motion as if a light breeze is blowing over the water’s surface,” Michael Warhurst said.

Artist Information

Richard Erdman is a Vermont-based sculptor. His works are internationally celebrated for their "provocative language of curves and contrast, their dialogue with timescales both geologic and human, and their gesture towards the transcendent power of natural phenomena".

Material

Madura Granite

Sponsor Information

The nonprofit Portsmouth NH Friends of Prescott Park raised the funds for the project.



Directions

Prescott Park formal gardens, 105 Marcy Street

Installation Date – 2020

Portsmouth Public Art | Prescott Park | Liberty Pole Eagle

Liberty Pole Eagle

English colonists living in Portsmouth were outraged by King George's Stamp Act imposing taxes on newspapers, stationery, and documents. In protest, on September 12, 1765 -- a decade before the first act of the American Revolution -- Portsmouth citizens hanged colonial tax collector George Meserve in effigy. Meserve, who was not in town at the time, quickly resigned. In 1766, to memorialize their act of civil disobedience, a group called the Sons of Liberty attached a banner to a Puddle Dock pole. The banner read "Liberty, Property and No Stamp."

In 1767, the Sons of Liberty erected a permanent pole 85-feet high topped by a gilded carved eagle at the Liberty Bridge site. They also placed a "liberty cap" just below the eagle with thirteen silver balls. In 1857 a wooden shield dedicated to the nation's "emancipation from tyranny on July 4, 1776" was added to the pole. It included thirteen stars and thirteen stripes.

Artist Information

Original woodcarver was Laban Beecher (1767), with additional elements by Benjamin Gleason and Joseph Henderson (1857), George Pitts (1978), and master cooper and wood carver Ron Raiselis who carved a third eagle in 2020. This duplicate of the original was placed at the top of the Liberty Pole when the entire 100-foot pole was refurbished.

Material

Wood, gold leaf

Sponsor Information

The Sons of Liberty (1767), City of Portsmouth maintains the eagle and pole.



Directions

Prescott Park, Marcy Street

Installation Date – 1767, 2020

Peirce Island

Portsmouth Public Art | Peirce Island | My Mother the Wind

My Mother the Wind

On the tip of Four Tree Island is one of four Cabot Lyford pieces in Portsmouth, “My Mother the Wind.” The sculpture is an anti-war protest portraying a mother and child fleeing war and was a tribute to all the women who have immigrated to New England shores. The plaque on the granite boulder below the figure reads, “For those who sailed here to find a new life.”

Artist Information

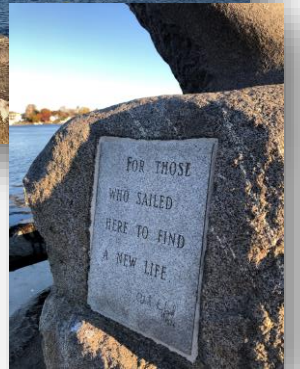
Cabot Lyford, a prolific artist, who had studios in Maine and New Hampshire, enjoyed a lengthy career culminating as the chairman of the Art Department at Phillips Exeter Academy. Portsmouth is home to four Lyford sculptures.

Material

Granite (seven tons), same piece of granite that the artist used for “Fisherman’s Luck” in Prescott Park (pg. 35)

Sponsor Information

Administered by City of Portsmouth Trustees of Portsmouth's Trust Funds



Directions

Four Tree Island (accessible from Peirce Island)

Installation Date – 1975

Portsmouth Public Art | Peirce Island | N.H. Commercial Fishermen Memorial

New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen Memorial

The Memorial's purpose is to recognize the men and women throughout the state, past and present, who have dedicated their lives to the fishing profession.

The Memorial pocket park consists of an engraved granite block, a granite bench for reflection, an in-ground compass, and a granite lighthouse sculpture.

Artist Information

Unknown

Material

Granite and brick

Sponsor Information

The New Hampshire Fishermen's Association and Lang's Landscape Service sponsored the memorial.



Directions

Adjacent to the Commercial Fishing Pier on Peirce Island

Installation Date – Originally dedicated in 1987 and reconstructed in November 2008

Photo credit – Beth Hartnett

City Hall Area/Little Harbour

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Fitz John Porter Statue

Fitz John Porter Statue

The equestrian statute of Major General Fitz John Porter stands a short distance from the Livermore Street house where Porter was born. Porter was originally regarded as a hero for his role in the Mexican-American war but later court martialled based on charges of insubordination by political rivals and dismissed from the Army after the Union defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run. He was cleared of all charges after a quarter century of working to restore his reputation.

Four plaques on the base of the statute address Porter's history and incidents in his military career, including being wounded in the Mexican-American war, the Battle of Malvern Hill, and the innovation of using hot air balloon for military reconnaissance.

The monument was dedicated on July 1, 1906, on the 44th anniversary of Malvern Hill, the battle which Porter himself considered the apex of his career.

Artist Information

James E. Kelly, 1855-1933, a sculptor and illustrator who specialized in depicting events of the Civil War

Material

Bronze statue on granite pedestal

Sponsor Information

The estate of R.H. Eddy, a friend of Porter's, provided resources for the statue.



Directions

Haven Park located between Pleasant Street and South Mill Pond

Installation Date – 1906

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | 9/11 Steel Artifact Memorial

9/11 Steel Artifact Memorial

The City of Portsmouth was directly impacted by the 9/11 attacks by the loss of American Airlines' Tom McGuinness, a Portsmouth resident, who co-piloted American Airlines flight #11, the first plane flown into the Twin Towers on 9/11. After five years of behind-the-scenes work, the Portsmouth Police Department won approval in 2015 for the City to be one of the recipients of an artifact recovered from the World Trade Center. With a flatbed and driver from Novel Iron Works, the team traveled to the Port Authority at JFK International Airport in New York to collect the 8-foot, 1100 lb. steel beam. Accompanied by a rolling escort from the NY City Police Department, State Police in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, an honor guard from Patriot Guard, Combat Vets and Portsmouth Fire and Police apparatus, the trip took about seven hours. Then a DPW crew hosted the beam into place in front of City Hall, where it remains overlooking South Mill Pond. The memorial is the site of a remembrance ceremony on 9/11 each year.

Artist Information

Not applicable

Material

An eight-foot-long steel I-beam weighing 1,100 lbs. recovered from the World Trade Center

Sponsor Information

The Portsmouth Police Department secured the relic with additional support from Wilcox Industries, Novel Iron Works and the Trump family.



Directions

Portsmouth City Hall upper parking lot, 1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 2015

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | *The Bonhomme Richard Capturing the Serapis*

The Bonhomme Richard Capturing the Serapis

The painting, completed in 1905, depicts the 1779 Revolutionary War battle between the British ship HMS *Serapis* and the Continental Navy ship *Bonhomme Richard*, captained by John Paul Jones during the war for America's independence. The battle was the occasion of Jones' famous phrase, "I have not yet begun to fight." Jones once lived at 43 Middle St., which is now the John Paul Jones House Museum owned and operated by the Portsmouth Historical Society. The painting is accompanied by a narrative description of the battle.

Artist Information

Carlton Theodore Chapman, 1860-1925, painter and printmaker

Material

Oil on canvas

Sponsor Information

The Sawtelle Family



Directions

The Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at Portsmouth City Hall,
1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 2015

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | *View of Portsmouth from Freeman's Point*

View of Portsmouth from Freeman's Point

The painting is a large-scale panoramic view of Portsmouth from Freeman's Point and was completed about 1830. The perspective is from about a mile upriver and depicts the wooden bridge from Noble's Island to Kittery (the first over the Piscataqua River), the North Mill Pond, and North End wharves and warehouses.

Artist Information

John Samuel Blunt, 1798-1835, painter and craftsman, Portsmouth

Material

Oil on canvas

Sponsor Information

Colonel William H. Sise, Portsmouth Mayor who served between 1878-1881



Directions

The Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at Portsmouth City Hall,
1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 1878

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Each One: The Button Project

Each One: The Button Project

Over 8,000 buttons, donated from all over the nation, appear in the ~10 foot tall, woven memorial textile representing the World Trade Center Twin Towers. Twenty-five volunteers worked with the artist to sew on 3,116 bone-colored buttons, representing the lives lost on 9/11. *Each One* has been exhibited as part of 9/11 remembrances at the Currier Museum, several universities, and the Ground Zero Memorial and Museum.

Artist Information

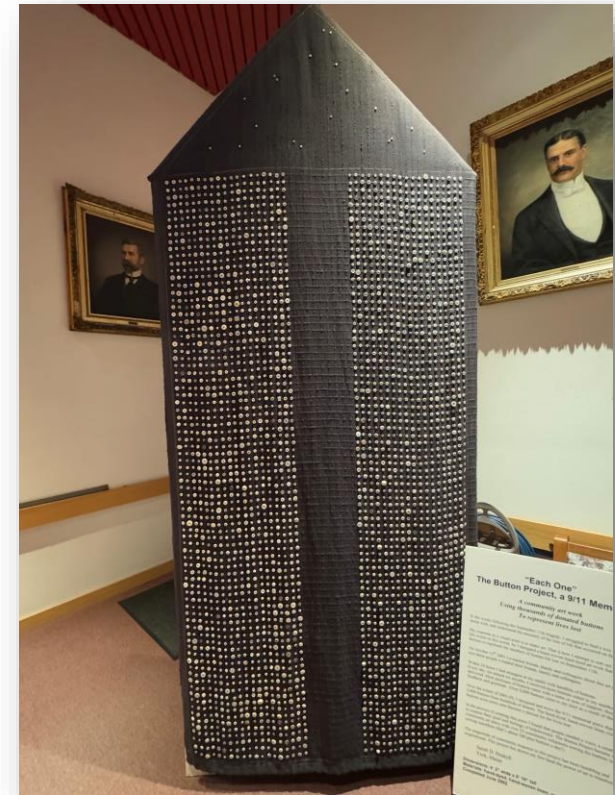
Sarah Haskell, textile artist, York, Maine

Material

Linen/rayon and buttons

Sponsor Information

M. Christine Dwyer in honor of Mayor Eveyln Sirrell, Portsmouth's mayor from 1997-2005, including during 9/11/2001



Directions

The Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at Portsmouth City Hall,
1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 9/11/2011 on the 10th anniversary of 9/11

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Flowers, Birds, and Us

Flowers, Birds, and Us

The bas-relief portrays a girl carrying an egg and wearing a bowler hat, a boy sitting in a flower box talking with a monkey, and another child standing ready to catch an egg mid-air. A poem looks forward to a time “when all the young men and women become president and there was a shortage of gardeners ...”

The Portsmouth Poet Laureate Project sponsored Voice and Vision, a collaboration of visual artists and poets designed to broaden the artistic vision of both and produce high quality works of art. It represents the work of one of twelve pairs of artists/poets who collaborated on works which were displayed throughout the City in varied locations, including the library, The Music Hall, banks, bus station and stores.

Artist Information

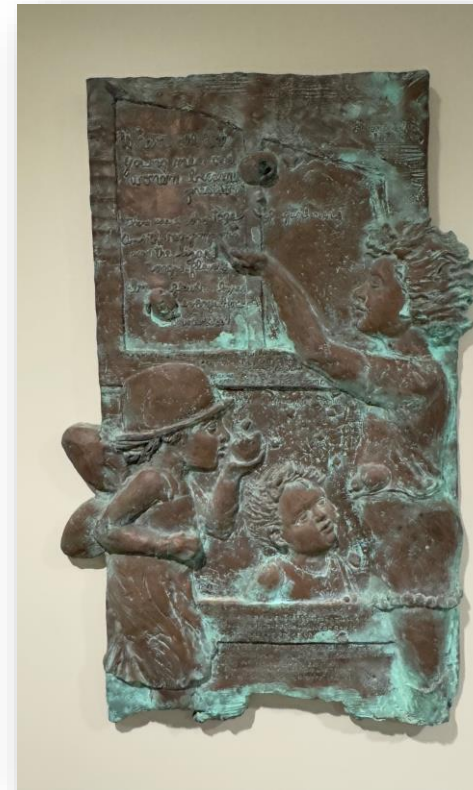
Jeanne McCartin, multi-disciplinary artist with Jennifer Belkus, poet -- a mother-daughter team

Material

Bronze relief

Sponsor Information

Portsmouth Poet Laureate Project with support from M. Christine Dwyer and Michael Huxtable



Directions

Portsmouth City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 2004

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | "S1" Salt Piles Photograph

"S1" Salt Piles

Portsmouth-based and internationally renowned photographer Carl Austin Hyatt produces classic-format black-and-white photographs now included in the permanent collections of institutions from the Museum of Fine Art in Boston to the Smithsonian. Hyatt donated a large format photograph from his series "Portsmouth Harbor Salt Piles" to the City for display in City Hall. The black-and-white photograph, "S 1" from the edition of six, includes an innovative view of Portsmouth's salt piles, a ship unloading salt and the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge

Artist Information

Carl Austin Hyatt

Material

Black and white photograph printed in archival ink pigment on watercolor paper

Sponsor Information

Donated by Carl Austin Hyatt. Additional donors included: Rodney & Wickie Rowland, Eric MacDonald, M. Christine Dwyer, Pauline G. Elkin, Tim Ellis, Shelagh E. Mahoney, Ben Auger, Eric Gregg, Michael & Glicka Kaplan.



Directions

Portsmouth City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue

Installation Date – 2025

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Teri Weidner Dahlen Memorial

Portsmouth Public Library – Teri Weidner Dahlen Memorial

The bunny statue honors the memory of local children’s author and illustrator Teri Weidner Dahlen (1963-2019). The bunny design is based on one of Teri’s illustrations as bunnies were known to be her favorite thing to draw.

Visit the library to view oil and watercolor paintings, sculptures, lithographs, ceramics, and more or explore their [on-line content](#).

Artist Information

German-born sculptor Thomas Berger is known for his representation of the natural world in his works.

Material

White granite

Sponsor Information

Given in memory of Teri Weidner Dahlen by her friends and family and in particular Tess Feltes, Lin Albertson Thorpe, and Chris Dahlen



Directions

Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrot Avenue

Installation Date – 2020

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | World War II Memorial

Portsmouth Public Library – World War II Memorial

The memorial entitled “Remembering Those Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice” honors Portsmouth residents who lost their lives in WW II.

The first five names on the bronze plaque are the five men from the 1940 graduating class. The 68 other names are men from Portsmouth who also died during the war. The fallen were honored at the memorial’s dedication in Goodwin Park in June 2004. The monument was moved to the new Library upon the building’s completion in 2006.

Visit the library to view oil and watercolor paintings, sculptures, lithographs, ceramics, and more or explore their [on-line content](#).

Artist Information

Unknown

Material

Granite and bronze

Sponsor Information

Donated on behalf of the Portsmouth High School Class of 1940 by Elaine Hussey with funds raised in 2001 through a production of the play, “With Love.”



Directions

Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrot Avenue

Installation Date – 2006

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Liberty Pole Eagle

The Portsmouth Public Library Collection – Liberty Pole Eagle

The library houses many art and artifact objects (200+) that feature Portsmouth or were created or owned by local residents. Visit the library to view the collection of oil and watercolor paintings, sculptures, lithographs, ceramics, and textiles list in their online catalog https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2025-01/AandATour_PDF.pdf

In the center of the grand “Staircase to Enlightenment” is the Liberty Pole eagle sculpture suspended on a wrought iron hook.

This historic eagle stood atop the 100-foot Liberty Pole for nearly 150 years (see p. 14). The wooden eagle was moved to the Library in July of 1977. The Liberty Pole was first erected in January 1766 in celebration of the Stamp Act protest. The pole still stands on Marcy Street near Prescott Park with a replica eagle atop.

Artist Information

Laban Beecher (1824) and Peter Happny (1977, iron hanger)

Material

Wood and iron

Sponsor Information

Gift of Ron Bourgeault



Directions

Portsmouth Public Library at 175 Parrot Avenue

Installation Date – 1978

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Animal Furniture

The Portsmouth Public Library Collection – Animal Furniture

Three animal sculptures, a bear, a hippo, and a whale, serve as cozy and engaging seats for children in the youth section of the Portsmouth Public Library.

Visit the library to view the collection of oil and watercolor paintings, sculptures, lithographs, ceramics, and textiles list in their online catalog https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2025-01/AandATour_PDF.pdf

Artist Information

Jeffery Cooper, Portsmouth-based wood sculpture and furniture artist is a member and past chairman of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association, a member and juror for the League of NH Craftsmen, and a member of the Guild of NH Woodworkers and New England Sculpture Associates.

Material

The bear is cherry wood tinted with dichromate, the hippo is cherry wood, and the whale is birch wood with aniline dye.

Sponsor Information

Sue and Bob Thoresen



Directions

Portsmouth Public Library at 175 Parrot Avenue

Installation Date – 2014

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Lydia's Memorial Garden

Little Harbour School – Memorial to Lydia Valdez

“Lydia's Garden” is a contemplative space that honors the memory of Lydia, a 9-year-old fourth grade student who passed away from cancer in 2013. A granite bench with photos of Lydia, including a design from a self-portrait of Lydia, anchors the garden.

The garden provides future generations of students and their families with a space where they can appreciate the natural beauty surrounding the school.

Artist Information

The garden memorial was Jack Roger's Eagle Scout project in collaboration with Little Harbour School (LHS) Principal Charlie Grossman, architect and LHS parent David Whitman, and landscape architect Terrence Parker of Terra Firma. In addition, Alex Ross served as the civil engineer and Nathan Walker as fabricator.

Material

Granite and landscaping

Sponsor Information

Lydia's Garden and bench are a gift from the 5th grade class of 2013-2014 (Portsmouth High School Class of 2021) with donations from generous local individuals and businesses.



Directions

Little Harbour School at 50 Clough Drive

Installation Date – June 2014

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Quarius Dunham Memorial

Little Harbour School – Quarius Dunham Memorial

A sculpture of a basketball and high-top sneaker honors Quarius Dunham, an 8-year-old third student who was killed in a random shooting in South Carolina in May of 2022. Quarius was remembered as a good basketball player who dreamed of playing in the NBA. He was rarely seen without a ball in hand, Nikes on his feet, and good buddies in tow.

Artist Information

Thomas Berger, from Kittery, Maine, is a visual artist who focuses on representation and depiction of the natural world through three-dimensional art forms.

Material

Black granite

Sponsor Information

The 5th grade class of 2023-2024 along with the Quarius Memorial Committee organized the fundraiser.



Directions

Little Harbour School at 50 Clough Drive

Installation Date – May 17, 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | City Hall Area/Little Harbour | Little Harbour Seal

Little Harbour Seal – Little Harbour Seal

The colorful seal sculpture, painted in school colors, is the mascot of the elementary school and welcomes students and teachers at the school's entrance. Designed in collaboration with the 2010-2011 5th grade class, the students signed the back of the sculpture prior to installation.

Artist Information

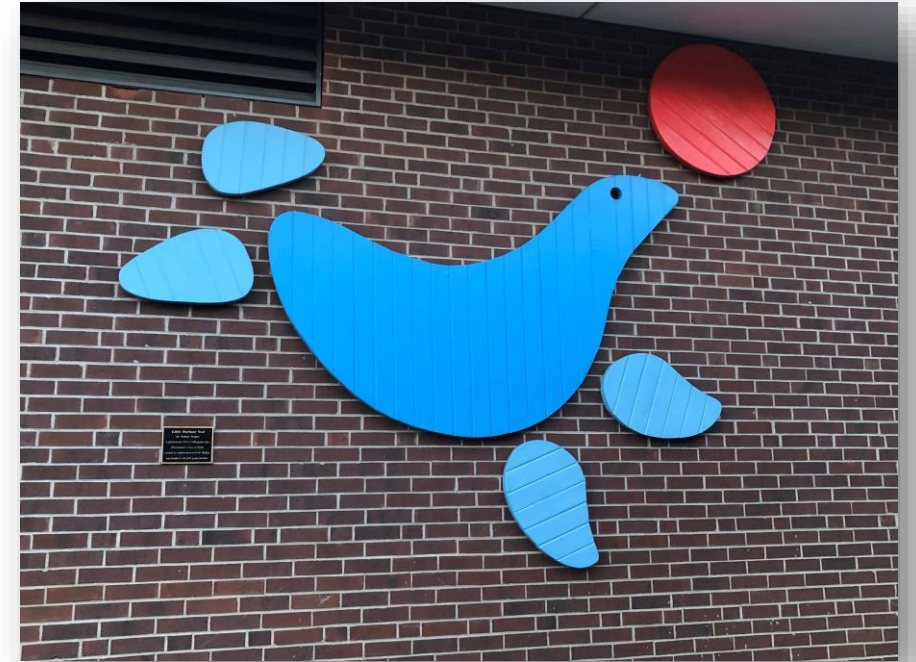
Nathan Walker is an illustrator and sculptor originally from Stratham, NH. His work is inspired by the world around him – the tiny world, that is often overlooked. He finds inspiration in all the amazing creatures that hide in the shadows of leaves, the underside of rocks, and bottom of puddles.

Material

Painted wood

Sponsor Information

Little Harbour School's 2010-2011 fifth grade class (Portsmouth High School Class of 2018 and their families)



Directions

Little Harbour School at 50 Clough Drive

Installation Date – July 2011

North End/Dennett

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | The Blacksmith

The Blacksmith

The four-story sandblasted etched glass mural at the Foundry Place garage depicts a blacksmith at work. The artist suggests viewing the work at different times of the day and night because the mural changes color and definition depending on the color and direction of the light. Today a nearby blacksmith carries on the tradition.

Artist Information

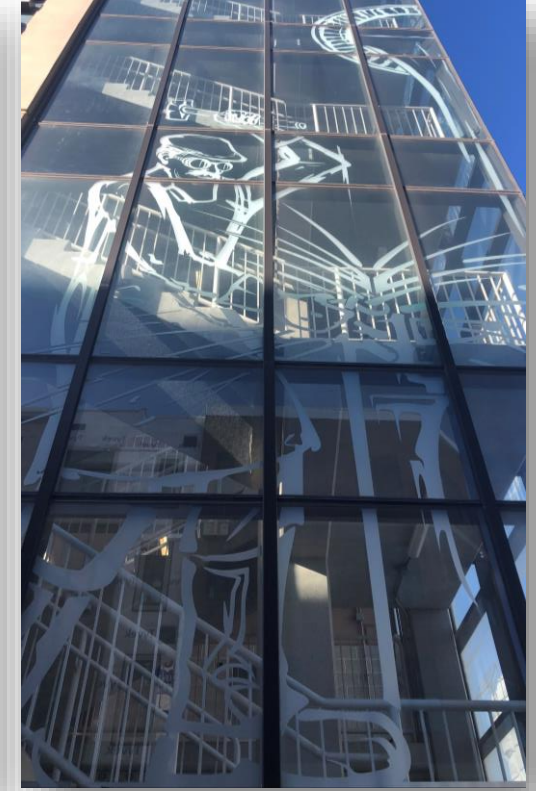
Seth Palmiter, Rockport, Maine-based artist

Material

Etched glass

Sponsor Information

City of Portsmouth through the Percent-for-Art program



Directions

Foundry Place Garage, 100 Foundry Place

Installation Date – Winter 2018-2019

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Working Sculpture

"Working"

The three giant hammers that weigh from 800 to 1,200 pounds apiece memorialize the neighborhood's history of foundries and forges and the people who worked there. Resident blacksmith Peter Happny made the hammers in his foundry adjacent to this site.

Artist Information

Terrence Parker is a landscape architect and landscape artist and the principal of Terra Firma Landscape Architecture in Portsmouth. Peter Happny is a Portsmouth artist and blacksmith whose foundry is adjacent to the site.

Material

Steel

Sponsor Information

The first public art project funded by Portsmouth's Percent for Art ordinance



Directions

Foundry Place Garage, 100 Foundry Place

Installation Date – Winter 2018-2019

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Rock Street Park Cityscape Relief Mural

Rock Street Park Cityscape Relief Mural

This three-dimensional mural provides a perspective of the North End over time. It includes a 1700s masted sailing ship, a horse and carriage, and two mansion homes; 1800s factories, railroad cars, three-decker buildings, and steel bridges; and modern transportation modes including an airplane, a submarine, and cars and trucks driving on the Piscataqua River Bridge.

The mural was originally the frieze for a theater stage located in this park. Local children and artist Jane Fithian created clay models that were painted. Blacksmith Peter Happny fired the forms in his shop adjacent to the park. In 2019 when the park was redesigned, Peter created the current frame and threshold piece.

Artist Information

Local artists, Peter Happny (and blacksmith and Jane Fithian

Material

Forged stainless steel, properly painted and color printed

Sponsor Information

Reader's Digest Foundation



Directions

Rock Street Park, 66 Rock Street

Installation Date – 2019

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Reflections of Portsmouth

Reflections of Portsmouth

A total of 35 large scale photographs by local artists showcases both the scenic beauty and the artistic talent of the Portsmouth area.

Originally conceived as a temporary exhibition during the construction of the garage in 2024 DPW Parking Division staff Tom Cocchiaro (in 2018) and Ben Fletcher (in 2024), the photographs became a permanent installation.

Because some of the photographs had degraded, in 2024 they were reprinted on perforated vinyl, a more permanent material which had the advantage of allowing workers in the offices to view the outside. At that time, each image was edged with a custom frame and provided a plaque identifying the artist.

Artist Information

Mary Jo Brown of Brown and Company Design curated and also positioned and cropped the photographs. Access a full list of the artists and details at the [City of Portsmouth Foundry Place Garage webpage](#).

Material

Photographs printed on corrugated plastic (2018 installation and perforated vinyl (2024 installation

Sponsor Information

City of Portsmouth and Mary Jo Brown of Brown and Company Design



Directions

Foundry Place Garage, 100 Foundry Place

Installation Date – 2018 and 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Utopos Nostos

Utopos Nostos

Painted on the southwest wall of a small structure that was formerly a part of the Portsmouth Steam Company, Utopos Nostos is a fantasy landscape that brings the natural world to a densely built environment. The Greek title reflects the heritage of Dave Adams who commissioned the work and who uses the building as his woodshop. According to the artist, the title conveys the human longing for the unattainable perfect place and the beauty in the quest to reach it.

The windows are adorned with vines, a squirrel and chipmunk inhabit the lower left part of the wall, and on the right two crumbling Greek columns create the illusion of an opening in the wall that reveals a bed of poppies and a distant vista of blue sea and sky. A gundalow is depicted on the horizon. The boat and the tern in flight on the far right of that scene and the snowy owl swooping on the left of the wall reinforce the idea of travel and return. Both birds, local to the area, make a reference to Portsmouth, along with the gundalow.

Artist Information

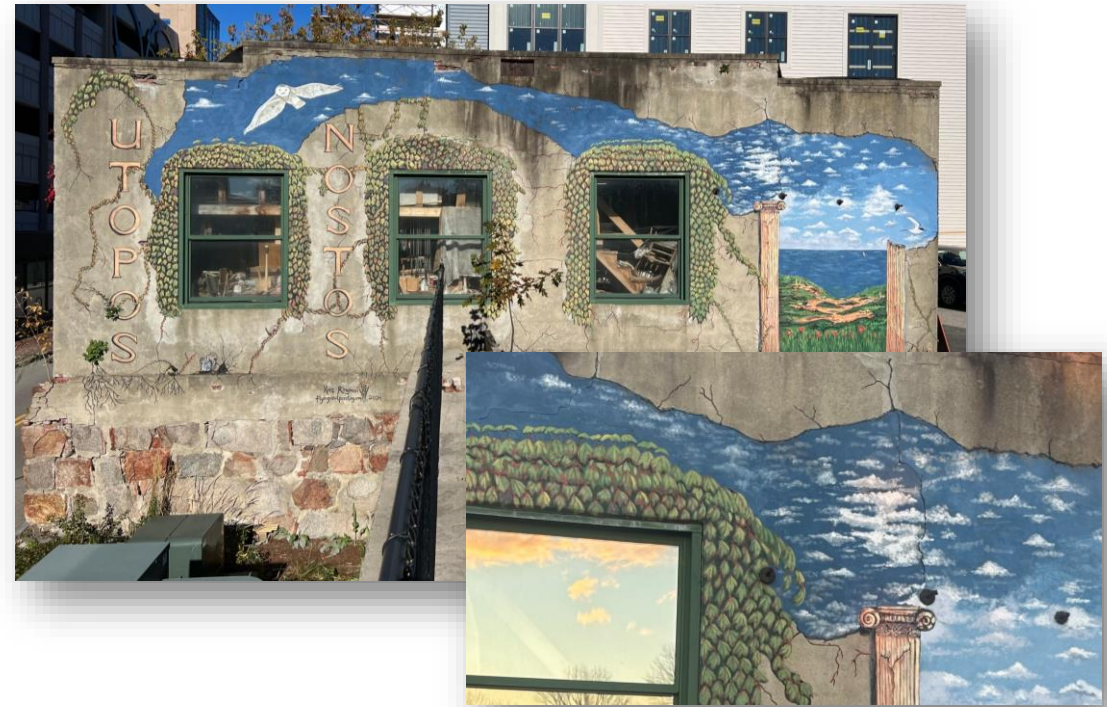
Kristen Ringman

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Dave Adams who uses the building, now called The Last Chance Garage commissioned the work.



Directions

191 Hill St

Installation Date – October 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Hard on the Wind

Hard on the Wind -- Mark Stebbins Memorial

Commissioned as a tribute to local developer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and sailing enthusiast Mark Stebbins who died in 2021, the sculpture acknowledges Portsmouth's sailing and boat-making history.

Artist Information

Joshua Parsons, owner of Massachusetts-based Groundswell Fabrication and Design, designed and built the fourteen-foot sailboat sculpture.

Material

5052 marine grade aluminum

Sponsor Information

Mark Stebbins' family sponsored the creation and installation of the sculpture.



Directions

145 Maplewood Avenue at Raynes Avenue

Installation Date – 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | North End/Dennett Street | Riding Fish

Riding Fish

A 9-ft. long granite fish with stone inlays for the eyes, a friendly appearance, and two saddles for riding greets visitors to Paul McEachern Park on the bank of North Mill Pond.

Artist Information

Thomas Berger, from Kittery, Maine, is a visual artist who focuses on representation and depiction of the natural world through three-dimensional art forms.

Material

Granite

Sponsor Information

Creek Neighborhood Association and private donors



Directions

Paul McEachern Park, 162 Mill Pond Way

Installation Date – 2021

Midtown (Islington/West End)

Portsmouth Public Art | Midtown | Point 7 at Liar's Bench Brewery

Point 7

Author Sarah Orne Jewett sits on the right side of the image with a pencil in her hand poised to write on paper. Behind her are green trees partially enveloped by fog. Three large white herons, fly above the trees towards the viewer.

The label for this piece provides Sarah Orne Jewett's birth date, death dates, and a biography of her life including the titles of her most famous works. Among those listed is the collection of short stories entitled "A White Heron" published in 1886.

Artist Information

Concept and Design – Terrence Parker is a landscape architect and landscape artist and the principal of Terra Firma Landscape Architecture in Portsmouth.

Graphic Design – DBG Design

Fabrication – Neokraft Signs

Material

Polyvinyl

Sponsor Information

Liar's Bench Beer Company



Directions

Liar's Bench Brewery, 459 Islington Street

Installation Date – 2023/2024

Portsmouth Public Art | Midtown | Soldiers & Sailors Memorial at Goodwin Park

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial at Goodwin Park

This elaborate monument includes a parade of Civil War veterans. The four sides of the monument commemorate four major battles of the Civil War including Gettysburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and the Union's USS Kearsarge, victorious off the coast of France over the Confederacy's CSS Alabama.

Atop the monument is the female figure "America." In addition, the monument includes two life-size statues, one of a soldier and another of a sailor, and two busts, one of President Abraham Lincoln and another of New Hampshire Governor Goodwin, the namesake for the park.

Artist Information

Monumental Bronze Company

Material

Zinc alloy

Sponsor Information

Public contributions and Portsmouth's Mayor Marcellus Eldredge



Directions

Islington Street

Installation Date – July 4, 1888

Bohenko Gateway Park

Portsmouth Public Art | Bohenko Gateway Park | Endeavor

Endeavor

In creating the sculpture “Endeavor,” artist Sijia Chen took inspiration from the Piscataqua gundalow, a local riverway transport vessel. This sculpture captures the maritime history of Portsmouth, incorporating 13 themes—ranging from a Native American canoe to the USS Albacore submarine—in the cutouts in the sails.

Artist Information

Sijia Chen grew up in a Chinese coastal city similar to Portsmouth. She created her design using the traditional folk-art technique of papercutting that her family has practiced for decades. Now located in Los Angeles, CA, Chen is a multi-disciplinary visual artist who has created permanent public art works in China and in locations across the United States.

Material

Stainless steel, 22x14x13-ft

Sponsor Information

Commissioned by Portsmouth, NH 400th, Inc., this sculpture was funded by private donations and grants. Key donors included the NH Charitable Foundation’s Joseph G. and Jean E. Sawtelle Fund in Memory of Joseph G. Sawtelle and Sue and Bob Thoresen (Premiere Sponsors); M. Christine Dwyer (Lead Sponsor); the Kane Company and the Dana and Shaula Levenson Family (Gold Sponsors); The Fuller Foundation (Supporting Sponsor); Jack and Pam Blalock, In Memory of L. Richard and Barbara M. Blalock (Silver Sponsor); and Stephen and Karin Barndollar, John Bohenko and Nancy London, Jameson and Priscilla French, The Greenslade Family, Ellen and Deter Legg, Judy Miller and Arthur Carakatsane, GL Rogers & Company, Inc, Torrington Properties, and Whole Wealth Management, LLC (Bronze Sponsors).



Directions

The Bohenko Gateway Park is located on the Market Street Extension, the main access route from I-95 to the historic heart of Portsmouth. It’s a short walk from downtown and directly across from Albacore Park.

Installation Date – December 2023

Portsmouth Public Art | Bohenko Gateway Park | Cod and the Mortal Sea

Cod and the Mortal Sea

Inspired by local historian Jeffrey Bolster's Bancroft Prize-winning book, The Mortal Sea, this sculpture celebrates the long history of cod fishing on the Seacoast and depicts a school of swimming codfish.

Each codfish is 24 to 28-inches long and suspended from the ceiling of the park's kiosk, allowing the fish to move in the breeze.

At night, blue LED lights illuminate the fish and cast shadows on the concrete floor of the kiosk.

Artist Information

Terrence Parker is a landscape architect and landscape artist and the principal of Terra Firma Landscape Architecture in Portsmouth. Terrence designed and managed numerous public art projects in Portsmouth as well as the "Kelp Wave" on Jenness Beach in Rye, NH.

Material

The codfish were crafted like a boat using laminated wood, marine epoxy and silver boat enamel.

Sponsor Information

Commissioned by Portsmouth, NH 400th, Inc. funded by a grant from the Rockingham County American Rescue Plan Act and individual and corporate donors to Portsmouth, NH 400th, Inc.



Directions

The Bohenko Gateway Park is located on the Market Street Extension, the main access route from I-95 to the historic heart of Portsmouth. It's a short walk from downtown and directly across from Albacore Park.

Installation Date – October 2024

Portsmouth Public Art | Bohenko Gateway Park | Ingenuity

Ingenuity

As part of a 2010 Art-Speak Overnight Art competition focused on “bridges,” this piece implies the strength, integrity, and ingenuity that bridges have brought to our community.

The cables the artist welded into it are from a crane that once worked the waterfront under Portsmouth’s Memorial Bridge.

The human head at the front of the sculpture with tools emerging from it is a nod to engineering.

Originally installed in 2010 in the Vaughan Mall, Ingenuity was moved to Bohenko Gateway Park in 2023.

Artist Information

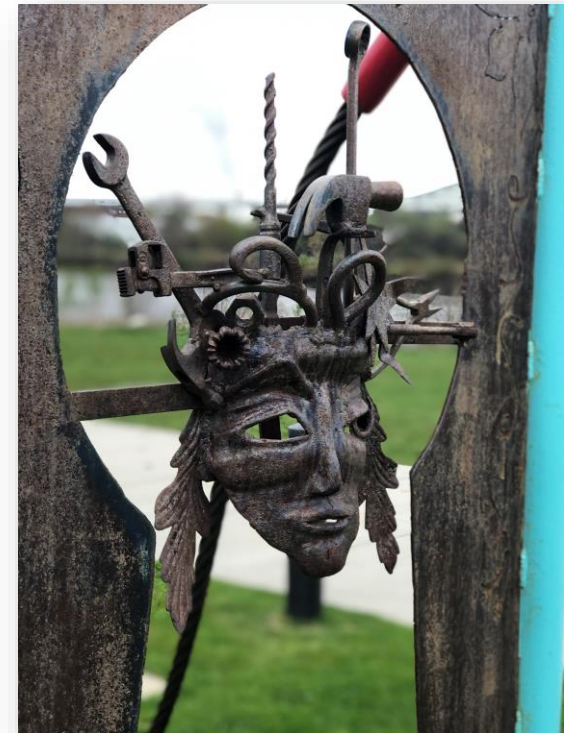
Jeanne Givens, a Portsmouth native, now based in Maui

Material

Welded steel that incorporates industrial hardware and found objects

Sponsor Information

Art-Speak, a city of Portsmouth cultural commission from 2003-2020, sponsored the sculpture as part of the 2010 Art-Speak Overnight Art Project.



Directions

The Bohenko Gateway Park is located on the Market Street Extension, the main access route from I-95 to the historic heart of Portsmouth. It’s a short walk from downtown and directly across from Albacore Park.

Installation Date – 2010 and 2023

Other Neighborhoods

Portsmouth Public Art | Middle Street | Italian Mural

Italian Mural

The mural on the side of Destefano's Market features a scene of the Italian countryside with a river and trees and fields of lavender and wheat.

Artist Information

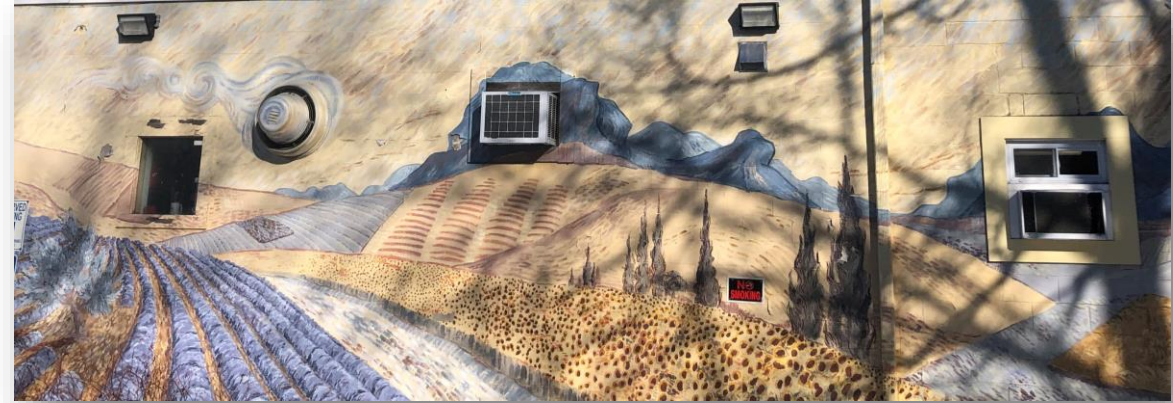
Marcelo

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Unknown



Directions

Destefano's Market, 517 Middle Street

Installation Date – 2010

Portsmouth Public Art | Little Harbor Road | Wentworth Coolidge Mansion Anchor

Wentworth Coolidge Mansion Anchor

The last private owner of the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion, John Templeman Coolidge III, acquired the property in 1886. Its original inhabitant during the 1700s was Benning Wentworth, who served as New Hampshire's royal governor. from 1741 to 1766.

In a 2015 article in Seacoastonline, Dennis Robinson quotes Ben Wilson, the director of the NH Bureau of Historic Sites as saying that the anchor probably came from a retired tall ship, the *Ohio*, built in 1820 but in its decline by 1870. According to Wilson, Coolidge might have purchased the anchor as salvage either in Boston or from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The anchor has long been a popular venue for photographs, as seen in the photograph of "Fran" taken in the fall of 1942.

Artist Information

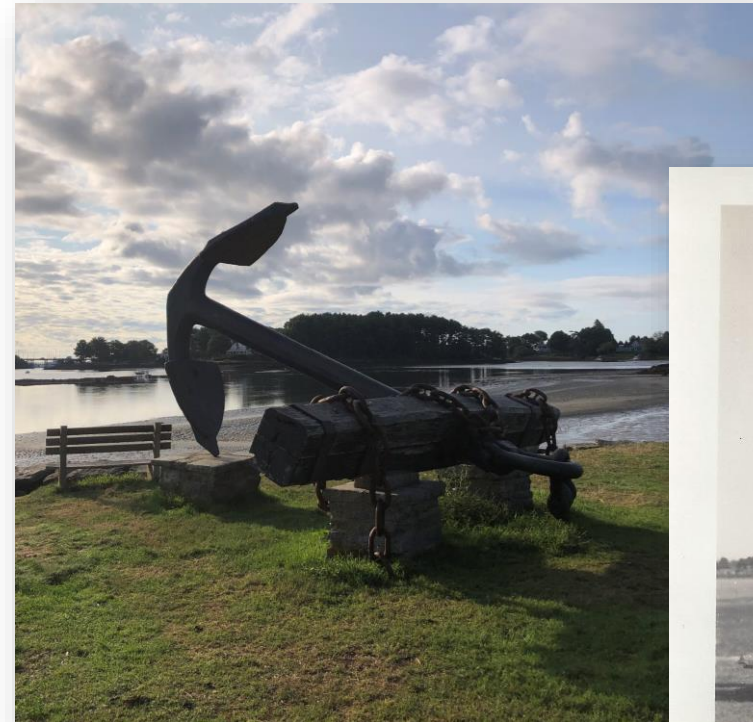
Unknown

Material

Iron and wood anchor weighing ~five tons (wooden cross-piece was restored during the 21st century)

Sponsor Information

Likely John Templeman Coolidge III



Directions

375 Little Harbor Road

Installation Date – Mid-1800s

Photo credit – Beth Hartnett

Portsmouth Public Art | Little Harbor Road | Little Harbor Chapel

Little Harbour Chapel

This chapel is built on land once owned by Arthur Astor Carey, one of a group of Bostonians who built summer homes in the Portsmouth and Rye areas, who bought the land in 1887. After converting to the Swedenborgian religion, Carey commissioned Richard Arnold Fisher, a Boston architect, to design a non-denominational chapel on this land. The chapel hosted its first service in July 1903. The ornate exterior is thought to be based on Harvard University's Holden Chapel built in the mid-1700s.

Artist Information

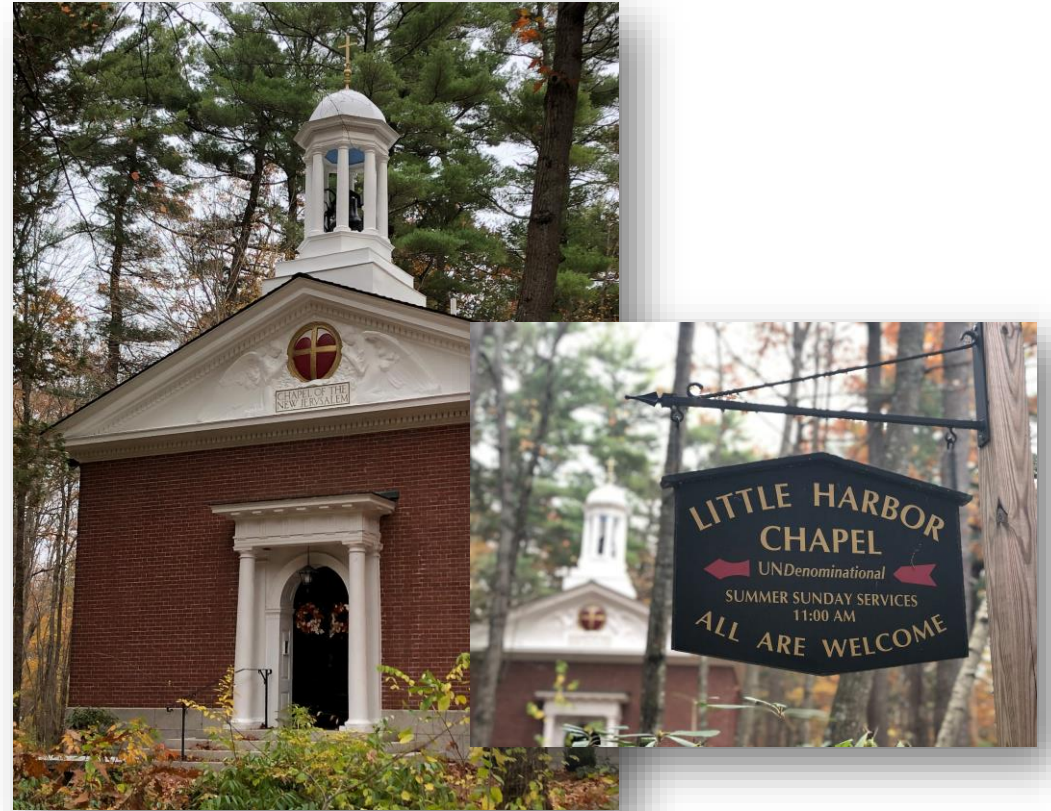
Richard Arnold Fisher, a Boston-based architect, active in the late 1800s/early 1900s

Material

Mixed

Sponsor Information

Arthur Astor Carey



Directions

335 Little Harbor Road

Installation Date – Early 1900s

Portsmouth Public Art | Southern Portsmouth | Mandalas at Dondero School

Mandalas at Dondero School

Serving as the Dondero Elementary School's artist in residence, in May 2021, Kenley Darling painted two large mandalas on the exterior of the building and educated the students about her artistic process and the power of patterns in art.

She also painted mandalas on several other Portsmouth buildings including the exterior of the downtown restaurant Shalimar.

Artist Information

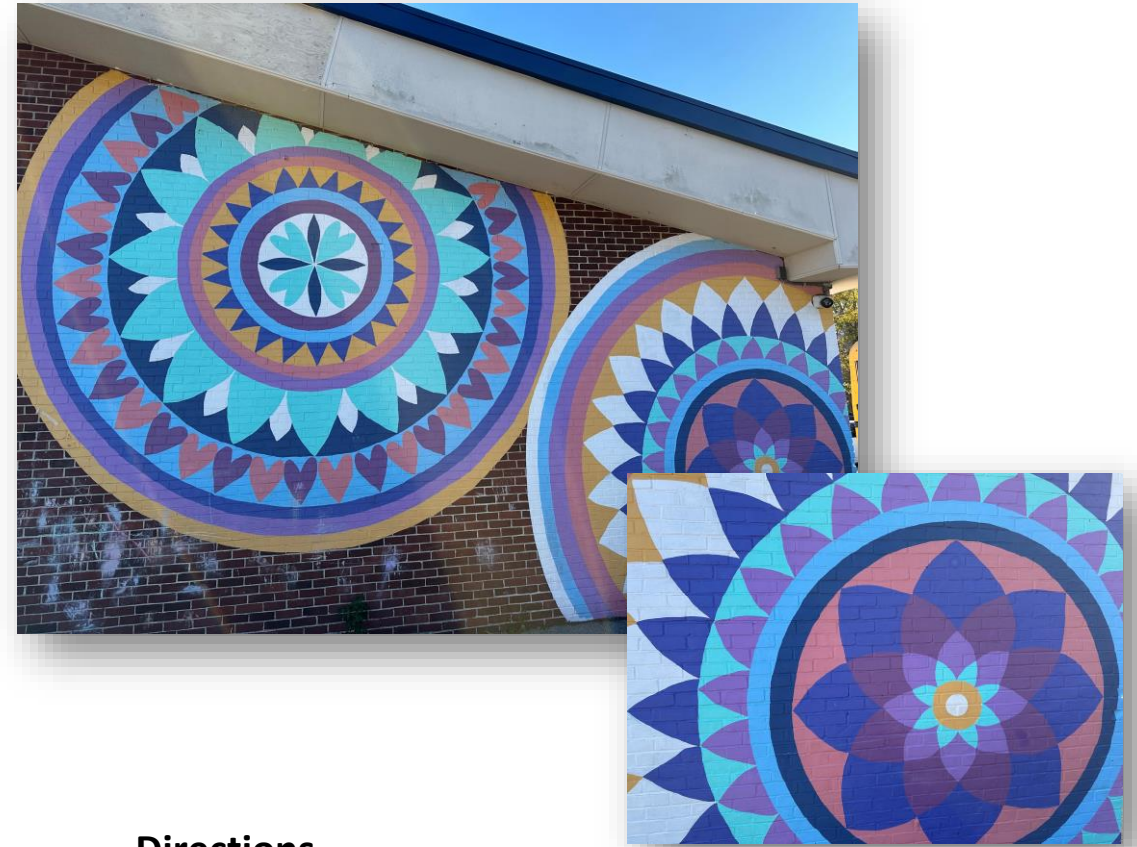
Kenley Darling, Portsmouth-based artist

Material

Acrylic paint

Sponsor Information

Dondero Elementary School Parent Teacher Association's Artist-in-Residence fund



Directions

Dondero Elementary School, 32 Van Buren Avenue

Installation Date – 2021

Portsmouth Public Art | Portsmouth High School | David Kohlhase Memorial Bench

David Kohlhase Memorial Bench

David Kohlhase, a Portsmouth High School senior, died in a sledding accident in January of 2018. The bench is a memorial dedicated his memory by his fellow classmates.

Artist Information

Thomas Berger, from Kittery, Maine, is a visual artist who focuses on representation and depiction of the natural world through three-dimensional art forms.

Material

Black granite

Sponsor Information

Portsmouth High School class of 2018



Directions

Portsmouth High School, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive

Installation Date – 2018

Portsmouth Public Art | Portsmouth High School | Clipper Monument

Clipper Monument

The granite pillar, topped with a metal bell, is a tribute to Portsmouth High School which was established in 1827. The monument honors the following core values of the High School: excellence, commitment, community, and leadership.

Artist Information

Unknown

Material

Black granite and metal bell

Sponsor Information

Jose Salema and Dunkin' Donuts



Directions

Portsmouth High School, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive

Installation Date – 2018

Portsmouth Public Art | Southern Portsmouth | Yoken's Sign

Yoken's Sign

The iconic whale "Thar She Blows!" restaurant sign was a Portsmouth landmark for 50+ years for the family-owned Yoken's restaurant that opened in 1947 and closed in 2004. It was refurbished and reinstalled in 2015.

Artist Information

According to the Dawson family legend, William (Bill) Dawson was trying to sell the restaurant a WHEB radio ad campaign when he worked with the station's creative department on the idea to declare the restaurant's gift shop "New Hampshire's Largest," a "whale" of a gift shop. That led to the iconic Thar She Blows slogan.

The actual manufacturer is unknown.

Material

Metal and neon

Sponsor Information

The 4 Amigo's LLC Group and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank



Directions

1390 Lafayette Road

Installation Date — Relighting on May 15, 2015

Portsmouth Public Art | Southern Portsmouth | Firefighters Monument

Firefighters Monument

This statue, affectionately known as Rusty, is a tribute to firefighters. This iconic image of the fireman saving a child embodies both the danger and the importance of firefighting. The sculpture depicts a man in full firefighting gear, including his coat and fire hat, with an air tank strapped to his back climbing down a ladder. The firefighter carries a young girl, modeled on the sculptor's daughter, in his arms.

Artist Information

Portsmouth sculptor Peter Happny, a local blacksmith, and his associate Donna Heald McClosker

Material

One-ton piece of steel, allowed to rust

Sponsor Information

Conceived of and commissioned by the Portsmouth Fire Fighters Local No. 1313 and built with donated funds



Directions

Portsmouth Fire Station 2, 3010 Lafayette Road

Installation Date — 1994 and 2010

Portsmouth Public Art | Great Bay Community College | Eagle Sculpture

Eagle

The sculpture of an eagle in flight is a monument honoring “all prior and future graduates” of the community college. The eagle is mounted at an angle on the base which gives it a feeling of motion in flight. On the inscription on the base is the Latin phrase *Exercitatio optimus est magister* (practice is the best teacher). The New Hampshire Technical Institute in Stratham was the original location of the sculpture which was relocated when the Institute became Great Bay Community College and moved to the location in 2009.

Artist Information

Cabot Lyford was an American sculptor from Exeter best known for his depictions of animals and the female figure, often using black granite and wood as materials. His sculptures are located within public parks, museums and schools throughout Maine and the United States.

Material

The eagle, measuring 7' x 12' x 5', is carved from Vermont granite and rests on a base of Stanhope granite.

Sponsor Information

State of New Hampshire Percent for Art Program



Directions

Great Bay Community College at Pease Tradeport, 320 Corporate Drive

Installation Date – 1984

Portsmouth Public Art | Albacore Park | The Black Dolphin Sculpture

The Black Dolphin

This memorial of a dolphin appearing to leap off its granite base stands among memorial stones honoring those who lost their lives on the Thresher and Squalus submarines and during World War II. The dolphin is a symbol of the submarine service.

Artist Information

Cabot Lyford was an American sculptor from Exeter best known for his depictions of animals and the female figure, often using black granite and wood as materials. His sculptures are located within public parks, museums and schools throughout Maine and the United States.

Material

The sculpture is black Canadian granite on a grey granite base.

Sponsor Information

Friends of Albacore Park



Directions

Albacore Park, 569 Submarine Way

Installation Date – 1987