

Be Inspired!

Sculptures & Statues



Bessie the Cow
Arby's parking lot, 3501 Milton Ave
Visit this fun fiberglass sculpture originally erected in 1966. This 16-foot tall, 20 foot long, one ton cow-lassus stood outside the Oasis until 2006, when the site was demolished for new construction. Moved just down the street, Bessie was given a new life - and a new paint job - and continues to stand over Janesville, providing a unique photo opportunity.



New Life Assembly of God Cross
New Life Assembly of God, 2416 N Wright Rd
Erected in 2013, this incredible cross stands 60 feet high and 40 feet wide and weighs 25,000 pounds. There are twelve commemorative benches around the patio with a 100-foot commemorative walkway. Three rose gardens surround the cross and patio, along with over 80 trees and shrubs and hundreds of tulips and daffodils.



Janesville Gazette Mural Sculpture
Janesville Gazette, 1 S Parker Dr
Constantino Nivola; 1970
Sculpted from sand and concrete, this incredible mural over the entrance to the Gazette building represents the progress of communication through the ages. The mural is divided into 33 panels, each weighing approximately one ton.



War of the Rebellion Monument
Lower Courthouse Park, 51 S Main St
The base of this monument says, "Rock County 1901 - Dedicated to the memory of her soldiers and sailors. War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865." The tall monument is topped by a statue of a Civil War soldier and weighs more than a ton.



Resilience Sculpture
Town Square Pedestrian Bridge, 65 S River St
Deedee Morrison, Alabama; 2019
This branching steel and tempered glass sculpture with LED lighting rises 28 feet above the Blain Gilbertson Family Heritage Bridge. With seating on both banks as well as on the bridge itself, the pedestrian bridge connects the east and west halves of Downtown Janesville's Town Square and was created as part of ARISE Now.



The Bubbler
Town Square, 65 S River St
This interactive water feature is part sculpture, part splash pad, part music and light show. For those unfamiliar with Wisconsin lingo, some locals use the word "bubbler" in place of "drinking fountain." The round shape, the water, and Wisconsin tradition all informed the name, chosen through a community contest. The 9-foot-tall metal sculpture includes electronically controlled water jets, colored lights, and music.



Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue
120 W Milwaukee St
E. M. Viquesney; 1920s-1930s
This sculpture is a pressed copper sculpture that was mass produced for communities throughout the United States in the 1920s and 30s, with about 140 sculptures remaining. It was presented to the city of Janesville by the Lions Club in honor of the men and women who served in WWI and includes the names of those who served.



Storybook Garden
Hedberg Public Library, 316 S Main St
The Friends of Hedberg Library and the Noon Lions Club created this garden of books, featuring a variety of sculptures in a park setting along the river.

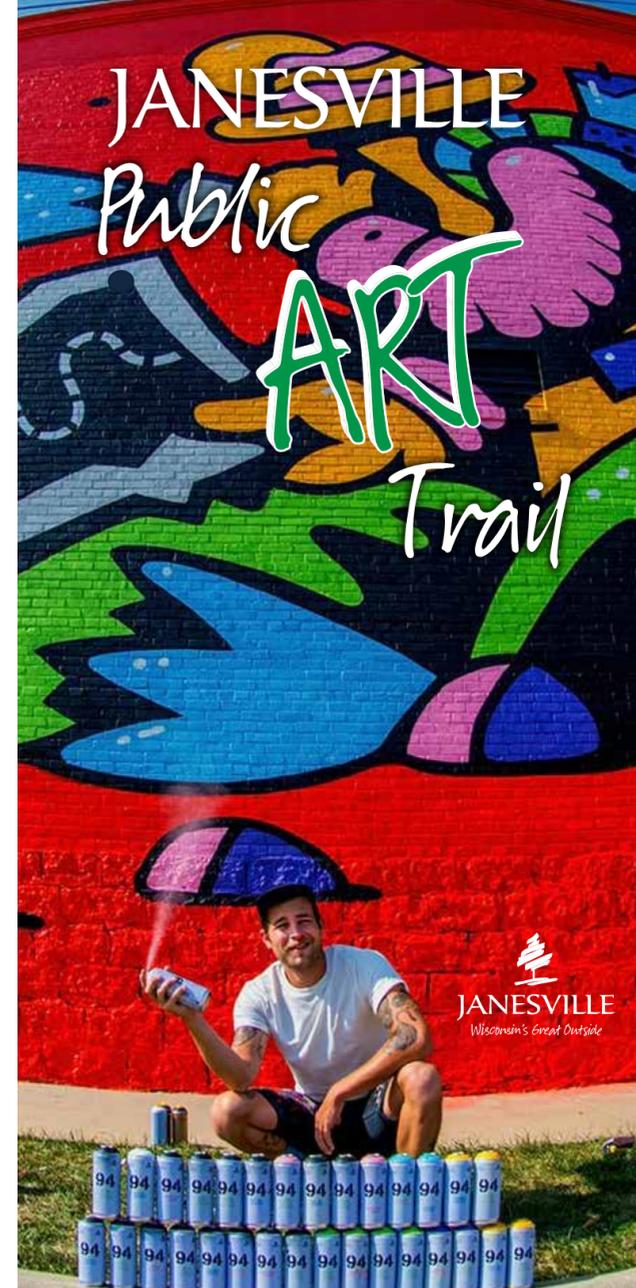
Do you love our public art? Join us for our annual Art Infusion celebration in September.

Cover photo courtesy of Pat Sparling Photography. Brochure photos courtesy of David Abb -Abb's Tracks Photography, Dave Sheen Photography, Full Spectrum Photography, Kim Hoholek Photography, Marsha Mood Photography, and Pat Sparling Photography.

JANESVILLE AREA
Convention & Visitors Bureau

20 S Main St, Ste 11, Janesville
janesvillecvb.com • (608) 757-3171

Follow the Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau on Facebook at @JanesvilleCVB and Instagram at explorejanesvillewi.



O.V. Shaffer Sculptures

O.V. Shaffer's work is exhibited throughout the United States, and several sculptures are on display in Janesville. Each piece has a sign that describes the art and includes a QR code that can be scanned by your phone, which will take you to a video of O.V. Shaffer speaking about that piece.



Calligraph
Parker Building, 1 Parker Pl
O. V. Shaffer; 1980
The large sculpture is constructed of welded brass sheets.



Cycle
BMO Harris Bank, 111 N Parker Dr
O. V. Shaffer; 1970
Located at BMO Harris Bank near the Parker Drive entrance, this large sculpture was constructed of stainless steel.



Wings of Change
Janesville Woman's Club, 108 S Jackson St
O. V. Shaffer; 1979
The large sculpture is constructed of welded brass sheets.



The Rock River
Hedberg Public Library, 316 S Main St
O. V. Shaffer; 1968
Located at the entrance to the underground parking lot, the large sculpture is constructed of Cor-Ten steel.



Biota
Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Dr
O. V. Shaffer; 1974
Located along Palmer Drive east of the Rotary Botanical Gardens parking lot, the sculpture is constructed of Cor-Ten steel. Parking is available off Sharon Rd.



Dialogue -World Peace Through Friendship
Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Dr
O. V. Shaffer; 1991
Located just inside Rotary Botanical Gardens but viewable from the parking lot, the large sculpture was constructed of welded brass sheets.

Historical Markers

- Rock River Industry**
I-39/I-90 Rest Area 17
Wisconsin Historical Society marker #271 is only accessible while traveling east/south on I-39/I-90, as it is in Rest Area 17. This marker explains the impact the Rock River had on industry as it provided an early source of power for manufacturing.
- Milton House**
Milton House Museum, 18 S Janesville St, Milton
Wisconsin Historical Society marker #107 was erected in 1961 and honors the Milton House Museum, a frontier inn, stagecoach stop, and station in the Underground Railroad. The Storrs Lake marker #229 was added in 1976 and is located on the side of the stable. It marks

- the location of a camp of US soldiers during their pursuit of Black Hawk and more than 1,000 people during the Black Hawk War of 1832.
- Carrie Jacobs Bond Marker**
Milwaukee St & Wisconsin St
Carrie Jacobs Bond was born in Janesville in 1862, she went on to become a composer of popular music from the 1890s through the early 1940s, including the song "I Love You Truly," which sold over one million copies.
- First State Fair**
51 S Atwood Ave
Wisconsin Historical Society marker #20 commemorates the location of the first Wisconsin State Fair, held October 1-2, 1851. The fairgrounds contained 6 acres and about 10,000 people attended.

- Abraham Lincoln - First Congregational Church**
First Congregational Church, 54 S Jackson St
This marker, located to the left of the main doors on S Jackson St, says, "On October 2, 1859 Abraham Lincoln worshiped with the members of the First Congregational Church which stood on the site of this edifice 1848 - 1868."
- Janesville Tank Company**
The Armory, 10 S High St
The Wisconsin Historical Society marker #298 commemorates the 32nd Tank Company, which was headquartered at the Janesville National Guard armory in the 1930s. When the United States joined WWII, this company became the first of 330,000 Wisconsin residents to engage the enemy. The Janesville tank unit fought bravely alongside other American and Filipino soldiers in the Philippine islands until surrendering on April 9, 1942. As prisoners of war, the Janesville men participated in the infamous Bataan Death March. Of the original ninety-nine members of the unit, only thirty-five survived.
- Black Hawk's Grove & Black Hawk War**
2100 Palmer Dr
This two-sided Wisconsin Historical Society marker #262 is located on the Ice Age Trail between the Blackhawk Golf Course parking lot and East Racine St. It makes note of the 1832 conflict between Sauk leader Black Hawk and 1,000 followers, and US Army troops.
- Burr Robbins Circus**
920 Beloit Ave
Located along the Ice Age Trail by the parking lot at Dawson Softball Complex, the Wisconsin Historical Society marker #454 notes that this site served as the Spring Brook Farm winter quarters for the Burr Robbins Circus, once the third largest circus in America, from 1874-1888.
- Route of Abraham Lincoln 1832 & 1859**
5926 US Hwy 51
This Wisconsin Historical Society marker #93 commemorates two separate times Lincoln passed this way, first as part of the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War, and again on his way to Janesville as a guest of William Tallman after delivering a political address in Beloit.

Memorials



Veterans Memorial Plaza
Traxler Park, 600 N Main St
The Veterans Memorial Plaza contains numerous memorial monuments including a Gold Star Mother Monument, Purple Heart Medal Monument, Medal of Honor Veterans Walkway, Vietnam War Memorial, and Global War on Terrorism Memorial.



9/11 Memorial
Firehouse Park, 101 N Main St
Located in Firehouse Park, this memorial honors the firefighters, police officers and paramedics who lost their lives as a result of the 9/11 attacks. A concrete obelisk represents the World Trade Center, with a steel beam from one of the twin towers that came down branching off the obelisk in the direction of New York City.



Young America Hall Site
19 S Main St
This marker commemorates the site of Abraham Lincoln's speech at the Young America Hall on the night of October 1, 1859.



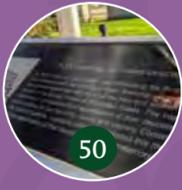
Bataan War Memorial
120 W Milwaukee St
The memorial honors the local servicemen who suffered on the infamous 1942 Bataan Death March during WWII. A list of the members of Company A of Janesville, also known as "the Janesville 99," is on the base of the memorial.



Janesville VFW Post #1621 Memorials
VFW Post #1621, 1015 Center Ave
The grounds contains a Veterans Memorial, Memorial to Corporal Frank E. Hill, Memorial to the Soldiers at Bataan, and a Viet-Nam Veterans Memorial. These memorials incorporate a historical helicopter, tank, anchor, and weapons, and are located at the east side of the parking lot. An airplane and an eagle statue are at the driveway entrance.



Carrie Jacobs Bond Monument
Bond Park, 201 N Oakhill Ave
The birthplace of Carrie Jacobs Bond is marked by two small markers and a large monument. Born in Janesville in 1862, she went on to become a composer of popular music from the 1890s through the early 1940s, including the song "I Love You Truly," which sold over one million copies.



Rock County Veterans Memorial
Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, 1716 W Airport Rd
Established during the Bicentennial celebration in 1976, this memorial honors and commemorates the memory of the men and women who served, and lists the names of the individuals who gave their lives in combat during the 20th century prior to 1976.

Murals



Rock Stars
The Exclusive Company, 1259 Milton Ave
Local record shop The Exclusive Company has had a series of paintings on the side of the building for many years. In 2017 they completed a mural "reboot," replacing the old mural with a new one that represents artists from different genres and eras. Artists include Johnny Cash, Nas, Kurt Cobain, Billie Holiday, Prince and Bob Dylan.



Heart of the City Outdoor: Water
Janesville Gazette, 1 S Parker Dr (back, visible from Parker Place)
Larry Schultz, Milton, WI; 2009
Part of the "Heart of the City Outdoor Art Campaign," each representing a decade during Janesville's early years and focusing on the important industries of that time, this vinyl printed mural represents 1840-50 and evokes how generations of Janesville citizens harnessed the power of water to manufacture goods, and how the city's economic success was dependent on this natural resource. Also on display is the historic Frances Willard Schoolhouse, once located along the Rock River and now residing at the Rock County Historical Society Campus.



American Flag
Whiskey Ranch, 24 N Main St
Nancy Platner, Edgerton, WI; 2016
This 15-foot by 60-foot patriotic mural is located on the Wall St side of the Whiskey Ranch. It was the first large scale mural for this artist and took over 80 hours to complete.



In History We Trust
101 E Milwaukee St
Jeff Henriquez, Newark, NJ; Art Infusion 2020
The locket worn by the woman on the left bears the image of Harriet Tubman, a nod to the abolitionist sentiment in Janesville, which hosted speakers Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass in 1859, as well as the nearby Milton House, a documented Underground Railroad stop that is now a museum. The large and small feathers in the native American woman's hair represent elders' support, guidance, and protection for youth. The wolf represents running with a pack or tribe, and the galaxy of stars above symbolize infinity. Wood violets are the Wisconsin state flower.



Black Hawk
29 South, 29 S Main St
Jeff Henriquez, Newark, NJ; 2019
Depicting the artist's interpretation of Black Hawk, a leader and warrior of the Sauk American Indian tribe in what is now Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, this incredible mural was created with spray paint in just 10 days. It also incorporates an image of Miracle, the White Buffalo, who was born outside Janesville in the 1990s and was a sacred Native American symbol who drew visitors from around the world. A Native American ceremony marked the mural's completion.



Heart of the City Outdoor: Janesville Women's History
Rock County Courthouse, 51 S Main St
Ronald Perry Wick, Cherry Valley, IL; 2010
Part of the "Heart of the City Outdoor Art Campaign" representing Janesville's early years, this vinyl printed mural commemorates the contributions women in Rock County. It covers the years 1860 to 1890, when women began having a significant impact on the social and economic life of the Janesville community. At the center is an early suffragist and her young daughter. At the top is Rhoda Lavinia Goodell, the first woman Lawyer in Wisconsin, admitted to the Rock County bar in 1874. Next is Angie King, Wisconsin's third female attorney and perhaps the first woman in Wisconsin to win a political office by popular election. Above a depiction of Oaklawn Hospital is Nellie Tallman, whose work with the Janesville Associated Charities led to the founding of Janesville's first successful hospital. The Janesville Cotton Manufacturing Company is shown at the left with two female mill workers. In the 1870s, two-thirds of the labor force at the Cotton Mills was female. The books represent the first free public library in Janesville established by the Ladies Afternoon Club.



Two Horses
37 S Main St (visible from Court St)
Adorn Boutique, 37 S Main St (side, visible from Court St)
Jessie Willyerd and Tim Cahill; Art Infusion 2020
The members of this artist team are Class of 2003 graduates of Janesville Craig High School.



Origami Birds
Lark, 60 S Main St
Stephanie Krellwitz; Art Infusion 2020
The freelance artist's first large scale mural, the origami birds and tree branch are reminiscent of Lark's logo and the paper cranes in the window.



Flower Garden
Olde Towne Mall, 20 S Main St (back, visible from Water St)
CJ Hungeman, Chicago, IL; Art Infusion 2021
This quirky, hand-painted floral mural is located high on the back of Olde Town Mall and can be seen from either side of Town Square, as well as the Court Street bridge. It incorporates flowers native to southern Wisconsin.



Bright Futures
Boys & Girls Club, 200 W Court St (visible from River St)
James Richter, Janesville, WI; 2021
This inspiring mural includes children, education, sports, nature, and dreams of the future.



Doty Mill Alley Janesville
Riverfront Centre, 15 W Milwaukee St (side, visible from alley off River St)
James Richter, Janesville; 2018
This mural is reminiscent of vintage postcards and celebrates Janesville, including our proud General Motors and Parker Pen legacy, the historic Lincoln-Tallman House, and present-day wonders like the Rotary Botanical Garden and the Rock Aqua Jays waterski show team.



River of Life
Rock River Charter School, 31 W Milwaukee St (side, visible from River St)
Ivan Roque, Miami, FL; Art Infusion 2021
This incredible 100-foot-long mural features a flowing river with an owl for wisdom, flowers symbolizing transformation and vines representing time and energy. The thorns represent the obstacles in life that we go through that make us who we are.



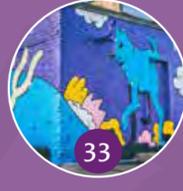
Keep Looking Up
111 W Milwaukee St (back, visible from Dodge St)
James Richter, Janesville, WI; 2020
This uplifting, whimsical addition to downtown features three stories of fun, with balloons and clouds.



Sharing Aloha
808 Cheesecake, 119 W Milwaukee St (back, visible from Dodge St)
Rob Reyes, Janesville, WI; 2021
Located in the alley on the back of 808 Cheesecake, this lush, tropical mural was painted by the owner. Both the mural and the shop offer a taste of the Hawaiian Islands.



Waves of Giving
Hometown Pharmacy, 21 S Jackson St (back, visible from Franklin St)
Jaime Brown with Karim Jabbari; Art Infusion 2020
This colorful, geometric mural is full of symbolism. The arrows on the top represent the forward thinking of the city while the zigzags are the river running through downtown. The diamonds on the right are a stalk of wheat, from Janesville's early days as an agricultural community. The horizontal bars on the bottom are for the fallen tree trunks during the city's lumber/industrial period. The vertical lines represent train tracks, and the intersecting purple circles are a woman looking down and working on something. She could be making a quilt or dinner. The woman is often the heartbeat of the home, and homes and families are the heartbeat of the community.



Midnight Snack aka Blue Barry
Home Again Consignments, 215 W Milwaukee St (back, visible from alley)
Bigshot Robot (David Mark Zimmerman), Milwaukee, WI; Art Infusion 2020
This whimsical mural wraps around two sides in the alley behind the building and is best viewed on foot. What shall Blue Barry's snack be - a wish bone, dog bone, fish bone - maybe a trombone?



Formations on Jackson
Forward Foundation, 14 S Jackson St
Nathan Brown, Nashville, TN; Art Infusion 2021
This beautiful geometric mural is a combination of strong shapes and vibrant color gradients.



Butterfly
314 W Milwaukee St (side, visible from Jackson St)
This mural depicts a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis and flying away. The oldest of the murals on this list, artist details are unknown.



Janesville Icons
509 W Milwaukee St (side, visible from High St)
James Richter, Janesville, WI; 2016
This mural depicts seven Chevrolet models between 1955 and 1960 in remembrance of the Janesville General Motors assembly plant. It is on what was known as "The Circuit," a driving route that many Janesville residents cruised in their youth.



The Adventurer
Ace Hardware, 200 S River St
Bigshot Robot (David Mark Zimmerman), Milwaukee, WI; Art Infusion 2021
The Adventurer is a light-hearted addition to Janesville's downtown. Covering one side of the Harris Ace Hardware building with vibrant colors, the mural is best seen from a little distance - even across the river! The mural symbolizes the adventuring spirit of the indigenous people, who had lived here, and the people who visit the downtown on their own adventures.



Dancing on the Stars
Janesville Performing Arts Center, 408 S Main St
Ruben Aguirre, Chicago, IL; Art Infusion 2021
This dynamic mural on the side of the Janesville Performing Arts Center depicts movement expressed by dancers. The artist interpreted pieces of the City of Janesville flag: on the left side is the tree and the suns represent the four stars. The dancers represent the Performing Arts Center.



Art Infusion

Janesville's Art Infusion event held annually in downtown Janesville in early September is a celebration of both temporary and permanent art. Since its inception in 2011, it has continued to evolve and bring attention to the community, its attractions and especially the downtown area. In addition to a chalk art competition, there are opportunities for attendees to draw for fun and art classes for Janesville students. In 2020, a painted wall mural component was added and continues to be a highlight of the event. For more information visit janesvillecvb.com/artinfusion.



"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

- Thomas Merton

Follow the QR code to a Google map of the trail





I Love You Truly

Hodge Podge Place (back), 14 S Water
Ivan Roque, Miami, FL; Art Infusion 2022
Inspired by Janesville-born Carrie Jacobs Bond, who wrote popular music from the 1890s through the 1940s.



Feathers and Feet

St. Mary's School, 313 E Wall St, Emily
Balsley, Madison, WI; Art Infusion 2022
Animal drawings from students were incorporated into the mural.



Onward and Up Towards

Velocity Multi-Sport, 115 N Jackson
Rick Malt, Detroit, MI; Art Infusion 2022
This abstract mural incorporates the Rock River. The lone tree at the upper left represents a log cabin.



The Farm

Aramark building, 310 W Centerway
Paola Delfin, Mexico City, Mexico; Art Infusion 2022
This monochromatic mural celebrates Janesville's strong ties to farming and agriculture and includes area farmers.



Blue Sunflower

Riley's on the Green (back), 221 W
Milwaukee St, Jeff Henriquez,
Brooklyn, NY; Art Infusion 2023
This complex mural offers something new every time you visit it..



Fowl Wall and Fowl Owl

Associated Collectors (back), 113 W
Milwaukee St, CJ Hungerman, Chicago,
IL; Art Infusion 2023 & 2024
Inspired by its location in Birdwalk Alley, it features a variety of feathered friends including a 15-foot turkey! In 2024, the artist returned to add a striking Great Horned Owl.



Joan and John Evans Legacy Sundial

Lions Park, 1400 Palmer Dr; 2022
At this interactive sundial YOU cast the shadow that tells the time.



Rock River Guardian

Genisa Wine Bar, 11 N Main St
Chris Silva, South Bend, IN; Art Infusion 2022
Geometric shapes are incorporated with an Italian Sparrow in honor of the restaurant where it is located.



(HealthNet of Rock County Mural)

HealthNet of Rock Co, 113 S Franklin
Amy Zaremba, Madison, WI; 2022
This 200+ foot long mural reflects the artist's deeply held belief in the great importance art holds in a happy and healthy society.



(La Fiesta Mexicana Mural)

La Fiesta Mexicana, 425 S Main St
Pedro & Diego Valdivia, Monroe, WI; 2022
This mural pays tribute to the Aztec legend of Popocatepetl and Iztacihuatl.



Gloria the Eagle

Town Square, 21 Dodge St
Richard Lazcano, Janesville, WI; 2022
Sculpted and welded steel Perched atop a steel tree limb, her patina and size mirror a real eagle.



Self-Worth

Town Square, 21 Dodge St
Richard Lazcano, Janesville, WI; 2024
Sculpted and welded bicycle parts is whimsical sculpture of a bicyclist taking a selfie includes an oversized bicycle tire pump as a selfie stand.



Window Seat

Midwest Indoor Storage, 314 W
Milwaukee St
Matthew Mederer (aka Cool Disco Rich) of Chicago, IL; Art Infusion 2024
This mural celebrates quiet moments spent in harmony with nature.



Phoebe's Dream

Midwest Indoor Storage, 314 W
Milwaukee St, Valerie Saxer,
Janesville, WI; Art Infusion 2023
The artist's granddaughter releases a sky full of colorful butterflies.