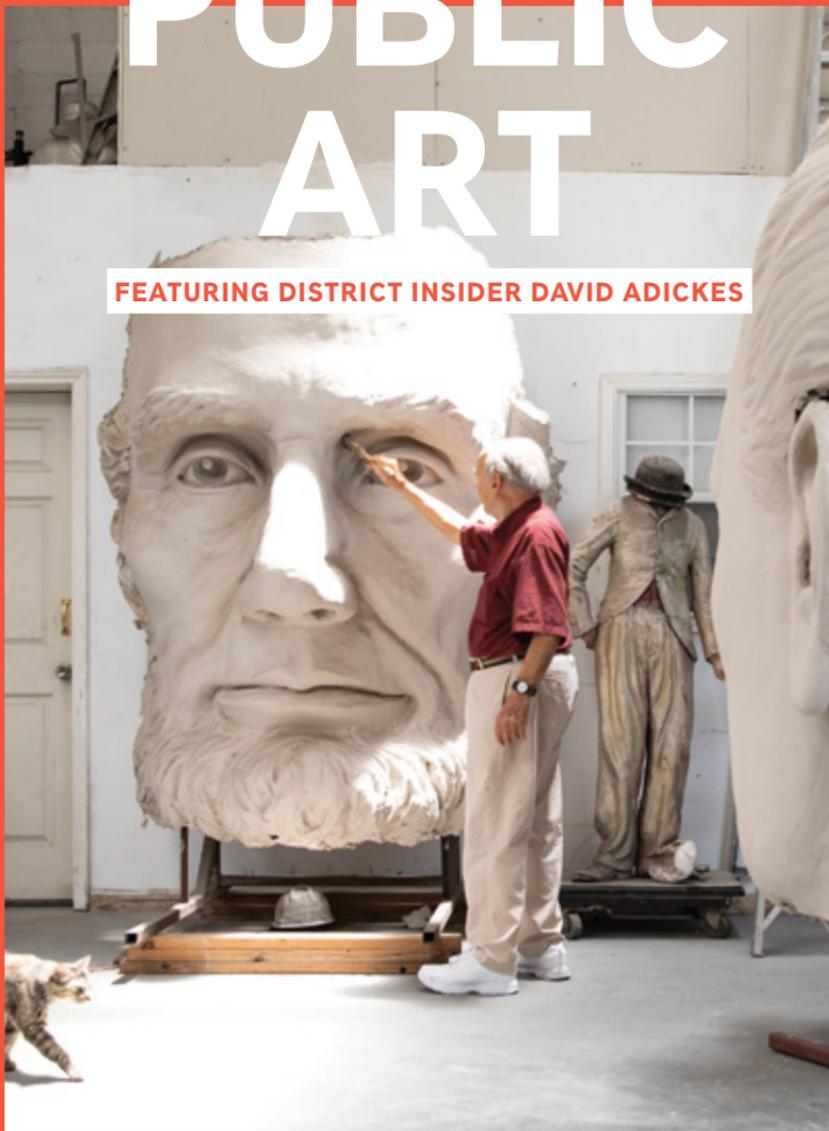


PUBLIC ART

FEATURING DISTRICT INSIDER DAVID ADICKES



STUDIOS | PERFORMING ARTS | EAT / DRINK | ALTERNATIVE SPACES | PUBLIC ART | MURALS IN THE DISTRICT

No. 1

INSIDER'S GUIDE

ARTS **HOU**
DISTRICT

DOWNLOAD
digital versions of this
guide and others at
artsdistricthouston.com



INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

PUBLIC ART IN THE DISTRICT

David Adickes, an arts pioneer in the area now known as Arts District Houston, has been active in Houston since 1951. The debut of his early iconic and highly visible monumental sculptures marked a pivotal moment along the timeline of Houston art history when public artwork turned from the traditional to the contemporary.

As one of the first artists, if not *the* first, to establish a studio in the area, we sat down with him recently to talk about his history in the District, his early works created here — most notably his series of large-scale Presidents' busts, how the neighborhood has changed, and the importance of public art to our community.

When asked about the role of public art in a place, Adickes lights up with a spark.



ADH: Can you speak to the role of public art to a place?

DA: Well, it's *very* important in my opinion. When you think of great cities, you really think of the art. What do you think of when you think of London? Big Ben. Paris? The Eiffel Tower. In Rome, it's the Colosseum. Art is very important for the identity and interest of any place. The word 'icon' — I like that. The word "icon," years ago used to be a little piece of religious art. Then, the meaning of 'icon' became a symbol that identifies something, and now the word 'icon' or 'iconic' is some image that identifies a place or a thing. In Rio de Janeiro, you think of the Christ. Iconic art is very important in representing a place to the outside world.

Cover and above photo by Felix Sanchez

OUR TOP FIVE PICKS:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 1.1 | <i>Art Alley at Sawyer Yards</i> | p 4 |
| 1.2 | <i>American Statesmanship Park
aka Mount Rush Hour</i> (featured site) | p 5 |
| 1.3 | <i>The Rail to the Sea</i> | p 6 |
| 1.4 | <i>Virgen de Guadalupe</i> | p 6 |
| 1.5 | <i>Be Someone</i> | p 7 |



1.1



Photo by Monica Kressman

ART ALLEY AT SAWYER YARDS

*1502 Sawyer Street
Houston, Texas 77007*

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM, daily

Fourteen artists and the Arts District worked tirelessly on this 800-foot-long collaborative mural. Each artist was granted 40 feet of wall space to create their pieces. Artists include Anat Ronen, Ani Varadaraju, Daniel Anguilo, el Edu, Eyesore, Jessica Rice, Jose Cordova, Luisa Duarte, Michael C. Rodriguez, Nicky Davis, Pilot FX, Scott Tarbox, Royal McGee and Vincent Fink. Art Alley is also home to a variety of events throughout the year, including the monthly Market at Sawyer Yards.

ARTIST

Various

CREATED

2016

INSIDER TIP

The Market at Sawyer Yards, a curated market surrounded by the highest concentration of artists in the state, is free to attend on the second Saturday of each month. It coincides with 2nd Saturday Open Studios, when artists across the Sawyer Yards campus open their studios to the public.



Photo by Monica Kressman

AMERICAN STATESMANSHIP PARK aka MOUNT RUSH HOUR

*1400 Elder Street
Houston, Texas 77007*

Hours: 8 AM – 8 PM, daily

Get a closer look at artist and sculptor David Adickes' combo nod to Houston's freeways and Mount Rushmore. Adickes created four towering 20-ft. tall concrete busts of Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington and had them installed in a freeway-side park overlooking the I-10 and I-45 interchange in First Ward. These monumental works were donated by the artist to Harris County Precinct 2 in November 2012.

ARTIST

David Adickes

CREATED

2012

INSIDER TIP

To get to the park, travel East along Edwards Street from Houston Avenue. The park is a pleasant surprise at the very end of the street where it meets I-45.

1.3



Photo by Monica Kressman

THE RAIL TO THE SEA

*1505 Sawyer Street
Houston, Texas 77007*

Hours: Any

This colorful wall was created by international Houston-based artist Janavi M. Folmsbee. The 5,000 sq. ft. mural was inspired by her love of the sea, and specifically the element that connects us all, water. It uses bright colors and abstract marine characters as a metaphor for the diverse and vibrant arts community that surrounds the mural. This seascape mural is a tribute to the supporting nature of this community and new beginnings, and was part of a Leadership Houston project called *See Houston, Love Houston, Be Houston*.

ARTIST

Janavi M. Folmsbee

CREATED

2016

INSIDER TIP

To get a good shot of the mural, shoot from across the street from the parking lot at The Silos. For the best light, and to avoid street traffic, it's best to photograph in the early morning or early evening. A wide angle lens will help!



Photo by Monica Kressman

VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

1900 Kane Street
Houston, Texas 77007

Hours: Weekdays, 10 AM – 8 PM

Originally created for a park in NYC by sculptor Paul Kittleson, this version of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, is made up of recycled beverage containers and was gifted to MECA by the artist. The various types of soda and beer cans represent the different colors of her mantel, skin, and aura as seen in traditional depictions and parts from broken children's dolls are used to mark the Virgin's role as patron saint of unwed mothers.

ARTIST

Paul Kittleson

CREATED

2006

INSIDER TIP

MECA is the proud custodian and inhabitant of the Dow Elementary school building, named after Justin E. Dow, superintendent of Houston Public Schools from 1885 to 1887. Originally built in 1912 with 16-rooms, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo by Monica Kressman

BE SOMEONE

I-10 and 1-45 Interchange

Hours: Any

Originally painted in 2012 by an anonymous graffiti artist on a train bridge, *Be Someone* has become iconic in Houston — guerilla art with a message of significance in an unlikely but prominent location. It's had several reincarnations since being painted by Be Someone and was most recently restored (after being blacked out) by local college students who believe it's message of encouragement means quite a bit to a lot of people. The artist feels free to let the street art take on a life of its own and has used the public work to launch his brand and entrepreneurial pursuits. The graffiti is so beloved in the city that a petition gathered more than 35,000 signatures to request that be designated a protected landmark.

ARTIST

Be Someone

CREATED

2012

INSIDER TIP

Be Someone is difficult (and dangerous!) to capture in a photo from the road. Thankfully, you can find merch with the best views of the artwork on the artist's website.

ARTS DISTRICT HOUSTON |

Arts District Houston embodies Houston's dynamic creative economy. This colorful, urban, artist-centered community is situated in the city center along the Washington Avenue Corridor and touts the highest concentration of working artists in the state. Visit this lively historically-designated area bound by two of the city's bayous and feel the creativity flow throughout the creative businesses, restaurants, artists studios, and reimagined industrial spaces, notably the iconic repurposed rice silos and old Union Pacific rail line that run through it. This state-appointed Arts and Cultural District has a rich history as it encompasses portions of both the First and Sixth Wards, two of the city's oldest neighborhoods. Arts District Houston is home to 300+ studio spaces for local artists, designers, and makers where you can see firsthand how art gets made.

GETTING HERE |

Although much of the district is walkable, you will probably want to have some mode of transportation to explore all that the district has to offer. There is free parking available throughout the district. Uber and Lyft are great ways to get where you need to go. Houston BCycle has a paid bike sharing station at 2411 Washington (at Sawyer).

FRESH ARTS |

The district's management partner, Fresh Arts amplifies the district's ability to serve artists and the greater community through artist-centered initiatives that help build capacity, audiences and shared resources for the artists and creative businesses that compose the district. Fresh Arts and Arts District Houston are dedicated to shaping and building Houston's creative economy in a responsible way that ensures the district retains top artistic talent and energy while continually enhancing the livability of the surrounding neighborhood.

MADE POSSIBLE BY FRESHARTS AND ITS SPONSORS |

For information about partnerships and inclusion in future Insider's Guides contact ADHou@fresharts.org.

For a more comprehensive list of artists and businesses visit artsdistricthouston.com
#artsdistricthou
Get Social @artsdistricthou

This project is funded in part by Texas Commission on the Arts and the City of Houston.



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

