Thank you for choosing to participate in the Plano Art Walk, a project of Leadership Plano Class 37. This project was born out of a desire to give people the opportunity to learn more about the numerous art installations throughout Plano. The city has been making a name for itself in the art community and we want to take you on a journey of art discovery and little history beginning in historic downtown Plano.

Follow us on social media and tag #PlanoArtWalk and #LeadershipPlano

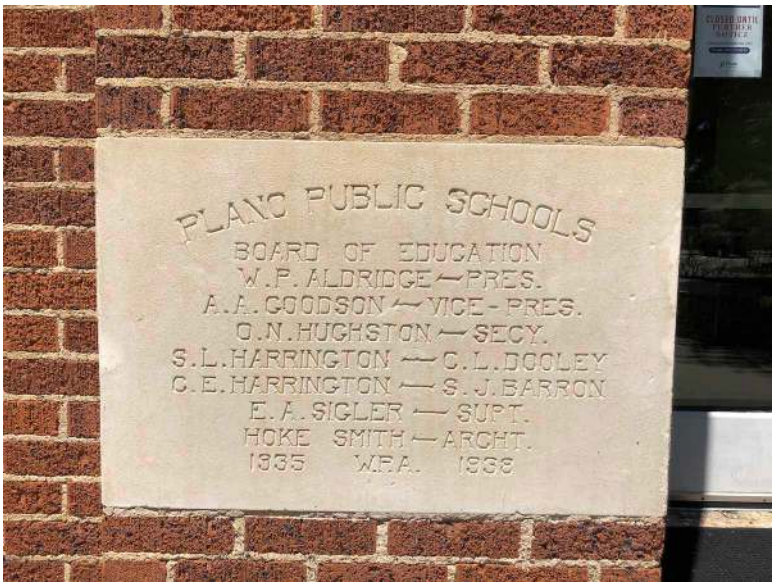
Entering historic downtown Plano you will be met with a series of seven sculptures known collectively as **"Rhythmic Illuminations"** which were designed by artist Joshua Weiner. When the call went out to artists requesting sculpture ideas in 2017 his designs were selected out of 196 submissions. The individual sculptures are made out of aluminum so that they will stand the test of time and weather. As you approach from the road, they are set perpendicular and at first appear to be simple colorful structures that are lit up but as you get closer you will see each sculpture represents an individual type of art. They are in order:

- Plano Sculpture
- Violinist
- Dancer
- Singer
- Guitarist
- Conductor
- Pianist

To learn more about Joshua Weiner please visit his website www.joshuawiener.com

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

The Courtyard Theater is a 321 seat, proscenium-style theater. With a large stage and spacious lobby, the venue is perfect for receptions, recitals, stage plays, musicals, concerts, meetings and private parties. The building itself was constructed in 1938 as the gymnasium for the Plano Cox High School. In 2002 was dedicated as the Courtyard Theatre after renovation. Prior to the 1938 gymnasium, the site had been the location of Plano's Civic Auditorium built in 1906 which originally housed meetings and cultural events.



www.plano.gov/415/Courtyard-Theater

The **Cox Playhouse** is located on the lower floor of the Plano Independent School District's Cox Building. Originally constructed as a high school in 1938 as part of the Works Project Administration Project, the building was renovated in 2005 to include a black-box (a simple performance **space**, that varies in size, and is usually a **square** room with **black** walls and a flat floor) theatre on the lower floor that seats approximately 115. The upper floors serve as the district offices for the Plano Independent School District. The plaque located at the front entrance indicates that the core of the current structure was built in 1924.

www.plano.gov/416/Cox-Playhouse

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

The Saigling House, now known as the **ArtCentre of Plano** was built in 1906 and was

one of the first brick houses in the city and was the first with a basement. The 4,000-square-foot former residence was recently designated as a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) by the Texas Historical Commission and soon will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site now serves as a cultural, art and event center in partnership with the Art Centre of Plano.

To learn more about the **ArtCentre of Plano** and their efforts to ensure art continues to have a home in Plano please visit www.artcentreofplano.org

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Through the Park is a painted metal sculpture which is located in the southwest corner of Haggard Park near the Gazebo and Interurban Station.. The sculpture was created by noted American artist David Hickman in 2004 and commemorates the service of Steve Stovall to the City of Plano. Atop a tall arching red pole sits a metal structure with the silhouette of a mother, father, and daughter that spins in the wind.

To learn more about David Hickman please visit his website: www.wescover.com/creator/david-hickman

In January of 2017, the Plano Art Association and the Historic Downtown Plano Association partnered to launch the **Downtown Mural Project**. The project was made possible due to a grant from the Plano Heritage Commission. The murals in order of installation are the Will Heron mural on the west-facing wall of **Georgia's Farmers' Market**, the **Vickery Park** mural painted by Wes Hardin located by the DART station, and the final mural is the 3-dimensional **Echowave**.

The first mural of the Downtown Plano Mural Project that was installed is on **Georgia's Farmers Market** and incorporates historical elements inspired by Plano's past. The mural is split into five columns, each a different color, and focusing on different elements from the Plano residents' submitted photos: a cactus, a windmill, cotton, a water tower, and a train. The artist, Will Heron, uses flora and fauna found in Texas and the southern US as inspiration. He frequently uses these to add a graphic illusion or wordplay to his art and designs.
To learn more about Will Heron please visit his website www.wheronart.com

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Founded in 1847 and named for 19th century abolitionist and statesman, Frederick Douglass, the **Douglass Community** is one among several historically African American enclaves in North Texas settled as farmsteads.

Homes in Douglass are held dear by the families who built them as proof of overcoming the struggles of Blacks to own their own land and shape their own destiny. Most of the 400+ neighbors in the tight-knit community are lifelong residents of Douglass, with children, aunts, uncles and cousins living nearby.

From the 1920s to the 1950s Douglass was home to several Black-owned restaurants, a candy shop, a barbershop, beauty parlor, gas station and several nightclubs and gambling houses. By the early 1990s, the area had fallen into decline with most of the businesses gone, and many of neighborhood's aging homes and narrow potholed streets needing repair.

The Douglass Community's turnaround evolved from the city's dawning view of the historical neighborhood as a cultural resource. Residents and advocates continue to nurture neighborhood bonds, and guard the character and prosperity of the neighborhood.

The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church was founded in November 1884 by Rev. Sutton E. Griggs, Rev. Keen and Rev. John Coleman. Joseph Clapper donated the land on which the church was built. Shiloh's first pastor was the Reverend John Coleman. In 1908, a church building was erected to house the expanding congregation. An association of Baptist churches, known as the Northwest Association was formed at this same time. Shiloh joined, and A.S. Drake of Shiloh was named secretary. The first organization expanded and the name was changed to The Galilee Griggs Memorial Association. Shiloh presently retains a membership in this same organization.

The next church building was built in 1918; with the addition of a kitchen, dining room, pastor's study and choir room to follow in 1952. Under Rev. Joshua's leadership, the church revisited plans to build a new Worship Center, and he lead a "United We Build" capital fund-raising program. In April 1999 the church held a ground breaking ceremony for the new sanctuary, and on June 3, 2001 the first service was held at the church's current location. Rev. Joshua continues to lead the church forward with the addition of several new ministries to serve the community.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

The Plano African American Museum is housed in the Thornton House located in the Douglass Community. Circa 1909. John Thornton, a former enslaved man turned entrepreneur was one of the first African Americans to own property in Collin County. The property owned by the Thornton House Museum includes an historic church building. The facility has been there for 125 years under a number of different names.

Stimpson - Drake Park was named for Mose Stimpson and Andy Drake, who were the first African American free men to be sharecroppers in Plano, and who went on to become prominent Douglass Community leaders, the park was dedicated on June 17, 2017 as part of Plano's Juneteenth celebrations.

Juneteenth commemorates news of the abolition of slavery finally reaching Texas some two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (1863). A historical marker and a statue stand on the very spot in Galveston where Union Major-General Gordon Granger read the news that slaves were free.

In 1910, a young African American man, Lee Andrew (L.A.) Davis left his home in South Texas to find work as a sharecropper. He settled in the Douglass Community. Over the years and despite discriminatory laws and few opportunities, Davis' enterprising nature enabled him to excel in business and accumulate wealth through stocks and real estate. As a prominent leader in the Douglass Community with financial clout, he was able to acquire a large tract of land in the community, and sold plots to local African Americans.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

In 1945, Davis also bought vacant land and established a burial site, the **L.A. Davis Cemetery**, reserved for African Americans from the Douglass Community.
Plano's Old City Cemetery lies adjacent to **Davis Cemetery.** Many early Plano pioneers and their descendants are buried in the Old City Cemetery. The oldest death date on gravestones of individuals known to have been interred in the cemetery is 1881. Five of the original Peters Colony settlers are interred there as well as other early settlers. Additionally, Black pioneers, including Andy Drake (d.1934), the first free African American to reside in Plano, and several other African American community leaders are buried in the cemetery.

Douglass Community Mosaic - "Tracks of Our Past and Future" was commissioned by the Douglass Community Arts Advisory Committee, and created by Plano artists Lynne Chinn and Shug Jones, this 6 ft. tall, 76 ft. long wall is vitreous glass tiled with vignettes depicting the rich history of the neighborhood. After five years of planning, the mosaic mural was dedicated on June 17, 2006 as part of Plano's Juneteenth celebrations.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Interurban Station – Plano Station, Texas Electric Railway linked Plano residents to Dallas and Denton and all connecting cities. It is the only surviving interurban station along the route that ran from Denison to Waco from 1908-1948. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 2005. The Station was significant in the development and growth of Plano.

The historical museum and visitor center is managed by a collaboration between the City of Plano and the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation. **The Interurban Railway Museum** serves as an archival repository for the Johnnie J. Meyer Collection and Research Center and an educational space for children. Exhibits include “Car 360”, a train car that once traveled the tracks through downtown, a permanent exhibit showcasing Plano's history, and an educational piece about electricity and the Texas Electric Railway. The Plano Conservancy also produces temporary exhibits that rotate in and out during the year. Admission is free.

interurbanrailwaymuseum.org

McCall Plaza is named for one of the city’s most prominent civic leaders and former Plano Mayor, David McCall. It is an estimated half-acre outdoor performance space with a nearly 800 square-foot covered stage, completely visible from all angles. Located in the heart of downtown Plano **McCall Plaza** was remodeled in 2016 to enhance the thriving Historical Downtown Plano Arts District as a rental venue for live entertainment. The venue can accommodate audiences from 150 to 1000 people depending on the direction the performers face. The City of Plano also hosts free events and concerts at McCall Plaza, sometimes in conjunction Downtown Plano-wide events and festivals.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Alien Rock was painted by Reyon Nurse on May 12, 2016 during the second Plano Magazine Art & Wine Wall. The rock was removed the next day by the city and then reinstalled a few days later when it was determined that the alien rock was intended to be an art installation.

Follow Reyon Nurse on Instagram at @dreadsoftly

The third installation of the Downtown Plano Mural Project to be installed was the **Echowave**. The piece is a 3-dimensional mural with both visual and audio components to its design. It has four metal representations of sound waves has a corresponding online audio clip. Each audio clip narrates a piece of Plano's history to include name and origins, the founding of the fire department, Plano's business and commerce and the railroad heritage between the letters of the mural.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Located at Plano Fire and Rescue Station #1, **Everyone Goes Home** is a power coated aluminum and steel sculpture created in 2009 by Jim Collins as a tribute to all working Fire Fighters. The sculpture depicts the standard fire crew with Dalmatians running all about. Using the dogs allows for a more light-hearted approach to commemorate the men and women who protect and serve communities throughout the world. Plano Fire & Rescue has been blessed in only one loss of life in the past 58 years.

To learn more about Jim Collins please visit: www.collins3d.com/

The **Vickery Park Mural** was the second installation in the Downtown Plano Mural Project, painted by Wes Hardin. The mural depicts scenes from Plano's past imagined from old photographs collected from citizens. The famous Texas Electric Railway interurban railcar is featured, as well as the storefronts of Downtown Plano buildings. The whole scene is set in front of a colorful Texas sunset.

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine

Haggard Park is the second oldest park in Plano. Before the 1920's, homes and a lumber mill occupied the site. The small stream that ran through a meadow was developed into a formal park featuring ponds, shady picnic areas, a bridge, a grand gazebo/bandstand, playground and restrooms. It was named for one of the founding families of Plano, and is home to the **ArtCentre of Plano** and the **Interurban Railway Museum**. The stylized life-sized **Mule Sculpture** by artist Tom Askman was commissioned by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) reflects the "iron horse" trains that once passed through Plano on the Interurban Line.

To learn more about Tom Askman please visit his website www.tomaskmanart.com

Photos courtesy of AlleeOops Photograpy and Jennifer Shertzer/Plano Magazine