

Murals

The “City of Murals” began with ten murals created in downtown Belvidere in June of 1997 during a “Wall Dog” festival initiated by the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce. As a result, Belvidere received the 1997 Governor’s Art Award and was named the Illinois “City of Murals.” The residents have embraced the mural concept and several murals have been created on outside structures and inside commercial and private spaces. Among the public indoor locations are the Boone County Conservation District office, 603 N Appleton Rd, the Belvidere Fire Protection District No 2, and the Keenage Center both on Henry Luckow Drive.

The majority of the murals can be seen along both sides of State Street from Hurlbut Street and progressing east to Logan with some murals to be found off South State Street on 1st Street.

Several murals are painted directly on the exterior wall surface and some are painted on a separate support (wood, metal, fabric) before mounting. Special paints are used for lasting durability. Some of the designs are digitally printed on fabric.

This is only a sample of the many murals.



On brick: by Frank Matas & The Sun-Kissed Crew, west side of Apollo Theater, 104 N. State St . 1998



2013 Digital print on fabric by John Berry, east side of Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Blvd.



Wood panel: Eagle Scout Mural by Lindsey Morris, VFW Post, 1310 West Lincoln Ave. 2010.



On brick: The Belvidere Seed Co by Noel Weber, Wall Dogs, at Buchanan & State Streets. 1997.



Metal panel: The “Lady Diamond” Bicycle by Steve Estes, Wall Dogs, 129 N. State St. 1997.



On brick: Art on the Lawn by Kit Scheidenhelm and Belvidere High School students, 216 S. State. 1998.



The Boone County Arts Council was established in 1987 by the Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce and functions as an all volunteer organization. Its office is inside the **Baltic Mill, Belvidere Park, 920 W Lincoln Ave, Belvidere.**

The mission of the **Boone County Arts Council** is to enhance the quality of life for people throughout Boone County by promoting the endowment, development, and enjoyment of the arts.

BCAC has developed and participated in many programs designed to enrich the life of Boone County residents including Sunday Concerts in the Park, a children’s theater workshop, county-wide student art shows, special art experiences for fifth-grade students, sponsored trips to cultural events, funded the purchase of sculptures and published a sculpture survey, sponsored both the creation and restoration of several murals, and worked in close partnership with various county organizations and businesses.



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

A Guide to Public Art in Boone County



Little Beth

Installed in front of the Baltic Mill in 2011. Purchased with funds donated in memory of Beth Luhman, one of the founders of the Boone County Arts Council.

Boone County Arts Council

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Architecture



Pettit Memorial Chapel – The only stand alone chapel designed by Frank Lloyd Wright was erected in 1907 by Emma Pettit as a memorial to her husband. After falling into disrepair, the Chapel was restored in 1981 by the Belvidere Junior Woman’s Club. This jewel in the Belvidere Cemetery is listed on the National and Illinois Registers of Historic Places. Belvidere Cemetery is north of N. State St. at 1121 N Main Street.

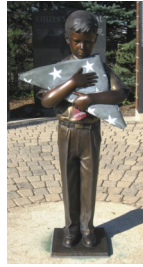


The Baltic Mill - 920 W Lincoln Ave. The historic mill originally constructed in 1845 was renovated in 1996. It now includes displays of historical artifacts, a meeting room, public restrooms and the Boone County Arts Council office. The BCAC played a major role in fund raising for the Annex and its furnishings. Several sculptures can be found in the surrounding area.



The Community Building Complex of Boone County -111 W. First Street. This striking white building built in 1937 is a classic example of Art Deco design with its arches and stained glass window above the main entry. The interior was remodeled in 2010 in keeping with its Art Deco exterior and is now home to many community events. A mural painted by Troy Yunk and Belvidere North High School students decorates the east wall.

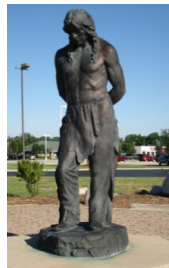
Sculpture



Field of Blue – Boone County Memorial Garden, west end of Henry Luckow Drive, Belvidere. Donated by Jack Wolf in 2001. Artist George W. Lundeen.



Old Man and Dog – Keen Age Center at 2141 Henry Luckow Drive. Donated by Jack Wolf in 2001. Artist Glenna Goodacre.



He Is They Are – Erected in 1997 at the southeast corner of Big Thunder Boulevard and Wolf Road. Commonly referred to as “Big Thunder,” it was donated by Jack and Peggy Wolf to the Parks and Conservation Foundation in 2009 for the Boone County Conservation District. Artist Glenna Goodacre.

Babysitter – Boone County Fairgrounds, NE corner of Hwy 76 & Business 20. Donated by Jim & Marilyn Turner and Jack & Peggy Wolf in 2011. Artist Cammie Lundeen.



Aviator— Poplar Grove Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum, north of Poplar Grove Airport at 5151 Orth Rd, Poplar Grove. Donated by Jack Wolf in 2013. Artist George W. Lundeen depicted pioneer aviator Elrey B. Jeppesen who first developed a system of aerial maps.



Crossing the Stream – In mill race behind the Baltic Mill Stage, Belvidere Park. Its purchase and installation in 2007 was the result of a major fund raising effort by the Boone County Arts Council.

Big Slim – Not pictured. A whimsical 42” bird by John Challand peeks from a clump of birch trees near the Baltic Mill Stage where it was installed in 2009 after being purchased by the BCAC in 2007.



The Band – On the Baltic Mill Stage, Belvidere Park. Purchased in 2001 and 2003 by the Boone County Arts Council from the artist Ken Schwartz at the Belvidere Woman’s Club Art Show. The band leader disappeared in the fall of 2008 and was later recreated by Gary Simon and John Cygan.



Mesquaki Going out for Fall Hunt – Remnant. Carved by Jon Critchfield in a dead tree on the bank of the mill race. It is stored in the Baltic Mill for protection from the elements. 1991.



Chaos in Camp – Also carved by Jon Critchfield, from

eleven local trees. The group was originally installed on the mill race bank near the universally accessible Bloom Playground but it now resides inside the Baltic Mill. The figures may be viewed during special Belvidere Park events. 1997.

Twist on an Old Tale– Artist Randy Hand. Curb side in front of Baltic Mill Stage, 920 W. Lincoln Ave, Belvidere Park. Donated by Jack Wolf in 2014.



Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors of Boone County – Big Thunder Park, northwest corner of Menomonie and Main Streets, Belvidere. The tallest and oldest sculpture in Belvidere was unveiled more than one hundred years ago in 1910. Estimated at 55-60’ tall, the granite was quarried in Barre, VT. It was paid for with funds donated by several individuals including Mark and John Ramsey whose names are inscribed on the base.

Two Children on a Bench- Ida Public Library, 320 N State St. Donated in 2008 by the Friends of Ida Library in honor of the library’s 125th anniversary.



The Belvidere Tornado Memorial- 1500 East Ave in front of Belvidere Senior High School. 2007. Conceived by local artist Jeff Spradling to commemorate the memory of the devastating tornado which struck Belvidere on April 21, 1967.

Not pictured—**War Memorial** , circa 1920’s in Poplar Grove Memorial Park, State & Main Streets, Poplar Grove, IL.