

# Gallery Trail

**J**ust beyond the city limits, art and culture thrives in the Chicago Southland. This dynamic region is home to a host of working artists who draw upon the region's rich history, geography, culture and ethnicity in their work. As such, the Chicago Southland is home to some of the metropolitan region's most interesting collections of artwork and most creative working artists.

The following itinerary — the Chicago Southland Gallery Trail — offers a sample of the variety of art in the Chicago Southland. Drive the entire trail at your leisure — with stops it should only take a few hours — or visit an individual gallery if you have only a short time.

Again, the Gallery Trail is only a small sample of the art available to Chicago Southland visitors and residents. Numerous retail galleries are located throughout the region, and the Southland hosts many arts festivals, retrospectives, and openings, so be sure to check the Calendar of Events at [www.visitchicagosouthland.com](http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com).

The Gallery Trail begins at **Lotton Art Glass Gallery** in Crete, located about ten miles south of I-80/94 on



*Lotton Art Glass*

IL-394. Take IL-394 south to Exchange Street, turning right (west) onto Exchange (about .5 miles). At Country Lane you will turn left (south). At Lotton Art Glass Gallery (24760 Country Lane, 800-661-0950, [www.lottonglass.com](http://www.lottonglass.com)), you will see some of the most beautiful art glass ever made, decorated and blown in the

ways of old. The gallery has a special viewing area for individuals and small groups, and is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays by appointment.

We move on now to the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park** at Governors State University in University Park (708-534-4105, <http://webserve.govst.edu/sculpture>). Set on 300 acres of Illinois prairie, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is one of the largest outdoor assemblies of art in America.

Exit Crete via Exchange Street, traveling west on Exchange. You'll pass through Main Street, where there is an array of fine antique and specialty shops. Exchange Street becomes University Parkway at Western Avenue, where there is a traffic signal. Continue west on University Parkway, and as you round the bend, you will see the east entrance to Governors State University (GSU). Total mileage from Lotton Art Glass Gallery to GSU is about 5.5 miles.

Turn into the GSU campus, and follow the road to the university's main entrance. You'll notice one of the

22 sculptures in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park on your right. It is "Illinois Landscape No. 5" by John Henry. Self-guided tour booklets are available at the information table just inside the front entrance. The booklet explains the history of the sculpture park, information on each sculpture, and a map. You may browse the sculptures at your leisure, and the park is open year-round, taking on a new, distinct personality with each changing season.

When you are finished perusing the sculptures, it's on to **Tall Grass Arts Association Gallery** in downtown Park Forest. Exit GSU the same way you entered, at the east entrance. Turn left onto University Parkway and continue north about one-half mile. You'll come to a stop sign. Take a right here, and you'll proceed another half-mile to Steger Monee Road. Turn left, onto Steger Monee Road, which curves and turns into Monee Road. Drive about seven blocks to Indianwood Boulevard, and make a left turn onto Indianwood.

Once on Indianwood Boulevard, drive 1.5 miles to Forest Boulevard. Turn left and follow Forest Boulevard. Take Forest about three blocks, turning left onto Main Street. Go two blocks on Main Street to "Artists Walk."

Tall Grass Arts Association Gallery (367 Artists Walk, 708-748-3377, [www.lincollnet.net/tallgrassarts](http://www.lincollnet.net/tallgrassarts)) features an ever-changing display of invitational exhibits, lectures by exhibiting artists, and a sales gallery and gift shop where one-of-a-kind juried art works by artists from across the country are available. The Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our next stop is **Union Street Art Gallery** in Chicago Heights. Leave Park Forest by going back the way you came, but continuing through the traffic signal on Main about four blocks to Western Avenue. Turn left (north) on Western Avenue and travel 1.5 miles to Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30). Turn right (east) and continue on Lincoln Highway to East End Avenue, about two miles.

Lincoln Highway is America's first transcontinental paved roadway. Developed in 1913 by Carl Fisher, founder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Lincoln Highway is a precursor to Route 66, sometimes known as "The Motherroad." Lincoln Highway, therefore, could be considered the "Granddaddy" of all American Highways!

Carl Fisher envisioned a highway that would transport people and goods swiftly from one end of the country to the other — east to west — as quickly as possible. The Lincoln Highway runs from Times Square in New York to Lincoln Park in San Francisco, passing through ten states, and is named in honor of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, Illinois' most recognizable citizen.

Fisher also developed the Dixie Highway, which runs north to south, from Sault Saint Marie, Michigan to



*Tall Grass Art Association Gallery in downtown Park Forest has exhibits and offers classes.*



*Flossmoor Sculpture Gardens*



*Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park in University Park boasts a 22-piece collection over some 300 acres.*

# Gallery Trail

## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC GALLERIES

**Moraine Valley Community College Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery**  
10900 S. 88th Avenue  
Palos Hills, IL 60465  
708-974-5500  
[www.morainevalley.edu/FPAC/gallery.htm](http://www.morainevalley.edu/FPAC/gallery.htm)

Providing an opportunity to view both locally and nationally recognized artists, exhibits in the Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery are free to the public and are available for viewing Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., as well as during most performances at the Moraine Valley Community College Fine & Performing Arts Center.

**Prairie State College Christopher Art Gallery**  
202 S. Halsted Street  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411  
708-709-3500  
<http://foundation.prairiestate.edu/chrisart.html>

Overseen by the Prairie State College Foundation, the Christopher Art Gallery was named for its generous donors, Bob and Marty Christopher. The Christopher Art Gallery hosts six to eight shows per year, featuring local and regional artists as well as student works. Guest curators select artwork which best exemplifies the themes for each show. Programming varies by media, theme, and artists represented. Regular hours during exhibitions are Tuesday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday evenings 5-7 p.m.

Each October, the Christopher Art Gallery features a juried show of regional artists in conjunction with Art Trek weekend (sponsored by the Chicago Southland Visual Arts Coalition). Participating galleries and artists are listed on a special map and open facilities collectively, to encourage visitors to stop at as many locations as possible.



*Union Street Gallery & Studio Complex.*

Miami Beach, Florida. Developed after the Lincoln Highway, Fisher's motive for creating the Dixie Highway was strictly financial: he wanted to bring Northerners south to buy land in Miami Beach!

If you're ready to get a bite to eat, Chicago Heights offers a fine array of casual restaurants. For two Chicagoland specialties, try Al's Beef & Nancy's Pizzeria, located on the north side of Lincoln Highway at 551 W. 14th Street. If Italian is your taste, Carlo Lorenzetti's is your place. Lorenzetti's (560 West 14th Place, 708-747-9480) is located just across the street from Al's and Nancy's, on the south side of the Lincoln Highway. Further east on Lincoln Highway, Liang's Garden is located just down the street at 480 West Lincoln Highway, 708-481-5438.

Traveling eastbound on Lincoln Highway, you'll pass the "Crossroads of the Nation," where the Lincoln and Dixie Highways meet. Note the Arche Fountain on the southwest corner of the intersection, a wayside for weary travelers dating from 1914. Looking on the opposite corner, you'll see a new bronze statue, "Lincoln on the Road to Greatness," one of the few statues that depicts Abraham Lincoln smiling!

When you reach East End Avenue, just east of the underpass, turn right. Go south four blocks to 17th Street, then turn left and proceed about one-half block to Union Street Gallery (1655 Union Avenue, 708-754-2601, [www.unionstreetgallery.org](http://www.unionstreetgallery.org)).

Union Street Gallery is located in the former Illinois Shade Cloth Factory, a 100-year-old building, and houses emerging, professional artists who create, teach, host seminars, and curate exhibitions in the adjacent

state-of-the-art gallery. Loft spaces with polished maple floors, tall paned windows, whitewashed brick and a third story view energize this space for artists and viewers alike. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. or by appointment on weekends and evenings. Check the Chicago Southland Festivals & Events Guide or go to [www.visitchicagosouthland.com](http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com) and search the event listings to see what's happening at Union Street Gallery. The space is a frequent site for retrospectives, juried art expositions, art openings, and receptions.

Next we're off to Flossmoor to view the **Flossmoor Sculpture Gardens**. For a preview of what's in store in Flossmoor, go to: [www.flossmoor.org/walk.html](http://www.flossmoor.org/walk.html).

Go north on Union Avenue to 16th Street. At 16th Street, turn left and proceed to Halsted Street, then turn right. Continue north on Halsted Street (about 1.5 miles) until you reach Joe Orr Road. Turn left on Joe Orr Road and drive seven blocks to Dixie Highway. Turn right on Dixie Highway and continue along Dixie for 2.4 miles until you reach Flossmoor Road. Now take a left onto Flossmoor Road. You will now begin to see some of the Flossmoor sculptures as you travel along Flossmoor Road. At Sterling Avenue, just beyond the underpass, turn right.

There are two great dining options in downtown Flossmoor. You may choose Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery (1035 Sterling Avenue, 708-957-2739, [www.flossmoorstation.com](http://www.flossmoorstation.com)), located in a restored historic train station. Flossmoor Station offers old-world brewery quality and a wide range of American heartland cuisine. If you're so inclined, call ahead and ask for a

# Gallery Trail

brewery tour.

The next choice is Fresh Starts Restaurant & Bakery (1040 Sterling Avenue, 708-957-7900, [www.freshstartsrestaurant.com](http://www.freshstartsrestaurant.com)), a local favorite with a quaint European bistro setting. Fresh Starts consistently ranks high in reader polls as one of the best restaurants in the Chicago Southland.

Once on Sterling Avenue, turn left onto Park Drive. Bear to your right, and then your left, staying on Park. After about two blocks, you will come upon Leavitt Park, the home of three sculptures. This outdoor sculpture gallery is unique, in that the pieces are located right on the charming residential streets of Flossmoor. Leavitt Park was designed by notable Chicago landscape architect Peter Lindsay Schaudt.

After viewing the sculptures in Flossmoor's Leavitt Park, we'll move on to the Richard Haas Murals in Downtown Homewood. We'll retrace our route back to Sterling Avenue by taking Park Street back to downtown Flossmoor, and staying to your left on the turnaround. Now traveling north on Sterling Avenue (which changes into Western Avenue), we'll proceed to 183rd Street, about 1.5 miles. You'll see one more sculpture as you drive north to 183rd Street.

Turn right (east) at 183rd Street and continue to Harwood Avenue, about seven blocks. Merge over to your left lane, and as you go beyond the underpass, take a left onto Harwood Avenue.

Homewood offers a variety of dining options along Harwood, including Aurelio's Pizza (18162 Harwood Avenue, 708-798-8050, [www.aureliospizza.com](http://www.aureliospizza.com)), believed to be the world's largest pizzeria, and Bamboo Blue (18147 Harwood Avenue, 708-799-4700, [www.bambooblue.biz](http://www.bambooblue.biz)). Arriving at the Harwood Avenue/Ridge Road intersection, turn right and you will find on-street parking or municipal parking lots just south of Ridge Road.

Here you will find the Richard Haas Murals, located on the south side of buildings along Ridge Road. You may have seen some of the murals as you traveled along Harwood Avenue on the right side of the road.

Balagio Ristorante (18042 Martin Avenue, 708-957-1650, [www.balagio-restaurant.com](http://www.balagio-restaurant.com)), is a fine trattoria featuring home style Italian cooking, located about a block east of Harwood on Ridge Road. There are several other family and casual restaurants located in the downtown Homewood area.

Now it's on to the last stop on the Gallery Trail, the **Midwest Carvers Museum** in South Holland.

Get back onto Ridge Road and travel east. Follow Ridge Road east past Halsted Street (IL Route 1) and around the sharp left turn at the cemetery. When you get to the three-way intersection, you will see to your right Thornton Quarry, a 410 million year-old fossil reef



*Midwest Carvers Museum in South Holland. MSP*

and the world's largest commercial limestone quarry. Turn right at the intersection and continue east on Ridge Road, which becomes Margaret Street. You will come to a traffic signal at William Street. Take a left turn onto William and travel north to Armory Drive. Take a left, and travel one block west to Vincennes Road. At Vincennes, turn right (north), and continue on Vincennes Avenue to 159th Street. You will see the Midwest Carvers Museum on the left (16236 Vincennes Avenue, 708-331-6011, [www.southholland.org/Attractions/other\\_attractions.htm](http://www.southholland.org/Attractions/other_attractions.htm)). The distance from Margaret and Williams Street to the Midwest Carvers Museum is about 2.4 miles.

The Midwest Carvers Museum displays approximately 1,000 woodcarvings created by local and internationally known artists. A gift shop, workshop, educational center and picnic area are all on the grounds, and occasionally you may see a craftsman at work.

We hope you've enjoyed this sample of seven Chicago Southland galleries. There are more galleries to experience in the Southland, and a variety of additional cultural diversions, including orchestras, choruses, live theatre, touring stage productions and musicals, and live music at venues from intimate clubs to 30,000-seat outdoor theaters.

Your key to art, culture and history is in the Leisure Visitor and Calendar of Events sections of [www.visitchicagosouthland.com](http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com) or our partner cultural arts association, the Chicago Southland Arts Alliance Web site, at [www.ChicagoSouthlandArts.com](http://www.ChicagoSouthlandArts.com).

Enjoy your stay!

## South Suburban College Dorothea Thiel Gallery, Photo-Four Gallery, and Lee E. Dulgar Gallery

15800 S. State Street  
South Holland, IL 60473  
708-596-2000 ext. 2314

**Dorothea Thiel Gallery** - The Thiel Gallery is located within the Art and Design studio complex (fourth floor, northeast). The Gallery showcases six regionally or nationally known artists each year, and Fall and Spring Biannual Juried Student Art Exhibits.

**Photo-Four Gallery** - Located adjacent to the Thiel Gallery, the Photo-Four Gallery is a unique space designed expressly to exhibit photographic images, and hosts six exhibits annually.

**Lee E. Dulgar Gallery** - Located in the College Atrium, the Lee E. Dulgar Gallery hosts a variety of special exhibits, including: artistic, historic, scientific and social exhibits. The space has its own security system, air conditioning and humidification system for environmentally-sensitive objects that are put on display.

All SSC galleries are open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 6 - 8 p.m. The Galleries are closed on weekends and College holidays.

For a map of Gallery Trail visit [www.visitchicagosouthland.com](http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com) and click on Trails.

# Chicago Southland Gallery Trail



CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT

Lake Michigan



Lincoln Highway  
National Byway  
Metra Train Lines & Stations

**CHICAGO SOUTHLAND**

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