

Public Art in Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids is one of the nation's most celebrated communities for public art. In addition to all the wonderful galleries, museums, and arts organizations in Grand Rapids, we are also lucky enough to have a number of public sculptures that are easily viewable when walking around town. Perhaps the best known piece is **La Grande Vitesse**, otherwise known to many as “the Calder.” Its vibrant color is eye-catching from its site on Calder Plaza on Ottawa Avenue. Many festivals and events take place near its sheltering shadow. Nearby **La Grande Vitesse** is **Dissected Pyramid**, a welded steel piece by Joseph Kinnebrew IV and **Motu**, a 33-foot tall sculpture by Mark DiSuvero, which is tucked in the courtyard behind the Federal building.

Rosa Parks Circle, on the corner of Monroe NW and Monroe Center, contains renowned artist Maya Lin's **Ecliptic**. It was installed in 2001 and is a popular place for many to gather in summer or winter.

If murals are more to your liking, be sure to visit Richard Haas' **Grand Rapids Furniture City** in the Heartside neighborhood.

Venturing a little further north along the river, be sure to visit the **Fish Ladder** – a sculpture with a practical purpose – to help fish navigate upstream and past the dam to spawn. Created by Joseph Kinnebrew IV in 1974, it resides at 560 Front Street, north of Bridge Street.

New pieces are being installed all the time and ArtPrize is a great time to see permanent city sculptures as well as temporary installations.