



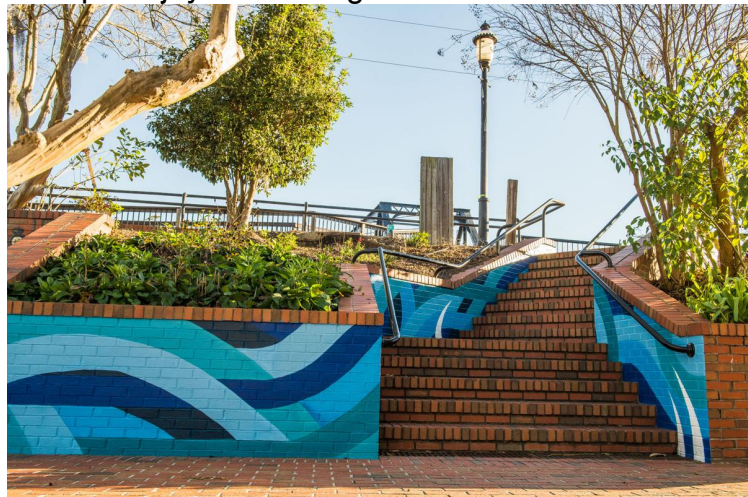
See the Public Art

January 30, 2019

Columbia has a lot of public art. It's a strength that One Columbia for Arts and History, the city-funded nonprofit that bolsters the local cultural community to help grow tourism, looks to both publicize and enhance. In the last five years, the organization has facilitated 30-some-odd murals and sculptures and other projects, adding to the city's increasingly dynamic visual identity. And now One Columbia has a great way to showcase this progress, having unveiled its revamped online public art directory this January, cataloging more than 100 local pieces with detailed descriptions and pictures. Inspired by the new resource, we picked out a few highlights to kickstart your exploration of the area's diverse bounty. — Jordan Lawrence

Hydro Power

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/310. Wandering through Columbia's former water plant is one of the surprise joys of visiting Riverfront Park. And this new mural, which winds its way around the brick steps next to the plant, pays homage to the city's three rivers and its industrial past. Gears, wheels, pipes, waves, and the contrasting warm tones of the machinery and cool tones of the water make this work by Charleston painter Karl Zurflüh a treat for the eyes. —Eva Moore



Ra Obelisk

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/321. Columbia's kinda weird. And the Ra Obelisk is one of its more curious oddities. Palmetto State artist Richard Lane saw the pillar of sandstone in Olympia, and thought it looked like an ancient

Egyptian obelisk. So he painted symbols and the Egyptian sun god on it back in 1993. It became weathered over the years, so One Columbia led an effort to restore it last year, recruiting artists Jeff Donovan and Georgia Lake to match colors and return it to its former ridiculous glory. Columbi-YEAH! — Jordan Lawrence



Middle of Nowhere

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/457. Osamu Kobayashi has roots in Columbia: He was born here, his parents own Camon Japanese Restaurant, and his brother Shigeharu is a local comic book writer, waiter and all-around bricoleur. And after making a name for himself on the contemporary art scene, Osamu Kobayashi returned to Columbia from Brooklyn for a residency, during which time he painted this vibrant mural. The best way to see this Vista-area work is from any tall downtown building, where its impossibly bright colors pop out of the sedate brick and asphalt. But up close it's pretty cool, too, allowing you

to examine Kobayashi's unusually precise brushwork, with long lines that seem to have no beginning and no end. Kobayashi has said the yellow orb in the middle could represent Columbia as the sun, a "hub of radiating energy" between the mountains and the ocean. — Eva Moore

Growing Together

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/458. It's great when one-time events leave behind something to beautify the community. In Columbia, few have done this better than the annual Indie Grits Festival, which (with help from One Columbia) has contributed a few different permanent murals in recent years. Bursting with color and vines that suggest verdant new life, Charmaine Minniefield's Growing Together was painted in Hyatt Park as part of last year's themed art project Two Cities, which focused its efforts along along North Main and Monticello Road, seeking to "promote an open, inclusive, and welcoming dialogue" between communities that don't often interact. — Jordan Lawrence

Connecting Volumes

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/708. This understated modern sculpture evokes both the Vista's industrial past and Columbia's international connections — the artists who created it, Klaus Hartmann and Reiner Mahrlein, hail from Kaiserslautern, Germany, one of Columbia's sister cities. The piece's voluptuous curved lines contrast with its rusted, weathered surface; it's beautiful but looks unpleasant to touch. Fittingly, when it was erected in 2014 there wasn't too much going on at this corner, but a modern Aloft hotel has since opened across the street and several more pieces of public art have appeared nearby. — Eva Moore

The Millwood Mural

Find It: publicart.onecolumbiasc.com/piece/225. A collaborative effort from Cedric Umoja, Karl Zurfluh, Brandon Donahue and Ariel Flowers, this mural fits its spot on a road that cuts between divergent neighborhoods, colliding classical symbols presented with classicist styling (the beautiful scarab, an Egyptian symbol of rebirth) with angular faces and designs that draw on comic book and street art traditions. It's a vibrant manifestation of Columbia's cultural hodgepodge. — Jordan Lawrence