

The WPA and Norwalk

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of the New Deal in 1935 at the height of the Great Depression. The goal was to get 3.5 million people off relief and back to work. Over the course of eight years, the WPA Federal Art Project employed some 5,000 artists who were paid by the hour to create more than 2500 murals for public buildings throughout the country.

From 1935 to 1941, WPA artists created more than 50 works of arts for Norwalk's public schools, libraries and post offices.

While much of the WPA art nationally has been lost or destroyed, most of Norwalk's collection was rescued and restored thanks to leadership from the Historical Commission, private donors, and a grant from the Federal General Services Administration. The Norwalk collection consists of nearly 50 murals, 31 of which are located at City Hall.

http://www.norwalktransit.com/ntd_murals.htm

Published by the:

NORWALK
arts
COMMISSION

The public is invited to visit additional WPA murals at these Norwalk locations:

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

10 Water Street

Day's End and Shucking Oysters

by Alexander J. Rummler

Norwalk Community College

188 Richards Avenue

Birds of Connecticut and

Mammals of Connecticut

by Alexander J. Rummler

The Duke vs. The King

by George Avison

Norwalk Public Library

1 Belden Avenue

Aladdin

by Justin Gruelle

South Norwalk Public Library

10 Washington Street

The Chinese Nightingale

by Justin Gruelle

Norwalk Transit District

275 Wilson Avenue

China; Africa; India; Venice, the Ship; and

Venice, the Musicians

by Arthur G. Hull

Rowayton Library

33 Highland Avenue

Packet Day at the Five Mile River

by George Avison

NORWALK
WPA
MURALS

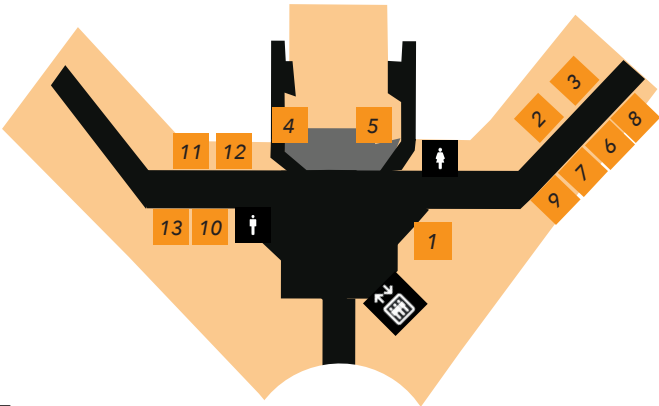
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WPA Murals

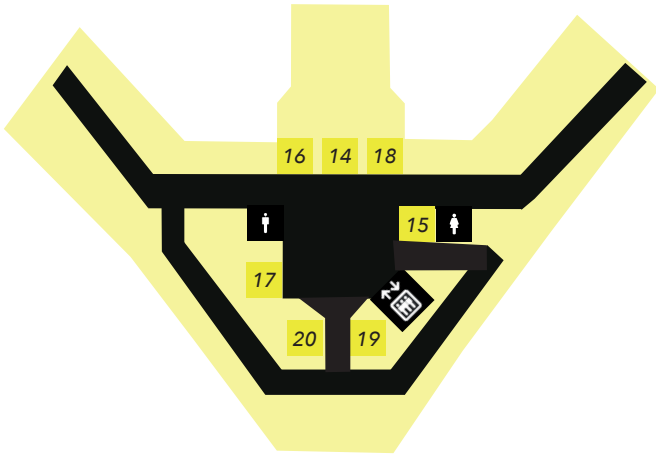
Norwalk's Hidden Treasure

The Norwalk Arts and Historical Commissions invite you to discover the 31 WPA murals at City Hall. Norwalk is proud of its nationally recognized collection of WPA murals that reflects the community's artistic heritage and legacy. The murals and panels created for City Hall- the former Norwalk High School- as well as for other public buildings, comprise one of the largest and most important collections of restored Depression-era art in America. The murals offer a window into our community's past as well as a connection to the present.

First Floor

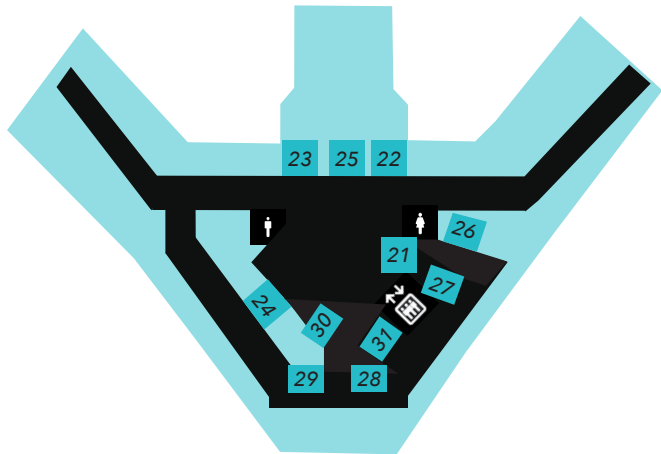


Second Floor



- 14 Rummler Self Portrait by A. Rummler
- 15 Roadside Stand by A. Rummler
- 16 Apple Harvest by A. Rummler
- 17 Danbury Fair by A. Rummler
- 18 Trotting Races by A. Rummler
- 19 Farm Scene by A. Rummler
- 20 Circus Act by A. Rummler

Third Floor



- 1 Purchase of Norwalk by H. Townsend
- 2 Innocents Abroad by J. Gruelle
- 3 Roughing It by J. Gruelle
- 4 Ancient Industry by J. Curry
- 5 Modern Hat Industry J. Curry
- 6 Merlin by J. Gruelle
- 7 Sir Boss vs. Sir Sagamore by J. Gruelle
- 8 Alisande and Sir Boss by J. Gruelle
- 9 Steamboat Days on the Mississippi by J. Gruelle
- 10 Baseball by G. Avison
- 11 Basketball by G. Avison
- 12 In the Clear by G. Avison
- 13 Hockey by G. Avison

- 21 Oyster Houses by A. Rummler
- 22 Washing Oysters by A. Rummler
- 23 Shell Pile for Planting by A. Rummler
- 24 Dredging for Oysters by A. Rummler
- 25 Mopping for Starfish by A. Rummler
- 26 Norwalk High School by A. Rummler
- 27 Winnipauk School by A. Rummler
- 28 Dairy Farm-Grade Herd by A. Rummler
- 29 Calf Pasture Beach by A. Rummler
- 30 Concord School by A. Rummler
- 31 Knudsen School by A. Rummler