chances are you love being outside, and that goes for our art, too! We’ve got sculptures in the wild, and we’re not the only ones who think that’s cool. Bend’s roundabout sculptures were honored by Americans for the Arts as one of the most innovative approaches to Public Art in the country. All this great, accessible art is thanks to Art in Public Places, a visionary local organization on the arts scene since 1967.

Art in Public Places, supported by the Bend Foundation and private donations, is a non-profit organization that’s overseen installation of over 45 sculptures throughout town. Works of art are selected through a process that includes public input and the results enhance the cultural environment for citizens and visitors alike!
Roundabout How-To

Go with the flow and wait for a break in traffic before entering roundabouts. When it's time to exit, signal right and cruise on through!

MAP IN HAND, YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE ROAD.*

Start wherever you like, just make sure you visit every stop along the way because there will be a quiz. (No, really.)

Take pictures, make memories, and enjoy a delightful spin on public art. At the end of the road, as if the art-filled experience itself wasn’t enough, a prize awaits! Simply bring your completed quiz to Visit Bend and claim your Roundabout Art Route souvenir.

*Pro tip: Designate a navigator. Driving through roundabouts while consulting your guide is dangerous.

Welcome to the Roundabout Art Route

You’ve probably noticed that roundabouts are a way of life here in Bend…and so is art!

Put the two together and you’ve got the Roundabout Art Route. Part cultural diversion, part artistic scavenger hunt, you’ll discover 24 fantastic pieces of public art as you twist and turn through town. From tributes to Bend’s heritage to artistic whimsy, each installation has been thoughtfully created by artists from around the world who believe art makes the world go round. And round and round.

Ready to take a SPIN?

Here’s what you do!

Map in hand, you’re ready to hit the road.*

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Lodestar
Roger Berry | 2009

The visual trick in this silicon bronze Mobius may have you heading through the roundabout more than once. Created by Northern California artist Roger Berry, the shape-shifting Lodestar is a collaboration between William Smith Properties and Art in Public Places, and is often viewed as the gateway to the Old Mill District. And if you look west for just a moment, you'll catch a glimpse of the stunning Cascades in the distance.

Centennial Logger
Jerry Werner | 2004

Along with Centennial Planter, Centennial Logger was created by long-time Central Oregon artist Jerry Werner to commemorate the City of Bend's 100th anniversary. The bronze logger looks as if he might be gazing at Farewell Bend Park and remembering a time when the area was a bustling mill town. Or maybe he’s just looking at all the happy people and dogs running around, wishing he could join in the fun.

Centennial Planter
Jerry Werner | 2004

Centennial Planter is installed close to an old log deck along the Deschutes as a tribute to the region's deep roots in the logging industry. Combined with Centennial Logger, Bend-based artist Jerry Werner created the two pieces to represent the cycle of life. Werner’s bronze pieces start out as master clay sculptures, allowing him to capture the smallest details. We love the seedlings in the hip pouch, just waiting to be planted. Lucky little trees.

Mt. Bachelor Compass
Steve Jensen | 2002

Heading down Century Drive after a day on the slopes or at the lakes, Mt. Bachelor Compass is the first piece to welcome you back to Bend. But don’t set your compass by these gleaming brushed aluminum letters. The “S” has been shifted slightly to keep it out of the path of wayward cars. True north? Not so much. Truly beautiful? Absolutely!

Sound Garden
Lee Kelly | 2010

Award-winning Portland artist Lee Kelly leveraged his 50+ years of sculpting experience to create Sound Garden, a stainless steel representation of organic musical notes rising above native plants and trees. Kelly, who works out of a converted dairy barn in Oregon City, has spent years traveling the world to fuel his love of art, architecture, and high altitude adventure. It is worth noting that the piece is inspired by a sculpture the Art in Public Places selection committee viewed and admired in Kelly’s personal collection.

Yakaya
Troy Pillow | 2010

Kayaks as art? Perfectly reasonable in a water-loving town like Bend! Troy Pillow, whose public art can be found around the country, constructed Yakaya from nine colorful kayaks. Pillow says he strives to “create a union of ease between modern design and nature, blending fluidly with their environment and elements.” Yakaya does just that, as it is strategically located next to one of the most popular launch spots for people who are ready to ride the Deschutes.
Ghost  Andy Wachs & Erik Gerding  |  2007
Crafted from an old crane and bucket used to dredge the river so logs could flow freely to the saw mill, *Ghost* is upcycling at its finest. With the crane arm slightly tilted off its axis and the bucket oriented for aesthetics rather than accuracy, this piece is open to interpretation. The artists say “the sculpture is either rising or subsiding. Rising, as with the Old Mill District’s transformation, or subsiding, as the past is lost to history.” How do you view *Ghost*?

Cogs  Dave Fox  |  2007
A century ago, the wheels in *Cogs* played a vital role in keeping the mill running. Today, thanks to the creative wheels turning in artist Dave Fox, they have been reimagined as massive industrial planters. As you drive by this piece you may notice that it’s not technically in a roundabout. Instead, *Cogs* anchors two smaller traffic circles known as a dog bone. We like to think of it as a two-for-one.

Phoenix Rising  Frank Boyden  |  2002
While the artist named his piece *Phoenix Rising*, no local calls it that. Originally an insult, “Flaming Chicken” has become an affectionate nickname for one of Bend’s earliest roundabout art installations. In fact, a smaller version of the piece—usually wearing Mardi Gras beads—graces a major intersection in the Phil’s Trail complex.

Redsides  Miles Pepper  |  2001
Made of carved steel and red wire, this piece pays homage to the Deschutes-dwelling redsides trout. While real redsides head upstream in nature, this school of kinetic fish moves with the whims of the wind. If you time it right, you may detect a hint of hops in the air, courtesy of one of Bend’s oldest craft breweries right across the roundabout. Ah, fresh beer and fish. Lunch, anyone?

Orb I  Brandon Zebold  |  2005
The 6’ sphere at the intersection of Skyliners Road and Mt. Washington Drive has been compared to a bowling ball heading from the Phil’s Trail complex downhill toward the Deschutes. Don’t be fooled by the name; there is no *Orb II*. Our orb was created with an oxyacetylene torch on steel by an artist who approaches making art in a “serious and yet playful way.” With his site-specific work, he hopes to “tap into a location’s history and culture” and give a sense of “the place and its people”. Plus, you get to say ‘orb’. Orb.
Migration  Hai Ying Wu  |  2004
The birds taking flight in Migration symbolize the journey of Central Oregon Community College students on the campus just up the hill. The artist, a native of China, is now a U.S. citizen after he left China following the Tiananmen Square demonstrations. Because of the artist’s dual residency, the piece was forged in China, so it's gone on a migration of its own! Wu also designed the Seattle Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial in Seattle's Pioneer Square.

Sunrise Spirit Column  David Govedare  |  2001
This piece is suggestive of a totem, with contemporary pictographs including deer, a skier, and a television. In the words of the artist, whose father taught him to arc weld at ten years old, “I like to see sculpture outdoors, highlighting different places. Even places that don’t seem special, they’re made special just by having art there.” The piece is a combination of basalt, granite, steel, and copper.

Atilt, Sundra and Garden Gate  Mel Katz  |  2002
The three pieces in this installation are in the iconic Katz style or, in other words, intentionally do not address the question, “What does it mean?” Katz invites viewers to invent their own stories of his pieces, which are based on pure design. Oregonian reporter Grace Kook-Anderson commented on the “human scale” of his public works, saying, “Their curves and colors offer an invitation to come close, to delight in their arrangements. They do not tower over viewers, but rather stand alongside.”

Earth Song  Bruce West  |  2005
The creator of Earth Song, formerly the artist in residence at Lewis and Clark College, is an avid whitewater rafter and references from the natural landscape abound in his work. Featured in two other pieces of public art in Bend (Cascade Landscape on the northwest end of Drake Park, as well as Cutting Board at Cascade Culinary Institute on the COCC campus), light and reflection play a large role in West’s art. He explains the perfect time to view this sculpture of seven, 17’ columns is mid-afternoon as you head toward town.

Bueno Homage to the Buckaroo  Danae Bennett-Miller  |  2005
The name of this sculpture comes from the artist’s husband, who was a buckaroo (from the Spanish word vaquero) with a horse named Bueno. A resident of nearby Tumalo, she says she “gets her inspiration from the ranch animals and wildlife surrounding [me] every day.” Bennett-Miller is also responsible for the sculpture at the east end of Minnesota Street downtown at Lava and Minnesota, across from the building that served as Bend’s first fire station.

Grizzly  Sherry Sander  |  2001
Montana-based artist Sander specializes in sculpting animals on her 300-acre ranch. Grizzly is a massive bronze and its location close to Bend High School has lead it to be called the “Lava Bear” in honor of Bend High’s mythical mascot. Locals have noted that the bear’s rump points roughly toward Bend High’s traditional crosstown rival, Mountain View High School. Mountain View’s cougar mascot does not have a comment.
Evolution  
Troy Pillow | 2008
Self-taught artist Troy Pillow creates kinetic sculpture and chooses steel as his medium because of its “permanency, reliability, organic nature and sustainability.” Look closely and you'll see some pieces move in the wind. He says, “Relying on wind and light as energy sources, art [takes] on a direct relationship with the site and its surroundings.” According to a student from nearby Bear Creek Elementary, “It brings joy to our neighborhood.”

High Desert Spiral  
John Fleming | 2013
High Desert Spiral towers 39’, the tallest public art sculpture in Bend. “There is something universal about spirals,” says the artist. “In the high desert we find geological examples of lava cooling into spirals.” He also referenced the way traffic spirals around the roundabout in the Archimedean spiral, which features 60 steel blades which move in the wind. Note the inside of the blades are painted a bright yellow-orange, capturing “the glow you might find inside a volcano or lava flow.”

Might of the Work Force  
Devin Field | 2005
Reconstructed in 2007 after a driver enjoyed too much of Bend’s craft brew scene, this piece highlights the role of draft horses in Bend’s early timber history. Many of Field's pieces explore the evolution of the “complex relationship between the built environment and the natural world”. He’s also responsible for Milky Way on the Roundabout Art Route.

Kickoff  
Gloria Bornstein | 2012
Gloria Bornstein is a multidisciplinary artist who describes 22' Kickoff as “celebrate(ing) the start of the game.” Pine Nursery Community Park, the home of this piece of art, is a multi-sports complex and Kickoff is “inspired by the high energy activities of the park.” The form of the sculpture is inspired by the region’s volcanic landscape, in particular local geographic landmark Pilot Butte. During its creation, Bornstein said “I’m going to try to create something the community will love forever.”

Milky Way  
Devin Field | 2013
This stainless steel sculpture is accompanied by a solar panel. If you’re not here at night, you might not realize that it's to power the light that makes this piece glow in a variety of colors. Fields, a Portland, Oregon based artist, is an “unequaled fabricator, he creates from direct hard metal, representations which could easily be mistaken for cast work,” says fellow artist, Sebastian.

The many neon shades of the Milky Way.

Gilded River  
Ken McCall, Mark Baltes and Leslie Dixon | 2017
Gilded River features ten stylized aspen trees at 22' tall with hundreds of colorful kinetic leaves that spin and sway in the breeze and cast shadows across the roundabout. The artistic team says, “Gilded River was designed especially for Bend and celebrates nature and how it influences our lives here in the Northwest.”