Humboldt Park Mural Bike Tour is a component of the archi-treasures’ Humboldt Park Teaching Toolkit, which uses the murals of Humboldt Park as a learning resource for teachers and families. The complete HP Teaching Toolkit is available for free download at www.architreasures.org. To view a map of over 60 murals in Humboldt Park, go to www.humboldtparkportal.org/MAP.

For a cell phone friendly Google Map of the Mural Bike Tour, scan the QR Code below or visit: goo.gl/8PX7vM.

Rules of the Road

- The Municipal Code of Chicago requires that cyclists obey all of the same traffic laws as motorists.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Stop behind the crosswalk.
- Stay on the streets, not the sidewalk (unless you are under 12 years of age).
- Ride outside the door zone.
- Go with the flow of traffic.
- Stop for stop signs and stop lights.
- Use proper hand signals.
- Use lights and reflectors at night.
- It’s okay to leave the bike lane. Bikes are entitled to the full use of a lane.

Bike Hand Signals

- Alternate Right Turn
- Slow/Stop

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Humboldt Park Mural Bike Tour Map

Mural Descriptions located on inside flaps.
What Do You Need to Know?, 1998
Olivia Gude and Juan Chavez
3320 West Hirsch St.
• The murals are vignettes about the amazements of education; they aspire to inspire the students. Strategically placed at the entrances to the school, the murals indicate the importance of education and how it can “open doors” for students.
• Combining techniques – collage, text, and photorealistic portraits of students – the mosaics are an art education in themselves. They include the systematic charts used to teach color theory as well as whimsical drawings by primary school children suggesting that good education is both logical and magical.

Calling Forth the Spirit of Peace, 1993
Jeffrey Cook, Phil Schuster and the Youth Service Project Team
1212 West North Avenue (on the northeast side of the National Guard Armory Building)
• The text on the mural banner “Paz, Pan, y Libertad” translates as Peace, Bread, and Liberty.
• The mural is constructed of sculpted polychrome concrete. The technique is bas relief, created by carving away material and adding material to the surface.
• This mural demonstrates how art and social justice come together.
• The two conga musicians are “invoking the spirit of peace, personified by a Taíno figure,” the indigenous people of Puerto Rico.
• A show of good faith between people is represented by the word bread (pan), a colloquialism as in bread and butter.

Positive Moves in the Game of Life, 1988
Jose Berrios and Concetta Morales
3942 West North Avenue
• This mural offers an unpretentious, candid glimpse into the activities and environment of daily life.
• The image of the dove emerging in flight is symbolic of death and/or renewal.
• In Spanish, esperanza means hope; amor means love; unidad means unity; and paz means peace.

For the People of the Future / Para la Gente del Futuro, 1980
Lynn Takata, John Pitman Weber, José Guerrero and the Youth Service Project Team
3909 West North Avenue
• This hand-sculpted mural uses concrete, mosaics, and sgrafitto instead of paint for the materials.
• Sgrafitto is a process of cutting or scratching away parts of the surface layer to expose a different color below, helping to emphasize the image. In this mural, the underlying color is from a faded sign that was overpainted.
• The large circular mosaic form is reminiscent of a Pre-Columbian calendar representing the past. The hand grasping a banner is communicating a message – a call to action. The stylized vegetation and wildlife represent nature.
• The theme of the mural is the “duality of human action” referring to the paradox of the human experience: the positive and negative consequences of our actions on earth to mankind and nature.

What’s Going On (After Marvin Gaye), 2009
an archi-tributes project by artist John Vergana and stakeholders in the Humboldt Park community
4035 West North Avenue
• The concepts for this mural were developed in workshops facilitated by Keith Lewis of DePaul University’s Egan Urban Center. Using a methodology called “Critical Moments Reflection,” a targeted group of people who live or work in Humboldt Park came together to discuss issues of violence in the community.
• Deeply personal stories were shared and participants openly discussed strategies for change. Throughout the workshop, artists and Vergana sketched ideas that arose from listening to the conversation.
• The mural features themes such as violence, housing, family, gentrification, and other community issues.
• The mural is titled “What’s Going On” after the song by American recording artist Marvin Gaye. The song is about police brutality and protests held by anti-war activists during the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Untitled (Black/Brown Working Group), 2009
an archi-tributes project by artist Bernard Williams with members of the West Humboldt Park Black/Brown Working Group
4250 West North Avenue
• This mural is a testament to the strengths, dreams, and challenges facing ex-offenders in the community. The participant/artists attend a program at Association House called Transitions to Careers where adults with criminal histories receive job training and counseling to help guide them back into the workforce.
• The mural was developed during workshops in which participants discussed the commonalities between their past and current situations. Working with artist Damon Lamar Reed, participants put their feelings into personal collages. The artist then chose images from the collages for the mural design.
• The daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings. The bird being released from a person’s hands is a symbol of freedom. The tree serves as a symbol of personal growth. The words are promises and pledges. The butterfly stands for metamorphosis and change. The construction worker is about rebuilding oneself and family. “Release” is a mural of hope that tells the story of one and many at the same time.

Sunrise of Enlightenment, 1987
Nina Smoot Cain and Mirtes Zwiernytski
4127 West Hirsch Street (Nobel Elementary School east side entrance)
• According to the book Urban Art Chicago by Olivia Gude and Jeff Hueber, “Sunrise of Enlightenment” is the first community mosaic to enhance a Chicago public school. The mural transforms a bland entrance into an engaging and attention-getting way to greet students, teachers, and parents.
• The school exterior provides a backdrop for a mural about learning and diversity, stimulating awareness by drawing on the backgrounds of the students.
• The mural includes symbols of a Pre-Columbian figure and an African mask. Additional symbols represent math, language and nature.

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Release, 2010
an archi-tributes project by artist Damon Lamar Reed with volunteers from the Transitions to Careers program at Association House
4243 West Grand Avenue
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