Outdoor Sculpture Campus Tour
Welcome to WKU’s outdoor sculpture campus tour. This walking tour guide is intended to help you locate our sculptures and offer a few facts to enhance your enjoyment of each work. Our intent is to offer a wide variety of artistic expressions from representational to highly abstract sculptural forms. Some of the sculptures along this tour will probably confirm your expectation of art, others may challenge and hopefully expand it. We believe both experiences are important gifts that art can offer each of us.

Please note that unless there is a statement indicating otherwise, we prefer you not touch the surfaces of our sculptures. Metal and stone are not impervious materials; the oils and mild acids from your hands quickly mar or breakdown their waxed and patina surfaces. “Touch” with your eyes only, so that future generations may also enjoy these works.
The bronze piece was dedicated in October 2008 in conjunction with the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth and the opening of the Abraham Lincoln and Civil War exhibit in the Kentucky Museum. The likeness of our nation’s sixteenth president is placed on the bench as if taking a break from the period’s turmoil. This location is appropriate for a number of reasons, as Bowling Green was once the capitol of Kentucky’s Confederate sympathizers who retreated from the hill as Union forces pressed in to occupy the fort for the duration of the war. Feel free to share the bench and a few well chosen words of advice with Mr. Lincoln. Also, be sure to explore the Kentucky Museum’s many historic and artistic exhibitions. Gary Lee Price of Springville, Utah, is the artist who modeled and cast this memorial work of art.
Lyric

“Lyric” is a stylized figurative sculpture housed within the atrium of Van Meter Hall. The bronze cast sculpture’s outstretched arms welcome visitors to each of the auditorium’s performances. Created by Tom Corbin of Kansas City, Missouri, Lyric is one of two pieces at WKU by this artist. The other is “Woman Walking.”

*Van Meter Hall is closed for renovation until 2010.*
These four pieces were originally part of a larger garden installation donated by Commodore Perry Snell. They were installed intact as an outdoor garden on the Ogden campus of WKU in 1930. Time and neglect robbed the graces of much of their original beauty as well as many secondary elements of the composition, but thanks to patient restoration procedures recently undertaken we again see the artist’s essential remaining figures. Placed within the interior niches of Van Meter Hall, The Four Seasons will continue to charm us for decades to come. Aristide Sartorio, a late 19th century Italian sculptor/painter, created the “Four Seasons.” The pieces were carved from Carrara marble and are positioned on bases carved from Travertine stone.

*Van Meter Hall is closed for renovation until 2010.
Trust

The dual figurative sculpture entitled “Trust” was installed in June of 2008. Placed at the apex of the university’s hilltop and in the shadow of WKU’s historic Van Meter Hall, the sculpture depicts two highly stylized bronze figures in a dance movement requiring mutual trust. The artist captures both the grace and strength needed by each figure to complement the other. The work was produced by artist Kendra Fleischman of Arvada, Colorado, and is one of two pieces created by Fleischman at WKU.
Books For Father

Dramatic yet simple, “Books For Father” was installed in front of Gordon Wilson Hall in 2008. It is one of the first sculptures viewers experience as they enter College Heights Boulevard. Fabricated from welded bronze and stainless steel sheets, the impetus for this work was the artist’s childhood memory of a giant religious book. Secular or religious, it is the knowledge passed forward to new generations through books that make this massive form an appropriate emblem of our university. Kevin Robb of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, is the creator of this sculpture.
Henry Hardin Cherry

The memorial statue of WKU’s first president, Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry, was unveiled on November 16, 1937. Situated in front of Cherry Hall, his likeness is positioned in a relaxed yet confident stance. His perspective is directed outward from the university toward the historic downtown neighborhoods that he helped strengthen through his pioneering commitment to higher education.

The Cherry statue is cast bronze with a pedestal and base composed of pink granite cut from quarries in Salisbury, North Carolina, and Elberton, Georgia. Sculptor Lorado Taft, a well-known Chicago, Illinois, artist of that era created the work. It was one of his last commissions, completed and dedicated after both he and Dr. Cherry had passed away.
Pipehenge

An outdoor educational sculpture, naked-eye observatory, sundial, calendar and teaching aid that allows users to track the Sun, Moon, planets and stars through their daily, monthly, seasonal, and yearly celestial cycles. This is a collaborative project produced by the Architectural & Manufacturing Sciences Institute and the Department of Physics and Astronomy, funded by the Provost’s Initiative for Excellence.
Beams

This form was erected by the WKU Civil Engineering students and dedicated on December 14, 2005. The piece is both a work of art and an engineering aid for students. It allows students to visualize a variety of methods of steel frame construction.

This piece was made possible through generous donations of material by Stupp Brothers, Incorporated, and paint provided by Woosley Brothers Painting, Incorporated.
“Origin” is located at the northwest corner of Garrett Conference Center. It was placed on its site in June of 2008. The work may appear to be carved from blue granite but it is actually a bronze casting with stippled patina coloration that gives it the illusion of a stone mass. One may appreciate this form for its own formal gestures, its shifting balance of light and shadows but further investigation also offers a human body stretching outward from beneath an enveloping film. Artist Kendra Fleischman of Arvada, Colorado, created “Origin.”
Chauncey Too

Chauncey Too was installed amidst these trees in October of 2007. Chauncey stands ever-alert, his ears upright and elbows akimbo in a pose that definitely exerts some WKU attitude. The artist Jim Budish of Highland Park, Illinois, says he “seeks to capture the unique emotion and personality of the creatures that inspire him.”
This abstract sculpture was installed on campus in October of 2007. It uses three different kinds of stone in the composition: Colorado Yule marble, Kansas limestone, and granite. The artist, Vanessa Clarke of Denver, Colorado, states that her inspiration for the piece was to capture an emotion; to symbolize the difficulty of life and the importance of taking a moment for a deep breath. Perhaps the large void in the sculpture’s composition is this moment. The artist further explains that the four black granite inserts are symbolic of moments in time.
“Crane Unfolding” was installed in 2008. Its form is derived from the ancient art of paper folding known as origami. Rising in a series of steps that move from flattened sheets of bronze to the form of a crane, this sculpture suggests the process of “becoming.” It is a piece that is well suited for the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science which serves as its backdrop. The intent of using origami cranes is twofold. Paper cranes are offered as gifts of good fortune when passed on to others. The artist, Kevin Box of Santa Fe, New Mexico, further suggests that the creases revealed in the lower half of the unfolded cranes are akin to life experiences that, for good or ill, mark our passage through life.
“Time and Place - Compass and Clock”

Originally the site of a quiet fountain space, the university rededicated this location during its 2006 Centennial celebration with a design whose symbols and structural components denote the past, present, and future aspirations of WKU. Professor Kim Chalmers, Head of the Department of Art at that time, was commissioned by the university to create the composition’s design. He chose to incorporate compass points, a functioning sundial and stellar constellations. As suggested by the artist’s notes, the alternating red and white tiles resemble a “compass rose,” the historical designator of map directions used to find one’s way to unexplored places. The waters of the fountain function as the vertical upright of a sundial. Its shadow accurately points toward the present hour’s numeric outer ring. Interspersed within the whole composition are brushed aluminum dots of varying sizes that signify differing magnitudes of stars. Their groupings accurately designate future constellations that will appear directly overhead when the campus enjoys its bicentennial in the year 2106.
Installed in fall of 2006, “Woman Walking” is a stylized female figure whose limbs are elongated to accentuate a graceful and confident stride. The piece was modeled, then cast in bronze by Tom Corbin of Kansas City, Missouri. It is typical of Mr. Corbin’s style in that he attempts to capture an attitude rather than a duplication of the world we usually see. It is not uncommon to see Woman Walking wearing scarves and mittens during inclement weather. The campus community appears to worry this slender person may catch a cold.
“Centennial” was unveiled on November 18, 2006, as part of WKU’s Centennial celebration. It has since become a centerpiece of our university, its brilliant red color exemplifying WKU’s passion for excellence in all endeavors.

An armature of steel rods was initially constructed as a skeletal frame within this work. Steel sheet metal was then heated and bent over this skeleton and welded along all exterior seams to produce the fluid gestures you now see. Strong and continuous, this sculpture commemorates 100 years of unwavering dedication to higher education at WKU. The red steel form blends opposing shapes and an interior portal to commemorate past, present, and future commitments to the spirit which defines the WKU experience. Sculptor Gino Miles of Santa Fe, New Mexico, created this abstract work of art.
“With International Reach” is placed in the Charles A. Keown Student Plaza between Southwest and Northeast Halls. Sited in the summer of 2008, it manifests the university’s intent to be “A Leading American University with International Reach.” The globe is fabricated from bronze and accurate both in its tilt, longitude, and latitudinal lines. The sculptor, Roger Loyson, is from Bemidji, Minnesota.
On Butterfly’s Wings

The piece was originally installed on the mall in 2006. It was relocated here in 2008. The variably flowing forms of “On Butterfly’s Wings” are composed of welded stainless steel. Its whorled exterior captures the artist’s aggressive arm gestures while using a power grinder to finish the work’s surfaces.

Sculptor Kevin Robb of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, created this spirited sculpture.
Opening of My Soul

This very linear piece was created in 2005 and installed on WKU’s campus in 2007. The artist, who has a blacksmithing background, produced this work by heating thick beams of steel in a forge until they were red-hot and pliable. He then beat the beams with pneumatic and handheld hammers into the beautifully curling gestures you see today. “Opening of My Soul” was created by David Norrie of Berthoud, Colorado.
Sergeant First Class Robert H. Guthrie

Dedicated on May 6, 2002, the cast bronze sculpture of Sergeant First Class Robert H. Guthrie and the Guthrie Tower itself were generous gifts of Mr. Lowell Guthrie’s family and Trace Die Cast, Inc. The statue stands at the foot of the tower as a memorial to Mr. Guthrie’s brother who died in action during the Korean War. It is also a reminder of all past and present heroes associated with WKU who served in our nation’s Armed Forces.

Sculptor and WKU art alumnus Russ Faxon of Bell Buckle, Tennessee, created this sculpture.
Nautilus was installed in the fall of 2007. Its muscular shell-form appears to be carved from stone but it is actually a hollow cast bronze form. It is the artful application of a patina, a chemical surface treatment, that causes this illusion. The unusual pedestal that holds the shell was fabricated from bronze sheet metal. It too has been patined, though for a different result. Diana Reuter-Twining, an artist from Aldie, Virginia, created this sculpture.
Tango

In June of 2008 Tango was added to the university’s collection of outdoor sculptures. It was placed between the Health Services and Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center, two campus locations that advance the well-being of our campus. Tango’s title, red patina and entwining vertical elements suggest vitality of, perhaps, mind and spirit. This fabricated bronze sculpture was created by artist Kevin Robb of Wheat Ridge, Colorado. It is one of three Robb creations on WKU’s campus.
E.A. Diddle

This statue of WKU’s Hall of Fame Basketball Coach, Edgar Allen Diddle, was unveiled on November 19, 2005 in conjunction with WKU’s Centennial celebration kickoff.

Coach Diddle had forty-two seasons at WKU and retired with an incredible 759-302 win/loss record. At the time of his retirement in 1964 it was the most wins of any basketball coach in NCAA history and currently ranks fifth in the nation. Placed near the site of WKU’s current basketball arena, the statue captures Coach Diddle waving his red towel, cheering his team and inciting fans to do likewise. It is a tradition that lives on today at WKU.

This cast bronze work was created by WKU art alumnus Russ Faxon of Bell Buckle, Tennessee. Mr. Faxon is an active sculptor who is perhaps best known for his duet composition of Chet Atkins and Minnie Pearl, located in the atrium of the Grand Ole Opry’s Ryman Auditorium in downtown Nashville, Tennessee.