SENSE OF THE CITY

Discover for yourself the vibrant array of public art throughout Cambridge. Explore this collection that expresses appreciation for the essential matters of civic life.

EXPLORE MORE: CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/PUBLICART
CAMBRIDGE ARTS HAS COMMISSIONED MORE THAN 280 PUBLIC ARTWORKS THAT ENRICH OUR CITY, BASED ON A LONG-STANDING PERCENT-FOR-ART PROGRAM THAT INTEGRATES ART WITH MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. DISCOVER THESE ARTWORKS FOR YOURSELF ON THIS SELF-GUIDED CAMBRIDGE ARTS EXCURSION.

TOWN GREEN
LOCATION: CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY (LOBBY AND ATRIUM, FLOORS 1–4) DETAILS: BY MICHAEL GLIER / 2004 / ACRYLIC AND CHARCOAL ON SHEETROCK


ENGINE COMPANY NO. 5
LOCATION: INMAN SQUARE FIREHOUSE, 1384 CAMBRIDGE STREET (EXTERIOR, 2ND LEVEL, FACING WEST) DETAILS: BY ELLARY EDDY / 1976 / ACRYLIC ON BRICK

This mural, the first public art project commissioned by Cambridge Arts, honors the service of Patrick H. Raymond Engine Company No. 5, which was founded in 1874 and named after the first African American fire chief in the U.S. Look for George Washington and Benjamin Franklin who were volunteer firefighters! Since the mural is viewed from a distance, Eddy made the figures three times life-size.

ILLUMINATION PROJECT
LOCATION: ROBERT W. HEALY PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, 125 SIXTH STREET DETAILS: BY KRZYSZTOF WODICZKO / 2009 / ELECTRONIC MEDIA: LED LIGHTS, METAL, COMPUTER SOFTWARE

To express the responsiveness of the Police and Emergency Communications Departments, Wodiczko’s illumination is tied to the dispatch room where 911 calls are received and actions taken. Green lights indicate a medical response, red for fire, and blue for police. When not flashing, the blue lights breathe slowly, suggesting the departments’ ongoing work to ensure the safety of the city.

UNTITLED
LOCATION: NORTH CAMBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER, 2050 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, FIRST FLOOR DETAILS: BY DAVID FICHTER / 1986 / ACRYLIC

Fichter has created murals for decades, often placing historical references alongside members of the neighborhood within which the mural is sited. Here he depicts seniors active in society and passing down knowledge to a younger generation. The North Cambridge Senior Center is one of two locations that provide essential services and enrichment activities for the elders in our community.

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