

ART IN OREGON

The Eagles' Nest Art Colony

The Eagles' Nest Art Colony started in 1898 when a group of artists associated with the Chicago Art Institute leased land on a bluff overlooking the Rock River on its east bank. This group of artists, writers, poets and musicians continued to spend their summers in Oregon until 1942, when the lease ended when the last surviving original member died.

Lorado Taft

Among the founding members was Lorado Taft, a 38-year-old sculptor whose sculptures are located across the United States. Oregon was a fortunate recipient of his influence and generosity, with four of his works part of the Oregon Sculpture Trail. The Oregon Sculpture Trail began in 1911 with the creation of the *Black Hawk Statue*, viewable at Lowden State Park and from Illinois Rte. 2 across the Rock River north of Oregon. Taft's works that are also part of the Trail are *Fish Boys*, the *Veteran's Memorial*, and his maquette of *The Blind* (which, along with works donated by Taft's friends, is part of the Eagles' Nest Art Collection at the Oregon Public Library).

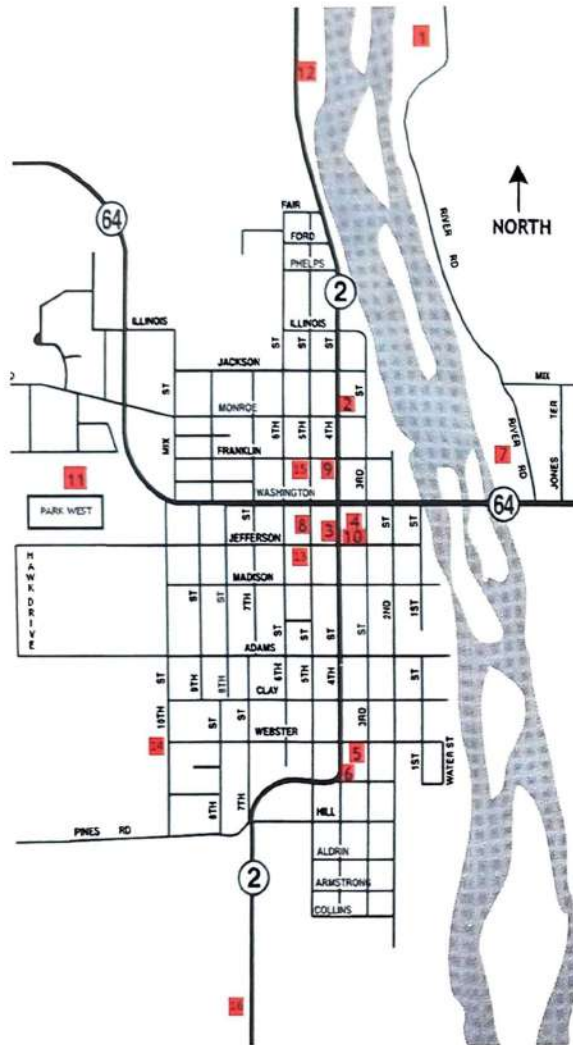
Community Art Legacy

The Community Art Legacy (CAL) formed in 2004 by a group of Oregon citizens with the purpose of installing "ten sculptures in ten years" in the Oregon area. It was formed under the initiative of Jeff Adams, sculptor and owner of inBronze Foundry, Mt. Morris, IL. Their guiding motivation was expressed by sculptor Lorado Taft who said, "*The hometown is the dearest place on earth: why not make it more beautiful?*" They hold a competition each year in which sculptors submit maquettes (models) of work to the theme of the Fields Project, "*bringing art and agriculture together*". The winning sculptor receives an award and then enlarges the maquette to a "lifesize" sculpture which is then molded and cast in bronze. Copies of some of the sculptures have been installed in museums and parks across the country, but the originals reside in Oregon. Funds for this program are given and pledged by friends and members of the community over the 10 years of the program. Ownership, installation and maintenance responsibilities are assumed by the entity where the sculpture is placed. Thus, the inspiration and work of the CAL will have added 10 sculptures to the Oregon Sculpture Trail when finished.



OREGON SCULPTURE TRAIL

Map Inside



"The hometown is the dearest place on earth: Why not make it more beautiful?"

- Lorado Taft

Oregon Sculpture Trail

(Numbers correspond with those on map)

- 1 **BlackHawk** was by Lorado Taft, 1911, in concrete, and can be seen from Rte. 2 across the Rock River and at Lowden State Park.
- 2 **The Holy Family** is by David Seagraves, in Indiana Limestone. It is located at St. Mary's Church, on N. Fourth Street.
- 3 **The Soldiers' Monument** is by Taft, dedicated in 1916, is located on the Court House square. The center figure is of bronze and the two adjacent soldier statues of marble. This honors veterans from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and WW I.
- 4 **The Blind** is a maquette of a sculpture by Taft, located at the University of Illinois. This is representative of the *Eagles Nest Art Colony Collection*, seen at the Oregon Public Library.
- 5 **The Fish Boys**, at Mix Park south on Route 2, were cast in a special blend of concrete. The original bronze sculptures by Taft are south of Chicago Art Institute.
- 6 **Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate** by local sculptor, Jeff Adams, is also located at Mix Park. It is a reflection of the struggles and paths briefly crossed in this area in 1832.
- 16 **John the Baptist** by Jeff Adams is located at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center south of Oregon on Rte. 2. John the Baptist is pointing the way to wilderness for spiritual enlightenment.

Community Art Legacy Sculptures

- 7 **From the Waters Comes My Bounty**, by Ray Kobald, is located at Oregon Park East on River Road, east of the dam on the Rock River. It depicts the generosity of the life-giving waters to all things.
- 8 **Agriculture, Mother of Civilization**, by David Seagraves is located at the Judicial Center, west of the Court House. She personifies the fertility of the earth and Ogle County.
- 9 **Cornball**, by Howard Russo, is located at the Coliseum, north of the Court House. It represents the repetition that occurs in nature and corn, and reflects the increased global impact of corn to the world.



10 **The Bountiful Bench**, by Christina Murphy, graces the lawn of the Oregon Public Library. Inspired by beauties of the Rock River, the woman of nature and history's coverlet holds the produce, environment and natural bounty of the area.



11 **Solar Reef** is by Andrew Langoussis and is at the top of the hill at Oregon Park West. It represents the sun, the source of all energy, and is embellished around the perimeter with myriad landscape elements, fields, hills, and structures.



12 **Makin' Hay**, by Daniel Ingebritson, is at the Stillman Bank, North on Rte. 2, and captures the dynamic movement of the farmer's strokes of the scythe through the hay.



13 **Harvest Moon** by Matthew Donavon, is located in front of Nash Recreation Center. It depicts an owl framed by a harvest moon.

14 **Working the Land**, by Robert Pulley, is located on 10th Street, just north of the Oregon Senior Center and is a symbolic representation of the dynamic forces of nature and agriculture.

15 **Soy Pod**, by Pamela Lee, shows the symbiotic relationship between crops and livestock in agriculture. Located west of the Post Office on Washington Street.

Two additional Sculptures are located in Mt. Morris: **Spirit of Compassion**, by Jeff Adams, at Pinecrest Grove; and **The Moulder**, by David Seagraves, at the Village Hall.

