

University District

City of Seattle

Public Art & Culture Walking Tour Map

PART
1
OF 2



Welcome to the University District's South Side!

The University District displays its diverse and vibrant character south of NE 45th Street. Here you will find camaraderie in our cafes, ethnic restaurants and retail shops, and cultural, social, and visual diversity in our museums, arcades, and public art collections.

One of the oldest, most loved and diverse communities in all of Seattle, the University District is named after one of the region's largest institutions, the University of Washington. The District sports a strong business community, vibrant artistic scene, well-kept parks and tree-lined residential streets. Our residents include community activists, small business owners, artists, intellectuals, and people of all ages, cultures, and lifestyles.

The district's first settler filed a homestead claim in 1875. The village of Brooklyn grew around that farm and attracted other settlers. The University of Washington moved to the area in 1895 and added to the personality of the neighborhood. Today the district serves 35,000 permanent residents in addition to 50,000 University students and staff. North and south of NE 45th Street, our commercial and residential areas offer a kaleidoscope of shopping,

dining, and entertainment choices. Our parks, museums, public art, and theaters provide cultural ambience, and our college population adds vitality and contrast to the streetscape.

We invite you to explore the culture and history of the University District.

University District Arts and Heritage Committee

City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods



8 University of Washington is the largest institution for higher education in the state and a significant presence in the U-District. Cultural resources on the Campus include: Burke Memorial Washington State Museum (natural & cultural history), Meany Hall for the Performing Arts, and the Henry Art Gallery (fine art).

Public Art is displayed throughout the campus. Major outdoor works include: (8A) Phil Levine's *Dancer with a Flat Hat*. This sprightly figure graces the west side steps of the 15th Avenue NE overpass. Created in 1971 in cast bronze, the sculpture was a gift from the William Reed family to the University of Washington Campus Public Art Program. On the brick covered Red Square stands (8B) George Washington, a cast bronze sculpture by Loreda Taft from 1908, and *Broken Obelisk* a steel column by Barnett Newman made in 1971. Both are in the UW collection. In the area near the physics building stands *Everything That Rises* a 1997 bronze work by Martin Puryear. It is in the WSAC collection. The University's Information Center is located at 4014 University Way NE, at NE Campus.

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South Side

- 1 Christie Park** is situated a few yards from the staging area for the Press Expedition of 1889. Led by James Christie, these trailblazers explored the wilds of the Olympic Mountains. The 5,000 square feet of Christie Park was ceded to the Seattle Parks Department in 1969. See if you can find the rare, small mural by A. Fiske on the park site.
NE 43rd Street and 9th Avenue NE
- 2 Jack Straw Productions**, an audio arts center and recording studio, has a multimedia gallery featuring the work of visual and sound artists; a permanent installation of "glass radios" by artist Norman Courtney; and the work of local, national, and international artists through a variety of public events and radio programs.
4261 Roosevelt Way NE
- 3 The former Safeco Corporation Plaza** On the Courtyard facing Brooklyn be sure to see the beautiful *SAFECO Fountain*, a 1973 bronze work by George Tsutakawa. Also on Safeco Plaza is Robert Sperry's *Untitled #961*, a ceramic sculpture by the noted artist and past UW art professor. Although SAFCO Insurance moved its headquarters downtown in 2007, these prominent artworks remain for the public's enjoyment.
NE 45th Street & Brooklyn Avenue NE
- 4 Neptune Theatre** is the flagship movie house in the district. Opening in 1921 the Neptune claimed to be "the finest suburban movie house in the West."
1303 NE 45th Street
- 5 University Manor**, formerly the Malloy Manor, was built in 1926. At its opening 14,000 people sang and danced in the streets. Its terra cotta masks, gargoyles and elegant brickwork have delighted neighbors for generations.
1305 NE 43rd Street
- 6 Brooklyn Square** was built in 1906 as an early home for the University Methodist Temple. It was a religious focal point in 1909 for visitors to Seattle's Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. It was restored in 1984 by Anderson Koch and Duarte, after suffering years of neglect.
4142 Brooklyn Avenue NE
- 7 Felch House** is a rare example of an early 20th century residence in the commercial area. The Felch house closely resembles the home of Bertha Landes, the first female mayor of Seattle. Landes' house was located on the present site of the Edmund Meany Hotel.
4245 Brooklyn Avenue NE
- 8 University of Washington** (see inset on 15th Avenue NE)
- 9 Montlake Bridge** opened in 1925. The bridge was the first connection between the University and Montlake Districts. The need for the bridge was amplified by the large events held at the newly built University Stadium.
- 10 Jensen's Boat Yard** has been owned and operated by the Jensen family for generations. A boat building and repair business on Lake Union, Jensen's was responsible for the Slo-Mo-Shun boats that dominated speed racing from 1950 through 1970. Jensen's has maintained its historic location in the midst of the University's expansion through an agreement that provides special access for Jensen's customers.
1417 NE Boat Street
- 11 University Bridge** opened in 1919. The bridge was finally built after a 15-year effort of the University Community Club, working in coalition with the Ravenna Improvement Club and the University of Washington.
- 12 Sadako and the Thousand Cranes Peace Park** is a local and world-wide treasure. Sculptor Daryl Smith created a statue depicting Sadako Sasaki, a girl who died from leukemia contracted as a result of the detonation of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki. Aware of her prognosis, Sadako began folding 1,000 paper cranes as a symbol of hope. She gave us the paper cranes to symbolize our yearning for peace in the world. The memorial was erected as a gift from Fratelli's Ice Cream.
- 13 Wall of Death** is a sculpture by Canadian artists Mowry Baden and Colin Baden. Sited along the Burke Gilman Trail underneath the University Bridge, the work was commissioned in 1993 by the Seattle Arts Commission. The painted steel, concrete and aluminum sculpture alludes to the carnival motordomes of the early 20th century.
- 14 Garden of Eatin'** is a prototype for an urban oasis in the 21st century. Students from the University of Washington Dept. of Landscape Architecture designed and built the Garden in 1998. The courtyard is a demonstration garden illustrating sustainable practices for small, urban gardens.
Access from the alley behind the University Design Center, 3947 University Way NE.
- 15 The Playhouse Theatre** was previously known as the Glenn Hughes Playhouse and originally named the Seattle Repertory Playhouse. The theatre was built in 1929 by renowned architect Arthur Loveless. Controversy arose when directors Florence and Burton James were brought before the Canfield Committee for investigation of un-American activity. The Jameses lost the Playhouse, which was subsequently purchased by the University of Washington.
4045 University Way NE
- 16 College Inn** opened along with the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in 1909 and has been in continuous operation since, now as a bed and breakfast.
4000 University Way NE
- 17 Beauty and the Books Building** sports delightful woodwork and vibrant colors, which commemorate the bookstore's history as a gathering place for the sixties generation.
4213 University Way NE
- 18 Commodore Duchess Apartments** were built between 1925 and 1927 to reflect the campus Gothic style. Through a private-public partnership, they have been restored for UW housing and offer a fine example of adaptive re-use of classic architecture.
4009 15th Avenue NE