

# Public Art in Houston

# Walking Tour

by Leigh Cutler, Katy Oliveira, and Kimberly Youngblood

This self-guided walking tour can be done in one day or be separated into three excursions. The first tour is through Hermann Park and the Museum District; the Downtown tour is split into two tours, an upper and lower. The downtown public art pieces are described in length in the article, "Art is All Around Us."

*"Art is the signature of a community. It is how we express truth, address humanity, and perpetuate joy. In it can be found the reflection of our past and the vision of our future. But as much as anything else, art captures and communicates the difference that we, as a people, can make. In Houston, that difference can be seen everywhere. Because in Houston, there is art all around."*

—Houston Municipal Art Office

## HERMANN PARK AND MUSEUM DISTRICT TOUR

From Hermann Park and the Museum of Natural Science, walk toward Hermann Circle Drive. Stay west of the museum, crossing over the drive.

### 1. SAM HOUSTON MONUMENT, BY ENRICO FILBERTO CERRACCHIO (bordered by Hermann Circle Drive)

In 1924, the Women's City Club commissioned Enrico Filberto Cerrachio to create a sculpture commemorating Texas hero and statesman, General Sam Houston. The bronze sculpture rests upon a granite arch constructed by Frank Teich. Unveiled on August 16, 1925, the monument depicts Houston in 19th century military attire upon his horse leading his men into the battle of San Jacinto and is also positioned to point in the direction of the battle site.

**DIRECTIONS:** Cross the street toward the Hermann Park Reflection Pool. Facing the pool, follow the dirt path to your left along Hermann Dr., walk uphill on the dirt path toward Miller Outdoor Theater. Stop at the top of the hill.

### 2. ATROPOS KEY, BY HANNAH H. STEWART

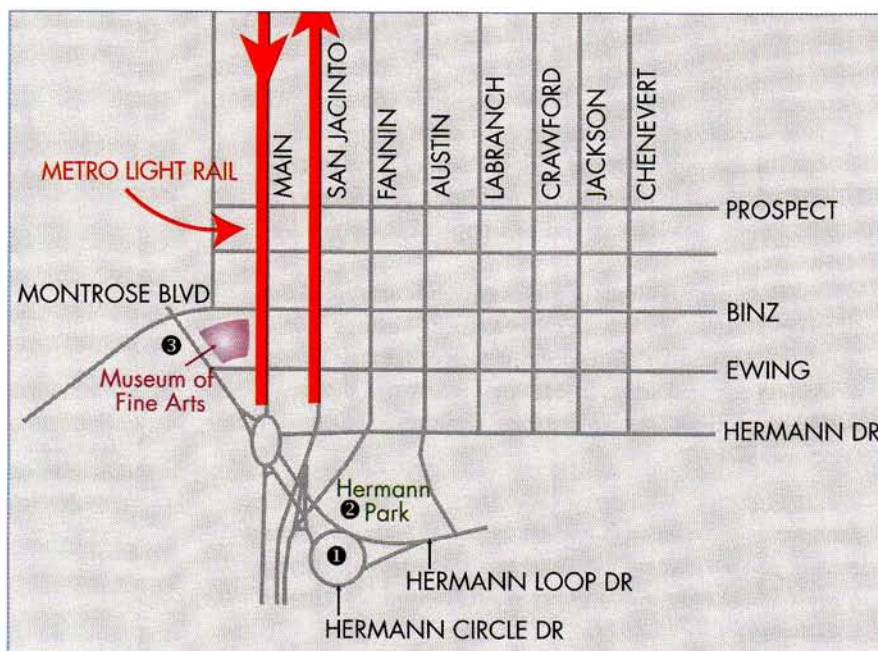
Patricia S. Woodard donated this cast bronze sculpture to the City of Houston in 1972. This piece refers to the Greek Goddess of Fate, Atropos, who, according to Greek mythology, cut the thread of life.

**DIRECTIONS:** Head west toward the Museum of Natural Science. Walk north along the sidewalk in front of the museum on Caroline St. (bordering the front parking lot and garage). At Hermann Drive, turn left, walk down Main Street to Binz. Cross Main and Binz (Binz becomes Bissonnet toward the west). Walk 1/2 block west on Bissonnet, toward Montrose, to the entrance of the Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden, on the corner just across the street from The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

### 3. LILLIE AND HUGH ROY CULLEN SCULPTURE GARDEN, BY ISAMU NOGUCHI

The Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden was created in 1986 by sculptor Isamu Noguchi. This acre-sized garden is home to more than twenty 19th and 20th century masterworks from the MFAH and other collections.

At this point, you may want to visit any of the various museums in the museum district including the MFAH and the Contemporary Arts Museum.





# UPPER DOWNTOWN TOUR

You may drive or take the train following the instructions below.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk 2 1/2 blocks back down Binz, heading east to San Jacinto Street to catch the northbound Metro light rail to downtown. As you pass through the Downtown Fountains and approach Main Street Square, look to your left at *Planter and Stems* by Floyd Newsum. Exit the Metro at Preston station.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk 1/2 block south along Main to Prairie, turn right. Walk one block down to Travis, the fountain is on your left.

## 1. ELENA CUSI WORTHAM'S FOUNTAIN—

at the corner of Travis and Prairie  
**DIRECTIONS:** Take a right at Travis, one block to Preston. Cross Preston to Market Square Park on your left.

**2. MARKET SQUARE PARK—**Market Square Park is home to several public art works including: Malou Faló's benches and fountain, Richard Turner's benches, and James Surls' *Points of View*.

**DIRECTIONS:** Continue walking down Preston to Smith Street, turn left and walk one block to *Virtuoso*.

## 3. VIRTUOSO, BY DAVID ADICKES—

SW corner of Prairie and Smith Streets, in outdoor plaza of Lyric Center Building.  
**DIRECTIONS:** Continue walking on Smith Street one block to Texas, turn right for one and half blocks to Sesquicentennial Park.

## 4. SEVEN WONDERS BY MEL CHIN—

in Sesquicentennial Park.

## 5. BIG BUBBLE, BY DEAN RUCK—

located in Buffalo Bayou.

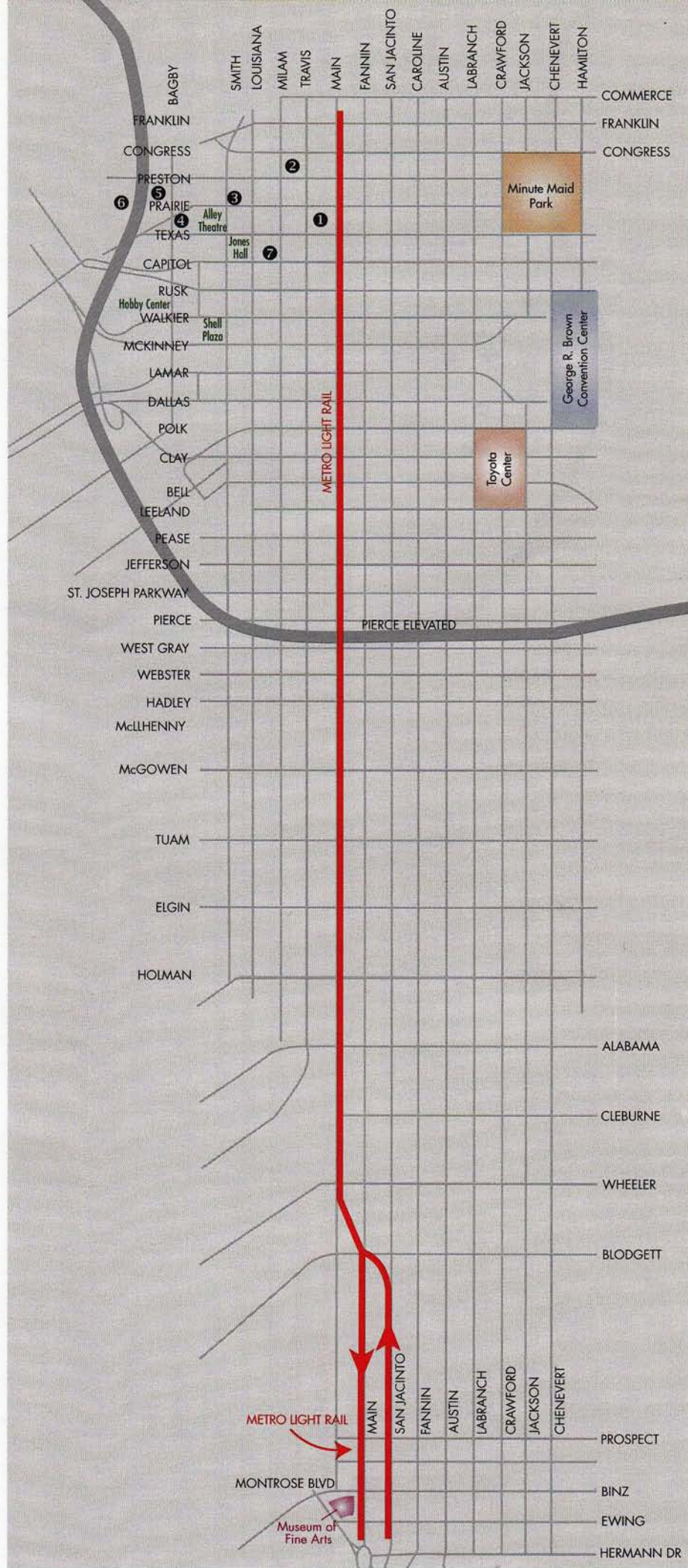
**6. BUFFALO BAYOU ART PARK, VARIOUS ARTISTS—**Explore the temporary public art installed in the park along the bayou.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk back on Texas toward downtown for three blocks to Milam, turn right, go one block to Capitol.

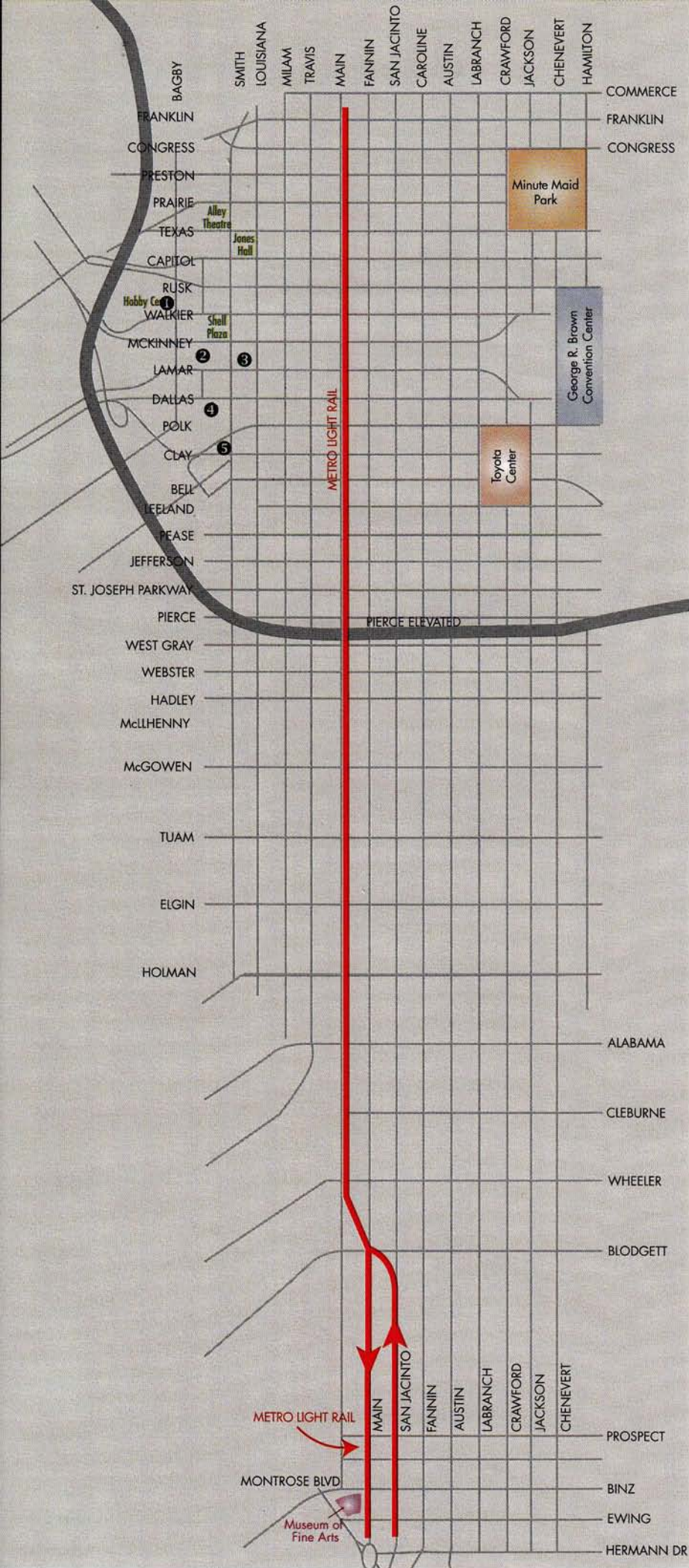
## 7. PERSONAGE WITH BIRDS, BY JOAN MIRÓ—

SW corner of Milam and Capitol Streets, in outdoor plaza of JP Morgan Chase Building, formerly the Texas Commerce Bank Building.

## THIS CONCLUDES THE UPPER DOWNTOWN TOUR.







## LOWER DOWNTOWN TOUR

From Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, (Bagby & Walker).

**1. IN MINDS** by Tony Cragg—SE corner of Bagby and Walker Streets, in Hines Plaza outside The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

DIRECTIONS: Walk one block toward City Hall, turn left on McKinney.

**2. GEOMETRIC MOUSE X** by Claes Oldenburg—NE corner of outdoor plaza at the Houston Public Library, bordering McKinney Street.

DIRECTIONS: Walk across the plaza to Lamar Street, head two blocks back toward downtown. On the corner of Lamar and Louisiana.

**3. MONUMENT TO THE PHANTOM** by Jean Dubuffet—NE corner of Lamar and Louisiana Streets, in outdoor plaza of 1100 Louisiana Building.

DIRECTIONS: Walk one block back down Lamar, away from downtown to Smith Street, turn left, walk two blocks to Allen Center. Follow the sidewalk beside Jason's Deli to the park between Allen Centers.

**4. DISAPPEARING GNOMES** by Paul Kimmelson—located between Allen Center buildings.

DIRECTIONS: Walk back out to Smith St., turn right and cross Polk to the Bob and Vivian Smith Fountain, then stay on Smith and cross Clay to the front of the former Enron Building.

**5. METAL SCULPTURE** by Louise Nevelson—1400 Smith Street between Clay and Bell Streets.

**THIS CONCLUDES THE LOWER DOWNTOWN TOUR.** 📍