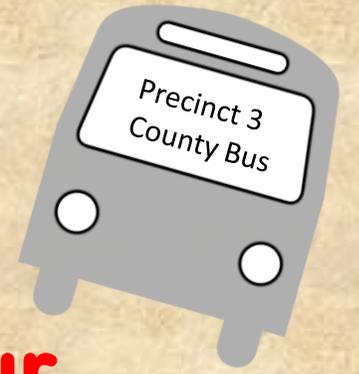




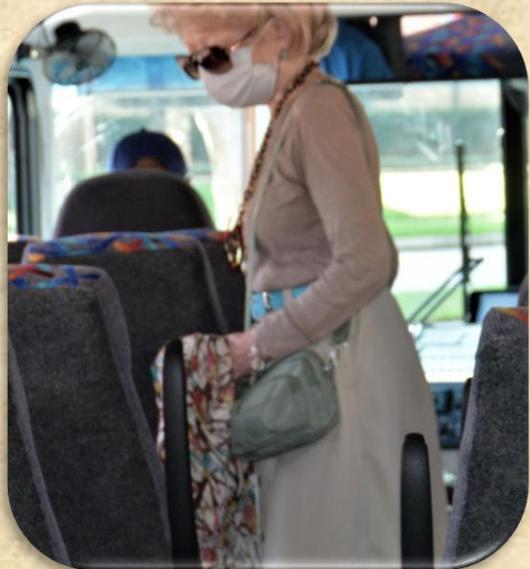
LEOH Trip

August 18, 2021



Houston Murals (and More) – a Driving Tour





Time to gather at the bus to begin our trip!

Bus driver Joseph Celestain is watching the progress of a tree being cut down, while tour guide Chris Martin chats with Sandra.

In the meantime, tour coordinator Ann is completing a trip registration, as others are settling in on the bus.



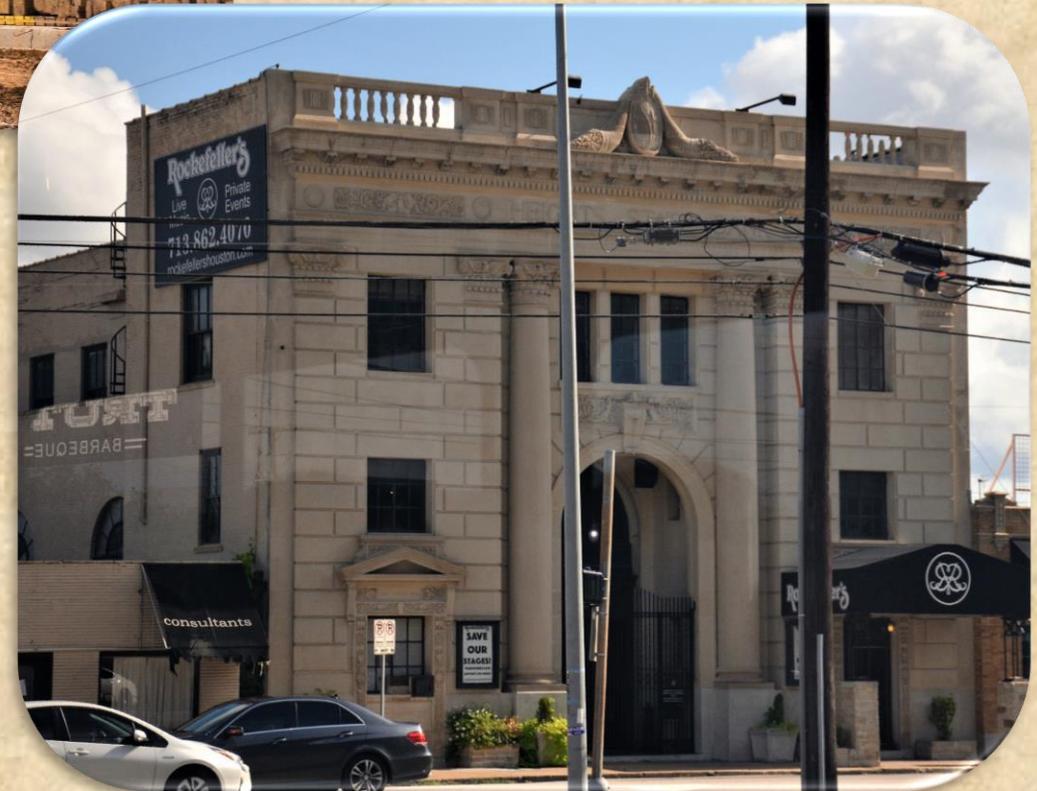
Ken has brought mascot Leo along for the trip.





Chris planned for our tour to pass through all 6 Houston wards. We began by traveling to the Memorial area, where we passed by the large ***Land Bridge and Prairie Project*** under construction in Memorial park. The project will allow safe passage and enjoyment of nature for both animals and humans.

As we traveled toward downtown, Chris pointed out the architecture of legendary ***Rockefeller's*** music venue on Washington Avenue. It began as a bank, and as Chris tells it, Bonnie & Clyde once paid the bank a “visit”.





The beautifully landscaped **Glenwood Cemetery** (aka River Oaks Cemetery), on Washington Avenue, recorded its first burial in 1872. Numerous prominent Houstonians are buried here.



"Faces of the Other" is an art installation currently on display at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Heights Boulevard. The installation was previously on display at Christ Church Cathedral, where the photos, which surround the property, are of area residents. The photos represent 10 or more ethnic groups, different sexual identities, different economic ranges, and ranges in age from 5 to 92.



We drove by one of the ***SPARK Parks***. The SPARK School Park program began in 1983, working with schools and neighborhoods to develop community parks on public school grounds. There are currently over 150 active SPARK Parks in Houston.

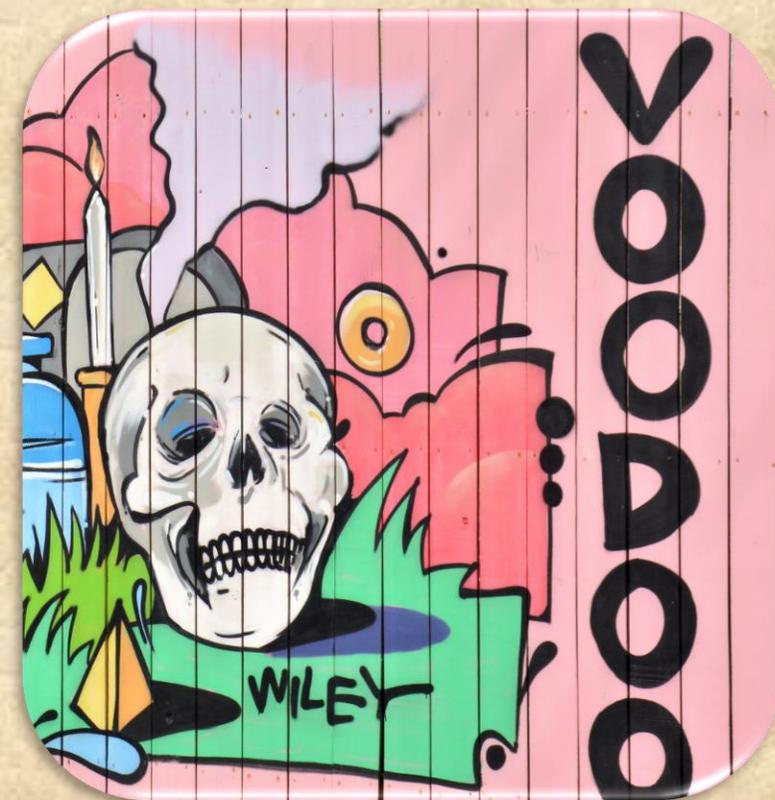


Richard Brock Park, located in the Arts District, was renamed for Richard Brock, a First Ward resident, lawmaker, civic leader, and former slave who donated land and funds to build a school, which stood where the park is today. According to Chris, he also contributed to the effort to fund and build Emancipation Park.



As we began viewing murals from the comfort of the bus, one of the first was a large scene on the side of a building housing the **Voodoo Doughnut Shop**, located on Washington Avenue.

Numerous businesses have welcomed the addition of murals by talented artists to attract and entertain customers.



xin chào



We enjoyed viewing the wall mural (see our bus reflected in the window; and note the fiddle-playing frog) on the restaurant ***Xin Chao***, which means “Hello” in Vietnamese. Chefs Christine Ha and Tony Nguyen are second-generation Vietnamese-Americans who offer a contemporary Texas/Gulf Coast take on Vietnamese cuisine at their restaurant on Decatur St.



We left the bus for a time to visit **Sawyer Yards** in the First Ward Washington Avenue Arts District. It is one of the largest working artist communities and art galleries, measuring 80,000 sq. ft. There are around 120 established and emerging artists working here. The public is welcome to tour Mondays-Saturdays, as well as enjoy rotating art exhibits.

SILVER STREET STUDIOS

FOR TENANT DIRECTORY & DIGITAL MAP:

- 1.) Open camera phone
- 2.) Point camera at code
- 3.) Follow link ▼

WELCOME

Silver Street Studios is an arts and events complex with 68 workspaces, which are home to over 80 artists and creative entrepreneurs. Previously home to Silver Eagle Distribution, Silver Street Studios features a 20,000-SF venue space, which has hosted some of the most exciting festivals, markets, and local as well as international events in Houston.

Open Artist Studios take place every Second Saturday and Third Saturday of the month from 12 - 5 pm.



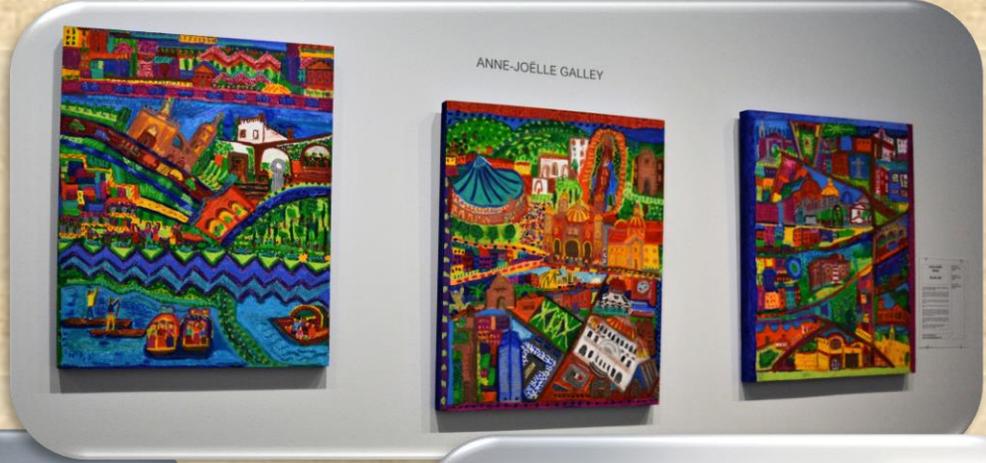
We began our tour of Sawyer Yards by admiring the outdoor murals in "Art Alley".





Inside *Silver Street Studios*, we admired many art pieces by various artists.

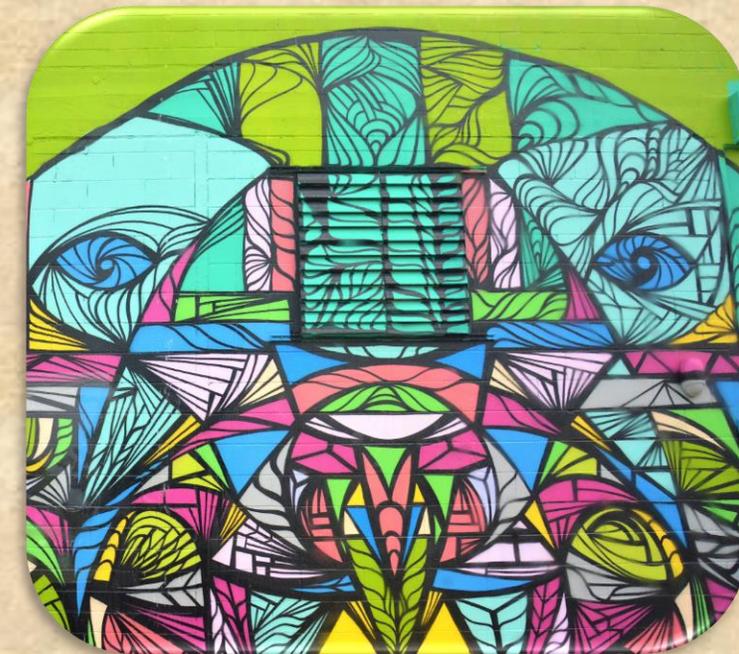
Ken meets one of the artists.



Back on the road again, we saw a variety of murals on a variety of surfaces! Utility boxes, garage doors, fences, walls, etc.







...and if some of these look blurry, it was due to taking pictures through the rain on the bus window, not the fault of the artist!



Art can take many forms

These giant heads, plus Charlie Chaplin, were seen as we passed by sculptor David Adickes studio (his most famous large sculpture is the 67-foot tall statue of Sam Houston, outside Huntsville).



We also viewed some interesting metal sculptures on our route.





We saw many murals and other artwork on our trip. They were representative of the oldest to the newest murals in Houston. *But*, if anyone on our tour thought they saw a lot of Houston's murals, think again! If you visit the website houstonmuralmap.com, you will see the map on the left. By clicking on the circles, you can view the *hundreds* of murals Houston and the surrounding area have to offer.

The following are a few of the mural artists whose works we admired:
NEUZZ; WILEY; DRAGON76; BLACK CASSIDY

To learn more about some of the sites visited/seen on the trip, check out the following websites:

glenwoodcemetery.org

facesoftheother.com

sawyeryards.com

fresharts.org



These beautifully restored homes are just two examples of many that we saw on our driving tour. Beauty and art was everywhere this day!



KING'S BIERHAUS

Our lunch stop was
"sandwiched" between viewing
murals and art!

Yes, there were murals here as
well, on their outdoor patio.

A good time was had by all!

