

Ballard

PART
1
OF 2



Central Ballard

City of Seattle

Public Art & Culture Walking Tour Map

Welcome to Greater Ballard

Central Ballard, south of NW 57th Street, is home to a tight-knit community of artists, galleries, and performers. Annual cultural festivals and the monthly Art Walk, along with diverse public art sites, display the richness of Ballard's neighborhood identity.

Ballard today is a "city within a city" that retains its Scandinavian flavor with institutions such as the Nordic Heritage Museum. As residential development grew in the 1950s, the branch library and community center were built north of NW Market St. A new municipal center with a new branch library and park form a commons. From the industrial zones along its east and south edges (home to many artists studios), to the fishing, recreational, and environmental activities at Salmon Bay, Chittenden Locks, and Shilshole Bay, Greater Ballard remains a thriving and diverse neighborhood.

Ballard began as home to the Duwamish community in a village called "Shilshole," meaning "somewhat tucked away." The first land claims were in 1852, with the new town incorporated in 1890, named after ship captain William Rankin Ballard. By the end of the 19th century, Ballard was the seventh largest city in Washington, with its population expanded by Scandinavian immigrants who worked in the mills and fishing fleets. The town boasted a bustling civic and business district, along with a high number of churches and saloons.

building center, Ballard's maritime role increased with the addition of the Fisherman's Terminal in 1913 and the completion of the Ship Canal and Government Locks in 1916. The Ballard Bridge, opened in 1917, brought streetcars and automobiles from greater Seattle. Trolley and interurban train lines also pushed the city boundaries north, to the coastline recreation area of Golden Gardens.

Ballard's need for public services prompted annexation to Seattle in 1907. Already a boat



Central Ballard

- 1 Ballard Firehouse, 1911**

Formerly Fire Station #18, this brick building with distinctive Dutch gables was designed by Seattle architects Charles Bebb and Louis Mendel.

5427 Russell Ave. NW at NW Market St.
- 2 Witness Trees, What the trees have seen, 2004**

The five sculptures mounted on five cedar posts that previously held up an awning in the original park, symbolically turn the posts back into "witness trees" suggesting a vast primordial forest. Artist Jennifer Dixon created five "trees" that comprise the artwork: *Fossil Tree*, *First Tree*, *Clam Tree*, *Immigrant Tree*, and *New Growth Tree*. The triangular historical park was dedicated in 1975 by King Herald V and Queen Sonja of Norway to celebrate Ballard's Norwegian heritage. The park was designed by Alan Wylie and Charles Michael Svob.

5420 22nd Ave NW
- 3 Untitled, 1978**

Designed by Marvin T. Herard, die-cast concrete panels with semi-circular patterns are set in the sidewalk on both corners.

Ballard Ave. NW at NW Market St.
- 4 Untitled, 1978**

In these cast bronze panels in the sidewalk, Larry Tate used raised texture to reveal abstract combinations of geometric and organic forms.

5410 Ballard Ave. NW
- 5 Centennial Bell Tower, 1976**

The Ballard City Hall (1899) once stood on this site; the brick building with bell tower was demolished after the 1965 earthquake. The original bell was reinstalled at the dedication of the Ballard Historic District, which was attended by Norway's King Carl XVI Gustav.

NE corner of Ballard Ave. NW and 22nd Ave. NW
- 6 Granite Coelacanths, 1978**

James Washington Jr., a specialist in animal forms, created these small red granite bas-reliefs to commemorate the coelacanth, a prehistoric fish previously thought to be extinct.

NE corner of Ballard Ave. NW and 22nd Ave. NW
- 7 Catfish, 1978**

This three-panel mosaic by Jack Ferrel is composed of one-inch square ceramic tiles. Four catfish appear to swim through the shallows of the sidewalk, passing by water lilies on their way north.

NE corner of Ballard Ave. and 20th Ave. NW
- 8 Stimson Mill Building, 1913**

This brick building originally held the administrative offices for the largest lumber mill operation in Ballard. Designed in an Arts & Crafts style by nationally known architect Kirkland K. Cutter of Spokane, it now houses the studio and residence of a glass artist.

2116 Vernon Place at Shilshole Ave. NW
- 9 Untitled, 1978**

In his cast-iron sidewalk panel, Donald W. Crabtree incorporated industrial shapes, such as a band saw and a flywheel.

5229 Ballard Ave. NW
- 10 Fish Out of Water, 1989**

Mounted over the vehicle door on this warehouse building are Judith Caldwells cast bronze disks that resemble fish diving in and out of water; alongside are seven carved plaques by Don Miles that represent Japanese symbols for water.

5115 Ballard Ave. NW
- 11 Ballard Avenue architecture**

The business district grew up first along Ballard Avenue, with impressive commercial buildings in brick, iron, and concrete (along with smaller shops and warehouses) lining several blocks south of NW Market St. Begin with the 1893 **Cors & Wegener Block** (SE corner of 20th Ave.), which features Renaissance details and cast iron posts. Further north, the **Dexter Horton National Bank** (1903, 5228 Ballard Ave.) retains the name of the business in the mosaic floor of its classical doorway. At the corner of Vernon Place (5301 Ballard Ave.), **Ballard Savings & Loan** (1914) is a neoclassical gem with a cornucopia and "Thrift" in its pediment sculpture. At 5323 Ballard Ave., the three-story **G.B. Sanborn Block** (1901) is the largest building on the Avenue, with its stone front in a Romanesque style. Built in the same year, the A.W. Preston Drug Store (5349 Ballard Ave.) has exceptional carving on its ornamental columns. The Mediterranean-style **Vik Apartments** (1926, 5425 Ballard Ave.) is the showpiece of a block that was largely built and redeveloped in the 1920s. Ballard Avenue was designated as a local and national Historic District in 1976.
- 12 Majestic Bay Theatre**

This is the site of America's oldest continuously operating movie theatre. Opened in 1914 as the Majestic, it became the Roxy in 1929 and featured "talkies." Substantially remodeled with a new facade and multiple screens, the Majestic Bay reopened in 2000.

2044 NW Market Street
- 13 Carnegie Free Public Library, 1904**

This is one of seven remaining Carnegie Libraries in Seattle. Designed in a Classical Revival style by Henderson Ryan, the two-story building is constructed of red brick with sandstone foundation and ornamental trim. The Carnegie Library was sold in 1965 and remains in private use.

2026 NW Market Street
- 14 Swedish Ballard Hospital**

At the west entrance is *Celebration of Life*, a concrete sculpture depicting a doctor holding an infant, which was designed by Dr. Philip Joe King in 1986. On the 5th floor, near the elevators, is *Mother and Child* by the acclaimed Seattle artist George Tsutakawa. In 1955, Tsutakawa was commissioned to create this carved cedar relief by Dr. Edward T. Palmason and his wife Vivienne, in memory of their son Richard.

5300 Talman Ave. NW
- 15 Locks at Sunset, 1985**

With this mural on the Bank of America branch, community artist Teitge provided a signature scene of Ballard's maritime life, the Chittenden Locks.

2026 56th St. NW
- 16 Ballard Branch Library**

The new Ballard Branch, 5614 22nd Ave. NW, designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson opened May 14, 2005. It is the 15th project completed under the "Libraries for All" building program.

The roof sweeps north to bathe the interior with indirect light; a lower roof section provides an intimate scale for reading along the north wall. A covered porch area provides a civic face along a view of the roof and Olympic Mountains.

Artist Donald Fels, Andrew Schloss and Dale Stammen created the building's computer generated artworks *Weather Permitting* and *Flow*, which uses data from scientific devices on the roof that measure the sunlight, the sound of rain, and wind speed and direction.
- 17 Ballard Commons Park**

Ballard Commons Park, 5701 22nd Ave. NW, opened to the public in 2005 and features a skate bowl; water feature; and engaging public art, *Shilshole Shells*, by Valerie Otani; relaxing seating areas and lawns and ADA accessible walkways. The park forms part of a new municipal center in Ballard, with a Seattle Public Library branch and Neighborhood Service Center located across the street in an award-winning building that also opened in 2005. The artwork consists of shell sculptures designed to invite interaction. The artwork is popular with children who play in the water feature.
- 18 Ballard Boat, 1989**

This collaborative work by artist Chuck Greening and architect Michael Canatsey sits in the west playground of the Ballard Community Center. Constructed of concrete, wood, bronze, and other found materials, the sculpture resembles a full-scale boat's prow emerging from the water, symbolizing Ballard's historic connection to fishing. Waves made with ceramic tiles and shells surround the hull at ground level.

6020 28th Ave. NW