



2026 Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition



Experience art and fútbol in Downtown Lawrence.

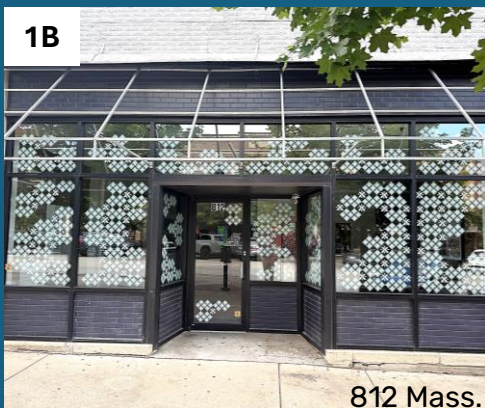
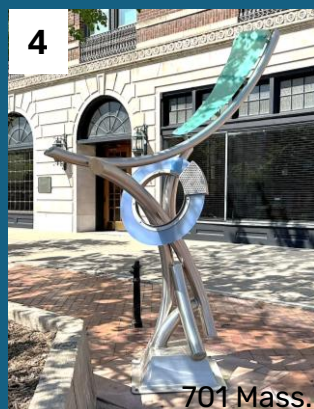
Join the City for a walking tour of the 2026 Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition during First Friday on June 5 and Final Friday on June 26. The tour begins at 5:30 p.m. at 9th & Mass.

This year's exhibition celebrates the spirit of the World Cup through six unique artworks, each offering a different creative perspective on public art and the world's favorite game. Five of the six artworks will be on display throughout downtown this week, while the sixth project features Lawrence-inspired fútbol wearable gear which will be available at select Mass Street shops during World Cup festivities.

1. ^{A&B} *Close up, Far Out | Six Sides of Connection*, Alicia Kelly – cut window graphics at 812 Mass. and at The Roost, 920 Mass.
2. *FRGMNTS {WRLD CP 26}*, Javy Ortiz – painted panels in steel frame, mid-block on the sidewalk between 8th and 9th Street on the east side of Mass.
3. *Lawrence United F.C. Wearable Public Art as Cultural Narrative*, by Tim Hossler and Lizzy Arnold – fútbol wearables available at Wonder Fair, 841 Mass. and Sunflower Outdoor & Bike Shop, 804 Mass.
4. *Gestura*, by Nathaniel Pierce – stainless steel and acrylic sculpture at 7th and Mass., SW corner
5. *Soka Kila Mahali/Soccer Everywhere*, by Gary Mark Smith – photo collage on banner at City Hall, 6th and Mass. (Installed through July at City Hall)
6. *Fútbol 50 v 50*, by Randall Warren – painted steel sculpture at the Lawrence Library plaza

Want to explore at your own pace? Download the Otocast app to take a self-guided tour of this year's featured works and other public art pieces around downtown Lawrence.

Learn more about the exhibition here: <https://lawrenceks.gov/prc/upae/>





2026 Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition



Close up, Far Out and **Six Sides of Connection**, Alicia Kelly – cut window graphics at 812 Mass. and at The Roost, 920 Mass.

- **Close Up, Far out** is a vinyl window design inspired by the patterned tilework of azulejos (Portugal), zellij (Morocco) and traditional Scandinavian folk designs. Shadows are cast in the evening and different patterns emerge as the viewer stands Close Up vs. Far Out.
- **Six Sides of Connection** uses hexagonal shapes and the feeling of playfulness to ask its viewer to come closer, examine and imagine. Using a paper soccer ball template as my guide and inspiration, this vinyl window design gives the abstract sensibilities of a familiar form while dissecting the geometric form of a soccer ball.



FRGMNTS {WRLD CP 26}, Javy Ortiz – painted panels in steel frame, mid-block on the sidewalk between 8th and 9th Street on the east side of Mass.

- **FRGMNTS {WRLD CP 26}** explores the energy, movement, and sense of connection that surrounds the World Cup and the global game of soccer. Inspired by both the sport itself and the official match ball for this year's tournament, the work uses layered geometric forms, bold color, and fragmented compositions to create rhythm and motion throughout the surface.



Lawrence United F.C. Wearable Public Art as Cultural Narrative, by Tim Hossler and Lizzy Arnold – fútbol wearables available at Wonder Fair, 841 Mass. and Sunflower Outdoor & Bike Shop, 804 Mass.

- **Lawrence United F.C.** reimagines the history of Lawrence, Kansas through the familiar structure of a soccer club. The team consists of eleven starting players, a manager, and six substitutes, each drawn from the city's past. Together, they form a selective and intentionally incomplete roster that tells a story of Lawrence through the language of sport. At the center of the project is the team crest. In soccer culture, a crest represents identity, history, and loyalty, serving as a lasting symbol of the club even as uniforms and merchandise change. In Lawrence United, the crest functions in much the same way—as a stable, symbolic record of both the team and the city it represents.



Gestura, by Nathaniel Pierce – stainless steel and acrylic sculpture at 7th and Mass., SW corner

- **Gestura** is an abstract sculpture that celebrates the movement and energy of the human experience. As viewers walk around the piece, its form continually shifts, revealing new perspectives that evoke the motion, agility, and grace of the human body. Constructed from reflective stainless steel and colored acrylic panels, the sculpture interacts with its surroundings by mirroring the landscape and capturing changing sunlight throughout the day. This dynamic relationship creates a sense of balance and harmony between the artwork and its environment.



Soka Kila Mahali/Soccer Everywhere, by Gary Mark Smith – photo collage on banner at City Hall, 6th and Mass.

- **Ball control street soccer being played amidst the much-ignored African war in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, arranged by global street photographer Gary Mark Smith, a work he calls a 13-image "photo quilt" demonstrating that wherever you go in the world, even on the most inhospitable streets, you'll find the game of fútbol being played (Soka Kila Mahali).



Fútbol 50 v 50, by Randall Warren – painted steel sculpture at the Lawrence Library plaza

- **Fútbol 50 v 50** depicts two players in red, symbolizing the passion and competitive spirit of the game, each equally contesting possession of the ball. The white ball represents the purity of soccer, while the blue spheres surrounding each player reflect the cultures, communities, and supporters they bring to the World Cup. Together, these elements rise above a green pitch, celebrating the global connections and shared experiences that make the sport unique.