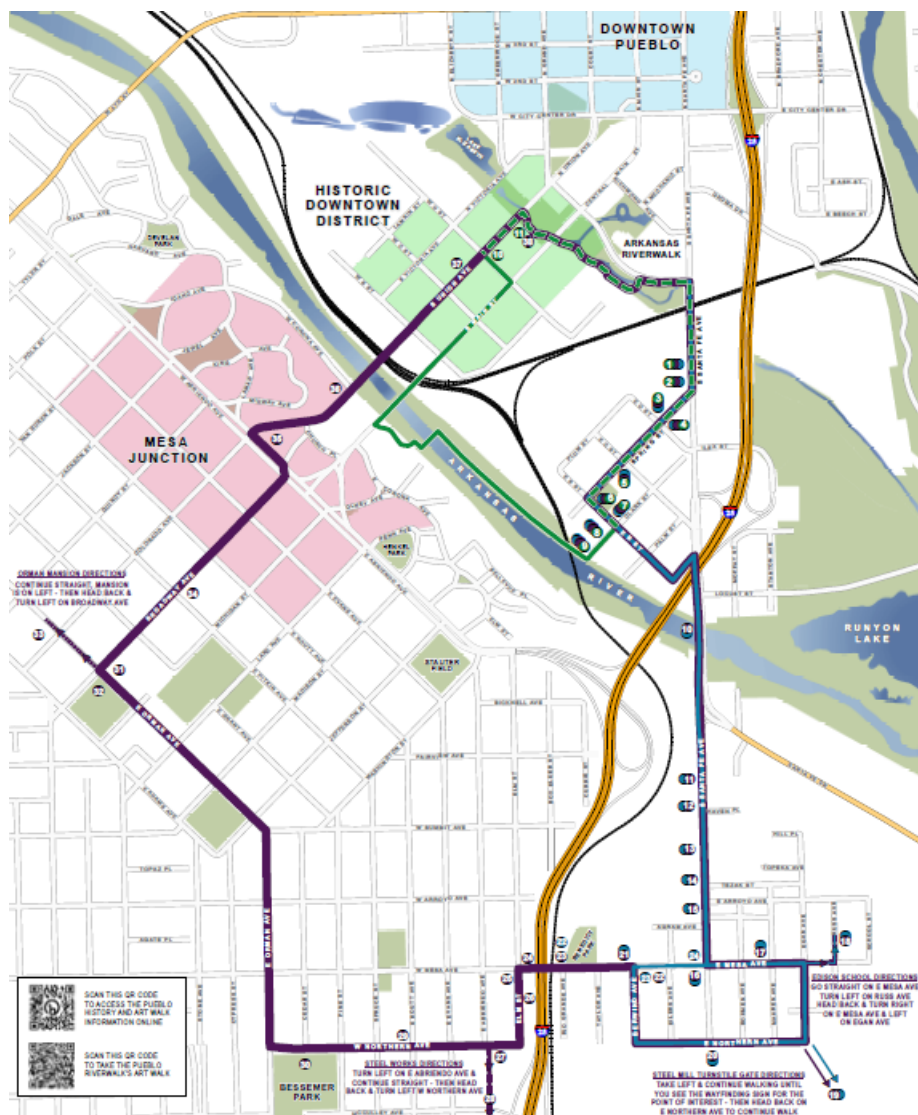
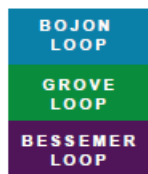


Pueblo History and Art Walk





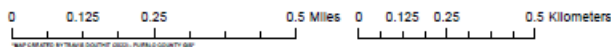
PUEBLO HISTORY AND ART WALK



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1 inch = 375 feet



Welcome to the Pueblo History and Art Walk

The Pueblo History and Art Walk is a self-guided, historical art walk through three of the oldest neighborhoods in Pueblo, Colorado. The walk consists of historical stops within the neighborhoods, rotating art pieces, and access to physical activity. The History and Art Walk is portioned into three loops you can choose from, all varying in length.

1. The Grove Neighborhood Loop: In this loop, you take a stroll through the newest addition to the Pueblo Creative Corridor, The Grove neighborhood. Sitting just south of downtown Pueblo, The Grove provides opportunities to purchase art from local Pueblo artists, view one of the oldest churches in the city, and see the beauty of the Arkansas River.

2. The Bojon Town Loop: In this loop, you will get to experience part of The Grove and get to see what sparked the revitalization of the three historical neighborhoods. You will take a peek at the turnstile gate, where steel mill workers would meet their families after a shift and have the opportunity to taste true Pueblo restaurants.

3. The Bessemer Neighborhood Loop: In addition to the two previous loops, the Bessemer loop adds more shopping and play to your tour. You will get to see diverse mom-and-pop shops along the Northern Avenue Business corridor, play at Bessemer Park, and hear about the oldest rivalry west of the Mississippi.

Color-Coded Loops: Throughout this document, there are many points of interest with colored and numbered circles next to them. Each color represents one of the three loops of the Pueblo History and Art Walk. The numbers within the circles identify where on the Pueblo History and Art Walk Map you can locate that particular point of interest.

Bojon Town:  Bessemer:  The Grove: 

Scan the QR Code to see the community partners who help bring the Pueblo History and Art Walk to life and receive a coupon when you drop off your brochure at participating locations.



The Pueblo History and Art Walk

Water Tower Place 1 1 1

In 1891, Emmett Nuckolls and his son G. H. Nuckolls opened the first Pueblo operation of the Nuckolls Packing Company near the Union stock yards, about one-half mile east of Bessemer Junction Station. They achieved great success in the meat packing industry and saw tremendous growth potential immediately.

In 1915, the family hired Hans Peter Henschien to design one of the world's most sophisticated meat packing facilities using his 'rational factory' theory. Henschien planned the very structure of the factory so that it would work as predictably and obediently as a machine by facilitating the most efficient flow of product throughout the plant. Meat packing firms pioneered the development of the rational factory in the early 20th century with influential builders like Hans Peter Henschien.

Water Tower Place today is now being redeveloped and repurposed to help keep the long-standing traditions of Pueblo, foster creativity and innovation, provide event space with panoramic views of the Steel City, and be a space for history, culture, and the arts.

Welcome to The Grove Neighborhood 2 2 2

This neighborhood of Pueblo, tucked in low-lying land right next to the Arkansas River, has developed and changed many times throughout history. Beneath the

surface, there is much to be seen. The Grove began as an immigrant city-within-a-city, where Austrians, Italians, and mainly Slovenians opened restaurants and taverns for their fellow neighbors. It was said that one could walk by The Grove and hear accordions playing various Slovenian songs on one block and see proud Italian flags on the next. Then, the great Pueblo Flood occurred on June 3, 1921. Being the lowest area in Pueblo and, being close to the river, The Grove saw the worst of the flooding. Being a neighborhood of industrial working immigrants with little money, most homes were washed away. The pre-flood residents that survived the event moved up to Bojon Town. Others that did not move helped rebuild the historic neighborhood into what you see today. Now, when entering the neighborhood, you can see the growing culture of music and art influence, modernism, respect for history and tradition and, of course, Pueblo pride.

Blo Back Gallery

The mission statement of Blo Back Gallery is to provide an uncensored platform that may challenge what we believe to be true.

Blo Back Gallery had its first art solo show in December of 2017. Since the first show, the gallery has been averaging one show a month, with most shows being solo shows where one artist is in the gallery at a time. Blo Back also hosts several thematic group shows, plus music and performance art on a regular basis.

In August of 2020, the gallery expanded to 5,000 square feet, making it one of the largest independent galleries in Southern Colorado. Blo Back now represents eighteen artists who are mostly from Pueblo, but a few are from other parts of Colorado. Blo Back's goal is to make The Grove the fourth arts district in Pueblo, which would make Pueblo the city with the most art districts in all of Colorado. Come on in, enjoy art, and challenge your thoughts!

Silver Park

A modern museum in a historic neighborhood, Silver Park is a place for being and doing. Where others saw a building, the owner saw a blank canvas. So, he turned this property into a free art display for community members to enjoy. The silver theme of the art brings light to the area and allows the natural lighting to make its mark. As described by the artist, Silver Park is a place where light changes throughout the day from a soft glow to a shimmering dance to a brilliant radiance.

It is a fun stop for you to enjoy while on your tour.

Star Bar

Star bar has been a staple of The Grove neighborhood for decades. The history of the building can be found in its longtime customers. Many locals come to Star Bar to enjoy one of Pueblo's favorite cheeseburgers and a cold drink after a long day of work. Home of the Star Burger, which is essentially a triple cheeseburger, Star Bar provides a comfortable atmosphere for community members to enjoy a meal with the "old school" feel that brings back nostalgia. It has been passed to several owners over the years but has since found a home with the current business partners. From the red and black checkered tablecloths to the thick wooden bar top, to the musical choices, Star Bar is a symbol of 'home' for many community members. Come join the family!

Moynihn Park

Moynihn Park has a rich past. In the 1890s, Silas Clark came to Pueblo in search of oil and found water instead. In 1905, a large hotel was constructed on the site where people came from all over to relax, bathe, and drink from the natural spring. Eventually the hotel was removed from the premises and most of the property was sold to the Catholic Diocese. Despite the ups and downs of the economy, Clark Spring Water has retained their ownership of the well and it continues to provide natural spring water to homes and businesses today. In November 2007, the Bishop of Pueblo sold the remaining 1.7 acres of the park to the City of Pueblo. It had a basketball court, picnic tables, benches, and multiple playground equipment. The park had not changed much from the 1980s. That was until 2019, when new playground equipment, benches, and tables were added to the park! Come, relax, and enjoy.

Clark Spring Water Company

Silas Clark truly was an amazing man. As a gifted businessman, he flourished as a merchant and an oilman in Pennsylvania. At the age of fifty-seven his adventurous, pioneering spirit led him west in the 1870s to pursue mining where he was also a success. Searching and drilling for oil was his passion, so in 1879 in Pueblo, Colorado he began to drill for oil. At a depth of 1,425 feet, he struck... water! The men on his drilling team began drinking the water and proclaimed its virtues. People traveling west stopped to drink and bathe in the water. Silas' brief disappointment at striking water instead of oil soon turned to optimism as he

recognized the value of this special water. Silas built the first bath resort, and word of the well began to spread.

Soon people from all over the state, the country, and even the world came to Pueblo to try Clark's spring water! The company still operates at the exact location where all this took place many years ago.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

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Prior to the year 1990, the Italians living in Pueblo used to frequent St. Patrick Church on Michigan Avenue. As years passed and the Italians in Pueblo grew more and more numerous, the need of a special church for them began to be keenly felt. Under the date of March 30, 1899, Archbishop Sebastain Martinelli wrote to Bishop Nicholas C. Matz of Denver. He asked him to investigate a complaint made by the Italian people of Pueblo to the effect that they were being spiritually neglected. Pueblo did not become a diocese until Nov 15, 1941, therefore, the Bishop of Denver had jurisdiction over these matters in Pueblo. Father Pennella communicated a four-page letter to the Apostolic Delegate and Bishop Matz, pointing out that the Italians were not making use of the religious opportunities at hand, but came to church chiefly on the occasion of a baptism, marriage, or funeral. He left it up to the Apostolic Delegate to decide whether they were being neglected in a spiritual way, since there were three churches they could attend if they wished. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church became a separate parish in March of 1908, with Father Giglio becoming its first pastor. He saw a need for enlarging the church, which had a seating capacity of only 200 people. With the assistance of Father Ilinotti, he began to collect funds for this purpose. In July of 1907, ground was broken for the extension of the church. What took place from that time until November is not clear, but the next entry in the house diary at St. Patrick stated that work was again begun on the church. In the following month, Father Brunner, then residing in Trinidad, Colorado came to confer with Father Giglio and loaned him some money to carry on the work in February 1908. The expansion work was not completed until July 1911, at a cost of \$7,585 of which the people contributed \$754.90.

Arkansas Levee Trail

9

9

9

Running through the heart of Pueblo is the Arkansas River, where Pueblo comes to life with fishing, kayaking, tubing, and playing. People come from all over to Southern Colorado, to fly fish on the river, go boating at the reservoir, and enjoy walking on the beautiful Arkansas River Trail throughout the City.

The Arkansas River Trail extends 10.1 miles across town, taking you from the Pueblo Reservoir to downtown Pueblo. It passes through the Pueblo Nature Center where you can see owls, hawks, and even bald eagles nesting among the trees.

The trail was once home to a 3-mile-long mural along the Arkansas levee, which made the Guinness Book of World Records as the “longest painting in the world”! With the renovations to the levee complete, Pueblo is looking to surpass its previous record in the future.

This portion of The Grove loop will awe you with its beauty, and if you are lucky, you might even get to see some river surfers!

You will soon be approaching the pedestrian bridge to head to downtown Pueblo. When you reach the bridge, you will cross it and head up the path to proceed to Main Street and head toward your destination.

Santa Fe Avenue Bridge 10 10

Built in 1924 by Pueblo Bridge Company, Santa Fe Avenue Bridge is the oldest and longest of its type remaining in Colorado. This bridge was built over the Arkansas River after the historic Pueblo flood in 1921, once restoration efforts were established. Being built with Pennsylvania trusses, which were never commonly used in Colorado at the time, Santa Fe Avenue Bridge spans 286 feet across the Arkansas River. The bridge overlooks the Arkansas levee trail that locals have painted with artistic murals throughout the decades. It is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and is a site to see that brings you back in time.

Union Avenue Historic Commercial District 10

This century-old business district comprises 70 properties that contribute to the historic and architectural importance of the Union Avenue Historic Commercial District. The area was developed in 1872, with the first brick buildings appearing in the early 1880s. Today, the district is filled with local shops for people to enjoy, from gyms to restaurants, to antique shops. People from all over come to enjoy the Historic Riverwalk, delicious food, and wonderful people.

Completing the Grove Loop 11

You have now completed the Grove Loop of the Pueblo History and Art Walk. Once you reach the Pueblo Riverwalk, you can take it back to where you started your tour.

We thank you for joining us, and hope you enjoyed your tour!

The Colorado Smelter Slag Pile/Tracks

11**11**

This pile of slag is what is left of the Colorado Smelter. The Colorado Smelter was built in the 1800s and was a smelter site for silver-lead ore. The owners of the Madonna Mine, located in the mountains in Monarch, Colorado, built the site to cost-effectively smelt the extracted silver-lead ore. From 1883 through 1908, The Colorado Smelter operated in southern Pueblo, creating jobs and wealth for the business. The ore from the Madonna mine processed at the Colorado Smelter contained 30% lead by weight and made a great profit for the owners. Pueblo was once home to five ore smelters and the steel mill. It was through this industry that Pueblo was coined "The Steel City". To this day, the steel mill and industrial workforce are a major part of Pueblo and its residents. This smelter site, although very beneficial in the past, has left a negative environmental impact on the community. In 2010, it was discovered that the old smelter site contained elevated lead and arsenic levels and triggered an Environmental Protection Agency cleanup throughout the historic neighborhoods. This helped spark the revitalization of Bessemer, Bojon Town, and The Grove. Moving forward, the vision for this old smelter site is for it to become a neighborhood plaza where community members can go for gatherings, activities, and connections.

Kurja Vass

12**12**

Walking up South Santa Fe Hill, the houses across from you from the bottom of the hill to the top were named "Kurja Vass" which in Slovenian means "Chicken Village." This moniker was given because all of these homes had chicken coups in their back yards. For several years, a fun event called the "Kurja Vass Run" was held. The run was a timed race where runners carried a rubber chicken while running up the hill. Cluck! Cluck!

Take a water break!

Meadow Gold Dairy Distribution Center

13**13**

Where this building stands was an old Meadow Gold Ice Cream Distribution Center. It served the entire Bojon Town neighborhood and the City of Pueblo. Throughout the week, Santa Fe Avenue would be bustling with trucks ready to distribute dairy products around town to all the local grocery stores. Neighborhood residents who have lived in the area their whole lives can still remember getting a bottle of delicious milk or orange juice as children from the side retail door that served walk-up orders. At the time, children would line up to get their fill of ice cream bars, cups, and other treats after a long day of school. Today, the building serves as a truck maintenance shop, but the Bojon Town neighborhood will always remember it as the adored Meadow Gold Ice Cream Distribution Center.

Newton's Lumber Yard

14

14

Newton's Lumber was an instrumental neighborhood business. Many of the windows and doors were milled for the homes in Bojon Town. A unique feature of Newton's picture windows was a drain located at the bottom of the window removing moisture from the inside.

Welcome to the Bojon Town Neighborhood

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You are now entering the Bojon Town neighborhood. This neighborhood is home to many families who have had generations of relatives live here since the late 1800s. In its early days, Pueblo grew because many immigrant families moved here to work at the Colorado Fuel & Iron (CF&I) steel mill, which was the largest steel mill west of the Mississippi at the time. Some immigrants were even required to work as indentured servants to pay back their cost of passage to Pueblo and a new life. The Bojon Town neighborhood continued to grow with Pueblo and became mixed with Mexican, Slovenian, Italian, Croatian, Slovak, and other nationality families.

"Bojon" was the Pueblo slang term referring to those of Slovenian origin. Some say the term came from the bowties and sleek outfits these men would wear when applying for jobs at the steel mill. Others say the slang term originated from Slovenian immigrants traveling through France to the U.S. And others say the term was a derogatory slang term for the Slovenians that settled in the neighborhood. Regardless of the origin, the neighborhood residents have embraced and adopted "Bojon Town" as a positive description not only for their neighborhood, but also for their food, music, heritage, and cultures.

Although different in culture, the steel mill families grew together into a tight knit community that you can still see today. Their children attended the same small school, the adults would gather at the same local tavern, and the community signified the diversity, strength, and resiliency of the American dream. A wide variety of neighborhood establishments provided patrons the opportunity to conduct business in their native language.

Along the walk, you can also see the different housing styles that have changed over the decades. Many of the charming bungalow homes that were built in the early 1900s have been passed down three, sometimes four, generations!

Do Drop Inn

16

16

This community staple has been enchanting Puebloans for generations with its rich history and delicious, sweet dough pizza.

Do Drop Inn's history all started in Pueblo's Seton Catholic High School when Donna MacFarlane-Franz tasted a sweet bread one of her classmates made in home-economics class and she loved it. So, years later, when her and her husband purchased a pizza business in Pueblo, she found inspiration from her past and created the pizza menu Puebloans all know and love. In 1993, they moved their business from downtown Pueblo to the location you see here. The building was originally occupied by Butkovich Mercantile. The mercantile offered men's clothing and shoes, police and firefighter uniforms, and school uniforms for the community. Owner John Butkovich, himself a Croatian immigrant, hosted a weekly Sunday radio show called "The Slovenian Radio Hour" playing traditional Slovenian music.

In the fall of 2020, Do Drop Inn partnered with local artist, Dan Livingston, to create the beautiful mural located on the north side of the building in remembrance of the steel workers that helped build the community into what it is today.

The Ethos (Formerly Anzick's Restaurant & The Grand Prix)

17

17

Established in 1933, Anzick's Restaurant was a dining hub for Bojon Town. On Tuesdays, Anzick's offered a 10-cent hamburger special for the neighborhood school kids. Getting to walk from school to the restaurant and buying a hamburger was a special treat. On the same property behind Anzick's Restaurant was Cheech's. With not having television and with most baseball games not broadcasted on the radio, neighborhood men gathered here to watch as the scores came across the ticker tape and were written on the blackboard behind the counter. For many decades, Pueblo has had a rich history and love of baseball. Upon the closure of Anzick's, The Grand Prix Mexican Restaurant owned by Nick and Sadie Montoya and Family was established. It was so popular that it drew customers from across the city to Bojon Town. Now, The Ethos is a creative community hub. It is home to Pueblo's first non-alcoholic sober bar, as well as studio space for artists and makers and an event hall. The building hosts a myriad of community groups and events, and offers all levels of art classes to help even the "not-an-artist" types to make their own art.

Edison School

18

18

As one of Pueblo's historic buildings, Edison school was constructed in 1909 with two single classroom units and hosted neighborhood students over many years. It is noted for its unique design of having windows located near the ceilings to provide uniform, diffused light, and improve ventilation, originated by Dr. R.W. Corwin. The idea of "universally diffuse light" was to give left-handed pupils, which

made up about 3-8% of students attending, an equal chance of succeeding in their studies. In 1923, two more single classroom units were added and a four-classroom building. Edison School served as an elementary school for Pueblo youth for many years until 1974 when the school was closed due to high utility bills and decreased enrollment. This building, still architecturally beautiful, has now been converted from classrooms to affordable housing to continue to benefit the Pueblo community.

Steel Mill Turnstile Gate

19 19

The history of Pueblo lies in its steel industry. Named Steel City for a reason, Pueblo was once home to steel mills, ore smelters, and other industrial businesses that brought many families across the nation to Colorado. In 1960, the Colorado Fuel & Iron (CF&I) steel mill employed many men living in Bessemer, Bojon Town, and The Grove. Employees would walk from the neighborhoods to this East Turnstile Gate Entrance to go to work at their respective departments. Children throughout the neighborhood would wait for the afternoon shift change whistle and line along East Northern Avenue waiting for their fathers to come home. Some children would have fresh lemonade stands ready for the workers, while others waited patiently for their fathers to give them a leftover twinkie or treat from their lunch pails. This turnstile gate signified a community as strong as steel and continues to be a big piece of history for the three neighborhoods.

East Northern Avenue Businesses

20 20

Welcome to East Northern Avenue.

This road connects Pueblo County and the surrounding neighborhoods to the rest of the community. The big bridge that stretches over Interstate 25 helps to distinguish the different neighborhoods, histories, heritage, and people. On the eastern side of the Northern Avenue bridge, you can see the deep roots of the steel mill and our old historic businesses.

The historic Eastern Northern Avenue had businesses who cared for the steel mill families in Bojon Town through trying times. Today, they stand as a testament of the strength of historic Pueblo and its people. Though the actual businesses have come and gone over the years, the physical buildings hold so much emotion and connection.

From the 1940s to the late 1970s, when the mill and the tavern business were running at its peak in Pueblo. Along this three-block stretch of East Northern Avenue, there were five successful taverns catering to the schedules of the mill workers. These taverns were a gathering place for workers to relax and enjoy a cold beer after long, hot shifts at the mill before heading home for a hearty meal of Klobasi and

sauerkraut or Yespre. The historic background gives the current businesses such as the Circle Lounge (originally Manning's Bar), Veteran's Tavern, Tacos Navarro, and Liz's Tamale House that extra special bond to the community.

St. Mary's Catholic Church 21 21

St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church is centrally located in the Bojon Town neighborhood and serves as a spiritual home for Pueblo's Slovenian American communities. It has a deep history and is part of a rich immigrant culture in Pueblo. The congregation was established in 1891 when a Denver Bishop, Nicholas Chrysostom Matz, asked Reverend Boniface Wirtner of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, to establish a parish for Pueblo's Slovenian, German, and Slovak community. It was common in the late 1800s to establish "ethnic" parishes in the Catholic Church to lessen the challenges of immigrant assimilation. It was thought that it would help immigrants to offer religious services in parishioners' native language and maintain traditions from "the old country".

The congregation first worshipped in an abandoned broom factory on South Santa Fe Avenue in The Grove neighborhood. In 1895, a site was purchased on Clark Street in The Grove for a new church and school, staffed by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Eventually, the Slovaks and Germans split from St. Mary's and each built their own church. Due to the 1921 flood, the church was moved and rebuilt on its current location and reopened in 1953.

On the property is a rectory, former school, church, convent, and prayer garden. St. Mary's continues to be the spiritual home for the many multi-cultural Bojon Town residents.

Benedict Park 22 23

Benedict Park is in the heart of Bojon Town's neighborhood. The Catholic Diocese owned St. Mary's Catholic Church, along with additional property to the west of the church that was part of the school. Following the closure of St. Mary's School, the Park was leased to the City of Pueblo and operated as a park for the Bojon Town neighborhood. In February 1979, the Bishop of Pueblo sold the 2.80 acres of park with a softball field, a wooden playground, and benches to the City of Pueblo. Today, the park looks the same with the recent additions of two playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables have been added to the park.

Eilers' Place and St. Mary's Field

23 22

Tucked away in the neighborhood of Bojon Town is a small hometown bar, Eilers' Place. It started as Angelo Llamas Grocery store in the early 1900s.

Mathew Glavich and Josephine (Pepa) Okoren both immigrated to Pueblo from Slovenia. They met, married, and raised a beautiful family of five children. Their dream to own their own business and home was realized in 1929 when they purchased Angelo Llamas Grocery at 326 E. Mesa Avenue, which included an attached home big enough for the entire family.

Mathew was in the process of moving his barber shop from its previous location on East Northern Avenue when he tragically passed away six months later. Pepa Glavich ran the grocery store and boot-legged her hand-pressed, homemade wine to support her family during the Great Depression and Prohibition. With the repeal of Prohibition, neighbors suggested she apply for a liquor license, which she did on August 5, 1933. Eilers' Place opened with two quarts of whiskey and two kegs of beer and retains the second liquor license issued in the City of Pueblo. It continues to operate under the same family ownership. The fourth generation, Sue Miketa and Elizabeth and Josh Spence, now proudly run Eilers' Place. It is a great piece of history for us to enjoy in the present.

Directly across from Eilers' is the St. Mary's ball field and Eilers' Baseball Park. Baseball was in the blood of Puebloans, and this was true of Bojon Town residents as well. Directly across the street from Eilers' Place, which is now the 1100 block of Eilers Avenue, was an open field owned by St. Mary's Church. In 1932, Eilers' Place became nearly synonymous with baseball when Pepa's son-in-law, Rudolph "Moon" Kocman, envisioned this lot becoming a baseball field. Moon moved ahead with his dream and started a semi-professional baseball team with players mainly from Bojon Town and a sponsorship from Walters Brewing Company.

A fenced in baseball field, complete with grandstands and a ticket booth were constructed. The Walters Brewers team played their first game in 1933, competing against other local and state semi-pro baseball teams. Their home field was known as both Eilers' Baseball Park and St Mary's Field. Admission to the games was 15 cents, with Eilers' Place serving as the concession stand. Remnants of the concrete footings for the chain link fence surrounding the baseball field remain along the south side of the Eilers' parking lot. This area was where the grandstands were built. One small section of the original grandstand's foundation sits at an angle on the corner of Eilers Avenue and East Mesa Avenue as a memento to this piece of Bojon Town history. Eilers' Place walls are adorned with numerous historical pictures, articles, and items depicting Pueblo and Bojon Towns past. Included is an original Walters Brewers uniform along with multiple Walters Brewers pictures.

Completing the Bojon Town Loop 24

You have now completed the Bojon Town Loop of the Pueblo History and Art Walk. Once you reach the intersection of South Santa Fe Avenue and East Mesa Avenue, you will turn left to head back down Santa Fe Hill and towards downtown Pueblo.

We thank you for joining us, and hope you enjoyed your tour!

Welcome to Bessemer 24

You are now entering the third historic neighborhood in our Historic Self-Guided Walking Tour, Bessemer. Bessemer went from a small worker's neighborhood to booming company town in a very short amount of time. Though Bessemer seems to also remain in the shadows of the CF&I Steel Mill, this neighborhood holds its own by preserving its original culture, people, businesses, and sense of belonging. Bessemer quickly became Pueblo's biggest and, some argue most important, neighborhood that provided blue collar workers an escape from work and a welcoming space to be with friends and family.

Most workers were immigrants at the steel mill, and these individuals spent time feeling at home in small grocery stores, restaurants, and churches. First platted in 1880, the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company bought land in the area and built houses to provide housing for workers. The Bessemer ditch was approved, and construction began in 1889. The boundaries of the Bessemer neighborhood have grown over time, given the original area was much smaller. This is not the only thing that has changed in Bessemer. Transportation used to mean street cars connecting to the rest of Pueblo, but then the creation of Interstate 25 divided the neighborhood in half.

Gus' Place 25

Established in 1925, Gus' Place has been in the Masciotra family for generations. It started as a local corner grocery store and has remained mostly unchanged since its inception. Currently, it operates as a local tavern and is famous in Pueblo for serving the "Dutch Lunch" locals rave about. It is a historic landmark in Bessemer highlighting the culture of the neighborhood bringing you back to the times when families of immigrants would come together after a long day's work. It is a sight to see and a wonderful Pueblo favorite to visit.

Gagliano's Italian Market & Deli 26

Gagliano's Italian Market was established in 1921 by Joe and Carmela Gagliano, immigrants of Lucca Sicula, Italy. It was originally established to cater to the growing number of immigrants moving into Pueblo to work the steel mill and smelters. The

Gagliano's wished to keep their Italian roots alive and live the American dream by having their own business. They started by selling milk to their neighbors and eventually opened the store that is located on Elm Street. They sold items from pasta, sauces, and homemade sausage to household items. The business has been passed down three generations and continues to be one of Pueblo's favorite establishments. From homemade pasta to fresh pastries, you will not be disappointed with the experience of Gagliano's.

Northern Avenue Business Corridor 27

You are now at the East Northern Avenue Business Corridor. Here is where you can shop at small businesses, enjoy the beautification efforts of local schools, and stroll down a historic business corridor.

Steel Works 28

Steelworks Center of the West collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits collections of the steel and mining industry, the Bessemer neighborhood, mining camps, and the families of the industry in the region and industrial west. The organization plays an active role in telling the stories of the people, machines, ideas, and natural resources that made a global impact on Pueblo, Colorado, as well as American history. There are programs and services that are provided with a hands-on learning environment for students of all ages. The museum also serves as a resource for regional schools by offering access to STEM education, social history, and literacy learning opportunities for the young people in the community. Within the museum are interactive exhibits relating to the company's history and impact on the American West. One example is the Story of Steel exhibit. It interprets the groundbreaking years of 1915-1936, which paved the way for national and local business practices which are still utilized today. Other exhibits include social life, work life, and industrial medicine administered by CF&I. The Steelworks Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

NeighborWorks Southern Colorado 29

NeighborWorks Southern Colorado is a non-profit dedicated to promoting healthy, vibrant neighborhoods and serves as the first choice for homebuyer resources in Southern Colorado. Established in 1977, NeighborWorks hosts programs to help build communities, assists Puebloans with homebuyer assistance, and engages with community members regularly.

A big thank you goes to them for making this walk possible!

Bessemer Park **30**

Bessemer Park has been a long-treasured park of the residents of Bessemer. The park, originally named Central Park, was developed in 1899. Located in the center of the Bessemer neighborhood, it initially offered only a few amenities. During the Great Depression, workers from the Works Progress Administration Program added a wading pool, a bathhouse, and a baseball diamond. Along with these improvements, the park's name was changed to Bessemer Park. In 1954, City Council voted to change the name of the park to Minnequa Park, added a swimming pool, and built a concession stand with the help of a local business called Dairy Deluxe Ice Cream Shop. In 2006, a new bathhouse was constructed, and a spray park was added. In 2010, the park was renamed Bessemer Park to reflect the name of the surrounding neighborhood. During the summer, Bessemer Park is full of activities, festivals, and softball tournaments. Pueblo Athletic League offers free softball lessons, Books in the Park is held Monday through Wednesday, and the swimming pools operate from the beginning of June through mid-August.

Central High School **31**

The first Central High School, built in 1882, still stands in the 100 block of East Pitkin and was recently renovated and converted into apartments. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves a beautiful piece of history in Pueblo. Central High School, as it stands now, at 216 East Orman Avenue, began being built in 1902 and was completed in 1912. After a fire destroyed all but the east wing of the building in 1917, major renovation took place and was finished by 1919 into what you see today.

The saying at Central is "Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat". This rings true in how proud Puebloans are from at least 11 neighborhoods, to say they attended Central High School. The open enrollment within the community allowed individuals of all ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic groups to join the school and be represented and respected within Pueblo. Anyone who has attended Central High School understands that equal opportunity abounds within its walls and the ability to interrelate with people from every walk of life has made each of its students better able to live with greater successes in the real world. Central has always, and continues, to pride itself on its diversity and true "melting pot" qualities.

Central High School is also one half of a cherished Puebloan tradition that has spanned across several generations! Its rival, Centennial High School, is the other. Since their establishment, Central and Centennial have competed against each other in a rivalry football game that is famous for being the longest-standing high school

rivalry west of the Mississippi River! The competition between the schools date all the way back to Thanksgiving Day in 1892!

In 1950, a Pueblo businessman, Lewis Rhodes, donated a brass bell from one of the Colorado Fuel and Iron engines to be awarded annually to the winner of a rivalry football game. To this day, the two high schools compete for the possession of the historic bell.

Keating School 32

In 1923, the local school district began its plan to build a large junior high school to accommodate the growing population of Pueblo. Designed by architect William Stickney in the Classical Revival Renaissance style, this iconic school opened its doors by 1929. Downturns in the steel industry devastated Pueblo in the 1980s. Coupled with urban flight, city schools saw drastic school count drops. In the mid 1980s, Keating closed its doors as a middle school. Although it went through some successful modifications for alternative school, it permanently closed its doors in 2009. Fast forward to 2018, a group of volunteers convened to find solutions to redevelop this Pueblo gem. The Keating School Nonprofit is listed on National Historic Register and will house a theatre that will have over 500 seats and be state of the art. The developers will be building out 75 dwelling units plus 4-6 town houses on the property.

Orman Mansion 33

More than 120 years old, sitting at 11,887 square feet, the Orman Mansion has played a role in both Pueblo's and Colorado's history. Built in 1890 by Denver architect William Lang, the building was home to Colorado Governor James B. Orman, Governor Alva Adams, and U.S. Senator Alva B. Adams. The historic building showcases incredible sandstone architecture and consists of seven bedrooms, eight bathrooms, and 21 additional rooms. It also has a 1,400-square-foot carriage house, all on a one-acre lot. It is a sight to see and embodies the elegance of the late 1800s in Pueblo.

Pitkin Homes Architecture 34

The homes throughout this area of Pueblo are known for their charming features and feel as though you are taking a step back in time. Rows of these sophisticated homes built in the 1890s stand as a test of time because they are seemingly unchanged. Built at a time when the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company was booming and driving the city of Pueblo, houses like the houses on Pitkin were constructed for officers of the company. As these beautiful homes made an impression on the people of Pueblo,

major stakeholders of the town began to build their mini mansions in the same area. Buildings like these represent the importance of preserving history. The Historic Pueblo Inc., the nonprofit arm of the City's Historic Preservation Commission, has been working on doing so since 2002. If you look closer, it is clear these beautiful homes were built in a different era, covered in stained glass, wrap-around porches, columns, and misfired bricks. Most of these homes are included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Rawlings Library 35

A great community needs a great community center. The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) provides just that for the citizens of Pueblo. The PCCLD has five branches spanned across Pueblo to serve the entire community, one of which is the main Rawlings Library Branch that you see here. The PCCLD provides so many great opportunities like learning and creativity centers, community classes, children's story time, and many other free services for the public. From providing free books in the park to hosting museum exhibits, the PCCLD is a place for everyone to enjoy. In 2018, the Pueblo City-County Library was named Best Public Library in the Nation by the Engaging Local Government Leaders community, where over 115 libraries fought for the title. We highly suggest not only viewing the beautifully designed building but also enjoying the awesome activities inside it.

Aztec Manufacturing 36

621 S. Union was home to the Table Queen Baking Co. from 1903-1916. After that, it was a car laundry and auto body garage. In 1947, the building was purchased by Polish immigrant brothers John and Bill Wodiuk. Bill ran a window cleaning business and John ran an Aztec venetian blind company, which eventually turned into Aztec Manufacturing. Four generations later, Aztec Manufacturing is still owned and operated by the Wodiuk family. Their product line expanded over the years to include awnings and ornamental iron. Today they are especially known for their double-deadbolt security doors and canvas awnings.

Union Avenue Historic Commercial District 37

This century-old business district comprises 70 properties that contribute to the historic and architectural importance of the Union Avenue Historic Commercial District. The area was developed in 1872, with the first brick buildings appearing in the early 1880s. Today, the district is filled with local shops for people to enjoy, from

gyms to restaurants, to antique shops. People from all over come to enjoy the Historic Riverwalk, delicious food, and wonderful people.

Completed the Bessemer Loop **38**

You have now completed the Bessemer Loop of the Pueblo History and Art Walk. Once you reach the Pueblo Riverwalk, you can take it back to where you started your tour.

Thank you for completing the walk! Please drop this map off at the nearest participating partner and receive a coupon when you do so.

Scan the QR code to find a participating partner near you!



To learn more about community improvement projects happening in the Grove, Bojon Town, and Bessemer neighborhood, please visit

<https://bit.ly/3I4YDv6>