



April::

The Columbia St Mural Project::Bosque Rhythm Public Art::Tin Pan Alley Plaza Emerges (Lego-Style)::The Aluminum Yucca Up Close



Public Art Murals

Meditative native animal & plant scenes now live along Columbia St SE

In an obscure corner of one of the University neighborhoods, a new public mural project by local artist Courtney Angermeier is expanding nicely along Columbia St SE. I first learned about the mural scenes from an [ABQJournal](#) article that described Angermeier's work as *Mimbrenño-style*. The Mimbres were an Anasazi tribe, a culture that flourished in southwest NM about 1200 years ago. Here's [an example](#) of their pottery artwork.

Angermeier, a Media Arts Collaborative Charter School teacher & adjunct UNM professor, depicts stylized native southern New Mexican plants & animals: A wild boar family trots across a concrete block wall, near where a family of skunks are spending time, perilously close to the family of quail, all set among perfectly blooming yuccas & sunflower scenes. Her's is a fantastic project set to help beautify the area.

The area, south of the University of New Mexico & east of CNM in the Victory Hills neighborhood, is a stretch of private greenspace that makes up the back of residential homes--fences & walls set back from the sidewalk, separated mostly by overgrown weeds & garbage. The blank canvas of those fences & walls is what attracted Angermeier, who has lived in the area for over 20 years. When her school closed this spring & she suddenly found herself with a little free time, she went to work creating her meditative murals. Another of her mural images is below, with Angermeier standing next to her blooming ocotillo, & the skunk family below that.

Courtney Angermeier's beautification of the area has precedents & may expand organically: in Chicago, a neighborhood began with one garage-door-as-mural & has blossomed to more than a [dozen large-scale paintings](#).

The full [Columbia St SE Mural article is here](#).





[Bosque Rhythm](#) & [Bosque Rio Sunset](#): Art on the Bosque

In the Metro, we have an [abundant supply of cool accessible outdoor art](#). Some of our public artwork is subtle & expansive. The following two places along the Rio Grande Bosque are great examples of artwork you might pass daily & not realize it...

Finished viewing homes south of Downtown in the [Barelas Neighborhood](#), I walked north along Tingley Drive SW & came across [Bosque Rhythm](#), two serene art fences along the Bareles Bridge crossing to Tingley Beach Aquatic Park. From her website, the artist, [Susan Wink](#), is beautifully prolific. Her Bosque Rhythm can be seen above.

You've probably passed [Bosque Rio Sunset](#) hundreds of times as you crossed the Rio on the Montaña Bridge. Soon after the bridge was built in 1997, artist Dave Dekker conceived of Bosque Rio Sunset, a public art installation created to mimic the surrounding bosque environment in shades of blue, green & red. Dekker painted square 'pixels' on the concrete sidewalk that spans the bridge, two images below.

From [MurosABQ.com](#): "The colors (of Bosque Rio Sunset) transition gently & echo the surrounding environment. In total, the mural is 6,000 running feet (3 feet high) comprising the south, north and center lane, on both sides of the Montano Bridge, over the Rio Grande River."

The easiest way to view the bridge-spanning art installation is from your car heading in either direction. Or you can park in the parking area on Mirandela St NW, at the corner of Montaña Road, on the west side of the Rio, & walk across the bridge on easy paths. One of the riverview lookout stations is below. Over

23 years old, time & the southwest sun has taken a little toll on Bosque Rio Sunset, which is still a wonderful experience to pass by...

More: [Bosque Rhythm & Bosque Rio Sunset, Rio Grande State Park Trails info](#), too.



There are numerous easy access points to the Rio Grande throughout the length of the river, from [Barelas](#) up to [Alameda](#) & beyond heading north. The main biking/hiking/walking trail, the [Paseo del Bosque trail](#), is approx 16 miles in length from Alameda Blvd to Rio Bravo Blvd & runs along the east side of the river. Along the way is an [intricate matrix of walking & bike trails](#) that cross the Rio & spread into the Metro from many points along the Trail, which takes you to more trails & more...Below is a pedestrian bridge above a Rio Grande canal, with pedestrian bike path (no motorized vehicles) on one side & a walking trail on the other.



Fourth stop above: [Tin Can Alley](#)--opening soon! @tincanalleyabq (TCA) is an 11,000 sq.ft shipping container complex that will house a brewery, coffeeshop, restaurants, an artisan food gallery & more.

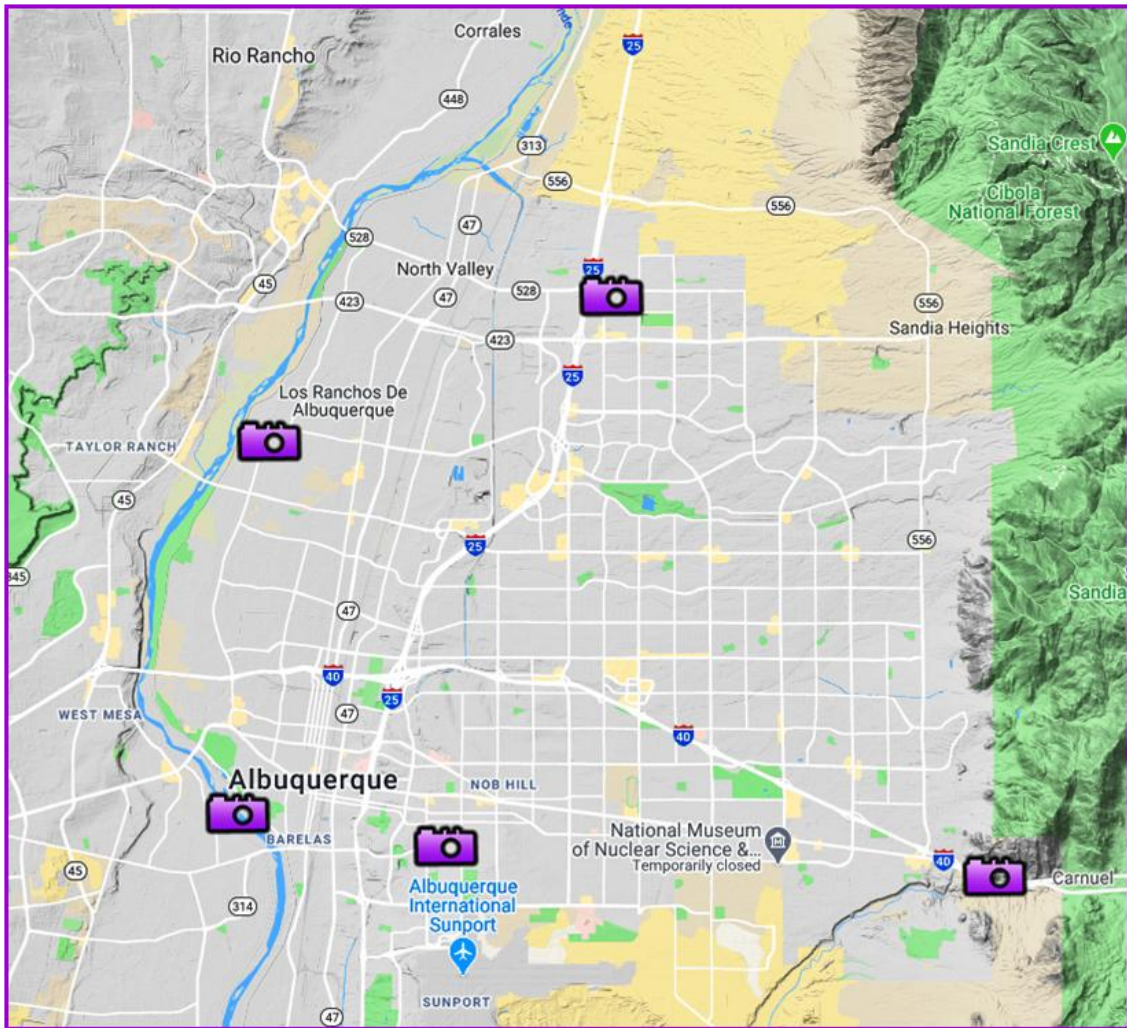
The complex sits west of I-25 at Alameda, at the border of the [ABQ Acres West](#) group of neighborhoods, near La Cueva High School. There are numerous neighborhoods being developed & many built-up in the last two decades. Homes for sale there don't often list below \$300,000, & a current home is selling for \$1,300,000.

The shipping container structures are stacked, Lego-like, & tilted onto each other, creating quite a quirky-industrial scene. Recently I stopped by to check in on the

progress & to take photos, image above & two below.

Click for the full [Tin Can Alley article](#) & photos of it's smaller sister [Green Jeans Farmery](#).





Some extra time? Above are five MetroABQ scenes to take in: three public-funded art installations, a private/public mural project & an under-construction shipping container plaza. Click on the image above for the interactive map.



The easiest way to see the next one is from your car, traveling west along the interstate...

The [Aluminum Yucca](#) is a public art installation that is exactly what it sounds like. Sitting halfway up a steep hill on the southern edge of the Foothills Open Space, you've probably passed the yucca made of aluminum dozens of times as you came through Tijeras Canyon on Interstate 40, heading west. It's on the north/right-hand side just after the Carnuel exit, & is different all times/angles of the day, especially as the solar panels help light it up into the night. Commissioned by the MetroABQ's [One Percent For Art](#) program, artist [Gordon Huether](#) created Aluminum Yucca in 2003. It is considered the "Route 66 Gateway to Albuquerque."

Another way to enjoy the sculpture is up close. There is a [Foothills Open Space](#) trail south of Embudito Canyon that takes you pretty close, but not to the sculpture. To get there, you need to find the Supper Rock Neighborhood, a limited-access community north of I-40 with only two ways in. It stretches from Tramway Blvd on the west & hugs the Open Space on the east. The twisting Foothills streets up to the trailhead pass expensive generally custom homes, most with extraordinary city/mesa/sunset views. When developed in the 1960's, some properties in the neighborhood started out with their own tennis courts on adjacent lots.

[Full article on the short hike to the Aluminum Yucca plus photos.](#)



Unless otherwise indicated, all photos by Chris Lucas.



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