



# Feet First Walk Library

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## Multiculturalism, Public Art, and Public Space in the Central District Walking Tour

### Description

This is a great walk for those interested in exploring the Central District and observing both its multicultural roots and abundance of public art and public space. Be prepared to walk a good distance, for although this it is not a particularly hilly, this walk covers a lot of terrain. The walk culminates with a magnificent view over Lake Washington, and if you chose to continue further, a panoramic view of downtown Seattle.

**Start at:** 14th Avenue and E Remington Court

**How to get there:** Accessible by Metro bus routes 3, 4, and 84. Metro bus route 14 services the endpoint. Plan your trip at [triplanner.kingcounty.gov/](http://triplanner.kingcounty.gov/).

**Length:** 2.44 miles for ending at I-90; 2.75 miles for ending at Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint

**Estimated Time:** 90 minutes

**Difficulty:** Moderate, mostly flat, but some hills interspersed

**Services:** Restrooms at Pratt Park, Judkins Park, and Sam Smith Park

**Restrictions:** Not ADA Accessible

**Points of Interest:** Washington Hall, Squire P-Patch, Urban League, Seattle Buddhist Church, Seattle Koyasan Church, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Pratt Park, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Murals on Jackston Street, Judkins Park, Northwest African American Museum, Jimi Hendrix Park, Sam Smith Park, Mt.Baker Ridge Viewpoint





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### Directions

- 1. Start the walk at 14th Avenue and Remington Court, one block south of Jefferson Street.**

In the little park off this intersection is the Spirit of Youth sculpture designed by Marvin Oliver.

- 2. Once you are done observing this work of art, head back out onto 14th Avenue and go to the right (south).**

You will pass by the mosaic mural on the side of Alder Academy, a school that provides an individualized education experience to youth and works in conjunction with the nearby Juvenile Detention Center.

- 3. Continue further south on 14th Avenue. Once you reach 14th Avenue and E Fir Street, you will see Washington Hall on the right and Squire P-Patch on the left.**

Washington Hall is a Seattle landmark, and was influenced by the many different cultural groups present in the Central District throughout the 20th century. It was constructed in 1908 by the Danish Brotherhood and was used as a community center for new immigrants. During the middle of the century, it hosted many iconic artists including Jimi Hendrix, Duke Ellington, and Billie Holiday. Today, it is owned by the Sons and Daughters of Haiti and is rented out as an event space.

Squire P-Patch is a newer edition to the neighborhood—it was constructed in 1995 and provides garden space for many of the area's renters who don't have their own gardens. The P-Patch's fence is now adorned with painted panels that illustrate the history of jazz in the neighborhood. This project was created by artist Mary Coss with the help of some of Garfield High School's jazz musicians.



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**4. When you are done at these sites, continue further south on 14th Avenue and cross Yesler Way.**

Before you reach the intersection, notice the beautiful, historic St. George Building and the Urban League, which is located on the corner of Yesler and 14th. The Urban League has worked in Seattle since 1929 and it provides programs and services with the aim to “empower, enable, and assist African Americans, other people of color and disadvantaged individuals in becoming self-sufficient.”

**5. After you cross the intersection, continue for a block on 14th Avenue before taking a left and heading east on S Washington Street. While still on 14th, you will pass Bailey Gatzert Elementary School.**

Bailey Gatzert was Seattle’s eighth mayor, who served from 1875-76 and is, to date, the city’s only Jewish mayor. Once you turn on S Washington Street you will pass a light blue Victorian House that was constructed in 1900. The house was originally located on 13th Avenue, but it was moved to this spot in 1985 to avoid being demolished.

**6. Just a block further, are some core institutions of Seattle’s Japanese population, who settled in this area as early as the 1880s.**

On the left side of the street is Seattle Koyasan Church, a temple devoted to the Shingon sect of Japanese Buddhism. One block over, on S Main Street, is Seattle Buddhist Church, a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temple. The temple was established in this location in 1941, but operated as the US Maritime Commission Office from May 1942 to August 1946. Between these two churches is Wisteria Park, a private park and place of worship that is owned by Seattle Buddhist Church and contains a traditional garden and temple bell.



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**7. Continue East on S Washington Street and take a left on 17th Avenue South. On your right is Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center.**

It is community performing arts center run by the Seattle Parks Department with the goal to “assure authentic African American and Diaspora performing arts are presented to the public while incorporating educational components that meet the needs of the artistic and patron community” (City of Seattle). The building was constructed in 1912 and was originally Bikur Cholim Synagogue, a legacy of the strong Jewish presence in this area. The Central District was predominantly Jewish neighborhood from the 1890s until World War One.

**8. As you walk past Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, take a right on E Yesler Way and check out the mini business district on Yesler.**

**9. After a few blocks take a right into the South entrance of Pratt Park at roughly 19th Avenue.**

Pratt Park was named after Edwin T. Pratt, an active community member who founded the Central Area Motivation Program and the Seattle Opportunities Industrialization Center before his assassination in 1969. This extensive park features both a traditional and a water play area, picnic benches and barbeques, a play field, basketball courts, walking paths, and restrooms. An assortment of public art, adds a special touch to this park. One of the larger pieces is the “Tree Bench,” which was created by artist Paul Sorey and added in 2006.

**10. Exit the park on the left, towards 20th Avenue S and S Main Street, and walk south on 20th Avenue S, then take a left and walk east on S Washington Street.**

At this intersection there are murals on either side. The one closest to you is on the side of Pratt Fine Arts Center and was created by youth from the area and local artist Derek Wu.



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### **11. Continue further east on Washington Street to Blanche Lavizzo Place, around 22nd Avenue South.**

This open area provides shaded seating, and a small play area, and is named after the first medical director of the Odessa Brown Clinic for children. If you look up to the east, you will see another mural on the wall of an Ethiopian restaurant called Chef Cafe. This piece was created by Urban Art Works and is titled "Music is Life."

### **12. To connect to the Central Park Trail, head south, cross the Jackson St to Washington Middle School and walk down 20th Place along the right side of the building.**

This route follows the community mural that was created by local artist Samaj, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Central Area Development Association, and volunteers from the area. The images are based on the designs of students and their ideas about the role of the Central Park Trail in the community.

### **13. Continue in this direction until you merge onto the path at 20th Place and S Dearborn Street, walk down the stairs to the left and onto the trail. You will pass a huge playfield, and a pavillion with picnic benches, keep continuing south.**

This area is Judkins Park, an extensive park with many facilities from tennis and basketball courts to a picnic area and play field. In the early 1900s this corridor was occupied by a ravine, but it was filled in to create a play area and eventually was converted into the park and playfield that stand today. When you reach a small set of stairs on your left that lead up a small hill, take it to reach the Judkins Playground. This playground has a play area, picnic benches, barbeques, and restrooms.

### **14. Head back onto the trail and cross S Judkins Street on 22nd Avenue South.**

On your right is the new Judkins Park Skatespot, completed in January 2013 with funding from the Green Spaces Levy.



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### **15. Continue on the path and veer towards the left, towards the courts.**

If you look up the hill to your right, you will see the Pacific Medical Center on the crest of the hill. This art deco landmark was built in 1932 as a Marine Hospital and was more recently the headquarters for Amazon. As you continue to the left you will pass courts used for Hardcourt Bike Polo, a sport that originated in Seattle in 1998. For more information on this sport, check out the plaque on the side of the court fence.

### **16. Continue east across 23rd Avenue S and stay on the trail. To your right, down 23rd, is the Northwest African American History Museum.**

This museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of African Americans in the Pacific Northwest. The building is an official historical landmark, it previously housed the Colman School and was built in 1909. If you have enough time, it is a great place to spend an hour or two and contains a diverse collection of exhibits.

### **17. Behind the museum is a soccer field and area designated as Jimi Hendrix Park.**

The park was opened in 2006, but is in the process of being developed into a music-themed park space for the community. There are a few picnic benches along the trail, continue along the path past the overhanging trees. Down to the left is Blue Dog Pond, an off-leash dog park that is a great resource for urban dog owners.

### **18. Cross MLK Way S and continue along the trail into Sam Smith Park. On the left is the Urban Peace Circle, a large bronze sculpture created in memoriam of local youth who have died from gun violence.**

This piece was donated to the city by an organization called "Stop the Violence" as a sign of hope for a more peaceful future, and was created by Gerard Tsutakawa. The sculpture sits above another playfield and with more seating and picnic benches. Further along the trail rock sculptures line the path on either side.



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**19. Continue east on the trail to the Mount Baker bike/pedestrian tunnel entrance. This tunnel is 1,500 feet long and was constructed in the mid-1980s.**

This tunnel is the non-motorized alternative to the adjacent I-90 tunnel. Enter the tunnel to walk past the many murals that line the walls and were created by youth from the community. As you walk through, be sure to sing a few notes and hear the strong echo that this chamber produces. Be mindful of cyclists! This is a shared bicycle and pedestrian tunnel.

**20. You will exit over I-90 bridge and be directed toward the left. Take a moment to look out over Lake Washington, Mercer Island, and, on a clear day, Bellevue.**

You can choose to end the walk here, or to walk up to 31st Avenue South to grab a cup of coffee and check out the view of downtown Seattle. This is also where you can catch the number 14 bus to downtown.

**21. To get to the lookout, walk north on the trail out to S Irving Street and take a left. When you get to 32nd Avenue South, go to the right a little bit in order to walk up the staircase that connects the two segments of S Irving Street. Continue west on S Irving Street until you reach 31st Avenue. Take a left on 31st Avenue and on the right side of the street, after S Day Street, you will come across Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint.**

There is a coffee shop and bakery across the street called Repast, and an Italian Restaurant. The closest bus stop headed towards downtown is located just north of S Day Street, the bus on the other side of the street will lead towards the Mount Baker Transit Center.



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