



No. 2

ARTS & CULTURE  
FIELD GUIDE

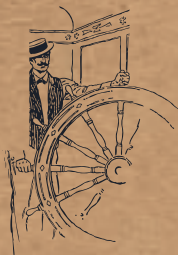


**DOTHAN**

ALABAMA



VISIT  DOTHAN



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## TREASURES OF DOTHAN

Whether you're interested in learning about agricultural history or visiting Dothan's monuments and parks, the city boasts a wide range of museums, landmarks and statues that stand as a testament to the unique history of the Wiregrass region. From 19th- and 20th-century farming techniques at Landmark Park and Todd Syrup Farm to the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's extensive memorabilia and aircraft exhibits, you're sure to learn something new while touring museums in the Dothan area. For visual art enthusiasts, the Wiregrass Museum of Art offers collections that feature renowned Alabama artists. Those fascinated by fission power will enjoy interactive exhibits at the Farley Nuclear Plant Energy Education Center dedicated to the science of nuclear energy.

When you're ready to head outside, Dothan offers plenty of ways to experience the city's culture while enjoying the beautiful weather. Start with a visit to the smallest city block in the world, stroll past dozens of murals, then explore the Joseph Monument to learn more about Dothan's founding.

At several of our museums and monuments, you'll learn why Dothan is famous for peanuts. Tour the collections and exhibits at the George Washington Carver Interpretive Museum to learn about his life, legacy and his research in the development of the peanut. Before leaving, you'll want to find Visit Dothan's headquarters, which features the original Peanut Around Town, a gold-cast monument that represents Dothan's agricultural history.

## FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL

On the first Friday night of EACH month, local businesses host artist pop-ups, exhibit openings, art activities, and art demonstrations for the public.



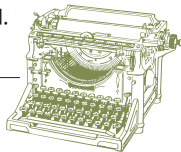
GRAB AN  
ART CRAWL  
BINGO CARD

## WIREGRASS MUSEUM OF ART MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

### FIRST SATURDAY FAMILY DAY

Saturdays are the perfect day for children and families to create and explore art together! First Saturday Family Day, one of the Wiregrass Museum of Art's longest-running educational programs, offers free art activities on the first Saturday of every month for kids of all ages and their families.

Join the WMA the first Saturday, from 10:30-2:30pm, of every month for a FREE come-and-go art activity for families. All supplies are provided and no pre-registration is required.



### WRITE NIGHT: OPEN MIC NIGHT

Join us in WMA's galleries once a quarter on the second Tuesday of February, May, August, and November for an evening of spoken word and an opportunity for members of our Wiregrass community to present original work!

## ART AFTER HOURS

## WIREGRASS MUSEUM OF ART CONT.



SPEAK WITH  
ONE OF THE  
EXHIBITING  
ARTISTS

Art After Hours occurs on the third Thursday of every month! Art After Hours celebrates the opening of new exhibitions four times a year, and in the remaining months gives people a chance to enjoy the museum during an evening out.

## LANDMARK PARK MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

### PICKIN IN THE PARK

Musicians are invited to bring their instruments and join in an instrumental jam session featuring bluegrass, gospel and country music. All skill levels and ages are welcome. This event takes place on the second Saturday of each month starting at 10am.

SHOW YOUR  
INSTRUMENT  
AT THE GATE  
FOR FREE  
ADMISSION



### SIT AND SEW

You are invited to bring your textile based crafts to the Auditorium on the second Saturday of the month anytime between 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. for an informal sewing circle.

CONTINUED →

## LANDMARK PARK CONT.

### WIREGRASS WOODTURNERS

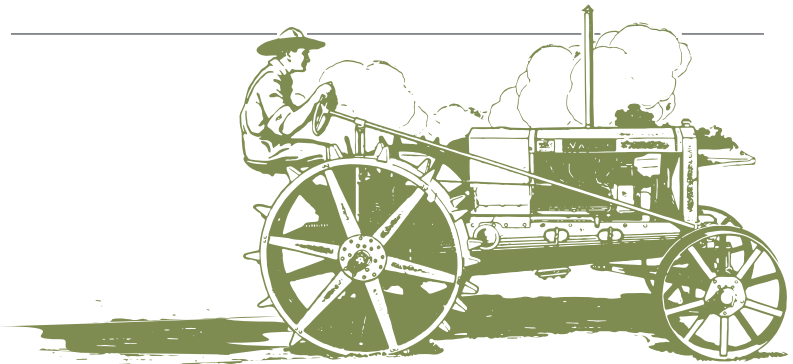
The Wiregrass Woodturners host a club meeting and woodturning demo every second Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to visit and learn how to make beautiful wooden items turned on a lathe.

### MUSEUM SATURDAYS

Check out the Alabama Agricultural Museum every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for activities and crafts that explore our agricultural heritage.

### FIFTH SATURDAY FREEBIE

Admission will be waived every fifth Saturday of the month. These don't come around often so take advantage!











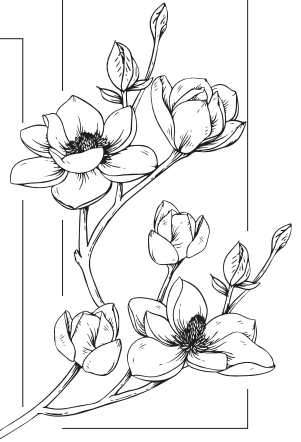
The Dothan Area Botanical Gardens is an oasis that serves as a jewel of natural beauty. Spread across 50 acres of meticulously landscaped grounds, this botanical haven captivates visitors with its diverse collection of plant species and exquisite gardens. It offers a delightful escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, where individuals and families can immerse themselves in nature.



# DOTHAN AREA BOTANICAL GARDENS

5130 Headland Ave, Dothan, AL 36303

The gardens feature a wide array of themed areas, including an enchanting Rose Garden, Wings of Wonder butterfly exhibit, and several art sculptures. These curated spaces offer a unique blend of artistry and nature, educational exploration, and photo opportunities. This is a must-see stop for both locals and tourists seeking inspiration. The gardens also host educational programs, events, and activities, a testament to Dothan's continued commitment to celebrating the great outdoors.



## MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

Discover Dothan's museums and monuments, where threads of history and culture intertwine, offering a captivating window into the city's dynamic heritage and contemporary life.

Before closing its doors in 2014, E.R. Porter Hardware was the longest running hardware store in the state of Alabama. The store has been preserved just as it was when they closed business on that day, and stands as a living museum for “the way things used to be.” The story goes that Dothan was built with materials purchased at Porter Hardware. This attraction is unique to Dothan and is full of stories about our little corner of the world.

### E.R. PORTER HARDWARE MUSEUM



Located in the original Greyhound bus station downtown, the George Washington Carver Museum is dedicated to honoring the contributions of African-Americans to arts and sciences. The Carver is home to one-of-a-kind personal items from Dr. Carver and his laboratory. He developed over 300 uses for peanuts in food, industrial, and commercial products, as well as promoting soil rotation, which saved the Wiregrass area from economic ruin in the age of the boll weevil. The Carver hosts annual Black History Month events, as well as educational activities year round.

### GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER INTERPRETIVE MUSEUM



Landmark Park is a 150-acre park built to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of southeast Alabama's Wiregrass Region. At the park, you'll find the state's only Agricultural Museum, a 1890's farmstead, complete with farmhouse, farm animals, smokehouse, cane mill, and blacksmith. Drift back in time through the general store where you can enjoy an old fashioned float or shake, one-room schoolhouse, and Victorian-era church. Take a stroll on the boardwalk and visit the Interpretive Center, which includes daily planetarium shows. Landmark Park also hosts monthly and annual events, summer camps, and traveling exhibits.



## LANDMARK PARK

What better way to celebrate our area's rich history in agriculture, music, movies, and peanuts than by painting it on the sides of our most historic buildings downtown? Beginning with the Peanut Mural on the side of Liddon Furniture in the Dothan Civic Center parking lot, these murals have been a loved attraction in Dothan for years. The best way to tour the murals is walking the downtown streets on a beautiful Southern day. Free printed maps are available at Porter Hardware and at the Visitor's Center. Or you can check out our website [visitdothan.com](http://visitdothan.com) for a digital map.

## MURALS OF THE WIREGRASS

Originally housed in the original water and electric plant for the City of Dothan, the Wiregrass Museum of Art has been collecting and exhibiting contemporary art since 1988. Explore 18,000 square feet of carefully curated visual arts, with a focus on Alabama artists. Exhibits rotate frequently, and WMA hosts Art After Hours, wine experiences, film screenings, art camps, educational tours, and favorite annual events such as The Glass Pumpkin Party. It's never the same experience twice at the Wiregrass Museum of Art!



## WIREGRASS MUSEUM OF ART



LOCATIONS



## MONUMENTS & STATUES CHECKLIST

JOSEPH MONUMENT

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST CITY BLOCK

MONUMENT TO THE HOG

ANGEL OF HOPE

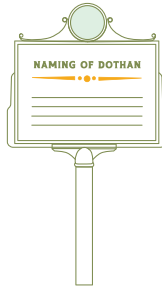
SAVOY STATUE

MIRACLE LEAGUE PLAYER

JUSTICE FOUNTAIN STATUE

WIREGRASS ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

THE WHISPERING GIANT STATUE



## HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

Dothan is home to several landmarks that reflect its rich heritage. The Cherry Street African Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1877, serves as a poignant reminder of the local African American community's contributions. Additionally, the Naming of Dothan Statue commemorates the city's origins, paying homage to its biblical namesake and the significance of its founding. These are just a few of the many landmarks that offer a glimpse of Dothan's past and its enduring cultural significance.

- CHERRY STREET AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- DOTHAN OPERA HOUSE
- FOUNDING OF DOTHAN PLAQUE
- JOHNNY MACK BROWN MURAL
- NAMING OF DOTHAN STATUE





## MURALS OF THE WIREGRASS

Discover Dothan's vibrant history through its collection of famous murals scattered across downtown, offering a captivating journey through time. From honoring the contributions of women and industries like turpentine and lumber to commemorating music legends such as Ray Charles and Hank Williams, each mural adds a unique dimension to the cultural landscape. Additionally, murals depicting Fort Rucker and the historic Cherry Street AME Church offer further insight into the city's rich heritage, inviting visitors to explore and appreciate its diverse legacies.



# MURALS OF THE WIREGRASS

## SALUTE TO THE PEANUT INDUSTRY

A timeline from Dr. Carver's lab to modern-day harvesting of the Wiregrass area's cash crop.



## DESOTO'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE WIREGRASS REGION

Hernando Desoto's exploration party traveled on the east side of the Wiregrass in 1540.

## THE ABDUCTION OF ELIZABETH STEWART DILL

A Creek Indian attack on a supply boat and the subsequent abduction of Elizabeth Stewart Dill.

## CAMP RECOVERY

An army rehabilitation camp near the Chattahoochee River and Fort Scott for the War of 1812.

## MULES IN THE WIREGRASS

How the use of mules instead of oxen improved the farming and logging industries in the area.

## FORT SCOTT: PROTECTOR OF THE WIREGRASS

Fort Scott was poised at the Flint River, and housed future presidents Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor.

## JOHNNY MACK BROWN

"The Singing Cowboy" Johnny Mack Brown was a Dothan native before appearing on the Hollywood big screen.

## CHIEF EUFAULA: CREEK INDIAN REMOVAL

Chief Eufaula lobbied in the Alabama statehouse before leading the last of the Lower Creeks to a reservation in Oklahoma during the Indian Removal Act.

## THE DOTHAN RIOT

In October of 1889, just after Dothan was incorporated, a riot erupted at the public well and bell tower over a tax levied on commercial drays.

## TRIBUTE TO SHERMAN ROSE

Dothan resident, Sherman Rose was one of the first students and instructors of the Tuskegee Institute's civilian pilot training program for African-American pilots.





### **DOTHAN OPERA HOUSE**

A tribute to the famed celebrities who performed on the Dothan Opera House stage.

### **SALUTE TO FT. RUCKER**

Home to Army Aviation that began as a training camp for soldiers in WWII.

### **THE STEAMBOAT ERA**

How the steamboat contributed to the success of the Wiregrass area prior to the railroad in 1889.

### **CHERRY STREET A.M.E. CHURCH**

The oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Alabama.

### **WIREGRASS MUSIC**

A three-part mural chronicling contemporary and country music artists with ties to the Wiregrass area.

### **EARLY COMMERCE IN THE WIREGRASS**

A four-part mural depicting early industries in the Wiregrass area - turpentine, logging, cotton, and the railroad.

### **DANCING DAVE**

A tribute to a Dothan legend, Dancing Dave, who would dance in the National Peanut Festival parade annually.

### **DR. CARVER**

A mural dedicated to Dr. Carver and his contributions. This mural is located inside the Carver Museum.

### **WILDLIFE IN THE WIREGRASS**

Depicting the natural wildlife and game found in the Wiregrass area.

### **WOMEN OF THE WIREGRASS**

A tribute to the women who molded and shaped Dothan and the Wiregrass area.

### **HONORING WIREGRASS VETERANS**

Based on an actual photo of the parade down Foster St. celebrating the end of WWII.







LOCATIONS



## PEANUTS AROUND TOWN

What began as a fundraiser for the revitalization of Downtown Dothan has morphed into a city-wide public art project. Businesses purchase fiberglass peanut statues from locally owned Replica Plastics, and design them with significance to their business. You'll find Dothan legends, kangaroos, armadillos, chefs, superheroes, doctors, dogs, and even a giant chicken. As of this publication, there are 82 Peanuts Around Town, and more are being added daily. We dare you to find a more unique city signature than the Dothan Peanuts Around Town.

You'll need a vehicle for this scavenger hunt as the peanuts spread (pun intended) all over town. Scan the QR code and see if you can find them all! This is a great activity to learn your way around Dothan or to get the kids out of the house on a school holiday.



## PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts are alive and well in Dothan thanks to a colorful collection of theaters that includes the Southeast Alabama Community Theatre (SEACT), which was established in 1974. The theater stages four public productions per season, ranging from beloved classics such as *Newsies*, *Big Fish* and *Chicago* to *Mama Won't Fly* and other contemporary hits. SEACT also holds an annual Choral & Theatre Festival, which takes place each autumn.



UPCOMING  
EVENTS

## PERFORMING ARTS

### ALABAMA DANCE WORKS

ADW's top-tier talent performs multiple shows per year, including their much anticipated Halloween and Christmas performances.

### CULTURAL ART CENTER

The Cultural Arts Center is dedicated to connecting the arts to the community through theatre, classes, and performances.

### DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER & OPERA HOUSE

Dothan's largest entertainment venues, bring various live shows, concerts, and comedians to the area.

### LIVE AT THE OPERA

Hosts live music events several times per year at various locations. Names have included John Paul White, Molly Tuttle, and Billy Strings.

### THE PLANT

Originally built in 1942 as Dothan's Coca-Cola Bottling Plant it has since been renovated and serves as a unique venue to share live music and entertainment with the community.

### SOUTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY THEATER

Dothan's theater community comes together to establish Southeast Alabama Community Theatre, or SEACT. Presenting several shows per season, SEACT has been entertaining local audiences for years.

### SOUTHEAST ALABAMA DANCE COMPANY

A premier dance company that performs three shows per year, including a local favorite- the annual performance of The Nutcracker each December.

### TRI-STATE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Composed of local musicians, this orchestra hosts several incredible performances annually. They can be found showcasing their talents at the Dothan Opera House, Landmark Park, and the Cultural Arts Center.



## DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Experience the excitement of our annual downtown events. Immerse yourself in a vibrant tapestry of culture, cuisine, and community, where every moment is an opportunity to create unforgettable memories.

Experience the vibrant pulse of Dothan's Mardi Gras parade, the "Happiest Day in Dothan." Join us as the city comes alive with the rhythm of marching bands, the spectacle of colorful floats, and the infectious energy of the crowd. Embrace the Mardi Gras spirit as you catch beads and trinkets thrown from passing floats, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Whether you're a local looking for a festive escape or a visitor seeking the authentic charm of Southern hospitality, Dothan's Mardi Gras parade promises not to disappoint!



**MARDI GRAS PARADE**

**FEBRUARY**



Dive into a vibrant celebration of music and art at The Loop Music & Art Festival. Wander along Foster Street to discover local artists and vendors while enjoying live musical performances. Located on the 100 block of North Foster Street, The Loop offers two days of outdoor fun that's free to all. Bring your lawn chairs and indulge in delicious local food and beverages available for purchase from downtown eateries, food trucks, and taprooms.



## THE LOOP MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL

APRIL

Celebrate the season with an unforgettable experience at Boo Fest, packed with family fun, including costume contests, face painting, games, and delicious food! Immerse yourself in all that downtown has to offer with shopping, dining, and entertainment options on every block. From savory delights at KBC to selecting your new favorite book from Downtown Books, there's something for everyone. Join us for an action-packed day of fall festivities along historic Foster Street.

## BOO FEST



OCTOBER

Experience the magic of the season at our beloved annual Santa's Workshop in charming Downtown Dothan! Kids can enjoy free activities, meet Santa himself, and explore delightful vendors and food trucks. Get ready for a winter wonderland extravaganza at The North Pole Stroll, featuring snow, s'mores, caroling, arts & crafts, and endless family fun during the Christmas season.

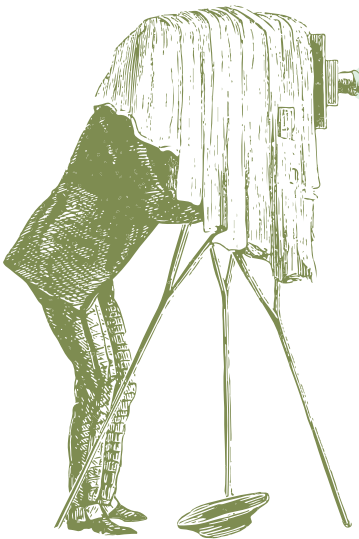


## DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

DECEMBER

## SELFIE SPOTS

Charming murals, iconic peanuts, and captivating landmarks offer perfect selfie opportunities for visitors. From the well-known Love Dothan mural in Wadlington Park to the rustic charm of Landmark Park, there's no shortage of picturesque spots to explore. Don't miss the World's Smallest City Block for a fun photo op, or capture the quirky local heritage of Todd Farm's giant syrup bottle. With each corner of the Wiregrass offering its own unique charm, get ready to snap unforgettable memories and be sure to #VisitDothan!





LOVE DOOTHAN MURAL AT WADLINGTON PARK



TODD FARMS



LANDMARK PARK



## EAT LOCAL

### **BASKETCASE CAFÉ**

Soups and sandwiches in a casual atmosphere

### **BELLA'S FINE DINING**

Italian cuisine in a white tablecloth experience

### **BIRD AND BEAN COFFEE**

Fresh roasted coffee, teas, and baked goods

### **CIRCLE CITY BREWING**

Craft beer, craft cocktails, hearty bites

### **CELLAR**

Dothan's finest selection of steaks, wines, and gourmet foods

### **FIRESTONE WOOD FIRED PIZZA & GRILL**

Fresh from wood-fired ovens imported from Tuscany

### **KBC**

Classic southern fare, great cocktails, and a dreamy patio



FIND MORE



### **MR. COFFEE BEAN**

Home of the 2lb. cinnamon roll

### **MURAL CITY COFFEE COMPANY**

Local roaster, coffee shop, tea library, baked goods and more

### **OLD MILL**

A Dothan staple for steak & seafood

### **RIVER NILE CAFÉ**

Soups, salads, sandwiches, & famous sun-dried tomato bread

### **SEASONS**

Classic fare of salads, seafood, & steak

### **THREESIXTY KITCHEN AND BAR**

Offers a fusion of global and southern dishes

### **TOASTED YOLK**

Dothan's quintessential brunch experience

### **WILD HONEY**

Coffee shop, baked goods, smoothies, and more



**USE THESE PAGES TO COLLECT DOODLES, RECEIPTS,  
TICKET STUBS, AND POLAROIDS FROM THE CITY TO  
DOCUMENT YOUR EXPERIENCES IN DOTHAN.**



VISIT  THAN