

THE MURALS OF HILLCREST SELF GUIDED TOUR INFO

Crafted by The Studio Door as a Love Letter to Hillcrest.

Embark on your own exploration of Hillcrest's artistic treasures with a self-guided tour map available on The Studio Door's website. Immerse yourself in the murals, public art, and distinctive features of this eclectic neighborhood.

This is about a three mile walk so plan for a minimum of 70 minutes.



START HERE Sunnyboy Biscuit Co.

Welcome to Hillcrest, where art, history, and creativity come together to form a unique cultural tapestry. Begin your journey at Sunnyboy Biscuit Co., a quaint eatery specializing in hearty biscuit sandwiches, biscuits with gravy, fried chicken, and delightful desserts. Don't forget to explore their selection of canned jams. *Street Address: 3749 Park Blvd in San Diego at the cross road of Robinson Ave.*

Heading North to University and Park

HIGHLIGHT #1

Egyptian Quarter: 100 years ago, the Egyptian fad stormed the country with the discovery of King Tut. On Historic Route 80 & 395, Hillcrest was impacted by the Egyptian Revival Design. The Egyptian apartments, formerly the Egyptian Theater, stand as a testament to this architectural movement. Explore the preserved facade and artifacts along Park Blvd.

HIGHLIGHT #2

The Flame: Once San Diego's most high-profile lesbian bar, with its neon sign and Mondrianesque building facade. Opened in 1984, it memorializes a fire at the restaurant The Garden of Allah. Just down University, Gossip Grill carries on Hillcrest's legacy as one of the last venues for queer women.

MURAL #1

A New Path by **Regan Russell** with support from ArtReach (2021) at Park & University. An isometric pattern creates a winding, colorful 50-foot passage, inviting you to experience the artistic diversity of Hillcrest.

Heading west into the heartland of Hillcrest

HIGHLIGHT #3

Public Art: Fossils Exposed by **Doran Rosenthal** (1998) on University Avenue. Look down to see 150 granite markers representing regional plant and animal life embedded in the sidewalks.

HIGHLIGHT #4

Hillcrest Business Association: HBA has over a 100-year history. Visit their location on the corner of Herbert St and University to learn about their role in shaping Hillcrest. They are the power behind iconic symbols like the Hillcrest flag, Hillcrest sign, Walk in Art, Farmer's Market, Cityfest, Nightmare of Normal, Pride of Hillcrest Block Party, and more. Don't forget to check out their windows showcasing local artists and purchase fabulous Hillcrest merchandise.

MURAL #2

Before I Die... Interactive Mural, a global art project recreated by Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) at Herbert St and University. This mural, previously seen along the side of Alibi, was started by **Candy Chang** in New Orleans and exists in over 5,000 locations worldwide.

HIGHLIGHT #5

Just across the street, explore the Normal Street Promenade at Normal and University. A 65-foot-tall flagpole with a 30-foot-tall Pride flag, changed every 3 months, is a vibrant symbol of diversity and the site of many HBA events.

MURAL #3

Pride-inspired mural by **Carly Ealey** (2023) on the side of 7-11 at Normal and University, across from the permanent Hillcrest's Pride Flag. Celestial muralist Carly Ealey is based in San Diego but has murals across the globe.

MURAL #4

Another block westward, find "Lemons" by **Karen Dang** (2021) on the side of Matrarello Restaurant at University and Richmond. This mural holds remnants of the now-defunct Filter Coffeehouse's java-inspired mural.

MURALS #5

In the adjoining alley, discover the Secret Street Art Alley between University and Essex. Featuring ever-changing murals, this alley showcases the first of **Alex Fizix's** murals on the tour and an inspired memorial to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by **CJ Troxwell**.

MURAL #6

Heading south towards Balboa Park, find "Painted Ladies" by **Sarah Stieber** (2023) on the apartment complex The Duplet. These dual murals on the 1200 block of Robinson between Vermont and Richmond showcase international creativity.

MURAL #7

Making your way back to University Avenue, encounter "Undulation" by **Skye Walker** (2014) on the facade of California Coast Credit Union for The Hub at the corner of University and Vermont. Skye's connection to Mother Nature is apparent in this 35-foot x 15-foot mural.

HIGHLIGHT #6

Public Art: The Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge by **Stone Paper Scissors** is a 420 ft. long steel and concrete pedestrian bridge leading out of Hillcrest into University Heights. The bridge features 28 laser-cut stainless steel and colored plexiglas railing panels with icons and quotations, celebrating metaphors of time, walking, and bridging.

MURAL #8

The final mural on the east side of the 163 highway in Hillcrest. "The Loading Dock" by **Linda Churchill** of Muralizing (1998) on the side of Hillcrest Ace Hardware. Look for the plaque dedicating the mural to the community of Hillcrest. This mural received an Orchid from the San Diego Architectural Foundation's annual Orchids and Onions.

MURAL #9

On the west end of Hillcrest, find the mural celebrating diversity by **Jason and Frieda Gould** of Vision Art Supply (2022) at University and 6th Avenue. This is Hillcrest's longest mural at 170 feet, marking the Gateway to Hillcrest.

HIGHLIGHT #7

Neighborhood Symbol: The Hillcrest Sign on 5th And University, first installed in the 1940s by the Hillcrest Women's Association. Recently upgraded, the sign now shines its LED lights in various colors during key holidays. One of the original neon signs hangs inside Riches Nightclub over the front bar, which you passed along your route.

MURAL #10

A fabulous drag queen throwing kisses mural by Alex **Fizix** at Third and University, on the side of Urban MO's Bar & Grill. During COVID, Fizix painted a mask on the mural.

MURAL #11

Heading south towards Banker's Hill, find "We Sea Together" by **Jet Martinez** (2016) at 4th and Robinson. Located in the parking area of Artist & Craftsman Art Supply, this mural was created for the PangeaSeed Foundation's Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans festival.

MURAL #12

Visible a half block East, discover "Circus Elephant" by **Vincentghoste aka Cody Griffith** (2012) in the alley on Robinson between 4th and 5th on the side of Crest Cafe. Commissioned by the restaurant, this mural commemorates its 30th anniversary.

MURAL #13

A stroll down 5th Avenue brings you to "Hillcrest Mural" by **Austin Gosswiller and Jack Stricker** (2023) on the sides of California Bank Trust (CB&T) on the 3700 block of 5th Ave between Evans Place and Pennsylvania. CB&T celebrates nearly 40 years of service to the Hillcrest Community with this local mural by OB Muralists.

MURAL #14

Looping back up, you will arrive at the centerpiece of the self-guided tour:

Mural Alley: Mural Alley hosts works by 9 muralists. Located in the alley behind The Studio Door between 4th and 5th Streets, entering off of either Richmond or University. Started by local businesses, the alley more than doubled its murals when The Studio Door art gallery and studios moved into the neighborhood. HBA organized a fundraiser to light the alley each night for the public to enjoy the murals anytime during the day. This is the location for the free community event First Thursdays, also known as Walk in A.R.T., showcasing music, food, and artisans monthly from 5 - 10 PM.

East Side of Alley:

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles by **Alex Fizix** (2018) • 11' h x 59' w - Spray Paint Brick Wall funded by East Coast Pizza

Spirit Animal by **Glow aka Gloria Muriel** (2020) • Spirit Animal 2020 in collaboration with The Studio Door

Speakeasy by **Alex Fizix** (2018) • 20' h x 20' w - Spray Paint Brick Wall entrance of Cigar Cave

Chinese Watermill by **Visiting Art Students from China** (2019) • 18' h x 54' w - Acrylic Brick Wall funded by Cascade Spa

West Side of Alley:

Son, Mommy Loves You by **Mr. Maxx Moses aka Pose2** (2020) • 36' h x 36' w / 8' h x 33'w - Spray Paint (2) Brick Walls in collaboration with The Studio Door

Doorways by **High Tech High Interns** (2023) • 76" h x 3' w ea. - Spray Paint and Markers (2) Wood Doors in collaboration with The Studio Door

TuPac Reality by **Hooligan Arts aka Chris Smith** (2019) • 4' x 2' Spray Paint Wood Window Frame in collaboration with The Studio Door

Untitled / Bird by **Alonso Delgadillo** (2020)

San Diego Loyal SC soccer player Collin Martin by **Ground Floor Murals** (2023) • funded by San Diego Loyals

SHOP STOP



The Studio Door: Art Gallery with 17 Artist Studios has been San Diego's Premier Art Gallery since 2014. Creating The World You Want To Live In with monthly neighborhood art fairs, artist receptions, and creative mentoring. The Studio Door celebrates diversity, inclusion, and equality, providing a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for all its artists. Leading by example as an artist-run business, The Studio Door has built a local reputation for resilience and vibrancy. *Street Address: 3867 4th Avenue, San Diego.*

SHOP STOP

Two blocks South to Brooks and 4th Avenue.

Revision San Diego: Exclusively on Saturdays, complete your tour through the gift shop Open from 10 AM - 2 PM. at Revision San Diego, a nonprofit uncovering purpose through community-based engagements and projects for individuals with intellectual disabilities. A variety of contemporary, fun and witty artworks are available which have been created by the in-house artist residents and their mentors. *Street Address: 3609 4th Avenue, San Diego.*



END HERE SISTERS PIZZA

Sisters Pizza: Next door, treat yourself at Sisters Pizza, a community-focused pizza restaurant established in loving memory of Kate Green. Inspired by Kate's passion for pizza, family, friends, and civic responsibility, Sisters Pizza invites you to enjoy a meal and a drink on their patio to discuss all the creativity you witnessed on your journey. *Street Address: 3603 4th Avenue, San Diego.*

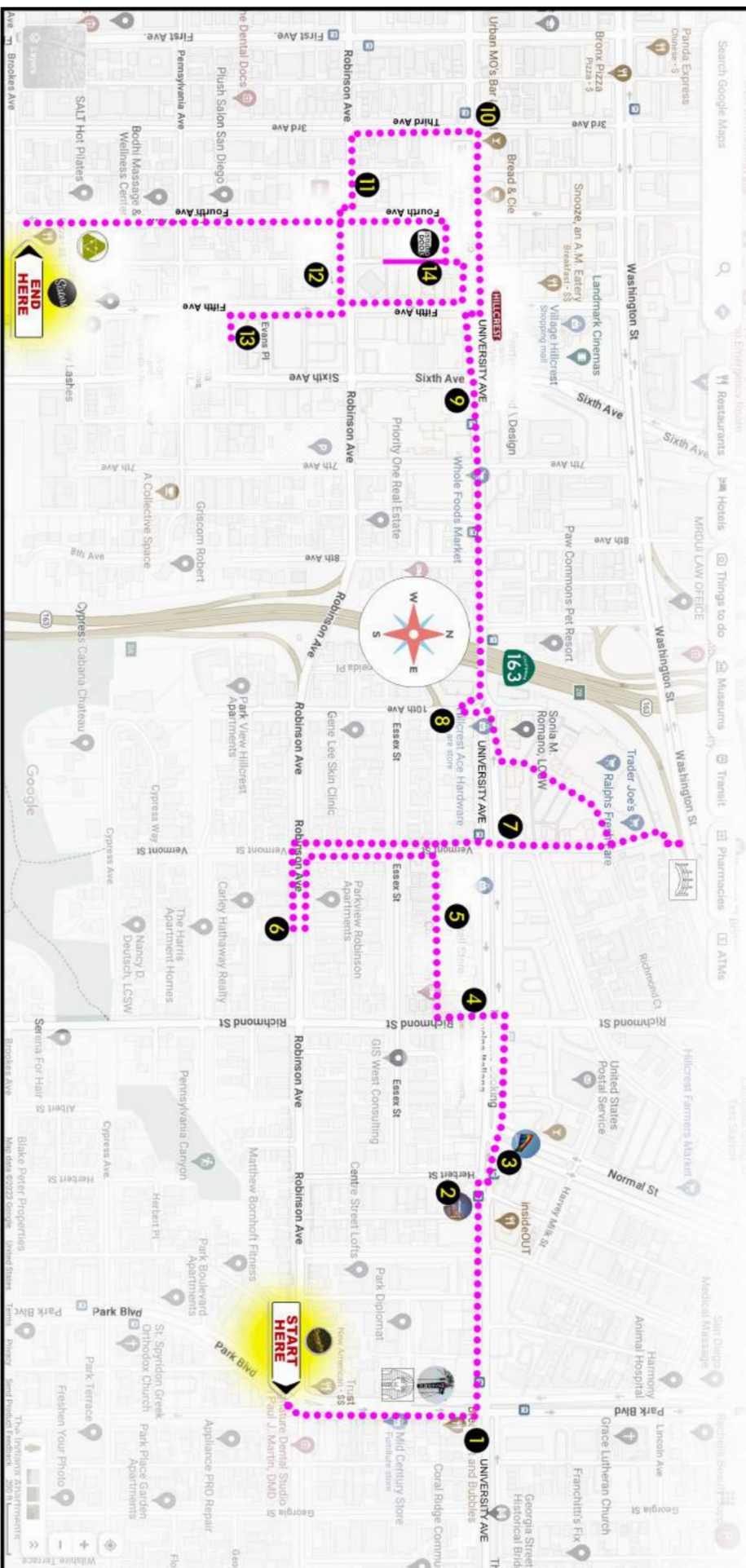
Thank you for exploring the vibrant and artistic neighborhood of Hillcrest.

The Studio Door thanks the artists and the Hillcrest Community.

Created as a valentine to Hillcrest to encourage the public to get out into the streets to see and embrace these incredible works of art.

Support the Arts and Local Business.

THE MURALS OF HILLCREST • WALKING TOUR



ONE MILE