



LITERARY CAPITAL SCULPTURE TRAIL UNVEILING



**MONROEVILLE
MAIN STREET**

Write your chapter here.

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*Literary Capital
Sculpture Trail
Unveiling*

PLEASE JOIN

MONROEVILLE MAIN STREET

FOR THE UNVEILING OF

14 BRONZE SCULPTURES

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

HONORING THE WRITERS WHO MADE

MONROEVILLE/MONROE COUNTY

ALABAMA'S LITERARY CAPITAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

AT 2:15 PM

SOUTH LAWN

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM

31 NORTH ALABAMA AVENUE

Sculpture design by Jim Harrison, III of Tuscaloosa, Alabama

ABOUT:

Join the citizens of Monroeville and their special guests as they unveil a new project to celebrate the community's impact on American literary culture. Bronzes created by University of Alabama sculpture students will be on permanent display in the historic downtown district in the Alabama's Literary Capital.

Walk the trail with us as we unveil public art pieces that are representative of authors who are from Monroeville. Honorees include Harper Lee, Truman Capote, Cynthia Tucker, Mark Childress, Marva Collins, Rheta Grimsley-Johnson, Riley Kelly, Mike Stewart, William Barret Travis and Hank Williams.

Sandy Smith, Mayor of Monroeville, Anne Marie Bryan, Monroeville Main Street Executive Director, and University of Alabama Sculpture Student Artists will be available for comment at the close of the ceremony.

WHERE & WHEN:

Friday, April 26, 2019

2:15 p.m.:

Unveiling ceremony begins on South Lawn of the historic courthouse with a brief welcome. The tour will spend approximately 10 minutes at each piece with the artist.



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PROJECT STATEMENT:

THE LITERARY SCULPTURE TRAIL IS A PROJECT TO HONOR THE TALENT AND IMPACT OF MONROEVILLE WRITERS ON AMERICAN CULTURE.

QUOTES:

"This Literary Capital Sculpture Trail project is a unique way to honor and memorialize the many talented writers who have Monroeville roots, and to see them and their creations through the lens of a talented group of artists. The project informs, entertains and educates, while bringing beauty and quality to Monroeville's Main Street district. The City of Monroeville is honored to have this as a permanent installation in its downtown and to be in partnership with Monroeville Main Street, the University of Alabama and this very acclaimed group of authors."

Sandy Smith, Mayor, Monroeville, Alabama

"Using public art is an innovative way to tell the story of Monroeville while at the same time creating a vibrant sense of place. We are more than thrilled with the project concept, partnerships with the University of Alabama and those within the City of Monroeville as well as the expressions of public art by students. This project is steeped in authenticity, a goal that is a cornerstone for successful Main Street Alabama Designated Communities."

Mary Helmer, President/State Coordinator, Main Street Alabama

"We are honored here at the University of Alabama Department of Art & Art History Sculpture program to be a part of this event honoring the many acclaimed writers that have come out of Monroeville, Alabama. This opportunity for real-world application of the skills and talents we teach our students is an excellent example of the type of community involvement and creative output we instill in students throughout the programs in UA Sculpture."

Craig Wedderspoon, Professor of Sculpture, University of Alabama

Available for comment by phone: Anne Marie Bryan, MMS Executive Director 251-575-1457

Jim Harrison III, Sculpture Artist 205.310.1648

The Monroe Journal

by Michael Tonder

Join the citizens of Monroeville and their special guests April 26 on the south lawn of the Monroe County Museum as they unveil the Literary Capital Sculpture Trail to celebrate the community's impact on American literary culture. 14 bronze sculptures will be on permanent display in the historic downtown district in Alabama's Literary Capital. Plaques identifying the writer honored, sculptor and individual sponsor will be placed at each sculpture this summer.

Walk the trail with us as we unveil public works of art that are representative of authors who are from Monroeville. Honorees include Harper Lee, Truman Capote, Cynthia Tucker, Mark Childress, Marva Collins, Rheta Grimsley-Johnson, Riley Kelly, Mike Stewart, William Barret Travis and Hank Williams. The unveiling ceremony begins at 2:15 p.m. on the south lawn of the historic courthouse with a brief welcome. The walking tour will spend approximately ten minutes at each sculpture with the artist. The trail is a project of Monroeville Main Street with sponsorship from the City of Monroeville and JWW Investment Properties.

The sculptures were created by artists through the University of Alabama Department of Art & Art History Sculpture program under the direction of Professor Craig Wedderspoon. "We are honored here at the University of Alabama Department of Art & Art History Sculpture program to be a part of this event honoring the many acclaimed writers that have come out of Monroeville, Alabama," he said.

The trail will educate locals and tourists of Monroeville's rich literary history. "A sculpture trail honoring all of our writers who made us Alabama's Literary Capital has been a goal of the Monroeville Main Street program since 2015," said Anne Marie Bryan, executive director of Monroeville Main Street. "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Professor Wedderspoon and his students at the University of Alabama Department of Art & Art History on this project. Our Design and Promotion committees selected themes to honor each writer and the sculptors have created beautiful bronze works of art which successfully illustrate those themes. This trail will help both locals and tourists have a better understanding of the area's rich literary history while permanently honoring our writers through art."

"This Literary Capital Sculpture Trail project is a unique way to honor and memorialize the many talented writers who have Monroeville roots, and to see them and their creations through the lens of a talented group of artists," said Monroeville Mayor Sandy Smith. "The project informs, entertains and educates, while bringing beauty and quality to Monroeville's Main Street district. The City of Monroeville is honored to have this as a permanent installation in its downtown and to be in partnership with Monroeville Main Street, the University of Alabama and this very acclaimed group of authors."

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The Monroe Journal*

STORIES OF OUR WRITERS

Harper Lee

Born in Monroeville, Alabama, Harper Lee wrote the 1960 novel **To Kill A Mockingbird**, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Within two years of its first publication, it had been on the bestseller list for 100 weeks and sold five million copies in 13 countries. Over five decades later, **To Kill A Mockingbird** remains a standard text in high schools throughout the world and is one of the best-loved novels of all time. Her second published novel, **Go Set A Watchman**, was released in 2015. In 1998, The Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer was named in her honor.

Among her many honors and awards are the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007), Alabama Writers Hall of Fame (2015), Alabama Women's Hall of Fame (2019), *To Kill a Mockingbird* was selected as America's favorite book through PBS's Great American Read (2018).

Truman Capote

Born in New Orleans, Truman Capote lived much of his childhood with his mother's relatives in Monroeville, Alabama, where he lived next door to and was best friends with Harper Lee. Capote's first novel, **Other Voices, Other Rooms**, was published when the author was 24: by the time he was 30, Capote had won the O. Henry Award for best short story of the year three times and was one of the most talked about writers in American literature. His short story *A Christmas Memory* is one of the most frequently anthologized stories in American literature. His most famous work, **In Cold Blood** (1966) announced the "nonfiction novel" and became one of the most acclaimed and influential books written by an American during the last third of the twentieth century.

Cynthia Tucker

A native of Monroeville, Cynthia Tucker is a graduate of Monroe County High School and Auburn University. She served as the editorial page editor for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for 17 years. In 1988, she was awarded a Neiman Fellowship at Harvard University. Tucker has received numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary (2007) and Journalist of the Year (2006) from the National Association of Black Journalists. She is a visiting Professor of Journalism and Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at the University of Georgia.

Mark Childress

Born in Monroeville, Alabama and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Childress worked as a journalist for the Birmingham News, Features Editor for Southern Living magazine, and Regional Editor for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He has also published seven novels and three children's books. His best-known novel, **Crazy in Alabama** (1993), has been published in nine different countries and was listed as one of the ten best books for 1993 as well as The Spectator's "Book of the Year" and a New York Times "Notable Book of the Year". **Crazy in Alabama** was made into a film in 1999. Childress received the Thomas Wolfe Award, the University of Alabama's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Alabama Library Association's Writer of the Year, and The Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer (2014).

Marva Collins

A native of Monroeville, Marva Collins developed a strong love for learning, achievement, and independence. After graduating from Clark College and teaching in Alabama and Georgia, Collins moved to Chicago and taught for 14 years. Dissatisfied with the poor quality of education, she opened Westside Preparatory School in her own home. The results were phenomenal; some students progressed 5 grade levels in one year. Two of her books – **Marva Collins' Way** and **Ordinary Children, Extraordinary Teachers** have been ground breaking works in public education. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award for the Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, Lincoln Award of Illinois for service to the state, and in 1981 was recognized as one of the Legendary Women of the World (along with Beverly Sills, Nancy Kissinger, and Barbara Walters). In 1981 CBS aired **The Marva Collins Story**, and she was asked by President Ronald Reagan to serve as the U. S. Secretary of Education.

STORIES OF OUR WRITERS

Rheta Grimsley-Johnson

A former resident of Monroeville, Rheta Grimsley-Johnson wrote for the Monroe Journal for several years before leaving to write for the United Press International. She has won numerous awards, including the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Distinctive Writing Award for Commentary, the Ernie Pyle Journalism Award and the Clarence Cason Award for Nonfiction, and she has been inducted into the Scripps Howard Editorial Hall of Fame. Grimsley-Johnson received the National Headliner Award for Commentary and was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for 1991. She wrote the authorized biography of "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schultz.

Riley Kelly

A native of Excel, Alabama, Riley Kelly wrote for and served as the editor of The Monroe County Journal and The Frisco City Sun. He also served as a regional correspondent for The Montgomery Advertiser, The Mobile Press Register, and The Birmingham News, additionally; he had a distinguished career as an award winning poet. He had more than thirty award-winning poems published in *The Alalitom*, an annual anthology of the Alabama Writer's Conclave. His published works of poetry include: *In Search of Light* (1969), *Patterns* (1970), and *The Human Way* (1974); *Anthology Contribution: Scrod I* (1984) – ten poems in an anthology with other poets, winner of the Book of the Year Award from the Alabama State Poetry Society. Mr. Kelly also published numerous articles and works of poetry in other magazines and journals.

Mike Stewart

Mike Stewart is a native of Vredenburgh, a small South Alabama sawmill town located in north Monroe County. Stewart grew up exploring the woods, rivers, and creeks of the Deep South, which now appear in his works of fiction. After high school, he graduated from Auburn University and later received a law degree from Cumberland School of Law. In addition to being a successful corporate attorney for over a decade, he is also a well-respected author. His works include the mystery novels **Sins of the Brother**, **Dog Island**, **A Clean Kill**, and **A Perfect Life**.

William Barret Travis

William Barret Travis settled in Monroe County with his family in 1818, who helped found the communities of Sparta and Evergreen. Travis later became an attorney and began the publication of a newspaper, the Claiborne Herald, became a member of the Masonic order at Alabama Lodge No. 3, and accepted a position as an adjutant of the Twenty-sixth Regiment, Eighth Brigade, Fourth Division, of the Alabama Militia. He is best known, however, for his role in the Texas army during the attack of the Alamo. Travis' letter of February 24, 1836, from the besieged Alamo that he addressed "To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world," is considered by many to be one of the most dramatic letters written in American history.

Hank Williams

Born in Georgiana, Alabama, Williams is universally regarded as one of the most important figures in American popular music and perhaps the single most important figure in American country and western music. His time living with his cousins, the McNeils, in the community of Fountain on the outskirts of Monroeville, had a powerful influence in his musical development. It was during that time that he was introduced to the basics- reading, writing, music, and an appreciation for the simple pleasures of rustic life. Williams must have learned the lessons well because the themes show up again and again in the lyrics of his songs such as "Your Cheatin' Heart" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." His simple yet eloquent lyrics have influenced generations of songwriters and have had an incalculable impact on modern American culture. Williams was posthumously awarded the Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement (1987) and the Pulitzer Prize for Special Awards and Citations (2010) for his pivotal role in transforming country music.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hunter Abdo is an art major from Mobile, AL, finds inspiration in the beautiful and mysterious world that we live in along with the ability to communicate through art and music. Hunter's goal is to speak to each and every person who experiences his work on a personal level, while disregarding the hate that is associated with race, religion, and language barriers. Art is his language.

Piece title: Catch the Wind, Bronze, 2019

Alisa Boyd is a Senior Anthropology student minoring in Natural Resource Management at the University of Alabama.

Piece title: House for Hats, Bronze, 2019

Zane Boyd is a second year Art student at the University of Alabama where he is focusing on Sculpture.

Piece title: Composed Victory, Bronze, 2019

Amber Daum grew up in Ozark, Alabama. The fourth year Fine Arts student at the University of Alabama has a focus in Sculpture and Anthropology. She co-created a sculpture for Monnish Park in Tuscaloosa with fellow student Ringo Lisko.

Piece title: Untitled: Bronze, 2019

Josh Dugat is a graduate student in Creative Writing and Geography at the University of Alabama.

Piece title: Growth Mindset, Bronze, 2019

Jennifer Gault is a sculpture artist currently based in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Jennifer received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Alabama in 2018. While she works full time as a fire alarm technician, Jennifer continues to create work in her spare time and is passionate about fostering creativity in others and actively participating in public art projects.

Piece title: Innocence Lost, Bronze 2019

Piece title: Pulitzer Prize Announcement, Bronze, 2019

Jim Harrison, III is a native of Tuscaloosa and the owner and director of Harrison Galleries, LLC, an art gallery specializing in 19th and 20th century paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture and photography. He serves on several business and non-profit boards across the state and the region including presently as Vice Chairman of both the Alabama State Council on the Arts and South Arts in Atlanta, GA.

Piece title: The Universe Inside, Bronze, 2019

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Morgan Harrison is a senior at the University of Alabama majoring in Art History and minoring in Studio Art. Morgan is from Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Piece title: Truman Capote's Hat & Glasses, Bronze, 2019

Patrick (Pat) Hoban is a third year MFA Ceramics Graduate student from Philadelphia. Pat's inspiration comes from time spent outside, actively enjoying nature. Whether surfing and building with sand on the beach or hiking and stacking rocks, the natural world and understanding how humans affect it has become a passion that influences his creative practice.

Piece title: Jon Boat, Bronze, 2019

Johnathan Lanier is a senior at the University of Alabama studying sculpture and ceramics. He serves as a part time foundry assistant under the guidance of Craig Wedderspoon. Jonathan is from Montgomery, Alabama where art has always been a huge part of his life.

Piece title: WSM Microphone, Bronze, 2019

Hannah Lincoln is from Montgomery, Alabama, and is a senior at the University of Alabama pursuing a Bachelor's of Arts degree with a concentration in Sculpture. Art has been an outlet for her creativity since childhood, and has evolved into a passion. Through sculptural studio practice, her work has become a narrative for the sentiments of childhood and the story book aesthetic, as well as an expression of natural elements.

Piece title: Untitled, Bronze, 2019

Ringo Lisko is a junior at the University of Alabama, currently working toward her BFA in sculpture. Originally from Gallup, New Mexico, she moved to Tuscaloosa in 2016 to study ecological biology. However, in her first semester at the University she discovered a fascination with metal casting and decided to pursue an art degree instead, focusing on sculpture and drawing. She has since created several sculptures for Tuscaloosa's public art scene and currently works as a part time foundry and fabrication assistant in the Department of Art & Art History metal shop.

Piece title: In Pursuit of Truth, Bronze, 2019

Alyson Smith is a Senior at the University of Alabama pursuing a degree in Digital Art.

Piece title: Prissy the Cat, Bronze, 2019

The Literary Capital Sculpture Trail is a project by Monroeville Main Street. Since 2014, the organization has been using Organization, Design, Promotion, and Economic Vitality to revitalize its historic core as a Designated Main Street Alabama community.

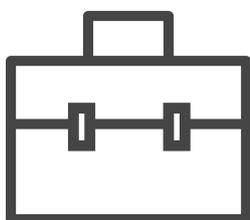


WHAT MONROEVILLE MAIN STREET HAS ACCOMPLISHED:

From June 2014 to present

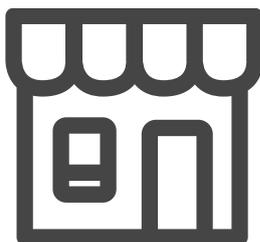


\$199,791 Public Investment
\$2,735,331 Private Investment

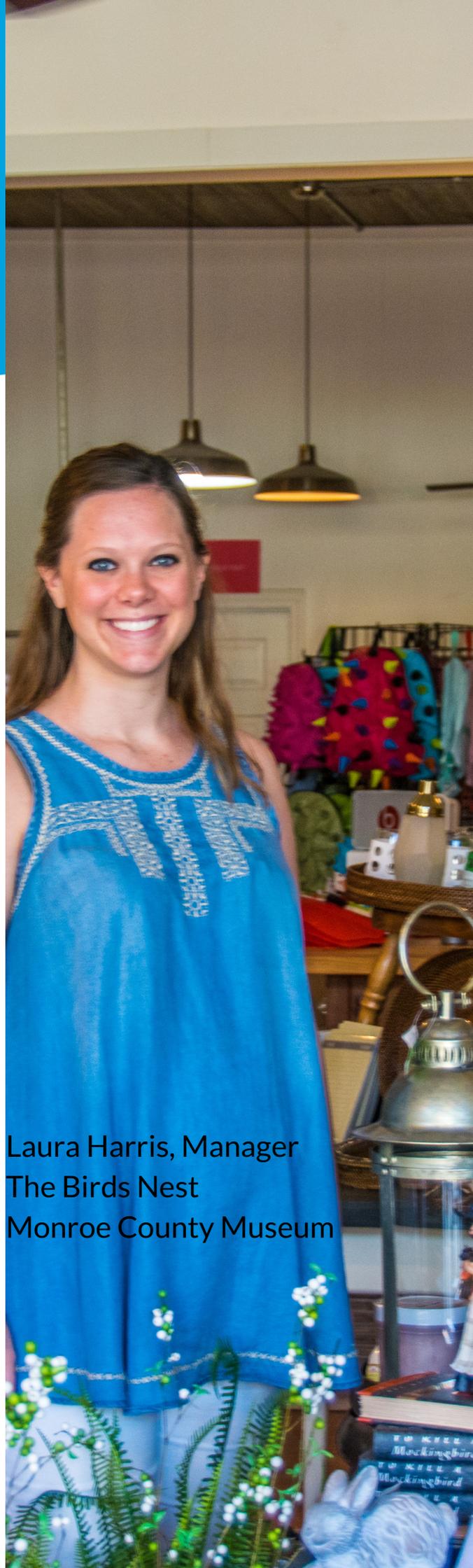


40.5 Net New Jobs

15 Net New Businesses



3,135 Volunteer Hours



Laura Harris, Manager
The Birds Nest
Monroe County Museum

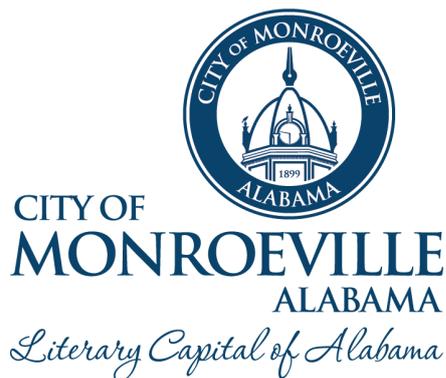


MONROEVILLE MAIN STREET

*There are no words that can adequately express our
gratitude for the vision and support of*

**Professor Craig Wedderspoon and his students at
the University of Alabama
Department of Art & Art History**

Project Sponsors



Contact Anne Marie Bryan for more information:
monroevillemainstreet@outlook.com or call 251.575.1457