Tate Arms, 914 S. Dubuque St: A boarding house from 1940–1961 housing Black male students during a time when Black students were generally prohibited from living in University of Iowa dorms and housing segregation made off-campus living difficult to find.

Kirkwood House, 1101 Kirkwood Ave: The Home of Samuel J. Kirkwood, the governor of Iowa during the American Civil War and a staunch abolitionist in both words and action.

South District Mural, Broadway St: The largest mural in Iowa City created in collaboration with local schools, residents, neighbors. The mural represents the residents’ vision for themselves and their neighborhood.

Dream City, 611 Southgate Ave: This non-profit organization seeks to inspire through advocacy, art, wellness, and community connections.

Neighborhood of Seasons Mosaic, Lakeside Dr: created by local students, conveying how the environment of the neighborhood changes over time as it opens up onto the Sycamore Greenway.
How to Navigate Using the Audio Guide & Resources

First, sign our ride register at the Bike Library entrance OR scan the QR code on this guide to check-in for the ride.

Then, head to the Raise It Up Apparatus in the Bike Library front courtyard and listen to the first audio segment. Listen via the automatic speaker or scan the QR code on the Apparatus to listen on a smartphone.

From the Bike Library, head to your first checkpoint using the map (reverse side) and the turn-by-turn directions (on the right).

At the next checkpoint, look for the Raise It Up Apparatus. Once there, walk up to it and the next audio segment will play automatically.

Take a Spoke Card from the Apparatus. Each card will have 2–3 questions meant to prompt self-reflection as you listen and to encourage follow-up discussions among riders.

Scan the QR code on the Spoke Card or on the Checkpoint Apparatus to access any digital resources that might be tied to each checkpoint and to provide answers to the Spoke Card discussion questions.

At the final stop, Dream City, please scan the QR code to share your closing thoughts on the ride and to engage with next steps to make a tangible difference in your community.

Right side turn–by–turn directions are attached.

Tate Arms

The house at 914 S Dubuque St was built in 1914 by Charles and Dorothy Alberts with the express purpose of housing black students under the operation of black landlords. This purpose was fully realized in 1940, when the property was bought by Elizabeth "Bette" Crawford Tate her husband Junious "Bud" Tate who leased rooms to black male students. The Tates were one of only nine known landlords in Iowa City who rented to black tenants. However, the couple divorced in 1961 and closed the house; it was another six years later, in 1967, before landlords were legally forbidden from discriminating against tenants based on race, thanks to the passage of the Fair Housing Amendment to the Iowa Civil Rights Act. Tate Arms was designated an Iowa City Historic Landmark in 2014 after surviving several threats of demolition.

Further reading:

1101 Kirkwood

The home of Samuel J. Kirkwood, the Civil War Governor of Iowa. Kirkwood was known for holding a strong anti-slavery position, helping establish the Republican Party in Iowa which had a strong anti-slavery message at that time. He once stated he would "rather have his arm pulled from his socket than turn in a fugitive slave." He was also said to be one of two men in Iowa City who were contacts for slaves passing through on the Underground Railroad. Kirkwood is also known for helping prevent raid participant and Iowa resident Barclay Coppock from being extradited from Iowa to Virginia in order to be tried for his participation in John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry. With Kirkwood's aid, Coppock was able to escape to Canada, before returning south to join the Union Army, ultimately dying when a train he was on was sabotaged by Confederate bushwhackers in 1861.

Further reading:

Neighborhood of Seasons Mosaic

Across from Grant Wood Elementary, pillars adorned with glass mosaic tiles frame the entranceway to South Sycamore Greenway Trail. Students from City High and young people from the neighborhood spent nearly two years designing and creating the mosaics that reflect scenes from the area. The project, funded by the Iowa City Public Art Program and the Grant Wood Neighborhood Association, is intended to convey how the environment of a neighborhood changes over time. The collaborative project includes contributions from roughly 75 students. The colorful pillars depict images of children playing soccer, walking dogs, bicycling, and enjoying all four seasons in the South District neighborhood.

Since 2017, in partnership with Neighbor Centers of Johnson County, the Iowa City Bike Library has been increasing youth outreach programs for underrepresented kids in the bike community. Bike Club and the Women Empowerment Ride are programs designed to teach kids K–12 the basic mechanics of a bike and how to ride safely. Every kid who participates receives a refurbished bike, helmet, and lock. All summer long kids from the Broadway Neighborhood Center area meet with volunteers and staff to acquaint themselves with their new bikes, learn bike anatomy, practice pedaling and signaling, and, eventually, the best part: how to go on a bike ride on the Sycamore Greenway where the Neighborhood of Seasons mosaic lives!

Further reading:

Dream City

611 Southgate Ave. Formerly known as the Dream Center, Dream City is a nonprofit organization which seeks to inspire change through advocacy, art, wellness, and community connections. Via connection academies it hosts in the topics of family, youth leadership, health and wellness and performing and fine arts, Dream City works to provide the social and educational support needed to strengthen youth and adults alike in their family, work, and school lives. Dream City was founded by Frederick Newell upon his graduation from the University of Iowa in 2010. You can find out more about Newell and Dream City at dreamcityia.org.