

5 Things You Need to Know about the Nine Rails Creative District

Jake McIntire

1. It's officially a thing.

On August 14th, 2018 Ogden City Council unanimously voted to adopt the Nine Rails Creative District Master Plan, thus designating the stretch from 24th to 26th streets and Grant to Madison avenues as the Nine Rails Creative District. This makes Ogden one of only a few communities in Utah to have a designated creative or cultural district. You can read the full Nine Rails Creative District Master Plan here:

[NINE RAILS CREATIVE DISTRICT MASTER PLAN](#)

2. We had our first District Association Meeting.

On September 18th The Nine Rails Creative District Association met for the first time under the umbrella of the Ogden Downtown Alliance. The Ogden Downtown Alliance also oversees the Historic 25th Street Business Association, the Junction Business Association, and the Washington Boulevard Business Association.

Our first meeting was held at the newly opened, Argo House, at 529 25th Street with catering generously donated by Thai Curry Kitchen. Over 35 people showed up to get to know one another and learn about the group. Of these 35 people we had neighborhood residents, painters, sculptors, photographers, musicians, performing artists, entrepreneurs (both creative and not), real-estate developers, hospitality representatives, government employees, members of the Ogden City Arts Advisory Committee, members of the Weber County Creative Alliance, students, Weber State University faculty, and generally interested community members. It was a great group representing a broad diversity of people, ideas, demographics, and viewpoints. We hope to see you at the next one.

Nine Rails Creative District Association meetings are open to the public and will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at noon with the exception of Town Hall months (October, January, April, and July). Town Halls are when all of the Ogden Downtown Alliance district associations come together to discuss what is happening city-wide. The next Town Hall meeting will be held October 10th at 9 am at the Union Station. The next Nine Rails Creative District Association meeting will be November 13th location TBD (moved up a week due to Thanksgiving). For more information about upcoming meetings, contact Danielle Collier with Ogden Downtown Alliance. Danielle can be reached at danielle@ogdendowntown.com.

3. It's a collaborative, community wide effort. You are welcome and your voice is needed.

You may just be hearing about the Nine Rails Creative District now, but community engagement and input has been going on since 2014 when the idea began to blossom. In the past four years artists, businesses, nonprofit organizations, residents, real-estate

developers, government employees, elected officials, and educational institutions have come together to make the Nine Rails Creative District a reality. In order for this district to be a success it must continue to be a collaborative effort with the community's engagement. I urge you to get involved — come to meetings, make cool art, set up shop, attend events, volunteer for an arts organization, make new friends, bring your family, apply for grants, and let your next great idea take root here.

4. The murals. You need to see the murals.

The Nine Rails Creative District is home to several stunning murals. You may know of some of these, but I'd recommend taking a stroll through the district to see them all. In preparation for this article I walked from one to the next in succession. While I'd seen each of these many times, experiencing them as a whole was a new and extra inspiring experience. Here's a bit of information about the murals of the Nine Rails Creative District.



Monarch in Moda, Ink Dwell, 2018, photo by Jake McIntire

The Migrating Mural Project

The newest addition to Nine Rails Creative District is titled *Monarch in Moda* and was painted by internationally renowned artist group Ink Dwell. *Monarch in Moda* is the sixth in a series of murals known as the Monarch Migrating Murals. Other murals in the series

are located in Florida and Arkansas — all are located along the migration path of the Monarch butterfly. This mural can be found, appropriately, on the Monarch building currently being developed at the intersection of 25th Street and Ogden Avenue.



Ogden Mural, Rachel Pohl, 2016, photo by Jake McIntire

Rachel Pohl's Ogden Mural

The first mural east of Washington Boulevard in the Nine Rails Creative District, this mural highlights the natural and architectural wonders of Ogden in Pohl's signature style. The completion of this mural was made possible by countless hours given by nearly 100 community volunteers in the summer of 2016. Checkout a timelapse of the mural being created here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV0XsC-tErg>



Michelle Montrose Larsen, 2018, photo by Jake McIntire

Michelle Montrose Larsen's New Mural

Located along 26th street between Adams Avenue and Jefferson Avenue, this incredible mural by Michelle Montrose Larsen is undoubtedly worth a visit. Inspired by David Hockney, this playful mural seems to capture the essence of a daydream emerging from the mundane.



Ogden Pioneer Days Rodeo Mural, Kelly D. Donovan, 2003, photo by Jake McIntire

Kelly D. Donovan's Pioneer Days Mural

This mural is certainly the eldest of the mix. Painted in 2003 by Kelly D. Donovan, this mural welcomes visitors into downtown along the 24th Street corridor and gives a nod to Ogden's western heritage.



Origin-Alley, Multiple Artists, 2018, photo by Jake McIntire

Origin-Alley

One of the biggest murals in the Nine Rails Creative District also happens to be one of the most impermanent. The alley between Wasatch Roasting Company and The Yes Hell has become a vibrant and energetic hotspot for street art and live music. Origin-Alley's murals are a collaborative effort between many local artists who replace their work several times a year. Make sure to hit this spot regularly to see what's new and swing by on First Friday Arts Stroll to hear music from great local musicians.



Wasatch Roasting Company Mural, Richard Ramos, 2018, photo by Jake McIntire

Richard Ramos's New Mural at Wasatch Roasting Company

A quick trip to the other side of Wasatch Roasting Company, you will find a massive new mural by legendary local, Richard Ramos. Ramos is no new face in the Ogden mural scene and this piece is a great example of why. Alchemy, honeybees, the Weber State Clock Tower, and the once prominent China Nite sign all make an appearance in this dynamic new mural.



Imagine Ballet Mural, 2018, Photo by Jake McIntire

Imagine Ballet's Hidden Mural

Just a few months ago, Image Ballet Theatre School took it upon themselves to beautify the parking lot behind their building. The result is the transformation of this space from dingy to whimsical. While this mural is a bit off the beaten path and not the easiest to find, the quick adventure is well worth it. This mural is located down an alley just east of Washington Boulevard between 24th and 25th streets.



Painted Streets Mural, Design by Roger Whiting, 2018, Photo by Tyler Holon



Painted Streets Mural, Design by Amy Hajdas, 2018, Photo by Tyler Hollon

Painted Streets Murals

Who says murals have to be painted on walls. This past summer, more than 200 community volunteers came together to paint two incredible street murals. The first fills a significant portion of the center lane on 25th Street between Washington Boulevard and Adams Avenue. This piece was designed by Roger Whiting. The second spreads across the four crosswalks at the intersection of 25th Street and Adams Avenue. This piece was designed by Amy Hajdas. These street murals bring an unexpected pop of color to the street and create an engaging pedestrian experience.

5. Follow along. Watch for opportunities.

The Nine Rails Creative District has a Facebook page and Instagram. Both can be found @NineRailsOgden. The Nine Rails Creative District social accounts are the best way to keep tabs on what's happening in the district. Be sure to keep an eye out for great events, calls for art, and grant opportunities.