Shaped by world-class beaches, foreshores and estuaries, the Southern Gold Coast boasts an extensive public art collection that complements its distinctive character.

Jump on your bike or take a stroll through our Southern suburbs to get a taste of our creative public spaces.

1. Gecko Courtyard
Megan Cope / Murals / Other
Painted by a young local Indigenous artist in 2007, the artist says that Gold Coast elder Aunty Joyce Summers gave her a story called The Man, the Eel and the Cave which provided inspiration for the painting. Eels were a very important source of food for the local people and the Currumbin Creek and its rock pools are part of a migration path for the short-finned eel which is depicted in the mural.

2. Pelicans
Richard Moffat / Sculpture
These sculptures, created from scrap metal, were an acquisition from the 2004 SWELL Sculpture Festival. The artist notes that “capturing the feel of an animal and assembling its form in a whimsical way is great fun”.

3. Out on a Limb
Peter Chapman / Sculpture
We welcome information from the community regarding this artwork.

4. Beryl Carnell Memorial
Frank Miles / Sculpture
This artwork by Frank Miles commemorates the life of Beryl Carnell who for many years was the proprietor of the iconic “Playroom” nightclub at Tallebudgera. It was purchased and installed by her family in 2009.

5. Sun Spirit
Frank Miles / Sculpture
This artwork was an acquisition from the 2006 SWELL Sculpture Festival. The artist said that he wanted to depict the pleasure of leisure time at the beach, and the warmth of the Australian sun together with the gentle sea breezes reflecting out of the figure.

6. Benches
Steven Hall / Sculpture
Commissioned by the City of Gold Coast (City) in 2004. See more of local sculptor and designer, Steven Hall’s work at #12

7. Girl Guide Hall mural
Phantast / Murals / Other
This mural was painted by Phantast, a not for profit company that works with at risk young people. Phantast is also responsible for the murals on the M1 soundwalls, including the famous children’s faces at Palm Beach. The mural was opened by David Fleay’s daughter in 1999 in commemoration of her father. For more information go to phantast.org.au

8. Minnetas
Carlos Sanchez / Sculpture
This artwork was an acquisition from the 2008 SWELL Sculpture Festival. All the materials used in this sculpture are recycled and the artist states that he chose these materials in an effort not only to produce beauty, but also to show evolution.
9. Nailing the Coast
Brad Jackson / Sculpture
Installed in 2012, Nailing the Coast plays with the idea of attempting to secure in place something that is transitional by nature. The evolving coastline cannot be tamed or limited, but worked with and appreciated.

10. Ocean Prayer
Jack Quilter / Sculpture
This artwork was an acquisition from the 2005 SWELL Sculpture Festival and is made from expired tanks used while diving from Stradbroke Island to Byron Bay.

11. Resonance of the Soul
Luke Zwolsman / Sculpture
An acquisition from the 2009 SWELL Sculpture Festival, the artist says that this artwork is designed to draw the viewer into deep contemplation. For more information on this artist go to www.artistone.com.au.

12. Sea Eagle
Craig Medson / Sculpture
This artwork was commissioned by Gold Coast City Council in 1983.

13. Jumping
Steven Hall / Sculpture
More of Steven Hall’s work (see #6), this time a private commission. As well as the sculpture, this area includes seating, a pavement mosaic and signage designed by the artist.

14. Skateboard Mural
Jason Rice / Murals / other
This painted signal box is part of ArtBox, an anti-graffiti project run by Gold Coast City Council. You will find other signal boxes painted as part of this project all over the Gold Coast.

15. Swoop
Daniel Gill / Sculpture
This artwork was an acquisition from the 2010 SWELL Sculpture Festival. The artist was inspired following a conversation with a couple who had dived with rays. Helidon sandstone was used due to its sweeping bands of colour and durability. Go to dsgill.com.au for more information on this artist.

16. Last Voyage
Greg R. Barnes, Charles D. Stone, Constantine W. Nikiforides / Sculpture
Installed in 2008, this artwork was commissioned by a property development company in memory of Cr Sue Robbins who died in 2004.

17. Five White Shorebirds
Adriana Vanderlugt / Sculpture
This artwork was an acquisition from the 2009 SWELL Sculpture Festival. The artist notes that there is much joy in recycling pre-used materials into a work of art, making it identifiable just to the point of origin and its new application.

18. Frog
artist unknown / Murals / other
According to Chief Lifeguard Warren Young, this rock has always been recognised as being shaped like a frog, hence the area’s informal local name of “Froggy’s Beach”. The rock was first painted in the 1980s by local identity Billy Rack, who was well-known as the man who ran the beach hire at Greenmount.

19. Anchored
Ron Muir / Sculpture
This sculpture and water feature was installed in 2004. This work was inspired by the idea of the oceans of the world being littered with ship wrecks from centuries past with only creatures of the depths to haunt them.

20. Dhungura Ngarian Dhan
Joyce Summers and others / Murals / other
This mural on the Coolangatta Institute of TAFE depicts a Dreaming story on how birds got their colours. It was painted in the late 1990s by members of Aunty Joyce Summers’ Indigenous art classes.

For more information about public art on the Gold Coast, please visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au/creativegold or contact the City of Gold Coast Arts and Culture Unit on 07 55 817140 or cultural@goldcoast.qld.gov.au.