

Kenosha Mural Project

Working with photographer Ron Larson from the Kenosha Creative Space, a nonprofit organization in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Following the BLM protests, artists took to the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin to express their feelings and emotions. Ron Larson began photographing the art around the city. We are here to share an interactive story map created to showcase the art around the city.

A word from photographer Ron Larson: “The shooting of Jacob Blake on Sunday, August 23, 2020 by a Kenosha police officer led to three days of violence and destruction in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It ended with the shooting of three men, two of whom died, by a man who was later acquitted of murder charges. For a week afterward, protests and demonstrations of Blake’s shooting continued. By then, the business and building owners across the city had prepared for the worst and had covered their doors and windows with plywood. A native of Kenosha, I arrived from Los Angeles on Thursday August 27 and saw that the downtown was boarded up and that many of the plywood boards had text or imagery on them. I returned the next day and saw a mother and several children painting, and then more, and more, I soon realized it was an organized activity. I also saw that some of the murals were striking in their creativity. After I learned the extent of the painting; almost every window and door in the downtown and uptown areas and along the major business streets was boarded up and either painted or being painted, I decided to systematically photograph what I called “murals.” In the end, I took more than 2,560 photos. 349 of them were of demonstrations or burned and damaged buildings and cars, but the vast majority, more than 2,200, were of the murals. Some of those are part of this project.”



Project by Jessica Janecek & Keith Staats