Twin Cities

Design Intent

Texarkana, TX and Texarkana, AR are one community which just so happens to be spread across two states. The state line is a place to gather rather than a place to divide. The Twin Cities have no choice but to be related by proximity and a shared history, but they choose to share a thriving culture free of competition or animosity. People flow back and forth across this line, living on one side, working on the other, and playing all over. This unique confluence of industry, natural beauty, and history makes Texarkana twice as nice as any other city around!

Technology Components

N/A

Mural Features

- Texas High School-The first classes at the high school were held in 1889 for grades 7 through 11, and the first three students graduated in 1890. The school moved to Kennedy Lane after a $3 million bond passed in 1965, allowing for the construction of a modern facility. The high school currently has an enrollment of approximately 1,762 students in grades 9 through 12.
- Perot Theatre-The Perot Theatre is a restored historic theater located in downtown Texarkana, Texas. Originally opened in 1924 as the Saenger Theatre, it features Italian Renaissance architecture and intricate interior details. After years of decline, it was renovated and reopened in 1980 with support from the Perot family. The theatre is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and was named the most beautifully designed theatre in the state of Texas by Architectural Digest in 2018.
- Hotel Grim-The Hotel Grim was completed in 1925 by architects George Mann and Eugene Stern and cost $600,000 to build. The hotel was dedicated to William Rhodes Grim, a successful businessman who had plans to build the hotel. It was known as a luxurious destination for its grand architecture and elegant ballrooms. The Hotel Grim served its last guest in 1990 and, after extensive renovations, now stands as residential lofts in downtown Texarkana.

Mural Features

- Texarkana Water Tower-The Texarkana Water Tower is a prominent landmark built in 1971 along I-30. The 150-foot, 2 million-gallon capacity structure serves residents in both Texas and Arkansas. The water tower is iconically painted with the slogan, “Twice as Nice,” and has included various logos over the years.
- Scott Joplin-Scott Joplin was an African American composer and pianist who became known as the “king of ragtime” in the early 20th century. He was born in 1868 in Texas and moved to Texarkana in the 1870’s where Scott Joplin learned to play the piano. He composed more than 40 ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas. After his death, he received a Pulitzer Prize recognizing his innovative blend of classical and African American musical traditions.
- Tiger Stadium at Grim Park-Tiger Stadium opened in 1953 after a fire destroyed its original wooden bleachers. The stadium seats around 7,500 spectators and is the home field for the Texas High Tigers high school football team.

Themes to Explore

- Texas History
- Community Features
- Careers and Community Helpers
- Safety
- Families
- Maps
- Needs vs. Want
- Voting
- Urban, Suburban, and Rural
- Transportation
- Recycling
- Conservation

Mounted Artifacts

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- Texarkana (Texas/Arkansas) State Line Sign-The Texarkana state line sign stands in front of the iconic U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse. The post office is America’s only federal building constructed across two states. The courthouse is the 2nd most photographed U.S. courthouse.

To Find Out More

- Texarkana Museums System
- Texarkana Chamber of Commerce