

Wichita Curiosities Not to Miss (by Teresa Arnold)

Wichita has several things to interest you and your families.

From a science perspective, it hosts the [National Institute for Aviation Research](#), the [Exploration Space](#) (science museum) and the [Science Education Center](#).

An avid fan of unique features of our conference locations, you will find a large collection of public art and non-traditional shopping experiences within a reasonable distance (walking or public transit).

Some unique locations I intend to check out include the [Museum of World Treasures](#) , [Wichita Art Museum](#), [The Wichita Sedgwick Historical Museum](#) (the architecture of the building itself is worth the short walk!) and [Als Bookshop](#). [Hatman Jack's](#) can help you select the perfect hat and fit it to your head on-site. It is an old-world service with the enthusiastic Jack to tell you all kinds of tales.

Fabulous pastries and a bigger-than-me cold brew still can be found at [Milkfloat](#), (not far from the hatshop). They serve ice cream from Oregon (I can vouch it is good since it is made in my neighborhood), but I am going to go outside favorites of youth to try the creations at [Palacana](#) - they have multiple flavors and concoctions at a reasonable price. No conference is complete without checking out the ice cream options! [Chicken and Pickle](#) was a new novelty to me - you can eat chicken and play pickleball/human sized battleship and a slew of other games while listening to live music. In the Douglas District is [The Workroom](#). It's all curated, lovely crafts, trinkets, and decor where small businesses with great ideas can move in temporarily to get a jumpstart before heading off into the sunset for bigger and better business horizons. There are many little shops, in fact, along Douglas Street to peruse (while seeking art).

Some of the public art that may take your fancy include the following. [Note that I will be making a scavenger hunt for anyone who wants to participate. I might even go with you and

make it a party!] [Some of these are fabulous, but may need more than your feet to get there](#), but I can't ignore them....

- Link many cities, Wichita has a [Historical walking App](#).
- [Keeper of the Plains](#) is a statue on the river that is lit by torches each evening. Definitely a must see! The joggers on Tuesday mornings walk/run may get all the way to the Keeper.
- The [Botanica Wichita](#) - has a kids garden that I am itching to play in and Trolls!
- Another Troll: **[The Troll](#)**
- [Downtown sculptures](#). There are 31 sculptures in 4 blocks along Douglas Avenue. Some are fun and whimsical, some historical. This will be the main part of the scavenger hunt.
- [WSU sculptures](#) - **especially the millipede**. Be sure to look at all her feet! The first Pizza Hut is there too - may be a museum? [Map of art on campus](#)
- [Stonehenge Jr.](#)