

Hi. My name's Scott, and I'm an artaholic.

My wife and I moved to Ogden just over four years ago. One of our first forays into downtown was the January '13 First Friday Art Stroll. It was bitter cold, so we lingered in each stop (enjoying our first exposure to local wunderkind Sammy Brue), but we were still "done" in under 2 hours. There were maybe 30 other "strollers" (it really was mighty cold for Ogden).

This March's FFAS was the opposite experience. I was tending to the crowds at PLATFORMS, Ogden First's unique community gallery-without-walls at the corner of 25th & Adams Ave, so I didn't get around.

But I heard things.

I heard a number of people asking where everything was, as this was their first time Strolling.

I heard laughter, expressions of wonder, and meaningful conversation.

I heard that even without the Eccles Community Art Center's participation (closed to prep for their fabulous fundraiser gala the next day), the addition of several galleries and shops like The Parlour, Wasatch Roasters, the YCC popup show, and of course PLATFORMS meant most Strollers couldn't get to all the wonderful exhibits, performances and locations featured in the allotted time.

These are Good Things.

But Art isn't just for First Fridays. And while some venues were temporary, most are open and welcome your visit every week. I encourage you to get out and see what you missed.

Ogden City Arts has a new page on its website which is updated for each stroll: <http://ogdencityarts.org/771/Current-Stroll-Information> . While the venues may be static, the art isn't, so get to each one each month if you can.

PLUS, as Teri Zenger pointed out, Ogden City has a Public Art collection, most of which you can work into your daily movements about town; you can find a list here: <http://ogdencityarts.org/875/Public-Art-Locations-Photos> . (My wife and I got married at WaterCycle, and many residents don't even know it's here.)

PLATFORMS is of course open 24/7. It's meant to provide an interesting, engaging platform for artistic expression and community engagement. For example, the current MATRIX | Evolutions show invites public, expressive play by re/arranging colorful cups in a fence matrix to create text or images. The panels

will be reset each Monday. K Stevenson's installation, "Unfolding the Map", has a chalkboard on the reverse side for you to record your reaction or make your own map. Jessica Ritter Hollon's "Mario!" piece encourages you to don your Mario costume, take your picture in front of the installation and post on social media using these hashtags: #O1Platforms #ogdenfirst #5womenartists #ifindart #mario; she's promised a prize to the best costume. The exhibit runs through April 29.

As [Jane Font pointed out](#), art is about communication. This blog, *From the Community*, is about communication too. Let us know in the comments section what you like about the Arts in Ogden, or what you'd like to see. If you have an idea for an exhibit or event at PLATFORMS, drop them a note at connect@ogdenfirst.org.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the town!