

THAT'S WHAT THEY TALK ABOUT

Every article about Sanford in the past year (and we are proud to say there have been quite a few!) has featured all or a part of the Sanford Mural Art Trail. A public arts initiative that started under the careful curation of Sanford Historic Preservation Planner Liz Whitmore, this historic and interactive public gallery has grown to 11 murals and two sculptures, along with some traveling pianos.

The goal in the early days was simple: improve some ugly walls downtown and supply a historical context for residents and visitors while making art a very public spectacle.

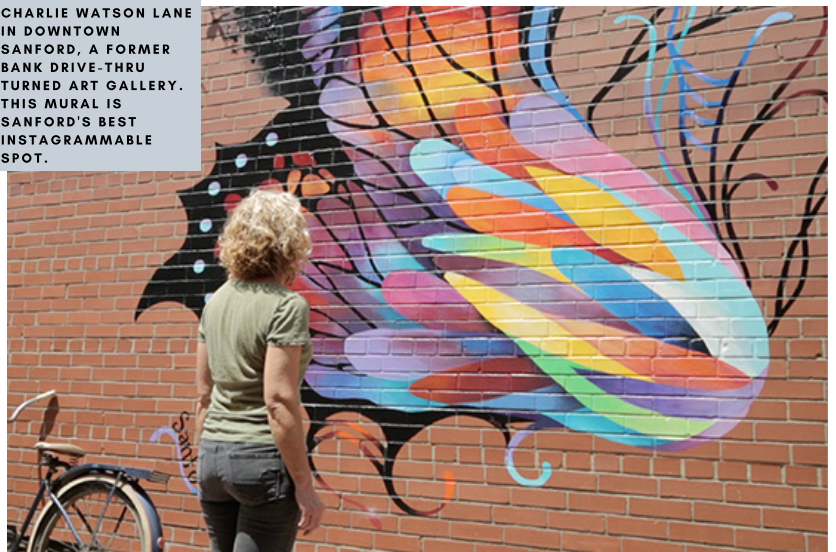
Eight years and 11 murals later, Whitmore's vision, which she was surprised to find out was well-embraced, has turned into a true visitor area of interest. In 2019, the Sanford Tourism Development Authority partnered to provide an Otocast audio tour to the collection, and a self-guided visitor event was born.



"NORTH CAROLINA'S FIRST 3D MURAL HONORS THE FAIRVIEW DAIRY, FOUNDED IN 1927 BY THE YARBOROUGH FAMILY WITH 10 COWS TO PROVIDE MILK FOR ALL OF SANFORD. THIS MURAL IS COLORFUL AND, LIKE OLD RIP, IMPORTANT TO SANFORD'S HISTORY. WE LOVE IT."

- THE RANT

"WINGS" IS LOCATED IN CHARLIE WATSON LANE IN DOWNTOWN SANFORD, A FORMER BANK DRIVE-THRU TURNED ART GALLERY. THIS MURAL IS SANFORD'S BEST INSTAGRAMMABLE SPOT.



"SO MANY PEOPLE STOP AND VISIT WHILE I'M PAINTING. THEY'LL BRING ME LEMONADE IN THE SUMMER," SAID DALTON. "IT'S BEEN AN HONOR, HONESTLY, TO BE A PART OF IT BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS BEEN SO SUPPORTIVE." - CHRIS DALTON AS QUOTED IN CARY MAGAZINE

Chris Dalton, pictured here with her husband at a popular downtown brewery, is responsible for many of the murals, including work on the Fairview Dairy mural. She says it has been her privilege to bring Sanford's history back to life.

