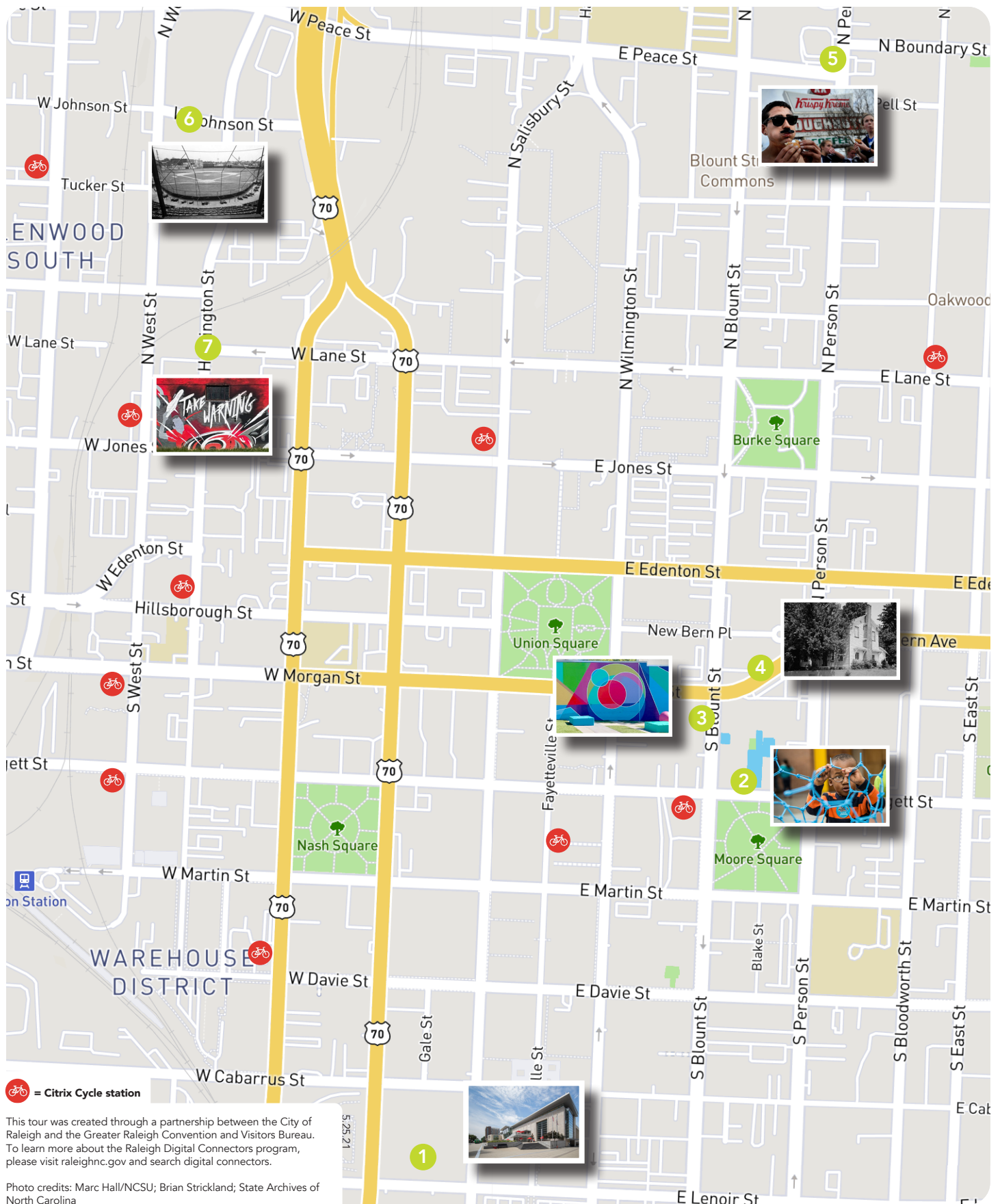


# WEIRD RALEIGH TOUR

A self-guided tour of downtown Raleigh

This tour was developed and narrated by the **Raleigh Digital Connectors** program, a nationally-renowned program providing technology and leadership training for youths ages 14-18.



This tour was created through a partnership between the City of Raleigh and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. To learn more about the Raleigh Digital Connectors program, please visit [raleighnc.gov](http://raleighnc.gov) and search digital connectors.

Photo credits: Marc Hall/NCSU; Brian Strickland; State Archives of North Carolina



**1 RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER**  
500 S. Salisbury St.—Introduction

*Hello and welcome to the Weird Raleigh Tour!*

The Weird Raleigh Tour has a total of seven different stops. During this tour, you will learn about eccentric Raleigh-specific events and see unusual and unique buildings and art. Scan the QR codes at each location to hear an audio description of that tour stop. We hope you enjoy it!



**2 MARBLES KIDS MUSEUM**

201 E. Hargett St.  
Marbles Kids Museum is a nonprofit children's museum located in the Moore Square Historic District. Marbles was founded in 2007 as a merger between

Exploris, a local interactive global learning center, and Playspace, a children's museum aimed at preschool through early elementary age children. Marbles has many arts and crafts activities, sports, theater performances, tours and even has marble racing! Before COVID-19, hundreds and sometimes thousands of people visited the museum each day. The name Marbles was thought of when the founders encouraged kids to "use their marbles." As a cool design concept of the building, the wall that surrounds the museum is filled with more than one million marbles that light up at night.



**3 COLOR POP CORNER**

102 S. Blount St.  
This small landscaped space, known as Color Pop Corner, was completed in 2018 to serve as a gateway to the Moore Square Historic District. Color Pop Corner features

a vibrant geometric mural, seating spaces and large concrete spheres for kids to play on. This space is used often by parents leaving Marbles Kids Museum with their children, and for gatherings in the downtown area.



**4 WHITE-HOLMAN HOUSE**

206 New Bern Pl.  
Built in the late 18th century, the White-Holman House is a historic home that was moved to its current location in 1986. Recognized as the oldest house within

Raleigh's original city limits, this home is a great example of the early Georgian and Federal styles of architecture that were trending during the Young Republic of America. Its haunted history is derived from several incidents of hearing sounds of a peg-legged ghost walking up and down the back staircase of the property. The White-Holman house is now owned by Charles Petrini-Poli, who in 2013, restored the house to its current state.



**5 KRISPY KREME (HOME OF THE KRISPY KREME CHALLENGE)—**

549 N. Person St.

In 1937, Krispy Kreme was opened in Winston-Salem, N.C., about two hours from Raleigh, by Vernor Rudolph. Rudolph

purchased a secret recipe for yeast-raised doughnuts from a French chef in New Orleans. The original Krispy Kreme sign similar to the one you see here was created in 1939. This location opened in 1970, three years after Rudolph died.

Each year, the Raleigh Krispy Kreme hosts the Krispy Kreme Challenge. The Krispy Kreme Challenge is a widely known event in N.C. that hosts more than 5,000 competitors each year. Started in 2004, this five-mile race requires participants to run from the Memorial Bell Tower on the N.C. State University campus to the Krispy Kreme located here at the intersection of Peace and Person Sts. Once they arrive at Krispy Kreme, they must eat one dozen original glazed doughnuts and run back within an hour. There have been many people who have gotten sick midway through the race, and there are some people who have finished the race with no problem. In 2020, a total of \$175,000 was raised to the UNC Children's Hospital, bringing the cumulative donation to \$1.8 million. Fun fact: the Krispy Kreme Challenge is UNC Children's Hospital's largest unrestricted donor. Due to COVID-19, the 17th annual Krispy Kreme Challenge was held virtually.



**6 FORMER SMOKY HOLLOW NEIGHBORHOOD AND DEVERAUX MEADOWS—**600 N. West St.

Smoky Hollow's rich history is rooted in the industrial and transportation industries.

The dedicated and hardworking people who moved to this area made Smoky Hollow an important piece of downtown Raleigh history. There was even a minor league baseball stadium in Devereux Meadows Park which was located adjacent to the neighborhood. Smoky Hollow, which housed many mill and factory workers of Raleigh, got its name from being foggy in most of the areas within the neighborhood. In the 1960s, Smoky Hollow was the site of a major urban renewal project. The city bulldozed run-down clapboard homes and sold land to developers who created a commercial hub on Peace St.



**7 TAKE WARNING! MURAL**

301 N. Harrington St.

In 2019, GoTriangle donated a small wall space to the city to celebrate the Carolina Hurricanes making the 2019 NHL Eastern Conference Finals. The thing that is so cool about this mural is that spray paint was the only thing used to create it. This mural has been a tourist attraction ever since it's been created. Thousands of people have stopped their vehicles and taken pictures with this special piece of art. Another fun fact that makes this mural so special is the Carolina Hurricanes won the NHL Stanley Cup in 2006. At the time the Hurricanes were a relatively new team and were considered by many as underdogs. Raleigh also hosted the 2011 National Hockey League All-Star Game.