

Stairwell's is a collaborative project by San Francisco-based artists Sarah Hotchkiss and Carey Lin. Our Field Trips are group walking excursions around stairs and stair-related spaces.

'Somewhere to be Found' originally took place on July 30, 2015 as part of the 'Art Space is Your Space' residency at Wave Pool.

## INGREDIENTS

Two or more people  
 At least two hours of free time  
 Comfortable shoes  
 Season-appropriate clothing  
 Light snacks and water  
 Masking tape or chalk

For each person:

A sheet of paper and a drawing implement  
 Three small round, semi-round or slightly oblong objects (e.g. plastic football, clown nose)  
 A noise-making device (e.g. whistle)  
 A copy of "The Decline of the Incline," available at [www.stairwells.org](http://www.stairwells.org)  
 Money for the bar, cash or credit (optional)

## SCHEDULING

Make sure there is enough daylight to see clearly on the stairs. If you'd like to stop for a drink at the end of the walk, Milton's Prospect Hill Tavern opens at 4 PM.

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Start at the steps across from 421 Milton St.

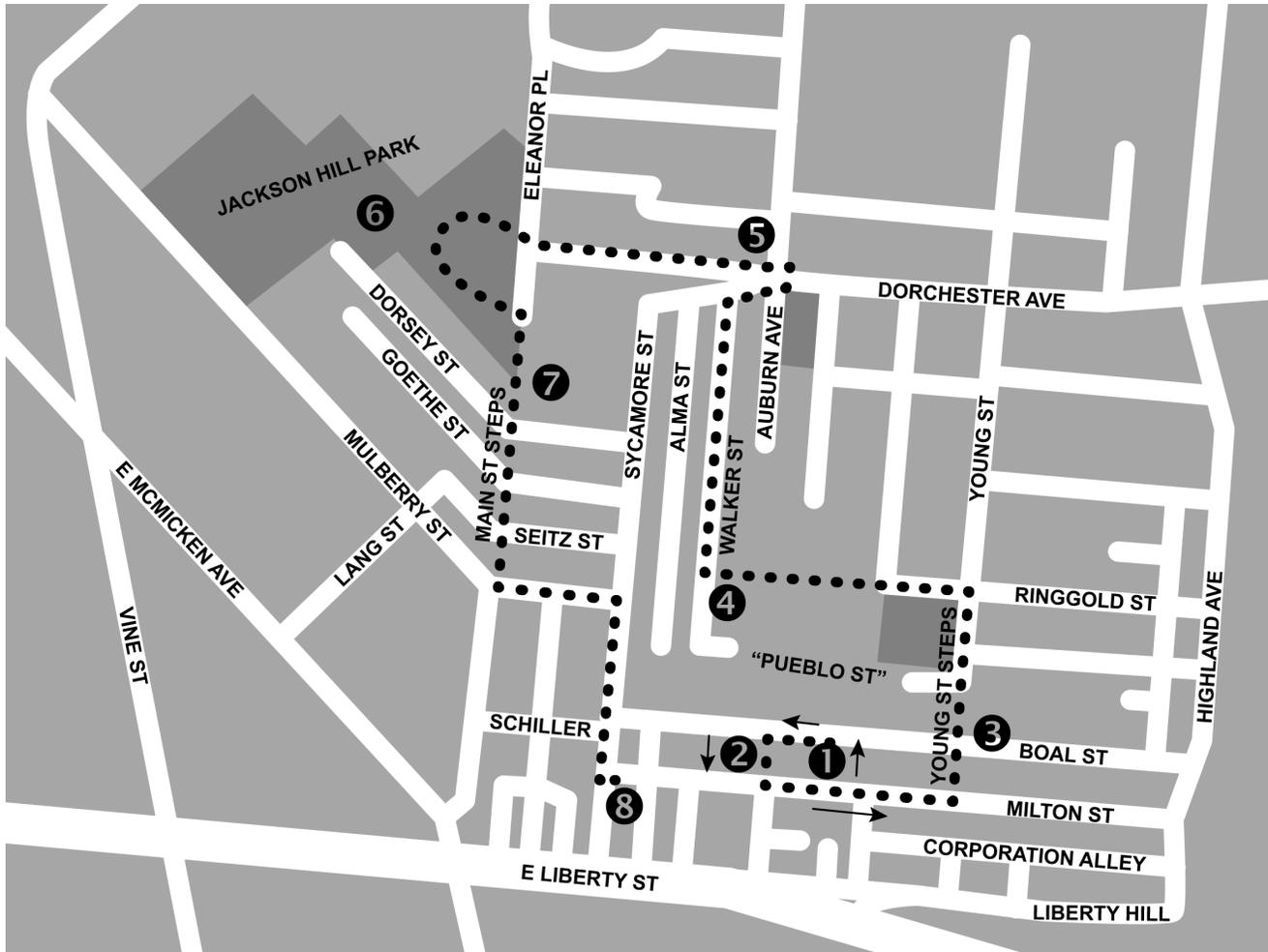
There are many species of lizards found throughout Cincinnati's public stairways. Whenever you encounter a lizard, make a sound with your noise-making device.

Climb the stairs towards Boal St, turn left and stop at the top of the Broadway Steps. Before the Mt. Auburn neighborhood was incorporated into the city of Cincinnati, Liberty St was the boundary line for enforcement of the city's laws. This area was thus known for its "liberties" – drinking and gambling.

- 2 Look down the Broadway Steps and pick a step or landing at least halfway down as your target. Mark this spot with an 'X' using tape or chalk. Return to the top of the steps and release your round objects from the cement 'ramp' to the left of the stairs. Whoever can roll one of their objects closest to the target wins. Non-winner(s) should buy the winner(s) a drink at the end of the walk.

After the game, proceed to the bottom of the Broadway Steps and note the "Step Brothers 1987" inside a star on the sidewalk. This mark was left by city workers on five staircases they repaired before a manager made them stop; you will pass another example later.

Turn left on Milton St. Pass your starting point and stop at the base of the Young Street Steps. Proceed up the first flight of steps and cross Boal St.



③ At the base of the second flight of steps, play a game of stair-charades with one person near the top of the stairs acting out clues and the other(s) at the bottom making guesses. Stand close enough to hear the guesses, but far enough so the actor's gestures are hard to see. Stair-themed clues are highly encouraged (e.g. "Stairway to Heaven," *Vertigo*).

From the top of the Young St Steps, check out the view of Cincinnati and Pueblo St to your left.

On Google maps, Pueblo St continues to Walker St, when in actuality it ends two houses down from Young St.

Continue on Young St past Filson Park and turn left onto Ringgold St. Follow Ringgold as it becomes a path through a wooded area.

④ Just before you reach Walker St look for the second star left by city workers.

Turn right on Walker, pausing to note the closed steps on your right halfway down the block.

Continue on Walker until it ends at Sycamore St. Turn right on Sycamore and when you reach Auburn Ave, make a sharp left onto Dorchester Ave. Cross this three-way intersection safely!

⑤ The wedge-shaped building on the corner featured prominently in the end sequence of the 1993 movie *Airborne* during a race down a fictional Cincinnati hill called "Devil's Backbone." We highly recommend watching this movie if you haven't seen it already.

Walk west on Dorchester to Jackson Hill Park.

⑥ At the park's overlook you can see a sliver of the Ohio River. Use a sheet of paper to make an aerial drawing of the shape of the Ohio River as it crosses through Cincinnati, from memory. Compare your drawing to others' and decide whose is more accurate.

Before leaving the park, arrange yourselves in height order, and take a group photo. People arranged in height order look a bit like stair steps.

Walk back to Eleanor Pl and the top of the Main St. Steps. These steps trace the path of the Mt. Auburn inclined plane railway, active 1872–1898.

⑦ Distribute copies of "The Decline of the Incline" and descend the steps with each person reading a line of the poem out loud.

When you reach the bottom of the steps, turn left on Mulberry St (beware of the poison ivy to your right). Turn right on Sycamore St.

⑧ This walk ends at the corner of Sycamore and Milton Streets. Carefully cross Sycamore St and enjoy a cold drink at Milton's Prospect Hill Tavern.

Check out photos from the original Field Trip  
[www.stairwells.org](http://www.stairwells.org)

Share your Field Trip pictures!  
IG & Twitter: @stairwells\_sf  
#stairwellscincy

Tell us how it went!  
[stairwells.sf@gmail.com](mailto:stairwells.sf@gmail.com)



Mt. Auburn  
Cincinnati, OH  
A Self-Guided Field Trip

**Somewhere  
to be  
Found**