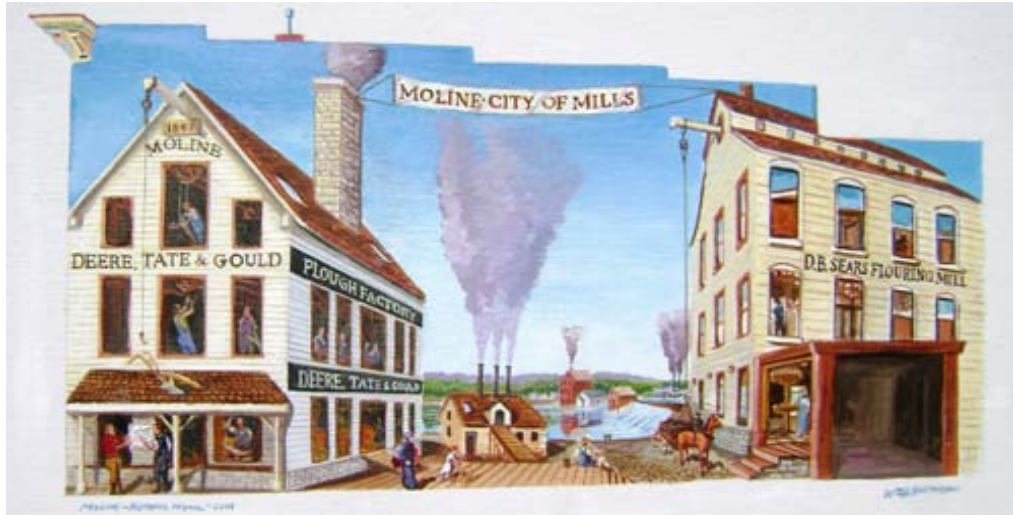


Moline City of Mills Mural

A Historic Depiction of Moline in the 1850s



Capturing Moline's History

From 1841 to 2009, Moline's downtown has served as the heart of our city. Over the course of nearly 170 years, the area has grown to include and support industry, the arts, education, dining, and shopping.

Founded on the waterfront below the Sears Dam, Moline derived its name from the French word "Moulin," meaning "mills." Major businesses, including the Deere, Tate & Gould plow factory and Sears flour mill, benefited from the Mississippi River's shipping channels and the dam's water-generated power. From the start, Moline was well situated and grew rapidly.

Moline would continue to prosper throughout the 19th century, coming to be known internationally as the "Plow City." By the early 20th century, the early mills and factories were replaced by larger, modern factories. By the 1980s, as industries restructured, many of these buildings were demolished, opening up the area for new development.

In the tradition of its earliest settlers, Moline continues to evolve. The Moline City of Mills mural will beautifully recapture that pioneer optimism and memorialize it in its rightful place, the downtown Historic Block.

About the Artist



William Gustafson is an accomplished artist, graphic designer, and teacher who has painted several murals in the Quad City area. Recent works include two murals in downtown Rock Island: an original mural commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Rock Island Railroad train to cross the Mississippi River, and a restoration of the magnificent Black Hawk mural. Gustafson's full portfolio can be seen at www.gustafsonart.com.

**Rock Island Railroad, 1856
by William Gustafson**



The Creative Vision

The Moline City of Mills mural will be a lasting work of art that provides a glimpse into Moline's past. The project complements the nearby Moline Downtown Commercial Historic District, which was placed on National Register of Historic Places in 2007, and will mark the introduction of the Illinois Main Street program to Moline.

The City of Mills mural was exhaustively researched to ensure a historically accurate picture of the Moline waterfront in the 1850s. Viewers can step back in time and rediscover Moline's days as a booming frontier town.



The impressive 85' x 24' mural spans the west wall of the Historic Block Courtyard on River Drive, between 15th and 16th Streets, a major gathering spot for downtown concerts and festivals.