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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Destination Missoula Unveils New Welcome Wall At Missoula Montana Airport Featuring Local Artists

Display highlights iconic Missoula attractions and helps visitors explore the surrounding area

MISSOULA, Mont. (May 8, 2026) — Today, Missoula Montana Airport leaders joined Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District to unveil a new welcome wall and art display inside the Missoula Montana Airport.

The 44-foot-wide Destination Missoula Welcome Wall features 15 images, interactive iPad displays, video content, visitor planning hotline and five locally inspired art pieces spanning a range of forms and materials. The wall serves as an important starting point for the visitor experience and includes representation from two key community pillars: accessible outdoor recreation and arts and culture.

The art pieces were created by local artists Courtney Blazon, Paul Barmore, Monica Gilles-BringsYellow and volunteers with the Missoula Pony Keepers.

“The Missoula Airport has always been a special place to call home and welcome travelers from all around the world,” said Brian Ellestad, Missoula Montana Airport Director. “Having a new welcome wall that showcases our community makes it even better.”

Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District provided funding for the installation.

“After spending two years planning and designing this wall display that reflects Missoula’s one-of-a-kind community, we are so excited to finally unveil it to the public,” said Barbara Neilan, Executive Director of Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). “This new educational display will be

one of the first contact points we'll have with visitors, and I know it will make a lasting impression."

Details on each individual piece of artwork are included below.

- Surfboard: "The Seasons of Missoula," by Courtney Blazon
 - Each design was drawn by hand and then vinyl wrapped onto the surfboard, which displays the four seasons of Missoula with local flora and fauna.
- Metal Cutthroat: "Copper Cutthroat," by Paul Barmore from Big Sky Flies
 - A forged steel skeleton was wrapped in copper sheets and then colored with natural patinas and flames to bring to life the native cutthroat trout.
- Metal Flower: "Bitterroot Bloom," by Paul Barmore from Big Sky Flies
 - This piece also uses forged steel and features flame-painted copper petals rising above steel roots.
- Guitar: "Forging Trails," by Monica Gilles-BringsYellow
 - The mixed media guitar features a Map of Public Lands by Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Charcoal, epoxy resin and 22k gold leaf shows two bison and birds facing each other, depicting Mt. Sentinel and Mt. Jumbo. The piece pays homage to the history of Native American tribes who lived, visited and passed through the Hellgate Canyon to get to Missoula.
- A Carousel for Missoula Horse by Missoula Pony Keepers
 - A Carousel for Missoula volunteers hand carved and painted a Carousel horse and donated the piece for the installation.
 - The public is encouraged to vote on a new name for the horse by going [online](#), voting at the airport or placing votes at the Carousel downtown.

To help visitors learn more about the best things to do in Missoula and places to stay, interactive iPads with custom landing pages are now available on-site, along with a dedicated phone line that will connect visitors to the Destination Missoula call center.

Vendors that helped make this installation possible include Seaman Construction (construction and consultation for the design), Sign Pro (custom sign design) and Windfall Inc. (inspiration, design and project management).

To learn more about Destination Missoula and stay up to date with the latest Missoula happenings, visit destinationmissoula.org.

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About Destination Missoula

Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District serve as the community's destination marketing and stewardship organizations, dedicated to elevating Missoula as a welcoming place to visit, meet and explore. Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District are committed to promoting responsible and sustainable tourism for the Missoula community. From floating down the river to enjoying a concert downtown, Missoula shines as Montana's cultural and recreational heartbeat.