

Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race

www.KineticBaltimore.com

May 6, 2023



We Can Do It!



Map by Tom Jones 4/23
 The Kinetic Sculpture Race is produced by the **American Visionary Art Museum** www.AVAM.org 410-244-1900

Schedule

It's a race! Times are approximate and anything may change as needs must.

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|---------|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|
| Morning | 8:00–9:30 | Safety check & brake test at AVAM | Afternoon | 1:00–1:30 | Up Kenwood, Right on Eastern, Left on Linwood & into Patterson Park |
| | 9:30–10:00 | Opening ceremony & LeMans, start onto Key Hwy | | 1:15–3:15 | Patterson Park Obstacle Course: Sand, Mud, & climb the hill past the Observatory |
| | 10:03–10:20 | Climb Battery Ave into Federal Hill Park | | 3:30–4:45 | Race down Lombard, Central, Eastern, Pier 5, Pratt, Light, Key Hwy, Lawrence, Fort, Jackson, Clement, and north up Covington to the finish line at AVAM (first racers may finish ~3:30) |
| | 10:15–11:30 | Down Riverside, Fort, Lawrence, Key Hwy, around the Inner Harbor, down President, 240° around the National Katyrín Memorial, to Aliceanna & down Boston St | | 4:00–6:00 | Post-race recovery (dinner for racers & volunteers) |
| | 11:15–1:00 | Water Entry at Canton Waterfront | | 6:00–7:00 | Awards ceremony at AVAM |

Race Day

As with any human-powered dash for glory, times overlap and are approximate! As demonstrated last year, the race does not stop for rain, minor flooding, short-circuited time machines, and other sub-calamitous conditions.

8:00–9:30 Pre-Race Panic: You can see sculptures in their unsullied glory, but don't disturb the Kinetinauts—they're busy! See "Getting to AVAM".

9:30–9:59 Opening Ceremony: Kinetic celebration, dancing and singing, AVAM Director Jenenne welcomes everyone, and 2022 Mediocre Champions Chonosaurus Rex reignite the kinetic (almost) eternal flame, and Sister Euphonia O'Blivion blesses "de feet" of Kinetinauts on the steps of the AVAM plaza. Additional festivity from the Music for Everyone Community Chorus and Ukelele Uprising from Lancaster, PA, and Ravens Pep Band.

10:00 Le Mans Launchgong at AVAM. The sound of the gong initiates the Le Mans start as pilots and pit crew careen down steep Federal Hill to their vehicles along Covington Street. Then they race onto Francis Scott Key Highway with a police escort.

10:02–10:20 Federal Hill Park: Battery Avenue is very steep climbing Federal Hill. Anyone can make a sculpture; this is when you'll see the challenge of the "human-powered" part. Some sculptures break down before they get this far (not joking). After a lap around the park against the city skyline, sculptures complete the southern loop and return along Key Highway a few minutes later.

Running Late? From I-95 take exit 55 onto Key Highway north to see sculptures on Fort, Lawrence, or Key.

10:15–11:30 Through the Inner Harbor, Harbor East & Fell's Point: The sculptures pass landmarks in the Inner Harbor and Harbor East, including circling most of the way around the [National Katyrín Memorial](#).

Tip: Park two hours for free in the Whole Foods garage on Eden Street if you get lunch there.

11:15–1:00 Canton Waterfront: Sculptures go down the ramp into the harbor. Watch unseaworthy sculptures sink. This is the most popular spectator site, and finding street parking gets more challenging every year. Get lunch from [Absolutely Perfect Catering](#) and [Miss Twist](#).

1:00–1:30 Up the Hill into Patterson Park: Rested and fed racers move quickly.

1:15–3:00 Patterson Park Sand & Mud: The mud is on a slight incline—easier for spectators, harder for racers. There's street parking around the park perimeter. Near the mud are food trucks: [HarborQue](#) and [Miss Twist](#).

3:30–4:45 Back to AVAM for the Finish: Lombard Street descends steeply so sculptures fly through Butcher's Hill, Washington Hill, and Little Italy back to the Inner Harbor. Each team breaks through a huge banner on Covington Street to finish at AVAM.

4:00–6:00 Dinner: You should eat. [Miss Twist](#) truck serves ice cream at AVAM. If you're clean check out [Rusty Scupper](#) seafood or upscale [Ammorra](#) across the street (reservations recommended). Or walk 10 minutes west to Light Street in [Federal Hill](#) with two dozen awesome local restaurants. Big tourist restaurants line the Inner Harbor north bank.

6:00–7:00 Awards Ceremony: You'll be exhausted just from spectating—imagine how the racers feel! Cheer on the winners in the AVAM Sculpture Barn. (Please stay out if you have any symptoms of Covid or other respiratory infection.)

(Some) Kinetic Awards

ACE: The highest race challenge is the ACE. ACE pilots can't swap or receive forward propulsion assistance at any time, and can't get out to push or pull (especially at the water exit, sand, or mud). Each ACE-seeking team has a pink license plate and a merciless ACE judge scrutinizing every move.

2023 Everyday People Award: the team most effectively conveying this year's race theme.

Art: Coveted award for best artistic design, reflected in color, humor, costumes, theatrical appeal, and kinetic motion.

Best Bribes: The team presenting the best gifts to encourage Cops and Judges to absolve minor infractions. (Unlike the US Supreme Court, Kinetic Judges report their bribes.)

Best Pit Crew: For greatest patience, ingenuity, and quick thinking, often in the face of kinetic disaster.

Engineering: Awarded to the most ingenious technical design tackling the rigors of the race.

Golden Dinosaur: Awarded to the most memorable breakdown, or the first team to break down. An entry that *would* have been great but something went wrong. Created by Laurence J. Peter, also known for the [Peter Principle](#).

Golden Flipper: The "most interesting" water entry.

Grand Mediocre Champion: #1 of all awards, for being the middle of all race finishers (after time penalties).

Next-to-Last: The penultimate finisher.

People's Choice: Most popular, based on surveys of the crowd taken by Kinetic Chickens.

Sock Creature of the Universe: Each sculpture must have a homemade sock creature (HSC); this award goes to the best.

Speed: Fastest team, after any time penalties.

Spirit of the Glorious Founder: The team, person, or other entity embodying the mindset of Hobart Brown.

Worst Honorable Mention: Awarded to the team whose half-baked "engineering" did not deter its pilot(s) from the challenge of the race.

Kinetic Glossary

AVAM: The American Visionary Art Museum founded and produces this East Coast Championship Kinetic Race.

Barnacle: A 93+ pound human who rides on a sculpture but doesn't provide propulsion. Provides a time bonus.

Bush League: Teams completing the race *except* the water. There's one this year, and you can build one next year.

Checkpoints: To prevent unauthorized short-cuts, teams have to stop at secret checkpoints.

Hobart Brown: In 1969, the Glorious Founder in Ferndale California created the first raceable Kinetic Sculpture for his son, lost that first race to a smoke-emitting turtle, then spread Kinetics around the world. We miss his enthusiasm.

Kinetic Chickens: Volunteers who make the race possible and answer spectators' questions.

Kinetic Grand Championship: Our race is a qualifier for the Grand Championship in Humboldt County, CA: 50 miles, 3 days, Memorial Day weekend. Teams cross 2 miles of Humboldt Bay, a slimy slough, and a huge sand dune called Dead Man's Drop. More at [KineticGrandChampionship.org](#).

Kinetic Kops: "Officers" issue tickets when sculptures break rules (and sometimes when they don't). Kops are known to accept bribes to overlook all but **ACE** and safety infractions.

Kinetinauts: Fearless artist-engineer-pilots, maybe you?

Volunteers: Everyday people who have fun making the race happen! Sign up for next year at [KineticBaltimore.com](#).

Getting to AVAM

Parking: Race day street parking is scarce. You can also pay at the Rusty Scupper or in many nearby lots and garages. Prices vary considerably—see [Parkopedia.com](https://www.parkopedia.com/).

Amtrak and MARC Penn trains: from DC, Philadelphia, and elsewhere to Baltimore Penn Station, then taxi or Circulator Purple Line (below). You can bring bicycles on MARC but MARC's earliest Saturday train from DC arrives 9:57am. See [mta.Maryland.gov/marc-train](https://www.mta.maryland.gov/marc-train) and [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com/).

Charm City Circulator: Free buses every 12–20 minutes 9am to midnight! Purple Route from Penn Station to Science Center near AVAM; Orange and Green Routes to Fell's Point; Banner Route from Inner Harbor past AVAM to Fort McHenry. Maps & info at transportation.baltimorecity.gov.

Light Rail: Take a train to Camden Station, a 20 minute walk to AVAM. Park free at Falls Road or Lutherville to the north near I-83; or Cromwell/Glen Burnie near I-97 to the south. See [mta.Maryland.gov/light-rail](https://www.mta.maryland.gov/light-rail).

Spectate from One Spot...

Since the sculptures navigate 15 miles through the city, the easiest way to spectate is to pick a spot and watch them pass by. Parking is available along some stretches (especially on the southern and eastern parts of the route). Watch for any last-minute route changes. However, most spectators join the crowds at AVAM, Canton Waterfront, and Patterson Park for the festive kinetic atmosphere where sculptures congregate to surmount exciting obstacles.

...Or Follow Along

If you have time and energy, following the race lets you see a lot more action. Some means of transport are:

- **Bike or roller blade:** Big human-powered sculptures aren't super-fast. If you're fit for 15 miles on city streets, you'll likely keep up. Ride carefully and watch for rough roads. Bring a bike lock.
- **Rent a Scooter:** Rent a scooter or bike using an app from [Li.me](https://www.li.me) (green & red), [Link](https://www.link.com) (yellow), or [Spin](https://www.spin.com) (orange)
- **Automobile:** Parking gets more challenging every year, so you may want to avoid parking hassles by using an app to get around. If you drive, bring credit cards (and quarters) for parking, lock your car, and read parking signs carefully.

Plan Ahead!

The next race is **Saturday 4 May 2024**. Clear your calendar!



Attractions near AVAM

1. **AVAM:** The American Visionary Art Museum hosts self-taught work by artists compelled to create, CNN said "one of the most fantastic museums anywhere in America". Currently showing "Abundance: Too Much, Too Little, Just Right" and "The Science & Mystery of Sleep". Open 10am–5pm on race day: [AVAM.org](https://www.avam.org)
2. **Maryland Science Center:** Exhibits about dinosaurs, health, space, and physics; IMAX and planetarium, mini golf for kids. Open 10am–5pm Saturdays: [MDSci.org](https://www.mdsci.org)
3. **Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology Open House:** Once-a-year one-day expo with hands-on science activities right next to the race route. 1–4pm, free but requires registration: [UMCES.edu](https://www.umces.edu)
4. **National Aquarium:** Sharks, rays, jellyfish, dolphins, Australian Outback, plus tiny colorful poisonous frogs. Buy advance tickets ASAP to enter 9:00am–5:45pm: [Aqua.org](https://www.aqua.org)
5. **USS Constellation** (1797 frigate), USS Torsk (1944 submarine), USCGC Cutter 37 (1936 ship), and 7-Foot Knoll Lighthouse. Open 10am–5pm: [HistoricShips.org](https://www.historicships.org)
6. **Baltimore Museum of Industry:** Amazing machines that used to run our city and economy: 1910 pharmacy, 1886 bank, WWII flying boat bomber. 9am–3pm: [TheBmi.org](https://www.thebmi.org)
7. **Urban Pirates:** Reserve at [UrbanPirates.com](https://www.urbanpirates.com) for a "Family Adventure" or adult "Bring Your Own Grog" cruise.
8. **Fort McHenry:** Baltimore's star-shaped fort inspired our national anthem in 1814. Two miles from AVAM down Francis Scott Key Highway and Fort Ave; free; 9am–5pm: [nps.gov/fomc](https://www.nps.gov/fomc)
9. **Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:** An entire weekend dedicated to ruminants and their follicular output. Always the same weekend as KSR: [SheepAndWool.org](https://www.sheepandwool.org)

What to Wear

Something fabulous! Many folks wear festive garb (see below; these people dressed up even in last year's persistent downpour). You should too! If you dress well, find a KineticBaltimore.com photographer (we wear bright yellow shirts & feathered blue hard hats), and your photo may appear on this year's website or the 2024 Spectator's Guide!

Tag Photos & Videos with #Kinetic

Instagram: Follow [the avam](https://www.theavam.com) & use [#Kinetic](https://www.instagram.com/kinetic)

Facebook: [@theavam](https://www.facebook.com/theavam)



Kinetic Forum: [KineticBaltimore.com/ksr/forum](https://www.kineticbaltimore.com/ksr/forum)

The Sculptures (4/27)

1. **Steve Punk** from UMBC's Fear the Gears team. UMBC has entered 8 times since 2006 and won **2017 Big Weiner** for representing that year's Food theme.
2. **USS Rosie the Recycler** is a 1-pilot trike from a new team celebrating iconic Rosie inspiring ordinary people to tackle extraordinary challenges since 1943. Look for its telescopic mast. It's sponsored by The Arcadians and Blue Mountain Water.
3. **Working Hard, or Bearly Working?** has 1 pilot, from the Park School. Its theme song is "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton. Their *Park School Bachelorette* won **2019 Wheel-ality TV**.
4. **Ridin' Wormy** presents the beloved Richard Scarry books about everyday people. Lowly the Worm is excited to pilot his apple car; see if you can find the Goldbug! It's the second entry from Team Poorly Drawn Bikes, who won 2022 **Best Pit Crew** for *Big Lady*.
5. **Soccer Moms** from St. Paul's School for Girls celebrates the maternal backbone of extracurricular activities with a new minivan sculpture built of aluminum tubing, with pivoting pontoon panels. They raced *Mystery Machine* in 2018 and won **Next-to-Last** in 2017.
6. **Happy Campers** with 6 pilots from Takoma Park glorifies camping in the great outdoors, sleeping under the stars, canoeing, and good-natured animals. Last year's butterfly-themed *Winging It!* won **Art**.
7. **The Nanster Truck** with 6 pilots is the fourth entry from the rule-bending running- swimming Baltimore team that won 2019 **Next-to-Last** for *Humnan Centipede*.
8. **Reverse Dog Sled** is a trip to the tropical arctic with the new dog that took the reins at Team 1,800 Lbs, as people do all the work. Their adventurous propulsion and art have won 12 awards since 2007, including 2019 **Best Bribes** for arm-powered *Treez Nuts*. The team thanks Nat Taylor of *Make Magazine*, Hong Wong of DIY USA and Phil Vandelay.
9. **Cruises** has 4 pilots and is the eighth entry from St. Paul's School for Boys, who last year won **Judges' Fill-in-the-Blank** for *SP Space Cruiser*. Its theme song is War's "Low Rider".
10. **ACE Patent Pending** is the 4-pilot first entry from the Howard County Schools Applications & Research Lab. Their theme song is Metallica's "Enter Sandman".
11. **ACE Scrap Life** has water propulsion made of discarded ceiling fans and tractor parts. Phil Smith seeks his 4th ACE from his 8th entry. Last year's *Pinktastic* was nearly swept out to sea but nonetheless won **Best Engineering** and an **ACE** after the Rampmaster declared an excessive wind situation.
12. **CLAWdia** is a 2-pilot anatomically-proportionate Chesapeake blue crab made of repurposed soda bottles and spite. Their *Ve-Fossil-Wrapper* first entry last year won **Sock Creature of the Universe**.

Kinetic Sponsors



13. **Fifi Can Do It!** is the iconic giant pink poodle from the American Visionary Art Museum's in every race since 2001. 
14. **Cut Out to be Royal** is a 6-pilot carriage with big custom wheels carrying famous "Everyday Royals". It's from Team Goes to Eleven who won 2019 **Art** for *Real Spacewives of Uranus* (which tipped over at the pier) and **2008 Grand Champion** for *Rat Rod*.
15. **2 Bee or Not 2 Bee** is the 6-pilot apian third entry from Nova Labs whose *Time Maker* won **2022 Time Warp**.
16. **ACE The Big 50** with 4 pilots is the largest of 5 entries this year from the Jemicy School of Baltimore. It weighs 586 pounds.
17. **ACE GettinGold** from Jemicy has 1 pilot, no theme song, and weighs 39 pounds.
18. **ACE Good as Gold** has 1 Jemicy pilot and 8 pit crew. Last year, Jemicy's 5 sculptures together took home **Speed**, **Best Bribes**, **Golden Flipper**, and 3 **ACEs**. 
19. **ACE AuSome** from Jemicy has 1 pilot and golden atomic number 79.
20. **ACE Engines & Dragons** features 4 pilots and Kyle who can't fly due to poor vision and doesn't like being called a "dragon" due to their fire-starting repete. So he joined the Overlea Fire Brigade. It's the fifth entry from Team Cap Kinetic, reigning **2022 Grand Champion** from racing *Chronosaurus Rex*, and promise a spectacle at the mud.
21. **Bush Golden Moose** with 1 pilot is Jemicy's Bush league entry that will bypass the water, and has a 16-person pit crew.
22. **Neil Mobile** honors Neil Benson who co-founded the Philadelphia Dumpster Divers in 1999 (the Baltimore KSR first year) and died in January. It's loaded with memorabilia to convey his trash-picking genius. In 2018 they won **Best Costumes** for *High Hat*.
23. **Mr. Jon Dig-it** is a Jon boat converted into a backhoe to honor Buck Schuster, long-time friend of the Soda Quackers of NJ & PA. They won **2019 Grand Champion** and last year quite dramatically received the **Golden Dinosaur** when *Tempus Fugit* lost his head, then an axle and got to Canton only in pieces. Watch their propulsion change at the water.
24. **Tick Tock the Croc** is the 6-pilot, 35-foot articulated music-playing crocodile from Neverland that's won **People's Choice** every single race since it appeared in 2014.
25. **Book of Platypology** is the magnificent Personal Long-range All-Terrain Yacht Proven Un-Safe in every race since 2005 and won the 2019 **Engineering** award as *Shark Tank* and **2005 & 2011 Grand Champion**. It has 8 pedaling pilots, a Suzuki transmission, and artist David Hess at the steering wheel. Their theme song is the Talking Heads' "Once in a Lifetime".
26. **Bush Pyramid** is a 1-pilot, last-minute entry.