

# Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race

www.KineticBaltimore.com  
2 May 2026



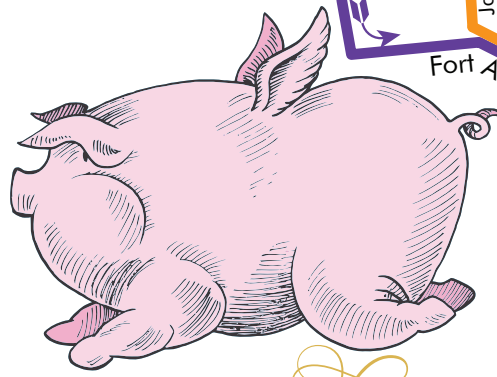
**Federal Hill Park**  
900 Battery Ave  
10:03–10:20am

**AVAM**  
800 Key Hwy  
8:00–10:00am  
3:30–6:45pm

**Patterson Park Obstacle Course**  
301 S Patterson Park Ave  
1:15–3:15pm

**Canton Waterfront Park**  
3200 E Boston St  
11:15am–1:00pm

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



FANTASY & FOLLY

## Timeline

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

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 & Le Mans 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 Hofferger 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 Katyrn Memorial, to Aliceanna & down Boston St		4:00–5:45	Post-race recovery (dinner for racers & volunteers)
	11:15–1:00	Water Entry at Canton Waterfront		5:45–6:45	Awards ceremony at AVAM

## Race Day

As with any human-powered dash for glory, times overlap and are approximate! The race goes on in rain, sunshine, virga, crepuscular rays or other sub-calamitous conditions.

**8:00–9:30 Pre-Race Panic & Safety Checks:** See sculptures in their intact and unsullied glory, but don't disturb the Kinetinauts—they're busy! See "Getting to AVAM".

**9:30–9:59 Opening Ceremony:** The VII-i Seven to One vocal ensemble will start it off. Then last year's Grand Mediocre Champion—Wheel Horse—reignites the eternal flame, and Sister Euphonia O'Blivion blesses "de feet" of Kinetinauts on the steps of the AVAM plaza.

**10:00 Launchgong** at AVAM. KSR retains its Le Mans start even though the folks at Le Mans chickened out. This year Federal Hill is under construction, so expect mitigation. Once racers line up, the sound of the gong radiates at 340 meters per second, prompting scampering to their vehicles on Covington Street, whence they scramble onto Francis Scott Key Highway with police escort.

**10:03–10:20 Federal Hill Park:** Battery Avenue up Federal Hill is very steep, the first real challenge. Some sculptures break down before they get this far (not kidding). After a lap around the verdant park, 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 most of the way around the cobblestones circling the [National Katyrí Memorial](#).

Tip: Park up to 2 hours free in the Whole Foods garage on Eden Street if you validate at checkout by getting lunch.

**11:15–1:00 Canton Waterfront:** Sculptures enter the harbor. Cool winds and potential hydrocatastrophic scenarios make this the most popular spectator site all day. Finding street parking gets is challenging. No sculptures can enter the water after 12:45pm. Get your lunch at [King Glizzy's Wagyu Dogs](#), [Harbor Que](#), or [Sahel Halal Food](#).

**1:00–1:30 Up the Hill into Patterson Park:** Rested and fed racers move fast even uphill as they leave Canton in a group.

**1:15–3:00 Patterson Park Sand & Mud:** Mud is on a slight incline—easier for spectators, harder for racers. There's street parking around the park perimeter. Arty Party Face Painting at the sand pavilion. Dine at Fresh Squeezed Please, [Eat This, Delish](#), [Bully Boss Burger](#), [HH BBQ Grill](#), and [Frank's Pizza](#).

**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 finish line banner on Covington Street at AVAM.

**4:00–5:45 Dinner:** You should eat. If you're clean try [Rusty Scupper](#) seafood, [The Outpost](#), race sponsor [Captain Larry's Bar & Grill](#), or upscale [Ammoora](#). Or walk 10 minutes west to Light Street in [Federal Hill](#) for 2 dozen more awesome local restaurants.

**5:45–6:45 Awards Ceremony:** You'll be exhausted just from spectating—imagine how the racers feel! Cheer on the winners in the AVAM Sculpture Barn.

## (Some) Kinetic Awards

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

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

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

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

**2026 Fantasy & Folly Award:** The team most effectively conveying this year's race theme.

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

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

**Speed:** Fastest team to finish, after any time penalties.

**Sock Creature of the Universe:** Each sculpture is required to carry a homemade sock creature (HSC); Special Judges Theo (age 7) and Max (age 4) choose the best.

**Golden Flipper:** The "most interesting" sculpture on water.

**Best Bribes:** The team with the best gifts given to Kops and Judges to absolve minor infractions. Unlike supreme court justices, Kinetic Judges report their bribes.

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

**Golden Dinosaur:** Awarded to the most memorable breakdown, or the first team to break down. Good effort but something went wrong. Created by Laurence J. Peter, the same guy who created the [Peter Principle](#).

**Next-to-Last:** The penultimate finisher, not quite the slowest.

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

## Kinetic Glossary

**AVAM:** The landmark American Visionary Art Museum founded and produces this East Coast Championship Kinetic Sculpture Race, and has an awesome gift shop.

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

**Bush League:** Teams with green license plates completing all the race except the water. There are four this year, and you can build one next year.

**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 Grand Championship:** Baltimore 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, perhaps you?

**Volunteers:** People like you 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 [SpotAngels](#) or [Parkopedia](#).

**Amtrak and Penn line MARC trains:** from DC and elsewhere to Baltimore Penn Station, then taxi or Circulator Purple Line (below) south. (Camden line is closed weekends.) MARC allows bicycles. Its only Saturday morning train from DC arrives 9:53am but Amtrak has more options. See [mta.Maryland.gov/schedule/marc-penn](http://mta.Maryland.gov/schedule/marc-penn) and [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com).

**Charm City Circulator:** Free buses every 10–20 minutes 9am to midnight! Purple Route from Penn Station to Science Center near AVAM; Orange and Green Routes to Fell's Point. Maps & info at [transportation.baltimorecity.gov](http://transportation.baltimorecity.gov).

**Light Rail** to Camden Station, a 20 minute walk to AVAM. Start at BWI airport, or 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/schedule/lightrail](http://mta.Maryland.gov/schedule/lightrail).

## 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. Neighborhood parking is available along some stretches, especially on the southern and eastern parts of the route. Watch for any last-minute route changes. Many spectators arrive early to join the crowds at AVAM, Canton Waterfront, and Patterson Park for the festive Kinetic atmosphere where sculptures congregate at 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 spots. Bring a bike lock. If you need repairs look for the **Station North Tool Library mobile crew**.
- **Rent a bike or scooter:** Rent a battery-powered scooter or bike with an app from [Lime](#) (green) or [Spin](#) (orange).
- **Automobile:** Parking gets more challenging every year, so you may want an app-hired driver to get around. If you drive, bring credit cards or quarters for parking, lock your car, and read parking signs carefully.

## 364 days in the future...May Day!

Put the next race **Saturday 1 May 2027** on your calendar! It's always the first Saturday in May.

## Attractions near AVAM

Here are ideas, or see a full [list from Baltimore Magazine](#).

1. **AVAM:** The American Visionary Art Museum exhibits self-taught work by artists compelled to create, with a spectacular gift shop and fun workshops. CNN said "one of the most fantastic museums anywhere in America". Now showing "Fantastic Realities" and "The Strength to be Joyful". Open 10am–5pm: [AVAM.org](http://AVAM.org)
2. **Maryland Science Center:** Three floors about dinosaurs, curiosity, health, space, and physics, with IMAX and a planetarium. Open 10am–5pm Saturdays: [MDSci.org](http://MDSci.org)
3. **National Aquarium:** Sharks, rays, jellyfish, puffins, turtles, Australia, Amazon, and tiny colorful venomous frogs. Buy advance tickets ASAP to enter 9am–6pm: [Aqua.org](http://Aqua.org)
4. **USS Constellation** (1797 frigate), USS Torsk (1944 submarine), LV116 Chesapeake (1930 lightship), 1936 Coast Guard Cutter 37. 10am–4:30pm: [HistoricShips.org](http://HistoricShips.org)
5. **Baltimore Museum of Industry:** Awesome machines that ran our city and economy: Bethlehem Steel, Collective Action, Machine Shop & Forge, 9am–4pm: [TheBmi.org](http://TheBmi.org)
6. **Fort McHenry:** Baltimore's star-shaped fort in 1814 inspired our national anthem. Two miles from AVAM down Francis Scott Key Highway and Fort Ave; free; 9am–5pm: [nps.gov/fomc](http://nps.gov/fomc)
7. **Flower Mart:** Baltimore's oldest festival, 11am–8pm in Mount Vernon: [MountVernonPlace.org/Flower-Mart](http://MountVernonPlace.org/Flower-Mart)
8. **Urban Pirates:** Reserve at [UrbanPirates.com](http://UrbanPirates.com) ASAP for a "Family Adventure" or adult "Bring Your Own Grog" cruise.
9. **Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:** Enthusiasts of even-toed ungulates and their hoary fleeces convene in Howard County on Kinetic weekend: [SheepAndWool.org](http://SheepAndWool.org)

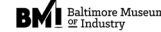
## What to Wear

Something fabulous! Many folks wear festive garb (see below). You should too! If you dress well, find a [KineticBaltimore.com](http://KineticBaltimore.com) photographer (we wear bright yellow shirts & feathered blue hats), and your photo may appear on our website and maybe the *2027 Spectator's Guide!*



The Sculptures (4/29)

POWERED BY



- ACE Mooseum Heist** is a 2-pilot recumbent trike from Sparks, Nevada. It was the **2025 Lowell Massachusetts Grand Champion** as *Moo Haul*.
- ACE Engines & Dragons Take 2** is a 1-pilot detailed miniature fire engine pursued by a dragon. It has 3-stage gearing designed to ACE the mud this year, and a limited slip differential. Captain Pat won **2025 Play Award** for exemplifying last year's theme with *1987 AMF Fire Truck Pedal Car*.
- Hundred Acre Wood** is a Winnie the Pooh-themed entry from the Park School who won **Golden Flipper** for 2025's gigantic *Bear Necessities* that tipped over on the water then spectacularly disintegrated along the route.
- ACE Godzilla: the folly of atomic power in the age of climate change and AI.** With 2 pilots, they won 2025 **Sock Creature of the Universe** with *Loose Bushings*.
- Dogs Playing Poker** is a new 2-pilot sculpture and the 3<sup>rd</sup> entry from Duke University who last year achieved an **ACE** and **Next-to-Last** for *Rainbow Road Rage*.
- Radiolarian Special** is the third year for this 2-pilot orange buoyant-wheeled sculpture with a biomimetic protozoan exoskeleton. Sponsored by the VCU Sculpture Dept. & Astra Design, it sports expanded gear range for sand and mud.
- Dairy Go** is a new 2-pilot entry from Baltimore with a viking and milk theme, made of milk jugs, recyclable materials, bamboo sticks, and twine.
- Meep Meep and Meyond** with 7-foot wheels built of fused metal. Paul J Chaos leads the NOVA Labs team, who won 2025 **Engineering** with almost-dicycle *Proud Mary's Return*.
- In a Pickle** is the 4th entry from the Gottwald family of Gwynn Island VA who won an **ACE** last time they raced in 2017 and before that **2009 Grand Mediocre Champion**.
- Up Yours Truly** is the latest from the Baltimore team whose recurring liminal pedestrian engineering won 2025 **Worst Honorable Mention** with *Sorry for Party Socking*.
- ACE Fireball** is a 2-pilot trike inspired by Toothless the dragon, created by Baltimore Friends School who acquired a welder after winning 2025 **Best Pit Crew** for *Friendship*.
- ACE Jazzy Jesters** is another 2-pilot trike from the Friends School, with a chariot-jester theme.
- Gone Phishin'** is 7 feet tall, from a garage with a 7-foot door. It's the 17th entry from Team 1,800 lbs of Baltimore, who have been trying to reach you about your kinetic sculpture's extended warranty. Last year they won **Spirit of the Glorious Founder** with sandwich-themed *MPH: BLT*, and **2024 Grand Champion** for *CONEstoga Creamers* making and distributing ice cream during the race.
- Bush Bolt of Te Fiti** is a new team from the Green Street Academy inspired by the world of Moana and their Chargers mascot. It might be based on a surrey bike.
- Ant-thropology** has 6 pilots, pedaled and flown by insects studying humanity via Baltimore's found objects (aka trash). Roles are reversed when insects study us. The twelfth entry since 2007 from Team Goes to Eleven who won 2024 **Best Bribes** for *Dancin' Fools* and 2023 **Art & People's Choice** for *Cut Out to be Royal*. Don't miss the central hinge.

- Just Dande-lyin' Around** is the indomitable return of team Jank & Jiffy. Gnomes and dandelions gather around a wooden troll who's infatuated by flowers. Their 2025 entry *Brick by Brick* met its catastrophic demise coming off the truck just before the race.
- ACE Scrap Dragon** is one of four entries from the Jemicy School of Owings Mills. It's a cardboard dragon going for ACE. Last year Jemicy's four entries won one **ACE** as well as **Best Bribes**. They have three entries this year.
- Bush Tandem Templar** from Jemicy is a trike with 2 tall skinny rear wheels which they hope provide sand and mud traction.
- ACE Dragon Wagon** also from the Jemicy School weighs 243

- pounds and revealed little else.
- ACE You're My Boy, Blue!** from Phil Smith of Catonsville who's reigning **2025 Grand Mediocre East Coast Champion** with *Wheel Horse* that also won **ACEs** in both Baltimore and Lowell, Massachusetts last year. It's a 1-pilot reverse trike with front-wheel drive and rear steering (the opposite of your car). Watch for super low-gear crank propulsion in the mud. It's made principally of found materials.
- Gael Force** a 3-pilot pirate ship built completely by students from Mount St. Joseph High School. Last year they won the **Speed Award** for first across the finish line.
- Gnome Gnights from Dimension Gninity Gnine** Their *Pinball Wizards* won 2025 **Golden Dinosaur** discovering that a skateboard is a poor substitute for a wheel. Keep your eyes out for a lot of gnomes: they have gnome pilots, probably not all at once. Sponsored by the Nevermore Haunt, Sharky's Bar & Grill, and Response Labs.
- Flutter and Fury** from the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (CSC) is a 3-pilot midsummer firefly tricycle. It has a 6-foot front wheel and enormous wings flap to reveal artwork from CSC productions. It's chassis is the return of Tri-cyclo-tops from 2013. With wings up, it's 12 feet high.
- Glinda the Good Witch of South Baltimore** is the Fantasy & Folly mode of Fifi, AVAM's 15-foot tall pink poodle kinetic mascot since 2001.
- Wings of DeFire** is from the Philadelphia Dumpster Divers who have raced almost every year since 1999. A panicked Icarus plunges toward the earth, his wings melting and ablaze.
- Tick Tock the Croc** is the spectacular 6-pilot 35-foot long articulating crocodile, with its original Peter Pan theme: having eaten Captain Hook's hand and looking to finish the meal. The oversized exuberant joy of Team Tick Tock has won eleven **People's Choice** awards since 2010.
- Bush Quixote's Giant** is a 13-foot tall 3-pilot living windmill, terror to wandering knights. Sponsored by Lincoln's Pride and St. John's College, Annapolis.
- Baltimore Row Castle** sails through the city in her form-stone glory, home of the Wizards and Knights of Old Bay. Nancy the Graceful Dragon protects her horde of flamingos.



**Soda Quackers** and **PLATYPUS** and **Team Takoma Park** are coincidentally all taking a break this year, but will return in 2027. So should you—see you then!