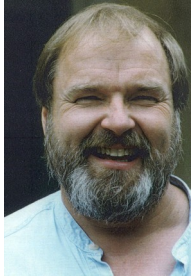


## The Artist

David Barr is an Artist who has lived in Novi for 30 years, but is known throughout the world. His work is displayed at Hart Plaza in Detroit, Michigan



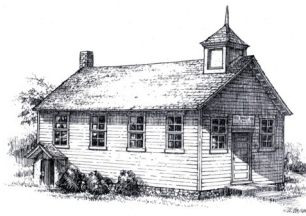
Historical Museum in Lansing, Chrysler Headquarters in Auburn Hills, as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa, and other global sites. Mr. Barr is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Michigan Legacy Park in Thompsonville, Michigan; taught in the Art Department at Macomb Community College for 40 years; lectured at Universities throughout the Midwest and in England; authored several books; and is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Governor's Michigan Artist Award. Nine documentary films have been made about his work. Mr. Barr developed the "Coasting the Baseline" obelisk project and donates all of his time and artistic expertise to the communities involved.

David Barr lives in Novi, in a home/studio he built himself surrounded by his four-acre sculpture garden.

## Novi Historical Commission

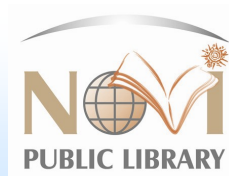
Since 1986, the Novi Historical Commission has worked in partnership with the City of Novi, Novi Public Library, educators, and others to provide programs and services concerning the history of our community. The collection and preservation of the history of Novi is being accomplished through the solicitation of donated documents, photographs, and recorded personal experiences. The

Commission's work includes the development of presentations, exhibits, and events that showcase the over 180 year history of Novi. The Commission has been working on the



"Coasting the Baseline" project for the past eight years. Showcasing Novi's role in the early survey and settlement of Michigan has been one of the Commission's major projects. The Novi Historical Commission is located within the Novi Public Library and offers open office hours in the Local History Room on the first and third Mondays of each month.

To learn more, go to [www.novilibrary.org/history.htm](http://www.novilibrary.org/history.htm).



NOVI HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

# Coasting the Baseline

*A Celebration of Michigan's  
Baseline and Our Community.*



## Project Overview

The "Coasting the Baseline" project celebrates the early surveyors and history of Michigan's baseline (8 Mile Road) with a series of ten foot tall black and white granite obelisk markers that honor the history of Baseline Road. The markers are easily accessible and provide seating to invite visitors to spend time learning about



local history and the role of surveying in community development. It is planned that these markers will be placed along the baseline

across Michigan from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan. The obelisk shape of the marker was chosen as this shape was commonly used by early surveyors when identifying significant points. Each marker contains common elements with the other markers in the "Coasting the Baseline" series. All markers share a discussion of basic surveying tools, measurement chain, staff compass, and the four concepts of land ownership in America (Native American, European Aristocratic, Colonial American, and Jeffersonian Concept). Each obelisk will also contain key elements of local history.

## Novi Obelisk



Located in the ITC Community Sports Park at 8 Mile and Napier Roads, this is the third obelisk in the project. The marker was created in cooperation with several organizations and individuals in the Novi area and with significant

funding support from the Americana Foundation. Dedicated in 2011, Novi's obelisk has key elements depicting Novi's farm and fruit growing origins, the railroad and other early modes of transportation essential to Novi's economy, and Novi's transition to a recreation destination for Detroit. Contact the Novi Historical Commission Chairperson at the Novi Public Library at (248)349-0720 for additional information.

## Farmington/Farmington Hills Obelisk



Located in Founders Sports Park on 8 Mile between Halstead and Farmington Roads, this second marker in the "Coasting the Baseline" project was dedicated in 2005. The marker was created by a team of Farmington/Farmington Hills Arts,

Historical, Business, and Civic organizations. The marker showcases key elements honoring Farmington/Farmington Hills' original Quaker settlers and its role in the Underground Railroad. Contact City of Farmington Hills Special Services Department at (248) 473-1856 for additional information.

## Northville Obelisk



Located at the corner of 8 Mile and Center Street, this marker is the first in the project, dedicated in 2003. Chairman, Ken Naigus and the Northville Arts Commission worked with

artist, David Barr to design and install this monument, which became the model for future "Coasting the Baseline" markers. This marker has key elements highlighting Northville's origin as "Town One South"; Edward Hines (originator of traffic lines and namesake for Hines Park); and the "Boy with a Hoop" artwork from Mill Race Village (also created by David Barr). This marker also includes quotes from Northville students reflecting on the baseline's impact on the community's history and future. Contact the Northville Arts Commission at (248)449-9950 for additional information.

## Background

Michigan was the first state fully surveyed using the "rectangular survey" system in 1815. This system, advocated by Thomas Jefferson, was designed to facilitate the transfer of land among government and individuals with the express intent of providing farm land and educational opportunities to America's citizens.