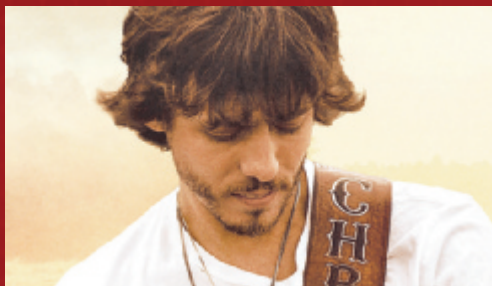




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www.fb.com/poopooatx

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There's something so poignantly bitter-sweet and lovely about his pop-culture landscapes. - **QUENTIN NORRIS**

Nakatomi, Inc.: www.nakatomiinc.com

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I know this seems kind of silly, but I love their bathrooms. In the women's there is like a "powder room" area with just lights and seating. I imagine it like in the early 1900s when women would go to freshen up. Like you read in a book. - **SHIREEN CONNOR**

713 Congress, 512/472-5470, www.austintheatre.org

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- **JULIANA GILCHRIST**

www.grahamreynolds.com

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- **CHRIS MOREDOCK**

www.pgraph.com

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ACL got me fucked up the day after, but the experience was so incredibly worth it. ACL chooses the greatest lineup every year, making it a really magical experience for every festivalgoer.

- **HOLLAND DORGAN**

www.aclfestival.com

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- **ALISON ALCANTARA**

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BEST UP-AND-COMING FILMMAKER
OWEN EGERTON

He's funny as hell.

- **MICHAEL CONNER**

www.owenegerton.com

BEST LOCAL VIDEO GAME DEVELOPER
BIOWARE

BioWare makes my favorite games. Their storytelling and characters are so compelling, it feels real - like you actually have space alien friends and are in love with a space alien boyfriend even though he looks like some kind of weird raptor-bird.

- **TABITHA THOMPSON**

3110 Esperanza Crossing #110, 512/382-8682,
www.bioware.com

BEST MUSEUM
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- **TARA BARTON**

200 E. MLK, 512/471-7324,
www.blantonmuseum.org

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- **GABY GAROFALO**

1120 S. Lamar, 512/383-8309, www.thehighball.com



BEST THEATRE DIRECTOR JENNY LARSON

Jenny has been creating and producing amazing work in Austin for years! So happy to see her recognized this year!

- ADRIENNE DAWES

Jenny Larson, creative director, Salvage Vanguard Theater, www.salvagevanguard.org

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS KACI BEELER

Kaci is simultaneously the most unique and relatable actor I've had the pleasure of seeing. She brings so much depth, joy, and passion to her work and I genuinely believe, with all my heart, that she's changing the world with her craft.

- CAITI WARD

www.kacibeeler.com

BEST CHOREOGRAPHER ALLISON ORR

Allison's portfolio of work across an amazing spectrum of different communities - from sanitation workers to arborists to Goodwill employees - demonstrates that her choreography transcends dance, changes lives, and strengthens community.

- MICHELE MARTELL

Forklift Danceworks: 2023 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/222-5287, www.forkliftdanceworks.org

BEST DANCER LINDSEY TAYLOR

Lindsey's movement is so genuine and inspiring. She beautifully shines her truest light through her graceful and gesture-filled movements.

- LORIE YOUNG

www.fb.com/little-stolen-moments-77984712998

BEST STAND-UP COMIC MAGGIE MAYE

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- MARCI SPIVEY

www.maggiemayehaha.wordpress.com

BEST FICTION WRITER/POET AMY GENTRY

Right out of the gate, she has wowed the entire United States.

- LEAH MOSS

www.amygentryauthor.com

BEST BURLESQUE PERFORMER GINGER SNAPS

Ginger Snaps keeps the weird in Austin burlesque, from the best, weirdest troupe (Black Widow) to mentoring, teaching, and bringing up the next generation. She also is an amazing aerialist and aerial burlesquer, bringing the art to new heights!

- EVE RICHTER

www.gingersnapsburlesque.com

BEST NONFICTION WRITER/ MEMOIRIST SPIKE GILLESPIE

Spike isn't just a writer, she embodies everything that is wonderful about Austin. Spike promotes all the local museums, musicians, artists, writers, and local restaurants. She doesn't compete, [but] instead promotes. Also, Spike officiated my wedding!

- MELISSA ZONE

www.spikegillespie.com

BEST MURALIST XAVIER SCHIPANI

Xavier brings an exciting style and energy to the Austin mural scene. This guy is going to be HUGE!

- JM LEDESMA

www.xavierschipani.tumblr.com, @xavierschipani



DEVAKI KNOWLES



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ★★★★★★★★★★

CRITICS PICKS

BEST "NOT A MUSEUM" MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

By writing this blurb, we are violating one of the tenets of the mysterious Museum of Human Achievement: "Do not share this on print or web media, as it's not something we desire to be public knowledge." Their social media presence may be practically nonexistent and their website doesn't waste much time in telling you what they are "about," but in a city of art lovers, a secretly wonderful artist-run multimedia exhibition space that regularly hosts experimental theatre and live music cannot remain hidden for long.

Springdale & Lyons,
www.themuseumofhumanachievement.com

BEST AUSTIN FILM SCENE TIPSTER

DAN EGGLESTON, AUSTIN FILM CASTING YAHOO GROUP

Remember Yahoo Groups? If you thought those online discussion forums had gone the way of MySpace, GeoCities, or Wreckx-n-Effect, tell that to the current 10,426 members and counting of Austin Film Casting. Dan Eggleston, a retired middle school teacher whose cotton candy beard has since popped up in 50-plus Austin-made films, created the group in 2000 on the *Miss Congeniality* set by passing a notebook down the line of extras. The group kept growing from there, and today it remains an essential haunt to get info on projects ranging from blockbusters to bare-bones student shorts.

www.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/austinfilmcasting/info

BEST TRULY ODD COMEDY VENUE

THE INSTITUTION THEATER

When improv vet Tom Booker founded the Institution Theater in 2007, it didn't quite live up to its name. Heck, it didn't even have a dedicated performance space. But nine years later, not only does it still survive, it has become an indispensable part of Austin's comedy landscape – emerging as an incubator for the city's best performers to hone their craft.

3708 Woodbury, 512/895-9580,
www.theinstitutiontheater.com

★★★★★★★★★★



DEVAKI KNOWLES

DANCER MOST LIKELY TO BE MISTAKEN FOR AN ALIEN LIFEFORM

ROSALYN NASKY

We can only imagine the amount of Bikram yoga-honed control necessary to create the illusion that a dancer has actually ceded control of her fresh, still-living corpus to some otherworldly force that's now carefully testing the boundaries of potential human movement. But we can witness the results whenever Nasky performs her distinct kinetic miracles. She once told us that "Getting to see the anatomy is in and of itself interesting, if it's shown artistically." We couldn't agree more.

Rosalyn Nasky at PURE Bikram Yoga: 507 Pressler #100, 888/245-0726 x101, www.purebikramyoga.com

BEST MOPAR POET

W. JOE HOPPE

What do you get when you mix a card-carrying Mopar Muscle Cars of Austin member with a poet? A red-bearded wordsmith growling with steel and smoke. The Austin Community College professor originally came from Michigan, but he quickly became an essential part of Austin as a Blue Plate Poets member and a Michener fellow. He still hosts a regular reading series at Malvern Books. And his poems still have their urgency, seeking beauty and truth in the ordinary: "stainless steel hex nuts/ falling like rain-drops/ to a polished concrete floor."

sites.austincc.edu/crw/joe-hoppe

BEST SPELLER

NIHAR JANGA

Bravo to 11-year-old Nihar Janga from River Ridge Elementary School for becoming the youngest student to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It was a tense few moments last May as the ESPN cameras zoomed in on the final two competitors, Janga and Jairam Hathwar, 13, of New York. After the word warriors stumbled twice, they both correctly spelled their next words to be declared co-champions. "I'm speechless," Janga said of the win. "I'm only in the fifth grade."

CONTINUED ON P.8

BEST INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT

INDIE MEME

Celebrating underdog filmmakers and voices, Indie Meme's first festival was a successful passion project that opened Austin's eyes to South Asia's exploding cinematic scene. Repping every genre and age demographic, plus a solid cross section of more than 40 regional languages, the lineup was as expansive as the subcontinent. We can't wait to see what year two has in store.

www.indiememe.com



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founder
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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM P.6



BEST SUMMER SOUNDTRACK

KYLE DIXON & MICHAEL STEIN

Netflix summer obsession *Stranger Things* may have launched a thousand internet odes to its ill-fated heroine Barb, but what's stuck most with us is its doomy, retro score, courtesy of Kyle Dixon and Michael Stein of Austin synth band Survive. It has a sound you can't quite put your finger on – bar to bar recalling John Carpenter, Brian Eno, Éric Serra's *The Big Blue* soundtrack, the stomach flutter of your first kiss, and the special dread of a monster under your bed. It's the sound of the familiar reinvented into something bracing and brand-new. Hit repeat.

www.fb.com/survivesurvive

BEST (AND WORST) VIDEO GAME IDEAS

SAAM PAHLAVAN'S TWITTER ACCOUNT

Indie game developer Saam Pahlavan told the Twittiverse in early September he would post a video game idea for each “like” his tweet received. Last we checked he was up to 194 – and while there's impressive quality in the ranks, they're not all gold. The surprisingly broad scope includes everything from “a racing game where you have to find your car keys before you start driving” to “Mario but every time you die Peach thinks less of you and considers dating Luigi.” Not into video games? His Twitter profile pic deserves an additional award.

[@saampahlavan](https://twitter.com/saampahlavan)

BEST UNSTOPPABLE COMEDY DYNAMO

LASHONDA LESTER

Hard times in the Motor City couldn't do it. Tough crowds at the Velveeta Room couldn't do it. Even chronic kidney disease couldn't do it. *Nothing* could stop Lashonda Lester from building a career in comedy and making sure everybody knows she's as funny as funny gets. Lester's just too strong to stop – the kind of comic who doesn't have to win over a crowd; just taking the stage as her own hilarious, hustlin', mighty self, she owns it. Nowhere was that clearer than in her finals set for the 2016 Funniest Person in Austin contest: She powered through like a 400 hp muscle car from her hometown of Detroit and ended the night wearing the FPIA crown. Ever since, Lester's been working as hard as ever, and we couldn't be happier. Long may this comedy queen reign!

www.weirdtruetales.com



DEVAKI KNOWLES

MURALIST MOST LIKELY TO BRING BACK THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

REX HAMILTON

Whether it's his actual wall-sized outdoor murals – as on East Seventh's Nasha or Drifter Jack's Hostel on Guadalupe – or his gallery-enhancing smaller works, the round-spectacled Hamilton's paintings radiate like the second coming of all that was good and colorful about them ol' hippies back in the day, making sure some lucky parts of Austin stay as bright as they are weird.

www.rexhamiltonart.com

BEST SPACE ENERGIZER

BEILI LIU

The air just feels different around a work by Beili Liu, as anyone can tell you who recalls *The Mending Project*, her stunning installation at Women & Their Work with 1,500 pairs of iron scissors suspended overhead; or *Amass* at Texas State University, where 16 10-foot spears were held in space by floor-to-ceiling threads like gigantic webs that caught them in mid-flight. Liu's grand scale and meticulous placement of materials charge the atmosphere and raise the hairs on your neck – an effect she achieved even on Lady Bird Lake, with a ghostly white tree hovering above the water in *THIRST*, created with architects Norma Yancey and Emily Little, and landscape architect Cassie Bergstrom. More and more, Liu is asked to make work around the world, but we hope she'll keep generating power here for a long time.

www.beililiu.com

BEST F. U. TO DAN PATRICK

CARINA MAGYAR

Our Lite Guv may be obsessed with which restroom people use to take a leak and our governor equally obsessed with suppressing gay rights, but there's still lots of folks left in Texas who we can all be proud of. Carina Magyar's sets bring the house down with her tales of dating as a trans lesbian, street harassment, and parenthood – making the political personal and providing an antidote to the toxic rhetoric around the discussion of LGBTQ lives. With apologies to *Jacula Prudentum*, laughing well is the best revenge.

[@mllecarina](https://twitter.com/mllecarina)

BEST ART FOR THE MASSES

TEMPO – TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART DISPLAYS

In this pop-up world where things seem to change daily, the city of Austin has added a new wrinkle to the art landscape – short-term art installations in city parks that may stay a couple of months or as short as a few days. The sculptures are subtly political (large donkey piñatas), evocative (a cube puzzle), or unexpected (a podium surrounded by flagpoles). Catch the art at a park near you, because they won't be there long.

www.austintexas.gov/tempo

BEST THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS

CURTIS LUCIANI & KACI BEELER

Sometimes they're staging wacky deconstructions of spiritual enlightenment and guru-merchandising as characters Dr. Louis-Apollo Childress and his main acolyte Joey in the fully improvised *The Reason*. Other times they're exploring roles of creativity and self-actualization under extremely rigorous circumstances in their brilliantly performed *Subject to Control*, a scripted show made delicious with flavors of Samuel Beckett, Jerry Seinfeld, and B. F. Skinner. Always, Luciani and Beeler of American Berserk Theatre illuminate just how intelligent comedy can get and how slapstick-funny postmodern knowledge can be.

www.americanberserktheatre.com

BEST LI'L DRIVE-IN IN TEXAS

BLUE STARLITE MINI URBAN DRIVE-IN

Originally a parking lot pop-up, owner/founder/visionary Josh Frank's 24 frames per second dream child has since evolved to an honest to goodness drive-in, complete with Fifties-era speaker poles, a candy and popcorn filled refreshment stand, and one heck of a nifty view of the dusky Austin skyline. Frank's mission has been so successful that satellite asphalt theatres in Miami and Denver have since opened. But we like our hometown haunt the most, where family fare, classics, and arthouse programming make Blue Starlite a must almost every night of the week.

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www.bluestarlitedriven.com



CONTINUED ON P.10

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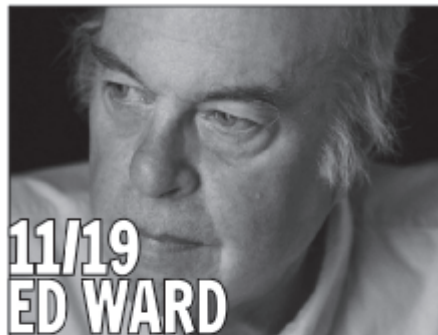
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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM P.8



BEST RETURN OF THE AUSTIN WE MISS *AUSTIN STORIES* REUNION

The Out of Bounds Comedy Festival made a splash in September when *Austin Stories* stars including Laura House, Chip Pope, Howard Kremer, and Heather Kafka came together to remember MTV's odd 1997 experiment in slackerish sitcomfoolery that created such catchphrases as "neckfurters" and "diaps." Both reviled and admired during its 12-episode run, the show now seems a wry uncle to *Portlandia* and a wistful window into a more innocent Austin. After the reunion, cast members trekked into Ken's Donuts with cell phone cameras rolling, Kremer touting it as the long-awaited second season. If only.

www.outofboundscomedy.com

BEST NEW LOOK FOR AN OLD PLAY

HAMLET BY SARAH PRESSON/ EYE LIKE DESIGN

Whether created by some talented amateur that a company's lucky enough to have among its members, or by a longtime professional who's generous enough to work a pro bono gig, the visual components promoting shows in this town are almost as important as the show itself. To wit: Sarah Presson's stark, stunning design for Present Company's performed-with-flashlights-in-the-dark production of *Hamlet*. While capturing the spirit of the Bard, Presson managed to avoid 400-plus years of visual cliches used to illustrate one of his most famous works. We suggest that no poster was so powerfully evocative in 2016.

Eye Like Design: 911 Tillery, 731/695-4285,
www.eyelikedesign.com

BEST WORD WARRIOR EBONY STEWART

Not all warriors fight to hurt. Some fight to *heal*, and that's the kind Ebony Stewart is. A poet-performer of uncommon fire and fearlessness, she confronts the wrongs and pain in her life – suffered as a daughter, as a woman, as a black woman – and through her words and the voicing of them onstage, makes openings for perseverance, love, forgiveness. In the 10 years Stewart has been active in Central Texas, her skills as a writer and magnetic stage presence have earned this "Gully Princess" a shelf full of honors, from multiple Slam Champion wins to the B. Iden Payne Awards' Lead Actress in a Drama prize and the Austin Critics Table's David Mark Cohen New Play Award, both for her spellbinding solo theatre work *Hunger*. They're more evidence that when Stewart goes into battle, hearts mend.

www.thegullyprincess.com,
www.fb.com/storyoftheblackgirlwinning



(l-r) Robert Jackson
Harrington, Michael
Anthony García, and
Hector Hernandez



SHELLEY HIAM

BEST CURATIVE CURATORS *LOS OUTSIDERS*

Before "curate" became a thing the in crowd did with party appetizers and Spotify playlists, it was what academics did in museums and galleries, often with a gimlet eye toward deciding what art had merit and what didn't. It could be – and still can be – dry, dusty, and insidery. Fortunately, Austin has Los Outsiders to put the "cure" in curate. This visual arts collective made up of Jaime Salvador Castillo, Michael Anthony García, Hector Hernandez, and Robert Jackson Harrington has assembled exhibits and projects that take on life in these times and our city with boldness, clarity, a political edge, and a devilish sense of humor. Whether it's their award-winning group exhibit "Gently Fried," an X-ray of gentrification; their Dada fashion show "Sew Wasted"; or their touching sociocultural tribute to Austin's District 1 in "Drawing Lines," Los Outsiders select art that connects with Austin. They're outside the art world and inside ours.

www.losoutsiders.org

BEST LIFE CHANGER BARRY MAXWELL, STREET LIT

Barry Maxwell knows the power of the written word to transport people in need. Reading helped him get through his own stint of homelessness, providing connection to the greater world. Now a fiftysomething UT creative writing student, Maxwell has transformed an Austin Community College class project into a permanent source of community good – providing books to those most in need and conducting writing workshops at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless led by pros like Elizabeth McCracken.

www.barrymaxwell.net

TODD V. WOLFSON





BEST MOVING IMAGE MEMORIAL

TOWER

This August, the University of Texas erected a monument to memorialize the victims of Charles Whitman's mass murder spree from on top of the UT clock tower 50 years ago. Documentarian Keith Maitland and his extraordinarily talented team of Austin creatives have erected a different kind of monument in memorial. *Tower* explores the events of Aug. 1, 1966, through animated dramatizations, archival footage, and survivor testimony. It's both a heartfelt tribute to the heroes and fallen of the day and a harrowing reminder to never forget our nation's first mass school shooting.

www.towerdocumentary.com



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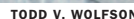
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CONTINUED ON P.16



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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED FROM P.16

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HOTTEST RESTAURANT STAFF EMMER & RYE

We don't mean to diminish the artistry behind the small plates on chef Kevin Fink's dim sum carts or the interplay of finishes in architect Kevin Stewart's bright and airy space, but – danggggg – it's difficult to notice anything other than the gorgeous men and women who populate the house. We could rhapsodize about the smoldering eyes of that one line cook or the way that one server fills out his apron, but we'll let you develop your own crush. Trust, there's someone there that you'll want to eat up.

51 Rainey #110, 512/366-5530,
www.emmerandrye.com

BEST BEER CAN DESIGN AUSTIN BEERWORKS SEASONAL SERIES BY HELMS WORKSHOP

The folks behind Austin Beerworks take a lot of pride in making their limited edition beers distinctive, so when a recent expansion allowed them to can those beers for the first time, it called for something special. Local brand design studio Helms Workshop is no stranger to the craft beer game, having worked with Boulevard Brewing and Fullsteam, but their ABW seasonals electrify the shelf in a new way, wrapped in patterns that pay homage to the style and the name (slices and bowler hats for their Citra hop IPA Bloodwork Orange or vikings and turkey legs for their upcoming Battle Axe, for example). It may be true that you can't judge a book by its cover, but that ain't got nothing to do with beer.

Helms Workshop: 3507 S. First, 512/294-2334,
www.helmsworkshop.com

BEST TASTE OF KYOTO ASAHI IMPORTS

For nearly five decades, this North Austin institution has brought the classic Japanese konbini store experience to Texas. Now it's doubled in size, and added fresh lunch-time delights in onigiri corner. From katsu sando Monday to ichigo daifuku Thursday, and home-cooked treats all through the weekend, it's a taste of home for Austin's Japanese population, and a delicious alternative to ramen and sushi for everyone else. You'll always have something to enjoy while you're shopping for saké or hunting for the perfect Gudetama blind box. Arigato gozaimasu, Asahi!

6105 Burnet Rd., 512/453-1850,
www.asahi-imports.com



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST LICUADOS LA FRUTA FELIZ

There are many good things to be had at La Fruta Feliz: the obligatory breakfast tacos, fiery menudo, and some of the best barbacoa in town. But whatever you order, washing it down with a licuado is non-negotiable. Creamy and thick enough to eat with a spoon, they're lushly sweet – the perfect treat to get you through yet another long, hot Austin day. The menu is extensive, but a good place to start is one with everything – papaya, mango, banana, and strawberry – all blended together into a gloriously refreshing mess, guaranteed to give you the most enjoyable sugar rush you've had in years.

3124 Manor Rd., 512/473-0037

BEST DESSERT SCIENCE PROJECT SPUN ICE CREAM

So you flunked Chemistry 101 and only recently realized the periodic table wasn't a piece of occasional furniture, but that doesn't mean you have to practice scientific denialism. Made with liquid nitrogen and local seasonal ingredients, Spun's ice cream uses our favorite scientific method, topping a base of dark chocolate and horchata with mix & match pairings like peanut brittle or handout sprinkles. We couldn't ask for a better lab partner.

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CONTINUED ON P.20

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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED FROM P.18



BEST BAR WITH HEART(S) AND SOUL

ROYAL JELLY

Neighborhood bars may not be the first place we would look for skewered chicken hearts, but Royal Jelly isn't your typical neighborhood bar. In addition to that churrasco, served with an electrifying strawberry chimichurri, Royal Jelly expands your pub grub horizons with charred octopus panzanella, sweet potato fettuccine, and merguez sliders. The taps are no slouch either, showcasing local brews that go far beyond the basics. It's no wonder that this charmingly ramshackle drinkery, ahem, gets our blood pumping.

704 W. St. Johns, 512/765-4816,
www.royaljellyatx.com

BEST TASTE OF ITALY

GELATERIA GEMELLI

Initially we were awed by Gemelli's classy interior and pastel display of frozen treats, but then our eyes were drawn to the gelateria's array of amari. We recommend the olive oil gelato (neutral in flavor does *not* equate to boring) to pair with any number of the aromatic liqueurs. And if you're in need of a pick-me-up, the affogato brings together gelato and espresso – or you could try the Beerfogato, which marries Austin Beerworks' Black Thunder with, say, peanut butter stracciatella. We'll saluté to that.

1009 E. Sixth, www.gelateriagemelli.com,
512/535-2170



Sam Leatherwood, Goose Salmon,
Kevin Sykes, and Dave Fines

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

BEST SO WHAT IF IT'S NOT IN AUSTIN BREWERY TWISTED X BREWING CO.

Austin is lucky that it has a surfeit of breweries in our urban core, but sometimes it's nice to take a day trip. On a crisp autumn day (you know, the two or three autumn days we get before our two weeks of winter), there's nothing that takes the edge off of city living like a trip to Dripping Springs' Twisted X. It's not the most flashy tasting room, but sometimes all you need is a picnic table, a solid beer, and a Hill Country breeze.

23455 W. RR 150, Dripping Springs, 512/829-5323, www.twistedxbrewing.com

BEST PICK-ME-UP

OM GAI AT DEE DEE

You can almost set your clock by it. At around two in the afternoon, we invariably have a sneezing fit due to the gazillion allergens floating around in our town's air. But even after downing a fistful of Allegra, we still need something to break through the fog. Dee Dee's om gai has everything we need – chiles to clear those sinuses, dill to wake up drowsy taste buds, rustic chicken to comfort, and the perfect sticky rice to sop it all up. It's an instant restorative no matter what the pollen count.

1906 E. Cesar Chavez, www.deedeeatx.com,
www.fb.com/deedeeatx

BEST TEA PARTY

TEA HAUS

It may seem odd to begin a recommendation of a tea house by raving about the coffee, but when that coffee is a tiny miracle of sea salt creme, we have to take a detour – and then swerve a little more to praise their signature basil fried chicken and strawberry brick toast. Whatever you order, Tea Haus is a tiny oasis, perfect for checking emails, meeting a Bumble date, or catching up with an old friend. Did we mention the tea? You're going to want to order that too.

2525 W. Anderson #285, 512/291-6681,
www.fb.com/teahaustx

BEST LOCAL IPA

PINHOUSE PIZZA ELECTRIC JELLYFISH

Pinhouse Pizza and its renowned IPA program is at the epicenter of Austin's hop-delirium. But the one beer that lords over this brewpub's entire beer board – as well as any other hopped-up contenders city-wide – is their Electric Jellyfish IPA. Bright with juicy, citric, and tropical fruit hops like Equinox, Galaxy, Calypso, and Citra, and very reasonable 6.5% ABV, this IPA is as intricate as it is refreshing.

4236 S. Lamar, 512/502-5808; 4729 Burnet Rd.,
512/436-9605, www.pinhousepizza.com

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BEST NEPALESE MORSEL SAFFRON'S GOBI MANCHURIAN

Cauliflower would be the undisputed star of the produce department if more people tried Saffron's Gobi Manchurian. It's a dry version of the Indo-Chinese specialty, but the tomato, garlic, and soy-based sauce is expertly spiced and proportioned to keep it moist and delectable. It's a surefire antidote to this town's parade of boring brassicas. Who knew the path to enlightenment would be found in a shopping center restaurant's fried florets?

3616 Far West Blvd., 512/241-1732, www.saffronaustin.com



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

BEST NEW INSTAGRAM OPPORTUNITY IRENE'S

Yes, yes. Austin loves you so much, and, despite your shortcomings, considers you her butter half. But she might start getting jealous if she sees one more photo of you and Irene. The hedge wall with the pink neon sign in front of the ELM Group's latest restaurant proved to be this summer's can't-skip snap. Bearded dudes, naifs in floppy hats, wandering toddlers, and even hard-drinking grandmas all stopped to strike a pose. How's that for a signature?

506 West Ave., 512/298-0853, www.irenesaustin.com

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READERS POLL

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BARBARELLA

There are always drag queens in the women's bathroom at Tuezegayz, Wednesdays are for anyone, anything is possible at oldies night ... Eighties night gives me my weekly dose of When in Rome, and Saturday nights are just plain fun.

— ANTONIA GALES

615 Red River, 512/476-7766,
www.fb.com/barbarella.austin.9

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— ASHTON ROBERTS

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— ANDREA KING

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www.stubbsaustin.com

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— ASHLYN ALLISON

1816 E. Sixth, 512/480-0781, www.whislertsatx.com

BEST HAPPY HOUR

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— MORGAN HENDRIX

1917 Manor Rd., 512/391-2337, www.saltysow.com

BEST BARTENDER

BILLY HANKEY — KING BEE LOUNGE

There isn't a kinder, gentler, more caring human being on the planet than Billy. He makes a mean drink and is a fountain of knowledge to boot.

— CLAUDIA ALARCÓN

1906 E. 12th, 512/600-6956,
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BEST JUKEBOX

CASINO EL CAMINO

The best part about this jukebox is how many of the songs inspire the regulars to share stories. Some of the songs have become inside jokes with the bar staff and patrons.

— CRAIG RIES

517 E. Sixth, 512/469-9330, www.casinoelcamino.net

BEST LGBTQ CLUB

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More than any other queer bar in Austin, everything about Cheer Ups says, "You're welcome here no matter who you are."

— EVAN GARZA

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www.cheerupcharlies.com

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— APRIL KLING MEYER

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— JOE BALLATO

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Buffalo Billiards: 201 E. Sixth, 512/479-7665,
www.buffalobilliards.com

BEST STRIP CLUB

THE YELLOW ROSE

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— LAURA MCCASLIN

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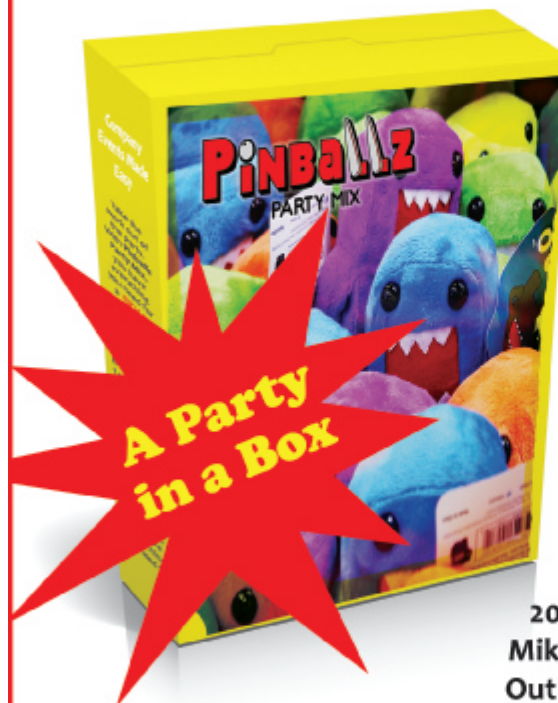
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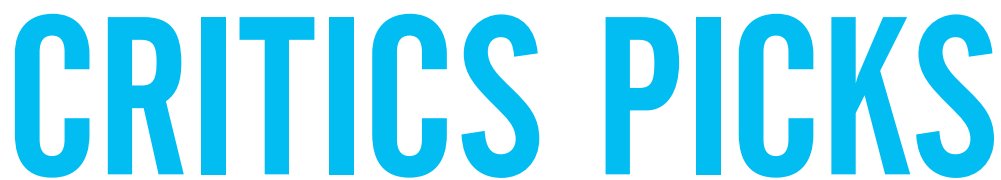
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Somewhere in between a dance party and sacred ceremony, Body Rock ATX has become a monthly magnet for hip-hop heads and funkateers who want to drop their inhibitions, shake off their stress, and uplift your soul by getting down. Emceed by Tiger Lily and Chaka Mpeanaji of Riders Against the Storm with beats and grooves from DJ Chorizo Funk, Body Rock ATX has been movin' booties since 2010 – first at the Sahara Lounge, now at Empire Control Room. Not relying on kinetic energy and sweaty self-expression, organizers keep it fresh with theme nights focusing on influential artists like Prince, A Tribe Called Quest, Outkast, and Stevie Wonder.



JOHN ANDERSON

BEST NEW SOUTH AUSTIN HANGOUT **THE LITTLE DARLIN'**

Hanging out at your favorite neighborhood bar should feel a little like hanging out in your own backyard. Housed in the former home of La Fuente's, the Darlin' is the perfect place to get together with 100 of your rowdiest friends. Spin a yarn in the blessedly dark interior, sit down for chef Russell Dougherty's easygoing brunch, or toss some horseshoes out back, then enjoy the fact that you felt at home without having to do any cleanup.

6507 Circle S, 512/814-0999, www.fb.com/thelittledarlinbar

BEST CONCERT PROMOTIONS COMEBACK **MARGIN WALKER**

When news broke in May that Transmission Events' partnership with Stratus Properties, owners of the W Hotel and ACL Live at the Moody Theater, had dissolved, not only did Fun Fun Fun Fest go down as collateral damage, so did Graham Williams' concert promotions business. Emo's booker in the club's Nineties heyday, the native Austin straight edge wasted not a single second spinning off into Margin Walker – named for a 1989 Fugazi EP – and rechristening his FFF as last week's winningly inaugural Sound on Sound, staged at Sherwood Forest Faire, a Renaissance site in Bastrop County.

www.fb.com/marginwalkertx

BEST PLACE TO MEET A GAL PAL **FRIDAY NIGHT LADIES' NIGHT**

If you wanna find the KStew to your Annie Clark, look no further than Ladies' Night every second Friday at Highland Lounge. (Please take heed and note the emphasis on ladiez ... and queers of all colors here.) It's true, the babes behind Lesbutante & the Boss have mastered the art of throwing the elusive monthly lez-dance party. It's no small spell to cast, and yet this dynamic duo has not only managed to maintain excitement, they've enchanted their audience. In fact, they've captured the attention of an ever-growing gaggle of grrrls.

www.lesbutanteandtheboss.com

BEST DOWNTOWN DEMO **AUSTIN MUSIC HALL**

In the early Nineties, City Hall on the river was new millennial sci-fi. Only Liberty Lunch anchored Cesar Chavez west of Congress until Direct Events dusted off an abandoned warehouse and opened 2,000-plus-seat Austin Music Hall in 1995. Portishead to Pantera, Outkast to Ozzy Osbourne – Clapton, Dylan, Springsteen – the steel box functioned like a dream until it doubled in size and sound issues a dozen years later. Foreclosed in 2012 and razed in September, few in the 28-story office tower over its remains will know My Bloody Valentine once sundered the earth beneath them.

BEST VINYL MATCHMAKING **AUSTIN RECORD CONVENTION**

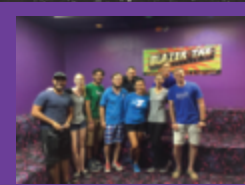
The Armadillo World Headquarters closed in 1980. A year later – initially down the road in Zilker Park and then just blocks away on Barton Springs Road at the Palmer Auditorium – the Austin Record Convention began selling rekkids to unsuspecting youth. Said longhairs congealed into cranky collectors over 35 years, until this June when the vinyl revolution of the past decade finally went on a blind date with the original wax generation at the ARC. Crusties with vintage grooves, meet the fresh-faced 180-gram petroleum product hoarders of today. It's a match made in heaven.

Palmer Events Center: 900 Barton Springs Rd., 512/288-7288, www.austinrecords.com

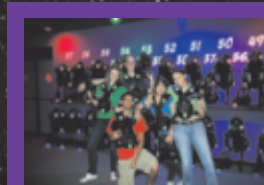
CONTINUED ON P.26



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12233 FM 620 N., Ste# 110-A, Ph: 512-249-2498

WWW.MUD-PUPPIES.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MUDPUPPIESATX

BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

NIGHTLIFE CONTINUED FROM P.25



BEST PARTY PROMOTER FOR EVERY BODY

CORINNE LOPERFIDO

As far as typical pairings go, naughtiness and “safety first” aren’t your average peanut butter & jelly, but together, they sure make being bad feel good. Illicit, risqué, and gender-f*cking party promoter Corinne Loperfido is all about striking the right balance for Austin’s queer and gender ambiguous audiences. Whether it’s a DIY strip club or a (self-identified) ladies-only dry dance party, Loperfido’s carefree parties require a lot of care, and that manages to make them even more provocative. Gender be damned, she’s not playing by any L or G rule book, but instead makes new space for the Q and all the other gaps in the LGBTQIAxyz (and then some) landscape that most of us didn’t even know we were missing.

corinneloperfido.persona.co



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST OFF-MENU SHOT

AQUAVIT PICKLEBACK AT THE TOWNSEND

Now that you have upgraded from Urban to Anthro, it’s probably time you brought a little sophistication to your hump day debauchery, too. Before agonizing over which dry cocktail goes best with juicy office gossip, get tongues wagging with a shot from your college nights. The Townsend’s version of the venerable Dirty Sixth classic starts by replacing whiskey with Krogstad aquavit, following it up with brine left over from the kitchen’s many pickling projects. We’re not sure if it’s a classy way to be trashy or a trashy way to be classy, but we do know we have the next round.

The Townsend: 718 Congress #100, 512/887-8778,
www.thetownsendaustin.com



JOHN ANDERSON

BEST NEW BAR DESIGN KITTY COHEN'S

Classy does meet trashy in this Seventies-inspired bar. From the white leather details to the flamingo wall-papered bathroom, Kitty Cohen's is the perfect place to embrace your inner Palm Beach divorcée. Did we mention there's a swimming pool? Go ahead – the water is fine.

2211 Webberville Rd., www.kittycohens.com

BEST SPLITTING OF THE CLUB ATOM BARRACUDA/SIDEWINDER

June 2015: East Seventh clubhouse Holy Mountain succumbs to closing due to Downtown's gentrifying rents. The following month, its side wall, indie rock venue Red 7, loses a similar battle. Unbelievably, the latter loss of one of the live music capital's central meeting places splits the live music atom, its owners both teaming with Red River mainstay the Red Eyed Fly to rise as the Sidewinder in that location and opening Barracuda in the same space as Red 7. Each venue kills it nightly, Red 7 times two.

Barracuda: 611 E. Seventh, 857/323-0872,
www.barracudaatx.com

Sidewinder: 715 Red River, 512/474-1084,
www.thesidewinderaustin.com

BEST FESTIVAL MAKEOVER C3 BOOKER AMY CORBIN

2002's first ACL Fest headlined the Arc Angels. ATX-loving roots followed, baby boom rock (Elvis Costello, Van Morrison, Bob Dylan) and meaty bones for their grown offspring (R.E.M., Pixies, Foo Fighters). Then, in 2010, EDM rodent DeadMau5 gave way to both Skrillex and Kanye West in 2011. Enter Kendrick Lamar ('13), followed by Eminem, Drake, Outkast. Credit lead ACL booker and native Texan Amy Corbin, who joined Charles Attal Presents in 2000 and became concert promotions bible Pollstar's Talent Buyer of the Year in 2007, the first woman ever to win the award. Dad rock is d e a d.

C3 Presents: 1645 E. Sixth #150, 512/478-7211,
www.c3presents.com

BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ELECTIVE BARTON HILLS CHOIR

Instead of being stuck singing kiddie-choir standards like “Over the Rainbow,” this collection of third through sixth graders gets to harmonize on Judas Priest, David Bowie, Foo Fighters, and Belle & Sebastian. Led by Gavin Tabone and backed by local pros, the group of Barton Hills Elementary School students has performed at ACL Fest and South by Southwest and sung with Charlie Sexton, Jason McMaster, and Nakia. Their YouTube channel gets more views than most Austin bands, especially their recent series of Grateful Dead covers – which were beautiful despite lacking the 15-minute solos.

Barton Hills Elementary: 2108 Barton Hills Dr.,
512/414-2013, www.bartonhillschoir.org

BEST IRON MAN SOUNDMAN SAXON PUB'S RICHARD VANNOY

Here's the rub about being a music venue audio engineer: When everything sounds good, the band gets the credit; when it sounds bad, you get the blame. The Saxon Pub always sounds fantastic and you can thank Richard Vannoy. The Abilene native's been behind the board at the South Lamar club since shortly after it opened in 1990. During much of his quarter-century employment at the venue, which Kris Kristofferson compared to “playing in his own living room,” Vannoy's mixed music six nights a week with three acts per night – impressive in sheer volume, but even more so in tone.

Saxon Pub: 1320 S. Lamar, 512/448-2552,



BEST JACK-OF-ALL-BASSES GEORGE REIFF

Appearing on *Leno*, *Letterman*, and *Good Morning America*; plugging in his bass opposite Levon Helm and Ringo Starr; producer of the Band of Heathens, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Mastersons, and Shinyribs; even a pastry chef once at Jeffrey's: George Reiff measures out one degree of separation not only from the Austin music scene, but possibly the entire national playscape. When the Austin Music Awards thumper was diagnosed in July with brain cancer, his community crowd-funded \$100,000 in a matter of weeks. Frank Capra's George Bailey is no longer the richest man in town.

www.thesaxonpub.com

BEST GUITAR UTOPIA AUSTIN VINTAGE GUITARS

Not only does Austin Vintage Guitars own Austin's largest guitar with the 15-foot-tall Telecaster mounted in their parking lot, the shop also has the best selection of axes in the city limits. The six-stringer's paradise – owned by ultra-talented blues guitarist Steve Fulton – offers a constantly changing selection of vintage guitars, with an emphasis on Strats, Teles, Les Pauls, plus new gits, amps, and acoustic instruments. Simply, the best guitar shop in a guitar town.

4306 Red River, 512/428-9100,
www.austinvintageguitars.com



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST TREE-HUGGING TOUR DANA FALCONBERRY'S SUMMER 2016 TOUR OF NATIONAL PARKS

Indie folk songwriter Dana Falconberry followed the release of her mystical 2016 LP *From the Forest Came the Fire* with a novel tour concept: a series of performances at America's national parks. Falconberry and her band, Medicine Bow, played their vibey, melodically complex arrangements amongst redwoods in Sequoia National Park, in the dunes of White Sands National Monument, and echoing against the rocks at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Altogether, the camping tour hit nine parks – a perfect trek for the environmentally conscious singer/guitarist who draws inspiration from the natural world.

www.danafalconberry.com,
www.fb.com/danafalconberry

BEST USE OF A THELONIOUS MONK SONG TITLE EPISTROPHY ARTS

Austin's indie-centric landscape of road-shows leaves huge blind spots in the vocations of free jazz, avant-garde, and world music. That's where Epistrophy Arts comes in. The grassroots cultural group, founded in 1998 by Pedro Moreno, imports unorthodox bands, adventurous composers, and improvisational performers from all over the globe and presents them in a flattering setting at the North Door. Recent performances, hosted by the grant-funded organization, include Peter Brötzmann, David Torn, James "Blood" Ulmer, and the Necks – the kinds of artists you read about in *The New York Times*, but never would play on Red River.

www.fb.com/epistrophyarts

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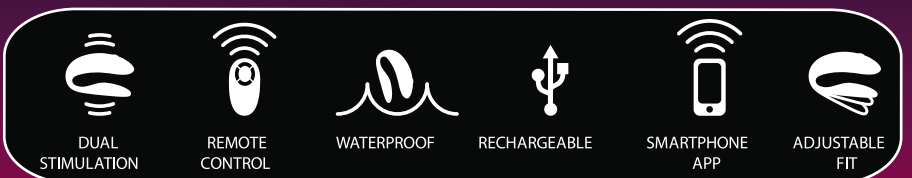
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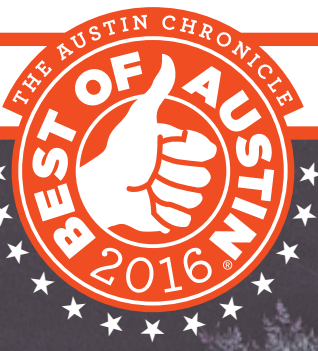
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SPORTS & RECREATION ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

READERS POLL



DEVAKI KNOWLES

BEST SOCIAL RIDE **THURSDAY NIGHT SOCIAL RIDE**

Meet all kinds of people, see new parts of Austin. It's a hoot! - **DANA GRUBER**
www.socialcyclingaustin.org

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BEST SPORTS VENUE **DARRELL K. ROYAL-TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM**

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- **DREW INGRAM**
405 E. 23rd., UT Campus, 512/471-3434

BEST BOWLING ALLEY **DART BOWL**

Dart Bowl went out of their way year after year to really be welcoming, and affordable, to my kids and staff when I used to coordinate a summer camp for kids with special needs for a local nonprofit. I will be forever appreciative of that.
- **SHIREEN CONNOR**
5700 Grover, 512/452-2518, www.dartbowl.com

BEST YOGA **BLACK SWAN YOGA**

The energy shared by the instructors is the biggest takeaway from BSW. You don't have to be an amazing yogi but they sure do make you feel like one.
- **GUSTAVO MANZUR**
1213 W. Fifth, 512/361-7187,
www.blackswanyoga.com

BEST SKATE PARK **HEATH EILAND AND MORGAN MOSS BMX SKATE PARK (HOUSE PARK)**

Great crowd; great structures; great parking.
- **LAURA ROCKEFELLER**
1213 Shoal Creek Blvd., www.austintexas.gov/page/austin-bmx-skate-park

BEST PLACE TO TUBE **ROCKIN' R RIVER RIDES**

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- **PAMELA HOUSTON**
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www.rockinr.com

BEST GOLF **PETER PAN MINI-GOLF**

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- **ROY JANIK**
1207 Barton Springs Rd., 512/472-1033,
www.peterpanminigolf.com

BEST PLACE TO CAMP **ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA**

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- **BRIAN SHICOFF**
16710 RR 965, Fredericksburg, 830/685-3636,
www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock

BEST SWIMMING POOL/HOLE **BARTON SPRINGS POOL**

This place should be lauded based on its magical hangover-curing properties alone, but it's also the most beautiful place on Earth.
- **LIA CROCKETT**
2201 Barton Springs Rd., 512/867-3080,
www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-pool

BEST GYM **YMCA**

There is a real community there. Every time I go, I feel better - not just my body, but my mood.
- **CHRIS JENKINS**
Multiple locations, www.austinyymca.org

BEST CITY TRAIL **LADY BIRD LAKE**

Every non-motorized transport; variety of pet; kid conveyance; size, shape, age, ethnicity, gender of runner, looper, limper, or rider; language; deciduous flower; insect, reptile, and bird resident even temporarily in Austin shows up and has a good time.
- **DAVIDA CHARNEY**
www.austintexas.gov/page/lady-bird-lake

BEST KIDS' SPORTS REC PROGRAM **SOCCER SHOTS**

Soccer Shots hires great coaches who know how to work with kids. I'm always impressed. Coolest soccer shirts out there, too.
- **SYLVIA MARTINEZ-HALEY**
5555 N. Lamar Ste. 103-J, 512/420-9450,
www.soccershots.org/austin

BEST EXERCISE CLASS **BARRE3 AUSTIN**

Love love love!!! Great workout and great vibes. Best barre tribe in town!
- **RACHEL LARRETA**
115 Sandra Muraida Way #103,
512/391-6200, www.barre3.com

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SPORTS & RECREATION



CRITICS PICKS



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST AMBASSADOR OF BODY POSITIVITY **ERICA NIX**

Every body needs to get physical sometimes. But all bodies are not necessarily comfortable in all gyms. That's why Erica Nix's brain baby, Transform Fitness, is such a breath of fresh air. Catering to trans, gender-nonconforming, and queer folks with humor and warmth, it's our favorite place to get our blood pumping.

1909 Wheless, 512/435-9935, www.transformfitnessaustin.com

BEST LGBTQ SPORTS LEAGUE **SOFTBALL AUSTIN**

To paraphrase a perhaps not unrelated movie, there's no crying in softball. So when heavy rains interrupted this year's Gay Softball World Series, host league Softball Austin made the most of it, enlisting volunteers to help clean the fields and making sure the games went on. But even when not handling a crisis, the young organization is still mighty impressive, providing a way for players of any skill level to participate in a fun and non-judgmental environment and setting the stage for lifetime camaraderie. We think they're batting 1,000.

www.softballaustin.org

BEST TEAM YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF **AUSTIN CROWS**

We wouldn't blame the Austin Crows for feeling a bit like Rodney Dangerfield. While dealing with broken-down buses and near anonymity in their own hometown, they have quietly racked up back-to-back national titles in the United States Australian Rules Football League with four titles overall, and remain mainstays on the top of national polls. If that's not something to, er, crow about, we don't know what is.

www.austinfooty.com

BEST SECRET SCIENCE OASIS **AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER**

The Barton Springs area hosts a slew of well-known stops for the outdoorsy type, but one of the best recreational hot spots is too often overlooked. The Austin Nature & Science Center is home to a collection of rescued animals, including birds of prey and Texas-native reptiles and amphibians. Water features and native plants line the trails around the exhibits, attracting kaleidoscopes of butterflies. And while the classes and many exhibits are kid-focused, there's plenty for adults to see too – like a bobcat named Moxie and a live honeybee hive. Oh, and did we mention it's free? That's something to buzz about.

2389 Stratford, 512/974-3888,
www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center

BEST FACEBOOK PUBLIC GROUP **DOES THE GREENBELT HAVE WATER?**

The brainchild of the brilliant Eastside socialite Becca Hyatt, the public Facebook group answers the question that every outdoorsy Austinite has when they wake up on a clear and hot summer day. In our sun-loving city, it doesn't have to do anything more.

www.fb.com/groups/636147343144441

BEST SPORTS HYBRID **FOOTGOLF AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF CAMPUS**

The name footgolf may sound a little goofy, but they could have called it "folf" or "goccer" or some other equally terrible portmanteau. Whatever the name, it has been our 2016 obsession. Combining the precision of golf with the athleticism of soccer, it's one of the healthiest (and most affordable) ways to while away the weekend.

Harvey Penick Golf Campus: 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd.,
512/926-1100, www.harveypenickgc.com

BEST SPORTSMEN **AUSTIN SOL**

Austin is a perfect fit for the high-flying sport of ultimate (Frisbee), and the Sol received a warm welcome from the ATX in their inaugural season. *SportsCenter*-worthy highlights, self-imposed penalties, and high fives represent the spirit and integrity of the game.

www.austin-sol.com

CONTINUED ON P.32



JOHN LEACH





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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

SPORTS & REC CONTINUED FROM P.30



BEST BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

DR. JANET REED OF THE MONK PARAKEETS OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

You've no doubt seen the shocks of bright green dappling our city's canvas of nattering grackles, but do you know where they came from? Luckily, Austin wildlife biologist Dr. Janet Reed's Facebook page can answer just about any question about our delightfully odd monk parakeet flocks. There you can find word of new nests, melt over adorable pics, and memorize factoids certain to fill that awkward silence on your next date. How's that for birdwatching?

www.fb.com/monkparakeetsaustintexas

BEST PLACE TO GET LOST

SPRINGDALE PARK

A bizarre mixture of illegal dumping and beautiful trails, Springdale Park sometimes shows up on maps, and sometimes doesn't. But the single-track dirt trails will lead you out to surprisingly breathtaking vistas if you're cool with passing some molding mattresses and shattered TV frames along the way. The trails are a maze of dead ends, loops, and cut-backs, but that's most of the fun.

1175 Nickols, www.austinparks.org/parks/springdale

BEST DIRT ALLEY

HYDE PARK/NORTH LOOP BETWEEN AVENUES G & H

Something magical happens when you go off the beaten path. Take the stretch that runs from East 56th to East 45th in the Hyde Park/North Loop area. Trees on either side of the alley hang over and shade the caliche, dirt, and crushed gravel. If you walk them at the right time of year, you can forage overhanging figs. An alley cat or two may join you on your journey, but that's all the more reason to take it slow. Point A and point B don't matter so much when you've already arrived.

BEST EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE WHO HATE EXERCISING

GROWN FOLKS STEP N' ROLL

It seems to us that step class was invented by sadists. And we know if the knights of the Crusades had stationary bikes, they surely would have given up on the rack. But as much as we hate anything related to cardio, we still love Step N' Roll at the MYEC. We don't quite have a routine worked out, like the roller boogie pros, but after a few laps of skating we're into the groove, completely forgetting we're burning calories. And honestly, after a few beers, we're probably not.

1156 Hargrave, 512/472-6932, www.myec.net



DEVAKI KNOWLES

BEST PLACE FOR ADULTS WHO MISS CHUCK E. CHEESE

FULL CIRCLE BAR

From the free Skee-Ball – that's right, we said free – to the cornhole out back, Full Circle Bar is the best place to feel and act like a kid again. So what if there's no cardboard pizza, and if the creepy mice are only likely to show up on Halloween? There's ample amounts of beer (and sometimes prosecco!) on tap, a large backyard, and plenty of opportunities to impress your latest Bumble date.

1810 E. 12th, 512/814-0211, www.fullcirclebar.com/austin

BEST FEEL-GOOD BIKE RIDE

LEND YOUR LEGS: SOCIAL CYCLING AUSTIN & TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

As if riding your bike didn't already offer enough benefits, this Monday night ride pairs cyclists with visually impaired schoolchildren and a fleet of tandem bicycles to give them the opportunity to experience something they couldn't do on their own. The delight that this social ride bestows to these kiddos is as palpable as the wind in their hair. Volunteers (and tandem bicycle donations) are always welcome, so reach out to the school if you're interested in making a kid's week – or even your own.

www.socialcyclingaustin.org/lend-your-legs

BEST BEARDS ON THE FLAT TRACK

AUSTIN ANARCHY MEN'S ROLLER DERBY

Call it men's derby. Or merby. Or even dangle derby. For years, Roller Derby – invented in Austin, natch – was solely the domain of female players. So of course, once men started lacing up their skates, Austin would always hit heavy in the pack. After making it to this year's Men's Roller Derby Association national championship, it's a bright future on and off the track.

www.austinanarchy.com



JANA BIRCHUM

BEST SMILE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

BETH ENGLISH

Earlier this year, UT pre-med student Beth English survived a harrowing nightmare. While riding her bicycle home, she was hit by a truck and dragged for half a mile. The trauma cost English her right leg, and the subsequent medical treatment has already eclipsed the million-dollar mark. Yet she still resolves to get back on her bicycle, flashing a seven-figure smile, and inspiring the entire cycling community.

www.gofundme.com/bethenglish,
www.fb.com/bethenglishrecovery



Steal like an artist

Join artist and best-selling author Austin Kleon for a FREE panel discussion on how artists and musicians can promote their work, find their audiences, and grow their practice and revenue.

Thursday, Nov. 17th
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Across the street from parking at
Chalmers and 8th Street
Location and more information: bit.ly/2eJ8iuV



Come early to get a sneak peek of how the City of Austin is promoting arts and culture through **CAMP: The Cultural Asset Mapping Project** with a project Q&A at 6:00 pm.



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NORTH LAMAR - 3800 N. LAMAR BLVD opening December
LAKEWAY - 900 RR 620 S | (512) 394-8684
SOUTH LAMAR - 1100 S. LAMAR BLVD | (512) 356-9566
WESTLAKE - 701 S. CAPITAL OF TX HWY | (512) 520-8326

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Image courtesy Imperial Barber Products



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST TV ANCHOR/REPORTER QUITA CULPEPPER

From “Does It Work Wednesday” to hard news, Ms. Culpepper tells it like it is with professionalism and a candor that I just cannot stop watching.
 - PAMELA FRASIER
 3201 Steck, 512/459-6521, www.kvue.com, @QuitaC_KVUE

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NATIVE ARTS

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Exhibitions
 Through – December 31, 2016

Rick Bartow:
Things You Know But Cannot Explain, a Retrospective Exhibition

Lloyd Kiva New: Art
Forward:
 Eliza Naranjo Morse

Akunnittinni: A Kinngait Family Portrait
 Pitseolak Ashoona
 Napachie Pootoogook
 Annie Pootoogook

Selections from the National Collection of Contemporary Native Arts
Visions and Visionaries
 Through July 31, 2017

From *Nothing Coyote Creates Himself*, 2004, wood, metal, 41" x 84" x 16", © Rick Bartow/Froelick Gallery bartow.iaia.edu

Partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax. 108 Cathedral Place Santa Fe NM 87501

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POLITICS & MEDIA ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

CRITICS PICKS



JANA BIRCHUM

BEST NEWS 411 SNOOP DANIEL

Daniel, the weekday afternoons guy on 96.3 FM RnB, has the kind of voice that balances apathy with fascination, and adjusts on nearly every word. He can sound impassioned while rushing through a segment or damn near careless when talking slowly. It's a gift that plays out most effectively when he's delivering the 411, his intermittent news report, in which he interjects so many ad-libs and "details are on our Facebook" quips that the value is not in the news getting reported, but rather the way in which it's delivered. We work for a newspaper and read news all day, every day – yet still on our drives home from work each day, we can't help but tune in to Snoop.

96.3 FM RnB, 512/327-9595, www.963rnb.com/hosts/snoop-daniel, @snoopydaniel

MOST CRUCIAL HISTORY JUDGE SEBRON G. SNEED PLANTATION

Here's a complicated question: Having once been a slave city, can Austin ever completely heal? One of the best places to ponder this question is the Sneed Plantation, a ruin in Southeast Austin that was funded by slave owners and built by slave hands. The plantation was torched in the Eighties but its skeleton is still there. It's only a matter of time before it's replaced (disappeared) by condos. Bear witness before it's too late.

1801 Nelms

BEST REFEREE IN THE TACO WAR MIKE SUTTER

As the former *Austin American-Statesman* food critic, Sutter handled the beat with style and depth before parting ways and concentrating on his likable blog Fed Man Walking. He's now at the *San Antonio Express-News* where, on National Taco Day, he diagrammed Austin-born Torchy's: reasons it both sucks and doesn't. If there is to be a Taco War truce, his deft prose will lead the cease-fire.

www.fedmanwalking.com

BEST LOCAL DIY, COLLABORATIVE WOMEN'S ZINE HYSTERIA ZINE

Inspired by the riot grrrl movement, *Hysteria Zine* is a semiregular publication created by and for women that brings the punk feminist ethos of the Nineties into the present day. In addition to the print issue highlighting literary and visual works, *Hysteria* hosts events "for female-identifying people to share their art without judgement," including artist markets, live music, and a "Treat Yo' Self" Valentine's dance party.

www.fb.com/groups/hysteriazine

BEST LONG-TERM LEGISLATOR ELLIOTT NAISHTAT

It's hard to think of Austin Democrats without Elliott Naishtat. Yet after 26 years the soft-spoken, hardheaded dean of the Travis County delegation is headed to a well-earned retirement. A principled pragmatist that even hard-line conservatives could never ignore, he authored literally hundreds of bills that have improved the lives of Texas' most needy and defenseless, and fought the good fight on issues like medical marijuana when everyone else called it a lost cause. We'll see you in the buffet line, Elliott.

PO Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768, 512/463-0668, www.house.state.tx.us

BEST DRAG MOTHER MAYOR ADLER AS MOTHER GINGER

If RuPaul Charles needs a seasoned girl for the next *Drag Race*, we encourage him to look to Austin City Hall. This year, our mayor turned it out as Ballet Austin's guest star. With a face beat for the gods, our municipal mawma may have mopped some style tips from the kweens who came before her – Mae West, Phyllis Diller, Nellie Oleson – but the fierce finishing touches and that body-ody are all Ginge. There's no way she wouldn't slay the competition.

301 W. Second, 512/978-2100, www.austintexas.gov/departments/mayor

BEST REAL-LIFE SUPERHEROES THE SAFE ALLIANCE

Superheroes do exist, but in the real world they tend to look more like the staff of Austin's SAFE Alliance than Wonder Woman. The umbrella nonprofit that now connects SafePlace and Austin Children's Shelter works tirelessly to offer shelter and emotional and legal support for domestic violence and rape survivors. And as if that wasn't enough, SAFE spent the better part of the summer fighting to rid Austin of our extensive backlog of untested rape kits. On Sept. 14, they won, and City Council earmarked \$1.4 million into the yearly budget to assure that those kits are a priority. And all that without any golden lassos.

512/267-7233, www.safeaustin.org

BEST SNAPSHOT GAME THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Yes, we all love swapping faces, and those voice-changing animal filters are a delight, but the Texas Tribune proves Snapchat can also be serious. Their coverage of the anniversary of UT's Tower Shooting used archival shots to show how the events unfolded in real time, illuminating history for a new generation, while simultaneously reflecting on the present-day campus carry controversy. Adding them lets you join the conversation about Texas policy and politics. It's a much better use of your time than following your #blessed former frat bro.

823 Congress #1400, 512/716-8600, www.texastribune.org, @TexasTribune





TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST WOMEN’S RIGHTS WARRIOR **ANA RODRIGUEZ DEFRADES**

After battling on the front lines of the state’s war on women as the Texas Latina Advocacy Network’s policy director for the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, DeFrates brings her repro rights warrior creds to the Austin Commission for Women (nominated by D3’s Pio Renteria). This year, DeFrates, along with a host of dedicated advocates, including rape survivors and community leaders, pressured City Council to prioritize sexual assault within the city budget. Their efforts resulted in a commitment from APD to end the backlog of forensic rape kits sitting on shelves. DeFrates has also been developing a crop of young progressive leaders in Austin through her work with the New Leaders Council. A nonprofit consultant, DeFrates continues to advocate for repro rights and justice on the state level, and we’re excited to see what more she’ll help accomplish citywide.

www.newleaderscouncil.org



BEST COMMUNITY WARRIORS
GO! AUSTIN/¡VAMOS!
AUSTIN (GAVA)

Some talk the talk, but GAVA walks the walk, quite literally when they go door to door engaging residents to learn and address the needs of one of Austin’s most marginalized areas. Focusing on the health of their neighbors, they have made significant strides in developing park spaces and introducing a neighborhood farm stand. But their work also goes well beyond, encompassing education, community organizing, and infrastructure. Whether they are spearheading a fitness event or simply being willing to listen, GAVA activists pound the pavement in 78744 and 78745, making a tangible difference in people’s lives.

2512 S. I-35, 512/477-1259,
www.goaustinvamosaustin.org

BEST POKER FACE
COUNCIL MEMBER ANN KITCHEN

In the great 2016 battle over ride-hailing, a City Council majority stoutly defended Austin’s authority to regulate transportation network companies, but as chair of the transportation committee, Council Member Kitchen took far more than her share of heat. Uber and Lyft tried viciously to turn her into the face of counter-tech-revolution, and through it all she maintained her equilibrium and her determination to uphold public safety and find a rational way forward, despite the attacks. Kitchen never wavered and never flinched – and the overwhelming vote to uphold city regs arrived as a vindication.

301 W. Second, 512/978-2105,
ann.kitchen@austintexas.gov

CONTINUED ON P.38

**“Professor Holcomb
taught me to take risks.”**

Tara Johnson-Medinger
Director and Producer

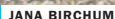
Mike Holcomb
Retired Professor



Pearson

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THE COOLEST CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER SEX PALETERIA PÓNTELO

AIDS Services of Austin's Mpowerment Project, The Q, has always been devoted to making safer sex cool, but their latest campaign is downright frosty. Paletteria Póntelo is an ice cream cart with a mission, serving playfully illustrated bilingual pamphlets, condoms, lube, and all your favorite paletas. Through cultural consciousness and levity, it elegantly provides sexual health outreach to a population too often left out in the cold.

The Q: 2906 Medical Arts, 512/420-8557, www.thegaustin.com

BEST PONY EXPRESS
DAVID GREEN, CITY OF AUSTIN PIO

City of Austin communications staff walk a delicate line between public information and policy advocacy, All-Info-to-All-People and Are-You-Kidding-Me? David Green has been a breath of very fresh air in an official culture accustomed to extreme caution and self-protection. He (and several of his PIO colleagues) have followed the march from At-Large to 10-1 with long hours, dedication, patience, and – most of all, a permanently dry sense of humor. He rides the communication pony, with grace.

**City of Austin Public Information Office:
301 W. Second, 512-974-2220**

BEST NSFW PODCAST
THE BODPOD

Our bodies are the vehicle through which we experience the world, so naturally, exploring the way we talk about them can lead to great insights. At least that's the hope of podcast host Jené Gutierrez. Her provocative interviews dive deep into topics like insecurity, dieting, dating, and self-love, chewing the fat with distinguished authors, comedians, professors, sex workers, and recent Reddit celeb Double Dick Dude, and giving new definition to the phrase "body politic."

www.thebodypodcast.com

BEST BEAUTY CAMPAIGN
#UNFAIRANDLOVELY

Skin-lightening cosmetics like “Fair and Lovely” have been anything but for the millions of people who have bleached their skin in an effort to fit racist and colorist standards of beauty. So UT student Pax Jones decided to flip the narrative. Unfair and Lovely started as a breathtaking photo series with classmates Mirusha and Yanusha Yogarajah, but soon it became an international social media campaign. Since March, their hashtag went viral and thousands of people have let their melanin shine. Talk about getting under the skin.

www.paxjones.com

BEST LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

TOM "SMITTY" SMITH

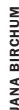
After fighting the good fight for decades, at the Capitol and City Hall, the Man Known as Smitty is ready to step down from his leadership role at Public Citizen Texas, pass the baton on to other folks, and take a break from tireless advocacy for clean air, clean energy, clean government, and a sustainable future. He has earned a very long vacation – perhaps wandering the world a bit to imagine a livable future – but we expect before long he'll resume the role of public citizen (without portfolio). We'll certainly welcome him back.

**Public Citizen Texas: 309 E. 11th #2,
512/477-1155, www.citizen.org**

BEST CALL FOR POLICE REFORM

FATIMA MANN

Fatima Mann wasn't supposed to speak at the Capitol memorial for the Dallas police officers killed in mid-July. In all likelihood, the Austin Justice Coalition co-founder wasn't even supposed to be standing with event organizers. But there she was, beckoned to the front, and provided the opportunity to speak by Austin Police Association President Ken Casaday. During the rousing,



uncomfortable few minutes in which she spoke, Mann cut to the heart of the strained relationship between law enforcement and black communities, evoking the evils of bad cops, and the need to root them out. It was unexpected and perhaps unwelcomed by those in attendance. It was also courageous in its delivery, wholly necessary, and true.

**Austin Justice Coalition: 737/222-6540,
www.austinjustice.org**

BEST GRACEFUL EXIT CITY MANAGER MARC OTT

For nearly a decade, City Manager Marc Ott quietly but steadily managed the business of the city, a major enterprise with roughly 13,000 employees and no “products” beyond energy, water, transportation, public safety, public health ... the entire range of city services, where every “customer” is an expert. Ott helped weather the Great Recession as well as any official in the country, in a self-deprecating way that yet opened the city’s books and processes as never before. His leaving for a D.C./international job is as quiet and dignified as his tenure. Austin should wish him well.

**Austin City Hall: 301 W. Second, Third Floor,
512/974-2200**

BEST LIFE PRESERVER FOR AUSTIN'S MUSICAL HISTORY

Hamblin wasn't born in Austin (or the United States for that matter) but is a force in keeping the city's musical legacy alive as the Austin History Center's video archivist. The AHC's YouTube page's breadth of Austintatiousness is both grin-inducing and sigh-creating: Daniel Johnston warning not to drink and drive; Greezy Wheels performing at the Armadillo in 1975; Jesse Sublett and the Murray brothers as the purple-album version of the Skunks performing in a very Eighties music video; Texana Dames; Dr. Hepcat; Bells of Joy; Beto; Omar. Hamblin deserves our endless praise and prodding to keep the vids a-coming.

tim.hamblin@austintexas.gov

BEST WOMEN'S HEALTH TRUTH-TELLERS

**TEXAS POLICY
EVALUATION PROJECT**

State spin and legislator lies abound in the quest to destroy women's health care in Texas, but thanks to UT-Austin based Texas Policy Evaluation Project, pro-choice advocates have the facts on our side. The multi-year research project tracking the damage done by the Lege's reproductive health laws have given a barrage of peer-reviewed proof to counteract the state's fallacious claims that their laws are protecting women's safety. TxPEP research even made its way into this summer's historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down parts of Texas anti-choice law, House Bill 2. Keep it comin', TxPEP – in an era of truthiness, we appreciate the cold hard facts.

www.liberalarts.utexas.edu/txpep



JOHN ANDERSON

BEST CRAFT BEER RELENTLESS FORCE AUSTIN BEER GUIDE

You might have heard that the craft beer scene in Austin has some nice things going for it: shiny new tap-rooms, national awards, maniacal line-standing weirdos ... and a quartet of beer media champs bringing all that self-congratulatory, back patten' hype to you in a clever, semi-annual glossy reminiscent of those rad Nineties post-punk fanzines dedicated to niche-grade bands like Skinny Puppy. But apart from all their great beer scribing, ABG creates the craft dialogue in the form of Lager Jam in the summer and a best-of awards in the winter, not to mention some pretty slayworthy guide-release parties.

www.austinbeerguide.com,
@AustinBeerGuide

BEST BREAKING NEWS REPORTER

PATRICK SVITEK

You know those reporters who rarely sleep? Who never eat? Who only exist to write, report, and fire off new tweets? That, it seems, describes the composition of Texas Tribune reporter Patrick Svitek, whose byline shows up endlessly on the political site's pages. Take Oct. 13, for example. Svitek had a hand in the production of five stories: on Texas' Ethics Commission, the presidential race, a congressional campaign, state finance reports, and a forecast of the state's economy. The next day he filed two more, and posted who knows how many little nuggets on Twitter. A man this busy deserves our recognition.

www.texastribune.org/about/staff,
www.patricksvitek.com, @PatrickSvitek

BEST HOUSE GRINDER REP. DONNA HOWARD

Having served in the Lege for a decade, Rep. Howard has endured the progressive long march under GOP domination with patience and determination. On her signature issues of education and health care, she has done her best to blunt the edge of relentless budget-cutting, and has been one of the foremost defenders of women's reproductive rights and real family values. It's been a grind, yes, but her good sense and good humor continue to carry her through – God and the voters willing, the 85th session will bring real allies, real change.

State Capitol, Rm. E1.420, PO Box 2910, Austin,
TX 78768; 512/463-0631; www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=48;
donna.howard@house.texas.gov

BEST BEHIND-CLOSED- DOORS RANT ART ACEVEDO

Acevedo was reportedly peeved that one of his commanders secretly taped an Aug. 10 meeting, in which he went off on the February David Joseph shooting and spoke his mind about what sort of awesome responsibility it is to be a cop, but the public surely appreciated it. The chief of police was the talk of the town for at least a week after the *Statesman's* story detailing the meeting broke. "We have got to raise our game," he said. "If you can't handle a kid in broad daylight, naked, and your first instinct is to come out with your gun, and your next instinct is to shoot the kid dead, you don't need to be a cop."

APD: 715 E. Eighth, art.acevedo@austintexas.gov,
@ArtAcevedo

BEST NEW VOICE WISE UP TX

Fresher than Will Smith circa 1991, Azra Siddiqi – founder of Wise Up TX – is werkin' hard to increase voter engagement through social media and through her podcast. With the perfect mix of sass and well-timed snark, Azra's mission is simple: to educate South Asians, millennials, and anyone willing to listen about what's going on in local and national politics.

www.wiseuptx.com

JANA BIRCHUM

BEST WONKS AUSTIN MONITOR

Who chairs the Planning Commission? What's the fate of Lone Star Rail after the most recent CAMPO meeting? What's happening with the city's arts bond? Where did Travis County Commissioners go for lunch? (We're half kidding about the last one.) Austin's big, and Travis County's even bigger. We're grateful to the Monitor for their commitment to covering the multitude of meetings and presentations that fill the local political calendar every day. Anybody with a stake in our rapidly growing home should feel the same.

www.austinmonitor.com, @austinmonitor



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www.flamingoautomotive.com**

2428 W. Ben White, 512/476-6927; 13945 Hwy.
183 N., 512/918-3743. www.straitmusic.com

**Mary Ann Espiritu: The Law Office of Mary Ann
Espiritu, 1307 Nueces, 512/777-1394,
www.austintexasdwiddefense.com**

Multiple locations. www.birdsbarbershop.com

Multiple locations. www.emancipet.org

Multiple locations. www.abchomeandcommercial.com

**10526 W. Parmer #419, 512/218-5062;
5015 Duval St., 512/220-6766, www.peddlerbike.com**

Multiple locations, www.ecocleanaustin.com

Multiple locations. www.einsteinmoving.com

**11150 Research #208, 512/231-1400,
www.aplusapartments.com**

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DEVAKI KNOWLES

BEST FARMERS' MARKET PHOTO BOOTH **VARU PHOTOGRAPHY AT HOPE FARMERS MARKET**

Photo booths have evolved from private two-person boxes to open-air decorated sets able to accommodate even the most sizable of groups. So when HOPE Farmers Market added all the fixtures to capture you, your family, and your furry friends, it seemed only natural. Happy moments aren't meant to be captured in secrecy behind a curtain; they should be shared. And let's face it, there might not be a better prop out there than a bundle of carrots.

956/825-1191, www.fb.com/varuphoto

BEST REPLACEMENT FOR UBER AND LYFT **RIDE AUSTIN**

When Uber and Lyft severed their ties with the city, plenty of transportation network companies came out of the woodwork, but only one was built specifically for locals by locals. Nonprofit Ride Austin operates with the community in mind, allowing its users to round up their fare to support Central Texas charities and recently adding a new "female-only mode." Paying attention to the rider as much as the driver, Ride Austin is the reason why the big guys packing up their wagons barely made a dent in our lives.

www.rideaustin.com

BEST MOTORCYCLE REPAIR SHOP **FLASH MOTORBIKES**

Paying for a new clutch is never a cause to pop open the champagne, but we'd still like to share a beer with Flash Motorbikes owners Jeremy and Tiffany Wolf. Every time we visit, we learn something new about our bike. And their fair pricing and friendly conversation make you feel like you're a regular – even if it's your first time in the store.

6711 Burnet Ln., 512/433-6145,
www.flashmotorbikes.com

BEST NO SWEAT NO A/C ECO HOUSE **THE MAIN STAY BY MATT FAJKUS ARCHITECTURE**

Mixing indoor and outdoor elements – the entire living room opens up on a bright blue lap pool – MF Architecture's Main Stay House is certainly easy on the eyes. But it's also easy on the environment. The six-year-old firm's design embraces nature in a way that makes us wanna be outdoorsy from the moment we walk in the front door.

www.mfarchitecture.com

BEST FRENCH HAIRSTYLIST **THIBAUT DE MONTERNO AT THE WATERSTONE SALON**

Ever seen a French woman with a bad hair-cut? Probably not, and there's a reason: The French know best how to style hair to flatter the face (and bone structure) beneath it. French native and -trained Thibault de Monterno moved to NYC two decades ago, working there with the bold-face stylists featured in the glossies. But 15 years ago, he started visiting Austin and realized that here was the life he was missing. So now Tho's happily embedded at the wonderful, warm, and unpretentious Waterstone Salon. It's a perfect fit, or a bon mariage, as they say over there.

3016 Guadalupe Ste. 100-B, 512/373-7546,
www.waterstonesalonatx.com



BEST TOY \$ SAVER **AUSTIN TOYBRARY**

Ever wonder where exactly Buzz Lightyear's infinity and beyond was? We think the Space Ranger most likely meant Austin's Toybrary. This lending library houses the most spectacular array of dolls, Legos, games, and trinkets most adults don't realize exist – and the best part is it's all for rent! Take the toys home and bring them back before they end up lost under a bed and covered in dust.

2001 Justin Ln., 512/765-4174,
www.toybraryaustin.com



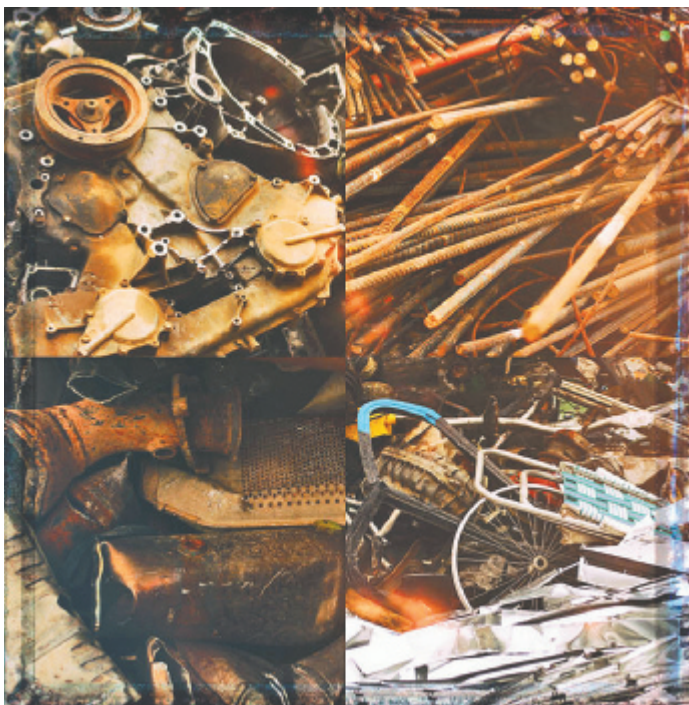
BRET BROOKSHIRE



BEST UNEXPECTED BEAUTY SCRAP PILE AT AUSTIN METAL & IRON CO., L.P.

If you've spent much time on the Eastside, you have probably noticed the extensive murals along the long-standing Austin Metal & Iron Co. If you've been lucky, you've seen the gates opened to the visual cacophony of glittering spikes and tumbling refuse of their scrap pile, lifted in massive, threatening heaps. It's thrilling and industrial, dramatic and, frankly, badass.

1000 E. Fourth,
512/477-4640,
www.austinmetal
andiron.net



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST OLD FRIENDS CLASSIC CANINES AND CATS/ SENIORS HELPING SENIORS/PALS

Two legs or four, getting old is tough. Through Classic Canines and Cats, the Friends of Austin Animal Center make sure senior fuzzy buddies have somewhere and someone to cuddle in their golden years. Sometimes that forever home comes from an older human, so the AARP helps animal re-housings through Seniors Helping Seniors, while Meals on Wheels Austin provides free meals and vet care assistance for the pets of over 350 seniors through PALS (Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors). Who are good buddies? All of you!

PALS: www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org
Classic Canines and Cats: Friends of Austin Animal Center, www.friendsofaustinanimalcenter.com

BEST FURRY FRIEND FINDERS AUSTIN LOST & FOUND PETS

Almost all of Austin is animal-friendly, but Austin Lost & Found Pets goes above and beyond. Stephanie Martens and her street team do extraordinary work to reunite lost pets with their families and educate the community about resources for your furry ones. Whether you're panicking about your missing Mastiff or you've found a wandering Weimaraner and don't have a clue what to do, ALFP is your first step for support, advice, and assistance.

www.fb.com/groups/austinlostandfoundpets

BEST WAY TO MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX TARA CHAPMAN, TWO HIVES HONEY

Austin didn't know how much we needed micro-apiaries until Tara Chapman set up shop and started her beekeeping training courses and tours. Specializing in bees' foraging patterns and Austinites' curiosities, Two Hives provides a chance to build a sustainable skill set, and maybe even score some honey along the way.

www.twohiveshoney.com

BEST INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE PHYSICIAN JULIE REARDON, MD

Please give us more of Dr. Julie Reardon's newfangled medical practice! If you yearn for a family physician who offers more than four-and-a-half minutes and a script for antibiotics or steroids, this enlightened medical model is for you. An initial consultation with Dr. Reardon, Harvard-educated and a Fellow of Dr. Andrew Weil's University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine, might last 90 unrushed minutes. Nothing New Age-y here; the goal is a well-rounded health plan that combines the best of conventional medicine with the best complementary practices. And she returns calls and emails - promptly. Just try to imagine it.

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www.doctorjulie.com

CONTINUED ON P.44



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BEST OF AUSTIN CRITICS PICKS

SERVICES CONTINUED FROM P.43



BEST TIME WARP MARVELOUS VINTAGE TEA PARTY CO.

With a year filled with so many horrors, it's hard not to long for a more elegant time. Luckily, Sophie and her mad hatters are housed here and they're serving up more than just tea. Borrowing from the more classy (and sassy) decades of the Twenties through Fifties, these vintage-style soirees are absolutely marvelous.

512/765-5852, www.marveloustea.com

BEST COMMUNITY HEALING NEIGHBORHOOD ACUPUNCTURE PROJECT

We tried everything to rid ourselves of chronic insomnia, from prescription drugs to not-so-prescription drugs, but nothing ever seemed to work for the long run. But after a few sessions at the Neighborhood Acupuncture Project, we were sleeping like a baby. It seems the ancient practice still works for present-age anxieties. And with a sliding cost scale, there's no added stress about how you're going to pay.

1909 E. 38th½, 512/473-8884,
www.napaustin.org

BEST WAY TO RAISE EYEBROWS LESLIE SAZON, BODY TONIC MEDICAL SPA

Science says eyebrows are the most important facial feature, so if you're working with 1995 Drew Barrymore arches, permanent makeup via microblading might just bring those window-to-the-soul treatments up to speed. This guru's superpower is mimicking individual hairs with precision, but she's got an arsenal of other techniques to enhance your natural you.

6836 Bee Caves Rd. #310, 512/383-5204, www.mybodytonic.com



Liz Baloutine

BEST GURUS FOR YOUR GARDEN SEEDLINGS GARDENING

From makrut limes to flourishing flowers, Seedlings knows how to plant the plants that thrive in Austin's 325 days of summer. That surely has something to do with the owner – native Austinite Liz Baloutine – who has seen Austin during both floods and drought. Sustainability isn't just a buzzword for the small staff at Seedlings, it's a raison d'être. We wouldn't trust anyone else with our landscape.

512/298-9396,
www.seedlingsgardening.com

JOHN ANDERSON

BEST PET BONDING EXPERIENCE BOBBI COLORADO'S CANINE CAMP

Colorado made a name for herself by training cinematic creatures of all shapes and sizes for major movies including *Secondhand Lions* and *Spy Kids*. Then in 2003, she and husband Ken Beggs started Bobbi Colorado's Canine Camp, quickly becoming an Austin pet owner's Mecca. More than a decade later, it still has few peers in its dedication to obedience training and luxury boarding. Colorado and Beggs work miracles with the grumpiest greyhounds and the most spastic schnauzers, graduating star pupil after star pupil – even when the cameras are not rolling.

8929 Hwy. 290 W.,
512/288-6928,
www.coloradoscancinecamp.com

DAVID BRENDAN HALL



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST BIKER WITH A LAW DEGREE LENORE SHEFMAN

If we're ever in need of a personal injury lawyer, we know who we're rolling with. Lenore Shefman of Cyclistlaw not only talks the talk, but walks the walk as an "unapologetic beast of a litigator," a fixture and friend of the Austin bike scene, and a fierce advocate for countless victims of bike/pedestrian/vehicle collisions. Then she goes the extra mile, helping her clients recover emotionally as well as financially. Accidents are the unfortunate reality of being on the road with two legs or two wheels, but we feel much better knowing Shefman has a shoulder to the wheel.

Cyclistlaw: 1002 West Ave. #301, 512/386-8117, www.cyclistlaw.com



JANA BIRCHUM

BEST LIFESAVER **HYDRELIEF**

You know you've done it – drank that last whiskey & whisky because you thought the boy sitting in the corner might be giving you eyes. Even though you are giving a presentation the next day and your boss gave you side-eye when you said you had it covered. But they'll never suspect a thing if you get one of Hydrelief's IV infusion packages, full of medicine to help you with headaches, nausea, and heartburn, that erase your hangover in minutes. They may not be the cheapest hangover remedy, but they are surely the most effective. Now go get 'em, tiger!

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- GWEN SANGER

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READERS POLL

600-A N. Lamar, 512/474-2500,
www.waterloorecords.com



BEST VIDEO STORE VULCAN VIDEO

I went back to Vulcan after some time away, and found the answer to "Why do we need video stores any more?" - **SHANNON KELLE**

100-A North Loop, 512/478-5325; 4411 Russell, 512/326-2629, www.vulcanvideo.com

BEST TOY STORE TERRA TOYS

Their wide selection of toys for boys and girls of all ages is dizzying. There's some well-known toys as well as some really nice homemade ones too. Every toy will bring a smile to every tot (or adult's) face.

- **DWHITNEY SHAW**

2438 W. Anderson, 512/445-4489, www.terratoy.com

BEST LOCAL BRIDAL SHOP UNBRIDALED

Most unique selection of dresses for Austinites with prices for everyone. Super nice employees. They're not pretentious [and there's] no pressure to buy. Awesome selection of accessories too. Love this store.

- **MEGHANN FLYNN**

701 S. Lamar, 512/444-2743, www.unbridaled.com

BEST LOCAL JEWELER KENDRA SCOTT

When my husband was at his daily chemo treatment at Texas Oncology, Kendra sent lovely gift wrapped earrings to all the female patients, which numbered about 150. She's tops in my book.

- **LEEA MECHLING**

Multiple locations, www.kendrascott.com

BEST COSTUME SHOP LUCY IN DISGUISE

How can anyone else compete with a fixture on South Congress for 32 years, jam-packed with every costume, wig, and piece of vintage clothing you could ever want?

- **JERRY DURHAM**

1506 S. Congress, 512/444-2002, www.lucyindisguise.com

BEST ELECTRONICS STORE DISCOUNT ELECTRONICS

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- **PAUL BELL**

Multiple locations, www.discountelectronics.com



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SHOPPING

CRITICS PICKS



Golden Bones



Weathered Coalition

BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR FESTIVAL SEASON – WOMEN'S EDITION GOLDEN BONES

We know you washed those shorts at least half a dozen times to get a perfect fringe on your cutoffs, and we bet you spent at least a couple of Saturdays researching just what culture to appropriate, but can we give you some style advice? Get thee to Golden Bones. Buy an easy crop top and a zip sequined skirt, and just sit back while your mug lands on every street-style blog.

3210 Esperanza Crossing #110, 512/904-9550, www.goldenbonesatx.com

BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR FESTIVAL SEASON – MEN'S EDITION WEATHERED COALITION

When you are considering what to wear for Austin's endless stream of festivals, don't take a cue from the dudebros who still think Make America Great Again caps are funny. Instead consider the collection of goods assembled by Weathered Coalition owners Tyler Guinn and Ben Woods. Not yet a year old, the Domain Northside shop offers basics like Western shirts and tapered denim, along with accessories like limited-edition hats proudly proclaiming you are from the ATX. They may be nodding their heads to LCD Soundsystem, but they'll definitely be looking at you.

11601 Rock Rose Ave., 512/852-9869, www.weatheredcoalition.com

PHOTOS BY DEVAKI KNOWLES

BEST SOUVENIR MUG STAR SEEDS CAFE

We've always been of the mind that, when buying a souvenir, you should steer clear of anything that screams, "tourist" – you know, like those generic keychains and shot glasses you can find at any airport newsstand. That's why a mug from Star Seeds Cafe is the perfect alternative for people back home (or your kitchen in South Austin). Sure, the mug's pretty simple with Star Seeds' retro-looking logo on one side and its slogan on the other. But the late-night joint is an Austin institution. It's where you get cheap eats and cheap beer at 11pm before heading back to your room at the Days Inn next door. And what's a better story to tell – that you grabbed any old mug from some Sixth Street shop or that you bought this at the place where you ate a chicken-fried steak the size of your head?

3101 N. I-35, 512/478-7107, www.starseedscfe.com

BEST SECONDHAND TCHOTCHKES AUSTIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE

If you want something eclectic for your home, it's a well-known fact that you go to a thrift store. Of course, in a city more impressed with the hairpin legs of your boomerang table than your Hepplewhite, there are few places left undiscovered. But walk past the furniture and light fixtures of ReStore, and you'll find shelves brimming with secondhand tchotchkes, kitchenware, office accessories, accent decor, and more. This is where you can buy an old-school cereal bowl featuring Kellogg's Corny the Rooster. Or snag an Austin-themed tea kettle-shaped cast-iron trivet. And the money you drop goes to a good cause – Austin Habitat for Humanity's programs that benefit low-income families.

500 W. Ben White, 512/478-2165, www.austinhabitat.org

BEST GOODY TWO-SHOES SUAVS

Remember when David Bowie and Mick Jagger broke into a warehouse yard to dance in the street? We can't help but think they would have looked a little less awkward if they were wearing the proper shoes. If we were around, we would have suggested Austin-made Suavs – classic, lightweight, flexible slip-ons that go with everything from sweeping dusters to voluminous pleated pants. As it turns out, it does matter what you wear.

www.suavshoes.com

BEST PLACE TO SELL YOUR RECORDS END OF AN EAR

Bad taste is a consequence of being human. We've all had copies of an Aaron Carter (or some similarly coiffed twink) record under our bed at some point or another, but when we come to our senses it can be painfully embarrassing to cash in on our past mistakes. Unlike some other record stores that give you shit for going through a Savage Garden phase, End of an Ear delights in both the good and the bad. We can't promise you they'll buy your records, but they won't shame you for them either.

4304 Clawson, 512/462-6008, www.endofanear.com



BEST JEWELRY FOR CITY WITCHES **VIA CHRISTA**

If your style leans more Morticia than Melania, simulated sparkle just won't do. Instead of throwing some banal bauble on top of your black velvet maxi, layer a few pieces molded in silver or gold from bat skulls, cat jaws, or hawk talons. Sure, some folks may think you're creepy and you're kooky, but you'll still be casting a spell on the rest of us.

www.viachristachains.com

BEST HELP FOR YOUR GARDEN **TILLERY STREET PLANT CO.**

In September, Tillery Street Plant Co. began to offer free Saturday classes on prepping and planting fall gardens. Later in the season, they'll offer complimentary and comprehensive instruction on harvesting and protecting your garden from the freeze. If you missed your chance to plant edible vegetation this season, the passionate folks at this homegrown nursery will certainly be helping the public prep their green spaces for spring bounties – and are always on hand to offer advice year-round. Drop in, wander the beautiful gardens, and photosynthesize.

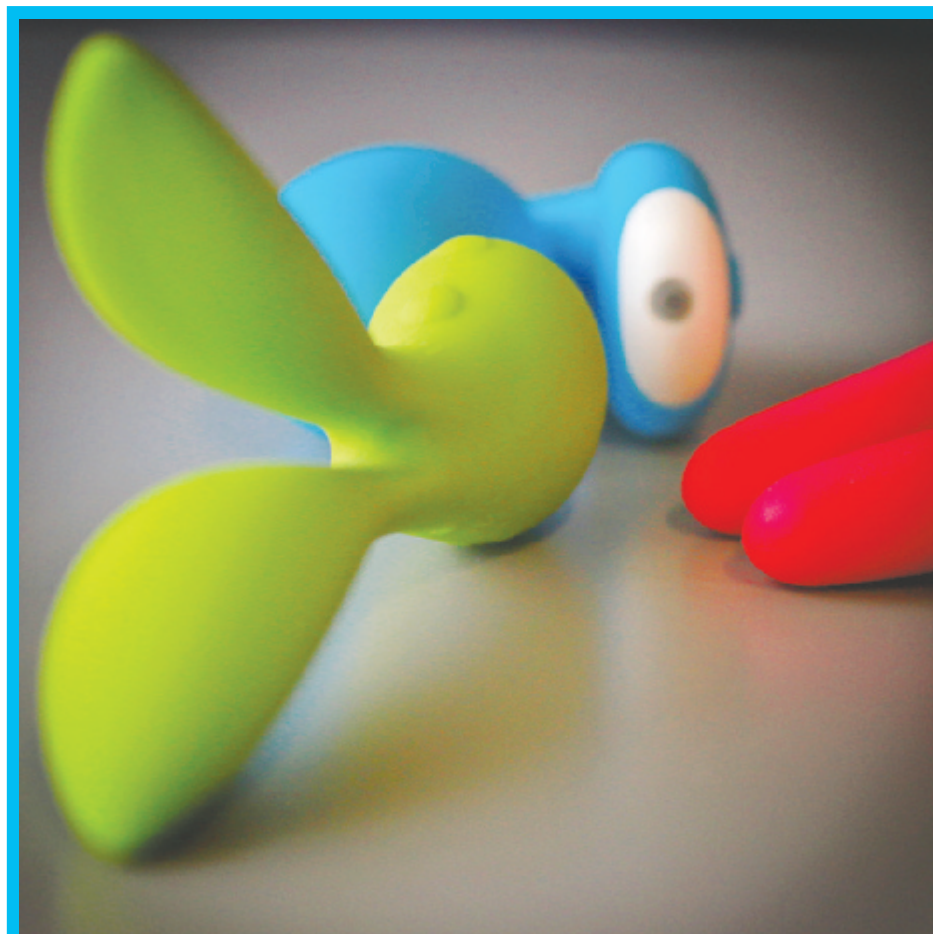
801 Tillery, 512/567-1090,
www.tillerystreetplantcompany.com

BEST WAY TO SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS **BONNE NOUVELLE DESIGN**

You can buy a pretty-enough Hallmark card to tell someone "thank you" or announce your wedding with a flat rectangle of card stock. But your feels should be expressed with *feeling*, and off-the-rack greetings just don't do the trick. Bonne Nouvelle Design ensures your announcements, invitations, and any other non-digital communication are worthy of a stamp by showcasing the gorgeous work of local illustrators and calligraphers. Something to write home about indeed.

www.bonnenouvelledesign.com

CONTINUED ON P.50



TODD V. WOLFSON

BEST PERSONAL ART OBJECTS **Q TOYS**

Sometimes – like Ariel says – we want more ... than luridly anatomical jellies and glittery dolphin vibes. Q Toys can't help but stand out with their well-curated strap-ons and sculptural dildos. You probably won't frame it, or arrange it into a tablescape, but you'll definitely think twice before tucking it behind your bed.

6800 Burnet Rd., 512/772-1614, www.shop.qtoysaustin.com

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JANA BIRCHUM

BEST VESSEL FOR YOUR SUCCULENT FOXWARES CERAMICS

It's an Austin habit to place our succulents in anything from plastic dinosaurs to old soup cans. But we like our spaces to be extra, so not any container will do. Lindsey Wohlgenuth's mugs and bowls are meant to hold things like chamomile tea and sage granita, but we are shipping them hard with a clump of pencil cactus.

www.foxwares.com

BEST FEMINIST SUBSCRIPTION BOX **A BOX OF YOUR OWN**

Who doesn't want to receive a surprise in the mail every month – especially if it's a goodie box that includes everything from feminist pins, patches, or stickers, to “herstory” postcards offering a mini lesson on a female historical figure, to fair-trade snacks? Curated by entrepreneur and blogger Katie Kronbergs, each box celebrates the power of self-care. And with 10% of proceeds going to a rotating charity helping women and girls, it's proof that treating yourself and doing good can sometimes happen at the same time.

www.roadofyourown.com

**BEST PLACE TO GET
YOUR GOTH ON
SECRET OKTOBER**

It's been a dead dreadful year for daring dark rock – RIP David Bowie, Lemmy Kilmister – but Austin's only women-owned goth/punk/horror boutique can salve the savage beast within via their terrifyingly huge selection of clothing, footwear, badges, patches, stickers, and oh!, Bela Lugosi's *not* dead corsetry. Owners Cassandra Davis and Mary Milton know the sweet smell of the cemetery all too well, and they'll help you be a better, badder, deader person, too. Hey, can I get some spiderwebs with that?

2101 S. First, 512/445-9919,
www.secret-oktober.com

BEST ROLL OF THE DICE WHOSE TURN IS IT? GAMES

For four years, Whose Turn Is It? Games has sold tabletop, card, and miniature games. Now expanded, the store still boasts a solid collection of retail games, with more space dedicated to actual gaming. Their big draws are *Magic the Gathering* and miniature tournaments (think *Warhammer 40K* and *X-Wing*), but they've also got shelves of European-style tabletop releases available to try out for free. On most days you'll still find owner and game enthusiast Patrick Hanschen minding the store, ready to give expert advice.

2708 S. Lamar, 512/294-2740,
www.whoseturnisitgames.com



DAVID BRENDAN HALL



JOHN ANDERSON

BEST FORCE OF NATURE

We don't mean to call you basic (although don't think we don't see that pumpkin spice latte), but that sad clump of sedum you have growing in a terra cotta pot doesn't exactly give us home design #goals. It's time to raise your plant game, son. Perch a tillandsia in a minimalist blackbird, hang a jade plant from a baby-blue hexagon, or take a class on how to make your own living wall. Artculture has tons of accents to instantaneously and affordably upgrade your most humdrum rooms. Now let's talk about that IKEA couch.

6405 Manchaca Rd., 512/762-5228,
www.articulturedesigns.com

TIGHTEST TIGHTS TRAMPS FASHION COMPRESSION HOSIERY

Everybody knows that sitting is the new smoking. But spending eight hours on your feet is no walk in the park, either. Just ask Austin entrepreneur Alex Reyes, recently named by *People en Español* readers one of its annual 25 Most Powerful Women. Reyes drew on her experience as a hairstylist and salon owner to launch, with her designer brother Tomas, the Tramps Fashion Compression Hosiery line. With products in eye-popping pink and cheetah jacquard, the Tramps team helps working women keep the blood flowing – and look darn good doing it.

7005 Shoal Creek Blvd., 888/302-9292,
www.trampshosiery.com

BEST NO-FUSS BATH TIME LITTLE ROSEBERRY

Getting your kids to eat their broccoli is difficult, but maybe you can get them to put it on their heads. Little Roseberry operates under the philosophy that what we put on our bodies is just as important as what we put in them. “Mom cosmetologist” Brizy Tait created the skin and hair care line when she couldn’t find the right gentle and natural products for her son. Dinnertime may still cause some tantrums, but now bath time couldn’t be easier.

www.littleroseberry.com

BEST GIFT BOX TAKE HEART

This tiny Eastside shop is full of beautifully made objects that will impress even your most demanding aunt. Showcasing artisans from around the world and our own backyard, and Japanese design without any Sanrio Surprises, the space is all about details, like the grain of bird’s-eye maple on a spreader or the seed head of a dandelion permanently captured in a paperweight. If you are lucky enough to receive something that caught owner Nina Gordon’s eye, take heart that the giver didn’t decide to keep it for themselves.

1111 E. 11th #100, 512/520-9664,
www.takeheartshop.com

BEST EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK MÉTIER COOK’S SUPPLY

We may never compete on *Iron Chef*, but we sure like pretending. Luckily, we have Métier owners Todd Duplechan and Jessica Maher (you know them as the pair behind Lenoir) to outfit our personal Kitchen Stadium. From Togiharu knives to Tilit chef jackets and vintage cast iron, the charming space has everything we need to impress the judges – even if we are still using Pinterest for all our recipes.

1805 S. First, 512/276-2605,
www.metieraustin.com



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