



THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

# BEST OF AUSTIN



20



22



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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

**“Best of Austin” Awards**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR, BY KIMBERLEY JONES

Welcome to the 32nd annual *Austin Chronicle* “Best of Austin” awards. This issue, our largest of the year, is a uniquely collaborative experience between the *Chronicle* and its readers. We quite literally couldn’t produce this issue without the help of our readers – about 22,000 of them, in fact, who cast a quarter of a million votes to determine 174 winners in this year’s Readers Poll. *Chronicle* staff awarded an additional 76 Critics Picks. Add that all up – don’t forget Readers Poll finalists, who get their due in these pages, too – and you’re looking at nearly a thousand local people, places, and businesses celebrated in this issue.

And for the first time ever, we’re inviting the general public to come celebrate these terrific finalists and winners in person with us. This Sunday, May 22, 1-5pm, we’re throwing a “Best of Austin” Market Party at Lustre Pearl South (10400 Menchaca Rd.). The party – totally free, by the way; also dog- and kid-friendly – will feature vendors and performers, including DJ Chorizo Funk, drag artist Brigitte Bandit, and all(!) of the finalists in the Best Comedian category. Just be sure to RSVP first at [austinchronicle.com/boaparty](http://austinchronicle.com/boaparty). ■

**Want to discover more?**

Search our archives for 30-plus years of “Best of Austin” awards at [austinchronicle.com/boa](http://austinchronicle.com/boa).

# UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE

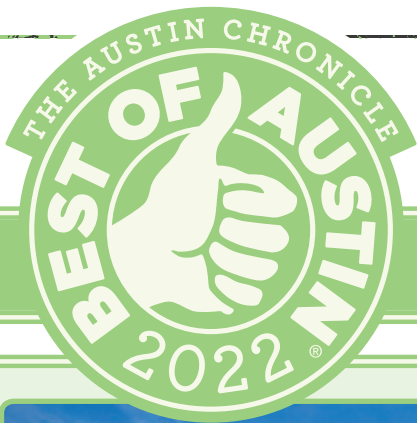
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# Readers Poll

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JOHN ANDERSON

### MUSEUM

#### The Blanton Museum of Art

FINALISTS: Bullock Texas State History Museum, The Contemporary Austin, George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center, Mexic-Arte Museum

"I looove the cathedral. I'm not religious but it's so elegant, simple yet meaningful. A true work of art." - HEIDI GERLITZ

200 E. MLK, BLANTONMUSEUM.ORG

### ART GALLERY

#### Women & Their Work

FINALISTS: Ao5 Gallery, Austin Art Garage, RichesArt Gallery, SAGE Studio, West Chelsea Contemporary

"Beautiful new space and Chris Cowden has been supporting excellent women artists in a supreme way." - JANET MAYKUS

1311 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, WOMENANDTHEIRWORK.ORG

### VISUAL ARTIST

#### Danielle DaVerona

FINALISTS: Aria Brownell, Rick Fleming, Jeremy the Artist, Deborah Roberts

"Passion, work ethic, and a lovely personality!"

- BRIANNA MYERS

### PERFORMANCE SPACE/THEATRE

#### Paramount Theatre

FINALISTS: Fallout Theater, Ground Floor Theatre, The Vortex, Zach Theatre

"A beautiful venue. Some of my all-time favorite entertainers performed here."

- RICHARD MONSEES

713 CONGRESS, AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG

### ACTRESS

#### Yola Lu

FINALISTS: Barbara Chisholm, Natalie D. Garcia, Lee Eddy, Amber Quick

"She can do it all, drama and comedy. She's so authentic." - POLLY HOANG

YOLALUCOMEDY.COM

### ACTOR

#### Carlo Lorenzo Garcia

FINALISTS: Kenah Benefield, Marc Pouhé, Roderick Sanford, Bill Wise, Ben Wolfe

"Loved his work for Street Corner Arts."

- CLAUDIA CORUM

CARLOGARCIA.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

### THEATRE DIRECTOR

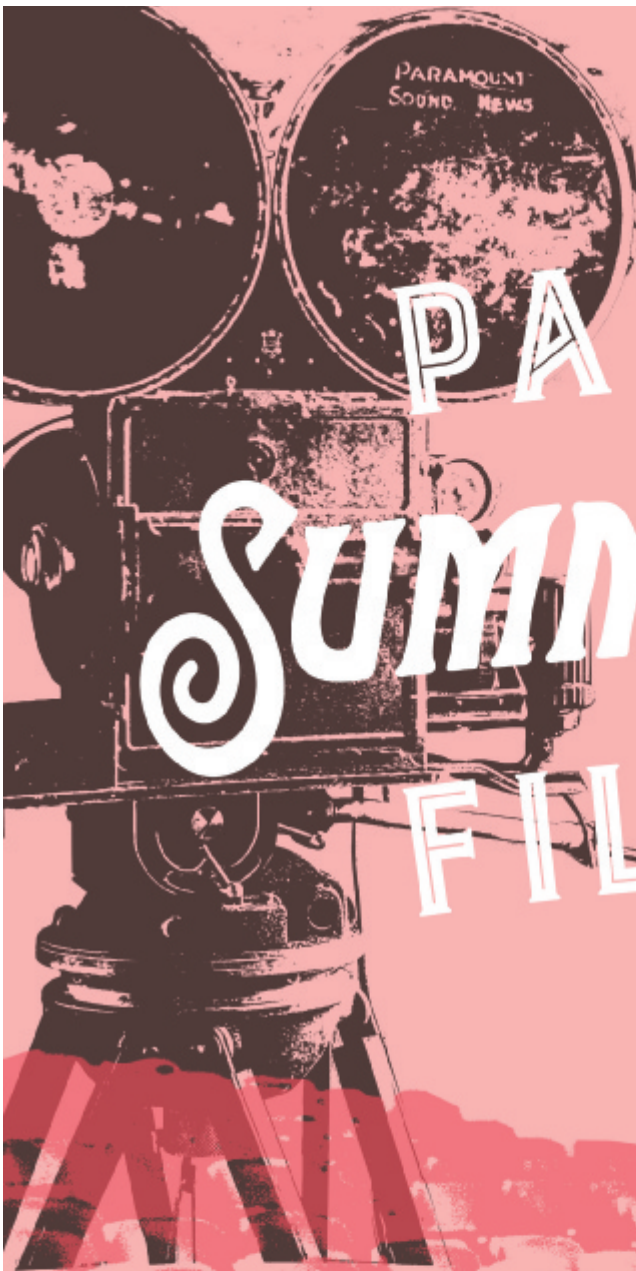
#### Lisa Scheps

FINALISTS: Katie Moore, Ginger Morris, Dave Steakley, Ken Webster

"A force to be reckoned with."

- DEWY BROOKS

GROUND FLOOR THEATRE, 979 SPRINGDALE #122, GROUNDFOORTHEATRE.ORG



PARAMOUNT  
SOUND NEWS

# PARAMOUNT SUMMER CLASSIC FILM SERIES

PRESENTED BY  
CapMetro

*OPENING NIGHT*

MAY 26TH  
CASABLANCA

FULL SCHEDULE: [AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG/FILM](http://AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG/FILM)





JANA BIRCHUM

**OUTDOOR FESTIVAL**

**Austin City Limits Music Festival**

FINALISTS: Blues on the Green, Eeyore's Birthday, Pecan Street Festival, Texas Hemp Harvest Festival

"Me and 80,000 friends." – DAVID SULLIVAN

ZILKER PARK, ACLFESTIVAL.COM

**CLASSICAL MUSICIAN**

**Graham Reynolds**

FINALISTS: Iliá De la Rosa, Anton Nel, Michelle Schumann, Ammon Taylor

"Brown suit, long hair, weird done well – it's everything you need Austin classical music to be." – MICHELLE KEFFER

GRAHAMREYNOLDS.COM

**DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER**

**Sara Burke**

FINALISTS: Jay Balcom, Vertarias Black, Stephen Mills, Jennifer Sherburn

"She really makes sure to know her students and learn their talents, capabilities, and capacities to ensure a fun-to-perform number that is also so interesting to watch." – KIRA GRIFIN

SARAMORGANBURKE.COM

**MURALIST**

**Zuzu Perkal**

FINALISTS: Mez Data, Niz, Rex Hamilton, Chris Rogers

"Her colors, style, and messages are so happy and positive. Her murals always bring a smile to my face. Love you Zuzu!" – BLAIRE BABYAK

IHAVEPINKHAIR.COM

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**

**Fez Moreno**

FINALISTS: Billie Buck, Dave McClinton, Billy Perkins, Joseph Plata

"The work feels nostalgic, current, and futuristic all at once." – ERIC RODRIGUEZ

INSTAGRAM.COM/FEZMORENO

**COMEDY TROUPE**

**Esther's Follies**

FINALISTS: Fuck This Week, Garage, Master Pancake, The Voyagers, Y'all We Asian

"High-energy hilarity that keeps Austin weird." – TERESA WATKINS

525 E. SIXTH, ESTHERSFOLLIES.COM

**STAND-UP COMIC**

**Vanessa Gonzalez**

FINALISTS: Colton Dowling, Brian Gaar, Angellina Martin, Avery Moore

"Vanessa is the GOAT! Seriously one of the funniest people in the world. And she's so good to her fans!" – KATY GLADHILL

VANESSACOMEDY.COM

**COMEDY CLUB/VENUE**

**Cap City Comedy Club**

FINALISTS: Esther's Follies, Fallout Theater, The Creek and the Cave, The Velveeta Room, Vulcan Gas Company

"Best atmosphere for not a lot of clams!" – KENNETH WILSON

11506 CENTURY OAKS STE. B-100, CAPCITYCOMEDY.COM

**COMEDY/STORYTELLING SHOWCASE**

**Moontower Comedy Festival**

FINALISTS: Glow Show, Perverts, Stool Pigeon, Thrive Comedy Hour

"Incredible lineup and great venues."

– BRITTANY CLAY

MOONTOWERCOMEDYFEST.COM

**FICTION WRITER**

**Amanda Eyre Ward**

FINALISTS: C. Robert Cargill, Fernando A. Flores, James Wade, S. Kirk Walsh

"A gift to the Austin literary community." – CLAUDIA CORUM

AMANDAWARD.COM

**NONFICTION WRITER**

**Skip Hollandsworth**

FINALISTS: Elizabeth McGreevy, Jason Stanford, Jesse Sublett, Lawrence Wright

"Actual living legend. Anything he does, I'm riveted." – ARI GERNAAT

**COMIC CREATOR/ GRAPHIC NOVELIST**

**Becky Cloonan**

FINALISTS: Donny Cates, John Gholson, Sam Hurt, Drew Edwards

"Batman!" – MOHAMMAD KACHOOEE

INSTAGRAM.COM/BECKYCLOONAN

**NEW BOOK BY AN AUSTIN WRITER**

**Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth** BY

**BRYAN BURROUGH, CHRIS TOMLINSON, AND JASON STANFORD**

FINALISTS: *Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty* by Maurice Chamamah, *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris, *Wanted! Mountain Cedars: Dead and Alive* by Elizabeth McGreevy, *What I Am* by Divya Srinivasan

"Because it bravely challenged conventional, historical thinking."

– SUZANNE NEWELL

**BURLESQUE PERFORMER**

**Ginger Snaps**

FINALISTS: Chola Magnolia, Ruby Joule, Ruby Lamb, Zenyth Gale

"Ginger Snaps is always sexy, innovative, entertaining, and most important of all, glittery!" – KATIE COWDEN

GINGERSNAPSBURLESQUE.COM



PHOTO BY FREAKY NEEKO

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WILD CARD**

**You're My Butt Hole**

(SHORT-LIVED VANDALISM OF YOU'RE MY BUTTER HALF MURAL)

FINALISTS: Concept animals and ICOSA Collective's Crit Nites (artist/audience conversations), Contracommon (nonprofit providing support for emerging artists), Future Front Texas' Swim Sessions at the Line Hotel (poolside music-and-market series celebrating Pride), Summer Stock Austin (musical theatre program for high school and college students)

"It should be an an(nu)al tradition in Austin."

– HANNA HUANG



JANA BIRCHUM

### DRAG SHOWCASE

#### Coco Cxnts Drag Brunch at Coconut Club

FINALISTS: Playdate at Far Out Lounge, Poo Poo Platter at Elysium, Vanguard: The Drag Revolution at Swan Dive, Vixens of Volstead Drag Brunch at the Volstead Lounge

"The cunts never disappoint! Honey Baby on the mic is pure comedy, Bohemia is so sexy, and Bridgette bandit [sic] is the cutest bimbo in town serving knee slides for days!!!" – **KATHEE LOZANO**

310-B COLORADO, [INSTAGRAM.COM/COCONUTCLUB.AUSTIN](https://www.instagram.com/coconutclub.austin)

### DRAG PERFORMER

#### Louisiana Purchase

FINALISTS: Brigitte Bandit, Eileen Dover, Hermajestie the Hung, Vyllette Ward

"Napoleon Bonaparte would have lamented relinquishing this broad to his dying day." – **CASEY ALLEN**

[LOUISIANAPURCHASE.COM](https://www.louisianapurchase.com)

### LOCAL VIDEO GAME DEVELOPER

#### WolfEye Studios

FINALISTS: Cloud Imperium Games, FarBridge, Gunfire Games, Local Space Survey Corps

"I'm looking forward to *Weird West!*" – **BRYAN SMITH**

[WOLFEYE-STUDIOS.COM](https://www.wolfeye-studios.com)

### MOVIE THEATRE

#### Alamo Drafthouse

FINALISTS: AFS Cinema, Moviehouse & Eatery, Paramount Theatre, Violet Crown Cinema

"Great food, great drinks, and a safe haven for any and all cinephiles. What's not to like?"

– **MICHAEL PAYTON**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

### FILM FESTIVAL/SERIES

#### SXSW Film Festival

FINALISTS: aGLIFF, Austin Asian American Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, Fantastic Fest, Paramount Summer Classic Film Series

"My favorite week of the year! Pure magic <3" – **CONNER SMITH**

1400 LAVACA, [SXSW.COM](https://www.sxsw.com)

### FILMMAKER

#### Richard Linklater

FINALISTS: Owen Egerton, Mohit Jaswal, Allen Robertson & Damon Brown, Robert Rodriguez

"He's built so much of the ATX film scene, and has remained a great artist and generous community member." – **JENNIFER GRAHAM**

[DETOURFILM.COM](https://www.detourfilm.com)

**A O 5**  
GALLERY

AUSTIN, TX | SINCE 1998 | [A05GALLERY.COM](https://www.a05gallery.com)

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**SPACE IS THE PLACE (1974)**  
MAY 20-24  
LATES  
3X BOGDANOVICH, HOSTED BY RICHARD LINKLATER  
AT LONG LAST LOVE (1975)  
MAY 24

**MISSISSIPPI MASALA (1991)**  
MAY 28 & 29  
NEW RELEASES

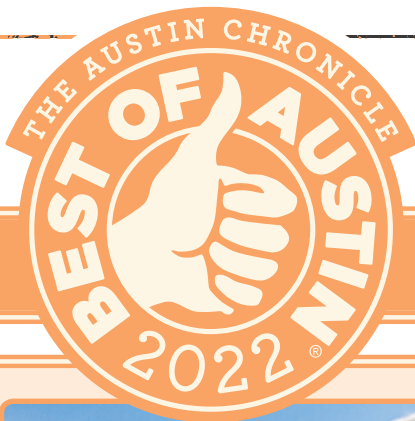
**AT LONG LAST LOVE**

**THE HARDER THEY COME (1972)**  
MAY 27-JUN 1  
WORLD CINEMA CLASSICS

**ROBINSON'S GARDEN (1987)**  
MAY 27-31  
LATES

**ESSENTIAL CINEMA: MONSTERS FROM THE ID I MARRIED A MONSTER FROM OUTER SPACE (1958)**  
MAY 26 & 28

**AFS AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY**



# Critics Picks

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JOHN ANDERSON

### BEST WIZARDLY D&D GAME MASTER

#### Mike Nystul at Sherwood Forest Faire

What better environment than a rollicking Ren fest out in the wilderness in which to throw your dice and adventure up some arcane treasure with fellow travelers? None, we avow – especially when the game master is the wizardly Mike Nystul, who's been leading successful quests for decades and who, with performative flair, now plies his trade in the midst of Sherwood Forest's magisterial milieu. Bonus fact: Nystul's father used to play with *Dungeons & Dragons* co-creator Gary Gygax(!) back in the early Balrog-bashing days.

WANDERINGWIZARD.GURU

### BEST PLACE TO BINGE ON TV

#### ATX Television Festival

Cheers. *Frasier*. *The Jeffersons*. *M\*A\*S\*H*. It's an elite group that makes it to 11 seasons – and none of them notched that achievement during a global pandemic. From bootstrap beginnings way back in 2012, ATX Television Festival co-founders Caitlin McFarland and Emily Gipson have grown their event into a must-attend fest that's a favorite of fans and industry folks alike for its good-vibes-only, egalitarian ethos. The pandemic only inspired ATX to double down on its commitment to being a force of good with the launch of nonprofit the Syndication Project, promoting inclusivity and compassion in the television arts. Come June, the fest returns to in-person programming with *Scrubs* and *Parenthood* cast-and-crew reunions.

ATXFESTIVAL.COM

### BEST UNDERGROUND RAVE SUSTAINERS

#### 1222.Productions

Among the lovely return of unofficial, impromptu music spaces during South by Southwest 2022, the artful, intense party-planners of 1222.Productions absolutely win for throwing a rave at a South Austin Long John Silver's. Locally launched SaliYah DJ'd from atop two trash receptacles reading "Thank You." Prior, the secret festivity-makers – whose location details typically text out hours before – hosted Faux Real at Ben White's Blazer Tag. Earning their first Austin Music Industry Awards nomination, the team gained notoriety for hosting electronic performances in local drainage tunnels. Balancing pop-up surprise with thought-out ticketing, sound systems, and artful installations, 1222's scope keeps getting more creative.

INSTAGRAM.COM/1222.PRODUCTIONS

### BEST POSSIBILITY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY AT AN ART OPENING

#### All the Sudden

Would you like to sit cross-legged on the floor and have poetry read to you? Does eating homemade baked potatoes while wandering through an art show sound like your style? The DIY project space All the Sudden features such artistic experiments. Located in a residential neighborhood between Airport and Ed Bluestein Boulevard, ATS consists of a 1,000-square-foot warehouse, a large backyard, and a rental property occupied by its organizers, Emily Lee, Thom Waddill, and Anthony Laurence. The space welcomes community-driven proposals for exhibitions and events ranging from poetry readings to art shows, book clubs, mutual aid gatherings, and material workshops.

906 KOERNER, ALLTHESUDDEN.COM

### BEST SCENE-PRINT

#### Fine Southern Gentlemen and Feels So Good Records

Both acronymized as "FSG," printers Fine Southern Gentleman and sister business Feels So Good Records have gelled into a cultural hub at their latest location on Alpine Road. The converted industrial space is, at once, a screenprinting facility where local merch gets manufactured, a retail space selling hip apparel, a record store, a design shop, and an event space. With the latter, FSG has added a stylish DIY space into Austin's music ecosystem that's emerging as a favorite spot for record releases, parties, and special events.

FINE SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN & FEELS SO GOOD RECORDS,  
211 E. ALPINE, FINESOUTHERNGENTLEMEN.COM,  
FSGRECORDS.COM



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[www.dreamland.us](http://www.dreamland.us)

**BEST PANDEMIC PRODUCTION HOUSE**

**Paper Street Pictures**

When the pandemic hit, sets closed, right? And only the big studios could afford to implement all those health and safety protocols, right? Wrong and wrong. Austin-based Paper Street Pictures, founded by Aaron B. Koontz, proved you could make movies safely on a budget, and they did it 12 times at the height of COVID, plus launched the Blood Oath horror movie consultancy, all while keeping Texas techs and artists employed. Paper by name, rock-solid by nature.

PAPERSTREETPICTURES.COM

**BEST OUTDOOR CINEMA ADVOCATES**

**Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In**

Founded in 2009 to keep a great American tradition alive, no one could have foreseen that Austin's own drive-in experiment would become so vital to our moviegoing culture. As indoor theatres closed due to the pandemic, the Blue Starlite shone brighter than ever, adding screens and locations, investing in top-end projectors for big Hollywood pix, hosting micro-indies, keeping festivals safe and in-person, and helping organizations like Community First's Community Cinema get on the drive-in trip. Truly, the drive-in will never die.

BLUE STARLITE MUELLER II, 2103 E.M. FRANKLIN, BLUESTARLITEDRIVEIN.COM/AUSTIN;  
 BLUE STARLITE DOWNTOWN, 300 SAN ANTONIO, BLUESTARLITEDRIVEIN.COM/DOWNTOWN;  
 BLUE STARLITE NORTH, 12709 MOPAC N., BLUESTARLITEDRIVEIN.COM/ABOUT-3;  
 BLUE STARLITE ROUND ROCK, 800 HARRELL PKWY., ROUND ROCK, BLUESTARLITEDRIVEIN.COM/ROUND-ROCK



JOHN ANDERSON



ZEKE BARBARO

**TEENSIEST ART EXHIBIT IN AUSTIN**

**Really Small Museum ATX**

Curators Marianne Newsom and Juliet Whitsett have upped East Austin's art game with two white cube galleries - the size of Little Free Libraries - on each of their front lawns. From now until November, the Banton Road Museum of Art and the 14th Corner Contemporary are offering exquisite micro exhibits each month, plus a few flash shows in between. Artist talks, opening receptions, and live performances accompany these delicate displays, so be sure to check out their Instagram for updates big and small.

INSTAGRAM.COM/REALLYSMALLMUSEUM\_ATX

**BEST PLACE TO APPRECIATE FURNITURE AS FINE ART**

**Rath Gallery**

Rath Gallery, which opened last fall, is Austin's only gallery dedicated to furniture and rare home decor. While all of the inventory is for sale, the experience of browsing the store is designed to be similar to visiting fine art galleries in major cities like Los Angeles or New York. The gallery features antiques and objects that are often hundreds of years old, and owners Eli Rabb and Maggie Orth often share enchanting stories about each object they have acquired for the space, detailing histories and provenances that span the globe.

900 N. LAMAR, GALLERYRATH.COM

**BEST BOOST FOR BUDDING MOVIEMAKERS**

**AFS Grants**

Would Kat Candler have been showrunner for TV smash *Queen Sugar* without that \$5,000 grant to help distribute her debut feature, *Cicadas*? Would Zellner Bros. have worked with Robert Pattinson if they hadn't received a thousand bucks for their 2004 short, "Quasar Hernandez"? Maybe, because they're insanely talented, but early career support from AFS Grants has helped hundreds of filmmakers through over \$2.2 million in grants and support since 1996. With the establishment of a new endowment, this vital program is set to continue its pivotal role in nurturing new talent. Remember, the next film they support could be yours.

1901 E. 51ST, AUSTINFILM.ORG

**BEST PLACE TO LEARN THE ART OF GLASSMAKING**

**Ghost Pepper Glass**

Glassblowing and other ancient ways of working with molten, malleable silicates: not the sort of delicate art you can teach yourself, really, no matter how many YouTube instructionals you binge. Besides, Austin's own Ghost Pepper Glass professionals - working, award-winning artists in their own right - welcome students at all levels of proficiency, glad to share their sandbending skills and passion, to help you achieve your most inspired, light-shifting, amorphous-solid dreams in their fully equipped Eastside studio.

979 SPRINGDALE #100, GHOSTPEPPERGLASS.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

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## PEOPLE'S GALLERY

OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-9<sup>PM</sup>

AUSTIN CITY HALL, 301 WEST 2<sup>nd</sup> ST

The 2022 People's Gallery exhibition features over 140 artworks from local artists and arts organizations, displayed throughout Austin City Hall.

For reception details, visit: [bit.ly/PeoplesGallery2022](https://bit.ly/PeoplesGallery2022)

Artwork (left to right): Sean Lott, Trane • Laura Maltz Gossen, The Flats Barton Creek • Lee Barber, Father and Son • Linda Wandt, Ergo Sum



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# Readers Poll

## NIGHTLIFE



JOHN ANDERSON

### COCKTAIL BAR

#### Tiki Tatsu-Ya

FINALISTS: Drink.Well, Here Nor There, Honey Moon Spirit Lounge, Roosevelt Room, Whisler's

"Feels like a totally immersive adult Disneyland where you've abandoned the Boredom ship and washed ashore a fantastical mystery island. It's insane how detail oriented and interactive it is." – **DANNY RIHA**

### NIGHTLIFE WILD CARD

#### Bar Lighting at Tiki Tatsu-Ya (LIGHTING DESIGN BY NATALIE GEORGE PRODUCTIONS)

FINALISTS: Double or Nothing Two-Step ("Austin Honky-Tonk Two-Step" lessons), GameOn! ATX (live game show experience), The Underground Roller Disco (roving roller skate meetup), Your Karaoke Fun Cab (electric karaoke cab service)

"Tiki bar in Austin: cool. Tiki bar in Austin designed by NGP: way cooler!"

– **MICHELLE KEFFER**

1300 S. LAMAR, TIKI-TATSUYA.COM

### LARGE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

#### ACL Live at the Moody Theater

FINALISTS: Emo's, Mohawk, Moody Amphitheater at Waterloo Park, Stubb's

"Great sound and sightlines." – **TIM BROWN**

310 W. WILLIE NELSON, ACL-LIVE.COM

### INTIMATE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

#### Hotel Vegas

FINALISTS: Antone's Nightclub, Cactus Cafe, Continental Club, Sahara Lounge, Saxon Pub

"So glad we have returned to the days of sweaty pits (human & mosh) at Vegas. Also, why are the walls sweating? I love it." – **BLAIRE BABYAK**

1502 E. SIXTH, TEXASHOTELVEGAS.COM

### OUTDOOR VENUE

#### Cheer Up Charlies

FINALISTS: The Far Out Lounge & Stage, Mohawk, Moody Amphitheater at Waterloo Park, Stubb's

"Vibes are always good, DJs here are fantastic, and the drinks are amazing." – **PAIGE APPLEWHITE**

900 RED RIVER, CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### DJ

#### DJ Chorizo Funk

FINALISTS: BoyFriend ATX, DJ Eriq Stylez, DJ Mel, Y2K

"He makes me feel like he's spinning just for me and my good judy's! :)" – **CHRISTIAN PRUNEDA**

CHORIZOFUNK.COM

### ROMANTIC DINNER

#### Justine's Brasserie

FINALISTS: 1417, Hestia, Lenoir, Uchi

"Even after all this time it's still the sexiest restaurant around." – **THEODORE SOPHER**

4710 E. FIFTH, JUSTINES1937.COM

### CHEAP DATE

#### The Little Darlin'

FINALISTS: Buzz Mill, De Nada Cantina, El Taquito, Kinda Tropical

"Them sliders are delicious." – **ALEXANDRA SLEEPS**

6507 CIRCLE S, THELITTLEDARLIN.COM

### DIVE BAR

#### Nickel City

FINALISTS: Back Lot, Barfly's, The Grackle, Lala's Little Nugget

"Good vibes and great drinks." – **TYLER LOFGREN**

1133 E. 11TH, NICKELCITYBAR.COM

### SPORTS BAR

#### Haymaker

FINALISTS: Black Sheep Lodge, Lavaca Street Bar, Little Woodrow's, The Tavern

"Poutine." – **REBECCA ROW**

2310 MANOR RD., HAYMAKERAUSTIN.COM

### BAR FOR SINGLES

#### Cheer Up Charlies

FINALISTS: Barbarella, Little Drinks Lounge, Outer Heaven Disco Club, Yard Bar

"No one is ever made to feel uncomfortable here... unless they make someone else uncomfortable."

– **LANI OGLEWOOD**

900 RED RIVER, CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### HAPPY HOUR

#### Loro

FINALISTS: Honey Moon Spirit Lounge, Pêché, Salty Sow, Uchi, Uchiko

"You can't go wrong with the love child of Aaron Franklin and Tyson Cole."

– **SARAH PENDLEY**

2115 S. LAMAR, LOROEATS.COM



SHELLEY HIAM

**BARTENDER**

**Kathee Lozano (Cheer Up Charlies)**

FINALISTS: Ariel De Leon (Barbarella), Austin Harrison (The Far Out Lounge & Stage), Matthew Korzelius (Roosevelt Room), Chris Lueck (Cactus Cafe)

"Kathee's vibe is always a bright, sweet one, and her drinks are always DELISH!"

- ZENYTH GALE

900 RED RIVER, CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

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JANA BIRCHUM

### DANCE CLUB

#### Barbarella

FINALISTS: Coconut Club, Elysium, Outer Heaven Disco Club, Rain on 4th

"The staff and owners know how to make a safe and fun space for Austin. We love to see y'all thrive." – ERIKA MOON

### QUEER PARTY

#### TuezGayz

FINALISTS: aGLIFF, Cyber Queen, Neon Rainbows, Sister Fisters' Disco Bloodbath

"Absolutely iconic." – VICTORIA LERMA

611 RED RIVER, FB.COM/BARBARELLA.AUSTIN.9

### PLACE FOR SOBER SOCIALIZING

#### Cosmic Coffee + Beer Garden

FINALISTS: Epoch Coffee, Genuine Joe Coffee House, Opa! Coffee & Wine Bar, Radio Coffee & Beer, Sans Bar

"Beautiful outdoor setting with strong stiff coffee." – MONA SARKISS

121 PICKLE #111, COSMICCOFFEEBEER.COM

### KARAOKE

#### Ego's

FINALISTS: Back Bar Karaoke at Hole in the Wall, Canary Roost, Cutthroat Karaoke at Latchkey, Common Interest

"Year after year Austin changes, yet Ego's stays the same ... and that's a good thing." – MATTHEW BOBBITT

510 S. CONGRESS, EGOS-KARAOKE-BAR.BUSINESS.SITE, INSTAGRAM.COM/EGOSBARATX

### TRIVIA NIGHT

#### The Highball

FINALISTS: Butterfly Bar, Full Sass Trivia, Get It Gals Trivia, Pluckers Wing Bar

"Great host." – JOHN TULLAR

1120 S. LAMAR, THEHIGHBALL.COM

### LGBTQIA CLUB

#### Cheer Up Charlies

FINALISTS: Coconut Club, Highland Lounge, Oilcan Harry's, Rain on 4th

"Always fun, sometimes freaky. Great music bookings, perfect balance of loungey and dance party spaces. But the clincher is the way they actively and thoughtfully support the community."

– LORA BLACKWELL

900 RED RIVER, CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### POOL HALL

#### The Grand

FINALISTS: Betsy's Billiards, Crow Bar, Sagebrush, Warehouse Billiard Bar

"Because of the people! The culture, management, and just flat out everything about it. Cleanest balls in town too."

– CALEB RICHTER

4631 AIRPORT #121, THEGRANDATX.COM

### JUKEBOX

#### Casino El Camino

FINALISTS: Barfly's, Buddy's Place, Deep Eddy Cabaret, the Golden Goose

"All hail the jukebox king CASINO EL CAMINO!" – HEATHER WHITE

517 E. SIXTH, CASINOELCAMINO.NET

### ADULT CLUB

#### The Yellow Rose

FINALISTS: The Friends Club, Palazzo Gentlemen's Club, Perfect 10, Red Rose

"Dem wings though. This is the A Team."

– JAYNIE BADGETT

6528 N. LAMAR, YELLOWROSE.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### ESCAPE ROOM

#### Austin Panic Room

FINALISTS: Escape Hour, Lockout Austin, Novel Escape, Pinballz Arcade

"Great for team building." – KELLY FERRARO

1205 RIO GRANDE; 4403 GUADALUPE; TEXASPANICROOM.COM/PROJECT-PANIC

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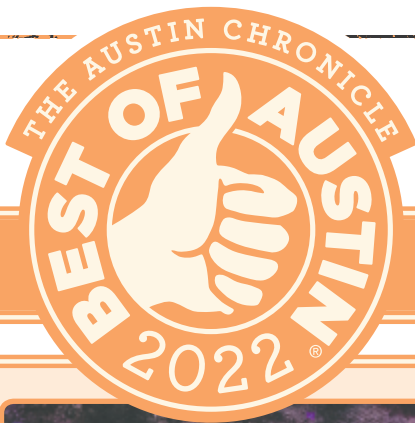


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# Critics Picks

## NIGHTLIFE



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### BEST AUSTIN BASTION OF BALLROOM

#### House of Lepore

Ballroom culture, the historic drag competitions founded in underground Black and Latinx queer culture, blossoms in Austin thanks to the House of Lepore. Headed up by Mother Natalie, aka Ms. Girl 6, this drag family whips up breathlessly beautiful events with cash prizes that bring all the gurlies out. Writing their names in the history books as the first official ball at South by Southwest, giving fantastic plastic at their April Doll Ball, and blazing forward a future for queer, BIPOC-prioritized spaces: It's House of Lepore's world, babe, and we're just walkin' in it.

[INSTAGRAM.COM/HOUSEOFLEPIRE](https://www.instagram.com/houseoflepire)

### BEST WAY TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A SERIAL KILLER

#### Murder Walk Austin

If you partake in Murder Walk Austin, it is very possible that after a tension-building moment digesting the grisly injuries found in an 1880s autopsy, someone will shout, "That'll do it." For the irreverent, historically minded, and true-crime-obsessed among us, Walking Tours of Austin's nighttime jaunt through Downtown's former crime scenes scratches every itch. The tour focuses on Austin's very own 19th-century axe murderer, the man O. Henry dubbed the "Servant Girl Annihilator." Best experienced with either a notepad or a belly full of margarita, take your pick.

[TOURATX.COM/MURDER-WALK-AUSTIN](https://www.touratx.com/murder-walk-austin)

### BEST NEW BEER BAR

#### Burnet Go To

Beer bars - remember those? They were like mainstream news media aggregators of the early 2010s craft beer industry, curating only the most interesting hazy ales and sweet stouts, all under one roof! But now everyone mostly just flocks to the source of the action, the brewery taproom, out of sheer convenience. But Burnet Go To is changing the narrative of exploratory boozing back to the well-constructed beer wall, bringing hard-to-reach lagers and ales by brands like Southern Heights, ABGB, and Family Business all the way to North Austin. They also are keen to show frequent footy matches (with sound!), great interior lighting, and an all-day coffee bar to boot.

6800 BURNET RD. #2, [BURNETGOTO.COM](https://www.burnetgoto.com)

### BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR THAT'S NEVER TOO CROWDED

#### The Aristocrat

Looking for a bar you can bring your mom to? A low-key first date hang? Cheap drinks without sacrificing ambience? A place you're probably not going to see anyone you know on the weekend? Rare is the bar that encompasses all of these moods and more, but the Aristocrat delivers. Off the beaten path in a huge lot on Burnet, with impeccable mood lighting, comfy booths, two usually accessible pool tables, ample outdoor seating, and a food truck parked outside, it's the perfect place for when you can't be bothered to choose. Devoid of all that makes lesser bars grating - pretension, crowds, no parking - the Aristocrat provides the ineffable vibe that one looks for, arguably, in every dive bar: coziness, fun, an escape. A neighborhood place where you can lose track of time.

6507 BURNET RD., [ARISTOCRATLOUNGEATX.COM](https://www.aristocratloungeatx.com)

### BEST BABY SISTER BAR

#### Little Drinks Lounge

It takes some moxie to open a business smack-dab in the middle of a global pandemic, but co-owners of Eastside hang zone Drinks Lounge teamed up with longtime bar maven Sabrina Brochu to do just that last year. The team's combined decades of experience and determination birthed a winning formula in what they call "Drinks' little sister," nestled under the Davis SoCo apartments. Baby sis echoes its sibling's laid-back vibe but with a twist of girl-gang energy, serving up creative cocktails, affordable brews, and tasty pizzas to a chill crowd of south siders who call it a home away from home.

3801 S. CONGRESS #116, [LITLEDRINKSLOUNGE.COM](https://www.littledrinkslounge.com)



JANA BIRCHUM

## BEST NEON LABYRINTH

### Coconut Club

Since launching in December 2019, tropical-themed Coconut Club's huge patio, tucked among high-rises in the LGBTQIA-emphasizing Warehouse District, found an instant afterhours fan base. The hub amends Austin's reputation as not-really-a-clubbing-town with pristinely picked DJs emphasizing house and electronic in the laser pit. Alongside the queens leading Coco Cxnts Drag Brunch, collaborating nightlife names like Y2K, Shared Frequencies, Peligrosa, and Joaquin helped build the mystique. Co-owners and former Cheer Up Charlies bartenders Brian Almaraz and Cole Evans expanded their neon-lit labyrinth to include on-site bar Neon Grotto, eatery Cuatro Gato, and short-lived club Forever Eternal Moments. Now facing demise for a mixed-use tower on Fourth Street, Coco wins Best Developer Baiting for putting "COOL CHEF DRIVEN RESTAURANT" in their Instagram bio.

310-B COLORADO, INSTAGRAM.COM/COCONUTCLUB.AUSTIN

## BEST TEXAS-INSPIRED VIETNAMESE SMOKEHOUSE TO SIP A COCKTAIL BY DIM LIGHT AND SEE LIVE BANDS

### Smokin Beauty

The AC staffers are paid BIG money by BIG ALT NEWS bosses to take in small jazz dive bars, drink exotic cocktails, and indulge in random BBQ spots all around town. That takes time! But every once in a while, one place will converge into a singular, sizzling nightspot that impossibly offers all three. Tucked afar in a part of North Lamar where one could never randomly expect to become intimate with brisket and char siu pork on rice, Viet-Tex martinis, and a stand-up double bass as other similarly smitten patrons lightheartedly sway to bebop, Smokin Beauty hits all the perfect notes to a supernova evening.

11806 N. LAMAR, SMOKINBEAUTYATX.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## BEST NO-BS DANCE ZONE

### Outer Heaven Disco Club

In a city as obsessed with becoming bigger and better as Austin is, Outer Heaven Disco Club does the opposite. The club prides itself on its no-bullshit attitude, proving night after night that all it takes is good music, colorful lights, and a big ol' disco ball to get a crowd going. Head on down any Friday or Saturday night for dance-induced bliss (or Thursday for karaoke), and be sure to check out @outerheavendisclub on Instagram, the club owner's personal tell-all about the trials and tribulations of holding the keys to heaven.

1808 E. 12TH, OUTERHEAVENDISCOCLUBATX.COM

## BEST NATURAL WINE HANGOUT

### LoLo

In February 2020, Austin earned its first-ever natural wine bar and bottle shop. Tucked in the previous Gypsy Lounge building nestled next to Hotel Vegas, the Eastside hangout has provided ideal informal cool since its popular opening. Pick between a huge outdoor patio and a cozy indoor space, warmed by light wood and glowy globes. Alongside natural and sustainably focused pours, the menu includes beers, spritzes, and social snacks like a crusty baguette or tinned fish. Find food pop-ups and frequent DJs, including Kyle Dixon of Survive, spinning in the takeaway bottle corner. A parking lot and occasional celebrity sightings don't hurt either.

1504 E. SIXTH, LOLO.WINE

## BEST PANDEMIC PROJECT

### Vacancy Brewing

While everyone was hunkered down in their pandemic bubbles, Vacancy was busy building themselves a nifty little warehouse brewery in the truest sense: a sectional garage door as the main entrance, a dozen tight little recipes on the big board (including a first-class mainstay Pilsner called June and a spectacular rotational dark lager in Puddle Splasher schwarzbier), and indoor picnic benches to workshop grand post-pandemic ideas with your drinking pals. This small but cleverly embellished, open-late, St. Elmo-area brewery is reminiscent of something straight out of Seattle's Ballard District, like Stoup or Reuben's Brews, bringing a fresh perspective to Austin's replicating taproom scene.

415 E. ST. ELMO STE. 1-D2, VACANCYBREWING.COM

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# Readers Poll

## POLITICS & MEDIA



JANA BIRCHUM

### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

#### Austin Animal Center

FINALISTS: Central Texas Food Bank, It's My Park Day, Meals on Wheels, Mobile Loaves & Fishes

"Great way to support the City's shelter while getting a lot of love from a bunch of fur babies." - BELINDA HARE

7201 LEVANDER LOOP, AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/AUSTIN-ANIMAL-CENTER

### RADIO HOST

#### Laurie Gallardo (KUTX)

FINALISTS: Suzanna Choffel (Sun Radio), Jody Denberg (KUTX), Dale Dudley (formerly KLBJ), Rick McNulty (KUTX)

"Ain't no party like a LaurieGee party!"

- JEREMY LOPEZ

KUTX.ORG/HOSTS-STAFF/LAURIE-GALLARDO

### PODCAST

#### Double Toasted

FINALISTS: Horror Queers, Murder in America, The Night Owl, Over the Lege

"I love this podcast so much. It's the kind of podcast that can turn your day around in an instant."

- THOMAS MADDEN

DOUBLETOASTED.COM

### TV NEWS STATION

#### KXAN

FINALISTS: CBS Austin, FOX 7, KVUE, Spectrum News, Univision 62

"I can rely on their integrity to get to the truth and investigate why."

- JOAQUIN VILLANUEVA

908 W. MLK, KXAN.COM

### TV ANCHOR/REPORTER

#### Quita Culpepper (KVUE)

FINALISTS: Robert Hadlock (KXAN), Sally Hernandez (KXAN), Bryan Mays (KVUE), Britt Moreno (KXAN), Trevor Scott (CBS Austin)

"She is so professional and personal at the same time." - WENDY PREKAS

TWITTER.COM/QUITAC\_KVUE

### SPORTSCASTER

#### Roger Wallace (KXAN)

FINALISTS: Bob Ballou (CBS Austin), Dennis de la Peña (FOX 7), Jeff Jones (KVUE)

"He's like a favorite uncle."

- SUZANNE PITTMAN

TWITTER.COM/RWALLACEKXAN

### WEATHERPERSON

#### David Yeomans (KXAN)

FINALISTS: James Greenhaw ("Pflugerville Weatherguy"), Erika Lopez (KVUE), Allison Miller (CBS Austin), Chikage Windler (CBS Austin)

"Thorough, honest, and intelligent reporting. His social media game is fire too." - BERNADETTE DELA CRUZ

INSTAGRAM.COM/DAVIDYEOMANSWEATHER

### JOURNALIST

#### Tony Plohetski (Austin American-Statesman, KVUE)

FINALISTS: Gus Bova (Texas Observer), Kevin Curtin (Austin Chronicle), Ashley Lopez (KUT News), Audrey McGlinchy (KUT News), Austin Sanders (Austin Chronicle)

"It's never a good day when Tony Goddamn Plohetski calls you at work." - JASON STANFORD

TWITTER.COM/TPLOHETSKI

### FILM CRITIC

#### Korey Coleman (Double Toasted)

FINALISTS: Jenny Nulf (Austin Chronicle), Robert Sims (Lights Camera Austin), Martin Thomas (Double Toasted), Eric Webb (Austin American-Statesman), Richard Whittaker (Austin Chronicle)

"Besides being the hardest working man in show business, he's been reviewing movies nonstop for the last 25+ years! It's a recognition that's long overdue."

- JARRELL STOWE

TWITTER.COM/KCOOLMAN

### ONLINE MEDIA OUTLET

#### Texas Tribune

FINALISTS: Austin.com, The Austin Common, The Austin Monitor, Austonia

"Sometimes the Texas Tribune scoops a story at the Legislature before staff even knows. Hard to give a better compliment than that." - ANDRE TREIBER

919 CONGRESS, SIXTH FLOOR, TEXASTRIBUNE.ORG

### RADIO STATION

#### KUT 90.5FM

FINALISTS: KMFA 89.5, KOOP 91.7, KUTX 98.9, Sun Radio

"The only station I listen to."

- DAN JOCHNOWITZ

300 W. DEAN KEETON, KUT.ORG

### RADIO PROGRAM

#### Texas Standard (KUT)

FINALISTS: Blue Monday With Mike Buck (Sun Radio), The Breaks (KUTX), Horizontes (KUTX), Old School Dance Party (KUTX)

"I love the way it addresses Texas politics in an approachable and relatable way." - AMANDA PERES

KUT 90.5FM, 300 W. DEAN KEETON, KUT.ORG

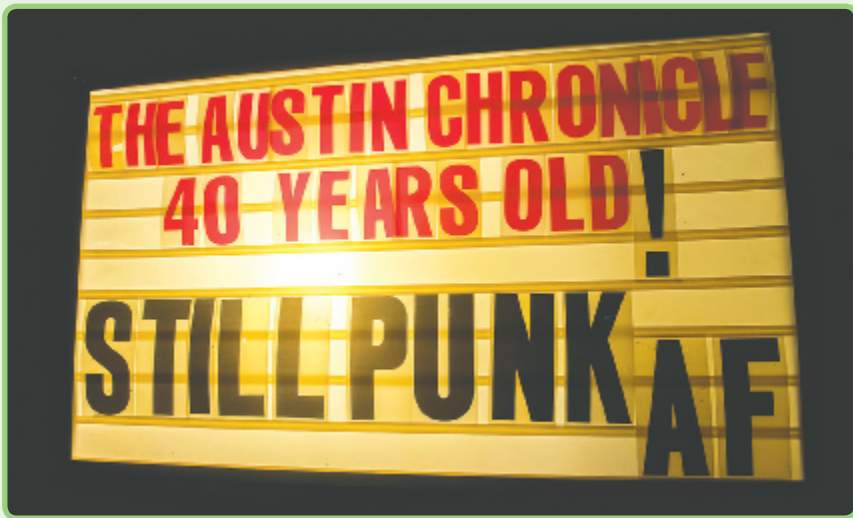
### SPANISH-LANGUAGE RADIO STATION

#### La Raza 95.1FM

FINALISTS: 107.1 La Z, Amor 107.7, KOKE Tejano AM 1600, Qué Buena 104.3

"Gracias por la buena música y por ser de La Raza." - JOSE RAMIREZ

LARAZALARAZA.COM/AUSTIN



JOHN ANDERSON

**PRINT PUBLICATION**

**The Austin Chronicle**

FINALISTS: *The Austin American-Statesman, Austin Monthly, Community Impact, Peach Fuzz*

"The people's press!!!" – JOHN L. HANSON JR.

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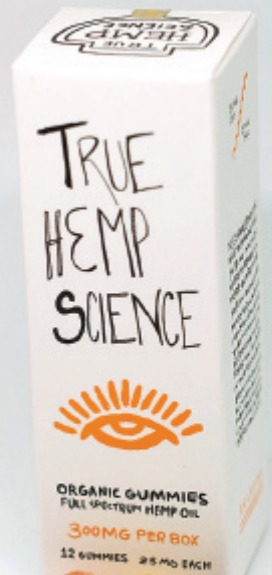


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JANA BIRCHUM

## LOCAL CONTROVERSY

### Homelessness crisis

FINALISTS: February's boll water notice, I-35 expansion plans, rising housing costs, Save Austin Now's Prop A flops

"A seemingly hopeless dilemma unsolvable by our elected knot heads." - **ROBERT LARSEN**

"Housing is a human right." - **DESMOND DRUMMER**

"I am a native Austinite who is tired of feeling unsafe in my community due to the failed homeless policies our City Council members have pushed." - **ERIKA BLANKENSHIP**

"Shocking the lack of empathy I see." - **LAURA GRIMES**

"It killed the city, it made it gross, it was national news and the horrible leadership in Austin caused the whole thing." - **JENNIFER WHITE**

"More help needs to be given to homeless population, not punishment." - **TAYLOR E STEWART**

"Need to help these people. Could be any one of us some day." - **KATHY HAUGE**

"Get rid of the bums!" - **ERIK MCC**

"The city council messed this one up for everybody. They could have handled it so much better had they asked for input and created a plan." - **LETICIA MENDOZA**

"Tiny homes before McMansions! Get our people housed!!!" - **SARA RONDER**

"What the fuck is wrong with these assh\*les I live with in this City? People need to sleep and you can't spare the underpasses?" - **PAUL NORMANDIN**

"The City needs to get busy with providing more solutions." - **LAUREEN CHERNOW**

"Tell the city council how wrong headed buying rundown hotels is - it doesn't work, the West coast has proven that!" - **STEVE BURTON**

"PEOPLE ARE EVERYWHERE ON THE STREETS AND WATERWAYS" - **DIANE BREWER**

"The treatment of the homeless shames us all." - **LISA GENTRY**

## FOOD WRITER

### Nadia Chaudhury (Eater Austin)

FINALISTS: Rob Balon (Dining Out With Rob Balon), Addie Broyles (The Feminist Kitchen), Melanie Haupt (Austin Chronicle), Matthew Odam (Austin American-Statesman)

"Constantly producing great content, and showcasing small, minority-owned businesses." - **ANDRÉS GARZA**

TWITTER.COM/NADIACHAUDHURY

## PHOTOGRAPHER

### Casey Chapman Ross

FINALISTS: Jana Birchum, David Brendan Hall, Roger Ho, Jay Janner, Annie Ray

"Casey does it all and captures some of the coolest moments in our city. From porch shoots with families to political rallies, Casey captures what keeps Austin weird!" - **JUSTIN PEREZ**

CASEYCHAPMANROSSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

## ONLINE PERSONALITY

### Colin Browen (The Paranormal Files)

FINALISTS: Clarissa Cardenas (ATX Concert Queen), Jane Ko (A Taste of Koko), Rachel Emma (Rachel Lately), Scandalous (@ScandalousOfficial)

"Best show on YouTube with crazy historical locations and real paranormal evidence unlike all the other fake ghost shows."

- **WILLIAM SAVAGE**

YOUTUBE.COM/C/THEPARANORMALFILESOFFICIALCHANNEL

## ELECTED OFFICIAL: CITY

### Greg Casar

FINALISTS: Steve Adler, Paige Ellis, Vanessa Fuentes, Natasha Harper-Madison

"Started out behind a bullhorn demanding rights for Austin's workers 10 years ago. Greg is the real deal." - **JACK MCGAVICK**

TWITTER.COM/GREGCASAR

## ELECTED OFFICIAL: STATE

### Lloyd Doggett

FINALISTS: Gina Hinojosa, Donna Howard, Celia Israel, James Talarico

"Lloyd is a class act." - **SUZANNE MCCURLEY**

DOGGETT.HOUSE.GOV

## NONPROFIT/GRASSROOTS ORG

### Austin Pets Alive!

FINALISTS: Austin Justice Coalition, HAAM (Health Alliance for Austin Musicians), I Live Here I Give Here, Mothers Against Greg Abbott, SIMS Foundation

"Makes this community the safest place for pets in the nation!" - **HANNAH HORSTMAN**

1156 W. CESAR CHAVEZ, AUSTINPETSALIVE.ORG

## ACTIVIST

### Nancy Thompson (Mothers Against Greg Abbott)

FINALISTS: Ashley Cheng (Asian Texans for Justice), Diana Gómez (Progress Texas), Chris Harris (Austin Justice Coalition), Chas Moore (Austin Justice Coalition)

"It just takes one voice to start a movement." - **NEVA PURNELL**

MOTHERSAGAINSTGREGABBOTT.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

**POLITICS AND MEDIA WILD CARD**

**Bans Off Our Bodies**

(PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF ABORTION RIGHTS)

FINALISTS: Amplify Austin Day (annual giving event), Democrasexy (pleasure activism), MyPoint.TV (online media platform), When Where What Austin ("purveyors of now" social media)

"This protest was super inspiring. We'll need to see more of this as Roe approaches its end." – EMILY CLARK

[PLANNEDPARENTHOODACTION.ORG/RIGHTFULLY-OURS/BANS-OFF-OUR-BODIES](http://PLANNEDPARENTHOODACTION.ORG/RIGHTFULLY-OURS/BANS-OFF-OUR-BODIES)



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# Critics Picks

## POLITICS & MEDIA



Soundfinder host Andrew P Brown

DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### BEST ON-AIR ELECTRONIC HOUR

#### Soundfinder

We already admired Andrew P Brown for running inside-Juiceland vinyl shop Exploded Records and co-founding the much-loved showcase series Exploded Drawing. Turns out, the eclectic music curator also makes a great radio deejay, Wednesdays at 8pm on KUTX. His 2021-launched electronic and beat show, *Soundfinder*, supports the leading Austin station's efforts at genre expansion. On air, Brown's exploratory, educational, and highly listenable show provides an accessible entry point to the realm, connecting threads to names and musical touchstones you know. Find the solo project from your favorite festival headliner's lesser-known producer, or the latest song from the offbeat maestro you'd forgotten all about. [KUTX.ORG/SHOWS/SOUNDFINDER](https://kutx.org/shows/soundfinder)

### BEST MIDDAY MIXES

#### Deejay Slyce on KAZI 88.7FM

The hours between 1 and 4pm are often spent trying to get into a groove at work or maybe dealing with traffic on your way to a quick lunch. Luckily Austinites have Deejay Slyce at that time to keep heads nodding and butts shaking in whatever seat you might find yourself. On a typical day, the man behind the decks can go from Laid Back's "White Horse" to the Jets' "Crush on You," making stops at Chubb Rock, Röyksopp, and Connie along the way. The only problem is that Slyce might be coming a bit *too* hard for a weekday afternoon. Hopefully your chair will survive the moves.

8906 WALL ST. #203, KAZIFM.ORG

### BEST TEXAS TRUE-CRIME STORIES

#### The Drag Audio Production House

Located within UT's Moody College of Communication, this podcast studio is a startup of startups. Robert Quigley, associate professor of practice and an associate director at the school, started The Drag in 2019 to merge student and professional journalism and produce unique, Texas-specific content. *Darkness: The Orange Tree* became The Drag's first smashing true-crime success in 2020, with over 4,000 ratings on Apple Podcasts. This year, Katey Outka, The Drag's associate director and a UT journalism professor, worked with student Ashley Miznazi to launch the production house's second longform, true-crime exploration, *Darkness: Austin Bomber*. Count on The Drag for wonderfully chilling content.

G. B. DEALLEY CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA,  
300 W. DEAN KEETON, THEDRAGAUDIO.COM

### BEST DOG-THEMED HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY-CENTRIC AUSTIN MEME PAGE

#### Austin Industry Pups

Austin's service industry has been through a lot over the past couple of years, but clearly hasn't lost its sense of humor if @austinindustrypups is any indication. Memes of adorable puppy pics feature text that might be a bit inside-baseball for nonindustry folks at times, but some are universal, like a blurry, bleary-eyed pug that just says, "Barfly's." I know, right? They've got their paws on the city's pulse, making timely commentary on happenings in the biz and having a go at every aspect of the industry, from patron to critic to staff, and it's great fun.

INSTAGRAM.COM/AUSTININDUSTRYPUPS

### BEST GUIDE TO TOMORROW'S AUSTIN

#### Towers.net

This site is what they call "content marketing" for the Downtown-focused real estate agency that produces it. Yet writer/editor (and native Austinite) James Rambin has made it a must-visit destination for anyone trying to keep up with Austin's endless boom time. Each week features not only deep dives into the latest plans and current status of the site's namesake towers, but lots of backstory about the people, structures, and locations involved in each storyline of Austin's long-running land-use soap opera. Reading it will heighten your situational awareness and help you check your assumptions about the city you actually live in.

AUSTIN.TOWERS.NET

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502-9323

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RUNDBERG EXIT  
832-8544

**COX PLAZA**  
10938 RESEARCH  
342-9088

**GUADALUPE**  
3700 GUADALUPE  
371-1920

**MANOR RD**  
2409 MANOR RD  
474-2010

**SOUTH**  
1516 S. LAMAR  
443-2292

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3111 E. CESAR CHAVEZ  
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## BEST COMMUNITY RADIO LEGACY

### Bob Dailey

Bob has done Austin a great service for basically the entire history of KOOP Radio, dating back to the 1990s. He's anchored its public affairs coverage with *Civil Rights and Wrongs*, a weekly exploration of not just legal matters but local and state politics that, as they often do in Texas, have a direct impact on your liberty and dignity. He's also worked off-air as a producer and station leader to help other programmers (including the *Chronicle*) make the most of this unique community asset. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

[KOOP.ORG/PROGRAMS/CIVIL-RIGHTS-AND-WRONGS](http://KOOP.ORG/PROGRAMS/CIVIL-RIGHTS-AND-WRONGS)

## BEST CITY HALL ROOKIE

### Vanessa Fuentes

Vanessa Fuentes campaigned for City Council as a progressive champion of the mostly working-class constituents who live in Southeast Austin's District 2. A little over one year into her first term, she is delivering. From helping to push the city toward providing more paid parental leave for employees to securing funding for a Trauma Recovery Center to help victims of violent crime, and - though unsuccessful - standing strong alongside her constituents who opposed expansion of the jet fuel tank farm at the airport, Fuentes has supported progressive action and shown working-class solidarity at City Hall.

[AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT-2-COUNCIL-MEMBER](http://AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT-2-COUNCIL-MEMBER)



JOHN ANDERSON



Congressional candidate Greg Casar speaks in support of Starbucks workers' efforts to unionize at the chain's West Campus location

JOHN ANDERSON

## BEST POST-PANDEMIC AUSTIN TREND

### Unionizing Workforces

From Starbucks and the *Statesman* to Integral Care and the Alamo Drafthouse and the Texas Democratic Party, Austin's workers are leveraging the tight labor market to show that, as the song goes, "There Is Power in a Union." Kudos to organizers from the trade and industrial unions who've shared their time, talent, and treasure to help the millennial and Gen Z workers who've helped shift public opinion on organized labor (according to the polls) to its most positive levels since the Sixties.

## BEST CIVIC VOLUNTEERS

### Project Connect Community Advisory Committee

Sometimes, we forget that an important way to create change, and to accrue the power and influence needed to do so, is simply to show up and ask for it. This committee was envisioned as a way for the public to shape Project Connect's \$300 million anti-displacement program - not the entire \$7 billion to \$10 billion transit system. Its members have quietly and persistently pushed back against these limits and have already begun to change the trajectory of Project Connect in ways the public should celebrate.

[PROJECTCONNECT.COM/GET-INVOLVED/COMMUNITY-ADVISORY-COMMITTEE](http://PROJECTCONNECT.COM/GET-INVOLVED/COMMUNITY-ADVISORY-COMMITTEE)

## GAYEST PODCAST ABOUT STRAIGHTEST MOVIES

### Straight People Movies

Combine the casual celebrity knowledge and fun banter of *Who? Weekly* with the film insights and opinions of *The Big Picture*, plus a dash of that specific Austin queer zest, and you'll be listening to *Straight People Movies*. This podcast captures the ultimate listening experience: feeling like you've dropped in on some friends during a phone call and are hearing all their best inside jokes. Hosts Dylan Garsee and Kirk Van Sickle are those friends, as two gays watching movies for straight people, from *The Dark Knight* to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, *Predator* to *Pulp Fiction*, all while asking the ultimate question: Why?

[ANCHOR.FM/STR8PPLMOVIES](http://ANCHOR.FM/STR8PPLMOVIES)

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# Readers Poll

## SERVICES



JOHN ANDERSON

### BIKE SHOP/REPAIR

#### Yellow Bike Project

FINALISTS: Austin Tri Cyclist, Bike Farm, Clown Dog Bikes, Eastside Pedal Pushers

"Decades of service to the community and free teaching/training." – JOHN DAY

1216 WEBBERVILLE RD., AUSTINYELLOWBIKE.ORG

### MANI/PEDI

#### Cute Nail Studio

FINALISTS: Dope Culture, Great Nails, Embellish Nails & Boutique, Queen Spa

"Friendly, welcoming, & crazy talented technicians." – LAURETTA MASSICOTT

1211 E. SEVENTH, CUTENAILSTUDIO.COM

### WAX

#### Cute Nail Studio

FINALISTS: Texas Laser and Aesthetics, Sara Zamora Brows, The Waxing Studio, Vanya Esthetics & Hair Removal

"This place is so professional and inviting. I have always left happier and hotter than I walked in."

– VICTORIA SANCHEZ

1211 E. SEVENTH, CUTENAILSTUDIO.COM

### SKIN CARE

#### Viva Day Spa

FINALISTS: Ann Webb Skin Care, Nurse Karen Skincare, Vanya Esthetics & Hair Removal, Vixen Esthetics ATX

"For a facial, they set the mood and get everything right. There are standard and tailored facials. All feel amazing. Choosing the organic product line feels decadent."

– LAURA OLESEN

215 S. LAMAR; 1811 W. 35TH;  
11601 ROCK ROSE AVE.; VIVADAYSPA.COM

### LASHES

#### Lash Lounge

FINALISTS: Fresh Cosmetic Studio, Lash Genie, Lily Sparkman (Texas Laser & Aesthetics), Pink Lady Lash

"Kindest team and my lashes look great every visit." – VICTORIA CURIEL

1911 ALDRICH #140; 3300 BEE CAVES RD. #630;  
THELASHLOUNGE.COM

### TATTOO

#### Atomic Tattoo

FINALISTS: Black Mass Tattoo, No Good Tattoo, Problem Child Tattoo, Studio Ink, True Blue Tattoo

"Awesome group of tattooers and piercers. 10/10." – JOEY EDWARDS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ATOMIC-TATTOO.COM

### HOTEL

#### The Driskill Hotel

FINALISTS: Austin Motel, Carpenter Hotel, Hotel San José, The Line Austin

"It drips with history and style, but isn't pretentious." – MARIANNE LAGUNA

604 BRAZOS, DRISKILLHOTEL.COM

### BARBERSHOP

#### Birds Barbershop

FINALISTS: Austin Hair Ink, Finley's Barbershop, Reunion Barbershop, Shed Barber & Supply

"When I need a fresh cut and a fresh beer, I know where to go."

– PEDRO BERLANGA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, BIRDSBARBERSHOP.COM

### SPA

#### Milk + Honey

FINALISTS: Divine Luxury Spa Studio, Hiatus Spa + Retreat, Spa La La, Viva Day Spa

"Birthdays are the best here."

– JESSICA HENDERSON

100-A GUADALUPE; 12901 HILL  
COUNTRY BLVD. STE. D1-110; 9722 GREAT  
HILLS TRAIL #210; MILKANDHONEYSPA.COM

### MASSAGE

#### Mantis Massage

FINALISTS: Deep Relief, Mantra Massage, Myo Massage, WorkWell Austin

"Sweet relief for my muscles!" – SETH WHALAND

3823 AIRPORT, MANTISSMASSAGE.COM

### ACUPUNCTURE

#### South Austin Community Acupuncture

FINALISTS: AOMA Acupuncture Clinics, Moon Medicine Healing Arts, Neighborhood Acupuncture Project, Original Spirit Healing Arts

"SACA is an awesome place where I'm able to get affordable acupuncture. Their practitioners are helpful & caring & I always leave relieved of the pain I showed up with." – SUZANNA CHOFFEL

321 W. BEN WHITE, ACUPUNCTUREWORLDHEADQUARTERS.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

### SALON

#### Urban Betty

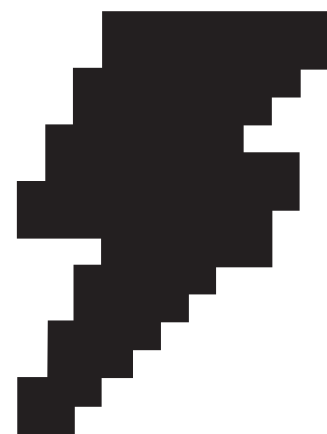
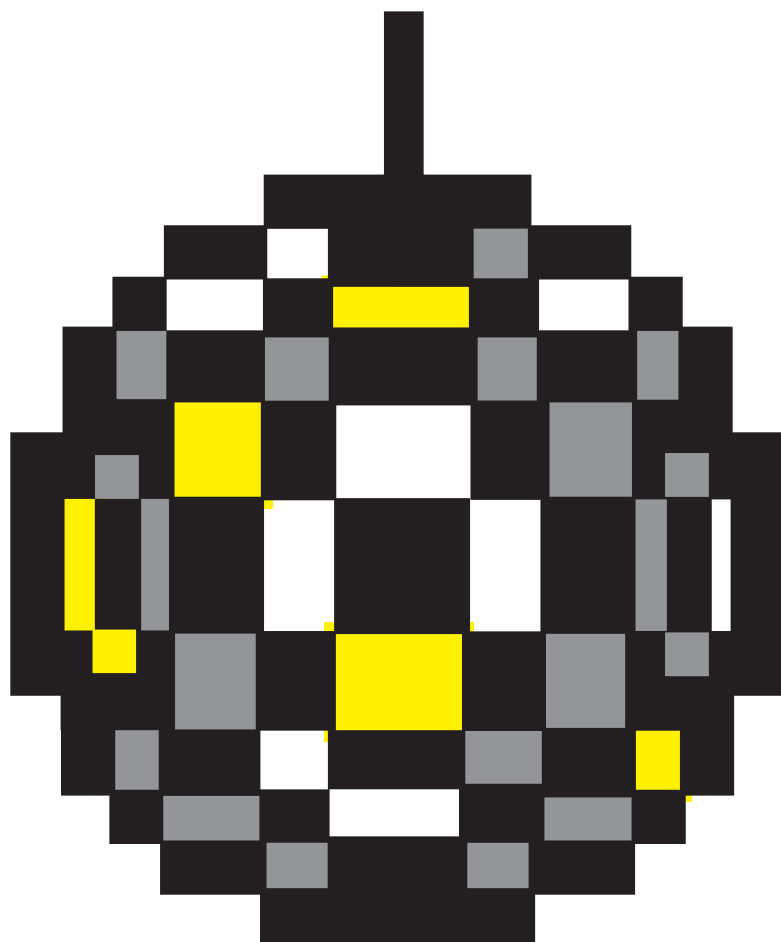
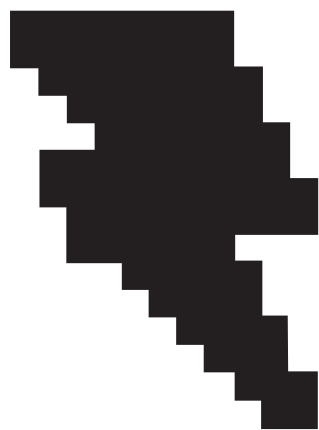
FINALISTS: 29Eleven the Salon, Chez Shiraz, Method Hair, Shag Salon

"They treat their staff and customers like a BFF who just walked in the door."

– GRETCHEN LUDWIG

1206 W. 38TH #1201, URBANBETTY.COM

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YEARS**



## PSYCHIC/TAROT

### Sister Temperance Tarot

FINALISTS: Austin Tarot Reader, Mak Jagger Tarot, Peter Hansen Psychic Angelic Channeler, Sound Sight Tarot

"Angeliska is brilliant, kind, wise, and empathic." – PÄR WINZELL

SISTERTEMPERANCE.COM

## AUTO REPAIR/SERVICE

### Juke Auto

FINALISTS: Dave's Ultimate Automotive, Flamingo Automotive, Gene Johnson Automotive, Yost Automotive

"Most honest mechanic I've ever met. I won't go anywhere else." – CARRIE WILCOX

702-B SHADY, JUKEAUTO.COM

## MUSIC INSTRUCTION

### Girl Guitar

FINALISTS: Eastside Music School, Femme Rock, Franklin Music Academy, Jam Room ATX

"Super fun students and teachers. Great way to connect with other women who want to make music."

– LARISA CHIPMAN

2309 THORNTON STUDIO C,  
GIRLGUITARAUSTIN.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

## COMPUTER REPAIR

### Discount Electronics

FINALISTS: Click Computers, Frankenstein Computers, Happy Mac, MacTronics

"Professional assistance and a great selection of parts." – ZACHARY RICKS

1011 W. ANDERSON; 9711 MENCHACA RD.; 1001 S. I-35,  
ROUND ROCK; DISCOUNTELECTRONICS.COM

## MUSIC SERVICES/EQUIPMENT

### Strait Music Co.

FINALISTS: Austin Vintage Guitars, Rock N Roll Rentals, South Austin Music, Switched On

"Quality repairs and friendly customer service." – GREG SCARBOROUGH

2428 W. BEN WHITE; 13945 HWY. 183 N.; STRAITMUSIC.COM

## HOME MAINTENANCE/SERVICES

### ABC Home & Commercial Services

FINALISTS: Hestia Construction & Design, MS Paint, Queen of To Do

"Great service and professionalism."

– IAN EKSNER

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ABCHOMEANDCOMMERCIAL.COM

## LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPING

### Real Green Pest and Lawn

FINALISTS: Cutters Landscaping, KB Contractors TX, Native Edge Landscape, Seedlings Gardening

"My yard looks perfect. No more patches or bald spots, lush green, and I didn't have to do a thing!"

– THOM VAUGHN

15527 RR 620 N., REALGREENLAWNS.COM

## FENCING

### Viking Fence

FINALISTS: Absolute Fence & Gate, Austin Brothers Fence Company, K2 Fence & Stain, KB Contractors TX

"They did our small job when nobody else would." – SUSAN COTAR

9602 GRAY BLVD.; 11701 VON QUINTUS RD.;  
VIKINGFENCE.COM

## ROOFING

### KangaRoof

FINALISTS: Ace Roofing Co., Acura Roofing Inc., Birdcreek Roofing, Wilson Roofing

"Excellent service and quality roofing work." – BRENDA RENFREW

1317 SAM BASS RD., ROUND ROCK, CALLKANGAROOOF.COM

## A/C REPAIR/INSTALLATION

### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

FINALISTS: ABC Home & Commercial Services, Bryant AC & Electric, McCullough Heating & Air Conditioning, Service Wizard, Stan's Heating, Air & Plumbing, Air & Plumbing

"Radiant replaced our A/C unit and were very professional, courteous, and thorough." – CATHY ALVARADO

901 REINLI, RADIANTPLUMBING.COM

## PLUMBER

### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

FINALISTS: Clarke Kent Plumbing, ET Plumbing, Wilson Plumbing

"They put in a nice water heater for me. Super nice people and great job."

– JOCELYN MELLBERG

901 REINLI, RADIANTPLUMBING.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## SERVICES WILD CARD

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FINALISTS: Katie McKenzie at Shag Salon (hair colorist), Longhorn Imaging (diagnostic imaging center), Lucky Dog Tarot (fortune telling for people & pets), Meditation Bar sound bath (meditative experience)

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### PET GROOMING

#### Dirty Dog

FINALISTS: Austin Dogtown, Barkin' Creek Dog Kitchen & Bath, Clean Critters, Mud Puppies

"The groomers at Dirty Dog are the best! My dogs always come out looking fantastic. Love them!" – ILENE HADDAD

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, DIRTY-DOG.COM

### ELECTRICIAN

#### Salt Air & Electric

FINALISTS: A-One Electric, Bryant AC & Electric, Magnify Electric, Texas Electrical Services

"Great service, experienced and well trained technicians, and fair pricing."

– DAVID BOREN

1715-A ROWE LN., PFLUGERVILLE, CALLSALT.COM

### LOCKSMITH

#### Cothron's

FINALISTS: Austin Lock Technologies, Austin's Lock & Key, Chastity Lock & Key, Sharp Brothers Locksmith

"They've been here opening doors forever." – GINNY AGNEW

8225 BURNET RD.; 2119 N. MAYS, ROUND ROCK;  
1315 W. BEN WHITE, COTHRONS.COM

### RESTAURANT/BEVERAGE DELIVERY

#### Tso Chinese Delivery

FINALISTS: Chi'Lantro BBQ, Favor, MezzaMe, Runner City

"Always clutch." – CHRISTINA LEWIS

3909 N. I-35, TSO DELIVERY.COM

### CLEANING SERVICE

#### The Purple Fig Eco Cleaning & Disinfecting Co.

FINALISTS: Eco-Mama Holistic Housecleaning, MoreHands Maids, Texas Green Clean, Trustworthy Cleaning Service

"OMG! Love! Great service! They really take care of my home." – STACEY SASS

5555 N. LAMAR STE. 109-J, CLEANFIG.COM

### LAUNDROMAT

#### SpinZone Laundry

FINALISTS: Michael A Laundromat, SpinCycle Coin Laundry, Washatopia, Woodrow Washateria

"The self serve, wash and fold, and delivery are reliable + reasonably priced." – ANNIE BLACK

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SPINZONELAUNDRY.COM

### DRY CLEANER

#### Rick's Cleaners

FINALISTS: EcoClean, Jack Brown Cleaners, Reid's Dry Cleaners & Laundry, Zips Dry Cleaners

"Great value and quick turnaround."

– RAFAEL SANDREA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, RICKSCLEANERS.COM

### TAILOR/ALTERATION

#### Ace Custom Tailors

FINALISTS: AA Alterations, Gassane Tailors, J&B Alterations, Jam Designs Alterations

"They can do everything, from making repairs to making a suit." – RONALD WATKINS

724-A N. LAMAR; 11909 DOMAIN DR. #154; 2707 WALSH TARTLTON;  
ACETAILEORS.COM

### MOVERS

#### Einstein Moving Company

FINALISTS: ATX Firefighter Moving, MASH Movers, Square Cow Movers, Unicorn Moving & Storage

"Best pricing, best attitude." – PETER SCHMOOKLER

9200-A BROWN; 3904-B WAREHOUSE ROW; EINSTEINMOVING.COM

### REAL ESTATE AGENT

#### Lisa Muñoz

FINALISTS: Marisel Ballard, Lee Idom, Lilly Rockwell

"Lisa Munoz is top-notch. She loves what she does, she's a bada\$\$, and she treats everyone involved, including lenders and title insurance folks, with respect, gratitude, and humility. She's integrity incarnate." – SARAH ROONEY

LISAMUNOZAUSTIN.COM

### APARTMENT LOCATOR

#### Smart City Apartment Locating

FINALISTS: A+ Apartment Locators, Apartment Experts, Apartments Now, Apartment Specialists

"Had such an incredible experience with Smart City, they found me the perfect apartment and you don't have to pay for their service." – HALEY AIKEN

506 E. ST. ELMO STE. A-1, SMARTCITYLOCATING.COM/AUSTIN-APARTMENTS

### LAWYER

#### Cofer & Connelly

FINALISTS: Batrice Law Firm, Clayton & Ramirez Law, FVF Law, McKinney Vos

"They are incredibly ethical, compassionate, and caring. And they know what they're doing! All you want in a law firm."

– KIM HOKANSON

602 W. 11TH, COFERCONNELLY.COM

### VETERINARIAN

#### Emancipet

FINALISTS: AM/PM Animal Hospital, Paz Veterinary, Spicewood Springs Animal Hospital, Star of Texas Veterinary Hospital

"I run a small dog rescue and we couldn't do it without these guys. They are affordable and provide excellent service. What a great community resource Emancipet is!"

– TRINA PURCELL

1030 NORWOOD PARK BLVD. #316;  
15803 WINDERMERE DR. #420, PFLUGERVILLE;  
7201 LEVANDER LOOP, BLDGS. 1 & K;  
EMANCIPET.ORG

### WEDDING VENUE

#### Camp Lucy

FINALISTS: Chapel Dulcinea, House on the Hill, Sekrit Theater, Villa Antonia

"Simply beautiful."

– NORA HUNTER

3509 CREEK RD., DRIPPING SPRINGS,  
CAMPLUCY.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

### DOGGIE DAY CARE

#### Taurus Academy

FINALISTS: Austin Dogtown, Dirty Dog Grooming and Self-Serve Dog Wash, Walk! ATX Pet Care, Work & Woof

"My dog loves going to Taurus! They know him and love him and I feel completely comfortable leaving him there for a day or for boarding."

– CINDY JOHNSON

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TAURUSACADEMY.COM



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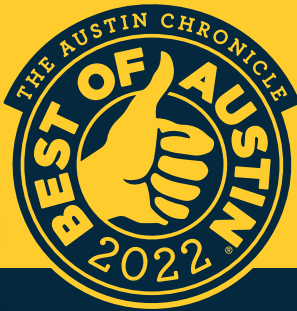
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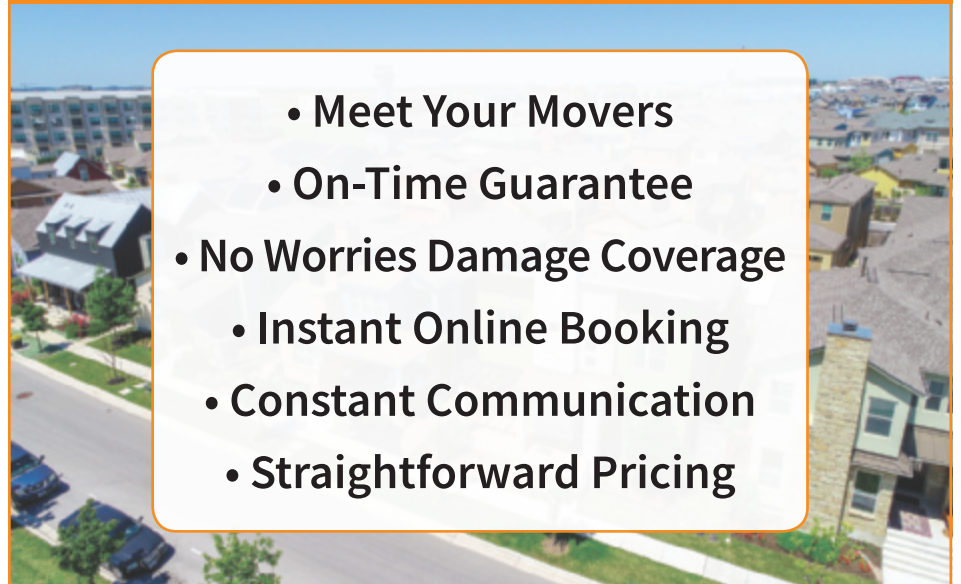
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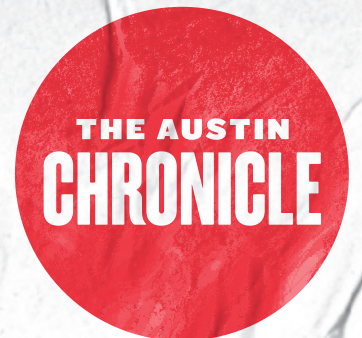


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# Critics Picks

## SERVICES



The Other Ones Foundation founder Chris Baker

JOHN ANDERSON

### BEST HUMANITARIANS FOR THE HOUSELESS

#### The Other Ones Foundation

The Other Ones Foundation offers easily accessible work opportunities, humanitarian aid, and individualized case management services for people experiencing homelessness in Austin. The nonprofit, founded five years ago by Chris Baker (who had much inspiration and little experience), also manages the state-sanctioned refuge known as Camp Esperanza near U.S. 183 and SH 71, which has transformed from a shanty row to a community where many of the residents stay in comfy fabricated structures and all eat well. TOOF's best qualities? Listening and adapting. Esperanza residents serve on a leadership committee that meets frequently with TOOF staff to help them better understand how best to serve their needs.

TOOFFOUND.ORG

### BEST PLACE TO DONATE A CUP O' NOODLES FOR YOUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

#### The Mini Pantry Near You

There are 15 neighborhood pantries in the Austin area, and those are just the ones mapped on [littlefreepantry.org](http://littlefreepantry.org)! These DIY boxes, including the homegrown Petite Pantry network, are like Little Free Libraries, but for food, and are just about the easiest way to offer direct assistance to your neighbors in need. Drop off ready-to-eat nonperishable foods (and hygiene products, too) without all the hassle of organizing a donation drive for the Central Texas Food Bank (which would prefer monetary donations anyway). This way, you can unload those granola bars you got at Costco and that your kids rejected on sight and know that hungry folks around town will have easy access to snacks and easy-to-eat foods.

LITTLEFREEPANTRY.ORG, PETITEPANTRY.ORG

### BEST UNSUNG HOMELESSNESS HEROES

#### Sunrise Community Church

The self-described "weirdest little church in Texas," South Austin's Sunrise Church (part of the Christian Reformed Church in North America) also calls itself "a movement of God's people that refuse to ignore suffering or be motivated by fear." For almost a decade now, that word has been made flesh at the Sunrise Navigation Center, which helps neighbors without homes access the services they need to be able to find and keep stable housing. It hasn't always been popular work, and at times it's been lonely, but Sunrise has delivered consistently even when much bigger public and nonprofit agencies have struggled.

4430 MENCHACA RD., SUNRISEAUSTIN.ORG

### BEST SOURCE FOR DAILY POLLEN COUNTS

#### [austinpollen.com](http://austinpollen.com)

Sometimes we know exactly what's causing our eyes and noses to seep and drip the moment we walk out the door. Other times we know something's afoot in the air, but the data is too broad to parse. Enter [austinpollen.com](http://austinpollen.com), the brainchild of an anonymous developer who provides nuanced data points aggregating pollen counts, mold, and more, refreshed frequently throughout the day, to help allergy sufferers pinpoint precisely what's making them feel like the walking dead. Thank you, Mx. AustinPollen, for allowing us to know precisely which cursed allergen to blame on any given day.

AUSTINPOLLEN.COM

### BEST WAY TO FRESHEN UP YOUR FACE

#### Kilay Method

In the summer of 2020, Leslie Sazon embraced the pandemic chaos, left her fancy medical spa career, and changed course to open her very own one-woman microblading show. "Kilay" is Tagalog for "eyebrow"! With over 10 years in the biz, her unparalleled eyebrow skills are showcased front and center on a growing sector of Austinites. Whether it's plumping up Nineties pencil brows, creating "window treatment" for post-chemo peepers, or fixing old-school tattoo gun situations, Sazon's freshening up faces and boosting self-esteem with elegant permanent makeup. Even better, she's one helluva cool human.

4101 MEDICAL PKWY. #105, KILAYMETHOD.NET



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512-983-9989**

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**1001 S. IH35 Round Rock  
512-637-7051**

**BEST TOTAL-PACKAGE CARE FOR EXOTIC FUR (AND FURLESS) BABIES**

**North Austin Animal Hospital**

We all love cats and dogs, but when it comes to health care for the wide world of non-feline/-canine pets, finding a vet can be truly exhausting. Few are willing to see a hedgehog, iguana, or tarantula, and many only see an “exotic” pet two or three times a year. Luckily for Austinites, there’s North Austin Animal Hospital. With specialty vets for a variety of breeds, including most domestic reptiles, birds, and rodents, NAAH is a one-stop shop for animal health care, from birth through end-of-life. Their doting staff will leave you with full confidence that your dear ones are receiving top-notch care, and their full-service facility delivers everything from diagnostics to surgery to boarding/day care. [5608 BURNET RD., NORTHAUSTINANIMALHOSPITAL.COM](http://5608.BURNET.RD.,NORTHAUSTINANIMALHOSPITAL.COM)



IMAGE VIA NORTHAUSTINANIMALHOSPITAL.COM

**BEST SUPPORT FOR CREATIVES OF COLOR**

**DAWA**

As evidenced by their packed-out U\*N\*I\*T\*Y showcase outdoors at Stubb’s during South by Southwest, DAWA has made quite the community impact since its launch in 2020. Short for Diversity Awareness & Wellness in Action, DAWA – meaning “medicine” in Swahili – provides financial support to people of color who work as musicians, artists, social workers, teachers, healing practitioners, or in the service industry locally. Launched by Jonathan “Chaka” Mahone of Riders Against the Storm, the fund swiftly directed assistance throughout the pandemic and continues to support the healers of Austin to do what they do best.

[DAWAHEALS.ORG](http://DAWAHEALS.ORG)

**BEST CHAMPION OF BLACK MUSICMAKERS**

**Black Austin Musicians’ Collective**

Conversations regarding racism in the Austin music industry – from discriminatory booking to city arts-funding structures – culminated in the late-2020 launch of the Black Austin Musicians’ Collective. Focused on preserving the local community of Black creatives, the organization narrows in on policy and reform, artist sustainability, and community outreach. Since then, members like Mobley, Magna Carda, Torre Blake, and Eimaral Sol have passionately advocated for equitable funding at Austin Music Commission meetings. On the festive side, the collective threw their first-ever showcase during SXSW, featuring Jackie Venson, Geto Gala, Alesia Lani, Urban Heat, and Jonny Jukebox. Definitely follow their locally sourced playlists on Spotify: [@blkatxmusicians](https://twitter.com/blkatxmusicians).

[TWITTER.COM/BLKATXMUSICIANS](https://TWITTER.COM/BLKATXMUSICIANS)

**BEST PANDEMIC SAFE HAVEN**

**The SAFE Alliance**

There was a hidden pandemic within the pandemic. Domestic and intimate partner abuse reports skyrocketed, while health care professionals saw an unprecedented spike in injuries consistent with such assaults – and the SAFE Alliance knew that it couldn’t just lock its doors and stop providing those essential, often life-saving services. It pivoted to online when it could, but made sure that those vital havens like its housing programs and the Eloise House sexual assault clinic kept their doors open for abuse survivors, but closed to COVID.

[SAFEAUSTIN.ORG](http://SAFEAUSTIN.ORG)

**BEST WAY TO CHAT WITH THE ANCESTORS**

**Don’t Fear the Death Card**

When Addie Broyles left her longtime career as a *Statesman* food writer in 2021, she embarked on a journey of healing for self and community. One of several new ventures (don’t miss her “The Feminist Kitchen” Substack!), Broyles pulls tarot cards to help clients explore their grief, learn healing tactics, and build relationships. Whether it’s a one-on-one session, hiking group, or a tarot party, Don’t Fear the Death Card is a lovely conversation starter for anyone who wants to learn to interpret the ancient art of tarot and discover ancestral wisdom.

[INSTAGRAM.COM/DONTFEARTHEDEATHCARD](https://INSTAGRAM.COM/DONTFEARTHEDEATHCARD)

**BEST WAY TO KEEP THINGS MOVING RIGHT ALONG**

**Austin Sliding Door & Window Repair**

We don’t spent a lot of time thinking about our sliding doors. That is, until something goes wrong, and then we waste hours on the internet or wandering around hardware aisles trying to chase down some essential, very specifically sized, and – turns out! – super-rare busted thingamabob. What we should have done was gone straight to Austin Sliding Door & Window Repair. We like their straightforward, no-nonsense name, and we *really* like how it perfectly reflects the prompt and professional service we got. And now we can go right back to taking our sliding door for granted, reassured that the next time something goes wrong, we’ve got ASDWR on speed dial for all our thingamabob needs.

[6705 HWY. 290 W. #502-278, AUSTINSLIDINGDOORREPAIR.COM](http://6705.HWY.290.W.#502-278,AUSTINSLIDINGDOORREPAIR.COM)

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# Readers Poll

## SHOPPING



JANA BIRCHUM

### GARDEN STORE/NURSERY

#### The Natural Gardener

FINALISTS: Garden Seventeen, The Great Outdoors, Shoal Creek Nursery, Tillery Street Plant Co.

"The easiest errand to talk a little kid into: mom needs plants, let's look at the goats!" - JENNIFER GRAHAM

8648 OLD BEE CAVES RD., TNGAUSTIN.COM

### USED FURNITURE/ANTIQUES

#### Uncommon Objects

FINALISTS: Far Out Home Fittings, Revival Vintage, Room Service Vintage, Uptown Modern

"This is the King of Antiques and anything weird from pretty much any era."

- EMI BELL

1602 FORTVIEW, UNCOMMONOBJECTS.COM

### FLORIST

#### Freytag's Florist

FINALISTS: Ben White Florist, Burlap & Twine, The Spotted Poppy, Succulent Native

"Friendly service, excellent selection, beautiful arrangements, reasonable price." - DONNA BONE

2211 W. ANDERSON, FREYTAGSFLOLIST.COM

### NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

#### Wheatsville Food Co-op

FINALISTS: Fresh Plus, Royal Blue Grocery, Thom's Market, Tiny Grocer

"Local, great staff, excellent organics, community oriented."

- KERRY KITRELL

3101 GUADALUPE; 4001 S. LAMAR; WHEATSVILLE.COOP

### MEN'S CLOTHING

#### Stag

FINALISTS: Capra & Cavelli, Joints x Rahm, Que Rico T-Shirt Co., Uptown Cheap skate

"Stag is classic." - HENRY JACKSON

1423 S. CONGRESS, STAGPROVISIONS.COM

### BRIDAL SHOP

#### Unbridaled

FINALISTS: Alexia Gavela Bridal, Blue Bridal Boutique, Blush Bridal Lounge

701 S. LAMAR STE. D, UNBRIDALED.COM

### JEWELRY

#### Kendra Scott

FINALISTS: Amanda Deer Jewelry, Courtney Marie Jewelry, Las Ofrendas, Nina Berenato Jewelry

"Cutest stuff and cutest store."

- EMMY PENDERS

1701 S. CONGRESS, KENDRASCOTT.COM

### WOMEN'S CLOTHING

#### Uptown Cheap skate

FINALISTS: Blue Elephant, ByGeorge, Dylan Wylde, Sue Patrick

"Great finds are to be had here!"

- KRISTIN JOHNSON

3005 S. LAMAR STE. 110-A, UPTOWNCHEAPSKATEAUSTIN.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### FARMERS' MARKET/FARMSTAND

#### Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller

FINALISTS: Barton Creek Farmers Market, Boggy Creek Farm, SFC Farmers' Market Downtown, Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline

"Thai kits, empanadas, babka, cute babies, overstimulating amount of dogs, and excellent new public restrooms!" - ARIELLE KURKIN

2006 PHILOMENA, TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG/MUELLER

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ZEKE BARBARO

### VINTAGE/CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING

#### Room Service Vintage

FINALISTS: Blue Velvet, Charm School Vintage, Pavement, Uptown Cheap skate

"Everyone that works here is so nice and helpful." – BRANDI POLANCO

### FURNITURE/ACCESSORIES

#### Room Service Vintage

FINALISTS: Austin's Furniture Depot, Four Hands Home Outlet, Revival Vintage, Uptown Modern

"An Austin classic." – RICHARD MONSEES

117 E. NORTH LOOP, ROOMSERVICEVINTAGE.COM

### LOCAL NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRAND

#### Waterloo Sparkling Water

FINALISTS: Buddha's Brew Kombucha, Clean Cause Sparkling Yerba Mate, Kinship Milk Tea, Rambler Sparkling Water

"Obsessed with this water."

– MONIQUE BARAJAS

DRINKWATERLOO.COM

### LOCAL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRAND

#### Tito's Handmade Vodka

FINALISTS: Austin Beerworks, Austin Eastciders, Still Austin Whiskey Co., WildGins Co.

"Excellent vodka and a generous contributor to the community and local nonprofits." – KRISTIN JOHNSON

215 LAVACA, TITOSVODKA.COM

### LOCAL FOOD BRAND

#### Yellowbird

FINALISTS: austiNuts, Epic Provisions, Siete, Sticky Toffee Pudding Co., Wunderkeks

"I literally can't go a day without using their ghost pepper hot sauce. My partner and I now buy it by the gallon." – EE JARVIE

YELLOWBIRDFOODS.COM

### LIQUOR STORE

#### Spec's

FINALISTS: The Austin Shaker, South Lamar Wine & Spirits, Travis Heights Wine & Spirits, Twin Liquors

"Always the most selection and staff is phenomenal." – MARIA KEMPF

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SPECSONLINE.COM

### ADULT STORE

#### Forbidden Fruit

FINALISTS: Dreamers, Package Menswear, Sir Rat Leather & Gear, XXXcite

"The greatest little shop for horny people in Austin." – JAY WORKMAN

108 E. NORTH LOOP, FORBIDDENFRUIT.COM

### SMOKE SHOP

#### Planet K

FINALISTS: Cosmic Cowboy, Happy Clouds, MaryJae, Oat Willie's

"dank af." – KAI ARNETT

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PLANETKTEXAS.COM

### BOOKSTORE

#### BookPeople

FINALISTS: Black Pearl Books, BookWoman, Malvern Books, South Congress Books

"Real recommendations by real readers. Use the handwritten shelf notes, or try asking someone! Never fails." – RAELE OHANA

603 N. LAMAR, BOOKPEOPLE.COM

### PET STORE

#### Tomlinson's Feed & Pets

FINALISTS: Barkin' Creek Dog Kitchen & Bath, Healthy Pet, Paws on Chicon, Rivers & Reefs Pet Center

"The excellent employees, especially the delivery drivers. Those guys rock!"

– BARBARITA REITER

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TOMLINSONS.COM

### ELECTRONICS STORE

#### Precision Camera & Video

FINALISTS: A&B TV, Bond's Television & Electronics, Discount Electronics, Whetstone Audio

"I spend almost as much time at Precision as I do my own house. At this point, they are my family." – DARRIAS THOMAS

2438 W. ANDERSON STE. B-4; 9600 S. I-35; PRECISION-CAMERA.COM

### SPORTING GOODS

#### Whole Earth Provision Co.

FINALISTS: Duck Camp, Kammok, Medusa Skates, No-Comply Skateshop

"Old school, baby!" – LORI GLIDDEN

4477 S. LAMAR; 1014 N. LAMAR; WHOLEEARTHPROVISION.COM

### COMICS/FANDOM

#### Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy

FINALISTS: Austin Books & Comics, Bat City Comic Professionals, Rogues Gallery Comics + Games, Tribe Comics & Games

"If I'm not there once a week, check my blood pressure." – CAROLE LAKE

2438 W. ANDERSON STE. B-1, DLAIR.NET

### GAME/GAMING

#### Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy

FINALISTS: Emerald Tavern Games & Cafe, Game Over Videogames, Tanuki Games, Tribe Comics & Games

"The store cat is pure happiness."

– MORIAH TAYLOR

2438 W. ANDERSON STE. B-1, DLAIR.NET



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### CBD PURVEYOR

#### Restart CBD

FINALISTS: Happy Karma Hemp, Radix House Coffee Shop, True Hemp Science, Turquoise Mountains

"Super friendly staff. Always had a smile that you could see even through their masks. And they really know their stuff." – BEN WOLFE

2521 RUTLAND STE. 150-A, RESTARTCBD.COM

### ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE

#### Jerry's Artarama

FINALISTS: Austin Creative Reuse, Hill Country Weavers, Gauge Yarn, The Paper + Craft Pantry, Sea of Beads

"A candy store for artists." – LAURA GRIMES

6010 N. I-35, JERRYSARTARAMA.COM

### RECORD STORE

#### Waterloo Records

FINALISTS: Antone's Record Shop, BLK Vinyl, Breakaway Records, End of an Ear

"An independent record store that is an Austin landmark." – VIVIAN GOLDMAN-LEFFLER

600-A N. LAMAR, WATERLOORECORDS.COM

### AUSTIN GIFTS/SOUVENIRS

#### Atown

FINALISTS: Austin Gift Company, Parts & Labour, Prima Dora, Slow North

"Everything you need to help pass on why Austin is so great to the world." – GABRIEL OLSZEWSKI

5502 BURNET RD., KEEPATOWNWEIRD.COM

### MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION BOX/SERVICE

#### Farmhouse Delivery

FINALISTS: Bon Vivant gift boxes, Cater to Mom postpartum care gift boxes, Restart CBD Flower of the Month Club, Rebel Cheese Club

"Local company working with local farms. Win, win."

– KELLI NORMAN STRICKLEN

9715 BURNET RD. BLDG. 7 #400, FARMHOUSEDELIVERY.COM

### SHOPPING WILD CARD

#### Take Heart

FINALISTS: City Alchemist, Blow Candle Co., Maufrais, Mutiny Market

"Take Heart always has the most unique, exquisite, and serene treasures. Makes my heart flutter and my inner being swoon."

– TINA BUI

1211 E. 11TH #100, TAKEHEARTSHOP.COM



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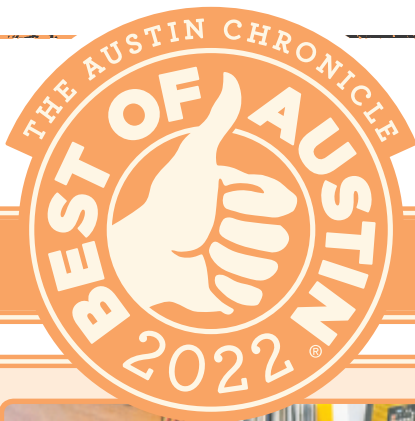
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# Critics Picks

## SHOPPING



ZEKE BARBARO

### BEST NEW RECORD STORE FOR DOG PEOPLE

#### Love Wheel Records

Open for a year in April, Love Wheel has been a welcome addition to the Burnet neighborhood that houses beloved neighbor Lala's. A musician's record store run by longtime Austin rocker Mike Nicolai and his wife, Nancy, Love Wheel buys and sells quality vinyl for all types and hosts the occasional in-store performance. But one thing that sets it apart is its mascot, Joe the tripaw, who greets shoppers and offers his adorable likeness to the store's social media pages and must-have merch.

2105 JUSTIN #116, [LOVWHEELRECORDS.COM](http://LOVWHEELRECORDS.COM)

### BEST GAYMER RUGS

#### Chronic the Hedgehog Rugs

Your gamer cave's got it all - but wait! Where's your cool, gayass rug? All the other Twitch streamers are gonna roast you in the chat if you don't get one of Chronic the Hedgehog's bright and bold gaymer rugs hanging in your background. Plenty of great options in the form of a *Majora's Mask* mask, a Tamagotchi, a Game Boy Advance (with a built-in mirror!), and even a thirst-quenching Baja Blast. Bonus: Following "rug daddi" Ollie on Instagram also puts their rug-making TikToks on your feed. Time for you to rise up, gamer, and get a rug to match your gayme boy style.

[CHRONICTHEHEDGEHOGRUGS.COM](http://CHRONICTHEHEDGEHOGRUGS.COM)

### BEST GUITAR CASE TO THROW OFF A ROOF

#### Calton Cases

If you'd like to slap your guitar in a case, throw it off a building, light it on fire, run it over in your Ford Bronco, and then pull it out to play a sweet tune, Calton Cases is the manufacturer for you. The Austin company builds the "hardest working case in showbiz," custom from (mainly) fiberglass, shock-absorbing foam, and velvet. Calton Case artists include Jackson Browne, Shakey Graves, and Olivia Rodrigo. We can only hope that Olivia has put a \$10,000 Gibson in her gorgeously glittery custom case, strung it up, and pounded it with a Louisville Slugger, piñata-style. This puppy's not breaking.

3412 E. FOURTH, [CALTON-CASES.COM](http://CALTON-CASES.COM)

### MOST EXPRESSIVE HANDMADE GEMS

#### The Native Dream

The expressive, playful designs of local jeweler Tabitha Hamilton, aka the Native Dream, potentially present a match for everyone on your gift list. Their handmade wares range from dainty pendants displaying astrologically aligned stones like lapis and amethyst, to chunky, freshwater pearls mixed with on-trend colorful, childhood-inspired beads. Extra points for excellent descriptions like "tender-yet-hardcore-with-a-touch-of-kink" for a minimalist stainless steel necklace. Shop the inspiring designs of Native Dream on Instagram, their website, or one of their frequent appearances at Austin markets.

[THENATIVEDREAM.COM](http://THENATIVEDREAM.COM)

### BEST COSMIC BRANDING

#### Hippie Scum

As an entity, Hippie Scum perhaps provides its own best introduction as "cosmic cowboy bootleg." Overseen by Austin DJ and aesthetic precisionist Derek Daniel Brown, the cassette label preserves lost underground with Texas-centric compilations and rare live recordings from the likes of Pharoah Sanders and Neil Young. The bonus-track-sweetened novelties sell out quick - as do the Lone Star-loving, limited-run tees. Leon Bridges himself recently donned a Seventies-heavy design bearing the outlet's "Here's another one from Texas" slogan. Last year brought the outlet's first original music releases, from Austin's Cactus Lee and New York's ZZZwalk (of course covering Kinky Friedman).

[HIPPIESCUMTX.COM](http://HIPPIESCUMTX.COM)

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**BEST PLACE TO BUILD AN ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE CLOSET**

**Lovecraft**

Woman-owned and -operated, Lovecraft offers clothes, accessories, and home goods that are ethically made and sourced from independent designers. While on the pricier side, the shop shows a deep devotion to lasting and quality materials, all while supporting emerging artists and makers. Replete with whimsical patterns and unconventional designs, Lovecraft's offerings provide opportunities to express bold, eye-catching, and artistic personal style in a way that demonstrates support for important cultural issues and the environment alike.

1107 E. 11TH, LITTLELOVECRAFT.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**BEST PLACE TO FIND THAT GRIMOIRE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR**

**City Alchemist**

This place touts itself as “an esoteric purveyor whose aim is to revitalize witchcraft for the next generation,” and that pretty much nails what co-founders Eric Labrado and Alexis Arredondo are doing in their arcanelly appointed shop Downtown. A fine array of books and the diverse paraphernalia required for magickal conjuring and divination are displayed along two walls that terminate at the check-out counter, where you'll find the proprietors glad to guide you on your journey toward a greater understanding of our world's mythic shadow side.

1105 E. SIXTH #2, CITYALCHEMIST.CO

**BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR COMICS WITH YOUR FRIEND FROM COLLEGE**

**Austin Books & Comics**

Being an adult is hard. You have responsibilities. A job. Maybe a couple of kids. It's hard to make new friends, because everyone else is just as occupied by the business of adulthood as you are. But once a week, you go to Austin Books & Comics – a truly special place that has somehow been in business now a staggering 45 years – to get the latest issues of your favorite comics. And sometimes your old college roommate meets you there and you catch up while browsing the used comics and contemplating a serious splurge on a mint-condition *Spider-Man No. 1* or on a vintage action figure. And in those moments, you're both kids again.

5002 N. LAMAR, AUSTINBOOKS.COM

**SUNNIEST STATIONERY SHOP**

**The Paper + Craft Pantry**

Complete with large windows and a rainbow selection of gel pens, the Paper + Craft Pantry radiates sunshine. This Springdale General stationery shop offers all resources needed to organize your week – ballpoint pens, calendars, and even a selection of candles perfect for winding down with your diary – plus art supplies galore to fire up your creative side. For birthday shopping, the Pantry is an essential visit, offering walls lined with a wide selection of homemade cards that generate donations to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Black Mamas ATX.

1023 SPRINGDALE STE. 6-A, THEPAPERCRAFTPANTRY.COM

**BEST MENAGERIE OF DELIGHTS**

**Okasan Vintage**

Who knew Austin needed another vintage shop? Chiai Matsumoto, that's who. Joining the legion of Burnet Road staples, this friendly little store specializes in vintage and modern housewares and clothing: fabulous pantsuits, jackets, tees, vintage leather chairs, wild lamps, tiny ceramic mushrooms, vintage kokeshi, and squiggle candles, to name just a few of Okasan's offerings. Infused with warmth, the space also plays host to frequent pop-ups from artists including Sophie Gori and Peeland-Yellow, tasty treats from the experts at Asahi Imports, “super Asian cocktails” from Daijoubou, and sweets galore. If you're an Austin expat missing the funky fresh vibes, no worries: Okasan ships worldwide.

6001 BURNET RD., OKASANSHOP.COM

**BEST NOT-SO-SECRET SOCIETY**

**The Order of the Fancy Hat**

Ever wanted to join a shadowy association, but can't master the secret handshakes? Can't get over the urge to be part of a some order of the possum or whatever, but can't drive a tiny car? Look, what you really want is the cool headwear, and the Order of the Fancy Hat gives you that. As organized by the oddities experts at SoCo's Curia Arcanum, each of their bespoke fezzes immediately makes you a card-carrying member. No conspiracies required.

5924 S. CONGRESS #23, CURIAARCANUM.SQUARE SITE

## BEST FIRST STEP TO RUNNING THE TABLE

### Austin Billiards

With over 40 years in the biz, these folks have been holding down the local billiards supply fort for generations of aficionados. Whether you need a regulation-size pool table for your excessively priced home, a new all-black breakaway cue, or some spiffy shuffleboard gear, this family-owned, North Austin staple has you covered. Honestly, you could probably improve your pool game just by hanging out with these industry experts ... and that's something an anonymous mega corp. like Amazon can't deliver.

9514 ANDERSON MILL, AUSTINBILLIARDS.COM

## BEST TINY BOOKSHOP

### Reverie Books

You walk through the slight aisles of South Austin's Reverie Books, perhaps clutching a Captain Quackenbush cold brew in one hand and a copy of *Transgender Warriors* by Leslie Feinberg in the other. In a bigger space, your fellow patrons would be miles away, but in the confines of Reverie's cozy store space, other bibliophiles' conversations about how good *House of Leaves* was or if they finished *Beloved* for class yet are near enough to be a brief real-time podcast. It's quaint; it's comforting; it's the perfect tiny bookstore of your literary dreams.

5330-D MENCHACA RD., REVERIEBOOKS.COM



COURTESY OF PEACE CHEESE

## BEST VEGAN MUIENSTER CHEESE

### Peace Cheese

For those of us dairy-averse, whether for biological or moral reasons, finding an alternative cheese source is a herculean task - in that it's so maddeningly difficult that you go crazy and destroy your house. But put down that club and lion's pelt, friend! Peace Cheese, a vegan, queer-owned biz, will soothe the savage dairyless soul with the melt-friendly delights of their faux Muenster. All of Peace Cheese's vegan *fromages* are made to melt, slice, and shred, plus they pack powerful flavor and come in cute molds like moons, flowers, and, of course, the state of Texas.

PEACECHEESE.SQUARE.SITE

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sugarmamasbakeshop.com  
@: sugarmamasbakeshopatx  
1905 S 1st St, Austin, TX 78704  
512/448-3727



# Readers Poll

## KIDS & FAMILY



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### KIDS AND FAMILY WILD CARD

#### Treehouse Observation Pod at Pease Park's Kingsbury Commons

FINALISTS: Austin Flamingo Flocking (rentable installation), Families in Nature (outdoor education program), Indigo Play (playscape and bookstore), Wish Upon a Star Princess Parties (party planning)

"My kids think they're on the Death Star and don't want to leave." – LEE EDDY

1100 KINGSBURY, PEASEPARK.ORG

### PARTY PLACE

#### Pinballz Arcade

FINALISTS: Art Barn ATX, Pikopye's Town, Pioneer Farms, Playland Skate Center

"Fun for all ages in a safe environment."

– BERNADETTE DELA CRUZ

8940 RESEARCH #100; 15201 S. I-35, BUDA;  
13729 RESEARCH; PINBALLZARCADE.COM

### ALL-AGES VENUE

#### Pinballz Arcade

FINALISTS: Austin's Park N Pizza, Bishop Cidercade Austin, Dreamland, High 5

"Great food, space, and employees!" – KIM CLARK

8940 RESEARCH #100; 15201 S. I-35, BUDA;  
13729 RESEARCH; PINBALLZARCADE.COM

### TOY STORE

#### Terra Toys

FINALISTS: Anna's Toy Depot, Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, Monkey See Monkey Do, Outlaw Moon, Toy Joy

"Have you seen this place? Raddest toy store ever."

– RYAN WINKLER HERR

2438 W. ANDERSON STE. 1-C,  
WWW.TERRATOYS.COM

### KIDS' CLOTHING

#### Kid to Kid

FINALISTS: Bright Beginnings Boutique, Dragonsnaps, Lemon Drop Children's Shop, SparkleKids

14010 HWY. 183 N. #420,  
KIDTOKID.COM/LOCATION/AUSTIN



JANA BIRCHUM

### PLAYGROUND

#### Zilker Park

FINALISTS: Alliance Children's Garden, Mueller Lake Park, Pease Park, Play for All Abilities Park

"Quintessentially Austin!" – ALISON GOODNOW  
2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ZILKER

### SUMMER CAMP

#### Bake Austin

FINALISTS: Austin Women's Boxing Club, Austin Youth Fitness, Fantastic Magic Camp, kidsActing Studio

"Chef Pascal teaches kids how to cook in their own kitchen and leave it spotless at the end. But more than anything, she teaches thinking and problem solving and not just following a recipe." – TIFFANY SEWARD

1706 E. 38th, BAKEAUSTIN.COM

### YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM

#### Creative Action

FINALISTS: Balance Dance Studios, Cordovan Art School, Excused Absence Comedy, Illumine Choirs, kidsActing Studio

"Extraordinarily important program bringing opportunities for creativity and community to underprivileged kids." – WALTER LONG

1023 SPRINGDALE BLDG. 3, CREATIVEACTION.ORG

### YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

#### Soccer Shots

FINALISTS: Austin Youth Fitness, Camacho Activity Center, The Mat Martial Arts, West Austin Youth Association

"So loving and patient with our nervous tiny human!"

– SARAH OSTERBERG  
8820 BUSINESS PARK DR. #400,  
SOCCERSHOTS.ORG/AUSTIN



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### YOUTH STEM PROGRAM

#### Thinkery

FINALISTS: Game Worlds Camp, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Girlstart, IDEA Lab Kids

"My grandkids love it! All 19 of them!" – MYRLEEN GEORGE

1830 SIMOND, WWW.THINKERYAUSTIN.ORG

### BIRTHDAY CAKES

#### Sugar Mama's Bakeshop

FINALISTS: Amy's Ice Creams, HayleyCakes and Cookies, Quack's Bakery, Upper Crust Bakery

"Perfect moistness and frosting to cake ratio." – KELLY FERRARO

1905-A S. FIRST, SUGARMAMASBAKESHOP.COM

### FAMILY RESTAURANT

#### Home Slice Pizza

FINALISTS: Phil's Icehouse, Pluckers Wing Bar, Mandola's Italian Kitchen, Waterloo Ice House

"Fun outdoor setting for families to relax with a beautiful minimalist hobbit hill area for the kiddos to run around between slices of pizza. And it is killer pizza."

– SARAH SCHIFF

1415 S. CONGRESS; 1421 S. CONGRESS;  
501 E. 53RD; HOMESLICE.COM

### FAMILY FESTIVAL

#### Austin Trail of Lights

FINALISTS: ABC Kite Fest, Classic Game Fest, Eeyore's Birthday, Honk! TX

"Always so fun and festive. I really enjoy the drive-through, too!"

– COLEY WEAVER

AUSTINTRAILOFLIGHTS.ORG

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# EAT PLAY PARTY



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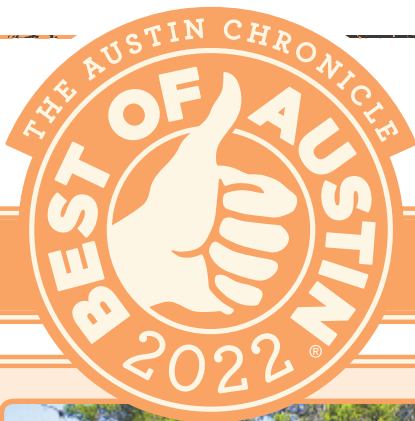
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mimadresrestaurant.com



# Critics Picks

## KIDS & FAMILY



JANA BIRCHUM

### BEST BREWERY TO BURN OFF KIDDOS' VAST RESERVES OF ENERGY

#### Meanwhile Brewing

A parent's ideal brewery includes three things: good beer, food that kids will eat, and most important of all, some kind of outdoor space where their kids can burn off energy and return home slightly more docile. South Austin's Meanwhile Brewing has earned our favor for excelling in all three areas. They brew one of the best Pilsners in town; have food trucks offering barbecue, tacos, and pizza (plain cheese available for the picky eaters); and a vast backyard with two playscapes where the little ones can run their hearts out. If that doesn't tire them out, parents can grab an iced coffee on the way out to refuel.

3901 PROMONTORY POINT, MEANWHILEBEER.COM

### BEST HOMEGROWN HANGOUT

#### Violet Crown Clubhouse

Situated in a former pharmacy in the Crestview Shopping Center, Violet Crown Clubhouse wasted no time in establishing itself as a neighborhood hub. From Andy K's donuts and coffee on weekend mornings to kid-pleasing ice cream and video games to the beer and rosé for moms and dads, the Clubhouse meets folks where they are at every stage of life. Add to that a broad range of events like yoga, drag queen game nights, live music, and block parties and an owner/operator who lives right around the corner, and you've got the Platonic ideal of the perfect hangout for all neighbors.

INSTAGRAM.COM/VCClubHOUSE

### BEST WAY TO INSPIRE PICKY EATERS

#### Lollies by Leah

Look, we were kids once upon a time, and we remember how much we loved neon colors and flavors that tasted like neon, too. Subtlety is not the province of youth. But lollipops *are*, and that's where Lollies by Leah comes in. Sold online in singles or a monthly subscription box, these small-batch, prettily packaged confections come in gently sophisticated flavors like yuzu coconut cheesecake, salted caramel, and lavender Earl Grey. A low-entry way for your tyke to try out new flavors and expand their palate? There's a lot to liek like about that.

LOLLIESBYLEAH.COM

### BEST PREMIUM PLAYGROUND

#### Alliance Children's Garden

Heaven-sent to babysitters, birthday parties, and beaming broods, Butler Park's epic playscape - with its tunneled Hobbit hills, bouncy turf, musical installations, and slides wide enough for a whole gang of kiddos - feels like it should cost \$20 admission, but it's free. The four-section, 2-acre park, with a sweet view of the Austin skyline, has features fit for crawlers and climbers. The latter will especially enjoy the mini rock wall and the playground's centerpiece: a tall, spiderwebby structure of blue rope that feels like Mount Everest for 5-year-olds.

1000 BARTON SPRINGS RD., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/ALLIANCE-CHILDRENS-GARDEN

### BEST SPOT FOR BEERS, BITES, AND BEACH SOCCER

#### The Pitch

Okay, we're burying this in the family section because at least it'll slow the inevitable invasion of mule-chugging jugheads from taking over Sunday brunch hours, but The Pitch is the best place to futbol-and-chill in the entire region (maybe the entire state). Housed on the campus of Austin FC's training facilities in Northwest Austin, the Pitch features four restaurants ranging from vermicelli bowls to fajitas to burgers, two bars, and a coffeehouse. But what makes The Pitch positively glorious is its dedication to The Beautiful Game on match days: plenty of sound-on screens in a variety of mood-fitting seating arrangements both indoors and out, plus an easily viewable sand pit for your little Lewandowsklings to toil around in with a soccer ball while you order cold beer right from your phone.

13000 HARRIS RIDGE BLVD., THEPITCHAUSTIN.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### BEST TECH & MEDIA MENTORS

#### Latinitas

As it celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, the nonprofit org hasn't let up on its mission to empower girls with technology and media mentorship and education, with programs like Code Chica guiding participants through web design and coding and Media Chica covering storytelling and journalism. Latinitas provides a wealth of opportunities all year between the afterschool club, summer camps, workshops, and the online community and magazine, meaning its team of professional mentors has passed the torch to countless members of the next generation.

1023 SPRINGDALE RD. BLDG. 9-E, LATINITASONLINE.ORG

### BEST REASON TO GO BACK TO THE LIBRARY

#### Fine-Free Library

It stands to reason that library late fees would encourage readers to get their books back on time. Recent studies proved that assumption false, and the Austin Public Library listened to the science. And just like that, in February of this year, late fees were gone. If you damage or lose a book, that's still gonna cost you, but being a little late won't. Also, if you already have fines, the policy changes are not retroactive, so you still have to pay those before you check something else out. But all you slow readers out there can take a breath and just enjoy one of the city's finest services.

LIBRARY.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV

## BEST SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN TEXAS

### Shaved Ice Island

Just bowled 10 frames at Westgate Lanes and need a cool down? Conveniently parked outside is Rahul Kahol's island-themed shaved ice truck, blasting out cheery Hawaiian music and heat-busting deliciousness. Flavors range from traditional (we think a black cherry and blue coconut combo can't be beat) to gourmet (including Moscow Mule, mango lassi, and Mexican rice pudding). Shaved Ice Island is a moveable feast: A truck is available to cater birthday parties and other events. For an additional fee you can add on a snowball fight, with four buckets of snowballs and a tray of loose snow to make your own icy ammo.

2701 W. WILLIAM CANNON,  
SHAVEDICEISLAND.COM

## BEST PLACE TO MEET YOUR BABY

### Austin Area Birthing Center

Austin Area Birthing Center (AABC) has been helping Austin moms give birth with midwives since 1987. Three decades later, their North and South locations' birthing rooms are equipped with tubs, stand-up showers, and stockpiles of birthing tools such as stools, bungee-style cords, and yoga balls of all sizes. The largest Texas employer of midwives with master's degrees, AABC prioritizes immediate skin-to-skin contact between mom and baby. The team also offers mother-focused aftercare in the days and weeks following birth.

4100 DUVAL RD., BLDG. 2, #101; 2500 W. WILLIAM CANNON #503; AUSTINABC.COM

## BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK WITH A BIG SLIDE

### Balcones District Park

The recently renovated Balcones District Park in Northwest Austin has been a boon for parents in the area. It has two playscapes, both of which have unique features fun for kids of all ages. Older kids will love the Big Slide. As they say, the journey is the destination, and making the climb to the top of the slide is great for building up kids' courage. But who are we kidding? The real thrill here is in descending a Truly. Big. Slide.

12017 AMHERST DR., AUSTINPARKS.ORG/BALCONES-DISTRICT-PARK



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ACTIVE PLAY FOR KIDS, TEENS, & ADULTS

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JOHN ANDERSON

## BEST KID-FRIENDLY PLACE TO SNEAK IN A LI'L PARENTAL R&R

### West China Tea House

Being a parent is *hard*. Treat yourself to a soothing break - and avoid the headache of finding a sitter first - at the criminally underrecognized West China Tea House off I-35. Sample a wide variety of teas served in the gong fu cha style of Chinese tea ceremony while your young'uns enjoy lounging on floor pillows and spying the occasional pet snake. Second Saturdays bring the monthly CommuniTEA, a donation-based event where "spontaneous music, dance, and collaborative expression are standard occurrences"; Sundays, meanwhile, are all about education, with gong fu cha classes offered for every level of expertise. But no matter when you go, West China Tea promises you'll leave with newfound knowledge of the rich culture and ceremony of Chinese tea.

4706 N. I-35, WESTCHINATEA.COM

# Ramblers do it better.



RAMBLERSPARKLINGWATER.COM  
@RamblerAustin



# Readers Poll

## SPORTS & RECREATION .....



JANA BIRCHUM

### SPORTS & RECREATION WILD CARD

#### La Murga de Austin (Austin FC supporters' section band)

FINALISTS: Austin Rowing Club (nonprofit rowing organization), America's Academy of Pro Wrestling (professional wrestling school), Barton Springs Full Moon Howl (monthly full moon swim), The Green Machines (power wheelchair soccer team)

"If you don't vote for them, you clearly haven't seen them in action." – **ARI GERNAAT**

LAMURGADEAUSTIN.ORG

### PLACE TO TUBE

#### Rockin' R River Rides (Guadalupe and Comal Rivers)

FINALISTS: Don's Fish Camp (San Marcos River), Lions Club Tube Rental (San Marcos River), Texas State Tubes (San Marcos River), Texas Tubes (Comal River)

"Always a great time! They have their system down." –

**ERIKA BLANKENSHIP**

1405 GRUENE RD., NEW BRAUNFELS,  
ROCKINR.COM

### PLACE TO CAMP

#### Inks Lake State Park

FINALISTS: Krause Springs, McKinney Falls State Park, Pace Bend Park, Pedernales Falls State Park

"Just the right distance away from the city." –

**BELINDA HARE**

3630 PARK ROAD 4 W., BURNET, TPWD.STATE.TX.US/STATE-PARKS/INKS-LAKE

### PLACE TO HANG WITH YOUR PET

#### Zilker Park

FINALISTS: Neighbors Dog Park & Coffee Shop, Pease Park, The Watering Bowl, Yard Bar

"Plenty of space, water, shade, and interesting folks." – **ROBIN MCALPINE**

2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ZILKER

### SWIMMING POOL

#### Barton Springs Pool

FINALISTS: Deep Eddy Pool, Big Stacy Pool

"This ain't even a competition." – **AMANDA WEEMS**

2131 WILLIAM BARTON DR., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/  
BARTON-SPRINGS-POOL

### SWIMMING HOLE/LAKE

#### Hamilton Pool Nature Preserve

FINALISTS: Blue Hole, Hippie Hollow, Jacob's Well, Krause Springs

"Well, when you're able to go there, it's fucking gorgeous." – **PEDRO BERLANGA**

24300 HAMILTON POOL RD., DRIPPING SPRINGS,  
PARKS.TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV/PARKS/HAMILTON-POOL-PRESERVE



SHELLEY HIAM

### SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

#### Austin Women's Boxing Club: Self-Defense

FINALISTS: Aces Jiu Jitsu Club, Fit & Fearless: Krav Maga, The Mat Martial Arts: Krav Maga

"So much fun beside being extremely useful." – **LAURA FRANCO**

2919 MENCHACA RD. #210, AUSTINWOMENSBOXINGCLUB.COM

## SPORTS VENUE

### Q2 Stadium

FINALISTS: Circuit of the Americas, DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium, H-E-B Center at Cedar Park, UFCU Disch-Falk Field

"Such wonderful electric atmosphere!! So glad we have this."

— CHRISTI SHOPPACH

10414 MCKALLA PLACE,  
AUSTINFC.COM/STADIUM

## GOLF COURSE

### Butler Pitch & Putt

FINALISTS: Grey Rock Golf & Tennis Club, Hancock Golf Course, Lions Municipal Golf Course, UT Golf Club

"What an unbelievably cool place, I hope it never goes away. The patio and views are worth the trip alone. Good food and beer prices, a fun putting green, and oh yeah, an awesome pitch and putt." — CRAIG STEIN

201 LEE BARTON, BUTLERPITCHANDPUTT.COM

## GYM

### Austin Bouldering Project

FINALISTS: Austin Simply Fit, Austin Women's Boxing Club, Fit & Fearless, Karhu Training Co.

"I love ABP! The bouldering is great – tons of problems and the best setters in town. Plus their weight room is spacious, with high ceilings and nice weight racks." — GINA HELFRICH

979 SPRINGDALE #150, AUSTINBOULDERINGPROJECT.COM

## PERSONAL TRAINER

### Jen Benton

FINALISTS: Briana Ellsworth, Beckie Lough, Sierra Nevels, Alex Plichta

"Jen is such a bright light of positivity! She doesn't care about getting those extra reps in, or how fast you are doing them, she just wants you there to move your body and to support you on your journey." — MORGAN NUNCIO

EMPOWEREDBYJEN.COM

## YOGA

### Black Swan Yoga

FINALISTS: Flow Yoga, Practice Yoga Austin, Yoga East Austin, YTX Yoga

"Best instructors in Austin!" — AM HERR

4534 WEST GATE BLVD.; 1417 W. ANDERSON; 403 ORCHARD; BLACKSWANYOGA.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

## EXERCISE CLASS

### Sky Candy: Bungee Fit

FINALISTS: Austin Women's Boxing Club: Group Boxing, Balance Dance Studios: JAM Dance Fit, Fit & Fearless: Heavy Bag, Total Fitness Kickboxing: Group Kickboxing

"Cardio & strength building & balance all wrapped up in one class, but you don't even notice because it's SO FREAKING FUN!" — KATHY BATEMAN

1023 SPRINGDALE STE. 8-A, SKYCANDYAUSTIN.COM

## CITY TRAIL

### Ann and Roy Butler Hike- and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake

FINALISTS: Onion Creek Greenbelt, River Place Nature Trail, Southern Walnut Creek Trail, Violet Crown Trail

"Lived here so long, I remember how bare and bleak it was. The transformation has been amazing." — LAURA GRIMES

THETRAILFOUNDATION.ORG

## OUT-OF-TOWN HIKE

### Enchanted Rock

FINALISTS: Lake Georgetown San Gabriel River Trail, Lost Maples State Natural Area, Milton Reimers Ranch Park, Pedernales Falls State Park

"Love the climb and the view." — DORIAN RINEHART

16710 RR 965, FREDERICKSBURG,  
TPWD.STATE.TX.US/STATE-PARKS/ENCHANTED-ROCK

## OUTDOOR RUN/RACE

### ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot

FINALISTS: 3M Half Marathon, Austin Marathon, Cap 10K, Star Ranch Bare Buns Run

"Super family friendly AND supports Caritas?!" — LORA BLACKWELL

THUNDERCLOUD.COM/REGISTER-2-2

## ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

### Texas Roller Derby

FINALISTS: Austin Gay Flag Football League, Austin Ultimate, Bat City Circus, Sky Candy

"Skater owned and operated, and the most entertaining sport in the world!" — LANI OGLEWOOD

TXRD.COM

## PRO/SEMI-PRO SPORTS TEAM

### Austin FC

FINALISTS: Austin Gilgronis, Austin Sol, Austin Spurs, Round Rock Express, Texas Stars

"Because SOMOS VERDES!!" — ISABEL GONZALEZ

AUSTINFC.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

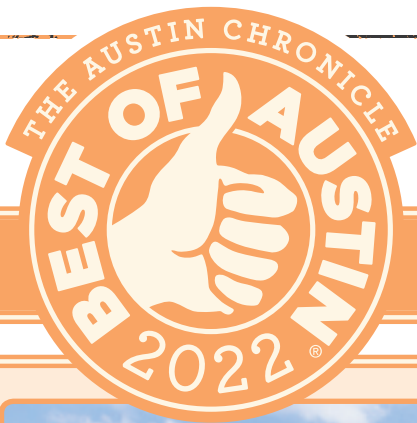
## BOWLING ALLEY

### Highland Lanes

FINALISTS: High 5, Punch Bowl Social, Westgate Lanes

"An Austin classic. Outstanding grill." — JOSH FOGELMAN

8909 BURNET RD., HIGHLANDLANES.COM



# Critics Picks

## SPORTS & RECREATION .....



JANA BIRCHUM

### **BEST PARK REBOOT**

#### **Waterloo Park**

Most of us probably have memories of festivals and events taking place at the old Waterloo Park, and there will always be folks who don't like change, but it's hard to argue against the utility of the updated green space. The winding paths and gardens are more accessible and visitor-friendly even when there isn't a concert at the on-site amphitheatre. The neighboring Capitol grounds and concrete garages both inform the design, and isn't that Austin?: a little less green, but a little more designed for use.

500 E. 12TH, WATERLOGREENWAY.ORG/VISIT-WATERLOO-PARK

### **BEST NEW SPORTS TEAM (BOVINE DIVISION)**

#### **Austin Gamblers**

What? Team rodeo? The concept may sound strange in this ruggedly individualistic sport, but seasoned rodeo fans are excited that the format - five riders per team, highest total score wins - brings a new strategic twist to the competitions, and gives casual fans a rooting interest for their city's teams. With the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft, the Gamblers might pick two-time reigning World Champion Jose Vitor Leme, who was in town in April for the team's launch party. The five-week season starts July 25, culminating with the Gamblers becoming the first pro sports team to host an event at the new Moody Center, Aug. 26-28.

[PBR.COM/TEAMS/GAMBLERS](https://pbr.com/teams/gamblers)

### **BEST GRACKLE**

#### **Bird on a Scooter at the Capitol 10,000**

Who was that beaked man? Walter Moreau, CEO of the beloved local social services and housing nonprofit Foundation Communities, was going to run in this costume in 2020 but, well ... you know. The next year was scrubbed as well, but Moreau was back this April, traversing the Cap 10K on his 8-foot-tall scooter without pooping on a single car. We've recognized Foundation Communities before for their affordable housing projects (twice) and their low-income tax assistance services, but this is the first time we've given them the bird.

## BEST PICKLEBALL PARADISE

### Dreamland

Like pingpong, Pickleball uses paddles. Like badminton, the court is small. Mostly, though, America's fastest-growing sport resembles tennis ... except with more smiles and laughing. The long-existent game's recently surging popularity may, in part, be due to its inclusivity for a wide range of physical abilities and easy entry for beginners. These days you can find foursomes bopping a perforated ball over the net at many city parks (Pan Am's a hot spot), but the area's top pickleball destination is Dreamland in Dripping Springs. The south-of-town entertainment complex has a whopping 16 pickleball courts used for open play, tournaments, clinics, and even professional matches.

2770 HWY. 290 W., DRIPPING SPRINGS, DREAMLANDSTX.COM



PHOTO BY OMARR CANTU

## BEST WAY TO CONNECT YOUR INNER FUNGI NERD WITH NATURE

### Central Texas Mycological Society

The Gen Z crew has openly embraced their nerdiest selves since birth, but the rest of us have been much slower on the path to self-discovery. And with mushrooms all the rage, it's no wonder that mycologists are finally earning their time in the limelight. This newish nonprofit focuses on educating Austin about the wild world of mushrooms, from night walks with black lights to daytime cultivation meetups and online spawning classes. So go ahead, embrace your true fungi-loving self and join the mycelial masses: Pick up a block at one of their many drop sites today.

CENTRALTEXASMYCOLOGY.ORG

## BEST VICTORY VERSUS A BITTER RIVAL

### University of Texas Softball Team

On April 16, 2022, the top-ranked University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team reentered Red & Charline McCombs Field a day after defeating the No. 18 University of Texas Longhorns via the merciful "run rule." The defending national champions from Norman perhaps expected another run-of-the-mill victory over their Austin rivals; after, all 2014 had marked the last UT victory over OU. But fifth-year senior Hailey Dolcini, an All-American offseason addition to the UT program via transfer portal, threw a great seven innings en route to a 4-2 Longhorn win. That shocking upset ended OU's NCAA-record unbeaten start to the season at 38-0, and a 40-win streak dating back to last season.

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JANA BIRCHUM

## BEST INDOOR/ OUTDOOR VENUE

### Bouldin Acres

It's not totally kid-friendly, and it's not just for adults, either. With a playground, full-service bar, food trucks, dog park, various lawn games, an outdoor patio, and pickleball courts you can prebook, this creative venue invites Austinites of all stripes to have a good time. With a hearty menu stocked with BBQ Frito pie, hot honey turkey biscuit, and the eye-brow-raising Sunday special, a beef-tallow brioche donut, you can carb hard and then enjoy a game of cornhole. On your way out, take a photo in front of the bright mural that pays tribute to its South Austin neighbors. In 100 degrees or 60, Bouldin Acres is an ideal event space.

2027 S. LAMAR, BOULDINACRES.COM



## BEST END TO A NEARLY 50-YEAR DROUGHT

### LBJ Early College High School Football Team

Led by iron-willed head coach Jahmal Fenner, the 2021 LBJ Early College High School football team finished its historic season at 15-1 and competed in the UIL Football 4A State Championship game. In reaching AT&T Stadium in December, the Jaguars became the first Austin ISD school since the 1973 Reagan (now Northeast) High School team to compete for a state title in football. Fenner remarkably coached the team to a third-round playoff win just days after his 21-year-old son, Cameron Nelson, was tragically shot to death. The Jaguars will return to 5A competition next season.

LBJSPTS.ORG

## BEST FRIENDLY-BUT- FEISTY SOCCER LEAGUE

### Austin Coed Soccer Association

We love striding up to Q2 Stadium to take in some Austin FC action up close. But some days it's not enough just to spectate the Beautiful Game, and on those days we typically find ourselves out at Onion Creek Soccer Complex, lined up at right back for another Austin Coed Soccer Association game day. Apart from being 100% coed (which accentuates the friendly, inclusive vibe), ACSA uses the same rules as the pros: 11-on-11, two 45-minute halves, don't use your hands. We love that this volunteer-run rec league is all soccer, all the time.

ACSASOCCER.ORG

## BEST IRISH WHIP REVERSAL TO A FRIGHTENING, POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING INJURY

### Ricky Starks

On an April 2021 episode of *All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite*, Ricky Starks magically stood upright seconds after landing squarely on his head as a result of a German suplex spot gone wrong. The New Orleans native finished the match with a fractured neck. Starks, a charismatic professional wrestler primed for future stardom who heavily performed on the Texas independent scene before signing to AEW, claims doctors told him he barely avoided paralysis. His neck injury would sideline him for almost three months until he defeated Brian Cage for the unsanctioned FTW Championship in his second hometown of Austin.

TWITTER.COM/STARKMANJONES

## BEST PROMOTIONAL PERSISTENCE

### Chris Beard

The 2021-22 Texas Longhorns men's basketball season – the program's first under head coach Chris Beard – offered promise for the future. Beard's continued efforts to increase student investment in the program included an audacious "Darty at the Tower." The free, student-only day party began at the UT Tower with food trucks and a performance from local rap duo Blackillac before the UT alum marched his new legion of supporters to Gregory Gym. Over 3,000 attendees packed UT volleyball's home to provide UT basketball with its best atmosphere in years.

TWITTER.COM/CHRISBEARDUT

# READ THE LATEST AUSTIN FC ANALYSIS AND NEWS.



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SAT 5/21: BRUNCH, LUNCH, DINNER, & DRINKS!

SUN 5/22: BRUNCH, LUNCH, DINNER, & DRINKS!

MON 5/23: CLOSED

TUE 5/24: HAPPY HOUR 2PM-5PM  
1/2 OFF PIZZAS & DRINKS

WED 5/25: HAPPY HOUR 2PM-5PM  
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SAT 5/21: CIDER SIPPIN' SATURDAYS

SUN 5/22: SUNDAY FUNDAY

MON 5/23: CLOSED

TUE 5/24: HAPPY HOUR & CLIMBER SPECIALS

WED 5/25: HAPPY HOUR, KARAOKE, AND  
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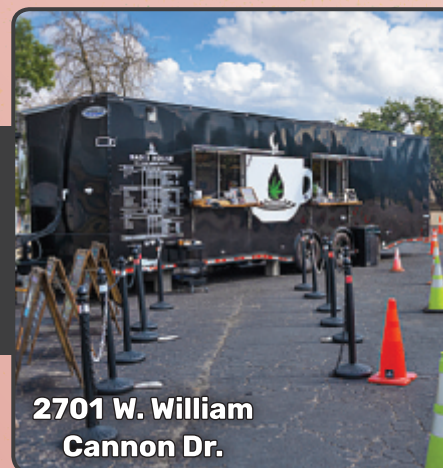
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**The Austin Chronicle's**



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Winners of *The Austin Chronicle's* 2022 "Best of Austin" revealed in the May 19th issue!

