

*The Austin Chronicle*

**BEST OF AUSTIN  
2023**

**Winners Inside!**

# Best of Austin 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PUBLISHER** Nick Barbaro  
**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER** Cassidy Frazier

### EDITORIAL

**EDITOR** Kimberley Jones  
**MANAGING EDITOR** James Renovitch  
**ASSOCIATE NEWS** Maggie Q. Thompson  
**CULTURE** Richard Whittaker  
**MUSIC** Rachel Rascoe  
**FOOD** Melanie Haupt  
**SENIOR STAFF WRITER** Austin Sanders  
**STAFF WRITER** Brant Bingamon  
**STAFF WRITER** Lina Fisher  
**SPECIAL SCREENINGS & COMMUNITY LISTINGS**  
Kat McNevins  
**ARTS LISTINGS & FOOD EVENTS**  
Wayne Alan Brenner  
**CLUB LISTINGS** Derek Udensi  
**COMMUNITY LISTINGS** James Scott

### PRODUCTION

**PRODUCTION / ART DIRECTOR** Zeke Barbaro  
**ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR** Lauren Johnson  
**WEB CONSULTANT** Brian Barry  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Jeff Gammill  
**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS** John Anderson, Jana Birchum  
**PROOFREADERS** Jasmine Lane, James Scott  
**INTERNS** Adam Cherian, Wayne Lim, Amelia Nonemacher, Leo Veonor

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Cassidy Frazier  
**OPERATIONS MANAGER** Trace Thurman  
**MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT MANAGER** Cassie Arredondo  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS** Sarah K. Wolf  
**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**  
Jerald Corder, Carolyn Phillips  
**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** David Kleppe, Courtney Smith-Bush, Chelsea Taylor, Gloria Williamson  
**CLASSIFIEDS / LEGAL NOTICES** Bobby Leath  
**LUV DOC / CIRCULATION / SPECIAL EVENTS** Dan Hardick  
**NATIONAL ADVERTISING** Voice Media Group  
(888/278-9866, vmgadvertising.com)

### OFFICE STAFF

**CONTROLLER** Liz Franklin  
**OFFICE MANAGER / SUBSCRIPTIONS** Carrie Young  
**CREDIT MANAGER** cindy soo  
**INFO DESK** Zach Pearce  
**SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR** Brandon Watkins  
**BESTEST BOY** Hank

### CIRCULATION

Cassie Arredondo, Perry Drake, Tom Fairchild, Ruben Flores, Andrew Gerfers, Eric McKinney, Grant Melcher, Matt Meshbane, Paul Minor, Peter Oberheide, Rich Russell, Jonina Sims, Zeb Sommers, Bryan Zirkelbach

### CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Abelman, Jessi Cape, Kevin Curtin, Doug Freeman, Raoul Hernandez, Valerie Lopez, A. Richmond, Taylor Tobin, Julian Towers, Genevieve Wood

## 4 Arts & Entertainment

READERS POLL 4  
CRITICS PICKS 8

## 12 Nightlife

READERS POLL 12  
CRITICS PICKS 16

## 20 Politics & Media

READERS POLL 20  
CRITICS PICKS 24

## 28 Services

READERS POLL 28  
CRITICS PICKS 34

## 38 Shopping

READERS POLL 38  
CRITICS PICKS 42

## 46 Kids & Family

READERS POLL 46  
CRITICS PICKS 48

## 50 Sports & Recreation

READERS POLL 50  
CRITICS PICKS 52



On the Cover: Mélat at River Forest Haven / Photo by David Brendan Hall / Design by Zeke Barbaro

## Old Austin, New Austin, Next Austin

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

More than 23,000 *Austin Chronicle* readers voted in this year's Best of Austin Readers Poll, with *Chronicle* staff and contributors offering a few additional accolades in our Critics Picks. The nearly 1,000 resulting winners and finalists celebrated within these pages are a diverse lot: old-school spots that have stood the test of time, newer favorites, and buzzy next-big-things. Congratulations to them all – and to all of us who count ourselves lucky enough to call Austin home.

This issue is a team effort. That team includes: Art Director Zeke Barbaro and Associate Art Director Lauren Johnson, who make everything look so much cooler; staff photographers John Anderson and Jana Birchum, who are definitely exhausted from running all over town; photographer David Brendan Hall, who shot our dual covers, and the lovely and talented performing artist Mélat, who brought the fun as our cover model; proffers Jasmine Lane and James

Scott, whose eyes are surely very tired; Managing Editor James Renovitch and Community Listings/Special Screenings Editor Kat McNevins, who went above and beyond; digital wizzes Brian Barry, Mike Barnett, and Brandon Watkins; all our wonderful editors and contributors; Associate Publisher Cassidy Frazier, Marketing & Engagement Manager Cassie Arredondo, PR maven Sarah Wolf, and the entire ad staff for putting together promotion, a party, and for selling enough ads to keep the lights on; and finally, the readers who powered this whole issue.

You can celebrate with some of these winners, finalists, and *Chronicle* personnel in person at our second annual Best of Austin Market Party Saturday, June 17, at Lustre Pearl South. (It's free, but RSVP here: [austinchronicle.com/boaparty](http://austinchronicle.com/boaparty).) Hungry for more of what makes Austin great? Find over 30 years of past Best of Austin winners online at [austinchronicle.com/boa](http://austinchronicle.com/boa). ■

# UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE

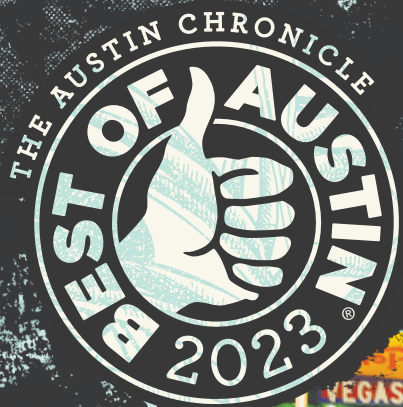
# buy. sell. trade.

*trendy • designer • vintage*



**AUSTIN • SAN MARCOS • COLLEGE STATION**

FIND OUT MORE AT [UPTOWNCHEAPSKATEAUSTIN.COM](http://UPTOWNCHEAPSKATEAUSTIN.COM)



# Arts & Entertainment

## READERS POLL



JANA BIRCHUM

### DRAG SHOWCASE

## The Vixens of Volstead Drag Brunch

**FINALISTS:** THE BIG GAY CABARET, COCO CXNTS DRAG BRUNCH, POO POO PLATTER, VANGUARD: THE DRAG REVOLUTION

“Great shows, great looks, great music. 10 out of 10 every time.” – *Michelle Segroves*

TEXASHOTELVEGAS.COM/VOLSTEAD

### MUSEUM

## The Blanton Museum of Art

**FINALISTS:** BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN - JONES CENTER, MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM, THINKERY

“Those new space-age flowers that spiff up the plaza.” – *Davida Charney*

200 E. MLK, BLANTONMUSEUM.ORG

### ART GALLERY

## Women & Their Work

**FINALISTS:** A05 GALLERY, ART FOR THE PEOPLE GALLERY, SAGE STUDIO, WEST CHELSEA CONTEMPORARY

“Women artists still need spaces devoted to their art! Quality and variety of art shows; lots of minority artists and board members; great art ed programs; 40+ years in the black!” – *Judith Sims*

1311 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, WOMENANDTHEIRWORK.ORG

### VISUAL ARTIST

## Alexis Hunter

**FINALISTS:** GABE LANGHOLTZ, CURTIS RAMSTEDT, CODY SCHIBI, JEREMY THE ARTIST

“Alexis not only makes visually engaging art about important topics, she also works hard to create an inclusive environment. She is a community builder and a badass, the best artist combination in my book.” – *Alicia Philley*

ALEXISHUNTER.WORK

### PERFORMANCE SPACE / THEATRE

## Paramount Theatre

**FINALISTS:** COLDTOWNE THEATRE, GROUND FLOOR THEATRE, LONG CENTER, THE VORTEX, ZACH THEATRE

“Crown jewel of Austin.” – *Ben Welmaker*

713 CONGRESS, AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG

### THEATRE DIRECTOR

## Katie Moore

**FINALISTS:** BONNIE CULLUM, DAVID R. JARROTT, LISA SCHEPS, DAVE STEAKLEY, KEN WEBSTER

“Katie Moore is one of those rare theatre artists without a hint of ego. Through her direction of the Story Wranglers program, she has encouraged countless Austin children to believe in themselves as writers, and validated their voices at every turn.”

– *Madison Murrah*

AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG



COURTESY OF ZUZU

### MURALIST

## Zuzu

**FINALISTS:** HARDSHAPES, NIZ, CHRIS ROGERS, SAM SOPER

“Colorful-Positive message & I’m her Mama!” – *Jana Perkal*

IHAVEPINKHAIR.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

### DRAG PERFORMER

## Louisiana Purchase

**FINALISTS:** BRIGITTE BANDIT, GOTHESS JASMINE, MAXINE LAQUEENE, VYLETTE WARD

“Dramatic, hilarious, sassy, and always a good time.” – **Akki Brathwaite**

LOUISIANAPURCHASE.COM

### ACTOR

## Natalie D. Garcia

**FINALISTS:** JACQUI CALLOWAY, MARC POUHÉ, AMBER QUICK, JILL KLOPP TURNER

“She’s a huge part of the community, absolutely hilarious, and keeps Austin just a little bit weird.”

– **Sue Ng**

NATALIEDGARCIA.COM

### CLASSICAL MUSICIAN

## Graham Reynolds

**FINALISTS:** TYLER MABRY, ANTON NEL, WILL TAYLOR, BION TSANG

“Graham has graced my ears, mind, and heart with so many exciting performances.” – **Chale Nafus**

GRAHAMREYNOLDS.COM

### DANCER / CHOREOGRAPHER

## Allison Orr

**FINALISTS:** DEBORAH HAY, TARYN LAVERY, STEPHEN MILLS, VERTARIAS

“Despite the best attempts of many, art does not belong to the rich. Allison helps make sure the working class is recognized and included for our contributions.”

– **Joshua DeVries**

FORKLIFTDANCEWORKS.ORG

### CARTOONIST / COMIC CREATOR

## Ben Sargent

**FINALISTS:** RORY BLANK, ASHLEY ROBIN FRANKLIN, SAM HURT, NICK STOUT

“Sharp and talented. No wonder he won a Pulitzer.” – **Anne Rodgers**

TEXASOBSERVER.ORG/AUTHOR/BEN-SARGENT

**23/24 SEASON**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS

× New × Now × Local × Global



Alvin Ailey American  
Dance Theater

**GET YOUR CULTURE FIX**

**GET TICKETS AT**  
**TEXASPERFORMINGARTS.ORG**



**COMEDY /  
STORYTELLING  
SHOWCASE**

**Greetings,  
From Queer  
Mountain**

**FINALISTS:** BUZZ KILL COMEDY, THE FILTHY SHOW, GLOW SHOW, HYDE PARK STORYTELLING

"The stories are beautifully put together and the crowd is always accepting. They even have ASL interpreters for every speaker."

- **Oraiah Jiménez**

GREETINGSFROMQUEERMOUNTAIN.COM

**COMEDY TROUPE**

**Esther's Follies**

**FINALISTS:** GARAGE, LATINO COMEDY PROJECT, MASTER PANCAKE, A VERY SPECIAL EPISODE

"My teeth hurt from laughing so hard."

- **Fran Rush**

525 E. SIXTH, ESTHERSFOLLIES.COM

**COMEDY CLUB / VENUE**

**Cap City Comedy Club**

**FINALISTS:** COLDTOWNE THEATER, COMEDY MOTHERSHIP, THE CREEK AND THE CAVE, FALLOUT THEATER, ESTHER'S FOLLIES

"The new Cap City is really great, although I miss the 'sketchy' vibe of the old one.

Just glad they're back!" - **Michelle Sturges**

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

**STAND-UP  
COMIC**

**Vanessa  
Gonzalez**

**FINALISTS:** ROXY CASTILLO, ANGELINA MARTIN, AVERY MOORE, ARIELLE ISAAC NORMAN

"Local legend!"

- **Mario Tenorio**

VANESSACOMEDY.COM



COURTESY OF VANESSA GONZALEZ



JANA BIRCHUM

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**

**Billie Buck**

**FINALISTS:** AVERY ELKINS, ISHAQ FAHIM, RORY BLANK, YELLASTUD GRAPHICS

"Dope designs!" - **Anthony Miller**

INSTAGRAM.COM/BILLIEBUCKPOSTERS

**FICTION WRITER**

**Sarah Bird**

**FINALISTS:** MAY COBB, OWEN EGERTON, ELIZABETH MCCRACKEN, JAMES WADE

"Her writing takes me to places I have always wanted to visit and introduces me to people I need to know." - **Pat Saunders**

SARAHBIRDBOOKS.COM

**NONFICTION WRITER**

**Lawrence Wright**

**FINALISTS:** WENDI AARONS, KATE WINKLER DAWSON, STEPHEN HARRIGAN, ALISON MACOR

"Lawrence Wright is a pure genius. His devotion to detail and investigative journalism is unparalleled."

- **Andrea Serra**

LAWRENCEWRIGHT.COM

**NEW BOOK BY AN AUSTIN WRITER**

**This Is Why They Hate Us  
by Aaron H. Aceves**

**FINALISTS:** COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BY DALIA AZIM, FREEDOM HOUSE BY KB BROOKINS, MY SUMMER DARLINGS BY MAY COBB, XCRMNTMNTN BY ANDREW HILBERT

"Important topics for teens and youth - hope schools won't ban." - **Jeanne Tanous**

AARONHACEVES.COM

## MOVIE THEATRE

### Alamo Drafthouse

**FINALISTS:** AFS CINEMA, GALAXY HIGHLAND, MOVIEHOUSE & EATERY, VIOLET CROWN CINEMA

"Best theatres and best food and NO MFING NOISY GUESTS."

– **Paul Trowe**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, DRAFTHOUSE.COM

## FILM FESTIVAL

### Austin Film Festival

**FINALISTS:** AGLIFF, FANTASTIC FEST, INDIE MEME FILM FESTIVAL, SXSW FILM & TV FESTIVAL

"An institution that has for many, many years been an integral cultural event here in Austin."

– **Marty Erhart**  
AUSTINFILMFESTIVAL.COM

## FILMMAKER

### Richard Linklater

**FINALISTS:** AMY BENCH, ANDREW BUJALSKI, ANNA MARGARET HOLLYMAN, ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, ERIC SATTLER

"Nobody embodies the best of Austin better. He's the Austin we remember and the one we aspire it to be."

– **Lowell Bartholomee**  
DETOURFILM.COM

## BURLESQUE PERFORMER

### Ginger Snaps

**FINALISTS:** AZÚCAR, CHOLA MAGNOLIA, FROSTINE SHAKE, MISS ADRIENNE PARK

"Ginger Snaps is a pro and absolute delight."

– **Kim Boswood**  
GINGERSNAPSBURLESQUE.COM

## LOCAL VIDEO GAME DEVELOPER

### Chicken Waffle

**FINALISTS:** ARKANE, GUNFIRE GAMES, NOTION GAMES, WOLFEYE STUDIOS

"Killer VR experiences and awesome presence in town."

– **Matt Schmitz**  
CHICKENWAFFLE.COM

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WILD CARD

### Black and Queer AF (ALL BLACK, ALL QUEER VARIETY SHOW)

**FINALISTS:** ART HEALS FESTIVAL (SOCIAL JUSTICE ARTS FESTIVAL), BONER BIZARRE (EROTIC VARIETY SHOW), CIRQUE VIDA (CIRCUS, ACROBATICS, AND DANCE COMPANY), FIGHT OPERA (SURREAL-COMIC WRESTLING PROMOTION)

"Black and Queer AF has created a space for QTPOC to feel safe, valued, and celebrate our joy."

– **Stephanie Sammons**  
INSTAGRAM.COM/BLACKANDQUEERAFATX

## OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

### Austin City Limits Music Festival

**FINALISTS:** ABC KITE FEST, AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL, AUSTIN PSYCH FEST, BEYORE'S BIRTHDAY

"The international recognition and amazing performing artists it attracts to town!"

– **Licia Hendriks**  
ZILKER PARK, ACLFESTIVAL.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

# Figment Creative Labs

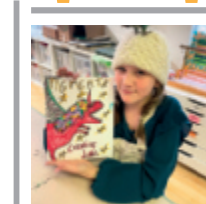
## FALL REGISTRATION

### OPEN NOW!

Creative Pre-K  
Afterschool Enrichment  
Art parties

Homeschool Group  
Home visits  
Toddler playgroup

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



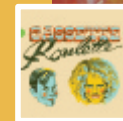
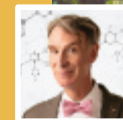
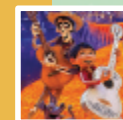
Figmentcreativelabs.com



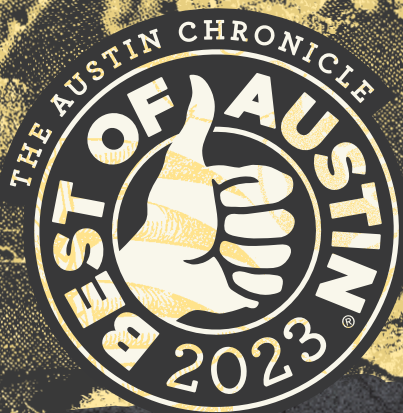
## LONG VIEW

You won't want to miss what's next

- 6/23 Concert Club: The Peterson Brothers
- 7/8 National Geographic: Filipe DeAndrade
- 7/20 Song Confessional Midnight Gala (FREE)
- 7/29 Ballet Folklorico de Austin: Guelaguetza Oaxaqueña
- 8/4 National Geographic: Brian Skerry
- 8/12 Thee Phantom & The Illharmonic Orchestra
- 9/2 Adrian Quesada's Jaguar Sound
- 9/8 Concert Club: Kelly Willis
- 9/9 Teresa Lozano Long Community Day (FREE)
- 9/10 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse Live in Concert
- 10/19 Concert Club: Sue Foley
- 10/23 John Malkovich in The Music Critic
- 11/8 Coco Live-to-Film Concert on Tour
- 12/8-9 Graham Reynolds Ruins the Holidays
- 1/20 Midori, violin
- 2/20 Renée Fleming
- 2/21 An Evening with Bill Nye
- 2/24 Cassette Roulette starring John Cameron Mitchell



TICKETS AT LONGCENTER.ORG



# Arts & Entertainment

## CRITICS PICKS



Glue performs at Mohawk for This Is Austin, Not That Great

JOHN ANDERSON

### BEST HARDCORE-AND-MORE RETURN

## This Is Austin, Not That Great Festival

Earlier this year, when founder Juan-Carlos Silva was explaining the 50-month delayed return of This Is Austin, Not That Great, he shared his one goal for the early March hardcore/extreme metal jamboree: "Rich people are gonna get off the plane for South by Southwest and walk into a nuclear fallout zone." Pee-ew, indeed. Thanks to a lineup encompassing the foulest extremities of hard, heavy music (with some emo-rap aside), TIANTG gathered a small armada of municipal-patched punks to Red River. Mohawk, Empire, and Chess Club employees haven't been able to scrape the glorious grime off their walls since.

INSTAGRAM.COM/THISISAUSTIN.NOTTHATGREAT

### BEST ALL-AROUND CHAMPION OF COMEDY

## Rochelle McConico

Rochelle McConico returned to her hometown of Austin during COVID and dedicated herself to uplifting others through comedy. Whether she's teaching stand-up and improv classes or bringing the all-female second annual Lysistrata Comedy Festival to Austin, she wants you to thrive. A talented all-around performer in her own right, she's acted in short films and commercials, performed improv across the country, and played at Moontower Just for Laughs. McConico is making a splash by ensuring that those around her not only laugh, but feel encouraged, inspired, and praised.

MOONCRICKETPRODUCTIONS.COM

### COOLEST QUEER FILM CLASS

## Queer Film Theory 101

Da moviesh, as Sean Connery called them, are often made by and for straight people – you know, like Sean Connery. Thankfully, any and all movies can be hit by the homosexual analysis beam. Queer Film Theory 101, the monthly "class" held at Draffhouse Mueller bar Barrel O' Fun and hosted by Mike Graupmann and Lesley Clayton, features an ever-changing lineup of queer movie "professors" who wax cinematic on their fave films' subtextual notes of homosexuality. A little queer theory improves any viewing, so sign up to speak or simply sit back and get schooled. Either way, you'll be leaving each QFT 101 session with a whole new appreciation for da moviesh.

FB.COM/QUEERFILMTHEORY101

### BEST FUSION OF ART AND SPORT

## Austin FC Matchday Poster Series

Win or lose – and this season there's been more of the latter than the former, alas – a day at Q2 Stadium is something to remember. With the Austin FC Matchday Poster Series, you'll have a permanent, gallery-worthy memento. Part of the club's ATXFC Artist Initiative, the poster series invites notable local artists like Cat Barrera, Lauren Dickens, Kevin Muñoz, and Chris Cody to design home game posters for extremely stylish posterity. These collectibles are only available on match day, but if you enter Austin FC's sweepstakes, you might be one of the lucky few to win all 17 in the series.

AUSTINFC.COM/COMMUNITY/ATXFC-ARTISTS-INITIATIVE



POSTER BY CAT BARRERA

**Oat Willie's**  
SIMPLY THE BEST!

ONWARD;  
THRU THE  
FOG!

Pipes,  
Papers,  
& Vapes

Please visit our many locations **9505 BURNET** 512.836.6287  
**5201 CAMERON** 512.374.0389 • **1931 EAST OLTORF** 512.448.3313

PIPES • PAPERS • LADIES' CLOTHING • JEWELRY • GIFTS • BOOKS • CANDLES  
INCENSE & SUPPLIES • BOXES • BEDSPREADS • CONTAINERS • TOYS • MORE

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @oatwillies

*Thanks for Voting for Us*

CLAYTON & RAMIREZ, P.L.L.C.  
attorneys and counselors at law

Our legal team is distinguished by our  
commitment to personal attention.

claytonramirezlaw.com • 512-687-0744

**BEAUX  
MED SPA**

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE  
**BEST OF AUSTIN**  
2023

Take advantage of these Best of Austin treatments  
with special pricing all summer long! (Ends Aug.31)

- ♥ \$10 unit Botox (Minimum 40 units.)
- ♥ Buy one Get one laser tattoo removal with our  
NEW PicoWay laser (call for consult or book online.)
- ♥ SkinPen for face + neck: acne scarring, neck lines,  
skin texture & tone. Safe for all seasons and skin tones!  
\$175 (limit 3.)
- ♥ GLO2 Oxygen Facial or our signature Diamond Glow  
Deluxe facial for \$175.

BOOK ONLINE @ BEAUXMEDSPA.COM OR CALL: 512-428-5438

*Thanks for the  
Love, Austin!*



PHOTO BY MAGGIE M. BAILEY / COURTESY OF BLIPSWITCH

**BEST CHOREOGRAPHY OF HUMAN KINESIS**

**BLiPSWiTCH Dance Company**

Taryn Lavery and Alex Miller's gang of body-movers soars and staggers modern dance beyond the known and into areas that engage with multiple futures – the futures of movement, of technology, of humans who must embody the shape of things to come – and bring our contentious present into bracing relief. In a world increasingly run via algorithms, there is nothing artificial about this physical intelligence.

BLIPSWITCHMOVEMENT.COM

**BEST SYNESTHESIA**

**Soundwaves Art Foundation**

As David Bowie once famously asked: "Don't you wonder sometimes about sound and vision?" Artist Tim Wakefield has both in mind with his canvases as he takes the soundwave images of songs and converts them into vivid, colorfully pulsing prints. From his Lockhart gallery and studio, his Soundwaves Art Foundation nonprofit has partnered with over 500 musicians to sign limited-edition runs of his works, in the process raising more than \$7 million for global organizations focused on refugee and disaster support, music education, environmental causes, mental health services, and social justice. Wakefield's prints give fans a new way to experience and connect with their favorite songs.

SOUNDWAVESARTFOUNDATION.COM

**BEST TWO MEN IN A ONE-MAN SHOW**

**Ryan Crowder and Nathan Jerkins**

Penfold Theatre boldly went where no one-man show has gone before with its beautifully executed production of Leonard Nimoy's *Vincent*, the telling of Vincent Van Gogh's life story as told from the perspective of his art dealer brother Theo shortly after Vincent's death and just six months before his own. Here, artistic directors/actors Ryan Crowder and Nathan Jerkins tag-teamed in the role of Theo by taking the stage on alternating nights. Doing so not only offered two unique interpretations of the same play, which Beth Burns directed, but also cleverly enticed theatregoers to make the trip out twice.

PENFOLDTHEATRE.ORG

**BEST SEE-IT-ANYTIME-24/7 VISUAL ART GALLERY**

**ICOSA: Window Dressing**

Whenever the main venue is closed for installation, the ICOSA Collective's gallery at Canopy presents a showcase in their storefront window space that highlights the work of new members – emerging, local, and underrepresented artists, all exploring the possibilities of such a space's limitation. These mini-exhibitions, stunning samplers of what each talented maker conjures at larger scale beyond, are on view 24/7 through the gallery's front glass and available for your eyes' delight any time you need an art fix.

916 SPRINGDALE #102, ICOSACOLLECTIVE.COM

**BEST OUTDOOR MOVIE MAVENS**

**Rocket Cinema**

Musician Justin Sherburn responded to the pandemic in a clever way: by starting an outdoor film screening business. It was a brilliant move, considering how everyone wanted to gather to watch movies but couldn't do so in a crowded indoor theatre. But with the lifting of COVID restrictions, Rocket Cinema proved it still had a place in post-pandemic exhibition, going strong with frequent screenings hosted by Austin Parks Foundation, local breweries, and other venues with screening space and a healthy appreciation for film.

ROCKETCINEMATXAS.COM

**BEST MUSICAL TIME MACHINE**

**Texas Early Music Project**

Company director Daniel Johnson's talented ensemble regularly transports audiences into a vibrant past with sublime presentations of medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and early classical music by exceptional artists whose passion is palpable. Since 2002, TEMP (which Johnson first organized at UT way back in the Eighties) has offered a six-concert season from the fall through the spring of each year, supercharging September to May with glorious sound in addition to teaching historical performance practice at the Armstrong Community Music School, fulfilling their mission of "preserving the past, enriching the present, and engaging the future."

EARLY-MUSIC.ORG

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S **ONLINE**

**STORE**  
THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

## "AID AND ABET" MERCH

The Austin Chronicle has commissioned the renowned, award-winning local artist, Billie Buck, to create merchandise in an effort to support Whole Woman's Health, an abortion clinic and virtual abortion care provider.

100% of the net proceeds from the sale of *Austin Chronicle* "Aid and Abet" merchandise will go towards helping Whole Woman's Health open their new clinic in New Mexico.



**MORE COLORS AVAILABLE**  
BABY ONESIES AND KIDS SIZES TOO

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM / **STORE**



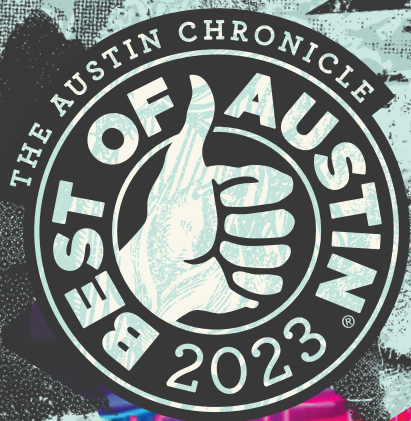
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! 5502 BURNET RD. FREE GIFT WRAP!**

**BEST OF AUSTIN 2022** WINNER  
**BEST OF AUSTIN 2023** FINALIST

## GIRL GUITAR

Guitar, songwriting, band classes, and more for women and teenage girls

**Thanks for the Votes, Austin!**  
Come See us perform at the BOA Market Party!  
Gift Certificates available.  
2309 Thornton Studio C, Austin, TX 78704  
[GIRLGUITARAUSTIN.COM](http://GIRLGUITARAUSTIN.COM)



# Nightlife

## READERS POLL



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### DANCE CLUB

#### Cheer Up Charlies

**FINALISTS:** BARBARELLA, COCONUT CLUB, ELYSIUM, OUTER HEAVEN DISCO CLUB

"Love it there. Such a great energy!" – *Karlene Grinberg*

### BAR FOR SINGLES

#### Cheer Up Charlies

**FINALISTS:** HIGHER GROUND, NICKEL CITY, LATCHKEY, TURNSTILE

"Spectacular place to meet folks, catch great music, or enjoy a splendid cocktail." – *Gustavo Martinez*

### LGBTQIA CLUB

#### Cheer Up Charlies

**FINALISTS:** THE AUSTIN EAGLE, COCONUT CLUB, IRON BEAR, OILCAN HARRY'S, RAIN ON 4TH

"If you want to find your people, there's a good chance you'll find them there." – *Kristina Puerto*

900 RED RIVER, CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### LARGE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

#### ACL Live at the Moody Theater

**FINALISTS:** THE CONCOURSE PROJECT, MOHAWK, MOODY AMPHITHEATER AT WATERLOO PARK, MOODY CENTER, STUBB'S

"Best GA configuration on the planet." – *Paul McMullen*

310 W. WILLIE NELSON, ACLLIVE.COM

### INTIMATE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

#### Continental Club

**FINALISTS:** ANTONE'S NIGHTCLUB, CHESS CLUB, HOTEL VEGAS, SAXON PUB

"There is so much history here and the location is great. Love the Gallery upstairs too." – *Andrea Serra*

1315 S. CONGRESS, CONTINENTALCLUB.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### OUTDOOR VENUE

#### Stubb's

**FINALISTS:** CHEER UP CHARLIES, FAR OUT LOUNGE & STAGE, MOHAWK, MOODY AMPHITHEATER AT WATERLOO PARK

"Sound is always good and never a bad place to stand and watch the performers." – *Ang Obe*

801 RED RIVER, STUBBSAUSTIN.COM

Nightly Complimentary  
Limo Service After 7PM  
Call 512-458-2106  
for availability



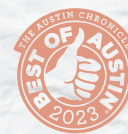
# the YELLOW ROSE

AUSTIN LEGEND FOR 42+ YEARS • YELLOWROSE.COM

THANKS FOR VOTING FOR US, AUSTIN!



## COLDTOWNE Theater



CHECK OUT OUR COMEDY CLASSES, SHOWS, AND CORPORATE OFFERINGS!  
1700 EAST 2ND STREET, ATX | COLDTOWNETHEATER.COM | IG: @COLDTOWNETHEATER

Catch Emmy-nominated writer and comedian **Jamie Loftus** and more than 20 of the best sketch comedy acts from across the country at **Austin Sketch Fest**, June 22-25.

**Got funny kids?** Get 'em into comedy camp! Our youth program has summer camps for kids ages 5-18 registering now.

**Check out our world class corporate training workshops** including: Improv & Storytelling for Sales, Building Empathic Leadership, Maximizing Team Ideation, and Communications for Technical Teams.

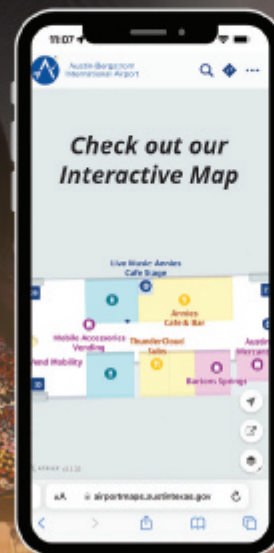
# ASLEEP

# AT THE WHEEL

Listen to 300+ performances  
this summer at one of our  
many restaurants!



# AIRPORT MUSIC NEVER SOUNDED THIS GOOD.



FLYAUSTIN.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### BARTENDER

## Cecilia Menchu (Drinks Lounge)

**FINALISTS:** ARIEL DE LEON (SWAN DIVE), RHONDA JEWELS (THE CAVALIER), BENJI PATEL (COCONUT CLUB), LUCY KING (TURNSTILE)

"Ceci always makes you feel like family."

– Denise Betegh

2001 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, DRINKSLOUNGE.BAR

### QUEER PARTY

## TuezGayz

**FINALISTS:** ATX VOGUE NIGHTS, LESBIAN WEDDING, NEON RAINBOWS, QUEERBOMB

"My holy day of the week. TuezGayz provides the driving components of joy: drag, themes, and dance." – Sarah Pendley

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

### ADULT CLUB

## Yellow Rose

**FINALISTS:** CHICAS BONITAS, PALAZIO GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, PERFECT 10, RED ROSE

"Best club in Austin hands down. The staff and entertainers are amazing." – Kenzie Zaha

6528 N. LAMAR, YELLOWROSE.COM

### NIGHTLIFE WILD CARD

## Wiggle Room

(WEST TEXAS- / DISCO- THEMED COCKTAIL BAR)

**FINALISTS:** GEEKGASM REVUE (NERDLESQUE, COSPLAY, AND GEEK TRIVIA), MEMER MO MONDAY (WEEKLY EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC & VISUALS SERIES), SISTER FISTERS: BEAUTIFUL, DIRTY, BITCH (HALLOWEEN PARTY)

"Wiggle is such a vibe! Beautiful venue, beautiful people."

– Sherilyn Milch

612 NUECES, WIGGLEROOMATX.COM

### CHEAP DATE

## Peter Pan Mini Golf

**FINALISTS:** THE CAVALIER, C-BOY'S HEART & SOUL, COLDTOWNE THEATER, THE LOST WELL, ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

"Never gets old, even if I do."

– Theodore Sopher

1207 BARTON SPRINGS RD., PETERPANMINIGOLF.COM

### DIVE BAR

## Little Darlin'

**FINALISTS:** DEEP EDDY CABARET, THE LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, LALA'S LITTLE NUGGET, NICKEL CITY

"Best food, ample parking, and grassy outdoor seating area."

– Genna De Rosa

6507 CIRCLE S, THELITTLEDARLIN.COM

### SPORTS BAR

## Haymaker

**FINALISTS:** COVER 3, LAVACA STREET BAR, LITTLE WOODROW'S, SKINNY'S OFFTRACK BAR

"Bomb ass food menu!" – Tom Boyle

2310 MANOR RD., HAYMAKERAUSTIN.COM

### KARAOKE

## Ego's

**FINALISTS:** CANARY ROOST, COMMON INTEREST, THE HIGBALL, OUTER HEAVEN DISCO CLUB

"Best karaoke dive bar I've ever visited. Atmosphere is fantastic."

– Katlyn Fohn

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

### JUKEBOX

## Casino El Camino

**FINALISTS:** BARFLY'S, DEEP EDDY CABARET, GOLDEN GOOSE, WORKHORSE

"Best burgers with an incredible soundtrack."

– Tatiana Pennino

517 E. SIXTH, CASINOELCAMINO.NET

### TRIVIA NIGHT

## Trivia 512 at Radio Coffee & Beer

**FINALISTS:** BUTTERFLY BAR, GET IT GALS TRIVIA, PLUCKERS WING BAR, SMALL BATCH TRIVIA AT NOMADIC BEERWORKS

"I met my husband at this game! We always have a blast here."

– Amy Howard

TRIVIA512.COM

### PLACE FOR SOBER SOCIALIZING

## Cosmic Coffee + Beer Garden

**FINALISTS:** ARMADILLO DEN, KICK BUTT COFFEE, SANS BAR, TURNSTILE

"They can make frozen drinks without alcohol!!! Unheard of. It's incredible."

– Sarah Herzer

121 PICKLE #111, COSMICHOSPITALITYGROUP.COM

### POOL HALL

## The Grand

**FINALISTS:** BETSY'S BILLIARDS, FAST EDDIE'S, SLICK WILLIE'S, WAREHOUSE

"Cool spot, awesome staff, plenty of parking."

– Clay Aloy

4631 AIRPORT #121, THEGRANDATX.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### COCKTAIL BAR

## Roosevelt Room

**FINALISTS:** DRINK.WELL, GARAGE, THE TIGRESS, WHISLER'S

"Their amazing and massive list of historical cocktails makes a trip there like a treasure hunt. Everything is delicious."

– Kerri Battles

307-B W. FIFTH, THEROOSEVELTROOMATX.COM



# Making pro gear accessible to ALL.

## ROCK n ROLL® RENTALS

serving Austin since 1989



Handmade, Small Batch Craft Hot Sauce! - Made in Austin  
Visit us at the Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival!



7X WINNER at Austin Chronicle's Hot Sauce Festival!

15% OFF Code: **FEST22**  
@atxhotsauce.com

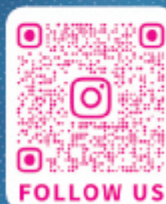


# THE RED ROSE

ADULT NIGHTCLUB

AUSTIN'S PREMIER GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

Nightly Complimentary Limo Service After 7PM - Call 512-660-5003 for availability



FOLLOW US

3615 SOUTH CONGRESS AVE. AUSTIN, TX 78704  
**REDROSEAUSTIN.COM**

# MOODY CENTER

# THANK YOU

# FOR VOTING FOR US!





# Nightlife

## CRITICS PICKS



W.C. Clark performs at Giddy Ups

JANA BIRCHUM

### OLDEST BASTION OF PLAYERS AND PICKERS ON MENCHACA

#### Giddy Ups

Giddy Ups requires preservation and a historical marker ASAP. Not only is it the perfect dive bar and a stellar honky-tonk, it's a home to real players and pickers, from blues musicians to traditional country. Every other Monday, Giddy Ups features the traditional country stylings of Bob Appel, who also features surprise guests like Roger Edgington on pedal steel guitar; meanwhile, blues legend W.C. Clark has a standing Tuesday happy hour residency. Then there's an open mic 8pm Thursdays, and karaoke Sundays presented by locals OTB. No matter the day of week, you're guaranteed something good on the Giddy Ups stage.

12010 MENCHACA RD., GIDDYUPS.COM

### BEST WAY TO PAIR "FANCY" WITH PATIO HANGS

#### Holiday on 7th

You can throw a rock and hit a new bar with bites, but a Govalle neighborhood double-patio cocktail bar with elevated fare and chill vibes is pretty rare. Created by a local trifecta of hospitality pals and former Olamaie staff – Erin Ashford, John DiCicco, and Peter Klein – this space is designed for folks in the know. The “fancy” refers to specialty cocktails like frozen Mexi Marts aka perfect patio drinks. Have a few bevs, down some fat shrimp, and admire the beautiful cacti.

5020 E. SEVENTH, HOLIDAYON7TH.COM

### BEST SOURCE OF SUNDAY DISCOVERIES

#### Club X

With the transformation of a long-rocking space at 711 Red River to the 13th Floor last summer, a new monthly musical incubator popped up too. Every second Sunday, Club X invites Austin heavyweights in the cathartic, up-and-coming, Dr. Martens-stomping realm – artsy youngsters to sustaining shredders' side projects. Michele Mas, head of label/booking outlet Mas Music Records, and Misti Watts, player in DAISTAR and Pale Dian, co-present “the Alternative Red River experience.” Alumni include Lord Friday the 13th, the Pinky Rings, and Sludge. And Downtown on the Lord's day, parking's always free.

INSTAGRAM.COM/CLUBXAUSTIN

### BEST WEST CAMPUS CURATORS

#### Cristina and Andrea Mauri

Collegiate DIY culture is alive and well in Austin thanks to the efforts of Cristina and Andrea Mauri, the dynamic sister duo who specializes in rowdy co-op shows, boisterous backyard bashes, and sweat-filled tunnel raves. Their recent parties include a Prohibition-themed jazz & punk showcase at Electric Church and a South by Southwest takeover of House of Commons, which drew national coverage from the likes of *Paper* magazine. Outside of show booking, the Mauris document nightlife in West Campus and beyond on their popular Instagram page WormNewz and curate the online art zine I Hate War.

INSTAGRAM.COM/WORMNEWZ



**EXCEPTIONAL**  
*- Since 1994 -*



*- We Are a Certified -*  
**ORGANIC ROASTERY**

*Roasts Imported Directly From Fair Trade Co-Ops!*

10515 OLD MANCHACA RD. - OPEN WEEKDAYS 9AM-6PM

*Visit Us At*

**THIRDCOASTCOFFEE.COM**

**SRSLYCHOCOLATE.COM**



**BEST PROOF THAT  
SECOND BEST AIN'T SO BAD**

**The Silver Medal**

If you've been searching for a real dive bar outside of the Downtown melee, haul buns to the only bar on the Northeast Austin 290 turnaround. It's cozy, filled with Cheers vibes, and has a smallish back patio. Even better, these cool cats offer all your favorite bar bevs plus \$2 Jell-O shots. Their hella good menu has options for everybody (gluten-free and vegan, too, but don't harp on that, okay?) with hot dogs, burgers, and Frito pie. Fellow fans of Liberty Bar and Lovejoys (R.I.P. forever), we'll see you there and toast to Jesus Lizard.

7100 HWY. 290 E., [INSTAGRAM.COM/THE\\_SILVER\\_MEDAL](https://www.instagram.com/the_silver_medal)

**BEST PLACE TO IMBIBE WITH EMCEES**

**Fresh Fridaze at  
Independence Brewing**

Local label/collective College of Hip Hop Knowledge, founded by Michael "Big Mic" Pereida and Jsun the Propesor, hosts the free residency at Independence Brewing for all ages. Fresh Fridaze returned during the pandemic in June 2021 and now occurs on the second Friday of each month. Set outside in the patio, artists perform on the simple, intimate stage as either a backdrop for casual mingling or up-close-and-personal, clear rhyming. Totaling over 25 events so far, performers typically include underground local MCs not often showcased around town, in addition to members of the CHHK roster sometimes rounding out each bill.

[CHHK512.COM](https://www.chhk512.com)



Hyder performs at Fresh Fridaze

JOHN ANDERSON



Hover performs at Friendly Rio Market

WAYNE LIM

**MOST HARDCORE CORNER STORE**

**Friendly Rio Market**

In 2019, a then-local post-punk troupe performed at the Friendly Rio Market, flier reading "Music Concert Local Band: Blood." Post-pandemic, the abrasive joy of shirtless drummers and college crowds smooshed into the snack aisle has continued to delight. Backed by a wall of chilled beer and lit by the harsh fluorescents, appearances by national acts like Frost Children during SXSW 2023 produced immediate meme potential (to be released on video by Austin filmmaking collective some of that, please). The West Campus convenience store/venue's perfectly unaesthetic Instagram captures a consistent wave of mosh pits and stand-up comedy welcomed by the friendly owner, Moo.

620 W. 29TH, [INSTAGRAM.COM/RIOVENUE](https://www.instagram.com/riovenue)

**BEST LGBTQ KINK BAR**

**The Austin Eagle**

Austin's gayborhood has a new jewel, in the form of a bar for all kinds of kinks. The Austin Eagle's main thing is mostly squeaky, aromatic leather. In a time where representation and visibility mean more than ever, this club is important. Yes, Virginia, there is a bootblack on site to shine anyone's boots (please tip generously), but there's no uniform and the Austin Eagle is welcome to all. The menu skews toward "bar food," but promises substance with a thick Tuesday night steak dinner special and a very long dessert list to entice even the most vanilla in your party to check it out.

8201 CROSS PARK DR. STE. B-2, [THEAUSTINEAGLE.COM](https://www.theaustineagle.com)

**MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE  
TEQUILA BAR**

**Lulu's**

The southern stretch of Menchaca Road just below Slaughter Lane is a burgeoning bar district these days, and one of its newest arrivals happens to be an ideal setting for gorgeous social media pics and top-notch cocktails. Lulu's is a boho-chic vision filled with blond wood, rattan accents, lush plants, decorative glassware, a large and airy patio, and vividly hued cocktails that focus on agave spirits. Grab a table by one of the wide windows, set down your margarita or spiked agua fresca, get some potted palm fronds in the shot, and wait for the "likes" to pour in.

10402 MENCHACA RD. BLDG. C, [LULUSAUSTIN.COM](https://www.lulusaustin.com)



JANA BIRCHUM

### **BEST ALL-DAY BAR**

## **Ani's Day and Night**

As its name suggests, this bar/cafe on East Riverside Drive does everything it can to keep patrons caffeinated, well-fed, and happy from the daytime work hours up through happy hour and well into the evening. Expertly made cappuccinos and lattes, a diverse menu of natural wines, a tap list focusing on local brews, robust seasonal cocktails, and both a taco truck and a Caribbean truck combine with a spacious patio & lawn and a strong Wi-Fi signal to make Ani's an ideal locale for an all-day-into-night hang.

7107 E. RIVERSIDE, ANISDAYANDNIGHT.COM

### **TINIEST IRISH BAR**

## **Kelly's Irish Pub**

Sometimes small spaces can have the biggest impact, and this isn't a joke about the car crash that only faintly cooled the soft opening of Kelly's Irish Pub. This is about how a bar just a little bigger than the Blarney Stone manages to function as a pub while also hosting bands, darts contests, and football watching parties ranging from Austin FC to FIFA World Cup matches. They squeeze that fun in somehow, just get there early. Kelly's happy hour extends from 2 to 6pm and they close at midnight.

519 W. OLTORF, FB.COM/KELLYS-IRISH-104797518965498

### **BEST LIVE-BAND KARAOKE**

## **Thursdays at Baker Street Pub & Grill**

We have plenty of love for karaoke bars that play pre-recorded backing tracks, but wailing your own spirited rendition of "Sweet Caroline" while accompanied by a three-piece band just hits differently. On Thursday nights, Baker Street Pub & Grill, a relaxed English-inspired tavern tucked right off South Lamar Boulevard, welcomes Texas Live Band Karaoke to play popular karaoke songs while patrons grab the mic and give it their all. With a supportive crowd of bar regulars, a 200+ song menu, and plenty of liquid courage in the form of house cocktails and seasonal drafts, Baker St. Pub's karaoke Thursdays are a must-try for Austin's elusive chanteuses.

3003 S. LAMAR, BAKERSTREETPUB.COM/SOUTH-AUSTIN

STILL AUSTIN  
— WHISKEY Co —

# We Did it Again.

San Francisco World Spirits Competition  
Double Gold Medal Winner - 3 Years in a Row

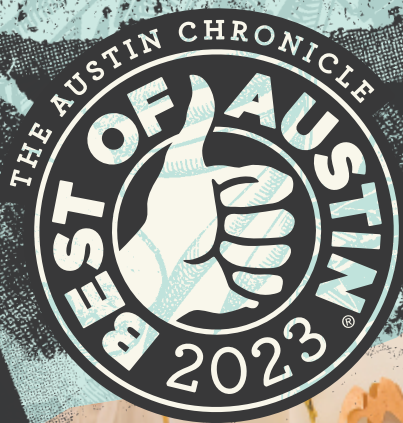
2023  
"THE ARTIST" STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY  
CASK STRENGTH BOURBON WHISKEY

2022  
CASK STRENGTH BOURBON WHISKEY

2021  
"THE MUSICIAN"  
STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY

## The Art of Texas Whiskey





# Politics & Media

## READERS POLL



JOHN ANDERSON

### POLITICS & MEDIA WILD CARD

## The Texas Observer staff

FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY FUNDRAISING EFFORT THAT SAVED THE MAGAZINE

**FINALISTS:** ATX BARRIO ARCHIVE FOR CELEBRATING THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF AUSTIN'S WORKING-CLASS BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES, TRAVIS COUNTY VOTER REGISTRAR BRUCE ELFANT FOR ADVOCATING FOR VOTING RIGHTS, QUEER ICON ERICA NIX FOR HER MAYORAL CAMPAIGN, KMFA'S COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FOR SUPPORTING UNDERREPRESENTED COMPOSERS OF COLOR

"A remarkable mobilization to save a remarkable institution." – **David Judson**

TEXASOBSERVER.ORG

### PRINT PUBLICATION

## The Austin Chronicle

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, BLUEKEYS MAGAZINE, COMMUNITY IMPACT, THE TEXAS OBSERVER

"I could spend all day reading this paper!" – **James Scott**

4000 N. I-35, AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

### ONLINE MEDIA OUTLET

## The Texas Tribune

**FINALISTS:** THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE, AUSTIN MONITOR, EATER AUSTIN, KUT

"They're somehow well respected with both Rs and Ds at the Capitol. Unheard of!" – **Courtney DeBower**

919 CONGRESS, SIXTH FLOOR, TEXASTRIBUNE.ORG

### RADIO STATION

## KUT 90.5FM

**FINALISTS:** KMFA CLASSICAL 89.5, KOOP 91.7FM, KUTX 98.9FM, SUN RADIO

"From the local shows to the national ones, there's always something engaging on the air." – **Brandi Burton**

300 W. DEAN KEETON, KUT.ORG

### RADIO PROGRAM

## Texas Standard (KUT)

**FINALISTS:** THE BREAKS (KUTX), THE CJ MORGAN SHOW (101X), JAMAICAN GOLD (KOOP), OLD SCHOOL DANCE PARTY (KUTX)

"Touches on all things Texan."

– **Manuela Reyes-Diaz** TEXASSTANDARD.ORG

### SPANISH-LANGUAGE RADIO STATION

## La Raza 95.1FM

**FINALISTS:** AMOR 107.7FM, LA Z 107.1FM

"They serve the community."

– **Melissa Perez**

LARAZA.COM/AUSTIN



PHOTO BY GABRIEL C. PEREZ

### RADIO HOST

## Laurie Gallardo (KUTX)

**FINALISTS:** KEVIN CONNOR (SUN RADIO), JODY DENBERG (KUTX), CJ MORGAN (101X), JERRY QUIJANO (KUT)

"Love, love, love her! She knows her music and isn't afraid to throw in a vintage groove." – **Stacey Mecca**

KUTX.ORG/HOSTS-STAFF/LAURIE-GALLARDO



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA VEGA

## PODCAST

### The Night Owl

**FINALISTS:** THE DISCONNECT, DOUBLE TOASTED, PARANORMAL PUTAS, SUSTO, WOMEN OF AUSTIN PODCAST

"The stories from *The Night Owl* podcast are always entertaining, sometimes super spooky, but prompt a lot of discussion: Are gnomes real? Are shadow people good or bad? Where can I find that medium Sara Reeves??" – **Kay Marley-Dilworth**

THE NIGHT OWL PODCAST.COM



# R.I.P. OLD AUSTIN

From Liberty Lunch to Raul's, Dobie Theatre to Armadillo World Headquarters, Sound Exchange to Shady Grove ... Austinites can't help but miss the places that kept us weird.

We want everyone to carry a piece of "Old Austin" with them, so we created this shirt in memory of iconic local restaurants, bars, clubs, and businesses past.

Whether you're a long-time Austinite looking for a trip down memory lane or a newcomer eager to embrace the city's past, don't miss your chance to wear a piece of Austin history.



THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S **ONLINE STORE**

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

**NEW STUFF! CHECK IT OUT.**

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM / **STORE**

Order yours today!

**AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/STORE**

Lots of color options!



JANA BIRCHUM

## NONPROFIT

### Austin Pets Alive!

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN ALLIES, AUSTIN FREE-NET, HAAM (HEALTH ALLIANCE FOR AUSTIN MUSICIANS), HEADSTRONG GIRLS' BOXING

"Taking care of those that can't speak for themselves." – **Patrick Bingham**

1156 W. CESAR CHAVEZ, AUSTINPETSALIVE.ORG

## TV NEWS

### KXAN

**FINALISTS:** CBS AUSTIN, FOX 7, KVUE, SPECTRUM NEWS

"They actually investigate and get results." – **Carmen Gonzalez**

908 W. MLK, KXAN.COM

## TV ANCHOR/REPORTER

### Quita Culpepper (KVUE)

**FINALISTS:** ASHLEY GOUDEAU (KVUE), BRYAN MAYS (KVUE), JENNIFER SANDERS (KXAN), TREVOR SCOTT (CBS AUSTIN)

"She has a good heart, and it shows in the way she presents the news." – **Suzanne LaPinta**

TWITTER.COM/QUITAC\_KVUE

## SPORTSCASTER

### Roger Wallace (KXAN)

**FINALISTS:** BOB BALLOU (CBS AUSTIN), JEFF JONES (KVUE), DENNIS DE LA PEÑA (FOX 7), JONATHAN THOMAS (KXAN)

"The OG sportscaster!" – **Amanda Dugan**

TWITTER.COM/RWALLACEKXAN

## WEATHERPERSON

### David Yeomans (KXAN)

**FINALISTS:** JAMES GREENHAW ("PFLUGERVILLE WEATHER GUY"), SHANE HINTON (KVUE), AVERY TOMASCO (CBS AUSTIN), HUNTER WILLIAMS (KVUE), CHIKAGE WINDLER (CBS AUSTIN)

"How can you fill Jim Spencer's shoes? With someone like David Yeomans. His broadcast during Hurricane Harvey (when the news crew was kicked out of their Houston hotel) stands out as his 'welcome to the stage' moment."

– **CJ Morgan**

INSTAGRAM.COM/DAVIDYEOMANSWEATHER

## NEWS REPORTER

### Tony Plohetski

(AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, KVUE)

**FINALISTS:** MOSE BUCHELE (KUT), AUDREY MCGLINCHY (KUT), TAHERA RAHMAN (KXAN), AUSTIN SANDERS (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE)

"Easy. His hard work on Uvalde is his most defining work, and I'm excited to work with him."

– **Jordan Darenbourg**

TWITTER.COM/TPLOHETSKI

## COLUMNIST

### Michael Barnes

(AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN)

**FINALISTS:** NICK BARBARO (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), JACK CRAVER (THE AUSTIN POLITICS NEWSLETTER), BRIDGET GRUMET (AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN), THE LUV DOC (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE)

"I learn so much about Texas history and the characters that populate its history. Michael Barnes is a Texas treasure!" – **Gerard Beaudoin**

TWITTER.COM/OUTANDABOUT

## FOOD WRITER

### Nadia Chaudhury

(EATER AUSTIN)

**FINALISTS:** WAYNE ALAN BRENNER (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), ADDIE BROYLES (THE FEMINIST KITCHEN), MELANIE HAUP (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), MATTHEW ODAM (AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN)

"We ride or die for Nadia."

– **John Molhoek**

TWITTER.COM/NADIACHAUDHURY

## FILM CRITIC

### Richard Whittaker

(THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE)

**FINALISTS:** KOREY COLEMAN (DOUBLE TOASTED), ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ (WE GOT THIS COVERED, THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), JENNY NULF (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), ERIC WEBB (FORMERLY AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN)

"Head and shoulders above any other film critic in Austin."

– **Tex Obie**

TWITTER.COM/YORKSHIRETX

## MUSIC JOURNALIST

### Andy Langer

(TEXAS MONTHLY, AUSTIN CITY LIMITS RADIO)

**FINALISTS:** KEVIN CURTIN (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), DOUG FREEMAN (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), RACHEL RASCOE (THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE), DEBORAH SENGUPTA STITH (AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN)

"He lives this stuff."

– **Mark Dunham**

TWITTER.COM/ANDYLANGER

## PHOTOGRAPHER

### Annie Ray

**FINALISTS:** ISABELLA MARTINEZ, ALEX PARADOX, CASEY CHAPMAN ROSS, TODD V. WOLFSON

"Annie has a way of making you feel comfortable and confident in front of the camera." – **Sarah Wolf**

ANNIERAY.NET

## ONLINE PERSONALITY

### Evil MoPac

**FINALISTS:** ATX CONCERT QUEEN, JAZZY ANNE, RACHEL LATELY, SPILL THE ATX

"Misery loves company."

– **Susanne Harm**

TWITTER.COM/EVILMOPACATX

## CITY OFFICIAL

### Mayor Kirk Watson

**FINALISTS:** COUNCIL MEMBER ALISON ALTER, COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA FUENTES, COUNCIL MEMBER NATASHA HARPER-MADISON, COUNCIL MEMBER ZO QADRI

"Love him or hate him, he's gettin' shit done." – **Byron Wyche**

TWITTER.COM/KIRKPWATSON

## STATE OFFICIAL

### U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett

**FINALISTS:** U.S. REP. GREG CASAR, STATE SEN. SARAH ECKHARDT, STATE REP. GINA HINOJOSA, STATE REP. DONNA HOWARD

"All politicians should be as real and caring as Lloyd Doggett."

– **Joi Holcolmb**

DOGGETT.HOUSE.GOV

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### Central Texas Food Bank

**FINALISTS:** CENTRAL TEXAS PIG RESCUE, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE, IT'S MY PARK DAY, MEALS ON WHEELS CENTRAL TEXAS

"My boys and I love volunteering here. It's a well-oiled machine and they do a good job educating volunteers on their mission and hunger in Central Texas." - **Erin Geisler**

6500 METROPOLIS, CENTRALTEXASFOODBANK.ORG

## LOCAL CONTROVERSY

### Rainey Street serial killer conspiracy theory

**FINALISTS:** CITY MANAGER SPENCER CRONK'S EXIT, DUELING POLICE OVERSIGHT PROPOSITIONS, KIRK WATSON CONTRACTS STATE TROOPERS TO PATROL AUSTIN, I-35 EXPANSION

"Saying there's a serial killer is easier than admitting customers get over-served in bars, leave drunk, then fall in and drown." - **Delwin Goss**



COURTESY OF NANCY THOMPSON

## GRASSROOTS / POLITICAL ORG

### Mothers Against Greg Abbott

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN DSA (DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA), AUSTIN JUSTICE COALITION, EQUALITY TEXAS, TEXAS FREEDOM NETWORK

"Awesome grassroots group. Started from nothing and now, a force to be reckoned with." - **Elyse Rosenberg**

## ACTIVIST

### Nancy Thompson (MOTHERS AGAINST GREG ABBOTT)

**FINALISTS:** TARIK DANIELS (WHAT'S IN THE MIRROR?), CHRIS HARRIS (AUSTIN JUSTICE COALITION), CHAS MOORE (AUSTIN JUSTICE COALITION), DAMIAN PANTOJA (DEL VALLE ISD)

"Because of what she stands for ... and against." - **Lucas Edd**

MOTHERSAGAINSTGREGABBOTT.COM



# HAAM Day Returns Tues, 9/19/2023

Keeping Music In Austin Alive & Well!

## BLUE ELEPHANT

4001 N. Lamar Blvd • (512)-371-3259

• Billabong • O'Neill • R+Co • Kiehl's • Free People Movement



# Politics & Media

## CRITICS PICKS



JANA BIRCHUM

### HARDEST-WORKING HARBINGER OF QUEER PROGRESS

#### Adri Pérez

If all the legislators under the pink dome had a pinkie's worth of Texas Freedom Network Organizing Director Adri Pérez's courage, maybe this ol' Lone Star State wouldn't be failing its people so often. Stacks of expertly crafted testimony delivered to the often antagonistic reps and senators prove Pérez's shining sword, cutting BS bills to ribbons. Their relentless advocacy – teaching oppressed folks across Texas how to represent themselves at the Capitol – makes that sword an open-source weapon. Even overeager DPS officers, whose rough treatment of LGBTQ protesters at the Capitol included tackling Pérez to the ground, haven't blunted the activist's spirit. They remain as sharp as ever in the fight for queer Texans' futures.

TFN.ORG

### BEST VOLUNTEER DATA SCIENTIST

#### Julio Gonzalez Altamirano

Every city should be so lucky to have their own Julio Gonzalez Altamirano. A dedicated civic volunteer, Altamirano closely studies the data presented by local government officials to justify policy decisions. Sometimes that data can be obfuscating, intentionally or otherwise, but on Twitter and in blog posts, Altamirano brings much-needed clarity to wonky policy discussions. Whether he's scrutinizing the questionable statistical methodology used by the Austin Police Department to justify more policing or tracking down the inputs used to estimate ridership for Project Connect, his work is an invaluable service to the community, and we're thankful for it.

TWITTER.COM/JULIOGATX

### BEST TV REPORTER ON THE CASE

#### Jala Washington

Seven or eight local reporters covered the Daniel Perry murder trial but KXAN's Jala Washington stood out from the rest. The weekend morning anchor and weekday reporter moved through the courtroom with a lawyerly self-assurance, speaking in earnest tones to the families of the victim and the shooter, comparing notes with her fellow reporters, and then setting up outside the courtroom to deliver live updates at 5pm. In these, Washington underlined the trial's most interesting elements. Notably, she was the first reporter to highlight the importance of Perry's violent social media posts – the evidence that legal observers say eventually led to Perry's guilty verdict.

TWITTER.COM/JALA\_\_WASHTV

### BEST BUILDER OF QUEER BLACK COMMUNITY

#### Queer Black Women Alliance

Everyone deserves a room of their own, and in that spirit, Arijah Rashid and her team at Queer Black Women Alliance have created a much-needed room to accommodate Austin's Black queer community. Where other organizations strive for all-encompassing inclusivity, the exclusivity with which QBWA approaches their events allows for a historically underserved group to flourish under such loving attention. From dedicating an entire week to Black queer mental health activities and setting up queer Black entrepreneurs with grants to organizing bowling league nights and pool hall hangouts, this nonprofit doesn't just demand room for its community. QBWA makes the room: walls, floor, and door entire.

QUEERBLACKWOMENALLIANCE.ORG

### BEST WATCHDOG OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISTS COMING FOR OUR SCHOOL BOARDS

#### Frank Strong

Teachers usually avoid politics. But that's not so easy these days as Republicans refuse to address gun violence, encourage discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, and promote book bans. Austin literature teacher Frank Strong has responded with unabashed political activism in the form of his "The Book-Loving Texan's Guide to the May 2023 School Board Elections," a self-described mobilization tool. The online primer does the homework on right-wing kooks running in school districts around the state. "As long as politicians perceive that bullying trans kids, protecting white innocence, or accusing teachers of 'grooming' is a winning political issue, they will continue to do it," Strong cautions. "So adopt a race and see how you can help."

TWITTER.COM/FRANKSTRONG

BE YOUR CHILD'S  
**HERO**

## Vaccinate your child against COVID-19

Hey parents, kids look up to you for protection and security. With great power comes great responsibility. **#BeYourChildsHero** by providing them with the highest level of protection through vaccination. Vaccinate your kids today and keep them safe.



**APH** Austin  
Public  
Health  
*enliven, empower, protect.*

[austintexas.gov/BeYourChildsHero](https://austintexas.gov/BeYourChildsHero)

GET THE FREE

# HEALTH HERO

COLORING BOOK

A fun way to learn how to prevent infections.



Scan to  
download



JANA BIRCHUM

**BEST FREEWAY FIGHTERS**

**Rethink35 and Reconnect Austin**

Austin is barreling toward an expansion of I-35 through Downtown that will destroy homes and businesses and lead to massive increases in carbon emissions, while doing nothing to reduce traffic congestion. Yet groups like Rethink35 and Reconnect Austin continue to fight and offer better alternatives to freeway widening, reminding the people of Austin that the health of our climate depends on less car dependency and more sustainable modes of transportation. We appreciate their commitment and hope local and state leaders implement some of their plans to make a bad idea a little better.

RETHINK35.COM, RECONNECTAUSTIN.COM

**BEST ADVOCATE FOR HARM REDUCTION TO COMBAT THE OVERDOSE CRISIS**

**Cate Graziani and Texas Harm Reduction Alliance**

As the overdose crisis continues with no signs of slowing down, it demands a communitywide response. But one particular organization has been instrumental in galvanizing elected officials to leverage tangible resources to combat overdose, and that's the Texas Harm Reduction Alliance. THRA's town hall last May directly led to the county's crisis declaration and investment of \$350,000 in harm reduction strategies, and their advocacy at the Legislature this session helped popularize fentanyl test strip legalization efforts, despite the Lege's ultimate failure on that front. As Cate Graziani, THRA's policy director for the last four years, steps down, she and her organization made up largely of advocates with lived experience deserve recognition for their dogged persistence in getting politicians to listen and to act.

1803 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, HARMREDUCTIONTX.ORG

**BEST GUY TO ASK ABOUT YOUR TV SETTINGS**

**Neil Miller**

After *Game of Thrones* fans rioted on the socials over the perceived dark picture quality of season 8 episode "The Long Night," Film School Rejects founder Neil Miller politely explained the real problem: You. You're the problem. Well, more to the point, it's that you've probably still got your TV on factory settings, which isn't going to do you any favors with *GoT* or follow-up *House of the Dragon*. Luckily Miller – a film blogger, podcaster, and former Best Buy employee – has the winning formula to get your inky blacks and gloomy grays looking picture-perfect. (Just Google "Neil Miller TV settings" for the magic combo.) And ffs turn off the motion smoothing, people. We're not animals.

TWITTER.COM/REJECTS

**BEST PLAYLIST DEDICATED TO LOCAL HIP-HOP**

**New Fresh City**

Aaron "Fresh" Knight, one half of Austin's top hip-hop radio show *The Breaks* on KUTX, composes a comprehensive playlist featuring music from local MCs. His log, titled "New Fresh City," works less like a constantly changing curatorial selection and more like an extensive look into the city's scene over the last two years; his current update – available on Spotify, Apple Music, and Tidal – contains over 13 hours' worth of tracks. Looking for even more? The Eastside native has expanded his media reach even further with a brand-new music video talk show program on Austin Music TV also titled *New Fresh City*.

NEWFRESHCITY.COM

**BEST-EVER TREAT FOR OVERLOOKED DOGS**

**The Long Stay Project**

With Austin animal shelters historically overcrowded, we have a lot of dogs stuck in the stay position for months and even years. To relieve the stress from shelter life and help long-stay pups stay socialized, animal advocate Amanda Jo treats them to overnight Airbnb stays full of cuddles and TLC. Her commitment doesn't stop there: By featuring these overlooked rescues on her social feeds, she's encouraging prospective pet owners to take a closer look, and helping these deserving dogs find their forever homes.

INSTAGRAM.COM/THELONGSTAYPROJECT

**BEST ANIMAL RESCUERS SUPPORTING THE NO-KILL MESSAGE PAST AUSTIN CITY LIMITS**

**S.A.F.E. Refuge of Central Texas**

This small rescue organization is dedicated to Saving Animals From Euthanasia with efforts hyperfocused on small rural shelters outside of Austin with high kill rates. These earth angels take in dogs and cats who have nearly reached the end of the road and offer them a second chance at life and love through their coordinated efforts providing rehabilitation, spay and neuter services, and transports. Their 100% foster-based care system works with skilled trainers and vets to help heal "unadoptable" medical cases and behavioral issues so that all the fur babies can find a home and a new leash on life.

SAFEREFUGEOFCENTRALTEXAS.WEBBLY.COM

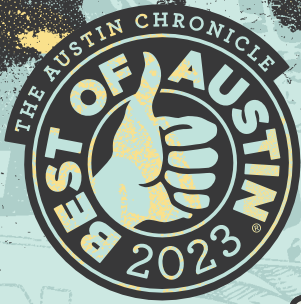


**BEST STREAMER MASCOT**

**General Washingtoad**

If we're being honest, this award technically goes to Twitch streamer and content creator raysfire, who's best known for his *Super Mario Maker* and *Mario Kart* skills. The evening streams and YouTube videos range from endurance tests to battles against his viewers and AI as they control opposing players who are pitted against the host, who'll sometimes raise the difficulty level by playing blindfolded. Despite those skills, his greatest achievement might be adopting *The Super Mario Bros. Super Show!* one-off character General Washingtoad as his unofficial mascot, an image of whom often sits perched in a corner of his streams. With the popularity of the *Mario* franchise, it's clear the mushroom people are the best, and General Washingtoad is the best of the best. We salute you!

TWITCH.TV/RAYSFIRE



JOIN US FOR THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE'S

# Best of Austin® Market

# PARTY

Lustre Pearl South • Saturday, June 17 • 1-5 PM

Hang out and shop with local vendors, sip drink specials, and enjoy fun activities and entertainment including Austin-themed games with Get It Gals Trivia, live performances, photo ops, food trucks and more.

THIS YEAR'S VENDORS INCLUDE:

- ADORN & GARNISH • BOXT WINES • FRESH COSMETIC STUDIO • GIRL GUITAR AUSTIN •
- HAPPY CLOUDS SMOKE SHOP • HEY GORGEOUS WAXING & SKIN STUDIO • IREP JUNK REMOVAL RESALE SHOP •
- LAS OFRENDAS • LUCKY DOG TAROT • MANTRA MASSAGE / MANTRA WELLNESS • MCGUIRE'S BARBERSHOP •
- PARKER & SCOTT • PAWS ON CHICON • SAGE ACUPUNCTURE • SUGAR MAMA'S BAKESHOP •
- TURQUOISE MOUNTAINS • UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE • VINYL BEAUTY BAR • WORLD INTERIORS •

Feat. sounds from 2023 Austin Music Awards winner

## DJ CHORIZO FUNK

Plus drink specials from Still Austin benefiting Austin Pets Alive! and food from Matador, Perfect Bite, and Brunch Club ATX



**ALL AGES!**

Lustre Pearl South is kid-friendly until 7pm

**DOGS WELCOME!**

if you keep 'em close by or on a leash



[AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM) / [BOAPARTY](http://BOAPARTY)

**IT'S FREE!**

when you RSVP



# Services

## READERS POLL



JANA BIRCHUM

### MANI / PEDI

## Cute Nail Studio

FINALISTS: CURE STUDIOS, GREAT NAILS, VINYL BEAUTY BAR, VIVA DAY SPA

"Awesome people giving awesome manis." – *Babette Lirette*

1211 E. SEVENTH; 3801 S. CONGRESS #104, CUTENAILSTUDIO.COM



### BARBERSHOP

## Birds Barbershop

FINALISTS: THE BARBASHOP, DADDY'S BARBERSHOP, FINLEY'S BARBERSHOP, MCGUIRE'S BARBERSHOP

"As a nonbinary person, I've had difficulty finding good haircuts because barbers won't believe that I want what I say I want. So to get the same haircut any other customer might ask for, I have to go through frustrating hoops that those other customers don't. Birds just gives me the damn haircut." – *Innes Walker*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, BIRDSBARBERSHOP.COM

### SALON

## Urban Betty

FINALISTS: CHEZ SHIRAZ, METHOD HAIR, HARLOW BEAUTY AND HAIR SALON, VINYL BEAUTY BAR

"Never see anything but great results from this place – and an owner that cares about her people." – *Kathleen Lucente*

1206 W. 38TH #1107; 361 S. CONGRESS #108, URBANBETTY.COM

### WAX

## reWAXation

FINALISTS: CUTE NAIL STUDIO, HEY GORGEOUS WAXING AND SKIN STUDIO, HIATUS SPA + RETREAT, SARA ZAMORA BROWS

"The girls here are super thorough and amazing at their jobs. And the vibes are just the cherry on top." – *Alexandra Moreno*

2200 S. LAMAR, REWAXATIONTX.COM

### MASSAGE

## Viva Day Spa

FINALISTS: ACE OF CUPS MASSAGE AND WELLNESS, AUSTIN ASHIATSU, MANTIS MASSAGE, MANTRA MASSAGE

"Viva Day Spa always makes my week better." – *Blake Byer*

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

### SKIN CARE

## Viva Day Spa

FINALISTS: BEAUX MEDSPA, MANTRA MASSAGE, SANOVA DERMATOLOGY, VIXEN ESTHETICS

"My face has a glow for days afterwards." – *Ariel Pa*

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



JANA BIRCHUM

### SPA

## Milk + Honey

FINALISTS: AWAY SPA AT W HOTEL, HIATUS SPA + RETREAT, SPA SWAY, VIVA DAY SPA

"I would pay the price of admission just to use their showers. The showers are good, y'all." – *Isobel Ihard*

100-A GUADALUPE; 12901 HILL COUNTRY BLVD. STE. D1-110; 9722 GREAT HILLS TRL. #210; 1211 W. RIVERSIDE #200, MILKANDHONEYSPA.COM



BEST OF AUSTIN

# FREE Laundry Pick-up & Delivery

Residential & Commercial Services

Use promo code **BOA2023** and get \$15 off your order.



# Thanks for the votes!



Services  
Home Maintenance

Shopping  
Used Furniture

Recycle Everything Possible

"Heroes are made by the path they choose" – Choose Recycling

Recycle Junk • Fight Waste • Save the Planet



512-587-2186 [IREPjunkremoval.com](http://IREPjunkremoval.com)



## SUPPORT FREE PRESS.

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

Please consider supporting *The Austin Chronicle*. For just a few bucks, you can help us keep delivering the news.

[AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SUPPORT](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SUPPORT)



## HAPPY CLOUDS

KEEP AUSTIN CLOUDY!

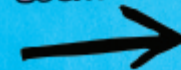
MENTION THIS AD FOR  
**25% OFF ANY GLASS ITEM!**  
**\$80 OFF PUFFCO PRO!**    **35% OFF ALL DELTA 10!**

### HAPPY CLOUDS



FOLLOW UP ON IG  
**@HAPPYCLOUDSATX**  
FOR MORE DEALS

VISIT OUR 4 LOCATIONS



**MONTOPOLIS**  
903 MONTOPOLIS DR.  
**NORTH LAMAR**  
7205 N. LAMAR BLVD.  
**PARMER**  
13000 N. I-35, STE 300  
**ROUND ROCK**  
602 MCNEIL ROAD



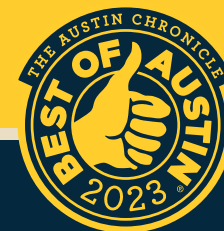
Est. 1984

# SALT

SERVICE CO.  
PLUMBING | AIR | ELECTRIC

# THANK YOU

FOR VOTING FOR US



[callSALT.com](http://callSALT.com)

(512) 272-5000

TECL #26149 | TA CLB #117615E | LIC# M-44221



JANA BIRCHUM

## TATTOO

### Atomic Tattoo

**FINALISTS:** COPPERHEAD TATTOO & PIERCING, METICULOUS TATTOO, STUDIO INK, TRUE BLUE

"They have some of the most creative artists, and their customer service is always on point. Great place for a beginner enthusiast as well as a veteran collector."

- **Jorge L. Molina**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ATOMIC-TATTOO.COM

## ACUPUNCTURE

### Sage Acupuncture

**FINALISTS:** MOON MEDICINE HEALING ARTS, NEIGHBORHOOD ACUPUNCTURE PROJECT, ROSEDALE ACUPUNCTURE & WELLNESS CENTER, SOUTH AUSTIN COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE

"The locations are beautiful & serene & all the therapists are lovely."

- **Blair Nelson**

1707 W. KOENIG; 2525 WALLINGWOOD, BLDG. 7-A #700, REPRODUCTIVEACUPUNCTURE.COM

## LASHES

### The Lash Lounge

**FINALISTS:** DOLCE BLU, FRESH COSMETIC STUDIO, GAZE, HARLOW BEAUTY AND HAIR SALON, PINK LADY LASH

"Great service, excellent lash lift results." - **Vanessa De La Garza**

1911 ALDRICH #140; 3300 BEE CAVES RD. #630; 1335 E. WHITESTONE BLVD. STE. H-400, CEDAR PARK, THELASHLOUNGE.COM

## HOTEL

### The Driskill Hotel

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN MOTEL, CARPENTER HOTEL, HOTEL SAN JOSÉ, SOUTH CONGRESS HOTEL

"We stayed 20 years ago on our wedding night and again this year on our anniversary. What a sweet slice of Austin charm and Texas swagger." - **Owen Egerton**

604 BRAZOS, DRISKILLHOTEL.COM

## WEDDING VENUE

### The Driskill Hotel

**FINALISTS:** CAMP LUCY, CHAPEL DULCINEA, THE HALL AT JESTER KING, SPRINGDALE STATION

"Elegance and quality service." - **Patricia González-Villaseñor**

604 BRAZOS, DRISKILLHOTEL.COM

## AUTO REPAIR / SERVICE

### Juke Auto

**FINALISTS:** FLAMINGO AUTOMOTIVE, GENE JOHNSON AUTOMOTIVE, GROOVY AUTOMOTIVE, YOST AUTOMOTIVE

"I was in a bind and Juke helped me fix the issue. They were friendly, the environment was clean and respectful - zen, even. And to top it off, they did not charge me a dime. I recommend Juke to everyone I know in Austin." - **Pam Young**

924 SHADY, JUKEAUTO.COM

## COMPUTER REPAIR

### Discount Electronics

**FINALISTS:** COMPUTER NERDZ, COMPUZONE, FRANKENSTEIN COMPUTERS, MACDADDY SERVICE, MACTRONICS

"Always reliable whenever I can't find an obscure part. Also gave me a free DVI cable." - **Maximilian de la Rosa**

4005 W. PARMER; 1001 S. I-35, ROUND ROCK, DISCOUNTELECTRONICS.COM

## RESTAURANT / BEVERAGE DELIVERY

### Tso Chinese Delivery

**FINALISTS:** FAVOR, FEZ, RUNNERCITY, SHOW ME PIZZA

"Delicious! No tipping policy. Glad their company takes care of them."

- **Joy Baldwin**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TSODELIVERY.COM

## MUSIC INSTRUCTION

### Girl Guitar Austin

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, EASTSIDE MUSIC SCHOOL, MICHAEL RUBIN HARMONICA, THE MUSICIANS WOODSHED

"The group has changed my life."

<3" - **Elizabeth Mason**

2309 THORNTON, STUDIO C, GIRLGUITARAUSTIN.COM

## HOME MAINTENANCE / SERVICES

### ABC Home & Commercial Services

**FINALISTS:** FULL COLOR CLEANERS, IHAULJUNK, IREP JUNK REMOVAL, PREFIX, QUEEN OF TO DO

"Nice people, good work, reasonable prices." - **Toto Kaos**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ABCHOMEANDCOMMERCIAL.COM

## LAWN CARE / LANDSCAPING

### ABC Home & Commercial Services

**FINALISTS:** ALLANDALE LAWN AND LANDSCAPE, NATIVE EDGE LANDSCAPE, REAL GREEN PEST AND LAWN, SEEDLINGS GARDENING

"ABC Lawn Care are quick, fantastic, and friendly." - **Maria Milner**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ABCHOMEANDCOMMERCIAL.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

## DOGGIE DAY CARE

### Taurus Academy

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN DOGTOWN BOARDING & DAYCARE, FOSSIL RIDGE DOGGIE PLAYCARE, SIT.FETCH.STAY, WORK & WOOF

"Taurus cares so much about our dogs. Unbelievable staff and consistently great service." - **Adam Daley**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TAURUSACADEMY.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

## MUSIC SERVICES / EQUIPMENT

### Strait Music Co.

**FINALISTS:** ATX BACKLINE, AUSTIN VINTAGE GUITARS, ROCK N ROLL RENTALS, SOUTH AUSTIN MUSIC, SWITCHED ON

"Everyone is so knowledgeable, welcoming, and KIND. You can't say that about every music shop in Austin." – *Ava L'Amoreaux*

3201 BEE CAVES RD. #140; 13945 HWY. 183 N., STRAITEMUSIC.COM

## FENCING

### Viking Fence

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN BROTHERS FENCE CO., DISCOUNT FENCE, K2 FENCE & STAIN, INTEGRITY FENCE

"Not unlike actual Vikings, they have literally taken over the city! Props to them. They get my vote based on sheer domination." – *Sean Cooper*

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

## ROOFING

### Wilson Roofing

**FINALISTS:** ACE ROOFING CO., IST CAPITAL CERTIFIED ROOFING, BIRDCREEK ROOFING, KANGAROO

"Honest, reliable, great work, and pleasant people!" – *Monica Molina*

217-A S. COMMONS FORD, WILSONROOFING.COM

## ELECTRICIAN

### Salt Service Co.

**FINALISTS:** ABC HOME & COMMERCIAL SERVICES, BRYANT AC & ELECTRIC, CLOCK'S ELECTRIC, MAX ELECTRICAL SERVICES

"Technical explanations I could totally understand." – *Susan Dorsey*

901 S. MOPAC, BLDG. 1 #300, CALLSALT.COM

## A/C REPAIR / INSTALLATION

### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

**FINALISTS:** KOALA COOLING, MCCULLOUGH HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, SALT SERVICE CO., STAN'S HEATING, AIR & PLUMBING

"Anyone who gets the attention from John Oliver is a winner in my book."

– *Robert Schnetz*

901 REINLI, RADIANTPLUMBING.COM

## PLUMBER

### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

**FINALISTS:** ET PLUMBING, GTX PLUMBING, SALT SERVICE CO., WILSON PLUMBING

"Took care of us fast and did a great job." – *Angela Entrekin*

901 REINLI, RADIANTPLUMBING.COM

## LOCKSMITH

### Cothron's

**FINALISTS:** CHASTITY LOCK & KEY, HENRY'S LOCK & KEY, SHARP BROTHERS LOCKSMITH

"This place is dope actually."

– *Matt Sonzala*

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

# Sage

## Acupuncture



## Thanks for Voting for Us!

- Integrative Care for Fertility & Reproductive Wellness
- North & South Locations
- 20 Years of Compassionate Medicine for All

[ReproductiveAcupuncture.com](http://ReproductiveAcupuncture.com)



"BEST OF AUSTIN" 2023 FINALIST  
**BEST LAWYER**



# COFER & CONNELLY

THANKS FOR VOTING!



602 W. 11<sup>TH</sup> ST., AUSTIN, TX 78701 • 512-200-3801  
[COFERCONNELLY.COM](http://COFERCONNELLY.COM)



JOHN ANDERSON

## BIKE SHOP / REPAIR

### The Peddler Bike Shop

**FINALISTS:** BIKE FARM, CLOWN DOG BIKES, CYCLEAST, EASTSIDE PEDAL PUSHERS

"They fixed my bike after the tires were chewed on by rats in my shed and didn't act grossed out."

– **Bonnie Brantley**

5015 DUVAL ST.; 13010 W. PARMER #500, CEDAR PARK, PEDDLERBIKE.COM



## PSYCHIC / TAROT

### Sister Temperance Tarot

**FINALISTS:** ACE OF CUPS MASSAGE AND WELLNESS, LUCKY DOG TAROT, MAK JAGGER TAROT, SOUND SIGHT TAROT

"One of the best humans I know!!! Amazing reading and amazing soul."

– **Brynna Abel**

SISTERTEMPERANCE.COM

## LAWYER

### Cofer & Connelly

**FINALISTS:** BATRICE LAW FIRM, CLAYTON & RAMIREZ, LOEWY LAW FIRM, VAZQUEZ LAW FIRM

"Helping the community and speaking truth to power." – **Benjamin Berger**

602 W. 11TH, COFERCONNELLY.COM

## CLEANING SERVICE

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

**FINALISTS:** ECO-MAMA HOLISTIC HOUSECLEANING, MOREHANDS, TEXAS GREEN CLEAN

"They do an excellent job cleaning and the house smells great when they leave."

– **Leah May**

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

## LAUNDROMAT

### SpinZone Laundry

**FINALISTS:** THE BIG CLEAN, MICHAEL A LAUNDROMAT, CT LAUNDRY, WASH DAY LAUNDRY

"Staff are always friendly, laundromat is clean, and there are tons of machines to use of varying sizes for different needs."

– **Dickkee Kwong**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SPINZONELAUNDRY.COM

## DRY CLEANER

### Rick's Cleaners

**FINALISTS:** ECOCLEAN, THE FOLDE, GC CLEANERS & LAUNDRY, JACK BROWN CLEANERS

"35 years and never ruined one garment. Every other service tried has ruined at least one." – **Stephen Harding**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, RICKSCLEANERS.COM

## TAILOR/ALTERATION

### Ace Custom Tailors

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN ALTERATIONS & CLEANERS, GASSANE TAILORS, J&B ALTERATIONS, NELDA'S TAILORS

"I thought I needed two changes to my wedding afterparty jumpsuit, and they did one and it fixed both issues. NOT taking advantage of a bride with price AND getting it done in a couple days? I will be a loyal customer forever." – **Ashley Essary**

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

## MOVERS

### Einstein Moving Co.

**FINALISTS:** MASH MOVERS, SQUARE COW MOVERS, UNICORN MOVING & STORAGE

"Excellent communication from time of hire to end of job. Punctual. Pleasant. Creative. Steady. Clean. I would hire them again in a heartbeat." – **Diane Robertson**

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

## REAL ESTATE AGENT

### Amanda White

**FINALISTS:** LAURA CROTEAU, PAIGE LEMON, LISA MUÑOZ, ANNETTE PATTERSON

"Amanda hustles. She always advocates on behalf of her clients and answers any and all questions you may have – particularly as a first-time home buyer." – **Emily Hoyle**

AMANDAWHITEATX.COM

## APARTMENT LOCATOR

### Smart City

**FINALISTS:** APARTMENT HUNTERS, CITYWIDE REALTY & APARTMENT LOCATORS, PERCH AGENTS

"Superb service, quick responses, and my locator was there with me all the way until I moved in." – **Dillon Heggie**

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

## TRAVEL AGENT

### Small World Travel

**FINALISTS:** CENTURY TRAVEL, DEPARTURE LOUNGE, LAINEY MELNICK DREAM VACATIONS, POSES TRAVEL & CO.

"They don't just plan vacations, they take trips to the next level by merging travel with memorable cultural experiences. Highly recommend." – **Erin Portman**

2201 ENFIELD, SMALLWORLDTRAVELER.COM

## VETERINARIAN

### Emancipet

**FINALISTS:** AM/PM ANIMAL HOSPITAL, AUSTIN VET HOSPITAL, PAZ VETERINARY, STAR OF TEXAS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

"Amazing service at a price I can afford while I pay for two children in college!" – **Arlene Torres-Garcia**

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

## PET GROOMING

### Dirty Dog

**FINALISTS:** AS THE FUR FLIES, AUSTIN DOGTOWN BOARDING & DAYCARE, BARKIN' CREEK DOG KITCHEN & BATH, CLEAN CRITTERS

"My dog loves going here!"

– **Kathleen Lucente**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, DIRTY-DOG.COM

## SERVICES WILD CARD

### Austin Cat Sitters

**FINALISTS:** BOOST BABIES (PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPY AND WELLNESS), FRESH COSMETIC STUDIO (PERMANENT MAKEUP), SOL SOLACE STUDIO (SOMATIC BODYWORK), TEXAS BOIL MASTERS (MOBILE SEAFOOD BOILS)

"Austin Cat Sitters always send pictures of your kitty. I have been told they also give the best skritchies (my cat said so)." – **Michelle Sturges**

AUSTINCATSITTERS.COM



**i** **BIRDS BARBERSHOP** **austin**

Cuts and color for all y'all  
Serving Austin since 2006  
[birdsbarbershop.com](http://birdsbarbershop.com)



# Services

## CRITICS PICKS



LAUREN JOHNSON

### BEST LIFESAVING VENDING MACHINE

## The N.I.C.E. Project

Of all the vending machines in Austin, only two save lives. Outside Sahara Lounge and the Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center sit mini stockpiles of the lifesaving overdose reversal drug Narcan (brand name of naloxone), available at the press of a button. Amid a raging overdose crisis, at a time when fentanyl lurks in everything, everyone should carry Narcan like they would Band-Aids or pepper spray. Funded by a grant from Austin Mutual Aid, Em Gray's N.I.C.E. Project (Narcan In Case of Emergency) is the first of its kind in Texas, and is leading the charge in making this vital tool for survival as widely available as it should be.

4430 MENCHACA RD.; 1413 WEBBERVILLE, INSTAGRAM.COM/NICEPROJECTATX

### MOST UPLIFTING LIBRARY INITIATIVE

## APL's Enhanced Library Card Program

A government-issued ID can open a lot of doors. But for certain populations, the logistical hoops required to procure an ID slams those doors shut. Enter the Austin Public Library, which launched a pilot program in May for "enhanced" library cards. The cards, which include a photograph and scannable barcode, don't just allow you to access APL materials. They're also recognized by many other city of Austin departments and local organizations as a valid form of identification – especially helpful for people experiencing homelessness, the formerly incarcerated, and immigrant communities. As Austin Public Library Director Roosevelt Weeks explained it, "Libraries exist to lift barriers." We couldn't put it better ourselves.

LIBRARY.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ENHANCED

### BEST FOUND SOUND WORKSHOP

## Mother Falcon Music Lab

Although Mother Falcon released their last album in 2015, the local symphonic collective has continued to evolve with projects ranging from live music scoring to their Mother Falcon Music Lab summer camp. The latest offering from MFML aims at adults as much as kids though, with a workplace workshop that transforms the office. Using Ableton Live, the team records sounds around a space that evokes the experience of the job, and morphs them into provocative musical soundscapes that can reimagine the daily grind – transforming the 9-to-5 to 808s.

MFML.ORG

### MOST DRAMATIC SELF-SERVICE CAR WASH

## Jurassic Car Wash

It's a bird! It's a plane! Nope, it's a pterodactyl. In fact, there's a whole slew of prehistoric friends welcoming you to Jurassic Car Wash on South Congress. Four fully animatronic dinos keep you company as you finally wash off that layer of pollen that's been building up on your car for weeks. Pull up to one of the four self-service bays, or opt for their full-service automated wash, which starts at an affordable \$7 and includes an impressive selection of scented detergents. Might we suggest piña colada to kick off your summer? Don't miss the dog washing booth, if your canine needs a wash, too. And good news, time travelers: This spot is open 24/7.

4809 S. CONGRESS, JURASSICCARWASH.COM

### BEST PLACE TO BRING YOUR 35MM FILM

## Holland Photo Imaging

In a world where we're surrounded by screens and tech gadgets, it's no surprise there's been a recent boom in analog photography. We crave something slower, more intentional. But shooting on film is more complicated than point-and-click on your phone, so you'll need the folks at Holland Photo Imaging, in business since 1981. They'll process, scan, and print both 35mm film (the most common) and large-format (120, 220), in a typical turnaround time of three to five business days. They provide easy file retrieval via WeTransfer, an after-hours drop-off box, and a host of other services like passport photos and photo restoration. And the customer service is aces (love the bowl of Dum-Dums, y'all).

2125 GOODRICH, HOLLANDPHOTO.COM

**THANKS FOR**



**YOUR VOTE!**

**6 LOCATIONS IN AUSTIN:**

**Burnet • Lamar • McNeil • Metric  
Lake Travis • Bark & Zoom  
taurusacademy.com**

*Thank you for  
voting for us,  
ATX!*

MANTRAWELLNESS.CO  
512-960-4660

**mantra**  
WELLNESS

*massage • skincare • boutique*



Residential & Commercial Junk Removal Services  
Top Rated in Austin Since 2013  
*Best of Austin Finalist Three Consecutive Years Running*  
Same Day OK  
Book Online 24/7 - [ihaulaustin.com](http://ihaulaustin.com)  
Locally Owned & Family Operated



**Thank you for voting for us!**

8219 Burleson Rd, STE 500  
WORLDINTERIORS.COM | 512-821-1302

Open 7 Days a Week  
Austin, TX



JOHN ANDERSON

**BEST PLACE TO GET YOUR HAIR DONE AND THEN BUY A COUCH**

**Scissor Sisters Hair Show Salon & Side Kitsch Vintage**

A hair salon teaming up with a nail salon? Boring. Expected. Been done before. A hair salon hitched to a kooky little vintage store? Genius. Scissor Sisters Salon sets out to make every customer feel like a star by working on their new do onstage, with theatre seats for friends who come along – and everybody in the crew gets a complimentary beer, rosé, or nonalcoholic refreshment. Under the same roof (and sharing an owner), Side Kitsch’s winding halls and rooms full of retro goodies make the perfect place to show off that new look or kill time while your friend’s bleach does its thing. The vintage inventory runs the gamut from Sixties magazines to midcentury modern furniture, making what could seem like a sideshow a star in its own right.

6535 N. LAMAR; SCISSORSISTERSATX.COM, ATXVINTAGE.COM

**BEST MEDICAL OUTREACH TO THOSE WHO NEED IT**

**Hope Clinic**

Access to health care isn’t just about money and insurance – it’s about time, and about being able to find qualified health care workers near you. The volunteers at the nonprofit Hope Clinic see every patient as equal and every ailment as worth treating, giving their time and skills to bring top-quality care, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or religious affiliation – for anyone living in the Austin area. The \$10 donation is a suggestion, not a demand, because they understand that not everyone has even that little to spare. It’s a kindness that saves lives.

8101 CAMERON #101, HOPECLINICAUSTIN.ORG

**BEST DEVELOPER**

**Project Transitions**

Of the 6,355 people with AIDS in Austin in 2018, almost 1 in 4 lacked stable housing, and that situation only worsened over the pandemic. Housing these folks is what Project Transitions is all about, starting in 2020 with their first units. Now they’ve broken ground on their biggest development to date: The 61-unit Burnet Place in the Wooten neighborhood, with the goal of providing not just shelter but the wraparound care and services that will make this truly a home.

PROJECTTRANSITIONS.ORG

**BEST DISASTER RESPONSE**

**Austin Resource Recovery**

Another year, another ice storm, another disappointing disaster response. But wait. One city agency went above and beyond when it came to not just cleaning up, but keeping everyone updated on what was happening and when. Austin Resource Recovery not only kept the trash from piling up, but worked for months to clear away the massive brush piles and stacks of branches that covered the melted city. Next time, can we just have them handle a crisis?

AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ARR

**BEST PET-SIT PAL FOR YOUR POOCH OR PUSS**

**Harlequin Pet Services**

Do you have a pet (or pets) and you’re going out of town without them for a day – or even a stretch longer? Or your jobby-job requires you to be away from home for extended periods? Whatever the sitch, make sure your beloved critters are well cared for when you’re away, with the help of this pet-sit service from Content Love Knowles, animal lover and longtime member of the Austin theatrical community. Her Harlequin service has been keeping stuck-at-home pets and their people happy since 2006 and is, paws down, a good choice for keeping dear Fido or Miss Fluff in finest fettle.

HARLEQUINPETSERVICES.COM



IMAGE VIA THE-PRIDE-SHINDIG.COM

**BEST REMINDER THAT THE FUTURE IS JOYOUSLY QUEER**

**The Pride Shindig**

It’s no secret to anyone that this has been a rough year for the LGBTQIA2S+ community. With the Lege more focused than ever on making Texas a hostile place for queer families, many of whom are all but fleeing the state, we need safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces more than ever. Enter the Pride Shindig, a wedding expo for queer folks and their allies to explore vendors, get inspiration, and ultimately celebrate their love in whatever way they damn well please. Whether you’re getting married or not, this particular safe space, with its eye definitively toward future queer happiness, is worth a visit. As the organizers put it, “Basically, if you give a damn about other people, you’re our people.” Amen to that.

THE-PRIDE-SHINDIG.COM



# EXPERTS IN CBD

505 W. Mary St., Austin, TX 78704

512-265-6162

PHOTO AMELIE ARMOSE BY RICARDO ACEVEDO



# FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Slip & Slide into Summer with Lots of Lube!  
System Jo, Wicked, Uberlube, & More!

FREE Lube Lab Wednesday, June 28th, 7pm  
RSVP/Shop online @forbiddenfruit.com

108 E. NORTH LOOP BLVD. • 512-453-8090 • KEEPING AUSTIN SLIPPERY SINCE 1981!



Lainey Melnick,  
Luxury Travel  
Professional

FOLLOW LAINEY



Dream Vacations - Lainey Melnick & Assoc

855-GR8-TRIP / 512-799-0626 | Follow Me: [campsite.bio/855gr8trip](https://campsite.bio/855gr8trip)

**AUSTIN'S BEST PARTY PLACE**

**PINBALLZ**  
EAT • DRINK • PARTY • PLAY

**BOOK YOUR PARTY TODAY!**

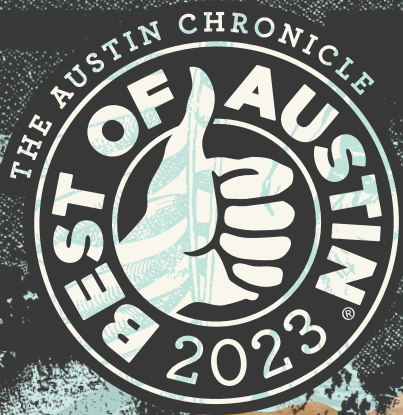
**BEST OF AUSTIN 2022**



# THE PURPLE FIG ECO CLEANING CO.

Plant-based cleaning for the people & pets of Austin!  
Local & woman-run since 2007.

[CLEANFIG.COM](https://CLEANFIG.COM) • 512-351-1405



# Shopping

## READERS POLL



LAUREN JOHNSON

### USED FURNITURE / ANTIQUES

#### Uncommon Objects

**FINALISTS:** IREP JUNK REMOVAL RESALE SHOP, ROOM SERVICE VINTAGE, TOP DRAWER THRIFT, UPTOWN MODERN

"Same groovy shop, just closer to my house now! Great finds and frequent flea market bonus now outside." – **Ginger Stevens**

1602 FORTVIEW, UNCOMMONOBJECTS.COM

### MEN'S CLOTHING

#### Stag

**FINALISTS:** CAPRA & CAVELLI, FEELS SO GOOD, HOWLER BROTHERS, UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE

"Best men's clothing by a mile is Stag. Great people too." – **Art Fufkin**

1423 S. CONGRESS, STAGPROVISIONS.COM

### WOMEN'S CLOTHING

#### Blue Elephant

**FINALISTS:** BYGEORGE, DAUGHTERS, ESTILO, SOUL STUDIO

"Great selection of unique clothing. Love the selection of UT gear as well." – **Sandra Salazar**

4001 N. LAMAR #510, SHOPBLUEELEPHANT.COM

### BRIDAL SHOP

#### Unbridaled

**FINALISTS:** ALEXIA GAVELA BRIDAL, AMOUR BRIDAL, BLUE BRIDAL BOUTIQUE, BLUSH BRIDAL LOUNGE

"Their team is so encouraging, helpful, and not pushy!" – **Sarah Wolf**

701-D S. LAMAR, UNBRIDALED.COM

### JEWELRY

#### Eliza Page

**FINALISTS:** COURTNEY MARIE JEWELRY, LAS OFRENDAS, LIMBO JEWELRY, NINA BERENATO JEWELRY

"Great selection of new and classic looks. I love discovering new artists. And the charm bar is amazing!"

– **Ellen Fenwick**

229 W. SECOND, ELIZAPAGE.COM

### FURNITURE / HOME GOODS

#### Four Hands

**FINALISTS:** CLAY IMPORTS, NEST MODERN, TAKE HEART, WORLD INTERIORS

"Custom options, current but not trendy, natural look and feel."

– **Sunny Graham**

2900 WOODWARD, FOURHANDS.COM

### GARDEN STORE / NURSERY

#### The Natural Gardener

**FINALISTS:** GARDEN SEVENTEEN, THE GREAT OUTDOORS, SHOAL CREEK NURSERY, TILLERY STREET PLANT CO.

"Great loyalty program as well as selection and extensive grounds to roam!"

– **Peter Mueller**

8648 OLD BEE CAVES RD., TNGAUSTIN.COM

### VINTAGE / CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING

#### Top Drawer Thrift

**FINALISTS:** BLUE VELVET, FEATHERS BOUTIQUE, PAVEMENT MODERN & RECYCLED FASHION, UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE

"Top Drawer is like a living time capsule, with treasures beyond your wildest dreams, and all profits going to help our friends & neighbors right here in Austin!"

– **Calais Morgan**

4902 BURNET RD., TOPDRAWERTHRIFT.ORG



JOHN ANDERSON

**WCC** WEST CHELSEA  
CONTEMPORARY



THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US!  
**BEST ART GALLERY**

WWW.WCC.ART | @WCC.ART

the LASH  
LOUNGE



@THELASHLOUNGEAUSTIN



**THANK YOU  
FOR VOTING!**

THE LASH LOUNGE  
AUSTIN - WEST LAKE HILLS • 512.361.5274  
AUSTIN - MUELLER • 512.648.5274  
CEDAR PARK - 1890 RANCH • 512.817.2848



ESTD. 2015

**HARLOW**

BEAUTY & HAIR SALON

MAKE A RESERVATION  
AT HARLOW, WHERE  
WE EMPOWER YOU  
TO BE WHO YOU  
WANT TO BE

HARLOWAUSTIN.COM



THE AUSTIN  
CHRONICLE

**SUPPORT FREE PRESS**

Please consider supporting *The Austin Chronicle*. For just a few bucks, you can help us keep delivering the news.

[AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SUPPORT](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SUPPORT)

**Support Austin's  
restaurants by eating  
local!**



**THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE  
RESTAURANT GUIDE**

Your essential guide to local eateries - featuring  
in-depth reviews, award winners, mini-guides, and more!

[austinchronicle.com/restaurantguide](http://austinchronicle.com/restaurantguide)



*Buddha's Brew*  
**KOMBUCHA**

FEED YOUR MICROBIOME



HEALTHY  
GUT

LIVE  
CULTURE  
PROBIOTICS

17 YEARS IN  AUSTIN TX



JANA BIRCHUM

### SHOPPING WILD CARD

## The Little Gay Shop (LGBTQ ART AND MERCH)

**FINALISTS:** ADORN + GARNISH (CANDLES), COUSIN KENNY'S (EMBROIDERY), THE HERB BAR (APOTHECARY), ZILKER BELTS (BELTS AND ACCESSORIES)

"Not only is their shop great but they do so much to help support the local LGBTQ community." - **Reannon Overbeh**

828 AIRPORT, THELITTLEGAYSHOP.COM

### FLORIST

## Freytag's Florist

**FINALISTS:** BEN WHITE FLORIST, BURLAP & TWINE, KING FLORIST, THE SPOTTED POPPY

"Their flowers live longer! Their service is great." - **Joleen Jernigan**

2211 W. ANDERSON, FREYTAGSFLORIST.COM

### NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

## Wheatsville Food Co-op

**FINALISTS:** DIA'S MARKET, FRESH PLUS, ROYAL BLUE GROCERY, TINY GROCER

"Love all the good Wheatsville does in our community - not to mention they have all of my go-to vegan snacks/necessities!" - **Julia Barron**

3101 GUADALUPE; 4001 S. LAMAR, WHEATSVILLE.COOP

### FARMERS' MARKET/ FARMSTAND

## Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller

**FINALISTS:** BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET, BOGGY CREEK FARM, SFC FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, SFC FARMERS' MARKET SUNSET VALLEY

"Best and better flow at the new location." - **Melissa Hart**

BRANCH PARK PAVILION, 2006 PHILOMENA, TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG

### LOCAL FOOD BRAND

## Yellowbird

**FINALISTS:** ATX HOT SAUCE, MADHU CHOCOLATE, THE MEDITERRANEAN CHEF, SIETE FAMILY FOODS

"I literally keep a tiny bottle of habanero and serrano on my person at all times."

- **Taylor Wallace-Riegel**

YELLOWBIRDFOODS.COM

### LOCAL NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRAND

## Waterloo Sparkling Water

**FINALISTS:** 3RD EYE CACAO, BUDDHA'S BREW KOMBUCHA, KOSMIC KOMBUCHA, RAMBLER SPARKLING WATER, SLOW LUCK

"Who gets excited when they come home with a new Waterloo flavor they haven't tried before?"

- **Suzanne Pittman**

DRINKWATERLOO.COM

### LOCAL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BRAND

## Tito's Handmade Vodka

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN BEERWORKS, AUSTIN EASTCIDERS, DEEP EDDY VODKA, STILL AUSTIN WHISKEY CO.

"GREAT vodka from a company that truly cares!" - **Yvette Lara**

TITOSVODKA.COM

### LIQUOR STORE

## Twin Liquors

**FINALISTS:** THE AUSTIN SHAKER, J&J SPIRITS, KING LIQUOR, SOUTH LAMAR WINE & SPIRITS, SPEC'S

"Dollar days should be an official Austin holiday." - **Alyse Ramirez**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TWINLIQUORS.COM

### ADULT STORE

## Forbidden Fruit

**FINALISTS:** DREAMERS, PACKAGE MENSWEAR, SIR RAT LEATHER & GEAR, XXXCITE

"Got my first dildo there 20 years ago. Still works great 🍑" - **Sarah Statham**

108 E. NORTH LOOP, FORBIDDENFRUIT.COM

### PET STORE

## Tomlinson's

**FINALISTS:** BARKIN' CREEK DOG KITCHEN & BATH, GALLERY OF PETS, HEALTHY PET, PAWS ON CHICON

"Amazon who? Tomlinson's will do same-day delivery without charge. If you do shop IRL, the staff is so lovely and helpful, you'll buy things for pets you don't have." - **Sarah Pendley**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, TOMLINSONS.COM

### SMOKE SHOP

## Planet K

**FINALISTS:** COSMIC COWBOY SMOKE SHOP, HAPPY CLOUDS SMOKE SHOP, MARYJAE, OAT WILLIE'S

"Planet K for life!" - **Shayda Torabi**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PLANETKTEXAS.COM

### POP-UP MARKET

## Blue Genie Art Bazaar

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN WITCHES MARKET, EASTSIDE POP UP, FRIDA FRIDAY ATX, THE LITTLE GAY SHOP POP-UPS, MINI MARKET

"Overwhelming and awesome."

- **Marion Costello**

6100 AIRPORT, BLUEGENIEARTBAZAAR.COM

### BOOKSTORE

## BookPeople

**FINALISTS:** BLACK PEARL BOOKS, BOOKWOMAN, LARK & OWL BOOKSELLERS, VINTAGE BOOKSTORE & WINE BAR

"Best stock, events, and staff. Enduring." - **Al Widdifield**

603 N. LAMAR, BOOKPEOPLE.COM



LAUREN JOHNSON

### CBD PURVEYOR

## MaryJae

**FINALISTS:** RESTART CBD, TRIBE CBD + CANNABINOIDS, TRUE HEMP SCIENCE, TURQUOISE MOUNTAINS

"Great product, great service, and inclusive. Always feel welcome here." - **Kerstan Chapman**

2110-E S. LAMAR, SHOPMARYJAE.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

**COMICS / FANDOM STORE**

**Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy**

**FINALISTS:** AARON'S ROCK & ROLL, ANIME POP, AUSTIN BOOKS & COMICS, TRIBE COMICS & GAMES

"It feels like a comic/game convention every time I walk into the store."

- *Vasken Sayre*

**GAME STORE**

**Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy**

**FINALISTS:** EMERALD TAVERN GAMES & CAFE, GAME OVER VIDEOGAMES, TANUKI GAMES, TRIBE COMICS & GAMES

"Their community outreach and store events organizer Mike Hong looks out for every one of our communities. Roxy always always welcomes you with a smile." - *Joon Yee Chuah*

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

**ELECTRONICS STORE**

**Discount Electronics**

**FINALISTS:** A&B TV, AUSTIN MACWORKS, COMPUZONE, WHETSTONE AUDIO

"More bang for your buck." - *Mike Soden*

4005 W. PARMER; 1001 S. I-35, ROUND ROCK, DISCOUNTELECTRONICS.COM

**ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE**

**Jerry's Artarama**

**FINALISTS:** ARTICULTURE DESIGNS, AUSTIN CREATIVE REUSE, LETTERPRESS PLAY, THE PAPER + CRAFT PANTRY

"They offer a large selection of high-quality art supplies and top-notch customer service. A fun place for a creative date!" - *Kayla Cobble*

6010 N. I-35, JERRYSARTARAMA.COM

**AUSTIN GIFTS/SOUVENIRS**

**Atown**

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN GIFT CO., PARKER + SCOTT, PRIMA DORA, SLOW NORTH

"Eclectic merchandise, friendly service, and they do their part to Keep Austin Weird!"

- *Sharon Reed*

5502 BURNET RD., KEEPATOWNWEIRD.COM

**SPORTING GOODS**

**Whole Earth Provision Co.**

**FINALISTS:** THE LOOP RUNNING SUPPLY, MEDUSA SKATES, NO-COMPLY SKATESHOP, READY TO RUN

"This is our pre-camping and occasionally gift-buying stop many times a year."

- *David Papas*

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

**SUBSCRIPTION BOX /SERVICE**

**Farmhouse Delivery**

**FINALISTS:** BOXT, RESTART CBD, SIPS BY, SUCCULENT NATIVE

"Consistently easy to order and the produce is fresh. The tastes remind me of eating at my grandma's house as a kid."

- *Kimberly Corona*

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

**WE LOVE YOU SNOW MUCH!**

Get two cupfuls of happiness for the price of one!



**BUY ONE SNOWBALL, GET ONE FREE\***

\*Of equal or less value. Present coupon before 7/31 for discount.



**Casey's New Orleans Snowballs**  
808 E 51st Street - Near Airport Blvd  
Open noon-9pm daily  
@CaseysSnowballs

**Austin EASTCIDERS CIDER Y'ALL**

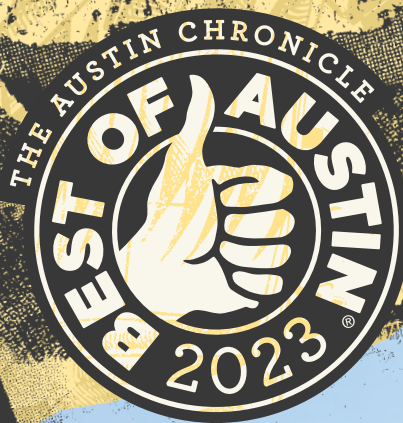
**Austin EASTCIDERS COLLABORATORY** 979 SPRINGDALE RD.  
• Free surface parking  
• Indoor & Outdoor seating  
• Dipping Springs Food Truck

**CIDER, FOOD TRUCK & MORE!**  
Happy Hour Specials 2-5pm, Tues - Fri: \$4 Ciders!

- THU 6/15 **TEACHER THURSDAYS** - 1/2 OFF ALL DAY  
STAND-UP COMEDY PRESENTED BY OUTLAW COMEDY 8PM
- FRI 6/16 **LIVE MUSIC WITH NICK TAYLOR** 4-8PM
- SAT 6/17 **geeks who drink TRIVIA** 7PM
- SUN 6/18 **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!** - 1<sup>ST</sup> PINT FREE FOR DADS!
- MON 6/19 **OPEN** 3-10PM
- TUE 6/20 **CLIMBER SPECIALS** 1/2 OFF PINTS ALL DAY
- WED 6/21 **HAPPY HOUR** 2-5PM



**A DECADE OF EASTCIDERS**



# Shopping

CRITICS PICKS



## BEST METRO RETRO FOR YOUR GET-GO

### Blackfeather Vintage Works

Jessica Nieri's well-curated vintage shop on the Eastside is a portal to the most stylish parts of decades past – from the Forties to the Nineties – whether you're seeking men's or women's fashions, I-remember-those housewares, jewelry, bicycles, furniture, artifacts, or the unique oddities that no one else will have. This swellegant store not only invites much delightful browsing, but also supercharges its offerings with occasional maker markets and concerts in the adjoining courtyard.

979 SPRINGDALE, BLACKFEATHERVINTAGEWORKS.COM

## BEST HEIRLOOM RELOCATOR

### Jello Mom Vintage

In a sea of resellers focused on NASCAR tees and Nineties synthetics, Jello Mom Vintage's offerings actually feel like something that may stick around in your wardrobe and home. Leather loafers, patchwork pants, maybe a framed print – the quaint, quality Americana of curator/stylist Katelyn Mitchell makes an excellent Instagram follow, with local pickup available. To shop the easygoing cotton, leather, and Southwestern weaves in person, find the seller at regular trendy market lineups around town like Passport, Lolo, and Better Half.

INSTAGRAM.COM/JELLOMOMVTG



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

## BEST WEEKDAY FARM STAND IN AN AIRSTREAM TRAILER

### Local Pastures

This urban farm stand – really an Airstream trailer nestled among the bucolic backdrop of, uh, Oltorf Street – is the prime destination for locals seeking farmers' market goodies beyond your usual farmers' market hours. Owned by the folks behind Belle Vie and Shirttail Creek Farms, here you'll find pasture-raised pork, poultry, and eggs and grass-finished beef seven days a week. The friendly staff create a warm and welcoming experience for customers, who can shop for locally sourced honey, produce, and coffee, and even get raw milk on Wednesdays. Local Pastures is a haven for those who support local agriculture and savor the delicious flavors of Central Texas.

1301 W. OLTORF, LOCALPASTURES.FARM

**SOUTH AUSTIN'S PREMIERE COMIC & GAMES STORE**



# **TRIBE**

**COMICS & GAMES**

**MON - FRI:  
10AM - 11PM  
SAT & SUN:  
10AM - 8PM**

**GAME NIGHTS  
EVERY  
WEEKNIGHT  
7PM - CLOSE**



**3005 SOUTH LAMAR #D113 \* AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704  
512-693-4300 \* WWW.TRIBECAG.COM**



WAYNE LIM

### **BEST HEAD SHOP IN A FOOD TRUCK PARK**

## **The Glassmith**

If you're looking to buy a pipe at 11pm on a Wednesday, have we got the spot for you. Something about an open-air head shop just feels right, and this West Campus spot surrounded by food trucks manages to feel old-timey (and vaguely like a booth in a *Pirates of the Caribbean*-style outdoor market?) despite the actual modernity of such a concept. True to its name, the shop – which boasts two other locations around town – deals in locally blown glass, and you can even watch live glass blowing. Plus, there's bud!

2512 RIO GRANDE ST., THEGLASSMITH.NET

### **MOST METAL ACCESSORIES**

## **Desired Objects**

Chain mail used to be worn beneath suits of armor – the hottest look on ye olde battlefield. Now, sick-nasty accessories like the ones crafted by trans- and nonbinary-owned jeweler Desired Objects do combat on the fields of fashion. What weapon forged by man can pierce your stone-cold style when you're drenched in hand-linked surgical steel jump rings? The haters will simply not prosper. Wearers of Desired Objects' chain mail necklaces, rings, hair clips, and bracelets, however, are welcome in the kingdom of hottie heaven. Amen!

DESIREDOBJECTS.COM

### **BEST UPSCALE EYE CANDY**

## **VADA**

Noticed a string of celebs snapped wearing subtly diamond-shaped eyewear? Or perhaps locally, among the shades-after-dark Justine's Brasserie and Coconut Club crowds? Such sunnies are the signature Siren shape by VADA, designed in Austin and handmade in Japan in a rainbow of acetate colors. Launched with a focus on fine jewelry, which the brand continues to craft, creative director Katie Caplener has risen to eyewear cult status on the noses of Bad Bunny, Leon Bridges, and Ty Haney. *Starting* at \$420, these wares are not for the sartorially faint of heart. Peruse in person at VADA's Austin studio (hours on @studio\_vada).

VADAJEWELRY.COM

### **CHEAPEST THRILL**

## **Thrift Land**

This gem of a thrift store boasts hidden treasure across so many beloved "vintage" categories: clothing, housewares, toys, fabrics, jewelry, wigs. The key is appreciating the diversity of goods and finding the gems: that black velvet blazer of your dreams, or an acid-washed gray denim jacket, or an Adidas track jacket. Discover some older picture frames to repurpose. Snatch that elegant glass dome you can cover cheese with to dazzle guests, or that brand-new cast iron frying pan. Here, South Austin thrifters always know they're going to score.

512 W. STASSNEY, FAMILYTHRIFT.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### MOST KITTIES AND KITSCH PER SQUARE INCH

## Kids-N-Cats Unique Gifts

When you've got to have that purr-fect present for an ailurophile or are on the hunt for a quirky white elephant gift, this is the place. You'll find tons of treasures you didn't know you needed from the vast selection of feline-themed goodies, vintage toys, buttons, figures, T-shirts, cards, books, jewelry, thingamabobs, and whatsits, and enthusiastic owner Lani Steingraph will help you navigate the matchbox-sized, densely stocked boutique.

5732 BURNET RD., KIDS-N-CATS.COM

### BEST CHARITIES (AND SOCKS)

## Pride Socks

This Austin-based company makes only the finest socks, from thigh-high to ankle to compression, and the softest T-shirts, all for a cause: to promote personal well-being. Pride Socks believes that when people are proud of who they are, they can accomplish their dreams. In just over a year, their "Drag Is Not a Crime" T-shirt has helped raise over \$3K, which Pride Socks has given directly to Drag Story Hour. Meanwhile their "custom for a cause" design collaborations with folks like former NBA player Jason Collins and musician Brandi Carille have raised awareness and funds for such nonprofits as the Point Foundation, the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBTQ students, and Looking Out Foundation, which promotes empowerment through music.

PRIDESOCKS.COM

### BEST FIZZY WATER DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR DOORSTEP

## Bubbs Seltzer

Bubbs Seltzer is a zero-waste alternative to corporate fizzy water. Subscribe to Bubbs, get refillable seltzer bottles delivered to your home, and make all the bespoke sodas, cocktails, and zero-proof concoctions you can dream of. Level up and use Bubbs' seasonal syrups, shrubs, and bitters to fancy up your drinks. If that's too much of a commitment, you can get a single seltzer or soda at Barrett's Coffee or at the Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller. A kicky pineapple ginger soda made with seltzer sourced from the Texas Hill Country is a great way to beat the heat.

BARRETTSCOFFEE.COM



Austin's  
FAVORITE  
PET GROOMERS

FEAR FREE  
CERTIFIED

**South:**  
730 W. Stassney Ln.  
Suite #149  
Austin, TX 78745  
(512) 502-5112

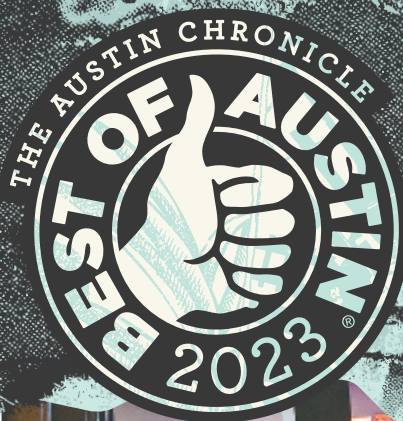
**2**  
LOCATIONS  
GROOMING  
CATS  
& DOGS

**North:**  
15501 Ranch Rd. 620 N  
Suite #1000  
Austin, TX 78717  
(512) 814-7634



asthefurfliesaustin.com @asthefurfliesaustin





# Kids & Family

## READERS POLL



JOHN ANDERSON

### PARTY PLACE

#### Pinballz Arcade

**FINALISTS:** FIGMENT CREATIVE LABS, HIGH 5, INDIGO PLAY, PLAYLAND SKATE CENTER

“Old-school section rulezzzzz.” – *John Forsberg*

### ALL-AGES VENUE

#### Pinballz Arcade

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN'S PARK & PIZZA, DREAMLAND, FRONTYARD BREWING, PIONEER FARMS

“The perfect Saturday hangout.” – *Gary Walters*

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

### KIDS' CLOTHING

#### Sparkle Kids

**FINALISTS:** ALEXA JAMES BABY, DEARLY, KID TO KID, LEMON DROP

“Found some great stuff for the kiddo here that will last.” – *Joseph Poenisch*

4800 BURNET RD., SPARKLEKIDSRSALE.COM

### BIRTHDAY CAKES

#### Sugar Mama's Bakeshop

**FINALISTS:** HAYLEYCAKES AND COOKIES, PAPER ROUTE BAKERY, QUACK'S BAKERY, UPPER CRUST BAKERY

“Keeping Austin Sweeeet”

– *Justin Kipp*

1905-A S. FIRST, SUGARMAMASBAKESHOP.COM

### TOY STORE

#### Terra Toys

**FINALISTS:** ALL THINGS KIDS, MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO, TOY JOY

“Customer service still exists! The owners and staff are sincerely good people.

This toy store is a portal to a wholesome magical happy place.” – *Michelle Duncan*

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



### YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM

#### Creative Action

**FINALISTS:** BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS, EXCUSED ABSENCE COMEDY, KIDSACTING STUDIO, PARAMOUNT STORY WRANGLERS

“Compassion and connection with others through creativity.” – *Paul Andrews*

1023 SPRINGDALE BLDG. 3, CREATIVEACTION.ORG

### YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

#### Soccer Shots

**FINALISTS:** IA SOCCER TRAINING, AUSTIN YOUTH FITNESS, BALCONES YOUTH SPORTS, WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (WAYA)

“The coaches are so enthusiastic and really get the kids to engage. We love it!” – *Ciarra Morgan*

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



COURTESY OF THINKERY

### YOUTH STEM PROGRAM

#### Thinkery

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN TINKERING SCHOOL, FIGMENT CREATIVE LABS, GIRLSTART, LATINITAS, NEURON GARAGE

“Endless fun and creative learning for kids of all ages.” – *Anna Tapsak*

1830 SIMOND, THINKERYAUSTIN.ORG



JANA BIRCHUM

### KIDS AND FAMILY WILD CARD

## KUTX's Rock the Park

(FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUSIC SERIES AT MUELLER LAKE PARK)

**FINALISTS:** BABYSITTING CONNECTION (SITTER SERVICE), CREATIVE ACTION COMMUNITY ART SUNDAY (MONTHLY ALL-AGES EVENT), STORY STARTS AT COLDTOWNE THEATER (WEEKLY FAMILY IMPROV SHOWS PRESENTED BY EXCUSED ABSENCE COMEDY), TEXAS MUSICIANS COLORING BOOK (BY SARA HICKMAN)

"KUTX is life!" - **Amber Heim**

KUTX.ORG

### SUMMER CAMP

## TIE: Creative Action, Natureversity Outdoor School

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN WOMEN'S BOXING CLUB, BAKE AUSTIN, KIDSACTING STUDIO

**Creative Action:** "A true maker space!" - **Marion Costello**

**Natureversity:** "What a fabulous team of teachers! They love what they do and love the kids."

- **Jenny Dupler**

CREATIVE ACTION, 1023 SPRINGDALE BLDG. 3, CREATIVEACTION.ORG

NATUREVERSITY OUTDOOR SCHOOL, 420 KEMP ST., NATUREVERSITY.ORG

### PLAYGROUND

## Play for All Abilities Park

**FINALISTS:** ALLIANCE CHILDREN'S GARDEN, BUTLER PARK, PEASE PARK, ZILKER PARK

"Access for children with disabilities!"

The fence is a game changer for my autistic child." - **Gabrielle Davis**

151 N. A.W. GRIMES BLVD., ROUND ROCK, PLAY4ALL.ORG

### FAMILY FESTIVAL

## ABC Kite Fest

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN KIDDIE LIMITS, HONK! TX, PECAN STREET FESTIVAL, SHERWOOD FOREST FAIRE

"Unspoiled and a perfect way to celebrate spring." - **Elizabeth McVeety**

ZILKER PARK, 2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., ABCKITEFEST.ORG

# SUPPORT THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE FREE PRESS.

Please consider supporting *The Austin Chronicle*.  
For just a few bucks, you can help us keep delivering the news.

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM / **SUPPORT**



# Kids & Family

## CRITICS PICKS



PHOTO BY HENRY HUEY / COURTESY OF IMPACT ARTS

### BEST ENTRANCE TO THE STAGE

## Impact Arts

Theatre camps can be fun, but they can be so much more, and that's what Impact Arts aims to provide for aspiring theatre professionals. Founded in 2015 by bringing together St. Stephen's Episcopal School's Texas Arts Project and St. Ed's Summer Stock Austin program, Impact Arts has become a launchpad for dozens of careers backstage and under the lights, with alumni working opening night on Broadway and residencies in Las Vegas. The high school and college students who come together to put on the annual Summer Stock musicals at the McCullough Theatre aren't just playing for their friends and family: They're auditioning for the future.

IMPACTARTS.ORG

### MOST DOWN-TO-EARTH FANTASY PORTAL

## Resurrected Games

Along the Drag, old weird Austin still thrives. One smoke shop past Torchy's, painted glass panels beckon *Pokémon TCG*, *Magic: The Gathering*, *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, and more. Inside, precious few square feet pack floor-to-ceiling vintage video games (Sega, Nintendo, PlayStation, Xbox, Wii, and Atari), plus Blu-rays, DVDs, VHS, board games, books, posters, and candy. Toys alone – and the bobble wall especially – rival Lost Austin wellspring I Luv Video on Airport. Six years into this hole in the wall, after 18 at the Dobie Mall, Resurrected Games proves a portal into ATX fantasy past, present, and future. Can you spot us \$499.99 for that Poké Regirock card?

2815-C GUADALUPE, AUSTINGAMESTORE.COM

### BEST KIDDIE ARCADE

## Oddwood Brewing

The Brewery Age descends on the Texas state capital as thoroughly as Willie Nelson's hazy (cough) IPA of the Seventies. Midtown tavern Oddwood tops it off thick – strong pours, equal menu, Austin FC casts, even future vinyl shows – but the underage media room manifests a magic straight out of Hogwarts. Two doors guard the brewery entrance, yet the one marked "Arcade" opens into a micro chamber of TV, VHS, Sega, *Pac-Man*, and vintage board games. The Burtonesque tree hanging from the ceiling tingles Edward Scissorhands. Once inside, kiddos o-n-l-y emerge for pizza, parents then retrieving them at the end of the evening like precious mink stoles from the cloak room.

3108 MANOR RD., ODDWOODALES.COM

### BEST BOOSTERS OF BUDDING BIBLIOPHILES

## Literati

In 2016, tech innovator and writer Jessica Ewing blended her passions and experience to start a company offering carefully curated book subscription boxes for kids. Literati mails monthly selections in a neat box with artwork prints and personalized labels, and has also gotten into the book fair game – sacred events for young bookworms. Not only that, they partner with a host of local orgs and coordinate book donations to foster early literacy for all of Austin's curious young minds.

LITERATI.COM

### BEST PERSONAL WATER PARK

## Volente Beach

A sliver of Lake Austin equals a slice of paradise. Stair-stepping like a waterfall down to the shoreline, Volente Beach packs a waterpark punch via a perfect stacking of day-at-the-beach. Start at the restaurant overlooking the kiddie pirate ship first pool. Go past the primo volleyball court, then curve around the two enormous water slides to the adult pool. Behold the full bar above, taco food truck below, and – as of this past Memorial Day weekend – a new poolside bar. (Jell-O shots for the grownups!) A clutch of bungalows across the way make for weekend shack blasts and inner-tube screenings of *Jaws*. Season passes pay for themselves.

16107 WHARF COVE (FM 2769), VOLENTE, VOLENTEBeach.COM

### MOST WHOLESOME SPRINGTIME OUTING

## Sweet Berry Farm

If you've never known the joy of picking a perfectly ripe strawberry fresh off the vine and biting into its juicy goodness, then hie thee to Marble Falls and this sweet (it's in the name!) family-owned farm. Strawberry season may be behind us now, but there are still plenty of enticements at Sweet Berry Farm: Depending on the season, you might pick tulips or sunflowers, pet a goat, paint a pot, ride a pony, pick up your Halloween pumpkin, or bravely make your way through a Haygrazer grass maze. Still not sure what to expect? Their "Fresh News" blog delivers regular updates on what's happening at the farm.

1801 FM 1980, MARBLE FALLS, SWEETBERRYFARM.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### **NICEST, SPIKIEST NEW NEIGHBORS**

## **Juniper and Nelson, the Austin Nature & Science Center Porcupines**

Already an amazing – and free! – outing for kids, the Austin Nature & Science Center experience got even more adorable with two new residents, baby porcupines Juniper and Nelson. Now one year old, they're the latest ambassadors for this invaluable educational resource that teaches schoolchildren and families about the wildlife of Central Texas. As Austin expands into new formerly green spaces, native species and center residents like roadrunners, bobcats, and, yes, porcupines, are increasingly under threat. Juniper and Nelson want to remind you what you're missing.

301 NATURE CENTER DR., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ANSC

### **BEST WAY TO CATCH A WOODWIND IN THE WILD**

## **Austin Symphony Orchestra's Tuneful Tales**

A day at the zoo takes on different meaning at Austin Symphony Orchestra's Tuneful Tales. Instead of lions and tigers, think flute, French horn, and the mighty trombone; this Instrument Zoo truly sings. Held weekly at Central Library in June and July, Tuneful Tales makes classical music not only approachable but hands-on. Kiddos can meet symphony players and see their musicmakers up close, make their own percussion instruments, and revel in performances from ASO's sterling string, woodwind, and brass ensembles.

AUSTINSYMPHONY.ORG

### **BEST LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN FOR ASPIRING BALLERS**

## **Round Rock Express Lawn**

Austin FC may whip the supporters section of Q2 Stadium into a fútbol frenzy, but visceral thrills rally less unhinged in the left-field lawn section at Dell Diamond when the Round Rock Express and their opponents begin hitting dingers. Ten-dollar tickets and double that for the sweet grandparent-friendly rocking chairs behind the sloped turf make family outings a gimme. During last month's six-game stand against the El Paso Chihuahuas, aspiring ballers ran, wrestled, and three-ringed it in their colors for youth league jersey day as home runs fell like hail – delighting one and all. And on your way out, they let 'em run the bases!

3400 E. PALM VALLEY BLVD., ROUND ROCK, MILB.COM/ROUND-ROCK

**Nature's Treasures** "No Hook"  
4103 N. Interstate 35 Austin, TX • 512.472.5015 • NTRocks.com

presents

## Tarot & Oracle Expo

### June 24-25

**Free Admission**  
**Practitioners • Speakers**

**CREATIVE ACTION**

# SUMMER CAMP

THE PLACE THEY'LL WANT TO BE...

For Ages 5-11

June 5 - July 28  
4 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

Each camp centers around a unique theme and is taught by our professional teaching artists.

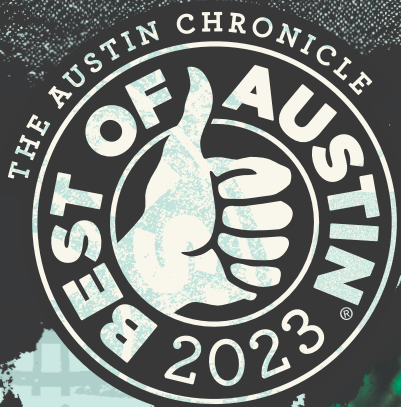
Themes include:  
Puppet Masters, Filmmaking, Ceramics & Sculpting, Music & Podcast Production, Stage Combat, and More!

Financial aid is available

# Adventure Travel FUN

Outfitting Austin Since 1970

1014 N. Lamar Blvd ★ 4477 S. Lamar Blvd  
Shop Online [WholeEarthProvision.com](http://WholeEarthProvision.com)



# Sports & Recreation

## READERS POLL



JANA BIRCHUM

### PRO/SEMI-PRO SPORTS TEAM

## Austin FC

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN RISE FC, AUSTIN GAMBLERS, ROUND ROCK EXPRESS, TEXAS STARS

"Fútbol is life!" - **Patrick Klier**

AUSTINFC.COM

### SPORTS VENUE

## Q2 Stadium

**FINALISTS:** CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS, DARRELL K. ROYAL-TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM, H-E-B CENTER AT CEDAR PARK, MOODY CENTER

"If you have to ask, you haven't been! The best stadium in every way 🍷" - **Cintia Morales**

10414 MCKALLA PLACE, AUSTINFC.COM/STADIUM



### SWIMMING HOLE / LAKE

## Hamilton Pool

**FINALISTS:** BLUE HOLE, JACOB'S WELL, KRAUSE SPRINGS, SCULPTURE FALLS

"So beautiful." - **Elizabeth McVeety**

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

### BOWLING ALLEY

## Highland Lanes

**FINALISTS:** BULL & BOWL, SPARE TIME TEXAS, UNION UNDERGROUND, WESTGATE LANES

"A fantastic place for a fun, budget-friendly date. Come for the bowling, stay for the food." - **Kayla Cobble**

8909 BURNET RD., HIGHLANDLANES.COM

### GOLF COURSE

## Butler Pitch & Putt

**FINALISTS:** HANCOCK GOLF COURSE, LIONS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE, MORRIS WILLIAMS GOLF COURSE, RIVER PLACE COUNTRY CLUB

"A true gem since 1949 in the middle of town for everyone, golfers and non-golfers alike." - **Timothy Glassco**

201 LEE BARTON, BUTLERPITCHANDPUTT.COM

### GYM

## Austin Bouldering Project

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN ART OF FITNESS, AUSTIN SIMPLY FIT, AUSTIN WOMEN'S BOXING CLUB, LIFT ATX

"Ever wondered what Spider-Man's secret gym looks like? Well, it's called the Austin Bouldering Project. They've got a super inclusive vibe, and their events are so fun. The best place to go hang out in Austin - literally." - **Nebechier Jones**

979 SPRINGDALE #150; 4477 S. LAMAR, AUSTINBOULDERINGPROJECT.COM

### 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)

"I've been using them for over 20 years. Best place to float by far."

- **Jennifer Russell**

1405 GRUENE RD., NEW BRAUNFELS, ROCKINR.COM

### PLACE TO CAMP

## Inks Lake State Park

**FINALISTS:** COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK, PACE BEND PARK, PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK

"Trails and water! Can't get any better." - **Mariela Prato-Williams**

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

### PLACE TO HANG WITH YOUR PET

## Zilker Park

**FINALISTS:** AUDITORIUM SHORES, NEIGHBORS DOG PARK, RED BUD ISLE, THE WATERING BOWL, YARD BAR

"ALL the room to run!"

- **Candice Brusuelas**

2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/ZILKER



JANA BIRCHUM

## EXERCISE CLASS

### Splash Dance! With Erica Nix

**FINALISTS:** BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS: JAM DANCE FIT, DANE'S BODY SHOP: FUSION, RITUAL MOVES (FORMERLY PILATES PEOPLE): EVERYBODY MOVES, TOTAL FITNESS KICKBOXING

"Because she's an unstoppable positive force!" – **Alan Lauer**

FB.COM/WORKOUTWITHERICANIX

## ALTERNATIVE / AMATEUR SPORTS

### Texas Roller Derby

**FINALISTS:** AUSTIN COED SOCCER ASSOCIATION, AUSTIN GAY FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE, AUSTIN HISTORICAL WEAPONS GUILD, AUSTIN SANDLOT

"Texas Roller Derby is the most Austin sport we have in town. No other sport has as much action, fun, and crowd involvement. Hell yeah, TXRD!"

– **Elena Streuding**

TXRD.COM

## SPORTS & RECREATION WILD CARD

### COTA Karting

(FORMULA ONE TRACK KARTING)

**FINALISTS:** COACH WHITNEY HEDGEPEETH (LONGHORN AQUATICS MASTERS SWIMMING TEAM), EAST SIDE MINI OPEN (ANNUAL MINI GOLF BAR CRAWL), GILBERT'S GAZELLES (RUNNING CLUB), ROCK CLIMBING AT REIMERS RANCH PARK

"Get to drive on a miniature version of the COTA track!" – **Kyle Walker**

9201 CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS BLVD., CIRCUITOFTHEAMERICAS.COM

## SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

### Austin Women's Boxing Club: Assert Yourself

**FINALISTS:** ARCHETYPE BOXING CLUB: ARCHETYPE BOXING, FIT AND FEARLESS: KRAV MAGA, LIONS KRAV MAGA: WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE, MASTER PALACIOS ATA MARTIAL ARTS: KRAV MAGA

"Great coaches and fun too!"

– **Lorie Martinez**

2919 MENCHACA RD. #210, AUSTINWOMENSBOXINGCLUB.COM

## PERSONAL TRAINER

### Marlow McShan

**FINALISTS:** JEN BENTON, SAGE BROUSSARD, BRIANA ELLSWORTH, ALEX PLICHTA

"He pulled me out of one of the worst times in my life. Marlow didn't just help me transform my body into something that I was confident in, he also helped strengthen my mind in ways I didn't think were possible." – **Morgan Harrison**

7756 NORTHCROSS DR. #100, MARLOWSFITNESS.COM

## YOGA

### Black Swan Yoga

**FINALISTS:** FLOW YOGA, PRACTICE YOGA AUSTIN, YOGA POD AUSTIN

"Farted during a class and everyone was cool about it. I even went back after that." – **Sarah Statham**

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

## BIKE TRAIL/TRACK

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

**FINALISTS:** NORTHERN WALNUT CREEK TRAIL, SOUTHERN WALNUT CREEK TRAIL, VELOWAY, VIOLET CROWN TRAIL

"It's so Austin." – **Nancy George**

THETRAILFOUNDATION.ORG

## PLACE TO WALK

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

**FINALISTS:** BARTON CREEK GREENBELT, MUELLER LAKE PARK, LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER, WALNUT CREEK METROPOLITAN PARK

"Beautiful view of the city."

– **Mary Hetmer-Fickett**

THETRAILFOUNDATION.ORG

## OUT-OF-TOWN HIKE

### Enchanted Rock

**FINALISTS:** COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, INKS LAKE STATE PARK, LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA, PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK

"It's one of only three parks with granite domes in all of North America. A must see." – **Jason Syesta**

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

## OUTDOOR RACE

### ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot

**FINALISTS:** 3M HALF MARATHON, AUSTIN MARATHON, CAPIOK, RUN FOR THE WATER

"Great cause." – **Rocky Lane**

FB.COM/THUNDERCLOUDSUBSTURKEYTROT



JOHN ANDERSON

## SWIMMING POOL

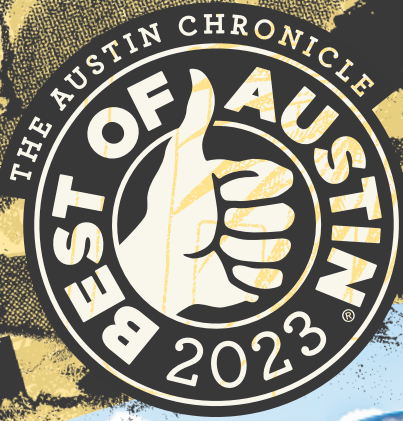
### Barton Springs Pool

**FINALISTS:** BARTHOLOMEW POOL, CAMP LUCY, DEEP EDDY POOL, NORTHWEST POOL

"The most quintessential Austin place – perhaps the only place left that feels truly Austin. All bodies welcome." – **Kristine Turner**

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





# Sports & Recreation

## CRITICS PICKS



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

### **BEST TUBING EXPERIENCE TO TAKE IN TRAVIS COUNTY'S NATURAL SPLENDOR**

#### **River Forest Haven**

If there is such a thing as a quintessential mom-and-pop tubing experience, River Forest Haven is it. Southeast Travis County's natural beauty takes the spotlight here. It starts with the winding, wildflower-specked drive down to this Del Valle slice of heaven. After parking in the scrub forest and hanging out on a sandy river beach, you can take your self-guided, roughly hourlong float down a stretch of the Colorado River. You'll get an eyeful of lush trees hanging over the water and the occasional wall of stratified red rock. Keep your eyes peeled for sunbathing turtles. They abound. A tubing pass for adults is \$15, only \$10 for kiddos, and you'll burn a lot less gas than you would driving down to San Marcos or New Braunfels. The 30-acre property also has space for your RV or tent so you can keep the fun going when the crickets start singing.

1300 MAN O WAR DR., DEL VALLE, RIVERFORESTHAVEN.COM

### **BEST ANNUAL REMINDER THAT UT IS MORE THAN A FOOTBALL SCHOOL**

#### **University of Texas Volleyball Team**

After losing in the championship game of the rescheduled 2020-21 NCAA tournament and a surprising home defeat in the quarterfinals of the 2021 NCAA tournament, the Texas Longhorns volleyball team clearly came into 2022 with eyes locked on a national championship. Captained by fifth-year outside hitter and 2022 AVCA Division I National Player of the Year Logan Eggleston, UT suffered just one loss on its road to earning the top overall seed in the NCAA tournament. From there, the rock-steady team dropped only three sets in the entire tournament before sweeping Louisville in the final. That victory earned the program its third NCAA (fourth national) championship – its first since 2012.

TEXASSPORTS.COM/SPORTS/WOMENS-VOLLEYBALL

### **BEST PLACE TO LEARN TO SHARE THE SKATE PARK**

#### **Gaylord Sackler Memorial Skate Park**

On the edge of the Mueller development lies a shiny new concrete wonderland for the skateboarder, BMXer, scooter rider, or roller skater looking to get their blood flowing. Like most things at Mueller, the park is convenient (e.g., parking, bathrooms, and shade) and family-friendly, with parents often helping their children up some of the steeper inclines, but there are still areas where more seasoned riders can show off. Take a break to watch dogs romp in the nearby park or get even more zen at the pond and see why it's such a birding hot spot. Just don't let the air hitting your face as you skate mislead you – it's hot out there! Stay hydrated!

3730 MANOR RD., MUELLERAUSTIN.COM/PARK-EVENTS

### **MOST DOMINANT PERFORMANCE ON THE RUGBY PITCH**

#### **Austin Blacks Rugby Club**

It's not easy winning a national championship in any sport (just ask Kansas State), but winning two in one day is something special. That's what the Austin Blacks did on June 4, sweeping the USA Club Rugby National Championships in both Men's Division 1 and Division 3 – the third title in six years for the D3 squad, but a first for the D1 team. Founded in 1967 as the first club in the Southwest, the Austin Rugby Club remains one of only two clubs in the U.S. with their own clubhouse and grounds (30 acres in East Austin) – in no small part due to the efforts of the late Alan Sharpley, a longtime player, club president, and the first head coach for the University of Texas Rugby Club.

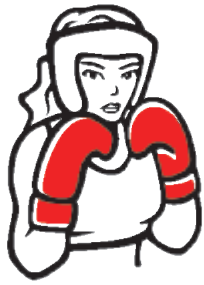
AUSTINRUGBY.COM

### **BEST RETURN TO ROOTS**

#### **Tree of the Year Awards**

After a dormant decade, Austin's Tree of the Year program returned in 2022. The effort, a partnership between planting/education nonprofit TreeFolks and the city's Parks and Rec Department, brings focus to the hunkiest trunks and most beautiful branches in town. And why not? After all, marveling at great trees is one of life's simple pleasures. Through nominations, followed by public voting, honors are awarded in the categories of Unique Tree, Story Tree, Schoolyard Tree, Small Tree, and Large Tree. Winning in the latter, most esteemed group was the extraordinary Sorin Oak on the St. Edward's campus, which is believed to be over 250 years old.

AUSTINTREEOFTHEYEARAWARDS.ORG



# AUSTIN WOMEN'S BOXING CLUB

BOXING & MARTIAL ARTS FOR WOMEN AND KIDS.

## Austin's Only Women-Focused Boxing Gym

Offering boxing classes for all levels, from beginners to competitors ages 12+

Skill-focused and community-oriented environment



### ALSO OFFERING:

- Girls' Summer Camp
- Self Defense Workshops
- Pathway to Competition



• [AUSTINWOMENSBOXINGCLUB.COM](http://AUSTINWOMENSBOXINGCLUB.COM) •



# yoga pod®

## Thanks for voting for us, Austin!



Located in Northwest Austin, offering over 50 classes a week - Hot, Barre, Flow, Yin, Sculpt, and more!!

3 Rooms, showers, and amenities.

Try us out, 4 Weeks for \$40!

[yogapod.com/austin](http://yogapod.com/austin)



## THANK YOU FOR VOTING!



AUSTIN ART OF FITNESS  
**BEST GYM**



# TEXAS FARMERS MARKET

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SEASONAL,  
**SUSTAINABLE & LOCAL FOOD**  
FROM TEXAS FARMERS & RANCHERS

.....  
FOR HOURS, VENDOR LIST & MORE INFO VISIT  
[TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG](http://TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG)

**BEST PLACE TO SCORE A VALORANT WIN BEFORE DASHING TO CLASS**

**Alienware Longhorn Esports Lounge**

After years of student orgs such as Longhorn Gaming providing a space for gamers on campus largely via their own independent efforts, UT-Austin unveiled the Alienware Longhorn Esports Lounge on the main level of the Texas Union last August, with the stated goal of creating an “elite gaming environment for students to train and compete at the highest level.” Equipped with 10 powerful Alienware desktop gaming stations – we’re talking premium systems complete with customized chairs – three laptop stations, and a multiplayer Xbox Series S console area, the lounge is available to anybody with a valid UT ID. It marks a massive breakthrough for esports culture on the Forty Acres, with the best still to come – a 3,300-square-foot esports arena is currently under construction in the Texas Union Underground. But don’t fret: The bowling alley isn’t going anywhere.

2308 WHITIS AVE., UNIVERSITYUNIONS.UTEXAS.EDU/ALIENWARE-LONGHORN-ESPORTS-LOUNGE

**BEST LEADERSHIP IN TRYING TIMES**

**Rodney Terry**

The 2022-23 Texas Longhorns men’s basketball Elite Eight berth capped the program’s most successful campaign since its last Elite Eight run in 2008. Yet the long-awaited return of burnt orange to the second week-end of men’s March Madness unexpectedly occurred under Rodney Terry. The assistant coach capably took the helm when then-head coach Chris Beard was suspended in December and subsequently fired. Shortly after the NCAA tournament – and after coaching for months with the uncertainty of an interim distinction – Terry rightfully received a multiyear contract to become UT’s permanent head coach. How’d he celebrate? By nabbing his first big transfer portal prospect: bucket getter Max Abmas from Oral Roberts University.

TWITTER.COM/RODNEYTERRY



COURTESY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS



JOHN ANDERSON

**BEST VIEW OF THE CAPITOL**

**Texas Capitol Mall**

The first time a skyscraper dwarfed the Texas State Capitol, everyone knew that the infamous Capitol View Corridors were just going to become increasingly ridiculous. Now the Texas Capitol Mall gives the seat of Texas democracy the vista it deserves, with a flourishing public green space from MLK to 16th Street finally connecting UT-Austin’s Forty Acres to the Capitol Complex. It’s all part of the 2016 Texas Capitol Complex Master Plan, overseen by those guardians of Austin’s architectural history at the Texas Facilities Commission. Why, you’d almost think you’re in a real state capital.

NORTH CONGRESS & MLK

**BEST PERFECTLY PLACED PECAN TREE**

**Dottie Jordan Pool**

Eastside pools bulked up centrally with the addition of Mueller Lake Park cooldowns Ella Wooten and John Gaines, but the best ungentrified secret east of Eden remains Dottie Jordan. Old Austin dwells in its modest, intimate size – not to mention the satellite kidlet wader – as well as the deep neighborhood locale, and that O.G. charm necessarily means running into familiar faces there at every turn. Trees provide natural shade in the shallows, especially that one perfectly placed pecan, while the deep ends bronze in the sun. The parking lot’s just right, as is the bike rack, and so’s the price: your endless gratitude for Dottie Jordan Park and all its down-home facilities.

2803 LOYOLA, AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/DOTTIE-JORDAN-POOL

**BEST WAY TO ADD SOME PEP TO YOUR STEP**

**PoundPoms**

Sherry Leatham, aka Sherry Shamrock, wants everyone to live their cheer dream. For anyone who’s been on pep squad or just wanted to be, she’s created a unique product that puts some zing into your workout routine. These blingy fitness accessories offer the resistance of a 1-pound weight along with the flair of a sparkly set of pom-poms. Not sure what to do with them? Sherry provides inspiring CheerKamp videos that will rally even the most reluctant exerciser. Go team!

POUNDPOMS.COM

512.646.4717  
GardenSeventeen.com



604 Williams St.  
Austin, TX 78752

**ARCHETYPE**  
BOXING CLUB

OUR MEMBERS BOX THEIR WAY  
TO A FIT AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

**GET YOUR  
FIT ON!**

**BEST BOXING GYM IN AUSTIN**

*Create a  
New You!*

2700 West Anderson Lane Suite 203

**PIONEER FARMS**

Central Texas' premier living history museum, where the whole family can experience Real Texas History!

**PIONEERFARMS.ORG**

FOR HEALTHY HOMES, LAWNS, TREES & SHRUBS

**REAL GREEN**  
Pest Control & Lawn Care

512-852-0344 // [WWW.REALGREENLAWNS.COM](http://WWW.REALGREENLAWNS.COM)  
MORE GREEN, LESS WEEDS, LESS MONEY!

**NATUREVERSITY  
OUTDOOR SCHOOL**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT AUSTIN!

**NATUREVERSITY.ORG**



**Howler**  
BROS

**WAREHOUSE  
SALE!  
UP TO 70% OFF**

HATS • OUTERWEAR • SHIRTS • T-SHIRTS • PANTS • BOARDSHORTS • SHORTS • HOODIES

**THURSDAY 6/22: 4PM - 8PM** **7301**  
**FRIDAY 6/23: 8AM - 8PM** **BURNET RD**  
**SATURDAY 6/24: 8AM - 8PM** **AUSTIN, TX**  
**SUNDAY 6/25: 8AM - 5PM** **78757**



Take your pick of heavily discounted merchandise alongside rare finds from special collections and unreleased samples. See you there!

[howlerbros.com/warehouse-sale](http://howlerbros.com/warehouse-sale)

Howler Brothers is a design-driven outdoor men's apparel company in Austin, Texas.



*Heed The Call*