

**THE ORIGINAL**

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE



**AND STILL THE BEST**

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# TRUST THE ORIGINAL

The 29th annual "Best of Austin" awards

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

"This selection is an arbitrary listing of the best Austin has to offer, a collaboration between us and our readers. Look at the list not as a closing off, but as a beginning blueprint, a proposal toward the Best of Austin."

The Chronicle's "Best of Austin" awards debuted in our Sept. 28, 1990, issue with the above introduction. That year, we handed out 153 awards. Now, nearly three decades later, the number of awards has swollen in pace with the city. This year, between our Readers Poll winners and Critics Picks, we've given out 299 awards. Some of those have gone to Austin institutions (including a handful that appeared in our first "BOA"), others to businesses opened in just the last year, and quite a few to movers and shakers who weren't even born yet when we first launched this annual list.

A lot has changed since 1990, for better and for worse. But what hasn't changed is the spirit of this endeavor - it's still a collaboration between us and our readers - and its intent, which is to celebrate the people, places, and businesses that make Austin such a singular place to live. A true original.

You can shake hands with those people, places, and businesses at our "Best of Austin" party on Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Mohawk. Typically, our winners party isn't open to the public; however, given how much our readers contribute to this issue, we think you should be there for the victory lap, too. Bands, drink specials, free bites, and more to be revealed; buy tickets at [austinchronicle.com/bestofparty](http://austinchronicle.com/bestofparty).

Many, many hands, most of them unseen, went into making this issue possible. They're the same people who do the work, week in and week out, of putting the paper out. If they're in our staff box, that means they were essential not just to this issue, but every issue. I owe them, and our fantastic freelance writers and photographers, huge thanks. Next round's on me, guys.

## BEST OF SCOOTERS OUTRAGE

Our finals round of the Readers Poll elicited 13,038 comments from readers, but it was the ones about scooters - winner of "Best Controversy" (as well as a Critics Pick for "Best Hostile Takeover by a Highly Invasive Aerial Species") - that most had us in stitches. Here are some of our favorites.

"City needs to stop trying to control and get a piece of everything!"

"Austin has such a boner for bikes, so why do they hate scooters so much?"

"Just let us disassemble them for parts."

"Never thought I'd see so many Grown Ass Adults on goofy scooters. Overnight sensation doomed to fail, or wave of the future?"

"Watching the scooters debate was one of the funniest things to happen in Austin in a long time."

"Half the population seems to think the apocalypse is about to happen while the other half is in blue face yelling 'FREEDOM!'"

"I love them and hate them so much."

"Self-selection for gene pool removal? Maybe I shouldn't be so irritated..."

"Man, I really hate those scooters and the people that rode in on them."

"No one will stop talking about these damn scooters."

"Just people moving with the times."

"I love them! It's like, I don't even need to waste time conversing with you because I know you're a d-bag solely on the fact that you're an adult riding an electric scooter in the middle of the road."

"I want the Ubers to start giving discounts for number of scooters hit during a ride."

"Scoot proud."

"Fuck those scooters."

"One time Downtown I saw an angry woman throwing many scooters into the street. And then a nice young man picking them up."

"Dangerous. Scooters are left anywhere, preventing people with disabilities the ability to use the sidewalk."

"Keep Austin Scooty."

"I have never before had to resist the urge to trip another human being (at least in adulthood). They are tacky, dangerous AF to everyone around them as well as to the rider, and flimsy."

"Lord have mercy... We are under attack..."

"Wear a helmet. These are roads with monster trucks and other wheely machines. Or walk like a non-lazy American."

"This is easily the silliest thing Austinites have gotten up in arms about in years."

"This isn't solving the 'last mile' transportation problem, it's simply letting rich white startup guys get rich off teenagers and bros old enough to know better who refuse to walk."

"I have mixed feelings about the rollout, but damn are they fun!"

# THE MOST VEHICLES SOLD IN AUSTIN.\*

\* Claim based on 2017 RL Polk registration data.

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# READERS POLL

**COMIC CREATOR**

Drew Edwards  
*(Halloween Man)*

"Drew's comics are fun, weird, and horror-influenced. Genius-level stuff."

- JOEY MUERTO

WWW.TWITTER.COM/HALLOWEENMANCOM

**COMEDY TROUPE**

Esther's Follies

"It's been 40+ years, and Austin still hasn't tired of Esther's. I don't how they keep comedy so fresh for so long, but who cares as long as we're all doubled over laughing."

- MARY SUMMERALL

525 E. SIXTH, WWW.ESTHERSFOLLIES.COM

**STAND-UP COMIC**

Avery Moore

"Avery has this magical quality on stage and draws the audience in. She's so calm and so witty and quick all at once and gives off an amazing positive energy. I always love seeing her sets."

- ESPÍ RIVADENEIRA

WWW.TWITTER.COM/AVERYREEDMOORE

**COMEDY CLUB/VENUE**

Cap City Comedy Club

"Legit food. Legit service. Legit comedy."

- DESTINY LALANE

8120 RESEARCH #100, WWW.CAPCITYCOMEDY.COM

**STAND-UP SHOWCASE**

Moontower Comedy Festival

"Moontower brings very funny people from all over the country to Austin and introduces our local scene to them."

- FRANK NETSCHER

WWW.AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG/MOONTOWER-COMEDY

**FICTION WRITER**

Sarah Bird

"There aren't many authors for whom I'd just be happy to be No. 105 on the hold list for the ebook from the library, but Sarah is one of them."

- KIM USEY

WWW.SARAHBIRDBOOKS.COM

**NONFICTION WRITER**

Spike Gillespie

"What's not to love about Spike?"

- KIM O'BRIEN

WWW.SPIKEGILLESPIE.COM

**VISUAL ARTIST**

Flip Solomon

"Flip is one of the best visual artists I've ever seen, across the globe. She is witchy in the best way possible. Her work speaks a unique language of its own."

- MICHAEL KUNITZKY

WWW.FLIPSOLOMON.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

**ART GALLERY**

Women & Their Work

"A woman's work is never done. So it goes for Women & Their Work."

- AMY SMITH

1710 LAVACA, WWW.WOMENANDTHEIRWORK.ORG

**PERFORMANCE SPACE/THEATRE**

Paramount Theatre

"Show me another place in town where the Marx Brothers have hung out and I'll vote for it."

- JOHN GROSS

713 CONGRESS, WWW.AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG

**ACTRESS**

Yamina Khouane

"She's the most lovely, giving, and delightful performer and person in the history of ever."

- ADAM ARTHO

WWW.COLDTOWNETHEATER.COM/PERFORMER/YAMINA-KHOUANE

**ACTOR**

Mical Trejo

"Mical has been killing it this year! Danny who? Mical is the #1 Trejo."

- MICHELLE KEFFER

**THEATRE DIRECTOR**

Lisa Scheps

"Lisa is an extraordinary contributor to the community and her work in bringing Ground Floor Theatre back into the art world is worthy of a standing O!"

- KAREN BLANEY

WWW.GROUNDFLOORTHEATRE.ORG

**CLASSICAL MUSICIAN**

Graham Reynolds

"Graham is the very heartbeat of Austin. So much love for this man and his creative generosity."

- MICHELLE VOSS

WWW.GRAHAMREYNOLDS.COM

**DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER**

Allison Orr

"Allison Orr & Krissie Marty are an unbelievable team that brings people together and changes lives through their hard work and talents!!"

- JAMES GUIDEN

WWW.FORKLIFTDANCEWORKS.ORG

**MURALIST**

Mez Data

"Mez has caused me to actually get a traffic ticket for crossing lanes illegally to see his work when driving by it."

- ANDREW HOKE

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/MEZDATA

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**

Lauren Dickens

"She helped design all my favorite places in Austin!"

- JEREMY NGUYEN

WWW.LAURENDICKENS.COOL

**BOOK BY AN AUSTIN WRITER (PUB. 2018)**

## God Save Texas by Lawrence Wright

"This is one of the best books about Texas that I've ever read: an honest glimpse of Texas in all its glory and its ignominy."

— ALYSSA POTASZNIK  
WWW.LAWRENCEWRIGHT.COM

**BURLESQUE PERFORMER**

## Ginger Snaps

"Amazing, and talented! One of my favorite people and performers." — STEPHANIE REAL

WWW.FB.COM/GINGERSNAPSBURLESQUE

**DRAG PERFORMER**

## Louisiana Purchase

"Louisiana is a fierce queen, a good Judy, and has an Instagram dedicated solely to her booty."

— ETHAN CUMMINS

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/LOUISIANAPURCHASE

**LOCAL VIDEO GAME DEVELOPER**

## Rooster Teeth

"I'm a superfan of them!!!"

— SHIGEKAZU WATANABE

WWW.ROOSTERTEETH.COM

**FILM FESTIVAL/SERIES**

## Austin Film Festival

"For 25 years the Austin Film Festival has fostered the community's love of film and brought so many creatives together in an annual festival that never disappoints."

— BITA GHASSEMI

WWW.AUSTINFILMFESTIVAL.COM

**MOVIE THEATRE**

## Alamo Drafthouse

"I'm spoiled now. I don't know how to watch movies any other way." — CAROL FRASER

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.DRAFTHOUSE.COM

**OUTDOOR FESTIVAL**

## Austin City Limits Music Festival

"Ever-growing and ever-changing, you can't beat the amazing variety of (famous, unknown, and everything in between) bands/artists that ACL brings you."

— KATHERINE SQUIER

WWW.ACLFESTIVAL.COM

**MUSEUM**

## The Blanton Museum of Art

"The new *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly puts the Blanton into a class of its own." — BECKY JOLIN

200 E. MLK, WWW.BLANTONMUSEUM.ORG

**FASHION SHOWCASE**

## Austin Fashion Week

"I love all the Austin glimmer & glamour!"

— JACQUELINE RAMOS

WWW.FASHIONWEEKAUSTIN.COM

**WILD CARD**

## Mortified Austin (storytelling show)

"Mortified Austin is one of the kindest, most life-affirming, and raucously hilarious shows in town. You'll laugh your butt off and feel like you're adding good to the world at the same time." — MARCELO TESON

WWW.FB.COM/MORTIFIEDAUSTIN

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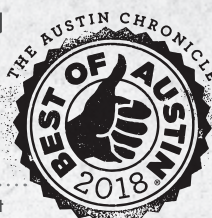


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# CRITICS PICKS

**BEST SECRETS INTO SONG**

## Walker Lukens' Song Confessional

That's no priest behind the grille in the Song Confessional. It's alt-pop songster Walker Lukens, ready to listen to your deepest, darkest confession and turn it into a track. Lukens and his Side Arms bandmate Zac Catanzaro created the traveling pop-up recording studio, in which participants enter the back booth of a retro camper, tell a personal story, then Lukens and a rotating cast of talented Austin musicians record a song about it on the spot. It may not save your soul, but it's among the most personal musical experiences out there to discover.

[WWW.WALKERLUKENSSONGCONFESSIONAL.COM](http://WWW.WALKERLUKENSSONGCONFESSIONAL.COM)

**BEST RESTORATION**

## For La Raza mural on Holly Shores

Anytime an Austin mural is rescued from disrepair, it's cause for celebration, but the restoration of *For La Raza* by community group Arte Texas deserves a citywide cheer. It's revived an important community landmark – a vibrant statement of Chicano pride painted in 1992 by Robert Herrera and Oscar Cortez – and also reinvented it, with heightened colors and new images painted by the original muralists in collaboration with a new generation of Eastside artists. As restored, the mural simultaneously pays tribute to Holly Shores' past and again makes a bold statement about the community's present and future.

HOLLY SHORES, 2711 CANTERBURY, [WWW.FB.COM/ARTETEXAS](http://WWW.FB.COM/ARTETEXAS)

**BEST OUTSIDER ART ADVOCATE**

## SAGE Studio

Before SAGE Studio opened in January 2017, Austin lacked headquarters for outsider artists – those creating outside the realm/traditional training of contemporary art – with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Co-owners Katie Stahl and Lucy Gross pursue that goal daily by featuring and selling their Texas-based artists' pieces in an 8- by 10-foot shipping container-turned-Eastside gallery, which doubles as a workspace. The crux of SAGE's philosophy according to Stahl: "Not everyone who has a disability is a talented artist, and not everyone who does not have a disability is a talented artist – artists are artists." Couldn't have said it better ourselves.

828 AIRPORT, [WWW.SAGESTUDIOATX.COM](http://WWW.SAGESTUDIOATX.COM)



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**BEST PROMOTIONS INCUBATOR** *Howdy Gals*

Since their start in January, Howdy Gals have emerged as an essential booking presence at local haunts like Hole in the Wall, Spider House, and Hotel Vegas. The combined party-planning forces of young guns Belicia Luevano, Kelly Ngo, Maya Van Os, and Shannon Wiedemeyer run the gamut of rock, punk, pop, and anything else the twentysomethings are coming up with these days. Whether you're a townie in need of an EP release show or a college newbie who just made a Bandcamp, they've got a slot and social media push just for you. [WWW.FB.COM/HOWDYGALS](http://WWW.FB.COM/HOWDYGALS)

CONTINUED ON P. 8

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Czech-Style Pilsener  
2017



### HELL YES!

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Munich-Style Helles



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

# Party with the Scots in Salado, Texas!



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



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## BEST REASON TO CARE ABOUT HOCKEY (BESIDES THE TEXAS STARS)

### Ngozi Ukazu

The locally based graphic novelist's *Check, Please!*, about the ice hockey team of fictional (and Canadian) Samwell University, is the best-funded webcomic of all time. The series – and its popular iteration in printed form – is also among the funniest and sweetest evocations of any sport ever put into sequential-art form. It'll warm your heart and make you laugh and wonder why you don't strap on a pair of skates yourself, if only to glide over for a slice of that newbie Bittle's pie.

[WWW.NGOZIU.COM](http://WWW.NGOZIU.COM)

## BEST CHAMPIONS FOR AUSTIN'S BLAQUEERS/ QPOC COMMUNITY

### Austin Black Pride

This is not your run-of-the-mill Pride. ABP, now officially a nonprofit, kicked off in 2016 to better represent, celebrate, and empower Austin's blaqueers. And, as they continue to grow, that's exactly what they continue to do. From their signature Austin Black Pride Weekend to their near-monthly events, ABP doesn't just throw a damn good party (though they definitely do); they also host art shows, brunches, book groups, and panel discussions on living at the intersection of black and queer to better showcase and support Austin's thriving black LGBTQ community.

[WWW.AUSTINBLACKPRIDE.ORG](http://WWW.AUSTINBLACKPRIDE.ORG)

## BEST NEW EXPERIMENTAL ART SPACE

### DORF Gallery

Creating and maintaining a gallery is a lot of work. Creating and maintaining a home is a lot of work. For whatever reason, artists Eric Manche and Sara Vanderbeek decided to exponentialize their hard work and open an art gallery in the garage and backyard of their home. Well, alright, we know the reason. Arts venues in Austin are struggling in the face of higher costs and insufficient funding, but that's all the more reason to support this awesome DIY space and their exciting shows. Since their launch earlier this year, DORF's consistently innovative programming of talented artists has kept us coming back and staying tuned for more.

5701 LEWOOD, [WWW.FB.COM/DORFWORLD](http://WWW.FB.COM/DORFWORLD)

## BEST CRAFTING FOR BOOKWORMS

### Austin Book Arts Center

This is *the* place for bibliophiles who want to get their hands dirty. At ABAC, you can learn how to build a book from scratch using paper, thread, and a little bit of glue, taught in six-week-long or weekend workshops for a fair price (materials included). Become a member and you can book studio time once you get good enough to spearhead your own projects. They've got all the equipment you need, including a paper guillotine. Bookmaking has never been so badass!

2832 E. MLK #114, [WWW.ATXBOOKARTS.ORG](http://WWW.ATXBOOKARTS.ORG)

## BEST FEM-SPOTLIGHTING DOCUSERIES

### FemBeat

Launched by local filmmakers Kayla Abuda Galang and Samantha Skinner, FemBeat captures the work of local feminists and self-identifying women in heartfelt, high-quality shorts. The cinematic duo teamed up to combat exclusion of women from the film world, and have since produced poignant docs on Austin figures like 80-year-old Chicana activist Martha P. Cotera and social justice org Counter Balance. Galang and Skinner curate cheerful community events to accompany FemBeat film premieres. Episodes are also available online.

[WWW.FEMBEAT.COM](http://WWW.FEMBEAT.COM)

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**BEST BOUNDARY-PUSHING FEST**

## Contrast Film Festival

Austin doesn't lack for festivals. In fact, it doesn't even lack for festivals that nudge the status quo. But this year's inaugural Contrast Film Festival decided to turn the average film fest upside down, inside out, and through a loop. Jeremy von Stilb and Tish Sparks created Contrast not for cinephiles but for the movie-curious, with the hope of nurturing would-be film lovers. They screened new films and cult classics, they showcased the most radical queer- and women-created cinema out there, and they threw some outlandish and awesome after-parties to boot. What's more, they did it on the cheap, making badges jaw-droppingly affordable. We can't wait to see what they do for round two.

WWW.CONTRASTFILMFEST.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

**BEST EVENT INCLUSIVITY**

## Brown State of Mind

As a self-described "creative brand," Brown State of Mind dabbles thoughtfully in a bit of everything, all around aiming to lift up people of color involved in the arts. This manifests in curated community events, educational meetups dubbed "Brown State University," and a lovely web presence highlighting the work and poetry submissions of artists around Texas. Notably, their recurring Green Room concert series rounds up fresh finds in rap, R&B, and electronic from around the U.S. Now over a year old, the creative clearinghouse emphasizes voices often skipped over in the city of Austin.

WWW.BROWNSTATEOFMIND.COM

**BEST CULTURAL PRESERVATION**

## Eastside Kings Festival

Austin's blues history didn't start in the Seventies at Antone's. It began in the juke joints and bars populated by African-American performers on the Eastside. Dialtone Records owner Eddie Stout reminds Austin of that annually with his Eastside Kings Festival, a 12th Street club crawl stocked with the best of Texas blues. The late summer fest has continually showcased a treasure trove of brilliant veterans like Miss Lavelle White, Bill Campbell, Blues Boy Willie, Jewel Brown, Classie Ballou, and the recently departed Hosea Hargrove, plus emerging talent like Jai Malano and Tomar & the FCs.

WWW.FB.COM/EASTSIDEKINGSFESTIVAL

**BEST STAMPS OF APPROVAL**

## A'lante Flamenco

Hammering one's heels on the floor may not be considered decorous behavior in some quarters, but when it's the members of A'lante Flamenco bringing those feet down, it's not only proper, it's art. This ensemble of five dancers and six musicians brings all the requisite passion and skill to this traditional dance form, but Artistic Director/Choreographer Olivia Chacón and Music Director Isaí Chacón also make their flamenco relevant, addressing issues such as immigration, gentrification, and women's rights, and incorporating tech like a virtual dance jam via Facebook. A'lante knows how to keep the beat and get our heartbeats racing.

WWW.ALANTEFLAMENCO.COM

**BEST POWER FORWARD IN THE ARTS**

## Florinda Bryant

In *dat Black Mermaid Man Lady* at allgo, the audience had to be led from one space to another. Wisely, that task was left to Florinda Bryant. She delivered Sharon Bridgforth's text with such spellbinding musicality, we'd have followed her anywhere. That's how it is with this multidisciplinary dynamo. She has power – as an actor, a singer, a poet, a director, a teacher, an activist – and she uses it to lead us to places we need to go: places of justice, equality, love. Case in point: her solo show *Until the Flood*, set following Michael Brown's shooting in Ferguson.

**BEST EVERYWOMAN ART CLASSES**

## Hive Arts Collective

Offering instructional workshops on everything from figure drawing and woodworking to paper marbling and tarot reading, Hive Arts Collective crafts a comfy space for women and nonbinary artists of all levels. Led by visiting local experts, the classes typically convene at multiuse mecca the Museum of Human Achievement, alongside frequent artsy collabs around town. Plan ahead – the intimate, materials-included events often sell out.

WWW.HIVEARTS.ORG



TODD V. WOLFSON

**BEST FRIEND TO FILM PRODUCERS**

## Brian Gannon

Films and TV projects don't happen without a little help, and more often than not that help comes from Austin Film Commission Director Brian Gannon. Whether it's helping lure major productions like *Fear the Walking Dead* by showing them Austin's amazing technicians and locations, or helping local creatives get their projects off the ground and in front of an audience, Gannon is truly the guy behind the camera.

111 CONGRESS #700, WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.ORG/FILM-COMMISSION

TWIN LIQUORS

# FALL-IDAY PREVIEW WEEK

NOVEMBER 1-10

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MOST WONDERFUL  
TIME OF THE YEAR

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**FORDS GIN &  
FRIENDS HOLIDAY  
COCKTAIL HOW-TO**

WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 7, 2018  
6-8PM

SOUTH LAMAR MARKETPLACE

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RAFFLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
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THURSDAY  
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6-8PM

AUSTIN HANCOCK MARKETPLACE

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WINE EVENT**

PAIRINGS, BITES AND MORE!

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018  
5-8PM

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TWINLIQUORS.COM

Tastings are free and open to the public. Must be 21+ to participate. Please drink responsibly.



# READERS POLL



JANA BIRCHUM

**BREWERY**

## Austin Beerworks

"Not only the best beers, but one of the funnest, employee-forward companies you will ever find. They fight every day for better beer, better brewers' quality of life, and better breweries' rights for all Texans."

— DEREK HODGES

3009 INDUSTRIAL TERRACE, WWW.AUSTINBEERWORKS.COM

**SOUS CHEF**

## Nick Hymel

"Love this guy."

— REBECCA HUME

BARLEY SWINE, 6555 BURNET RD. #400, WWW.BARLEYSWINE.COM

**DRIVE-THROUGH**

## P. Terry's Burger Stand

"Doesn't matter which store you visit — P. Terry's has the friendliest drive-through workers around."

— DANIELLE FIFER

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.PTERRYS.COM

**PATIO**

## Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe

"I have told my wife that at my funeral I want my eulogy to be, 'He's gone up to that big Spider House in the sky.'"

— GOLDEN WADE POWELL

2908 FRUTH, WWW.SPIDERHOUSE.COM

**DISTILLERY**

## Deep Eddy Vodka Distillery and Tasting Room

"Deep Eddy is the best in the biz. Delicious flavors that mix with anything, or nothing at all. Staff is some of the nicest around and their swag is unparalleled. Deep Eddy for the win all day, every day!"

— SANDY MACDONALD

2250 HWY. 290 E., DRIPPING SPRINGS, WWW.DEEPEDDYVODKA.COM

**FOOD TRUCK**

## Veracruz All Natural

"The migas tacos deserve every bit of acclaim they have received. Add a watermelon agua fresca and that is some truly good eating."

— RENEE BABCOCK

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.VERACRUZALLNATURAL.COM

**COFFEE SHOP**

## Radio Coffee & Beer

"It's not just the coffee: It's the food trucks, live music, welcoming staff, and layout."

— JACK LANGWORTHY

4204 MANCHACA RD., WWW.RADIOCOFFEEANDBEER.COM

**BARBECUE**

## Franklin Barbecue

"When I went there for the first time, I soooo wanted to be like, 'Pshaw, naw, not worth the wait, lemme be a hipster local and tell you the REAL good spot,' but ... like tbb it is the best? So. Here we are."

— ISOBEL IKARD

900 E. 11TH, WWW.FRANKLINBARBECUE.COM

**NEW RESTAURANT (EST. 2018)**

## Loro

"The brisket here is so freaking good, I think I yelled at it the first time I ate it."

— MEGAN REARDON

2115 S. LAMAR, WWW.LOROASTIN.COM

**ESTABLISHED RESTAURANT**

## Bouldin Creek Cafe

"If this place ever shuts down, I know it's time to move out of Austin."

— MOLLY COFFMAN

1900 S. FIRST, WWW.BOULDINCREEK.COM

**LATE-NIGHT DINING**

## Kerbey Lane Cafe

"No matter what you're craving or when you're craving it, you can probably scratch that itch here. Also, Cowboy Queso and sweet potato fries will change your life."

— JEFFREY ULLRICH

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.KERBEYLANECAFE.COM

**DELIVERY**

## East Side Pies

"Fast, friendly, a killer crust, plus a huge supporter of nonprofits."

— TED BRANSON

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.EASTSIDEPIES.COM

**CHEF**

## Tyson Cole

"Everything Tyson touches is gold."

— RICKI JOSHI

UCHI, 801 S. LAMAR, WWW.UCHIAUSTIN.COM; UCHIKO, 4200 N. LAMAR #140, UCHIKOASTIN.COM; LORO, 2115 S. LAMAR, WWW.LOROASTIN.COM

**PASTRY CHEF**

## Laura Sawicki

"NO SHAME: I go to Launderette and order every one of their desserts and call it dinner."

— KATE MEEHAN

LAUNDERETTE, 2115 HOLLY, WWW.LAUNDERETTEAUSTIN.COM

**BREAKFAST**

### Kerbey Lane Cafe

"The migas with queso on top and a side of pancakes is my cure-all." - *TYSON BIRD*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.KERBEYLANECAFE.COM

**WEEKEND BRUNCH**

### Jack Allen's Kitchen

"Bloody Mary & pimento cheese!!!!"

- *BRANDY MCKINNEY*

7720 HWY. 71 W.; 3600 CAPITAL OF TX HWY. N., WWW.JACKALLENSKITCHEN.COM

**BAKERY**

### Easy Tiger

"Bread bread bread bread beer."

- *LAUREN WALKER*

709 E. SIXTH, WWW.EASYTIGERAUSTIN.COM

**FINE DINING**

### Uchi

"Nothing sexier than hot-rock-seared meat."

- *DORAY SITKO*

801 S. LAMAR, WWW.UCHIAUSTIN.COM

**STEAK**

### Austin Land & Cattle Company

"They have great steaks at a great value, and the classic old-Texas vibe just feels right."

- *TRICIA GANTT*

1205 N. LAMAR, WWW.ALCSTEAKS.COM

**VEGAN/VEGETARIAN**

### Bouldin Creek Cafe

"Make a believer out of a meat eater."

- *ERIC QUITUGUA*

1900 S. FIRST, WWW.BOULDINCREEK.COM

**NOODLES/RAMEN**

### Ramen Tatsu-ya

"It's my last meal before a trip and my first meal home."

- *NICOLE NGUYEN*

8557 RESEARCH #126; 1234 S. LAMAR; 1600 E. SIXTH, RAMEN-TATSUYA.COM

**SUSHI**

### Uchi

"It's astounding that sushi like this can be found in Central Texas."

- *CAROLYN RODON*

801 S. LAMAR, WWW.UCHIAUSTIN.COM

**PIZZA**

### Via 313

"I didn't know how much I loved Detroit-style pizza 'til I went to Via 313. Wait, it's terrible. Don't go there. (Leave it all for me.)"

- *DIANNE HARWOOD*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.VIA313.COM

**BURGER**

### Hopdoddy Burger Bar

"After you survive the line, you'll be starving enough to order anything. Luckily, it's all fantastic."

- *MASON TATE*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.HOPDODDY.COM

**TACOS**

### Torchy's Tacos

"They had a LOBSTER taco this year, y'all! LOBSTER! And it was delicious! First of every month, first thing I do is check the taco of the month."

- *EVE RICHTER*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.TORCHYSTACOS.COM

**ITALIAN**

### Mandola's Italian Market

"Their bread was the reason I had to go keto!"

- *AMY JEFFREY*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.MANDOLAS.COM

**ICE CREAM/FROZEN TREATS**

### Amy's Ice Creams

"What other ice cream shop will exchange free toppings for obscure movie quote knowledge?"

- *CARA ROGERSON*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.AMYSICECREAMS.COM

**DESSERTS**

### Quack's 43rd Street Bakery

"I drove in the Memorial Day floods to eat their cookies. That should be an indicator."

- *JOSEPH POENISCH*

411 E. 43RD, WWW.QUACKSBAKERY.COM

**SERVICE**

### Odd Duck

"I thought I was a famous person for a moment."

- *TODD GRESLEY*

1201 S. LAMAR, WWW.ODDDUCKAUSTIN.COM

**CHEAP DATE**

### Torchy's Tacos

"Tacos = Love. Keeping dates going in Austin for years."

- *DARCY VALENTINE*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.TORCHYSTACOS.COM

**WILD CARD**

### Better Half Coffee & Cocktails

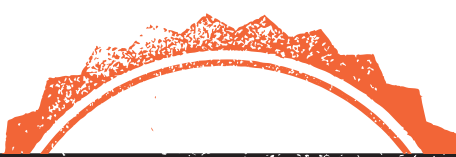
"Two words: CAULIFLOWER TOTS."

- *KATHRYN JANDA*

406 WALSH, WWW.BETTERHALFBAR.COM

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# CRITICS PICKS

**BEST NEW BREWERY OF 2018**

## Oddwood Ales

If we were to fall into some sort of small fortune from a Trump brand steaks™ civil lawsuit or whatever and decided to open up our own quality brewpub in our parents' basement, we would replicate what Oddwood Ales has done precisely. In a perfect world of chill mode, Oddwood has vibed everything down to a winning formula of spectacular wild ales, hoppy pale ales, free video games, and pizza, with a healthy nod to the guiding philosophy that drinking around a shitload of wood makes everyone feel like a billionaire snowbird. Cheers to that, Oddwood, and your super-meta wolf-wearing-a-wolf-shirt too.

3108 MANOR RD., WWW.ODDWOODALES.COM

**MOST CHARMING CHURRO CONNOISSEURS**

## Churro Co.

For Ciudad Juarez natives Leo Mendoza and David Martinez, the churro means home, and that's exactly what they serve up at their food truck and its cozy attached lot on South First. But the guys don't keep it too traditional. You can get your churros served with apple pie, rum pecan sauce, espresso whipped cream, or a number of other tasty surprises. (Try their floats or Mexican iced chocolate while you're at it!)

1906 S. FIRST, WWW.CHURROCOAUSTIN.COM

**BEST SCHMEAR-LEADER**

## Rosen's Bagel Co.

Schmear is a delightful word, both noun and verb, and, with Rosen's delicious variety of options, liberally schmearing schmear onto your choice of ring-shaped treat is rife with possibility. Try basil and lemon schmear on a poppy seed bagel. Caramelized shallot & bacon on rosemary sea salt. Plain on everything. Toast it, or don't. Go sweet, savory, or salty. Have fun with it, whether ordering a bagel or bagel-based treat for breakfast, lunch, a snack, or even dinner. Rosen's keeps it classic (no cinnamon raisin!) and keeps the classics interesting.

500 SAN MARCOS ST. #105, WWW.ROSENSBAGELS.COM



Owner Nicolas Lopez

TODD V. WOLFSON

**BEST GAS STATION TACO JOINT** **Taco-Miendo**

Usually, you should avoid gas station food at all costs. But if the station in question houses a small kitchen with just enough room for a cook and a cashier, you might find that they put out some of the best tacos in town. Taco-Miendo, tucked away in a Chevron on Parmer Lane, is one of those joints. Serving up a variety of tacos – including, of course, breakfast tacos – all on homemade corn tortillas, Taco-Miendo is a great place to stop in for a bite whether or not you need to fill up your tank.

2015 W. PARMER, 512/436-1483

**BEST BIRD IN THE HAND**

## Bird Bird Biscuit

I've got one hand on this biscuit sandwich, and the other one is giving a high five to co-owners Ryan McElroy and Brian Batch for opening up this Manor Road delight earlier this year. Perfecting a fluffy biscuit and then stuffing it with all sorts of tasty ingredients without it falling to pieces in your lap is no easy feat. Yet here we are, with options like the Lovely Day, with house-made chicken sausage, an organic over-medium egg, cheddar, and basil pesto. And fear not: There's street parking so you don't have to walk too far too early.

2701 MANOR RD., WWW.BIRDBIRDBISCUIT.COM

**BEST DUCK, DUCK, DEAL HAPPY HOUR**

## Sour Duck Market

James Beard award-winning chef Bryce Gilmore ensures diners receive double the fun with his newest eatery's daily happy hours (that's right, plural). Sunday through Thursday from 2-6pm, snag \$3 Texas drafts like Lone Pint's Yellow Rose, \$6 draft cocktails, and half-off select menu items. For those looking to pregame their morning meetings (we'll leave that up to you to decide), weekdays from 7-9am flip HH on its head with half-off mimosas and mimosa carafes, plus \$3 Texas cans. Bring the pup, chill at the picnic tables, or indulge in some oversized lawn games. Whatever you choose, there are no sour deals around here.

1814 E. MLK, WWW.SOURDUCKMARKET.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

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**ORDER ANY PIZZA, STUFFED OR THIN CRUST,  
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OFFER EXPIRES 11/18/18. PRESENT THIS VOUCHER TO REDEEM OFFER.



**MOST COMPETITION FOR PLANT-BASED BURGER SUPREMACY**

**Plow Burger**

JOHN ANDERSON

Any Austin vegan worth their salt has crammed an Arlo's burger in their face after a regrettable night on Dirty Sixth. But 2018 newcomer Plow Burger seriously brought game to the Austin plant-based burger scene. Located at Buzz Mill, the food truck is pumping out sustenance that even omnis can get behind. That goes for the regular and campfire burgers as well as rotating specials like donut burgers, gyros, and Cuban sandwiches.

1505 TOWN CREEK DR., WWW.PLOWBURGER.COM

**BEST WAY TO TASTE-TEST A RECIPE (NO COOKING REQUIRED)**

**Cookbook Bar & Cafe**

The new central location of the Austin Public Library has received its fair share of fanfare, and deservedly so, but don't overlook the genius – and delicious! – cafe affixed. Of course, the library cafe menu comes with citations. Featuring a menu curated from cookbooks you can check out on-location, the spot serves up tasty offerings and clever cocktails (Murder on the Orient Espresso!) in a bibliophile's dream setting – surrounded, naturally, by books.

710 W. CESAR CHAVEZ, WWW.COOKBOOKATX.COM

**BEST SEASONAL BEER THAT SHOULD BECOME A YEAR-ROUNDER**

**Zilker Brewing Third Space IPA**

Most every brewhouse around the country right now is brewing the pillowy, soft-focus feature known as the New England IPA, but only a few of them are made very well outside of the Northeast. It's that fresh haaar-bahh waaaahtahh, youse guys. But here in Austin, this delightfully tasty little agent of God made by the city's most underrated brewery is perhaps the most worthy version of it in nifty canned form. Third Space's hazy blend of mosaic, chinook, and nugget hops originally brewed for Zilker's third anniversary should be a permanent fixture in the beer fridge, youse guys.

1701 E. SIXTH, WWW.ZILKERBEER.COM

CONTINUED ON P.18



**Siena Ristorante**



**HAPPY HOUR:**  
MON-FRI 4:00PM - 6:30PM

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**FREE CLASS**

PRESENTED BY JASON AVENT  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 3**  
SOUTH LOCATION NOON-1:30PM

We made it through summer and now it is time to think about how our gardens will grow through the fall and winter. Find out why this is our best growing season and take advantage of the beautiful weather!



SOUTH LOCATION: 4201 S. CONGRESS, SUITE 310 ☎ 512/444-2100  
NORTH LOCATION: 2521 RUTLAND DR. #475 ☎ 512/459-4353 NO CLASSES AT NORTH LOCATION

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With this tequila, we honor all coalminers. Let us salute the men and women who do the hard work extracting that precious black gold from the center of the earth to give the world fuel to heat and light homes and factories. These noble souls with muscles of steel burrow deep into the earth and risk their lives every day for the good of their families and communities. Hard hats off to you, coalminer, who supply the source driving engines of trains and steamships. Cheers and salud to the coal miners of the world!

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**MOST AUTHENTIC REUBEN SANDWICH**

## Biderman's Deli

Since opening its doors in mid-2017, this Jewish-style deli has filled the gap in Austin's Jewish foodie community left by the 2010 closing of historic Katz's Deli. Though their house-made bagels and savory schmears threaten to steal the show, it's Biderman's New York-style Reuben sandwich that keeps hungry Austinites coming back for more. Packed with hot corned beef, creamy Swiss cheese, Russian dressing, and generous amounts of tart sauerkraut, this towering sandwich is the most authentic Reuben experience one will find this side of the Mason-Dixon line.

3741 FAR WEST BLVD. #101, WWW.BIDERMANSDeli.COM

**BEST FEST FOR BEER LOVERS**

## Texas Craft Brewers Festival

This is a festival that celebrates the miracle of making good beer in Texas, because everyone by now knows how terrible of an endeavor it is to pull off such a thing with all of those repellent distribution laws and building codes set in place to help Lone Star breweries fail. It's a real underdog story. Hosted by the Texas Craft Brewers Guild, this 15-year-old beer party showcases the state's insane range of brewing talent and creativeness, from the cleanest of pilsners, to the dankest of IPAs, to the pastry-est of stouts (some of these breweries might actually want to be bakeries), this festival is a real proud moment for the city (and state) every year.

FIESTA GARDENS, 2102 JESSE E. SEGOVIA, WWW.TEXASCRAFTBREWERSFESTIVAL.ORG

**BEST LIQUID TO PUT OUT YOUR MOUTH FIRE**

## La Orxateria

You've attacked a ghost pepper taco and it hit back. Hard. Now soothe your peeling tongue with this drink from the gods. A departure from the more common rice-based Mexican horchata available around town, La Orxateria serves up traditional Spanish Catalonia-style orxata made with chufa roots (aka tiger nuts, a trending "superfood"). Stick with the original, or mix it up with cold-brew coffee (Cafexata), coconut milk (Cocoxata), Chaixata (Yaupon Chai), and matcha (Matchaxata). In the mood for something fruitier? Try the sublime Amor de Flor, a hibiscus and lavender agua fresca.

5460 GUADALUPE STE. L-133, WWW.LAORXATERIA.COM

**HEALTHIEST MEAL FROM A VENDING MACHINE**

## Alpaca Market

Vending machines aren't just for empty calories and sugar-loaded snacks anymore. Not these vending machines, anyway. Alpaca Market, which has a surprisingly swanky kitchen and cafe on the Eastside, packs their machines with wholesome goodness made fresh daily. We're talking salads so hearty that the vegan in the office next door will be impressed. With a dozen locations in office buildings, fitness centers, and upscale apartments all over Austin, you're never far from a giant Beauty Bowl in a jar or a perfectly portioned serving of chocado mousse.

507 CALLES #100, WWW.ALACAMARKET.COM

HECHO EN TEJAS

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EldoradoCafeATX.com



JOHN ANDERSON

**BEST ELOTES IN A CUP**

## Suerte

Meeting the sweet corn esquites con gouda at Suerte is right up there with a great first kiss or, you know, winning the flavor lottery. From Sam Hellman-Mass, a founding partner of Barley Swine and Odd Duck, and executive chef Fermín Núñez, this Oaxacan-inspired restaurant honors ancient cuisines and techniques with Central Texas ingredients. Suerte's twist on a Mexican street food favorite - off-the-cob elotes - is served hot in a beautiful glass filled with grilled sweet corn, pulpy lime bits, a rotating cheese selection, and crispy heirloom corn tortillas crafted from house-made masa. And it pairs perfectly with their Don Dario margaritas, both boasting a six-finger discount during "lucky hour."

1800 E. SIXTH, WWW.SUERTEATX.COM



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## KIDS & FAMILY

# READERS POLL

### YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM

## Creative Action

"My child asks me, 'Why did you get here so early? I'm not ready to go home!' There is no better endorsement than this."

— LAUREN MEESE

2921 E. 17TH, BLDG. B, WWW.CREATIVEACTION.ORG

### YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

## Soccer Shots

"The coaches are great with the kids and make it fun for them without all the competition."

— SHAWN CORCORAN

5555 N. LAMAR STE. J-103, WWW.SOCCERSHOTS.ORG/AUSTIN

### BIRTHDAY CAKES

## Sugar Mama's Bakeshop

"The best-tasting, best-looking birthday cakes in Austin."

— SHELBY GRIFFIN

1905-A S. FIRST, 2406-B MANOR RD., WWW.SUGARMAMASBAKESHOP.COM

### FAMILY RESTAURANT

## Kerbey Lane Cafe

"Perfect amount of variety in the menu to please everyone."

— HEATHER JOY THOMAS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.KERBEYLANECAFE.COM

### PLAYGROUND

## Zilker Park

"Playscapes and trains and food trucks ... and big open spaces ... and doggies and the springs ... hands down, the best."

— AMBER LACKEY

2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/ZILKER-METROPOLITAN-PARK

### WILD CARD

## Austin Nature & Science Center

"The Austin Nature & Science Center might be Austin's best kept secret. The rescue animals, dino pit, and learning exhibits are a perfect way to spend a few hours with the kids. (Or without your kids! Shhhh.)"

— KRISTIN SHEPPARD

301 NATURE CENTER DR., 512/327-8180



JOHN LEACH

### BLUEBONNETS PHOTO OP

## Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

"Stunning place – and a must for every visitor to indulge in acres of bluebonnets in spring. What a setting."

— PAMELA E. FERGUSON

4801 LA CROSSE, WWW.WILDFLOWER.ORG

### FAMILY FESTIVAL

## Zilker Kite Festival

"Good old-fashioned fun, for FREE! Everyone is looking up, smiling and laughing, enjoying each other and the beautiful flying kites."

— TATIANA ARTIS

ZILKER PARK, 2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., WWW.ABCKITEFESTIVAL.ORG

### SUMMER CAMP

## Camp Paramount

"The performance they do at the end of camp is amazing! I had a huge smile on my face and tears in my eyes for the whole show."

— SARAH STASICA

713 CONGRESS, WWW.AUSTINTHEATRE.ORG

### TOY STORE

## Toy Joy

"I'm an adult and I have to stop myself from going crazy in this toy store."

— TYRONE JOHNSON

403 W. SECOND, 4631 AIRPORT, WWW.TOYJOY.COM

### PARTY PLACE

## Pinballz Arcade

"Happy place for adults and kids alike."

— ROSEMARY WYNN

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

### ALL-AGES VENUE

## Pinballz Arcade

"Pinballz consistently brings out the 10-year-old in me. A great place to forget the pressures of the world."

— GARYN DUNBAR

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

### KIDS' CLOTHING

## SparkleKids

"Most adorable store and sweet staff!"

— ALLISON FREELAND

4800 BURNET RD., WWW.SPARKLEKIDRESALE.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

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# KIDS & FAMILY

# CRITICS PICKS

## BEST ADVOCATE FOR QUEER YOUTH

### Kathryn Gonzales

Some people are damn good at their jobs. As the operations and programs director of Out Youth, a nonprofit that supports more than 15,000 LGBTQ youth across Central Texas, Kathryn Gonzales has surpassed good and become a champion for queer kids. Whether it's helping these youth learn to embrace and love who they are or testifying against bathroom bills at the state Legislature, Gonzales' fight for what's right is tireless, but does not go without notice. She's a resource for every local media site, and her hands have touched numerous other programs and partnerships in town to ensure our baby queers – and our adults – are seen, heard, and supported.

909 E. 49TH<sup>1/2</sup>, WWW.OUTYOUTH.ORG

## BEST 'BOTS

### The Impossible Winterbourne

Gifted *The Impossible Winterbourne Presents ... the AlphaBots*, our 4-year-old already knew his ABCs and that said middle letter stands for "Bots," but he'd never glimpsed a DoomBot, EcoBot, or FreezeBot. Behind streaming-service-ready visuals, NeedleBot "just wants a hug," OctoBot sloshes, QuakeBot pounds something fierce, and TeleBot catalogs the skies. Alas, the Austin street artist behind the giant steam-punk head couldn't stump our li'l man on ZombiBot. "They eat you after you're dead," nodded ours serenely.

WWW.IMPOSSIBLEWINTERBOURNE.COM

## SWEETEST AFTERSCHOOL TREAT

### Casey's New Orleans Snowballs

Every kid in Austin yearns for a small spot of joy between the bookends of Ms. Gnarclancy's boring first-grade linear algebra labs at the ol' schoolhouse and the nagging parental din of demanded chores at the ol' homestead. Few things bring as much childhood respite as one of Casey's New Orleans Snowballs, which are actually fluffy little hills of nearly disintegrated ice covered in pure-cane syrupy satisfaction. There is nary a miss with more than 50 flavors of the classic, ballpark choices, along with about 15 specialty cream flavors that inspired the business moniker itself. Being incredibly indecisive beings by nature, the youth-beloved "rainbow" flavor will likely be your child's go-to. Rainbow is a real team player.

801 E. 51ST, WWW.CASEYS-SNOWBALLS.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

## BEST DADCORE/MOMCORE DEAL Austin Kiddie Limits

When talking about ACL Fest, the benefit-to-value ratio is a pretty dang fair one, with dozens of bands per day at the cost of what most headliners charge for a single touring gig, \$10 lunches, and reasonably priced tallboys. But the best value of the entire festival is the heavily endorsed free entry for kids 10 and under, along with the fest's exceptionally curated Austin Kiddie Limits that will appease the grouchy flock between sets with hair painting, temporary tattoos, drum circles, art activities, and all the organic food samples that their parents are too cheap to buy, at least in the bulk amounts they offer to each tot at ACL.

C3 PRESENTS, WWW.ACLFESTIVAL.COM

## BEST WALKING DICTIONARY

### Pranathi Jammula

Although Pranathi missed advancing to the championship round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee last May in Washington, D.C., the seventh-grader from Kealing Middle School made history by winning Austin's first regional spelling bee hosted by the West Austin Chamber of Commerce. In prior years, spellers from the Austin area had to travel to Houston for the regional competitions. An interesting note: Texas has produced more National Spelling Bee champions than any other state. We hope to see Pranathi's name added to the list in coming years.

## BEST OUTLET FOR SELF-EXPRESSION

### Speak Piece Poetry Project

Founded in 2015 by a trio of Austin-based slam poets, Speak Piece Poetry Project provides a safe place for youths of all backgrounds to express themselves freely, without judgment. Meeting weekly at the Dougherty Arts Center, this nonprofit hosts free workshops where the finer points of poetry, writing, and performance are taught. Speak Piece also trains a competitive team of high school poets who represent Austin at both regional and national poetry tournaments. Snaps to that.

WWW.SPEAKPIECE.ORG

## BEST FLIGHT TO THE SUBURBS

### Travis Audubon Society

Blame it on development. Hundreds of thousands of flighty purple martins who used to pepper the Highland Mall (now ACC's Highland campus) skies in late summer evenings moved to a Round Rock shopping center this year. The good news? The Travis Audubon Society followed them, setting up chairs near the Sam's Club and enjoying the bliss of true bird nerd-dom.

WWW.TRIVISAUDUBON.ORG

**BEST INDOOR SPACE TO RUN  
ALL THAT ENERGY OUT**

## Epic Fun

It's the 10th day of rain in a row and your tykes are climbing the walls. Give them something more constructive to climb – say, a three-story playground, an elevated ropes course, or a junior-sized rock wall. Those are all on the menu at Epic Fun, a giant new indoor playscape and party place in Southwest Austin. There are more earthbound pleasures to be had here, too (bumper cars, an arcade), and the parental units can enjoy a different kind of *terroir* among the draft beers and wine options at the on-site cafe.

7101 HWY. 71 W., WWW.EPICFUN.COM

**BEST MAKE-BELIEVE BUNGALOWS**

## Yippee Ki Yay at Pease Park

Are they the work of elven developers? An Ent with an architectural bent? A witch running Airbnb rentals? Actually, the fanciful wooden structures in Custer's Meadow were built by North Carolina "Stickwork" sculptor Patrick Dougherty on commission from the Pease Park Conservancy. Constructed from 10 tons of ligustrum, Roosevelt willow, and ash, and titled *Yippee Ki Yay*, the sculpture looks like something found in the woods of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. And with people free to walk around its twisted huts, touch them, and climb through their openings, it's an ideal immersive fantasy getaway for kids of all ages.

1100 KINGSBURY, WWW.PEASEPARK.ORG/YIPPEE-KI-YAY

**BEST WAY TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT GERRYMANDERING**

## Mapmaker: The Gerrymandering Game

Quick: Name your congressman. OK, great. Now name the man in Washington who represents your next-door neighbor. Is it someone different? Mine is! And that's because of gerrymandering, the highly partisan map-making practice that rigs elections toward one party that ... well, we don't need to get into what that party's doing to our country. But the good news is that the Youth are taking notice, particularly in the far-flung northwest corner of Texas' boar's-leg-shaped Congressional District 10, where the kids in the Lafair family built *Mapmaker: The Gerrymandering Game*, a board game that teaches about the effects of gerrymandering by letting you, the player, be the power-hungry lawmaker who gets to crack and pack voters into non-representational districts. The Lafairs put their idea on Kickstarter and to date have raised \$67,490 from 1,468 backers. You can order the game there.



BIT.LY/GERRYMANDERINGGAME

**BEST OUT-OF-THE-BOOK IDEA**

## APL Mobile Library Fleet

Austin Public Library's new fleet of bookish transportation – including a book bus, book trike, and book trailer – proves that everything is better on wheels, even books. Occasionally, these mobile libraries appear at special events like the monthly Nerd Nite at the North Door and storytime in the park, but day to day you can find them parked in front of local libraries closed for renovations. Housing a collection of materials specially curated based on the neighborhood, the fleet allows communities to maintain their access to books and information even when their main library building is closed.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.LIBRARY.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/LOCATION/MOBILELIBRARY

**BEST USE OF HILL COUNTRY**

## Home Slice (North Loop)

Sure, as parents we've been brainwashed into believing our kids can't sit through a single, 60-minute dinner service because Daddy Shark and Johnny Johnny have melted their brains into buffering autoplay putty, so it is a huge relief when the whole family can go out for a tasty meal while also letting the kids let out some pent-up kinetic intensity. Home Slice's playscape is unlike all the others, however. Instead of those stale plastic playgrounds that slime your kid with BPA and butt chafing, Home Slice's landscape masterpiece is a series of synthetic hills, valleys, tunnels, and a Lord of the Flies caste system that promotes a healthy imagination. Get the meatball sub!

501 E. 53RD, WWW.HOMESLICEPIZZA.COM

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11AM TO 5PM

A portion of the proceeds will go toward improvements in Shipe Park in anticipation of the new pool opening in 2019.

**austinhypark.org/homes-tour**  
**facebook.com/austinhypark**



## NIGHTLIFE

# READERS POLL

### LARGE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

## ACL Live at the Moody Theater

"Best sound anywhere. There's not a bad seat in the house." — *JUSTIN HOEGENAUER*

310 W. WILLIE NELSON BLVD., WWW.ACL-LIVE.COM

### INTIMATE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

## Cheer Up Charlies

"Cheer Ups is a great place to play, from a musician's perspective, and is a really nice room with great sound." — *ALISON DITTO*

900 RED RIVER, WWW.CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### OUTDOOR VENUE

## Stubb's

"I love that it is on an incline and you can have great views of the stage from pretty much anywhere." — *DANIEL LUVIANO*

801 RED RIVER, WWW.STUBBSAUSTIN.COM

### HAPPY HOUR

## Salty Sow

"Nothing beats their cocktail flight or \$5 rosé. With the nice pairing of duck fat fries, your hour will be the happiest it's ever been." — *JESSICA SHER*

1917 MANOR RD., WWW.SALTYSOW.COM

### BARTENDER

## Emmilou Carter

"Emmilou is one of the kindest and most attentive bartenders I've ever had the pleasure of meeting." — *VINCENT TOMPKINS*

900 RED RIVER, WWW.CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

### PLACE FOR SOBER SOCIALIZING

## Central Library

"There's nothing sexier than a deep discussion about a good book. I'm gonna find my soulmate here, I just know it." — *EMILY OJUKA*

710 W. CESAR CHAVEZ, WWW.LIBRARY.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/  
CENTRAL-LIBRARY

### TRIVIA NIGHT

## Pluckers Wing Bar

"I chipped my tooth at Pluckers and it's still the best place ever." — *SAM BRATTON*

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.PLUCKERS.COM

### POOL HALL

## The Grand

"Great pool tables and Austin's secret mind eraser destination." — *BRAXTON PARSONS*

4631 AIRPORT, WWW.THEGRANDAUSTIN.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

### DIVE BAR

## Casino el Camino

"If the Casino ever closes, might as well close down Austin."

— *ANDREW OSBORNE*

517 E. SIXTH, WWW.CASINOELCAMINO.NET

### COCKTAIL BAR

## Whisler's

"Whisler's has the best happy hour and amazing cocktails. Half the time I don't think I like any of the ingredients, but the final product is delicious." — *KRISTA PATON*

1816 E. SIXTH, WWW.WHISLERSATX.COM

### SPORTS BAR

## Haymaker

"Best bar to watch soccer at."

— *SHAWN COLLINS*

2310 MANOR RD., WWW.HAYMAKERAUSTIN.COM

### KARAOKE

## The HighBall

"Neat theme rooms, dance floor downstairs to kill time before or after."

— *BRITTANY MARKERT*

1120 S. LAMAR, WWW.THEHIGHBALL.COM

### JUKEBOX

## Casino el Camino

"You'll be trying to Shazam everything."

— *LISA BLACKWELL*

517 E. SIXTH, WWW.CASINOELCAMINO.NET

### DANCE CLUB

## Barbarella

"Want to dance your socks off and sweat your makeup off? Barbarella is the craziest, funnest place to go for crazy, fun dancing."

— *LYDIA RIMMER*

615 RED RIVER, WWW.FB.COM/BARBARELLA.AUSTIN.9

### BAR FOR SINGLES

## Cheer Up Charlies

"I always get laid here. Gender unimportant."

— *AMANDA SCULLY*

900 RED RIVER, WWW.CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

**ESCAPE ROOM**

## The Escape Game

"Incredibly creative and intricate setup. Made me feel like I was in an episode of MacGyver, but with better hair."

- CARLOS O'LEARY

405 RED RIVER, WWW.THEESCAPEGAMEAUSTIN.COM

**LGBTQ CLUB**

## Cheer Up Charlies

"Queer ownership makes a difference. As a queer person, walking into CUC feels like coming home. You're always welcome."

- KRISTINA SMITH PUERTO

900 RED RIVER, WWW.CHEERUPCHARLIES.COM

**ADULT CLUB**

## The Yellow Rose

"An Austin classic. The staff treats you like family. Always a good time here."

- AMANDA PHILLIPS

6528 N. LAMAR, WWW.YELLOWROSEAUSTIN.COM

**WILD CARD**

## Lesbian Wedding at Sahara Lounge

"Lesbian Wedding for the win! Love everything about this shindig." - TAMARA HOOVER

1413 WEBBERVILLE RD., WWW.SAHARALOUNGE.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

**DJ**

## DJ GirlFriend ATX

"DJ GirlFriend understands what Austin nightlife wants. They also give back to the community. You don't see that warmth or compassion that often from a DJ. DJ GirlFriend makes our hearts go OONTZ!"

- DANA YANOSHAH

WWW.GIRLFRIENDATX.COM

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[www.austinbeautystore.com](http://www.austinbeautystore.com)

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**Pinballz Arcade**  
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512.420.TILT

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UptownModernAustin.com



NIGHTLIFE

# CRITICS PICKS

**HIPPEST CONVERTED GAS STATION**

## Kinda Tropical

No stranger to patios or tiki concepts, East Austin was ripe for a place like Kinda Tropical – a space that blurs the rigidity of upscale cocktail bars (and their price points) with the laid-back, low-down haunts we slackers know and love. By really putting that “kinda” to work, the onetime gas station, part-time convenience store has come up with the perfect concoction: a hip spot where we can still smoke cigarettes with abandon, afford the house drinks, and spend many a hazy summer night sipping chilled rosé or sake.

3501 E. SEVENTH, WWW.KINDATROPICAL.COM

**MOST GENDER-DIVERSE MEETUP**

## TGQ Social

Austin’s qmmunity is no stranger to monthly LGBTQ meetups, but there’s only one dedicated to those who identify beyond the (cis)gender binary: the Trans and Genderqueer Social. Held every second Sunday of the month, TGQ takes over Butterfly Bar’s patio to create a space for gender-diverse folks to “find friends, get advice, and catch up on all of life’s twists and turns.” Plus, their friendly attitude toward newcomers (show up 30 minutes early and they’ll help ya ease into the party) helps keep the more introverted types from wandering into corners alone. Cheers, queers!

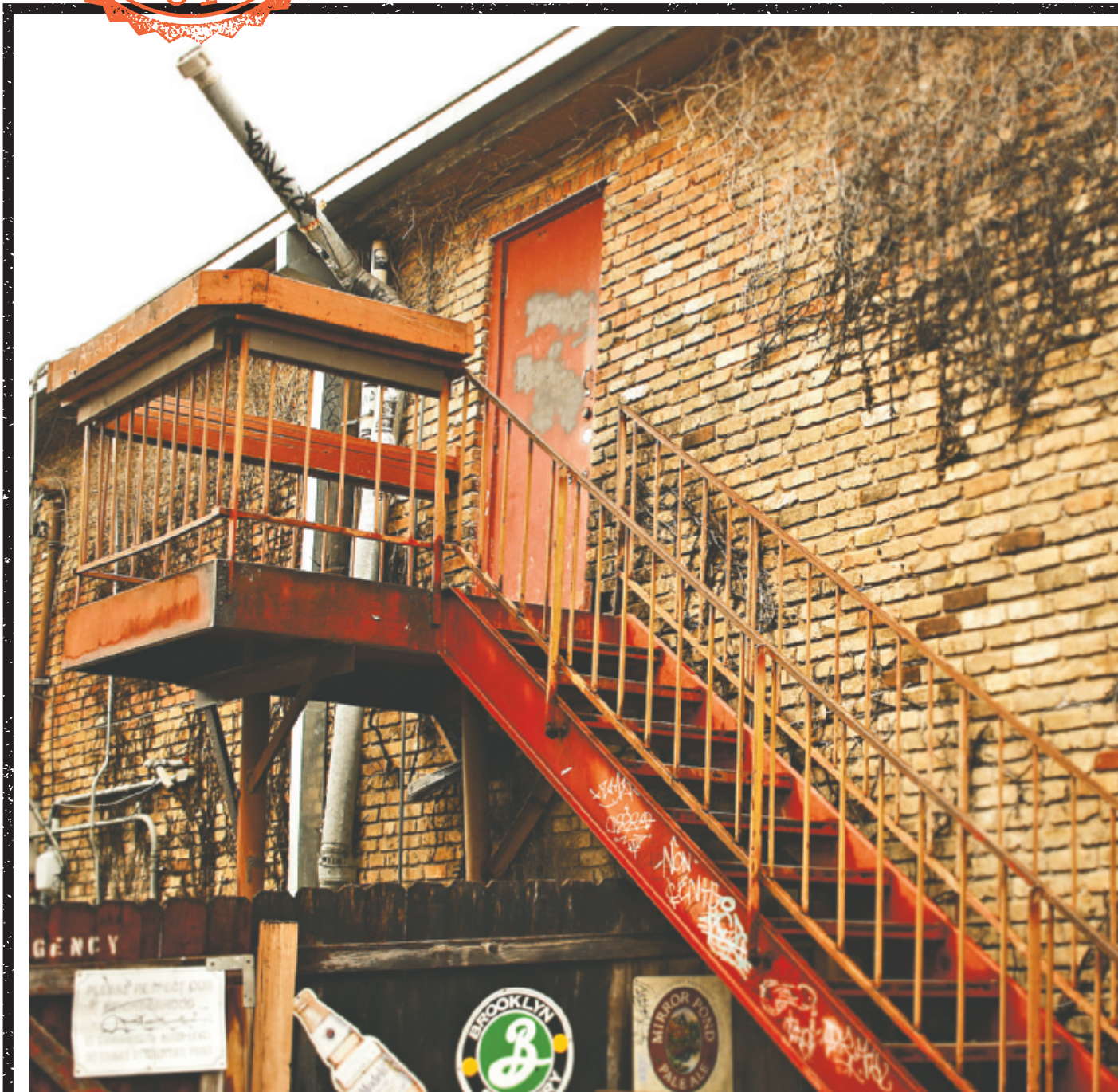
2307 MANOR RD., WWW.VORTEXREPORG

**BEST TEAM FOR THOSE IN PURSUIT OF TRIVIA**

## Get It Gals

Overheard at a *The Office*-themed Get It Gals trivia night: “We drove from Houston to do this.” If you’ve never seen people bring camping chairs to a bar to participate in a pub quiz, you haven’t been to a GIG one. Not only have Jess and Kati spent countless hours putting together their wildly popular TV-themed trivia games, they somehow make time to create personalized quizzes for corporate events, bachelorette parties, and more. And these hostesses with the mostest make any trivia night a blast, whether there are three teams or 30.

WWW.GETITGALS.COM



TODD V. WOLFSON

**BEST SET OF PRECARIOUS BAR STAIRS**

## Barfly's

Yes, they’ve got cheap (strong) drinks, billiards, and a great jukebox, but there’s a high level of expertise covertly embedded in this charmingly divey bar above Burger Tex on Airport Blvd. There are not one but two metal staircases on which you can (and must) practice your balance and hone your stability skills. One leads up from the parking lot and into the very dark bar; the other leads down from the bartenders toward the outdoor back patio. Their namesake Bukowski poem reminds us: “... no matter how hard they tried, they just couldn’t find anybody exactly like you. And neither can I.”

5420-B AIRPORT, WWW.BARFLYSAUSTIN.COM



SHELLEY HIAM

# Dive in



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**BEST NEW SOUTH AUSTIN HANG**

## Cosmic Coffee + Beer Garden

This extremely chill watering hole may be new to the neighborhood, but it feels like the very best of old Austin. There's the spacious double patio (plentiful parking, too?!); the support of other local bootstrappers, from food trailers and musicians to ATX breweries on tap; and the mission statement to be a good neighbor to the 78704 and Mother Earth at large, borne out in a thoughtful ecosystem that includes a chicken coop, waterfall pond, and garden, the fruits of which are liable to end up in your v. tasty craft cocktail. To some, "drink responsibly" may sound like a nag. At Cosmic Coffee + Beer Garden, it's a way of life.

121 PICKLE RD., WWW.COSMICCOFFEEBEER.COM

**BEST BAR TO FIND  
HONKY-TONK HUSTLERS**

## Sam's Town Point

Sometimes you wanna go where you can hang with your friends in low places, which isn't always easy when you're crammed shoulder-to-shoulder waiting in line for the bar at a club in the big ol' city. But in "way South" Austin, honky-tonk vibes and a laid-back atmosphere still coexist at Sam's Town Point, a neighborhood bar/music venue that draws the talents of local alt.country acts as well as big-time legends with weekly events like Steel Monday. For now, they only sell beer and wine, but you can BYOL any night for a \$10 setup. So grab some friends, throw some Jack in your bag, and head down south because, as Sam's reminds us, "friends are the best part of life."

2115 ALLRED, WWW.SAMSTOWNPOINTATX.COM



PHOTOS BY DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**BEST RAVE-ADJACENT-BUT-APPROACHABLE PARTY**

## Cherry Cola Dog

So you wanna turn on, tune in, and drop out, but you're not totally ready to pack up and move to la playa for a full week without internet, cell service, etc. Cherry Cola Dog, the latest up-and-coming Austin arts space, promises the vibe without the commitment, hosting art parties that plug in to the oontz oontz oontz scene on a weekly basis. Plus, there's art to be seen, made, and bought, and a friendliness to the regulars that'll have you feeling like you've found your tribe, man.

3409 E. FIFTH, WWW.FB.COM/CHERRYCOLADOG

**BEST IMPROVISATION**

## Monks Jazz Club

Monks is a listening room, minus the room. The roving pop-up jazz venue launched in 2016 in an East Sixth warehouse gallery and has inhabited several locales since, including Fast Folks Cyclery and Radio Milk Recording Company. Whatever space it occupies, Monks showcases world-class jazz from local, national, and international provenance. Founder Collin Shook begs audiences for full attention and zipped lips during performances. That fine-arts code of conduct combined with a laid-back environment has been a hit with fans as well as musicians in Austin's burgeoning jazz scene.

WWW.MONKSJAZZ.COM

the monthly QTPOC dance-party-meets-market, Tunchez was one of the first to combine dance parties with artists' markets. But what makes Fuego burn bright is its spotlight on the city's brown, black, and queer artists, musicmakers, and community members who come out to support, kick back, and bask in such a carefully crafted space. Get ready for the qpcocalypse, y'all!

WWW.FB.COM/LASOFRENDAS

**BEST BOOZY EASTSIDE OASIS**

## Last Straw

They had us at "booze" – in all caps at the top of the mind-boggling menu of cleverly named libations created by some of the best mixers in the biz. There are drink bowls – yes, bowls – that are great for groups, but if you're on your own, belly up to the bar and sip a Spa Day With Bae or a Burnt Reynolds. Last Straw is a gorgeous haven from the hubbub of East Sixth, or as they say, a vacation by the hour. Give the Golden Girls a wink on your way out.

1914-C E. SIXTH, WWW.LASTSTRAWATX.COM

**BEST CREATIVE NIGHTLIFE**

## Fuego

As an artist and jewelry maker, we expect TK Tunchez to be a creative, but her eye for design extends far beyond the baubles she makes. As the mastermind behind Fuego,



**BEST UPPER DECK**

## The Mohawk

Maybe you're too old to cram in front of the stage with the kids for Lil B, too afraid you'll get swallowed by the circle pit while Power Trip plays, or perhaps you're just lazy and want to lean on a rail. Post up on Mohawk's triple-level balcony. The Red River staple's mezzanine provides excellent sightlines, while giving the venue the feel of a small, blue-collar colosseum. It's one of the best vantage points in Austin's concert experience.

912 RED RIVER, WWW.MOHAWKAUSTIN.COM

**WHERE SUMMER NEVER DIES**

## Pool Burger

Step right up, dudes! To the decked-out tiki bar at Pool Burger, that is. Yet another culinary brainchild of McGuire Moorman Hospitality, the West Austin hangout slings Wagyu burgers, crinkle-cut fries, and froyo out of an Airstream trailer flanked by indoor and outdoor seating. Get pitted on a boozy hurricane before hitting up Deep Eddy pool, or pregame for round 2 at the eponymous cabaret upstairs (the shared liquor license means you can carry drinks to and from both establishments). At Pool Burger, it's *The Endless Summer* all day, every day, and well into the night, man.

2315 LAKE AUSTIN BLVD., WWW.POOLBURGER.COM

**BEST SPOT FOR AVOIDING THE FESTIVAL CROWDS**

## MugShots

Located across from the ARCH and on the backside of Dirty Sixth, this dive bar might not look like much from the outside, but we think you'll find respite in its cool brick interior - and cheap drinks, too. The decor includes mug shots, of course, and also some tasteful photo booth nudes (look closely). If you're lucky, you might find yourself talking to one of the friendly bartenders about Orson Welles.

407 E. SEVENTH, WWW.MUGSHOTS.AUSTIN.COM

**COOLEST VENUE YOU THOUGHT WAS ONLY A COFFEE SHOP**

## Kick Butt Coffee

This unassuming spot in a strip center on Airport just may be one of Austin's best-kept secrets. On top of a great selection of caffeinated drinks and a full bar, Kick Butt hosts a killer lineup of local (and touring) punk bands as well as top-notch comedy talent, including the Altercation Comedy Festival.

5775 AIRPORT, WWW.KICKBUTTCOFFEE.COM

**BEST WAY FOR THE LOUCHER TO WIN**

## Ah Sing Den

The dictionary tells us that "louche" is "disreputable or sordid in a rakish or appealing way." If that's you at all, then you'll feel right at home among the comfortably decaying elegance and global miscellany of drinks and edibles in this East Sixth spot inspired by London's notorious opium den of times gone by. Bonus: New chef Jacqueline Agans has revamped the joint's somewhat scatter-shot menu, and, oh, the gyoza are like little bundles of heaven.

1100 E. SIXTH, WWW.AHSINGDEN.COM

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# READERS POLL



TODD V. WOLFSON

**TV ANCHOR/REPORTER** Quita Culpepper (KVUE)

“Quuuuuitttaaaa Culpepper!  
She’s amazing in real life, too.”

– SUMMER HOLMES  
WWW.KVUE.COM

**JOURNALIST**

Sarah Marloff  
(*The Austin Chronicle*)

“Love the fresh perspectives on community issues. Love how invested she is in the ‘deep dive.’ Love the features on issues that particularly impact women and LGBTQ people!”

– KIRYA TRABER  
WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

**FILM CRITIC**

Richard Whittaker  
(*The Austin Chronicle*)

“His dry, pithy wit and sense of humor permeate all that he does and says. Combined with the depth of his knowledge and ability to inform, it’s a winning combo.”

– KATHERINE FAN  
WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

**FOOD WRITER**

Nadia Chaudhury (*Eater Austin*)

“Dear Nadia: My wife thinks I have great taste in restaurants. That is false. I just have you to keep me on trend.”

– KRISTINA SMITH PUERTO  
AUSTIN.EATER.COM

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Annie Ray

“Annie Ray captures more than your face – she finds a way to capture your spirit. And that makes everyone beautiful.”

– KELLY STOCKER  
WWW.ANNIERAY.NET

**PUBLICATION**

*The Austin Chronicle*

“Duh.”

– AMY JACKSON  
WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

**RADIO STATION**

KUTX 98.9FM

“Listener-supported radio curated by music nerds? Yes, please.”

– ADAM CREIGHTON  
WWW.KUTX.ORG

**RADIO SHOW**

*Texas Standard* (KUT)

“The *Texas Standard* feels like a throwback to the days of Ann Richards and Molly Ivins, which is about as high a compliment as this old Texan can offer.”

– JAKE LAWSON  
WWW.TEXASSTANDARD.ORG

**SPANISH-LANGUAGE RADIO**

Latino 102.7

“Latino toca música que me alegra el día.”

– OMAR LOPEZ  
WWW.LATINO1027.COM

**LOCAL NEWS**

KUT 90.5FM

“Original reporting forever!”

– MARCUS WILSON  
WWW.KUT.ORG

**SPORTSCASTER**

Mike Barnes (KVUE)

“Many of us grew up with Mike broadcasting sports. Loved his clips back in the day. I remember most of them!”

– ROSE KARRER  
WWW.KVUE.COM

**WEATHERPERSON**

Jim Spencer (KXAN)

“Bow down to the icon.”

– JENNIFER DUPONT  
WWW.KXAN.COM

**LOCAL PODCAST (NEWS)**

*Texas Standard* (KUT)

“Very in-depth.”

– TANNER KNEESE  
WWW.TEXASSTANDARD.ORG

**LOCAL PODCAST (GENERAL)**

*Two Guys on Your Head*

“Bob and Art 2020!!”

– JULIE BOSSHART-LAMMERS  
WWW.KUT.ORG/TERM/TWO-GUYS-YOUR-HEAD

**LOCAL STARTUP**

BarkHappy

“Great way to meet new friends, and their human counterparts!”

– CINDY CARTER  
WWW.BARKHAPPY.COM

**LOCAL BLOGGER**

**Jane Ko (A Taste of Koko)**

"I eat carbs and travel vicariously through A Taste of Koko." - **KAYLEIGH MOEHRLE**  
WWW.ATASTEOKOKO.COM

**LOCAL INSTAGRAMMER**

**Alex Hopes (ZilkerBark)**

"Making the world happier, one doggo pic at a time." - **KATIE MCNIFF**  
WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ZILKERBARK, WWW.ZILKERBARK.COM

**LOCAL YOUTUBER**

**Adriene Mishler (Yoga With Adriene)**

"Adriene is a beautiful soul - bright, down-to-earth, encouraging, friendly, and inclusive. Her videos are life-changing and always bring me back to earth when I'm struggling to stay grounded." - **SHELBY GRIFFIN**  
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/YOGAWITHADRIENE, WWW.YOGAWITHADRIENE.COM

**LOCAL TWITCH STREAMER**

**Sodapoppin**

"Chance is indescribable. If you ever see him in person, take a picture. Or at least say hello! The charisma radiates off of him." - **RACHEL DIXON**  
WWW.TWITCH.TV/SODAPOPPIN

**LOCAL CONTROVERSY**

**Scooters**

"Elaborate plot by cyclists to raise their social status among drivers." - **JAKE ROSANNO**  
SEE MORE READER COMMENTS ON P2

**CITY OFFICIAL**

**Steve Adler**

"I feel he truly represents the Austin spirit of diversity, inclusion, healthy living, love of the environment ..." - **MELISSA GONZALEZ**  
WWW.MAYORADLER.COM, WWW.TWITTER.COM/MAYORADLER

**STATE OFFICIAL**

**Beto O'Rourke**

"Outstanding fellow and a fresh voice for Texas!" - **LILLIAN BELL**  
WWW.BETOFORTEXAS.COM

**NONPROFIT/  
GRASSROOTS ORG**

**Austin Pets Alive!**

"They are hardworking, caring, and lifesavers." - **MONICA WU**  
1156 W. CESAR CHAVEZ, WWW.AUSTINPETSALIVE.ORG

**ACTIVIST**

**Chas Moore (Austin Justice Coalition)**

"Chas doesn't do it for the awards but he definitely deserves one! He's a relentless advocate for the voiceless." - **JOE DESHOTEL**  
314 E. HIGHLAND MALL BLVD. #108, WWW.AUSTINJUSTICE.ORG

**WILD CARD**

**Progress Texas' "Humans Against Ted Cruz" Campaign**

"A cause you can believe in." - **DAVID ROSEN**  
1023 SPRINGDALE STE. 11-D, WWW.PROGRESSTEXAS.ORG, WWW.HUMANSAGAINSTTEDCRUZ.COM



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# CRITICS PICKS

**BEST HOSTILE TAKEOVER BY A HIGHLY INVASIVE AERIAL SPECIES**

## Dockless Scooters

Starting this summer with the deployment of a fleet of California-based Birds, Austin's scooter craze has divided the city neatly into joyriders and killjoys. While they're nearly as plentiful, unlike the zebra mussels ripping their way through Austin waterways, electric scooters at least have the utility of getting you from point A to point B – and with some breeze in your hair.

**BEST HERO IN A CRISIS**

## RAICES

When the separation of families at the border reached new, horrific levels this past summer, RAICES, the largest immigration legal services provider in Texas, rose to the challenge and became the resilient nonprofit at the center of the response. Supported by over \$20 million in donations, RAICES was able to put this money toward legal representation, along with bail, to reunite parents with their children. Though family reunification has largely left the headlines, RAICES continues to serve on the front line of legal aid to immigrants in Texas and along the border in their time of need.

2800 S. I-35 #215, WWW.RAICESTEXAS.ORG

**BEST EFFORTS TO SAVE OUR POOLS**

## Love Austin Pools & Forklift Danceworks

It's no secret that Austin's oft-neglected and sprawling network of neighborhood and community swimming pools is in dire straits. And part of the reason that's common knowledge is because of the efforts of grassroots group Love Austin Pools, which formed in 2017 to advocate for pools threatened with closure, and the long-running Forklift Danceworks, which has focused its everyday-life-inspired dance productions on specific Austin communities and what their respective pools mean to them. Through *My Park, My Pool, My City*, its multi-year collaboration with the city's Aquatics Division, the company explored Bartholomew and Dove Springs pools, and has its sights set on a third East Austin pool for next summer. Meanwhile, Love Austin Pools will continue to advocate for increased funding and maintenance at City Hall and throughout the community.

LOVE AUSTIN POOLS, LOVEAUSTINPOOLS.WORDPRESS.COM; FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS, WWW.FORKLIFTDANCEWORKS.ORG



BRET BROOKSHIRE

**BEST BUSY-CENTRIC RETRO VIDEO GAME RATING SYSTEM** **Retro Pals**

The problem with old video games is you need long-extinct hardware to relive the memories. Luckily Danny and Alex of Retro Pals have them a vast collection of dated tech, and they showcase favorites and forgotten gems on Twitch several times a week. Get transported to a time when Chuck Wagon dog food felt emboldened to make a video game. A time when former presidential cat Socks battled Gerald Ford on the Super Nintendo. Experience something from the bonkers bin of vintage gaming with background provided by your hosts. Lesson No. 1? Any game's worth can be answered in one question: Is it better than *Bubsy*?

WWW.TWITCH.TV/RETROPALS

**BEST CAMPAIGN VIDEO**

## Tie: "Doors" and "Tough as Texas"

TX-31 congressional candidate MJ Hegar's combat memoir is called *Shoot Like a Girl*, and the title could also apply to campaign ad "Doors," featuring her military and activist service – saving comrades on the battlefield and fighting for women's rights in D.C. The Putnam Partners production gave Hegar a national presence, and (with its follow-up, "Tattoos") could well escort her through the door of the U.S. Capitol. Meanwhile, filmmaker Richard Linklater's anti-Cruz "Tough as Texas" (and its several follow-ups) have made a viral star of local actor Sonny Carl Davis and his venomous tagline: "C'mon ... Ted." Might as well have said, "Bless his heart."

WWW.MJFORTEXAS.COM; WWW.FIRETEDCRUZ.ORG

**BEST MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH HEROES**

## Mobile Crisis Outreach Team

Having a mental health crisis – or know someone going through it? Who you gonna call? Integral Care's Mobile Crisis Outreach Team – MCOT for short. This team of master's-level clinicians is trained to travel into the community to help folks in need of mental health services where they're at. What's more, a visit from MCOT is not a one-and-done deal. Instead, the program offers follow-up counseling and medication services for up to 90 days, with the goal of connecting folks to long-term care. Proof that not all heroes wear capes – capes would just get in the way anyway.

WWW.INTEGRALCARE.ORG/PROGRAM/MOBILE-CRISIS-OUTREACH-TEAM-MCOT

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BRET BROOKSHIRE

**BEST WISHES AND BON VOYAGE**

## Retiring *Statesman* Reporters

A sincere tip of the *Chronicle* hat to a baker's dozen of departing *Statesman* editorial employees who accepted buyouts from GateHouse Media, the hedge-fund affiliate that bought the paper earlier this year, and last month began the inevitable reorganization (or worse). The headline farewell names include longtime editor Debbie Hiott, wise-elder *Stateswoman* Alberta Phillips, DIY transportation reporter Ben Wear, PolitiFact-er Gardner Selby, tech culture reporter Omar Gallaga ... and a brace of others. Whoever and whatever survives in the Bat Cave going forward, these experienced hands will be missed.

**BEST #METOO WARRIORS FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE**

## Sexual Assault Survivors' Class Action

This summer, eight brave sexual assault survivors decided enough was enough. In light of what they identified as systemic issues with the city and county's handling of sexual assault cases, they jointly filed a scathing class-action lawsuit against the current and former district attorney, the current and former Austin police chief, the Travis County sheriff, the city of Austin, and Travis County. It's not money they're looking for; it's institutional change. As anyone following the #MeToo conversation around rape survivors at the national level knows - it's about damn time major changes were made, at every level.

**BEST ALTERNATIVE TO A NIGHT IN JAIL**

## The Sobering Center Austin

Public intoxication accounts for more than 2,000 jail bookings a year in Travis County; the Sobering Center aims to change that. Receiving referrals and transports from police and EMS and open 24/7, the center offers both a safe place to sober up and a potential first step to recovery, for both one-time party-too-hards and those with chronic substance use problems. A joint effort of the city of Austin (which funds the annual budget) and Travis County (which owns the building, the former medical examiner's office), the Sobering Center's opening in August followed a nearly 20-year-long effort by local leaders and law enforcement.

1213 SABINE, WWW.SOBERINGCENTER.ORG

**BEST MORNING PICK-ME-UP**

## *We Are Austin*

Naturally we tune in every Friday morning to catch *Chronicle* Marketing Director Sarah Wolf chatting up *We Are Austin's* super-charismatic anchor duo, Taylor Ellison and Trevor Scott. But there are plenty of other reasons to turn the channel to CBS Austin weekday mornings, including Music Monday's live performances and Wednesday Friends' adoptable-pet cuteness overload. They get us through the workweek and pumped for the weekend, and we'd watch these guys eight days a week if we could.

WWW.CBSAUSTIN.COM/FEATURES/WE-ARE-AUSTIN



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**BEST SOUND OF CINEMA**

## *Lights Camera Austin*

Click! Whirwhirwhir! The sound of an old projector firing up is the signal that it's time for *Lights Camera Austin*, Robert Sims' weekly one-hour guide at KOOP Radio to what's happening in Austin's cinemas and filmmaking scene. From reviews of what titles are hitting the silver screen this week, to interviews with both international superstars and local up-and-comers, this is the best way to hear about movies in the ATX.

WWW.KOOP.ORG/PROGRAMS/LIGHTS-CAMERA-AUSTIN

**BEST SICK AND TIRED  
OF BEING SICK AND TIRED**

## Work Strong Austin

Standing up for workers' rights – and not to mention protecting public health – Work Strong Austin fought to ensure Austinites wouldn't be forced to make the tough choice between recovering from an illness at home or showing up to work so they don't get docked pay. The coalition, including the Workers Defense Project and UNITE HERE, succeeded this February when Council passed an ordinance requiring most business owners to allow employees 64 hours of paid sick time per year. But thanks to anti-worker conservative groups and state officials, the ordinance has been tossed into legal limbo. So in the meantime, let's throw some extra love to the groups still fighting for our rights to be, well, human.

[WWW.FB.COM/WORKSTRONGAUSTIN](http://WWW.FB.COM/WORKSTRONGAUSTIN)

**MOST COMMITTED  
COMMISSION**

## Planning Commission

CodeNEXT, the city's failed attempt at rewriting Austin's land use code, took its toll on everyone it touched, from city staff to local reporters, but no one group put in more time and elbow grease to improve the project and move forward than the Planning Commission. The 13 unpaid commissioners spent numerous late nights – and a few weekends – learning, unpacking, and debating the proposed rewrite(s). By May, they were pulling twice-a-week marathon meetings to author nearly 1,000 amendments to the final draft. As a thank you for all their hard work, City Council killed CodeNEXT and eight commissioners were sued by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton for violating the City Charter's rule that only four (not eight) be "directly or indirectly" tied to real estate. We would suggest a bottle of wine, maybe a fruit basket, instead.

[WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/PLANNINGCOMMISSION](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/PLANNINGCOMMISSION)



**MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY  
CONSCIOUS LIFESTYLE MAG**

## Selva Beat

Going vegan is one thing. Eradicating the use of conflict palm oil is another. But to apply the two to beauty and lifestyle coverage is another thing entirely. We raise our kombucha to the women of *Selva Beat*, who reimagine the concept of the lifestyle magazine through the lens of environmentalism and ethics, with a diverse and truly Austinite staff.

[WWW.SELVABEAT.COM](http://WWW.SELVABEAT.COM)

**BEST MONTHLY PLAYLISTS**

## Portals

Stepping back from the endless stream of constant content, independent music blog Portals crafts careful, spaced-out features on rising acts from around the world. The site's steady drip includes a monthly playlist from Portal's Austin-based creative director Tyler Andere. As an A&R rep for Father/Daughter Records, the influential local has a knack for picking the best song by somebody who'll be the hottest new thing on Pitchfork in a year or two. The deliberate, forward-thinking mixes, available on SoundCloud, include an affinity for Texas talent and accompanying illustrations by Baltimore artist Laurent Hrybyk.

[WWW.PRTLSMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.PRTLSMUSIC.COM)

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### MANI/PEDI Cute Nail Studio

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1211 E. SEVENTH, 512/937-2659, WWW.CUTENAILSTUDIO.COM

— SAMANTHA BULL

### BARBERSHOP

#### Birds Barbershop

“It has that charming mom & pop feel with a retro twist. Who else offers you a beer while you’re waiting?!”

— APRIL MARTIN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.BIRDSBARBERSHOP.COM

### SALON

#### Method Hair

“Head and shoulders above the rest (pun intended).”

— JAMES WILLIAMS

1601 E. FIFTH #103, WWW.METHODHAIR.COM

### SPA

#### Milk + Honey

“I wish I was fancy so I could afford to go to Milk + Honey more often!”

— ALI DIAZ-TELLO

100-A GUADALUPE; 12901 HILL COUNTRY BLVD., BLDG. D-1-110, WWW.MILKANDHONEYSPA.COM

### MASSAGE

#### Milk + Honey

“Just got the most fabulous massage here. Love this spa.”

— MOLLY DUNCAN

100-A GUADALUPE; 12901 HILL COUNTRY BLVD., BLDG. D-1-110, WWW.MILKANDHONEYSPA.COM

### WAX/SKINCARE

#### Wax That!

“Wouldn’t trust my kitty to anyone else.”

— LAURA RICHARDSON

2900 S. CONGRESS #109; 2406-C MANOR RD., WWW.WAXTHAT.COM

### LASHES/BROWS

#### Pink Lady Lash

“They have some of the baddest-ass lash artists in the business.”

— ALEXANDER WHEATON

3801 CAPITAL OF TX HWY. N. STE. 160-C, WWW.PINKLADYLASH.COM

### HOTEL/MOTEL

#### Hotel San José

“I’m not cool enough to have ever stayed here, but, by George, do I love hitting up the bar and pretending like I am.”

— CLAIRE LUNING

1316 S. CONGRESS, WWW.SANJOSEHOTEL.COM

### PSYCHIC/TAROT

#### Sister Temperance Tarot

“Angeliska gave me a reading that was as good and intense as 10 quality therapy sessions. She immediately tapped into what I needed to know and hear in that moment. Not only that, but she directed me to resources and literature to deepen my journey.”

— AILEEN LEUNG

WWW.SISTERTEMPERANCE.COM

### COMPUTER APPLIANCE/REPAIR

#### Discount Electronics

“They have everything, know everything.”

— KATHERINE SQUIER

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

### MUSIC SERVICES/EQUIPMENT

#### Strait Music Co.

“Very accommodating for buying a trumpet. Made payments and when we were short on money they allowed arrangements and understand life happens!”

— LEA DAVIS

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

### PLUMBER

#### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

“The commercials. THE. COMMERCIALS!”

— PRUDENCE ARCENEUX

901 REINLI, WWW.RADIANTPLUMBING.COM

### LOCKSMITH

#### Cothron’s

“Been using them for years. Usually same-day service.”

— SCOTT MIDGETT

2908 N. I-35; 414 W. BEN WHITE; 8225 BURNET RD., WWW.COTHRONS.COM

### MAID SERVICE

#### Merry Maids

“Well-trained staff. Very professional.”

— ELSIE PALMER

WWW.MERRYMAIDS.COM/LOCATIONS/TX/SOUTH-AUSTIN

### MOVERS

#### Einstein Moving Company

“Einstein Moving Co. actually turned a painful move into an absolute pleasure. Every Einstein employee I spoke to was super helpful, kind, and professional. Expect service that goes above and beyond the norm.”

— JASMINE FOO

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

#### BIKE SHOP/REPAIR

### Bicycle Sport Shop

"Repairs and advice - spot-on, friendly, never an upsell." - SARAH GOODFRIEND  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.BICYCLESPOSSHOP.COM

#### TATTOO

### Atomic Tattoo

"Great selection of artists, great atmosphere/decor, lovely family-owned Austin business." - AUTUMN SHEETS  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.ATOMIC-TATTOO.COM

#### AUTO REPAIR/SERVICE

### Groovy Automotive

"Friendly, knowledgeable, and trustworthy." - ALEX COGBURN  
4011 RED RIVER; 5405 N. LAMAR; 3511 GUADALUPE,  
WWW.GROOVYAUTOMOTIVE.COM

#### HOME MAINTENANCE/SERVICE

### ABC Home and Commercial Services

"I love ABC. We use them for all of our household needs." - EMILY SWOGER  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.ABCHOMEANDCOMMERCIAL.COM

#### A/C REPAIR/INSTALLATION

### Radiant Plumbing & Air Conditioning

"Love Radiant! The entire team, from the first phone call to the last person on the job, is exceptional." - JAMI YAEGER  
901 REINLI ST., WWW.RADIANTPLUMBING.COM

#### VETERINARIAN

### Austin Vet Hospital

"They saved my cat Chili from the three-foot-long shoelace he decided to eat. Oh, Chili." - SARAH COLBY  
4701 N. I-35, WWW.AUSTINVETHOSPITAL.COM

#### DOGGIE DAY CARE

### Taurus Academy

"Every Wednesday I pick up my dog from Taurus and tell her how much I missed her and she's like OH MY GOD MOM DON'T EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS." - KIM JONES  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.TAURUSACADEMY.COM

#### PET GROOMING

### Dirty Dog

"Love this place, quick and easy, tubs always clean and ready to go." - BRIAN HULL  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.DIRTY-DOG.COM

#### LAUNDROMAT

### EcoClean

"Drive out of my way to use this cleaner. Love the punch card promo and use it." - POPPY FRISKE  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.ECOCLEANAUSTIN.COM

#### DRY CLEANER

### Rick's Cleaners

"Fast, affordable quality and great service. I'm glad I found them." - CAROLINA LOPEZ  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.RICKSCLEANERS.COM

#### TAILOR/ALTERATIONS

### Ace Custom Tailors

"Excellent work at a fair price." - BRIAN PAPE  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.ACETAILEM.COM

#### REAL ESTATE AGENT

### Lilly Rockwell

"I am ride or die with Lilly Damn Rockwell." - JASON STANFORD  
WWW.LILLYROCKWELL.COM

#### LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPING

### ABC Home and Commercial Services

"I swear they do everything. And the old jingle still creeps up on me every time I see their logo. 'ABC Pest and Laaaaaaaawn!'" - BETSY KING  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.ABCHOMEANDCOMMERCIAL.COM

#### APARTMENT LOCATOR

### Smart City Apartment Locating

"I had to relocate from NYC and Smart City helped find me the perfect apartment at no cost." - ANDREA GARDNER  
1825 FORTVIEW #111, WWW.SMARTCITYLOCATING.COM/AUSTIN-APARTMENTS

#### WEDDING VENUE

### Mercury Hall

"I got married here, and it's beautiful and conveniently in the heart of South Austin. They were so great to work with from beginning to end." - JAMES MILLER  
615 CARDINAL, WWW.MERCURYHALL.COM

#### DWI LAWYER

### Mary Ann Espiritu

"Mary Ann saved my ass! She managed to get my DWI expunged and I'm forever grateful to her for that." - TIERNEY NESS  
1307 NUECES, WWW.AUSTINTEXASDWIDEFENSE.COM

#### WILD CARD

### Austin Natural Funerals

"Mitzi is all about helping the family handle everything with minimal stress." - FRED FOX  
2206 W. ANDERSON, WWW.AUSTINNATURALFUNERALS.COM



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SERVICES

# CRITICS PICKS

**BEST GROOVE MAKER**

## Gold Rush Vinyl

Since it opened last March, Austin's first large-scale record pressing plant has been a blessing for musicians as well as local labels. Gold Rush's calling card is a speedy turnaround. While many vinyl manufacturers will keep you waiting for several months, owner Caren Kelleher and her team usually have your stack of wax ready in four to six weeks. What's more, they take small-batch orders and save artists money on shipping because you can pick up your records from their North Austin warehouse.

1321 RUTHERFORD #130, WWW.GOLDRUSHVINYL.COM

**BEST INTRAVENOUS VITAMIN RUSH**

## Alive + Well

Babies get shots all the time, so please ignore your needle phobia for a hot sec and let your body revel in the glory of this Drip Drop IV Vitamin Bar. The expert wizards at Alive + Well custom-mix vitamin, mineral, antioxidant, and amino acid fusions to be delivered intravenously (cells absorb the goodness better that way). There are drips for beauty, weight, peak performance, immunity, energy, and, yes, party animal, they've got one for hangovers, too. As if that's not enough, there's yoga and meditation, an infrared sauna and float chamber, and a wonderful chef-driven, gluten-free cafe, Elle's, all in one lovely facility designed by MF Architecture. Get thee to Bee Cave.

3944 RR 620 S., BLDG. 6, BEE CAVE, WWW.ALIVEANDWELLAUSTIN.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**MOST BADASS SEPTUAGENARIAN TATTOO ARTIST** "Shanghai" Kate Hellenbrand

Remember all those times your parents told you not to get a tattoo because of that age-old fear: "How will it look when you're 70?" Well, "Shanghai" Kate Hellenbrand, America's "Tattoo Godmother" is living (and inked) proof they're wrong. Now in her 70s, Shanghai Kate has built a reputation of trailblazing and talent, tattooing celebrities like Howard Stern and everyday Austinites alike. Go on, get the tattoo.

4405 GUADALUPE, WWW.SHANGHAIKATES.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

**BEST WAY TO MAKE YOUR ART SUSTAINABLE** Creatives Meet Business

There's something romantic about a starving artist ... unless you're the starving artist. If that's the case, CMB helps you meet other creative folk and business types (ick) who can give you tips on maximizing limited resources. Founder Ashland Viscosi's never-exhausted passion is ever-inspiring without being insufferable. With regular

meetups, special events, and an annual, three-day conference to keep you up on the latest resources and best practices, you can stay in the black without selling out. Missed the meetings? Regular podcasts from the group conversations with mentors are expertly edited to be all killer and no filler.

WWW.CMBATX.COM



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**WWW.AUSTINTEXASDWIDEFENSE.COM**

**BEST FURRY COMPANION CARETAKERS**

**Premier Pet TLC**

When we had to leave town for a week, the most stressful part was planning for the care of our animals. Premier Pet TLC soothed our anxiety. From the first meeting, where our sitter took time to ask all the right questions and even wrote a sweet thank-you note, to the daily pet report cards complete with photos of the family we left behind, to our return to a happy, tail-waggin' household, we were all well cared for. They take the TLC part seriously, both for the pets and the parents.

WWW.PREMIERPETTLC.COM

**BEST CUSTOM CARPENTRY**

**Deer Hollow Woodworks**

Maybe as many as 1.285 billion people worldwide believe Jesus Christ was a carpenter. In boomtown Austin, finding any available craftsman – or electrician, fence builder, handyman, plumber – worth trusting, cherishing, and referring to friends, is damn near miraculous. Matt Novak might be just that bearded wonder. You dream it, he'll design it, build it, stain it, and install it, from entertainment units and beds to "that really odd cat enclosure." Most homes have lots of woodwork. Divine carpentry? Perhaps less abundant.

40225 INDUSTRIAL PARK CIR., GEORGETOWN, WWW.DEERHOLLOWWOODWORK.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

**BEST-CASE SCENARIO WHEN YOU'VE GOT A BEE INFESTATION**

**Keith's Bee Removal**

It's not that we don't wish bees well. We just wish them to not build a teeming hive in our tool shed. So when that happens – and boy, does it happen fast – what we want is to ethically rehome them. Enter Keith's Bee Removal, which uses a nontoxic compound to neutralize the bees, then gently vacuums them up for a quick trip to Spicewood and re-hiving, all for a price that doesn't sting.

WWW.AUSTINLIVEBEEREMOVAL.COM

**BEST ARTIST WITH A FLASH**

**Technicolor Weddings**

Bill McCullough isn't just a photographer. He's an artist. As Technicolor Weddings (co-owned with wife Meredith Miller, who makes the custom keepsake wedding books), he's a master of lighting and composition who somehow manages to get the perfect candid shot of your grandmother letting loose at your wedding. But McCullough doesn't just document your big day. His stunning photos have been exhibited in solo shows and in the pages of *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine*.

WWW.TECHNICOLORWEDDINGS.COM

**BEST WAY TO TRANSFORM YOUR BACKYARD**

**Austin Pergola Company**

The backyard came with a huge unlovely concrete slab in the middle, remnants of a long-gone garage. Rather than tear it out and send it to the landfill, we called Austin Pergola. Justin and his crew were a joy to work with, designing a gorgeous pergola to attach directly to the slab. They were patient, punctual, efficient, meticulous, and willing to work around our crazy schedule – and installation only took a few hours. With some potted plants and patio furniture, this former visual blight is now our favorite hang!

22407 S. CONGRESS STE. E-118, WWW.AUSTINPERGOLACO.COM

**BEST PLACE TO REVIVE YOUR COMATOSE CAMERA GEAR**

**Eurotech Camera Service**

These days it seems that direct contact with the repairman is rare. At Eurotech, customers are met with caring sympathy for their malfunctioning equipment. Friendly, knowledgeable, and personal service sets owner Sorin Marcu apart from other camera service outfits. Though the shop may look like a mad scientist's lair, in fact it is a fastidious workshop performing what seems like magic.

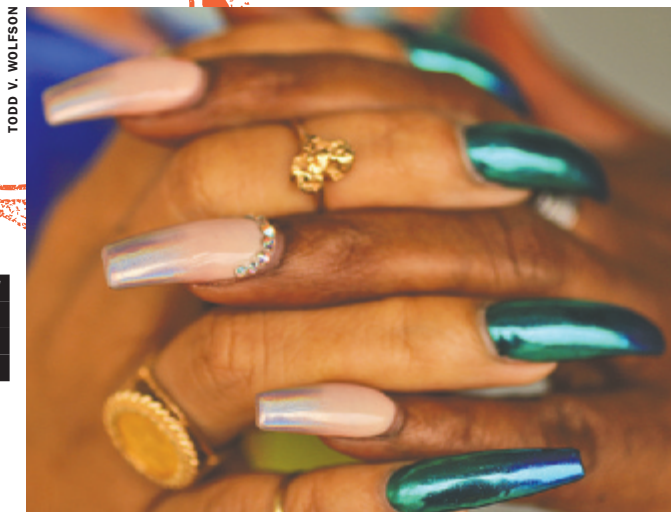
2810 S. FIRST, WWW.EUROTECHCAMERA.COM

**MOST GRAMMABLE NAIL SCULPTURE**

**Michele Nails**

Over French tips? Tired of yet another boring beige polish? Call Michelle for an edgy and unique look to pump up your hand wardrobe. Like Michelangelo, she sculpts each nail from scratch, perfectly matching your digits so the manicure lasts much longer than using cheap plastic tips. Not for the shy, you can indulge all of your rhinestone-encrusted fantasies with shapes like stab-them-in-the-heart pointed stilettos or bury-your-enemy coffins. Fingers and toes, people.

2204 W. ANDERSON, WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ITSASETUP



TODD V. WOLFSON

**BEST COLOR TO MAKE  
YOUR EX REGRET**

## Little Sister Salon

So their startup IPOed right after you were dumped and now they're dating a model. Shake it off and breathe life into your hair. Try subtle balayage highlights or get your locks dyed baby pink and hot magenta by the peeps at Little Sister Salon. Shade sorcerers who eat, sleep, and breathe color, they will guarantee a supremely flattering result no matter how soft or wild your choice. Now book a photo shoot and post those carefree pics to Facebook. New 'do, new you.

3715-C S. FIRST, WWW.LITTLESISTERSALON.COM

**BEST COUPLES MASSAGE**

## Austin Ashiatsu

Ever had a massage, gone home, and felt guilty that your partner isn't as relaxed as you? Then relax and stretch together with Austin Ashiatsu's couples massage, as you both get the professional, deep tissue treatment at the same time. And if having someone walking on your back (the word ashiatsu literally means foot pressure) weirds you out, then at least your nearest and dearest is with you – and you both get to head home a lot looser.

1306 E. SEVENTH, WWW.AUSTINASHIATSU.COM

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# SHOPPING

# READERS POLL

## GARDEN STORE/NURSERY

### Natural Gardener

"They have everything you could possibly need for your garden. It's like the Disney World for gardeners." — **DANA BAKER**

8648 OLD BEE CAVES RD., WWW.NATURALGARDENERAUSTIN.COM

## FLORIST

### Freytag's Florist

"Freytag's beautiful arrangements are clearly arranged with a professional eye, with care and with love." — **TANNA MCCLUNG**

2211 W. ANDERSON, WWW.FREYTAGSFLOLIST.COM

## NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

### Wheatsville Food Co-op

"An Austin institution!" — **CYRUS CASSELLS**

3101 GUADALUPE; 4001 S. LAMAR, WWW.WHEATSVILLE.COOP

## FARMERS' MARKET/FARMSTAND

### Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller

"I actually cried tears of joy one Sunday while browsing this farmers' market."

— **TORI SCHACH**

4209 AIRPORT, WWW.TEXASFARMERSMARKET.ORG/MUELLER

## ADULT STORE

### Forbidden Fruit

"An Austin original. To hell with the chains (unless that's what you're into ... heh)."

— **RICARDO ACEVEDO**

108 E. NORTH LOOP, WWW.FORBIDDENFRUIT.COM

## SMOKE SHOP

### Planet K

"Every person I've ever met at Planet K or from Planet K has been super chill and nice, always willing to give me a hand with what I need."

— **RANEE FREDERICK**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.PLANETKTexas.COM/#ATX

## SPORTING GOODS

### Whole Earth Provision Co.

"More like 'Best Playground!'" — **KYLE AKERS**

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

## BOOKSTORE

### BookPeople

"BookPeople is my happy place. All my worries just disappear when I step inside."

— **KATIE BELL-MOORE**

603 N. LAMAR, WWW.BOOKPEOPLE.COM



Manager Maria Capps and Jake

JOHN ANDERSON

## PET STORE Tomlinson's Feed & Pets

"The people who work at Tomlinson's are simply the best! Helpful, cheerful, and kind."

— **SHERRY NEUENDORFF**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.TOMLINSONS.COM

## MEN'S CLOTHING

### Stag

"Pretty much want to buy the whole store every time I go in to shop for my husband. Whoever is doing the buying is spot on." — **ASHLEY VAUGHAN**

1423 S. CONGRESS, WWW.STAGAUSTIN.COM

## VINTAGE/CONSIGNMENT

### Buffalo Exchange

"Hit or miss but still an adventure."

— **STEPHANIE DAVILA**

2904 GUADALUPE, WWW.BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM

## FURNITURE/ACCESSORIES

### Uptown Modern

"Yo, I would buy a couch here every day if I could afford it. House fulla couches."

— **ISOBEL IKARD**

5111 BURNET RD., WWW.UPTOWNMODERNAUSTIN.COM

## JEWELRY

### Kendra Scott

"Kendra Scott gives back in so many ways."

— **CECILY JOHNSON**

1400 S. CONGRESS STE. 170-A, WWW.KENDRASCOTT.COM

## USED FURNITURE/ANTIQUES

### Uncommon Objects

"This place is like a museum. Cool experience even if you don't buy a thing."

— **CHERYL HALE**

1602 FORTVIEW, WWW.UNCOMMONOBJECTS.COM

## WOMEN'S CLOTHING

### ModCloth

"One magical afternoon, I found my wedding dress there. The staff are amazing."

— **MANDY PRATER**

200 W. SECOND, WWW.MODCLOTH.COM/STORES/AUSTIN

**ELECTRONICS STORE**

## Discount Electronics

"Great people, best prices, great patience with the non-tech-savvy." - TOM ASHBURN

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

**COMICS/FANDOM**

## Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy

"This place feels like home for my whole family." - JENNIFER MARTIN

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

**GAME/GAMING**

## Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy

"The one geeky store to rule them all." - CAROLINE CHRISTOFF

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

**RECORD STORE**

## Waterloo Records

"I will burn down Austin if Waterloo closes down. This place keeps me sane."

- JACOB KOEHLER

600-A N. LAMAR, WWW.WATERLOORECORDS.COM

**ARTS & CRAFTS STORE**

## Austin Creative Reuse

"I never know what I'll find, and I'm always surprised how little I pay." - MOLLY FRISINGER

6406 N. I-35 #1801, WWW.AUSTINCREATIVEREUSE.ORG

**AUSTIN GIFTS/SOUVENIRS**

## Parts & Labour

"They only sell work by Texas-based artists. So much variety, so much art!" - CANDACE HALL

1704 S. CONGRESS, WWW.PARTSANDLABOUR.COM



BRET BROOKSHIRE

**LIQUOR STORE**

## Spec's

"Not only great prices and people, but the secret heroes of moving boxes! Thanks, Spec's!"

- BRITTAIN AYRES

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WWW.SPECSONLINE.COM

**WILD CARD**

## Blue Genie Art Bazaar

"Such a reliable source of holiday gifts. I love getting to see what the community around me is creating." - MEAGAN MOORE

6226 MIDDLE FISKVILLE, WWW.BLUEGENIEARTBAZAAR.COM

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# SHOPPING

# CRITICS PICKS

## MOST UPLIFTING EYE FOR DESIGN

### Earthereal Design

You didn't know you needed it until you saw it – *Queer Eye* Fab 5 prayer candles, Tami Taylor and RBG wrapping paper, a Saint Dolly Parton print – and then you thought, *where have you been all my life?* Designer Cayce Matteoli specializes in “good vibes delivered” via her charming, pop culture-inspired posters, greeting cards, matchboxes, and more. Consider our smile receipt of delivery.

WWW.EARTHEREALDESIGN.COM,  
WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/EARTHEREALDESIGN

## HOTTEST HYPE-WORTHY STREETWEAR SPACE

### South of Everywhere

The ultimate minimalist cool kid emporium, South of Everywhere offers an in-person peek at the rare hoodies, graphic tees, and sportswear you hypebeasts have been drooling over on Instagram. Opened in March by creative twentysomethings Bryan Jordan, Cade Wilson, and Emory Blake, the South Austin retail shop/event space/sneaker haven attempts to funnel the high-end streetwear trends of NYC and L.A. to our intermediate cowboy country. The careful curation includes racks of rare modern wares from around the world – the perfect snap-worthy backing to frequent in-store concerts and events.

2324 S. LAMAR, WWW.FB.COM/SOUTHOFEVERY

## TWO CHAMBERS, ONE DARK HEART

### Secret Oktober and Elysium

From the Armadillo World Headquarters for the cosmic cowboys, to Emo's for punk, every scene needs a home. Austin's goth crowd is blessed with two. Whether you're of the Sisters of Mercy heavy boots and trench coat ilk, or pumped for action in your cybergoth finest, Secret Oktober has your sartorial choices covered. Plus, they're the best place to pick up tickets for shows at Elysium, Austin's preferred touring stop for all musical acts goth, industrial, or just generally morbid. If you wear black in midsummer, then they're your (skeletal) family.

SECRET OKTOBER, 4411-B RUSSELL, 512/897-4803, WWW.SECRET-OKTOBER.COM; ELYSIUM, 706 RED RIVER, WWW.ELYSIUMONLINE.NET



DEVAKI KNOWLES

## BEST STATEMENT UNDERWEAR Package Menswear

Whether you're searching for fetish finds or teeny-tiny swim trunks, this little shop on Fifth Street is the place to find the perfect package for your package. From remixed tighty whities – these aren't the ones your mama bought you – to jock straps and bizarrely titillating union suits, Package Menswear is proof that lingerie and sexy undergarments aren't just for the femme-of-center.

1114 W. FIFTH #202, WWW.PACKAGEMENSWEAR.COM

## BEST LEVI'S TREASURE TROVE

### Passport Vintage

There's nothing like a great pair of jeans. South Austin shop Passport Vintage is recognized nationally – their fans include *W Magazine* and *Glamour* – for sleuthing out the best backside-squeezing, high-waisted, perfectly-faded goodness. Denimheads Maria Oliveira and Ryan Lerma started the Etsy shop in 2014 and have since grown into a cobalt blue brick-and-mortar. Specializing in Levi's 501s, the vintage outlet also offers graphic tees, general wares, and a self-designed line of leather mules.

2217 S. FIRST, WWW.PASSPORTVINTAGE.COM

## BEST WAY TO PRICK UP YOUR GARDEN

### Succulent Native

Of course you know that nearly all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti, right? Here's a plant shop that specializes in such flora, featuring artful arrangements as well as single specimens and all the kinds of soil you might need. The small boutique's run by sculptor and friend-to-all-things-succy Shannon Donaldson, still as enthusiastic about her botanical niche as when she started out with a vendor cart in 2012.

906 E. FIFTH #105, WWW.SUCCULENTNATIVE.COM

## BEST SURPRISE SOURCE FOR MISHIMA PAPERBACKS

### Las Cruces

Besides comprising a high-end fashion boutique and a gallery of artwork from an international diversity of makers, this tiny Eastside emporium also happens to sell, oddly enough, vintage paperbacks by or about Yukio Mishima – the Japanese author, playwright, actor, model, and film director who killed himself via *seppuku* in 1970. Which books can be, sometimes, exactly what you want to read.

1900 E. 12TH, WWW.LASCRUCE.COM



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**BEST PLACE TO GIFT THE WORLD (AND ANYONE ELSE ON YOUR LIST)**

## Ten Thousand Villages

Tucked between hipster joints on Burnet Road, Ten Thousand Villages is the ethical shopper's delight. A Fair Trade pioneer, the store features a gorgeous assortment of maker-to-market wares, with every handcrafted purchase ensuring a living wage in safe conditions for its maker and empowering communities from Colombia to Cambodia to gain financial independence. A baby blanket made of upcycled saris? Luxe bar accessories? Lamps, pillows, clothing, housewares, ornaments, jewelry, and more? They've got you covered. You can even print out the maker's story to enclose with your gift so when Mom opens it, she'll know she raised you right.

4803 BURNET RD., AUSTIN.TENTHOUSANDVILLAGES.COM

**BEST LEATHER TO WEATHER THE RAVAGES OF TIME**

## Noah Marion Quality Goods

Yes, you could simply shop online for one of Noah Marion Quality Goods' custom leather pieces, but then you'd be missing out on the heavenly smell that greets you when you walk in the door of this tiny storefront/workshop. Once you've dropped a pretty penny on one of the gorgeous totes, or belts, or key fobs, or dog collars – or! or! or! – sip on something caffeinated at attached espresso bar Work and admire your new leather luxury good, knowing that this is a forever piece, and it, like you, is gonna get even better with age.

2053 S. LAMAR, WWW.NOAHMARION.COM

**BEST GENDER-NEUTRAL GROOMING PRODUCTS**

## Newton + Co.

Gender is a social construct, and everyone likes to smell nice and feel clean. The folks at Newton + Co. have designed a line of one-scent-fits-all luxury products featuring no synthetic ingredients or toxic chemicals, opting for natural waxes, oils, and clays instead. They've got Spanish sage hand salve and cleansing oil and cologne, Palo Santo matte hair clay and face oil, and the fragrance works well no matter how you currently identify on your journey through life.

WWW.NEWTONPLUS.CO

**CHICEST USE OF PLANT DYE**

## Miranda Bennett Studio

Sustainability, fair-wage employment, and plant dye have never looked so fashionable. From flowy jumpsuits to elegant sack dresses, the environmentally and socially conscious creations from the mind of Austin native Miranda Bennett are simultaneously of the moment and timeless. And, because Bennett has a handle on our scorching summers and sometimes chilly winters, her pieces can be found in a variety of high-end fabrics – think silks, linen, and velvets for something entirely touchable. Worth the splurge every time.

WWW.SHOPMIRANDBENNETT.COM

**BEST GOTHIQUE**

## Bloody Rose Boutique

If you shun whatever Day-Glo night-mares and hideous sandals are this season's in thing, but you've outgrown old combat boots and black jeans as your standard going-out attire, then the carefully curated collection at North Loop's latest dark denizen may be your new sartorial go-to. Whether it's the ne plus ultra of modern witchy goth labels, Blackcraft Cult, or you require a proper pagoda parasol for your Edward Gorey homage, then just know, oh children of the night: You belong stylishly.

100 W. NORTH LOOP STE. 1, WWW.BLOODYROSEBOUTIQUE.COM

**FANCIEST WAY TO ENCLOSE YOUR MANLY FEET**

## Helm Boots

When Joshua Bingaman left Progress Coffee to start up Helm Boots, going from java-monger to cordwainer as if hellbent for leather, did we suspect his emporium of remarkably stylish yet unquestionably durable footwear would take the world by storm? No, but we're reminded that it has – every time someone looks at the American-made goods we walked up in and goes, "Daaaamn, brother, where'd you get those boots?"

1200 E. 11TH #101, WWW.HELMBOOTS.COM

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# READERS POLL

**GOLF COURSE**

## Lions Municipal Golf Course

"I grew up playing this course with my grandpa. He was an advocate for it to stay open until the day he passed away."

- ALANI CHOCK

2901 ENFIELD, WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/LIONS-MUNICIPAL-COURSE

**GYM**

## Austin Bouldering Project

"Best place in town. Great bouldering problems, a full gym, and excellent yoga and circuit classes."

- MICHAEL HAYWOOD

979 SPRINGDALE #150, WWW.AUSTINBOULDERINGPROJECT.COM

**EXERCISE CLASS**

## Camp Gladiator

"The best outdoor fitness camp!!! CG is so inclusive. A new fresh, fun, and challenging workout every time you go."

- SARAH LOHMEYER

WWW.CAMPGLADIATOR.COM

**PERSONAL TRAINER**

## TIE: Julie Burns (Camp Gladiator) and Erica Nix (Transform Fitness)

"Julie is the best trainer with the best heart!!!"

- DIANE RAMOS

WWW.FB.COM/CGSWAUSTIN

"Want to laugh so much you forget you're exercising? Erica is your gal."

- BETH EAKMAN

WWW.FB.COM/WORKOUTWITHERICANIX

**CITY TRAIL**

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

"The trail is everything I love about Austin."

- NATALIE DEAN

THE TRAIL FOUNDATION, WWW.THETRAILFOUNDATION.ORG/EXPLORE/BUTLER-TRAIL-MAPS



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

**SWIMMING POOL** Barton Springs Pool

"Barton Springs is the reason Austin is better than all other cities."

- PEPPY MEYER

2201 BARTON SPRINGS RD., WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/BARTON-SPRINGS-POOL

**PLACE TO TUBE**

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

"Our favorite place to tube."

- DEBBIE TYE

1405 GRUENE RD., NEW BRAUNFELS, WWW.ROCKINR.COM

**PLACE TO HANG WITH YOUR PET**

## Zilker Park

"Views of Downtown and it's by Barton and Barking. It is the most obvious place but idgaf. Austin is wonderful."

- ERIC QUITUGUA

2100 BARTON SPRINGS RD., WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/ZILKER-METROPOLITAN-PARK

**SPORTS VENUE**

## Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium

"Hook 'em."

- TAMMY CHAVEZ

2100 SAN JACINTO, WWW.TEXASSPORTS.COM

**DAY HIKE**

## Enchanted Rock

"The Rock is enchanting all year long - nothing like making it to the summit and seeing those Hill Country views."

- LISA SPANGLER

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

**PLACE TO CAMP**

## Pedernales Falls State Park

"Most visited state park for a reason!!"

- JOHN STAPLES

2585 PARK RD. 6026, JOHNSON CITY, WWW.TPWD.TEXAS.GOV/STATE-PARKS/PEDERNALES-FALLS

**SWIMMING HOLE/LAKE**

## Hamilton Pool Nature Preserve

"But let's not tell everybody ... you have to get reservations now!?!"

- MANDY PRATER

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

**BOWLING ALLEY**

## Dart Bowl

"Yeah, I voted for the enchiladas."

- MATT WHITMAN

5700 GROVER, WWW.DARTBOWL.COM

**PRO/SEMI-PRO SPORTS TEAM**

## Round Rock Express (baseball)

"A fantastic venue just adds to the charm of seeing the Express play baseball."

- CESAR DELAGARZA

3400 E. PALM VALLEY, ROUND ROCK, WWW.RREXPRESS.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

**YOGA** Black Swan Yoga

"I get my yoga my way at any time. Best way to stretch my bod and my buck."

- KEVIN TUCKER

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

**SOCIAL RIDE**

Thursday Night Social Ride

"I love it so when the long stream of happy bicyclists comes cruising through the neighborhood."

- PRISCILLA EBERSOLE  
WWW.FB.COM/SOCIALCYCLINGAUSTIN

**WILD CARD**

Texas Rollergirls  
Flat Track Derby League

"Spirit, spunk, and spice! These athletes are amazing community leaders on and off the track."

- COURTNEY WILLIAMS BARRON

WWW.TEXASROLLERGIRLS.ORG



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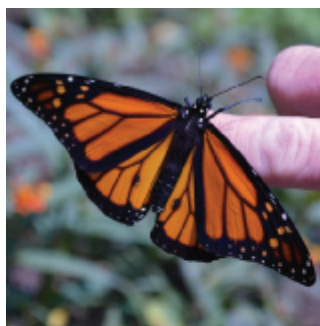
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*-Washington Post 04/16*

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# CRITICS PICKS

**BEST MAJOR LEAGUE SPORT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WAS A MAJOR LEAGUE SPORT**

## Major League Bocce

When you think of major league sports, bocce probably is not the the first one that comes to mind. It might be time to expand your sports horizons. MLB(occe) got its start in Washington, D.C., in 2004, began expanding in 2011, and landed in Austin in 2014, one of 10 cities currently operating leagues. The fun lies in its casual, co-ed play and its versatility. You can play all year long at multiple locations around town, in- and outdoors. Better yet? A drink in hand is not discouraged.

AUSTIN.MAJORLEAGUEBOCC.COM

**BEST WAY TO HEAL ON FOUR LEGS**

## Healing With Horses Ranch

Healing With Horses Ranch carries on the tradition of the therapeutic value of riding horses that goes back to the days of the ancient Greeks. And truly, there's nothing like the restorative power of spending time in the outdoors in the company of beautiful and friendly horses. That's something experienced by the at-risk youth, veterans, and people with physical, cognitive, or emotional challenges who find healing here, as well as the dedicated staff and volunteers who get to combine their love of horses with their love of service.

10014 FM 973, MANOR, WWW.HEALINGWITHHORSESRANCH.ORG

**BEST AUSTIN CREST**

## Austin FC Logo by the Butler Bros

One day, many years from now, when you glimpse a by then-41-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo driving his platinum-plated Ferrari to the training grounds of Austin FC, you will appreciate that the imaginative design of the Butler Bros' freshly revealed footie crest could match the flourish of an iconic, albeit aging, European megastar playing soccer in the United States. And while that CR7 dream may not exactly become a reality, the fact of the matter is that the city was gifted a real symbol of unity, with its "Bright Verde" Treaty Oak limbed against an inky backdrop that screams *GOLAZO!*

2401 E. SIXTH #1002, WWW.THEBUTLERBROS.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

## **BEST GYM TO BUILD PATRIARCHY-FIGHTING SKILLS (LITERALLY)** Austin Boxing Babes

Times are tough, but the women behind Austin Boxing Babes are even tougher. Helmed by Julia Gschwind, the South Austin gym offers Olympic-style boxing, martial arts, strength training, and yoga classes for women looking to achieve confidence and power outside the ring (sorry not sorry, cis bros). And if you've got kiddos in tow, no worries. They also offer classes for children of any and all genders.

2919 MANCHACA RD. #210, WWW.AUSTINBOXINGBABES.COM

**BEST BIG TOP GETTING BIGGER**

## Sky Candy

Trapeze jokes aside, Sky Candy really has set a high bar with its new facilities. After years fundraising, designing, and inspecting, Winnie Hsia opened the doors of her company's Springdale General studio in October. Featuring 27-foot rig points, a pole studio named after a Norse giantess, and abundant natural light, the new Sky Candy space is a 6,500-square-foot marvel. But it's not just the studio's stunning red-and-white striped accent wall that'll make you feel at home under the big top: Sky Candy's knowledgeable instructors and inclusive student community will have you wanting to run away to the circus in no time.

1023 SPRINGDALE, BLDG. 8, WWW.SKYCANDYAUSTIN.COM

**BEST AIRSTREAM MINI-GETAWAY**

## Glamping at Lake Bastrop North Shore Park

If nothing else, the current administration has bestowed upon us one critical life lesson: We need a break. Just 45 minutes or so from Austin, on the bank of Lake Bastrop North Shore Park sit five shiny Airstream trailers, named for local icons like Willie and Lady Bird. In true glamping style, you bring the food and drinks, and the decked-out mini-home will provide the rest: bluetooth stereo/TV, private shower/bathroom, herb garden and fire pit, and much more. Hike and kayak, relax with some cheddar wursts on your patio, and then rest well *inside* on a full-size bed. Be sure to watch the resident egret chill on the dock while you sip your breakfast tea in the Adirondack chairs.

603 FM 1441, BASTROP, WWW.FB.COM/LAKEBASTROPNORTHSHORE

#### BEST SOCCER TEAM

### UT Longhorns

It may be different next year, when the USL Austin Bold make their debut, and yet again the year after that, if Austin FC is here by then. But for now, it's Angela Kelly's Texas Longhorns who rule the roost. And the story's not over for this year's squad; they could turn out to be the best team UT's ever produced. Six different players have earned Big 12 player of the week honors (three of them twice each). Two of their three losses came in a midseason stretch on the road when they had two starters off playing for the Canadian national team. They had the first perfect home record in program history, at 10-0. And with good results in the Big 12 conference tournament this weekend, they should get at least one more home game in the NCAA tourney. Hook 'em.

#### GREATEST WRESTLING LEGACY

### The Rhodes Family

Wrestling, they say, has more than one royal family, and Austin can claim most regal blood on the canvas. It began with Virgil Riley Runnels Jr., the East Austin son of a plumber and Johnston High defensive linesman who became Dusty Rhodes, the American Dream, whose "hard times" promo inspired a beaten-down generation. His legacy continues with his sons Dustin, AKA WWE superstar Goldust, and Cody, who – as part of the Bullet Club faction – has redefined the wrestling industry as something fresh and exciting once again.

#### BEST SPORTS LEAGUE FOR NON-ATHLETES

### Brewskee-Ball

Move over bowling: There's an even easier way to compete for glory without breaking a sweat. Found in only six U.S. cities, the national Brewskee-Ball league is quickly changing the face of pub competition. Brewskee-Ball's Austin branch, housed within Full Circle Bar on 12th Street, allows Austinites of all skill levels to enjoy craft adult beverages while reliving their fast-paced childhood arcade memories. All it takes is a team of three – plus a clever Skee-Ball-themed team name – to compete among the city's most seasoned Skee-Ballers. Winners enjoy bragging rights, trophies, and a special place in Brewskee-Ball history.

FULL CIRCLE BAR, 1810 E. 12TH, WWW.FULLCIRCLEBAR.COM/AUSTIN

#### BEST BIKE RIDE OFF THE CITY STREETS

### Bike Nights at COTA

For 10 consecutive Tuesdays this spring, cyclists could enjoy free-form, noncompetitive riding at their own pace where heavily horse-powered race cars usually roar. At the weekly Bicycle Sport Shop Bike Night, the Circuit of Americas race track lets bicycles take to the 3.4-mile, 20-turn circuit for an evening of relaxed riding without the stress of city traffic. The prize at the end of the course? A final pit stop at the biergarten for a cold adult beverage.

9201 CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS BLVD., WWW.CIRCUITOFTHEAMERICAS.COM

#### BEST FIELD RESEARCH

### Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve

St. Edward's University students don't have to go far to study golden-cheeked warblers, roadrunners, and ring-tailed cats, all of which call the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve home. Jointly owned by Travis County and St. Ed's, the 227-acre Hill Country habitat includes the Wild Basin Creative Research Center, a popular field trip destination for young students, as well as 2.5 miles of trails. But you don't have to be in school to appreciate Wild Basin; everything's open to the general public, and learning to love nature is easy here.

805 CAPITAL OF TX HWY. N., WWW.WILDBASIN.ORG

#### BEST OVER-THE-TOP SPORTING EVENT

### CLAWstin

The most glamorous ladies' arm wrestling event you'll likely ever attend, this annual fundraiser also makes a fine kickoff to the Halloween season, with the entourages and costumes contributing every bit as much as the contest itself – "where the arm wrestling is real and so is the overacting." Playing the Michael Buffer role (in drag) as emcee at the recent CLAWstin 9 was the ever-lovely Westen Borghesi, who supplements his White Ghost Shivers gig each October by hustling shamelessly for bribe money from eight teams of amazons, guerrillas, pirate/mermaids, and the Notorious RBG. What's not to love?

WWW.CLAWSTIN.ORG



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