

VISIT *Austin*

LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD®

THE ULTIMATE FIELD GUIDE



WELCOME

On behalf of the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, welcome to Austin! This guide includes just a sampling of our members' businesses, but it won't take long for you to experience what makes Austin the third-largest LGBTQ population in the United States, while LGBT-owned businesses in our area represent \$11.77 billion in potential economic power. Austin's friendly and progressive atmosphere has allowed our community to flourish while making the entire city a gayborhood. LGBT Austinites have also enjoyed protections through municipal nondiscrimination ordinances in employment, housing and other public areas for over a decade. We invite you to experience Austin's history, unique culture and of course some of the local businesses featured in these pages. While you're in town, interact with us via **#AustinLGBTBiz**, an ongoing campaign highlighting the economic power harnessed in LGBT owned and allied businesses.



EDGAR GIERBOLINI
PRESIDENT & CEO
AUSTIN LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Welcome! At Visit Austin, we invite you to experience Austin like a local — stroll through our vibrant neighborhoods, catch a show at one of more than 250 live music venues, and take in the scenes on water or land. Austin's history is filled with advocates from and for the LGBTQ community, and we invite you to experience the sense of community while you're here. We're especially proud to be ranked #3 in the US and #24 in the world on Nestpick's "Best LGBTQ Cities 2017" list. If we can be of assistance during your stay, please stop by the Austin Visitor Center, connect with us on social media **@VisitAustinTX** or just tap a friendly Austinite on the shoulder. We're happy you're here and wish you an enjoyable stay.



TOM NOONAN
PRESIDENT & CEO
VISIT AUSTIN

CREDIT: Matt Crump

HI THERE!

Welcome to Austin, where you'll find rainbow flags and friendly faces everywhere you go. Please enjoy all we have to offer and use this guide as a resource to pinpoint some of the best spots for brunch, shopping, dancing, music, art and, duh, brunch.

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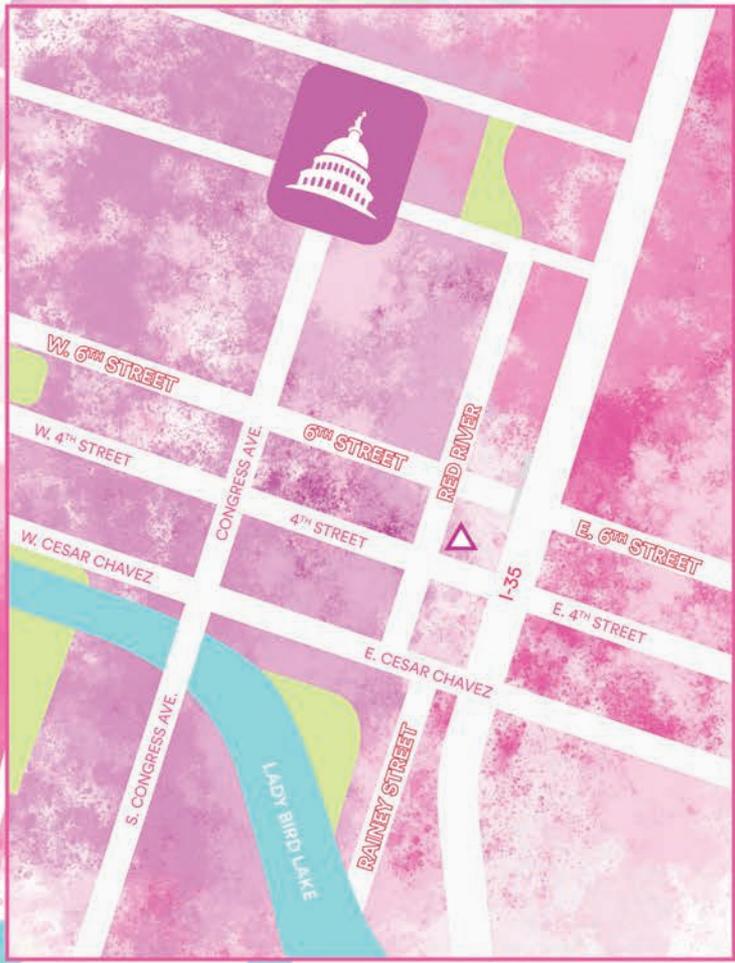
Texas State Capitol, CREDIT: Matt Crump

NEIGHBOR- HOODS

Who needs a gayborhood when the whole city is one? In this section, we break down Austin by neighborhood, calling out a few of our favorite places and LGBTQ-owned businesses in each.



DOWNTOWN



 AUSTIN VISITOR CENTER
602 E. 4TH STREET





DOWNTOWN

Museums, gay dance clubs, a hike-and-bike trail around the lake — there's something happening all day and all night in this city center.

In 2012, a five-block section of West Fourth Street was renamed after Bettie Naylor, longtime Austin advocate for the rights of women and the LGBTQ community. We're proud of our local queer heroes! #queeroes

EXPLORE DOWNTOWN

LADY BIRD LAKE

Get a view of the city from the water. This centrally located outdoor destination offers kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding as well as a gorgeous 10 mile hike-and-bike trail.

Insider Tip: About half an hour before sundown from March to October, watch in awe as 1.5 million bats emerge from the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.



OILCAN HARRY'S

Stop by OCH, the oldest gay bar in town, for weekly drag shows, late-night dancing and stiff drinks served by a super friendly bar staff.

Insider Tip: Into sports? The back bar at OCH has been turned into a sports bar called Score.

RAIN

Just two doors down from OCH, you'll find this quintessential gay club. We're talking DJs blasting pop remixes, a light-up dance floor and weekly amateur strip-off competitions.

SELLERS UNDERGROUND

Want to sit down and sip a classy mixed drink on your way from one dance party to another? This swanky cocktail lounge is conveniently located directly in between OCH and Rain.

HIGHLAND

A popular gay lounge and dance club, this venue features guest DJs, dance competitions and themed events like drag queen bingo. Drag. Queen. Bingo!



THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN - JONES CENTER

Visit this 5,000-square-foot museum to see multidisciplinary exhibitions of contemporary art from all over the world.

IRON BEAR

The only bear bar in town doesn't care if you're a bear; cubs, otters, wolves, and everyone else is welcome here, too.

Insider Tip: Go on Sunday for a free karaoke party.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

This beautiful theater is more than 100 years old and hosts film screenings, live music and other performances.

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER

Home of Austin City Limits, the longest running music series in American TV history, this is also a popular venue for live music and other performances.

Insider Tip: Even if there's not a show while you're in town, you can still tour the venue Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. - noon to see where the TV show is filmed.



FACES OF AUSTIN

LAGINA HARRIS

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS AT SELLERS UNDERGROUND

LaGina is a strong supporter of the local LGBTQ community, working with and donating her art to organizations like Out Youth, Keep Austin Queer and others. Her top-three suggestions for Austin first timers are to (1) eat at a local restaurant like Red Ash or Casita Boriqua, (2) attend a festival at Auditorium Shores or Zilker Park and (3) enjoy the fine arts with a visit to one of our museums or theaters.

LaGina loves hanging out on Fourth Street, but says that the gay community in Austin is so large there is always a party, charity function or sports event to attend somewhere. She suggests exploring the Austin LGBTQ groups on Meetup and Facebook to get the scoop about what's going on.



RAINEY STREET

Made up of converted bungalows, this is a walkable neighborhood of bars and restaurants where you can find everything from cheap eats to fine dining.

EXPLORE RAINEY STREET



EMMER & RYE

Inspired by the farmer's haul, this beautiful dining spot serves seasonal New American cuisine. Order off a menu that changes daily or select nightly specials from the dim sum cart circulating the room.

G'RAJ MAHAL CAFÉ & LOUNGE

What started as one of the first food trailers in this area is now a full restaurant, serving Indian comfort food in a chill environment.

LUSTRE PEARL

Known for tall boys, cocktails and hula hoops, visiting this bar with its huge backyard is like hanging out at a fancy home in the country.

GERALDINE'S

Located on the fourth floor of Hotel Van Zandt, this restaurant serves up picturesque views of Lady Bird Lake and regular live music to go with their innovative dishes that highlight seasonal flavors of Central Texas.



CRAFT PRIDE

Drink local at this bar that boasts over 50 taps and two cask engines of exclusively Texas Craft Beer. You can also enjoy genuine Detroit-style pizza from onsite food truck Via 313.

BANGER'S SAUSAGE HOUSE & BEER GARDEN

This communal beer hall and garden offers more than 100 craft beers on tap as well as an array of exotic, traditional and even vegetarian handcrafted sausages. *Insider Tip: Do Sunday Funday right with their Big Band Brunch - live music, bacon steak and Manmosas - beer steins filled with an entire bottle of champagne and a splash of OJ.*

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Established to preserve, create, present and promote the art of Mexican Americans and other Latino cultures, the center offers two galleries and two theaters.



FACES OF AUSTIN
TJE AUSTIN
MUSICIAN

Local musician Tje Austin garnered some national attention with an appearance on the first season of The Voice in 2011, but he's been performing around town since 2001.

For those visiting, Tje's top-three recommendations are (1) dinner at Geraldine's in the Hotel Van Zandt, (2) breakfast tacos from Papalote Taco House and (3) hanging with friends at Cosmic Coffee and Beer Garden.

As for go-to LGBTQ spots, Tje says he knows he'll have a good time pretty much anywhere he goes in Austin, but favors Cheer Up Charlies, the Alamo Drafthouse and Rain.



RED RIVER

With a strip of venues up and down both sides of the street, this is a popular destination for live music as well as dancing and food trucks.

Red River is home to Austin's growing alternative drag scene with multiple shows a month at Elysium and Cheer Up Charlies.



EXPLORE RED RIVER

KORIENTE

Grab a quick bite before a night out from this family-owned eatery that serves fresh and healthy pan-Asian food cooked to order.

EMPIRE CONTROL ROOM

Self-described as a “modern music space and watering hole” Empire is a great setting for local live music of all genres.

THE MOHAWK

With a large stage outside and a more intimate one inside, this is the prime spot to see an indie rock show by your favorite band and your favorite band’s favorite band.

CHEER UP CHARLIES

Listen to live music, dance under a parachute and drink kombucha from the tap at this LGBTQ-owned indoor/outdoor venue. Be sure to try the vegan Bac’n Cheeze Burger from onsite food truck Arlo’s.

Insider Tip: Go on the last Wednesday of the month for “Greetings, from Queer Mountain” – a free LGBTQ storytelling showcase.

SWAN DIVE

This live music venue is connected to Barbarella through a not-so-secret passageway in the back and hosts everything from live indie rock to burlesque shows.



BARBARELLA

Known by locals as “Barbs,” this dance club holds themed parties most nights and stays open until 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Insider Tip: Don't miss TuezGayz - a local LGBTQ tradition that takes place every Tuesday with happy hour until 11 p.m. and dance videos until 2:30 a.m.

ELYSIUM NIGHTCLUB

You're always in for a treat at Elysium. This warehouse nightclub has been hosting Austin's alternative nightlife since 2001 and is home to a number of drag shows.



FACES OF AUSTIN
GINA CHAVEZ
LATIN-FOLK SINGER/SONGWRITER

Gina is a bilingual Latin-folk singer/songwriter and native Austinite who describes the local LGBTQ community as “inspired.”

When she's not performing, this eight-time Austin Music Award winner can be found taking in the quirky, artsy vibes of Spider House Café & Ballroom in Central Austin.

For her go-to LGBTQ spot, Gina says, “I love me some TuezGayz at Barbarella!”





SIXTH STREET

Drink specials, live music and dancing make this a legendary party street, but you'll also find gourmet baked goods, Neapolitan-style pizza and other delicious food here.

EXPLORE SIXTH STREET

FLAMINGO CANTINA

Home to what they call “good vibes music,” you can see live reggae, ska, Latin and worldbeat music as well as rock, hip-hop, alternative and more.

BARCELONA

If you want to dance nonstop, there are few better options in Austin than this basement discotheque with chest-rattling bass.

MIDNIGHT COWBOY

Once a working brothel, this is now a classy speakeasy accessed through an unmarked door.

Insider Tip: Make a reservation in advance on their website.

THE BACKSPACE

Duck out of the madness and into this 30-seat trattoria that serves thin-crust Neapolitan pizzas from an Italian brick oven.



EASY TIGER

This bakery and beer garden offers artisan bread, pretzels, locally roasted coffee, house-made meats, a full bar and more than 30 local and boutique draft beers.

Insider Tip: Head to the back patio for a game of ping pong.

THE DRISKILL

Step into this architectural masterpiece for a drink and experience the embodiment of Texas grandeur.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE RITZ

This Austin-born cinema hosts a number of LGBTQ-themed events like their drag series Brunch with the “Boys,” so check their calendar while you’re in town.



FIREHOUSE LOUNGE

This craft cocktail lounge with speakeasy allure is accessed through a hidden bookshelf in the hostel lobby. And yes, it is actually a working hostel.

THE JACKALOPE

The food at this dive bar is to die for, including specials like the Bacon & Brie Burger and the Tijuana - a hot dog wrapped in bacon, deep fried and topped with jack cheese, jalapeños and chipotle mayo.



FACES OF AUSTIN

HARRISON EPPRIGHT

MANAGER OF VISITOR SERVICES AND
TOUR AMBASSADOR FOR VISIT AUSTIN

Native Austinite Harrison Eppright serves as manager of Visitor Services and tour ambassador for Visit Austin.

He describes the local LGBTQ community as politically active, proud and diverse and notes that he loves the fact that the scene is spread throughout the city rather than being confined to one neighborhood.

Harrison has many recommendations for visitors to Austin but urges all guests to take a tour of the Texas State Capitol to get a feel for the city’s history and identity. Before or after the tour, he suggests a stop at 1886 Café and Bakery in the historic Driskill Hotel on Sixth Street.



WEST SIXTH STREET

There's a lot to see and do in this neighborhood that's close enough to downtown to feel lively but just far enough away to feel relaxed.



EXPLORE WEST SIXTH STREET



Waterloo Records, CREDIT: Andy Mahr

WATERLOO RECORDS

Make a trip to this iconic record store where you can still listen to any album in the store before buying.

Insider Tip: Check their website for free in-store performances.

24 DINER

Open 24 hours a day, this restaurant puts an Austin spin on the American classic with chef-inspired comfort food, local and organic fare and a full bar.

WHOLE FOODS MARKET FLAGSHIP

Not your average grocery store, this behemoth boasts a wine bar, multiple eateries, a juice and smoothie counter, a ginormous beer cooler and much more.



24 Diner, CREDIT: Vanessa Escobedo Barba

EL ARROYO

Austinites have been coming here for over a quarter of a century for quintessential Tex-Mex from the kitchen and sassy one-liners from the marquee out front.

PACKAGE MENSWEAR

Before you hit the lake, gym or club, drop by this contemporary boutique that specializes in men's designer underwear, activewear and swimsuits.

LUCKY'S PUCCIAS & PIZZERIA

The pizzas and authentic Italian sandwiches known as puccias are all made to order and cooked in a traditional wood fired oven.



CREDIT: ByGEORGE

FIXE

Indulge in a fine Sunday supper any night of the week at this restaurant where they take a gourmet approach to southern classics like fried chicken, catfish and more.

ByGEORGE

This luxury fashion and lifestyle store has been the place to go in Austin for the world's best clothing, fine jewelry and home goods since 1979.

CENTRAL

Home to the University of Texas with its numerous museums, you'll also find terrific restaurants, vintage shopping and local comedy in this charming neighborhood.

EXPLORE CENTRAL

SPIDER HOUSE CAFÉ AND BALLROOM

It's a bar. It's a patio café. It's a music venue and an eclectic art installation. This quirky locale captures the essence of Austin with its laid back environment, specialty cocktails and artisan-inspired menu.

MARY'S CAFÉ

LGBTQ-owned, they serve locally roasted organic coffee and espresso, fresh paninis, hearty salads and delicious Liege waffles. Plus the owner donates regularly to local nonprofits like Q Austin, which is dedicated to empowering LGBTQ youth.

HI, HOW ARE YOU

Snap a photo at this famous mural, which is actually called "Jeremiah the Innocent" and was painted in 1999 by local musician Daniel Johnston. Located at Guadalupe and 21st Street.



QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY

Visit this old-fashioned bakery and coffeehouse and then take a stroll through the tree-lined streets of the quaint Hyde Park neighborhood.

ELISABET NEY MUSEUM

This miniature castle was the former home and studio of sculptress Elisabet Ney and features many of her works.

COLDTOWNE THEATER

Catch a hilarious, yet affordable show here Thursday through Monday and get a taste of the local improv and alternative comedy scene. *Insider Tip: Go on the last Thursday of the month for QueerTowne, an hour-long showcase bringing together Austin's diverse queer and trans comedy community.*

I LUV VIDEO

Located next to ColdTowne, you'll find the oldest and largest video store in the world, and self-proclaimed "safety zone for earthlings of all orientations."



FACES OF AUSTIN
ANDREA PERRY
BUSINESS AND PROGRAMMING
DIRECTOR AT NEILL-COCHRAN
HOUSE MUSEUM

Andrea has lived in Austin for 26 years and is the business and programming director at the Neill-Cochran House Museum. In her spare time, she works at the SAFE Alliance helping survivors of sexual violence.

When not working or volunteering, she likes to hang with her shy but welcoming group of other queer-identified women at her go-to LGBTQ spots - Cheer Up Charlies and Butterfly Bar, which isn't officially a gay bar, but according to Andrea, "always feels a little gay."



CULTURAL CAMPUS

Located on and around the UT campus, this area contains six museums, including:

THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

Check out traveling exhibitions and an impressive permanent collection of European paintings, prints and drawings alongside modern and contemporary American and Latin American art.

Insider Tip: Don't miss "Austin," a 2,715 square-foot building with rainbow windows designed by renowned LGBTQ artist Ellsworth Kelly.

BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

Across the street from the Blanton, you'll find this tribute to the Lone Star State's storied past.

Insider Tip: Visit the IMAX theater onsite for special screenings on the largest screen in Texas.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER

This prestigious research library and museum encourages the appreciation of creativity with exhibits on literature, photography, film and the performing arts.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Contains 45 million documents, photos, objects and recordings from the former President's political career.

TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Austin's first science museum includes dinosaurs, fossils and other science exhibits, including the skeleton of the Texas Pterosaur with its 40-foot wingspan. Kids can interact with scientists as they prepare fossils in the working paleontology exhibit.

VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Located in the Department of Art and Art History building, you'll find art from former students and guests as well as traveling exhibitions.



The University of Texas Tower, CREDIT: Matt Crump

EAST

The vibe on the east side is a creative art scene, complete with dive bars, Instagrammable murals, food trucks, art studios, music venues and restaurants.

Where The Girls Go/ATX creates queer girl dance parties and trans-positive, all-gender-inclusive, anti-isms/ists, pro-make out spaces at various venues in East Austin and around town. Check their Facebook page for events.



EXPLORE EAST



LA BARBECUE

Owners LeAnn Mueller and wife Alison Clem source grass-fed hormone-free beef from a local ranch and cook it 14-16 hours, so it melts in your mouth.

Insider Tip: The former food trailer is now located in the same building as East Cesar Chavez grocery store Quickie Pickie, so grab some beer or wine to go with your meal.

THE WHITE HORSE

Listen to live country music while you learn to two-step with free dance lessons every Friday and Saturday night at this progressive honky tonk.

LAUNDERETTE

Stop into this chic, award-winning café for New American cuisine and save room for their famous birthday cake ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

JACOBY'S / GRIZZELDA'S

Adam Jacoby and husband Kris Swift started their food empire with Jacoby's, a ranch-to-table dining experience that serves up one of the tastiest burgers in town. They then followed it up with the vibrant Tex-Mex restaurant Grizzelda's.

CUTE NAIL STUDIO

A nail studio and waxing space that's located in a magical rainbow house, stays open until 10 p.m. and has plenty of mimosas and Lone Star beer on hand for customers? Only in Austin.

THE VORTEX

Visit this quirky indoor/outdoor complex on Manor Road to catch a local theater performance, enjoy a drink from the Butterfly Bar or dine on homemade pasta from Patrizi's food truck.

Insider Tip: This is also the weekly meeting place for the local Trans & Genderqueer Social club so you know it's a good hangout.

GELATERIA GEMELLI

After training in Italy, owner and active LGBTQ community-member, Andrew Sabola, opened this authentic gelateria that proudly advertises a zero-tolerance policy for racism, homophobia, transphobia and sexism.



CANOPY

Forty-five artist studios, three galleries and a café are linked together with communal courtyards and covered breezeways to create this delightful creative community.

THE BOARDWALK AT LADY BIRD LAKE

Take a stroll on Lady Bird Lake. This 1.5 mile boardwalk extends out over the water and has several picturesque viewing areas plus an ADA accessible pier.



FACES OF AUSTIN

**LEANN MUELLER AND
ALISON CLEM**

CO-OWNERS OF LA BARBEQUE

Married couple and owners of the popular restaurant la Barbecue, LeAnn and Alison describe the local community as "openly accepting."

Their top-three recommendations for visitors are to (1) grab a taco and margarita at La Holly, (2) check out the local art scene at Canopy and (3) have a cocktail at Kitty Cohen's.

As for their go-to LGBTQ spot in town, the couple loves Cheer Up Charlies.



SOUTH

This expansive area features classic Austin hangouts and popular new spots, coexisting in a quirky but welcoming community with an ultra laid-back vibe.



EXPLORE SOUTH



CREDIT: Alamo Drafthouse + South Lamar



Art for the People, CREDIT: Hallie Rae Ward

PATIKA

Visit this LGBTQ-owned café on South Lamar for coffee, breakfast, lunch and brunch on weekends.

THE PICNIC

Not your ordinary food truck park. Along with some of Austin's favorite food trailers like Hey Cupcake! and The Mighty Cone, they also have tons of parking, covered pavilions and air-conditioned restrooms.

ZACH THEATRE

The longest running theater company in Texas hosts shows in an intimate playhouse environment. Check their calendar while you're in town.

SAXON PUB

Experience the epitome of the old Austin music scene with a live show at this intimate venue.

Insider Tip: Show up Sundays for The Resentments, a rotating cast of seasoned local musicians. You never know who might be on stage on Sunday at the Saxon.

LAMAR UNION PLAZA

Anchored by the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, this modern development offers shopping, entertainment and dining, including hometown favorites Caffè Medici, Juice Society and The Highball.



CREDIT: Patika



Odd Duck, CREDIT: Jody Horton

ODD DUCK

What started as a food trailer operated by James Beard-nominated chef Bryce Gilmore is now one of the most popular restaurants in town, serving local seasonal fare on a modern patio.

ROADHOUSE RELICS AND GREETINGS FROM AUSTIN MURAL

This vintage-style neon gallery and home of the "Greetings from Austin" mural is a two-for-one tourist stop.

Insider Tip: Grab a coffee and a macaron from La Pâtisserie next door before or after you snap your iconic pic.

PETER PAN MINI GOLF

Pick up a putter and go a few rounds at this quirky BYOB putt-putt course that's a throwback to Austin's small-town past.

COSMIC COFFEE AND BEER GARDEN

Hang out among their raised garden, biological rainwater-fed pond and chicken run while you sip coffee, cocktails or their special coffee cocktails. Onsite rotating food trucks LeRoy and Lewis Barbecue, Pueblo Viejo and Tommy Want Wingy provide the eats.

THE BROKEN SPOKE

Check out the dance hall where Willie Nelson, George Strait and Dolly Parton have all performed. Nestled in between condos and newer developments, this hallowed honky tonk is still going strong.

ART FOR THE PEOPLE GALLERY

This art space and local artisan market features sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, e-decor, cards, prints and fashion.



FACES OF AUSTIN

ANNA NGUYEN

PRESIDENT OF PFLAG OF AUSTIN

Anna is a longtime Austinite and an activist for LGBTQ and human rights causes. She is currently president of PFLAG of Austin, communications director for the Transgender Education Network of Texas Capital Region and part of the leadership of TGQ Social, a large monthly gathering of gender diverse people.

Anna's top-three Austin things to do are (1) visit the Capitol at night when almost nobody is around, (2) watch the bats come out from under the Congress Avenue bridge at sunset and (3) visit one of the numerous food trucks around town.

For her go-to LGBTQ spot in Austin, Anna recommends BT2.



SOUTH CONGRESS

The area known as SoCo is home to local boutiques, historic live music venues, food trailers and more.



EXPLORE SOUTH CONGRESS



JO'S COFFEE

This LGBTQ-owned coffee shop is home to the “i love you so much” mural and is an excellent place to grab a coffee and do some people watching.

Insider Tip: Get Friday night started right with a live funk show here 7-9 p.m.

HOTEL SAN JOSÉ

Pop into this minimalist oasis and savor a drink from the bar in their lush courtyard.

Insider Tip: Hot day? Try their signature Frosé - frozen rosé with lemon.

THE CONTINENTAL CLUB & GALLERY

Go to the legendary Club downstairs or enter the door just north of the Club and take the stairs to the Gallery, an intimate room for jazz, soul, R&B and singer-songwriter music.

C-BOY'S HEART AND SOUL

Listen to classic soul and R&B music at this juke-joint with a spacious back patio.

Insider Tip: Get cozy in their upstairs lounge styled after a '50s era Japanese GI bar.

HOME SLICE

Enjoy New York-style pizza at a table on their delightful back patio or just grab a slice from their walk-up window.



LUCY IN DISGUISE WITH DIAMONDS

Worth a stop just to check out the wide array of ensembles in this 8,000 square foot vintage and costume shop. Continue your stroll along SoCo and stop into one of the many shops like folk arts-and-crafts retailer Tesoros Trading Company and local craft store Parts & Labour.

SOUTH CONGRESS HOTEL

With a comfortable and spacious lobby bar, an all-day café, a bakeshop that serves coffee and juice, and a Japanese omakase restaurant, this location can satisfy all kinds of cravings.

GUERO'S TACO BAR

Serving up interior Mexican food with a hint of Tex-Mex, they're famous for their hand-shaken margaritas and authentic tacos al pastor.

Insider Tip: Wednesday through Sunday, you can catch live music in their oak garden, which also serves appetizers and drinks from a full bar.



FACES OF AUSTIN

RUDY RAMIREZ

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
OF THE VORTEX

Rudy is the associate artistic director of the VORTEX Repertory Company and has directed for numerous theater companies around town.

His top-three things to do in Austin are (1) go see a play put on by the VORTEX, Teatro Vivo, Salvage Vanguard or one of the other local companies showcasing new plays every weekend, (2) go for a stroll on South Congress and hit up the Big Top Candy Shop and (3) enjoy some Southern cooking at Hoover's.

For a go-to LGBTQ spot, Rudy recommends karaoke night at the Iron Bear.



NORTH



Encompassing a large swath of town, this area includes open-air shopping districts, as well as a few local LGBTQ mainstays.

Visit one of the many vintage shops located on North Burnet and North Loop and take home a treasure from the past.

EXPLORE NORTH



Ramen Tatsu-Ya. CREDIT: Lobosucio Creative

BOOKWOMAN

This feminist bookstore on North Lamar is LGBTQ-owned and has a wide selection of indie and womxn-authored books as well as gifts and clothing.

THE DOMAIN

With a modern take on the town square, this retail development offers 700,000 square feet of restaurants and shopping.
Insider Tip: Within the Domain NORTHSIDE shopping area, Rock Rose provides the most Austin flavor with its art-inspired streetscapes and a swath of local bars and restaurants.

THE ARBORETUM

Check out this relaxed outdoor shopping area offering a park-like atmosphere and national retailers.

RAMEN TATSU-YA

Slurp down the authentic soul food of Japan in an intimate setting.
Insider Tip: Arrive before you're starving because there's usually a line extending out the front door, but don't worry - it moves quickly.

LICK HONEST ICE CREAMS

Sourcing milk and cream from grass-fed Texas cows, this LGBTQ-owned shop on Burnet Road serves up seasonal and sustainable artisan ice cream in unique flavors like goat cheese, thyme and honey. Not headed up north? Visit their other locations in Mueller on the east side and Lamar Union Plaza in South Austin.



CREDIT: The Domain



Little Longhorn Saloon

BT2

Located a few miles north of downtown off the interstate, this is an LGBTQ-friendly nightclub & bar featuring DJs, live entertainment, patios, a volleyball court, pool tables and more.
Insider Tip: They host a drag show every Friday night.

LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON

Get a taste of Austin's honky-tonk scene while the friendly staff serves up cold draft beer for just a dollar or two.
*Insider Tip: Go on Sunday for the you-gotta-see-it-to-believe-it Chicken Sh*t Bingo.*



CREDIT: Annie Ray



FACES OF AUSTIN

ANTHONY SOBOTIK AND CHAD PALMATIER
CO-OWNERS OF LICK HONEST ICE CREAMS

As longtime Austinites, these co-owners of Lick Honest Ice Creams have tons of suggestions for visitors.

Topping their list are outdoor experiences like a walk on the trail at Lady Bird Lake or a hike up Mount Bonnell. They also encourage guests to get to know the locals wherever they go. "Our citizens are so kind, compassionate and accepting," says Anthony.

And while they agree that members of the LGBTQ community can go anywhere in town and enjoy their time comfortably due to the accepting and welcoming nature of Austinites, they hold a special place in their hearts for the bar at Truluck's downtown thanks to the amazing vocalist and pianist who performs there.



WEST

Incredible views, nature trails, lakes and swimming holes - the great outdoors reign supreme in this part of town, where you'll also find amazing restaurants and historic neighborhoods like Clarksville, the oldest surviving freedometown west of the Mississippi.

EXPLORE WEST

DEEP EDDY POOL

Take a dip in the oldest pool in Texas. Get some exercise swimming laps or just splash around in the clear, clean water sourced from a hand-dug well.

LAKE AUSTIN

This is a convenient place to rent a boat for waterskiing, wakeboarding or a leisurely cruise.

Insider Tip: Drive out to the Pennybacker Bridge and make the short hike for a scenic view of the water and downtown.



CREDIT: The Contemporary Austin Laguna Gloria

THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN - LAGUNA GLORIA

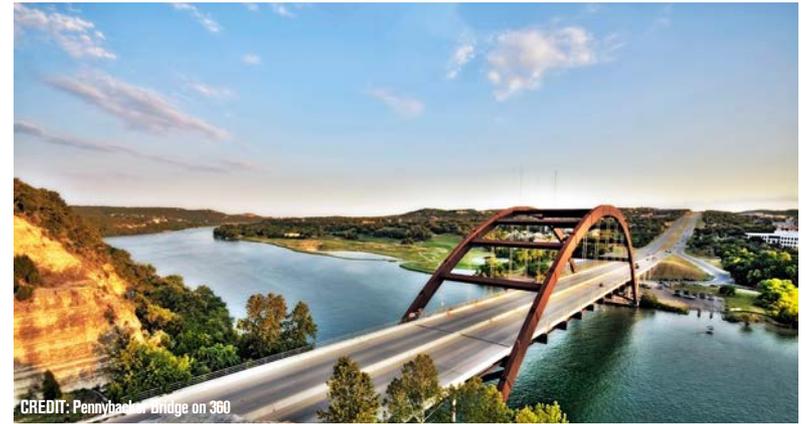
Take in some cultural fresco with a trip to this contemporary art museum and outdoor sculpture garden offering exhibitions and permanent installations on a lush 14-acre site along Lake Austin.

MAYFIELD PARK AND PRESERVE

Just down the road from Laguna Gloria, this peaceful park consists of walking trails, a wildlife habitat and colorful gardens where brilliant peacocks range freely.

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS

Sip a cup of joe made from beans that are flame-roasted onsite while you bask in the gorgeous views overlooking the hills around Lake Austin.



CREDIT: Pennybacker Bridge on 360



Lake Austin. CREDIT: Lake Austin Spa

EMMA LONG METROPOLITAN PARK

This locale offers overnight camping as well as a 2.5 mile trail that features several creek crossings and limestone cliffs.

BEE CAVE SCULPTURE PARK

Set on seven acres of land, this park is home to permanent and rotating sculptures as well as a spring-fed pond, children's playarium and some of the largest oak trees in the city.

HIPPIE HOLLOW PARK

The only clothing-optional beach in Texas is set among limestone cliffs on the eastern shore of Lake Travis.

Insider Tip: To find the most gay-friendly spot at the park, go down the stone steps to the paved pathway, turn left at the public restrooms and continue walking.

THE COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE

This converted lake lodge offers generous portions of barbecue and panoramic water views on a huge redwood deck.

OUTDOORS

Looking for more hiking, biking and swimming options? Austin is full of prime real estate ideal for communing with nature.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

BARTON CREEK GREENBELT

Explore 12.68 miles of gorgeous hiking and biking trails past waterfalls, swimming holes and beautiful limestone bluffs for rock climbing.

HAMILTON POOL

Take a day trip to this spectacular preserve in nearby Dripping Springs -232 acres of protected natural habitat featuring a pool with a 50-foot waterfall.
Insider Tip: You must make a reservation and show up early. It fills up quickly.

LOWER WALNUT CREEK HIKE & BIKE TRAIL

Follow the path of Walnut Creek on this eight-mile trail. Its paved roads weave through forests and parks making it an ideal spot for bikers, walkers and runners alike.



Lady Bird Lake near Zilker Park



CREDIT: Matt Crump



CREDIT: Lake Austin Spa



Lady Bird Lake, CREDIT: Nick Simonite

AUSTIN BOULDERING PROJECT

While rock climbing technically counts as an outdoor activity, this state-of-the-art facility on the east side lets you partake indoors, which is great if you're visiting during the summer.

MOUNT BONNELL

If you're looking for a short hike with incredible views, try Mount Bonnell. Grab some snacks and enjoy the breathtaking picnic areas.

MUELLER LAKE PARK

A popular destination for locals, this is a great place to relax. Pack a lunch, admire the public art or walk the trail loop as you overlook the scenic 6.5-acre pond.
Insider Tip: Visit the farmer's market Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



FACES OF AUSTIN

SHELDON DARNELL
PRESIDENT OF AUSTIN BLACK PRIDE

As president of Austin Black Pride, Sheldon and his team curate events for the local black LGBTQ community.

His top-three recommendations for those visiting Austin are to (1) float the Guadalupe River, (2) check out Trudy's Tex Mex during happy hour for Mexican martinis and (3) rent a bike and explore Austin's east side – specifically Cesar Chavez to 11th Street.

For go-to LGBTQ spots, Sheldon recommends checking out The Austin Chronicle's Gay Place section to find an "underground" party or a one-off event being held around town.





FAMILY FUN

If you're on a family trip, here are a few spots guaranteed to keep the youngsters happy.

FAMILY FUN



CREDIT: Bolora Munkhbold



CREDIT: Thinkery

AMY'S ICE CREAMS

With 12 locations around town, you're never far from this Austin original that has something for everyone: handcrafted artisan ice creams (try the Mexican vanilla), dairy-free fruit ices and frozen yogurts.

Insider Tip: Check the website to find a location with a playground, so your kids can run wild.

AUSTIN NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

On the western edge of Zilker Park, admission is free for kids of all ages to check out wildlife exhibits and to dig for fossils in the dino pit.

CYPRESS VALLEY CANOPY TOURS

Take the family for an eco-adventure, ziplining through the canopy of 100-foot-tall cypress trees just 30 miles west of downtown Austin. After your tour through the treetops, enjoy a picnic onsite and go for a swim in their private lake or clear water pool.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY LIVE MUSIC

The kids can experience the Live Music Capital of the World®, too! Take the whole family to all-ages venues like Radio Coffee & Beer, Threadgill's, "Unplugged at the Grove" and "Blues on the Green" in Zilker Park. You can even find kids shows at Cherrywood Coffeehouse on Sunday mornings.

NLAND SURF PARK

Hang ten at the largest wave lagoon in the world. This cutting-edge surf park artificially generates incredibly realistic swells for surfers of all levels (ages five and up) and even offers lessons for newbies.



CREDIT: Thinkery

OASIS

Deemed "The Sunset Capital of Texas," The Oasis on Lake Travis has it all: food, drinks, music and views. Adults can sip cocktails at the cantina while kids play at the Oasis Arcade, and the impressive views make for a stunning family photo.

THINKERY

Austin's version of a children's museum, this place is filled with fun exhibits that promote creative problem-solving, inventing and hands-on learning.

Insider Tip: After exploring, head across the street for a sweet treat from one of the local food trucks.

ZILKER PARK

This 351-acre recreation area is home to natural, spring-fed swimming pool Barton Springs as well as kayaking, multiple playgrounds, volleyball courts, huge fields for kite-flying and the Zilker Zephyr, a miniature train that goes around the park.

Insider Tip: Train rides are cash only, so show up prepared.



Zilker Kite Festival

NOT SO BASIC BRUNCH



In this section, we pay homage to the most important meal of the week. Austin has tons of incredible brunch spots perfect for hanging out with friends, sipping (and snapping) mimosas and pretending you're going to do something productive that day.

Austin Black Pride hosts Brunch Club four times a year, so check their [Facebook events page](#) to see if one's going on while you're in town.

NOT-SO-BASIC BRUNCH



CREDIT: Banger's Sausage House and Beer Garden



CREDIT: Wu Chow

FONDA SAN MIGUEL

The brunch buffet at this interior Mexican restaurant is a high-end smorgasbord of cochinita pibil, ceviche, mole and desserts to die for.

HILLSIDE FARMACY

Grab a table on the patio and start your day with unique specialties like their wasabi bloody Mary or ham and cheddar cheese grits.

BLUE DAHLIA

At this trendy bistro on the east side, you can dine al fresco while you sip mimosas made with orange juice, blackberry, pomegranate or lavender.

COUNTER CAFÉ

Rejuvenate after a night out with their traditional breakfast dishes and bottomless local coffee.

SOUTH CONGRESS CAFÉ

With a lively atmosphere, fantastic location and treats like carrot cake French toast, it's no wonder they're consistently packed on weekends.

WU CHOW

For something a little different, check out their dim sum brunch featuring Shanghai soup dumplings, scallion pancakes and more.

Insider Tip: Book ahead or arrive early.



CREDIT: Threadgill's



CREDIT: Fonda San Miguel



CREDIT: Holy Roller

THREADGILL'S WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Enjoy their Gospel Brunch, where folks stuff their bellies with food from the all-you-can-eat buffet and fill their souls with uplifting live music.

HOLY ROLLER

The non-conforming staff at this punk-rock diner with full bar serves up nostalgic brunch items like biscuits and jam and yellow cake pancakes.



CREDIT: Erica Nix



FACES OF AUSTIN

CURRAN NAULT

FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
OF OUTSIDER FEST

Curran is a longtime Austin resident and the founder and artistic director of the LGBTQ transmedia arts festival, OUTsider Fest.

His top-three recommended activities for visitors are (1) grabbing a drink and chilling on the outdoor patio of the Butterfly Bar at the VORTEX, (2) enjoying the delicious dim sum brunch at Shanghai and (3) moving and grooving with a body-/queer-positive workout at Transform.

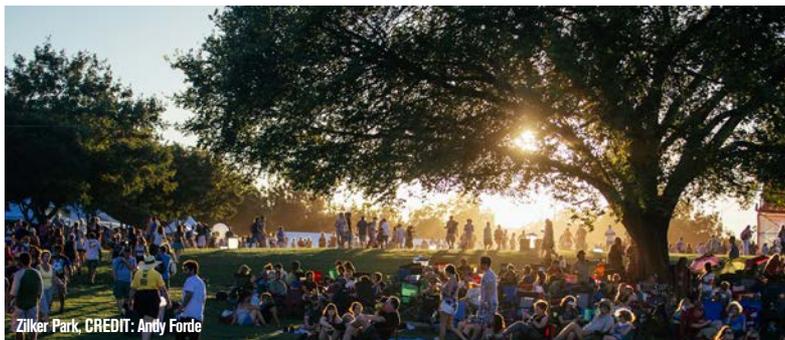
Curran's go-to LGBTQ spots in Austin are Sahara Lounge for Lesbian Wedding, a monthly congregate-and-chill event, and of course, Cheer Up Charlies any time.



If you only have a couple of days in Austin,
here's a plan for how to make the most of it.

TWO-DAY ITINERARY

TWO-DAY ITINERARY



Day 1

Start the day with a tasty vegetarian breakfast at **Bouldin Creek Café** on South First Street and keep an eye out for the peacocks that roam the neighborhood.

Then, head to nearby **Jo's Coffee** to snap a photo at the “i love you so much” mural before strolling along South Congress Avenue and doing a little shopping at one of the many boutiques like **Service Menswear**, **Cove Boutique** and **Tesoros Trading Company**.

Once you've worked up a healthy appetite, stop into the original **Hopdoddy Burger Bar** location to wash down a delicious burger and fries with a local draught beer.

For some postprandial relaxation, head to **Zilker Park** where you can laze under the trees or take a rejuvenating dip in **Barton Springs Pool**.

At dinnertime, make the move downtown for a bite at **Lamberts Downtown Barbecue** or **Second Bar + Kitchen** before you end the night with dancing at **Rain** or **Highland** or, if you're looking for something more laid back, just chilling at an east side bar like **Yellow Jacket Social Club**, **Drinks** or **Violet Crown Social Club**.

Day 2

You'll probably want to take it slow to begin with, so settle in for a relaxing chat about last night over breakfast and coffee at **Cenote**, **Flat Track** or **Bennu Coffee**.

Then pop over to campus to check out **The Blanton Museum of Art** and the can't-miss installation “Austin” by LGBTQ artist Ellsworth Kelly.

While you're in the area, head up to North Loop Boulevard to check out one of the many vintage shops like **Blue Velvet**, **Room Service** or **Ermine**, and do some record shopping at **Breakaway Records**.

If all the shopping has left you thirsty, you're in luck. You can grab a beer at **Workhorse Bar** on North Loop or head to nearby **Brewtorium**, a local German-influenced brewery, restaurant and beer garden.

By the time evening rolls around, take the operation east for a delicious dinner at **Contigo**, **Buenos Aires Café** or LGBTQ-owned **Jacoby's**.

Then, it's off to **Red River** for drinks, live music and a possible drag show at **Cheer Up Charlies** or **Elysium** before ending the night with an after-hours dance party at **Barbarella**.



GETTING AROUND AUSTIN

CAPITAL METRO BUS LINE

Austin's public bus system is part of a 500 square-mile Central Texas system of more than 3,000 bus stops and 53 routes. Austin is serviced by multiple local bus routes, limited stop/flyer routes, express routes and The University of Texas shuttle routes. Download the CapMetro app for comprehensive maps and details.

METRORAIL

MetroRail connects Austin on a 32-mile line that stretches all the way from the city of Leander to downtown Austin next to the Convention Center. Services run Monday through Thursday until around 7 p.m., with extended service until 1:30 a.m. on Friday and 2:30 a.m. on Saturday.

TAXI/RIDESHARE

Austin is tapped into the latest tech-based transit. Check out the current taxi and rideshare options to get on-demand rides any time of day at visitAustin.org/rideshare.

SHUTTLES

SuperShuttle is one of the leading airport shuttle services in the U.S., serving over eight million passengers a year. For a VIP experience, try their private black car service ExecuCar. Learn more about additional shuttle, limousine and charter services at visitAustin.org.

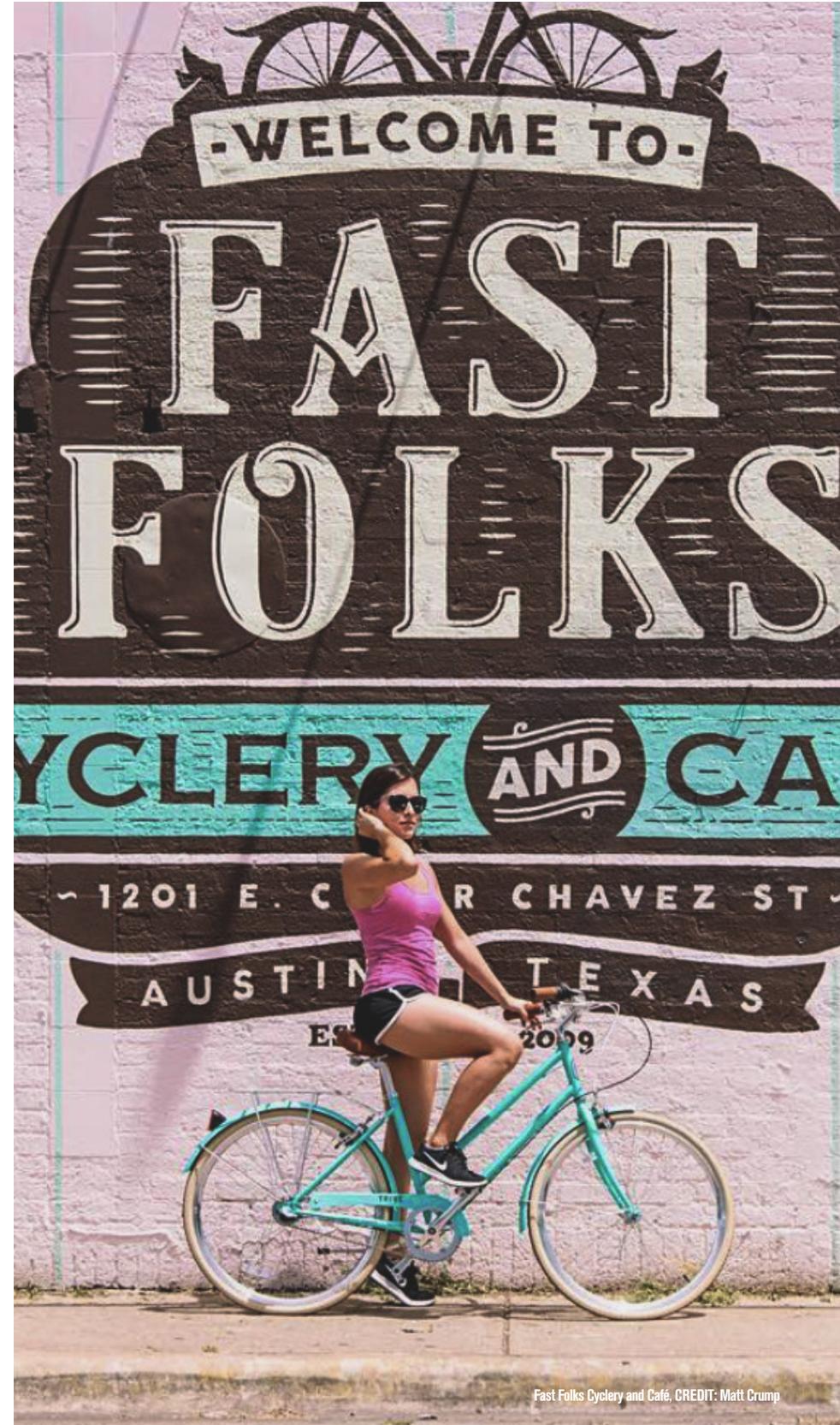
RENT A BIKE OR SCOOTER

On-the-go bike rentals from Austin B-cycle are available to use at more than 40 stations located throughout the city. Also available are a number of bike shops and dockless bikes and scooter rental companies that offer hourly and daily rentals.

PEDICAB

These carts pulled by local cyclists can be found all throughout Austin. Each driver is licensed by the City of Austin Ground Transportation Department and works solely on tips, so be generous!

For any additional mobility questions or needs visit VSATX.org



Fast Folks Cyclery and Café, CREDIT: Matt Crump

CALENDAR

The Austin Gay and Lesbian Pride Foundation was formed in 2010 to educate, resource and connect the local LGBTQ community. They are also responsible for organizing and managing Austin's annual PRIDE Festival and Parade, which take place during Pride Week in August.



JANUARY

FREE WEEK

Various Locations, freeweek.do512.com

The first week of January might be the best time for a music fan to visit Austin. Why? Hundreds of Austin bands participate in this annual event that encompasses multiple venues around Austin.

MARTIN LUTHER KING FESTIVAL

Huston-Tillotson University, mlkcelebration.com

Join the march from The University of Texas to the Capitol to Huston-Tillotson University to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.

TASTE OF BLACK AUSTIN

Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, discoverblackaustin.com

Austin's favorite Black chefs gather for this culinary event that explores the narrative of economic development through the historical context of food.

FEBRUARY

OUTSIDER FEST

Various Locations, outsiderfest.org

This cross-disciplinary queer transmedia festival is put on by Austin-based nonprofit OUTsider and includes art installations and intimate conferences that unite audiences from around the globe.

TRANSFORM FILM FEST

Motion Media Arts Center, facebook.com/transformfilmfest

The first annual film fest featuring women (cis and trans) filmmakers across the Texas landscape, transforming the way we view both films and their makers.

AUSTIN MARATHON & HALF MARATHON

Downtown Austin, youraustinmarathon.com

Live music from more than 40 local bands and a course that winds through Austin's most scenic neighborhoods make this popular 13.1- and 26.2-mile race a must-hit for runners and spectators.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO

Palmer Events Center, sambaparty.com

Austin's Carnaval is one of the biggest Brazilian Carnaval celebrations outside Brazil. Brasileiro-style samba, costumes and wild abandon can all be seen in the heart of Texas.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Various Locations, visitaustin.org

To commemorate Black History Month, there are events throughout the city celebrating important people and moments in time in African-American history.

MARCH

THEREPUBLIQFEST

Oilcan Harry's, therepubliq.com/presents/therepubliqfest

Annual music showcase of out LGBTQ+ artists in the heart of Austin's historic Warehouse District at Austin's oldest running gay bar – Oilcan Harry's. Free and open to the public!

BIGGAY KICKOFF PARTY

Oilcan Harry's, austinlgbtchamber.com/biggay-kick-off-party

Celebrate the kickoff to SXSW with the biggest, gayest party in town hosted by the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce and therepubliq.com.

SXSW® MUSIC, FILM AND INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE AND FESTIVALS

Various Locations, sxsw.com

Noted filmmakers, musicians and multimedia artists from around the world converge to showcase music, film and interactive media during this internationally recognized event.

AUSTIN AREA JAZZ FEST CONCERT SERIES

Various locations, austinareajazzfestival.com

This concert series is held during Texas Relays weekend and features a fantastic roster of local and regional artists.

WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS — DELL MATCH PLAY

Austin Country Club, worldgolfchampionships.com

The world's top golfers head to Austin's historic lakeside country club to compete at this championship event.

AUSTIN URBAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Auditorium Shores, urbanmusicfest.com

More than 15,000 music revelers annually converge on Auditorium Shores to enjoy Austin's only music festival focused on R&B, neosoul and hip-hop music.

RODEO AUSTIN

Travis County Exposition Center, rodeoaustin.com

Since its inception in 1938, this local two-week long event has grown into one of the state's premier rodeos, featuring 10 ProRodeo events, a family-friendly fair, daily concerts and more.

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL

Zilker Botanical Garden, zilker garden.org

A family-friendly event, the garden festival offers something for everyone, including: the annual flower show, live music, gardening talks, a kid's corner and food court.

ABC KITE FESTIVAL

Zilker Park, abckitefestival.org

The nation's oldest kite festival features hundreds of kites in the air and is free to attend for people of all ages; complete with kite flying contests, food, games and more.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms, stpatricksdayaustin.com

This family-friendly St. Patrick's Day fest celebrates all things Irish. Come enjoy authentic Celtic music and dancers, Irish language workshops, the finest Irish imports and plenty of good craic!

APRIL

AUSTIN REGGAE FEST

Auditorium Shores, austinreggae.com

A fundraiser for the Capital Area Food Bank, Reggae Fest features three days of reggae, world and dub talent, along with more than 50 vendors selling food and arts and crafts.

CAPITOL 10K

Congress Avenue to Auditorium Shores, cap10k.com

Texas' largest 10K race and one of the nation's top runs draws more than 20,000 serious and not-so-serious participants.

ART CITY AUSTIN

Palmer Events Center, artallianceaustin.org

Nearly 200 national artists, top local restaurants, two music stages and hands-on art activities make this one of the city's favorite festivals.

AUSTIN FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

Auditorium Shores, austinfoodandwinefestival.com

The Austin Food + Wine Festival, produced by C3 Presents, will welcome top chefs from across the nation.

MOONTOWER COMEDY FESTIVAL

Paramount Theatre and Other Locations, austintheatre.org

Presented by the Paramount Theatre, this fest curates some of the funniest, wittiest and oddest world-class comics from around the globe.

MOTOGP™ GRAND PRIX OF THE AMERICAS

Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com

MotoGP™, the pinnacle of all motorcycle World Championships, is a three-day series held at the purpose-built Grand Prix venue.

OLD SETTLER'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Dale, TX, oldsettlersmusicfest.org

This Central Texas signature music event features Grammy-winning Americana, arts and crafts, camping, food and libations.

EYORE'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Pease Park, eeyores.org

Live music, beer, food, acrobats and costume contests can be found at this annual gathering of Austin's most eclectic locals, benefitting many Austin nonprofits.

EUPHORIA FEST

Various Locations, euphoriafest.com

Live music, camping, yoga and a variety of mindful workshops come together at this immersive four-day festival, featuring hip-hop, electronic, ambient, tribal and experimental genres.

LEVITATION FEST

Downtown Austin, levitation-austin.com

Levitation Fest is a multi-venue music festival across downtown full of live music, psychedelic light shows, on-site camping and more.

MAY

KGSR BLUES ON THE GREEN

Zilker Park, kgsr.com/bluesonthegreen

Once a month during the summer, Zilker Park is filled with thousands of people, blankets and lawn chairs, families and music lovers.

PECAN STREET FESTIVAL (SPRING)

Sixth Street, pecanstreetfestival.org

Musicians, food vendors, artists and craftspeople turn Sixth Street — historically called Pecan Street — into a lively street fair where there's something for people of all ages.

AUSTIN FASHION WEEK

Various Locations, austin.fashionx.co

Austin Fashion Week showcases the work of fashion designers, photographers, hair stylists, makeup artists and models from around the state of Texas with over 100 events.

CINE LAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Various Locations, cinelasamericas.org

The festival showcases contemporary films and videos from Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula made by or about Latinxs throughout the world.

LATINO MUSIC MONTH

Various Locations, austinlatinomusic.com

Many Latino music genres are showcased during performances around town all month long. Other special events throughout the month are presented, as well.

WEST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR

Various Locations, west.bigmedium.org

This free, self-guided tour celebrates Austin's talented and wildly diverse creative community. See working studios and galleries and immerse yourself in the arts and local business communities.

JUNE

AUSTIN BLACK PRIDE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Various Locations, austinblackpride.org

A weekend of events created to highlight Austin's Black LGBTQ community interests, talents and culture, and celebrate and empower the evolution of Black LGBTQ folk.

FUN STOP 5K & FEST

Long Center, funstop5k.com

Run, skip or race through the streets of downtown Austin wearing the wackiest costume. Unofficially known as "the slowest 5K you will ever run," this race is designed for amusement and fun.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS BIKER RALLY

Travis County Exposition Center & Downtown Austin, rot rally.com

The state's largest motorcycle gathering attracts thousands of bikers for rides, parades and music.

QUEERBOMB

Sixth Street, queerbomb.net

An organized rally, procession and celebration whose purpose is to provide a space to celebrate each and every member of the LGBTQ community and encourage all to embrace building a beautiful and diverse society.

ATX TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Downtown Austin, atxfestival.com

The first festival devoted to television's history and future; it offers access to the industry's leading professionals with cast and creator Q&As and panels focusing on innovation in both production and content delivery.

CENTRAL TEXAS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, juneteenthcentraltexas.com

Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day" or "Emancipation Day," is the oldest-known African American celebration commemorating the end of slavery in Texas.

AUSTIN AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK FESTIVAL

Carver Museum and Library, aabookfest.com

An annual event that promotes literature and arts by and about African Americans. It is free and open to the public.

AUSTIN ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, austinicecreamfestival.com

The annual Austin Ice Cream Festival is fun for the whole family. Games, activities, contests, live entertainment and, of course, ice cream will keep you cool and happy.

JULY

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS & SYMPHONY

Auditorium Shores, austinsymphony.org

The Austin Symphony hosts an annual concert of patriotic music culminating in a spectacular firework display over Lady Bird Lake.

AUGUST

AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, austinchronicle.com

If you wanna beat the heat in the Texas summer, then you gotta eat the heat! Join The Austin Chronicle for one of the world's largest hot sauce festivals.

AUSTIN PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE

Downtown Austin, austinpride.org

The largest annual LGBTQ advocacy and fundraising event in Central Texas takes place during Pride Week. Enjoy two stages of live entertainment, games, food, drinks and over 100 vendor booths.

BAT FEST

Congress Avenue Bridge, roadwayevents.com

Celebrate this batty event as the world's largest urban bat colony (1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats) takes to the skies for their nightly flight. Enjoy live music, children's activities and costume contest.

CAPITAL CITY BLACK FILM FESTIVAL (CCBFF)

Austin Convention Center, capcitybff.com

One of the fastest-growing film festivals in the region brings screenings, special events and exciting opportunities for people to experience the brilliant works of African American artists and filmmakers from across the globe.

SEPTEMBER

ALL GENDERS, LIFESTYLES AND IDENTITIES FILM FESTIVAL (AGLIFF)

Various Locations, agliff.org

The oldest and largest gay and lesbian film fest in the Southwest, and the largest LGBTQ cultural event in Austin.

SPLASH DAYS

Various Locations, splashdays.com/events

A weekend of music, dance and unity hosted by the non profit, Splash Days. Austin's largest gay dance party weekend, all benefitting the LGBT community.

AUSTIN MUSEUM DAY

Various locations, austinmuseums.org

Organized by the Austin Museum Partnership, this special day features free exhibitions and activities at participating Austin-area museums and cultural sites.

PECAN STREET FESTIVAL (FALL)

Sixth Street, pecanstreetfestival.org

Musicians, food vendors, artists and craftspeople turn Sixth Street — historically called Pecan Street — into a lively street fair where there is something for people of all ages.

TEXAS CRAFT BREWERS FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, texascraftbrewersfestival.org

The state's largest beer event focused exclusively on Texas-produced craft beer.

FREE DAY OF YOGA

Various Locations, freedayofyoga.com

Participating studios across the Austin area offer free classes for every age and fitness level.

OUT OF BOUNDS COMEDY FESTIVAL

Various Locations, outofboundscomey.com

Comedians from around the country show Austinites their comedy chops and throw down in a mini-golf tourney.

AUSTIN OKTOBERFEST

Various Locations, austoberfest.com

Also known as Austoberfest, this fun event features live music, food, a biergarten, kids' activities and more at the Austin Saenggerrunde and Scholz Garten.

DIEZ Y SEIS

Fiesta Gardens, diezyseis.org

This annual Mexican Independence Fiesta features live music throughout the day. Funds from the festival help preserve Mexican-American culture, provide scholarships for college-bound Hispanics and grant funding for local youth programs.

CENTROAMERICANTO FEST

Various Locations, cacfest.com

This festival serves as a celebration of Central American music and culture, showcasing some of the most influential singer-songwriters from the region.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Various Locations

Celebrate the diverse cultures of people in the Hispanic community with a range of festivals, concerts and special events from September 15 to October 15.

OCTOBER

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Zilker Park, aclfestival.com

One of the country's largest celebrations of music, this two-weekend festival brings the magic of the famed public TV series Austin City Limits outside the studio and into Austin's most beloved park with more than 130 musical acts on eight stages.

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL

Paramount Theatre and various locations, austinfilmfestival.com

Recognized as one of the top film festivals in the country, this cinematic event shines the spotlight on top-billed films and indies alike.

FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com

Drivers compete in the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix in October. Built around a state-of-the-art 3.4-mile circuit track, Circuit of The Americas is designed for any and all classes of racing — from motor power to human power.

SAVOR - A TASTE OF LGBT AUSTIN

East Austin, savorlgbtaustin.org

This food and beverage showcase presents LGBTQ economic prosperity by highlighting various LGBT and allied chefs, caterers, restaurateurs and mixologists to the general public. Proceeds benefit the Austin LGBT Chamber Foundation encouraging scholars and entrepreneurs to follow their dreams.

TEXAS FIREWORKS DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

Kreig Baseball Field, planetktexasfireworks.com

Light up your Halloween night with pyrotechnics at Kreig Softball Fields, presented by Planet K.

TEXAS TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL

St. Edward's University, texasbookfestival.org

One of the premier literary events in the country, hosting 250+ authors each year. More than 40,000 book lovers of all ages attend the festival annually.

VIVA LA VIDA MEXIC-ARTE DAY OF THE DEAD PARADE

Downtown, mexic-artemuseumevents.org

The Grand Procession - marching down historic Sixth Street and culminating at East Fourth Street - brings together a vibrant and varied mix of the traditional and contemporary.

NOVEMBER

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL DRAG FESTIVAL

Red River District, austindragfest.org

Austin becomes the center of the Drag Universe as hundreds of Drag Artists from all over the world come to entertain thousands of fans and each other.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR

Across East Austin, east.bigmedium.org

For two weekends, artists, studios, exhibition spaces, pop-up shows and tons of fun art-centered events on the East Side are open and free to the public to celebrate the wide variety of art being created in Austin.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, maccaustin.org

Celebrate Latino heritage, participate in costume contests, workshops and family art activities and enjoy live music and entertainment throughout the day.

AUSTIN CELTIC FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, austincelticfestival.com

This annual festival is also the largest gathering of Celts in Central Texas. The event is home to four stages of Irish, Scottish and Breton music, dance, sports, storytelling, workshops and more.

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

Texas State Capitol, texasbookfestival.org

More than 40,000 book lovers of all ages attend the Texas Book Festival annually, enjoying readings, panel discussion, signings, cooking demonstrations, live music and exhibitors from across the state.

DECEMBER

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Zilker Park, austintrailoflights.org

The Austin Trail of Lights is part of the Austin experience, lighting up the season with a celebration of community, memories and fun.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Palmer Events Center, armadillobazaar.com

Shades of old Austin are reflected at this market with eclectic gifts and local entertainment.

AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR

Auditorium Shores, austintexas.gov

This alcohol-free, family-friendly event celebrates the diversity and creativity of the city with visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers and other festive performances.

WINTER WONDERLAND AT THE CIRCUIT

Circuit of The Americas™, thecircuit.com/winter-wonderland

This Holiday Festival features a .8 mile Circuit of Lights, Skating Rink, Santa's Village, Petting Zoo with Camel Rides, Human Snow Globe, Singing Trees, Movie Lawn, and more.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FAMILY, COMMUNITY & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Allgo
Austin Central Library
Austin Roundup
Austin Toy Museum
Metropolitan Breakfast Club
OutYouth
PFLAG Austin
Prime Timers
TENT

DINING RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGES

Crema Bakery & Café
El Alma
El Chilito
Gusto Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar
Haymaker Austin
Hoover's Cooking
Juan in a Million
Sahara Lounge
Yuyo

FOOD TRUCKS

Casita Boriqua
Texas Chili Queens

HEALTH SERVICES

AIDS Services of Austin
Kind Clinic
Q Austin
Waterloo Counseling Center

BEAUTY/FITNESS

Crunch Fitness
Garbo Salon
Meche Organic Salon
Tatonka Fitness

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Faith Presbyterian Church
Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
St. Ignatus, Martyr Catholic
St. Austin's Catholic Church
St. David's Episcopal Church
Trinity Church of Austin
Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
United Methodist Church
University Baptist Church

ARTS & CULTURE

Asian American Cultural Center
Asian American Resource Center
Austin Symphony Orchestra
Broadway in Austin
Capital City Men's Chorus
George Washington Carver Museum,
Cultural & Genealogy Center
The Long Center
VSA Texas

ENTERTAINMENT

DV8 at Detour Neighborhood Bar Domain

SHOPPING

Capra and Cavelli
Hops & Heroes Comics
League of Rebels Menswear
Prima Dora
Q Torys
Sirenalía
South Congress Books
The Great Outdoors Plant Nursery

*For more comprehensive lists, please
visit us at VISITAUSTIN.ORG and
AUSTINLGBTCHAMBER.COM.*

The Contemporary Austin, CREDIT: Matt Crump



MEET THE ARTIST: MATT CRUMP

Austinite and proud gay guy, Matt Crump, is a leading lifestyle influencer known internationally for his playful aesthetic and setting color trends. He's been recognized by TIME, Pantone, MTV, ELLE Decor, Huffington Post, Seventeen, LA Magazine, Mashable and many others for his groundbreaking digital art. He's also given talks for Adobe, Modernism Week and Create + Cultivate.

Follow him on Instagram at [@mattcrump](https://www.instagram.com/mattcrump)



Atown Boutique on Burnet Road, CREDIT: Matt Crump