



# BEST OF NORMAN

## 2025

Highlighting neighborhoods  
from across the metro area

### **Downtown Norman:**

Learn about favorite local  
restaurants, shops | 4-5

### **Readers' choice:**

Check out the finalists  
for all 30 categories | 10-15

### **Downtown OKC:**

Explore city landmarks,  
green spaces | 20-22

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COVER ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA MUSGRAVE

## FROM THE EDITOR



SHAYFER CANNON/OU DAILY

With something for everyone, downtown Norman is a hub for shopping, local eats and live entertainment.

# Rediscovering Best of Norman

Dear readers,

Living in Oklahoma City my whole life, I saw Norman as nothing more than a football-centric college town. When I came to OU as a student, I quickly realized it's much more than that.

Norman is a hub for the arts, a community that welcomes you and a city that is constantly evolving. From local artists and bands to family-owned restaurants and businesses, there's so much here that isn't obvious at first glance. Best of Norman celebrates the people and places that make this city what it is.

Best of Norman highlights the businesses and people that make up the heart of our community. This year we wanted to take it a step further. Instead of focusing solely on Norman businesses, we decided to shine a light on districts in both Norman and Oklahoma City.

Early this summer, our team talked about how we could make this year's Best of Norman stand out. We realized that by focusing only on individual businesses, we had started to limit ourselves. Some categories have longtime favorites that win year after year, and while they deserve that recognition, it makes it harder to tell new stories.

Shifting our focus to districts lets us highlight the neighborhoods where businesses thrive while keeping the poll for readers' favorite spots. It also gives us the chance to show the bigger picture: the culture, creativity and community that make both Norman and Oklahoma City worth exploring. We see this as a way to keep Best of Norman fresh and meaningful for years to come.

This edition features 11 districts including downtown Main Street, Campus Corner, East Norman, West Norman, Route 66, Asian District, Plaza District, Paseo Arts District, Automobile Alley, downtown Oklahoma City and Bricktown. Each brings something different, whether that be

a heavy arts scene or important Oklahoma history. Together they show how these cities continue to grow and connect.

Our 2025 Best of Norman consists of 30 categories, highlighting the aspects that make Norman unique. Within each category, three businesses or venues were selected for the community to vote on. Many of these places I've come to know personally through my work at the Daily, recommendations from friends and simply by living here. That connection is something everyone in Norman can relate to, which makes celebrating it even more meaningful.

Putting this issue together has reminded me of how much Norman has shaped my own college experience. The people I've met, the places I've come to love and the communities I've gotten to know have all shown me that Norman is more than a college town; it's a place where creativity and connection thrive.

I'm grateful for everyone who voted, contributed and shared their passions with us, and I hope this issue serves as both a guide and a celebration of the community we're proud to be part of. Whether you've lived here your whole life or just arrived, I hope this year's Best of Norman inspires you to explore everything our city has to offer.

Here's to rediscovering the best of Norman,  
Madisson Cameron



**Madisson Cameron**  
Culture editor  
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RACHEL NICHOLS/OU DAILY

Downtown Norman hosts events throughout the year including 2nd Friday Norman Art Walk, Norman Farm Market and the annual Norman Music Festival.

# DOWNTOWN NORMAN

*Explore locally loved shops, restaurants found in the city's heart*

BY HAYDEN GRUBBS • HAYDEN.K.GRUBBS-1@OU.EDU

Downtown Norman is a hub for dining, shopping and entertainment, offering visitors a mix of local restaurants, specialty shops and cultural experiences.

## DINING

**Bison Witches Bar & Deli:** Bison Witches is a self-proclaimed nontraditional bar that houses a deli offering bread soup bowls and gourmet sandwiches. The menu boasts many sandwich options including vegetarian sandwiches. Drop by on Tuesday and Thursday to participate in the deli's special and buy up to five sandwiches at half price.

Food is not the only thing on the menu as this establishment also hosts live music, karaoke and occasional viewing parties.

Bison Witches is open 11 a.m. to midnight Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday,

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The kitchen closes each day at 9 p.m. at 211 E. Main St.

**The Custard Factory:** Originally opened as Rusty's Custard Factory in 2001 by founder Russell "Rusty" Rasmussen, The Custard Factory has been serving made-daily frozen custard for more than two decades.

Customers can choose from over 20 toppings to create their own treat or choose from classics like concretes, sundaes, malts, shakes, floats and frozen custard sandwiches. Employees, known as Custard Connoisseurs, are available to help inspire new combinations.

The Custard Factory is open 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 301 E. Main St.

**Rosa Mezcal:** Rosa Mezcal is a culinary sanctuary where each dish embodies the warmth of Mexican hospitality,

traditional recipes and lively tastes. Rosa Mezcal offers cantina-style food for brunch, lunch and dinner along with a selection of handcrafted cocktails.

From signature guacamoles to classic tacos, the restaurant has something for everyone. Specialty milkshakes are also offered for those with a sweet tooth.

Rosa Mezcal is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday at 214 E. Main St.

## SHOPPING

**Norman Stamp & Seal:** Norman Stamp & Seal has served the community for decades, offering custom engraving and personalized gifts. Items include Yeti tumblers, cutting boards, specialty shot glasses, keychains and more. Purchases can be made in-store and online.



Norman Stamp & Seal is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 110 S. University Blvd.

**Sandalwood and Sage:** Sandalwood and Sage is a fun shopping spot for those looking for something a bit mystical, with crystals, incense, candles, clothing and more. The self-proclaimed metaphysical gift store also hosts psychic readings and performances.

Sandalwood and Sage is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at 322 E. Main St.

**Guestroom Records:** Guestroom Records has become a staple of Norman's music scene, offering a vast collection of new and used vinyl records alongside CDs, cassettes and music accessories. Customers can sell or trade their own records and explore Guestroom's online inventory for harder-to-find gems. The store also regularly hosts listening parties and album release events. The event schedule is available on the store's Facebook and Instagram.

Guestroom Records is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at 125 E. Main St.

## ACTIVITIES

**The Crucible Art Foundry & Gallery:** The Crucible Art Foundry & Gallery is a full-service art foundry, gallery and sculpture garden located in the historic Carey Lumber building, built in 1887. The gallery features rotating collections of bronze sculptures and other works created at the foundry. The outdoor sculpture garden displays larger pieces. Visitors are given the opportunity to watch an informative film about the casting process and have their questions answered by knowledgeable staff.

The Crucible is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 110 E. Tonhawa St.

**The Depot:** Built in 1909 as a train station, The Depot has transformed into a performing arts studio. With rotating galleries, exhibits, events, concerts and workshops, The Depot strives to highlight Norman culture and support local artists.

One of the ongoing galleries is the Entangled Voices exhibit, which is open until Nov. 1. The exhibit features vibrant fiber artwork, depicting embroidered scenes of nature, from artists Irmgard Geul and Darci Lenker.

The Depot is open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at 200 S. Jones Ave.

**MAINSITE Contemporary Art:** MAINSITE Contemporary Art has been home to the Norman Arts Council since 2012, serving as the city's hub for exhibitions, performances and cultural events. The gallery is housed in a renovated, century-old building with 4,000 square feet of exhibition space and a glass front that opens up to Main Street.

The moveable gallery walls allow the space to host multiple shows, with four exhibitions scheduled each year. MAINSITE also features the Library Gallery, a smaller venue within the gallery dedicated to experimental and emerging artists.

MAINSITE Contemporary Art is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 122 E. Main St.



RACHEL NICHOLS/OU DAILY

A view of downtown Norman at dusk.



SHAYFER CANNON/OU DAILY

A Legacy Trail statue sits near the train tracks.



SHAYFER CANNON/OU DAILY

Sign advertising local favorites The Winston, Neighborhood Jam and The Lokal.



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY

One of many murals found in downtown Norman.



SHAYFER CANNON/OU DAILY

The Depot is a performing arts studio and gallery.



# CAMPUS CORNER

*A hub for students,  
Normanites since 1917*

BY NIKKI WOMACK •  
KIRSTEN.N.WOMACK-1@OU.EDU

Just a short walk north of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, Campus Corner offers a wide variety of shops and restaurants for students and families to enjoy while visiting OU's campus.

## DINING

**I Sushi:** With takeout and indoor and outdoor seating, I Sushi is a go-to place for those visiting Campus Corner. Their menu offers sashimi, nigiri, noodles, appetizers, sushi rolls and hand rolls.

I Sushi is open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 762 Asp Ave.

**New York Pizza & Pasta:** New York Pizza & Pasta is a locally owned business right across the street from campus. Visitors can order pizza by the slice or a whole pie. Their menu includes house favorites: cheese, stuffed-cheese, veggie and supreme pizzas.

New York Pizza & Pasta is open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday at 217 W. Boyd St.

**The Wagon:** Offering live music, food and drinks, The Wagon is the place to be for people ages 21 and older. The restaurant offers Western-inspired food, and their menu includes weekly and daily specials like \$5 burgers and fries on Wednesdays, \$2 tacos on Tuesdays and \$4 specialty cocktails on Fridays.

The Wagon is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday at 575 S. University Blvd.

**Tea Cafe on the Corner:** This Asian-inspired restaurant offers a wide selection of drinks, meals and desserts. Since opening in 2005, Tea Cafe on the Corner has expanded its menu to include starters, soups and salads. The restaurant also offers fried rice, lo mein, rice boxes and more.

The restaurant offers gluten-free and vegetarian options for diners with dietary restrictions, as well as catering and private parties.

Tea Cafe on the Corner is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 788 Asp Ave.

**Yo Pablo Sports Bar and Grill:** Open to people ages 21 and older, Yo Pablo Sports Bar and Grill offers live sports, food, drinks and a vibrant atmosphere. The bar has daily specials, including \$2 select drinks and tacos on Tuesday; \$5 burgers, quesadillas and draft pitchers of beer on Wednesday; and \$4 well drinks and seltzers on Friday.



On football game days vendors and music crowd the streets of Campus Corner.

ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY

Yo Pablo Sports Bar and Grill is open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 747 Asp Ave. Happy hour is 4 to 8 p.m. daily.

**Sweet Sips and Sticks:** For a sweet treat, Sweet Sips and Sticks offers a wide selection of ice cream for the whole family to enjoy. The menu includes milkshakes, slushies and ice cream cones and cups. They also serve signature milkshakes topped with sweets, ranging from candy bars to brownies.

Sweet Sips and Sticks is open 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 2 to 10 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at 333 W. Boyd St.

## SHOPPING

**Buchanan Bicycles:** For those searching for a quick ride around campus, Buchanan Bicycles has high-quality bicycle brands from all over. The shop offers friendly customer support with competitive prices.

Buchanan Bicycles is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at 561 Buchanan Ave.

**Mave:** Whether looking for a last-minute game day outfit or something to wear to dinner, Mave has it all. A boutique for women and men, Mave offers clothing and jewelry for the whole family to enjoy.

Mave is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at 763 Asp Ave.

**Blush Norman:** Blush Norman is a boutique offering gameday outfits and other apparel. The store sells OU merchandise, shoes, Oklahoma City Thunder gear, accessories and gifts.

Blush Norman is open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at 566 Buchanan Ave.

**Tulips Home and Gift:** Tulips Home and Gift offers a variety of items for shoppers, including gameday apparel, greek life merchandise, home decor, kitchen items, gifts and "Tiny Tulips," a section for children.

Tulips Home and Gifts is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 570 Buchanan Ave.



# EAST NORMAN

*From parks to eats, discover city gems*

BY LAUREN MACKOWSKI •  
LAUREN.M.MACKOWSKI-1@OU.EDU

Spanning east of 12th Avenue Northeast and past Lake Thunderbird, East Norman is the city's largest area. Mostly made up of rural neighborhoods and schools, the area shines with opportunities for community support and involvement.

East Norman offers a variety of parks, events and family-run restaurants. Whatever visitors may be looking for, this district has something for everyone.

## ACTIVITIES

**Parks:** Colonial Estates Park is one of East Norman's largest parks, with green space for picnics, walking trails, disc golf, a playground and a splash pad.

For more thrills, Creekside Bike Park has hills, ramps, obstacles and trails for bikers of all skill levels.

Colonial Commons Park features a playground, fields, a small skate park and picnic space as well as the Red Dirt Collective Community Garden. The garden is run by non-profit Red Dirt Collective, which helps to support Norman's working-class and low-income residents. The garden hosts open workdays at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Colonial Estates Park is at 1641 E. Lindsey St., Creekside Bike Park is at 2217 E. Lindsey St. and Colonial Commons Park is at 1909 Beaumont Drive.

**Lake Thunderbird State Park:** Lake Thunderbird State Park provides a wide range of recreation including campsites, picnic shelters, boat ramps and equestrian trails.

Visitors can also enjoy two swimming beaches, hiking, nature trails and year-round fishing.

Lake Thunderbird's park office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 13101 Alameda Drive. The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

**Norman Public Library East:** For indoor activities, Norman Public Library East offers books, internet and computer access, conference spaces and children's play areas. Weekly events include book clubs, "Fine Art Friday" and toddler story times.

As part of the Pioneer Library System, library cards can be used at any participating location. Anyone who lives, works, attends school or owns property in Norman is eligible for a card.

The library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday at 3051 E. Alameda St.



PHOTOS BY JENNA BURRESS/OU DAILY

Found on Lindsey Street, Tacos Los Huaches provides East Norman with authentic Mexican food.



Norman Public Library East offers free indoor activities from weekly events to children's play areas.

## DINING

**Tacos Los Huaches:** Permanently located off East Lindsey Street, Tacos Los Huaches taco truck offers quesadillas, burritos, flautas, chimichangas and more. Favorites include the birria tacos and the California burrito.

Tacos Los Huaches is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at 1230 E. Lindsey St.

**Pointe Brew:** South of Highway 9, Pointe Brew coffee shop serves hot and cold coffee, tea, smoothies and pastries.

Pointe Brew is open 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday and Thursday at 2601 24th Ave. SE.

**Thai Kum Koom Restaurant:** Focused on serving affordable, high-quality food, Thai Kum Koom Restaurant's menu includes lunch and dinner. Customers can order rice, noodle and stir fry dishes as well as soups, curries, tofu

dishes and seafood.

The restaurant also has a large specialty drink menu which offers smoothies, Vietnamese coffee and boba milk teas in a variety of flavors.

Thai Kum Koom Restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday at 1241 E. Alameda St.

**Old Number 9 Bar:** Located on Alameda Street, Old Number 9 Bar offers a full drink menu and a community-based atmosphere. Patrons can choose from a variety of beer, liquor and cocktails and are encouraged to bring snacks to share.

The bar hosts live music on its patio and holds weekly events, including pool and darts tournaments.

Old Number 9 Bar is open noon to 2 a.m. daily at 4303 E. Alameda St. for guests 21 or older.



# WEST NORMAN

## Check out the city's centers for shopping, entertainment

BY KOLBY BROWN • KOLBY.K.BROWN-1@OU.EDU

West Norman is the perfect spot for a fun day out shopping, offering a wide variety of activities and retail options. This region, which includes developments west of Interstate 35, is characterized by vibrant shopping centers, entertainment and suburban areas.

Within a few miles, many shopping areas directly off the highway provide easy access for Norman residents. The centers also cater to travelers and visitors with their wide selection, convenient location and varying cuisines.

Whether you're looking for the perfect gift, enjoying a day out or just passing time, west Norman offers plenty of options.

### DINING

**Pink Pig Cafe:** Pink Pig Cafe is a local bistro that serves authentic Korean food. This spot is known for its welcoming, cozy atmosphere and tasty coffees. Pink Pig has an extensive menu featuring Korean staples alongside American dishes and pastries.

Pink Pig Cafe has something for everyone, with brunch favorites like chicken and waffles, omelets and avocado toast alongside Korean dishes such as spicy rice cakes, bibimbap and bulgogi wraps.

Pink Pig Cafe is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 3750 W. Main St.

**Gaberino's Homestyle Italian:** Serving Norman since 2010, Gaberino's Homestyle Italian is a local, family-owned restaurant that features affordable dining. Gaberino's offers lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch, seasonal menus and take-and-cook meals.

Gaberino's has many options for those with dietary restrictions, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free meals. They also offer seasonal dishes, such as pumpkin-themed meals in the fall.

Gaberino's is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday with brunch until 2 p.m. at 400 Ed Noble Parkway.

**Redrock Canyon Grill:** In the center of Legacy Park, Redrock Canyon Grill is a local gathering spot for brunch, lunch and dinner. Boasting a large menu of fresh-off-the-grill entrees, the grill is known for its slow-roasted chicken and pork ribs. They also have an extensive drink menu, gluten-free options and live music most weekends on their covered patio.

Redrock Canyon Grill's social hour is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, offering special \$8 cocktails and martinis. Redrock's weekend brunch is another popular event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday.

The grill is open 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday as well as Sunday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1820 Legacy Park Drive.

### SHOPPING

**Sooner Mall:** Sooner Mall is Norman's largest enclosed shopping center, featuring over 60 stores including department stores, boutiques, fast food and even a trampoline park. The mall also hosts events, including children's safety classes and family activities. Information on the event calendar can be found on the mall's news and events page.

Sooner Mall is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at 3301 W. Main St.

**Parkway Plaza:** Located directly west of I-35, the Parkway Plaza shopping center is a bustling shopping district with retail, dining and specialty stores. The plaza offers a variety of store options that cater to many different customers.

Stores at Parkway Plaza include Barnes & Noble, PetSmart and Skechers, World Market, Boot Barn and J's Hallmark Shop.

Parkway Plaza is at 520 Ed Noble Parkway. Hours are available online and vary by store.

### ACTIVITIES

**Parks:** The west side of Norman has many outdoor spaces with trails, parks and playgrounds. One of the most notable is Ruby Grant Park at 3110 W. Franklin Road, which has a trail loop, sculptures, a dog park and a disc golf course. For sports fanatics, Westwood Park offers an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and a water park at 2400 Westport Drive. For trails and nature views, William Morgan Park has walking and running paths at 1701 Schooner Drive.

Hours differ by location and are available online.



PHOTOS BY ESTHER HODSON/OU DAILY

Gaberino's Homestyle Italian restaurant offers seasonal menu items.



Pink Pig Cafe serves authentic Korean food.



Sooner Mall is home to over 60 stores.

**Regal Spotlight:** One of two movie theaters in Norman, Regal Spotlight is a staple for residents to gather and enjoy films. The theater features reclining seats, many movie options and a concession stand with snacks, Pepsi products, sweets and slushies. Unique to Regal is its ScreenX option, a multi-projector experience that features 270-degree visuals for select movies.

Regal Spotlight shows the latest blockbuster movies and fan favorites, including reruns of classics, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. daily at 1100 N. Interstate Drive.

**HeyDay Norman:** Offering bowling, laser tag, mini-golf, an arcade and more, HeyDay is your one-stop shop for entertainment. HeyDay also serves food, with happy hour drink deals from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 p.m. to close Friday and Saturday.

Deals on bowling are available Monday and Sunday with price markdowns and free token funcards. Bowling lanes and birthday parties can be reserved online.

HeyDay is open 3 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight Friday, 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday at 3201 Market Place.





SAI YADAV/OU DAILY

The 748-foot iron bridge over Lake Overholser serves as a landmark for travelers looking for sections of the original Route 66.

# ROUTE 66 IN OKLAHOMA CITY

*Stop at landmarks, districts along the iconic American highway*

BY KOLBY BROWN • KOLBY.K.BROWN-1@OU.EDU

Oklahoma City features a section of Route 66, the iconic highway of American road trips and small-town culture. Running directly through the city, Route 66 crosses unique Oklahoma City districts, including the 39th Street, Asian, Adventure and Britton districts. This 2,400-mile highway also passes historic landmarks that help make Oklahoma City the cultural center it is.

Established in 1926, Route 66 is one of America's oldest highways that symbolizes classic American road travel. More than 400 of the highway's miles — the longest drivable stretch in any state — run through Oklahoma, a testament to the state's role in American traveling history.

For a classic road trip experience, driving Route 66 through Oklahoma City offers an adventure to remember.

## LANDMARKS

**Oklahoma State Capitol:** The Oklahoma State Capitol, finished in 1917, is a staple with its grand staircase, limestone pillars and bronze Native American statue on top. This building is home to the state's government and also houses large art galleries.

Free guided tours are offered by the Oklahoma Arts Council to see six floors filled with history. Walk-up tours are available for small groups at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on weekdays, and scheduled tours run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for larger groups. The first floor of the capitol building also houses Bee Healthy Cafe, serving smoothies, bowls and wraps from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Lake Overholser Bridge:** This Mother Road landmark

bridge opened in 1925 and has served as a historic marker for decades. Though Lake Overholser Bridge lost its official association with Route 66 in 1958, it is still considered a popular stop and an original highway landmark for its unique design. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 2004.

Lake Overholser also has many walking trail loops along the perimeter of the lake that cross the bridge as well as Overholser Park on the south side and Route 66 Park on the west.

## DISTRICTS

**Adventure District:** Oklahoma City's Adventure District is home to attractions, events, educational experiences and more. This district features local businesses and restaurants showcasing true Oklahoman culture.

For a family day out, The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens, World of Wings Pigeon Museum and the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex and Museum offer plenty of experiences. The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Science Museum Oklahoma and Oklahoma Railway Museum are perfect day trips for learners of all ages.

For food in the Adventure District, Bricktown Brewery, featuring horse racing and a casino, and Hank's, with a New Orleans- and Memphis-style menu, are both popular stops.

**39th Street District:** Known as The Strip, or Oklahoma City's "gayborhood," this inclusive neighborhood is a celebration of 2SLGBTQ+ community. Home to Oklahoma

City's annual Pride festivities, this district is also known for its flourishing nightlife.

The District Hotel hosts frequent events from karaoke to dance parties. The Boom, a dinner theater, hosts drag shows and live entertainment.

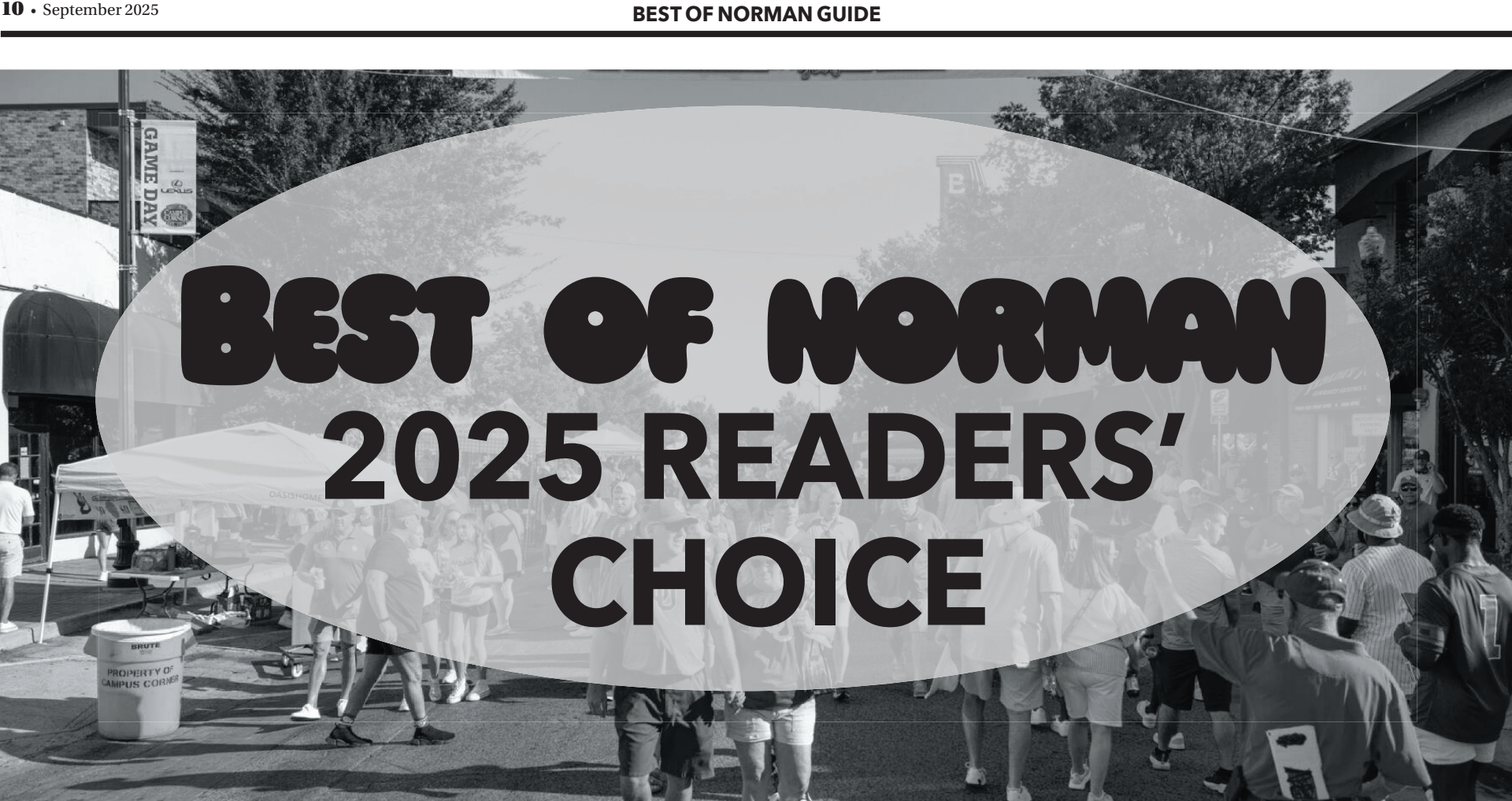
**Asian District:** In the 1970s, a large migration of Vietnamese immigrants to Oklahoma City created the thriving Asian District. Famous for its authentic Asian cuisine, this district contains some of Oklahoma City's best eateries. Pho Cuong Restaurant, Pho Lien Hoa and Seoul Pocha are some local favorites.

The Asian District can be a Route 66 coffee stop as well with many local cafes for visitors, including HQ Coffee and Classen Coffee Co. The iconic Milk Bottle Grocery building, a famous landmark for Route 66 travelers, is also in the district.

**Britton District:** The Britton District is a newer area to Oklahoma City, created by local business owners and neighbors who aim to preserve historic Britton Road and revitalize the area.

Filled with boutiques, tasty eats and music, this district is a must-stop along Route 66. Artwork and murals also play a huge role by adding unique sights and culture to the area. Some of the most must-see stops here include 89th Street, a music venue; 1492 New World Latin Cuisine, serving traditional Mexican food and cocktails; and Zero Tolerance Coffee & Chocolate, a local coffee roastery.





# BEST OF NORMAN 2025 READERS' CHOICE

ADEN CHOATE/OU DAILY

Each year, Best of Norman celebrates the businesses, restaurants and people that shape the community. This year, readers voted 30 categories, with the top three in each highlighted here. From longtime local favorites to new spots making their mark, the winners showcase the creativity and connection that makes Norman more than just a college town.

## FOOD AND DRINK

### BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

**Levity Breakfast House**  
309 S. Peters Ave.

What began as a childhood dream of two Portland-born brothers, became a reality when they brought a slice of Oregon to Norman in 2024: Levity. Many dishes are inspired by their grandmother's potato pancakes, Belgian waffles, scones and specialty sandwiches. A favorite drink at Levity is the matcha blueberry latte with blueberry syrup.

**#1 PICK Neighborhood JAM**  
102 W. Main St.

Neighborhood JAM has partnered with two local coffee roasters from bean to cup. They have gluten-free options in addition to some favorites: Hot Jam Biscuit – scratch-made biscuit stacked with fried chicken, bacon and egg and jalapeno peach jam – and The Heap – hash browns piled high with eggs, avocado, pico, cotija and select proteins.

### Press & Plow

800 W. Lindsey St. and 2596 W. Tecumseh Road

Press & Plow is a local favorite for coffee and elevated comfort food. It's perfect for a quick drive-thru latte or a relaxed dine-in meal. Locals rave about the eggs any style, applewood smoked bacon and toasted bread with signature strawberry basil jam. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it's a go-to spot for any time of day.

### DOUGHNUTS

**Crown Donuts**  
1106 24th Ave. SE

Crown Donuts offers custom letter-frosted donuts and classic flavors. This family-owned business specializes in adding creativity to taste with football-shaped donuts, great coffee and a selection of breakfast sandwiches. They have a wide variety of seasonal designs, perfect for parties, tailgates, cookouts and more. Top picks from Crown Donuts are the strawberry cream cheese, glazed blueberry cake and chocolate glazed donuts.

**#1 PICK Donut King**  
1214 W. Lindsey St.

Craving a donut late at night? Head to Donut

King to enjoy 24/7 drive-thru and in-store service. Choose from classics such as chocolate frosted or glazed, or try something new like a cronut or vanilla creme horn. Their menu goes beyond donuts with sandwiches, kolaches, muffins, sausage cheese rolls, coffees, floats, boba and many other treats and drinks.

**Main Street Donuts**  
906 W. Main St.

Main Street Donuts is a family-owned business, crafting a variety of donuts – anywhere from glazed red velvet to chocolate frosted. They also specialize in fun, character-shaped donuts. Some of their bestsellers are the dozen glazed donut holes, jumbo sausage rolls and their signature apple fritter.

### COFFEE

**Gray Owl Coffee**  
223 E. Gray St.

Gray Owl Coffee is a worker-owned and operated cafe with the motto, "handmade with love." Hung on the walls are pieces of art painted by local artists. They specialize in house-made syrups like lavender, mocha, french toast and other

seasonal flavors. Favorite drink orders include the Lavender Latte, French Toast Latte or the Clarity Coffee, perfect to pair with their blueberry scones.

**Stella Nova**  
1415 W. Main St.

Boasting a "sanctuary" atmosphere, Stella Nova is the perfect place to grab a drink and get homework done. Try their bestselling Toasted Cinnamon Cold Foam Brew or Lavender-Matcha Macchiato. All coffee is made specially with small-batch brewing and roasting for optimal flavor and thoughtfulness. This aesthetic atmosphere is the perfect place to unwind, debrief or get in last-minute exam studies.

**#1 PICK Yellow Dog Coffee Co.**  
222 S. Porter Ave. and 1230 E. Alameda St.

Want to enjoy a cup of coffee while supporting a good cause? Try Yellow Dog Coffee Co. for locally roasted, ethically sourced coffee. In addition to serving delicious brews, the coffee shop has a neighborhood pantry in the back and the owners run a local dog shelter. If you stop by, you have to try Rob's Way: espresso with lavender, honey and oat milk.



## FOOD TRUCK

### Beanstalk Sno

Stop at any of the five Beanstalk Sno locations to enjoy over 100 house blend syrups. If you're feeling chilly, opt for coffee made with private label Beanstalk Coffee Beans. Stop by the food truck or enjoy their brick-and-mortar locations, featuring Instagram-worthy decor and an interactive chalk gallery. If you're a pickle-lover, try their pickle juice snow cone – it's life-changing.

### BillyGoat Grub

209 W. Main St.

There's a lot to like about BillyGoat Grub whether it be the adventurous flavors or convenient location. You can try their rotating menu of globally inspired comfort food at their new brick-and-mortar restaurant or order delivery to any downtown brewery.

### Riko's Tacos

722 Asp Ave.

Authentic Mexican food is the key to Riko's Tacos' success. Not only can you visit their food truck and enjoy delicious tacos and cheesy quesadillas (even on game days), but this small local business offers tamales with free delivery to all of Norman. Plus, Riko's does catering to make your special events more flavorful.

## BURGERS

### Boxcar Burger

3420 N. Porter Ave.

Norman's go-to smash-style burgers with generous portions starts with Boxcar Burgers. The drive-up order vibe makes it a fun, bucket-list place to try on your day off or simply for an amazing burger. They use fresh, never-frozen beef with your choice of toppings. The fan favorite is the Oklahoma Onion Burger with cheese on Texas toast. Pair your burger with a favorite side item, Train Wreck Fries.

### The Brown Bag

3770 W. Robinson St.

The Brown Bag is home to a classic, southern cuisine with insanely crispy, hand-breaded chicken tenders, burgers and crunchy fries. No need to dress up to dine here, just come in your comfy clothes and enjoy a home-style meal. Every item on the menu is cooked fresh to order, and burgers are made with fresh ground beef, cooked the old-school way on a flat-top grill. Fan favorites from the menu are the Boomer Burger and the crinkle-cut fries.

### The Garage

307 E. Main St.

The Garage houses some of the tastiest burgers in Norman, made from Angus beef, turkey, buffalo or a plant-based garden patty. Some customer favorites include the BBQ Bacon Theta, Spicy Sriracha Bleu and Sticky Finger. The only downside to eating here is you might get full from the appetizers before you even dig into your entree. Their Thunder Fries are a crowd favorite – with bleu cheese, bacon and sriracha aioli.

## PIZZAS

### Amici Pizzeria

3408 36th Ave. NW

Amici Pizzeria is a Norman staple. Watch them cook your pizza in their brick oven while dining in or stop by for convenient curbside pickup. A must-try is their garlic knots paired with marinara sauce or their Diavolo pizza featuring Italian sausage and jalapenos.

### Pizza Shuttle

Since 1981, Pizza Shuttle has been preparing their fresh pizza dough and sauce daily. With such attention to detail and care for their craft, it's no wonder it has become a Norman favorite. Stop by any of their three locations and enjoy an average pickup time of 10-15 minutes. An order from Pizza Shuttle isn't complete without a Chicken Alfredo Pizza and a Mini Calzone.

### Volare Pizzeria

315 White St.

Want to feel like you're on an Italian getaway? Try Volare's Aperol Spritz, garnished with fresh rosemary. Pair the Italian summer drink with their Mt. Vesuvius dish: vodka pasta sauce, fresh basil, penne pasta noodles and garlic, with a home-made pizza dough wrapped over top of the bowl, creating a volcano-like presentation. Dine in and watch the chefs cook pizza in the wood-fired oven at the heart of the restaurant.

## ITALIAN

### Gaberino's Homestyle Italian

400 Ed Noble Parkway

Gaberino's Homestyle Italian is a family-owned restaurant using family recipes to make delicious meals from scratch. Since the restaurant opened in 2010, they have taken pride in accommodating a wide range of diets including vegan, vegetarian, low-carb and gluten free. This is reflected in their customizable menu options such as zucchini noodles and gluten-free penne.

### Sergio's Italian Bistro

104 E. Gray St.

"Norman's own little Italy" describes Sergio's Italian Bistro, with a full bar and menu specials such as Spinach and Goat Cheese Ravioli. Whether you want to grab a cocktail or sit down for an elegant dinner, Sergio's is the place to be.

### Victoria's The Pasta Shop

215 E. Main St.

For 30 years, Victoria's The Pasta Shop has been serving mouth-watering dishes made from simple, fresh ingredients. Walk into their welcoming restaurant and order the cheese bread as an appetizer while you wait for hot, homemade pasta. Victoria's is known for their signature Lasagna Rolls: fresh lasagna noodles wrapped around delicious fillings.

## MEXICAN

### El Huevo Mexi-Diner

3522 24th Ave. NW

El Huevo is focused on using fresh ingredients and creating unique twists on classic Mexican dishes.

Try their refreshing cocktails, Fromosa or Trop it Like it's Hot. Fan favorites off the food menu are the Huevos Rancheros and the Hangover Burrito. They even offer a grab-and-go breakfast. El Huevo Mexi-Diner is ready to satisfy your stomach with top-tier Mexican food.

### Mamaveca

2551 Hemphill Drive

This Peruvian-Mexican-style restaurant has a unique and unforgettable flavor. With unlimited queso that tastes like butter and fresh cilantro salsa, sometimes it's hard to save room for the main course! If you want a healthier dish, try a power bowl packed with protein of your choice, rice and beans, pico, guacamole and more.

### Tarahumara's Mexican Cafe & Cantina

702 N. Porter Ave.

Family-owned since 2001, Tarahumara's offers fresh salsa and chips, homemade corn tortillas and generous portions of their fajitas, tacos, enchiladas and more. They offer dine-in, takeout and delivery services to meet you where you're at. It's a go-to Tex-Mex hub in Norman with friendly staff and a lively atmosphere. From family dinners to margarita nights, Tarahumara's atmosphere meets the vibe of any occasion. Customers rave about the entire menu and say the seafood is exceptional.

## ASIAN

### Krave Teriyaki

1808 W. Lindsey St.

Krave Teriyaki offers Japanese-Korean fusion, focusing on house-made teriyaki sauce. They offer combos, plates, bento boxes, sushi and more. Popular orders from Krave are the California Roll, Teriyaki Chicken Roll, Unagi Roll and gyoza. They are known for their fast and friendly service with customers raving about the sides and appetizers.

### Sweet Basil

211 W. Main St.

If you're in the mood for authentic Thai food, stop by Sweet Basil, offering fresh, made-to-order Thai food since 2005. Whether you are dining in, picking up or ordering delivery from their convenient Main Street location, don't miss out on trying the pineapple fried rice or the evil jungle curry.

### The Moon Sushi & Asian Bistro

326 E. Main St.

The Moon Sushi & Asian Bistro is known for its specialty sushi rolls and house-made sauces. The Moon's fan favorites are the Meek Monster Roll, Seared Tuna Surprise, Habanero Heaven, Poke Bowl and more. Try their happy hour in a dive-bar setting with great service.

## VEGAN/VEGETARIAN

### Earth Cafe & Deli

309 S. Flood Ave.

Open since the mid-1980s, Earth Cafe & Deli is known for their organic quiche and vegan soup of the day. Immerse yourself in refreshing cuisine by sitting in the garden and sipping on a fruit smoothie, while having a slice of vegan lemon-blueberry cake. This quiet place is perfect

for reading books in the comfort of nature, tucked away with blossoming flowers and trees. You can't leave without trying their coffee.

### Mamaka Bowls

119 W. Boyd St.

Mamaka Bowls makes acai smoothie bowls with homemade and fresh toppings of your choice. Some Mamaka favorites are the Hangover Cure – coconut water, blueberries, banana, spinach, ginger and almond butter with berry and granola toppings – and the Pipeline Blend – peanut butter, strawberry, banana, acai, chocolate almond milk, granola and cacao nibs.

### Opolis

113 N. Crawford Ave.

Stop by Opolis, where there's live music every single weekend. Enjoy casual dining during the week with tasty appetizers like almond butter, walnut or date scones and the Lovelight Veggie Burger. Opolis is worker owned, making it a well-loved and thoughtful place to dine or enjoy some good music. Grab a bite to eat and some drinks to sip with friends or family.

## DESSERT

### Apple Tree Chocolate

209 E. Main St.

This chocolate factory, founded in 2015 by OU alums Scotty and Ashley Jackson, creates hand-crafted chocolates, including truffles, fudge and their signature caramel apples. Their hand-crafted chocolates are so tasty because they prepare the ingredients the old-fashioned way: in copper pots. A customer favorite is the slow-cooked caramel apples, with a variety of choices from Turtle Apple, Apple Pie, Snicker's Apple, Mexican Hot Coco and more.

### Il Dolce Gelato

1318 N. Interstate Drive

Established in 2007, Il Dolce Gelato is the first artisanal gelateria in Norman. Only using premium ingredients like hormone-free milk, this family-owned business crafts their gelato from scratch. Fun fact: their gelato has approximately half the calories and a third of the fat found in traditional American-style ice cream. If that doesn't sell you, then maybe the customer favorites can: Raspberry and Lemon Sorbet, Blackberry gelato and Sea Salt Caramel.

### La Baguette Bakery and Cafe

2100 W. Main St.

Established in 1984, La Baguette Bakery and Cafe is a family-owned, French-style bakery that is a Norman favorite. Locally famous for their European breads, pastries, cakes and cafe-style meals, it offers a daily menu that spans from soups to quiches – and everything in between. La Baguette has a strong reputation for high-quality cakes and desserts, in particular, the chocolate mousse cake, fruit tarts, tiramisu and German chocolate cake.

## SPONSORED CONTENT



Located at 209 W. Main St., BillyGoat Grub restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. BillyGoat Grub also won OU Daily's Best of Norman in the food truck category.

## FROM STREETS TO SEATS

### BillyGoat Grub food truck opens brick-and-mortar restaurant

For John Morris, managing partner of BillyGoat Grub, food is more than just a menu — it's a memory.

"One guy was eating a hamburger and said it tasted just like the ones his dad used to make and started crying," Morris said. "Reactions like that to really good food — that's the best part of cooking."

Four years after opening as a food truck, BillyGoat Grub expanded to a brick-and-mortar restaurant in April. In addition to the menu customers already know, the restaurant now has a full bar and a happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m.

"I love feeding people," Morris said. "(I love) seeing people leave happy. We've been able to do that with the food truck for a while. This is the next step up."

Morris started BillyGoat Grub in 2021, opening the business as a food truck with his parents. He had worked as a sous chef for a country club in Florida and wanted to bring a part of that experience back to Norman. That's why BillyGoat Grub's menu rotates regularly and elevates comfort food to be more gourmet, such as lobster macaroni and cheese or the Norman cheesesteak. Once the theme of the truck was

concrete, the trio finalized the rest of the business. The name came from Morris' high school nickname, "Goat," and his father's name, Bill. Thus, BillyGoat Grub was officially born.

"We've always been a close family," said Mary Poillion, Morris' mother and BillyGoat Grub's human resources manager. "This is getting to know each other in a different way. We're not providers to John anymore — we're his partners."

The business also strives to stay connected with the community. The art on the restaurant's walls is made by local artist Michael Bendure and is available for purchase.

BillyGoat Grub also participates in Brickwalk Bites on campus where a rotating list of food trucks are stationed every Tuesday and Thursday evening outside the Cross Village restaurants, and the food truck is parked on Jenkins Avenue and Boyd Street every home football game.

"We want to reach our community," Morris said. "If we come in and help support our neighbors, they'll come support us. At the end of the day, that's all we can ask for."

#### CAMPUS CORNER FOOD

##### Louie's Grill & Bar

301 W. Boyd St. and 3750 W. Robinson St.

Louie's Grill & Bar is a casual American eatery and pub with affordable options. Many flat screen TVs make it the perfect spot for game day, whether you want to catch Sooner football or Thunder basketball. Don't miss out on the Big Lou: a burger with american cheese, pickles, grilled onions and mustard. Plus, kids eat free on Wednesdays.

##### O'Connell's Irish Pub & Grille

769 Asp Ave.

Located in the heart of Campus Corner, O'Connell's Irish Pub & Grille is a frequented location for many. Wednesdays at O'Conn's are Karaoke Night — grab your friends and prepare to sing all night long. Known for their fried pickles with ranch, Norman customers and OU students rave about their bar food and endless shots menu. It's a great place to go after or during a football game to have great food and drinks.

##### #1 PICK Pepe Delgados

786 Asp Ave.

Stop by Pepe Delgados Mexican restaurant and try their signature Super Nachos dish. Here, the vibes are always welcoming and customers come ready to eat lots of great foods. In addition to great, traditional Mexican food, Pepe Delgados offers vegan and vegetarian friendly menu items. Also, try their flavorful Mexican beer.

#### CAMPUS CORNER BAR

##### Heist

750 Asp Ave.

Heist is nestled in the heart of Campus Corner. This dance/night club offers a unique vibe compared to the other traditional bar settings. If you like to dance, this is your place to bust some moves, with rotating DJs and high-energy music.

Heist makes sure you have a fully immersed dance and music experience with smoke and fog machines firing at the beat drops or to the beat of the song.

##### #1 PICK Logie's on the Corner

749 Asp Ave.

During football season, it's especially packed after game days with excited or sad OU fans. Come by for Power Hour every Friday during the school year from 4 to 6 p.m. or show up to Two Dollar Tuesday for \$2 beer the first two hours. Logie's sports-bar energy is always on point for the college student and offers an upper-deck patio, smoke room and multiple TVs usually playing ongoing sporting events.

##### The Porch

311 W. Boyd St.

The Porch has a rooftop patio that offers an amazing view of OU. Co-owned by former OU

football player Ryan Broyles, The Porch opened in 2017 and quickly attracted OU students and alums. The Porch bar also hosts Thirsty Thursday, which offers \$6 beer pitchers for a wallet-friendly night out. It's an essential spot to hit up if you're out bar-hopping with friends.

#### NORMAN STAPLE

##### #1 PICK Midway Deli

601 W. Eufaula St.

This might be as local as it gets — Midway Grocery & Market. This neighborhood deli has all the flavors packed into their classic, made-to-order sandwiches. A Norman favorite is none other than The Vulcan sandwich: a hot, panini-pressed sandwich, layered with turkey, avocado and special sauce on provolone that's sure to melt your tastebuds. Don't forget to leave your mark — grab a Sharpie and sign your names on the wall after you're done eating.

##### Othello's Italian Restaurant

434 Buchanan Ave.

Family-owned for over 35 years, Othello's serves classic Italian dishes — pasta, pizza and seafood — with fair prices and a family-friendly atmosphere. Othello's is home to the award-winning Coconut Cream Pie, a favorite among locals. Come on a Friday night and enjoy live piano and singing with jazz performances. Try their crowd-favorite baked ziti, lasagna, chicken Parmesan or shrimp scampi.

##### The Diner

213 E. Main St.

The Diner's location has housed different restaurants for over a century. The Diner itself has been open since 1989 with the owner and their family having a famous chili-making background since the Great Depression.

Their famous chili intertwines with The Diner's menu — Tex-Mex breakfast/lunch and of course chili on anything you like. Crowd favorites are the Eggarito — scrambled eggs with green chiles, cheese, ranchero sauce in a tortilla — the Mexiscram, Santa Fe chicken burger and blueberry pancakes.

#### BAR/BREWERY

##### #1 PICK (405) Brewing Co.

205 E. Main St.

Searching for community and a delicious drink? Look no further than (405) Brewing Co. Join their book club or craft club to find friends or host your own event with their event space including bar seating and two outdoor patios. Enjoy a dog-friendly tap room while ordering off their substantial menu including "Norman" — your local lite beer.

##### Lazy Circles Brewing

422 E. Main St.

After starting as homebrewers, Lazy Circles Brewing opened its doors in 2017. As Norman



locals, they knew a local craft beer experience was exactly what the city needed. Try their Trail Ale or catch one of their seasonal options such as Boss Lady or Summer Breeze. Don't miss out on their tasting events to sample many drinks or their Beer and Yoga event on Saturdays.

#### Legally Brewed

123 W. Main St.

You'll find Norman's newest brewery and tap room, Legally Brewed, offering fun twists on classic styles. Stop by on Tuesday to enjoy domino night or Wednesday for \$1 off 6-ounce wine pours. If you want a sweet treat with your beverage, find scrumptious cookies in the tap room from local partner Six30 Sweets.

#### HAPPY HOUR

##### Blu Fine Wine & Food

201 S. Crawford Ave.

Established in 2007, Blu Fine Wine & Food offers cozy ambiance, American-style tapas, and an extensive wine list. Enjoy \$5 pizzas and \$2.50 pints during Happy Hour plus monthly wine tastings. Signature pizza This Little Figgy features figs, bacon and balsamic. Blu is a local favorite for professors and alums, offering everything from tacos to burgers, all thoughtfully crafted in a relaxed yet sophisticated setting.

##### Rally Kitchen + Bar (Noun Hotel)

542 S. University Blvd.

Rally Kitchen is housed in the first floor of The NOUN, a boutique hotel perfect for an elevated dining experience. Offering traditional American cuisine with seasonal menu items, its locally-sourced ingredients supply breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert. Try their hand-crafted cocktails to pair with the charcuterie board and steak frites for a special outing, or the pancakes with a mimosa for a relaxed comfort breakfast.

##### #1 PICK Scratch Kitchen & Cocktails

132 W. Main St.

In the heart of Norman, Scratch Kitchen & Cocktails is known for their house-made sauces, southern/southwestern flare and cocktails. They don't use artificial additives or high-fructose corn syrups in their food, making it a naturally tasty choice for lunch or dinner. Customer favorites are the pan-seared Atlantic salmon and the Southwestern Salad with your choice of chicken, steak, shrimp or salmon on top.

#### DATE NIGHT/SPECIAL OCCASION

##### #1 PICK Benvenuti's

105 W. Main St.

Founded in 2005, Benvenuti's blends traditional Italian dishes with flavorful twists. The vibe is romantic and upscale-casual. Try their Snow Crab Claws, sauteed in garlic-lemon white wine butter sauce. With over 150 boutique wine selections offered by the bottle, half-bottle, in tasting flights and more, cele-

brate your loved-ones on a special night out. Their dishes are always exceptional, especially the pasta and seafood.

##### Legend's Restaurant

1313 W. Lindsey St.

Family-owned since the late 1960s, Legend's Restaurant is known for its house-made soups, specialty salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks and pasta. They make eight to 10 fresh desserts daily, with fan favorites being the bread pudding and lemon cream cake. Many visitors say the Mediterranean Chicken and Lasagna Rolls are top tier entrees. Legend's is a great place to take your significant other on a date or anniversary celebration.

##### Ranch Steakhouse

2120 24th Ave. NW

At Ranch Steakhouse, every steak is hand-cut with 100% USDA Certified Prime ribeyes, filets and strips. The Ranch gives a Midwest flair to an up-scale, classic steakhouse. The service and atmosphere is excellent with reviews that read "impeccable service." Try the ribeye or the tenderloin filet with warm mashed potatoes. This steakhouse is a Norman-staple for a top-quality experience.

#### PATIO DINING

##### #1 PICK The Mont

1300 Classen Blvd.

Known for its Sooner Swirl drink and Loaded Fries appetizer, The Mont is a Norman staple. They are said to have some of the best ranch and fried pickles, making some customers ranch addicts. Celebrate your birthday there for a free and unique Mont T-shirt. The Mont experience is a bucket list item for many OU students, alums and local residents.

##### The Library Bar & Grill

607 W. Boyd St.

Opening in the 1920s, The Library is a 20th-century home made into an English pub-style restaurant. Try their famous Bavarian Pretzel with beer cheese. The Library also has outstanding, thin-crust pizza with fresh toppings. Their hand-crafted ale is a major attraction for customers, paired nicely with a great menu. Their tap list is extensive: including local brews, imports, domestic beers and more. Come to happy hour where Imperial Brewhouse Pints are between \$1.50-\$2.

##### The Standard

315 E. Gray St.

This beer garden is known for its relaxing, serene atmosphere with outdoor seating shaded by canopies. Enjoy cornhole while sipping on a refreshing spritz drink or choose from the endless list of draft beers and IPAs. Try the fried okra with one of their classic burgers if you're feeling hungry.

SEE MORE >>>

#### SPONSORED CONTENT



Located at 315 E. Gray St., The Standard is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

## SETTING THE STANDARD

### Local restaurant raises the bar with flavor and community spirit

The restaurant was packed to the brim.

It was fall of 2024, and The Standard was hosting seven bands on its patio over the course of two days for BluesFest, the second annual event celebrating local artists. The patio and inside dining area buzzed with laughter as live music drifted through the air. A record number of customers filled the space.

Seeing the joy on everyone's face, The Standard's managing partner Cameron Brewer knew one thing: this is why they were doing this.

Opening in 2022, The Standard is a restaurant and beer garden in the heart of Norman, designed for family and friends to enjoy exceptional food, 48 local beers and expertly mixed cocktails.

"There are so many memories we've created here," Brewer said. "That's my favorite thing. We're constantly creating memories because there are always events or people having fun nights out here."

Though there were plenty of places in Norman dedicated to college students, Brewer and his family, consisting of his mother and three siblings, noticed a lack of places for the overall community. They set out to find a place where they could change that, where every age was welcome.

"We wanted to fill the missing piece of Norman that we felt," Brewer said.

The Standard is a refurbished version of what once was an automotive shop, originally built in 1938. The family loved every part of the building, from the ceiling to the patio, and sought to create a place all generations could enjoy.

"What's been really cool is seeing that concept play out," Brewer said. "We'll have an older couple celebrating here and then a group of college students a table over. They're all having fun. They're all hanging out."

Along with food and drinks, The Standard aims to be involved in its community. They host multiple events a week, partnering with different nonprofits and schools in the area to collaborate with the community. The restaurant's event schedule is available on its website and caters to Norman residents, visitors and OU students.

"There are so many cool choices (students) have in Norman," Brewer said. "This is one of those options, whether it's to come here with friends, to host an event, or to just get away from campus. We're not a bar that's open late, but we're one that we hope will feel like home."



## SPONSORED CONTENT



Located at 614 N. Porter Ave., Speeding Bullet Comics is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

# ‘THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR COMICS’

## Speeding Bullet Comics encourages art and literacy in Norman

Even with media pivoting to a digital format, Matt Price, Speeding Bullet Comics co-owner and OU alum, believes there will always be a place for comics.

“I think digital is a great way to sample stuff, but I think people always want to have a bookshelf full of stuff they enjoy,” Price said. “They want to interact with the smell and the feel of the paper and just have a more personal experience with it.”

Over the last 27 years, Speeding Bullet Comics has made it its mission to serve the Norman community by bringing art and literacy to people. The store sells a selection of comics, action figures, toys and collectibles appealing to all ages and demographics.

Comic books remain an expression of art and culture for artists, writers and readers

everywhere, according to Price. The store has seen a wide range of customers and artists over the years, from college students to local families.

“We try to have a mix available for anybody who’s into reading,” Price said. “We’re here to promote a love of art, reading and to try to share literacy with people. It’s crazy that when we started, there were only a handful of graphic novels in print. Now there are thousands.”

In October, Speeding Bullet will host its annual Kraken sale, which will feature a large selection of half-price graphic novels.

“The sale will be pretty heavy on graphic novels,” Price said. “We’re pretty heavy on reading material between book format comics and monthly periodical comics. We even have some back issues dating back to the 1940s.”

On Dec. 17, Price will launch his very own comic book, “Team America Racing,” in the 2,000th edition of Comic Shop News, a national publication that publishes weekly in comic stores across the country.

## NEW RESTAURANTS

**Amy’s Italian Restaurant**

2627 Classen Blvd.

At Amy’s Italian Restaurant, the atmosphere is cozy and family-welcoming. Crowd-favorite appetizers are the fresh-baked rolls and garlic bread, fried calamari and the garlic-basil cheese rolls. They even offer gluten-free pasta options that are said to taste just as delicious. Try the lobster ravioli entree – lobster-filled ravioli, simmered in alla panna sauce – paired nicely with the Limoncello Mascarpone dessert. Or if you like chocolate, try the Triple Chocolate Cheesecake.

**Rosa Mezcal Mexican Grill and Cantina**

214 E. Main St.

Having recently opened in December 2024, Rosa Mezcal has instantly attracted Mexican food-lovers from all over town. Crowd favorites are the Quesabirria tacos, Taco Shots, El Jefe shrimp, guacamole and fried plantains. Try the Noche en Tulum cocktail – mezcal, lime juice, limoncello and blue curaçao – a strikingly blue cocktail served in an elegant octopus-shaped glass.

**#1 PICK** **Tamashii Ramen House**  
126 W. Main St.

Tamashii Ramen House opened in 2015, offering top-rated ramen dishes at their Norman location since 2024. Try their unique bowls – Miso Butter Corn, Curry, Spicy Miso or Mazemen. Enjoy their anime-inspired art and decor while you eat, with great service and bold flavors.

## SHOPPING/ SERVICES

## THRIFT/VINTAGE

**Crimson Vintage**

406 E. Main St.

Crimson Vintage is a top-rated vintage thrift shop with a curated collection of quality merchandise – specifically OU apparel. Stop by for a cozy collection of vintage OU clothing, especially if you love collecting shirts. On a lucky day you might find an old football game shirt from the ‘80s or a vintage OU logo shirt that you can’t find anywhere else. Crimson Vintage will exceed your thrifty needs with quality pieces and affordable prices.

**Donate a Miracle Thrift Store & Boutique**

1104 24th Ave. SE

Opening in 2012 and recently relocating to a new storefront, Donate a Miracle has been a place of refuge for those in need of clothing, furnishings and more. Supported by SAKs Outreach, Donate a Miracle has played a pivotal role in donations for natural disasters like the 2012 wildfires and the 2013 Moore tornado disaster. Find vintage and unique DVDs, vintage furniture and more – in addition to clothing and coats.

**#1 PICK** **Uptown Cheapskate**  
1724 24th Ave. NW

Want to find name-brand steals for a fraction of the price? Want to make a little extra cash by sell-

ing your old clothes? Uptown Cheapskate offers gently-used clothing, shoes, accessories and more for up to 70% off retail pricing. They often sell Coach, Michael Kors, Lululemon, J. Crew and many other notable brands. Stop by to elevate your wardrobe or make some extra cash.

## BOUTIQUE APPAREL

**Cayman’s Clothiers**

2001 W. Main St.

Cayman’s has been serving the Norman community as a boutique since 1982. Here, they offer curated clothing selections for men, women and children, along with home decor and beauty products. Its abundance of name-brand, designer apparel and jewelry makes it unique. Cayman’s roots grow deep into the history of Norman fashion and is among the top stores in Norman for great shopping experiences.

**#1 PICK** **Human Interaction**  
224 E. Main St.

Established in an early-1900s post-office building in downtown Norman, Human Interaction offers a welcoming atmosphere with clothing, gifts and Oklahoma-inspired T-shirts. They have a collection of handmade accessories, plants and flowers, stationery, candles and all things adorable for thoughtful gifts and home decoration. The customer service is customized to each clients’ needs, according to many Norman locals. Stop by after work or on a day where you’d like to explore. *Note: Human Interaction has closed since voting ended.*

**Lucca**

319 W. Boyd St.

Lucca’s fashion boutique is a trendy clothing store geared toward college women. Since opening in 2004, Lucca’s has curated East and West Coast fashion into one vibrant shop for OU college students to wear. Lucca’s features famous brands like Free People, Agolde, Birkenstock, Ray-Ban and other notable beauty and candle brands. There is always a sale rack with amazing deals and beautiful clothing to choose from, or you can check out the new racks with the latest trends.

## BEST PLACE FOR OU GEAR/MERCH

**#1 PICK** **Balfour of Norman**  
792 Asp Ave.

At Balfour, you can find graduation keepsakes to cherish, OU merchandise like T-shirts, mugs and even athletic gear for any OU team. Since 1974, Balfour has been providing Norman with top-quality OU gear and gifts for many. Stop by before the start of school or for gameday apparel to be ready to cheer on the Sooners.

**Campus Corner Store**

745 Asp Ave.

The Campus Corner Store is a bookstore offering OU merchandise, gifts and more. Perfect for alums, parents, fans and students – Campus Corner Store is the place to go for all things back-to-school, game days and celebration gear. It’s conveniently located in the historic Campus



Corner district and offers in-store pickups and curbside options, with great places to eat nearby.

### The Apothem

733 Asp Ave.

At the Apothem you can find a variety of OU, sorority and fraternity merchandise. Discover your perfect gameday outfit with ease when you shop their variety of trendy shirts featuring phrases such as “Beat Texas” and “I Hate Orange.” Searching for jewelry? Check out the charm bar where you can create custom necklaces and bracelets.

### STYLIST

#### Cutting Edge

600 W. Main St.

Looking for cuts, colors, perms, extensions, manicures, pedicures, waxing and up-dos all in one convenient place? Look no further than Cutting Edge, a clean and friendly neighborhood salon. Walk right in with no appointment necessary. Enjoy fuss-free haircuts for children as the stylists are known to work well with kids.

#### Edith & Branch Salon

3522 24th Ave. NW

At Edith & Branch Salon enjoy a laidback luxury vibe and stylists who are not only dedicated to your experience but also planet conservation. Choose from services such as hair cuts, hair styling, extensions, barbering and waxing. Appointments are strongly encouraged but not required.



#### Rock Paper Scissor Hair Studio

1200 12th Ave. SE

Rock Paper Scissor Hair Studio is an upscale hair salon that has been servicing the Norman community since 2009. Here, a variety of services are offered including hair cuts, up-dos, make-up application, kids cuts, beard trims, color, waxing, texture services, sew-ins, bridal services and special occasion styling.

### BARBERSHOP

#### Beauty & Designz Studio Lounge

100 E. Lindsey St.

Officially opening in spring of 2021, Beauty & Designz Studio Lounge is the first Black-owned beauty lounge on campus. They offer braiding and barbering, loc styling, keratin treatments and access to a beauty supply store. The atmosphere at Beauty & Designz Studio is casual and welcoming – they even have a pool table for all to use.

#### Midway Barbershop

213 E. Main St.

As Oklahoma's oldest barbershop founded around 1893, Midway Barbershop offers classic barbering accommodations up to date with today's looks. Clients love Midway's traditional and casual atmosphere, with modern techniques for beard trims, hot towel straight-razor shaves, fades and more. They are cash-only and walk-in friendly.



#### The Mane Man

1215 W. Lindsey St.

Servicing the Norman community for over 40 years, this barbershop serves as a hybrid salon and barbershop for men, women and children. Haircut pricing is budget-friendly and perfect for

college students looking to save money.

### MANI/PEDI



#### La Fleur Nails Norman

1049 12th Ave. NE

Nothing is worse than an unsanitary nail salon. That's why La Fleur Nails Norman keeps cleanliness as their number one priority. Feel good about your mani-pedi experience knowing La Fleur only uses the most trusted brands in the beauty industry. Make sure to experience the Signature Pedicure La Fleur 24k Gold which uses real gold to rejuvenate the skin.

#### Le Visage Spa & Wellness

3540 RC Luttrell Drive

Le Visage Spa & Wellness opened its current location in the fall of 2024 with a community-based ribbon-cutting event. Every year since 1996, Le Visage has been voted best spa, facial, massage, esthetician and tanning service in Norman. This spa offers a tranquil, resort-style atmosphere, staffed with expert therapists and masseurs. Stop by for relaxation and rejuvenation from the award-winning experts at Le Visage.

#### Noir Nail Studio

1915 Classen Blvd.

At Noir Nail Studio, you are greeted with a smiling face and a complimentary basket of chips, soda and water delivered to your side. Enjoy excellent nail service in a clean and elegant facility with stunning gold detailing. At Noir, beauty is made to feel “personal, effortless and uplifting.”

### FLORIST

#### Betty Lou's Flowers & Gifts

445 W. Gray St.

In 1979, Betty and Dewight Mitchell combined their love for flowers and serving people to create Betty Lou's Flowers & Gifts. Today, their daughter continues that legacy with passion and dedication, offering same-day flower delivery to Norman and surrounding areas from their shop. Welcome guests to campus with a Sooner Bouquet or enjoy fresh flowers regularly through subscription packages.

#### Redbud Floral

913 N. Flood Ave.

Searching for a wide selection of fresh flowers? Look no further than Redbud Floral, a family owned and operated floral shop offering the largest inventory of fresh flowers in Norman. Elect for the Simply Happy Bouquet to enjoy a mix of blue, purple and white flowers in a gray marble vase or the Happy Birthday Mug arrangement for a festive twist.



#### The Flower Shop

1440 N. Porter Ave.

For about 10 years now, The Flower Shop has been a woman and family-owned flower shop, offering seasonal arrangements and custom florals for events. This beautiful shop supports local farmers and offers custom flower arrangements, wrapped bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres, potted plants and more.

## EXPERIENCE

### BOOK/COMIC STORE



#### Green Feather Book Company

300 W. Gray St.

Norman's oldest bookstore, Green Feather Book Company is a woman and Indigenous-owned bookstore. Owner Heather Hall is part Chickasaw, and her Native name is Green Feather. This bookstore offers new and used books with an emphasis on Native authors and history sections.

#### Speeding Bullet Comics

614 N. Porter Ave.

Beginning in 1998, Speeding Bullet Comics is a staple for comic lovers. In 2005, the store became a nominee for the Will Eisner Spirit of Retailing Award. Speeding Bullet Comics is known for its welcoming atmosphere with a passion for connection. They offer graphic novels, manga and trade paperbacks with collectables, including action figures, limited-edition statues and other merchandise. Speeding Bullet also hosts in-store events like Free Comic Book Day, author signing days and book clubs.

#### The Lore

220 S. Porter Ave.

The Lore is a creative general store that sells new and used books, locally made art, handmade items, stationery and more. In early 2022, The Lore was merely a pop-up shop, but in 2024, it became a brick-and-mortar storefront, fostering the love of art and community in a permanent location.

### MUSIC VENUE

#### Hollywood Corners

4712 N. Porter Ave.

Hollywood Corners is a renovated 1920s dance hall that has been converted into a restaurant, offering bar service and live music every week. It features indoor and outdoor stages, and event hosting is available to all who schedule. The Hollywood Corners menu offers traditional American staples like soups, sandwiches, cold beer, cocktails and other great snacks.



#### The Deli

309 White St.

The Deli – Norman's longest running live music venue – is a historic dive bar that has serviced customers since the 1970s. The cozy, snug environment is an attraction to many, especially on quieter nights. Despite its tiny quarters, packed karaoke nights are what makes The Deli so special. They offer live music seven nights a week with great bands and signature menu items.

#### The Depot

200 S. Jones Ave.

Built in 1909 and formerly known as the Santa Fe train station, The Depot is now a historic arts venue operated by the Norman Arts Council. Presently, The Depot hosts art shows, live music, films, performances, workshops and more in hopes of bringing Norman residents together through community and culture.

### WORKOUT/FITNESS



#### Downtown Fitness on West Lindsey

1610 W. Lindsey St.

Ever dreamed of doing cardio in a cinema room with a surround sound system? Make your dreams come true at Downtown Fitness on West Lindsey. Locally owned and operated for almost 20 years, not only is this the swaggiest place to achieve your fitness goals with personal trainers at affordable rates, but also the perfect place to get into bodybuilding with posing clinics designed for any level of athlete.

#### Fusion Fitness and Yoga

323 E. Main St.

Since 2011, Lindsey, owner of Fusion Fitness and Yoga, has focused on fitness that improves physical and mental health. Here, you'll find group and private yoga classes for all levels along with Vinyasa flow classes, led by NCAA-certified trainers. Classes are designed to be accessible and affordable so that everyone can live “a happy, healthy life.”

#### Stoic Strength and Fitness

2751 36th Ave.

At Stoic Strength and Fitness, your fitness goals are made easy. Backed by the support of certified coaches, small class sizes of 1-18 people and modifiable workouts from beginner to advanced, you will feel empowered to train at your own pace while making real, lasting progress. Boost not only your strength, cardio and hypertrophy, but also have fun and build community by trying a 60-minute class today.

### ANNUAL EXPERIENCE

#### Medieval Fair

Reaves Park, 2501 Jenkins Ave.

The Norman Medieval Fair was founded in 1977 by an OU English department alum in honor of William Shakespeare's birthday. By 1994, the fair expanded from one day to a three-day event. The fair is free to attend and offers a plethora of events to immerse yourself in: jousting tournaments, dancers and theater, juggling and even human chess matches. The fair is usually held in early April each year.



#### Norman Music Festival

Downtown Norman

Originating in 2008, the annual Norman Music Festival has grown into a multiple-day event featuring local and national bands. It's the largest free music festival in the state. NMF transforms downtown into streets of pop-up tents, local venues and various performances each spring.

#### Norman Pride

Downtown Norman

This all-ages, family-friendly event features community entertainment and fierce performances, including an opening drag show. Don't miss the grand finale: the pride parade, which is free to attend. Celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ pride with live music, local vendors and delectable food trucks.





BOB NGUYEN/OU DAILY

Super Cao Nguyen supermarket offers a wide selection of fresh seafood and produce.

# ASIAN DISTRICT

Oklahoma City's center for international eats, global markets

BY MEGAN HOWARTH • MEGANHOWARTH@OU.EDU

Oklahoma City's Asian District, between 23rd and 30th streets in the center of Oklahoma City, was created by an influx of Vietnamese immigrants in the 1970s. The Asian District is filled with shopping and international cuisine.

## DINING

**Cafe De L'Asie:** Cafe De L'Asie is an Asian-inspired, intercultural restaurant offering bowls, wraps and bánh mí. Drinks include bubble tea, hot chocolate and Vietnamese iced coffee. They are open for dine in, takeout and delivery. The restaurant plans to open a second location in Oklahoma City in 2026.

Cafe De L'Asie is open 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at 100 W. Main St.

**Pho Lien Hoa:** Pho Lien Hoa is an authentic Vietnamese restaurant offering a variety of rice noodle soups, vermicelli noodle bowls, cuts of beef thit and egg rolls. With affordable prices, this restaurant also offers a variety of drinks, including Thai tea, espresso drinks and smoothies.

Pho Lien Hoa is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at 901 NW 23rd St. The restaurant is cash only.

**VII Asian Bistro:** VII Asian Bistro offers a blend of Vietnamese and Chinese flavors with an extensive menu featuring noodles, spring rolls, pho and soups. Owned by father and son, Mr. Kim and David, the bistro caters events

and parties with locations in Oklahoma City and Moore.

VII Asian Bistro is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at 2900 N. Classen Blvd.

**Cafe Kacao:** Cafe Kacao serves brunch dishes inspired by dishes from southern Mexico, Guatemala and South America. Founded by Veronica Zelada and Luidgi Del Cid, the restaurant has operated for 14 years bringing food, heritage and tradition to its customers. They serve a variety of dishes including frijolada, carne adobada, chilaquiles verdes and huevos rancheros.

Cafe Kacao is open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 3325 N. Classen Blvd.

**Big Boss Noodle & Tea:** Big Boss Noodle & Tea serves a variety of dishes including dumplings, noodle dishes, braised beef, duck and milk teas. The restaurant caters and hosts private parties.

Big Boss Noodle & Tea is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday at 2524 N. Military Ave.

**Quoc Bao Bakery:** Quoc Bao Bakery is a Vietnamese bakery known for its bánh mì and honeycomb cake. The bakery also serves lunch items such as barbecue pork and chicken sandwiches.

Quoc Bao Bakery is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through

Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at 2501 N. Classen Blvd.

## SHOPPING

**Super Cao Nguyen:** Open since the late 1970s, Super Cao Nguyen is Oklahoma City's oldest Asian grocery store. The food market sells a wide variety of products including seafood, tropical fruit, meat, herbs, baked goods and produce.

Super Cao Nguyen is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 2668 N. Military Ave.

**Craig's Curious Emporium:** Craig's Curious Emporium is a gift shop that sells candles, jewelry, oils, incense and books. The locally owned and operated shop also offers specialty items.

Craig's Curious Emporium is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Monday at 1209 NW 23rd St.

**Chinatown Supermarket:** Chinatown Supermarket sells a variety of Asian products, seafood and spices. Fruits are offered seasonally through summer and fall including jackfruits and durians.

Chinatown Supermarket is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1228 NW 27th St.



# PLAZA DISTRICT

Find unique shops,  
a lively arts scene

BY MEGAN HOWARTH •  
MEGANHOWARTH@OU.EDU

Oklahoma City's Plaza District is known for its restaurants, community events, boutiques and vibrant art scene.

## DINING

**The Press:** The Press is an American restaurant with an extensive menu including chicken-fried ribeye, fry bread tacos, salmon caesar salad and a Mashed Tater Bowl. It offers gluten-free and vegetarian options along with catering services and private party rooms.

The Press is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at 1610 N. Gatewood Ave.

**The Mule:** The Mule serves a variety of sandwiches and salads including the Macaroni Pony, the Angry Texan, chicken Caesar salad and spinach salad. Vegetarian options include the Herbivore sandwich, house salad and more. The restaurant also features specials and a happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Mule is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at 1800 NW 16th St.

**Ma Der Lao Kitchen:** Ma Der Lao Kitchen is a Laotian restaurant serving family-style dishes and cocktails including the original Lao papaya salad, minced shrimp salad, spicy mushroom stew and coconut soup. Vegan and gluten-free options are available, and the restaurant offers catering. Happy hour is from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Ma Der Lao Kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1634 N. Blackwelder Ave.

**Empire Slice House:** Empire Slice House serves New York style pizza and salads. The extensive menu includes the RBG Supreme, the Rocksteady and the Notorious P.I.G. The restaurant offers a gluten-free crust and vegetarian options.

Empire Slice House's Plaza District location is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday at 1804 NW 16th St.

**Osteria:** Osteria is an Italian restaurant serving lunch, dinner and brunch. The menu includes cacio e pepe, tomato and burrata salad, salmon Siciliano and homemade lasagna. Desserts include tiramisu, New York cheesecake and gelato. The restaurant serves many beverages including Italian sodas.

Osteria is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to midnight



JAMEE KALISIK/OU DAILY

With locations in Edmond and Oklahoma City, The Mule serves a variety of sandwiches and beers.

Friday, 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at 1704 NW 16th St.

## SHOPPING

**Dig It OKC:** Dig It OKC is an eco-friendly boutique offering vintage clothing, jewelry and accessories. The shop celebrates all kinds of styles including punk, drag and goth. Customers can also play a free round of Pac-Man.

Dig It OKC is open noon to 7 p.m. daily at 1739 NW 16th St.

**Bad Granny's Bazaar:** Bad Granny's Bazaar offers recycled and upcycled collectibles, vintage clothing, gifts, jewelry and pieces of art from local vendors. The store also has weekly prize giveaways of bags, goodies and more.

Bad Granny's Bazaar is open noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 1759 NW 16th St.

**Dog Daze Vintage:** Dog Daze Vintage offers vintage clothing, accessories and home decor inspired by styles from the 1950s through the 1990s. The store is currently developing an online shopping option.

Dog Daze Vintage is open noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1708 NW 16th St.

**Holy Thrift:** Holy Thrift is a women's vintage boutique that supports local, independent designers. Shoppers can browse online and in-store. The store's website includes a blog covering topics from fashion to politics.

Holy Thrift is open from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1618 N. Gatewood Ave.

## ACTIVITIES

**OKC Improv:** OKC Improv offers live comedy shows with regular performances at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, as well as special shows and student showcases. The group also hosts a variety of classes and workshops in improv, sketch and stand-up comedy, open to all ages and skill levels.

Tickets for the regular shows cost \$12 and can be found online along with class sign-ups. The venue is found at 1755 NW 16th St.

**Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma:** The Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma stages musicals and plays year-round. Its current season includes "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "A Christmas Carol." The lineup for 2026 includes "Beehive," "Annie," "Sweeney Todd," "Sister Act" and "Come From Away." The theater also offers summer camps, musical theater technique classes and youth productions through the Thelma Gaylord Academy.

Season tickets or single show tickets can be purchased online. Class schedules are available online. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1727 NW 16th St.

**Plaza Yoga & Bodywork:** Plaza Yoga & Bodywork offers weekend workshops, yoga teacher training and classes throughout the week. The studio also offers private yoga instruction, Thai yoga bodywork and training, and massage therapy school.

Class times vary and are posted on the studio's Instagram and online. The studio is found at 1745 NW 16th St.





PHOTOS BY CONNER LIN/OU DAILY

The district's 30th Street Market includes a patio, bike shop, doughnut shop and restaurant.

# PASEO ARTS DISTRICT

## Get creative with galleries, specialty stores

BY KOLBY BROWN • KOLBY.K.BROWN-1@OU.EDU

The historic Paseo Arts District in Oklahoma City is a walkable neighborhood filled with art galleries, local boutiques and unique architecture. Built in 1929, this district is home to over 80 working artists and many studios, restaurants and shops.

Known for its art festival held every May, welcoming atmosphere and fun events, the Paseo district is a hub for community, creativity and artistry. Its monthly First Friday Gallery Walk events feature live music, shopping and gallery viewings.

### ART GALLERIES

**Art On Paseo:** Art On Paseo is a mixed-style art gallery featuring two- and three-dimensional artwork from Oklahoma artists in various mediums. New exhibits open monthly showcasing individual and group works.

Art On Paseo is open noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at 2928 Paseo.

**Needlepoint at Su Casa:** Needlepoint at Su Casa is a family-owned store founded in 2016 by mother-daughter duo Lin Sanchez and Liz McGuinness. The shop sells artwork as well as supplies for crafters looking to create their own pieces.

Needlepoint at Su Casa is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at 3016 Paseo.

**JW Jewelry & Home:** Owned by artist Jennifer Woods,

JW Jewelry & Home offers handmade jewelry and home decor. The store is known for its high-quality materials and one-of-a-kind designs.

JW Jewelry & Home is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 3018 Paseo.

### DINING

**Barseo:** Barseo offers craft cocktails, trendy dishes and weekly events, including live music. The bar offers reservations for events and a special menu for social hour from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Barseo is open 4 p.m. to midnight Tuesday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday at 3020 N. Walker Ave.

**Burger Punk:** Burger Punk is a punk rock-themed burger joint, which started as a food truck. The restaurant's specialty is its craft burgers, including the Green Daze and Whiskey Mushroom Burger. The restaurant also offers macaroni and cheese, a kids' menu, lunch specials, along with a large selection of whiskey and beer.

Burger Punk is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at 3012 N. Walker Ave. Happy hour offers \$5 drafts and well drinks and \$3 off burgers from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**30th Street Market:** 30th Street Market serves baked items, coffee, wine, beer and brunch food. The



The Paseo district hosts an annual arts festival in May.

neighborhood market has a cozy outdoor patio area and is home to other businesses including a bike shop offering repairs and parts, a doughnut shop and a restaurant serving lunch and dinner.

The market is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 407 NW 30th St.

### SHOPPING

**Dylan Marie:** For a blend of boho styles and classic looks, Dylan Marie has clothing for all ages and sizes.

The boutique is open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 420 NW 30th St.

**Art Soul Metaphysical:** Art Soul Metaphysical is Paseo's one-stop shop for your spiritual journey with crystals, tarot cards and candles. For beginners or experienced practitioners of the metaphysical, the shop offers products and goods to help guide your meditation and healing.

Art Soul Metaphysical is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday at 3010 Paseo.

**Betsy King Shoes:** Varying in styles and designs but not quality, Betsy King Shoes offers unique footwear. Each pair is hand-selected by owner Betsy King with polished, colorful, chic and statement shoes.

The shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at 3001 Paseo.



# AUTOMOBILE ALLEY

Check out interactive arts, curated shops

BY GRAISON ANDREWS •  
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Located in the heart of Oklahoma City, Automobile Alley is a historic district home to locally owned businesses and public art. While the district was once home to a thriving local automobile industry, it fell into decline in the '70s and '80s, leading to revitalization efforts by city officials.

Efforts include encouraging local artists to create street art and holding various events throughout the year.

## DINING

**Eôté Coffee Co.:** Short for Ends of the Earth Coffee Co., Eôté Coffee specializes in freshly roasted, in-house coffee. This company seeks to bring the best coffee from all over the world straight to Oklahoma City, believing that coffee is not just a drink but an experience. Coffee lovers can buy premium beans or stop by the cafe for classics like drip coffee, lattes and americanos, plus freshly brewed tea.

Eôté Coffee is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday in The Central Exchange Building at 7 NE Sixth St.

**Nashbird:** Founded in 2017 by Marc and Jenny Dunham, Nashbird serves hot chicken in a casual, family-friendly setting. Favorites include classics like fried pickles, jumbo tenders and house specials like Hot! Chick, Hottie Tottie and the Nashvillian.

Nashbird is open 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1 NW Ninth St.

**Zamzam Mediterranean Grill:** Zamzam Mediterranean Grill offers authentic Mediterranean food. Established in 2007 by brothers Yousef Elyassin and Mahmoud Abuobead alongside brother-in-law Mahmoud Khader, the grill is family owned and family run. Dedicated to good food and a welcoming atmosphere, Zamzam is the perfect place for the family to stop for a bite to eat. Menu items include stuffed falafel, chicken shawarma and butter chicken. Desserts include baklava and sticky date cake.

Zamzam Mediterranean Grill is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 714 N. Broadway Ave.

## SHOPPING

**Plenty Mercantile:** Plenty Mercantile, a mother-daughter owned gift shop, is dedicated to providing unique, eco-friendly and sustainable products. Ethically sourced and sustainable goods are often pricey and difficult to create, but Plenty has found a way to create them at a range of



SUTTON SPINNER/OU DAILY

With rotating installations, Factory Obscura's handcrafted art exhibits engage all five senses.

prices. These items are "plentiful" because they achieve at least one of the following criteria: handcrafted production, reused resource, philanthropic support, biodegradable packaging, or biodegradable disposal. Customers can find toys for kids, household items, unique jewelry or seasonal decorations.

Plenty Mercantile is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at 807 N. Broadway Ave.

**Patted:** From its signature pink shipping container storefront, Patted offers curated vintage clothing and accessories with '90s and Y2K aesthetics. Owner Stephanie Espolt also co-founded OK Vintage Market in 2022 with Britt Phillips, owner of Saint Paloma Vintage, to build community among the thrifting community. Check Patted's Instagram for event announcements.

Patted is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at 14 NW Ninth St.

**Good Earth Rocks Gallery:** Geologist Dave Clupper opened Good Earth Rocks Gallery after retiring from a 40-year career, turning his passion into a shop for fellow geology lovers. Find fossils, crystals, minerals and decor, each with their own unique stories. Each rock is hand selected, often in their raw state.

The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at 824 N. Broadway Ave.

## ACTIVITIES

**Baker Street Escapes:** Baker Street Escapes offers hour-long immersive escape rooms designed by owner Dan

Arnett, who draws inspiration from books, horror films and travel. Guests can choose from three escape rooms available year round, "The Time Travelers," "Blast from the Past" or "A Ghost Story." Walk-ins are welcome.

Tickets start at \$30 for adults and \$25 for children. Baker Street Escapes is open 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 9:30 p.m. Sunday at 8 NW Eighth St.

**Factory Obscura:** Factory Obscura is a 60,000-square-foot, handcrafted art experience created by a collection of artists. Instead of viewing art, visitors will engage all five senses while interacting with each exhibit. This art collaboration seeks to bring together community, provide artists with steady income and prompt wonder in each visitor. The exhibits change themes periodically with past experiences like "Cosmic Callback" and "Seed Reef."

General admission starts at \$35 for adults and \$20 for children ages 4-17. Factory Obscura is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at 25 NW Ninth St.

**Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center:** The Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center offers free admission to a multitude of exhibits and its Art Garden, where plants are grown to produce paint, dye and ink. Exhibits include galleries, sculptures and installations.

Free public tours are offered at 1 p.m. Saturday and are first come, first served. Private, hour-long tours can be scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday for \$60 for groups of 10 or fewer.

The center is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Monday at 11 NW 11th St.





JAMEE KALISIK/OU DAILY

Visitors can explore the Myriad Botanical Gardens' outdoor lawns, water features, conservatory and children's play area.

# DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY

*From gardens to museums, tour the capital's must-visit stops*

BY MADISSON CAMERON • MADISSON.R.CAMERON-1@OU.EDU

Downtown Oklahoma City mixes civic landmarks, walkable public spaces and a growing food and entertainment scene. From riverside parks and a glass-filled museum to intimate boutiques and late-night lounges, the district is easy to explore on foot or by streetcar. Whether you're planning a weekday wander or a full weekend itinerary, downtown offers a compact slate of dependable spots for coffee, culture and after-hours fun.

## PARKS, GARDENS

**Scissortail Park:** Scissortail Park is a 70-acre urban gathering place built as part of the MAPS projects. Its lawns, playgrounds and lake attract families, fitness groups and outdoor concerts. The grounds also host farmers markets, fitness classes and occasional ticketed performances. The park connects to the Oklahoma River trail system for longer runs and bike rides.

The lake offers pedal boat, kayak and canoe rentals for \$15 per boat for up to 30 minutes on weekends. Information on boat rental and rules can be found online.

The park is open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily at 300 SW Seventh St. The Children's Playground is open from dawn to dusk daily.

**Myriad Botanical Gardens:** Myriad Botanical Gardens is a 15-acre, ornamental green space featuring the Inasmuch Foundation Crystal Bridge Conservatory. The outdoor lawns, children's splash fountain and seasonal programming — including movie nights and Myriad in Motion yoga — make it a popular daytime destination. The conservatory houses tropical plant displays and rotating exhibits.

Admission for the Crystal Bridge costs \$10.50 for adults with discounts available for students, children, seniors and members of the military. The outdoor grounds are free to explore, and the gardens frequently host ticketed workshops and seasonal exhibits.

The conservatory is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The outdoor grounds are open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily at 301 W. Reno Ave.

**Will Rogers Gardens:** One of the city's historic horticultural sites, the Will Rogers Gardens includes garden beds,

walking paths and a reflective pond. Visitors can attend hands-on gardening classes at the exhibition center.

The exhibition center also hosts seasonal displays and community events. Admission to the grounds is free.

The garden hours vary seasonally: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 1 through Sept. 30, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 1 through March 31 at 3400 NW 36th St. The Ed Lyman Conservatory is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some exhibitions and the center may have limited hours.

## MUSEUMS

**Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum:** Honoring the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum remembers the lives lost, saved and changed. The museum offers exhibits, oral histories and rotating educational programs.

Tickets are available online and cost \$18 for adults with discounts available for seniors, members of the military, students and children. Parking at the Memorial Parking Garage is free with museum admission on a first-come,



first-served basis. Parking at the garage costs \$5 an hour without admission.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 620 N. Harvey Ave. The outdoor memorial is open 24/7.

**Oklahoma City Museum of Art:** The Oklahoma City Museum of Art pairs a permanent collection and rotating exhibitions with film screenings in its Noble Theater and other events. The museum is known for its extensive Dale Chihuly glass collection. There is also a cafe and gift shop.

General admission tickets are available online and in person costing \$19.95 for adults, with discounts available for members of the military, seniors and college students. Museum members and guests 17 and younger get in free.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 415 Couch Drive.

**National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum:** Though not in the immediate downtown area, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is a short drive and serves as a central cultural anchor. Its galleries focus on Western art, historic artifacts and cowboy culture. The museum frequently programs family-friendly events and traveling exhibitions.

Tickets are available online starting at \$25 for adults with discounts available for seniors, members of the military, students and children. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1700 NE 63rd St.

**Oklahoma Hall of Fame:** The Oklahoma Hall of Fame, housed in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, features portraits, artifacts and multimedia exhibits celebrating Oklahomans who shaped the state. The hall hosts occasional special events and educational programming.

Available in-person and online, tickets cost \$7 for adults, with discounts available for seniors, students and children.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 1400 Classen Drive.

**Science Museum Oklahoma:** The Science Museum Oklahoma combines hands-on exhibits with live shows, interactive demonstrations and traveling displays designed to engage all ages. Permanent highlights include a planetarium, a tinkering lab, a Segway course and aviation and space artifacts. The museum also hosts science camps, special events and seasonal programming.

Tickets are available in-person and online starting at \$17.95 for children and seniors and \$22.95 for adults. There is no additional charge for the Love's Planetarium or Science Live shows.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at 2020 Remington Place.

## DINING

**The Chalkboard Kitchen + Bar:** The Chalkboard Kitchen + Bar is a popular bistro for any meal with an emphasis on seasonal ingredients and composed plates. Signature dishes include beef Wellington and tiger sushi roll, and the restaurant maintains a full bar with curated cocktails.



FILE/OU DAILY

The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum's Gates of Time mark the minutes before and after the bombing.



JAMEE KALISIK/OU DAILY

Wander through permanent and rotating art exhibits at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

The Chalkboard accepts reservations as well as walk-ins. Dietary accommodations including gluten-sensitive options and vegetarian plates are available upon request.

The restaurant is open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday on the first floor of the Ambassador Hotel at 1200 N. Walker Ave.

**Sun Cattle Co.:** Sun Cattle Co. is a bustling steakhouse and burger joint beloved for its onion-fried burgers, locally sourced beef and lively, casual atmosphere. The menu features hearty classics such as burgers, steak nuggets and co-neys, alongside boozy shakes and beer.

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday

through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at 800 W. Sheridan Ave.

**Mary Eddy's Italian Grill:** Set in the historic Ford assembly building, Mary Eddy's serves Italian fare and crafted cocktails with an interior that blends industrial architecture and warm finishes. Favorite dishes include appetizers like prime beef filet tartare and homemade pasta including spicy blue crab campanelle. The bar serves many cocktails and wines as well as a martini bar.

The restaurant offers Sunday brunch, cocktail classes and more. Reservations can be made online. Mary Eddy's also offers complimentary valet parking.



The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at 900 W. Main St. The lounge and bar are open 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

**Barrios Fine Mexican Dishes:** Barrios delivers a modern take on Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine in a vibrant setting with crowd-pleasing dishes like short rib tinga chalupas and queso fundido with handmade flour tortillas.

Barrios offers daily specials and a full bar. Reservations are encouraged for weekend evenings and can be made online. Event catering and private dinners are available by request.

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1000 N. Hudson Ave.

**Bao Soup Dumpling:** Bao Soup Dumpling offers handmade soup dumplings in a casual setting. Its menu features classic soup dumplings, pan-fried and limited-time seasonal options and handcrafted drinks like pineapple passion fruit iced tea. After ordering your meal, feel free to watch the kitchen through a window.

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily at 1325 N. Walker Ave.

## SHOPPING

**Wishbone Vintage:** Wishbone Vintage is a curated boutique offering vintage clothing and accessories from various eras including retro dresses, denim jackets and unique hats — each piece chosen for its standout character.

The shop is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1112 N. Walker Ave.

**Sailor & The Dock:** Sailor & The Dock is a creative market-collective, event space and bar housed in a renovated 1920s warehouse in downtown Oklahoma City. The venue, built with an eco-conscious design, includes a floating sailboat bar, rotating pop-up shops from local vendors, coffee and dessert offerings, and regular arts and events programming.

Visitors can browse retail booths, grab a drink at the Dock Bar, enjoy artisanal food and attend classes or performances. The market collective is anchored by creators, local artisans and small businesses.

The shops are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at 617 W. Sheridan Ave.

**Dead People's Stuff:** Dead People's Stuff is a large warehouse-style shop specializing in architectural salvage, decorative antiques and unique design elements. Its inventory includes vintage doors, stained glass windows, moldings, art deco fixtures, carved furniture, ironwork and other one-of-a-kind home accents.

The shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at 1900 Linwood Blvd.

**Full Circle Bookstore:** Full Circle Bookstore is one of Oklahoma's largest independent bookstores. It carries more than 60,000 new titles across every genre you can imagine,



JAMEE KALISIK/OU DAILY

Hosting frequent outdoor events, Scissortail Park also offers boat rentals and a view of the Skydance Bridge statue.

with special focus on local authors, regional interest, Native American literature and unique gift items.

The store's cafe, The Garden Cafe, serves everything from coffee and breakfast to a rotating assortment of gelato and spirits. The bookstore also hosts events, author signings, book clubs and community-focused gatherings. Event information can be found online.

Full Circle Bookstore is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 1900 Northwest Expressway. The Garden Cafe's hours for breakfast, lunch, coffee and snacks are available online.

## ACTIVITIES

**Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge:** Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge is a retro-inspired bowling alley and bar. The facility includes 12 bowling lanes, a full-service bar and lounge and a VIP room available for private groups. It also offers food service with a menu of appetizers, burgers and more.

The venue is family-friendly but enforces a 21 and older policy after 8 p.m. The space frequently hosts themed nights and live music, making it a multipurpose stop for both casual outings and nightlife. Lane reservations can be made online.

The lounge is open 4 p.m. to midnight Tuesday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. to midnight Sunday at 421 NW 10th St.

**Side Quest Game Lounge:** Side Quest Game Lounge is a board game cafe and community hub. The venue maintains an extensive library of tabletop games and offers private rooms for role-playing campaigns. The lounge also

sells game accessories, merchandise, food and drinks.

The game lounge hosts several events including watch parties, trivia and D&D starter classes. Information on events can be found online. Daily Quest Passes are \$10 per person and include all-day access to the board game library.

Side Quest is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at 1325 N. Walker Ave.

**Oklahoma City Underground:** The Oklahoma City Underground, formerly known as the Conncourse, is a network of pedestrian tunnels and skyways connecting more than 20 blocks of downtown Oklahoma City. It spans about a mile and links office buildings, parking garages and civic spaces. Art installations, historical information, line several stretches of the tunnels.

The Underground is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday at multiple access points throughout downtown Oklahoma City. A map of the tunnels can be found online.

**Riversport OKC:** Riversport OKC offers outdoor adventures along the Oklahoma River. Activities include whitewater rafting and kayaking, flatwater kayaking, surfing, rowing and climbing. An additional boathouse facility at Lake Overholser extends access to flatwater trails and community programs.

The site also includes fitness centers; seasonal camps; and competitive training programs for rowing, canoe and kayak athletes. Visitors can purchase day passes, season memberships or tickets for individual activities online.

The Riversport OKC's activity hours vary by season at 800 Riversport Drive.



# BRICKTOWN

*Spend a day exploring historic Oklahoma City*

BY NIKKI WOMACK •  
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Just a 30-minute drive from Norman, Bricktown is Oklahoma City's entertainment hub, known for its restaurants, nightlife and attractions. This lively district combines history with a modern atmosphere, making it a great spot for a family outing, date night or day trip with friends.

## DINING

**Culprits:** Tucked inside the Renaissance Hotel, Culprits is a contemporary steakhouse that blends modern steak, sushi and spirits in an upscale yet comfortable setting. Chef James Fox, a James Beard Award nominee, serves a menu that merges elevated techniques with global flavors. The bar features craft cocktails and an extensive wine list. Reservations are available online.

Culprits is open 6 a.m. to midnight daily at 100 E. Sheridan Ave. The kitchen closes at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m. Friday through Saturday and 9 p.m. Sunday.

**Bricktown BBQ:** For those looking for barbecue, Bricktown BBQ offers a savory flavor with every bite. The menu includes a variety of options, including wings, fried tacos, smoked meats and combo plates.

Bricktown BBQ is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday at 216 Johnny Bench Drive.

**Pinkitzel:** For a sweet treat, Pinkitzel offers a variety of cupcakes and candies to choose from. Pinkitzel opened in Bricktown in 2010 and has expanded to Edmond. Pinkitzel's name is a blend of pink and "kitzel," which means "tickled" in Yiddish, because they are tickled pink.

Pinkitzel is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday at 150 S. E.K. Gaylord Blvd.

**Bourbon Street Cafe:** For those who want a taste of New Orleans cuisine, Bourbon Street Cafe serves Cajun and Creole cuisine including Louisiana gumbo, catfish and crawfish etouffee.

Bourbon Street Cafe is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday at 100 E. California Ave.

## ACTIVITIES

**Bricktown Water Taxi:** One of Bricktown's signature attractions, the Bricktown Water Taxi runs throughout the day on tours through the historic downtown Oklahoma City. With over 25 years of service, the Bricktown Water Taxi offers different group tour options, including cocktail cruises



JAMEE KALISIK/OU DAILY

Take a Bricktown Water Taxi to tour historical monuments, murals and local landmarks in Oklahoma City.

and scavenger hunts.

Regular tickets cost \$15 for adults, and discounts are available for children 12 and younger as well as seniors, active-duty military and customers with disabilities. Tickets are available online.

Bricktown Water Taxi's hours are seasonal and subject to the day's weather; real-time availability can be found online. The water taxi's boarding area is found off of 111 S. Mickey Mantle Drive.

**Brickopolis:** Brickopolis offers fun and food, featuring laser tag, an arcade and outdoor mini golf. There is also a bar and grill serving burgers, pizza, wraps and more.

Brickopolis is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday at 101 S. Mickey Mantle Drive.

**American Banjo Museum:** Founded in 1988, the American Banjo Museum started as a nonprofit. The museum's mission is to preserve and promote the history of the banjo while expanding appreciation of its music.

Tickets cost \$8 for adults with discounts available for children, seniors and students. Tickets prices can be viewed online, but must be purchased at the door.

The American Banjo Museum is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 9 E. Sheridan Ave.

**Bricktown Comedy Club:** For those looking for dinner and a show, Bricktown Comedy Club is the place to go. The club's menu includes appetizers, chips and wraps, wings and desserts. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks are available. They have a two-item purchase minimum in addition to admission.

Bricktown Comedy Club has a packed schedule with most shows starting at 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Tickets are available online, starting at \$10 and varying by show.

Bricktown Comedy Club is open 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Wednesday and 5 to 10 p.m. Thursday and Sunday at 409 Kings Of Leon Lane.



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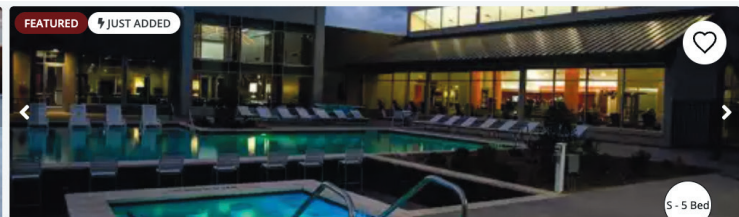
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