WE ARE DOWNTOWN

The people, the places, the food and the stories that make us.
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Spring is here! And whether it’s an online aria, an in-person symphony or an afternoon rolling around the rink at Discovery Green, we’ve got something to fill your day with fun.

48 DESTINATION DOWNTOWN MAP

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Downtown District, 909 Fannin, Suite 1650, Houston, Texas 77010.

Published by:

With support from:
We say it a lot—we believe in the future of Downtown. We say it because we know our future is bright. We, all of us, are the heart of this city, and neither a pandemic nor an ice storm is going to stop our progress.

It hasn’t been easy, but Houstonians are resilient and so is Downtown. Certainly we’ve all changed how we live, work and play over the past year. We limit our social groups. We don our masks, shop curbside, and work virtually. Now thanks to those efforts and with the administration of more vaccines, we are finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Downtown is ready for your return.

We’re especially pleased to report on the robust pace of development in our city’s center. Despite many challenges, office construction and redevelopment projects have accelerated, planned residential projects are in development and nearly 1,400 new units will be added to the growing residential market. You can read what’s new starting on page 13.

We also want to help you rediscover all that Downtown has to offer. Make time to roller skate at Discovery Green, catch a movie at Market Square Park, or imbibe in delicious bites and craft cocktails from your favorite bistro’s breezy patio. Head back to the Theater District, where some organizations are performing live again. Root for your favorite team—some venues have started to open (with limited seating of course). We’ve laid it all out for you with our feature starting on page 22.

Our datebook is back on page 48 but we encourage you to always check the status of events before heading out. And our listing of restaurants is ready for your perusal starting on page 40. We can’t wait to see you back in action!

And thank you for reading downtown!
backstage.
It seemed unimaginable that the COVID-19 pandemic, which shuttered performing arts venues and turned thousands of office employees into work-from-home pros, would still be something to be concerned with a year after word went out by health authorities to close things down. But as we move into spring 2021, Houston—like much of the rest of the country—finds itself faced with continued limits on the number of people who can gather in a space, the need for wearing masks and yes, that working at home is still a reality.

The Houston Symphony Plays Through a Pandemic

BY HOLLY BERETTO

The Music Couldn’t Be Stopped

Yet through all the spikes in cases, the shutdowns, the limited seating in restaurants and all the other things that are part of our new normal, there have still been bright spots and flashes of creativity.

For a dose of “necessity is the mother of invention,” however, look no further than the Houston Symphony. The venerable arts organization, housed in Downtown’s Jones Hall, has not only weathered the pandemic, but found ways to do what it does best: share music with the world.

“It’s been incredibly challenging, for me and the organization,” said John Mangum, executive director, CEO and Margaret Alkek Williams chair of the Houston Symphony. “But it’s been inspiring to see how resilient everybody is, the musicians, the board, the staff, and how creatively everyone’s approached the limitations that are placed on us.”

He has reason to be inspired. When the symphony shut down in March, the musicians, it turns out, did what they always do. They
played music. Only, instead of playing it on stage, they were playing it in their houses and apartments and studio spaces. And they were recording themselves and sending those recordings to the symphony, which in turn shared them on its social media accounts. It was a way for the organization to stay connected to its audience, but it was also something deeper. Mangum describes it as “the fundamental creative impulse at the heart of everything we do to serve our community with music.”

And, indeed, the symphony does a lot. In addition to its concerts Downtown, musicians play in hospitals, in schools and other venues around the city. All of that evaporated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it forced the symphony to get even more creative. No matter the barriers the pandemic imposed, and they were big barriers, said Mangum, the organization’s musicians and leadership pressed on.

“Whether it was playing online or for a limited audience with different safety protocols, the music couldn’t be stopped,” he said.

As the symphony began sharing videos of its musicians on social media, the organization found it was more than just a way to share music. It was a way for audiences to get to know the musicians better. Not only did audiences learn about the pieces that were being played, they also learned about the lives of the people making the music, whether it was something about their families or what they were cooking or how they were handling life during the pandemic.

“Whether it was playing online or for a limited audience with different safety protocols, the music couldn’t be stopped,”

—John Mangum, executive director, CEO
Margaret Alkek Williams, Chair
“It’s been inspiring to see how resilient everybody is, the musicians, the board, the staff, and how creatively everyone’s approached the limitations that are placed on us.”

—John Mangum
“The appreciation seems to exist on several levels,” he said. “People appreciate that we’ve done this, so they can stay connected to the symphony. They appreciate that they can sit on their couch with a glass of wine if they want to or we’ve heard from people that they get dressed up for their symphony night at home, which I love.”

In August, the Houston Symphony welcomed audiences back to Jones Hall in a dramatically reduced capacity. Between 250 and 300 people attend the concerts live, said Mangum, a fraction of Jones Hall’s roughly 2,700-person capacity.

“We started with 10 people that first weekend in August. We’ve been working our way up,” he said.

“We want to meet people where they are.”

—John Mangum

The symphony has made certain to follow safety protocols it developed in partnership with Houston Methodist and Houston First. The first 13 rows are empty, and every other row behind that is empty, too. There are strict six-foot distances between each household group. The orchestra also partnered with Rice University’s George R. Brown School of Engineering, where researchers analyzed airflow from the brass instruments in the hall to determine how the symphony could go back to playing live while keeping its musicians safe.

Adhering to these policies has allowed the symphony to have audiences again, even as it keeps live streaming its events for those not ready or able to come to a performance.

“We want to meet people where they are,” said Mangum. “That’s been part of the strategy all along.”
I am impressed and inspired by the level of commitment from all facets of the Houston Symphony family, as we all jump through the hoops necessary to safely produce excellent concerts during the pandemic,” said Allen Barnhill, the symphony’s principal trombone.

“The musicians, staff, stage crew and audience are all careful to abide by the guidelines that assure our safety, even though this means giving up our normal pre-concert routines and rituals. In my case, that limits my usual warmup routine, as well as our normal backstage social life. But it’s still exciting and stimulating to be performing with my outstanding colleagues for live audiences and our cyber-audience!”

Mangum said the entire experience has shown not only that there is a clear sense of purpose in what the Houston Symphony does, but also in its value to the community. Donors stepped up to help make the concerts possible, and Mangum said that ongoing support is vital.

“Getting back on stage! By the time we produce Rock of Ages in August, we will have been away from theater for 18 months. I miss creating musicals for Houston audiences. When the curtain goes up on the first live performance in August, that moment will be something to celebrate for all of Houston. I might cry from joy!”

—Dan Knechtges
Artistic Director

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“We are looking forward to our continued connection with Da Camera audiences through our expansive virtual series of chamber music and jazz featuring Elias String Quartet on March 9 and pianist Aaron Diehl on March 23, while anticipating with great excitement our return to safe in-person reunions with audiences with COVID precautions at live concerts later in the year.”

—Sarah Rothenberg
Artistic Director

“I am impressed and inspired by the level of commitment from all facets of the Houston Symphony family, as we all jump through the hoops necessary to safely produce excellent concerts during the pandemic.”

He’s also seen something else: how very brave his colleagues, those on stage and behind the scenes, are.

“That weekend of our Fourth of July concert was high anxiety,” he said. “And people were brave to come and brave to play and brave to work and brave to be part of the initial stages of this. There are a lot of incredibly brave people in our organization, a lot of dedicated people and a lot of generous people. The board has been generous with their time and their treasure and the staff and musicians have been generous with their time and their efforts.”

He knows that the symphony is fortunate to be able to offer live concerts at all. Downtown’s other art forms, he notes, each have their own limitations.

“Our musicians can wear masks most of the time on stage, and those that need to unmask to play can be socially distanced,” Mangum said. “At the opera, the singers and the chorus make performing an entirely different proposition, and at the Houston Ballet, the closeness and the physical contact of the dancers, that’s a different proposition. So, everybody is doing all the work they can to serve our city.”

Mangum predicts, however, it will be a while before things go back to what they were.

“Things are far from normal for us,” he said. “This year is still a catastrophe for all of the arts, including the symphony. We’ve seen $9 million of ticket sales disappear overnight. While we’re figuring out how to creatively serve our community, we, like all of the arts, desperately need our community’s support so that Houston can have the incredible, robust, energetic arts scene that it had before the pandemic.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CEO
JOHN MANGUM HOSTING LIVESTREAM
What powers Houston? **People.** With Houston’s history, diversity, knowledge base, know-how, and innovation edge, Houston’s economy has global impact.
WHAT'S THE OUTLOOK FOR HOUSTON'S ECONOMY?

We talked to Amy Chronis, vice chairman of Deloitte LLP and leader of its oil, gas and chemicals (OG&C) sector within the U.S. energy, resources and industrials industry, and Niloufar Molavi, global leader, oil & gas, partner at PwC US for their take. These two dynamic women are not only leaders at Big Four accounting firms, but they both chair Houston's most influential business development groups.

Chronis is the board chair of the Greater Houston Partnership and Molavi is the new board chair of Central Houston, Inc. Both women had some powerful words to say about Houston's future.

AN ENERGY TRANSITION LEADER?

Chronis acknowledges we’re facing big challenges and believes getting back to in-person activities is critical to economic recovery. "Houston's economy faced a double whammy with COVID and the energy downturn—getting Houston moving again is very important," she says.

She emphasizes the importance of transitioning from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption to renewable energy sources. She believes this energy transition presents both tremendous opportunity and a threat for Houston. "The global transition has accelerated, and it is critical that we lead this effort so we do not fall behind more broadly," says Chronis.

Houston has a long record of being a leader in technology innovation, Molavi notes. "If we step back and think about the technology that has been developed in the energy industry, we realize Houston is a center for tech—way beyond any computer or phone that consumers can touch and feel," she says. "Houston's collective energy industry players have the history and the teams that have led the entire industry to this point, so they have the ability to be at the forefront of energy technology for the future."

"Consider what Texas has done with shale," says Chronis. "It's been like a gold rush, capturing the attention of the rest of the industry."

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN-PERSON

There's another form of energy production that the pandemic has diminished, and that's the energy produced when teams get together in the same room to brainstorm, problem-solve or simply have a discussion.

"Today we're all tasked with finding that right mix going forward," says Molavi. "We know using technology helps us be more effective and efficient, but there's something to be said for bringing people together and brainstorming and collaborating."

Chronis agrees. "While we have all adjusted to this virtual style of work, it is difficult to replicate the deep connections that you capture in person," she says. "The Partnership thrives on convening and building consensus to solve Houston's challenges—getting back in person is critical."

"We have both the global commerce and cultural amenities—unlike most other cities in the U.S. that we compete against—but the opportunities are fueled by the global diversity of our people."

— Amy Chronis
Vice Chairman, Deloitte LLP
2021 Board Chair, Greater Houston Partnership

DIVERSITY IN A DIVERSE CITY

No doubt the energy industry remains a huge part of Houston's economy, but virtually all industries can experience growth through technology and innovation. "While the tech/innovation sector is powerful on its own, our legacy industries are due to evolve through tech and innovation," says Molavi.

"Not only are our people diverse, but so are our industries," says Chronis. "Our companies solve the problems that matter, and many are ripe for technological disruption, which makes Houston attractive to a number of tech companies looking to expand their businesses into the B2B space."

Consider how tech can accelerate Houston's major sectors, such as business and professional services; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; leisure and hospitality; and education and health services. As more Houston businesses and industries invest in technology and explore innovation, they seize opportunities to move them forward.

"Simply put, Houston is a great global city," says Chronis. "We have both the global commerce and cultural amenities—unlike most other cities in the U.S. that we compete against—but the opportunities are fueled by the global diversity of our people."
With nearly 30 years at PwC, Niloufar Molavi says she’s excited and a bit nervous as she steps into the board chair position for Central Houston Inc., an organization she’s been a member of since 2011. “We have some big ticket items on our list, but I’m excited,” she says. “I know we’ll be busy, but I have a great team and a great board.”

Molavi explains that Central Houston’s strategies for 2021 are similar to last year’s, but the impact of COVID-19 means an additional focus on Downtown’s economic health while balancing the need for public safety as it relates to the pandemic. “We’ll keep pursuing the North Houston Highway Improvement Project,” she says. “It’s a huge project, which will be very long term. So while it won’t be completed during my term, a lot of the important decisions and engagement has already happened. We’ll continue that engagement with stakeholders in the immediate area. I’m excited about big opportunities for improvements in aesthetics and landscape design.”

Molavi says Central Houston will continue to work with the City of Houston and other public and nonprofit partners to coordinate leadership strategy and policy changes to address homelessness Downtown. “Our goal is to help find more permanent solutions for individuals dealing with mental illness, addiction and housing challenges,” she says.

Another focus is finding cures for the commute, especially as more people return to the office. Central Houston seeks multi-modal transportation improvements to benefit circulation Downtown.

As former chair of Central Houston’s Innovation Committee, Molavi is also excited to see the Innovation Corridor in action. “I’m looking forward to getting the Downtown Launchpad to full operation as soon as it’s safe,” she says. “We hope to keep aligning support from Downtown businesses, getting them to engage with the accelerator groups, and facilitate broader collaboration with innovation hubs across the city.”

HOUSTON’S DRAW IS UNDENIABLE

“Our homegrown young talent who leave Houston for their higher education still return to Houston,” says Molavi. “And candidates with roots in other states or countries want to be in Houston. They come here not just for one job offer, but the opportunities they have in the future.”

Downtown Houston specifically offers a world-class business environment. “Houston and Texas are known to be among the most business friendly in the country,” says Chronis. “We are known for low taxes and smart regulations, or simply put, an environment where businesses are supported.”

“Houston is a global city because of the types of global business here and the talent that those companies have drawn over the decades,” says Molavi. “This not only keeps business here, but attracts new ones.”

According to Site Selection Magazine, Houston gained 276 corporate facility deals during 2019. In December 2020, Hewlett Packard Enterprise announced its plan to move its global headquarters back to its Houston roots. Other recent corporate relocations to Houston include Amazon Web Services and Bill.com.

“I believe companies around the country and the globe see Houston as a destination to grow their businesses,” says Chronis.

“Our homegrown young talent who leave Houston for their higher education still return to Houston,”

— Niloufar Molavi
Global Leader, Oil & Gas, Partner at PwC US
2021 Board Chair, Central Houston Inc.
With more than three decades in her field, Amy Chronis says she’s honored and excited to connect with the stakeholders of the Greater Houston Partnership. “This position offers a broad overarching view of all of the incredible work business leaders are doing through the organization to make Houston better,” says Chronis. “It’s inspiring.”

The Partnership’s primary goals for 2021 are focused on the local economy. “Coming out of the pandemic it is essential that we grow Houston’s economy,” says Chronis. “That includes bringing new companies to Houston and increasing new job opportunities.”

She also understands the need to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion across all aspects of business. “Houston is America’s most diverse city, and we need to aspire to be viewed as America’s most inclusive city,” says Chronis. “And that relates to how we think about economic development and create opportunities for all Houstonians.”

Another focus for GHP is talent and workforce development. “That means ensuring our training and higher education institutions are working to give Houstonians access to acquiring the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow’s careers.”

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Vice Chairman, Deloitte LLP
2021 Board Chair, Greater Houston Partnership

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Leadership for the Road Ahead

“Over the past year we’ve all seen how important it is to be nimble, and to stay nimble,” says Molavi. “But no one anticipated we’d have to pivot and change almost everything over one weekend and then go through a period of uncertainty for as long as we have.”

Molavi’s lesson learned: take that nimbleness to heart. “You may not be able wait, you have to make decisions fast,” she says. “Some of those might not be the best or the most informed decisions, but you have to act quickly, and if necessary, correct yourself quickly.”

Chronis agrees. “With the speed at which events unfolded last year and continue to unfold now, I’ve found that it’s been better to aim for speed over elegance,” she says. “It’s important to act decisively with imperfect information, knowing that now—more than ever—expediency is key.”

That doesn’t mean ignoring input from the team or forging discussion. “It’s important to take time to connect with my team to make sure they have the tools they need,” says Chronis. “I believe that finding an appropriate balance between tough decisions and empathetic communication is crucial. The key is to find the right communication strategy for every situation and to bring compassion and empathy into tough conversations.”

Excited About the Future

Houston’s population and its industries have diversified over the past 30 years, and Molavi points to the various industries in Houston as examples—from scientific advancements in the Texas Medical Center to the recent cultivation of a robust startup and innovation community. “When you put all of that together I feel very good about our future,” says Molavi. “We don’t know exactly what that’s going to look like, but it’s clear we have the ingredients to move forward as a great global city. We have compassionate leaders at the helm of these organizations with proven records, so I’m pretty bullish. I’m excited about our future.”
Last year was certainly unprecedented as our Downtown neighborhood felt the impact of COVID-19 and each sector, from office to hospitality, adjusted to a new normal. But 2021 is shaping up to be monumental as well—development is at an all-time high with more than $1.9 billion in construction projects currently underway and more on the horizon. As employees have adapted to working from home, office construction and redevelopment projects have accelerated. Planned residential projects are in various stages of development and nearly 1,400 new units will be added to Downtown’s growing residential market. This may end up being the year of development in Downtown Houston and we certainly approve.
The home office may have made its mark in 2020, but 2021 is all about the upgraded amenities in new and redeveloped office spaces Downtown.

### 1001 Fannin

1001 Fannin completed updates to their main lobby, fitness center and adjacent tenant lounge with areas for entertainment, seating and gaming. A building conference center is slated for this year.

### 1550 On The Green

1550 On The Green is a recently announced 375,000-square-foot, 28-story office tower adjacent to Discovery Green and the Hilton Americas-Houston. Skanska will build the tower, which is part of a larger mixed-use project called Discovery West. The property will wrap around the Embassy Suites hotel with a beautiful, curved facade. The building has already secured its anchor tenant, Norton Rose Fulbright, the third-largest law firm in the United States.
Heritage Plaza has added a new exterior glass curtain wall and updates to the main lobby and 13th-floor sky lobby.

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. Tower, formerly 600 Travis (aka Chase Tower) is getting sleek new updates this year. Sweeping changes include a dramatic trapezoidal glass pyramid entry and urban garden, collaborative work areas, conference center and sky lounge for the exclusive use of tenants. Don’t fret. It still stands as the tallest tower in Texas.

Houston Center recently unveiled a years-long renovation featuring major updates to the four-building, 4.4-million-square-foot property. Brookfield Properties enlisted Gensler and Clark Condon to design the new space, which transformed the 1970s-era property into a vibrant, easy-to-navigate collection of buildings with new restaurants, shops and green space. The renovation embraces more open areas, both inside and out, and provides more natural light, creating a beautiful lobby experience.

Various green spaces surround the complex and the central plaza’s monumental circular staircase is at its heart. Tenant amenities were at the top of the design list and the renovation included brand new conferencing venues and lobby co-working spaces, including two outdoor sky decks. The 10,000-square-foot fitness center has a unique view overlooking McKinney Street from the second floor of the complex. One of the largest renovations of 2020, the new Houston Center has everything one could want in an office environment.

AMEGY ON MAIN

Amegy On Main with updates to the building lobby, common area amenities and a new parking garage.

ALLEN CENTER

Allen Center is undergoing extensive renovations to the three-tower, 3.2-million-square-foot property, including an updated conference center, a new fitness center, a second-floor outdoor terrace, and updated retail bays and tenant mix.
**Texas Tower**

Texas Tower, a new 47-story premier office tower with an 11-level garage is set to open in the fourth quarter of 2021 at the former site of the Houston Chronicle. The tower is placed diagonally on the site resulting in unique, more interesting view angles and a powerful civic presence.

**Life Time Work**

Life Time Work is a 56,000-square-foot fitness center and adjacent 38,000-square-foot co-working space at GreenStreet. The company describes the new facility as an athletic lifestyle resort, complete with conference rooms, dedicated desks and offices, phone booths and a shared kitchen. The Downtown location is the first within the 610 loop and is part of Life Time’s new work/life balance initiatives.

**TC Energy Center**

TC Energy Center, formerly Bank of America Center, with renovations including an upscale restaurant, creative office space, new tenant lounge and conference center, a lobby coffee bar and new mezzanine-level collaborative workspaces.
Brava, a luxury 46-story high-rise with 373 units is under construction at the former site of the Houston Chronicle parking garage adjacent to Texas Tower. Once built, Brava will be Downtown’s tallest residential building.

Fairfield Residential, a new 10-story, 286-unit Class A residential building.

McKee City Living is a four-story, 120-unit multifamily affordable-workforce residential project in the Warehouse District. Amenities include a community activity space, business center, fitness center, courtyard pool and bicycle storage. With close access to Buffalo Bayou’s hiking trails and the METRORail, this development will bring new, affordable housing to Downtown. It will primarily serve individuals and families earning below 60 percent of the area’s median income, with approximately 20 percent being allocated to market-rate residents. This unique project is funded through the City of Houston’s Harvey Multifamily Program and is the first of its kind in Downtown.

Sovereign the Ballpark is a new six-story, 229-unit residential building set to open in mid 2021.

A yet-unnamed 43-story tower by High Street Residential, the residential subsidiary of Trammell Crow Co., with 309 luxury apartment units, next to Discovery Green (808 Crawford).
Downtown continues to draw award-winning chefs and restaurateurs with several new restaurants set to open in 2021, adding to the neighborhood’s incredible food scene.

**COMMON BOND**
Common Bond will open a full-service restaurant with a bakery, full bar and 4,900-square-foot dining area this year at Understory. In the meantime, they have opened a pop-up concept serving grab-and-go breakfast and lunch options, coffee, and a variety of pastries.

**POST HOUSTON**
POST Houston revealed their first set of food hall vendors: Salt & Time Butcher Shop, an award-winning butcher shop from Austin, joined by The Butcher’s Burger, a recently introduced burger concept from the owners of Salt & Time; Lea Jane’s Hot Chicken, a hot-chicken concept developed by Chef Nick Graves currently operating out of Kung Fu Saloon on Washington Avenue; Taco Fuego, a food truck from South Houston known for its charcoal-grilled dishes; Gelu Italian Ice, a Colorado-based Italian ice shop serving more than 30 flavors of frozen treats that are dairy-free, gluten-free, fat-free and cholesterol-free; and, SOUPreme, a Vietnamese concept from Tuan and Thy Tran.

**THE NASH**
The Nash is an eclectic bar and restaurant with a menu developed by chef Omar Pereney that opened at The Star (the former Texaco building) in January. The menu features favorites such as Venezuelan tequeños and a 12-hour ragu pappardelle pasta.

**THE PALM**
The Palm, an upscale steakhouse with a menu that includes Italian American dishes such as veal parmigiana, will open a second location at GreenStreet in the fourth quarter of 2021.

**GEORGIA JAMES TAVERN**
Georgia James Tavern, a casual offshoot of James Beard Award-winning chef Chris Shepherd’s upscale steakhouse Georgia James, will open at Market Square Tower this spring.

**THE HALAL GUYS**
The Halal Guys announced the opening of their fifth Houston-area location—and its largest one to-date—in the lobby of 609 Main at Texas.
Enjoying Downtown keeps getting better with two new public space projects, a new hotel and the long-awaited redevelopment of the Barbara Jordan Post Office, aka POST Houston.

**LYNN WYATT SQUARE**

*Lynn Wyatt Square* for the Performing Arts, formerly Jones Plaza, will provide an inviting green oasis in the heart of the Theater District that enhances Downtown life and accommodates a wide range of outdoor performances and special events. The space is slated to open mid-2022.
POST Houston, located at the far north end of Downtown, is set to partially open this fall. The project began in 2015 when Houston-based Lovett Commercial purchased the Barbara Jordan Post Office property with the idea to turn the space into a gigantic mixed-use development. And gigantic it is—at 500,000-square-feet, POST Houston is large enough to fit four Boeing 747 aircrafts inside. The 1930s-era building is broken into four parts: an international food hall, a concert venue, retail, and co-working space. But perhaps our favorite part of the project is the six-acre rooftop farm and park, where you’ll find one of the best views of Downtown Houston.

Trebly Park, a new neighborhood park at 1515 Fannin, will be redeveloped by the Downtown Redevelopment Authority starting this year. The park is close to the epicenter of many new residential projects in Downtown and will have an intimate, backyard-type feel, set on an L-shaped one-acre plot of land. The park will feature a fast-casual café operated by Tout Suite, a fenced-in dog run, and plenty of outdoor seating and lounging areas for a welcome respite from the liveliness of Downtown. A flexible lawn space will be programmed by the Downtown District with an events calendar geared to area residents. Expect a plethora of green, green and greener at Trebly park.

Hyatt Place Hotel opened in January after a redevelopment of the former Southwestern Bell Telephone Company building into a 16-story, 150-key hotel.
Dear Downtown,

We believe in you.

When you’re ready, we’ll be ready
...and better than ever.

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We are Downtown.

“We” means you.

“We” means us.
We determine the future of Downtown and therefore, the future of Houston.

Includes residents, businesses, high-rises, mid-rises, courthouses, holes-in-the-wall, bars, restaurants, sports teams, murals, music venues, parking lots, office buildings, art installations, one-way streets, parks, events, culture, energy, bike shares, bayou landings, visitors, grocery stores, commuters, staycationers, looky-loos, cyclists, singles, couples, families, business folks, leisure folks, rideshare drivers, hospitality workers, street sweepers, maintenance teams, students and dishwashers.

Includes everyone that, as a collective, makes Downtown, Downtown.

And now is our time to show up and show support.

As we all begin to define our new comfort zones, safely venturing out into the world and feeling the excitement of being physically together again (whenever it’s possible), let’s also find a new lens with which to view Downtown. This is an opportunity to fall in love all over again, admiring the skyline with fresh eyes, perusing the aisles of Phoenicia with a sense of wonder, embracing the luxury of a hotel lobby as if it were our first time, soaking in the grandeur of it all. Because this is our chance to turn gratitude into action. Downtown is waiting.
Rediscovery is sometimes more thrilling than experiencing something for the first time. Revisiting what once felt familiar, we see things from a different point of view, uncovering details we missed before and finding surprise and delight in the process.

In a year of rejuvenation and new possibilities, there's no better time to explore Downtown and discover the people and businesses that make up the core of a city that resists easy explanation or categorization.

Whether it's a Houston staycation or just new appreciation for the neighborhood, we hope this guide to a fantastic 48 hours in Downtown offers a new lease on the amazing things the neighborhood has to offer.

**FRIDAY**

**2:30 p.m.**

**DISCOVER BYGONE HOUSTON**

In a city known for embracing the new and exciting, there's a place that immerses visitors into Houston's storied past. The Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park offers a glimpse into the city's earliest residents, with authentically restored buildings and artifacts that date back to before Texas was a state. Visitors may tour the grounds themselves and learn about the buildings with a cell phone tour, but only those who make reservations for a guided docent tour will be able to go inside. The last guided tour of the day begins at 2:30 p.m.

**4 p.m.**

**SIT BACK AND RELAX WITH A DRINK**

Now that you've scratched that educational itch, take a short walk to appreciate a modern day happy hour at the C. Baldwin. Aply named for Charlotte Baldwin, the “Mother of Houston,” the hotel's sleek, modern midcentury look extends from the glamorous rounded bar under a soaring ceiling to the spacious outside patio studded with greenery. Happy hour offers several affordable boozy options for just $5, including house wines by the glass, draft beers, and cocktails like the Persephone with rye, pineapple gum, lime juice and a fernet float.
Downtown

7 p.m.

DINNER AND DESSERT, OAXACA-STYLE
After a tipple or two, head to dinner at one of the city’s best restaurants. The latest offering from celebrated chef Hugo Ortega, Xochi specializes in the food and drink of Oaxaca, Mexico from a beautifully appointed space on the first floor of the Marriott Marquis Houston. Masa and mole take star turns on a menu that features a variety of intricately flavored dishes made in traditional ways, and the bar churns out some of the best, most inventive mezcal cocktails in the country. Don’t forget to leave room for dessert, which absolutely should include churros dipped in hot chocolate.

9:30 p.m.

MARKET SQUARE AND MAIN STREET MEANDER
After dinner, you may feel the need to walk and take advantage of Downtown’s unique brand of nightlife before hitting the hay. Head to Market Square Park and Main Street to peruse a variety of late night hangouts to suit your vibe. La Carafe, a cash-only establishment serving beer and wine, is equally beloved for its laid-back vibes as for its historic building, which dates back to 1860. On Main Street, you’ll find a variety of establishments to pass the evening, like cocktail bars Dean’s Downtown, Little Dipper and Captain Foxheart’s Bad News Bar & Spirit Lodge.

There are some things in the city you’ll only find Downtown.
Here are just a few:

- In-room Peloton bikes for your hotel stay—at the C. Baldwin, you can enjoy Peloton rides right from your hotel room.
- A Friday night firework show in the city limits—during Friday night home games at Minute Maid Park.
- Swim 500 feet above the city in Market Square Tower’s glass-bottomed rooftop sky pool.
- Play a pickup basketball game in close proximity to the Rockets at Root Memorial Square Basketball Court in the shadow of Toyota Center.
- View coral reefs created by biologists and feed stingrays at the Downtown Aquarium.
SATURDAY

10 a.m.

BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY

Whether you opted to slip into bed early or need something to soak up the fun of a late night out, a meal at Osso and Kristalla serves up a variety of options to satisfy any brand of brunch goer. The breakfast-loving crowd can have their waffles, omelettes or French toast, while the lunch-minded might choose a wood-fired pizzetta, pasta or—why not?—shrimp and grits.

Noon

BALLPARK TOUR OF MINUTE MAID PARK

Most people inside a Major League Baseball stadium won’t go much farther than their seats, much less into the dugout. Fortunately for Astros fans, Minute Maid Park offers All-Star Tours at an affordable price—$25 for adults, $20 for senior citizens and military and $18 for children. The two-hour tour takes visitors to the suites of the high rollers, in addition to the visitor’s clubhouse and batting cage, the Astros dugout, and the warning track.

2:30 p.m.

DISCOVER THE ART OF DISCOVERY GREEN

There are many ways to wile away the hours at the 12-acre village green, but appreciating the public art is a must, whether it’s visiting old favorites or seeking out a new, limited time installation. Walk the park’s perimeter or wander along the inner paths for a dose of fresh air and thought provoking imagery, including Jean Dubuffet’s Monument Au Fantome, Margo Sawyer’s Synchronicity of Color, and Jim Dine’s The House (Heart).
5 p.m.
**GO OFF GRID FOR A WHILE**
More specifically, go underground for a 30-minute guided tour of The Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern. Once a drinking water reservoir built for the city in 1926, it was decommissioned in 2007 following an irreparable leak. After extensive renovation, the former reservoir now serves as a unique public art gallery and gathering space. Tickets for tours can be reserved up to 60 days in advance, via the Buffalo Bayou website: buffalobayou.org/visit/destination/the-cistern/

7 p.m.
**DINNER AND PROHIBITION-ERA COCKTAILS IN A BUILDING TO MATCH**
Billed as an American bistro and craft cocktail lounge, Hearsay Market Square is housed in one of the oldest buildings in Houston, built in 1889. Exposed brick, wood panel artwork and vaulted ceilings give the feel of a speakeasy, with cocktails to match, but it’s the elevated comfort food that makes Hearsay’s dinner destination-worthy.

9:30 p.m.
**NIGHTCAP IN THE SKY**
If you’re up for one last outing before bed, take in a night view of the city from Z on 23’s rooftop bar at the Le Méridien Houston Downtown hotel. Sip on a classic martini or an amaro digestif as you watch the world go by below.

**Noon**
**BRUNCH**
Cap off your Downtown vacation at Bravery Chef Hall. Enjoy lunch at any of the chef-driven restaurants or maybe a little something from each. Make sure you visit Secret Garden for a coffee, glass of frosé or specialty cocktail.
It might have seemed unnecessary before COVID-19 to block vehicular traffic along Main Street, so restaurants and bars could expand their al fresco dining services. Now, however, that same outdoor space could be the difference between life and death for Downtown restaurateurs. This is why the Houston City Council approved an economic revitalization initiative called More Space: Main Street, which blocks traffic on Main between Commerce and Rusk.

Two goals of the plan are “creating more outdoor space for dining and drinking” and to “make it safer and more comfortable for patrons.”

Downtown chatted with Scott Repass, owner of Little Dipper (304 Main) to discuss his involvement in the More Space: Main Street movement and what he hopes it accomplishes.

“I got involved right away. When the pandemic hit, I called Bob Eury (president of the Downtown District) and he was very receptive to the idea,” says Repass, who also owns Montrose fixtures Poison Girl, Black Hole, and Antidote.

“But this isn’t just about us,” adds Repass, talking about restaurant, bar and cafe owners. The idea to expand patio dining quickly evolved after that first phone call, sandwiched between a dire need to support local service industry workers while also ensuring a safe environment for Houstonians who still planned to dine out.

“Locals were bound to—and now are—getting tired and going out. There was a clear need to create a safe space for employees and guests,” says Repass, who sees More Space: Main Street as an important community measure and hopes the initiative might take off in other areas of Houston as well.

Though the pandemic’s effect hasn’t been easy on business owners like Repass, he recalls one recent bright spot outside of the launch of the initiative: The immediate return of guests when Little Dipper reopened.

“These guests are so loyal, they remained in contact through social media and kept track of the bar’s plans, making sure to be here when we reopened.”

Despite having more outdoor seating and witnessing the return of a loyal customer base, Repass knows the pandemic isn’t over, and he’s taking business seriously. “We’re very strict about limiting the number of customers at a time, social distancing and wearing masks.”

According to a November 2020 press release, there are a few important guidelines for Main Street restaurants to follow when expanding their space. These include that patios be enclosed with fencing, and that establishments provide one entrance from the sidewalk and one from the roadway for ADA accessibility.

More Space: Main Street is expected to run through March 2022. It’s a uniquely Downtown answer to a difficult situation, helping small business owners, like Repass, adhere to important public health and safety measures while also bringing back Downtown’s amazing nightlife.
**GEORGIA JAMES TAVERN**

The ground floor of Market Square Tower at 777 Preston will be ready for its close-up when Georgia James Tavern opens in the first half of 2021 with a “touch of Old Hollywood.” An offshoot of its namesake Georgia James—part of the Underbelly Hospitality universe that also includes One/Fifth, The Hay Merchant and UB Preserv—it will offer a casual experience with a menu suitable for daily dining, not just special occasion splurges.

Chef de cuisine and Underbelly alum Matthew Coburn will be running the Tavern’s kitchen, fresh off his previous post as chef de cuisine at Georgia James.

“We want to build a sense of community with this restaurant, strengthened by our relationships with local farmers and ranchers. The simple, technique-driven menu will reflect those relationships,” says Coburn in a recent press release. “My goal is for our guests to feel the culture we create from the moment they walk in the door.”

Visit for burgers, salads, sandwiches and heck yeah, some cast-iron seared meats. A wood-burning oven will bring its own brand of magic to certain dishes, including an apple crumble, which pays homage to the OG apple pie at Georgia James (also cooked in a wood-burning oven). Speaking of desserts, pastry chef Victoria Dearmond will include cheesecake on the list of comfort classics, with more to be determined.

“We want to build a sense of community with this restaurant, strengthened by our relationships with local farmers and ranchers. The simple, technique-driven menu will reflect those relationships. My goal is for our guests to feel the culture we create from the moment they walk in the door.”

—Chef Matthew Coburn
THE NASH

The spring offers arguably the best weather for patio hangs, and the dog-friendly option at new restaurant The Nash is a prime spot for dining, drinking and people watching—all from the historic building at 1111 Rusk.

On days when the sun is appreciated but the heat is not, grab a table inside to enjoy Chef Omar Pereney’s modern American menu with international influences, which include dishes like Korean bacon, Venezuelan cheese sticks called tequeños, French lentil soup, tuna crudo, cauliflower paneer curry and more.

And whether seated at a table or enjoying a seat at the well-appointed bar, take advantage of the happy hour menu Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. for discounted wines, draft beer and cocktails, plus a varied menu of alcohol-friendly plates like wild mushroom toast, fried paneer in a tomato gravy, and house-made tater tots. On Sundays, select wines are half-off by the bottle at the bar.

POST HOUSTON

While the rest of the world seemed to hit the pause button for most of 2020, the construction of POST Houston pushed forward at 401 Franklin. What began as an idea became a vision, and ultimately a concrete plan to redevelop the former Barbara Jordan United States Post Office into an urban wonderland of mixed uses. Once slated for demolition, the ‘60s-era building will transform into an “apocalypse-chic” physical reality of 550,000 square feet when it opens to the public later this year.

Visitors can expect a 6,000-square-foot skylawn on the POST’s rooftop, designed by a Chicago-based landscape architect, Hoerr Schaudt, the same firm behind McGovern Centennial Park. The five-acre rooftop park and garden will host events for up to 300 guests.

Come for the rooftop, stay for the concert venue, co-working space, bars and restaurants. Of the latter, confirmed tenants include Austin-founded Salt & Time—a boutique butcher shop offering locally raised meats and other sundries—and their sibling spot, The Butcher’s Burger. Other Houston newcomers coming in hot (and cold) include Lea Jane’s Hot Chicken from Denver, and Gelu Italian Ice from Grand Junction, CO. Rounding out the starting lineup are homegrown Taco Fuego with their famous Halal quesobirria tacos and SouPreme, offering beloved Vietnamese soups like pho and bun bo hue.

DISCOVERY GREEN

Mural work from 14 artists will be unveiled in honor of Earth Day from noon to 5 p.m. on April 18 as part of Green Mountain Energy’s Earth Day celebration in partnership with the Citizens’ Environmental Coalition. Viewable through November, the artwork will live on four temporary structures along the White Promenade in Discovery Green.
The recently announced 1550 on the Green, a 28-story, Class-A office building anchoring a new district called Discovery West. The development will feature extra-wide pedestrian zones shaded by tree canopies, two outdoor terraces and great views of Discovery Green. The third-largest law firm in the U.S., Norton Rose Fulbright, plans to move in as anchor tenant around 2024.

Louder cheers at Rockets, Astros, Dash and Dynamo games! As of press deadlines: The Rockets are allowing fans at a reduced capacity in Toyota Center with COVID-19 protocols in place. Still up in the air: 2021 attendance policies for Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Astros as well as Major League Soccer (MLS), which includes the Houston Dynamo and Dash.

“The deeply varied cultural landscape of Houston is fittingly matched by the rich ecosystem of our distinctive natural resources. Our delicate environment has never been more vulnerable; and each of us has a unique perspective in recognizing, embracing and taking action to secure a brighter future for all.”

—Statement from Discovery Green representative about the project
Ashley Cockrell

Frontline Health Care Worker and Women’s Empowerment Coach

Ashley Cockrell is a nurse practitioner who has been working in a Houston clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic testing patients and managing test results. “The last year has been full of observing, learning, adapting and communicating with one another as health professionals,” she says, describing checking daily for updates from the CDC and federal and state health agencies.

Pandemic fatigue is taking its toll with many health care workers feeling discouraged without a definitive end in sight. “It has been stressful for everyone. Patients having symptoms are wondering ‘Should I get tested?’; frontline workers are wondering each day ‘Will I be exposed?’ Everyone is weary,” Cockrell says.

Still, serving the Houston community as a nurse during the pandemic has been one of the most fulfilling things Cockrell’s ever done. In fact, it has helped her remember why she became a nurse in the first place. Her goals have been to maintain safety, sanity and cultivate personal resilience so that she can carry out her mission as a nurse—to care for people no matter the circumstances.

The pandemic did highlight for Cockrell the number of women who work in caregiving positions and who are often left empty and exhausted due to the physically and emotionally taxing nature of their work. A high achieving Vanderbilt graduate, Cockrell is no stranger to the pressure women feel to give until there’s nothing left. Working through COVID-19 reignited her fire to pour into other women so that they are empowered to do the work they’re called to do, an endeavor that she tackles on her blog and social media.

She invites her readers and followers to join her on a “living spree”—a credo of self-love, self-care and self-discovery. “I want to help professional women go from burnout to balance by realizing their natural gifts and talents,” Cockrell says. The coach and motivator hosts one-on-one sessions and online workshops and plans to hold destination retreats, when it is safe to travel again.

To relax, Cockrell loves to visit Discovery Green and enjoy the city views, picturesque lake and green space. “It’s definitely underrated.”

“When has been stressful for everyone. Patients having symptoms are wondering ‘Should I get tested?’; frontline workers are wondering each day ‘Will I be exposed?’ Everyone is weary,”
When it comes to coffee and the business community, Day 6 Coffee’s owners (and brothers) R.J. and Ian Wilson are dedicated to offering “a better experience,” one rich with the flavors of art and entrepreneurialism alongside divine cups of coffee and heavenly slices of cheesecake.

“It takes a village to start a business,” says R.J., a University of Houston Law School graduate. That’s why the duo supports fellow Houstonians, highlighting the works of a dozen local artists and artisans. The artworks provide an elevated vibe for customers and are available to purchase by dual art-coffee connoisseurs.

Makers are not the only people the brothers honor at Day 6, however. The cafe began as a way to celebrate the life of a third Wilson brother, who passed away. “He always talked about opening a restaurant,” says Ian.

Family plays such a huge role in the Wilsons’ lives, it even inspired Ian’s early cheesecake experiments. After an aunt said they were too difficult to bake, the Sam Houston State finance graduate made it a personal goal to bring cheesecakes to future family gatherings.

The results were a success: Ian sold cheesecakes on Instagram before Day 6 opened. The cafe now offers a variety of deliciously creamy options, including non-traditional flavors like Snickers.

Together, the Wilson brothers are excited to grow with Houston as it adapts to a post-pandemic world. Having faith—the cafe’s name has a biblical connection—a refreshingly positive outlook, and a delicious menu are sure to help them in that journey.
Marci Murff has lived Downtown for three years, but even before relocating, she frequently ventured in to experience world-class theatre and opera. Since the pandemic hit, Murff and her family have tried to consciously support local businesses and explore all that Downtown has to offer. An earnest reader and literacy advocate, Murff realized that Houston’s historic Downtown, though rich in entertainment options, was missing one crucial lifestyle offering—an independent bookstore within walking distance.

“For as big as Houston is, there are shockingly few indie bookstores and even fewer that you can get to on foot in Downtown,” Murff says of her inspiration. But with a pandemic on and small businesses suffering, opening a storefront seemed aspirational at best. A traditional brick-and-mortar operation was off the table, so Murff would have to reenvision what a neighborhood bookstore could be.

Forgoing a physical location meant no commercial rent to pay, which, she reasoned, freed up a budget for the community outreach efforts that she wanted to help foster.

“How can we be a community bookstore and still be what people need right now?” she asked herself.

In September of 2020, the Neighborhood Bookshop Online made its debut, offering online ordering and free contactless delivery within the Houston Metro Area. Each order is also hand wrapped in artist-designed, sustainable wrapping paper that is 100 percent recyclable or biodegradable.

There’s a charitable aspect, too. Portions of the shop’s sales go to support various local organizations, like Literacy Now, Meals on Wheels, Greater Houston Arts Relief Fund, Project Row Houses, Trees for Houston, BakerRipley, the Montrose Center, and more. People can even shop according to which cause they want to support on the website.

So far, the reception on social media and from local patrons has been enthusiastically supportive. “I’ve been amazed by all of the shares we’ve gotten and people reaching out with heartwarming messages telling us how much they appreciate the personal touches. We believe in the Shop Local movement and receiving positive feedback like this from our customers is so rewarding,” Murff says.

And you better believe that she’s sourcing books and other items for the shop from small businesses and local makers. “Amazon became so easy during the pandemic. People want to shop local, but how can we make it easier and more accessible?” In addition to a wide range of books, Murff carries homemade goods and toys that are organic and eco-friendly.

The bookshop has already partnered with Day 6 Coffee Co. to offer free order pickup—and help drive foot traffic to a fellow local business. What’s next for Murff and the Market Square Bookshop? More community and nonprofit collaborations and hopefully future programming ranging from story time in the park, author signings and guest speakers to urban meetings and maybe even a bird watching tour of Downtown. “The idea is to use what already exists in the city to bring people together in new ways.”

“How can we be a community bookstore and still be what people need right now?”

DOWNTOWN PROFILE:
Market Square Bookshop
Houston’s Woman-Led, Family-Owned, Independent Bookstore

WE ARE DOWNTOWN
There are a handful of Houston chefs with national name recognition, and Chris Shepherd is one of them. As the owner and executive chef of the Underbelly Hospitality group, his success can be measured in the continued popularity of his restaurant concepts, multiple national awards, and the respect he commands in the culinary community at large.

So it would be understandable if Shepherd decided to take it easy for a while, especially given that he’s also running Southern Smoke, a crisis relief organization for food and beverage workers in need on a national scale.

Instead, Shepherd will be charging full speed ahead with his first Downtown restaurant, Georgia James Tavern, with chef de cuisine Matt Coburn running the kitchen. As a casual offshoot of Georgia James steakhouse, the restaurant offers a new opportunity to serve a variety of people who call Downtown home, and Shepherd wants to make sure it fits the bill as an everyday place to eat.

“I want people to go in and get an awesome sandwich, a salad, a killer steak, at a price point that you can afford.”

The restaurant’s location in Market Square Tower will make it accessible for both residents and nearby office workers looking for an everyday lunch order or happy hour drink.

“I’m just super excited about this,” he says. “For me it’s the first foray into Downtown, and I just respect it and love it and I want to learn it more and more everyday. I want it to be something special for residents and Downtown workers.”
plate.

THE GUIDE TO EATING DOWNTOWN

PLEASE NOTE!
Due to COVID-19, individual restaurants may change hours, service and menus. We recommend you call or check online before making plans.

THE NASH

photo by Kirsten Gilliam
These listings are not reviews but are a guide to Downtown dining spots. “Recommended” restaurants are selected by downtown editors and are based on food quality, menu selection, service, ambiance and value.

**RECOMMENDED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Cuisine</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Average Price of an Entrée</th>
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| Benihana of Tokyo | Japanese | While some restaurants allow their guests to view the kitchen, this Japanese grill brings the kitchen to you. Benihana chefs set up shop right in front of your table. The meal is made from scratch, and you can witness the entire show. benihana.com, 1318 Louisiana, 713.659.8231. L & D Daily. $$$
| Biggio’s American | American | Biggio’s is not your average sports bar. The two-story sports haven named after the Houston baseball legend, Craig Biggio, boasts a large drink selection, upscale bar food, and seats that come with views of flat screen TVs as far as the eye can see. 1777 Walker, 713.654.1777. L & D Daily. $5
| BirdDog Saint American | American | The spacious two-story bar is a great place to enjoy live music, sports, and mingle with friends. Opt for any of their savory gourmet pizzas, the BirdDog Burger, or sit at the raw bar and indulge in fresh ceviche. birddogst.com, 711 Main. 832.767.5574. L, & D Mon–Sat. $5
| Birraporetti’s Italian | Italian | This Italian restaurant/ Irish bar is a Theater District staple. Their delicious pizzas continue to hit the spot, while items such as the chicken picatta and La Dolce Vita have become standouts. Enjoy a signature dessert to finish the meal. birrarestaurant.com, 500 Louisiana, 713.224.9494. L, D & LN Daily. $5
| The Bistro American | American | The Bistro is a full-service restaurant serving up breakfast and dinner in a casual atmosphere. Courtyard by Marriott, 916 Dallas, 832.366.1600. B & D Daily. $5
| Blue by Massa Seafood | Seafood | This upscale and elegant restaurant offers up a fine selection of American and Seafood dishes. Among the esteemed list of favorites, the Lobster Bisque is a standout. Superior service and a great dining atmosphere allow guests to enjoy a memorable dining experience. Blue also offers occasional live entertainment and dancing is highly encouraged. massas.com, 1160 Smith, 713.650.0837. L Mon–Fri; D Mon–Sat. $5
| Bouray’s Burrito Bar Fast Food | Mexican | Bouray’s offers made-to-order Mexican and Vietnamese food using ingredients that are prepared fresh daily. bourays.com, 609 Clay, 713.652.5999. L Mon–Fri. $5
| Bovine & barley American | American | Bovine & barley is a beautifully designed urban bar and eatery with a heavy focus on beef and beer. The space has an industrial feel which is complimented by warm wood accents and huge HTX letters that hang illuminated on an exposed brick wall. Highlights from the menu include brisket tacos, meatloaf muffins on top of jalapeno mash, 1386 beef can chicken and a variety of burgers. Not to mention over 42 beers and six hand-crafted cocktails on tap! bovineandbarley.com, 416 Main, 832.742.5683. L Sat–Sun; D, LN Daily. $5
| Brass’s Brazilian Steakhouse Steakhouse | Brazilian | Open for lunch and dinner, Brass’s Brazilian Steakhouse brings an authentic churrascaria dining experience to Downtown. In keeping with tradition, the menu comprises various types of meat including beef, pork, chicken and seafood. brassshouston.com, 705 Main, L, D, Daily. $5

For a searchable database of downtown Houston restaurants by cuisine, location and price, visit downtownhouston.org and click on Guide.

**NEW!**

1600 Bar + Grille American Located on the lobby-level of the Hilton Americas-Houston hotel, 1600 Bar + Grille brings farm-fresh ingredients to the menu for a just-picked flavor. Featuring locally-sourced seasonal fresh produce, plus Certified Angus Beef and Gulf seafood dishes prepared from scratch, you can guarantee farm-to-fork freshness. hilton.com, 1600 Lamar, 713.739.8000. B, L & D Daily. $5

Adair Downtown American Located at the tunnel level at Wells Fargo Plaza, Adair Downtown is a sophisticated, yet casual restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and a post-work happy hour. Breakfast options include avocado toast and chicken & waffles, while the lunch menu features a variety of fresh, vibrant salads and deliciously stacked sandwiches. adairdowntown.com. 1000 Louisiana, B, L, H, Daily. $5

Ballpark Cafe American Enjoy the all-American cuisine and a nostalgic atmosphere for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Just across the street from Minute Maid Park, Ballpark Cafe is a great place to have a pre/post-game meal. westin.com/Houston-Downtown. The Westin Houston Downtown, 1520 Texas, 713.228.1520. B, L & D Daily. $5

Barnaby’s at Market Square American A local favorite, Barnaby’s serves up oversized sandwiches, salads and burgers, putting a Southwest spin on traditional deli dishes. Colorful murals adorn the walls of the restaurant along with large windows for a perfect view of the park. barnabyscafe.com. 801 Congress, 713.226.8787. B & L Mon–Sat; D Fri–Sat. $5

Batanga Tapas + Drinks Latin This tapas joint whips up delicious dishes inspired from Spain, Brazil, Mexico, Chile—anywhere that sangria is served. The bar serves over 150 varieties of bourbons and a mean breakfast! burgerim.com, 500 Main Street, 713.550.2041. B Daily. $5

Bouray’s offers made-to-order Mexican and Vietnamese food using ingredients that are prepared fresh daily. bourays.com, 609 Clay, 713.652.5999. L Mon–Fri. $5

Bovine & barley American Bovine & barley is a beautifully designed urban bar and eatery with a heavy focus on beef and beer. The space has an industrial feel which is complimented by warm wood accents and huge HTX letters that hang illuminated on an exposed brick wall. Highlights from the menu include brisket tacos, meatloaf muffins on top of jalapeno mash, 1386 beef can chicken and a variety of burgers. Not to mention over 42 beers and six hand-crafted cocktails on tap! bovineandbarley.com, 416 Main, 832.742.5683. L Sat–Sun; D, LN Daily. $5

Brass’s Brazilian Steakhouse Steakhouse Open for lunch and dinner, Brass’s Brazilian Steakhouse brings an authentic churrascaria dining experience to Downtown. In keeping with tradition, the menu comprises various types of meat including beef, pork, chicken and seafood. brassshouston.com, 705 Main, L, D, Daily. $5

Brasserie du Parc French Located in the luxury high rise, One Park Place, the interior design and the menu at this beautiful French restaurant were inspired by classic Parisian brasseries and offerings include classic dishes like risotto, steak frites and crêpes, along with delicacies such as escargots and chicken liver pâté. brasseriuedparc.net, 1440 Lamar, 832.879.2802. L & D Daily. $5

Bravery Chef Hall Food Hall The first of its kind, Bravery Chef Hall is a next generation food hall with five chef-driven concepts and a Gaggenau Concept Kitchen with a rotating roster of guest chefs. Culinary options include Atlas Diner, The Blind Goat, B&H Pasta & Pizza and Kokoro. The chef hall also houses three bars including Bravery Wine Bar and Secret Garden. braverychefhall.com. 409 Travis, L, D, LN Daily. $5

BurgerIM Fast Casual BurgerIM is an Israel-based mini-burger concept known for serving 3oz. patties in a mix-and-match format. Choose from options like dry-aged beef, chorizo, turkey, salmon, veggie and more. The unique eatery also offers two different bun options, nine sauces and 10 different toppings making for an extremely customizable burger experience. BurgerIM also offers chicken strips and wings, milkshakes, family boxes and a variety of sides including onion rings and sweet potato fries. burgerim.com, 800 Preston. L, D, LN, Daily. $5

Burger Theory American Located at street-level of Downtown’s Holiday Inn, Burger Theory specializes in gourmet burgers, casual American fare and boasts a beer-centric bar. They also serve a mean breakfast! 1616 Main St. B, L & D LN. $5

Buzz Barista Coffee House This full-service espresso bar offers much more than caffeinated beverages for a morning fix. People on the go can grab fresh-baked pastries, Naked juices, yogurt parfaits and fruit cups along with their brewed delights. 811 Main, 713.228.3033. B & L Mon–Fri. $5

The Cafe American Located in the lobby of the Hilton Americas. An elaborate buffet is offered for breakfast, with a la carte selections from the menu available for lunch and dinner. Hilton Americas, 1600 Lamar, 713.739.8000, B, L & D LN Daily. $5

Cafe Cosmopolita Coffee House Inspired by the cultural and gastronomical diversity in European cafes, this local coffee shop offers a surplus of coffee, pastries made from scratch, breakfast items, and natural smoothies. cafecosmopolita.com, 1625 Main Street, Suite A-1. 708.890.2041. B Daily. $5

Captain Foxheart’s Bad News Bar & Spirit Lodge A fun and quirky bar that doesn’t take itself too seriously (hence the name), but the cocktails are seriously good. Patrons enjoy the speakeasy vibe and the patio terrace for prime people watching. twitter.com/badnewsbar. 308 Main. Mon–Sun 4 pm–2 am.

China Garden Chinese A popular Chinese restaurant, China Garden has been serving downtown for more than 30 years. Their egg rolls and lemon chicken have become favorites. 1602 Leonel, 713.652.0745. L, Mon–Fri; D Daily. $5

Chipotle Mexican Known for its large portions, this Mexican fast casual spot offers a variety of wholesome menu items. chipotle.com, 909 Texas, 713.225.6633. L & Early D Mon–Fri. $5
Christian’s Tailgate American  Christian’s Tailgate has arguably one of the best burgers in town and now you can enjoy them Downtown! The notable Houston burger joint in Downtown’s Historic District boasts daily food specials, 30 beers on tap, 40+ TVs, a pool table, shuffle board, video games and an awesome outdoor patio! christianstatoggle.com. 1012 Congress, 281.556.1010. L, D & LN. $ 

Corner Bakery Fast Casual  A bakery cafe, offering fresh breads, salads, sandwiches, soups and sweets in a casual atmosphere. Located right on Main Street Square, you can’t beat the people watching or just relax and watch the rail line and Main Street Square’s jumping fountains. cornerbakery.com. 1000 Main, 713.651.0673. B & Mon–Fri. $ 

Craft Beer Cellar  Located in the Historic Market Square neighborhood, Craft Beer Cellar is a bottle shop and bar with a full wall of local, national and international beer options. Stop by and have a drink at the bar or fill up a growler and take one to go! houston.craftbeercellar.com. 907 Franklin. Mon–Sat 10 am–10 pm; Sun 11 am–7 pm. 

Cultivated F+B American  Cultivated F+B is the perfect spot for a meal with friends, a power breakfast or post-performance nosh. Dine al fresco on the patio or soak in the contemporary art indoors as you indulge in a sophisticated American menu that features braised short rib tacos, Fernando’s chilaquiles and other exquisite items. thelancaster.com. 701 Texas Avenue, 800.231.0336. B, L & Daily. $ 

Diana American Grill American  Nestled inside the Hobby Center, this upscale restaurant is an ideal place for pre-show dining and Downtown lunches. Menu items include a lobster cocktail, red siren with grape crab, ribeye steak and other delectable dishes created by James Beard Award-winning chef Robert Del Grande. hobbycenter.com. 800 Bagby, 713.315.2562. L & D Tue–Sun. $ $$ 

The District American  The District offers classic American cuisine in a modern setting. Perfect for lunch or dinner before a show! The menu includes a variety of options like burgers, salads, pasta and small plates. There’s definitely something for everyone! thedistrictxxtv.com. 610 Main St. L & D. $ $$ 

Domino’s Pizza  975 McKinney, 713.227.3030. $ 

The Downtown Aquarium Seafood  The menu features a huge variety and offers something for everyone. While dining, guests are surrounded by a 150,000-gallon aquarium. Enjoy the sights and a great meal at this family-friendly spot. aquariumrestaurants.com. 410 Bagby, 713.223.3474. L & Daily. $ $$ 

Eats Mesquite Grill Classic American  Craving a burger downtown? Popular for its juicy burgers and great-tasting fries, Eats makes for a great lunchtime stop. Guests can make their burgers exactly how they like them. 804 Milam, 713.223.3287. L Mon–Fri. $ 

El Big Bad Latin  Brought to you by the El Gran Malo crew, this casual Tex-Mex restaurant brings handcrafted tequila infusions, specialty margaritas and craft beers to the table. The gastrocantina-inspired menu is chock full of tasty tacos with fresh toppings like pomegranate salsa, charred scallions, pumpkin seeds and more. elbigbad.com. 419 Travis, 713.229.8181. L, D & LN Mon–Fri; D & LN Sat & Sun. BR Sun. $ $$ 

El Big Bad Mexican  This two-story, ultra-urban restaurant is located at Downtown Green. The menu features rustic American cuisine such as Gulf Coast seafood, steaks and signature rotisserie dishes. grovehouston.com. Downtown, 1611 Lamar, 713.337.7321. L & D Daily. $$ $$ 

Guadalajara del Centro Mexican  This family-owned restaurant consistently serves up tasty food in a new, very cool environment. It’s the perfect place to bring the family or a large group of coworkers or friends. Great happy hour specials. guadalajarahacienda.com, GreenStreet, 1201 San Jacinto, 713.650.0101. L & D Daily. $ $$ 

Guard and Grace Steakhouse  A take on the modern steakhouse, prominent Denver Chef Troy Guards first foray into the Houston dining scene features rosy of wood-burning grills with a bright, airy atmosphere that differs from the usual dark tone of a steakhouse. Guard and Grace boasts a menu offering everything from charcuterie and sushi to pan-roasted halibut and a filet mignon flight for one deliciously contemporary dining experience. One Allen Center, 500 Dallas. 345-326-0789. LD, D Daily. $ $$ 

Hearsay Gastro Lounge New American  Located in a beautifully refurbished historic building, this upscale restaurant and lounge serves up delicious sandwiches, salads and entrées. They feature an extensive wine list, numerous beers on draft and bottle and premium liquors with a focus on Scotch whisky. hearsayhouston.com. 218 Travis, 713.225.8079. L Daily; D Mon–Sat; LN Fri–Sat. $ $$ 

Hearsay on the Green American  Located inside the Embassy Suites in Downtown’s Convention District, this upscale restaurant and lounge serves up the finest craft cocktails, New-American dishes and a chic dining experience. The drink menu features an extensive wine list, numerous bottles, 128 bottle and premium liquors. hearsayhouston.com. 1515 Dallas, 832.377.3362. L & D Daily; LN Fri–Sat; BR Sun. $$ 

House of Blues Restaurant and Bar American  From daytime to playtime, House of Blues Restaurant & Bar draws inspiration from across the South, including iconic dishes, signature Southern-inspired recipes, as well as a wide range of burgers, sandwiches and salads. Enjoy live music most nights and don’t miss Houston’s best Jazz ‘n Blues Brunch every Saturday! hob.com. GreenStreet, 1204 Caroline, 888.402.5837. L & D Daily. $ $$ 

Irma’s Mexican  Irma Galvan has been crowned Houston’s Tex-Mex goddess. This authentic spot is a longtime favorite among Houston politicos and downtown business people. Traditional, home-cooked Mexican cuisine is served for breakfast and lunch on weekdays. 22 North Chenenvert, 713.222.0767. B & L Mon–Fri; D Thu–Sat. $ $$ 

Irma’s Southwest Grill Mexican  Irma’s second location is a hip spot to satisfy a Mexican food craving. Enjoy tasty foods and great drinks for lunch or dinner. Only a few short blocks from Minute Maid Park, irmassouthwest.com. 1475 Texas, 713.247.9651. L & D Mon–Sat. $ $$ 

Jackson St. BBQ Barbecue  This laid-back spot by renowned Houston chefs Bryan Caswell, Bill Floyd and Greg Gatlin offers smoked brisket, ribs, chicken, sausage and classic southern fixins like potato salad, baked beans, collard greens and cole slaw! Conveniently located across from Minute Maid Park, stop by this Downtown favorite before or after Astros games! jacksonstbbqhoust.com. 209 Jackson St, 713.224.2400. L & D Sat–Sun. $ $$
Jason’s Deli Deli  Order to please, Jason’s will make your sandwich or salad exactly how you like it. jasonsdeli.com. 901 McKinney, 713.650.1500.  B & L Mon–Fri. $ 

Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches Deli  All subs are served on your choice of fresh-baked French bread or thick-sliced seven-grain bread or try the low-carb lettuce wrap: all the regular sandwich ingredients without the bread. jimmyjohns.com. 820 Main, 713.222.9995.  L Mon–Sat. $ 

The Lake House Fast Casual  Offering family-friendly food, featuring burgers, Kobe beef hot dogs, salads, shakes, wine and beer. Located on Kinder Lake, there is a large patio where you can watch model boats race across the water or listen to some live music from the nearby stage. thelakehousehouston.com. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney. L & B Early D Mon–Sun. $ 

La Calle Mexican  Located in Downtown’s historic Market Square, this cozy restaurant serves authentic Mexican street tacos, tacos and tostadas. Your visit isn’t complete without an Agua Fresca or pitstop at the funky digs’ tluxa libre themed bar. La Cantina! In addition to the savory tacos, you’ll find plenty of Mexican beers, drafts, and frozen margaritas. lacalletacos.com. 909 Franklin, 832.715.8262. L, D & L&D Daily. $$ 

La Cantina by La Calle  This authentic Mexican sports bar is draped in vintage tluxa libre threads and is the perfect hangout to throw back a few Micheladas, enjoy your fix of tacos and catch your favorite soccer, boxing or UFC match on one of their large 82” screen TVs. If you get too carried away, drop by La Cantina’s sister concept, La Calle the next morning or the perfect hangover cure—a big bowl of menudo or caldo! lacalletacos.com, 909 Franklin, Mon–Wed 11am–midnight, Thu–Fri 3 pm–2 am; Sat 11 am–2 am; Sun 11 am–midnight. $ 

La Fisheria Coastal Mexican  Located in Downtown’s Historic District, La Fisheria serves authentic Mexican Seafood such as sweet shrimp tamales, perfectly prepared fish tacos and a variety of crudos and ceviches. lafisheriahouston.com. 213 Milam, 713.802.1712. L & D Daily. $ 

La Palapa Fast Food  A Courthouse District favorite, there’s always a line at this free-standing pink concession stand for breakfast tacos and hamburgers. 1110 Preston, 713.228.9620.  B & L Mon–Fri. $ 

Last Concert Cafe Mexican  Tucked away in the Warehouse District, this Tex-Mex cafe was born in 1949 and still supplies tasty food and local music today. Spend some time on the leafy back patio and you’ll swear you’re in your neighbor’s backyard throwing back a cold one lastconcert.com. 1403 Nance, 713.226.8563. L Mon–Fri; D Mon–Sun; L&DEarly D Mon–Sun; L & F Fri–Sat; Bar & live music Tue–Sat. $ 

Lawless Spirits & Kitchen  Lawless Spirits & Kitchen is an establishment with flair. A place that gives rise to the iconic visions of Teddy Roosevelt, Mark Twain, Frank Sinatra or Steve McQueen leaning on the bar with a stiff, well-crafted Rye Manhattan. Lawless is detailed with glitz style, featuring revolutionaries cocktails accompanied by comfortable finger foods and satisfying bites. lawlessspirits.com. 909 Texas, Daily 4–11 pm. 

Line & Lariat Modern American  An award-winning dining experience located in the historic lobby of Hotel Icon’s landmark bank building. The intimate dining room is extravagant, and the exquisite dishes from the Gulf Coast and South Texas emphasize fresh ingredients. A contemporary lounge with a modern setting for cocktails and an elegant after-work meeting place. hotelicon.com. Hotel Icon, 220 Main, 832.667.4470. B Daily; D Mon–Sat. $$$ 

Little Dipper  This spot is a cool, blue neighborhood bar with pinball machines, cheap bourbon and a bad-ass jukebox. twitter.com/LittleDipperBar. 304 Main. Daily 4 pm–2 am. 

Little Napolii Italian  Theater and moviegoers can now enjoy these southern Italian dishes before the big show! The healthy options, such as whole wheat pizza and low-fat cheeses, are a nice touch. littlenapolii.net. 540 Texas, 713.225.3900. $$ 


Louie Coffee Coffee House  Louie Coffee is housed at GreenStreet with a menu that includes a variety of coffees, teas, breakfast tacos, sandwiches, yogurt parfaits and other sweet treats. This cozy coffee shop is the perfect place to sit back, relax and escape the bustling Downtown streets. louie.coffee. 1201 Fannin, 713.255.2363. B & L Mon–Sat. $ 

Lucky Strike Lanes & Lounge American  Bowlers and patrons relax on sleek leather couches and enjoy floor-to-ceiling video screens that flash movie clips and music videos as DJs deliver danceable grooves. Delectable munchies are available lane-side and in the lounge. bowlyuckystrike.com. GreenStreet, 1201 San Jacinto, Level 3, 713.343.3300. L, D & LN Daily. $$ 

Mademoiselle Louise Bakery Coffee House  In addition to a quaint European vibe, Mademoiselle Louise Bakery offers chocolate croissants, tarts, éclairs, a variety of fresh baked breads, and other classic French pastries. Conveniently located on the first floor of Skyhouse Main. mademoisellelouise.com. 1715 Main, B & L Mon–Sun. $$ 

Main Kitchen American  Named Main Kitchen to reflect its location on Main Street and the hopes of becoming a staple in Houston’s culinary scene, the restaurant seats 120 and boasts an exhibition kitchen providing guests with an insight into the chefs’ creative process. jwmarriotthotelhouston.com/main-kitchen. 806 Main St, 713.400.1245. B, L & D Daily. $ 

Mango Tree Thai Bistro Thai  This asian Thai joint that keeps booths packed with hungry downtowners looking for ecclectic dishes to satisfy their spice cravings. And there’s a pretty tempting happy hour for drinks and nibbles under $5. mangothreethaiastro.com. 914 Main Street, 713.659.1600. L & D Mon–Sat. $$ 

McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood  The extensive menu changes daily depending on each day’s fresh seafood deliveries. With more than 80 preparations on the menu each day, every guest is sure to find something to satisfy their palate. mccormickandschmicks.com. GreenStreet, 1201 Fannin, 713.658.8100. L & D Daily. $$ 

The Melt on Wheels American  Located inside Craft Beer Cellar, The Melt takes a childhood classic and gives it a gourmet twist! From the birria grilled cheese with chuck and brisket on artisan Texas toast, monterey and chihuahua cheese and dipping broth on the side, to the mama mia featuring prosciutto, gouda, goat cheese and basil with a honey drizzle, all on potato bread, these sandwiches give you that classic cheesy taste you love with a hint of sophistication. L, D, Daily. $$ 

Mendocino Farms American  California-based Mendocino Farms is a one-stop shop for gourmet sandwiches and salads. The fast-casual concept offers twists on classics like a Vietnamese Bahn Mi, Cuban, tuna melt and more. Drawing inspiration from both its homestate and many cities across the nation, Mendocino Farms strives to introduce fresh, unique ingredients in approachable adventurous foods. mendocinofarms.com. 609 Main, L, D, Daily. $ 

Minuti Coffee Coffee House  The coffee is created by a roaster master in Italy, before making its way into the hands of talented baristas. This is the perfect place to bring the laptop and take advantage of Minuti’s free Wi-Fi. They also have wine and beer, which is a great pre/post theater spot. Be sure to sample some of the fresh-baked pastries and smoothies, too. minuticoffee.com. 909 Texas, 713.281.265.3344. L, B, L & LN Daily. $$ 

MKT BAR International  Part of Phoenicia Specialty Foods, it’s the perfect place to stop when you need a chill moment. The bar offers coffee, pastries, wine, beer, gourmet pizza and other yummy nibbles for which Phoenicia is known. phoeniciafoods.com. 1001 Austin, 832.360.2222. B, L & LN Daily. $$ 

Molly’s Pub  This classic Irish pub offers a variety of Irish whiskies and international beers. Tables and coves lead you to the back, where pool and darts can be found and a second-floor balcony provides excellent views of Main Street and Downtown. mollyspubs.com. 509 Main. Daily 11 am–2 am. 

The Moonshiners American  The Moonshiners Southern Table + Bar offers up a rebellious respite in the bustling urban backdrop of Downtown Houston. The restaurant celebrates and elevates southern culinary traditions serving up moonshine and whiskey in mason jars alongside generous portions of southern comfort foods such as fried chicken, shrimp and grits, and pulled pork sandwiches. 1000 Prairie, 713.226.7717. L & D Mon–Fri; LN Fri & Sat. $$ 

Morton’s Steakhouse  This award-winning steakhouse offers an outstanding menu. The downtown location features its new bar concept, Bar 12-21, which includes an impressive wine and martini menu along with its specially priced “bar bites.” mortons.com. 1001 McKinney, 713.659.3700. L Mon–Fri; D Daily. $$ $$ 

Murphy’s Deli Deli  Indulge in a variety of sandwiches and salads. Hot or cold, Murphy’s specializes in creating your sandwich any way it’s ordered. murphysdeli.com. 601 Jefferson, 713.652.4939. 1900 Main, 713.650.3354. 440 Louisiana, 713.247.9122. 700 Louisiana, 713.547.0660. 1415 Louisiana, 832.663.6113. 500 Dallas, 713.654.0033. B & L Mon–Fri all locations. $$ 

The Nash American  Located in the historic Star, formerly known as the Texaco Building, The Nash offers diners a dynamic, laid-back style in the heart of Downtown. The menu is an approachable mix of cold and hot small plates, pizzas, entrees, steaks and chops, and is a nod to Houston’s diverse and vibrant population. thenashhoustcom. 1111 Rush, D, H, Daily. $$
Time and time again, Houston shows the world just how strong the city is when faced with a challenge. Despite the unprecedented year that was 2020, Houston’s culinary community has banded together to support one another creatively. Though many things have changed in the last 12 months, one thing remains the same: Houstonians’ love of food.

One business taking advantage of that fact? The Nash.

Located at The Star (formerly known as the Texaco building), The Nash brings an eclectic vibe to the corner of Fannin and Rusk. The modern restaurant and bar offers patrons a casual, yet dynamic dining experience with a menu Chef Omar Pereney describes as a love letter to American food.

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Grab a seat in this stunning space or on the large, dog-friendly patio, and you’ll quickly feel welcomed. Floor-to-ceiling windows remind you you’re in the heart of Houston.
Owners Alvin and Dora Murgai recognize the important role environment plays for diners. Between the original Texaco building terrazzo floors and the arches that can be viewed on the patio, the history of the building is part of the guest’s experience.

Houston’s diversity is well reflected in the menu. Start with snacks like Venezuelan tequeños or forbidden eggs, move on to apps like Korean bacon or mussels with Spanish chorizo, garlic, chardonnay, blistered tomatoes, herbed butter and capers. And enjoy entrée options like pan-seared Atlantic salmon, herb-roasted chicken, juicy filet mignon or cauliflower paneer curry.

Designed to appeal to residents, office workers and travelers alike, The Nash is open daily for dinner, with happy hour Monday through Friday 4–6 p.m. Pop by post-work for craft cocktails, wine and draft beers, as well as bits and bites like lamb lollipops, pizza (margherita or bianco) and tater tots that will put those of your childhood to shame.

Stay tuned for lunch and brunch, as those are both on the horizon. If the current menu is any indication of what’s to come, you can count on us being first in line.

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**Recommended Meal**

*(We won’t steer you wrong!)*

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**DRINK**

**Prickly Rose**

- gin, lemon, prickly rose syrup, prickly pear soda, lavender mist

**APPETIZER**

**Tater Tots**

- roasted corn, jalapeno, herbed crema fresca, aged smoked cheddar, fresh-cut chives

**MAIN**

**Short Rib Pappardelle**

- 12-hour ragu, mornay sauce, caramelized shallots, garden herbs, parmigiano reggiano

**DESSERT**

**Lemon Olive Oil Cake**

- lemon-lavender syrup, lemon curd, mascarpone vanilla whipped cream
Osso & Kristalla Italian

Fetokakis opened his cafe in 2010 at Market Square Park.

Phoenicia Specialty Foods International

Potente Italian

Padthai Thai Restaurant Thai

Osso & Kristalla Italian

Rachel's Cafe American

Rachel's Cafe is an old fashioned hamburger joint inside Hines' 609 Main building and pair it with your favorite breakfast and lunch options from local favorite, Morningstar.

Quinzo’s Fast Food

Potente is a dining experience like no other. They buy the highest-quality ingredients. Menu items include daily seafood selections, steaks, homemade pastas and the signature veal osso bucco.

Pappadeaux This local favorite serves up some of the finest and freshest seafood with a Cajun twist! Start with the crispy fried alligator or a bowl of gumbo, try the Chilean Sea Bass or the pasta mardi gras, and top it all off with the praline bread pudding soufflé.

Pappas BBQ Barbecue

Pappas Bros. Steakhouse Steakhouse

Pappas Bros. Steakhouse serves up Italian cuisine in a modern and down-to-earth gourmet food prices and a unique variety of flavors.

Perbacco Italian

The Pearl Seafood

Saltgrass Steak House Steakhouse

Shula’s Steakhouse

Shula’s Steakhouse is heatin’ up Downtown Houston with cult favorites like the Shack Steak, Chick’n Shack, crinkle cut fries, creamy shakes and Texas-exclusive, the Lockhart Link Burger.

Shake Shack American

The Shops at Houston Center Food Court

Shay McElroy’s Pub

Shake Shack is a hip, trendy and upscale restaurant right in the mix of Main Street. The menu includes a wide variety of favorites and combined with the live music, Samba is Houston’s ultimate supper club.

Samba New American

Sapporo Japanese Sushi & Bar Asian

Sapporo Japanese Sushi & Bar offers everything from sushi and yaki soba to shrimp vegetable tempura and smoked taiki yaki filet mignon. Daily happy hour favorites include hot sake, fried oysters and an assortment of house wines.

Saint Arnold Beer Garden & Restaurant

Shay McElroy’s Pub created this space around a richly detailed, 19th-century bar he had shipped from Ireland. The crowd is an inviting collection of young professionals and not-so-young merrymakers.

Skyline Deli Deli

Skyline Deli makes a great deli sandwich.

Sol Cafe Mejicano

A family-owned cafe offering traditional Tex-Mex breakfast and lunch dishes made from fresh ingredients.

Spindletop American

A favorite Houston seafood restaurant and fine dining experience ideal for birthday parties, family reunions, anniversaries and engagements. Perched on the 34th floor of Hyatt Regency Downtown, this glass-walled restaurant makes one revolution every 45 minutes, ensuring you’ll enjoy 360-degree views of the city and all of its famous landmarks.

Rachel’s Cafe American

Rachel’s Cafe is an old-fashioned hamburger joint inside the historic Lendale Building. This quaint little cafe has an extensive menu with lots of simple classics like burgers, fries, sandwiches and salads—all made fresh!

Rosalie Italian Soul Italian

Rosalie Italian Soul is named after and inspired by Chef Chris Cosentino’s great-grandmother, a 223 Main, 713.222.1184.

Russo’s New York Pizzeria Italian

Russo’s New York Pizzeria is located just across from the Preston Station on the METRORail. Roma’s Pizza offers New York-style pizza by the slice or pie, as well as a variety of salads, lasagnas, ravioli, and chicken dishes.

Salata American

Salata American Next-generation salad bar allows you to create your own, tossed-to-order salad or wrap complete with a variety of fresh greens, a large selection of veggies, fruits, nuts, cheeses and more. Top your order off with one of their signature dressings and your choice of chicken, seafood or tofu.

Salata American

Sato Japanese Sushi & Bar

Sapori Japanese Sushi & Bar offers everything from sushi and yaki soba to shrimp vegetable tempura and smoked taiki yaki filet mignon. Daily happy hour favorites include hot sake, fried oysters and an assortment of house wines.

Shake Shack American

The Shops at Houston Center Food Court

Shay McElroy’s Pub

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Saint Arnold Beer Garden & Restaurant

Saint Arnold Beer Garden & Restaurant

Shula’s Steakhouse

Shula’s Steakhouse is Dark wood, sports memorabilia and menu hand painted on official NFL game footballs makes Pro Hall-of-Famer Don Shula’s Steak House stand out from the rest. Become a member of the 48oz Club by finishing a 48-ounce Shula Cut.
Small businesses are the heart and soul of #DowntownHouston. We encourage you to continue supporting local. To stay in the know, visit downtownhouston.org

Stack Burger American This Downtown burger joint is far from ordinary. Serving more than just your everyday burgers, Stack Burger also offers coffee, breakfast, fusion sandwiches and a whole lotta Houston art. stack-burger.com. 703 St. Joseph Pkwy, 713.651.0227. B & L Daily. $ Starbucks Coffee Located in the new AC Hotel, this Starbucks location is accessible from both the street and the hotel lobby. Offering staples such as macchiato, lattes and teas, the Main Street location also serves pastries, oven-warmed food and other light bites. starbucks.com. 723 Main. B, L, Daily. $ Sub Roc Fast Casual Located inside 1021 Main you’ll find Sub Roc, a quaint little space offering a diverse menu of breakfast and deli lunch options like soups and salads. Whether you’re taking a coffee break or a grab and go sandwich in hand, Sub Roc strives to make every guest’s experience pleasant with a smiling face and a relaxing environment. sub roc.com. 1021 Main, Suite 200. 713.337.3530. Trof Restaurant Continental Trof’s menu is described as Continental with a Mediterranean and Latin flair and the ambience is simple, yet sophisticated. Lunch buffets are available Monday through Friday. 400 Dallas, Doubltree Hotel, 713.759.0202. B, L & D Daily. $$ Underground Hall American Located in the Historic Market Square District, Underground Hall is the latest food hall to hit Downtown Houston. Offering everything from pizza and beer to tacos and tres leches, this foodie paradise truly has a little something for everyone. The casual establishment features locally known dining spots including Wokker, Hotline Burger, Birdhaus, The Pho Fix and Treacherous Leches. undergroundhall.com. 1010 Prairie, 713.759.0202. L, D, H, Daily. $$ Table 7 Bistro American Table 7 Bistro is a combination of an upscale, yet casual atmosphere. Weekday happy hour includes $4 well drinks and $2 domestic beers, and it’s happy hour all weekend with $2 mimosas all day on Saturdays and Sundays. district7grill.com. 720 Fannin (at The Club Quarters, 713.227.4800. B, L & D Daily. $ Understory Food Hall Located at the base of Bank of America tower, this expansive 40-foot atrium which doubles as a lively food hall is filled with natural light, an abundance of community gathering spaces and features diverse food and drink experiences such as Seaside Poke, Farro, Flip n’ Patties, Boomtown Coffee, MONA Fresh Italian Food, Mama Ninfa’s Tacos & Tortas, East Hampton Sandwich Co and Silver Lining Bar. understoryhouston.com. 800 Capitol. B, L, D, Daily. $$ Vic & Anthony’s Steakhouse This world-class steak house is one of the most elegant dining locations in Houston. It boasts rich mahogany woodwork and one-of-a-kind hospitality. Located in the heart of the Ballpark District and across from Minute Maid Park, Vic & Anthony’s is the ideal spot for entertaining business clients, a special celebration or a pre/post-game dinner. vicandanthonyhs.com. 1510 Texas, 713.228.1111. L Mon–Fri; D Daily. $$$$ Walker St. Kitchen American Walker Street Kitchen serves the freshest offerings from the Gulf Coast, fusing cultural and geographical influences into a culinary feast. 1777 Walker, 713.654.1777. B, L & D Daily. $$ Wimpy’s Hamburgers Fast Food Wimpy’s serves up a pretty good burger but they also have many other down-home favorites. 632 Polk, 713.652.0123. B & L Mon–Fri. $
datebook.
THE MAN WITH THE FLOWER IN HIS MOUTH
Mar 1–14 Two strangers meet at a train station in the middle of the night. At first, their concerns seem the petty worries of the everyday, but as the two men get to know each other better, the subject turns to life, death and the meaning of existence. ONLINE. alleytheatre.org

BEETHOVEN’S PASTORAL PLUS BRONFMAN
Mar 5–7 Fabien Gabel leads Beethoven’s beloved symphonic ode to nature and country life, the Pastoral Symphony No. 6. The Symphony welcomes back the extraordinary Yefim Bronfman for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3. In-person and online. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. houstonsymphony.org

KAZUO ISHIUGRO
Mar 7 Kazuo Ishiguro will give a short reading from his new novel Klara and the Sun, followed by a conversation with fiction writer Jim Shepard. This live-stream event is presented as part of the 40th anniversary 2020/2021 Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series. ONLINE. inprinthouston.org

ELIAS STRING QUARTET
Mar 9 The internationally acclaimed Elias String Quartet is one of the most intense and vibrant quartets of their generation, and a favorite of Da Camera audiences. This performance features the U.S. premiere of Beamish’s Quartet No. 4, her response to Schumann’s A Minor Quartet. As an encore, enjoy the Elias’s rousing arrangements of Scottish folk tunes. ONLINE. dacamera.com

LIVE FROM THE CULLEN: JACK SWANSON WITH RICHARD BADO
Mar 12 Young sensation Jack Swanson is best known for his interpretations of Rossini and Donizetti. Originally from Stillwater, Minnesota, he received his master of music in vocal performance at Rice University. He will be the star of this digital recital of works that are sure to showcase his incredible range. ONLINE. hgo.org

MARK NUCCIO PLAYS COPLAND
Mar 12–14 Commissioned by Benny Goodman, Copland’s Clarinet Concerto is a fun and dynamic fusion of jazz and classical, from its gentle opening to the closing Rhapsody in Blue-esque glissando. Hear it performed by the Symphony’s Principal Clarinet Mark Nuccio in a concert also featuring Beethoven’s lively Symphony No. 2. In-person and online. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. houstonsymphony.org

SIGNATURE WORKS
Mar 12 Certain iconic works define the reputations of their creators. Others provide rare glimpses into the aesthetic of minor masters who might otherwise remain forgotten. Ars Lyrica’s program of signature works includes one of classical music’s all time favorites, plus a gloriously operatic setting of the Stabat Mater. In-person and online. thehobbycenter.org

MEDEA
Mar 12–Apr 11 Sexual jealousy, betrayal, revenge and murder! One of the first plays ever written remains one of the most gripping. Medea has sacrificed everything for her marriage to Jason. Now he has his eye on a younger potential bride. Watch as Medea makes him pay dearly for his infidelity. ONLINE. alleytheatre.org
MUSICAL STORYTELLERS: WINDS OF THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY
Mar 19–21 The woodwind, brass and percussion sections of the Houston Symphony take center stage in a unique Bank of America POPS program spotlighting some of the greatest wind ensemble compositions of our time, including music of John Williams and Principal POPS Conductor, Steven Reineke. In-person and online. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. houstonsymphony.org

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS BACH, BEETHOVEN & SALONEN
Mar 26–28 World-renowned conductor-composer and current San Francisco Symphony Music Director, Esa-Pekka Salonen, makes his Houston conducting debut with a program of treasured classics with a contemporary twist. In-person and online. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. houstonsymphony.org

SUITE ESPAÑOLA
Mar 26 HGO artistic advisor and one of the greatest sopranos in the world, Ana María Martínez, is the creator of Suite Español – a celebration of the music of Spain. Martinez will be joined by a pianist, a guitarist and two HGO Studio artists for a performance showcasing the beautiful music of the country. ONLINE. hgo.org

AARON DIEHL
Mar 23 Pianist Aaron Diehl in a recital of concert works composed in jazz style, featuring Zodiac Suite. A virtuoso who moves easily between musical worlds, Diehl is sure to delight listeners who reject conventional notions of genre. ONLINE. dacamera.com

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: MYSTERIOUS SEAS
Mar 30 Get a glimpse into the ocean's greatest depths—and the fascinating creatures that live there—with two leading marine biologists. Through stories and conversation, they’ll shine a light on this dark, cold, and mysterious world. ONLINE. spahouston.org

EL CHUCO TOWN FOREVER
Apr 2–May 7 Janie and Miguel are long-time assistant managers at a big box store in El Paso right by the Zaragoza Bridge to Juarez, Mexico. The memorial service is tonight. It didn't happen at their store, but could have. Should they go? Will they go? houstonsymphony.org

LIVE FROM THE CULLEN: NICOLE HEASTON WITH RICHARD BADO
Apr 9 Beloved soprano and HGO Studio alumna Nicole Heaston has had a storied international career, but she always comes back to her hometown of Houston and HGO, including her performance of Mimì in La bohème in 2018. The wonderful recital features classics from the American songbook, featuring HGO director of artistic operations and Chorus Master Richard Bado on piano. ONLINE. hgo.com

FOR STEVE WOZNIAK, ON HIS 67TH BIRTHDAY
Apr 9–May 9 Meet Steve. And Steve. One turns 67 today. One is dead. Two are famous. A play for three women from the singular mind of Jehae Park, author of The Axes (Alley All New Festival 2020). ONLINE. alleytheatre.org

VIET THANH NGUYEN
Apr 12 Viet Thanh Nguyen will give a short reading from his new novel The Committed, followed by a conversation with an accomplished writer/journalist. ONLINE. inprinthouston.org

OLD BLACK & WHITE HOLLYWOOD
Apr 16–May 16 Hollywood, 1954. Black comedienne Doris Jean is performing at an after-hours club and catches the eye of producer Samuel Stahr. His TV show featuring a former radio star is floundering; Doris Jean may be just what The Eva Rose Show needs. How can a talented Black woman rise in old black and white Hollywood? ONLINE. alleytheatre.org

JERICHO BROWN
Apr 26 Jericho Brown will read a selection of poems, followed by a conversation with a poet. ONLINE. inprinthouston.org

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE
Apr 30–May 30 What does it mean to be a public enemy? Dr. Stockman wants to keep his community safe by shutting down the town’s economy while making the necessary changes in the poisoned water supply to make sure it is safe. His brother, the mayor, fights with all his might to keep the economy open despite the health risks. How does this sound familiar? Join the Alley for Henrik Ibsen’s particularly timely classic. ONLINE. alleytheatre.org

JHUMPA LAHIRI
May 10 Jhumpa Lahiri will give a short reading from her new novel Whereabouts, followed by a conversation with American Book Award winner Yaa Gyasi, author of Homegoing and her new novel Transcendent Kingdom. ONLINE. inprinthouston.org

IDYLL & INTRIGUE
May 16 The final program of the Ars Lyrica season features a delightful cantata a due by the youthful George Frideric Handel. Join the group for a timeless retelling of an ageless love story as they bring the 2020-21 season to a harmonious conclusion. IN-PERSON AND ONLINE. thehobbycenter.org

HANSEL AND GRETEL
May 28 HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers calls Engelbert Humperdinck’s enchanting classic one of the greatest and most beautiful operas ever written. Based on the fairy tale, this new version created for the digital studio will allow audiences to experience the work as never before. ONLINE. hgo.org

MAN. KIND.
Apr 9–May 9 A cave man on a plateau. He invents fire. A cavewoman arrives. She invented fire yesterday. She wants his help. But he knows bad things happen when people start to band together. ONLINE. alleytheatre.org
MARKET SQUARE PARK PRESENTS '80S & '90S CLASSICS

Forget about trekking to the theater for your movie fix and come Downtown instead. Join us at Market Square Park for these fantastic films under the stars the second Friday and last Wednesday of each month (Mar–May).

Mar 12  St. Elmo’s Fire (R) 1985, 110 min. 7:30 pm
Mar 24  Heathers (R) 1988, 103 min. 7:30 pm
Apr  9  The Bodyguard (R) 1992, 130 min. 8 pm
Apr 21  The Princess Bride (PG) 1987, 98 min. 8 pm
May  9  Nine to Five (PG) 1980, 110 min. 8 pm
May 19  Coming to America (R) 1988, 117 min. 8 pm

Market Square Park is open daily from 6 am–11 pm. Blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics are welcome; food, beer and wine are available for purchase at Niko Niko’s. No glass containers or outside alcoholic beverages are allowed. Metered on-street parking is available and free after 6 pm and all-day Sunday.

marketsquarepark.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

SOUND HEALING MEDITATION IN THE CISTERN
Mar–May  Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings, experts from Pralaya Yoga and Youniversoul use singing bowls and wind chimes to guide 45-minute meditative sessions that promote mindfulness and connectivity. $15. Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern at 105 Sabine St. buffalobayou.org

PARKVIEW TERRACE PRESENTS
Mar 4–Apr 1  Elevate the start of your weekend by heading up to the lively rooftop at the Marriott Marquis. Thu through Sat from 5–10 pm on the 6th floor, enjoy nightly s’mores roasting at the two firepits, a food cart serving gourmet hot dogs and bratwurst and a movie at 6 and 7:40 pm every Thu. Wines Around the World will feature a new wine every weekend, and a full line-up of cocktails and beer are available. Open to guests of the hotel and the public. Marriott Marquis, 1777 Walker. marriottmarquishouston.showare.com

ALL ACCESS ART MARKET
Mar 5  A socially distanced event at Finn Hall Houston that provides a platform for creatives to showcase and sell their work. The event takes place at the European-inspired, art deco food hall with casual, diverse dining options, bars and a cocktail lounge. Finn Hall, 712 Main. finnhallhtx.com
SPRING BREAK PASS
Mar 5–21 Enjoy unlimited admission for $69.99 on rides at the Kemah Boardwalk, Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier and Downtown Aquarium (exhibits at Aquarium also included)! Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby. downtownaquarium.com

ART HEIST: A TRUE CRIME WALKING EXPERIENCE
Mar 9–28 A 90-minute, outdoor, family friendly (and socially distanced) walking theater experience in Downtown Houston where YOU become the detective and try to solve history’s biggest art heist. Starting at Wings Over Water at the George R. Brown Convention Center, you’ll explore Downtown while meeting some interesting characters along the way. Wings Over Water, 1767 Avenida De Las Americas. spahouston.org

JAZZ NIGHT
Mar 11 & 25 Calling all jazz music enthusiasts. Finn Hall is hosting a jazz night featuring performances by local jazz vocalist Tianna Hall and the Houston Jazz Band. Houstonians can listen to jazz music while enjoying delicious food and beverage options at Finn Hall. Finn Hall, 712 Main. finnhallhtx.com

TIME NO LONGER
Mar 12–May 31 Time No Longer is a newly commissioned artwork for the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern by the internationally renowned multimedia artist, Anri Sala. This immersive new film and sound installation will occupy the Cistern for a period of nine months, transporting visitors into an otherworldly environment within this vast, subterranean reservoir. Visitors will encounter the work in 360 degrees by making their way around the full perimeter of the 87,500-square-foot Cistern, hearing, feeling, and watching it through the Cistern’s 221 supporting columns. buffalobayou.org

COMEDY SHOWCASE
Mar 26 Head to Finn Hall for a comedy showcase hosted by “Judge” Mathis Jones. Comedians Jackie Catt, Grace Kirk and Paul Dobbles will join the host for an entertaining and hilarious performance. Finn Hall, 712 Main. finnhallhtx.com

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
Apr 3 Dine on more than just carrots with Peter Cottontail! Enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet and get your picture taken with our socially distant Easter Bunny. Reservations required. Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby. downtownaquarium.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE RINK — ROLLING AT DISCOVERY GREEN PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA
Mar 5–Apr 11 Houston’s first outdoor roller rink returns! Enjoy five weeks of roller-skating fun (including weekly theme nights) at Discovery Green. Tickets must be purchased online. Capacity will be reduced to allow for social distancing, and masks are required. Non-motorized wheelchairs are welcome. Admission $12. discoverygreen.com/roller rink

Monday–Thursday: 5–10 pm
Fridays: 5–11 pm
Saturdays and school holidays: (Mar 15–19, Mar 29 and Apr 2) 11 am–11 pm,
Sundays: 11 am–9 pm

CHEAP SKATE NIGHTS
Mondays Mar 8 & 22; April 5, 5–10 pm
Skate around the rink for just $8 per person.

TIME WARP TUESDAYS
Tuesdays 7–9 pm
Skate to your favorite songs from past decades past curated by DJ Mohawk Steve.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL
Wednesdays 7–9 pm
Party on wheels while DJ Chocolate spins some of your favorite songs.

THROWBACK THURSDAYS
Thursdays 7–9 pm
Skate to songs from decades past curated by DJ Mohawk Steve.

FUNOMENAL FRIDAYS
Fridays 7–10 pm
Music by DJ Boris, a light show and roller skating make for FUNomenal Friday nights.

The events listed are confirmed at the time of printing. For a full listing of Discovery Green’s spring events, please visit the calendar at discoverygreen.com

Blankets, lawn chairs and picnics are welcome; food, beer and wine are available for purchase at the Lake House. No glass containers or outside alcoholic beverages permitted. Most events are free, unless noted otherwise. 1500 McKinney.
GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY’S EARTH DAY
Apr 18 Discovery Green celebrates Earth Day in partnership with Citizens Environmental Coalition. Enjoy the debut of environmental-themed murals created by Houston artists. Environmental displays and learning opportunities will be spread out in the park. Plus, enjoy an Urban Harvest Farmers market. Free. Noon—5 pm. discoverygreen.com/earthday

HEALTHY LIVING
All classes held outdoors as weather permits. Circles on lawn ensure social distancing guidelines are met. Masks are not required while exercising but must be worn to and from class. More info available at discoverygreen.com/fitness

CORE-FOCUSED YOGA
Tuesdays Mar 2—Apr 27
Strengthen your body, relax your mind and find your center with this dynamic flow yoga sequence. Free. 6:30—7:30 pm

HIIT CLASS WITH FITMIX COMMUNITIES
Wednesdays Mar 3—Apr 28
A fun and challenging bodyweight interval training class to burn tons of calories while gaining strength, endurance and empowerment. Free. 6:30—7:30 pm

HATHA YOGA
Saturdays Mar 6—Apr 24
A basic vinyasa yoga class for enhanced awareness and a strong, healthy body. Free. 9—10 am

TAI CHI
Saturdays Mar 6—Apr 24
The Chinese internal martial art of Tai Chi focuses on slow, meditative movements. Free. 10:15—11:15 am

ENTERTAINMENT
BANK OF AMERICA SCREEN ON THE GREEN
Two movie showtimes will be available for each date. Reservations will be required to avoid overcrowding. Movies will be shown outside, weather permitting and circles on lawn will ensure social distancing guidelines are met. More information, including movie times, available at discoverygreen.com/screenonthegreen

Mar 27 Trolls World Tour (PG) 2020, 91 min
Apr 3 Sonic the Hedgehog (PG) 2020, 99 min

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
photo by Morris Malakoff
EXPOS

46TH ANNUAL HOUSTON FISHING SHOW
Apr 14–18  The George R. Brown Convention Center’s online calendar is updated regularly. Visit their website for more info and to purchase tickets. George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas. 713.853.8000. grbhouston.com

TOURS

All-Star Tour
These two-hour long tours run Monday through Saturday from noon to 2 pm. This tour will visit the Upper Deck, Gallagher Club, Bank of America Suite Level, Honda Club Level, Press Box, and Houston Methodist Hall of Fame Alley. Fans will also have the opportunity to check out the visitor’s clubhouse and batting cage, the Astros dugout, take a lap around the warning track, and conclude their tour by getting an inside look at the manual scoreboard. Tickets $25 for adults, $20 seniors and $18 for children. astros.com

Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern Tour
Learn about the architecture of this unique space and the history of Houston’s water system during a guided tour. All guests are required to wear a face mask and use hand sanitizer before entering the Cistern. Sunday – Saturday. $7 per person. Private tours $140. buffalobayou.org

Touch of History Tour
These two-hour long midday tours are held on designated Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm. The experience will include a one-hour artifact session where fans will see and hold Astros memorabilia from over the years followed by a one-hour classic tour. Tickets $75 per guest. astros.com

African American History Tour
This Black History Month, we invite you to join us for an hour-long tour that tells the story of African American baseball in Houston. From Jackie Robinson’s early days to Satchel Paige’s later ones and the founding of the Negro National League by a Texan, the tour gives a unique perspective and unexpected look into our past. This is a limited engagement on select Saturday afternoons. Tickets $25 per guest. astros.com

Ghoust Tour
Most people are unaware of the haunted history of historic Union Station and the site of Minute Maid Park, which was once a neighborhood known as Quality Hill. Join us as we explore these ghost stories on a one-hour, dark and eerie nighttime tour on select Saturday nights at 9:30 pm. Tickets $10 per guest. astros.com

A Minute in Minute Maid Park
Want to snap a few shots inside Minute Maid Park but don’t have time for a full tour? A Minute in Minute Maid Park takes fans on a 10 to 15 minute walk to the Lexus Field Club in center field and back along the warning track from the ivy-covered batter’s eye past the manual scoreboard in left field. A Minute in Minute Maid is offered year-round from 10 am to 2 pm at your convenience. Simply check-in with a tour ambassador in the Union Station lobby and they will escort you on your tour right away. Schedule and available locations may vary due to games, special events, and ballpark construction. Tickets $10 per guest. astros.com

Easter Dinner
Apr 4  Celebrate Easter with a delicious four-course meal and get your picture taken with our socially distant Easter Bunny! Reservations required. Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby. downtownaquarium.com

Mother’s Day Buffet
May 9  Show Mom you care and take her on an underwater dining adventure with the family. Reservation required. Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby. downtownaquarium.com

Latin Beats
May 28–Aug 13  Strap on your dancing shoes and join us for live music and free salsa lessons every Friday night from 7–11 pm. Check updates online. Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby. downtownaquarium.com

CONCERTS

Because of COVID restrictions, schedules are in flux. Please visit below websites for more information.

Revention Music Center
Revention Music Center’s online calendar is updated regularly. Visit their website for more info and to purchase tickets. Revention Music Center, 520 Texas. 800.745.3000. reventionmusiccenter.com

House of Blues
HOB’s online calendar is updated regularly. Visit their website for more info and to purchase tickets. House of Blues, GreenStreet, 1204 Caroline. 888.402.5837. hob.com/Houston

Toyota Center
Toyota Center’s online calendar is updated regularly. Visit their website for more info and to purchase tickets. Toyota Center, 1510 Polk. 713.4HOUTIX. houstontoyotacenter.com

afreinovationmusiccenter.com
ASTROS CLUBHOUSE TOURS
Tours of the Houston Astros Clubhouse are back! Astros Clubhouse Tours are held on select Saturdays at 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, and 1 pm. These tours last between 30-45 minutes and give fans an inside look of the Astros locker room, batting cages, dugout, gym, player lounge, the manager and clubhouse manager’s offices, and the press conference room. Tickets $50 per guest.

PROPOSAL TOURS
Minute Maid Park is a unique location to have your special moment! Whether you are looking for the elegance of the Union Station Lobby or the iconic image of Home Plate, Minute Maid Park offers outstanding opportunities for a magnificent proposal. Proposal Tours are available Monday through Saturday and must be booked at least two weeks in advance. Tickets $350 per hour.

SPORTS

HOUSTON ASTROS
For schedule info and tickets, call or visit website. Minute Maid Park, 501 Crawford. 713.259.8000

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8-10</td>
<td>Astros vs Oakland A's</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 12-14</td>
<td>Astros vs Detroit Lions</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<td>Apr 22-25</td>
<td>Astros vs Los Angeles Angels</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 26-29</td>
<td>Astros vs Seattle Mariners</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<td>May 7-9</td>
<td>Astros vs Toronto Blue Jays</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10-12</td>
<td>Astros vs Los Angeles Angels</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14-16</td>
<td>Astros vs Texas Rangers</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25-26</td>
<td>Astros vs Los Angeles Dodgers</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28-30</td>
<td>Astros vs San Diego Padres</td>
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<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>713.259.8000</td>
<td>astros.com</td>
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HOUSTON ROCKETS
For schedule info and tickets, call or visit website. Toyota Center, 1510 Polk. 713.758.7200. rockets.com

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Rockets vs Cleveland Cavaliers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Toyota Center</td>
<td>713.758.7200</td>
<td>rockets.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Rockets vs Brooklyn Nets</td>
<td></td>
<td>Toyota Center</td>
<td>713.758.7200</td>
<td>rockets.com</td>
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HOUSTON DASH
For Schedule info and tickets, call or visit website. BBVA Compass Stadium, 2200 Texas. 713.276.GOAL. houstondynamo.com/houstondash

HOUSTON DYNAMO
For Schedule info and tickets, call or visit website. BBVA Compass Stadium, 2200 Texas. 713.276.GOAL. houstondynamo.com
Welcome to Downtown Houston!

Tour Highlights:
- Soaring skyscrapers designed by icons like Philip Johnson and I.M. Pei.
- Houston's historic past and contemporary public art.
- Major league sports, world-class cafés, outdoor festivals, and more.

Attractions & Sights:
- Avenida Houston
- Buffalo Bayou
- Discovery Green
- Downtown Aquarium
- George H.W. Bush & James A. Baker, III Monuments
- George R. Brown Convention Center
- Historic District
- Bayou Place
- Main Street Square
- Saint Arnold Brewing Company
- Southern Pacific Steam Engine 982
- Union Station at Minute Maid Park

Activities:
- Tours
  - 1. Buffalo Bayou Boat Tours 713.752.0314
  - 2. Heritage Society Historic Homes Tour 713.655.1912
  - 3. Minute Maid Park Tour 713.259.8887
  - 4. St. Arnold Brewing Company Tour 713.686.9494
  - 5. Toyota Center Backstage Tour 713.758.7715

Recreation:
- Buffalo Bayou (hiking & jogging trail)
- Root Memorial Square (basketball court)
- Discovery Green (exercise class, bocce ball & putting green)

Shopping:
- GreenStreet
- The Shops at Houston Center

Music Venues:
- Toyota Center
- BBVA Compass Stadium
- Minute Maid Park
- The Rustic

City, County & Federal:
- City Hall
- City Hall Annex
- Bob Casey Federal Courthouse
- Harris County Court Campus

Where to Stay:
- AC Hotel by Marriott
- Aloft Hotel
- Athens Hotel Suites
- Cambria Hotel
- Club Quarters
- Embassy Suites
- Four Seasons
- Hampton Inn/Homewood Suites
- Hotel Alessandra
- Hotel Icon
- Hyatt Regency Downtown
- JW Marriott
- Magnolia Hotel
- Marriott Marquis
- Lancaster Hotel
- Le Méridien
- The Sam Houston Hotel
- The Whitehall

Visitor Information:
- 112. Houston Visitors Center

EDC DOWNTOWN
A great way to get form point A to point B or just explore downtown!

METRORail Lines
- North/Main
- Southeast
- East End
ALWAYS BE AWARE OF PEDESTRIANS, DRIVERS, BICYCLISTS AND TRAINS WHEN NEAR TRACKS!
Public garages, surface lots and metered on-street parking are abundant in Downtown. Reminder: on-street parking is free after 6 pm Monday–Saturday and all day Sunday.
For decades, we have been bustling and building and overcoming all odds. And now, after facing a challenge that no one could have prepared for, we’re seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

The coffee is brewed. The taps are tapped and the grill ignited. The doors are open and the tables set. We are moving forward, but need you to join us.

We have locals to support. 1.84 square miles to sustain. This is your time to help us make it happen. You, in some tall building on Louisiana, wondering what to do for lunch. And you, debating a weekend staycation. And you, stepping off the train to stop for a drink on your way to catch some live music. And you, lacing up your sneakers for a run on the bayou.

Downtown Houston is more than a place. It’s an identity to protect. And it’s up to us—all of us—to keep the hustle alive.

Show your love for a local business today.