**NORTH OMAHA AND THE FLORENCE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**SOUL FOOD, GREAT JAZZ, AND A RICH PAST BRING THIS HISTORIC OMAHA AREA TO LIFE.**

The North Omaha neighborhood is where jazz greats like Duke Ellington, Count Basie and others once played. Today, the notes from live jazz performances still float through the air from **Love’s Jazz and Arts Center**, dedicated to preserving and showcasing all types of African American art. **The Union for Contemporary Arts** is another opportunity to enjoy modern art in many forms. Civil Rights leader **Malcolm X** was born in Omaha; his birth site includes a historic marker and an events plaza.

For soul food, check out **Big Mama’s Kitchen** and order up a pig ear sandwich and sweet potato pie ice cream. Big Mama’s has become a television culinary staple, featured on Food Network’s *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, Sundance Channel’s *Ludo Bites America* and Travel Channel’s *101 Tastiest Places to Chow Down*. **Fair Deal offers** southern soul food favorites like smothered chicken, beans and rice, and homemade cornbread. Another soul food home run is the **Omaha Rockets Kanteen** and **SoCo Café** , known for pitching delicious and healthy variations on classic Southern and Cajun “comfort” food. The Omaha eatery also pays homage to the African American players of the Omaha Rockets independent baseball team.

History buffs will spend hours exploring the historic Florence neighborhood and touching American history. Experience firsthand the Mormon migration of the 1840s at the **Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters**. Pull a handcart like pioneers did all those years ago, and see what it was like to live in a make- shift cabin and travel by covered wagon.

A bit north is the Florence Mill, constructed in 1846 as Mormon pioneers made their westward trek. Today it is home to a non-profit **Winter Quarters Mill Museum**, **ArtLoft** gallery, and a Sunday farmers market. Open spring through fall.

Fitting in the culinary theme of the rest of the city, the Florence neighborhood serves up major comfort food with local favorites such as **Harold’s Koffee House**, **Enzo’s Italian**, and **Tussey’s Casual Grill**.

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