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# Surveyor

ISSUE THREE 2019



## NEXT-LEVEL NIGHTLIFE

WHERE TO DINE, PLAY AND STAY IN IRVING'S ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

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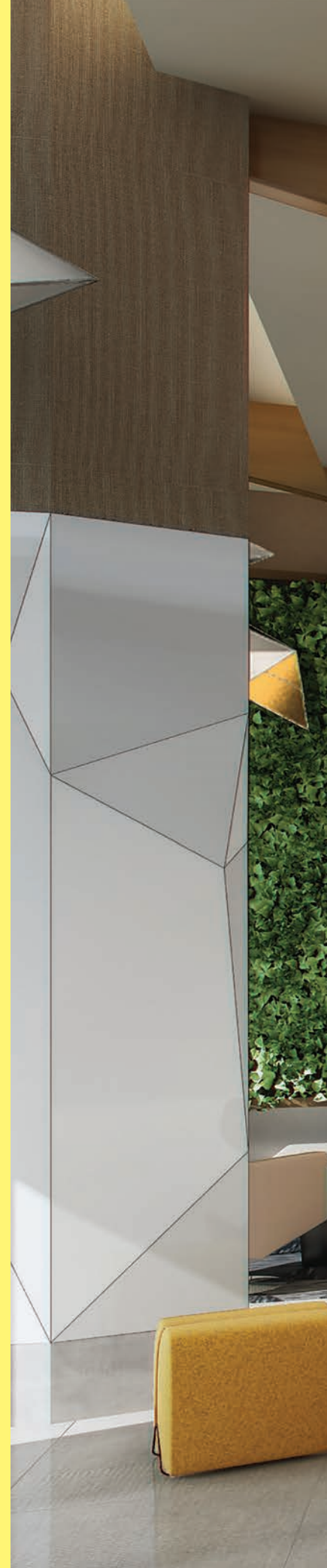
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**WESTIN**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

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JAN-JUNE 2019

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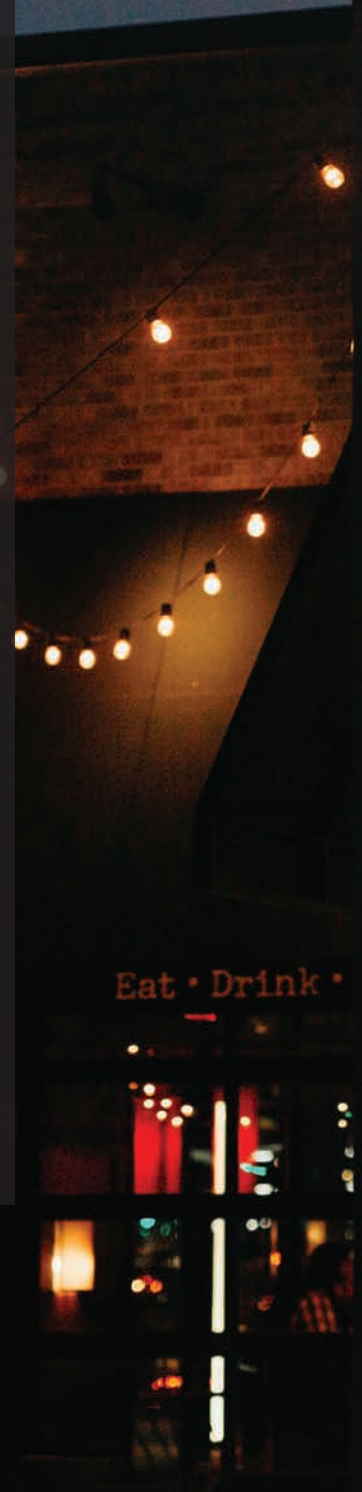
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Not even a year into its operations, the Toyota Music Factory is already fulfilling its promised identity as Irving's go-to entertainment destination of the future.

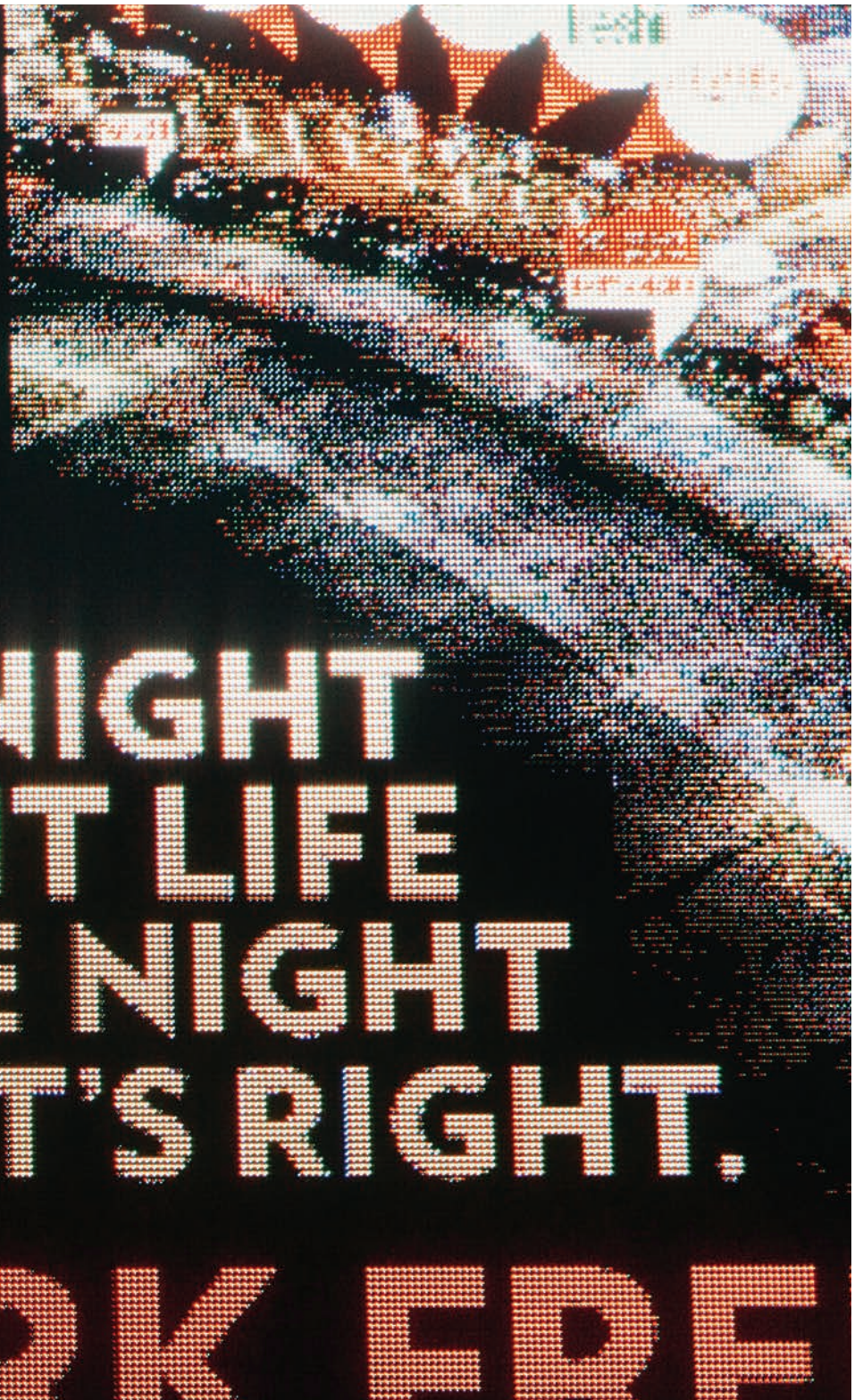
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MUSIC  
FACTORY



FUN NIGHT  
NIGHT LIFE  
DATE NIGHT  
THAT'S RIGHT.

PARKKED

ON THE COVER

HUSBAND AND WIFE  
PHOTOGRAPHY DUO  
TENNESSEE AND COLLIN  
HAUSER BROUGHT A  
COUPLE OF FRIENDS TO  
THE TOYOTA MUSIC  
FACTORY FOR A FRIDAY  
NIGHT FULL OF FUN.

PHOTO BY THE HAUSERS



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*Surveyor*, published by Groom Lake Media, LLC, for the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau, pays homage to the two young surveyors who founded Irving in 1903 when they happened upon the Three Forks Region of Texas. They settled near the Trinity River in the uniquely located crossroads between east and west, north and south. The magazine celebrates local corporations, workforce, residents and guests from around the world, giving Irving the most diverse ZIP code in America and making it a truly global community.

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# WELCOME

## TO THIS ISSUE OF *SURVEYOR* MAGAZINE



New nightlife  
options and venues  
Page 38

If we could turn back the hands of time to 1903 in this very spot, we'd find two young surveyors working on the Rock Island Railroad, looking for a place to build homes and new lives for their young families. J.O. "Otto" Schulze and Otis Brown succeeded in building more than just a home for their families, but they built what would become the city of Irving.

And just look at it today — that crossroads that Schulze and Brown marked, the ideal landing spot between east and west, north and south, has grown into an internationally recognized center for business, a renowned arts community, a truly urban setting in a very independent suburb, and home to a vibrant and thriving tourism economy, which *Surveyor* celebrates with each edition.

This new edition features many of the experiences and flavors that make Irving the distinct and diverse city it is — new favorites in the "flavorhood" are featured for your next

dinner out, new hotels to call home when you're visiting for work or pleasure, and a peek at the continually expanding nightlife options that are helping to create this new chapter in Irving's history.

We created *Surveyor* to help you experience the best of two great worlds while you're here — our Texas-sized hospitality and our local flair and flavor. *Surveyor* is the mark of the new Irving, an Irving that has continued to grow from the vision of a crossroads that Schulze and Brown built. Enjoy this issue of *Surveyor* — and we look forward to seeing you next time you're in Irving.

**Maura Gast**

**Executive Director  
Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau**



# SEE YOU AFTER DARK

**H**ere's a question for you road warriors out there: How many times, when recapping your most recent trip to friends and family, have you been asked, "What was the best part about [enter city here]?"

If you answered "a lot," proceed to the next question.

After being queried about your opinion of what makes your most recently visited city great, how many times did your reply resemble something like this: "The best part about Cleveland is the Chagrin Highlands Corporate Park in suburban Beachwood."

If you answered "not very often," proceed to the remainder of the story. If you answered "oh, yeah, totally, all the time," please stop reading my column.

This is by no means a slight against The Land, which is one fine town. Nor is this a jab at corporate office parks. Rather, road warriors will tell you that their trips are measured, for better or worse, by the activities they can do after their meeting or conference. To wit, a lot of deals are made and relationships fostered based on what goes on after 5 p.m.

Here in Irving, we have what is being touted nationally as one of the best night scenes in the country. Indeed, Dallas nightlife, with its numerous neighborhood attractions, and Fort Worth nightlife, with Sundance Square and the Stockyards, long ago put this region on the map. But recently, Irving and Las Colinas have graduated to the big time, and we've staked out our own distinguished level of nightlife attractions and sophistication.

This issue of *Surveyor* highlights what makes this area so entertaining and such a draw for conventions, business meetings and tourism. Our

award-winning writers and photographers put you center stage with the booking expert for the Irving Arts Center (page 46); we show you why the best place to catch a flick and a brew is Alamo Drafthouse (page 54); we give you a backstage pass for the best concerts and comedians at Toyota Music Factory (page 48); and we demonstrate why Happy Hour in Irving is, without a doubt, the Happiest Hours (page 40).

We also fill you in on numerous daytime attractions, including a peek at the new Irving Golf Club, water activities on Lake Carolyn, dining favorites and so much more.

Our community will absolutely amuse you and your company/friends/family. But we'll do something else: We'll make it so that when your inner circle asks you about the best part of your trip to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, your answer will come from one of the activities you experienced in our growing-by-leaps-and-bounds community.

As a fellow road warrior, one who has traveled along his share of highways and byways and who has also racked up the frequent-flyer miles to prove it, I can tell you that the best part of Cleveland is the Warehouse District. And the best part of Dallas-Fort Worth is Irving. I'm from Cleveland, but I choose to live here.

**Adam Pitluk**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AP' with a stylized flourish.

**Editor-in-Chief  
Surveyor**



**LAUGH.**



**LOUNGE.**



**LINGER.**



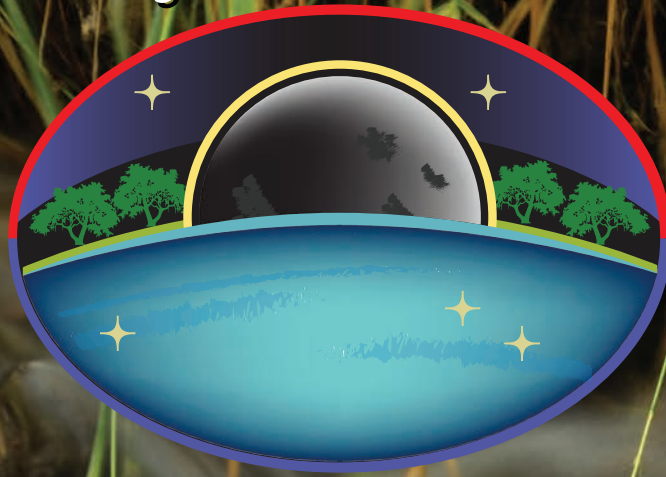
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media

# OTHERWORLDY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING SOLUTIONS

# Itinerary

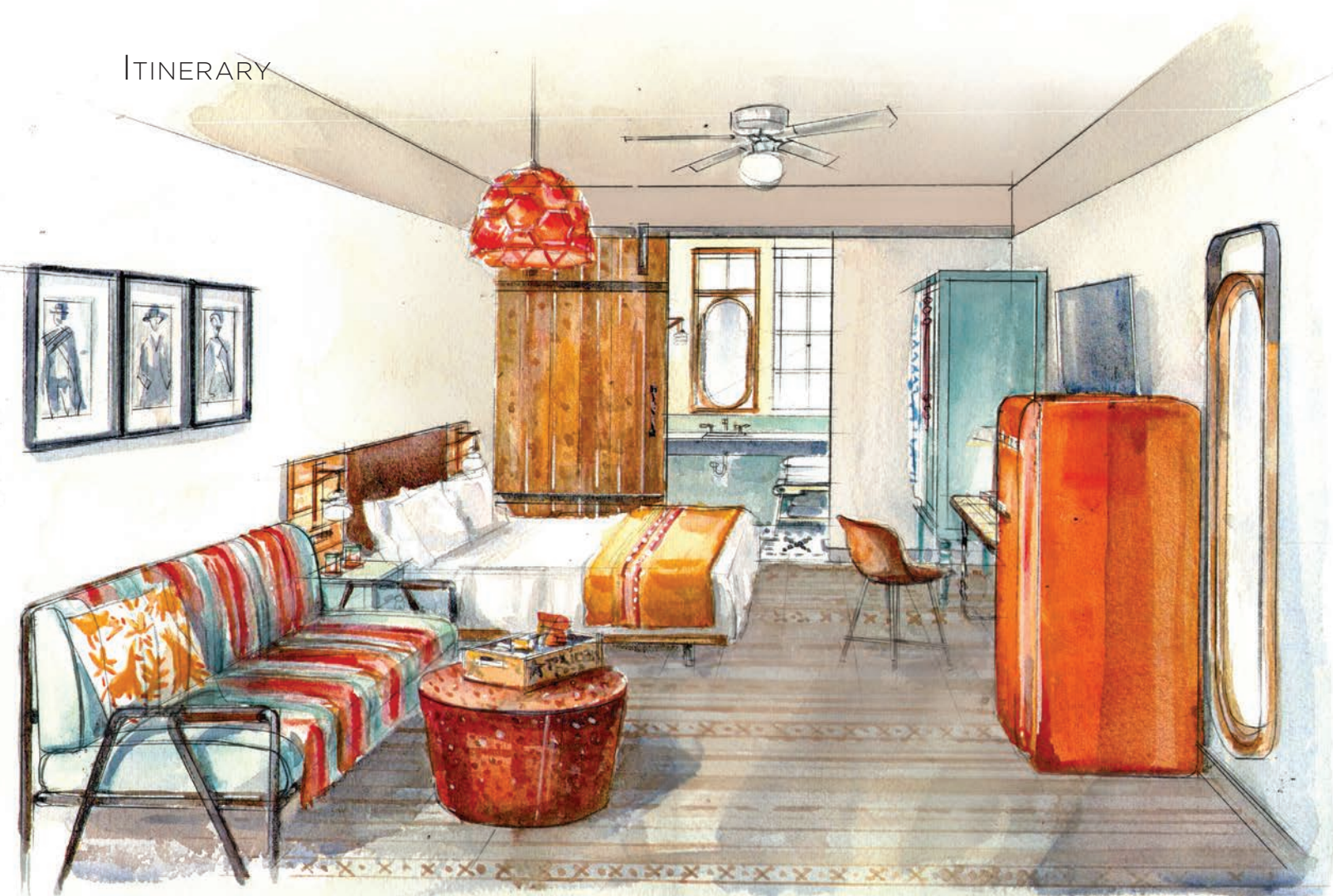
STAY

DINE

PLAY

LIVE





# Modern Americana

Channel your inner Eastwood at the new Texican Court boutique hotel in Las Colinas BY JACQUELYNE FROEBER

**WHEN YOU HEAR THAT THE TEXICAN COURT** was inspired by the iconic instrumental from *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, you think “wah, wah, wahhh” and you move on. But then you swear you feel the beat of a tom-tom drum as you pull up to the white stucco façade of the Spanish mission-style reception area. Hear the faint tremble of a soprano recorder in the earthy, Western-style room surrounded by distressed leather, lightly-finished wood and elements of raw steel. And wait — was that a whistle? And who is the man in the cowboy hat in the courtyard? The spaghetti Western soundtrack invokes this drama and excitement enhanced by the vintage motor-court concept made popular during an era when travel equaled adventure.

The Houston-based hospitality company Valencia Group and Rottet Studio, an international architecture and design firm, collaborated on the development of the Texican. “Valencia Group’s Court hotels are





From concept to reality, the Texican Court guest rooms feature a retro chic decor (opposite page); a conceptual sketch of the tequila bar.

## TEXAS CONNECTION

The spirit of the Lone Star State is strong at the Texican:

To honor the region's history, the Valencia Group chose the name "Texican," which was a term used to identify soldiers in Texas during the War of Independence.

The hotel's Little Chapel is a meeting area designed akin to Spanish missions like the Alamo and other small chapels across the state.

Executive chef Patrick Hildebrandt (the Empty Stomach Group in San Antonio and The Hollow in Georgetown, Texas) serves native Texan flavors such as smoked polenta, charred shrimp and blistered tomatoes.

considered unique hospitality destinations that embrace and reflect the local culture to create a unique blend of sophistication and comfort," says general manager John Thomas.

The hotel's 152 rooms and suites have 50-inch flat-screen televisions, complimentary Wi-Fi and retro SMEG burnt-orange refrigerators stocked with Texas-grown treats. The property includes three courtyards: Il Buono, Il Brutto and Il Cattivo (the good, the bad and the ugly, of course), each with its own theme and wood-burning fire pit. A pool, indoor meeting space, event space and the Two Mules Cantina restaurant are also part of the on-site amenities.

With all these options, you don't have to

leave the hotel — but the location itself is a big draw. "Valencia Group selected Irving, and more specifically, the urban center of Las Colinas, as the site for Texican Court because of its proximity and ease of access to restaurants, shopping and entertainment, as well as relative location to the Irving Convention Center, DART Orange Line, DFW Airport and Love Field," says Thomas. "Having the Toyota Music Factory within walking distance provides not only our leisure guests, but also business travelers and corporate groups with plenty of local activities nearby and an opportunity to connect with the community." Rates start at \$99. [Texicancourt.com](http://Texicancourt.com)

# Fresh Fare, Family-Style

Glory House Catering and Bistro celebrates 20 years of homemade hospitality BY JACQUELYNE FROEBER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY REED J. KENNEY

**ON A RAINY AFTERNOON ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TOWN, GLORY HOUSE BISTRO IS PACKED.** Someone jokes that it will take more than a few puddles to keep this crowd away. After all, many of the patrons surrounding the long table of fresh salad options and homemade entrées have been spending their lunch hour here for close to a decade. Owner Jo Ann Goin flits around the dining room greeting newcomers and checking on the level of coveted chicken 'n dumpling soup rumored to be so good, people fight over it (more on that later).

When Glory House opened in 1999 on this unassuming corner of Main Street, it was strictly an off-site catering company for local events and corporate gatherings. Word of mouth and praise on the Internet for Goin's comfort-chic menu of homemade, seasonal dishes — chicken cordon bleu lasagna, spicy curry potatoes, pesto meatballs — helped entice new clients for larger private events and weddings. In 2007, Goin and her husband, Steve, purchased the adjacent property and converted it into an intimate reception option and home to Glory House Bistro, which is open for lunch Monday through Friday. The turn-key Glory House catering services (setup, decorations, food) are available 365 around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

The sheer volume of customers at the lunch buffet alone would equal success to any business owner, but Goin says it's the people who show up and ditch their cellphones to share stories — their lives — that's who makes the experience glorious. She gestures to the photo by the register of her daughter bouncing on her hip as a baby at Glory House's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It's always been about making the community part of our family," she says. And vice versa. Here's more on Goin's culinary inspiration, favorite recipes and what's on the home-cooking horizon for Glory House:

## **WHAT SPARKED THE INTEREST IN STARTING YOUR OWN CATERING COMPANY IN 1999?**

From a very young age, I've always been interested in recipes and table setting. I worked at a restaurant for seven years before I graduated from college, and then I got a job selling medical equipment. I was miserable! So I went back into food service at Lone Star Park and managing at the upscale dining restaurant. I told my husband that I wanted to work for myself and I wanted to create my own dining experience where people felt like they are a guest in my home. Glory House evolved naturally from there.

## **THERE'S AN INTERESTING MÉLANGE OF CULINARY INFLUENCE (GERMAN, MEXICAN, HAWAIIAN, ITALIAN) ON THE CATERING AND THE BISTRO MENU, AND BOTH MENUS CHANGE DAILY. TELL US HOW YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CUISINE.**

Upscale home cooking. I was raised in West Texas and ate Mexican food almost every day growing up. My husband is from Hawaii, so he brings in the Hawaiian influence. We love looking at old recipes and thinking, 'How can we stuff this chicken and make it fabulous?' Sometimes we have to rein ourselves in.

## **IS THERE A FAVORITE DISH AMONG CUSTOMERS?**

Some of the most requested dishes are the homemade lasagna, pesto meatballs and Salisbury steak. But everyone comes in for the homemade chicken soup. I took it off the menu once and I swear I almost caused a riot.

## **SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOYAL CUSTOMER BASE.**

It's almost like a family where you have everyone asking about each other — a Mayberry feel — and that's really nice in today's day and age. We are more old-school in our customer service. We want you to feel like a guest in our home, and we take that seriously.

## **WE'VE HEARD THAT THE SALAD BAR IS FAMOUS. WHAT MAKES IT SO CELEBRATED?**

There's not a lot of options for fresh salad bars like ours in south Irving. We have four homemade soups, two entrées and sides, in addition to the salad bar. It's a draw for anyone who wants to try my mom's homemade pea soup and homemade pimento cheese and really for anyone looking for something different and delicious. We also have a lot of vegan and gluten-free options.

## **ARE THE VEGAN DISHES AHEAD OF THE CURVE OR IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND?**

We have always offered vegan options and a full vegan catering menu. Over the past few years, the demand for vegan and gluten-free choices has become escalated, but some of our most delicious dishes have always been vegan, like our spicy curry potatoes with coconut milk and our vegan pasta with red pepper olive oil. Of course there are many options with the salad bar, too. It's like perfect timing for us, in regard to the vegan trend. We already have a curated menu and everything in place. [GLORYHOUSECATERING.COM](http://GLORYHOUSECATERING.COM)



STAY

DINE

PLAY

LIVE



Glory House owner  
Jo Ann Goin

# Eclectic Eating on Water Street

The new Water Street development in Las Colinas is easy to find — it's where O'Connor Road and Las Colinas Boulevard meet — but the real task lies in choosing a restaurant





### EL FAMOSO

Whether you're in flip-flops and shorts or suited up on a business lunch break, walking into El Famoso is like stepping back in time. Meant to evoke memories of 1950s-style Mexican diners in California, you'll totally feel the SoCal vibe here, right down to the palm trees planted outside. Then there's the menu, which is definitely not Tex-Mex. So you'll find Anaheim Ranchera chile rellenos and the super-popular "Sloppy José," which is, you guessed it, a Cal-Mex version of the world's messiest sandwich, the Sloppy Joe; this one's fired up with chipotle and red onion. Then there are the burritos, what SoCal Mex is known for. Along with the usual suspects (chicken/ground beef/brisket), there's El Monstro, an imposing 14-incher that's as hefty as the name implies, a supersized burrito generously stuffed with taco meat, carnitas, brisket and loads of cheese. "I've seen people order them but not seen anybody finish," says manager Josh Apodaca. "It's almost twice the size of our regular burrito." *ElFamosoDiner.com*



Don't miss: Carne Asada Fries, grilled and sliced steak heaped on top of a bed of fries with a ton of melted Jack cheese on top.



## BIG LITTLE MARKET

As the name suggests, this is a place where you can pick up a few staples and sundries, but it's actually much more. With boutique wines and tastings at night, quinoa salads, ready-made pastas — and the anti-pasta pasta, “zoodles,” zucchini that's been spiralized into noodle shapes — Big Little Market is like a 7-Eleven for millennials, a place where you can get your kombucha on tap and buy an all-natural, fructose-free soda for your next picnic. “We're aiming for big-city convenience with a small environmental footprint,” says owner and Louisiana transplant Billy Ledet, who also offers gumbo to go, chili (with and without beans) and deli-style sandwiches from his kitchen, where everything is made from scratch. “The concept was to be a grab-and-go but with a healthy twist, and we also source a lot of local products.” There are local craft beers alongside non-local, non-craft brews, coffee beans from Cultivar, a Dallas roaster, plus several others. “We're a local family-owned business and it means a lot to us to shop local,” Ledet says. “My daughters work in the stores and my wife and I are there every day.” [Facebook.com/biglittlemarket](https://www.facebook.com/biglittlemarket)

Don't miss: The special events. Big Little Market likes to pair up with local bands and yoga studios. Om to that.





Mr. Dog, Garth Williams ©1952



Nancy Macko: *Fragile Bee*



Richard Widener



In Focus 3



IISD Artwork



*Royal Street Stroll*, Robert Cook, 2017 *Texas & Neighbors*

## IN THE GALLERIES @ IAC

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## ON STAGE @ IAC

### CIRQUE ÉLOIZE SALOON: A MUSICAL ACROBATIC ADVENTURE

February 22 / 7:30 p.m.

### CELTIC NIGHTS: OCEANS OF HOPE

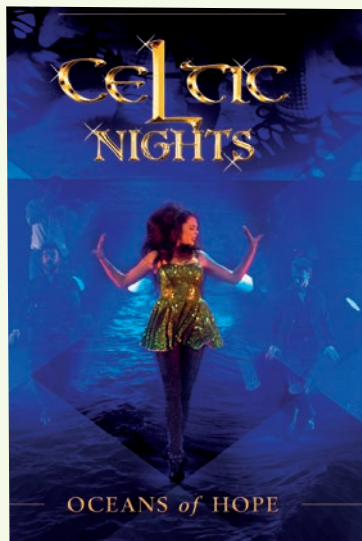
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## CREAMISTRY

What do you get when you cross ice cream with chemistry? That's right, Creamistry. Irving's new outpost of the California chain isn't like any other ice cream place; there aren't barrels of ice cream to choose from or taste before you buy (which is so 2017, yawn). There aren't even waffle cones stacked on top of each other, ready for a scoop. Instead, here you choose your flavor from the more than 30 available at any time, plus a topping or two, and your ice cream — your very own 8 or 14 ounces, depending on what you've asked for — will be made and frozen with liquid nitrogen, turning the flavor of your dreams, whether it's chocolate, the ever-popular "Fruity Pebbles" or birthday cake, into — poof! — insta ice cream. "We freeze it with liquid nitrogen so the milk particles are really small. It's what makes it so creamy," says team leader Andrea Lopez. It's all made to order right down to the cones, which are made in the back on a special waffle iron. [Creamistry.com](http://Creamistry.com)

Don't miss: Birthday Cake ice cream with brownie bites, Lopez's favorite. "We make the brownies every morning," she says.





# Stay Authentic



Nostalgic boutique hotel with western charm and modern elements located across the street from the Irving Convention Center and Toyota Music Factory entertainment venue.

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### CORK & PIG TAVERN

Cork as in wine, of course, and pig, all things pork. Ribs. Chops. Pizza with pepperoni and pancetta, cooked in a wood-fired pizza oven. A little fancy, sure, but just enough to make it special and different from what you might find elsewhere. The pork chop, for example, is brined for five days in a secret sauce (we asked) to make it super moist, then slow roasted to tenderness and finished on the grill. The rosemary biscuits are the star of the weekend brunch menu. “Everything is made from scratch the day of, down to our dressings,” says general manager Brendan Farnsworth. The vibe? Think Cheers, but modern, right down to its industrial, exposed brick walls and midcentury modern furnishings. Says Farnsworth, “We want to be a meeting place for friends.” [Corkandpig.com](http://Corkandpig.com)

Don't miss: The Ahi Tuna Salad. “It's made with sushi-grade ahi tuna that we sear and serve with mixed greens and a Champagne vinaigrette,” says Farnsworth.





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## Fore!

Look for the highly anticipated Irving Golf Club to open this spring

BY TYLER HICKS

### GOLFERS REJOICE: THE PUBLIC COURSE

formerly known as Twin Wells is set to reopen midyear as the Irving Golf Club. The beloved Twin Wells challenged players for more than three decades before closing for renovations in 2016. The revamp is an improvement project that Joe Moses, the city's director of parks and recreation, hopes will enhance the community.

"This course is home for a lot of people," Moses says. "We want people to feel comfortable while introducing the game to a whole group of newcomers."

Moses notes that the renovations are part of a larger plan to grow the golf game in Irving and provide a home base where residents can learn and practice at a more affordable price.

"There's a lot of Irving residents that have played golf for a long time, and to have a course within their budget is a feather in our cap," Moses says.

In addition to the new tees and greens, the golf club will also feature a complete reorganization of the course layout. Twin

Wells faithful will find that the former back nine are now the front nine, with a brand new, more challenging back nine in place. Many of the holes will be redesigned to increase the difficulty and aesthetic of the course. But the improvements extend beyond the course with the clubhouse also getting a face-lift: new paint, new carpet and a new center for food and refreshments. In this way, the Irving Golf Club will be far more than just another golf course.

"It's going to be a place people want to hang out," says Moses. "Brunch, a spot to meet up and watch the game, you name it."

But while these changes usher in a new era for golf in Irving, the charm of Twin Wells is here to stay. "The course is great, but what's always made this place special is the people," Moses says. "This is a community that loves golf, and we're giving them a space to share that love with others." *Cityofirving.org*



### TOP-TIER TEES

Three more options to pursue your love of the links:

#### **TOURNAMENT PLAYERS COURSE (TPC) AT FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND CLUB LAS COLINAS**

TPC has more trophies on its mantle than Tiger Woods, and for good reason. This 18-hole, par-70 course is immaculate from start to finish, and it recently underwent a renovation of its own to make it amenable to beginners and veterans alike. The resort also offers a driving range, practice area and putting and chipping greens.

[Fourseasons.com/dallas](http://Fourseasons.com/dallas)

#### **LAS COLINAS COUNTRY CLUB**

Designed by Texas Golf Hall of Famer Joe Finger, Las Colinas Country Club is replete with beauty and challenges. It's also the perfect course for an outing with friends or the office crew, and it shares some of the breathtaking views of Dallas that also make the Irving Golf Club so attractive. [Clubcorp.com/Clubs/Las-Colinas-Country-Club](http://Clubcorp.com/Clubs/Las-Colinas-Country-Club)

#### **COTTONWOOD VALLEY GOLF**

This 18-hole course is the exclusive domain for members of the Four Seasons Golf and Sports Club. It's also well-known for its Texas-shaped No. 1 hole — complete with a bunker in the shape of Oklahoma and a lake resembling the Gulf of Mexico. [Fourseasons.com/dallas](http://Fourseasons.com/dallas)

# Art by Numbers

Here, facts and figures about the Irving Arts Center and the complex's diverse exhibit and performance space:

# ZERO

Amount needed to park and price of admission to the four galleries

Height of the ceiling in the Main Art Gallery

# 2 STORIES



# 2000+

Performances per year

# 10

Acreage of the Irving Arts Center

# 2.6

# MILLION

Amount generated in local and state government revenue

# 100,000

 Visitors annually

# 2

Acreage of the Sculpture Garden

# 1995

The year the sculpture garden was added



# 711

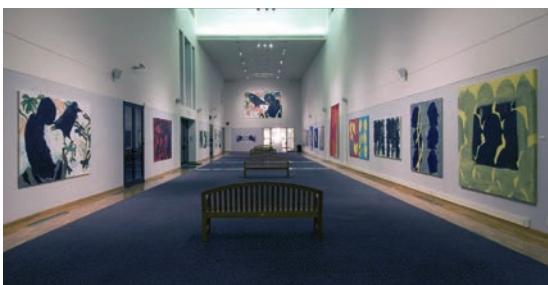
Number of seats in the Carpenter Performance Hall

Year that the center became a Smithsonian affiliate

# 2007

# 1,400

Events held each year



# 4

Number of gallery spaces for artists from the local, regional and national level

# ***There's fresh. And there's In-N-Out® fresh.***



Since the first In-N-Out Burger® opened in 1948, we've been doing fresh differently. And you can taste it in every bite. Our burgers are grilled to order—made with juicy, 100% beef patties and freshly-toasted buns. We use only crisp produce that's grown locally. Our fries are made right before your eyes from whole potatoes. And our shakes are made from real ice cream. Experience *Freshness you can taste*® for yourself.



**Visit us at 6501 N. Macarthur Blvd., Irving  
or [In-N-Out.com](http://In-N-Out.com) for more Texas locations.**

# Waterfront Fun

Check out Lake Carolyn for exclusive water activities and year-round fun BY MOLLIE JAMISON

**LAKE CAROLYN HAS WATER ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH SPORTS- AND** leisure-loving visitors alike. In fact, its proximity to the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth area makes it quite the urban oasis. Whether you are planning a group outing or looking for spring break entertainment with the kids, Lake Carolyn offers classes and excursions at a variety of prices that will have you on the water in no time.

## STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDS

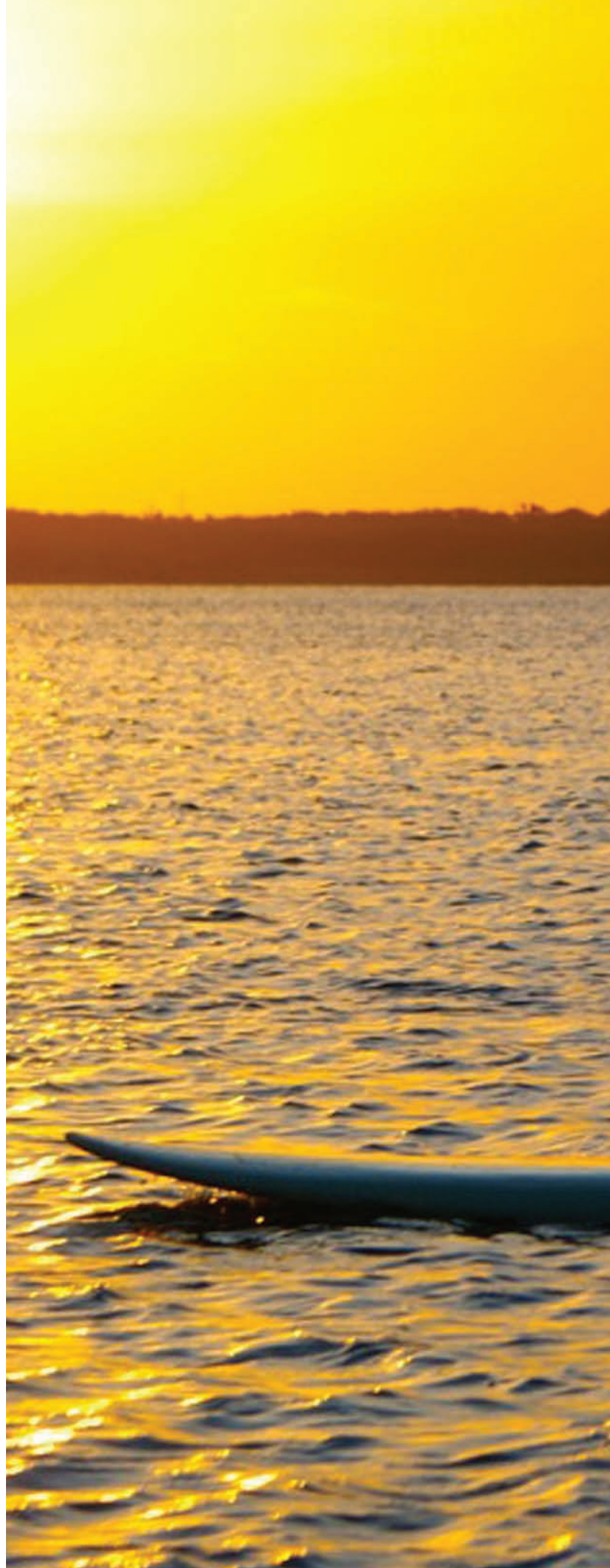
Surfing is a sport unfamiliar to most North Texans, but thanks to SUPNTX you can still skim the water's surface on a paddle board. Learn how to paddle while balancing on the board in private or group lessons ranging from \$45 to \$75 per hour. For larger groups you can even book a paddle party. Already an expert? Skip the lesson and rent all the equipment you need at the rate of \$25 for one hour and \$40 for two. Kick it up a notch and enroll in 60-minute paddle board fitness classes for a major core workout. [Supntx.com](http://Supntx.com)

## AQUA-CYCLE WATER TRIKES

Don't settle for pedal boats; explore Irving's beautiful waterways on three wheels instead. Aqua-cycle water trikes are the perfect pastime for spring. What sounds like exercise is actually more of a laid-back activity for two to three people. These trikes are sure to inspire great photo opportunities and act as an interesting form of transportation for a self-guided tour. All rentals are for 55 minutes and cost \$40 per trike. [Irvingwaterfun.com](http://Irvingwaterfun.com)

## FOOD CRUISE

Explore Lake Carolyn's canals on a one- or two-hour boating adventure, each with a different onboard menu. Start the day off right with a breakfast cruise and indulge in gourmet omelets and pancakes. If you want something lighter, opt for an appetizer or dessert cruise that offers choices from fried avocado and shrimp cocktail to cannolis and Panna Cotta. All trips are BYOB for an additional fee. Cruises start at \$195 for two people and cost anywhere from \$32.50 to \$45 for each additional guest. [Irving.gondola.com](http://Irving.gondola.com)



STAY

DINE

PLAY

LIVE







# Bird's-Eye View

Unique feathers flock together in the parks around Irving

BY TYLER HICKS

**ASK VETERAN BIRD-WATCHER STEPHEN FUQUA** what makes a region ideal for bird-watching, and his answer is simple: good ol' fashioned H2O. "The more water you have, the higher the chance of finding what you're looking for," he says. That and trees, of course. Luckily, Irving has an abundance of both. Fuqua has been birding for years across various Texas hot spots, but few places compare to Irving. Whether it's your first or 51st birding experience, here is his guide to finding the more unique feathered friends around town:

**LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER**  
**NORTH LAKE RANCH PARK**  
Fuqua will never forget the day he spent birding at Irving's North Lake Ranch Park, where he saw the elusive ladder-backed woodpecker. "You don't find those in Dallas, but you find them in Irving because of the mesquite trees," he says. "That park will always have a special place in my heart."



**INDIGO BUNTING**  
**BIRD'S FORT TRAIL PARK**  
"Anywhere on the Champion Trail can be real good for bird-watching," Fuqua says. "Because of the river, you get quite the diversity." In particular, he recommends the aptly named Bird's Fort Trail Park to spy the double-crested cormorant, a seabird he says can be found "in the thousands" around here. The indigo bunting bird (pictured) is also known to frequent the park and Champion Trail; its beautiful songs are the perfect soundtrack for any jog or bird-watching expedition.



## MANDARIN DUCK

### CENTENNIAL PARK

The park may be best known for its breathtaking bridge and luminous lake, but many beautiful birds have walked or soared over Centennial in its 100 years of existence — some from quite far away. In 2016, bird-watchers identified a rare Mandarin duck basking in the aforementioned lake and affectionately named him Manny. Manny is part of a bird species that hails from East Asia — making him a rarity in North America, let alone North Texas.



## HERON

### SAM HOUSTON TRAIL PARK

Fuqua's favorite Irving birding memory was in this park. Shortly after flooding made the Champion Trail inaccessible in 2015, Fuqua and some of his birding colleagues ventured out to Sam Houston Trail, where they saw a group of herons taking wing. It was a reminder that, even during tumultuous weather, these birds still find a way to work together. It also reminded Fuqua of

his favorite thing about bird-watching: the people. "Birding is a wonderful way to get outside, spend some time with neighbors and get out of the day-to-day bustle," he says. "Irving has great, accessible trails that let you do just that." And while bird-watching may intimidate some newcomers, Fuqua notes that several local groups — including the Trinity River Audubon Center — are accessible to anyone interested in the hobby. "All you need is a decent pair of binoculars and an interest in birds," Fuqua says.





# Comedy Central

The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory

brings A-list laughs to Irving BY JEFF GAGE

**WHEN DAVE CHAPPELLE TOOK TO THE STAGE** at The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory for back-to-back nights in October 2017, it marked the first time that the state-of-the-art venue hosted a stand-up comedian. For general manager Michael Riley, it was all in a day's work — but also a microcosm for a bright future.

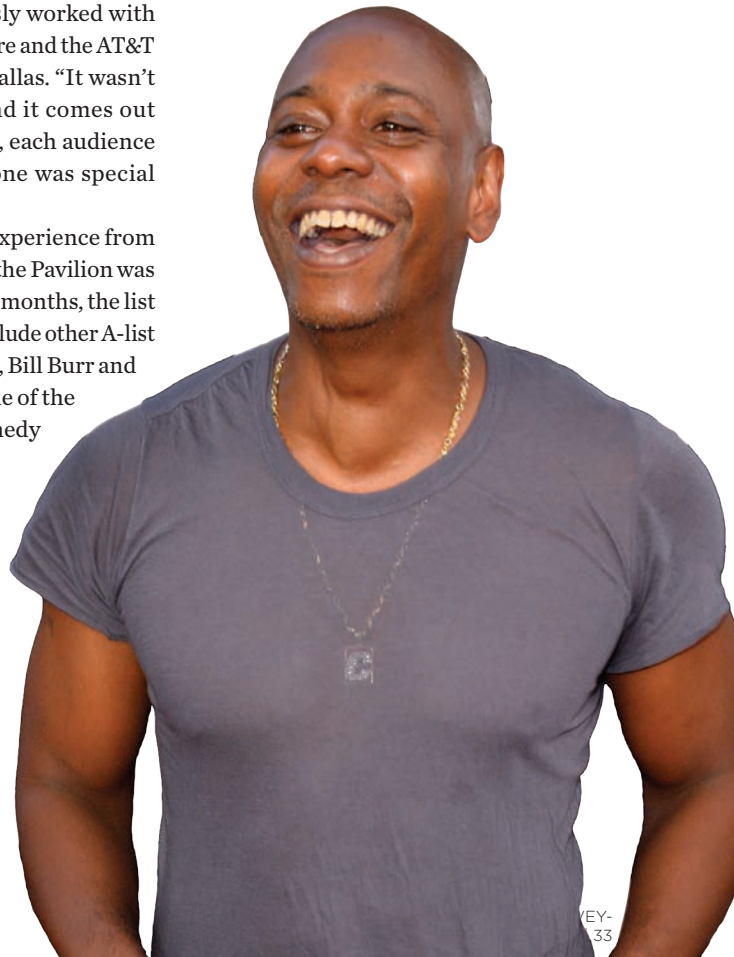
“The shows were different, which made me appreciate him that much more as an artist,” says Riley, who has previously worked with venues like the Chicago Theatre and the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas. “It wasn't like, ‘This is my routine,’ and it comes out as rote. Each night was great, each audience got a fantastic show. Each one was special and unique.”

Offering a one-of-a-kind experience from night to night is exactly what the Pavilion was designed to do. In less than 18 months, the list of performers has grown to include other A-list comedians like George Lopez, Bill Burr and Chris Rock, making Irving one of the hottest locations for live comedy in North Texas.

“It's the perfect midsized venue for your Trevor Noah or your Brian Regan,” says comedian Todd Justice, a nearly 20-year veteran and the 2017 champion of Irving's annual Laughs by the Lake competition, held each summer by Lake Carolyn. “At least in Dallas, it went from Bass [Performance Hall] to American Airlines

[Center], and you had a big jump there. You needed something right in the middle.”

The Pavilion's appeal is its adaptability, as in its ability to accommodate indoor crowds of 2,500 to 4,000 people, as well as amphitheater crowds of 8,000 — an arrangement Riley compares to BB&T Pavilion in Camden, New Jersey, which is also owned by Live Nation. “I always use the metaphor that this venue is like a big piece of clay that can be molded and



## BEST IN SHOW: THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY

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This spring promises to be a busy one for comedy fans, starting **March 30** with the Impractical Jokers' Cranjis McBasketball World Comedy Tour. Followers of the truTV show will recognize the title from a past skit, but expect all-new material on tour. On **April 19**, Trevor Noah, host of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* and the author of *New York Times* bestseller *Born a Crime*, returns to the stage as part of the Loud & Clear Tour. On **May 19**, Jim Gaffigan stops by on his Quality Time Tour, while Anjelah Johnson — a onetime member of the *MADtv* cast as well as a former NFL cheerleader — will perform on **June 1**. [Thepaviliontmf.com](http://Thepaviliontmf.com)





**As the Toyota Music Factory works to integrate itself further into the local community, part of that will mean reflecting the array of people who already live there.**

shaped and sculpted, depending on what the artist wants it to be," says Riley. "It's a tool for us, but it's also a tool for the artist."

Many of the features that make for an inviting experience at music events carry over to comedy, as well. "We have a built-in stage and we have stage curtains, so the artist feels comfortable onstage. We've got video screens so the folks [in the audience] can make out facial expressions, for certain moments where they need to feel that," Riley adds. Plus there's the impressive sight of the amphitheater: "[The artists] are always amazed when we walk them up the stairs and here we've got this great lawn. You don't expect to see that when you see it from outside."

Riley says that comedians who have performed at Toyota Music Factory have also appreciated the appeal, and the potential of Irving as a comedy destination on the rise. "They realize we're so close to downtown Dallas and how easy we are for Dallas and Fort Worth audiences to get to us here. They don't think of it as a suburban venue," he says. "Irving is an incredibly diverse community and I think all the artists who come here are developing an appreciation for why this

building is here."

As the Toyota Music Factory works to integrate itself further into the local community, part of that will mean reflecting the array of people who already live there. Riley touts the November appearance of Mexican comedian Adrián Uribe as a perfect example of how to do that. "Forbes magazine a few years ago named 75039 as the most diverse ZIP code in the United States," he says. "There's great diversity here that allows us to grow just by capitalizing on the immediate neighborhood."

Laughs by the Lake gave Justice a first-hand view of the demand for comedy. "There were, if I'm not mistaken, 1,000 people at each show," he says. "Seeing Irving take to a specific art so well at that one festival kind of surprised me."

Above all, Riley believes that tapping into that audience is part of a mission that extends beyond the interests of the Toyota Music Factory. "What I think is unique about what we're doing here is how this live entertainment venue complements the bigger program of what Irving and Las Colinas is developing into," he says. "It's about developing a place that audiences want to go." [Toyotamusicfactory.com](http://Toyotamusicfactory.com)

# (Pedi)Cabs are Here!

Las Colinas welcomes a fun new way to get around

BY CHARLIE SMITH

**A NEW RIDE-SHARING OPTION HAS PEDDLED** into town. Pedicab PRIME, a rickshaw-like service that transports passengers in a buggy pulled by a bicyclist, is now serving the 3.5-mile stretch surrounding the Las Colinas Urban Center.

Why the Las Colinas Urban Center? Simply put, it has the ideal concentration of lifestyle and entertainment venues, restaurants, residential apartment living and hotels. The pedicabs operate throughout the day, starting around 6:30 a.m., when pedicabs line up in front of the Marriott on Las Colinas Boulevard. The lunch shift cycles from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and the evening shift is from 5 p.m. until midnight, serving the Toyota Music Factory, Water Street and surrounding areas.

Pedicab PRIME hails from Massachusetts and has operated in Provincetown for more than 15 years. An expansion of the company to Texas was a natural fit for three of the co-owners of the New England success story, who already reside in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Weather also played a part. “We can operate in rain and cold ... but we try to avoid cold rain, if we can,” jokes Mike Edwards, who, along with Kathryn Wallace and Don Cullen, makes up the trifecta Texas ownership team. (A fourth co-owner, Bruce Van Allen, continues to manage the Massachusetts arm.) Irving boasts a predominantly sunny climate year-round, but in the event of rain, protective canopies are added to keep both drivers and passengers dry.



Edwards notes that the affordability of Pedicab PRIME is a draw: The service is \$5 per ride, plus gratuity if you're so inclined, regardless of the destination within the travel area. There are four pedicabs operating within Las Colinas, with a goal of expanding to 10. The company currently employs five part-time drivers per cab, or a total of 20, with an additional 30 on the way.

Pedicab PRIME is also heavily involved in charitable works and partnering with area businesses to give back to the community. To wit, on Sunday mornings in Irving, Pedicab PRIME offers free rides around the lake for elderly residents via an agreement with a nearby senior center.

Edwards says he hopes their connection to the community and eco-friendly practice will also encourage passengers to think about an alternative option for shorter commutes. And you can't get more sustainable than a zero-emission, human-powered transport service. [Pedicabprime.com](http://Pedicabprime.com)

**THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES  
TO BE A PEDICAB PRIME DRIVER?**

**PHYSICALLY FIT:** A typical pedicab shift is four to five hours, and all drivers are put through rigorous training, including steep uphill cycling tests and safety and operating courses. A pedicabber can burn more than 8,000 calories per full shift, according to a recent report.

**FAST LEARNER:** The cabs include 21 gears, and learning how to operate all of them effectively and efficiently in quick time not only helps ensure a prime spot on the team but also guarantees a smoother ride overall.

**FRIENDLY:** A strength in customer service, a sunny disposition, and the gift of gab is also beneficial as drivers routinely serve as tour guides during their rides. *Pedicabprime.com*







# NIGHT LIFE

An exclusive look at Irving's  
dynamic entertainment  
scene after dark

OTA


ic

FACTORY



# THE HAPPIEST HOURS

Take advantage of drink  
specials and discount menu  
options around the  
Toyota Music Factory



## BAR LOUIE

*Happiest Hours: Monday through Friday, 4 to 7 p.m. Half-priced appetizers, \$3.50 drafts, \$4.50 wines, \$5.50 signature martinis*

Follow the sound of laughter, sports yelling and martini shakers to Bar Louie, just steps from The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory. The national chain is known for an elevated bar menu and an impressive half-off discount at happy hour for appetizers including blackened chicken tacos with pico de gallo, salsa verde, avocado cream and fresh lime. Or go vegetarian with the Bavarian pretzel twists served with white queso and jalapeño honey Dijon or the roasted cauliflower in brown butter with parmesan and pickled peppers. The signature martinis are served with a twist: cosmo's made with citron vodka, the Tea Kettle martini with earl grey and honey syrup. The patio area is perfect for people-watching before and after a show. Bar Louie also has frequent specials for brunch (day drinkers) and burger lovers, too. [BARLOUIE.COM](http://BARLOUIE.COM)

## THIRSTY LION GASTROPUB & GRILL

*Happiest Hours: Every day 3 to 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. to close; \$1 off pints, \$4.95 house margaritas, well drinks, featured wine and \$4.95 to \$6.95 food menu*

Thirsty Lion had us at bacon cheddar potato cakes. For under \$5. Seven days a week. Each bite is packed with pepper bacon, cheddar, jalapeños and green onions, fried and served with chipotle aioli, Napa slaw and scallion herb sour cream. A few other favorites: chipotle hummus flatbread, salmon cakes and oven-baked soft pretzels served with scratch-made beer fondue, jalapeño jam and sweet mustard sauce. Thirsty Lion also caters to beer aficionados with an extensive list of rotating taps (look for the Lone Star stamp on the menu for local brews). Three patios — including one with fire pits — are particularly coveted during happy hour and chilly nights. But no worries: The friendly, sports-loving crowd will make room. [THIRSTYLIONGASTROPUB.COM](http://THIRSTYLIONGASTROPUB.COM)





## **YARD HOUSE**

*Happiest Hours: Every day 3 to 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. to close; select half-priced appetizers and pizza, \$2 off all draft beer, wine and cocktails; \$3 off 9-ounce wine and \$4 off half yards*

Yard House says they have the world's largest selection of draft beer, so it's fitting that their happy hour menu includes a lot of options. From ahi sashimi seared rare to the vegetarian-friendly beer-battered onion ring tower with chipotle ranch to the carnivore pizza — more than 100 dishes are made from scratch every day. And with more than 130 brews on tap, you have old reliable beers like Coors Light, full-bodied IPAs, local ciders and impressive brews from floral to stout. Fresh ingredients like peach puree and clover honey add a twist on classic Moscow mules, margaritas and sangria. Yard House is located in the heart of the Toyota Music Factory fun, so if you miss the first happy hour, follow the crowd here after the show.

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

## GLORIA'S LATIN CUISINE

*Happiest Hours: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; \$6 house margarita, house mojito, house wine, sangria; \$7 mango margarita, strawberry mojito, swirl margarita*

An all-day happy hour is certainly cause for celebration at Gloria's Latin Cuisine. Monday through Thursday, the new Irving location serves Gloria's famous — deliciously potent — house margarita and other interesting interpretations of the tequila-based classic layered with fresh herbs, spicy jalapeños and fruit. For something a little more sweet than spicy, the fresh strawberry mojito is beautiful and balanced. Regulars have been following Gloria's Latin Cuisine since the small flagship location opened in Oak Cliff more than 25 years ago. The upscale ambience of today brings the sharply-dressed business crowd and couples to the bar for authentic Salvadoran cuisine. The banana-leaf-wrapped tamales filled with chicken and potatoes make everyone happy.

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



## GRIMALDI'S PIZZERIA

*Happiest Hours: Every day, 3:30 to 6 p.m.; \$3 off glasses of wine, \$3 off antipasto and bruschetta, \$2 off draft beer and \$15 off bottles of vino (excluding house wine)*

Grimaldi's "Stoking Social Hour" is part necessity and part homage to the traditional brick-oven pizza process from Naples, Italy. In order to deliver the award-winning thin and crispy crust Grimaldi's is known for, the coal-burning fire must be stoked twice a day — once in the morning and afternoon. So while expert pizza chefs are clearing out old coals and rebuilding the fire (read: no pizza), you enjoy drink perks on vino and brews and deals on antipasto with fresh mozzarella, oven-roasted sweet peppers, Genoa salami, olives and baked bread. The casual, family-friendly vibe makes it a good spot for large groups and friends not afraid to carbo-load in public. Mostly for fans of the crispy and smoky slices topped with handmade mozzarella and "secret" pizza sauce. [GRIMALDISPIZZERIA.COM](http://GRIMALDISPIZZERIA.COM)



# CENTER STAGE

All the world's a stage for operations and booking guru Kass Prince at the Irving Arts Center BY JACQUELYNE FROEBER | PORTRAIT BY ASHLEE HUFF

If you're in town to enjoy a performance or event at the Irving Arts Center (IAC), odds are Kass Prince had something to do with it.

As the assistant executive director of operations and external programs for the IAC, Prince oversees pretty much everything: facility booking, security, maintenance, housekeeping, theatre operations, box office, front-of-house, marketing functions and booking performances.

*Whew.*

And with more than 200 events a year, Prince says the diversity of programming — symphonies, ballet, live music, artist talks and panel discussions — fosters growth in the community and adds to Irving's appeal as a world-class cultural destination.

Drawing on her expertise and 21 years at the IAC, we asked Prince about the must-see performances this year and her thoughts on what may be the next *Hamilton*:

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE CITY OF IRVING THAT ATTRACTS SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF ARTISTS TO THE CENTER?

It's been my experience that artists and performers go where they are treated well and compensated fairly. As staff, we strive to highlight visual and performing artists at IAC that will inspire, educate and entertain visitors and residents. I think that our programming does a nice job of reflecting the interests and perspectives of our rapidly changing community. However, we are always looking to do more, to reach beyond our walls at the center and find new ways to impact and build new audiences.

## TELL US AN UPCOMING PERFORMANCE OR EXHIBIT THAT YOU HOPE HELPS FOSTER THIS GOAL OF BUILDING NEW AUDIENCES.

We have two shows coming in that I think will really blow audiences away: *Cirque Eloise Saloon* on February 22 and *Celtic Nights: Oceans of Hope* on March 8. They both feature large casts, terrific production values and appeal to all ages.

## WHAT ABOUT A SHOW THAT REALLY SURPRISED YOU?

The Russian Cat Circus was a real trip. My cats at home could definitely learn a thing or two from those felines!

## ANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT COULD BE THE NEW HAMILTON (SO WE CAN BUY TICKETS NOW)?

That's the exciting thing about this business — who could have imagined that a rap musical with a multiracial cast telling the story of the birth of America would capture the public imagination as *Hamilton* has done. You just never know...

## WHAT ABOUT THE ODDS OF HAMILTON COMING TO THE IAC?

Please don't take that bet — none! Since our largest theater only has 711 seats, presenting *Hamilton*, *Wicked* or Bruce Springsteen simply isn't a financially viable scenario. The good news for Irving residents [and visitors] is that they can see the national tour of *Hamilton* at Dallas Summer Musicals in April. Even better news is that there are plenty of other acts that are a great fit for the intimate setting of Irving Arts Center. We all have our roles to play.







*The IAC is open seven days a week with free gallery admission and parking. There are two free guided tours each week – Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. – and free programs for children and families.*  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)





# DREAM FACTORY

**Not even a year into its operations, the Toyota Music Factory is already fulfilling its promised identity as Irving's go-to entertainment destination of the future**

**BY PETE FREEDMAN**



A lively crowd at  
The Pavilion at  
Toyota Music factory

# Noah Lazes plays a little game every time he visits IRVING.

As soon as he hops into the Uber that picks him up at the airport, the COO of the ARK Group, which is behind the city's \$200 million Toyota Music Factory, asks the driver if they can suggest any decent places to head for a night out in the Irving area.

A man who has built his reputation on nightlife operations — in the late '90s and early 2000s, he helped turn Level, the famous nightclub on Miami's South Beach, into one of the highest-grossing nightclubs in the world — Lazes has come to respect these drivers' opinions about which nighttime spots are the hottest. Their cars, after all, are what bring the people to the party; and, in turn, they know this world well.

Not even a year ago, his queries would elicit a variety of nightlife suggestions — most of them in nearby Dallas. But he'd rarely hear anyone suggest anything within Irving's city limits. Thanks to Toyota Music Factory now having its sea legs, that's all finally changing.

"There's no question that we're becoming a part of the fabric of the community," says Lazes, a little more than half a year removed from the complex's 2018 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Lazes knows what's responsible for that changed perspective — the Live Nation-booked, 8,000-capacity, state-of-the-art concert space The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory, and all the crowds that have been coming to take in its shows. Thanks to its revolutionary indoor/outdoor convertible design, the Pavilion was named within a year of its September 2017 opening as the ninth-most-attended amphitheater in the world, according to the concert industry trade publication *Pollstar*,

which tracks such figures.

"Look, we're a 12-month venue," says The Pavilion's general manager, Michael Riley. "We had The Killers perform in this building in January, when no [other] amphitheater was doing shows — because other theaters just aren't doing shows in January. That's the biggest part of our story, the flexibility of this building. We can scale it to 2,500 seats and have shows like Jewel or Steve Winwood that absolutely are a natural fit here. Then we can do 8,000 for Post Malone. Heck, we can do an air-conditioned, 4,000-seat show in the July heat."

And with concertgoers so frequently being funneled into the greater Toyota Music Factory complex to see the many shows that variety allows its anchor tenant to book, the other businesses in the development are doing what they've been brought in to do — show that it's not just convenient but fun to stick around and check out all the area can offer before and after those concerts.

"The complex is the perfect complement to a venue like this," Riley continues. "With so many venues, you have to park twice in your evening if you want to go out to get dinner before or after the show. But you just have your whole night here. It's a full, one-stop entertainment destination center, where you have the ability to come out early and get something to eat or drink without having to get in your car and go to the next place."

The model works best when all of these entities work in tandem. Like how Alamo Drafthouse Cinema will plan screenings to match the

Post Malone  
performing at  
The Pavilion at  
Toyota Music factory





The Toyota Music factory comes to life in the evening hours

aesthetic of what’s going on at the big venue or nearby at the Irving Convention Center. Or how Texas Lottery Plaza, the second-biggest stage in a complex filled with them, will book free performances meant to fit in with the tastes of whoever might be checking out a show at the Pavilion on a given night. Live Nation even goes so far as to give 13th Floor Music’s David Ponder, who books Texas Lottery Plaza, its bookings at The Pavilion before they’re announced to the public so he can cater his stage to what’s going on at theirs.

“We’re all working together toward the common goal of creating almost a self-contained entertainment complex,” Ponder says of the shared responsibility for the development and the vested interest everyone has in helping to shape its identity. “It’s a place where

you can see a show and, hey, why not get something to eat, too? Or maybe a drink — I know that if I’m going to go watch a show there, I’m going to bounce around a couple of different bars and to get some drinks, too.”

And with Live Nation, Toyota Music Factory and the Irving Police Department all working to ensure that the well-lit facilities are also well-secured, TMF is notably as safe as it is entertaining. In other words, the complex is making good on its promise to turn Irving into a nightlife destination that the city can be proud of — not to mention a development whose ripples are being felt all across the city.

“The Music Factory has served as a catalyst for development in multiple sectors of town,” says Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer. “And with many additional projects on the drawing board, we fully expect that growth to continue.”

For proof of just how far things have come, do what Lazes does and ask your Uber or Lyft driver where you can find a great night out in Irving. At this point, he’s noticed, it’s almost a foregone conclusion what those drivers will say.

“Every one of them now knows what [the Toyota Music Factory] is,” Lazes says, laughing at the difference a few months can make. “I’m hard-pressed any more to get in [an Uber], tell them where I want to go and what I want to do, and hear anywhere else. They just go, ‘Oh, there’s one place to go for food, drinks, nightlife and all that. It’s called the Music Factory. It’s got everything.’ And it’s awesome to hear that.” *Toyotamusicfactory.com*



SOB X RBE performing at The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory

# WHAT A NIGHT

Whether you're with family, friends or significant other, the perfect outing awaits at Toyota Music Factory

BY PETE FREEDMAN

## OUT WITH FAMILY

### DINE: KABUKI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

This may be Kabuki's first Texas location, but it's the 17th overall for this four-state, 27-year empire, a brand with a firm reputation as a family-friendly, all-comers destination thanks to its "sushi for all mankind" motto. The rare dining option that's both safe and adventurous, Kabuki's extensive fare — they've got everything from chicken fingers to Tokyo seafood paella here — includes an award-winning kid's menu that's also as approachable (hand-held chicken or beef teriyaki spears) as it is ripe for exploration (three-piece California sushi rolls). Add in separate menus entirely for vegetarians and diners with gluten allergies, and everyone from your fragile 6-year-old to your moody teen will find something here.

[Kabukirestaurants.com](#)

### PLAY: ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

This beloved Austin-based chain offers an "Alamo for All" option that caters to all ages including families with infants. Talking, low-level noise and moving around (who can sit for two hours straight anyway?) is expected in this less judgmental zone. The snacks (and full meals) put normal operations to shame. Here, servers tending to each theater will help Mom and Dad indulge in a full bar that includes a thoughtfully stocked local craft beer list and cocktail menu, and ply the young ones with finger foods that the kitchen styles to match what's showing on screen.

[Drafthouse.com](#)

### DESSERT: POP FACTORY

Texas Music Factory's appropriately named Pop Factory is where the whole family will get into choosing from the two dozen paleta-style popsicles on sale here. And you can rest assured that they'll only give your kids enough extra zip to stay up for the drive home because the tasty treats are made of all-natural ingredients, with no artificial colors, sweeteners or flavors added. [Maxfrut.us](#)

## OUT WITH FRIENDS

### DINE: YARD HOUSE

Quick, what's the worst part of a group hang? Waiting on that one notoriously always-late-to-the-party pal to reach the starting point of your night out. With more than 75 locations across the nation, a food menu featuring elevated American fare and a bar that promises the "world's largest selection of draft beer," everyone in your crew is bound to find something here that will help them bide the time as your group for the night congeals, as well as something to help them kick things into high gear once the night's officially ready to begin. [Yardhouse.com](#)

### PLAY: TEXAS LOTTERY PLAZA

Head over to the second-biggest concert stage within the Toyota Music Factory complex when you're ready for your night to find its groove. Here at the outdoor Texas Lottery Plaza stage, you and your friends can take turns buying rounds of beers while you enjoy a night spent rocking out under the stars. Whether you're listening to a DJ who's dedicated to keeping your feet moving or catching the next great local Dallas band one last time before they start getting booked at The Pavillion down the way and cost you a pretty penny to see, luck's not a factor when it comes to you and your crew having a memorable night here. [Toyotamusicfactory.com/texaslotteryplaza](#)

### NIGHTCAP: THIRSTY LION GASTROPUB & GRILL

Take it from David Ponder, the man who books the acts that play the Texas Lottery Plaza stage, the move to make after the show's over outside is to head over to the Thirsty Lion, where you and your pals can sit crooked and talk straight until the bartenders at this classic pub shout out last call. It's where he usually heads, anyway. "It's usually pretty busy and fun in there," Ponder says of the vibes at the Thirsty Lion. End your night here for a roaring good time. [Thirstyliongastropub.com](#)

## OUT WITH A DATE

### DINE: GLORIA'S LATIN CUISINE

There's a reason 20 locations of this Salvadoran restaurant have been able to sprout across this otherwise Tex-Mex-obsessed state: Gloria's is just that good. With a playful menu fit for both those who seek the familiar (fajita, enchilada and taco options) and those looking for something more adventurous (everything under the menu's "SalvaTex" header), Gloria's offers up just the right amount of spice to be enjoyed with a round (or two) of their legendary margaritas. [Gloriascuisine.com](#)

### PLAY: THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY

You and your music-loving mate will be hard-pressed to find a better concertgoing experience than the one you'll have at the most state-of-the-art venue in North Texas — and beyond, frankly. Designed as a convertible indoor/outdoor space that affords a full 12-month calendar of shows, this Live Nation-booked amphitheater offers various layouts to accommodate shows of any size. Meaning? One of your favorite artists is coming here sooner or later. That's been the case for Mayor Rick Stopfer, who has seen plenty of shows in this space and can attest to how Irving has changed over the last year with the addition of The Pavilion's event calendar: "KISS, Charlie Puth, Need to Breathe, Gladys Knight, Brad Paisley and 5 Seconds of Summer have been some of our personal favorites." [Thepaviliontmtf.com](#)

### NIGHTCAP: BAR LOUIE

If you're still clamoring for more fun after dinner and a show, head to Bar Louie. With more than 130 locations across the United States, Bar Louie's staff has the late-night game down pat. The DJs pay close attention to the vibe and the crowd, and the bar staff is as comfortable slinging shots of whiskey as concocting craft cocktails. [Barlouie.com](#)

# MOVIE NIGHT

How Alamo Drafthouse's simple formula of good beer, great movies and no talking or texting improves the Irving entertainment scene BY ERIC CELESTE





# EVEN THOUGH I AM A FILM BUFF,

I don't frequent movie theaters. Well, I don't see movies in theaters any longer. The last time I did so, 10 years ago, I almost got into a fight because a phone-chatting patron had the nerve to yell at a father of three that he needed to keep his kids quiet. The nerve! The resulting brouhaha greatly diminished my enjoyment of *In Bruges* or *Frost/Nixon* or *Hancock* or whatever awesome 2008 movie I was watching.

Now, when I leave the house to watch films, which I do often, I go to a movie palace. When the lights go down and the opening credits roll, I'm in a place where no one talks or texts on his/her phone; where delicious pizza and hearty craft beers are delivered to my seat; where I sit in oversized, comfy chairs that are nicer than any in my home. I go to an Alamo Draffthouse.

The Alamo Draffthouse chain — now more than 35 strong, including the Irving location that opened in the Toyota Music Factory entertainment complex in May — began more than 20 years ago in Austin. It didn't demand quiet from moviegoers at first. That rule was in response to a particularly rowdy showing of *Blue Velvet*. But much of the Irving venue's DNA can be traced to Alamo's origin story.

"We love great movies, cold beer and delicious snacks," says Alamo co-founder Tim League, "and [we] built Alamo Draffthouse Cinema to celebrate all three." League was working at Shell Oil in Bakersfield, California, and his future wife, Karrie, at a San Francisco bioresearch company when they

decided to open a tiny movie art house north of Los Angeles. The area, clientele and lease weren't ideal. So they decided to get married, move to Austin and reopen the concept in Texas. Thus, in 1997, the Alamo Draffthouse opened.

Alamo was a good Texas name, but it was chosen because a) it came before AMC in the phone book, and b) because the building's



An Alamo audience enjoys a movie party, complete with props and quote-alongs.



The lobby and Vetter Well bar (below) at the new Toyota Music Factory location.

sign could only fit a few letters on it. The original Alamo Drafthouse — later described as “somewhere between a movie theater, an attic and a living room” — was more glorious in memory than in actuality. (The soundproofing was done with hay bales.) But the memories are still glorious. Director and actor Richard Linklater used to watch movies and eat chocolate cake there regularly. Opening night for the original Alamo — a double feature of [*This is*] *Spinal Tap* and *Raising Arizona* — filled the house; the next night, three people showed up.

The theater’s big break came in its second month, when it landed the right to show the newly released *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*. Packed houses, word of mouth and great reviews from around the nation followed. Slowly over the next two decades, the cinema evolved into the fast-expanding movie-and-beer-lovers’ destination it is today. The press took notice: *Entertainment Weekly* once dubbed Alamo the No. 1 theater in the U.S. *Wired* magazine went them one better, calling Alamo “the coolest movie theater in the world.”

They are all indeed cool, especially the seven currently open in North Texas. But there may be no more perfect marriage of place and space than the Alamo Drafthouse Las Colinas. Its mix of big-budget flicks — I saw *A Star is Born* there, and I’m still crying — and indie events is perfect for Irving, a growing and diverse suburb that embodies the divergent tastes and broad cultural spectrum of any big city. But also it sits smack-dab in the middle of Toyota Music Factory.

“Las Colinas and Music Factory are the perfect combination for an Alamo location,” says Bill DiGaetano, COO of Alamo Drafthouse DFW. “Being central to the Metroplex, coupled with the energy of a

live music venue, is incredible.”

Bottom line, there are two great things about Alamo Drafthouse Las Colinas: One, you can park your car and make your moviegoing visit part of an entire weekend’s worth of entertainment and fun. Two, it’s an Alamo Drafthouse. Duh. [Drafthouse.com](http://Drafthouse.com)





#### PERFECT PAIRINGS

At Alamos across the country, a visit to the tap-filled on-site bar, Vetted Well, is a must. Alamo Drafthouse Las Colinas is no exception. Here are five local brews usually found on tap to pair with your movie based on genre and recent films:

**DRAFT:** Bell's Two Hearted IPA

**PAIRS WITH FANTASY:** *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*

**WHY:** Only a beast as fantastic as one sprung from the mind of J.K. Rowling would have two hearts and be an IPA.

**DRAFT:** Lakewood Temptress

**PAIRS WITH ACTION/ADVENTURE:** *Robin Hood*

**WHY:** The new telling of this classic tale co-stars *Fifty Shades* star Jamie Dornan, who is a temptress in any wooded area.

**DRAFT:** Hop Fusion Feisty Blonde

**PAIRS WITH ANIMATION:** *The Grinch*

**WHY:** This 3D version from the makers of *Despicable Me* will pay tribute to that feistiess of blondes, Cindy Lou Who.

**DRAFT:** Peticolas Velvet Hammer, Imperial Red

**PAIRS WITH ROMANCE:** *Love, Actually* Movie Party

**WHY?** Because if my girlfriend makes me watch *Love, Actually* one more time, I'm going to knock myself out with a velvet hammer.

**DRAFT:** Martin House True Love, Sour

**PAIRS WITH COMEDY:** *Step Brothers* Movie Party

**WHY?** Because of how sour Dale's therapist's face looks when he declares to her, 10 seconds into their first session, "I love you."

# AROUND TOWN

Upcoming events and nearby attractions



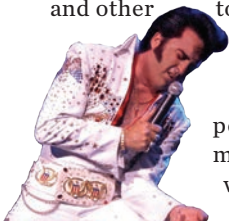
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
**LAS COLINAS FARMERS MARKET**  
MACARTHUR PARK  
[FOURSEASONSMARKETS.COM](http://FOURSEASONSMARKETS.COM)

Mild winters in Texas allow local farmers to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables year-round. This country market is an oasis in the city. It also offers gourmet foods, artisan crafts, and fresh produce.

**JANUARY 11, 2019**  
**KRAIG PARKER: THE KING LIVES!**  
**ELVIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)

For the last 20 years, Parker has wowed audiences across America and Europe at casinos, performance halls, cruise ships and other top entertainment venues



including sold-out headline shows in Las Vegas. Craig Parker's powerful voice, electric moves and tasteful charisma will leave you "all shook up" and screaming for more.

**JANUARY 13, 2019**  
**LAS COLINAS BRIDAL SHOW**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

Now in its seventh year, the Las Colinas Bridal Show will feature over 100 wedding businesses with everything to plan a perfect wedding. Featuring fashion shows, amazing door prizes, and giveaways.



**JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 2, 2019**  
**RAVENSCROFT**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)

On a snowy night, Inspector Ruffing is called to a remote house to investigate the headlong plunge of Patrick Roarke down the main staircase. Five alluring and dangerous women lead him through a bewildering labyrinth of contradictory versions of Patrick's demise and that of the late Mr. Ravenscroft. A fast-paced murder mystery, *Ravenscroft* will keep you guessing until the very end.

**JANUARY 20, 2019**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OBSERVANCE**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)



Each January, the city of Irving holds a special event to recognize and appreciate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., featuring music, dance and theatrical performances.



**JANUARY 25-27, 2019**  
**ZESTFEST**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

ZestFest heats up Irving with one of the largest food festivals and competitions in the DFW Metroplex. Featuring some of the hottest foods from around the world, this event offers three days of cooking demos by celebrity chefs, live music, interactive contests and thousands of bold food samples.



**JANUARY 26, 2019**  
**DALLAS TREASURES & MUSIC FROM THE WORLD**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
 IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM

Presenting some of Dallas' musical treasures performing with the Irving Symphony Orchestra, including guitarist Russ Hewitt, tenor Javier Aguilar, pianist Rachid Bernal, virtuoso Ehsan Matoori, and Bolero by Ravel, with dancer Julia Alcantara.

**JANUARY 26, 2019**  
**TONI BRAXTON WITH SPECIAL GUESTS SWV**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
 THEPAVILIONTMF.COM

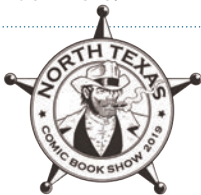
Grammy-winning Toni Braxton visits Irving for her "Long As I Live" Tour, a popular single from her eighth studio album, *Sex & Cigarettes*.



**JANUARY 26, 2019**  
**FROST FEST**

CIMARRON PARK  
 CITYOFIRVING.COM

Texas is known for its mild winters, so it's not often we get to play in the snow. Frost Fest, a free winter festival, offers families a petting zoo, snow tubing hill, snow play area, inflatable rides, ice skating, train rides, complimentary family photos, and much more.



**FEBRUARY 2-3, 2019**  
**NORTH TEXAS COMIC BOOK SHOW**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
 IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

Your friendly neighborhood Dallas comic book show returns to the Irving Convention Center with a great guest list of comic artists, comic dealers, and a cosplay contest.



**FEBRUARY 10, 2019**  
**FREEDOM ... AND DESTINY!**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
 IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM

The New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving explores freedom and destiny with great composers, from Beethoven's Egmont, battling for freedom, to Liszt's Les Preludes, Verdi's La forza del destino, Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien, and Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite.



**FEBRUARY 16, 2019**  
**AN EVENING WITH 2CELLOS**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
 THEPAVILIONTMF.COM

Young Croatian cellists Luka Sulic and Stjepan Hauser, together known as 2CELLOS, have broken down the boundaries between musical genres, from classical and film music to pop and rock.



**FEBRUARY 22-23, 2019**  
**SCRAPBOOK EXPO**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
 IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

Create a fabulous project, learn a new technique or brush up on your skills at a variety of workshops. The Scrapbook Expo has a little something for everyone. What better way to spend the day than with friends while you craft and shop?



**FEBRUARY 23, 2019**  
**LA TRAVIATA**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
 IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM

The Irving Symphony Orchestra presents a concert version of the famous opera "La Traviata" by Italian icon G. Verdi. Soprano Rainelle Kraus and tenor Angelo Ferrari will join an outstanding cast of singers and a local choir as they sing this story of despair and true love.



**FEBRUARY 27, 2019**  
**MARIAH CAREY: CAUTION WORLD TOUR**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
 THEPAVILIONTMF.COM

Mariah Carey has announced her upcoming "Caution World Tour" for 2019. The 22-city run, produced by Live Nation and in support of her forthcoming album *Caution*, begins here in Irving.



**MARCH 15-30, 2019**  
**THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
 IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM

Widely known as Tennessee Williams' last great play, *The Night of the Iguana* grapples with some of life's biggest mysteries. A defrocked priest has been accused of having inappropriate relations with a teenage girl. He seeks shelter at a Mexican inn run by his blowsy, widowed old friend, who finds herself competing for his attentions with a kindly spinster who is caring for her grandfather, an aging poet. Of this play, *The New York Times* raved, "This is Tennessee Williams at the top of his form."



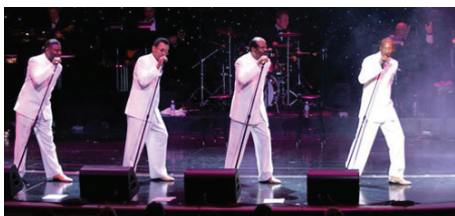
**MARCH 22-23, 2019**  
**NORTH TEXAS TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL**  
 IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

This free festival will highlight Middle Grade and Young Adult (YA) literature by introducing well-known, bestselling, and emerging teen authors. Bookending the festival is a keynote and endnote speaker with a full day of panel sessions, book signings, book sales, and more in between. NTTBF will expose attendees to new authors, new stories and new characters while getting them excited about reading. Books from each author will be sold at the event.



**MARCH 24, 2019**  
**NICK MASON'S SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS**  
 THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
[THEPAVILIONTMF.COM](http://THEPAVILIONTMF.COM)

Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason will be performing some classic Floyd songs. Digging deep into their archives to offer tunes not heard live in America for a long time, if ever, they'll perform some pre-*Dark Side of the Moon* material.



**MARCH 30, 2019**  
**GRANDFINALE: SPECTRUM, "A TRIBUTE TO MOTOWN AND R&B"**  
 IRVING ARTS CENTER  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)

The ISO concludes its season with Spectrum. Relive the musical magic of Motown greats such as The Temptations, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson & The Miracles, The Spinners and much more.



**MARCH 30, 2019**  
**TRU TV IMPRACTICAL JOKERS "THE CRANJIS MCBASKETBALL WORLD COMEDY TOUR"**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
[THEPAVILIONTMF.COM](http://THEPAVILIONTMF.COM)

Critically acclaimed, world-renowned comedy troupe and stars of truTV's hit series *Impractical Jokers*, The Tenderloins feature completely new material and hijinx for audiences across the globe.

**APRIL 4-7, 2019**  
**FIBER FEST**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

Visit DFW's largest fiber festival serving the knitting, crochet and spinning craft community. Along with classes and exhibits, the vendor hall offers a great variety of raw and processed fibers, beautiful yarns, and all kinds of tools and supplies for the novice to the professional.



**APRIL 6, 2019**  
**CITYWIDE EGG HUNT**

IRVING HERITAGE PARK  
[CITYOFIGRING.ORG](http://CITYOFIGRING.ORG)

The city of Irving offers families a fun and free experience. Children ages 10 and under participate in egg hunts featuring thousands of toy-filled and candy-filled eggs, as well as egg races, inflatable rides and craft activities. The Easter Bunny is present for pictures. Bring the whole family.

**APRIL 7, 2019**  
**MARIACHI AND MAYAN NIGHT!**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
[IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM)

A salute to Mexico's most-loved popular arts — mariachi and ballet folklórico — created to Revueltas' music for the film, *Night of the Maya*. With choreography and dancers from Anita Martinez Ballet Folklórico and area mariachis.



**APRIL 12-14, 2019**  
**KAMEHA CON**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

Kameha Con specifically focuses on the Dragon Ball universe. Bringing voice actors, animators, toys, games, and collectibles from all over the world, it's all under one roof.



**APRIL 19, 2019**  
**TREVOR NOAH: LOUD AND CLEAR TOUR**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
[THEPAVILIONTMF.COM](http://THEPAVILIONTMF.COM)

After appearing on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* and *The Late Show With David Letterman*, Trevor Noah took on a correspondent role on *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, eventually replacing Stewart.

**APRIL 29 - 30, 2019**  
**2019 DFW RESTAURANT RESOURCE SHOW**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
[IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM](http://IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM)

The Dallas-Ft. Worth area is home to over 14,000 restaurants and food service companies, and the 2019 DFW Restaurant Resource Show is right in the center of it all. Discover the latest technology and resources to stay competitive in this fast-moving business.



**MAY 2, 2019**  
**THE 1975, PALE WAVES AND NO ROME**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
[THEPAVILIONTMF.COM](http://THEPAVILIONTMF.COM)

Headlining this British Indie rock concert, The 1975 have confirmed production of their third and fourth albums, *A Brief Inquiry into Online Relationships* (recently released) and *Notes on a Conditional Form*, due to be released in spring 2019.



**MAY 3, 10 & 17, 2019**

**IRVING CONCERT SERIES**

WHISTLESTOP PLAZA  
CITYOFIRVING.ORG

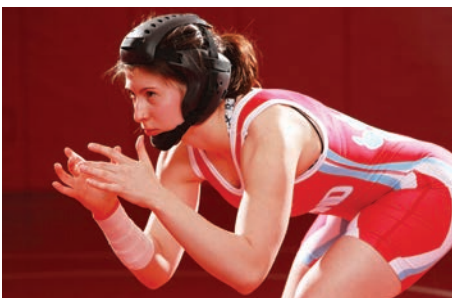
Irving's annual concert series showcases live performances by musicians from across the state. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for the open-seating plaza. Dinner may be purchased from food trucks on-site or brought from home. Parking and admission are free to all shows.

**MAY 3, 10 & 17, 2019**

**IRVING CONCERT SERIES 4 KIDS**

IRVING SOCCER COMPLEX  
CITYOFIRVING.ORG

This popular music series for toddlers and preschoolers features fun performances by top children's music groups, encouraging children to sing, dance and play along. For children ages 5 and younger.



**MAY 10-12, 2019**

**USAW WOMEN'S WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

USA Wrestling each year conducts over 15 National Level events for 9 age groups in four styles of wrestling. They all culminate into one final championship - The Nationals. Included in the slate of National Championships are a series of National Duals Championships which bring excitement and team pride to their respective USAW State Associations.

**MAY 17, 2019**

**JIM GAFFIGAN: QUALITY TIME TOUR**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
THEPAVILIONTMF.COM



After appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman and a slew of television shows, Jim Gaffigan continues with a "hyper-awareness of his own mundanity," performing his gut-busting stand-up routine.



**MAY 18-19, 2019**

**ULTIMATE WOMEN'S EXPO**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

Explore your own personal style, renew your soul and uncover your passions while you relax and rejuvenate. Connect with inspiring keynote speakers, shop among hundreds of vendors, and spend a relaxing day being pampered with spa treatments, massages and retail therapy.

**MAY 19, 2019**

**FROM THE NEW WORLD!**

IRVING ARTS CENTER  
IRVINGARTSCENTER.COM

The New Philharmonic Orchestra performs Berlioz's rousing Carnival Overture and Beethoven's Leonore Overture no. 3 with Dvorak's portrait of America - his Symphony no. 9, From the New World!

**MAY 24-26, 2019**

**NORTH AMERICA TELUGU SOCIETY CONVENTION**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

Serving the Telugu community across North America through cultural, religious, social, and educational activities, NATS not only oversees community charities but helps preserve a rich cultural heritage.



**JUNE 1, 2019**

**ANJELAH JOHNSON**

THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY  
THEPAVILIONTMF.COM

Entertaining audiences with routines like The Nail Salon and Bon Qui Qui, Anjelah Johnson has recorded several one-hour comedy specials and is currently touring the country with her sold-out comedy shows.

**JUNE 1-2, 2019**

**TEXAS HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

For more than 40 years, the Texas Home & Garden Show series has connected home and garden professionals with consumers and idea seekers. These events are Texas homeowners' best resource for expert advice, money-saving tips, remodeling ideas, landscape features and everything needed for a home and garden.



**JUNE 8, 2019**

**CANAL FEST 2019**

MANDALAY CANAL  
CITYOFIRVING.ORG

Showcasing the diversity of Irving, Canal Fest celebrates all things multicultural. Entertainment includes over 30 groups performing ethnic dances and music. With educational crafts and activities, and foods from around the world, it's fun for the whole family.



**JUNE 28-30, 2019**

**LET'S PLAY GAMING EXPO**

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS  
IRVINGCONVENTIONCENTER.COM

The Let's Play Gaming Expo is one of the most interactive expos in North Texas, celebrating all of gaming, be it board, card, or video. #LPGE has featured 85+ vendor tables, 80+ arcade cabinets, the national Smash Bros Tournament Low Tier City, the only Classic Tetris World Championship regional qualifier, the only Tecmo Madison qualifier, retro game tournaments, modern game tournaments, panels, special guests, and much more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT IRVINGTEXAS.COM

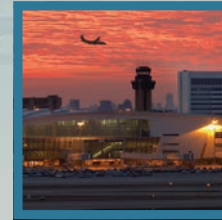


### Texas Motor Speedway

Offers many national events, including NASCAR & IndyCar.



# Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport



SOUTHLAKE

# FORT WORTH



NORTH RICHLAND HILLS



121

HURST

360



ARLINGTON

360

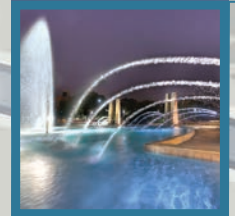


### Six Flags Over Texas

Family-friendly 200-acre amusement / theme park with over 50 rides.

# IRVING

**Millennium Fountain**  
100 feet in diameter, the geyser rises to 30 feet.



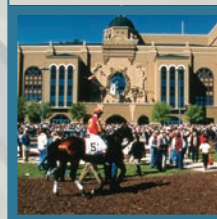
SPUR 408

GRAND PRAIRIE

SPUR 303

### Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

Horse racing track with dining & private penthouse suites.



### AT&T Stadium

Home of the Dallas Cowboys and host to big-name events.



### Fort Worth Stockyards

Experience FW's Western heritage in this popular historic district.



### Sundance Square

Dozens of options for shopping, dining, and entertainment.



972.252.7476

irvingtexas.com

irvingconventioncenter.com

#visitirving

Visit Irving, Texas and experience the finer points of the Lone Star State! Enjoy live music at Toyota Music Factory, take a romantic gondola cruise along the European-style canals of Las Colinas and play championship golf at the TPC Four Seasons Las Colinas. All while taking in world-class dining and nightlife. It's also a quick drive to the rest of the DFW Metroplex, giving you a wide array of options for activities and attractions. You'll discover that Irving makes it easy to access the best dining, arts, entertainment and Texas-sized shopping. Then, choose from any of Irving's 85+ hotels to kick back and relax with family and friends.





### Toyota Music Factory

DFW's exciting new entertainment venue, featuring the 8,000-seat Pavilion, operated by Live Nation.

### Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas

275,000 sq. ft. facility offering four levels of multifunctional space.



### Urban Center

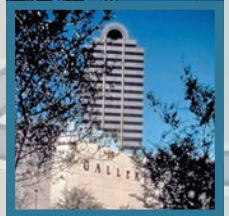
Home of the Mustangs of Las Colinas, Lake Carolyn, Gondola Adventures on the Mandalay Canal and Water Street.

## Love Field Airport



### Galleria Dallas

Upscale shopping mall.



### Irving Arts Center

Features four galleries, two theaters and a sculpture garden.



### Downtown Irving / Heritage Crossing

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161

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### Big State Fountain

Old-fashioned diner serving Irving since 1948.



114

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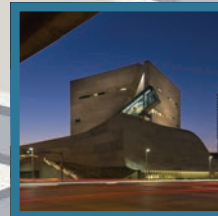
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HIGHLAND PARK

### Perot Museum of Nature and Science

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### Downtown Dallas

Just a short 20 minutes from Irving.



75

# DALLAS

45

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Inside Texas Stadium and tailgating at a Cowboys game (below)

# The Evolution of Entertainment

Stadium-sized spirit is in Irving's DNA

BY DIANA PFAFF

**WITH THE OPENING OF THE TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY, IRVING FINALLY** had the critical piece of its visitors district — an entertainment area encompassing restaurants, concerts, movies and events. However, this wasn't Irving's first "all-in-one" entertainment spot.

That place, surprisingly, was Texas Stadium. Sure, the football stadium famous for its distinctive "hole in the roof" was best known as the home field of the Dallas Cowboys. It was the place, after all, where "America's Team" was born, and where they played when they won all five of their Super Bowl championships. But few people realize it served as so much more.

In fact, the first event at Texas Stadium in 1971 wasn't even a football game, it was a Billy Graham Crusade. The Cowboys would play their first season at Texas Stadium in 1972, their final one in 2008. At various times in between, the site provided activities similar to those offered by the Music Factory today.

There were movies; the stadium's parking lot offered drive-in movies during the 1970s and '80s. There were also concerts, lots of them. The Jacksons, Madonna, George Michael, Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, Guns N' Roses, Shania Twain, Metallica and George Strait, just to name a few.

The stadium hosted ARTFEST, a popular Memorial weekend event in the 1990s, and World Class Championship Wrestling at the height of the Von Erich family's fame in the 1980s. There were monster truck shows, Professional Bull Riders events and a U.S. men's soccer

match against Costa Rica. Billy Graham even returned for a crusade in 2002 and was introduced by former President George H.W. Bush.

What never developed around Texas Stadium — and what Irving has been longing for — is exactly what the Music Factory offers. Walkable dining, nightlife and accommodations — open 365 days a year — anchored by a world-class convention center and concert venue.

Evolution, indeed.





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