

Downtown Districts 2011



2nd Street

The 2nd Street District is a lively mix of offices, mid-rise apartments, retail, restaurants, sidewalk cafes, and Austin City Hall, designed around a vibrant streetscape. The W Austin Hotel and Residences, along with a new Austin City Limits venue, will soon complete the six-block district, which will be expanded westward with the redevelopment of the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant.

Capitol

The Texas State Capitol (15 ft taller than the National Capitol in Washington, DC) and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum are major visitor attractions in a district dominated by State government buildings. Other popular attractions include the State Archives and Library, the Capitol Visitors Center and Scholz Garten restaurant and Biergart.

Civic

A National Register Historic District, the Bremond Block is a key landmark in the Civic District, home to the Travis County Courthouse and Criminal Justice Complex, the U.S. Courthouse, the Austin History Center and the John Henry Faulk Central Library, and many other civic uses. Many of the residential buildings in the area are now home to law offices.

Congress Avenue

The historic Paramount Theater & adjacent State Theater are jewels on the "Main Street of Texas," home to Austin's high-rise office buildings, cultural venues like Austin Museum of Art, Art-house, Mexic-Arte, and a resurgent retail scene. Congress Ave. is anchored on the north by the Texas State Capitol and on the south by the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, summer home to 1.5 million Mexican-Freetailed Bats.

Convention Center

The 880,000 square foot Neal Kocurek Memorial Austin Convention Center anchors a district with a large number of hotels and restaurants catering to Austin's visitor industry. Here you can find popular national chains such as P.F. Chang's and Finn & Porter, as well as local favorites including Iron Works Barbecue, Moonshine and the Cedar Door.

E. 6th St.

The "historic" entertainment district of Austin, the 7-block area stretches from the Driskill Hotel to I-35, and has over 30 historic landmarks, and dozens of restaurants, clubs, and retail businesses. Sixth Street is also home to many Austin events, like the Austin Mardi Gras celebration, SXSW, the Republic of Texas Bikers Rally, the Pecan Street Festival and 6th Street's Halloween celebration.

Hospital

University Medical Center at Brackenridge Hospital & other related buildings overlook Waller Creek and the nearly 11 acre Waterloo Park, home to popular Austin events like blues festivals, Juneteenth celebrations and Spamarama.

Judges' Hill

The only remaining almost entirely residential neighborhood in downtown, Judges Hill, in the far northwest corner of downtown, is a quiet, tree-lined area with an eclectic mix of large, historic homes and more modern structures.

Northeast

Several large, historic churches, including St. Mary's Cathedral are a major presence in the Northeast District, along with a mix of state and federal offices, hotels and social service agencies.

Northwest

Tree-lined streets with residential-scaled buildings (most often converted to business uses) characterize the Northwest area of downtown, which is also home to Austin Community College's Rio Grande campus, Pease Elementary School (the oldest continuously operating school in the state of Tx), House Park Stadium, the Austin Rec Center and the Duncan Park BMX track.

Rainey Street

The Mexican-American Cultural Center lies near the foot of the Rainey Street district, which is being transformed from a cottage scaled single family neighborhood to a neighborhood high-rise of condos and apartments.

Red River

Red River Street has become the center of downtown Austin's live music scene, with clubs like Stubbs, Red Eyed Fly, Emo's, Club de Ville, Mohawk, Elysium, Room 710, Symphony Square and Beerland, as well as associated businesses like True Blue Tattoo.

Seaholm

The Seaholm District is a former industrial section of southwest downtown Austin that is undergoing a transformation into a vibrant urban neighborhood. At the core of the district is the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant which will be redeveloped into a landmark residential and retail destination. East of the power plant, on the banks of Shoal Creek, is the site of the planned new Austin Central Library.

University

The Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Special Events Center, the Pennick-Allison Tennis Center and the University of Texas Nursing School occupy an extension of the University of Tx at Austin campus into the northeast corner of downtown.

Uptown

The Tx Chili Parlor is a popular restaurant and local landmark in a district with an eclectic mix of state associations, restaurants, churches, art galleries and residential towers. The district is bordered on the north by the University of Tx at Austin, on the east by the State Capitol complex and on the south by the Travis County complex, and the district reflects these influences.

Warehouse

Stretching 5 blocks west from Congress Avenue, past Republic Square to the banks of Shoal Creek, the Warehouse District has emerged in the past 15 years as a trendy and upscale entertainment area, with dozens of restaurants, nightclubs and music venues, such as Antone's, Starlite, La Zona Rosa and the Lucky Lounge.

W. 6th St.

Katz's, a long-established landmark, is at the heart of a new restaurant/entertainment district emerging on West Sixth Street in conjunction with a high-rise residential neighborhood centered just to the south around the intersection of 5th and West Avenue.

West End

Anchored by Whole Foods' flagship and corporate headquarters, the West End (also known as the Market District) is an active shopping district with dozens of local and national retailers like Waterloo Records, REI, Austin Java, Anthropologie and Book People.