ARTS DISTRICT

AN INSIDER’S GUIDE

Arts District Houston embodies Houston’s up and coming creative economy. This colorful, urban, artist-centered community is situated in the city center along the Washington Avenue Corridor and touts the highest concentration of working artists in the state. Visit this lively historically designated area bound by two of the city’s bayous and feel the creativity flow throughout the creative businesses, restaurants, artist studios, and reimagined industrial spaces, notably the iconic repurposed rice silos and old Union Pacific rail line that run through it. This state-appointed Arts and Cultural District has a rich history as it encompasses portions of both the First and Sixth Wards, two of the city’s oldest neighborhoods.

HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE

Experience art and architecture in the context of the preserved Silos at the Site Gallery and don’t miss the opportunity to visit Houston’s beautiful historic Glenwood Cemetery where the famed Howard Hughes was laid to rest. Explore a piece of Houston’s history by taking a drive through two of the city’s oldest neighborhoods, the First and Sixth Wards, where you can check out the charming Victorian, Queen Anne, and Revival style homes from the 18 & 1900’s.

FOOD

Grab a coffee or a beer at one of the area’s independent neighborhood haunts. Visit artsdistricthouston.com for a full list of options.

GLENWOOD CEMETERY

2525 Washington Ave.

Built in the late 1800’s many Houstonians considered Glenwood to be not only a cemetery but a landscaped park. Its design takes advantage of ravines leading to Buffalo Bayou creating a rolling landscape unique to Houston. Glenwood is a lesson in the history of Houston’s early movers and shakers as many of Houston’s most prominent families are buried here, including the legendary billionaire, filmmaker, and pilot Howard Hughes, Jr. Look out for tours hosted by Preservation Houston: preservationhouston.org

MOUNT RUSH HOUR

1400 Elder St.

Get a closer look at artist & sculptor David Adickes’ combo nod to Houston’s freeways & Mount Rushmore. Adickes created four towering 18-ft. tall concrete busts of Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington and had them installed here in a freeway-side park overlooking I-10 and I-45 interchange in First Ward.

BUFFALO BAYOU CISTERN

105 Sabine St.

Take in an art exhibit, soak in your surroundings with a meditation session, or join a historical tour in what was formerly an underground drinking water reservoir built in 1926. Check the calendar of events and purchase advance tickets at buffalobayou.org

GETTING HERE

Although much of the district is walkable, you will probably want to have some mode of transportation to explore all that the district has to offer. There is free parking available throughout the district. Uber and Lift are also a great way to get you where you need to go. Bike BCycle also has a paid bike sharing station at 2411 Washington (near Sawyer).

ART

Take in the expansive murals at Art Alley at Sawyer Yards, check out an exhibit at FotoFest, MECA, or the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern which exhibits art in a former underground drinking water facility from the 1920’s.
**INTERSECTING ARTS, COMMERCE, AND COMMUNITY**

**STATION THEATER**
1230 Houston Ave.
Laugh it up at this independent comedy performance space featuring long-form improv, sketch, and stand-up comedy shows. Station offers a full lineup of comedy shows Thursday through Saturday. Show info and tickets at stationtheater.com

**SUMMER STREET STUDIOS**
2204 Summer St.
A new-ish addition to Sawyer Yards, Summer Street Studios offers 24 one-of-a-kind workspaces for artists, art services, and creative entrepreneurs to create, exhibit, and sell their work.

**FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL**
2000 Edwards St., Bldg. C #2
This Houston-based cultural non-profit organization prides itself on being a “platform for art and ideas” and for “presenting the first and longest-running international Biennial of photography in the U.S.” Fotofest also organizes year-round exhibitions. Check their website for more info. fotofest.org

**SPRING STREET STUDIOS**
1824 Spring St.
Formerly home to Harris Moving & Storage, the refurbished Spring Street Studios now holds 71 unique studios with an expansive corridor gallery.

**WINTER STREET STUDIOS**
2101 Winter St.
Historically home to a furniture factory, Winter Street Studios now holds 77 art studios for over 87 local artists.

**SILVER STREET STUDIOS**
2000 Edwards St.
Silver Street Studios was originally home to the Silver Eagle distribution warehouse and later converted into an event space + artist studios in 2014.

**THE SILOS AT SAWYER YARDS**
1502 Sawyer St.
Business & art intersect at Houston’s most iconic silo buildings, once part of the Riviana complex. The Silos at Sawyer Yards features 97 workspaces for over 100 artists and offers retail, gallery, and office space for creative entrepreneurs. P.S. FreshArts lives here.

**SABINE STREET STUDIOS**
1907 Sabine St.
Sabine Street Studios is the latest addition to the Sawyer Yards’ family of studio buildings. Just steps away from Spring Street Studios, it features 67 studio spaces available to artists, makers, and innovators.

**MECA**
1900 Kane St.
MECA is a community-based non-profit committed to the healthy development of underserved youth and adults through arts and cultural programming, academic excellence, support services, and community building. MECA also offers multicultural artistic performances and events to over thousands of students and their families each year. Check meca-houston.org for upcoming events.

**FIRST WARD IS BLOOMING**
Public Art Installation 1417 Houston Ave.
This community art project was led by artist painter, sculptor and sculptor Carol Simon. The installation engaged over 200 teens in transforming 10,000 recycled water bottles into flowers that compose what is now a vibrant sculpture lining a fence in First Ward.

**Catalina Coffee**
2201 Washington Ave.
Check out work from Catalina’s latest featured artist while sipping a carefully crafted cortado or a cup of seasonal coffee from their sister company, Amaya Roasting Co. The coffee foam art is a bonus.

**DOWN PERISCOPE**
103 Sabine St.
If you can’t make it into the Silo, experience this intriguing cavernous space from the park above, under a jade arbor mind you. This made possible by the artist Donald Lipski who, in 2015, installed a periscope outfitted with technology that allows you to control a camera inside the space and see around inside.

**MEK STUDIO & GALLERY**
1903 Spring St.
Bill Meek is an original resident of the Arts District who creates iconic glass sculptures, furniture, fountains, lighting, and custom installations. His studio is open to the public by appointment. visit meekgallery.com for more info.

**Bike BCycle Station**
2411 Washington Ave.
If you don’t already have a membership, this non-profit org. offers bike sharing around the city for around $3/$30 minutes. See their website for details and a complete list of stations. houston.bcycle.com

**Jerry’s Artarama**
Art Supply Store
2201 Taylor St.
Need new brushes or just like to gawk at or Instagram beautiful arrays of paint colors artfully grouped together? Jerry’s has you covered. Extra credit: there is always a cool mural to see out front.

**Art Alley at Sawyer Yards**
1502 Sawyer St.
Fourteen artists along with the Arts District worked tirelessly on this 800-foot-long mural. Each artist was granted 40 feet of wall space to create their pieces. Artists include Anat Ronen, Ani Varadaraju, Daniel Anguilu, Edu, Ely Sore, Jessica Rice Art, Jose Cordova, Luisa Duarte Art, Michael C. Rodriguez, Nicky Davis, Pilot FX Crew, Royal Meeks Art, Tarbox, Vincent Fink. Art Alley is also home to various art markets throughout the year including Market at Sawyer Yards.

**Henderson and Kane**
719 Henderson St.
Thank goodness general stores are still a thing. Henderson and Kane is the perfect mix of old fashioned charm and modern amenities featuring local art and serving up artisan coffees, locally sourced produce and goods, plus a huge beer selection includinggrowlers to go! Did we mention the 100% +hgeneralstore.com

**THE ART DISTRICT**
Get Social @artsdistricthouston

For more information about the Arts District, check out the Arts District Houston website at artsdistricthouston.com. For a comprehensive list of artists and businesses visit artsdistricthouston.com. For partnership and inclusion in future Insider’s Guides contact info@fresharts.org.