

PROFILE

CMH



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Lindey's in German Village; Ohio Theatre; Hot Chicken Takeover; Harlem Gospel Choir; Wexner Center for the Arts; Opera Columbus.

# Creative Capital

WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS, GLOBAL FLAVORS AND A THRIVING ARTS SCENE MAKE COLUMBUS A MUST-VISIT MIDWESTERN GEM. **BY IVY LAMB**

► Strolling down High Street in the Short North Arts District, it's hard to decide where to look first—art galleries, bustling restaurants, vibrant murals and independent boutiques line every block. You could spend an entire day here, but this is just one slice of Ohio's capital city. Columbus has a trove of walkable neighborhoods begging to be explored.

"It feels like a different city in each neighborhood," says Brian Ross, president and CEO of Experience Columbus. "You can have many different experiences here."

Whether you love good food, craft beer, performing arts, visual arts, shopping, or perhaps all of the above, Columbus delivers. The city has become a magnet for makers of all stripes, from chefs to fash-

ion designers and beyond. Some are attracted to the city's affordability, but it's the residents' enthusiasm for local businesses that makes them stay.

Jeff Excell and Lauren Culley moved to Columbus from Brooklyn in 2013 to start the hip café **Fox in the Snow**. For Culley, the move was a homecoming, but California native Excell admits that he couldn't find Columbus on a map at the time. The decision paid off for the husband-and-wife duo. Since opening in 2014, Fox in the Snow has added a second location, with a third in the works.

"We didn't realize how powerful of a response we would get from Columbus," Excell says. "That blew us away. It's a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs."

The city has been recognized by the Human Rights Campaign for its LGBTQ-friendly policies; its Pride Parade drew 700,000 attendees this year. Immigrants are welcome here, too—foreign-born residents make up 11 percent of the population.

Columbus has embraced its status as a progressive, up-and-coming city, but it remains quintessentially Midwestern in one way: No matter where you venture in the region, you'll receive a warm welcome. "It's in our DNA," Ross says. "We go out of our way to make sure people

are enjoying themselves and having a good time."

## Downtown

For some of the best views of the Columbus skyline, walk or bike along the **Scioto Mile**, a riverfront park that connects the city's many biking and walking trails. On the west side of the river sits the Center of Science and Industry, or **COSI**, a hands-on science museum that appeals to all ages. Don't miss the full-size T. rex in the Dinosaur Gallery. If you're feeling brave, take a spin on the high-wire unicycle. Cap off your visit with a stop at the new **Dorrian Green** park, which features a playground, butterfly garden and science demonstrations.

East of downtown, you'll find the **Columbus Museum of Art**. In 2015, the museum expanded with a new wing, increasing the number of opportunities to host traveling exhibitions and community events including live music and free yoga. In October, the museum will host *I, Too*, *Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance* at 100, which looks at the far-reaching cultural influence of the era. The exhibit is the catalyst for a citywide celebration of the 100th anniversary of the movement, which has connections with Columbus' historic Bronzeville neighborhood.

Downtown Columbus has multiple performance venues, including the lovingly restored **Ohio Theatre**, once a 1920s movie theater. It and many others are owned and operated by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, a one-stop shop for tickets to performances by **Opera Columbus**, the **Columbus Symphony** and more. **BalletMet**, Columbus' professional ballet company also is located downtown. If you're heading downtown for the evening, start with dinner at **Veritas**, one of the city's most inventive fine-dining restaurants. (The bacon risotto with a 62 ½-degree egg is a crowd favorite.)

If you can make only one food stop in Columbus, visit **North Market**. This public market soon will undergo a massive overhaul and expansion, including the addition of a ground-floor flexible space and a 35-story residential and office tower. The market was founded in 1876 and has more than 30 merchants—from flowers to Nashville-style hot chicken—under one roof, welcoming 1 million visitors every year. This is where Jeni Britton Bauer opened the first location of **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams**, a company now famous for unusual ice cream flavors such as pickled mango and goat cheese with red cherries.

## Short North Arts District



American Museum of Natural History Dinosaur Gallery at COSI.

BOBB MACCORNICKE PHOTOGRAPHY

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS (LINDEY'S); RANDALL SCHIEBER (OHIO THEATRE); GREATER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL (CHOIR); KATHRYN D'SPENSER (WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS); RANDALL L. SCHIEBER (OPERA COLUMBUS)

WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR A SMART AND OPEN CITY TO FIND A SMART AND OPEN PARTNER THEY CHOSE

# COLUMBUS

fahlgrenmortine

As one of the city's many success stories, Fahlgren Mortine is proud to help tell the Columbus story. And, as one of the only truly full-service marketing and communications companies in the country, we'd love to help you tell yours. Find out more at [www.fahlgrenmortine.com](http://www.fahlgrenmortine.com)



The I, Too, Sing America team at the Pelican Room.

It's always a good time to wander through **Short North**, located north of downtown (just look for the iconic street arches). But if you're there the first Saturday of the month, be sure to check out **Gallery Hop**, where local art galleries debut new shows, many shops stay open late and buskers line the street.

"The art scene here is on fire," says Tom Katzenmeyer, president and CEO of the Greater Columbus Arts Council. "There is so much to do, and there's a lot of major collaboration." Evidence can be seen in the many public murals dotted throughout Short North. Spend some time browsing through independent retailers; stepping into **Tigertree** feels a bit like entering a Wes Anderson film, with its eclectic mix of gifts, home décor and apparel. Fashion boutiques **Ladybird** and **Rowe** make it easy to get that effortless, cool-girl look.

**University District**

Head north on High Street, and you'll find yourself at **The Ohio State University's** campus, another cultural hub. The **Wexner Center for the Arts** hosts everything from contemporary art exhibitions to film screenings to artist lectures; the **Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum** curates exhibits from its vast collection of

editorial cartoons, comic strips, graphic novels and more.

Public art is prevalent in this neighborhood. At 13th and High streets is an original mural by Adam Hernandez, who creates what he calls "modern hieroglyphics" inspired by ancient mythology and street art. Born and raised in the Bronx, he was initially uncertain about moving to Columbus 10 years ago, but soon realized that "Columbus is a fun, vibrant city," Hernandez says.

**Ohio History Center** is the headquarters of Ohio History Connection, the nonprofit that operates dozens of historic sites around the state. Start with ancient artifacts from Ohio's Native American residents, then travel to the 1950s by wandering through the fully furnished Lustron house reconstructed inside the museum. When you're ready for a bite, **Condado Tacos** is a casual build-your-own taco spot where you can free-style your order. For a more sophisticated vibe, head to **Trillium Kitchen and Patio**. The menu draws inspiration from many different cuisines, with a focus on seasonal, local ingredients.

**Franklinton**

On Columbus' west side sits Franklinton, an up-and-coming neighborhood where old ware-

GREATER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL

MAKE YOUR VISIT TO COLUMBUS A BIG ONE.

Combining the interactive fun of science with breathtaking exhibitions from the prestigious American Museum of Natural History, COSI in Columbus is an experience that you and your family won't soon forget. Get tickets at COSI.org.

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
**DINOSAUR**  
 GALLERY

See dinosaurs in a whole new way in our new permanent exhibition.

**THE POWER OF POISON**  
**TAKES EFFECT**  
**OCTOBER 2018**

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
**SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERY**

**cosi.org**  
 Center of Science and Industry

# WORTH THE DRIVE

Within a 20-minute drive of downtown Columbus, there's even more to explore.

Dublin, on Columbus' northwest side, is a popular suburban spot for shopping and dining. Its downtown is bisected by the Scioto River, with the historic district on the west and an ambitious new development, Bridge Park, on the east. Grab a drink at VASO, the rooftop bar at AC Hotel by Marriott Columbus Dublin, for panoramic views of the river.

Farther south along the Scioto is the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Powell, home to 10,000 animals representing more than 600 species. The Manatee Coast exhibit, featuring threatened Florida manatees, is one of only three outside of Florida to keep the lovable creatures. The zoo is near the 22-acre Zoombezi Bay water park, with 19 state-of-the-art water attractions.

The verdant community of New Albany is home to the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, which hosts nationally recognized performers such as Kristin Chenoweth. Head to Rocky Fork Metro Park, a 1,000-plus acre park with walking trails, a shelter house and playground.

Westerville was once the headquarters of the Prohibition movement. In historic Uptown Westerville, Temperance Row Brewing Company pays cheeky homage to the city's history. The sleek new Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel, meanwhile, offers a luxurious home base for exploring Westerville and



Columbus.

Easton, an indoor-outdoor shopping mecca with 230 retailers and restaurants, is also worth a visit. The big-name brands are all here, but so are home-grown businesses. In September, Easton will gain an exciting addition: Legoland Discovery Center Columbus.

houses have been converted into artist studios. **400 West Rich** is a multifunctional arts space housed in a massive 1900s-era factory that once produced sinks and toilets. You can tour the galleries and studios during Franklinton Fridays,

every second Friday of the month. Across the street, the makers movement has found a home at the **Idea Foundry**. This industrial space has the tools, classes and community needed to create, well, just about anything. Sign up for work-

COURTESY NEW ALBANY



## Wexner Center for the Arts

One of the nation's premiere cultural gems an internationally recognized contemporary arts center at The Ohio State University. The Center offers exhibitions, performances, films, artistic residencies and educational programs.

1871 N High St | Columbus, OH  
614.292.3535

wexner center for the arts  
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

wexarts.org



## BalletMet

Where our vision is to create and foster world-class art and artists that inspire Columbus and beyond.



EDWAARD LIANG  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

balletmet.org



## Columbus Museum of Art

Columbus Museum of Art offers creative experiences through diverse special exhibitions, hands-on activities, our permanent collection, Schokko Café, Museum Store, and Patricia Jurgensen Sculpture Garden.

480 East Broad St | Columbus, OH  
614.221.6801



columbusmuseum.org



## Shadowbox Live

America's Largest Resident Ensemble Theater Company, presents original meta-media productions, rockumentaries, and sketch comedy/rock n roll shows, created and performed by the artists.

503 S Front Street | Brewery District  
Columbus, OH | 614.416.7625



shadowboxlive.org



**FROM LEFT:** Shadowbox Live performance troupe; Short North Arts District; The As We Are interactive sculpture at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

shops on welding, jewelry-making, 3-D printing, programming, game development and more.

Don't leave Franklinton without sampling a pint at a craft brewery. **Land-Grant Brewing Company's** bright, industrial taproom has communal tables and a rotating selection of craft brews on tap. Hop-heads will love the Stiff-Arm IPA, but the seasonal Creamsikölsch brewed with orange peel and vanilla bean is less intense. Neighboring **BrewDog** is one of multiple Columbus outposts for the offbeat Scottish brewery.

**German Village**

In the mid-1800s, German immigrants flocked to

this neighborhood just south of downtown. The German Village Society was formed in the 1960s to preserve and restore the historic neighborhood. Thanks to their efforts, visitors can still wander the leafy streets lined with 19th-century homes.

Start with a pick-me-up from **Pistacia Vera**, a bakery focused on French-style pastries. The rye croissant shatters at the lightest touch, but those with a sweet tooth must order a macaron. Walk down the street to **The Book Loft of German Village** and get lost in the narrow, winding rooms stacked high with books on every imaginable subject. If the weather cooperates, stroll

EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS (SHORT NORTH); ELLEN DALLAGER (SCULPTURE)

**DRINK  
SHOP  
PLAY  
EAT**

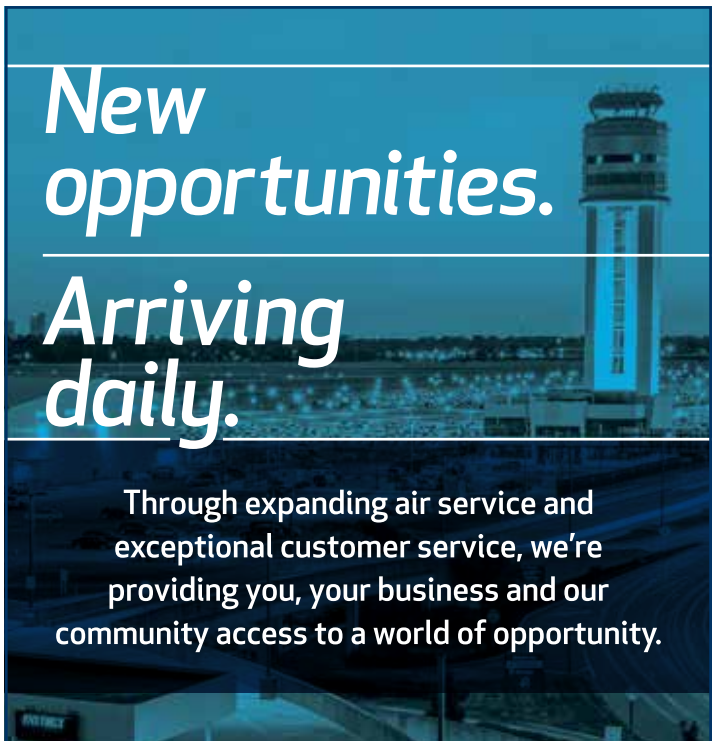





59 Spruce Street • Columbus, OH • 43215  
**northmarket.com**

*New opportunities.*

*Arriving daily.*

Through expanding air service and exceptional customer service, we're providing you, your business and our community access to a world of opportunity.



 **JOHN GLENN INTERNATIONAL** 

“COLUMBUS IS A VERY WALKABLE CITY. YOU CAN EXPLORE NEIGHBORHOODS SUCH AS GERMAN VILLAGE OR THE SHORT NORTH OR TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE SCIOTO MILE. WE ALSO HAVE 120 MILES OF TRAILS, 353 PARKS AND MORE THAN 12,000 ACRES OF PARKLAND.”

— MAYOR ANDREW GINTHER

## ADVENTUROUS EATS

Columbus’ international food offerings cement its status as a global city.

Have you ever participated in an Ethiopian coffee ceremony? Eaten fresh, hand-pulled Chinese noodles? Sampled food from the Himalayas and Nepal? Well, in Columbus, you can. One of the best ways to experience the cultural diversity in Columbus is through its food scene.

“We have restaurants from more than 40 different nationalities, several of which have earned national recognition,” says Bethia Woolf, local food expert and founder of Columbus Food Adventures.

“At these restaurants, you can get a taste of the culture as you would if you stepped

off a plane somewhere.”

Here are some of her favorite immigrant-owned restaurants in Columbus.

**MOMO GHAR MARKET:** This wildly popular Nepalese and Tibetan dumpling counter in the North Market was recently featured on the Food Network.

**HOYO’S KITCHEN:** Columbus is home to the second-largest Somali population in the country, and this welcoming restaurant offers the ideal introduction to Somali cuisine.

**LOS GUACHOS TAQUERIA:** This Mexican



Momo Ghar Market in Columbus’ North Market

restaurant has a reputation for serving the best taco al pastor in the city.

**BONIFACIO:** A modern take on Filipino food, including cocktails and brunch. The restaurant also hosts more traditional, family-style *kamayan* dinners.

through **Schiller Park**, a 23-acre green space on the south end of the neighborhood.

In the nearby Brewery District, **Shadowbox Live** provides a different kind of theater experience. The nation’s largest resident ensemble

theater company, it is operated by its 45 artists. You might see anything from rockumentaries to dance theater and sketch comedy. Next door, the warm, rustic atmosphere at **Rockmill Tavern** is ideal for a nightcap. ▼

CKL CLT

**COLSEN KEANE**  
CUSTOM LEATHER GOODS  
— CHARLOTTE, NC —  
EST 2010

704.750.9887 | FOR THE LONG HAUL™ | ColsenKeane.com