

MAY 2019

LA

ISSUE 57

DOWNTOWNER[®]

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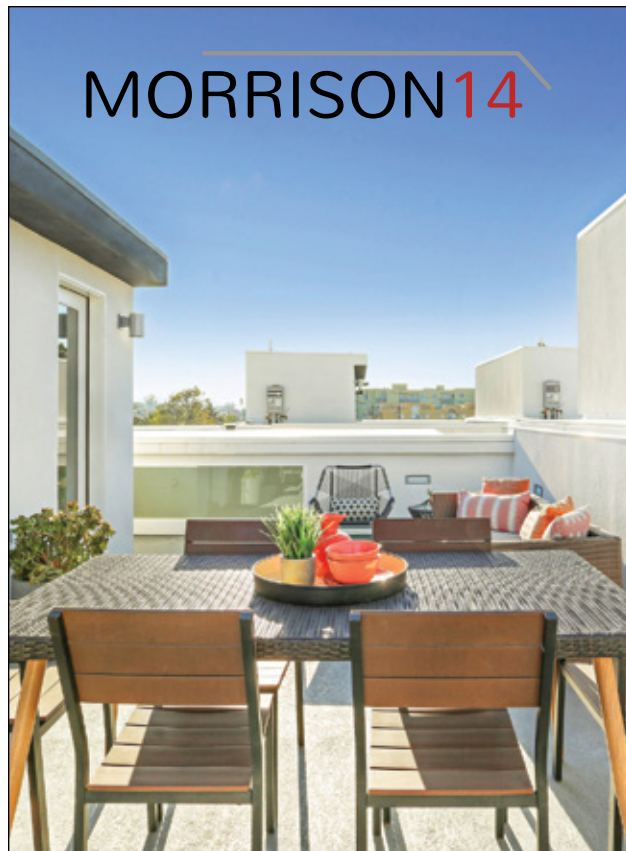
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LADTR

THE INSIDER'S VIEW OF DOWNTOWN CULTURE, FOOD, DRINKS, FASHION & THE PEOPLE WHO SHAPE IT.

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FIREHOUSE HOTEL

NEW LIGHT ON WHAT IT MEANS TO STAY DTLA

Written By Travis Platt
Photographed By GL Askew II

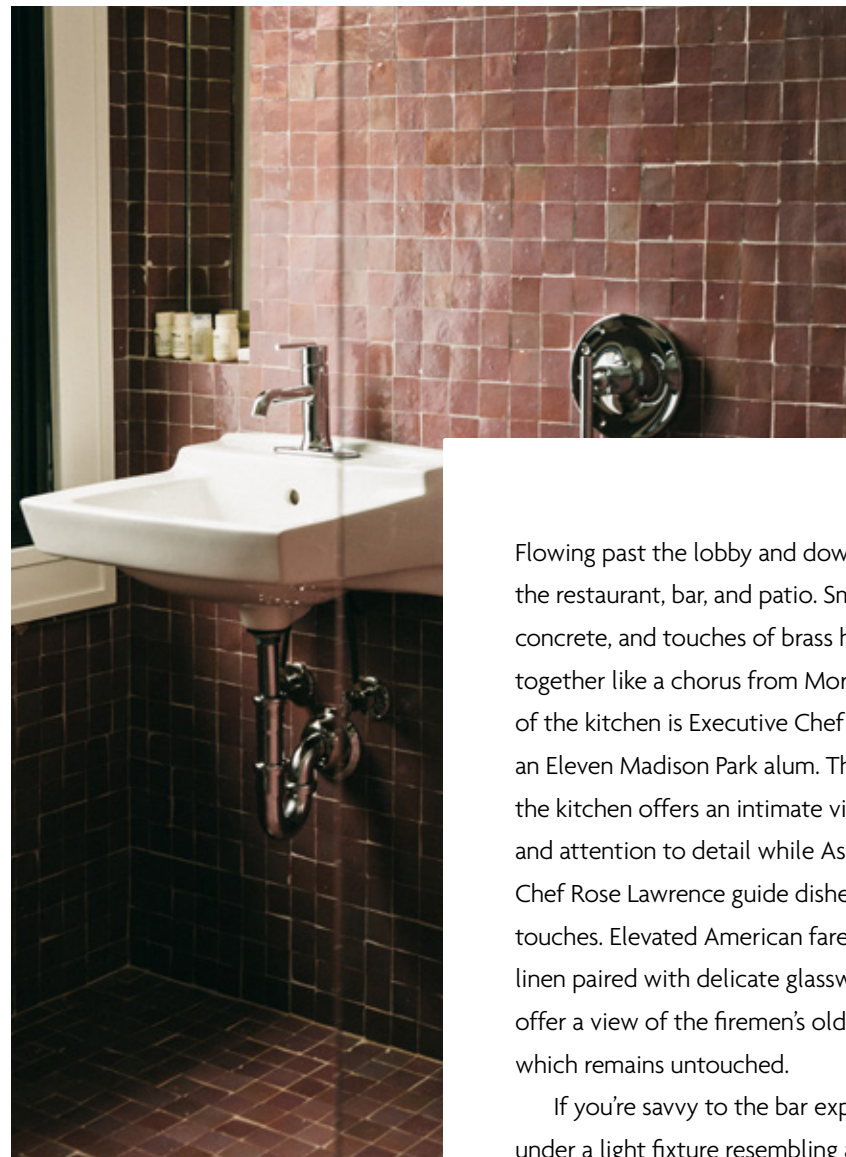
Something is captivating about massive doors opening up to greet the new morning light. Particularly a local set that has been closed for many years now pushed open to serve as a gateway, redefining what it means to visit our city. Through the resurrection of these well-known bright red doors, you will find clean affluence of art, comfort, and inspiration, sparking together to illuminate a warmth that visitors from any corner of the world will be lining up to feel. Welcome to the first and only Firehouse Hotel, the Arts District's new spoiled shelter for adventure seekers, local and afar — a vibrant refuge of hospitality springing from the elder bricks to the new artistic decor that coats the adored soul of the building.

Etched in the stone above the fire engine colored doors is the original engraving ENGINE CO. NO. 17, a bold nod to the station that served the space from 1927 - 1980. The long-awaited station has awoken, now with a new stylish identity. Let's do as the morning light does, and waft past the steel entrance tunneling into this opulent, independent, boutique hotel.

It starts with the Lobby-Reception/Coffee Bar, pouring counter culture brews. Pair your welcome with a gander at the lobby's selection of LA-centric goods, offering souvenirs to take with you on any journeys ahead, a kind reminder of this chic space that you will want to revisit often within your mind.

(Continued on Page 4)

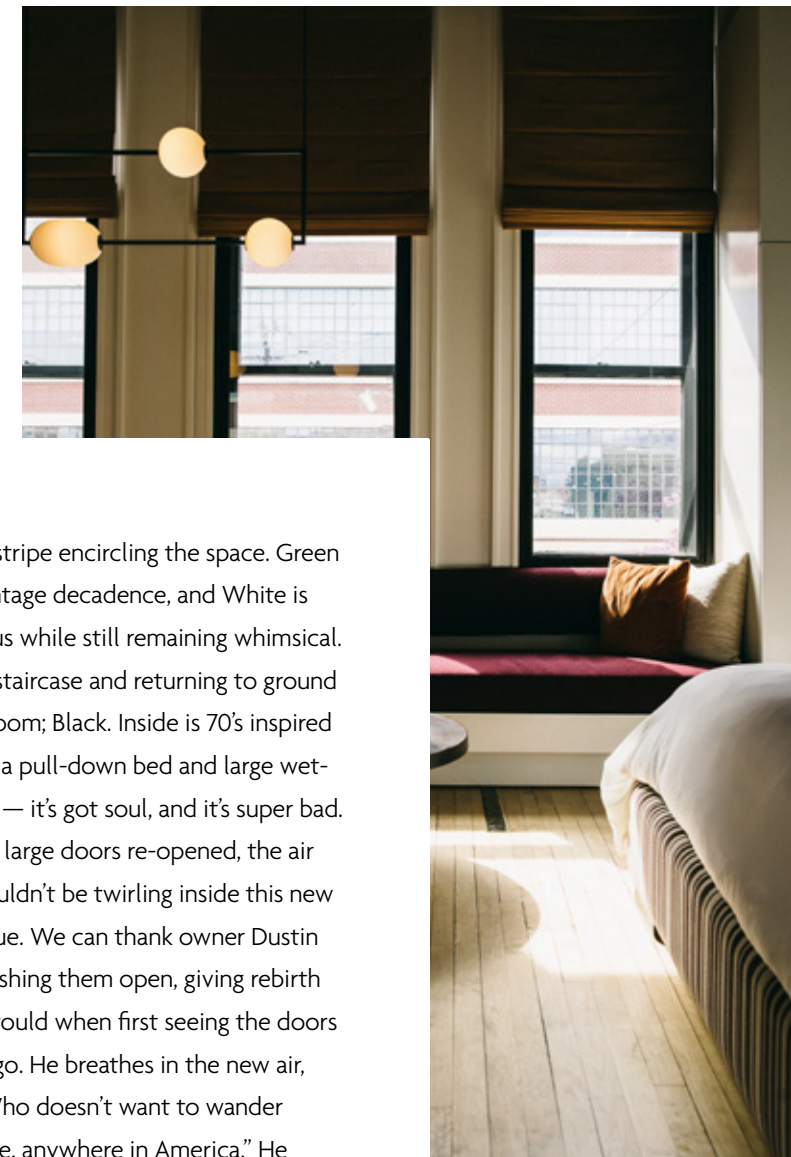
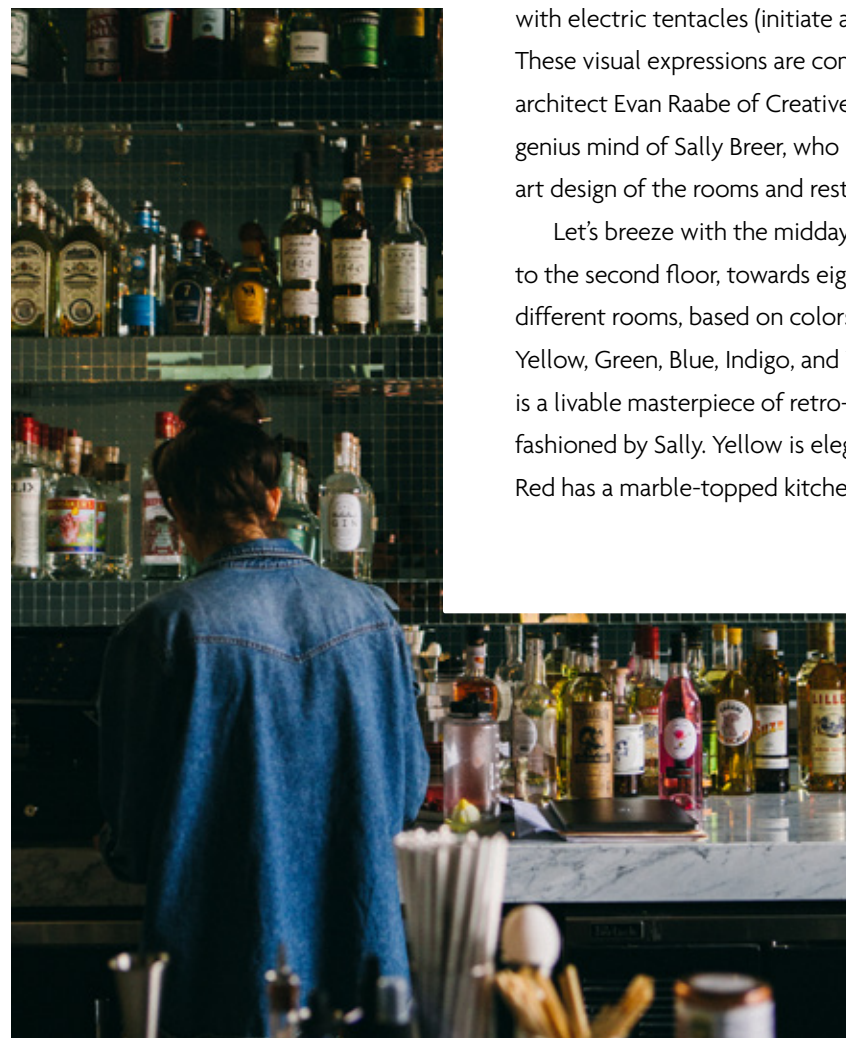




Flowing past the lobby and down the hall is the restaurant, bar, and patio. Smooth marble, concrete, and touches of brass harmonize together like a chorus from Morrissey. At the helm of the kitchen is Executive Chef Ashley Abodeely, an Eleven Madison Park alum. The exposed line in the kitchen offers an intimate view of heart, soul, and attention to detail while Ashley and Pastry Chef Rose Lawrence guide dishes to finishing touches. Elevated American fare arrives to white linen paired with delicate glassware, while tables offer a view of the firemen's old sports court which remains untouched.

If you're savvy to the bar experience, imbibe under a light fixture resembling a tube maze with electric tentacles (initiate artistic swoon). These visual expressions are compliments of lead architect Evan Raabe of Creative Space, and the genius mind of Sally Breer, who lead the exquisite art design of the rooms and restaurant.

Let's breeze with the midday sunshine up to the second floor, towards eight completely different rooms, based on colors; Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and White. Each space is a livable masterpiece of retro-elegant aesthetics, fashioned by Sally. Yellow is elegant and spacious, Red has a marble-topped kitchenette, and a

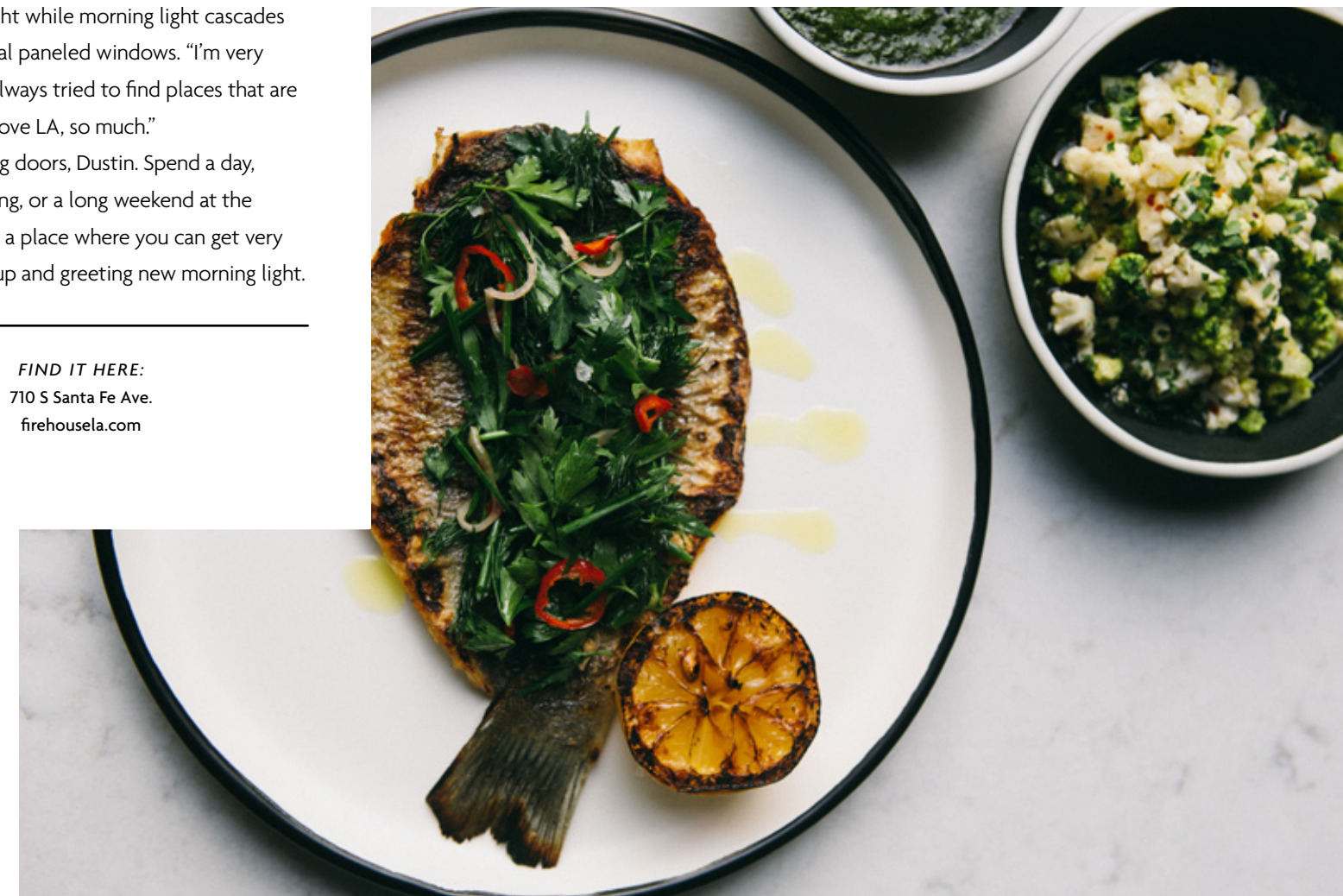


continuous red stripe encircling the space. Green is inspired by vintage decadence, and White is simply glamorous while still remaining whimsical. Down the back staircase and returning to ground level is a ninth room; Black. Inside is 70's inspired funk decor with a pull-down bed and large wet-room bathroom — it's got soul, and it's super bad.

Without the large doors re-opened, the air and daylight wouldn't be twirling inside this new stunning boutique. We can thank owner Dustin Lancaster for pushing them open, giving rebirth as he knew he would when first seeing the doors shut ten years ago. He breathes in the new air, and exhales, "Who doesn't want to wander inside a firehouse, anywhere in America." He drifts into thought while morning light cascades through industrial paneled windows. "I'm very grateful, I have always tried to find places that are underutilized. I love LA, so much."

Keep opening doors, Dustin. Spend a day, a night, an evening, or a long weekend at the Firehouse Hotel, a place where you can get very used to waking up and greeting new morning light.

FIND IT HERE:
710 S Santa Fe Ave.
firehousela.com





WINE STOP

SIPCATION

Written By Linda Hosmer
Photographed By Jack Strutz

Life is hard, wine helps.

Enter Wine Stop to the rescue in the Arts District on Santa Fe Ave, sitting only a few storefronts from the popular Maru Coffee. A perfect pair of neighbors, if you ask us, because we're pretty sure Los Angeles runs on a strict liquid diet of good coffee and good wine!

And here at Wine Stop you'll never walk out without a bottle (or three) thanks to owner Alvaro Cardenas' wine sensibility. Alvaro is quick to attribute his vast wine knowledge thanks to his mentor James Koch of JK Imports, where he worked for 20 plus years, working his way up from office work to selling wines directly to top sommeliers all across LA.

Today, as Alvaro's shop closes in on its third year, he's perfected the art of keeping his shelves carefully stocked with a tight selection of affordable wines he loves. Consider his lineup of labels like a playlist of his favorite wines. Alvaro also prides himself on the time he invests in nurturing strong relationships with the wine producers he carries, many of whom he's happy to call his friends. "I never buy a wine over the phone or over an email. I need to make sure they have a winery, they have vineyards, that the



wine is being made properly, that the workers are being treated and paid properly," says Alvaro. This means customers get to stroll in and reap all the benefits, like traveling without moving an inch. "Every time a customer walks through the door I'm so excited to tell them 'I just got back from Portugal and I met Mariana and I brought this wine back and this is the way that she makes it and I met her father and her brother. Then she poured me this wine with this dish,'" says Alvaro.

All you need to do in order to taste Alvaro's research firsthand is to simply show up to one of his wine tastings, every Thursday and Friday from 5-9pm. On Thursdays you'll try 3 wines paired up with 3 cheeses. You'll get anything from a juicy Tempranillo with hints of vanilla and tobacco to a 2016 Primitivo Arke (small production, only 1250 bottles made). Then on Fridays, he's all about the bubbles, pouring you favorites like his refreshing and dry Cava from Catalonia, Spain. Either tasting will cost you anywhere from \$15 - \$24 bucks (go online to save). But no matter what Alvaro is pouring you, know this — it's sure to be delicious and every sip will be a shortcut to the people, the stories and the history behind the labels.

These wine tastings are a really fun way to unwind while meeting new people. As soon as you walk into the room the buzz of strangers laughing and learning together hooks you. You've arrived at Wine Stop, where life and the weekend are off to a really good start.

FIND IT HERE:
1025 S Santa Fe Ave.
mywinestop.com





DRINK

A

WINE STOP

1025 S Santa Fe Ave.
mywinestop.com

B

THE HOUSE OF MACHINES

2028 E 7th St.
thehouseofmachines.com



EAT

C

FIRHOUSE HOTEL

710 S Santa Fe Ave.
firehousela.com



MOVE

D

LINDY LOFT

560 S Main St. Unit 9N
lindyloft.com

E

THE HAUNT

1340 E 6th St. #320
thehauntla.com

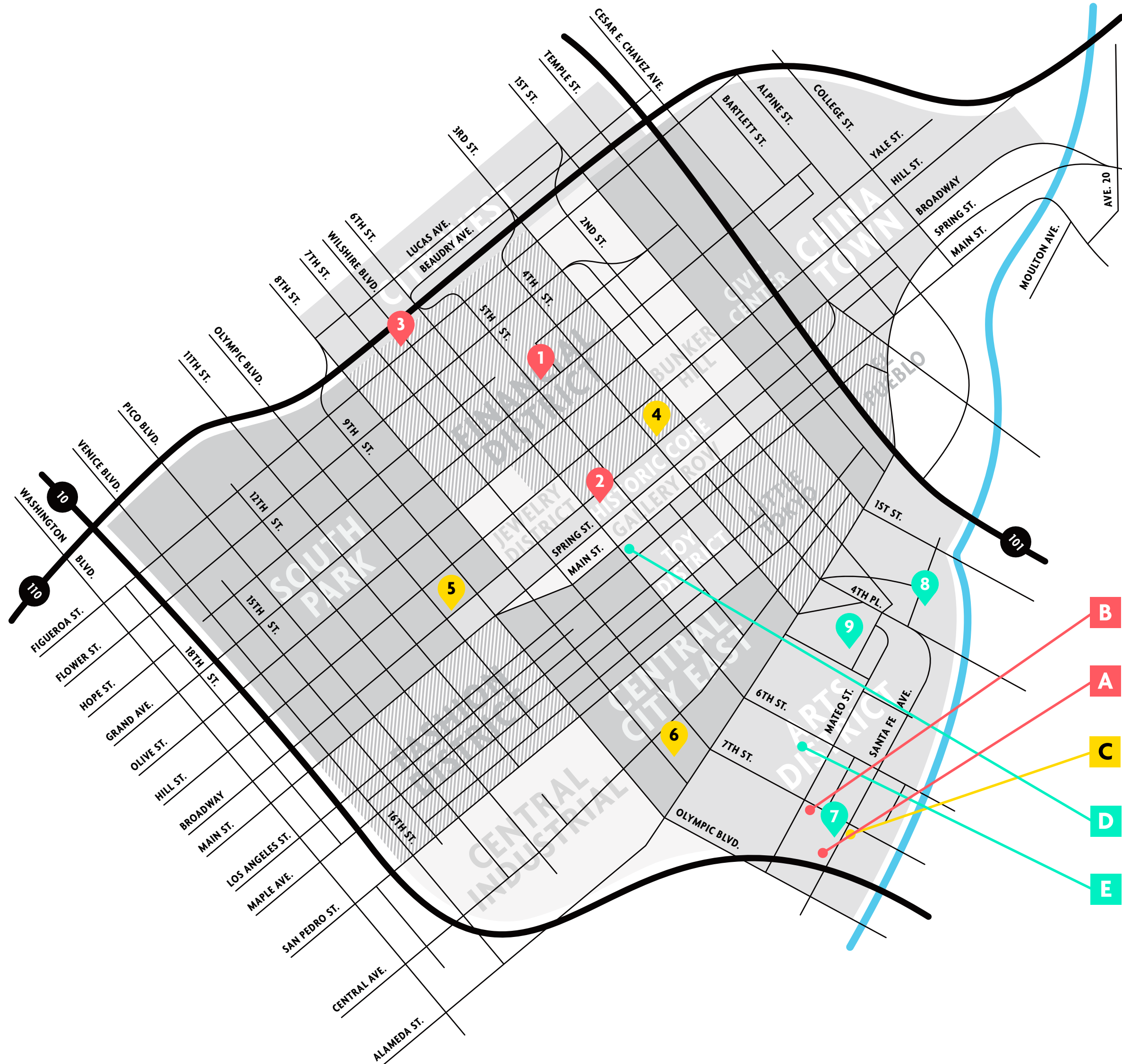
CITY STREETS

FREEWAYS

LA RIVER

M METRO RAIL STATIONS

*MAP SIMPLIFIED & NOT TO SCALE



DOWNTOWN FAVORITES

1

NOSSA FAMILIA COFFEE

601 West 5th St. — nossacoffee.com/dtla
The Nossa Familia coffee chain from Portland has a location in the CalEdison building and holy cats is this a stunning Art Deco lobby! Like, BioShock gorgeous. And open to the public. Sip your top-notch latte in this beautiful DTLA treasure.

2

GARÇONS DE CAFÉ

541 South Spring St. #114 — garcons-de-cafe.com
This gorgeous French cafe and wine bar in the Spring Street Arcade is a seduction of the senses. Bring your favorite Proust book, turn off your phone, and imagine you're in Paris.

3

LA BOUCHERIE

900 Wilshire Blvd. Floor 71 — laboucheriedtla.com
The cocktail bar on the 71st floor of the Intercontinental Hotel looks absolutely incredible. Stop in for an after-work libation and watch the sunset from the best view in the neighborhood.

4

BUDDY'S

363 S Broadway — instagram.com/buddysdtla
Buddy's adds a dining element to DTLA's "dumbest bar" (their words), Bernadette's, with a retro-chic cheap eats burger dive. In addition to a pretty great looking cheeseburger, you can get a fried green tomato sandwich, a garlic grilled cheese smash, or a slice of key lime pie. Sounds swell!

5

ZINQUÉ

939 S Broadway — lezinque.com
Located next to the ACE Hotel's theater, Zinqué is a French cafe that has been making waves at their other SoCal locations. They start in the morning with coffee and go until late at night. Their bread is imported from a famous Parisian bakery and their decadent pastries and dishes are served throughout the day. C'est Magnifique!

6

HAYATO

1320 East 7th St, Suite 126 — hayatorestaurant.com
You will not be able to get a reservation at Hayato. Let that sink in for a moment. There are seven (seven!) seats a night, reservations open a month in advance, dinner costs \$200 and there's only one seating, at 7 pm each night. That being said, on Friday and Saturday chef Brandon Hayato Go assembles 12 bento boxes at \$50 a piece. Access is exclusive and the meal is (reportedly) transcendent.

7

WARNER MUSIC GROUP

777 South Santa Fe Ave.
The arrival of Warner Music Group's headquarters to the old Ford Factory building in the Arts District signals another major shift for this Epicenter of Hipness. Look next for the SoHo House, Spotify, and Virgin Hyperloop One offices to move into the neighborhood. Grumble, grumble there goes the neighborhood, sure, but this is yet another indication of just how far DTLA has come.

8

F45 TRAINING

300 South Santa Fe Ave, Suite J & K — f45training.com/artsdistrict
F45 Training started in Australia and has received wide acclaim for its fast and effective workouts (which usually last 45 minutes, hence the name.) They have over 1,500 studios in 40 countries and Mark Wahlberg swears by it.

9

STEP UP

510 South Hewitt St. #111 — suwn.org
Step Up connects female mentors to young women who attend inner-city schools and come from underserved communities. By pairing these young people with mentors, Step Up gives hope, help, and confidence for them to succeed. Studies have shown that mentorship programs drastically help young people graduate high school and get into colleges. They are always looking for mentors.



LINDY LOFT

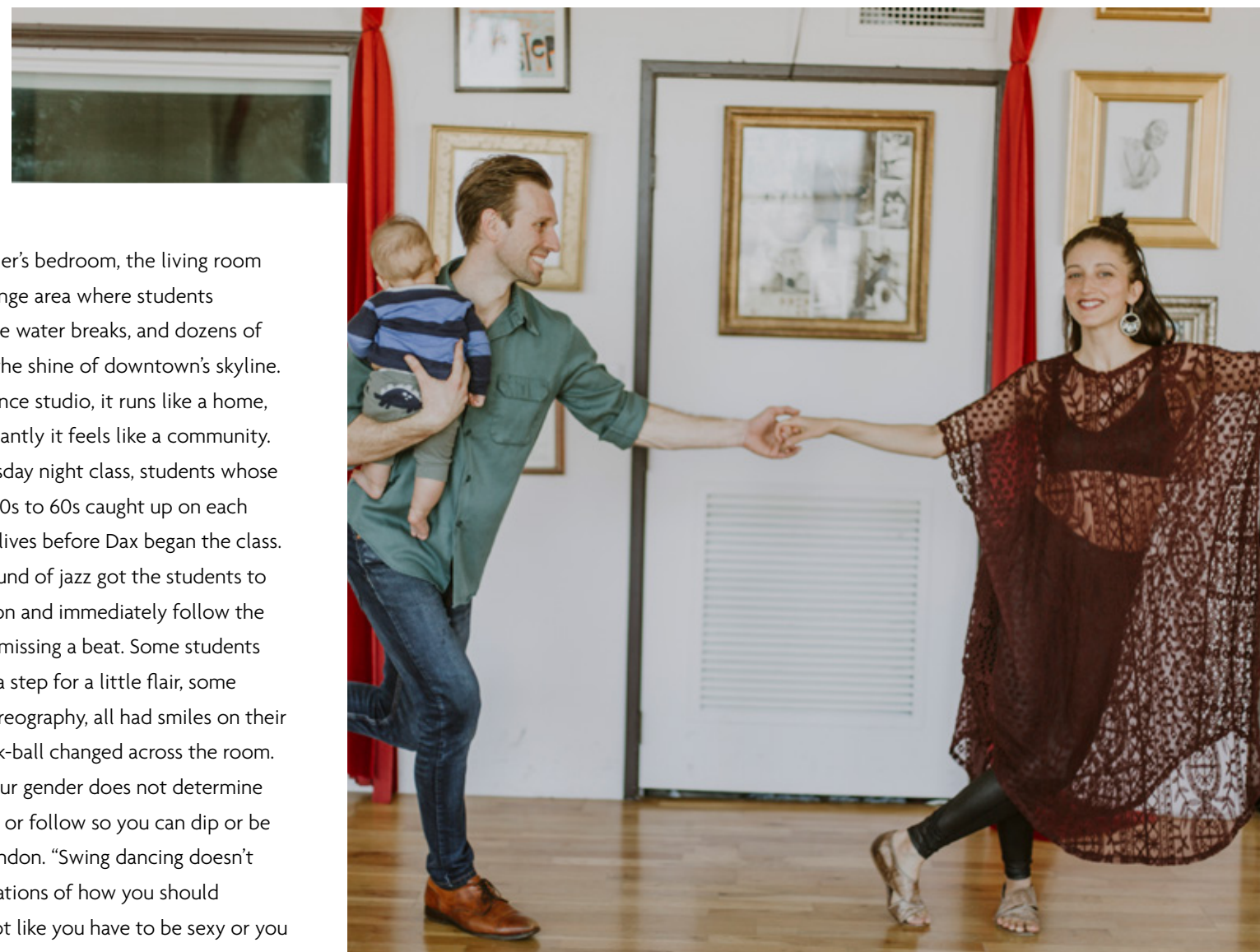
THE SWING OF THINGS

*Written By Janica de Guzman
Photographed By Chimera Singer*

Nine floors above Main Street is a loft that revives the swinging era of Lindy Hop. On the count of eight, feet tap to the rhythm of Glenn Miller, quick little steps swing into a hop and a kick, while partners are pushed and pulled into acrobatic jumps. Lindy Hop is a style of swing dancing far from poodle skirt footwork we are most familiar with. This style brings energy and strength—Lindy Hop is “badass” as described by Sarah Breck, world champion swing dancer, and co-founder of Lindy Loft. It’s a lively dance that’s dynamic, freeing, non-judgemental and it’s what wife and husband duo, Sarah Breck & Dax Hock, specialize in their Downtown LA dance studio.

Dax and Sarah started as dance partners who traveled the world to win championship titles and later made their way into “Dancing With The Stars.” A few close twirls and shimmies later, their partnership turned into marriage with an encore performance in raising two adorable little boys.

“We had bought a house in Pico Union because we wanted to separate our family from the studio, but I was home alone while he was teaching here. So I was super lonely all the time. I love having people come over!” says Sarah. One month later they packed up their stuff and moved into their DTLA studio where they eat, sleep and dance. Their set-up is unique—a wooden dance floor is flanked by a reception

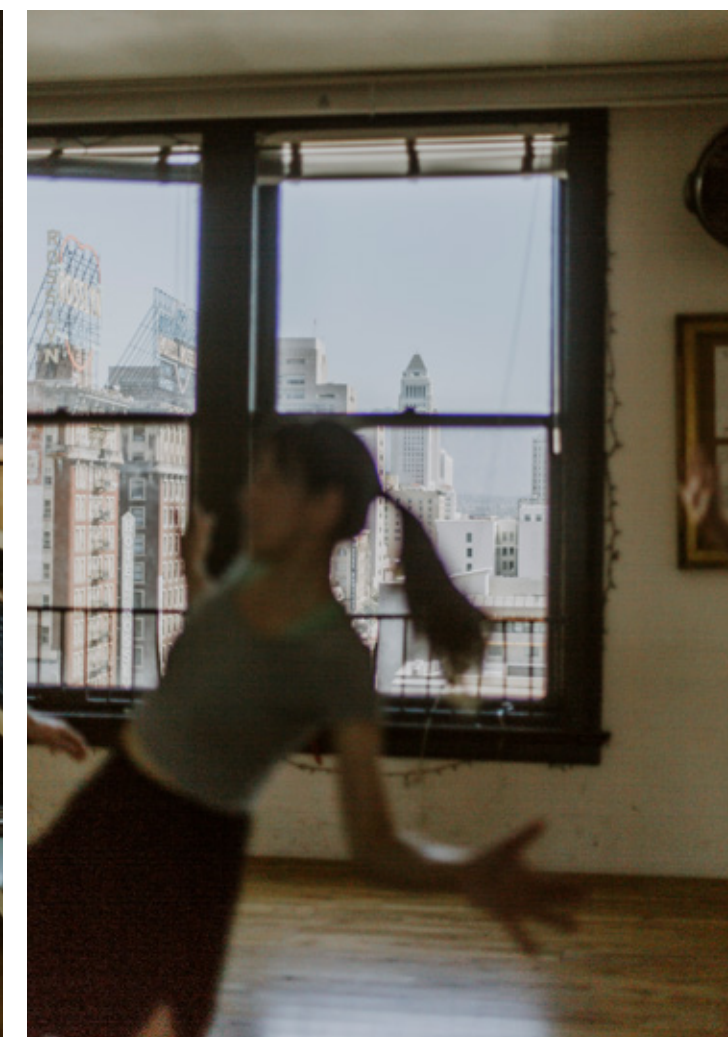


desk and a toddler’s bedroom, the living room doubles as a lounge area where students socialize and take water breaks, and dozens of trophies mirror the shine of downtown’s skyline. It looks like a dance studio, it runs like a home, but most importantly it feels like a community.

During a Tuesday night class, students whose age range from 20s to 60s caught up on each other’s personal lives before Dax began the class. The rhythmic sound of jazz got the students to run into formation and immediately follow the routine without missing a beat. Some students added in an extra step for a little flair, some stuck to the choreography, all had smiles on their faces as they kick-ball changed across the room. At Lindy Loft, your gender does not determine who should lead or follow so you can dip or be dipped with abandon. “Swing dancing doesn’t have any expectations of how you should behave. So it’s not like you have to be sexy or you have to be graceful. It’s totally acceptable if you just want to be goofy.” says Sarah.

Lindy Loft also offers private and group classes in Balboa, Shag, and Solo Jazz style dances but if you’re looking to experience and celebrate the culture of swing, check out their Vintage Rhythm party held twice a year. It features an evening of live music, swing dancing hot shots and plenty of two-left feet. Dax and Sarah offer a free class before the party so you get on the dancefloor and give it your best even if your footwork is a little clumsy—the beauty of lindy hop is that you’ll never look foolish no matter what level you dance in.

FIND IT HERE:
560 S Main St. Unit 9N
lindyloft.com





THE HOUSE OF MACHINES

LIVE FAST, WORK SMART

*Written By Dakota Nate
Photographed By Robiee Ziegler*

By way of Cape Town South Africa, the combination of barrel-aged cocktails, coffee, and motorbikes came together like some sort of holy combination, only to sweep Los Angeles with its loudest, most recent venture yet. Following in the sub-cultural moto footsteps of its fast and fine brothers in Cape Town, as well as a more recent residency in Hokkaido, Japan, The House of Machines DTLA stands boldly as the first brick & mortar to grace The States -- and boy, are we a bunch of lucky ducks, Los Angeles. Easily the sort of atmosphere that you could get sucked into from morning until night, come to study or catch up on your emails and grab a coffee and the next thing you know, 8 hours have passed, you've swapped out your coffee for a beer, and now your laptop is responsibly stowed while you bob your head to the beat of live music.

Thanks to Chris and Fiona Richardson of LA Speedshop and a kindred partnership with BMW Motorrad, you can sip your Bobby Burns while you watch a bomber being built for some lucky, hardworking son-of-a-gun that's stored his pennies in the right place. Even if you're not this specific son-of-a-gun, it's still an exciting process. Want to look the part? Bespoke moto merchandise and THoM's own line No Limits Apply is available in men's and women's sizes. Also, if you're looking to spruce up that old denim jacket, Chainsticher offers embroidery services hand-turned on a vintage machine by Ben Goetting. If all that jazz isn't enough to get your engine revving, indulge in Evil Twin Coffee, order lunch from an abridged menu by Venice's meat-centric Calimex haven, Clutch, or imbibe on an expert bar program. Why would you ever need to leave?

"Our craft cocktail program is very unique to LA and was created by Amanda Colom." says bartender Liz Cassedy. "She really helped with the barrel-aged program too, and the craft cocktail program is all about fresh ingredients,

we make our own syrups, tinctures, everything here. Every cocktail that you have is like a meal, every little detail is super important. We get custom ice from Penny Pound Ice that we use in our barrel-aged Old Fashioned."

Known on the 'gram as none other than Bad Birdy, a cocktail influencer and award-winning mixologist, Amanda Colom stands at the helm of THoM's individual bar programs with talent and ingenuity practically oozing out of her pores. Oh yeah, and that Old Fashioned. We heard about this very treat from four separate patrons during our visit, and upon a single draw over the top of the large format custom cubes from that are used exclusively in this best seller, we understood. Spun with local Mulholland Whiskey, aromatic bitters, orange oil, and a smack of maple syrup for that smooth touch of sweetness to compliment the bourbon, the hype is real.

"But what if I'm hungry?" you may ask. Clutch, the Venice neighborhood eatery known for its smoked wings and tacos offers an abridged version of their menu for the culinary culmination of your experience. Popular items include their breakfast burrito complete with your choice of meat (psst get the barbacoa), your choice of cheese, two eggs, beans, tater tots, and a side of mixed greens, as well as their Dry Rub Baby Back Ribs that are served with their delicious cheddar jalapeno biscuits.

When quiet time is over, the space is slightly cleared and the evenings are typically reserved for the very opposite of quiet time. Cue pure, unadulterated rock and roll. As bands will often play directly in front of the shop area, the back opens up to a music venue that can hold well over a hundred people, and is completely hidden from the street.

"We have live music every Thursday through Saturday and most Wednesday nights too, it's fun." says Liz "You know, you're walking around downtown and wouldn't even know these things exist."

If you're still not sure where to spend your lunch break downtown, or your whole day for the matter, fix your sights on The House of Machines and don't worry about looking back.

FIND IT HERE:
2028 E 7th St.
thehouseofmachines.com





THE HAUNT

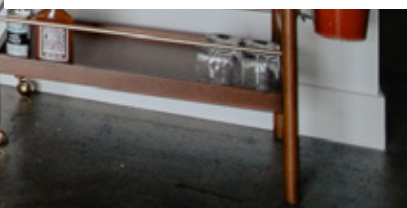
A CREATIVE COWORKING SPACE TO CULTIVATE A NEW COMMUNITY

Written By Mariana Ramos
Photographed By Mango Street

Being an entrepreneur, a freelancer or remote worker definitely has some perks and while being your own boss/having your own schedule may sound like a walk in the park - it also has its downsides. Not interacting in a team or being in solitude for hours at a time can make it hard to get things done, hold yourself accountable for deadlines, or get past a creative block. Coworking spaces are the new fad and there are almost too many options to choose from right here in our DTLA community.

However, if you happen to be a creative entrepreneur, freelancer, or remote worker The Haunt is a haven for our kind. Brought to life by Rachel Gulotta and Daniel Inskeep, The Haunt now lives in the Arts District and they are ready to welcome all creatives. It all started with 2 simple goals: to create a comfortable space for creative people and to build a tighter knit community, like the one they had back home in Chicago.

Four years ago Rachel and Daniel realized the competitive atmosphere between creatives in LA- needed some changes, "Everyone can really support each other instead of fighting for jobs. We should be sharing everything from knowledge to contacts, it's good to know other artists for business and in life." They felt inspired to create a safe space for those creatives who are also too



busy running their own business to meet new people and make friends.

After their YouTube channel, Mango Street took off and provided a substantial living for Rachel and Daniel, the photography tutorial duo built The Haunt from scratch with minimalist interior design and a breathable atmosphere. The Haunt is equipped with everything from gigantic wrap around LG Monitors to lockers and even electric scooters, but that's not all.

Rachel and Daniel are also offering their members access to their other space next door- a fully equipped photography, video recording, and in the walk-in-closet a soundproof voice recording studio. They're not limiting the number of activities to be done in there to creatives either- events (within reason) of any kind are welcome. The perks are all in the efforts that members will feel as if they are creating and coworking on a blank canvas.

For now, they have two memberships: \$450/month for a private desk and \$250/month for the shared table in the center of the room: both include access to the nitro cold brew coffee on tap (say no more), fridge stocked with plenty other drinks, Gigabit internet, and a discount to rent the studio next door.

The Haunt is fairly young, having just a soft opening last December so if you're a creative looking for a different coworking space, one that perhaps doesn't feel so crowded, and lets your mind wander but also harness ideas while at the same time becoming a part of an artist community- The Haunt is the place for you.

FIND IT HERE:
1340 E 6th St. #320
thehauntla.com



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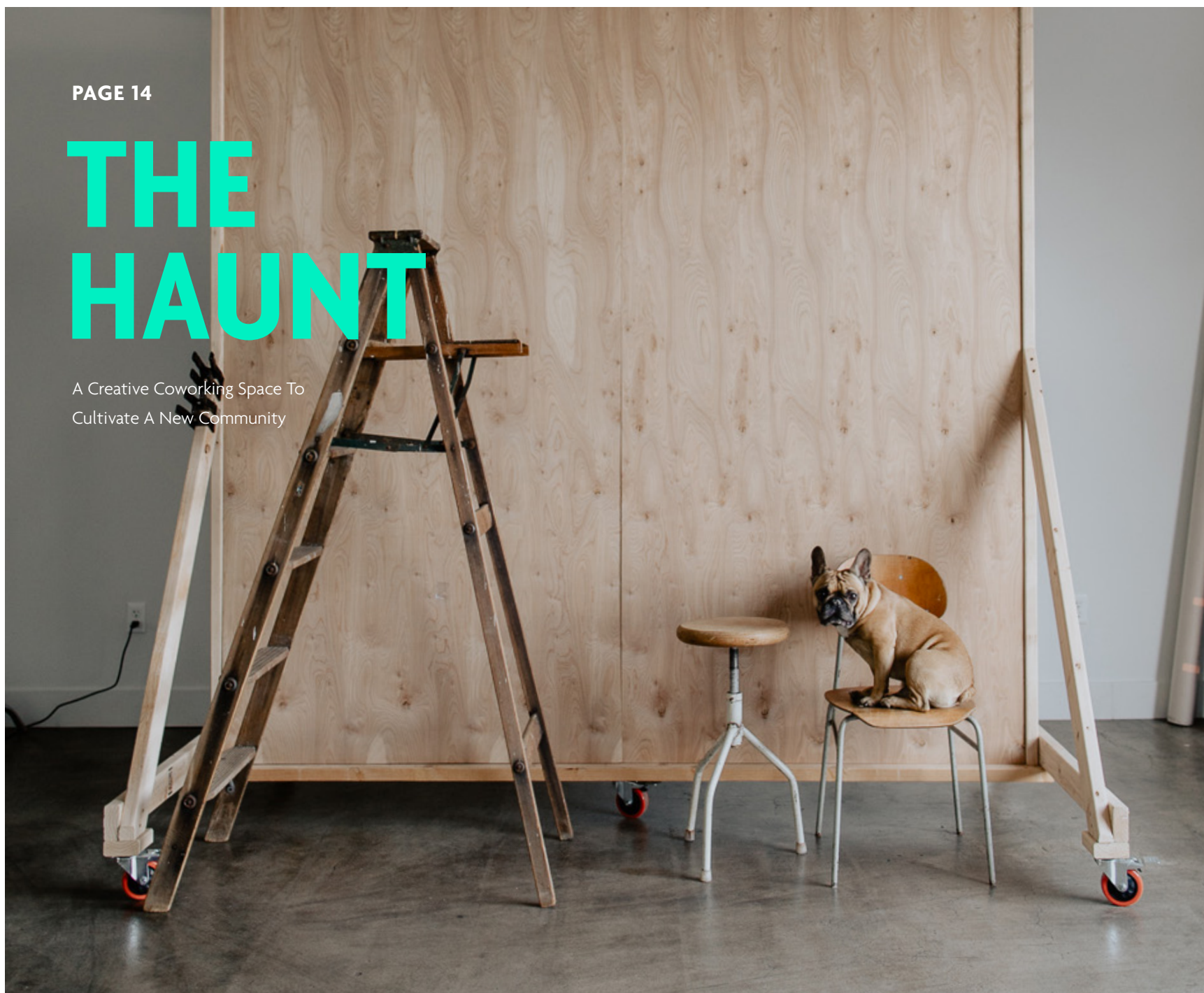
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