

DOWNTOWNER

THE INSIDER GUIDE TO DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

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ONIZUKA TATTOOS

Tucked in the crook of an open-air parking lot in Little Tokyo, this little shop is home to several of the most practiced and respected traditional Japanese tattoo artists in the city.



Photographed by: Christian Thomas

GRAND CENTRAL MARKET

Since its inception 100 years ago, Grand Central Market has prevailed through generations as a destination for diversified palates.

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PSKAUFMAN FOOTWEAR

The Pskaufman shoe store occupies the basement of an old hotel tucked away in the Historic Core of Downtown Los Angeles.

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LONG LIVE DOWNTOWN

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

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GOLDEN GOPHER

THE BAR THAT'S SEEN TOO MUCH

Written by Janica de Guzman & Photographed by Carolina Korman

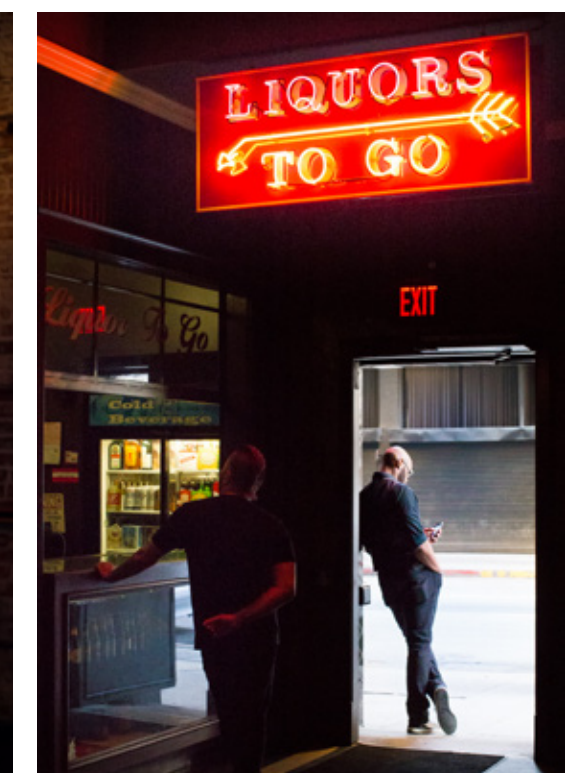
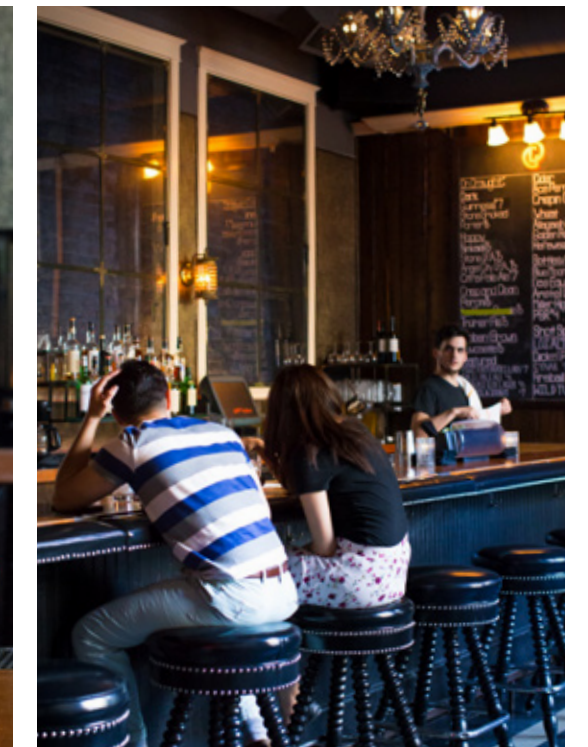
Glowing in large neon red, 'Golden Gopher' hangs just above a sturdy looking bouncer who blocks the door towards a dark and narrow chamber. At first glance this joint looks like an entrance to a 2 star strip club, but look further and discover one of LA Downtowner's cherished watering holes.

This place is a step above dive bar serving the P's of perfection — punk rock, Pacman, pool table, patio and Pelicola pizza. Order a pizza next door and they'll deliver it piping hot straight to your lap. Black leather couches are nestled in nooks to set the scene for after-work gossip or late night canoodling while the back alley smoking patio has enough room to steer clear of your dearest enemies.

In addition to its "Fonz-like" persona, Golden Gopher is a historical landmark that has been satisfying thirst since 1905. It's one of those places that's been around for so long, that it has beaten the system and a liquor license to prove it. Sitting pretty by the door is a liquor-to-go counter and through a 20th century loophole you can legally purchase a 6 pack of beer, mints and condoms on your way out the door. Just imagine that, righteously sinning in the name of Teddy Roosevelt.

The golden hour at the Gopher is 5-8pm during the week because \$5 cocktails has never made anyone sad. This is a casual neighborhood bar with bartenders that truly remember your name and drink. Come by on a Friday night and you might just see the LADTR crew.

To find out more, go to:
213nightlife.com/goldengopher





ONIZUKA TATTOOS

HAND MARKED IN LITTLE TOKYO

Written by Rayna Jensen & Photographed by Christian Thomas

Like most of downtown's treasures, Onizuka Tattoo doesn't boast. The shop is nondescript, tucked in the crook of an open-air parking lot in Little Tokyo, but it's home to several of the most practiced and respected traditional Japanese tattoo artists in the city.

Jiro, the owner of Onizuka, has been tattooing in the US for 20 years, 11 of which have been spent in Little Tokyo. He and three other artists, Jakoh, L.A. Horitaka, and Horichuy, are the lynchpins of Onizuka.

"WE'VE ALL LEARNED THIS IN OUR OWN WAYS, WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES."

"Everyone here has a unique style," Jiro says. "We've all learned this in our own ways, we all have different experiences."

Horitaka practices tebori, the traditional Japanese method of hand-tattooing, and is one of the few artists still working who can tattoo this way. Jakoh also comes from a very traditional background, and balances that aesthetic with a more modern hand. Horichuy is the newest artist to the shop, and the only one who isn't from Japan.

"He's studied very hard," Jiro says, "and sometimes – a lot of times – I'm learning from him too."

Onizuka is a collaborative space, and its collective influence reaches farther than its little corner behind the Astronaut Onizuka Street parking lot. Many restaurants in Little Tokyo feature the artists' paintings. Jiro builds and ships out tattoo guns from the machine shop

downstairs. Takahiro Kitamura, aka "Taki", of San Jose's "State of Grace", curated Perseverance, the Japanese tattoo exhibit that took place at the Japanese American National Museum last year. The exhibit featured works from all Onizuka's artists as well as Irezumi artists from across the US and Japan.

"It's not just a tattoo shop," says Juan Mecias, one of Jiro's first L.A. clients. "These guys are artists all around."

And Japanese tattoo is, above all, a fine art: artists spend years honing their craft and studying the principles by which it's bound. Japanese tattoo has deep roots in history and mythology, and therefore images in each piece must be cohesive—flowers drawn on one part of the body must bloom in the same season as those drawn on another, different animals existing in a single tattoo must also have some relationship in mythology or in nature. Each piece holds meaning that goes beyond individual expression. Even the smaller pieces are done with painstaking attention, and some can take months, or even years, to complete.

Mecias boasts a near full-body tattoo that is a decade in the making, mostly all Jiro's work. A tiger stretches across his back. A snake uncoils over his ribs. Peonies bloom across his chest.

"This is my ritual. Five hours every two weeks for the last ten years," Mecias says. "You have a little tea. You do a little work. You talk about just about everything. You're not just a client and a tattoo artist here – you're friends."

All that's left now are his legs. And what happens when he runs out of skin?

"Oh man, I don't know," he says. "This place is like a family. Once you're in, you're never leaving."

To find out more, go to: onizukatattoo.com

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f t i



GRAND CENTRAL MARKET

FOR THE LOVE OF EATING

Written by Janica de Guzman & Photographed by Alyse Gilbert

Grand Central Market is a hub for good eats. Latin vendors from the past sit beside artisanal newcomers and fill a 30,000 square foot arcade that satisfies every craving. Sun's Produce adjacent to Press Brothers Juicery and Ana Maria carniceria is a stone's throw from Belcampo Meat Co. It's a balance between the hungry and the curious, the hipsters and the Hispanics - and together they dine in harmony.

SINCE IT'S INCEPTION 100 YEARS AGO, GRAND CENTRAL MARKET HAS PREVAILED AS A DESTINATION FOR DIVERSIFIED PALATES.

Since its inception 100 years ago, Grand Central Market has prevailed through generations as a destination for diversified palates. For diners and bystanders, glances around every corner reveal Dntowners rolling up their sleeves and unwrapping instant gratification.

To find out more, go to: grandcentralmarket.com



We caught Diana, soft spoken and stylish, as she prepared to eat thick sliced pastrami stacked between an onion brioche from Wexler's Deli.

Wandering through the crowded pathways and savoring an ice cream from McConnell's was Celeste, a Dntowner for 10 years and founder of wellfed.co.

"I love DTLA's collaborative spirit, there isn't culture of cutthroat competition, everyone does what they're good at and that's how we all connect."



On the outside patio is Maro, a musician with striking style, he and his girlfriend shared a plate of barbecued brisket, collard greens, and mashed potatoes from Horse Thief.

Krystalnye, a red headed delight sat perched at the bar of G&B, and sipped on an almond macadamia iced latte. Recently moved from Santa Monica to Downtown, she has barely broken ground in discovering her new city, yet nighttime strolls and rooftops already have her smitten. Sip after sip, Grand Central Market secures its position on her frequent places list.



Hughes VINTAGE & DESIGNER

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NEXT SALE APRIL 17 - 19



3RD FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN ARTS DISTRICT 458 S. Alameda St, Los Angeles 90013

DRINK

A **GOLDEN GOPHER**
417 W 8th St.
213nightlife.com/goldengopher

B **VERVE COFFEE ROASTERS**
833 S Spring St.
vervecoffee.com

EAT

C **GRAND CENTRAL MARKET**
317 S Broadway
grandcentralmarket.com

D **THE BLACK SHEEP**
126 E 6th St.
(213) 689-5022

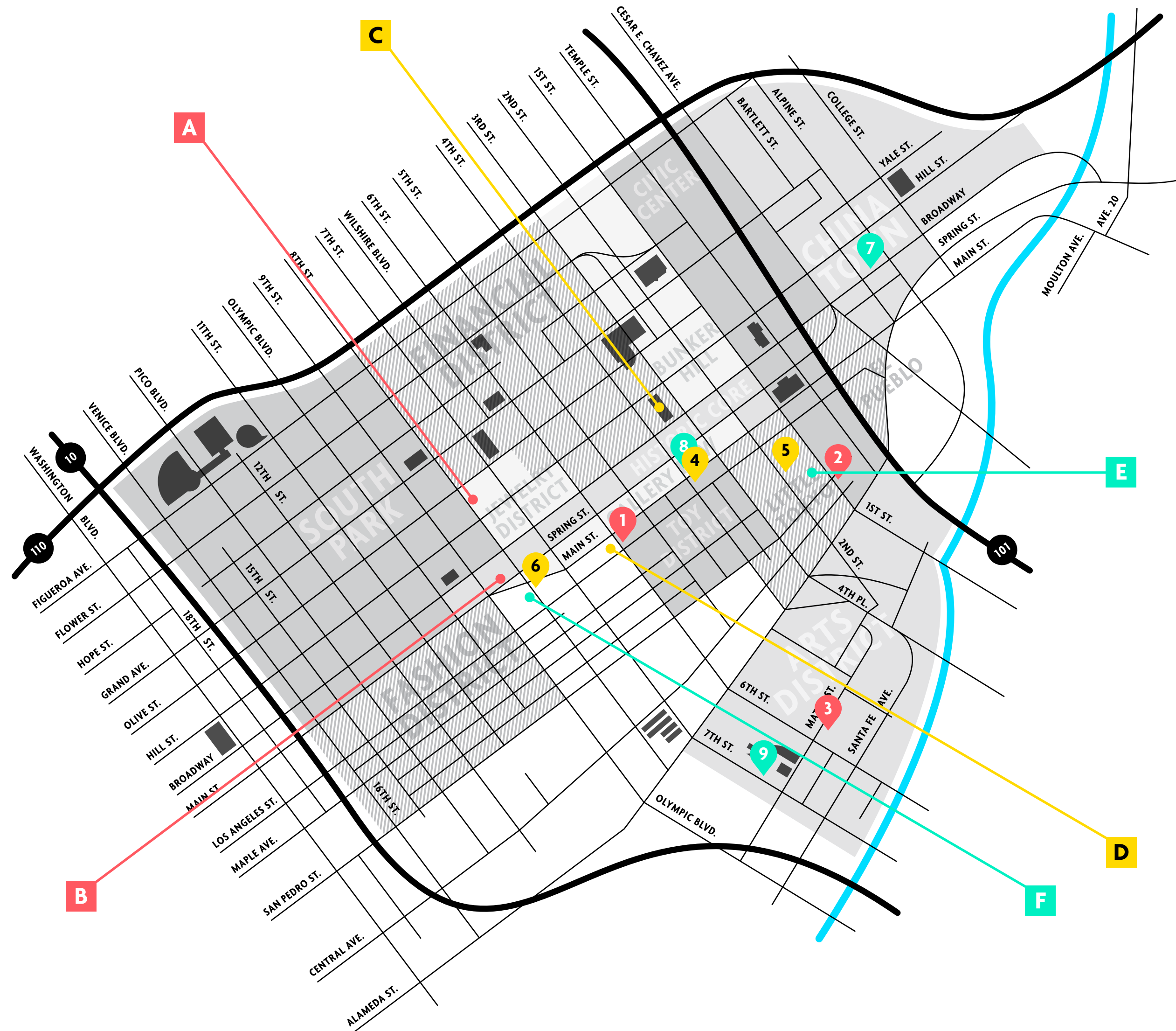
MOVE

E **ONIZUKA TATTOOS**
120 Astronaut E S Onizuka St.
onizukatattoo.com

F **PSKAUFMAN FOOTWEAR**
Werdin Alley & 8th St.
pskaufman.com

CITY STREETS
FREEWAYS
LA RIVER

MAP SIMPLIFIED & NOT TO SCALE



DOWNTOWN FAVORITES

1 **ELABREW COFFEE**
127 E 6th St. — elabrewcoffee.com
Downtown has quaint and cozy coffee shops, Elabrew's customers don't go there. Drink your coffee in a cafe plastered with artistic murals and grungy vibes.

2 **ELEMENTAL**
3211/2 E 1st St. — elementalwines.com
Through a back alley and up the stairs rests a hole in the wall wine bar. It's a mission getting there but you will be rewarded with fine wine and good conversation.

3 **BAR MATEO AT ZINC CAFE**
580 Mateo St. — zinccafe.com
Located at the back of Zinc Cafe, the breezy olive tree courtyard makes Bar Mateo perfect for an afternoon aperitif.

4 **TIONE'S ON MAIN**
334 S Main St. #1101b — tionesonmain.com
Italian style deli with a Downtowner vibe. Order a Bogie or Philly Pork sandwich and fulfill your east coast cravings. Open for lunch Monday — Friday.

5 **COLD RUSH GOURMET SHAVED ICE**
123 Astronaut E S Onizuka St. — coldrush-ice.com
Heal a heat stroke with fluffy, shaved ice desserts. Curious toppings like salted caramel, red velvet, green tea and milk make these icy delights a sweet experience.

6 **PAPI'S PIZZERIA**
109 E 8th St. — papispizzeria.com
Everybody likes pizza, Papis starts relationships. Thin crust, crispy edge and plethora of toppings like chorizo, jalapeno and tomato. You had us at first bite.

7 **WING HOP FUNG GINSENG**
727 N Broadway Ste. 102 — (213) 629-1200
Authentic and imported teas and herbs for potions and lotions. Find all ingredients necessary for your great aunt's home remedy elixir.

8 **AKAI ITO BOUTIQUE**
125 W 4th St. #106 — akaiitoboutique.com
Modern and monochromatic designs. It's the dream wardrobe of your most cutting edge friend.

9 **ARTIST & CRAFTSMAN SUPPLY**
1917-1921 E 7th St. — artistcraftsman.com
An artist's toy store. Inspiration is waiting to be fulfilled in every aisle. Large selection of art supplies and unique gifts in the back.



VERVE COFFEE ROASTERS

A BETTER CUP OF JOE

Written by Cleo Tobbi & Photographed by Eslee

As more and more coffee roasters sprout up around Downtown and the greater LA area, few establishments offer distinguishable characteristics to make them stand out. Not the case for Downtown's latest java retailer out of Santa Cruz: Verve Coffee Roasters.

The new coffee joint partnered up with Juice Served Here, a cold-pressed juice company which allows Verve to go beyond just serving a simple cup of joe. The two companies share the space and the harmony couldn't be more appropriate for Downtown's fresh, new landscape.

Unlike most Downtown shops or restaurants, Verve is not nestled, squished, or hidden anywhere. Verve stands tall, proud and is ready to tamp, pull and press your morning into liquid happiness. Seamlessly joining the two styles of beverages, Verve provides your daily jolt and vitamin dosage all under one roof. Ordering at Verve tends to go like this: coffee first, juice second, bliss third.

Specifically created for the Downtown location comes the Tres Lechas Cappuccino — a blend of almond, cashew and macadamia milk. This sweet and velvety take on the traditional Mexican dessert offers a tasty espresso boost for the busy Downtowner.

Also adding to the breakfast/mid-afternoon pick-me-up is an order of one of many cold-pressed juices. Concoctions of pineapple and alkaline water, carrot and ginger, lemon and cayenne pepper are merely a small handful of fresh ingredients the Juice Served Here side of the operation has at their disposal.

Whether warming or refreshing, bitter or acidic, sweet or sour, Verve Coffee Roasters knows how to make your Downtown LA morning right. To find out more, go to: vervecoffee.com

PSKAUFMAN FOOTWEAR

A SHOE LABYRINTH & CREATIVE'S PLAYGROUND

Written by Kandice Che & Photographed by Eslee

Pskaufman shoes will bring an end to many a sole-searching — their philosophy is that their shoes will improve with age and remain coveted for life. While this may seem like a quixotic mission, Pskaufman is a cult-classic amongst those that appreciate the story found in the scuff marks of a durable shoe. "People come back for style and quality, they don't come back because it broke apart" says Paul Kaufman.

Paul Kaufman is veteran shoe designer of the punk rock staple shoe brand NaNa that cultivated a cult following in the 90's with his Goodyear welt technique. After resurrecting the brand with a wildly successful collaboration with Chloe Sevigny's capsule collection at Opening Ceremony, Kaufman began his new brand, Pskaufman.

The Pskaufman shoe store occupies the basement of an old hotel tucked away in the Historic Core of Downtown Los Angeles. The location is a labyrinth of pure whimsy at a sprawling 7,000 square feet that houses its store, offices, and a large area for events. Kaufman's vision is to create a space to converge the many creatives they know. "We've found so many people through our brand because it speaks to artists and creatives . . . they understand it."

The entire expanse of this Pskaufman domain is eponymous with the craftsmanship of its shoes; each nook and cranny of this space was repurposed to preserve the lovely bones of this 100-year-old building, leaving a beautifully rugged aesthetic in its wake. The effect is otherworldly, a sojourn that you wish would never end. To find out more, go to: pskaufman.com





DOWNTOWN STREET STYLE

No two streets are alike. Discover the eclectic style of LA Downtowners.



Photographed by Janica De Guzman

9TH STREET
Mary & Robert



SPRING STREET
Erik



LOS ANGELES STREET
Chelsea



HOPE STREET
David & Kendrick



BROADWAY
Xavier, Sam, Hans, & Yorelis



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 225 East 9th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015

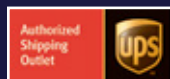
Historic Core
213-622-2426
 619 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014

Garment District
213-239-8877
 967 East 12th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021

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THE BLACK SHEEP

BURGERS AHEAD OF THE HERD

Written by Rayna Jensen &
 Photographed by Carolina Korman

With the fancy Mignon Wine and Cheese Bar on one side and the age-old Cole's on the other, the super casual gastropub The Black Sheep is, well, the black sheep. The two year-old eatery doesn't have a website, but seems to have a line out the door from open to close.

They're open late, but get there early—even weeknights can be rowdy enough for menu items to sell out or taps to run dry. Of course, if you're just looking for some tasty drunk food after a few \$13 cocktails next door, then this is the place to hit before you call it a night.

The menu boasts everything from sandwiches to sausages to sliders, but what Black Sheep does best is burgers. The patties are cooked perfectly, the buns are soft and toasty, and the toppings are A-plus. The eponymous Black Sheep burger is where to start: gouda, caramelized onions, garlic aioli, a couple thick slabs of bacon, and some arugula to keep it fresh. If you're not feeling meaty, you can swap in a veggie patty. Try it in the Mushroom and Swiss burger. Even without the beef, it's juicy, savory, and satisfying.

If you haven't eaten a tater tot since elementary school, now is a good time to start up again. Black Sheep's truffle tater tots and carne asada tots are even better than they sound. If you're a purist, they've still got good old-fashioned French fries, and they're everything you want them to be. This new kid on the block has everything you need, and likely won't be the 'black sheep' for too long. To find out more, call (213) 689-5022.

DOWNTOWN EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 2015

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>29 PETANQUE TOURNAMENT Villain's Tavern 1356 Palmetto St. 10PM Wind up your arms and take a victory shot. It's a neighborhood petanque tournament fueled by stiff drinks.</p> | <p>30 MUSTACHE MONDAYS La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St. 9PM — 2AM Quirky local flavor and LGBTQ talent? It's going to be a late night. (weekly)</p> | <p>31 MUSTACHE MONDAYS La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St. 9PM — 2AM Quirky local flavor and LGBTQ talent? It's going to be a late night. (weekly)</p> | <p>1 MUSIC OF DAVID LYNCH Theatre at Ace Hotel 929 S Broadway 8PM With Duran Duran, Karen O and more. Our heart can't handle this caliber of performance.</p> | <p>2 MILES DAVIS/ GIL EVANS: STILL AHEAD Walt Disney Concert Hall 111 S Grand Ave. 8PM Listen to the sounds of the legendary trumpeter reawakened.</p> | <p>3 READINGS FROM SEAN BERNARD AND RICHARD LANGE The Last Bookstore 453 S Spring St. 8 — 9:30PM Gripping and intense stories read aloud. Grab a chair.</p> | <p>4 A CURRANT AFFAIR Cooper Design Space 860 S Los Angeles St. Penthouse 12 — 7PM Vintage pop-up with 50 retailers, open bar and small bites. Say no more.</p> |
| <p>5 EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH Hotel Figueroa 939 S Figueroa St. 10AM The Easter Bunny is coming in the form of live music and bottomless mimosas this year.</p> | <p>6 OPEN LOOSE Blue Whale Jazz Bar 123 Astronaut E S Onizuka St #301 9PM Intimate, live jazz for the serious enthusiasts.</p> | <p>7 TACO TRIVIA TUESDAY Angel City Brewery 216 S Alameda St. 7 — 9PM Pull up a chair for good eats and quick thinking.</p> | <p>8 WORKING WOMEN'S CLUB Ace Hotel 929 S Broadway 11AM — 5PM Weekly gathering for creative, working women. Get together, be inspired and do work.</p> | <p>9 CURATOR SERIES MOCA 200 S Grand Ave. 7PM Stuart Comer discusses the work and career of William Pope.L.</p> | <p>10 TEASE IF YOU PLEASE Bar Fedora 710 W 1st St. 8PM An evening of tasteful teasing with Downtown's finest burlesque.</p> | <p>11 CERVETECA BRUNCH 923 E 3rd St. #109 11AM — 3PM Manhandle chorizo burgers and build your own mimosas. Brunch isn't taken lightly.</p> |
| <p>12 LA MOTOCYCLETTTE LAUNCH PARTY MOCA Store 200 S Grand Ave. 11AM Celebrate the new wave of women motorcycle riders with a dj & food trucks.</p> | <p>13 SQUAREPUSHER Regent Theater 418 S Main St. 9PM Electronic music fans unite for Squarepusher's first performance in the US in over 6 years.</p> | <p>14 FKA TWIGS Belasco Theater 1050 S Hill St. 8PM Whispy, melodic vocals to the stage straight from London.</p> | <p>15 ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER Dorothy Chandler Pavilion 135 N Grand Ave. Influential modern dancers celebrate the uniqueness of African-American culture.</p> | <p>16 MILKY CHANCE The Mayan 1038 S Hill St. 7PM German duo performs their pop folk sounds in their first American tour.</p> | <p>17 HUGHES ESTATE SALE 458 S Alameda St. Shop hand picked art, furniture & decor at wholesale prices.</p> | <p>18 ARTISTS & FLEAS 647 Mateo St. 11AM — 5PM Unique and curated market, it's Etsy in real life.</p> |
| <p>19 LA SEWCIAL CLUB The Atelier at Maker City LA 1933 S Broadway, 11th floor 11AM Festival fashion workshop. Make fashion statements for festival season</p> | <p>20 ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR The Escondite 410 Boyd St. 5PM — Close With nothing priced over \$5, the case of the Mondays is instantly cured.</p> | <p>21 THE MAKERS Seven Grand 515 7th St. 10PM — 1AM Improvised jazz and unrelenting whiskies.</p> | <p>22 IMMEDIATE FAMILY Mark Taper Forum 135 N. Grand Ave. A new American play, Modern Family meets Soul Food.</p> | <p>23 HERCULES VS VAMPIRES LA Opera 7PM Offbeat presentation live music with cult fantasy film Hercules in the Haunted World</p> | <p>24 PUNKY REGGAE PARTY La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St. 9PM — 2AM Punky reggae madness every Friday night.</p> | <p>25 THE REBEL SPIRIT OF VIOLETTA PARRA Walt Disney Concert Hall 111 S Grand Ave. 8PM Tribute to the most important songwriter and storyteller in Chile.</p> |
| <p>26 ARTISANAL SPRING SHOW Music Box at The Reef 1933 S Broadway 10AM — 6PM Taste, shop, sample, learn and taste some more. Artisanal food for all</p> | <p>27 MUSTACHE MONDAYS La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St. 9PM — 2AM Quirky local flavor and LGBTQ talent? It's going to be a late night. (weekly)</p> | <p>28 TACO TRIVIA TUESDAY Angel City Brewery 216 S Alameda St. 7 — 9PM Pull up a chair for good eats and quick thinking.</p> | <p>29 DESIGN CENTER WEDNESDAY LA Mart at The Reef 1933 S Broadway 9AM — 5PM Shop furniture, lighting, rugs and antiques. Build your dream space.</p> | <p>30 JOSE GONZALEZ Regent Theater 418 S Main St. 9PM Swedish indie folk singer-songwriter performs melancholy & memorable songs.</p> | <p>1 VERANDA BAR Figueroa Hotel 939 Figueroa St. 4PM — 7PM Happy hour till 7pm and DJs all night to keep the party going.</p> | <p>2 BEETHOVEN & STRAUSS Walt Disney Concert Hall 111 S Grand Ave. 8PM Straussian Romanticism and dynamic Beethoven.</p> |



VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR AT
LADOWNTOWNER.COM/CALENDAR



THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA | MARCH 20-JUNE 28, 2015

William Pope.L
TRINKET



WILLIAM POPE.L: *TRINKET* IS ORGANIZED BY THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES, AND SENIOR CURATOR BENNETT SIMPSON.

MAJOR SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY GALERIE CATHERINE BASTIDE, KARYN KOHL, JILL AND PETER KRAUS, AND MITCHELL-INNES & NASH, NEW YORK.
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IN-KIND MEDIA SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY **KCET** 50

WILLIAM POPE.L, *TRINKET*, 2008, MIXED MEDIA, DIMENSIONS VARIABLE, APPROX. 38 x 16 FT., COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MITCHELL-INNES & NASH, NEW YORK,
INSTALLATION IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, KANSAS CITY, MO, HOSTED BY GRAND ARTS, PHOTO BY E.G. SHEMPF

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