

EVERYONE ELSE IS CONCERNED ABOUT “CHEAP THRILLS” AND WHERE TO GET THEM. WHY NOT LOOK OUT FOR THE USELESS, THE CARELESS, THE UNPRODUCTIVE THINGS? THE PLACES TO WITNESS EVERY NEGLIGIBLE CHANGE. CHEAP FRILLS.

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SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHEAP FRILLS

READING


Women & Children First
5233 N. Clark St.
Quimby’s
1854 W. North Ave.
The Book Cellar
4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave.

BEACHES


Jeorse Park Beach
East Chicago, Indiana
Calumet Park Beach
East Side, Chicago
Miller Beach
Gary, Indiana

SOUNDS


Pedway
The Loop
Blue Line Stops
All stops from Rosemont to Addison
Textiles Gallery (AIC)
111 S. Michigan Ave.

DANCING


Beauty Bar
1444 W. Chicago Ave.
Windy City Soul Club (The Empty Bottle)
1035 N. Western Ave
American Tango Institute
325 N. Hoyne Ave., Suite C-404

COFFEE


Efebina’s Cafe
1640 S. Blue Island Ave.
The Wormhole
1462 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Ipsento
2035 N. Western Ave.

FOOD


Oasis Cafe
21 N. Wabash Ave
Stanley’s Fruits & Vegetables
1558 N. Elston Ave.
Sunshine Cafe
5449 N. Clark Ave.

MUSEUMS


International Museum of Surgical Science
1524 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Leather Archives & Museum
6418 N. Greenview Ave.
Money Museum (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)
230 S. LaSalle St.

BUSY BEAVER BUTTON CO. MUSEUM

www.busybeaver.net // 773.645.3359

3279 W. Armitage Ave. Chicago, IL, 60647

Busy Beaver Button Co. was founded in Chicago in 1998 when Christen Carter settled the company in its current Logan Square location. According to its website, the company has made buttons for many well-known individuals and organizations, starting with Carter's first client Guided by Voices, to the likes of Missy Elliot and Burger King. The store is also home to the world's first button museum, as well as the largest button vending machine — at over 6 feet tall with the ability to hold 10,000 buttons — that might be worth a trip up the Blue Line.

C. CRETORS & COMPANY

www.cretors.com // 773.588.1690

3243 N. California Ave. Chicago, IL, 60618

C. Cretors & Company (yes, it is pronounced “secre-tors”) boasts of founding the nation's now multi-billion dollar concession industry and patenting the first popcorn machine. A version of the machine, which was initially designed to roast peanuts, was displayed at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition, and the company is still run by the Cretors family. Rumor has it that inside the North California Ave. location is the world's largest popcorn machine. Reservations for tours of the plant can be made by calling the facility.

This museum has the strictest security out of any of our selections, for obvious reasons. But, once you show a valid state-issued ID and hand over any potential weapons you are carrying (including explosives and box cutters), you can have a guided tour of the historical currency selection for free!

While some of us are not Chicago natives, we are aware of the sports enthusiasm that is a major part of the city's history and spirit. Go Cubs! Right? The collection of sports memorabilia at Harry Caray's Tavern is interesting even if you don't follow what's happening at Wrigley Field. The collection includes “the Bartman Ball, Sammy Sosa's corked bat and a baseball used by Kerry Wood in his 1998 historic 20 strike-out game.”

CHICAGO SPORTS MUSEUM

www.harrycaraystavern.com/navy-pier // 312.527.9700

700 E. Grang Ave. Chicago, IL, 60611

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO MONEY MUSEUM

www.chicagofed.org/webpages/education/money_museum/index.cfm // 312. 322-2400

230 S. LaSalle St. Chicago, IL 60604



MUSEUMS



Dedicated to “the compilation, preservation and maintenance of leather lifestyle and related lifestyles... for historical, educational and research purposes,” the Leather Archives and Museum holds art, artifacts, publications and educational materials pertaining to alternative sexualities. The exhibit we're most excited to see is “My Vest!” which consists of “vests from the LA&M collection and the people who wear them.” OK, maybe that is not exactly what we're most excited to see, but it still sounds pretty interesting.

LEATHER ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

www.leatherarchives.org/home // 773.761.9200

6418 N. Greenview Ave. Chicago, IL 60626

The Read/Write Library of Chicago is a collection of local, independent and small-press published stuff. It accepts all submissions that fit these criteria. If you've ever read Richard Brautigan's “The Abortion,” it's kind of like that (minus the reclusive librarian, and, of course, the illegal abortion in Tijuana.)

READ/WRITE LIBRARY

(FORMERLY THE CHICAGO UNDERGROUND LIBRARY)

www.readwritelibrary.org // 773-336-2516

914 N. California (Walton Entrance) Chicago, IL 60607

The International Museum of Surgical Science houses four floors of medical artifacts, paintings, and sculptures, a library and a manuscript collection in addition to special exhibitions. Whether you're interested in the history, new developments in the surgical sciences (or even if you just like odd contraptions), you'll be able to find points of interest. Also, just a heads-up: Tuesdays are free.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF SURGICAL SCIENCE

www.imss.org // 312.642.6502

1524 N. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60610

The Hull-House Museum includes tours through renovated portions of the original Hull-House facility as well as exhibitions and unique programming focused on contemporary social issues. They also host “sex +++,” a “a free documentary film series for people who like sex.”

JANE ADDAMS HULL-HOUSE MUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/hull_house.html // 312.413.5353

800 S. Halsted (M/C 051). Chicago, IL 60607

INTUIT: THE CENTER FOR INTUITIVE AND OUTSIDER ART

(INCLUDING THE HENRY DARGER ROOM)

www.art.org // 312.243.9088

756 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60642

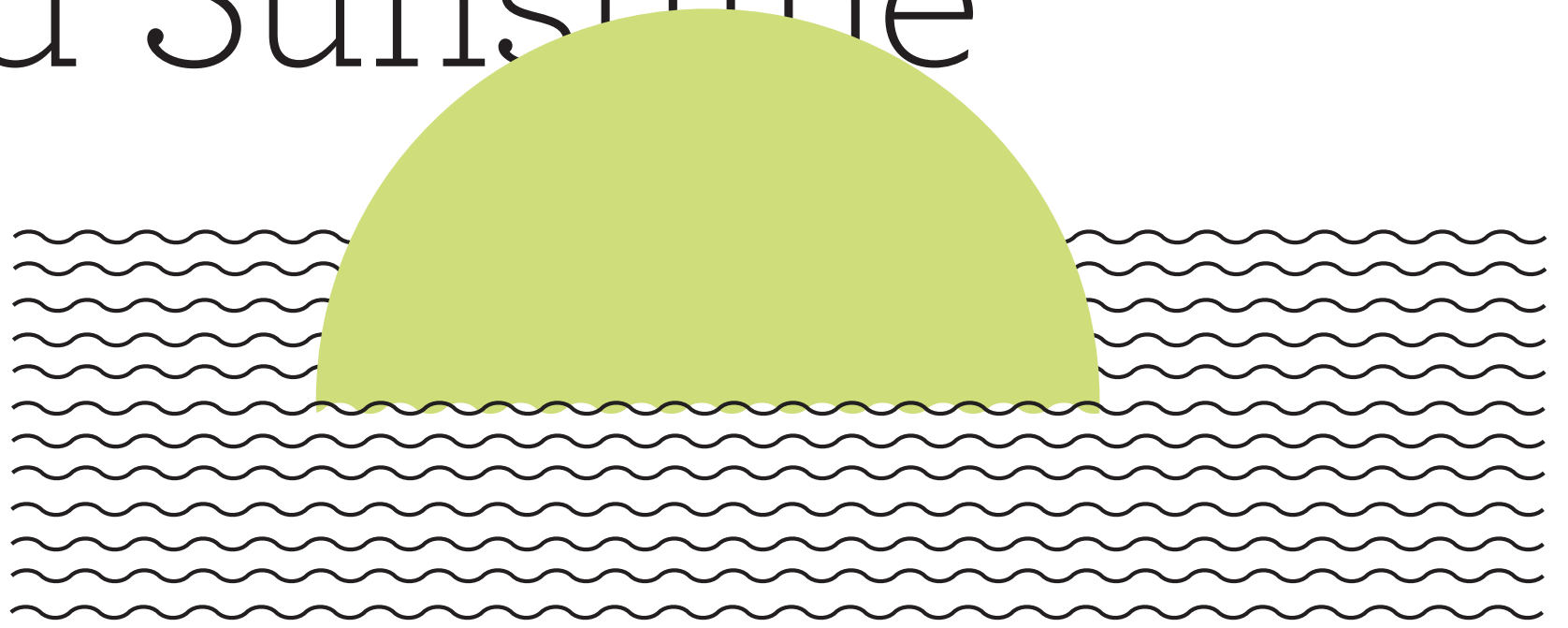
ALTERNATIVE

Intuit holds exhibitions as well as a permanent collection fully devoted to displaying “self-taught and outsider art.” It is best known for the Henry Darger Room Collection, an installation of the living and workspace of the now-famed self-taught visionary. They also offer a film series, temporary exhibitions and various educational programs.

Coffee and Sunshine

By Megan Burbank

As art students at SAIC, we spend the better part of a year confined to white studio walls, and as art students in Chicago, we spend the better part of our school year avoiding the cold gusts of winter. Summer is a time to remember what it feels like to have the sun on your skin, and it's never too early to stockpile outdoor study spots around the city (especially considering how woefully small SAIC's library is). In the interest of academic achievement and repairing Vitamin D deficiencies, and because there are few combinations more winning than really good coffee and the ability to sit outside, I have scoured the city for Chicago's best outdoor study locations, with the best study fuel. Here's a breakdown of local coffee shops that make the best coffee and can also provide you with the great outdoors (or the closest thing to it) to caffeinate in the sun.



The Wormhole

1462 N Milwaukee Ave | thewormhole.us

I'm not a 14-year-old boy, but, okay, I love the Wormhole. Where else can you sip on a Honey Bear Latte made with local honey while listening to Patti Smith under a row of Gremlin stuffed animals as some kid plays Nintendo 64 and the baristas ring orders up on an iPad? That's right, nowhere. This is to say nothing of the ability to order Cocoa Puffs with your coffee, you know, like any self-respecting adult.

Outdoor space: As Ipsento is to Western, the Wormhole is to North Milwaukee. You'll be sitting in a prime spot for keeping count of Wicker Park's ironic mustaches as they make their daily parade down the street. What this stretch of sidewalk lacks in aesthetic appeal, it makes up for in unparalleled people-watching opportunities.

Intelligentsia

53 E Randolph St | intelligentsiacoffee.com

Admittedly, Intelligentsia is offensively overpriced, but it's also offensively Chicago, and, alas, to the dismay of my bank account, no list of coffee shops would be complete without it.

Outdoor space: Get your \$3 drip to go and head out to Millennium Park. Dodge the tourists and find a spot at the long table next to the Bean. Or go for a walk in Grant Park, visit the ornate Buckingham fountain, and speculate as to why the athletic fields are never in use. If by August you still haven't regained your Vitamin D, ease the burn of back-to-school time with a little outdoor downtime before and after you scan that ARTICard. Repeat as needed. Save up a little color for wintertime.

Efebina's Café

1640 S Blue Island Ave | efebinascafe.com

It turns out that Pilsen is a real place and a pretty sweet place it is. Efebina's is a neighborhood gem, hidden behind the McDonald's on Blue Island Avenue. The owner is a sweet, middle-aged woman who will probably be standing behind the counter when you arrive. The café is spacious, with equal capacity for laptop warriors and weekend languorers, and may be one of the only places on this list where you can pair a tall glass of cheap and delicious iced coffee with a slice of chocolate flan.

Outdoor space: Efebina's just opened up a back patio area, which is a cozy spot for summertime adventures. If you never had a reason to come to Pilsen, Efebina's will give you one.

New Wave Coffee

3103 W Logan Blvd | newwavecoffee.com

New Wave is my default coffee shop. It can be relied on for a solid Americano, filling and charmingly-named sandwiches (may I recommend the Flashdance, made with no fewer than four kinds of cheese?), and an ambiance that resembles the basement of somebody's parents' house in the late 1980s.

Outdoor space: Like Ipsento and the Wormhole, New Wave is all about the sidewalk seating, except that instead of sitting beside the traffic on Western or Milwaukee, New Wave's back entrance opens onto peaceful, charmingly manicured Logan Boulevard. Watch the strollers and bikes go by while you sit back and enjoy a beverage and some of the most inviting green space Chicago has to offer — or take it a step farther, get your coffee to go, and find the perfect spot to loll on the boulevard's grassy mid-section. On a sunny day, there's nothing better. On a Sunday, pair your caffeine intake with farmers' market samples and that's breakfast.

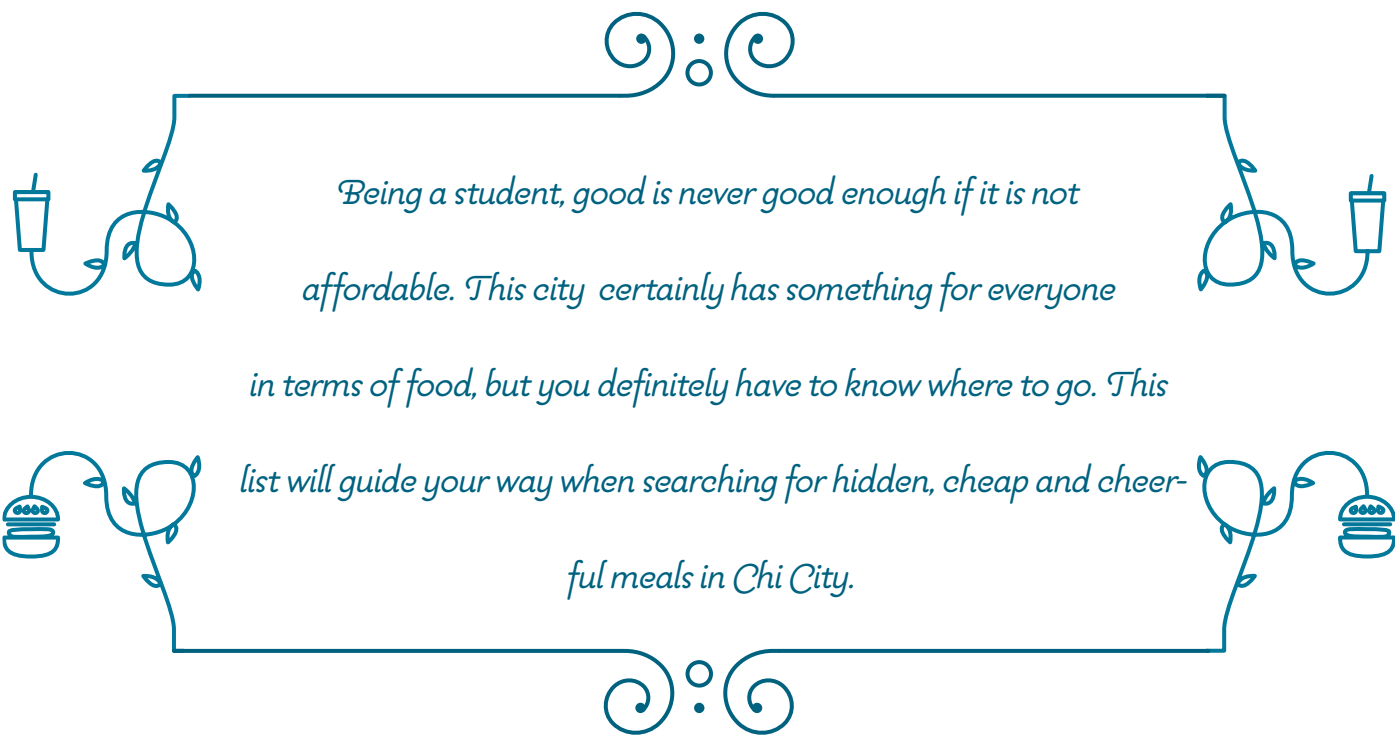
Ipsento Coffee

2035 N Western Ave | ipsento.com

Is it an act of blasphemy to say that the best coffee in Chicago comes, not from the suspended, mustachioed hipsters of Intelligentsia, but a little spot down the street from Arturo's Tacos on the border of Logan Square and Bucktown? If so, I am not repenting. Ipsento Coffee smells like a real coffee shop and has an inviting, clean aesthetic. For those times you're feeling vaguely European, they serve macchiatos in tiny ceramic cups, along with a dizzying array of espresso drinks made with everything from Nutella to roses, and breakfast sandwiches named after famous writers. A Nutella Mocha is exactly what it sounds like and should not be missed. The Jane Austen sandwich is an adorably sensible breakfast made with apples, cream cheese and honey.

Outdoor space: Ipsento ascribes to the Chicago summertime sidewalk patio school of thought, with a set of outside tables edging up against Western Avenue. Some naysayers might not want to be so close to the traffic of a busy thoroughfare, but it seems appropriate for the neighborhood. Full disclosure: I live around here, and nothing seems more Chicago to me than a tiny, partially hidden oasis surrounded by a relentlessly urban landscape. Bring on the outside arterial traffic — this is how I know I'm home.





Chew On This

These establishments will hang your work on the walls (if they think it'll stimulate your appetite)



Argo Tea

various locations
@ argotea.com

Buona Terra

2535 N. CALIFORNIA AV.
@ buona-terra.com
(773) 289-3800

Cafe Ballou

939 N. WESTERN AV.
@ cafeballouchicago.com
(773) 342-2909

Jumping Bean

1439 W. 18TH ST.
@ cafejumpingbean.org
(312) 455-0019

Corner Bakery

224 S. MICHIGAN AV.
@ cornerbakerycafe.com
(312) 236-2400

Efebina's Cafe

1640 S. BLUE ISLAND AV.
@ efebinascafe.com
(312) 243-9790

Flower Flat

620 W. ADDISON ST.
(773) 697-3682

Hot Doug's

3324 N. CALIFORNIA
@ hotdoug.com
(773) 279-9550

Intelligentsia

VARIOUS LOCATIONS
@ intelligentsiacoffee.com

Native Foods

1484 N. MILWAUKEE AV.
@ nativefoods.com
(773) 489-8480

Noble Tree

2444 N. CLARK
@ nobletreecoffee.com
(773) 248-1500

Palmer House

17 E. MONROE
@ palmerhousehiltonhotel.com
(312) 917-1707

Pick me up

3408 N. CLARK ST.
(773) 248-6613

Pizza Rustica

3908 N. SHERIDAN RD.
@ pizzarusticachicago.com
(773) 404-8955

Rootstock

954 N. CALIFORNIA AV.
@ rootstockbar.com
(773) 292-1616

Topics

2122 N. HALSTED
@ topicsusa.com
(773) 935-2500

Allende

2408 N. LINCOLN AV.
(773) 477-7114

Open until 3 a.m. \$4 tortas, \$5 burritos, and best of all, mind-blowing enchilada entrees for \$8. Their homemade salsa is seriously famous. This is a perfect destination for a drunk late night feast.
(CLOSED ON SUNDAYS)

Belly Shack

1912 N. WESTERN AV.
@ bellyshack.com
(773) 252-1414

Korean/Puerto Rican fusion sandwiches, soups, and salads by renowned South Korean chef Bill Kim. Around \$9 per meal.

Dib

1025 W. LAWRENCE AV.
@ dibchicago.com
(773) 561-0200

In this place you can find great Thai food and sushi. It is BYOB and there is a liquor store across the street. About \$7-\$8 per (gigantic) entrée. Two of their most famous dishes are the Tom Yum Soup and the Basil Chicken.

Oasis Cafe

21 N. WABASH AV.
(312) 443-9534

Mediterranean food in the back of a jewelry store, which is just enough to make you curious. The word on the street is that they have great falafel sandwiches and cheap lunch specials.
(CLOSED ON SUNDAYS)

Stanley's F. & V.

1558 N. ELSTON AV.
(773) 276-8050

A good option if you are looking for affordable, organic produce, and fresh bread from a local bakery. A word to the wise: the reason Stanley's prices are so low is that their produce is rejected by more uppity stores like the Green Grocer, whose patrons are unimpressed with slightly blemished fruits and vegetables. Think of it as finding a thrift store stocked to the ceiling with apples, oranges and bananas.

La Unica Market

1515 W. DEVON AV.
(773) 274-7788

Delicious and comforting Cuban food, coffee and tostones tucked inside a little bodega. Around \$6-\$7 per entree. They also make guanabana shakes and sell roast pork by the pound on the weekends, if you feel like trying your own recipe.

Athenian Room

807 W. WEBSTER AV.
(773) 348-5155

Inexpensive Greek food. Tina Fey has publicly praised this restaurant for their amazing food (check it out on YouTube). They are famous for their Greek fries and salad, as well as their chicken kebabs and gyros.

Billy Goat Tavern

430 N. MICHIGAN AV.
(HUBBARD ST. & ILLINOIS ST.)
@ billygoattavern.com
(312) 222-1525

A little hard to find but definitely worth it if you appreciate a good, old-fashioned cheeseburger. The place has considerable historic value – reading some of the old, framed newspapers on its walls you'll learn about the curse placed on the Cubs. The one downfall: no fries.

El Norte

5600 N. RIDGE AV.
@ bellyshack.com
(773) 728-0182

This is a 24-hour Mexican joint, which is very good to know. They serve pozole, which is not very easy to find in Chicago. Their red and green salsas are always freshly made and their servings are enormous.

Salam Restaurant

4636 N. KEDZIE AV.
@ salamchicago.com
(773) 583-0776

Huge, Middle Eastern Menu. The Combination Entrée with four meats, hummus, pita, and salad for \$12 is easily enough to feed 2-3. If you want dessert, there is a really well stocked Middle Eastern bakery next door.

Sunshine Cafe

5449 N. CLARK ST.
(773) 334-6214

Simple, fresh Japanese food. Try the Saba Shiroyaki (salt-broiled mackerel) for an authentic, traditional home-cooked meal, or slurp up Vegetable Beef Udon for savory warmth on a cold day. About \$8-\$12 per entree.

Urban Belly

3053 N. CALIFORNIA AV.
@ urbanbellychicago.com
(773) 583-0500

Also a Bill Kim restaurant. Unlike Belly Shack, Urban Belly is focused less on Latin fusion and more on the communal dining experience. Great soups, noodles, and fried rice. It is also BYOB.

Ba Le Bakery

5014 N. BROADWAY ST.
@ balesandwich.com
(773) 561-4424

Deliciously big Vietnamese sandwiches. The menu has over 20 different variations on the traditional banh mi, ranging from \$4-\$7 a sandwich.

Cafecito

26 E. CONGRESS PKWY.
@ cafecitochicago.com
(312) 922-2233

Awesome Cuban sandwiches, coffee and pastries. A great option when stuck in the Loop. On their website you can print a coupon for a free House Coffee with your next sandwich purchase.

Flaming Wok and Grill

903 N. HALSTED (GOOSE ISLAND)
@ flamingwokngrill.com
(773) 477-7114

A total dive, with an entirely inaccurate name. Mostly Indian/Pakistani food. Run by devout Muslims (which means no booze), the place empties during prayer times. The atmosphere is loud (due to cab drivers watching Pakistani news turned way up), and it isn't the best looking, but it's worth it. Order the day's special and you won't be disappointed. Very accommodating with vegetarian and vegan diets, not so great with allergies and assholes.

South Water Kitchen

225 N. WABASH AV.
@ southwaterkitchen.com
(312) 236-9300

Great place for brunch and good drinks. Check out their daily specials, especially Thursdays when they feature a \$5 burger and \$3 pint drafts. Although the atmosphere is a bit more "corporate downtown happy hour" than normally tolerable, their staff is always friendly and the burgers are great. It is perfect for those 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. SAIC class breaks.

Taste of Lebanon

1509 W. FOSTER AV.
(773) 334-1600

Cheap, fresh and healthy Middle Eastern fast food. They have great wraps and falafel and an amazing lentil soup and cucumber salad. Wraps \$3-\$4; lentil soup \$2.50. Bring cash, they don't take credit cards.
(CLOSED ON SUNDAYS)

Afterimage™

A tour of Chicago's forgotten signage

BY EMILY HAASCH

Chicago, a city rich in industry and history, has an excellent legacy of handmade and uniquely constructed signage that draws upon interesting and often underrepresented forms of typography and craft. As many of these pieces are rapidly disappearing from numerous neighborhoods, an effort has grown to preserve and appreciate their many quirky and beautiful qualities.

Here is a small selection of typographic signage from the west and northwest sides of the city, featuring finds from the Logan Square, Portage Park, Old Irving Park, Noble Square, Jefferson Park and Hermosa neighborhoods.

Special thanks to Nick Adam, of Firebelly Design, for his help in this project. You can see more of his work at likesigns.tumblr.com.

All photos courtesy of Quinn Keaveney.

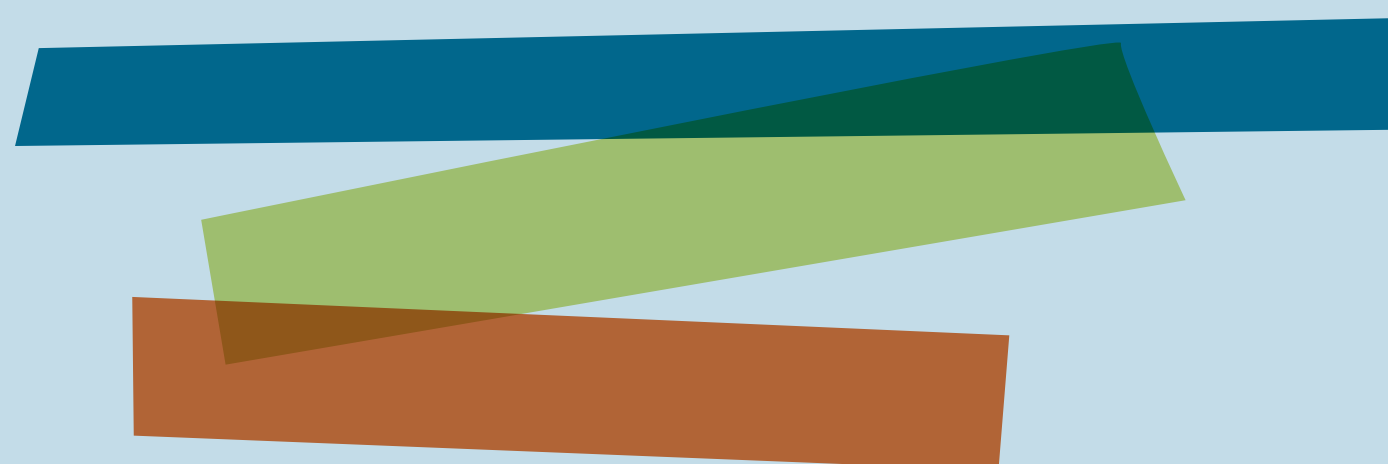
For more information,
locations, and to submit
your picks, visit
FNEWSMAGAZINE.COM

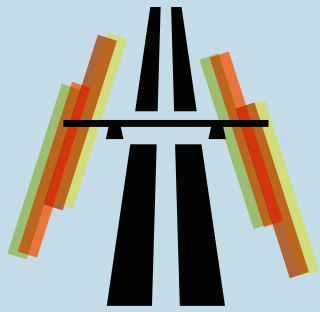




BY BRANDON GOEI

Living and working in the city means dealing with a constant influx of sensory input. The sights, the tastes, the textures — they all come together in an urban hub like Chicago, but the sounds in any place are a distinctly local phenomenon. Here's a short list of some of my favorite spots with unique soundtracks.





BLUE LINE

If you're on the Blue Line and get caught in one of the older cars (the ones with the accordion doors), you're probably going to get a tinny earful of "DOORS OPEN ON THE RIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL" at every stop. Annoying. But if you get a chance to stand on the platforms that sit level to Highway 90/94, stop and listen for a bit. The sound of thousands of horsepower whizzing around you in opposite directions is overwhelming, but it also puts you in the thrall of stress-induced, hypersensitive euphoria.



GRIDLOCK

Getting stuck in traffic is one of the great annoyances of modern life — regardless of creed, color, gender, location or socio-political status, no one likes being trapped behind some asshole whose bumper is a PSA for their child's Honor Roll status. And while it does give you a great venue to listen to music or a bit of talk radio, sometimes the most interesting thing to do is skip the distractions and listen to the muted orchestral rumble of a sea of idling combustion engines.



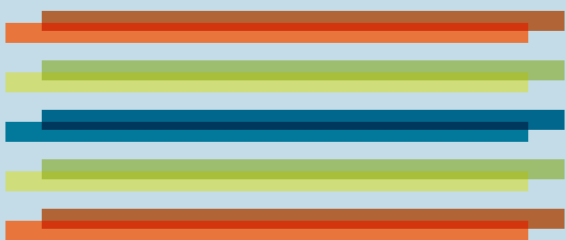
LAUNDROMAT

When I first moved to Chicago, my laundry room consisted of a giant basement peppered with cigarette butts and rat turds, accentuated by a washer and dryer that looked like they came off the set of the Brady Bunch. Those machines had a 50/50 chance of working, and when they ate your quarters, it wasn't like Florence Henderson was showing up any time soon to console you. Needless to say, I spent my fair share of afternoons watching jumbo-sized dryers tumble my underpants — an activity many would attribute to a wasted weekend. That's fair, I guess, if you only see laundromats as waiting rooms, but what other kind of waiting room presents you with a warmer distraction to pass the time — the simple but pleasant machine mantra of "hummmmmm"?



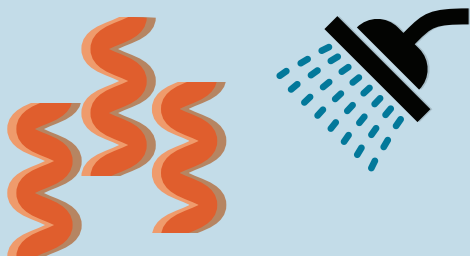
JAMBA JUICE

I've never been a fan of Jamba Juice. Spending a good chunk of my life listening to Californians wax poetic about wheatgrass shots and soy protein boosts didn't help. When my friends looked up nutritional facts and found out how much sugar was in their sherbet/fruit milkshakes, I didn't hesitate with the I-Told-You-Sos. Still, I could never resist the scraping whir of a good blender. Jamba loves jamming huge chunks of frozen berries into the equivalent of a firing squad made of Blendtec blenders, and when those visor-clad smoothie hawkers squeeze those triggers, there's a crunch that would startle even Slayer's most seasoned roadies.



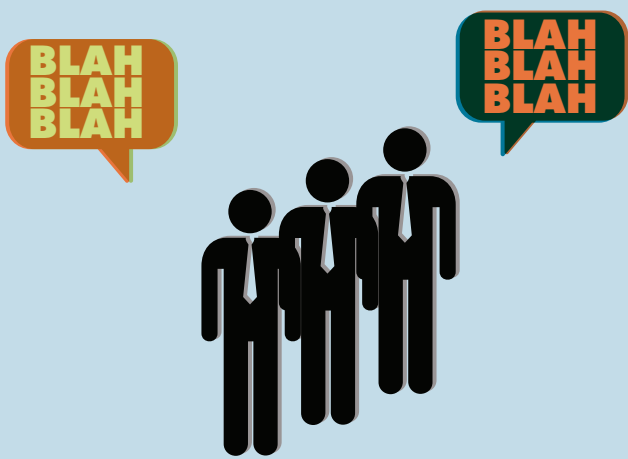
TEXTILES GALLERY AT AIC

I admit that when contemplating whether or not to visit the Art Institute of Chicago, the deciding factor is not likely to be "awesome textiles" — especially not when admission for non-SAIC students (i.e., family members on holiday) is a whopping \$18. Tourism is generally about shock and awe and not about shuttle looms. But if you need a break from the tired, the poor, the Segway-mounted masses, slip away quietly into the basement between Picasso and American Gothic where an idyllic tableau of fabric and peace resides. The whole space is a veritable dungeon with one entrance/exit and a cul-de-sac that would make any circulation-obsessed architect cringe in terror, but it is one of the only places you'll find true quiet in the whole building. Close seconds can be found in the Chinese/Japanese/Korean art sections or the dark room in the Modern Wing dedicated to film, but even those oft-overlooked galleries can't compare to Textiles, where you're invariably alone with the soft whine of climate control.



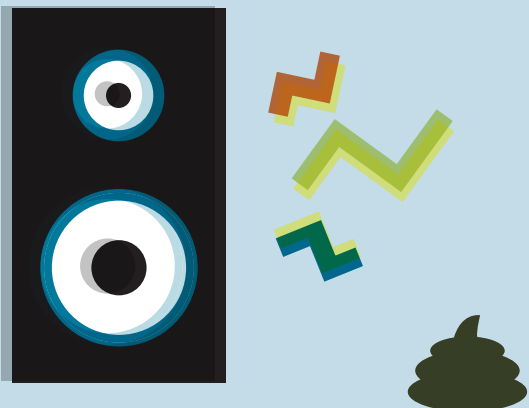
THE SHOWER

In 1377, the great Maghrebian Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun wrote the first book in a volume of seven said to be an important early attempt at a universal history of mankind. This tome, the "Muqaddimah," says that "when those who enjoy a hot bath inhale the air of the bath, so that the heat of the air enters the spirits and makes them hot, they are found to experience joy. It often happens that they start singing, as singing has its origin in gladness." Today, we back up claims of spirits and heat with talk of hard-walled reverberation, but the idea is the same — the shower is a rich atmosphere for sound, backed with the seductive sensation of heat. Much like spending quality time crammed between freeway commuters, you could fill the space with any number of sounds, but why spoil the rich racket of running water?



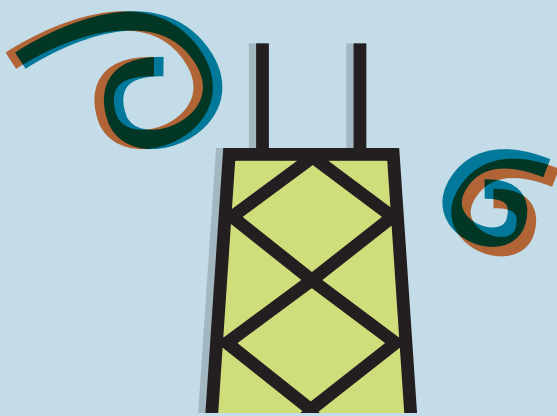
PEDWAY AT LUNCH

Working a nine-to-five job in a major center of commerce usually means shuffling around a cubicle like cattle in a pen and a weekly case of "the Mondays," which generally means any free time is a cherished sliver of liberty between rush hours. This makes lunchtime in the sub-Loop Pedway a prime location to feel both the rush of people with places to go and the potential sadness of folks on the fast track to lifelong corporate confinement. Compare it to the aforementioned Blue Line stops: if the rush there comes from the dizzying speed of well-oiled machines, the rush here comes from the idle chatter of a retching mass, stinking with hopeless humanity.



NEXT TO A SPEAKER AT THE METRO

Do this one at your own risk. There are legends of the fabled "brown note" — the frequency at which your bowels tend to evacuate themselves by virtue of sheer vibration — and while they are legends and not facts, the best place to tempt fate is right next to a huge stack of speakers. It isn't necessarily the biggest venue with the biggest rumble, but when it comes to setup, the directness of the Metro's soundsystem is brutal. That, combined with the venue's continued history of booking some of the crunchiest acts in popular music, make for a great big mess, both metaphorically and possibly not.



HANCOCK CENTER OBSERVATION DECK

The higher you are, the more interesting things get, and believe it or not, I'm not talking about drugs. Some of the greatest stories are amplified by vertigo-inducing heights whether it be King Kong's Empire State climb with Fay Wray in tow or the hunchbacked Quasimodo brooding silently in the belfry of Notre Dame. On the 94th floor of the Hancock Center is the Observatory, accessible to the public (albeit for a fee of \$15) and rising over a thousand feet above the raucous traffic of the Magnificent Mile. Staring out over 80 miles of Midwest provides a fair amount of inspiration if not an outlet for your megalomaniacal fantasies, but the real rush comes from the SkyWalk, which provides a chance to step out into a howling tempest of whipping winds and the distant echoes of pedestrian life below.

A Chicagoan's Guide to Industrial Waterfronts

By
Thania
Rios

When picking a beach, the typical Chicagoan's decision tends to be determined by two factors — proximity and E. coli levels. Such criteria might guarantee fun in the sun, but it also means that there are some waterfronts many city dwellers will never see. If you're looking to shake up your beach-bumming routine, and if you aren't too concerned with sanitation, you might want to visit these locations, all of which offer better views of industrial refineries than the traditional Chicago skyline.

Calumet Park Beach CHICAGO

Just a wade away from Gary, Chicago's southernmost beach offers a closer look at Lake Michigan's industry than any of its northern brethren. Wedged between a Coast Guard outpost and a launching dock, more barges than yachts dot the horizon. To the south is a sight alien to the dwellers of trendier neighborhoods: above-ground transmission towers. If you enter Lake Michigan and press east, before too long you'll find yourself in Indiana's waters. Swimming into Gary, however, is not recommended; the city's shoreline is dotted with factories, and offers no place for tired Chicagoans to relax. Some might be leery of swimming so close to heavy industry, but the Chicago Park District assures civilians that the Calumet Park Beach is safe.

Lake Calumet & Calumet River CHICAGO

By no means should the Calumet Park Beach be confused with the similarly named Lake Calumet. Lake Calumet is the largest body of water contained entirely within Chicago city limits. It's also notoriously inhospitable to life, after serving as an industrial hub for more than a century. Located on the far Southeast side, Lake Calumet was once a vital part of an extensive wetland. The colonization of the Midwest and industrialization changed that, turning Lake Calumet into the slag-lined pool that it is today. Fishing in Lake Calumet is illegal. Though enterprising fisherman have managed to sneak in, they report a troubling number of dead fish lying on the breakwater.

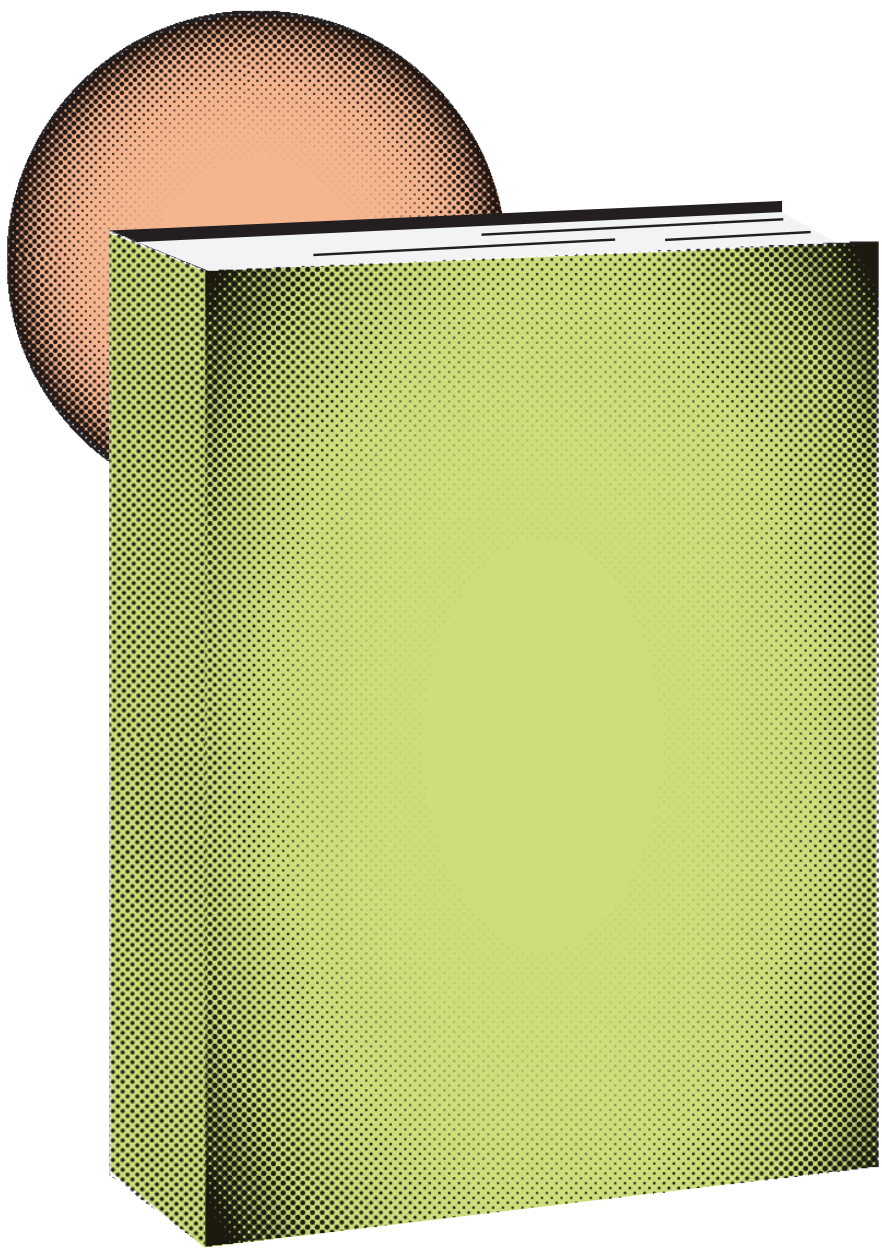
The Calumet River connects Chicago's Lake Calumet to Gary's Grand Calumet, which is one of the most polluted waterways in the nation. Signs advising civilians not to swim in its waters or eat its fish are scattered across the shoreline. But Lake Calumet isn't entirely a post-apocalyptic wasteland. Calumet Fisheries, a seafood restaurant located at 3259 E. 95th, is one of the few places in Illinois that smokes its seafood on site; and the Southeast Environmental Task Force takes immense pride in the Harborside International Golf Course, which they describe as a world-class golf course built atop a garbage dump — something that could only be found in Chicago.

Jeorse Park Beach I & II LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

If you're looking to get out of the city, you might want to consider making a trip to Indiana's Jeorse Park Beaches. Not for swimming, unless you consider yourself a daredevil, the Jeorse Park Beaches rank amongst the most polluted beaches in the nation, with Jeorse Park Beach II coming in at number one. But, in a certain light, exploring Jeorse Park is an experience quintessential to visiting the Great Lakes. Many coast-dwellers cringe at the idea of abiding by waters so dominated by industry, and attempts by the city to beautify its beaches haven't convinced them that Lake Michigan is truly hospitable to humans. The fact remains that the region will always be known for beaches like Jeorse. Shouldn't you know them, too?

Miller Beach GARY, INDIANA

Looking to avoid pollutants on your trip out of town, you might want to visit Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Miller Beach takes immense pride in being the only part of Gary to contain unspoiled lake frontage. And, as their travel brochures will tell you, this isn't the only difference between the community and its more rough-and-tumble neighbors. There is a litany of reasons why Miller Beach is better than the rest of Gary, from their cultural institutions to their racial integration. Much of the waterfront is publicly owned and nationally protected. If you're looking to challenge traditional ideas of what the industrial Great Lakes look like, the Miller community would be a good place to start. And if you're looking for ways in which progressive communities can replace one bigotry with another — embracing harmony between middle-class blacks and whites, for example, while shunning the rest of the city as low-class and blighted — Miller can provide this too.



TOP SHELF

These small, heroic survivors of Borders are overflowing with reading suggestions and serve as a welcoming refuge from the summer heat.

After-Words

23 E Illinois St
Locally owned, Loop bookstore houses a broad selection of new and used titles. They specialize in out-of-print books, they have computers and Internet for public use, and they also have a great neighbor, the historic Jazz Record Mart.

Book Cellar

4736 North Lincoln Avenue | bookcellarinc.com
In this cramped Lincoln Square cellar there is hardly space to fit the books in stock, let alone the coffee, beer, wine and food bar that makes browsing their selection even more enjoyable. Their location in the middle of Lincoln Square also allows for easy breaks between chapters for gelato at Paciugo, a baked treat at Café Selmarie, or an in-house smoked sausage link from Gene's.

Myopic Bookstore

1564 N. Milwaukee Ave. | myopicbookstore.com
A diverse book selection and also a cozy place to sit and read. Aside from the massive selection of used books, the store itself has the cramped feel of a book hoarder's attic filled with the musty scent of well-worn, well-loved tomes. The bookstore's cat is definitely another highlight.

Quimby's

1854 W. North Ave. | quimbys.com
A great place to look for zines, comics and graphic novels, along with books on topics normally confined to tiny shelves in more mainstream stores. Their collection of erotica spans nearly every niche and fetish your poor, sexually-frustrated mind can think of. Also, if you've got a zine of your own, you can also sell it here for a 60% cut off the cover price.

Sandmeyer's Bookstore

714 S Dearborn St. | sandmeyersbookstore.com
This local business has been around for nearly 30 years, bearing witness to Chicago's ever-changing neighborhoods. Its owners take the Printers' Row location seriously — the selection of books on Chicago's history is impressive.

Seminary Cooperative Bookstore

5751 S. Woodlawn Ave. | semcoop.com
In September 2008, the Co-op began publishing The Front Table, a web magazine for book lovers and Co-op members. Barack Obama's patronage of the bookstore earned them a good deal of attention.

Unabridged Bookstore

3251 N. Broadway | unabridgedbookstore.com
This East Lakeview bookstore has a total of five people on staff — each of them self-described hardcore bookworms dedicated to helping their patrons find the perfect paperback. They stock both new and used book sections, including a comprehensive art book section and a strong spotlight on LGBT literature. You can also send a book from the store to anywhere in the U.S. for a flat rate, gift-wrapped free of charge.

Uncharted Books - Logan Square

2630 N. Milwaukee Ave. | unchartedbooks.com
Right off the Logan Square Blue Line L stop. The store has a large selection of fiction/literature and organizes its books under interesting genre categories, one of them being: "Arts & Farts & Crafts."

Women and Children First

5233 N. Clark St. | womenandchildrenfirst.com
This Andersonville staple is deeply committed to its community — their events calendar includes conversations with writers, as well as book clubs and book parties. There's also a bevy of "feminist gift items" featured in the store and on their website, including [George W.] Bush-brand condoms for "schmucks that won't pull out" and "Party in my Pants" panty liners.

The Yellow Book

1007 N. California Ave. | theyellowbookstore.com
Highlights: An artfully-minded used bookstore, filled with a seemingly endless selection of works hand-picked by the store's owners. The Yellow Book also hosts an eclectic variety of events such as acoustic musical performances and drawing classes with live models.

— Diana Buendia & Staff



STEPPING OUT

Whether you want to improve your moves or just apply the old cliché "dance like nobody is watching," these suggestions will give you enough options to spend more than a few hot-and-heavy nights on the town.

Beauty Bar

1444 W. Chicago Ave | thebeautybar.com/chicago
Windy City's swanky hair saloon is the place for big hair, pink nails and dry martinis. Everyone dances to the glitter and spandex of 80s-themed Champagne Retro nights. Exciting cabaret shows MC'd by the fabulous Jane Beachy with themes like fame, team sports, the food service industry and karaoke hero. Great potential for photo opps in the hairdresser chairs and photobooth for \$3. Beauty Bar also hosts SALONATHON together with Chicago Underground Film Festival for a screening of some of the short films you didn't get to see at this year's festival.

Berlin

954 W. Belmont Ave | berlinchicago.com
A hip electronica and old school hip hop club, right off the Belmont red line stop. In 2011 they won the designation of "Best Nongay Gay Bar" by the Chicago Reader. Much of their programming includes theme nights such as "Robyn Showcase: The Polar Music party" with music and videos from the best Scandinavian pop and electronic artists.

Danny's Tavern

1951 W Dickens Ave
Get lured in by the soft glow of bare light bulbs and dusty sounds of funk and soul at this row-house Bucktown bar. Every first Wednesday of the month Dante Carfagna spins old vinyl for Sheer Magic dance parties.

Funky Buddha Lounge

728 W. Grand Ave | funkybuddha.com
Ease into lush zebra-skin booths for an intimate night with friends or lose yourself in an exotic crowd grinding to hip-hop, R&B, rap and reggae favorites. The eclectic lounge combines gilded sophistication with multicultural flair evident in the Indian and Asian-inspired murals created by Chicago artist Gary Dorreand. Keep in mind that a dress code is strictly enforced.

The Hideout

1354 W Wabansia Ave | hideoutchicago.com
A hidden venue surrounded by factories of Chicago's industrial corridor, the Hideout, built in the 19th century by undocumented workers and run by undocumented bootleggers, is a place out of rustic Americana where you can enjoy a cold beer and sweaty, sloppy dancing. The Hideout hosts Saturday-night dance parties to the beat of old-school funk and soul, summer block parties, stand-up comedy and local bluegrass bands. Jack White also threw up once in the back alley.

Rainbo Club

1150 N Damen Ave
Handlebar moustaches, suspenders, vintage fedoras and bright red lipstick abound in this hipster-centric dive bar. The glow of a retro pink neon sign marks the entrance on the corner of Damen and Division. Catch up with friends in the comfort of red vinyl booths or sway to the tunes of an old jukebox. Enjoy cheap drinks on tap, a black-and-white photobooth and pinball machine.

The Shrine

2109 S Wabash Ave | theshrinechicago.com
Move to the rhythm of funk, hip-hop, Afro-beat and soul at this sleek South Loop dance mecca. A return to a classic nightlife experience, founder Joe Russo describes the Shrine as "Africa meets James Bond" — the dark wood, leather-laden interiors and tribal patterns were inspired by his travels to Mozambique. A hub for celebrities from Ludacris to the Roots, party in style and enjoy specialty cocktails named after dictators, like the Noriega, Sadat and Gaddafi (a potent mix of José Cuervo, lime juice and simple syrup).

Windy City Soul Club at The Empty Bottle

1035 N Western Ave | windycitysoulclub.com
Packed monthly dance parties featuring some of funk and Motown's grooviest tunes. This is a popular one so make sure you show up early to avoid spending your night sober and standing in line.

— Staff

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