

WORTH KNOWING

FORT WORTH
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

2014/2015 DEVELOPMENTS

TREYMARK BLACK-EYED VODKA

The only vodka on the market made from black-eyed peas, TreyMark Black-Eyed Vodka, is distilled in Fort Worth's up-and-coming Near Southside District. Trey Nickels of Muleshoe, Texas, came up with the idea years ago while facing another bad year of farming. With the knowledge that alcohol can be made from starches, Trey decided to take the very legumes that were giving him grief and turn them into vodka. The distillery became fully operational in July 2014 and makes up to 3,400 bottles a week, \$35 per bottle.

LAKE WORTH CASINO BEACH

Established in 1917, Lake Worth's Casino Beach is undergoing a \$117 million redevelopment spearheaded by Casino Beach Properties, Inc., to recreate North Texas' original family entertainment venue. Once a thriving vacation spot, the project will recreate 40,000 square feet of compact and walkable space for restaurants, specialty retail, an event center, a boardwalk and beach front, water-oriented recreation, lodging facilities and ferris wheel. Lake Worth is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2014, with construction for the project set to be complete in 2015-16. Note: Casino Beach will not feature gambling of any kind.



NEAR SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT

A sophisticated district known for its hip vibe and assortment of dining options, the Near Southside proudly touts the self-proclaimed title of "restaurant row." Welcoming 22 new restaurants and bars in 2014 alone, the district is an eclectic and diverse community that also boasts the second-largest employment center in Tarrant County, which offers approximately 30,000 jobs. Fort Worth-based companies include Justin Boots, The Dannon Company and Williamson-Dickie. The district is home to two distilleries and a brewery, and hosts multiple events year-round.



STOCKYARDS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Old West as the Fort Worth Herd makes its way down the bricks of Exchange Avenue. The world's only twice-daily cattle drive takes place at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. After the drive, meet the drovers who guide the Herd's sixteen longhorn steers. Experience the year-round rodeo each Friday and Saturday night. Learn to line dance or catch a concert at Billy Bob's Texas – the world's largest honky-tonk. More developments are in store: property owners have announced a \$175 million investment plan to enhance the Stockyards National Historic District.



Photo by Aspen Productions

TRINITY RIVER VISION AUTHORITY

This expansive project, now underway, will connect every neighborhood in Fort Worth directly to the Trinity River, creating a unified oasis of urban living and recreation. Projects include the revitalization of Gateway Park into one of the largest urban-programmed parks in the nation; the creation of Panther Island, a metropolitan waterfront neighborhood complete with over twelve miles of canals and walkways lined with cafés, restaurants and nightlife; new boat and canoe launches and environmental enhancements.

Panther Island Pavilion

Panther Island Pavilion is a scenic outdoor venue on the Trinity River with the Downtown Fort Worth Skyline as a backdrop. It is home to the only waterfront stage in Texas, a main stage for year-round events, and two smaller stages for multi-act festivals. A sand beach provides public access to the river for boating, tubing, fishing, and swimming. Kayak, canoe and paddleboard concessionaries are located onsite for rentals.



SUNDANCE SQUARE PLAZA

Nestled inside one of the most premier and walkable downtown settings in the country, the newly developed 55,000-square-foot Sundance Square Plaza opened November 1, 2013. A compelling and inviting space in the heart of downtown Fort Worth, the plaza features a permanent stage that can be expanded for large concerts or adapted for a large movie screen; stunning water features; four 32-foot tall Teflon umbrellas, the first ever to be used in the United States; three new restaurants; a high-end cigar bar; shopping and much more. In addition to the new developments, the district replaced surface parking lots with new office space, residential units, and ground-floor retail space.

CONVENTION CENTER & ARENA UPDATES

Demand is high for the Fort Worth Convention Center, centrally located in Fort Worth's walkable downtown near hotels, entertainment, restaurants and shopping. Now a study by Hunden Strategic Partners has called for expanding downtown hotel inventory and the convention facility with a 50,000-square-foot ballroom and more meeting and exhibit space. The expansion would be located in the present location of downtown's outdated arena, which is planned to be replaced with a state-of-the-art facility in the city's Cultural District.



KIMBELL ART MUSEUM EXPANSION (AMERICA'S BEST SMALL ART MUSEUM)

Due to the increasing wealth of newly acquired works of art along with educational programs, the Kimbell Art Museum has grown far beyond what was envisioned when Louis Kahn's iconic building opened in 1972. In response, the Museum added a \$125 million pavilion that opened to the public on November 27, 2013. The Renzo Piano Pavilion created classrooms and studios essential to a full-scale museum education department; an auditorium considerably larger than the one in the Kahn building and expanded library.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- RED STEAGALL COWBOY GATHERING AND WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 24-26
 - LONE STAR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 6-9, 2014
 - FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW AND RODEO, JANUARY 16 — FEBRUARY 7, 2015
 - FORT WORTH FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL, MARCH 26-29, 2015
 - MAIN ST. ARTS FESTIVAL, APRIL 9-12, 2015
 - FORT WORTH OPERA FESTIVAL, APRIL 24 — MAY 10, 2015
 - TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY
- APRIL: DUCK COMMANDER 500 WEEKEND
JUNE: FIRESTONE 600 WEEKEND
OCTOBER — NOVEMBER: AAA TEXAS 500 TRIPLEHEADER WEEKEND



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