

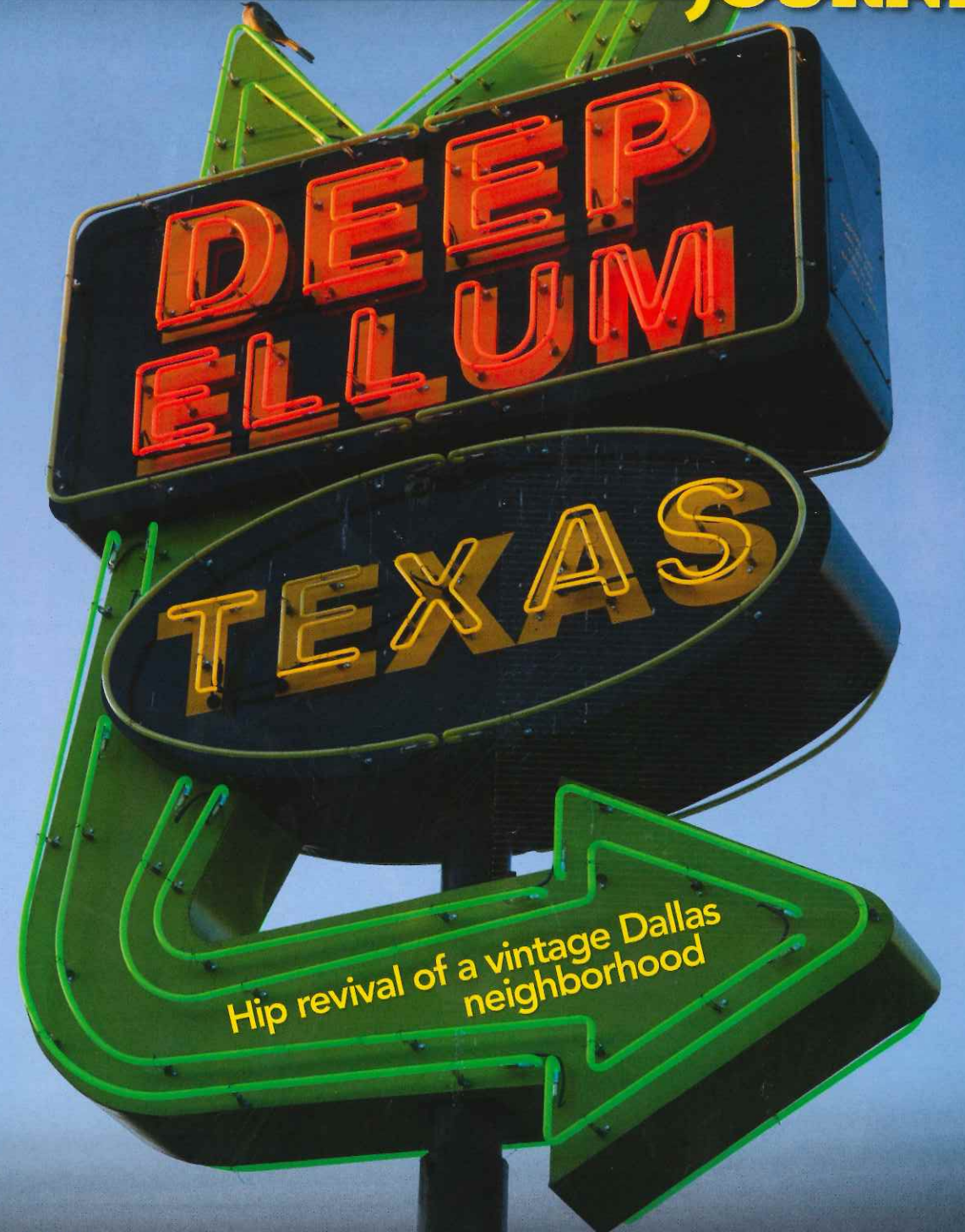
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Texas

JOURNEY

THE MAGAZINE FOR AAA MEMBERS

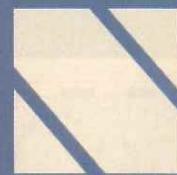


PLUS: COSTA RICA'S WILD KINGDOM | DAYTRIP: McALLEN
VISITING PEARL HARBOR | HUT-TO-HUT SKIING IN COLORADO

Diving Into DEEP

A vintage Dallas neighborhood gets its groove on again

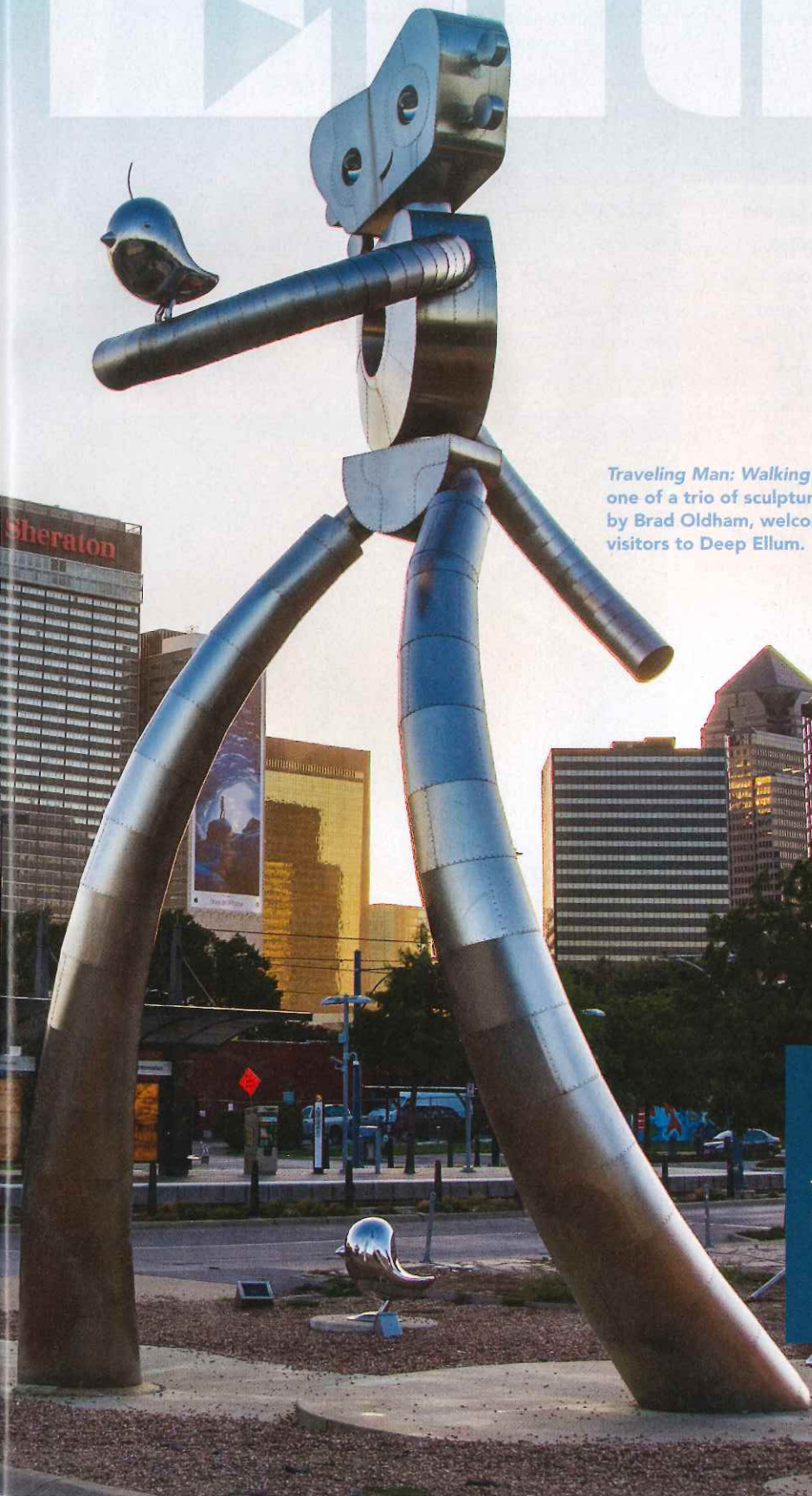
BY JUNE NAYLOR ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY EVANS CAGLAGE



No place in Dallas can claim the ups and downs that Deep Ellum can. A compact downtown district filled with the city's largest collection of buildings more than a century old, Deep Ellum grew up in the late 19th century as home to outsiders, particularly African Americans and immigrants. The economy was strong in those early years, with a major cotton plant and a Ford automotive plant based here. Deep Ellum became a hotbed of the blues music scene in the 1920s, but the area fell into neglect over several subsequent decades. A brief resurgence came in the 1980s and '90s when punk and grunge groups took up in the old music venues, but the neighborhood was largely abandoned once again. Until recently.

Over the past decade, there's been talk of (yet another) Deep Ellum revival, but the limited number of open businesses attracted only a fluttering of foot traffic, except for late-night concerts at a couple of establishments. The movement now seems to actually be happening, as forward-thinking, community-minded developers have freshened much of the vintage quarter's 180 acres. A palpable upbeat energy emanates from new businesses occupying thoughtfully renovated storefronts. A few of the survivors that lasted through the fluctuations are finding new patrons. No need to worry that the neighborhood is going mainstream, however; innately hip Deep Ellum will never lose its edge.

ELIUM



Traveling Man: Walking Tall, one of a trio of sculptures by Brad Oldham, welcomes visitors to Deep Ellum.

FUN FACT

The neighborhood was originally named **Deep Elm**—after one of the main roads, Elm Street—though the slow, drawled Ell-um, as pronounced by the early residents, became commonplace and has since stuck.

On the Plate

Renewed interest in the neighborhood generates a fresh crop of restaurants, and food-focused entrepreneurs are already jumping.

INDEPENDENT BAR AND KITCHEN, opened last spring by the owners of longtime music venue Club Dada, assumed a corner spot with ample patio space for enjoying casual-chic eats such as mussels and *frites*, Scotch eggs, pork knuckle with spaetzle, and craft cocktails. The latest from chef Matthew McCallister, **FILAMENT** makes a former machine shop stylish and pleases the palate with upscale Southern favorites, including fried catfish and wood-grilled seafoods. Barbecue go-to **PECAN LODGE** claims the longest lines in town, as crowds clamor for smoky beef brisket, pork ribs, and jalapeño sausage. **CAFÉ SALSERA** covers the Latin American cuisine front with an addictive Cuban sandwich and tuna ceviche to its credit, along with lively salsa dancing on the late-night menu. **GLAZED DONUT WORKS** slays the sweet tooth with crazy doughnut creations, from maple-bacon to grilled cheese, that are served into the wee hours. Longtime favorites remain popular as well: Now celebrating its 13th anniversary, **LOCAL** continues chef-owner Tracy Miller's slow-food efforts; her roasted beets with goat cheese, pan-seared lobster cake over leek-endive salad, and herb-rubbed lamb loin with lavender-honey jus

add up to a stellar dinner in the clean, modern interior of a 1908 hotel building. Still going strong in its fifth year, **FREE MAN CAJUN CAFÉ AND LOUNGE** serves extraordinary boudin balls, oyster po'boys, and étouffée, and the space evolves at night into a comfy bar with live Dixieland jazz. **ALLGOOD CAFÉ** is especially swingin' at breakfast time, when choice meals include chicken-fried steak topped with eggs and sausage gravy, and the Mega-Egg Sandwich, which layers fried eggs and shaved ham with avocado and cheddar on toasted sourdough.



LOCAL



PECAN LODGE



GLAZED DONUT WORKS



BRAINEAD BREWING



DEEP ELLUM BREWING COMPANY



HIGH AND TIGHT

CRAFT BREWS & FANCY SPIRITS

Many of the best watering holes double as places with good eats.

Upstart **BRAINEAD BREWING** churns out mighty fine ales, wheat beers, and stouts on-site, while also serving up sublime beer-friendly food like a dipping skillet filled with queso, spicy ground beef, and guacamole; and the aptly named Coma Burger, incorporating bacon, onion jam, and other goodness. **DRUGSTORE COWBOY** specializes in made-to-order coffee drinks and specialty cocktails, including a traditional Sazerac and an Old-Fashioned, and offers chic plates of smoked salmon, gourmet grilled cheese, and more. **DEEP ELLUM BREWING COMPANY** pours its own brews, including a popular IPA and a brown stout, for enjoyment in the taproom and on the patio with live music often playing. **HIGH AND TIGHT** is 1920s barbershop up front and cocktail lounge, live music, and dancing in back, where bartenders whip up originals such as Mayahuels Awakening, which blends tequila and mescal with vanilla-laced cold-brew coffee, bourbon bitters, and cinnamon. Then there's triple-threat **ADAIR'S SALOON**, a grungy 1970s throwback dive, where Jack rocks and PBRs are the usuals, the cheeseburgers speak of a well-seasoned griddle, and the live music is always free.

IF YOU GO

Presently, no hotels exist in Deep Ellum proper, though numerous options are in the surrounding neighborhoods. Consider taking **DART** to Deep Ellum and exploring the district on foot. dart.org. **Parking in Deep Ellum is free until 6 p.m.** at most parking meters, and some streets aren't metered. Surface lots scattered around the neighborhood fill quickly in the evening. More Dallas tourism information is available from the **Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau**. (800) 232-5527; visitdallas.com.

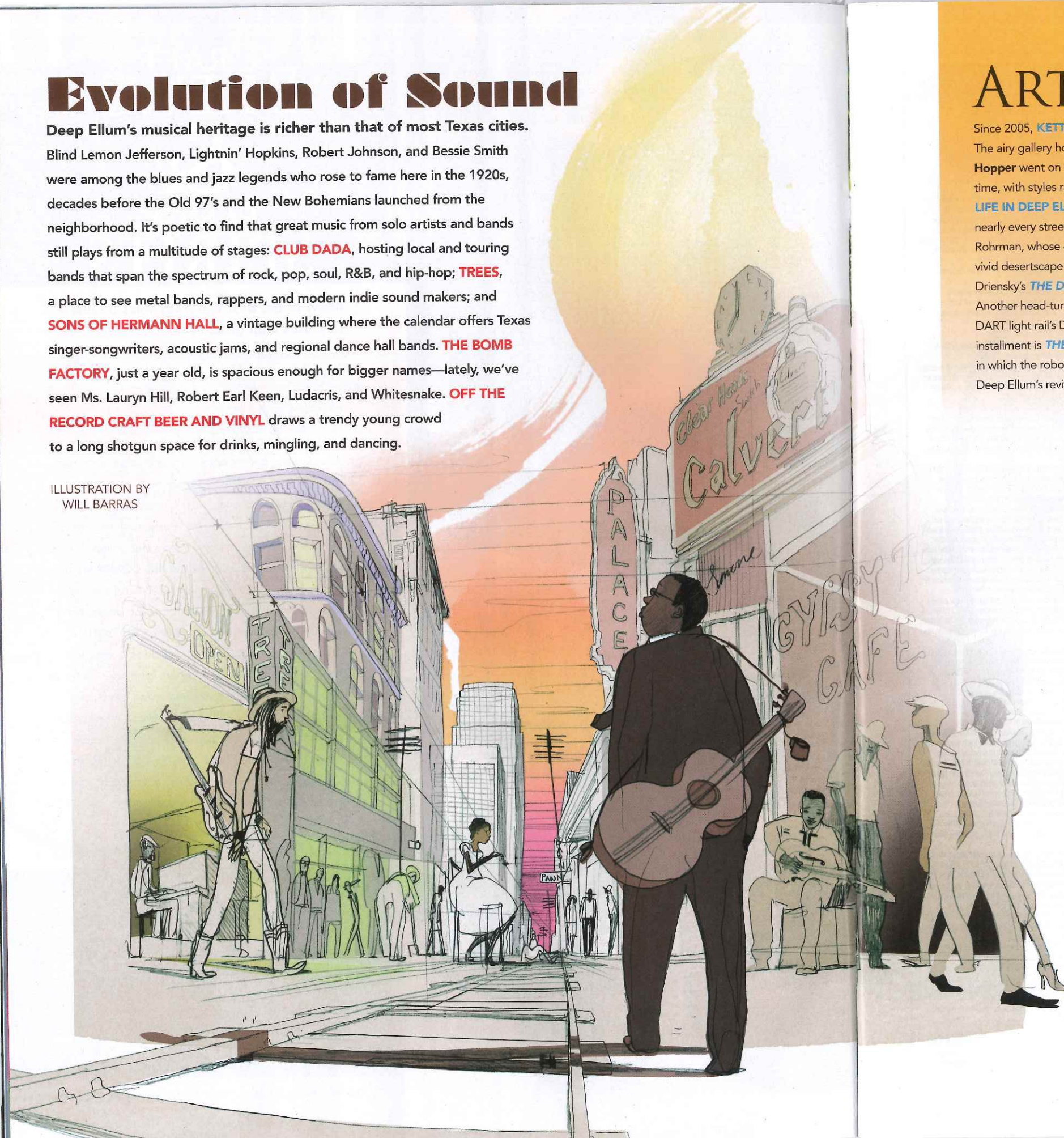
Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol.

Evolution of Sound

Deep Ellum's musical heritage is richer than that of most Texas cities.

Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lightnin' Hopkins, Robert Johnson, and Bessie Smith were among the blues and jazz legends who rose to fame here in the 1920s, decades before the Old 97's and the New Bohemians launched from the neighborhood. It's poetic to find that great music from solo artists and bands still plays from a multitude of stages: **CLUB DADA**, hosting local and touring bands that span the spectrum of rock, pop, soul, R&B, and hip-hop; **TREES**, a place to see metal bands, rappers, and modern indie sound makers; and **SONS OF HERMANN HALL**, a vintage building where the calendar offers Texas singer-songwriters, acoustic jams, and regional dance hall bands. **THE BOMB FACTORY**, just a year old, is spacious enough for bigger names—lately, we've seen Ms. Lauryn Hill, Robert Earl Keen, Ludacris, and Whitesnake. **OFF THE RECORD CRAFT BEER AND VINYL** draws a trendy young crowd to a long shotgun space for drinks, mingling, and dancing.

ILLUSTRATION BY
WILL BARRAS



ARTSY AVENUES

Since 2005, **KETTLE ART GALLERY** has been the area's premier showcase for both emerging and established North Texas artists. The airy gallery hosts one-night shows as well as longer exhibits devoted to either solo artists or groups. Kettle cofounder **Kirk Hopper** went on his own in 2008 to establish his eponymous gallery nearby, a space exhibiting the work of one or two artists at a time, with styles ranging from realism to pop art to abstracts in painting, sculpture, drawing, mixed media, and photography. **LIFE IN DEEP ELLUM**, a multifaceted cultural center, is home to the local contemporary arts-focused **Umbrella Gallery**. Along nearly every street in Deep Ellum, it's easy to find **PUBLIC ART**, particularly 42 local murals commissioned by developer Scott Rohrman, whose 42 Real Estate is leading the reinvigoration of Deep Ellum. One popular eye-catcher is **COSMIC JOURNEY**, a vivid desertscape and city skyline mash-up by Lesli Marshall on the back of Pecan Lodge's building. Across the street, find Daniel Driensky's **THE DEVIL AND ROBERT JOHNSON**, depicting the famous guitarist whose landmark record was made nearby. Another head-turner is **TRAVELING MAN: WALKING TALL**, a 35,000-pound steel robot that stands almost 40 feet high near the DART light rail's Deep Ellum station. Crafted by Dallas sculptor **Brad Oldham**, the smiling bot is one of three in a series: The first installment is **THE AWAKENING**, showing the tin man coming up from underground; and the second is **WAITING ON THE TRAIN**, in which the robot strums a guitar while trains and cars pass back and forth. Collectively, the "traveling men" welcome us to revel in Deep Ellum's revival, urging us to spend time on its streets, listen to its music, and embrace its journey.

June Naylor lives and writes in Fort Worth.

TRAVELING MAN: WALKING TALL

KETTLE ART GALLERY

COSMIC JOURNEY MURAL

THE DEVIL AND ROBERT JOHNSON MURAL

LIFE IN DEEP ELLUM CULTURAL CENTER

WAITING ON THE TRAIN

THE AWAKENING

KETTLE ART GALLERY

COSMIC JOURNEY

Kirk Hopper Fine Art Gallery

The Devil and Robert Johnson

Life in Deep Ellum

Umbrella Gallery

For information about TourBook guides and TripTik Travel Planners, visit a branch or go to AAA.com/maps.