

fort worth, texas

# FORT WORTH: IT AIN'T JUST COW TOWN

The Kimbell Art Museum is one of the most well-known locations in Fort Worth, Texas. ROBERT LAPRELLE

## Cultural District offers refined edge

By Emme Nelson Baxter  
For The Tennessean

beef may be what's for dinner in Fort Worth, but it's certainly not all that America's 16th-largest city has to offer. The self-proclaimed "City of Cowboys and Culture," Fort Worth is brimming with stimulating attractions — from its world-famous Stockyards Historic District, to the 35-block Sundance Square downtown, the Fort Worth Zoo and the Texas Motor Speedway.

But let's bypass the bovine and down-home delights and take a gander at some of the city's most-

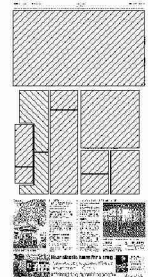
refined offerings. Specifically, let's tour The Fort Worth Cultural District.

Fort Worth city fathers had the foresight to amass a handful of their cultural treasures in one area a mere mile west of downtown. Within that zone, you can go from Old

Masters to Op Art and from IMAX Theater to dinosaurs in just a few well-manicured blocks. As you walk outdoors, you will discover sculpture gardens and compelling architecture by some of the world's finest visionaries.

Here are some of the fine offerings in this splendid slice of the city.

**The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth** is one of the city's crown jewels. "The Modern," as residents refer to it, is as compelling for its chic, streamlined archi-



ture as it is for its contents. The structure is comprised of five glass-faceted and concrete pavilions with steel I-beams. The entire museum appears to float on a glassy 1.5-acre pool that varies in height from nine inches at the edges to 2.5 feet at the center.

Designed by Japan's Tadao Ando, the 11-year old, glass-faceted structure encases the latest in artistic innovation from paint to digital imagery. Artists represented include Hockney, Rothko, Motherwell and Bacon along with a host of up and comers. Admission is \$10 for adults.

Be sure to go on a Sunday when you can take advantage of the chic — yet affordable — brunch at Café Modern. The elliptical dining room extends into the pebble-covered reflecting pool, making its patrons feel visually cooler despite the fact that outdoors it may be a scorching 105 degrees. Don't miss the opportunity to order one of their signature drinks, named after artists whose works are in the collection.

**The Kimbell Art Museum** is perhaps the best-known of Fort Worth's offerings. Years before Ando reinterpreted The Modern from its first incarnation, architect Louis Kahn was marrying thoughtful architecture with its contents. The Kimbell is a natural, light-filled oeuvre, boasting works from antiquity to the 20th century. Two of the most-renowned items are Michelangelo's first painting and Caravaggio's *The Cardsharps*. The collection features masterpieces by Fra Angelico to Picasso along with impressive artifacts from Egypt, Asia, Africa and Mesoamerica.

Visits to the museum's permanent collection are free.

**The Amon Carter Museum of American Art** was designed by internationally renowned architect Philip Johnson. Also on the world-class scale, this museum is where you will find hundreds of pieces by Charles M. Russell and Frederic Remington. Again, there is no charge for admission.

Two excellent venues to chill out in lie within the **Fort Worth Mu-**

**seum of Science and History**, designed by Mexico City architects Legorreta + Legorreta. Both the Noble Planetarium and Omni Theater offer visual delights projected onto Texas-sized domed surfaces. But that's certainly not all this impressive museum has to offer. The 133,000-square-foot, brick-and-concrete complex also houses a children's museum, exhibit on the history of energy production and an interactive display on Texas dinosaurs. The museum is easy to spot thanks to the 76-foot-tall glass tower at its entrance.

The Cultural District is also home to the **National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame**, which provides keen insight into women who tamed the West.

While not in the Cultural District per se, don't miss the chance to visit some of the city's other sensory highlights, including the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, a living history museum known as Log Cabin Village and the American West-genre Sid Richardson Museum downtown. Make sure to venture into Central Market to check out the most eye-popping grocery ... a virtual wonderland for the foodie. And of course there are those Stockyards.

## MUSEUMS IN THE DISTRICT

**Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth**,  
3200 Darnell St.,  
817-738-9215,  
[themodern.org](http://themodern.org)

**Kimbell Art Museum**  
3333 Camp Bowie  
Blvd., 817-332-8451,  
[kimbellart.org](http://kimbellart.org)

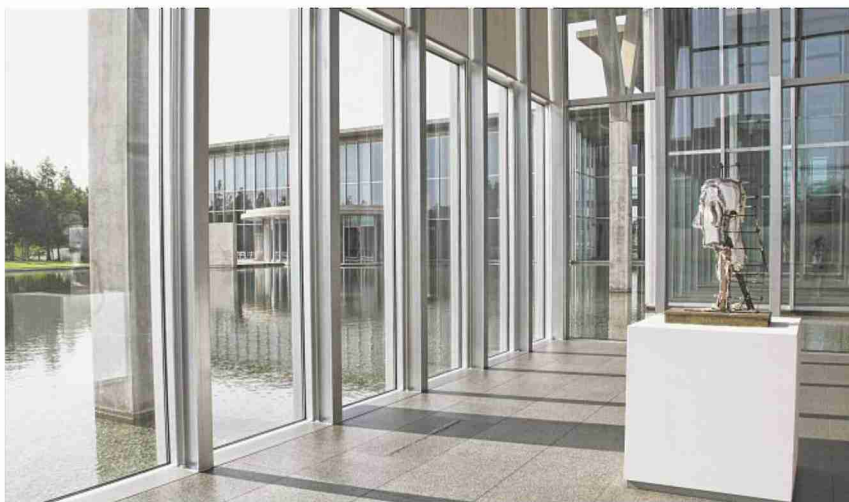
**Amon Carter Museum of American Art**  
3501 Camp Bowie  
Blvd., 817-738-1933,  
[cartermuseum.org](http://cartermuseum.org)

**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History**

1600 Gendy St.,  
817-255-9300,  
[fwmuseum.org](http://fwmuseum.org)

**National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame**  
1720 Gendy St., 817-336-4475, [cowgirl.net](http://cowgirl.net)





**The Bates Pavillion at the Modern Art Museum, which is one of the city's jewels.**  
MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH



**Left, the book with wings gallery at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.**  
MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH

## DINING NEAR THE CULTURAL DISTRICT

### The Lonesome Dove Western Bistro

If rabbit-rattlesnake sausage, kangaroo carpaccio nachos, wild boar ribs and elk sliders get your juices flowing, then head to Tim Love's unique restaurant. 2406 N. Main St.

### Eddie V's

Known as much for its seafood as for its steaks, expect a high-level dining experience. The restaurant is a hop, skip and a jump from the Cultural District. 3100 W. Seventh St.

### Ellerbe Fine Foods

Located in the Near South-Side neighborhood, Ellerbe is relaxed, yet chic. This neighborhood gem offers the de rigueur locally sourced vittles and prepares them with a Southern emphasis. There's a reason why Maw Maw's Bread Pudding never goes off the menu. Don't miss it. 1501



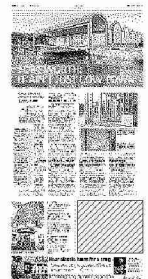
Ellerbe's patio is relaxed, yet chic. ELLERBE FINE FOODS

Magnolia Ave.

### Saint-Emilion Restaurant

Saint-Emilion Restaurant is a pro's pro for a special occasion. The setting is romantic:

You feel like you're dining in a French countryside home, far, far from happening West Seventh Street in Fort Worth. 3617 W. Seventh St.





**The Ashton Hotel is an upscale, 39-room boutique hotel.** THE ASHTON HOTEL

## LODGING

In keeping with the theme, visitors might want to check out some of Fort Worth's loveliest lodging.

### **Omni Fort Worth Hotel**

The aqua-glass and native-stone skyscraper near the Fort Worth Convention Center downtown has 614 luxurious guest rooms with Texas ambiance. 1300 Houston St.

### **The Ashton Hotel**

Within walking distance of downtown's Sundance Square, The Ashton is an upscale, 39-room boutique hotel exquisitely renovated from two Italianate-exterior buildings. 610 Main St.

### **The Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth**

The Worthington Renaissance offers 504 rooms and four-star credentials. It is near Sundance Square and the handsome Bass Performance Hall where the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition is held every four years. 200 Main St.

