



NEWLY ASSEMBLED

BY
Terry Hutchens

The legendary home of IU basketball has undergone major renovations in the last year. The beautiful Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall now truly represents the greatness that is Hoosier hoops.

Think of Indiana University basketball and you picture candy-striped warmup pants. You think of the five national championship banners, Martha the Mop Lady, and the William Tell Overture at the under-8 minute timeout. You think of Branch McCracken, Bob Knight and most recently Tom Crean. You remember the last undefeated college basketball team in history, the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers. You think of one of the most iconic, blueblood, elite college basketball programs in America.

And you think of Assembly Hall.

For 46 years, Assembly Hall has been one of the most revered basketball arenas in the country, a place where the Hoosiers have won 84 percent of their games and where crowds of 17,400 rabid fans have made the arena a daunting atmosphere for opposing teams.

"I don't think there's any place quite like it anywhere else in the country," said retired longtime Bloomington Herald Times Sports Editor Bob Hammel. "I think it's just the configuration where it looks like its red all the way up to the ceiling on both sides. I'm not sure of any other place that I've been where you just really have the feeling like you're taking on the multitude and not just the home team."

Indiana home games have always been a tough ticket and there continues to be a waiting list for season tickets. The best chance to see Indiana play in Assembly Hall is to buy either a three-game or six-game package that is offered for games played when the students are gone for Christmas break in late December/early January. IU has the largest student section in the nation in Assembly Hall, boasting 7,200 seats and when students are on break there's a much better opportunity for fans to see IU play.

A three-game package in the main seating area runs \$132 per adult. A six-game package is

double that at \$264. Some think that's a small price to pay to see games in the iconic arena.

As the venue has gotten up in years, however, and with other schools building new, sterile, state-of-the-art arenas every year, the question of what to do with Assembly Hall has loomed large. Rebuild or renovate has been a question asked in Indiana circles since the mid-1990's. Ultimately, the decision was made to preserve IU's rich history in the building and give Assembly Hall a much-needed face lift. Eighteen months and \$45 million dollars later, the new-look Assembly Hall debuted in time for the start of the current 2016-17 basketball season.

"I am thrilled that this project will preserve the best home court advantage in college basketball while also greatly enhancing the total game day experience for every fan, player, coach and visitor," said IU Director of Athletics, Fred Glass, the day that IU broke ground on the new building.

Eric Neuburger, IU's Associate Athletic Director for Facilities and External Alliances, said Indiana could not just simply kick an IU treasure like Assembly Hall to the curb. Preserving the iconic building made the most sense. "The building is part of our character," Neuburger said. "It's our home court advantage. It's an intimidating place to play in. You walk in and you look up and you see two steep walls of fans looking down on you and that's like no other place. "We feel like it has become the most unique basketball facility in the country and that's what we didn't want to lose."

Indiana coach Tom Crean said that Assembly Hall is vital to the future of the Indiana program.

"All over the country, people know what an intimidating environment Assembly Hall can be," Crean said. "It's one of our greatest assets and we're excited to see improvements made

to our legendary facility that will dramatically improve the Hoosier fan experience."

And it's not just the IU men's team that is benefitting from the Assembly Hall facelift but the women's program under the direction of Teri Moren, too. While there's a waiting list for season tickets for IU men's basketball, fans of the women's game can get season tickets that are \$42 for 14 home games, or \$3 per ticket. Fans over age 65 and under age 18 can get the same package for \$1 per game. Many believe

Don Fischer remembers fondly the dedication game he attended at Indiana's Assembly Hall in its inaugural season in 1971. Bob Knight was in his first season as the Indiana coach and Digger Phelps was making his debut as the head coach at Notre Dame. The teams met on Dec. 18 in IU's new basketball facility. Fischer has been the play-by-play voice of Indiana football and basketball for 44 seasons, beginning with the 1973-74 basketball season. But that game, he attended as a spectator. "All I remember is how magical the entire arena seemed back then and



the Indiana women's team is clearly on the upswing and fans have a chance to get in on the ground floor.

"I think with the Cook Hall practice facility and the renovated Assembly Hall, and all that we've done the last eight years in women's basketball, our program could be a sleeping giant," said Deputy Athletic Director Scott Dolson. "I think we're really close and I'd be shocked if we don't see our women's basketball program consistently going to NCAA tournaments... and getting a Final Four and maybe hanging that banner up. I can see that happening. We've got the resources in place to make that happen."

then two years later I found myself broadcasting in that facility.

The building has a storied tradition. The first event held there was a Homecoming Variety Review featuring Bob Hope and Petula Clark on Oct. 23, 1971. Its design was based off a cattle auction house and the land where it was built was originally the Faris family farm through 1950. It was the home court of three Indiana basketball national championship teams in 1976, 1981 and 1987. Going into the 2016-17 season, IU's all-time record at Assembly Hall was 551-106.

Chuck Crabb is in his 41st season working for IU Athletics. His current position is assistant athletic director for facilities. He is probably best known for being the public address announcer for Indiana basketball for the past 40 years. Chills have been known to run down the spines of IU basketball fans when Crabb announces "Your Indiana Hooooooooooooooooosiers!" Crabb was a junior at Indiana in 1971 when Assembly Hall opened its doors. He remembers how Assembly Hall was the final structure that trumpeted athletics' relocation from the center

sports, as the program existed at that time, were pretty much accommodated by those facilities."

There's no way to understate the financial impact that Assembly Hall has had over the years that has supported the existence of so many of IU's athletic programs. Most years, Assembly Hall ranks in the top 10 nationally in average attendance. In fact, the lowest national attendance average in the building's history was 17th. At some point, however, the big



of the Bloomington campus (7th Street) to the current athletics footprint that is bordered by 17th Street to the south, the bypass to the north, Dunn Street to west and Fee Lane to the east.

"We moved to where a lot of people said was 'half way to Martinsville,'" Crabb said with a smile. "We moved out to the edge of the bypass and there were three structures in particular that made up the new home of athletics on our campus. It was the (Gladstein) fieldhouse that was used temporarily for basketball, it was Memorial Stadium and it was finally the Assembly Hall in the 1971-72 season. All the

attendance wasn't enough. In the early 2000's, IU, in search of revenue streams to help fund those programs, first introduced advertising signage into Assembly Hall. "It takes a significant amount of revenue to support a program of our size," Crabb said. "And advertising done in a tasteful manner has not had an earth-shattering impact on how that building is seen."

For the most part the first 45 plus years of Assembly Hall came and went with very few changes. The arena got a new basketball floor in 1976 and again in 1995. In 2005, it got a new \$1.99 million scoreboard/video board. But the changes to that point were very cosmetic. That

changed with the current renovation. Thanks to a \$40 million dollar gift from alumna Cindy Simon Skjodt, Indiana was able to renovate rather than rebuild. In honor of that landmark gift made by Simon Skjodt and her philanthropic organization, IU announced in 2013 it would rename Assembly Hall the Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall.

In addition, athletics received a \$5 million dollar gift from IU alumnus Mark Cuban to establish the Mark Cuban Center for Sports Media and Technology that will be housed on the west side of the Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall. The renovation was able to blend the old with the new in the arena. From the outside the most significant change is to the south lobby that has received an extreme facelift. On the interior, floors have been replaced, concession stands and restrooms remodeled, and escalators added. The old zig-zag ramps, however, will still be used but only in the north lobby.

Except for the bleachers at court level, all the seats in the arena have been replaced and all are now red. The only part of the seats that was not replaced was the cast iron arm rests. A few seats were removed to accommodate changes in press seating but there won't be a noticeable difference in the arena's 17,400-seating capacity.

The Hall of Fame portraits that once hung in the lobby have been digitized and adapted into an interactive display in the south atrium. Assembly Hall also has a new videoboard that is three times wider and has all the bells and whistles so that fans can enjoy better replays.

"There is a significant wow factor when people walk into that building," Crabb said. "It's entirely different than what they experienced for the first 45 years of the Assembly Hall." Crabb said it only takes a moment for fans to realize the difference when they enter the south lobby.

"I just think it's the sheer size," Crabb said. "Instead of coming in under a 12 foot high ceiling as they come through those six entry doors on the south lobby there is 70 feet of clear space overhead. Directly ahead of them is a connecting bridge that goes in front of the Spirit of '76 suite. There are touch screen LED video presentations that they see. The old arena now has a very modern look to it."

Neuburger said the best part about the new Assembly Hall is that Indiana was able to renovate without changing the atmosphere. "I think people are hit with the fact of how familiar the building is and how new it is at the same time," Neuburger said. "Everything has been touched in some way but nothing anyone would

“I don't think there's any place quite like it anywhere else in the country.”





have wanted to stay has been disrupted in any way. It's still the masterpiece of a building that everyone expects to see when they come to Assembly Hall."

One major improvement has to do with restrooms in the arena. Before the renovation, there were 184 toilets in Assembly Hall. In the new Assembly Hall there are 314 toilets; 154 for men and 134 for women, plus 16 all-gender restrooms where there were none before. Improvements to cellular reception and Wi-Fi have also been significant in recent years. "People want to sit in the arena now, pull out their smart phones and watch the multitude of ESPN family apps or BTN apps that are available for either the game they're watching or other games," Crabb said. "We have a statistics program that allows people to follow the game

and they see the box score just the same as our media people on press row."

Most of all, the renovation has allowed the university to preserve a venue that has wonderful memories for long time Indiana fans. "Alumni take great pride when they come back to the Bloomington campus and they want to come to facilities that are clean, that are modern and that are a wonderful experience to enjoy," Crabb said. "We've been very fortunate with this half mile square that we call the IU Athletics complex to accommodate upwards of 5,000 to 6,000 vehicles on a football Saturday or a basketball weekend. That means tailgate opportunities, it means a great opportunity to come into the stadium or the arena and cheer on the cream and crimson, and it means being a part of a very proud Hoosier Nation."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Hutchens has covered Indiana University football and basketball for the past 19 seasons and is currently the IU beat writer for CNHI Sports Indiana. Terry has also worked for the Indianapolis Star and Scout.com as the site publisher for AllHoosiers.com. Terry has been honored as Indiana's Sportswriter of the Year five times. He has written nine books, eight on IU topics, including his first IU Basketball Children's Book titled Hoo-Hoo-Hoo Hoosiers! that was released in the fall of 2016. Other titles by Terry include So You Think You Know Indiana University Basketball, So You Think You Know Indiana University Football, Missing Banners, Hoosiers Through and Through, Rising From The Ashes: The Return of Indiana University Basketball, Never Ever Quit, Hep Remembered and Let 'Er Rip. All of Terry's books are available at www.TerryHutchensPublications.com. Terry is also an adjunct professor at IU Bloomington in the Media School. Terry and his wife Susan live in Indianapolis and have two grown sons, Bryan and Kevin.



MADE *in* BLOOMINGTON

BY
— Erica Sagon —

A new type of crafting and artistry has become popular recently, and as a hub of creativity, Bloomington has a wealth of makers and opportunities to build and buy hand-crafted works.

Bloomington has happily grown into a hub for indie, handmade goods — think along the lines of a quirky cross-stitch or a little crochet cactus for a window sill or a monster-shaped pillow.

But this isn't just a place to find handmade goods for sale. Bloomington is also home to the artisans themselves, known as "makers" — independent artists whose work often falls somewhere in between fine arts and crafting. Shops, markets, festivals and collaborative work spaces allow the maker culture to flourish here.

The best-known spot to scoop up indie goods is Gather :handmade shoppe & Co.; inside Fountain Square Mall on the south side of the downtown square, with a fine-tuned mix of contemporary handmade pieces that have a modern, functional edge, mostly from the Midwest. Inside is the stuff of Etsy dreams, but in a brick-and-mortar shop. You'll find a mix of merchandise from a cute illustration of Indiana to handmade soaps to pretty pottery, as well as other home decor, jewelry, wall art, toys, apparel and gifts, with a good dose of Indiana and Bloomington specific items.

"You can take a little bit of Bloomington home with you, and find something you can't get anywhere else," says Talia Halliday, owner of Gather. "We're a little bit different than other [cities]. I don't like to use the words 'hip' or 'trendy,' but we have our finger on the pulse of what is 'right now.'"

Halliday opened Gather a few years ago after testing the waters with a pop-up shop. Gather

is known for its monthly craft nights and bi-monthly "crafternoons." "The makers in Bloomington really love our town," says Halliday. "We really love our community, and we're really active in our community." Halliday is an artist herself who runs Conduit Press, crafting blank journals from recycled paper, reclaimed leather and found objects, and also hollowed-out hardbound books for storing various items.

Meanwhile, co-working spaces like Artisan Alley and Bloominglabs add a manufacturing and technology spin to the makers scene, and regularly open up to the public. Bloominglabs is a maker space where members and guests can meet up monthly to share tools and ideas, and socialize with other makers. There isn't a certain type of "product"

they build; it's all about the creative process of making. They also produce the annual Makevention event, where attendees can see demonstrations, try their hand at making, and purchase items from makers.

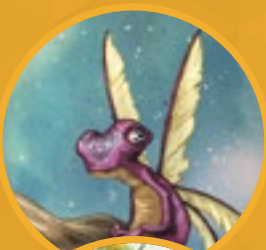
Makers can also be found working out of places like the I Fell building downtown at 4th and Rogers. Bloomington preservationist Cynthia Brubaker restored a historic car dealership from the 1920s and turned it into a collaborative workspace that houses artists, including jewelers and painters. I Fell has 14 spots for artists to rent, plus a communal co-make space and two galleries that are open to the public on First Fridays, which allows enterprising artists and makers to sell their pieces. "It's key to have art that people find accessible, in terms of looking at it and being able to own it, too," says Brubaker, who is a watercolor artist.

“It’s key to have art that people find accessible.”

Regular festivals and markets in Bloomington give shoppers even more variety from local and regional makers. Makevention is one, held in August at the Monroe Convention Center. Another is the Bloomington Handmade Market, a biannual indie craft show, started in 2009 to give makers a new kind of place to sell their work. Their goods — say, a cross stitch with a curse word — wouldn't exactly fit in at a typical art show. The market now happens twice a year: once in the spring and again the

second Saturday of November. The November market at the Monroe Convention Center is the larger of the two, with 70+ vendors and 4,000+ shoppers. Halliday, of Gather, was a vendor from the start and now is an organizer. "Much like the farm to table movement, the Handmade Market introduces people to the people who make their things," Halliday says. "It's even better to meet the artist and shake their hand and really know that you're supporting someone."

GET TO KNOW THESE 5 BLOOMINGTON MAKERS



STARSPRINKLE SUPERCOLLIDER | starsprinklesupercollider.com

Husband and wife Joshua and Cecily Allen make up this artistic collaboration inspired by nature, fantasy and a love of storytelling. He's an illustrator with a whimsical take on animals and surreal creatures, and she's a jeweler whose hammered sterling necklaces, earrings and bracelets have an ethereal quality.



DEW CAFE | [instagram.com/dewcafe](https://www.instagram.com/dewcafe)

Houseplant enthusiast Kris Robinson shares the love by making new and repurposed vessels for plants. These sweet little containers — think rustic concrete pots, wrapped macrame hangers, canvas bags — are perfect for filling with succulents and small plants on a window sill.



BADKNEESTS | badkneests.com

Screenprinter Jim Bek makes eco-friendly, retro-looking Ts with simple sayings, like "Read Harper Lee/Listen to John Prine/Be a Good Human Being" and "Pretty Good Dad." The touch of dry humor (and water-based ink) is what makes these so loveable.



PRESS PUZZLES | presspuzzles.com

These hand-crafted wooden jigsaw puzzles are a far cry from the puzzles you'll find on the shelves at a big-box store. Artist Marc Tschida crafts them from birch and oak lumber, and cuts each piece one at a time using a scroll saw. Many are Bloomington-themed, offering iconic views of the city and Indiana University's campus.



TOYS BY JEAN ELISE | toysbyjeanelise.com

Adorably illustrated toys and games by Jean Elise will remind you of simpler times: Cloth play money, mix-and-match stacking blocks, a Young Naturalist's Kit with a twig pencil, notebook, magnifying glass and box for storing specimens. She even makes a few treats for grown-ups, like Indiana beer coasters.

MAKERS MARKETS

Festivals, shows and maker spaces that are open to the public

BLOOMINGTON HANDMADE MARKET | bloomingtonhandmademarket.com

This indie handmade market happens twice a year: In the spring (2017 date TBA) at Fountain Square Mall and in the fall, always the 2nd week of November (Nov. 11, 2017) at the Monroe Convention Center. The November market is the larger of the two, featuring 70+ juried vendors.

THE STONE MILL MARKET | stonemillmarket.com

You'll find makers goods plus antique and vintage items at this market, which happens four times a year.

A FAIR OF THE ARTS | bloomington.in.gov/afair

Local and regional artists convene at the Bloomington Farmers' Market the second Saturday of each month during market season.

BLOOMINGLABS | bloomingslabs.org

A hackerspace (aka makerspace) shared by artists who build projects both collectively and individually. 1609 S. Rogers Street, Building 4, open to the public on Wednesday evenings from 7-10pm

MAKEVENTION | makevention.org

An annual celebration of the do-it-yourself spirit that brings together local and regional makers including crafters, inventors, tinkerers, builders, designers, gadgeteers, artists, engineers, scientists, and everything in between.

ARTISAN ALLEY | artisanalley.com

A place for artists of all kinds to work together, plus ongoing Art Market & Open Studios events and workshops.

WHERE TO SHOP

Bloomington shops that sell indie, handmade goods

GATHER :HANDMADE SHOPPE & CO: | gathershoppe.com

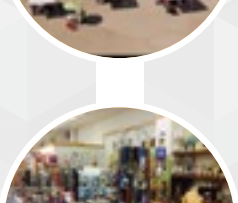
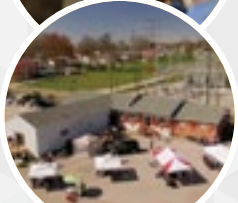
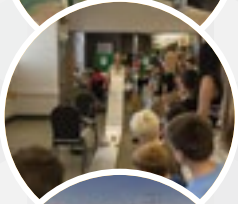
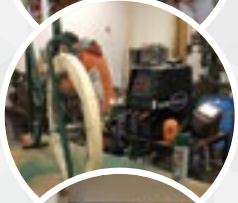
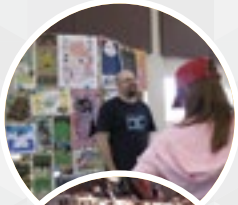
101 W. Kirkwood Ave., Suite 112
(inside Fountain Square Mall)

I FELL | ifellbloomington.com

415 W. Fourth St.
(open to the public on First Fridays)

BY HAND GALLERY | byhandgallery.com

101 W. Kirkwood Ave., Suite 109
(inside Fountain Square Mall)



#VISITBTOWN

Check out these Instagram photos from locals, students, and visitors who shared them with us by using the [#visitbtown](#) hashtag. Follow [@visitbtown](#) to see more and tag your own photos too.



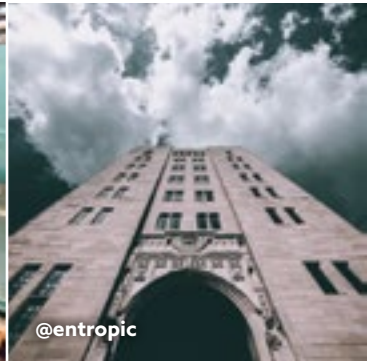
@agirlnamedcourtney



@cant_tame_me_amy



@chadrichards



@entropic



@gillianbradley



@liquid81



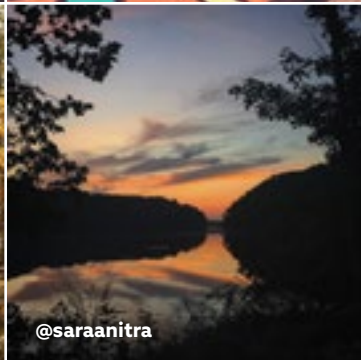
@lowdownsounds



@mikefox_



@nickybillypeaper



@saraanitra



@rachelm0515



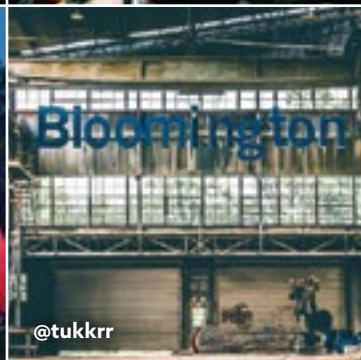
@pattys_photos



@stephen_sproull



@tkeppa



@tukkrr



@tutoman

SEASONAL INSTAGRAM CONTESTS

2016 Winners

WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL





SLICE

of

PIE

BY
Emily Hines

Pizza is a staple in any college student's diet, so it's not a surprise that Bloomington boasts dozens of pizza places. Check out a few local favorites featuring classic and unique flavors.

Bloomington is a town of passionate pizza aficionados; it is a thing. Every college town has pizza lovers but we take it to the next level. From vegan, gluten free-creations to meat lovers' pies piled high, we have no doubt that you'll satisfy all of your cheesy hopes and dreams here.

MOTHER BEAR'S

1428 E. 3rd St. (Plus other locations)

You can't come to Bloomington without visiting Mother Bear's Pizza. This legendary pizza palace holds the key to your heart and belly with their perfectly crisp pan crust and layers of cheesy goodness.

To order:

Meat-lovers: Cosmo - out of this world combo of red and white sauce, Italian sausage, portabella mushrooms, and cheese.

Vegetarian: Pauley's Pesto - their pesto is so rich and garlicky, making this pie a must.

Pro tip: If you're building your own pie and love onions, try the balsamic marinated onions; they are delicious. Wednesday is their Hail to the Ale special and any draft beer is \$2.50 including craft beer.

KING DOUGH

108 W. 6th St.

Alicia and Adam are the dough masters behind King Dough. They started slinging their delicious pies in a cart around town and, due to demand, opened up a restaurant in the heart of downtown on the square. Their wood-fired crust is chewy/crusty perfection, paired with both classic and unusual ingredients, making their pizza awesome.

To order:

Meat-lovers: Pork and Pine is a flavorful combo of red sauce, fresh mozzarella, prosciutto, pineapple, jalapeno, and basil.

Vegetarian: Stinky Pete has a unique cheese blend of fresh mozzarella, goat cheese, parmesan and gorgonzola, plus olive oil, garlic, tomato, mushroom, and oregano.

Pro tip: Make sure you check out the daily special - they once offered a buffalo chicken mushroom pizza with blue cheese that was fantastic. Monday is Margherita Monday and the classic is only \$10. Don't forget to save room for their homemade gelato.

MOTHER BEAR'S



CAFÉ PIZZARIA

405 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Café Pizzaria gave Bloomington its first taste of pizza and strombolis dating back to 1953! This cozy eatery is located just steps away from the Sample Gates and continues to serve up their famous stroms and pizzas for eager students and locals alike.

To order:

Meat-lovers: The classic strom has pizza sauce, seasoned sausage, mozzarella, and onion on Italian bread and is baked to perfection.

Vegetarian: Veggie Supreme Pizza is topped with the traditional veggies like onion, banana pepper, black olives, mushrooms and green peppers.

Pro tip: Pizza and strom isn't the only thing they do right – they also have a killer Italian beef sandwich.



CAFÉ PIZZARIA'S IVY-COVERED EXTERIOR AND BRIGHT UMBRELLAS MAKE THE PATIO A BLOOMINGTON LANDMARK.

PIZZA X

1791 E. 10th St. (Plus other locations)

Back in the 1980s the Pizza X founders decided that Bloomington deserved more from pizza delivery and they've been "bringing pizza to the people" ever since. They are THE late night bargain buy and are open until 4am for pizza lovers of all ages and stamina. The Big X Bargain is an IU freshman's rite of passage and their famous breadsticks come with every order.

To order:

Meat-lovers: The Mojo pizza has the spicy mojo sauce, plus mozzarella, pepperoni, mushroom, green pepper, and fontina cheese.

Vegetarian: Big Cheese has no sauce, mozzarella, fontina, cheddar, pecans (yes, pecans), and ricotta.

Pro tip: Every order comes with tootsie rolls and if you get a drink it comes in a reusable cup that is a keepsake for many Hoosier alumni.



LENNIE'S

1795 E. 10th St.

This is the king of crust. Lennie's is a Bloomington staple that opened about 20 years ago and have a crust for everyone: thin, multigrain, gluten-free, and traditional. Bonus: they have their own brewery, Bloomington Brewing Co., so you can get a local beer with your pie.

To order:

Meat-lovers: Hoosier Harvest blends red sauce, house-cured bacon, grape tomatoes, basil, gorgonzola, and mozzarella.

Vegetarian: The California has fresh and tasty flavors – pesto sauce, spinach, black olives, sun-dried tomatoes, mozzarella, and feta. Garnished with fresh avocado.

Pro tip: Happy hour flatbreads are just \$4.



DURING THE FALL, TRY BLOOMINGTON BREWING CO.'S SEASONAL PERSIMMON ALE WITH YOUR LENNIE'S PIZZA.

AVER'S

1837 N. Kinser Pike (Plus other locations)

This Btown pizza place is so Bloomington they even have a pie named for IU. The Cream & Crimson pie is the big favorite here and it's easy to understand why. It is piled high with roasted red potatoes, fresh garlic, dill, bacon, cheddar, and gorgonzola cheese. The Alfredo base takes this pie over the edge. Not into bacon? Try one of their many veggie pizzas. Want to try a bunch of different pies? Check out their buffet at their East side location.

To order:

Meat-lovers: For the meat eaters not ordering the Cream & Crimson, try the Lambda Gyro Pi – creamy tzatziki sauce and cheese, covered with beef and lamb, onion, tomato, and feta cheese.

Vegetarian: Beckon Desire is a unique flavor combo of spinach lemon pesto sauce and cheese plus artichoke heart, red onion, and gorgonzola cheese.

Pro tip: Get a loganberry drink, it goes well with every pizza.



FOLLOW

the

NOTES

BY
Stephen M. Deusner

Music is the heartbeat of Bloomington, the rhythm that moves us and the melody that guides us. Discover the talented local musicians, producers, events, and venues that keep the beat going.

"Bloomington is a live music town," says Ben Swanson. "There's enough going on here that I don't get bored, but there's not so much going on that I feel overwhelmed." He's sipping coffee at Rainbow Bakery, one of Bloomington's finest coffee shops, and he's eyeballing the array of maple bacon and sweet beet donuts at the counter. Swanson works next door, in the offices of one of the biggest independent record companies in the world: Secretly Canadian **1**.

A native of North Dakota who attended Indiana University in the mid 1990s, he co-founded Secretly with his brother, Chris, and their friend, Jonathan Cargill. They were a trio of idealists and music obsessives, championing their favorite musicians and running the label out of their dorm rooms.

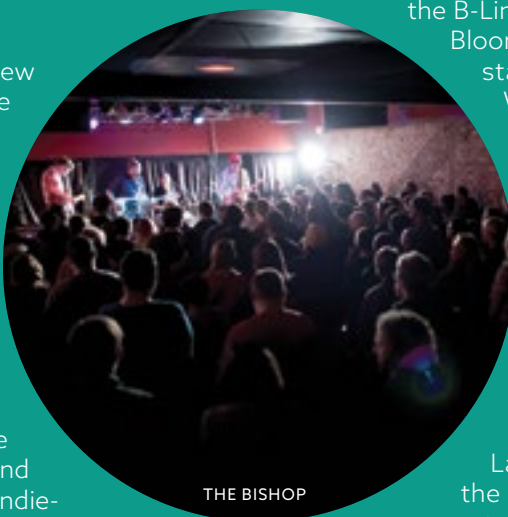
Twenty years later their new offices are only a couple of miles from their dorm rooms, and the upstart label has transformed into the Secretly Group, whose reach extends around the world but whose headquarters remain in Bloomington. In addition to three separate labels that release albums by the War on Drugs, Bon Iver, and Destroyer, among other indie-rock acts, the company includes a distribution company (with a warehouse on the outskirts of town) and publishing concern. In other words, Secretly not only releases great records but also ships them around the world and places songs in TV shows and commercials.

While most similar record companies might be tempted to move to a large city, Secretly remains embedded in Bloomington, enjoying its balance of big-city amenities and small-town pace. "It's gotten easier for us to have other outposts in New York and London and

Amsterdam, but our main hub is always going to be Bloomington. For us it comes down to quality of life, and that's what makes the city so amazing."

Bloomington has the kind of vibrant, active, and deeply imaginative music scene most often identified with cities like New York and Chicago and Austin. There are great bands here, cool venues, good resources, innovative labels, and amazing events, yet the setting is small-town rather than big-city. Everything is a pleasant walk away.

As you leave Rainbow Bakery, turn right and walk downtown, just a few blocks down 4th Street, past the Wonderlab Science Museum and the B-Line, past the headquarters of Bloomington's community radio station, WHFB **2**. Across Walnut is the Bishop **3**, one of the city's most popular venues; peruse the posters in the window to see who's playing in the next few weeks, and you'll notice a healthy mix of national touring acts and local bands.



Just up Walnut, past the impeccably stocked Landlocked Music **4**, is the Bluebird **5**, which hosts country, rock, and Americana acts. Together, these two stages are incubators for area talent, from the exuberant pop confections of Mike Adams at His Honest Weight to the ragged guitar ruminations of Erin Tobey to the creature-feature go-go-skronk of the truly singular Sir Deja Doog.

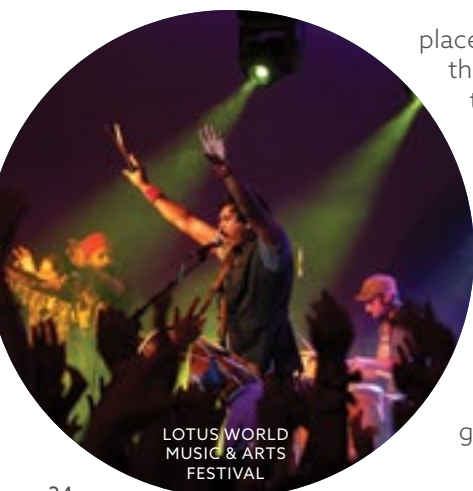
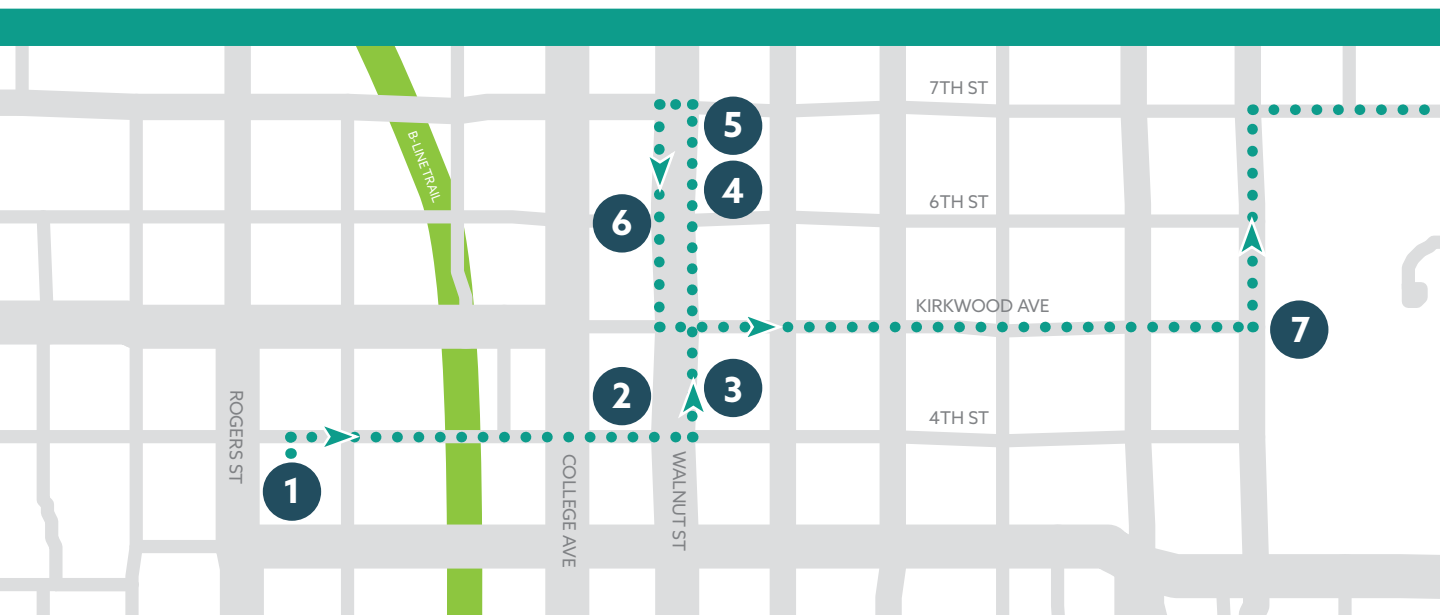
Walk around the square, in the shadow of the historic Monroe County Courthouse, and survey the storefronts of locally-owned businesses. Just to the north, on the stretch of 6th Street that runs in front of the Owlery and King Dough

Pizza, is the site for one of the main stages at the annual Lotus Festival 6. For one weekend in September, the street is blocked off and a stage erected for some of the most exciting musical acts from around the world: Mongolian throat singers and Yemeni dance bands on a bill with Scandinavian folk troubadours, Hungarian tamburitza groups, and Indian sarod players.

"Lotus is one of the oldest continually running festivals of its kind," says Sunni Fass, who started working at the event as a volunteer and is now executive director. "The fact that it is a downtown festival is actually unique. Most festivals tend to be out in a field or some remote

city's largest music event. While it emphasizes music from around the world, Lotus remains embedded in the life of the city, their identities intrinsically intertwined. "You see all kinds of people at Lotus. You get folks in their eighties right at the front of the stage with college students. You have parents bringing their kids. It brings people together who might not normally come to the same space. It's a very mixed community."

Walk east toward the campus, past the public library, past Nick's English Hut (which has a booth dedicated to Indiana rocker John Mellencamp), past the beautiful Sample



LOTUS WORLD
MUSIC & ARTS
FESTIVAL

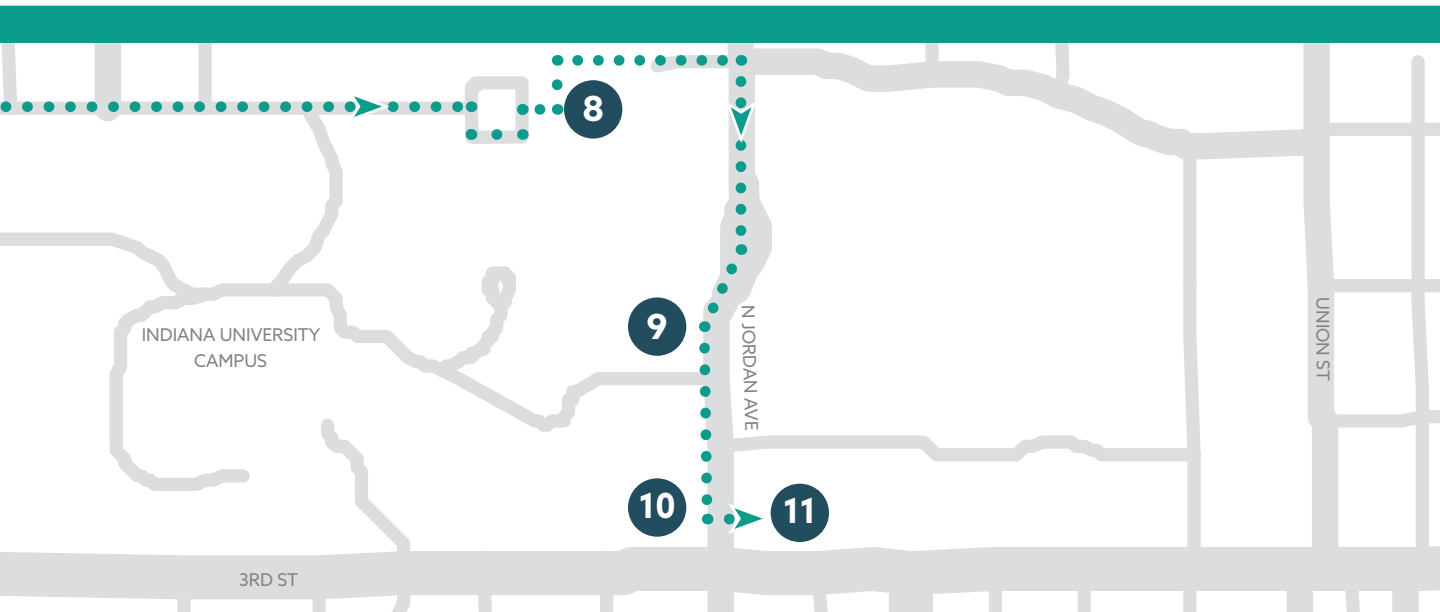
places, but having the event right in the middle of town makes Lotus very special."

Lotus began life in 1994 as a one-day event with only two stages, but has grown into the

Gates 7—a symbol not just of the university but of the city itself. Among the limestone buildings of Indiana University are some of the finest music facilities in the country, including the IU Auditorium 8 (located near the Showalter Fountain) and the Musical Arts Center 9, a distinctive Brutalist theatre on Jordan Avenue that is home to the Opera & Ballet School. Both host lavish stage productions from Pippin to Madama Butterfly.

Just beyond is arguably the most musical intersection in Bloomington. On your right is the Simon Music Center 10, which houses

the William & Gayle Cook Music Library as well as classrooms and rehearsal spaces. On the other side of Jordan is the Jacobs School of Music **11**, a world-renowned department for composers, conductors, scholars, critics, historians, even oboeists. Its distinguished alumni include keyboard player Booker T. Jones (of Booker T. & the MGs fame), trumpeter Chris Botti, violinist Joshua Bell, mezzo soprano Kate Lindsey, and multi-instrumentalist Carl Broemel of My Morning Jacket.



"The cultural depth and breadth of experiences of the musicians in this town is inspiring," says Mike Adams, a local musician who released his third solo album, *Casino Drone*, in 2016. "It's not uncommon for accomplished, classically trained musicians to sit in with—or even form

bands with—folks who've cut their teeth in the basement punk scene. Together, they create something very new and very 'Bloomington.' It's a special thing, especially in a town this size."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen M. Deusner is longtime freelance music journalist whose work has appeared in Pitchfork, Uncut, Salon, American Songwriter, No Depression, and other print and online publications. He lives in Bloomington with his wife and dog and can usually be found digging through the crates at Landlocked Music or working on a review at Hopscotch Coffee.

A scenic view of a paved urban trail on a bridge. A cyclist is riding away from the camera on the path. The bridge has dark metal railings. In the background, there are green trees, a street lamp, and a blue sky with white clouds. The title 'URBAN TRAILS' is overlaid in large, white, distressed font.

URBAN TRAILS

BY
Julie Warren

Make your way through the Bloomington area on foot or on two wheels with these handy city trails.

Walking, running, and biking through Bloomington and Monroe County is easy and safe with the extensive trail system that crisscrosses through the city and beyond. If you're looking for a convenient place to get exercise, you'll find quick access and several miles of continuous trail with few stoppage points. If you want a non-motorized transportation avenue, you'll enjoy the connectivity of these trails to major landmarks and business districts. Even though these trails run through developed urban areas, there is still plenty of greenery and wildlife to enjoy along the routes, a testament to the community's emphasis on environmental balance. For fun or for function, enjoy the trails that run throughout the community.

B-LINE TRAIL

Running right through downtown Bloomington, this 3.1 mile trail has become a major transportation, social, and development tool for the community. It's a place to meet and walk and an easy way to get through the downtown bustle, with a few places to stop and enjoy a drink or bite to eat along the way. The B-Line connects with the Rail Trail to the south of the city. Bikers, joggers, and skaters will find the paved surface comfortable. The trail crosses a few major streets, and traffic is not required to stop, but being a friendly community, drivers usually do.



HERITAGE TRAIL

Ellettsville is a smaller community just west of Bloomington with a strong sense of heritage, and this trail is a testament to that history. The .5 mile trail is located just as you enter the downtown area, where Highway 46 bisects. The trailhead features a limestone gateway and a beautiful limestone sculpture, a nod to the storied limestone industry of the area. The trail will eventually connect with the Karst Farm Greenway. Until then, it's a short but lovely avenue for exercise and reflection.



CAMPUS TRAILS

The Indiana University campus is one of the most beautiful in the country, but it's also massive. Students and faculty often walk or bike through campus as the main means of transportation, and there are numerous paths to use with very little automobile traffic. Walking the campus is also a great form of exercise with inspiring views along the way. There are four designated walking trails on campus, each 1 mile long. They all have a connection point with another trail, so you can extend your route easily. The trails cover the central part of campus, from Jordan Avenue near the Wells Library to Bryan Hall on Indiana Avenue. Invigorate your body and your spirit with the beauty and energy of the IU Campus.



KARST FARM GREENWAY

A little less urban, but not quite wilderness, the Karst Farm Greenway is a wonderful exercise trail on the western borders of the city. The 3.5 mile trail starts at Karst Farm Park and runs north past the Ivy Tech campus and almost to Ellettsville, where it will eventually connect to the Heritage Trail. This trail is typically peaceful and allows for focused exercise or meditation. It crosses a couple of busier streets and neighborhoods, but mostly it just crosses through vast fields and wooded lots.

CASCADES PARK TRAIL

Cascades Park is the oldest park in the Bloomington Parks and Rec system, but this trail is relatively new. The 2.7 mile trail runs the length of the park and more, starting at College Avenue and Old State Road 37 all the way to Upper Cascades Park and also to the Ferguson Dog Park. It's just north of downtown, but the setting is quite serene with huge trees, a lovely creek, and little traffic. Be sure to take a break at one of the unique limestone shelter houses.





BLOOMINGTON RAIL TRAIL

Where the B-Line ends, the Rail Trail begins, creating a major corridor from downtown to the southern part of the city. However, the Rail Trail is a well-worn gravel surface trail, so be prepared for a transition. The 2 mile Rail Trail starts at Country Club Road (with a parking lot) and heads south through mostly residential areas. It's still in the city, but quieter than the B-Line. The trail also connects with the Clear Creek Trail to the south, for the marathon runners among you.

CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

The Clear Creek Trail is a 2.5 mile paved trail southwest of downtown, in a mostly residential area. It's peaceful, but well used, and offers wooded and farm field landscapes that are quite lovely. The trail also features a 150 foot historic iron bridge that is perfect for a photo. Trailheads with parking are available off of Tapp Road and Church Ln.

