

midtown PAPER

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Art is all around you everyday in Midtown. And on April 12, there will be more... MUCH more!



Art In The Park

houstonmidtown.com

The 2nd Annual Midtown Art in the Park promises to be a vibrant gathering of talented local and regional artists. The non-juried fine art festival is set among century old oaks at the renovated Elizabeth Baldwin Park located at the corner of Elgin and Chenevert. Painters, sculptors, photographers and ceramicists are welcome, many of which have already reserved booths.

The park setting is a perfect example of Midtown's unique urban-lifestyle and a great place to spend a Saturday afternoon with family and friends. Festival-goers will have a chance to meet the artists and purchase pieces onsite while children can enjoy the outdoor playground. Bike racks are available with plenty of public parking just a block away at J. Will Jones Elementary.

Houston's beloved Art Cars will also be on hand to add to the colorful gathering and help peak anticipation for the city's annual Art Car Parade scheduled this year for Saturday, May 10 along Allen Parkway.

Midtown's premier urban art festival, Art in the Park, will be held Saturday, April 12 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. PrimeWay Federal Credit Union, Central Bank and METRO Midtown Apartment Homes are sponsors of the event at time of print.

Best of all, event admission is free!

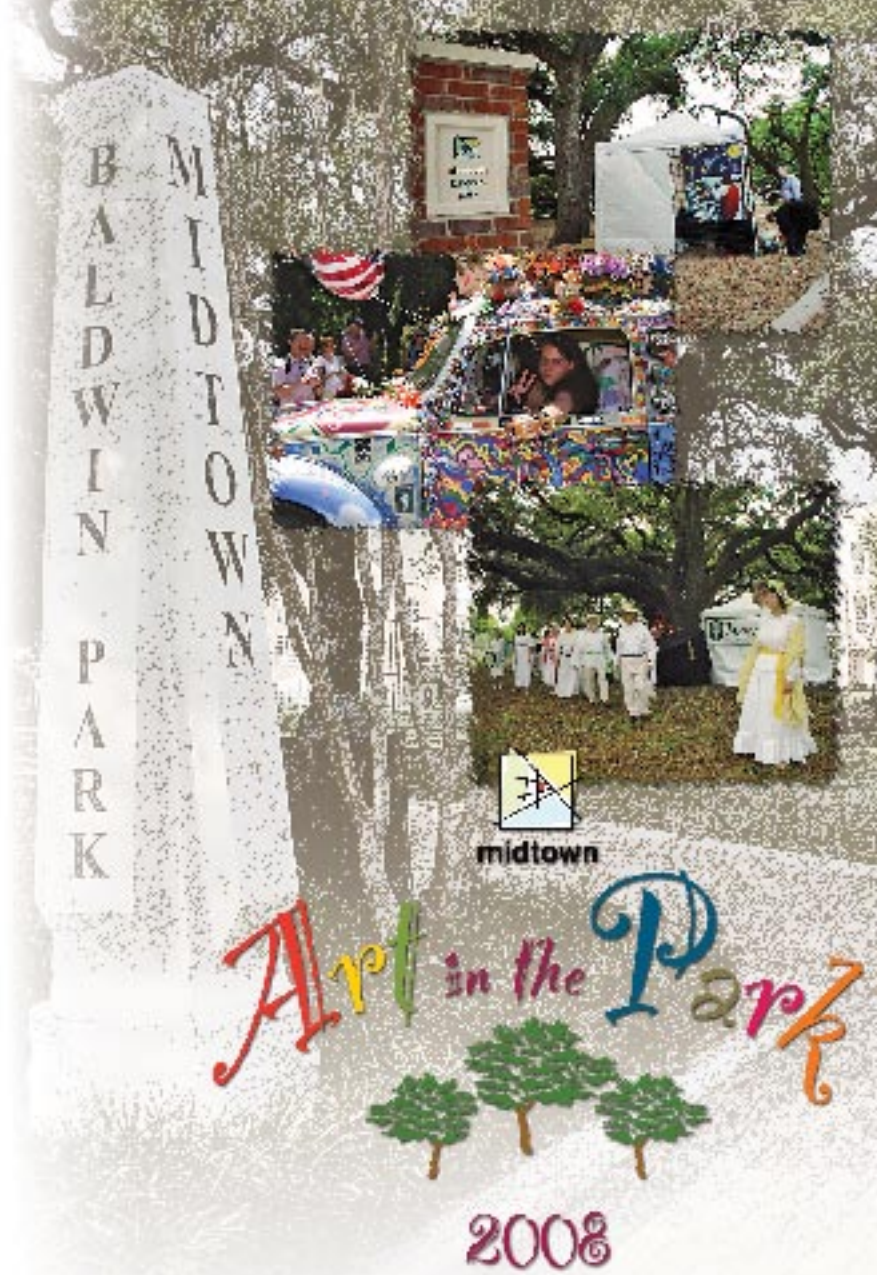
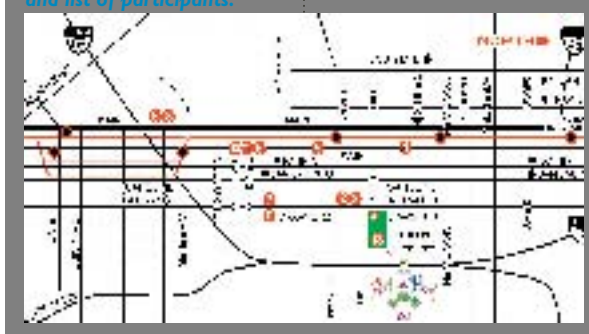
Midtown Visions

Vikki Trammell at Art Supply

713-652-5028

Again this year, Art in the Park coincides with the 9th Annual Midtown Visions Cultural Arts Tour. At Art Square Studios, over 26 working artists

See page 5 for a larger map and list of participants.



open their studio doors for the

public to view and purchase artwork from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Joining Art Square Studios are a list of well-respected favorites that call Midtown "home" and will share in the event: Community Artists' Collective, Midtown Art Center, Houston Community College-

Central Fine Art Department, Lawndale Art Center, Inman Gallery, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, The Ensemble Theatre, Finesilver Gallery, Diverse Works and CTRL Gallery.

Maps are available at midtownvisions.com or you may pick up a copy at any participant-

continued on page 10

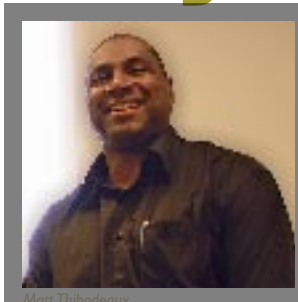
New executive director enjoys busy days

By Sara C. Strong

Matt Thibodeaux is the new guy in Midtown, and he wants to hear from you.

Since November he has been the boss at 410 Pierce, Suite 355, simultaneously serving as executive director of Midtown Management District and executive director of Midtown Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ #2.

Workdays as full as his require some schedule juggling, but he always finds time for his number-one priority – getting to know the needs of the neighborhood



and its people. Key to the community's continued success, Matt firmly believes, is involvement of residents and business owners in the operation of the district. That's why he's pleased to extend an invitation for anyone interested in taking part in the sometimes-lively happenings of Midtown management.

(You can help by joining one of the

Midtown committees. They're listed on page 3, under "Making a Difference.")

He took on his dual Midtown roles last November after the retirement of Charles LeBlanc, a legendary leader of Midtown's creation. And those are big shoes to fill.

"I've only been here a couple of months. I'm still on the learning curve," said Matt, who brings his own mix of talents and experience to the challenges.

He had a close-up view of history-making events, including the city's massive response in 2005 to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, during his six years as assistant chief with the Houston Police Department. Previously, he worked 20 years with the City of Houston, including 12 years as assistant director of planning during the time Midtown and Houston's

other 21 tax-reinvestment zones were formed. "I love the urban fabric," says the Lafayette, Louisiana native who holds degrees in urban planning and design from the University of Louisiana and Texas Southern University.

"Midtown is unique. I get a real thrill by people walking through the neighborhood and stopping at the coffee shops," he said. The mixed-use concept that invites people to live, work and play in a single community is the wave of the future, he believes.

"People are starting to say, 'Hey, let's go hang out in Midtown,' the way so many already say about Rice Village," Matt said. And he vows to do everything he can to continue the neighborhood's evolution as a pedestrian-friendly center of activity in the heart of Houston. ■

ing art venue. METRORail will link several art institutions along Main Street.

Enjoy the day exploring some of the great galleries and complexes that have made Midtown the city's new preeminent art scene.

3900 Block of Main

Three gallery owners plus art consultants continue to make the 3900 block of Main a niche in Houston's contemporary art scene. Their joining together for same day, same time opening receptions lends a non-competitive spirit, enabling an evening art stroll along one of Houston's busiest streets an enjoyable reality. Take a look at galleries Inman, CTRL and Finesilver housed along the 3900 block of Main Street.



Inman Gallery inmangallery.com



Thru June 8, Inman Gallery will be featuring the works of Demetrius Oliver. The exhibition is presented in conjunction with the Biennial exposition of Photography FOTOFEST and includes the artist's epic *Almanac*, a 44-part photographic work exploring the daily activities of the artist in his studio. *Almanac* was first exhibited at the Studio Museum in Harlem, July-October 2007. Additionally, Inman Gallery will once again participate in the New York

Pulse Contemporary Art Fair, March 27 thru 30th.

CTRL gallery ctrlgallery.com

With great space (2,500 square feet) and great design (Architect —John Blackmon) gallery owner/artist Bryan Miller has completed Isabella Court, what some have deemed Houston's newest art destination. Some may remember Miller as the former director of the Barbara Davis Gallery.

Jane South returns through April 5, one of four artists from Bryan Miller's inaugural exhibit in 2007.

A solo exhibition of John Sparagana's works will also be on view. Sparagana is Associate Professor of Painting and Drawing at Rice University, living and working in both Houston and Chicago. And as for the name, CTRL (all caps), Miller's explanation is simple. Take time to see the international and American contemporary artists in this expansive space, and you will understand.



Finesilver Gallery finesilver.com

Stuart Allen's *Seven* (2007), Rebecca Niederlander's *Story Time* (2006) and Bart Exposito's *Untitled* (2007) works are on exhibit through April 4 at Finesilver Gallery.



Community Artists' Collective

thecollective.org

The Collective take a refreshing slant to art, providing programs that encourage and nurture art in the youth community. Their recent shows at Christ Church Cathedral (Texas and San Jacinto) and the Midtown Art Center featured over 15 artists. They currently have a call for women artists in all media (deadline 03/19/08). Plans are in the works for a quilt exhibit in the fall. For more information, access their website.

Station Museum of Contemporary Art

stationmuseum.com

Expect the unexpected and expect to think —perhaps that's the best advice for novice gallery-goers to the Station Museum. The erotic, the political, maybe bizarre to some —all play into the mix and mediums of these artists from around the globe. *Apertura Colombia* (left, *Comuna 13, Medellin, 2002, Bullet traces and damage from a fight between paramilitary forces and the national army*, by Jesús Abad Colorado), a survey of Colombian photography and video, exhibits thru May 18th. Your five senses

and your critical thinking —they're all a necessity when you step inside the Station Museum, open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

crafthouston.org

If your image of craft is only found at a festival or church bazaar, think again. Talented artisans contribute immeasurable hours to the beauty of this gallery space with their wood turnings, glass jewelry, metalworking and more. Their current *Craft in America: Expanding Traditions* thru May 4th is two centuries of craftsmanship, beautifully answering the question "What is craft?"



Lawndale Art Center lawndaleartcenter.org

Lawndale's Art Deco exterior is art in itself. Step inside and you'll find a new era of floor to ceiling, usually wall-to-wall, great contemporary art. Lawndale has historically prided itself with the exhibitions of Houston artists, like Chuy Benitez, below. The historic Lawndale Art Center is equally



known for their annual 20th Century Modern Market (April 22-27), the

popular open-call juried exhibition, *The Big Show* (July 11 thru August 9) and *Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead* (October 17-November 8.) While on the Visions Tour, don't forget to stop in the studios of artists-in-residence Lynne McCabe, Danny Kerschen and Teresa O'Connor.

The Ensemble Theatre ensemblehouston.com

The Ensemble is the oldest and largest professional African American theatre in the Southwest, yet don't be misled by the kudo. The theatre is for the WHOLE community with no barriers for race or address. Buy a ticket for any of this year's stellar performances (comedy/drama/musical) and you'll be hooked. Make plans now for the Tony-award winning *Ain't Misbehavin'*, June 21 through July 20, complete with the lively music of composer and pianist Thomas "Fats" Waller.

HCC Central Fine Arts

<http://ccollege.hccs.edu/gallery/index.html>

Houston Community College (HCC) Central Fine Arts Gallery presents three shows each semester and one in the summer, including both faculty and students' works-well worth exploring, particularly with HCC's campus-wide renovations. Central Fine Arts new music series begins with *Billy Martin in Concert*, the avant garde jazz trio of Medeski, Martin & Wood, appearing Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Diverse Works "This Old House"

diverseworks.org

Aerosol Warfare has been transforming DiverseWorks' satellite space into a fantastical pop landmark in Midtown, *This Old House*. The old two-story Victorian home was intended to be used for storing DiverseWorks' archives and to house touring artists but instead has become a project in itself at 1625 Alabama, 77004, at Almeda.



Midtown Art Center midtownartcenter.com

Midtown Art Center is a 501(c)(3), not-for profit community supported cultural arts organization. "Emerging artists" takes on a new meaning here with many taking their first step with the organization's guiding hands. The 20,000 square foot facility is working space for diligent artists and their exhibitions. Midtown Art Center was founded in 1982 as a multi-discipline, multi-cultural community outreach for art, also featuring educational dance programming for youth and adults.

Art Square Studios and Art Supply

Vikki Trammell at Art Square Studios / Art Supply, 713-652-5028

The two-story building at 2711 Main continues its dedication to serious artists with workspace and supplies. The upstairs, Art Square Studios, serves as built-out space for 26 artists while the downstairs, Art Supply, offers the tools for those in the field of painting, drawing, graphic design, print making, calligraphy and more. Owner Vikki Trammell has laid claim to the space for 10 years and is the impetus (and driver) for the semi-annual Visions Tour. Even if you're not an artist yourself, you'll enjoy browsing through the inventory! ■

