

# MEET YOUR MAKERS

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The sleek streetcar welcomes and deposits passengers as it glides through Over-the-Rhine. Somehow it doesn't seem out of place as it weaves through one of the nation's largest historical urban districts, ping-pong past bustling new eateries and trendy boutiques, Gothic churches and Italianate halls. In this oxymoronic enclave, the streetcar moonlights as a time machine.

For residents and visitors alike, Over-the-Rhine offers opportunities for endless discovery. Like a thriving community garden, the eclectic collection of small enterprises feeds the local economy as it grows, employing neighbors and engaging guests. Unique and original gifts reward focused shoppers as well as urban adventurers eager to discover something fresh and unexpected.

In an age when convenient clicks bring products to our door, Over-the-Rhine offers a refreshing respite from the dry and the digital. Interacting with the creative entrepreneurs and hearing the stories behind their creations add value to not only their offerings but the experience itself.

We invite you to meander through this small sampling of OTR businesses. You never know what you'll find and who you'll meet.

## Artichoke

Brad and Karen Hughes remember the moment they fell for Over-the-Rhine. Leaving Music Hall, they looked out at the yet-to-be Washington Park hole in the ground and had a vision.

"It was a really cold and rainy March day, and I know this going to sound so cliché, but all of a sudden the rain stopped, the sun came out, and you could look around and say, 'This is going to be cool. This is going to be really cool,'" Brad recalled. They were early supporters of the burgeoning OTR food scene and culinary pioneers like Ryan Santos and Jose Salazar. They also loved foraging at Findlay Market. But they saw a need in the community, and that is when the seeds of what has now become Artichoke, their curated cookware store, began to take root.

"There were no cookware stores in Cincinnati. Karen used to say, 'You can buy any food you want at Findlay Market, but you couldn't buy a pot to cook it in.'" An intense research and refurbishing phase culminated into a store honored by Food Network, Food & Wine, and Gourmet Insider.

"This year, with the *gia* Awards, we'll be featured in Chicago at the International Home and Housewares Show. It actually kind of blows my mind," mused Karen. The 2018 awards were given to thirty retail stores from twenty-nine countries. All the recognition is a confirmation of their commitment to cooking and to OTR. As industry experts and entities, they collectively say, "Cool. Really cool."



### Urban Eden

If Over-the-Rhine were a ship, Julie Fay would be an anchor. Through all the trends and turbulence, she has held steady in her devotion to this place and its people. Long before she became a business owner, preservationist, activist, and advocate, she wandered its streets as a child, following in the footsteps of family. One expression of this lifelong devotion is Urban Eden. So much more than a store, it's a celebration of local and regional art, crafts, and history. Any visitor fortunate to spend time with Fay in this space soon realizes just how much this neighborhood's history is a part of her story, a story she is always eager to share.



### Little Mahatma

The sticker "Let's Make Cincinnati Weird" greets loyal customers and first-time explorers as they walk through the door of Little Mahatma and into another world. The store celebrates a long and rich tradition of selling one-of-kind art, jewelry, and artifacts from over thirty different countries. Hand-painted mandala stones and an energy-free sound system made from bamboo were recent offerings, though the store's inventory is always being refreshed with items not found anywhere else.



### Own Lane Shoetique

"Own Lane is a representation of doing you—being free, being mindful of [how] you choose to dress, [what] shoes you choose to rock with it—that's you. You're staying in your own lane."

Chanel Scales, owner of Own Lane Shoetique, offers her own fresh take on shoes and accessories for a diverse community of shoppers. She's eager to fill gaps through her unique selection of styles and sizes, embracing old friends and making new ones as she goes.



**Maverick Chocolate Co.**  
Paul and Marlene Picton indulged their love for chocolate through the years with samples collected during his many trips around the world. Now a growing legion of devotees are traveling to Maverick Chocolate to taste Paul and Marlene's world-class creations. Along with sons Paul and Benjamin, they also ship award-winning bars from their bean-to-bar factory to cities known for their own cacao confections.

### GO(O)D Company

Donny Harper, Christian hip hop artist, pastor, and entrepreneur, is overflowing with good news about GO(O)D Company Apparel and the line of clothing designed to prioritize what's happening on the inside as much as what's happening on the outside.

"The mission of our brand is to be that subconscious reminder. Not only can you wear who you are—good company—but you can also reiterate that message every time you wear the brand! It's a conversation starter. A way to break down barriers and make connections."

Harper is also a zealous alum of the MORTAR entrepreneurship course and Brick OTR's pop-up program. "I learned so much through MORTAR, I would take it twice! They taught me how to think outside the box and maximize the minimum. They taught me how to think bigger!"



### The Skeleton Root

Many locals know about Cincinnati's abandoned subway tunnels, but their existence is often a surprise to those beyond our city limits. Another underground secret remains hidden to even the most savvy of citizens, but the crew at The Skeleton Root is spreading the word. This story is one that Kate MacDonald, owner and winemaker, lives to unearth and share.

"We are a fully operational winery working from grape-to-glass in our building. We're very focused and passionate about local—revitalizing this region around grape growing and winemaking because it does have a very storied past. We have a lot of capability to raise beautiful wine grapes here, and we want to explore and introduce that to people."

Skeleton Root blends the history of our once-terraced hillsides with each new batch and bottle, expanding palates and preferences as they grow.



### Sweet Petit Desserts

Take one part soldier, two parts IBM programmer/analyst, and add a healthy dash of accountant before gently folding the mix into a lifelong love for baking. If you're Taren Kinebrew, you also stir in a loan-winning pitch with lots of prayer and research. Sweet Petit Desserts is the rewarding result for her and for all of us. Offering an array of desserts as well as baking courses, Kinebrew is thriving in her Race Street location.

"I always knew I wanted to be in a neighborhood that was coming to life or already established. What I've loved is being able to engage with the neighbors, actually feeling like I'm a neighbor in the community."





**Lane & Kate**

"There's such a focus on the artists, such a focus on where products are made and how they're made—the substance of them. I knew this is where I wanted to be."

The words that Rachel Pfeiffer uses to describe why she and her sister, Jessica Greene, opened Lane & Kate in Over-the-Rhine mirror my thoughts on the duo's curated collection of jewelry. Lane & Kate is right at home in a community that celebrates gifted makers, as each of their handcrafted collections is made sustainably with ethically sourced stones. Like the artisan creators, Pfeiffer is eager to help each guest find a beautiful piece that will become a special part of their own story. Expanding their custom bridal jewelry is a testament to this mission.

"It's been really tremendous. You're doing something that's so personal—a wedding band. They're going to wear it every single day as a symbol of their marriage. To be a part of that is so wonderful and exciting. Thrilling!"



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