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, pinging 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."



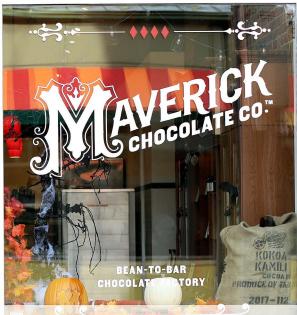




Little Mahatma

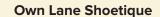
The sticker "Let's Make Cincinnati Weird" greets loyal customers and first-time explorers as they walk through the door of Little Mahatma and into another world. The store celebrates a long and rich tradition of selling one-of-kind art, jewelry, and artifacts from over thirty different countries. Handpainted 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.





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.



"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.











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