



LIVING ART WITH LITTLE SHIVA

The term **NoDa**, short for North Davidson (street), was coined by architect Russell Pound, who once had an office above what is now *Cabo Fish Taco*. In any case, it's Charlotte's historic arts district, but don't get too excited about the historic part, because a lot of the buildings are new, and the place is still a construction zone. Such is life in our rapidly-growing suburb. Although some beloved spaces have been lost and more are sure to follow, the changes happening in this resilient neighborhood are already ushering in a new wave of art spaces, which can be found in the four zones I'll describe here.

Zone 1: *Fat City* is still the epicenter, at 35th and North Davidson, and the main drag moves up from there to 36th Street. Retro boutique *New Waves of Joy* flanks *Cabo Fish Taco*. Up the road is the *Multi-Culti Hair Salon*, while 3200 *NoDa Gallery*, *The Art Preserve*, *Blue Pony* and *Center of the Earth* shore up the other side of the street. Just opposite *Fat City* are the new *NoDa Lofts*, home to *J'DeGart Gallery* and *Urbana Architecture*. Tucked away in back is *Green Rice Designs*.

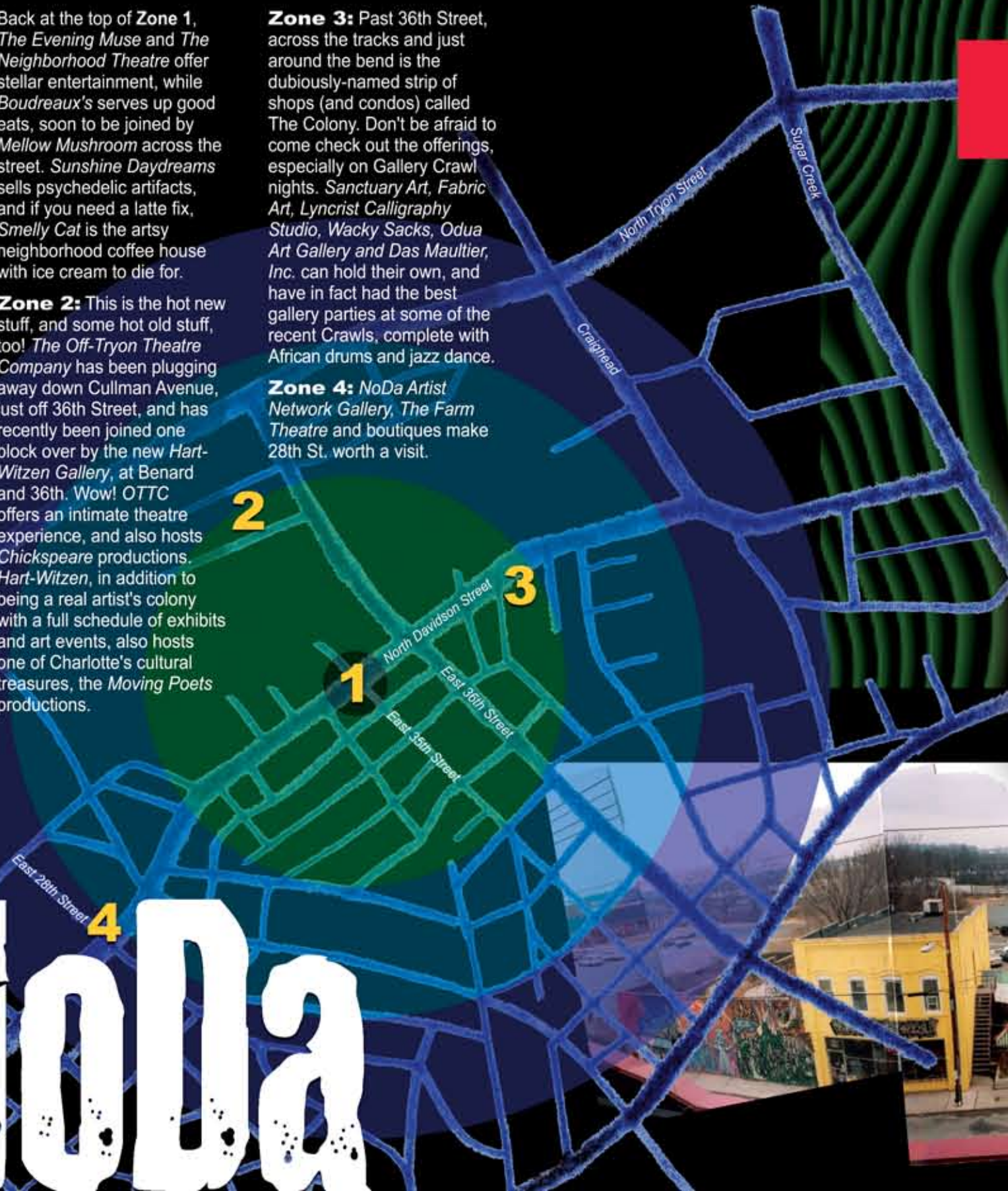
Back at the top of **Zone 1**, *The Evening Muse* and *The Neighborhood Theatre* offer stellar entertainment, while *Boudreaux's* serves up good eats, soon to be joined by *Mellow Mushroom* across the street. *Sunshine Daydreams* sells psychedelic artifacts, and if you need a latte fix, *Smelly Cat* is the artsy neighborhood coffee house with ice cream to die for.

Zone 2: This is the hot new stuff, and some hot old stuff, too! *The Off-Tryon Theatre Company* has been plugging away down Cullman Avenue, just off 36th Street, and has recently been joined one block over by the new *Hart-Witzen Gallery*, at Benard and 36th. Wow! *OTTC* offers an intimate theatre experience, and also hosts *Chickspere* productions. *Hart-Witzen*, in addition to being a real artist's colony with a full schedule of exhibits and art events, also hosts one of Charlotte's cultural treasures, the *Moving Poets* productions.

Zone 3: Past 36th Street, across the tracks and just around the bend is the dubiously-named strip of shops (and condos) called *The Colony*. Don't be afraid to come check out the offerings, especially on Gallery Crawl nights. *Sanctuary Art*, *Fabric Art*, *Lyncrist Calligraphy Studio*, *Wacky Sacks*, *Odua Art Gallery* and *Das Maultier, Inc.* can hold their own, and have in fact had the best gallery parties at some of the recent Crawls, complete with African drums and jazz dance.

Zone 4: *NoDa Artist Network Gallery*, *The Farm Theatre* and boutiques make 28th St. worth a visit.

NoDa



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center: URBANA's approach to historic preservation shows the new corner of North Davidson and 35th Street, with the yellow *Fat City* building intact

bottom left: URBANA's photo composite showing the corner of North Davidson and 35th Street, pretty much as it looks today

bottom right: Andi and Brad Ambrose, local arts entrepreneurs (www.alternity-magazine.com)

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