

# A Guide to Downtown Shopping

By Haley Jena

## FABULOUS FRAMES AND ART

Get a creative boost by stopping by this truly fabulous frame and art store. Featuring all things Charley Harper (the mega-popular artist hailing from Cincinnati), frames of all sorts and a plethora of other fun items perfect for the home or for gift giving—from shirts to calendars to socks to dishware and more. M-F 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sa 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 17 W. Fourth St., Downtown. 513-579-9998, fabframes.com

## BATSAKES HAT SHOP

Go old-school cool exploring this legendary hat shop! Opened over a century ago in 1907, this hat shop has sold exquisite, handcrafted brims for heads of all sorts, from everyday window shoppers to past presidents (think Ronald Reagan and both Presidents Bush) to Snoop Dogg.

M-Sa 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 1 W. Sixth St., Downtown. 513-721-9345.

## OHIO BOOK STORE

Get lost in five floors of books and magazines at Ohio Book Store! Serving Cincy since 1940, this bookstore is perfect for

hunting for inexpensive, unique books and magazines. The shop also repairs old books and offers custom binding services. M-F 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Sa 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 726 Main St., Downtown. 513-621-5142, ohiobookstore.net.

## ROOKWOOD POTTERY COMPANY

With roots dating to 1880 in Cincinnati, the Rookwood Pottery Company produces pieces recognized for impeccable design and fine craftsmanship. A large collection of vases, bookends, coasters, mugs, plates, tiles, and other homewares can be found at the company store. Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m.-4 p.m. at 1209 Jackson Street, Over-the-Rhine and at the factory Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1920 Race St, Over-the-Rhine. 513-579-1209. rookwood.com

## MICA 12/V

This independent, family-run boutique is the perfect place to pop in and shop the store's curated items. The shop offers art prints, clothing and accessories, beautifully unique children's toys, one-of-a-



kind gifts and more. M-Th 10 a.m.-8 p.m., F-Sa 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Su 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 1201 Vine St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-533-1974, shopmica.com.

## THE CANDLE LAB

Treat your sense of smell by browsing this store's more than 120 candles in a store as pleasant as the scents offered when walking in. You can pour your own blended candle in-house—no reservation required for parties of three or less. M-Sa 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Su noon-5 p.m. 1325 Vine St., Over-the-Rhine. 614-915-0777, thecandlelab.com.

## ARTICHOKE

This curated cookware collection is perfect for all things cooking. Artichoke offers local, handmade cookware items perfect for every kitchen that the owners believe in and use themselves. Tu-F 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sa 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Su 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 1824 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-263-1002, artichokeotr.com. ■

## Need a Ticket to Ride

Cincinnati's streetcar, formally known as the Cincinnati Bell Connector, marked its first anniversary of operation last month. Operating on a 3.6-mile loop, the Connector takes riders from The Banks near the Ohio River to historic Over-the-Rhine through the heart of downtown.

There are 18 stations along the route. Most feature covered shelters and steel benches. All stations have a real-time next streetcar arrival screen and ticket vending machines. Cost to ride is \$1 for a two-hour pass or \$2 for a day pass. You can also use the Cincy EZ Ride app on a smartphone. The Connector operates on the honor system. But there's a \$100 fine if you can't produce a ticket when an inspector asks.

Designed to run every 15 minutes or so, Connector hours are: Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday & holidays, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.