

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



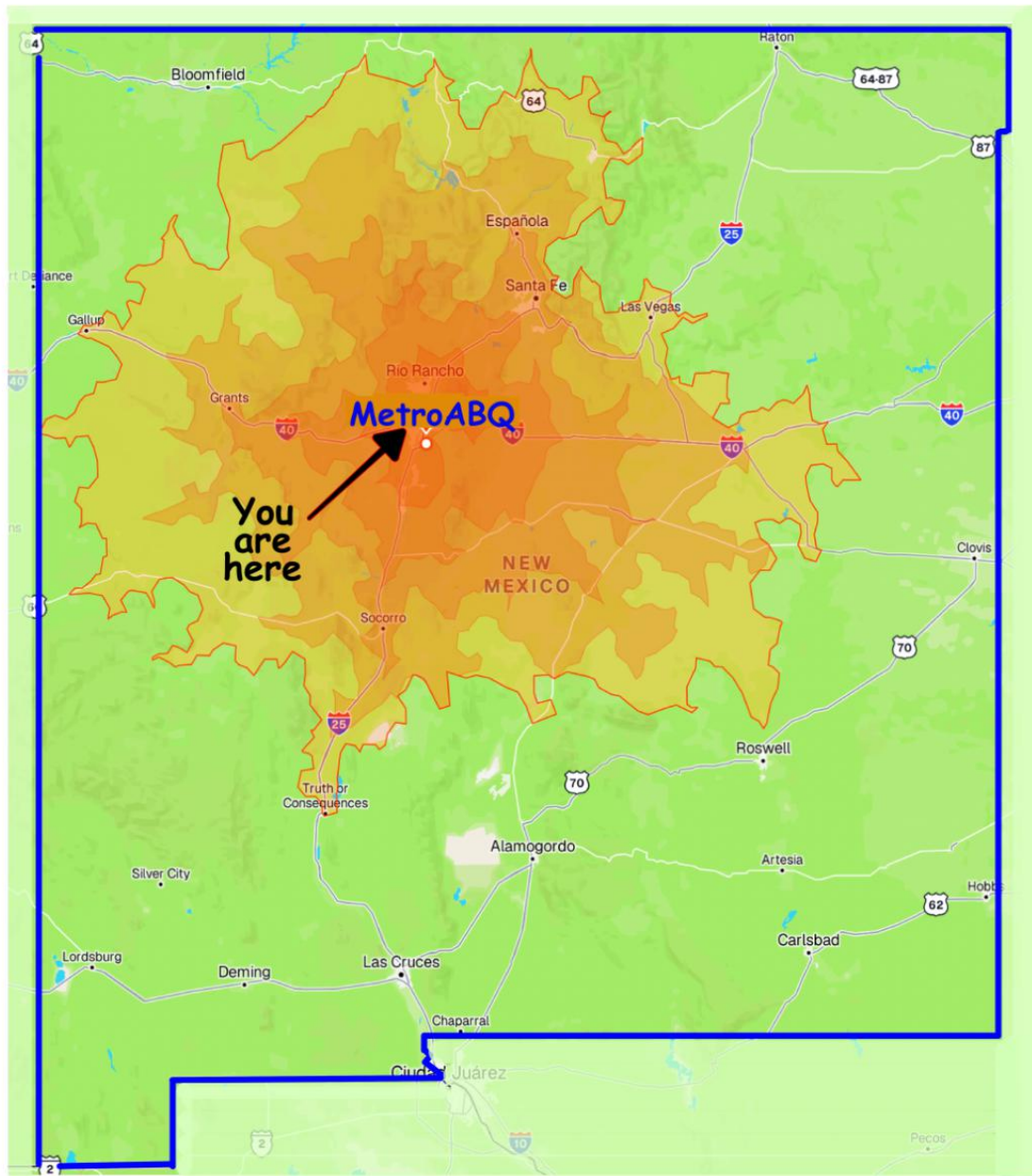
Published by Chris Lucas, Albuquerque Realtor for 19 years, & loving it...

<November>

The MetroABQ Two-Hour Windfall

Santa Fe Jaunt

The New Noodle District



In the Middle of Everything

Living in the MetroABQ comes with wonderful perks beyond the city's borders. We live within a two-hour drive of some of the most spectacular places, people, things & events in the country. The number of outdoor activities that can be accessed are too many to list. The stunning natural wonders that exist here are beyond what most people will ever experience. The visually stunning art & architecture in New Mexico was created by many different cultures adding to the mix over thousands of years (ex: [petroglyph art](#)). Crisscrossing timelines & peoples created a dense, rich history, which can be seen everywhere.

A person could spend the rest of their life exploring within two hours of the MetroABQ, & never run out of mind-expanding things to do; it's our two-hour windfall.



Santa Fe's Sena Plaza above, an excellent example of a traditional Spanish-style plaza of the 17th-18th centuries, was once a family hacienda before it became a marketplace, currently housing 20 shops & restaurants. Stepping into the shade of the lush courtyard, below, is a needed respite from the busy sidewalks outside. It's one of many interesting places Michael took us Downtown, that might not have been discovered otherwise.



Santa Fe Jaunt

One such two-hour windfall lies just up north. We live less than an hour from the third largest art market in the United States. Santa Fe is also the oldest continuously (European-established) inhabited settlement in the country. So the 1000+ years mix of art & architecture is a huge draw & a daily driving force there.

You don't have to live in Santa Fe--where the average home sells for \$670,000 ([SFAR](#))--to experience Santa Fe adventures...

Excellent that an appraiser friend offered a morning tour of interesting places Downtown, starting around the Plaza. [Michael Ettema](#) has been involved in artwork & the places that display them since he was a wee youngun. During his decades in the arts, he worked as a museum curator & director, then ran a well-known Santa Fe gallery, before the obvious next step of becoming an art appraiser over a decade ago. Occasionally in his free time, he can be encouraged to provide an art & architecture walking tour, in his role as Chair of [Friends of History](#), a Santa Fe non-profit for the Santa Fe History Museum, which provides guided tours. (Buying him lunch may have helped his sweet generosity of time...)



Unique places... Knowing that the [Scottish Rite Temple](#), above, is probably one of the top five places on every tourist's to-see list, photographed by millions, it's a stunning stop regardless. The Masonic Temple--the concept based on the Alhambra in Granada Spain, is a California Mission Style Revival design with Moorish influence--becomes [more interesting the closer one gets](#). The Moorish arches are unique to architecture of the Western Islamic lands--Tunisia, Algeria & Morocco. Notice the sun & clouds floating across the [ceiling in the auditorium](#) (photo by Simone Frances for Old Santa Fe Today, [5th Edition](#)).

How impressive that an hour from Albuquerque sits a stunning Spanish Moorish Revival Style temple, where one could experience [an orchestra performing the music of Coldplay vs. Imagine Dragons](#), surrounded by thousands of candles...



Then there's the art... What's a Santa Fe tour without a few art galleries? Our guide knew where to take us...The Addison Rowe Gallery, in a great historic bungalow on East Marcy St, features a lot of Transcendental Art, which is a favorite. The piece on the fireplace is a good example; & the detailed brickwork on the fireplace itself was worth the visit.



Above is a murder of crows sculpture, hanging out in a skylight of the Peyton Wright Gallery on East Palace Ave. The gallery building is almost 150 years old & is classic Santa Fe--below, notice the simple pediments above each window: none of them are plumb or level or even flush with the walls, all functioning nicely in an irregular organic fashion. Santa Fe style...

Below that is an example of the random artworks seen outside many galleries in the area. Especially Downtown, the privately-owned artwork available for the public to see is everywhere.







A few images above are examples of the many historic plaques that define & describe the architecture of the area. The history of Santa Fe is rich & layered, going back over a millennium, to [the time of the Ogapogee \(Tewa\) people](#)...Our guide Michael, above, is superbly fluent in that long history & loves to share his knowledge.

Directly above is the Victory Contemporary Gallery, a 134 year old Territorial-style adobe house with Italianate front portico on West Palace, of course also home to another historic plaque. Inside, the [original working transom](#) was great to see. The gallery features living artists, both established & emerging. The gallery host pointed out artist Poteet Victory's [Abbreviated Portraits Series](#) on the walls above her desk, which features abstract portraits of iconic people. She pointed to each image & asked if we knew who was portrayed, providing clues along the way. Who is the famous person abstracted below, for example?



[Why, it's Andy Warhol, of course...](#)

The host at Victory Contemporary was hilarious & the gallery a lot of fun.

More to enjoy... The tour barely scratched the surface of some of the architecture & art available to see around Downtown Santa Fe. As mentioned, there is more to see & do within two hours of the MetroABQ than perhaps anywhere in the country. This small section of our northern neighbor is only a taste...

Below are the colorful painted columns outside the Institute of American Indian Arts ([IAIA](#)), on Cathedral Place. Another example that one doesn't need to live there to enjoy what it has to offer.



Know someone who would enjoy this Newsletter?

Feel free to pass it along to friends.

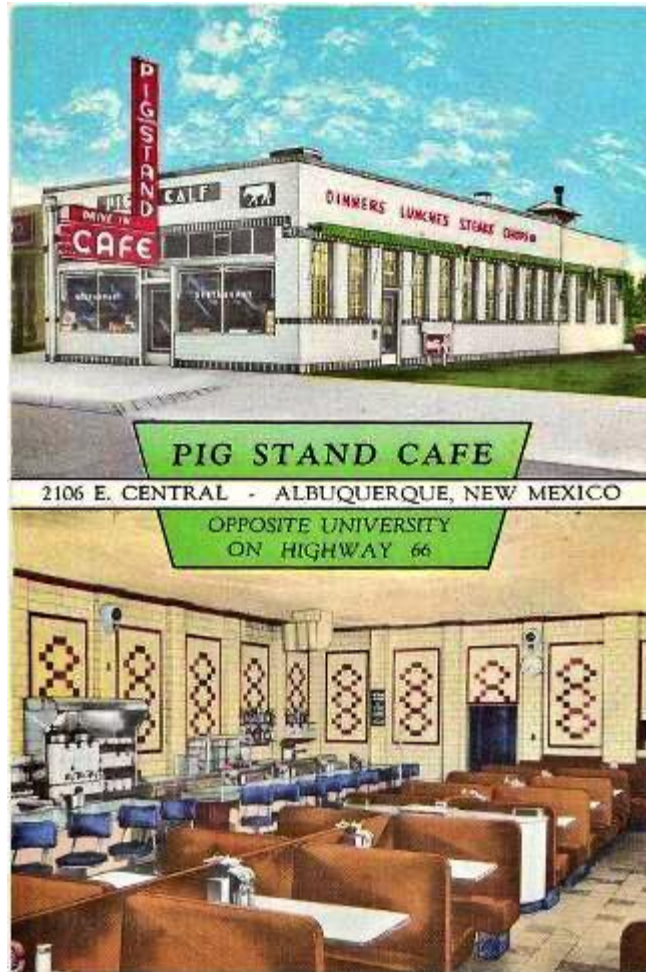
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& they will be added to the [MetroABQ mailing list](#).



Site Santa Fe Shout-Out!

On a map, the current International exhibition associated with Santa Fe's [Site Santa Fe](#) is an explosion (of art) across the city. The show, [Once Within A Time](#), while largely represented at the main galleries in the Railyards, below, also extends beyond Site Santa Fe to a dozen plus locations across the city. Other places that exhibit parts of the show include museums & landmarks, as well as spaces in a public park, a former foundry, an empty storefront, a cannabis shop lounge, a toy store, & more.

The image above is part of one of the installations, gracing the high walls of the St Frances Auditorium, Downtown in the [New Mexico Museum of Art](#). The [Once Within A Time](#) exhibit is another Santa Fe adventure, for another time...



Welcome to the MetroABQ's newest District

"Opposite University on Highway 66," the above postcard read, enticing travelers to a section of Central Ave over 100 years ago. The [Pig 'n Calf Lunch](#) building, then called simply The Pig Stand, started serving food in 1924. Below is the building today, the calf & pig still staring at each other more than a century later...



The historic Pig & Calf has been many things. For a bunch of decades it was a laundromat, & has been numerous food shops since. Sushibucks is the current resident, serving Japanese & Korean-influenced sushi & soups; one of the restaurants in the new District.



The Noodle District--as it's destined to be called--is an under-the-radar lunch/dinner area adjacent to the UNM campus, & it's been getting a lot of play recently.

The draw of greater numbers started organically a decade ago, when [O Ramen](#) ("Good food takes time") opened along the strip of shops between Yale & University Blvds.

A year later [Naruto Ramen](#), sister restaurant to [Manpuku Ramen](#) in Santa Fe, opened *next door*. Naruto serves Japanese-style ramen & it arrived with a great reputation. The two noodle houses, below, have been sharing customers & happily competing every since.





In the beginning of '24, an Italian restaurant opened in the long-vacant Thai House space, just around the corner on Buena Vista. Localetto Rossi (also noodles...but different) opened to great fanfare--an ABQ Journal article that Spring packed the little place for months, & that enthusiasm hasn't stopped.



Recently Roni's Mac Bar, next door to the Pig & Calf, jumped into the fray. Before it was Roni's, it was Iron Cafe, a ramen noodle & bubble tea house, with a great sign, below.



Other businesses on the block include a [sober bar](#), a [tattoo parlour](#), & four other [food/coffee/tea shops](#). The Noodle District is another excellent eclectic corner of the MetroABQ.

Thank you for making it this far...



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I am a dedicated seven-days-a-week real estate professional, representing clients for over 17 years--
I love this city!

I continuously seek out the hidden gems at any price-point for my Buyers, & am a tireless promoter for all of my Sellers' listings. I love talking real estate.

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