

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter

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February

Stunning MetroABQ Pueblo Deco Architecture:

A Tour Through The KiMo Theater



The KiMo Theater is arguably the most colorful & the most architecturally interesting building in the MetroABQ. Found on Route 66 downtown between 4th & 5th Sts, you can't help but be drawn to the protruding ornaments, considerable tilework & intricate murals that adorn the Central Ave façade. Those three elements are integral to classic [Pueblo Deco architecture](#), which is a mix of [Pueblo Revival](#) & [Art Deco](#) styles--a uniquely Southwestern creation.

Completed in 1927, the KiMo Theater describes itself as a "Pueblo-Deco picture palace & vaudeville theatre. Pueblo-Deco was a flamboyant, short-lived architectural

style that fused the spirit of southwest Native American cultures with art moderne elements, popular during the 1920's-1930's.

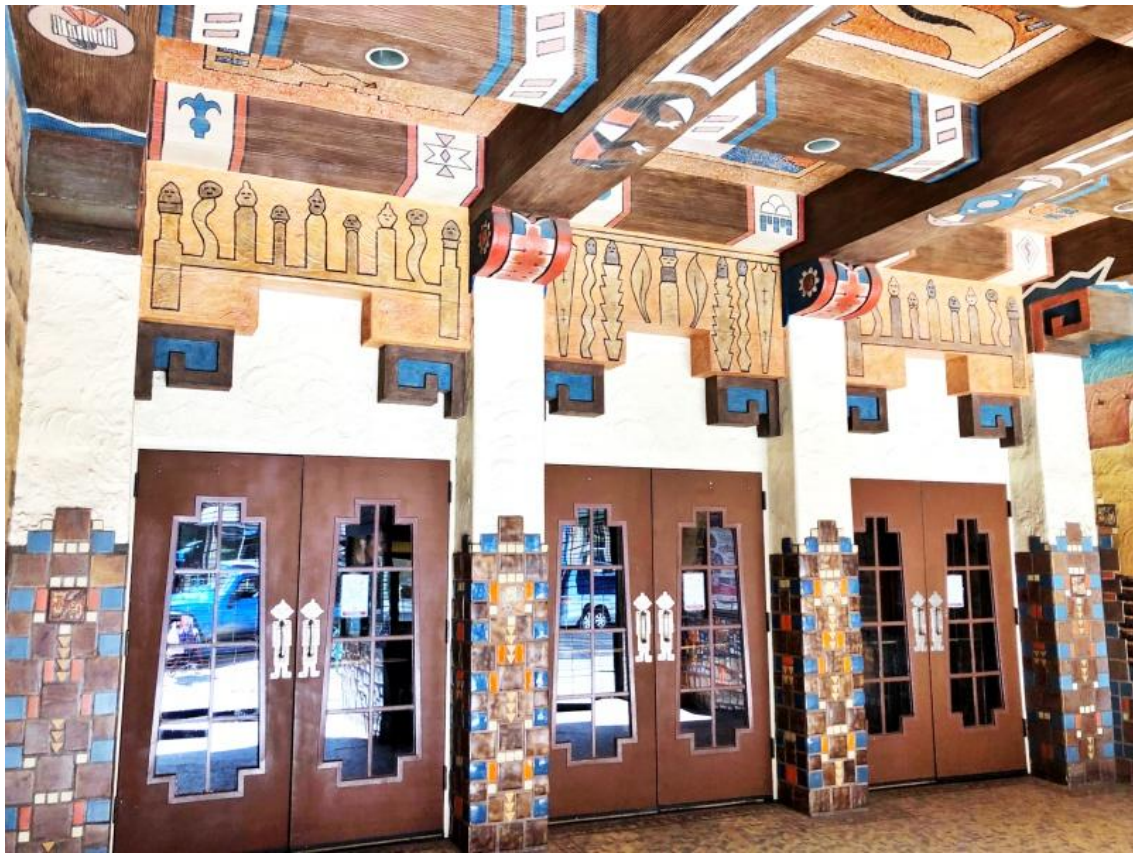
"The interior included plaster ceiling beams to mimic actual wood vigas, colorful Indian symbols, air vents disguised as hanging Navajo Rugs, war-drums, Native American death canoe chandeliers, wrought iron Sandhill Crane railings, shields & buffalo skulls with red glowing eyes." The owners & builder created an interpretation of native culture, borrowing some themes & designs--even incorporating what seems like Pacific NorthWest tribal images into the mix.

I was fortunate one afternoon to be part of a tour guided by KiMo Manager Larry Parker, who was very gregarious & entertaining, & provided a wealth of knowledge about the historic building. Below the marquee, below, are three images of the front entrance & interior lobby.







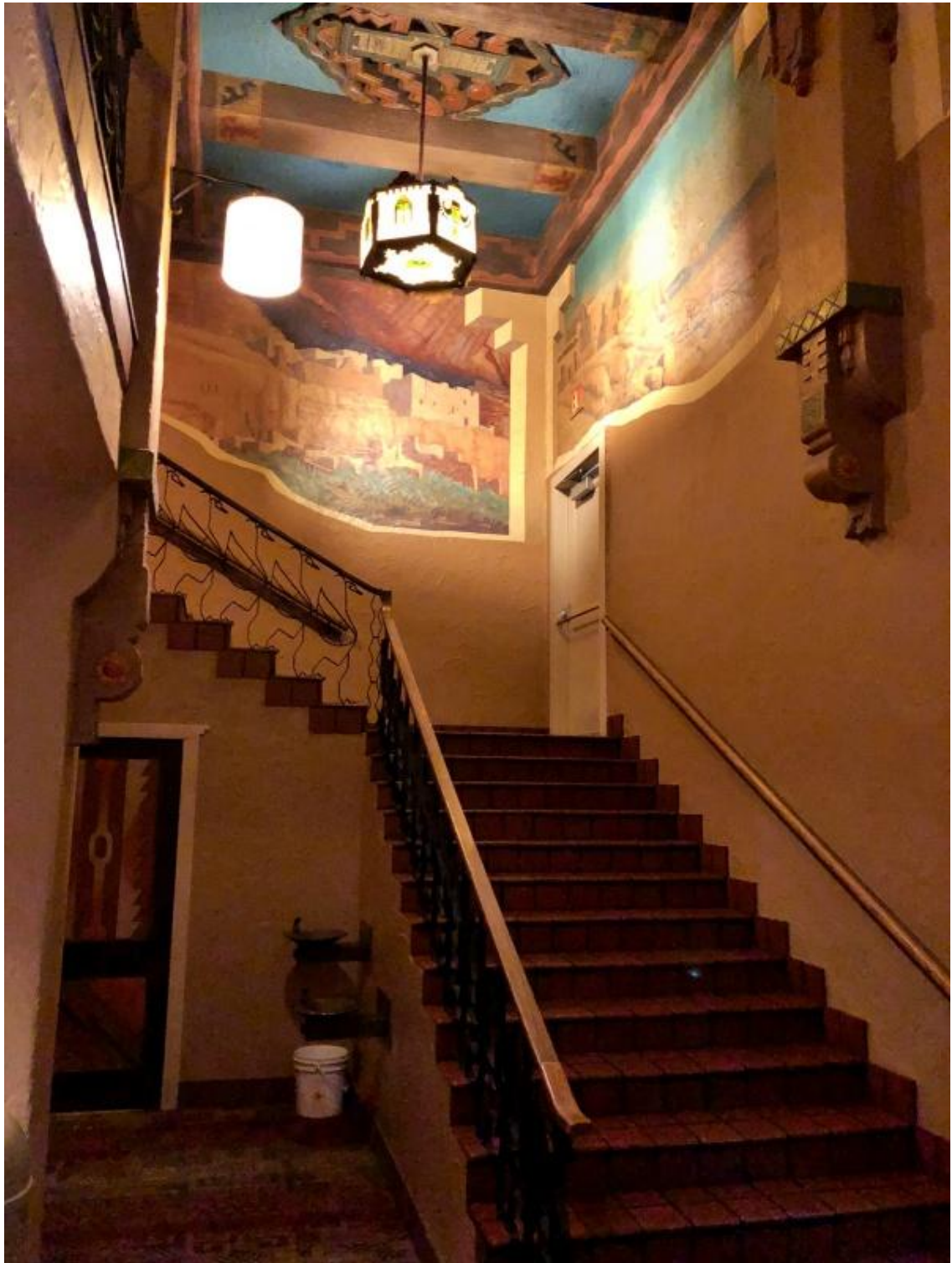


The KiMo Theater, built by the [Bachechi family](#), has gone through a few incarnations over the years. By the 1970's, it had become run-down & was an adult film theater. A fire around that time damaged large portions of the stage area; soon after it was shut down. Slated for demolition, the city bought the building in 1977 & began running it as a performing arts center, with offices upstairs. Years later, a public vote allowed the city to restore & renovate it. It is one of only two downtown buildings still utilized today as originally designed--as a theater.

Below you can see one of the seven Carl von Hassler murals that adorn the mezzanine walls of the theater lobby. Called [The Seven Cities of Cibola](#) & created in the early 1930's, they depict his interpretation of the Pueblos, amid dazzling southwestern landscapes, which became a central theme of his paintings.

Further below is the amazing-to-see steel Sandhills Crane balustrades, followed by a scene looking across the balcony foyer.











In the 1990's, the city received a grant to restore the theater as close as possible to it's 1920's grandeur. Another mission was to modernize it--that included enlarging the stage, reducing the seat capacity to 700 from 1000, & adding an 'acoustic wrap', which optimizes acoustic & semi-amplified performances. The renovations were completed in 2001.

The diversity of current programming there is impressive: ballets, film festivals, actors' seminars, local productions, matinees & awards ceremonies are just a few of the offerings. Between Labor Day & Memorial Day the KiMo Theater is rented to [third-party groups](#), such as anchor tenants [Ballet Repertory Theatre](#) & [AMP Concerts](#). You may also rent the space for film production activities, as a character from [Breaking Bad](#) & [Better Call Saul](#) did recently.

Inside the theater itself, the ornamentation, tilework & dramatic murals continue. Above is the empty balcony seating area, with carved viga beams & mesa-top-designed chairs. Below, the impressive stage is rather unique: a catwalk above is disguised behind the stage-length red birds viga, allowing for discreet passage over the stage. Below that is circular air-vent, disguised as an ornate [petroglyph design](#).

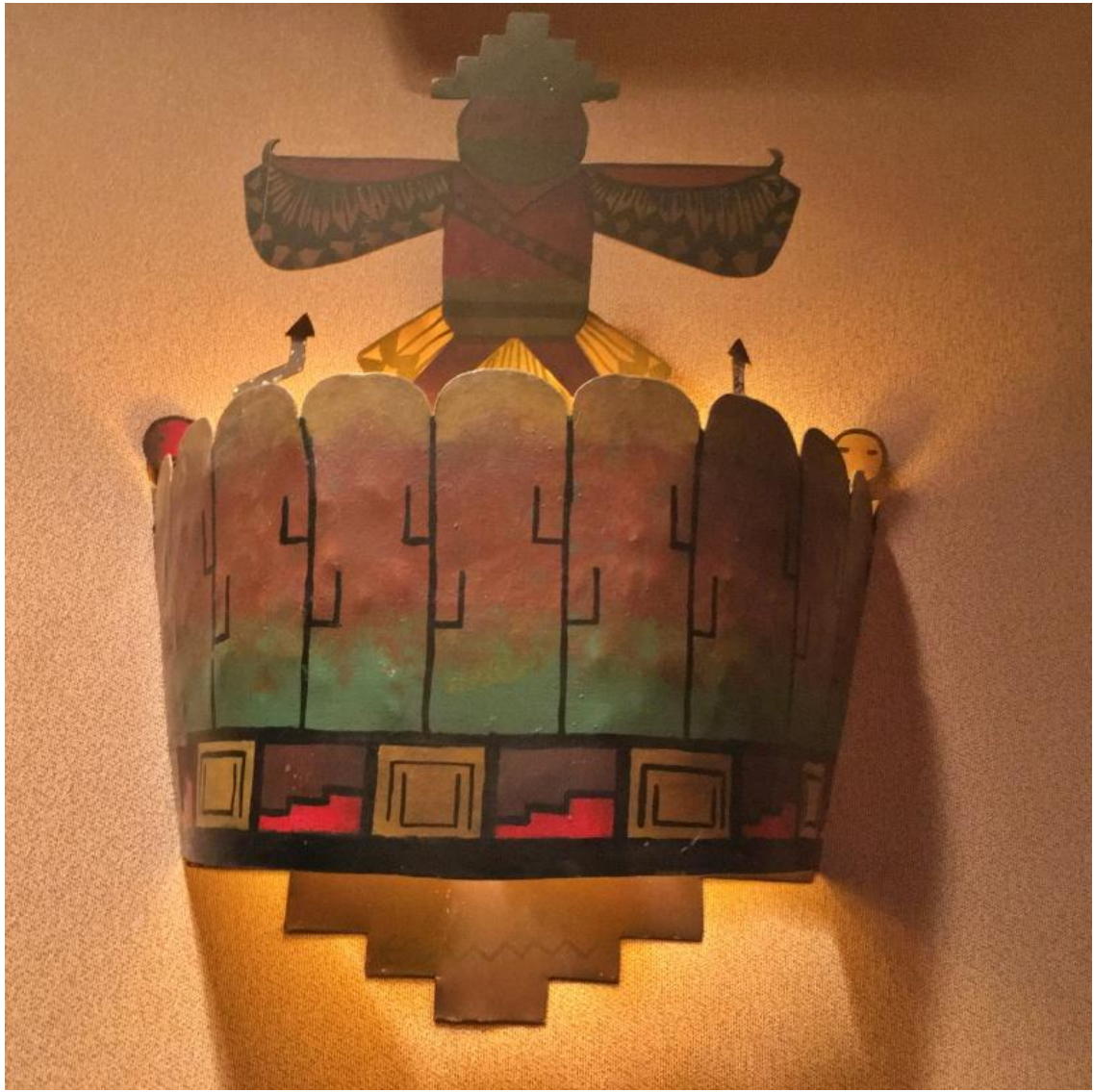


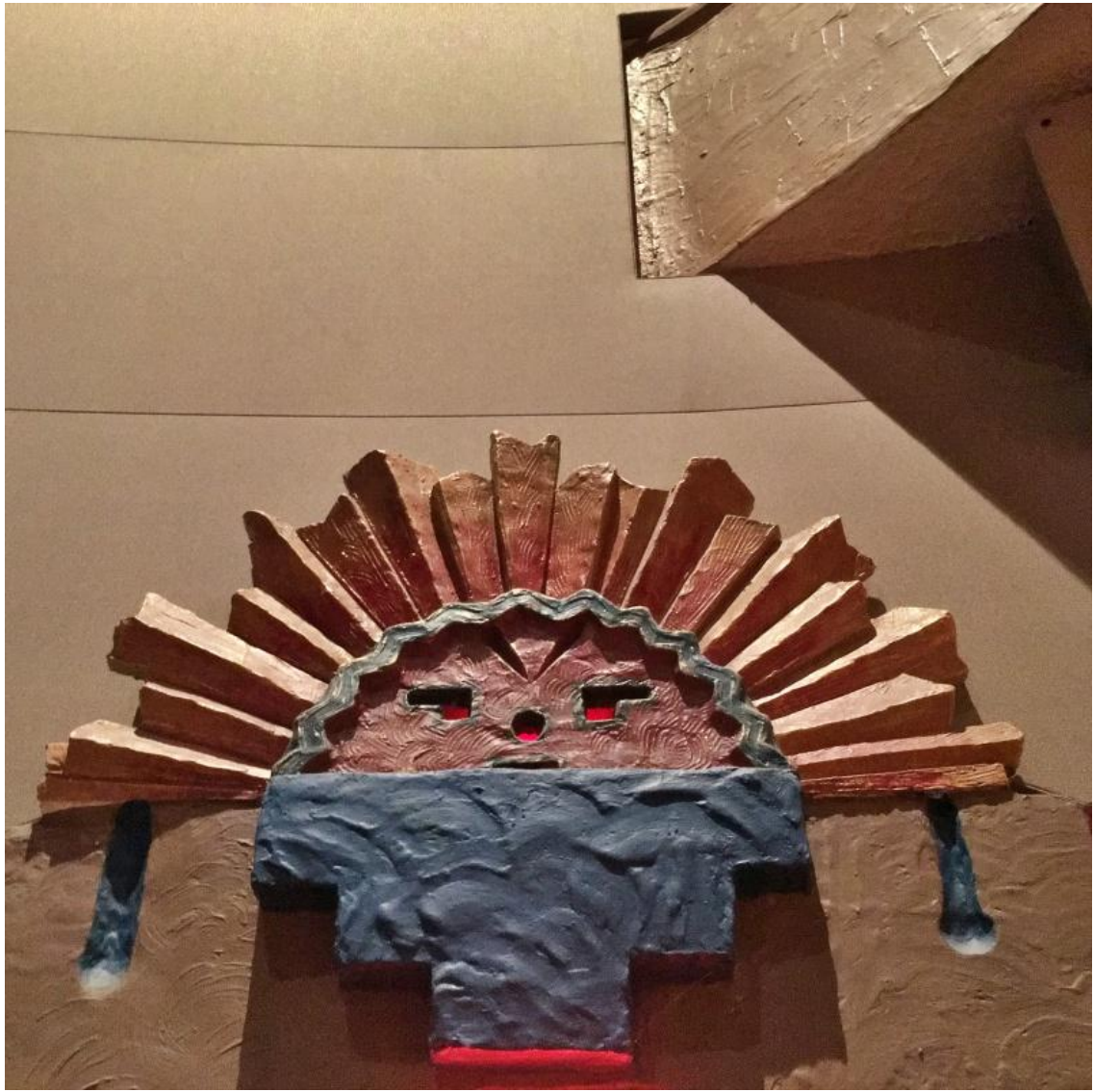


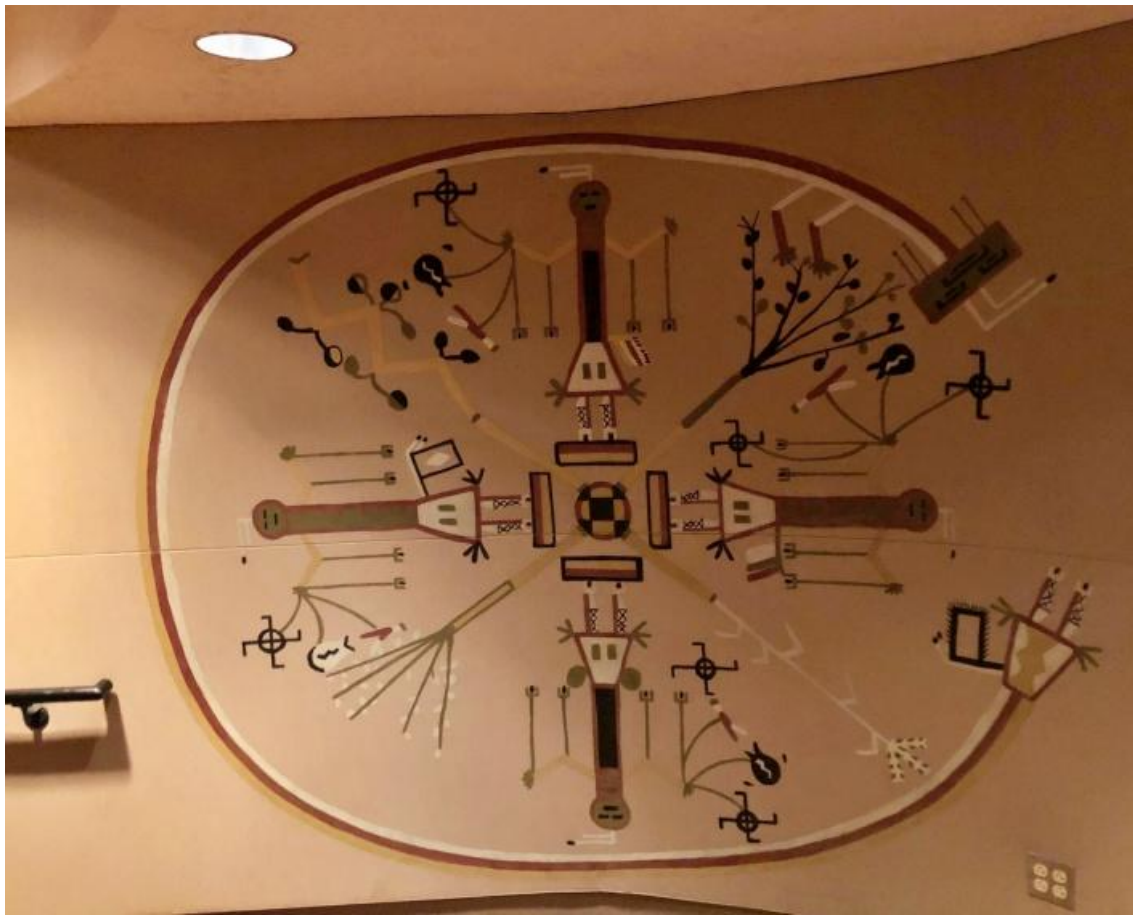
Above is a highly-decorated red bison skull light, one of 40 that adorn the lobby, mezzanine & theater walls. Below are five decorative sconces & other lighting fixtures scattered throughout the theater.











Besides the Carl von Hassler paintings, other murals are prominent throughout the theater, like the one above & directly below. Intricate tilework, depicting stylized [Pueblo Petroglyphs](#), are found mostly in the lobby; three examples are below.





OPEN HOUSE Time:

Spring is around the next corner...soon a plethora of weekly weekend open houses to view will be available. Open Houses are instructive, even if you are not planning to buy a property this year: you get to see how your neighbors live, you brush up on the newest designs & finishes, you can compare the home featured in the open house to your home's value, & many are interesting to see regardless of why.

[Click for an updated list of open houses](#) in the greater MetroABQ area. Below is one in the University area that is worth seeing...



Wonderful gated, upscale two-bedroom townhome in historic Silver Hills neighborhood.

Open House is Sunday March 3rd, from 1-3pm. The address is 1607 Coal Avenue SE. No public parking in the gated complex. [Find out more about the property.](#)

The 9yo home, with lush, private courtyard, off-street parking space + garage, is adjacent to UNM/CNM, & has a spacious chic great-room with polished concrete floors & includes 11' ceilings, 42'' flat screen tv & audio system--both stay--central vacuum, unique LED pendant & recessed lighting system, Pella windows; courtyard has large glass sliders with built-in blinds, stainless appliances, solid-surface counters, durable TPO roof & A/C, app-controlled Nest thermostat, solid wood interior doors, alarm system & sleek ceiling fans. Enjoy the lush, private trellis-covered patio & the fully-landscaped gardens around the property. Fully-finished garage with storage. Come see!

[See the 3-D Tour!](#)

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