

# UNO AND OMAHA GUIDE



# A BRIEF VIRTUAL INTRODUCTION TO UNO AND OMAHA

A wealth of information about UNO - our mission and vision, the campus, our students, academic programming and more – can be found on the UNO website:

## UNO HOMEPAGE

- Visit [www.unomaha.edu](http://www.unomaha.edu)
- Use the About tab to learn more about campus leadership, the mission and strategic plan, and facts and figures about who we are.
- Use the Academics tab to link to college and department pages or to Academic Affairs.
- Use the Engagement tab to learn more about community engagement at UNO and how we live our metropolitan mission.
- Use the Research tab to learn more about support for research and creative activity.

## UNO YOUTUBE

### **UNOMavTV**

UNO's YouTube library has a variety of videos that provide glimpses into our faculty, staff, and students. You will find MavMinutes with Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold; the Access the Experts series, which highlights faculty expertise, videos of events (e.g., commencement, honors convocation); and more.

### **Aerial Video of UNO**

This video shows UNO's beautiful campus and spaces.

### **Mavericks United**

This 2-minute video gets at the heart of what it means to be a Maverick.

## INFORMATION ABOUT OMAHA

### **Neighborhoods – Omaha Chamber of Commerce**

This page provides an overview of neighborhoods in Omaha.

### **Newcomers – Omaha Chamber of Commerce**

This page provides general information of interest to people new to Omaha.

### **Visit Omaha**

This site highlights a lot of information about Omaha (e.g., arts and culture, neighborhood happenings, community links, etc.) that might be useful in your relocation decision.







# OVERVIEW OF EASTERN AND MIDTOWN OMAHA

## NODO AND DOWNTOWN

**Hot Shops** is home to studio spaces, galleries and hot shops for a glass studio, metalworking, sculpture, and pottery. It has called a former Serta Mattress factory home for over 20 years. More recently, a “makerhood” has taken shape in other similar buildings nearby. The local businesses Hutch, Bench, and Metro Community College have a presence in the neighborhood including for classes and festivals.

Nearby is **TD Ameritrade Park**, the baseball stadium that is home to the NCAA College World Series each June. A block to the west is the Ruth Sokolof Theater, first location of **Film Streams**, Omaha’s nonprofit arthouse theater, the Ruth Sokolof Theater. An elevated walkway on the south end of the **CHI Health Center**, Omaha’s largest convention center, will take you to the Missouri River. The CHI Health Center regularly hosts concerts, the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting, and sporting events including the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials,

NCAA Volleyball and Basketball championships, and international equestrian events.

A number of art museums and galleries can be found throughout downtown and the **Old Market Historic District** including the **Joslyn Art Museum**, **The KANEKO**, and the **Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts**. Downtown is home to the largest Saturday farmers market, while the large Sunday farmers market can be found in Aksarben Village.

The **Durham Museum** provides a window into regional history and hosts large traveling exhibitions with a broad appeal such as the rock museum, the Muppets, and Pulitzer Prize award-winning photographs. The museum is also popular with fans of Art Deco and railroad history as the building was formerly Omaha’s Union Station with many features still extant.

In addition to a variety of restaurants, a number of cultural institutions can be enjoyed downtown including the

beautiful historic **Orpheum Theater**, the **Holland Performing Arts Center**, and the **Witherspoon Concert Hall** in the Joslyn Art Museum.. The Orpheum hosts Broadway touring shows, concerts, and dance performances, while the Holland is home to the Omaha Symphony in the main concert hall. Bike and scooter rentals are available in downtown, at UNO, and other neighborhoods.

## SOUTH OMAHA

The **South Omaha Main Street Historic District** is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The growth of what was then the village of South Omaha was due in large part to the Omaha Stockyards, which were the largest in the U.S. in the mid-20th century before closing in 1999. **El Museo Latino** was founded by a UNO alumna over 25 years ago and is home to rotating exhibits of Latino art, history, and culture.



The South 24th Street district includes a bustling neighborhood with restaurants, shops, and public art. The **Vinton Street Historic District** is also on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to a vibrant scene featuring galleries, public art and murals, restaurants, and shops.

## NORTH OMAHA

The Great Plains Black History Museum is located in the historic **Jewell Building**, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Jewell Building was where many jazz and big bands performed in the 1930s-1950s and the venue put Omaha on the map for African American music.

The Fair Deal Village Marketplace, the first and only shipping container commercial project in the city, is located on the North 24th St. corridor.

Recognized for the array of artistic interests and creating impact in the community, the **Union for Contemporary Art** provides classes, hosts plays, and exhibits traditional and contemporary visual arts. **The Omaha Star**, one of the oldest African American newspapers west of the Mississippi River, is also part of the neighborhood.

Lastly, Omaha is dotted with artistic murals, which in the case of North 24th St. highlight the triumphs and challenges of the African American experience.

## MIDTOWN

**Midtown Crossing**, a mixed-use development created by Mutual of Omaha about a decade ago is located at Dodge St. and 32nd St. It includes restaurants, shops, a theater, apartments, and condos. The residential neighborhoods around Midtown Crossing include single-family homes and apartments near dog-friendly parks.

Midtown Crossing is home to a monthly Friday night market, Jazz on the Green on Thursdays on Turner Park lawn, and the Gifford Park neighborhood has a Friday evening farmers market.

Also part of the Midtown area is the historic **Field Club neighborhood**, on the National Register of Historic Places since 2000 and birth place of President Gerald Ford.

## BLACKSTONE

The **Blackstone District** District is located between the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus and

Midtown Crossing. The historic Blackstone Hotel was the birthplace of Butter Brickle ice cream as well as the Reuben sandwich and Crescent Moon Ale House across the street hosts an annual Reuben sandwich festival. The area rapidly gentrified and the main strip is home to a number of restaurants, bars, and other businesses.

## BENSON

**Benson** is a popular residential and recreational neighborhood. The commercial strip on Maple St. is a popular location for restaurants, bars, galleries, music venues, and shops. **Benson First Fridays** offers arts engagement and community building with similar art crawls found in other Omaha neighborhoods.

## DUNDEE

The **Dundee neighborhood** neighborhood includes small commercial strips at 50th and Dodge Streets and Underwood and 50th Streets. It is popular for its unique restaurants, shops, and art house movie theater. ORBT, Omaha's new bus rapid transit line runs through the neighborhood on Dodge St.

from downtown to Westroads Mall at 102nd St. ORBT is free to ride with your UNO ID.

## ELMWOOD PARK/MEMORIAL PARK

Elmwood Park and Memorial Park are located next to UNO's Dodge St. campus. **Memorial Park** was conceived during World War II to honor Omahans. The memorial looks down on Dodge St. from the top of a hill. In addition to other war memorials, a rose garden, and open spaces, Memorial Park is notable for its home to Omaha's largest free concert each summer in June.

While Omaha is home to over 100 parks, it is **Elmwood Park** that borders UNO serving as the divider between the Dodge St. Campus and Scott Campus.

Elmwood Park includes a pool, baseball field, and golf course. A shuttle bus connects the two campuses.

## AKSARBEN VILLAGE

**Aksarben Village** is a redevelopment of the former Aksarben horse racing track. You will notice the name Aksarben used for businesses throughout the city and if you could not tell, Aksarben is Nebraska spelled backwards. (A little Nebraska-style humor!).

Aksarben Village includes a movie theater, restaurants, businesses, and apartments while bordering UNO residence halls and academic buildings. Aksarben Village is also home to outdoor festivals and events such as the largest Sunday farmers market, Maha Music Festival, Afromaha festival, and many more.

Across Center St. from Aksarben Village is **Baxter Arena**, the home for UNO hockey, basketball, women's volleyball. The facility is also a community resource hosting Heartland Pride Festival, concerts, and other special events like the U.S. Olympic Curling Championships.

Adjacent to Baxter Arena new baseball and softball fields are opening in 2021.

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Other well-known Omaha attractions of mention include the **Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium**; **Lauritzen Gardens**; and historic **Boys Town**.



# LOCATING A HOUSE IN OMAHA

Looking for a new home can be both an exciting and nerve-racking proposition. Though UNO does not work directly with any one realtor or real estate agency, the resources below may be useful for identifying housing that best meets your needs as you transition to Omaha.

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## SEARCH USING HOUSING APPS

There are several popular apps that let you identify properties that are both for sale or for rent and can help you get a sense of options in and near the Omaha metro area – here are a few:

- **Apartments.com**
- **Apartmentguide**
- **Redfin**
- **Trulia**
- **Zillow**
- **Realtor.com**

## WORK WITH A REALTOR

Omaha is served by several real estate agencies. Below are links to a few that are listed alphabetically. More may be identified by doing a browser search. Consider consulting with several realtors before making a decision to get a sense of the level of service they provide.

- **Berkshire Hathaway Home Services**
- **Century 21**
- **Home Real Estate**
- **Nebraska Realty**
- **NP Dodge**
- **Woods Bros Realty**

You can also utilize the **Omaha Area Board of Realtors** to help find a realtor for you.


## CROWDSOURCE IT

Your department chair or new colleagues who have recently moved to Omaha can be a great source of information. Consider reaching out to them as well or ask your department chair to connect you with others who have moved recently. Sites such as Reddit/Omaha or Yelp may also be useful in terms of giving you a sense of popular opinions about moving to Omaha.



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