

# DFW NETWORK

MAGAZINE

ANY & EVERYTHING DFW

## TYE THREATS OF WRITE THE VISION CONSULTING

5 TIPS FOR DRIVING BUSINESS  
GROWTH AND ENHANCING  
OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY IN 2026

## 5 REASONS TO MOVE TO DFW

LIVE CENTRAL, TRAVEL ANYWHERE

## A JOURNEY FUELED BY COURAGE AND PURPOSE

ROCIO AT LAW

## ISSUE 01

DFWNETWORK.NET



## BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

THE COLBY TOLBERT STORY



 Family Friendly

# Music Vibes

Dance & Discover Dallas-Fort Worth



**DFW Artists**



**New Releases**



**Events**



**Community**



**News**

 LIKE/FOLLOW 



@tkradiodallas

Find TK Radio Dallas Music On



TikTok

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**05**

DFWNC  
COMMUNITY  
IMPACT

**11**

COLBY TOLBERT:  
COMMUNITY  
MATTERS

**15**

TAXES WITH  
PATRICIA  
RAY-LIPSEY

**17**

COVER STORY:  
5 TIPS FOR GROWTH  
IN BUSINESS

**21**

THE CREATIVE  
FORCE OF LUISA  
VALDEZ-SALAS

**23**

LEAVING REALITY  
BEHIND: MEOW  
WOLF GRAPEVINE

**25**

THE RANDALL  
ARMSTRONG BAND  
ACROSS DFW

DFW NETWORK MAGAZINE

**27**

TAMEIKA MANNING:  
THE GREEN TEAM  
CHANGING LIVES

**29**

BUILT BY A STORM:  
THE MONICA  
FOSTER STORY

**02**



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the DFW Network Magazine!

Dallas-Fort Worth is more than just a place where we live or work. It is a playground for ideas, a powerful area of operation, and a market filled with opportunity. This magazine was created for metroplex professionals, business owners, and families who see the value of DFW as it currently is and the potential it possesses.

DFW continues to outperform the rest of Texas and the United States in terms of lower unemployment, job growth, consumer spending, and wage growth in 2025, according to US Federal Reserve economic data. This sustained momentum has contributed to an estimated 300 to 500 new residents arriving in Dallas-Fort Worth every day.

Our ideal reader is proud to call Dallas-Fort Worth home. You believe in its future and understand that the massive growth happening across the metroplex is not a liability. It is an invitation. An invitation to expand business, strengthen commerce, build meaningful relationships, and create lasting impact in the communities we serve.

DFW Network Magazine exists to celebrate and connect the people who are actively shaping this region. We take pride in the diversity of Dallas-Fort Worth and will regularly highlight the contributions of all community members who bring fresh perspectives, bold ideas, and cultural richness that strengthen our collective story.



Terrance Thomas  
Richardson, Texas



This cultural mosaic is one of our greatest strengths, and it deserves to be seen, honored, and shared.

Inside these pages, you will find family-friendly stories and information designed to help you explore and engage more deeply with the metroplex and its diverse people. From entertainment and nightlife to tourism, fantastic foodie finds, scenic escapes, cultural experiences, and community leader highlights, our goal is to make Dallas-Fort Worth more accessible, more exciting, and more connected for you and your family.

Whether you are building a business, growing a brand, raising a family, or simply looking for your next great experience, this magazine is for you. Dallas-Fort Worth is full of possibilities, and together, we can continue building something extraordinary. Thank you for being part of the DFW story.

With pride and optimism,

Terrance Thomas  
Chief Editor,  
DFW Network Magazine



# THE DFW NETWORK CHAMBER AND COMMUNITY IMPACT



## The Editorial Team

The Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex is one of the most dynamic regions in the country. It is bold, diverse, creative, and full of ambition, yet true economic prosperity only becomes meaningful when it is shared. That belief sits at the heart of the DFW Network Chamber. The DFW Network Chamber is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit organization built on a powerful idea.

When small business owners come together, they can build a bigger, better, and more prosperous DFW for everyone. This is not just a chamber of commerce. It is a movement focused on inclusion, culture, leadership, and opportunity.



Rachel Seideman, DFWNC Board Member

The mission of the DFW Network Chamber is clear and intentional. It exists to bring small business owners together to strengthen the entire metroplex. By creating meaningful connections and opening doors to collaboration, the chamber works to ensure that economic growth reaches more people, more neighborhoods, and more communities.





The vision goes even deeper. The DFW Network Chamber believes that every man, woman, and child has untapped entrepreneurial potential. It strives to create an environment that fosters leadership, celebrates cultural diversity, and embraces unity. As the demographics of Dallas-Fort Worth continue to evolve, the chamber does not resist change. It welcomes it and builds upon it.

### **A Chamber That Reflects the Metroplex**

The DFW Network Chamber serves all of Dallas-Fort Worth. Its members are spread throughout the region and represent a wide range of industries, backgrounds, and experiences. Culture and diversity are not buzzwords here. They are celebrated and woven into everything the chamber does.

This is an organization that understands relationships matter. Business grows faster when people feel seen, supported, and connected. Friends do business with friends, and the DFW Network Chamber creates the space where those friendships begin.

### **Events That Build Real Connections**

One of the most powerful ways the chamber brings people together is through its monthly events. These gatherings are designed to be welcoming, energetic, and genuinely useful.

The Business Overtime Meet and Greet takes place on the first Thursday of every month in Plano from 6 to 9 pm. It is free to attend and offers a relaxed after-hours environment where professionals can connect, collaborate, and grow.

The Habanero Hangout happens on the third Monday of each month in Fort Worth from 6 to 8 pm. Also free to attend, it blends networking with personality, fun, and opportunity.

Each event features interactive networking, prizes, and sponsorship opportunities, making every gathering both engaging and valuable.



## Experiences That Go Beyond Networking

What truly sets the DFW Network Chamber apart is its creativity. Beyond regular monthly meetups, the chamber produces unforgettable one-time events and experiences that blend business, culture, and community.

For example, we had a Coffee Rave in Arlington, a high-energy morning filled with electronic dance music, shopping, a photobooth, and hot beverages from C Man Coffee. The DFW Network Chamber Gala brought elegance and excitement together at the DoubleTree Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel. Guests enjoyed bling-bling sneakers, auctions, raffles, dancing, and powerful networking in a night designed to inspire.

The Masquerade offered mystery and fun with karaoke, a live DJ, and club vibes that encouraged people to connect beyond surface-level conversations.

The Grapevine Meetup took members into the immersive world of Meow Wolf, blending punk rock energy with art, discovery, and intimate networking. The DFW Celebration Expo in Fort Worth showcased the chamber's commitment to accessibility and community. The event was completely free and featured a bridal fashion show, more than 40 wedding industry vendors, a stunning flower wall from The Luxe Zone LLC, bubble machines, cuisine from Jeff the Chef, professional lighting from JDM Entertainment, and an atmosphere that welcomed everyone.

The Spring Festival at the Cedar Hill public library was a massive family-focused celebration with Easter egg hunts, bounce houses, martial arts demonstrations, live DJs, the Louisiana Hot Sauce Jeep, an awards ceremony, incredible vendors, and performances from Cumbia queen Kristal Skies. These events are proof that the DFW Network Chamber is about more than transactions. It is about experiences, memories, and meaningful connections.

The DFW Network Chamber is not about logos on a website or names on a list. It is about people coming together to build something meaningful. It is about celebrating culture, embracing diversity, and creating inclusive prosperity across Dallas-Fort Worth. If you are looking for a community that believes in collaboration over competition, relationships over transactions, and opportunity for all, the DFW Network Chamber is ready to welcome you. Follow the DFW Network Chamber on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected, explore upcoming events, and see the impact being made across the metroplex.

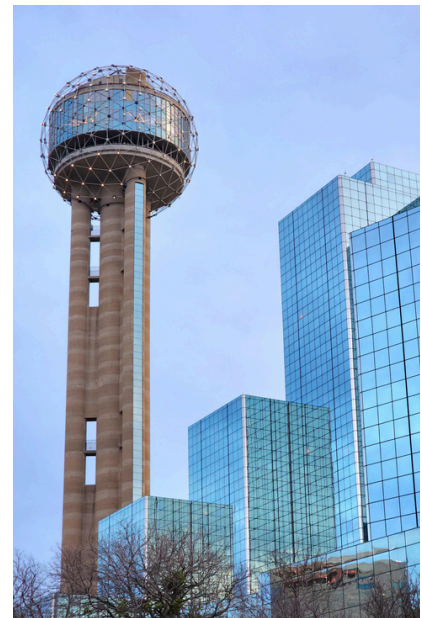




## The DFW Dream

→ The DFW Dream is the belief that our great metroplex thrives when opportunity is shared. DFW is a region where integrated economies should lift everyone, where small businesses can grow alongside major corporations, and where local commerce still has room to breathe. It is about affordable housing, smart policies that expand supply, and a cost of living that stays within reach for families chasing stability, hope, and a brighter future.

The DFW Dream embodies a vibrant job market that creates tens of thousands of high-paying opportunities across legacy and emerging industries, opening doors for professionals, innovators, and the next generation of leaders. It is about facing homelessness with honesty and humanity, investing in real solutions while never losing compassion for those in need.



It is world-class public education that prepares our children to compete locally, nationally, and globally in schools that are safe, inspiring, and built for success in today's information age. It is widening access to the middle class and strengthening social and economic mobility for every Dallas-Fort Worth resident.

The DFW Dream is guided by data, grounded in reality, and powered by love, empathy, and a willingness to lend a hand as individuals, but more importantly, as a society. We acknowledge the worth of every person and seek to treat them with dignity, respect, and as equals. It is the understanding that hardship may define today, but it does not have to define tomorrow for our residents.

Most of all, the DFW Dream brings together people of every background, identity, belief, and story to build something bigger than ourselves. A more inclusive, prosperous, and ambitious Dallas-Fort Worth, made possible by us. Together, We Are DFW!



**D.P. WOOD LAW**

Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning & Probate

D.P. WOOD LAW IS AN ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE FIRM  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN NORTH DALLAS ON PRESTON RD.

# ESTATE PLANNING, WILLS, TRUSTS, & PROBATE LAW



Donna Phillips Wood, J.D.  
Founder | SMU Dedman School of Law

Call us now to schedule  
your case evaluation

**(469)-310-3377**

**Location:**

17177 Preston Road, Suite 340  
Dallas, Texas 75248

**Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
10:00 am to 5:30 pm

**Plan Today,**  
**Protect Tomorrow**



**VISIT NOW**

## Legal Services: <

- ***Estate Planning***
- ***Transfer on Death Deed***
- ***Powers of Attorney***
- ***Probate***
- ***Wills***
- ***Trusts***

[www.dpwoodlaw.com](http://www.dpwoodlaw.com)



# EVENT VENUE RENTAL

Looking for the perfect space to bring your vision to life? Prestige Ambience offers the perfect setting to bring your vision to life.

**Includes:**

- Tables & Chairs with Standard Black Covers**
- 2x Banquet Style & Beverage Tables**
- LED Lighting System**
- WIFI**

**\*\*Capacity:\*\* 100 Guests**



Professional Service

Strategic Location

Flexible Design

Open Vendor Policy

**3164 W Parker Rd, Plano, TX 75075**

# COLBY TOLBERT:

## BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

In the fast-growing Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, few local businesses embody community spirit like Tolbert Garage Door. Based in Mesquite and trusted across the region for more than 20 years, the company is known for skilled service, genuine integrity, and deep involvement in the community it proudly serves.

From Dallas, Arlington, Plano, to Richardson, Tolbert Garage Door supports homeowners and business owners with expert repairs, full installations, and same-day service. The company works with top-quality brands such as LiftMaster and Doorlink, giving customers reliable products and dependable craftsmanship. Licensed technicians, trained directly by owner Colby Tolbert, bring professionalism and warmth to every home they enter.

**"Your garage door is part of your home's security, your daily routine, and your family's comfort,"** says Colby. "Serving our neighbors across Dallas-Fort Worth is a responsibility we take seriously."

Tolbert Garage Door's impact has reached far beyond the driveway. The company has been featured on Good Morning Texas and CBS 11 News, where Colby was highlighted for his fast-growing business, customer-centered approach, and visible commitment to the Dallas-Fort Worth community.



### Colby Tolbert, Tolbert Garage Door

These media features and appearances introduced Tolbert Garage Door to thousands of viewers and showcased the heart behind the company's success.

Tolbert Garage Door has become a familiar name on 105.3 The Fan, one of the most beloved stations in the region. Through TOLO events, live broadcasts, and meetups, Colby and his team consistently show up for listeners, fans, and the larger Dallas-Fort Worth sports community.

Radio personality Cory James shared a powerful statement, **"Colby's support is real. He connects with people, cheers for the same teams, and shows up to celebrate the same hometown pride that our listeners feel every day."**

The partnership blends local business, sports culture, and community connection in a way that feels authentic and uplifting.





**Colby Tolbert, at the DFWNC Spring Festival 2025, in Cedar Hill, Texas**

Tolbert Garage Door continues to embrace a people-first mission through local events such as the family-friendly gatherings at CiCi's Pizza in Rowlett and Rockwall. These events include prize giveaways, community bonding, and open conversations with families and customers.

Colby described these moments as **"Good food, good people, and a chance to give back. That is what makes these events special. We are investing in the same community that invests in us."**

Tolbert Garage Door has become known for stepping in to support people in need with no expectation of payment. One significant example is their ongoing help for members of LakePoint Church, where the company has provided free garage door repairs to families facing hardship. They have also served many others across the Dallas-Fort Worth region who needed help but could not afford it.

**"When Tolbert Garage Door arrives, it is never just about fixing a door. It is about supporting a family and strengthening a community. That is what makes them special."** a local organizer said.

Tolbert Garage Door has many positive reviews across neighborhood platforms that repeatedly highlight honesty, fairness, kindness, and high-quality work. The company has earned a reputation not only as a skilled service provider but also as a trusted and compassionate neighbor. Tolbert Garage Door reflects the very best of the Dallas-Fort Worth spirit. It is resilient, people-centered, faith-driven, and deeply committed to service. Under Colby Tolbert's leadership, the company continues to expand while holding strong to the values that shaped its beginning.

Colby said, **"We are grateful to serve this community. Helping people and giving back is the measure of real success, and Dallas-Fort Worth is worth showing up for every single day."**

Tolbert Garage Door serves as a reminder that service and compassion can open just as many doors as skill and experience.





**IF YOU  
ARE  
READING  
THIS... SO  
ARE YOUR  
NEW  
CLIENTS!**

**ADVERTISE  
WITH US!**

**CALL  
469-267-5959  
TODAY!**





Creating Memorable Moments

**WEDDINGS**

**PARTIES**

**CORPORATE**



**International  
Experience**

**Affordable  
Services**

**Over 1,500  
Successful Events**

**12 Years of Event  
Management**

**Event Flexibility  
& Versatility**

**Cultural Event  
Fusion**

**FLOWER WALLS  
DAY OF COORDINATING  
FACE PAINTING  
PHOTO BOOTHS**

**DJ SERVICES  
HOSTING/ EMCEE  
CASINO EXPERIENCE  
INFLATABLE NIGHTCLUB**

**BALLOON TWISTING  
BALLOON DECOR  
FOAM PARTIES  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**PREFERRED PARTNERS**

**CALL/TEXT US TODAY!  
469 267 5959 OR 469 314 6780**

**sanyaeventsdfw.com**

# WHEN EXPERIENCE MATTERS:

## THE PATRICIA RAY-LIPSEY STORY

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is known for opportunity, growth, and reinvention, and Patricia Ray-Lipsey, DBA, founder of PRL Small Business Consulting, is a strong example of that spirit in action. Originally from Georgetown TX, Patricia relocated to Dallas after accepting a position with the Federal Reserve Bank. That move placed her in one of the most dynamic business regions in the country. Over time, DFW became the place where she saw real potential to help entrepreneurs build sustainable, well-structured businesses and grow with confidence.

Today, Patricia provides Small Business Services and Consulting throughout the Metroplex with a focus on strategy, operations, and long term planning. She is also clear in her message that tax season does not have to be scary. Patricia helps clients prepare year round and shows them how to utilize taxes to their advantage rather than react to them at the last minute.

What truly sets Patricia apart is her 30-plus years of experience. That depth of knowledge allows her to see potential issues coming long before they surface. While newer consultants often focus only on filing, Patricia brings foresight and strategy that protect businesses well into the future.



Her work is rooted in professional expertise and a genuine passion for helping others succeed. Like many consultants, Patricia has faced challenges, including finding clients who can afford her detailed services and maintaining a consistent client pipeline. Instead of slowing down, she leaned into networking across DFW, building relationships and connecting with business owners who needed her expertise.

Those efforts paid off in September 2025 when Patricia received a call that became her biggest breakthrough of the year.





The client needed her services and booked with her, reinforcing the value of her persistence, experience, and commitment to service.

Patricia believes deeply in the strength of the Dallas-Fort Worth small business community and actively contributes to its growth. Through PRL Small Business Consulting, she continues to help business owners move forward with clarity, preparation, and confidence.

Patricia serves as the treasurer of the DFW Network Chamber and contributes to our vibrant community through her church and other notable organizations across the metroplex.



**WHAT SETS  
PATRICIA  
APART IS  
HER 30+  
YEARS OF  
TAX  
EXPERIENCE!**



# 5 TIPS FOR DRIVING BUSINESS GROWTH AND ENHANCING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY IN 2026

FEATURING TYE THREATS, CEO AND FOUNDER OF WRITE THE VISION CONSULTING GROUP



## **TYE Threats, CEO of Write the Vision Consulting Group Prepares You for 2026**

As businesses across Dallas-Fort Worth look ahead to 2026, one question continues to rise to the top: how do companies grow while operating efficiently, sustainably, and with intention? According to Tye Threats, CEO and Founder of Write the Vision Consulting Group, the answer lies in clarity, people, systems, and execution.

Write the Vision Consulting Group is a business consulting firm focused on helping organizations overcome operational challenges. The firm works with companies on technology alignment, business systems, implementation of new platforms, development of SOP (standard operating procedures), staff training, and call center optimization.



# DRIVE BUSINESS GROWTH IN 2026 WITH TYE THREATS:

At the core of its mission is a simple but powerful tagline: Turning strategy into execution. With deep roots in Corporate America and a forward-thinking mindset, Tye shares five essential tips to drive business growth and enhance operational efficiency in 2026.

## DEFINE WHAT GROWTH MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Tye believes growth must be clearly defined before it can be achieved. Too many businesses pursue growth without agreeing on what it actually looks like. Growth could mean increased revenue, a higher-quality client base, faster response times to leads, expanded services, new offices, or a stronger internal team.

Tye emphasizes that business owners must establish metrics that align with their vision. These may include revenue goals, client count, lead response time, types of products or services sold, employee growth, or geographic expansion. Without defined growth metrics, businesses risk working hard without moving forward.



## FOCUS ON PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

People development is one of the most overlooked drivers of business success. Tye strongly believes that companies must invest in their leaders and teams if they expect long-term results. Developing leadership capacity creates stronger decision-making, better accountability, and improved execution across the organization.

From her own experience, Tye has seen firsthand how training and team building can transform operations.

Investing resources into leadership development not only strengthens company culture, but also increases efficiency and scalability. When leaders grow, businesses grow with them.



# WRITE THE VISION CONSULTING GROUP

Well-designed processes make onboarding easier, improve performance, and allow leaders to identify challenges quickly. For companies preparing for growth in 2026, process development is not optional. It is foundational.

## INVEST IN THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT THE VISION

Technology should support the vision, not complicate it. One of the key areas where Write the Vision Consulting Group provides value is helping businesses select and implement the right technology and systems.

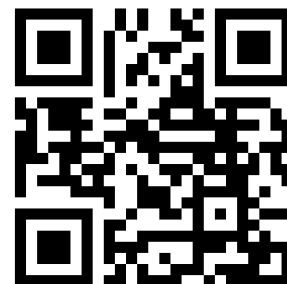
Tye often sees companies invest in tools that do not align with their goals or workflows.

The right technology should streamline operations, integrate seamlessly, and empower teams. Whether implementing new systems or improving call center performance, technology decisions should always tie back to the overall business strategy.

## DEVELOP STRONG AND SCALABLE PROCESSES

Growth without structure leads to inefficiency. Tye stresses the importance of developing clear, documented processes that can scale alongside the business.

SOPs provide consistency, reduce errors, and help teams operate with confidence and clarity.



## **FOCUS ON THE RIGHT MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS**

Success must be measured intentionally. Tye encourages businesses to move beyond surface-level metrics and focus on measurements that reflect true performance and efficiency. Tracking the right data allows leaders to make informed decisions, adjust strategies, and stay aligned with their growth goals. Measuring what matters ensures that growth is not just happening, but happening in the right direction.

## **A JOURNEY BUILT ON CONFIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE**

Originally from Chicago, Tye has lived throughout Texas for 17 years and has called Dallas-Fort Worth home for the past four. She chose DFW for its strong economic opportunities, vibrant business ecosystem, and suburban lifestyle. Being close enough to major cities for entertainment and resources, while far enough away to avoid congestion, was a major draw. As a family woman, the region's excellent school districts also played an important role in her decision.

Tye's professional journey began early. She secured her first corporate job at the age of 17 and was quickly exposed to product development and IT teams. From the start, she was forward-thinking, focused on improving systems, implementing goals, and building strong teams. While working in Corporate America, she interacted with numerous consultants and realized she was fully capable of contributing to business growth at the same level.

Starting her own firm was not without challenges. Tye knew she needed a broader brand name and did not want to appear too small. She navigated these obstacles strategically and launched Write the Vision Consulting Group debt-free. She initially focused on newly laid-off professionals and new businesses, helping them tackle pricing challenges, profitability, and operational clarity. She also delivered strong value through marketing partnerships and support with requests for proposals. Tye entered *entrepreneurship with confidence*.

One mentor famously told her, "Startup businesses will love you." Another challenged her while she was still in her corporate role, asking, "Why are you even working for them? You should be working for yourself." With encouragement and guidance, Tye took the leap and built a firm grounded in execution and results.

As businesses prepare for 2026, Tye Threats and Write the Vision Consulting Group continue to serve as a trusted resource for organizations ready to turn strategy into execution and growth into measurable success.



# REDEFINING BEAUTY & COMMUNITY

THE CREATIVE FORCE OF  
LUISA VALDEZ-SALAS

In the vibrant world of Dallas-Fort Worth entrepreneurs, Luisa Valdez-Salas, owner of The Luxe Zone LLC, stands out as a powerful blend of artistry, leadership, and heart. Known for her creative vision and remarkable attention to detail, Luisa has built a brand that transforms celebrations into immersive and elegant experiences people remember for a lifetime.

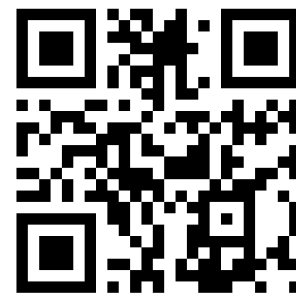
At The Luxe Zone LLC, every detail matters. Luisa specializes in luxurious flower walls that serve as stunning photo backdrops for weddings, birthdays, graduations, galas, and community gatherings. These flower walls have become signature elements of her company, drawing guests to step in front of them and capture beautiful memories. Along with custom LED signs, champagne carts, and chic decor pieces, her work elevates every event with intention and artistic flair.

One of the most meaningful aspects of Luisa's business is that it is truly a family effort. Her son is often part of the team, helping set up flower walls and decor at various events across DFW. For them, each event is more than a job. It is time spent together, learning, bonding, and building something valuable side by side. This family connection adds a warm and personal touch that clients notice and appreciate.



**LUISA AT A OPEN-HOUSE EVENT AT  
TARRANT EVENTS CENTER**

Luisa is also known for her warm spirit and welcoming personality. She is incredibly social, full of joy, and quick to smile. People naturally gravitate toward her because she makes them feel comfortable, appreciated, and celebrated. She brings this same energy into her work and her community involvement. Luisa is always giving back, supporting others, and using her talents to uplift the people around her.





**LUISA VALDEZ-SALAS AT THE DFW CELEBRATION EXPO 2025**

Luisa’s leadership was especially evident when she served as the lead organizer of the DFW Celebration Expo at the DoubleTree Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel. The event brought together business owners, families, creatives, and community leaders for a day filled with connection and inspiration. Luisa’s dedication helped shape it into a celebration of the strength and creativity found throughout the DFW area.

Outside of work, Luisa shares her home with two beloved dogs who are cherished family members. Zeus, a mini English Bulldog, and Xena, a Husky, are both adored and bring warmth, joy, and companionship to her family life. Their presence reflects the love and care that Luisa extends to her team, clients, and community.

People like Luisa represent the kind of goodness and hope our world needs. She shows that beauty is more than decor. It is compassion, connection, and a genuine desire to make a positive impact on others.



**LUISA VALDEZ-SALAS: A DFW SMALL BUSINESS OWNER YOU MUST MEET**

Through The Luxe Zone LLC, Luisa continues to elevate events across DFW. Through her spirit, she continues to elevate her community.

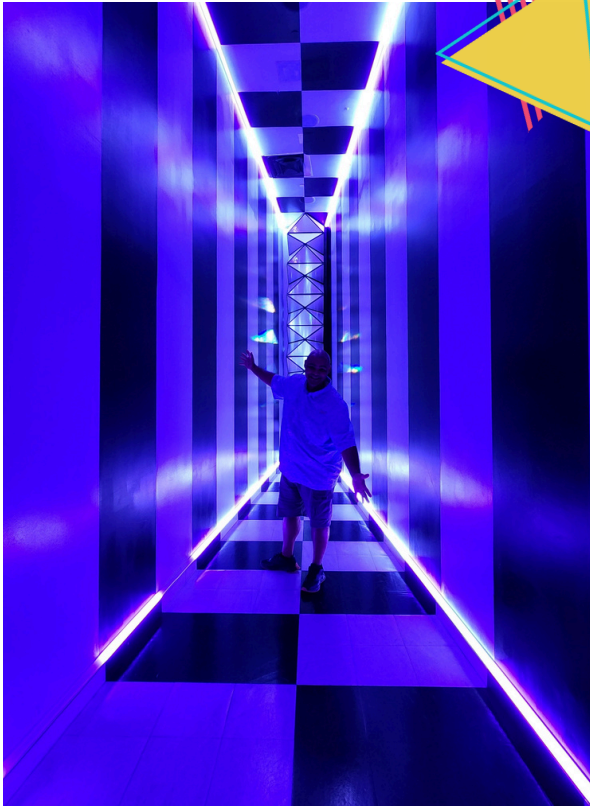


# LEAVING REALITY BEHIND

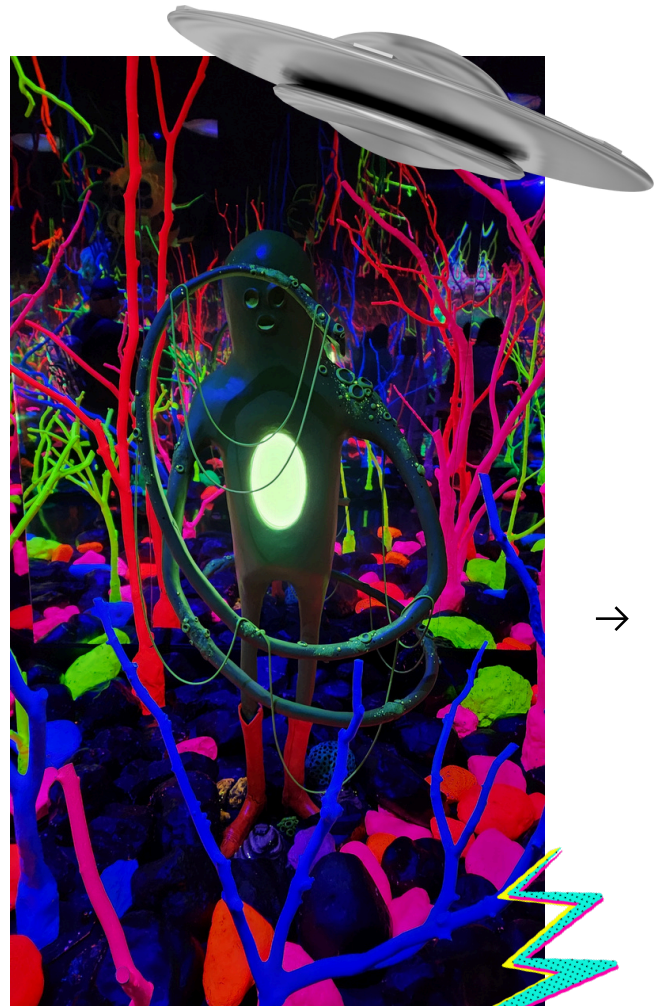
The Editorial staff

## Step into a new realm at Meow Wolf

From the moment guests walk into Meow Wolf in Grapevine, Texas, they realize this is not an ordinary attraction. What begins with familiar surroundings quickly transforms into something unexpected, pulling visitors out of everyday life and into a world that feels limitless.



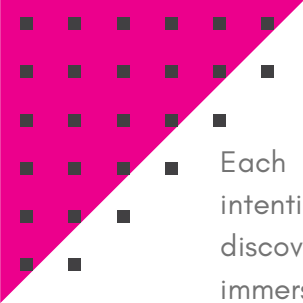
At first glance, the environment feels recognizable. A house. Rooms that seem almost normal. But curiosity takes over fast.



Meow Wolf, Grapevine, Texas

Guests open doors that lead to impossible spaces, discover hidden passages, and find themselves moving from one surreal world to the next. Every turn brings a new surprise, and each space feels more imaginative than the last.

Meow Wolf is not meant to be observed from a distance. Guests are encouraged to explore, touch, and follow their instincts. They crawl through secret portals, wander into glowing landscapes, and step into rooms alive with sound, movement, and color.



Each environment feels handcrafted and intentional, as if it exists solely to be discovered. What stands out most is how immersive the experience becomes. Music shifts as guests move through the space. Lighting transforms entire rooms in seconds. Textures invite interaction. Time begins to blur as visitors lose track of minutes and hours, fully absorbed in the journey unfolding around them.



There is a story woven throughout Meow Wolf, but it reveals itself differently for everyone. Some guests follow clues and piece together narratives, while others simply wander and let the experience guide them. No two paths are the same, and many leave knowing that a return visit would feel entirely new.



Visitors of all ages share in the sense of wonder. Children rush ahead with excitement, while adults find themselves just as amazed, rediscovering a feeling of curiosity they may not have felt in years. Meow Wolf creates a shared experience that brings people together through imagination and exploration.

Located inside Grapevine Mills, Meow Wolf is easy to access, yet once inside, the outside world disappears completely. It becomes more than something to do. It becomes a destination that lingers in memory long after guests leave.



Meow Wolf, Grapevine, Texas

They walk out inspired, energized, and slightly reluctant to return to normal life. Meow Wolf does not simply display art. It allows guests to step inside it. Meow Wolf is a photo-capturing opportunity like no other. Content creators will fall in love with the artistic rooms and unique stories behind each area.

For anyone visiting North Texas and searching for an unforgettable experience, Meow Wolf offers something rare. A chance to leave reality behind and enter a world that feels entirely unreal.



# RANDALL ARMSTRONG: HIGH ENERGY MUSIC ACROSS DFW

The Editorial Team

Some people are born for the stage...

Music came into Randall Armstrong's life early, and it shaped who he would become. Born in East Texas, Randall discovered his voice in the most familiar place he knew, the church. At just five or six years old, he began singing, unknowingly laying the foundation for a lifelong passion and a future on stage.

What started as a childhood joy quickly became a calling. Encouraged by both his mother and father, Randall continued developing his talent as he grew older, always supported by a family that believed in his gift.

That belief carried him forward to the University of North Texas, where Randall earned his undergraduate degree and further refined his musicianship. Over time, he made Dallas-Fort Worth his home, a move that would prove pivotal to his career. For Randall, DFW represents opportunity. It is a region filled with new venues, diverse audiences, and a constant demand for live music that connects people.

That connection is precisely what sets Randall Armstrong and the Randall Armstrong Band apart. Randall does not see the audience as spectators. He sees them as the most important part of the show.



Every performance is built around live interaction, high energy, and making people feel seen and valued. Whether the crowd is large or small, the goal remains the same. Everyone in the room matters, and everyone is part of the experience.

Like many bands, the early days were not easy. One of the biggest challenges was finding musicians who shared the same vision and commitment. Building a band means navigating schedules, health issues, family responsibilities, and day jobs, all while trying to secure bookings and build momentum.



### **Randall Armstrong Band, Richardson, TX**

Randall openly reflects on those early struggles. Starting out meant searching for three or four musicians who believed in the dream as deeply as he did, while simultaneously trying to convince venues to take a chance on a new act. It was a demanding season, but one the band worked through faster than expected, setting the stage for future growth.

One of Randall's proudest achievements is writing original music alongside his wife, a talented and creative songwriter. Together, they enjoy the process of turning ideas into songs that carry meaning and emotion. For Randall, performing music he helped create is a thrill beyond anything he imagined. Hearing his songs on the radio and seeing his family in the crowd brings a deep sense of pride and fulfillment.

Randall's sense of resilience was tested in 2020 when COVID-19 reshaped the live music industry. While many bands were forced to pause, Randall and his band chose to keep moving forward. Booking shows was challenging, especially within the DFW area, but they adapted by performing in other regions. Through determination and flexibility, the band stayed active and booked throughout the year, proving their commitment to the craft and to one another.

Today, the Randall Armstrong Band is known for delivering a dynamic mix of music that keeps audiences dancing and singing along. Their sound blends traditional country with Texas country, red dirt, southern rock, blues, and original music. That variety, paired with their interactive performances, creates an atmosphere that feels both familiar and exciting.

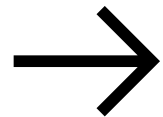
Randall's journey is a story of passion nurtured early, challenges met head-on, and a deep love for entertaining people. In Dallas-Fort Worth, where opportunity meets talent, Randall Armstrong continues to build a reputation not just as a musician but as an entertainer who makes every show unforgettable. In DFW, the music is alive, the crowd is part of the show, and Randall Armstrong is right at the center of it all.

Randall has two recently released songs, "Nothing Beats a TwoStep" a country song, and "He Loved Me to Death" a Christian song, both written by his talented wife. These songs can be found on 23 of the most popular music platforms.

**Visit [randallarmstrong.com](http://randallarmstrong.com) today for more info.**

# TAMEIKA MANNING: THE GREEN TEAM

The Editorial Team



Across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, there are leaders who quietly change lives not through headlines, but through consistency, compassion, and courage. Tameika Manning is one of those leaders. As founder and CEO of The Green Team, a community resource organization, Tameika has dedicated her work to creating and curating corporate mental health and wellness programming while extending that same care into the broader DFW community through charity, outreach, collaborative partnerships, and hands-on support.

At the core of The Green Team is a simple but powerful belief. People deserve to feel seen, heard, and understood. This belief was not born in theory. It was forged in urgency.

Tameika's journey started inside her own workplace during a time of crisis. Mental health challenges were rising at an alarming rate, including incidents of suicide.

The weight of what was happening around her could not be ignored. With an open heart, an innovative mind, and the support of one forward-thinking executive, Tameika made a decision that would change everything. She chose to act.

Rather than addressing mental health as a surface-level issue, Tameika took a comprehensive approach. She worked to involve medical, psychological, and social resources, building employee-driven programs that addressed real needs. These initiatives went beyond policies and checklists. They created safe spaces. They fostered connection. They helped people feel valued as human beings, not just employees. The impact was undeniable, but the path forward was anything but easy.

Launching the Green Team externally came with resistance. Tameika faced skepticism, opposition to change, and a refusal from many leadership levels to recognize the lasting value of mental health and wellness programming.

Even more challenging, she received no funding to support her office-wide events and initiatives. Requests for modest financial support were repeatedly denied, despite seeing funds allocated to other programs. It was disheartening. At times, it felt unfair. But quitting was never an option.

Tameika knew lives were hanging in the balance. She knew the change that was needed would have to start with her. Even when the odds were stacked against her, the mission mattered more than fear. She pushed forward, fueled by purpose and the belief that meaningful change was possible.

Her turning point came when the same forward-thinking leader who believed in her vision reaffirmed their confidence in her and her work. That belief became momentum. From there, Tameika and The Green Team continued moving forward, building programs and partnerships rooted in authenticity and care.

Along her journey, Tameika also learned difficult but powerful lessons about leadership and values. In working with another organization that appeared charitable on the surface, she eventually discovered that ego and publicity were driving forces rather than true philanthropy. The focus was on appearance, not impact. The team's contributions were overlooked, and respect was lacking.

After parting ways, Tameika found clarity, peace, and renewed joy. Today, she shares that she is happier than she has ever been, and the Green Team is thriving like never before.

Tameika's commitment to service is visible across Dallas-Fort Worth and beyond. Her work speaks through action. From 2024 to 2025, she served as an event coordinator and board member for the Tattoo Mark Foundation, collecting teddy bears year-round for sick children in local hospitals.

In 2025, she led a donation and flood relief drive for victims in San Angelo. She organized multiple back-to-school supply drives, created events for National Teddy Bear Park, and partnered with Malik's Helping Hand Foundation on a Thanksgiving food drive. During the holiday season, she supported multiple toy drives for Toys for Tots.

Her ongoing initiatives continue to touch lives year after year. Letters from the Heart, a heart to heart letter writing campaign established in October 2024, provides notes of encouragement for survivors of domestic violence. She supports an Adopt A Grandparent Raising Grandchildren holiday event alongside Dianne "MsCommunity" Gibson. Each effort reflects the same philosophy. Community care is not a moment. It is a commitment.

Tameika Manning's story is one of resilience, faith, and purpose. She reminds us that real change does not always come from grand gestures. It comes from showing up, one day at a time, with your heart, mind, and soul fully engaged. Her advice to the community is simple and powerful. Be the change you want to see. Stay true to yourself. Recognize that you are uniquely designed, and no one else can do what you are here to do. When you move with integrity and passion, you never truly lose.

In a region as diverse and dynamic as Dallas-Fort Worth, leaders like Tameika Manning remind us that hope is built through action, and community is strengthened when we choose to care for one another. To learn more or get involved, connect with The Green Team on social media.

Instagram: iamthegreenteam

Facebook: The Green Team



# BUILT BY A STORM: MONICA FOSTER

CREATING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY →

The Editorial Team

Dallas-Fort Worth is a region built on momentum, reinvention, and people who refuse to quit when the road gets hard. Monica Foster is one of those people. Today, she is the owner of Tarrant Events Center, a space that brings people together for celebration, connection, and community. But owning an event center was never part of her original plan. Her story began with something far more pressing than décor and guest lists. It began with survival.



Wedding at Tarrant Events Center, Haltom City, TX

Monica is a single mother of four, born and raised in Dallas-Fort Worth. Her life was grounded in responsibility, long hours, and doing what had to be done to keep her family moving forward. She worked in property management because it was steady, dependable, and necessary. But even with stability, she knew there was more waiting for her. She wanted growth. She wanted purpose. She wanted something bigger than simply getting by.



Monica went back to school and became a catastrophic adjuster, earning twenty-four licenses. She left her job and stepped into a world filled with storms, disasters, and uncertainty. For two years, she worked in hurricane and catastrophe zones, helping people rebuild their lives after devastation. She excelled in that space. Then the storms stopped. Dallas-Fort Worth is a region built on momentum, reinvention, and people who refuse to quit when the road gets tough. Monica Foster is one of those people.

Today, she is the owner of Tarrant Events Center, a space that brings people together for celebration, connection, and community. It all began with survival.

With no storms came no contracts. With no contracts came no income. And with four children depending on her, the silence was terrifying. She found herself searching for work again, looking for a door that would allow her to keep her family steady.

That door appeared in the form of an event manager position at Tarrant Events Center. She did not know where it would lead. She only knew she had to try. During her interview, the former owner questioned how her catastrophe background could translate into the event industry. Monica remains confident.

“Give me the opportunity, and I’ll show you better than I can tell you.” She did exactly that.

Monica worked harder than she ever had before. She booked events, managed weddings, and turned empty rooms into spaces filled with laughter, love, and memories.

She proved herself through results, not words. That dedication built trust, and that trust eventually turned into ownership. She did not just find a job. She built a future.

Today, Monica is the owner of Tarrant Events Center. The venue itself reflects her heart for community. It is a flexible, welcoming space designed to meet the growing need for gathering places across Dallas-Fort Worth.

Her journey is proof that storms do not always destroy us. Sometimes they prepare us. Sometimes they shape us. And sometimes, they build something strong enough to hold an entire community.



## IT SUPPORT & CYBERSECURITY SERVICES

Southwest Technical Support keeps your business running, secure, productive, and connected.

### WE PROVIDE PIECE OF MIND



#### CYBER SECURITY

Your business deserves ironclad protection. Our experts deliver the security you need to stay safe and compliant.



#### IT SUPPORT

Maximize uptime, reduce costs, and free your team to grow your business. Discover the power of proactive managed IT.



#### COMPUTER REPAIR

Your computer deserves professional care. Trust us to repair, protect, and optimize your devices.

### ABOUT US

Southwest Technical Support team has provided many satisfied clients with insightful, objective expertise while reducing costs and delivering exceptional services in all areas of technology



#### BACKUP SOLUTIONS

Automated backup processes, coupled with incremental backups, safeguard against data loss while optimizing system performance.



#### INTERNET & TELECOM SERVICES

Elevate your online experience with our comprehensive Internet and Telecom services.



Phone.  
972-528-9600



Email.  
[info@swtsupport.com](mailto:info@swtsupport.com)



**A  
JOURNEY  
FUELED  
BY  
COURAGE  
AND  
PURPOSE**

THE ROCIO AT LAW STORY

# THE POWER OF A WOMAN WHO REFUSES TO QUIT



The Editorial Team



In a world where many people wait for permission to lead, Rocio Gosewehr Hernandez stands boldly at the front, unapologetic, unstoppable, and committed to lifting others as she rises. As the founder of Rocio at Law, she has built more than a successful personal injury firm; she has built a movement centered on connection, service, and empowerment. Her story is proof that when a woman steps into her purpose, entire communities rise with her.

Rocio's story begins far from the courtroom. Born in El Salvador and raised in North Texas, she learned early what resilience looks like. She grew up understanding the value of community, the weight of sacrifice, and the importance of having someone fight for you. Those lessons shaped the attorney and the leader she would become.



**Fighting for the people  
means fighting for  
communities, strong  
legal protections,  
and justice for all.**

**CONTACT US**



 **469-340-2300**

 **www.rocioatlaw.com**

After graduating from Baylor University and earning her law degree from Notre Dame Law School, Rocio started her career on the defense side, representing large insurance companies. Most attorneys stay on that track. Rocio did not. She chose the harder road, the purpose-driven road. She chose people. Today, Rocio uses her insider experience to protect and fight for the injured, the overlooked, and the everyday families who need someone truly in their corner.

She speaks for those who fear being ignored. She brings justice to people who otherwise would not have it. It is not just law. It is personal.

people  
for safer  
stronger  
and



## A LAW FIRM BUILT WITH HEART

Rocio is the kind of attorney who looks at a client and says, “I will fight for you like you are family.”

And she means it. Her courage in the courtroom has earned her repeated SuperLawyers recognition, successful verdicts across Texas, and respect from peers statewide. But her impact cannot be measured on a resume. Her true legacy is the people whose lives she changes every single day.

Rocio does not rise alone. She rises with intention. She actively pours her energy into uplifting others, especially women, mothers, and people of color. She understands that representation is not just symbolic. It is transformational.

Through organizations and initiatives such as Dallas Professional Women, Empower Women of Color North Texas, which she helped found, and Attorney Mom Groups in Dallas and Collin County, Rocio mentors, leads, teaches, and inspires. She encourages others to use their voices, step into leadership, run for office, and believe they belong in every room they enter. She is not just building a career. She is building pathways.

Outside the courtroom, Rocio is a wife, a mother, a community volunteer, and a role model for the next generation. She is proof that leadership does not require sacrificing authenticity and that success does not demand silence or shrinking. She leads with clarity. She serves with heart. She shows up with purpose.

Rocio’s story is not just her own. It is an invitation. It reminds us that you can come from humble beginnings and still rise to incredible heights. You can be a mother and still be a powerhouse in your profession. You can build your own table and invite others to join you. You can lead your community and change your field at the same time. Rocio Gosewehr Hernandez is the embodiment of what happens when a woman believes in her purpose and chooses connection, courage, and community every step of the way.

→ Rocio at Law is not your typical legal office. It is a place where clients are heard and seen, where compassion is just as important as litigation skill, and where a strong woman leads with both intellect and empathy.

She handles cases involving:

- Car accidents
- 18-wheeler collisions
- Wrongful death
- Catastrophic injuries
- Premises liability

What sets her apart is not the type of cases. It is the type of advocate she is.

# WELCOME TO DALLAS-FORT WORTH! →

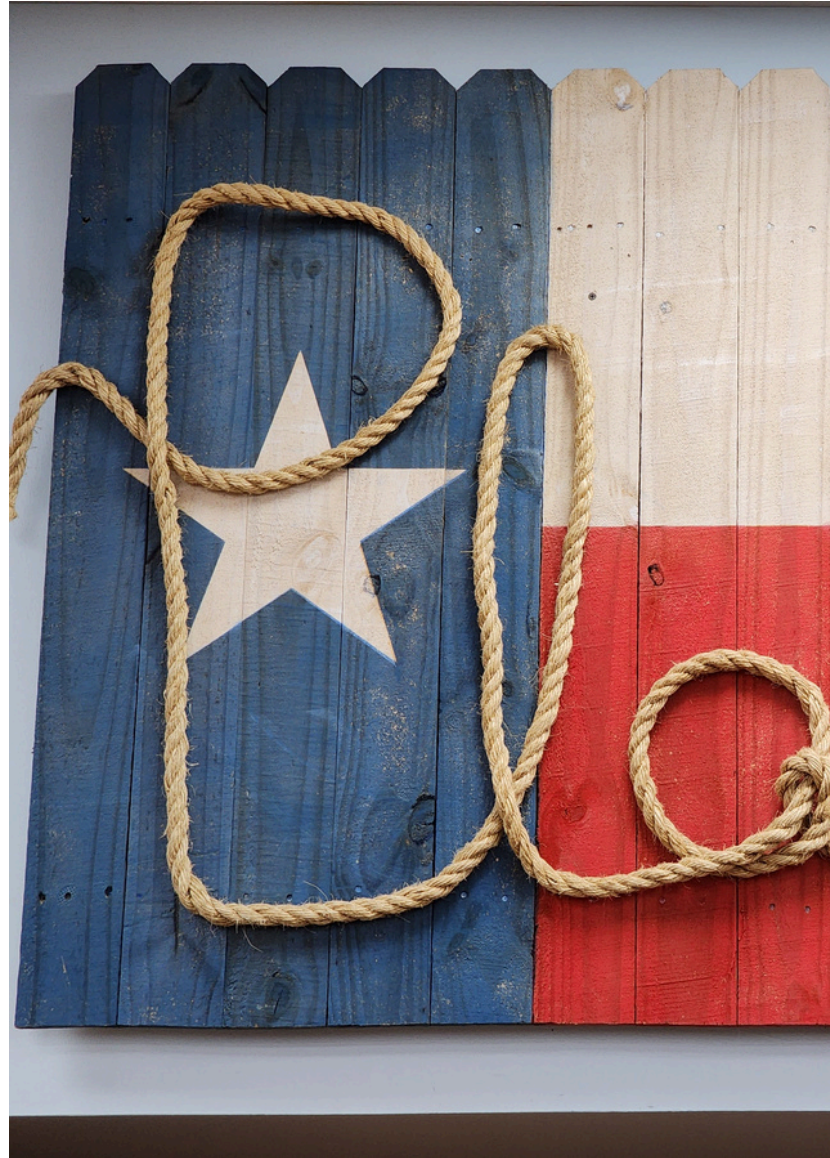


## 5 REASONS TO MOVE TO DFW

The Editorial Team

Across the country, people are rethinking where they live, work, and build their future. Dallas-Fort Worth continues to rise to the top of that list. With record population growth, a thriving economy, and an unmatched blend of opportunity and lifestyle, the Metroplex has become a destination for those who want more from where they live.

Here are five powerful reasons why you should consider making Dallas-Fort Worth your next home.



### **GROW YOUR CAREER FASTER**

If opportunity is what you are chasing, Dallas-Fort Worth delivers. The Metroplex is one of the strongest job markets in the country, home to a massive concentration of corporate headquarters, fast-growing startups, and expanding industries like technology, healthcare, finance, logistics, and energy. New companies arrive every year, creating absolute upward mobility for professionals, entrepreneurs, and creatives ready to build something meaningful.

### **YOUR MONEY GOES FURTHER IN DFW**

One of the most compelling reasons to move to Dallas-Fort Worth is financial freedom.





Texas has no state income tax, and everyday living costs remain lower than in many major metro areas. That means more house for your budget, more flexibility in your lifestyle, and more room to plan for the future without constant financial pressure.

### **QUALITY OF LIFE WITHOUT COMPROMISE**

In Dallas-Fort Worth, you do not have to choose between career success and personal well-being. The region offers top-ranked healthcare systems, strong school districts, respected universities, and countless outdoor and cultural experiences.



From lakes and trails to museums and live music, your life outside of work can be just as rewarding as your career.

### **BE CONNECTED TO THE WORLD**

Location matters, and Dallas Fort Worth is one of the most connected regions in the nation. With two major airports and a central U.S. location, travel is easy whether for business or leisure. Local highways and expanding infrastructure also make commuting and regional access smoother than many growing metros.

### **FIND YOUR PEOPLE IN DFW**

What truly sets Dallas-Fort Worth apart is its culture and community. The region is diverse, welcoming, and full of distinct neighborhoods that match every lifestyle. Food, sports, arts, and local events bring people together, while a strong sense of civic pride creates connection. No matter where you come from, it is easy to feel at home here.





## FORT WORTH The Editorial Team BOTANICAL GARDEN

If you are looking for an unforgettable family adventure that blends the wonder of nature, the joy of exploration, and the excitement of learning botanical science, the Fort Worth Botanical Garden is a must-visit destination in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This 120-acre living museum invites families to step outside, slow down, and experience the beauty and science of the natural world together.

Located in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District, the Fort Worth Botanical Garden is the oldest public botanical garden in Texas and features more than 2,500 plant species from around the world. It is a place where curiosity grows naturally, and every path leads to a new discovery.

### EXPLORE A WORLD OF GARDENS

The Garden's expansive collection of specialty spaces offers something exciting for every member of the family. Guests can stroll through the peaceful Japanese Garden with its winding paths, koi ponds, and carefully designed landscapes, or admire the color and fragrance of the Rose Garden. Inside the Rainforest Conservatory, families step into a lush tropical environment filled with towering plants, flowing water, and vibrant greenery.

Each garden tells its own story, encouraging visitors to explore ecosystems from around the globe while staying right here in Fort Worth. From water-wise landscapes to forested boardwalks, every area invites hands-on learning and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

### HANDS-ON FUN FOR THE KIDS →

Families with children will find plenty of space for imagination and play. The Baker Martin Family Garden is a favorite, offering an interactive creek, climbing structures, and natural play areas that allow kids to explore freely while connecting with nature. It is designed to spark creativity, movement, and confidence while encouraging outdoor discovery.

Beyond play spaces, the Garden offers engaging programs for children and families that combine learning with fun. Story-based activities, nature challenges, and interactive workshops help young visitors build a lifelong love for plants and the environment.





### **BOTANICAL SCIENCE MADE ACCESSIBLE**

The Fort Worth Botanical Garden is not only beautiful but also deeply educational. Through guided tours, camps, and field trip opportunities, visitors of all ages can learn about plant life cycles, ecosystems, conservation, and the science behind horticulture. These experiences help children and adults alike understand how plants shape our environment and why they matter.

For families interested in science, sustainability, and environmental stewardship, the Garden provides an inspiring outdoor classroom that makes learning feel natural and exciting.

### **PLAN YOUR VISIT**

Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Garden's official ticket portal, making it easy to plan a smooth and enjoyable visit. With wide open spaces, educational experiences, and endless beauty, the Fort Worth Botanical Garden offers a perfect day out for families looking to unplug and reconnect.

For DFW families seeking meaningful time together, this destination delivers wonder, learning, and lasting memories. The Fort Worth Botanical Garden is truly good DFW family fun and a place where nature brings everyone closer.



Scan the QR code and check out \$95 family memberships to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden!



# SHOPPING, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY IN DFW

The Editorial Team

Across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, PlugHub Network is redefining the market experience. Founded by Jordan Lee Walker and his partner Chaisten Allese, PlugHub brings together local artists, creators, and vendors to host vibrant, engaging, and immersive events. These markets go beyond traditional shopping, offering lively atmospheres filled with music, entertainment, and interactive experiences that make every visit unforgettable.

At PlugHub Markets, shoppers uncover a world of one-of-a-kind treasures. From handmade jewelry and fashion pieces to custom art and comic-inspired creations, every stall bursts with vibrant colors and unique products. Each purchase is more than a transaction; it's a connection to the creativity and passion of local makers, and every item is designed to feel personal and meaningful.

PlugHub Markets are a showcase for local artists, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. By providing a platform for creatives to display their work, PlugHub helps talent gain exposure, attract new customers, and grow their brands.



**Jordan Lee-Walker, Co-Founder, PlugHub Network**

Every event emphasizes collaboration over competition, creating a space where community support drives everyone forward.

PlugHub is known for its themed markets that celebrate culture, fandom, and local creativity. From Hispanic Heritage Markets honoring Latinx artists and traditions to Star Wars Markets where fans can meet costumed characters and explore collectibles, these events turn shopping into a festive, immersive experience. Each themed market is carefully curated to highlight creativity, community, and fun.

Beyond the products, PlugHub events feature live DJs, performers, and interactive entertainment that enhance the shopping experience.

*PlugHub*



**Chaisten Allese, Founder/Producer, PlugHub Network**

Families, collectors, and local enthusiasts enjoy exploring colorful stalls, discovering unique items, and engaging with artists, all while soaking in a lively and welcoming environment.

PlugHub is more than a marketplace; it is a community hub. Vendors, attendees, and creatives connect, share stories, and support one another. Jordan and Chaisten's vision emphasizes bringing people together, fostering relationships, and creating a welcoming environment where everyone feels included and inspired.

The influence of PlugHub Network extends beyond individual events. By celebrating local creativity, supporting small businesses, and hosting themed markets, these gatherings strengthen the cultural and economic vibrancy of Dallas-Fort Worth.



Each event adds color, energy, and excitement to the region, making PlugHub a cornerstone of the local arts and entrepreneurial scene.

Whether shopping for handmade gems, enjoying entertainment, or exploring themed markets full of color and creativity, PlugHub Markets offer a unique experience that is reshaping the way DFW comes together.



→ **FORT WORTH ZOO**

**The Editorial Team**

The Fort Worth Zoo has been a proud part of the DFW community since 1909. What started as a modest local attraction has grown into one of the nation's most beloved zoos. Spanning 64 lush acres, it is home to more than 7,000 animals representing around 500 species from around the globe. For families in the DFW area, it offers an unforgettable destination for learning, laughter, and adventure.

Visiting the Fort Worth Zoo is more than just seeing animals. It is a chance for children and parents to explore the wonders of the natural world together. Families can roam the African Savanna, meet exotic creatures at the Museum of Living Art.



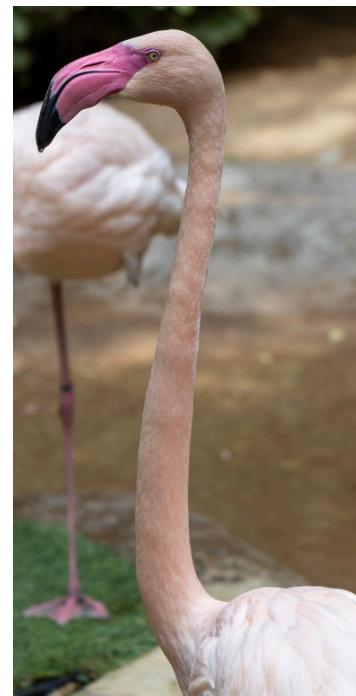
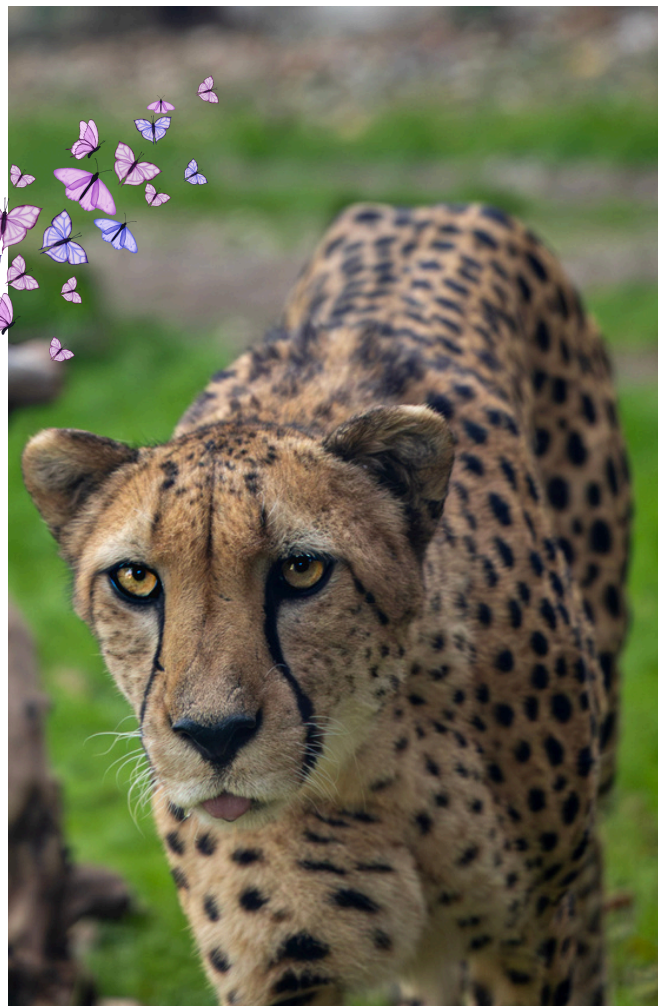
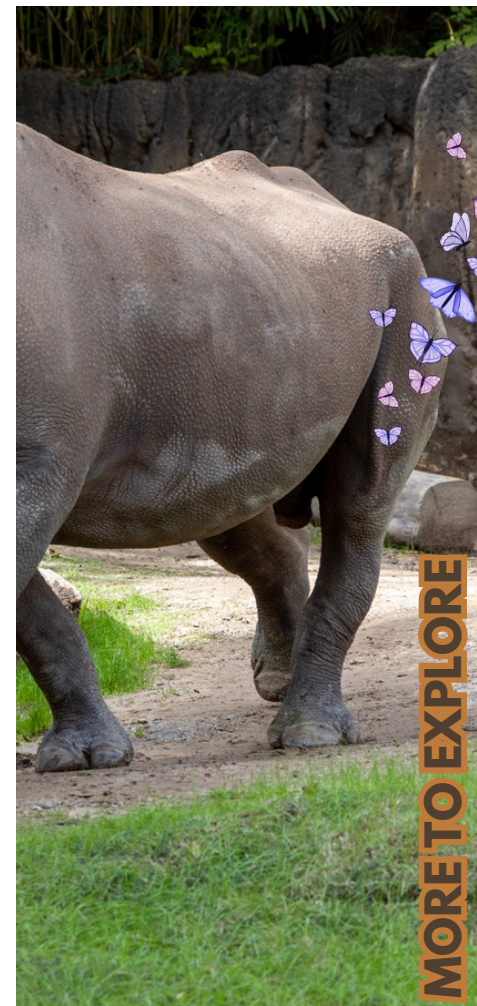
**PHOTOS BY T GODFREY PHOTO**

**EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF THE NATURAL WORLD**

Observers can also watch playful primates swing through the World of Primates. The Texas Wild area invites kids to experience local wildlife up close. Every corner of the zoo is designed to spark curiosity and inspire a sense of discovery, making it a perfect day trip for DFW families.

This year, the Fort Worth Zoo has welcomed a wave of new arrivals, offering families the joy of watching baby animals take their first steps. African lion cubs Imara and Tamu have captured hearts with their playful personalities. Lady Bird, the zoo's first female Asian elephant calf born since 2013, now delights visitors with her gentle and curious nature. Other calves and cubs across the zoo's habitats celebrate the zoo's ongoing conservation efforts.



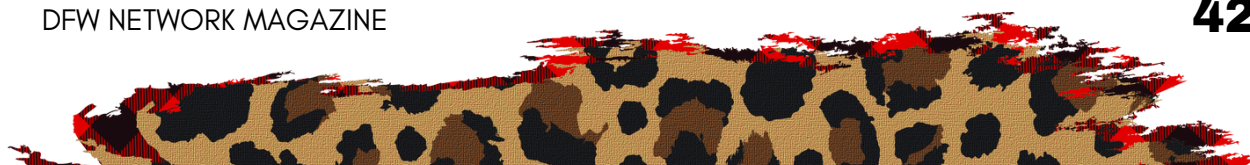


From baby animals to immersive exhibits, the zoo brings the community closer and creates a sense of pride for locals who support conservation and education in their own backyard.

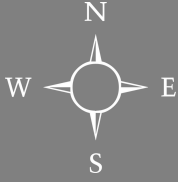
### → COMMUNITY CONNECTS & YOUR NEXT VISIT

These births allow families to witness real-life conservation success stories, fostering an appreciation for wildlife right here in their community. The zoo also emphasizes its role as a cornerstone of the Dallas-Fort Worth community. By offering educational programs, family events, and interactive exhibits, it brings together local residents in a shared celebration of nature and learning. Every visit strengthens the connection between families and the natural world, making the zoo an essential part of life in the Metroplex. For families, planning a day at the Fort Worth Zoo is easy and rewarding. Arrive early to enjoy the animals at their most active, take part in keeper talks, or watch feeding sessions for an interactive experience. The petting areas are a favorite among younger kids, and shaded rest areas and picnic spots make it simple to take breaks between adventures. Members from the DFW area enjoy special perks such as free parking, discounts, and access to exclusive events. The Fort Worth Zoo is a place where children can learn, explore, and make lasting memories with their parents. It is a safe and welcoming environment where families from across Dallas-Fort Worth can come together, connect, and discover the wonders of wildlife.

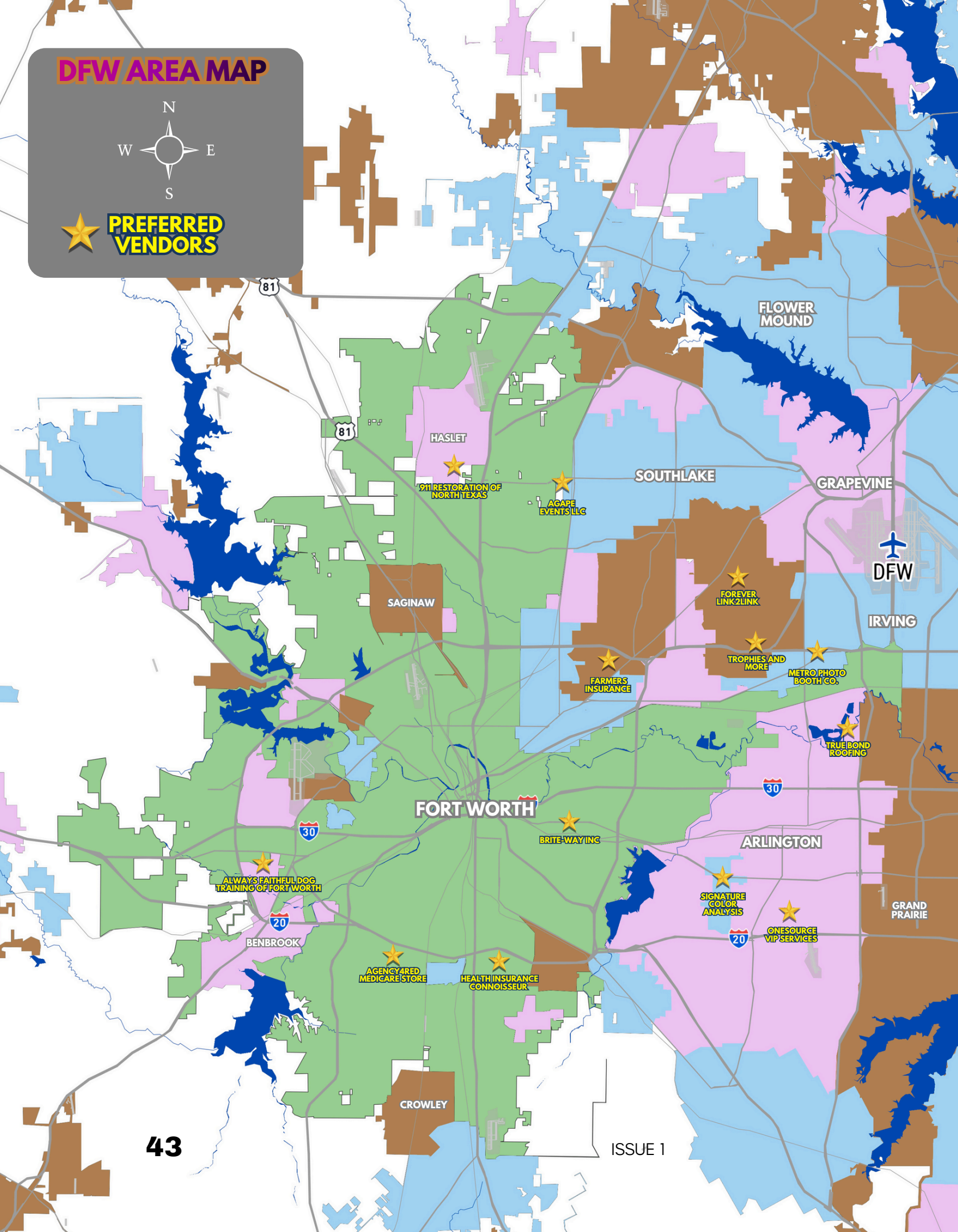
For DFW families looking for a fun, educational, and inspiring day out, the Fort Worth Zoo is more than just a destination; it is a part of the community experience that continues to grow and enchant every visitor.

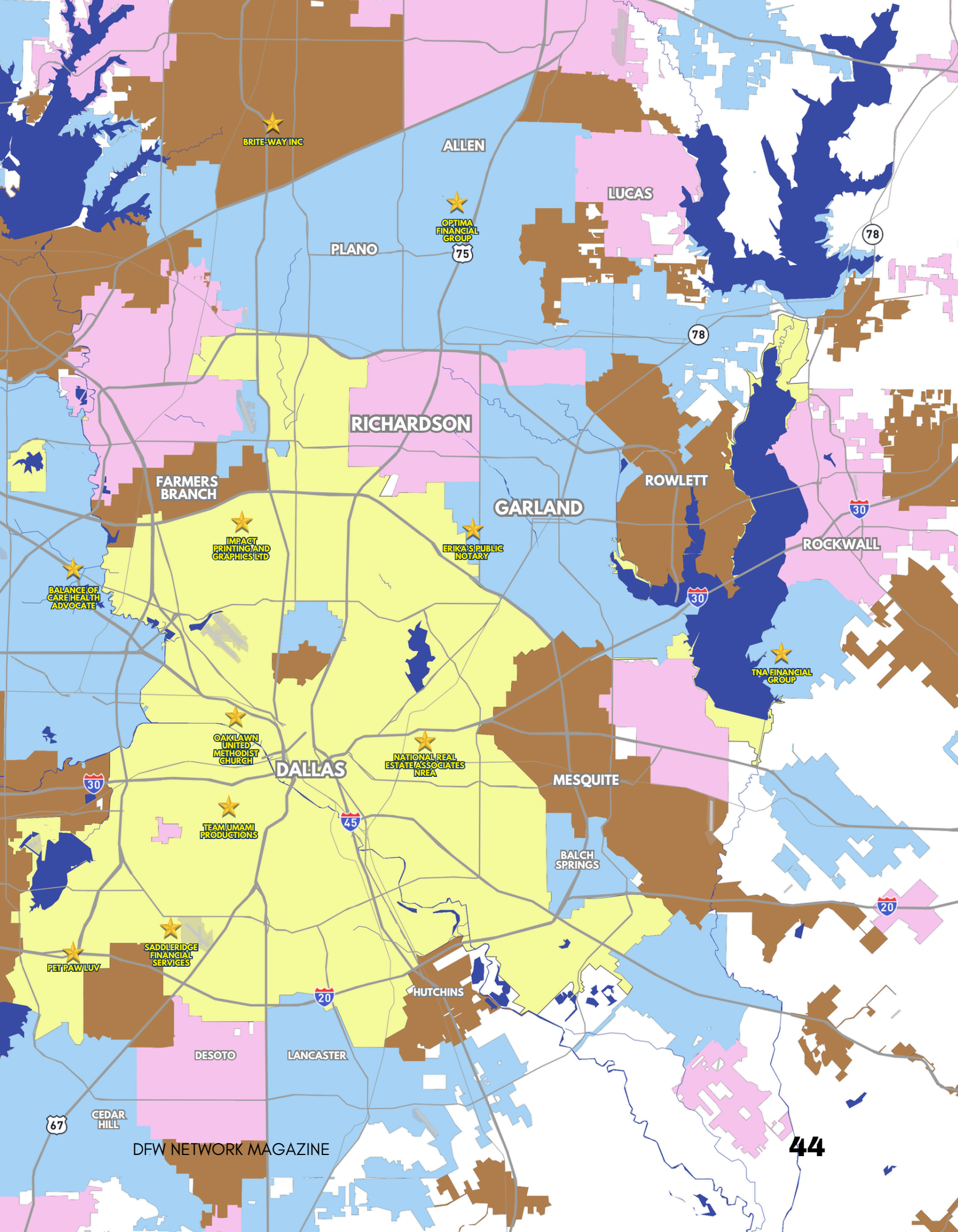


# DFW AREA MAP



**PREFERRED VENDORS**





BRITE-WAY INC

ALLEN

LUCAS

PLANO

OPTIMA FINANCIAL GROUP

RICHARDSON

FARMERS BRANCH

GARLAND

ROWLETT

ROCKWALL

IMPACT PRINTING AND GRAPHICS LTD

ERIKA'S PUBLIC NOTARY

BALANCE OF CARE HEALTH ADVOCATE

TNA FINANCIAL GROUP

OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DALLAS

NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES NREA

MESQUITE

TEAM UMAMI PRODUCTIONS

BALCH SPRINGS

SADDLERIDGE FINANCIAL SERVICES

PET PAWLUV

HUTCHINS

DESOTO

LANCASTER

CEDAR HILL

DFW NETWORK MAGAZINE

44



# PREFERRED VENDOR DIRECTORY

## 45

### AUTO INSURANCE

Name: Necole Curry  
Business: Farmers Insurance  
Phone: 817-928-9400  
Email: Lcurry@farmersagent.com

### DOG TRAINING

Name: Joe Adams  
Business: Always Faithful Dog Training of Fort Worth  
Phone: (682)429-4008  
Email: joe@alwaysfaithfuldogs.com

### BUSINESS INSURANCE

Name: Courtney Carr  
Business: Optima Financial Group  
Phone: 469-935-8125  
Email: Courtney@optimareresults.com

### EVENT COORDINATOR

Name: Sandy Russell  
Business: Agape Events LLC  
Phone: 817-308-4292  
Email: Sandy @agapeevents.net

### COLOR ANALYSIS

Name: Silvia Martinez  
Business: Signature Color Analysis  
Phone: 972-814-6246  
Email: Signaturecoloranalysis @semtcenterprise.com

### EVENT DECOR

Name: Yuris Ferman/Esmeralda Ruiz  
Business: OneShot Event Decor  
Phone: 214-907-8531  
Email: Oneshotpartydecorations@gmail.com

### DIGITAL MARKETING

Name: Manish Chandra  
Business: NeoRipples  
Phone: 972-469-4404  
Email: Contact@neoripples.com

### EXTERIOR CLEANING

Name: Jonathan Masek  
Business: Brite-Way Inc  
Phone: 972-842-2500  
Email: Jonathan@briteway.com

### DJ / EVENT PRODUCTION

Name: John Wayne & Amanda Colwell  
Business: Team Umami Productions  
Phone: 817-721-7180 \ 480-781-7444  
Email: teamumamimusic@gmail.com

### FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Name: J O Suttles  
Business: Better Pockets Financial  
Phone: 469-767-3236  
Email: Jamess@betterpocketsfinancial.com



# PREFERRED VENDOR DIRECTORY

## 46

### GARAGE DOOR REPAIR

Name: Colby Tolbert  
Business: Tolbert Garage Door  
Phone: 469-909-0956  
Email: Colby@tolbertgaragedoor.com

### MEDICARE INSURANCE

Name: Silvia Martinez  
Business: Medicare & Benefits Consultant  
Phone: 817-406-7531  
Email: smartinez@agency4red.com

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Name: Michele Billings  
Business: Balance of Care Health Advocate  
Phone: 817-704-2621  
Email: Michele.billings@balanceofcare-advocate.com

### MITIGATION RESTORATION

Name: Rachel Robinson  
Business: 911 Restoration of North Texas  
Phone: 817-554-3849  
Email: NTOffice@911restoration.com

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Name: Rachel Seideman  
Business: Health Insurance Connoisseur  
Phone: 817-849-0742  
Email: Rachel@healthinsuranceconnoisseur.com

### NOTARY

Name: Tiwana Kyle  
Business: OneSource VIP Services  
Phone: 682-699-1610  
Email: Info@onesourcevipservices.com

### HOME INSURANCE

Name: Necole Curry  
Business: Farmers Insurance  
Phone: 817-928-9400  
Email: Lcurry@farmersagent.com

### PERMANENT JEWELRY

Name: Lucas summers  
Business: Forever Link2Link  
Phone: 469-226-1371  
Email: Foreverlink2link@outlook.com

### LIFE INSURANCE

Name: Sandy Nguyen  
Business: Saddleridge Financial Services  
Phone: 469-835-1908  
Email: Wealthwithsandynguyen@gmail.com

### PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

Name: Rocio Gosewehr-Hernandez  
Business: Rocio at Law  
Phone: 469-340-2300  
Email: Rocio@rocioatlaw.com



# PREFERRED VENDOR <sup>47</sup> DIRECTORY

## PET CENTRIC

Name: Silvia Martinez  
Business: Pet Paw Luv  
Phone: 469-878-7019  
Email: petpawluv@semtzenterprise.com

## ROOF REPAIR

Name: Aaron Lemons  
Business: True Bond Roofing  
Phone: 817-720-0706  
Email: Office@truebondroofing.com

## PHOTOBOOTH

Name: Jeff Batsche  
Business: Metro Photo Booth Co.  
Phone: 817-422-1407  
Email: Events@metrophotobooth.co

## TAX SERVICES

Name: Tiwana Kyle  
Business: OneSource VIP Services  
Phone: 682-699-1610  
Email: Info@onesourcevipservices.com

## PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

Name: Claudia Rivers  
Business: Impact Printing & Graphics LTD  
Phone: 972-439-2156  
Email: Claudia@impactprinting.biz

## TROPHY/AWARD CUSTOMIZATION

Name: Allan Gaskamp  
Business: Trophies & More  
Phone: 817-571-7417  
Email: Allan@trophiesmore.com

## REAL ESTATE

Name: Carlos Santos-Cuyugan  
Business: National Real Estate Associates  
Phone: 972-704-8240  
Email: Realtor\_carlos1@yahoo.com

## WEDDING OFFICIANT

Name: Erika Morin  
Business: Amor Y Paz Bodas  
Phone: 469-964-5134  
Email: Amorypazbodas@gmail.com

## RETIREMENT PLANNING

Name: Dr Terri Alford  
Business: TNA Finanacial Group  
Phone: 662-420-4295  
Email: Info@tnafinancialgroup.com

## WEDDING VENUE

Name: Ryan Wager  
Business: Oak Lawn UMC  
Phone: 214-271-5298  
Email: Ryan@olumc.org

# DISCOVER YOUR COLOR

## THE EXPERIENCE

Signature Color Analysis is a personalized, reflective experience designed to help you explore how color works with your natural features—skin tone, hair, and eyes—to create harmony, confidence, and ease. Rather than following trends, the experience focuses on alignment, using color as a tool for clarity, presence, and authentic self-expression.

## WHAT YOU'LL DISCOVER

You'll gain insight into your natural seasonal palette through a personalized color evaluation, helping you better understand what colors support you and why. The result is a clearer, more confident approach to personal style that feels natural, intentional, and easy to apply.

## WHY YOU WILL LOVE IT

Signature Color Analysis brings together self-discovery and connection, making it just as meaningful for individuals as it is fun to share with groups, teams, friends, and family. It's a confidence-building experience that creates moments of insight, conversation, and shared discovery.



*Signature*  
COLOR ANALYSIS

"...so personable and knowledgeable...I can't wait to add items to my closet that go in my season!"

- Lindsay Henry

"...so fun and informative. Would highly recommend to anyone wanting to get their colors done or for a fun girls night at home!"

- Nelly Venegas

**(972)814-6246**

**Follow on Instagram**

**@SignatureColorAnalysis**





# Pet·Paw·Luv

*Because pets are family.*

Care.

Gifts.

Experiences.

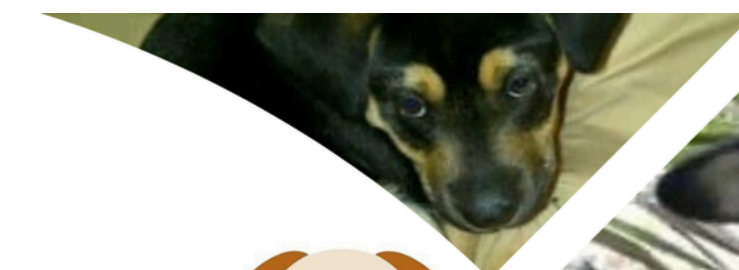
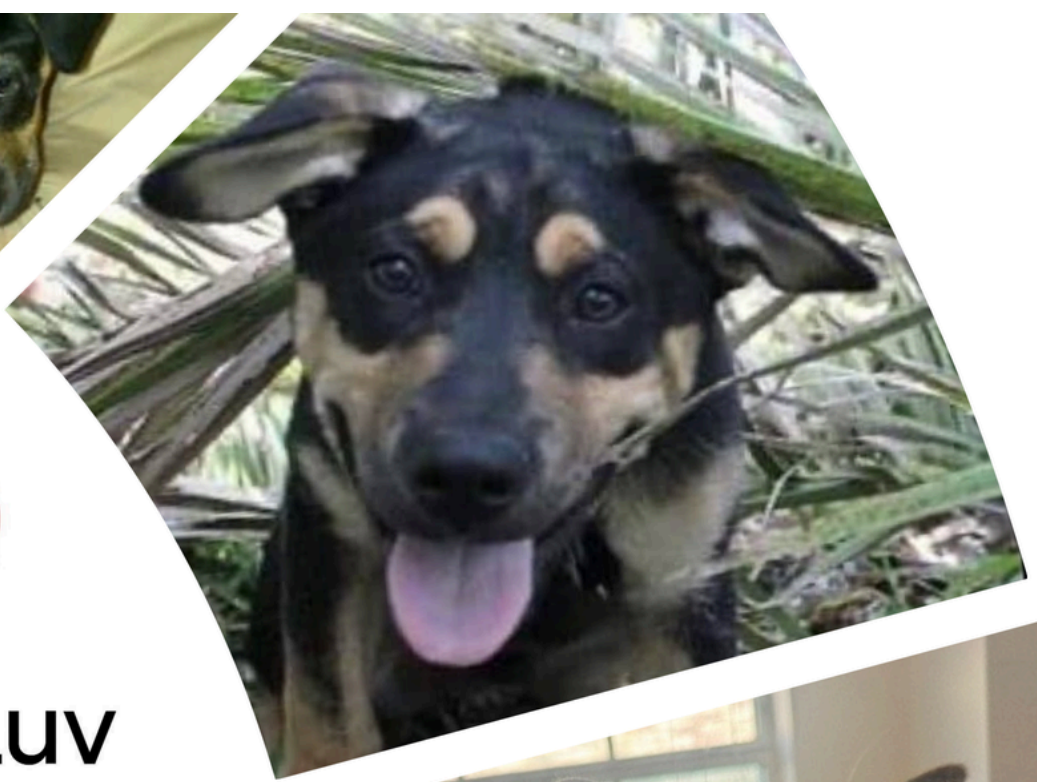
Including petsitting, social outings, and handcrafted, wholesome, pet treats in collaboration with Sweet Tooth Society, LLC

469-878-7019

Follow on

Instagram

@PetPawLuv



# SILVIA MARTINEZ

Medicare & Benefits Consultant

- ✓ Apply for Medicare
- ✓ Find a Drug Plan
- ✓ Change Coverage



Let's review your Medicare options together! Schedule your no-cost Medicare review today – scan the QR code or call

**(817)406-7531**

**smartinez@agency4red.com**



- Agency4RED -  
RETIRED, ELDERLY & DISABLED

**CHECK OUT**

**DFWNETWORK.NET**

**TODAY.**

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES AT YOUR  
FINGERTIPS**



# WHEN DISASTER STRIKES...

## CALL **911 RESTORATION** OF NORTH TEXAS!



- ✓ We Work With **ALL** Insurance Companies
- ✓ 24/7 Emergency Service
- ✓ Licensed & Insured

### CALL **817-554-3849**

[911RestorationNorthTexas.com](http://911RestorationNorthTexas.com)

# ALPA INSURANCE



## BRINGING FUN & COMMUNITY TO DFW

ALPA Insurance is making a big splash across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, not just with new locations, but with community-driven events that bring neighbors together. Their grand openings in places like McKinney and Fort Worth have become local celebrations, where people can connect, enjoy good food, and take part in exciting activities.

These events are all about fun and connection. Guests are treated to pizza, raffles, and live DJs, creating a lively atmosphere where families and friends can come together and enjoy the day. It's a chance to experience the spirit of ALPA Insurance beyond the office, turning a business milestone into a community celebration. One of the most talked-about attractions is the Cash Cube, an inflatable game filled with play money. Contestants step inside and have a short time to grab as much as they can.



**Alfonso, The No Drama Llama**

What they collect turns into real gift cards from ALPA Insurance, making the game a thrilling and rewarding part of the event. Laughter and excitement fill the air as friends cheer each other on.

Adding even more charm, guests may meet Alfonso, the No Drama Llama, sporting his signature large sunglasses and bling necklace.



## A Grand Opening for ALPA Insurance

Alfonso has become a beloved mascot, delighting both kids and adults with photo opportunities and his playful personality. Alfonso has become increasingly popular on social media due to ALPA's funny ads.

ALPA Insurance has quickly become known not just for growth, but for creating events that foster community, connection, and joy. These events bring people from across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex together for raffles, food, and memories.

From the Cash Cube to Alfonso, each grand opening is a reminder that the company values people as much as progress, making DFW events something locals look forward to attending.



**833-GET-ALPA**  
**Facebook:**  
**ALPA Insurance**  
**Instagram:**  
**@alpaautoinsurance**  
**TikTok: @alpainsurance**  
**LinkedIn: ALPA Insurance**



→ **GOING BACK IN TIME  
CATTLE DRIVE OF PIONEER PLAZA**



## HEART OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS

**The Editorial Team**

In the heart of downtown Dallas, surrounded by soaring buildings and the constant rhythm of city life, there is a place where time seems to slow down. Pioneer Plaza and the iconic Cattle Drive Sculptures stand as a powerful reminder of where Dallas and the entire DFW metroplex began. This hidden treasure is more than a public park.



It is a living tribute to the grit, determination, and spirit that shaped North Texas into the thriving region it is today. Pioneer Plaza captures the beauty of Texas history in a way that feels both grand and welcoming.

As you approach the plaza, the modern skyline fades into the background, and you are transported into another era. Bronze longhorns, massive and detailed, move together as if frozen in the middle of a historic cattle drive. Cowboys on horseback guide the herd across rolling terrain and flowing water, recreating a scene that once defined life in Texas.

This remarkable installation honors the cattle drives of the nineteenth century that played a crucial role in the growth of Dallas. Long before highways and high-rises, these trails connected ranches to railways and markets, helping Dallas emerge as a center of commerce and opportunity.

Standing among the sculptures, it is easy to imagine the dust in the air, the sound of hooves on the ground, and the determination of those who helped build the foundation of the region.



### **Pioneer Plaza Accessibility**

What makes Pioneer Plaza truly special is its accessibility. This gem of DFW is completely free and open to the public, inviting everyone to experience its beauty and history without barriers. Families, tourists, photographers, and lifelong locals all find something meaningful here. It is a place where stories are shared, memories are made, and pride in North Texas runs deep.

Located in the middle of downtown Dallas, Pioneer Plaza is also the perfect starting point for a full day of exploration. After taking in the sculptures, visitors can easily walk to nearby attractions, historic sites, and entertainment venues. The area is surrounded by fantastic food options, from classic Texas flavors to diverse global cuisine, making it easy to turn a visit into a full downtown experience.

### **A Celebration of Heritage in Dallas**

Pioneer Plaza is more than a stop on a map. It is a moment of reflection, a celebration of heritage, and a reminder of how far DFW has come.

In a region known for innovation and growth, this timeless landmark grounds us in the strength of our past. For anyone looking to truly feel the soul of Dallas, this unforgettable attraction stands as one of the true gems of DFW.





## TIME AT THE HEARD: MCKINNEY

By Darrel Evans

Even when North Texas temperatures dip, families still want to get outside together, have fun, and make memories without traveling far. The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney creates that feeling of adventure while keeping everything close to home. From crisp morning hikes to glowing nighttime trails, the Heard gives families a full day of nature, learning, and seasonal magic during the winter months. Spread across nearly 289 acres of preserved prairie, forest, and wetland habitat, the Heard blends indoor science exhibits with outdoor exploration.

Kids can move between hands-on displays and unpaved sanctuary trails that reveal birds, native plants, and wildlife. It is the perfect mix of activity and learning for a chilly winter day.

Seasonal exhibits like Dinosaurs Live often appear during the cooler months. These life-size prehistoric figures are placed along nature paths, creating a sense of discovery that thrills toddlers, school-age kids, and teens alike. Weekend mornings bring special opportunities for families.

The Second Saturday Bird Walk introduces visitors to local bird species while keeping a relaxed pace that works well for curious young explorers. Sensory-friendly experiences, such as Dinosaurs Quiet, allow children to enjoy the dinosaur exhibit without loud sounds or movement. These programs invite families to explore slowly and follow their children's natural curiosity.





### Holidays at the Heard

One of the most beloved winter events is Holidays at the Heard. For several evenings in mid-December, the Heard transforms a half-mile nature trail into a peaceful holiday walk filled with soft lights and gentle, nature-themed decorations.

Visitors can stroll under the stars with glowing trees guiding the way. Along the route, kids may spot dinosaur figures from the seasonal exhibit, which appear even more magical in the dusk. Live music fills the outdoor amphitheater, Santa is available for photos, and vendors offer hot cocoa and treats. Families often say the experience feels like a quiet winter walk with friends rather than a big commercial light show. Children especially love pointing out animal shapes and favorite creatures in the illuminated scenery.

### Pair your visit with good eats....

A full day at the Heard is even better with the right local food stops. Start your morning at Bresnan Bread and Pastry in downtown McKinney. Their artisan sourdough breads, croissants, danishes, cookies, and coffee make it easy to grab breakfast for the family or pack a few treats for the trails.

After exploring nature paths, museum exhibits, and holiday lights, head to Union Bear Brewing McKinney or one of their nearby locations. Their menu features family-friendly comfort food like burgers, fish and chips, salads, and shareable appetizers. The relaxed atmosphere is perfect for ending the day and sharing everyone's favorite moments.

### For More Information and Tickets

Families who want to plan their visit, check hours, or purchase tickets can contact the Heard directly.

#### Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

Address: 1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069

Phone: 972 562 5566

Website: [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

Email: [info@heardmuseum.org](mailto:info@heardmuseum.org)

The museum website includes full event schedules, ticket pricing, holiday information, and updates on special programs throughout the year.



\*Photos in this article are for demonstrational purposes only.



# Habanero's

Fresh Mex Cantina

"Come for the food, stay for the vibe."



**817.428.7223**

**5601 Basswood Blvd,**

**Fort Worth, TX**





# 3 EVOLVE 2 YOUR 1 BRAND

*Take your brand to the next level with brand merch, new designs, and new-age marketing that will make your business shine. Don't fit in, stick out!*

**Call or Visit our Website Today!**

 **Phone Number**  
214-904-0808

 **Website**  
[www.impactprinting.biz](http://www.impactprinting.biz)

## WHY CHOOSE US?

- Full Service Printing
- Promotional Products
- Fulfillment
- Inventory Storage
- In-House Mailing
- Project Management
- Digital Printing
- Variable Data Marketing
- Web-to-Print Development
- Graphic Services
- Large Format Signage

**IMPACT**  
PRINTING & PROMOTIONS  
**IMPACT**  
(214) 904-0808

# WHERE YOUR LOVE STORY IS SACRED

*A community that celebrates love—  
regardless of who you are*



At Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, your love story is sacred. We joyfully celebrate weddings for couples of every gender, orientation, race, and background—because love is a gift from God, and all love is worthy of blessing.

Our historic sanctuary, welcoming clergy, and inclusive community create a space where you can say yes with joy, authenticity, and peace.

**Your love belongs here.**

**Trilingual (English, Spanish & ASL)**

**Visit [olumc.org/weddings](http://olumc.org/weddings) today!**



**OAK LAWN**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3014 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Oak Lawn Avenue at Cedar Springs Road  
Dallas, TX 75219  
[weddings@olumc.org](mailto:weddings@olumc.org)

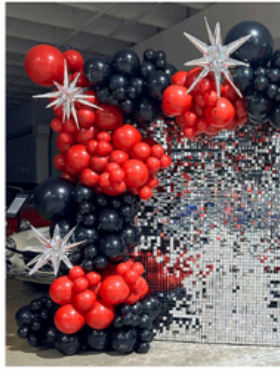
# Introducing Agape Events, A Local Event Company to Keller, TX!

At Agape Events, we believe your most meaningful moments shouldn't be rushed or clouded by stress. Whether it's a child's birthday, a bridal shower, a corporate event, or a milestone celebration, you deserve to be fully present... not managing every last detail!

## Who We Are

Founded and led by Sandy Russell, a certified event planner with over 20 years of experience, Agape Events is driven by her passion for hospitality, creativity, and meticulous attention to detail. Fully insured and well-connected in the local community, Sandy and her team exist to let you focus on what matters most while we take care of the rest.

Inspired by the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10), we help you enjoy every moment without the stress of planning.



## What We Offer

Agape Events is full-service and flexible. No matter your vision or budget, we can help:

- Full Design & Decor – Complete event styling, custom themes, floral arrangements, bouquets, table settings, and more.
- Coordination & Vendor Support – Assistance with scheduling, vendor communication, and day-of coordination.
- Event Assistance – Set-up, clean-up, goody bag packaging, and assembly of decorations you've purchased or created yourself.
- Partial or Full Service – From helping with just one aspect of your event to planning everything from start to finish, we tailor our services to your needs.

## Stress-Free Celebrations

- + Weddings and Elopements
- + Engagement Parties
- + Bachelorette Parties
- + Anniversary Celebrations
- + Birthday Parties
- + Retirement Parties
- + Charity and Fundraising Events
- + Festivals and Fairs
- + + So much more!

AGAPE EVENTS  
@agapeevents



## Book a Consultation

☎ 817-308-4292  
🌐 [www.agapeevents.net](http://www.agapeevents.net)  
✉ [sandy@agapeevents.net](mailto:sandy@agapeevents.net)



Book a Consultation right now!

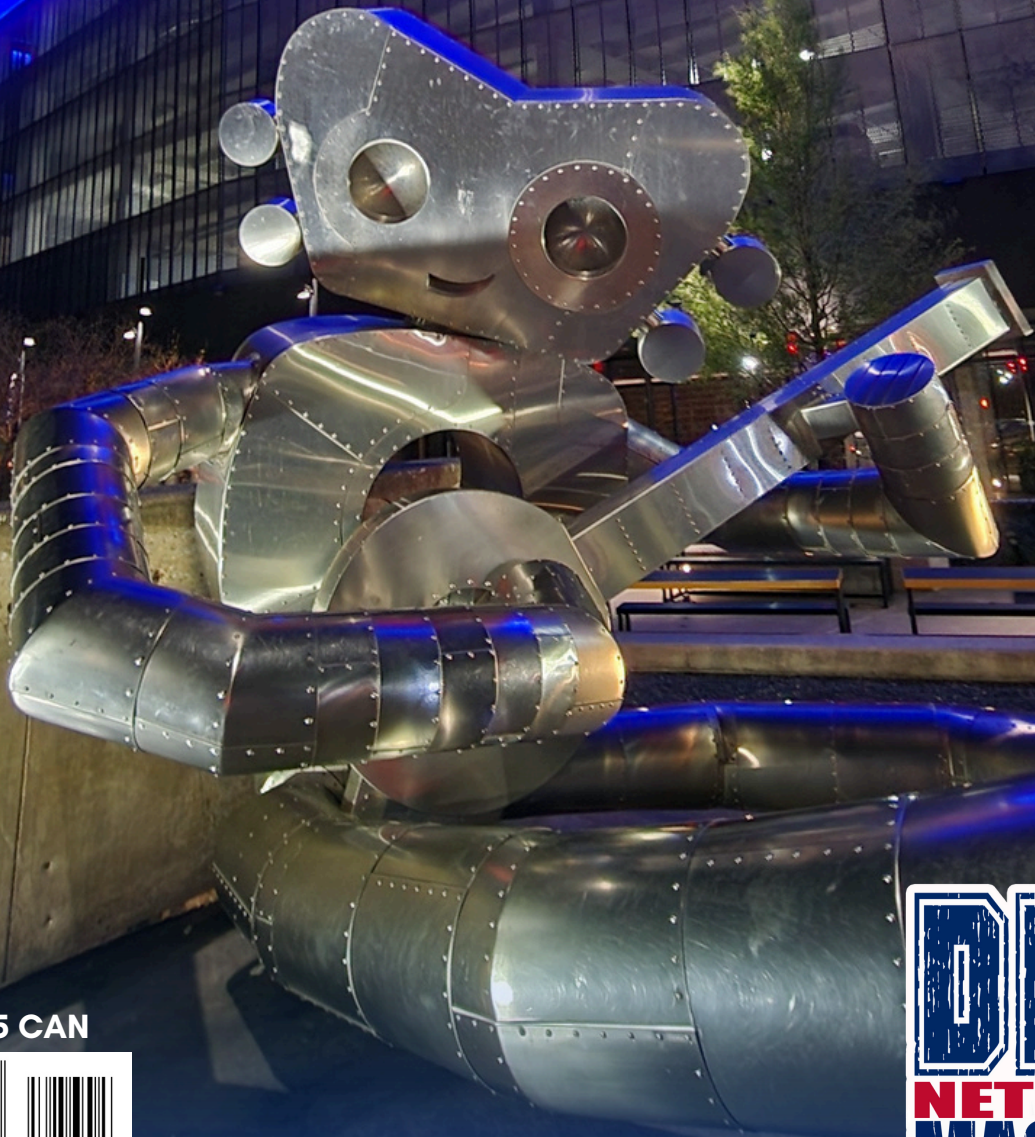


AGAPE EVENTS

*You focus on the moment. We'll handle the rest.*

**LIVE, WORK, & PROSPER  
IN DALLAS-FORT WORTH**

**DFWNETWORK.NET**



\$22 US / \$25 CAN

