

# MUSIC IS LIVE in DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO

By Lakendra Lewis

Austin may be considered the music mecca of Texas but when it comes to live music, downtown San Antonio can hold its own with an array of live shows guaranteed to kickstart your new year with a bang. Ready...set...check out the downtown music scene below.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON THE RIVER WALK

Finish ringing in the New Year with one last stroll among the famous holiday lights on the River Walk, which will remain lit from dusk to dawn nightly through the morning of January 9. This impressive display of more than 100,000 lights draped from the trees of the downtown portion of the river and along the Museum Reach to the Pearl District is a must-see and best of all, it is free!

### AMBLER TEXAS KITCHEN + COCKTAILS

For entertainment with a local flare, head over to the atrium of the Ambler Texas Kitchen + Cocktails, located inside the beautiful Hotel Contessa on West Market Street, for the sound of lively Mariachi music on Friday nights from 6:00 to 8:30pm.

### BAR ROJO

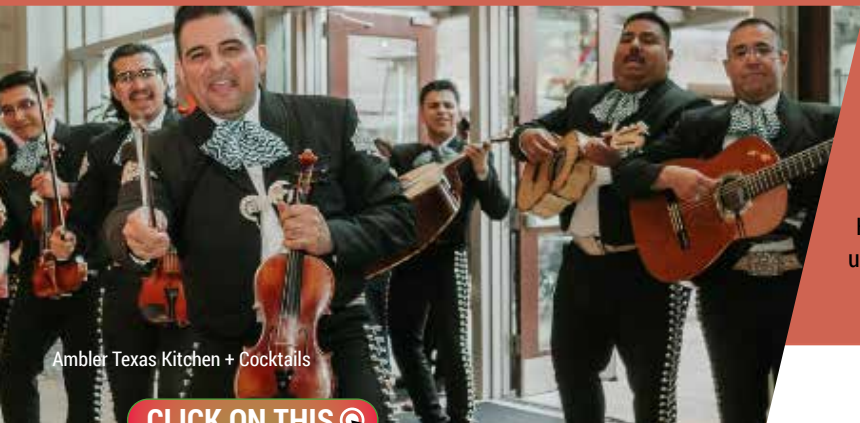
Known for its rooftop pool, casual atmosphere, handcrafted cocktails and freshly prepared regional dishes, Bar Rojo, tucked inside the Grand Hyatt at San Antonio River Walk, is not only a hotspot for delicious food and drink but also for live music on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 to 11:00pm. A new Concert Under The Stars series will feature world-class performers in an elegant setting at the Terrace on 5th rooftop venue, and a San Antonio favorite—Loteria Nights—will resume in 2023. Gather your friends to enjoy live music and play this iconic bingo-like game. Check the hotel calendar for an up-to-date event schedule.

### LITTLE RHEIN PROST HAUS

If you are looking for food, music and fun all done Texas style (but with a hint of German flavor), look no further than the Little Rhein Prost Haus. Prost means “cheers” in German and what better way to have some cheer than by raising a glass while enjoying live tunes along the edge of the historic La Villita Village? Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays feature local singers and musicians, including Bru Erdman, DJ Zayden and guitarist Derek Lewis.

### ON THE BEND OYSTER BAR & CIGAR LOUNGE

Housed in the same location that legendary cornetist, Jim Cullum, used to play directly beneath the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the River



Ambler Texas Kitchen + Cocktails

**CLICK ON THIS**

**AMBLER TEXAS KITCHEN + COCKTAILS**  
[www.AmblerSanAntonio.com](http://www.AmblerSanAntonio.com)

**BAR ROJO**  
[www.Hyatt.com](http://www.Hyatt.com)

**BLUE BOX BAR**  
[www.BlueBoxBar.com](http://www.BlueBoxBar.com)

**HARD ROCK CAFÉ**  
[www.HardRockCafe.com](http://www.HardRockCafe.com)

**HOWL AT THE MOON**  
[www.HowlAtTheMoon.com](http://www.HowlAtTheMoon.com)

**LITTLE RHEIN PROST HAUS**  
[www.LittleRheinProstHaus.com](http://www.LittleRheinProstHaus.com)

**NARANJA TEQUILA AND MEZCAL BAR**  
[www.HotelValencia-Riverwalk.com](http://www.HotelValencia-Riverwalk.com)

**ON THE BEND OYSTER BAR & CIGAR LOUNGE**  
[www.OnTheBendSA.com](http://www.OnTheBendSA.com)

**SMOKE BBQ + RIVERBAR**  
[www.SmokeDowntown.com](http://www.SmokeDowntown.com)

**TOBIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
[www.TobinCenter.org](http://www.TobinCenter.org)



Walk, this local gem boasts an all-day happy hour, cigar lounge and live jazz on the terrace every day of the week in honor of the late Cullum, one of San Antonio's most famous musicians who played with other greats such as Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong.

### NARANJA TEQUILA AND MEZCAL BAR

Try your tequila with a shot of live jazz at the Naranja Tequila and Mezcal Bar nestled inside the Hotel Valencia. This one-of-a-kind cocktail lounge offers a selection of unique tequilas and mezcals coupled with the liquid smooth tunes of Latin guitar and music from the Naranja Latin Jazz band throughout the week. Stop in from 5:00 to 7:00pm Tuesday through Saturday for Latin guitar in the lobby and 7:30 to 10:00pm Thursday to Saturday for live music in the bar.



Howl at the Moon

### HOWL AT THE MOON

It does not get more live than the shows at Howl at the Moon, where audiences come to sing and dance along with some of the most versatile and talented musicians in the city. Sing along to songs from the '80s, '90s and today played on pianos, guitars and more starting every night with dueling pianos featuring musicians from Howl San Antonio's band, and culminating in a dynamic live music experience unlike any other on the River Walk!



Smoke BBQ & Riverbar-  
Elida Reyna y Avante

### SMOKE BBQ + RIVERBAR

Located at 511 Villita Street with access from La Villita and the River Walk, Smoke BBQ + Riverbar features picturesque views amid the largest patio on the River Walk. Stop in not only for the food, craft cocktails, draft beer and charming atmosphere, but to hear live performances such as the recent ones from acts The Latin Breed, Elida Reyna y Avante, Jaime DeAnda and Kin Faux.



On The Bend Oyster Bar  
& Cigar Lounge

### HARD ROCK CAFÉ

It is no surprise that next to the Alamo, the Hard Rock Café is the number one tourist destination in Texas. Situated along the River Walk, the Hard Rock has three floors



### TOBIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

When it comes to live entertainment, the Tobin Center has a little something for everyone, from live concerts and musicals to films and comedy shows. Situated along the heart of the banks of the San Antonio River in what was once the historic Municipal Auditorium, the Tobin Center provides a diverse array of arts and culture within three distinct venues: the H-E-B Performance Hall, the Carlos Alvarez Studio Theater and the Will Naylor Smith River Walk Plaza. Visit the Tobin's website for a schedule of events.

Hard Rock Café  
Kaniela Q



Pearl

of patios and balconies, where patrons can take in the breathtaking view of the San Antonio River Walk while listening to—what else?—live music. Come treat yourself to happy hour specials daily until 6:00pm and acoustic performances by Hawaiian & World Music Artist KANIELA Q! Tuesdays from 4:00 to 7:00pm.

**LIVE MUSIC AT PEARL**

Many may be familiar with the famed Jazz, TX tucked away within the Pearl District, but there are also a few other places in or near Pearl that offer some great live music. You can even catch live music during the weekly Farmers Markets and Night Markets!

Another fave attraction is the Blue Box Bar, located at 312 Pearl Parkway in Pearl. Along with serving sophisticated cocktails, the Blue Box features music with DJ Natalie from 10:00pm to 2:00am Wednesday-Sunday, with no cover. Call for more information.

**WRITER'S BIO**

Lakendra Lewis is an arts and entertainment journalist, editor and author whose articles have appeared in Edible San Antonio Magazine, The Texas Observer and San Antonio Christian Woman Magazine. She enjoys movies, music, cooking, singing and telling other people's stories. You can contact her/read more of her stories at [LakendraLewis.JournoPortfolio.com](http://LakendraLewis.JournoPortfolio.com).



Remember  
the Alamo.



Experience  
the Briscoe.

The Alamo isn't the only Western Treasure in downtown San Antonio.

Experience the Briscoe Western Art Museum, located on the River Walk, walking distance from the Alamo, the River Center mall and more.

Discover stories of the west through paintings, sculptures and historic artifacts and see why **The West Starts Here.**

**BRISCOE**  
WESTERN ART MUSEUM

f t i STAY CONNECTED

[briscoemuseum.org](http://briscoemuseum.org)

Harry Jackson, *The Marshall (John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn)*, Bronze, 57" x 65" x 26". Gift of The Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation in honor of Fully Clingman