

SALT LAKE UNDERGROUND PRESENTS LOCAL FASHION

SLUG

FELIX DIAZ

Styles Eclectic
Head - to - Toe
GLAMOUR



SAGE NELSEN

“Statement
Clothing for
Statement
People”



REGAN KU'ULEI

Subversive, Sustainable
and a Little Sassy



HANNAH RUTH ZANDER

Brings Back Romantic
'60s VINTAGE



- ISSUE 429
- VOLUME 35
- SEPTEMBER 2024
- SLUGMAG.COM

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

THE SIXTH ANNUAL
CRAFT LAKE CITY

Holiday Market

APPLY NOW!

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18

DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2024

UNION STATION

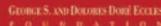
2501 WALL AVE, OGDEN UT

130+ UTAH ARTISANS
CRAFT FOOD | STEM
SANTA | LOCAL MUSIC
HOLIDAY SPIRITS

@CRAFTLAKECITY

CRAFTLAKECITY.COM

#CLCHOLIDAYMARKET



KOI Piercing Studio

1301 S. 900 E.

Salt Lake City

(801) 463-7070

KOPIERCINGSLC.COM

ABOUT THE COVER: Featured local designers Hannah Ruth Zander, Regan Ku'ulei and Sage Nelsen, with model/stylist Felix Diaz, posed for this '90s teen fashion mag-inspired cover shot by SLUG Photographer John Taylor (@jatfoto) in the Pit Viper studio (big thanks!).

Kit Cactus

Contributor Limelight Illustrator



As one of SLUG's most reliable illustrators, Kit has crafted charming, vibrant artwork full of character for our editorial content, *Localized* show posters and more! Check out her illustration on page 12 and follow @kitcactusart on Instagram to see her stand-up comedy and music.

Arthur Diaz

Contributor Limelight Contributing Writer



Having joined the SLUG team this spring, Artie has proved to be a prolific writer. Beyond penning brilliant music reviews, they always bring great pitches to our desks! Read their piece on SLC's greatest thrift shops on page 12 and check out their stunning style on Instagram at @arthurisaukward.

Publisher:
Eighteen Percent Gray

Executive Editor:
Angela H. Brown

Junior Editor:
Asha Pruitt

Contributing Editor:
Emma Anderson

Assistant Editor:
William Hughes

Editorial Assistant:
Alton Barnhart

Copy Editors:
Aspen English,
Grace Simpson, India Mendoza,
Katie Hatzfeld, Kirby Dorsey,
Kyra Cortez, Leah Call, Nicole Svagr,
Olivia Glod, Parker Scott Mortensen,
Sophie Caligiuri, Yonni Uribe,
Zabrina Le

Editorial Interns:
Leah Call, Yonni Uribe

Cover Artists:
John Taylor (photos),
Joshua Joye (design)

Senior Graphic Designer:
Joshua Joye

Graphic Design Team:
Alex Guzman, Allen Muy,
Allie Stephens, Aubrey Callap,
Bruce Whitesides, Chris Bickmore,
Clark Iroz, Livi McDaniel,
Paul Mason, Vella Price

Ad Designers:
Dianna Totland, Rian Terry

Design Intern:
Livi McDaniel

Front-end Developer:
Alek Wiltbank

Back-end Engineer:
Jaylen Manley

Illustrators:
Brett Ferrin, Brighton Metz,
Candy Segura, Chanelle Nibbelink,
Chris Bodily, Ginny Cunningham,
Dallin Orr, Garrick Dean, James Bible,
Kit Cactus, Miranda Obic, Owen Clark,
Ricky Vigil, Ryan Perkins, Wes Wood

Photographers:
Alanna Lowry,
Anna Chapman, Andrew Kooyman,
Ashley Christenson, Brayden Salisbury,
Chay Mosqueda, Derek Brad,
Diego Andino, Dominic Jordan,
Em Behringer, Evan Hancock,
Gilbert Cisneros, Jeff Carlisle,
Jess Gruneisen, Jessica Bundy,
John Barkiple, John Taylor, Jon Tinsley,
Jovvany Villalobos, Justin Lagman,
Hayley Stoddard, Katarina Duerr,
Kelly Williams, Lily Rutherford,
Logan Fang, Logan Sorenson,
Maralee Nielson, Moses Namkung,
Nathan Gentry, Nicole Marriner,
Roberto Valdez, Talyn Behzad,
Tyson Call, Weston Colton

Videographers:
Bryan Barrios, Nate Schwartz

Community Development & Advertising Sales:
John Ford,
Community Development Manager:
johnford@slugmag.com
Angela H. Brown:
sales@slugmag.com
SLUG HQ: 801.487.9221

Community Development Assistant:
Alegra Zuchowicz

Sales Representatives: Now Hiring!

Marketing Interns:
Aura Martinez Sandoval, Jackie Stigile

Events Coordinator:
Katya Pogodaeva

Brand Ambassadors: Now Hiring!
Brian Tejada-Sandoval,
Dustin Hardebeck,
Erin Okuniewski, Ermiya Fanaeian,
Garrian Spivey, Kelly Reynolds,
Molly Hall, Paige Blake, Ryann Cook

Circulation Coordinator:
Staff

Distro Drivers: Now Hiring!
Alexis Whitney, Daniel Martinez,
Eli Bye, Eric Norris, Garrett Purpura,
Kylar West, Lily Riggs, Mack Leckie,
Matt Ruiz, Merina Alix, Morgan Davis,
Stacy Wilk, Tommy Dolph, Tony Bassett,
Zack Brown

Senior Staff Writers:
Alexie Zollinger, Andrew Christiansen,
Austin Doty, Ben Trentelman,
Bianca Velasquez, Brandon Ermer,
Brittanie Gallegos, Brooke Hannel,
Carlyle Price, Cherri Cheetah,
Connor Brady, Corinne Bauer,
Dean O. Hillis, Dillon Ely, Dylan Bueche,
Elizabeth Leach, Gabby Dodd,
Harper Haase, James Orme,
Jamie Christensen, Jude Perno,
Kamryn Feigel, Cassidy Waddell,
Katie Hatzfeld, Litz Estrada,
Lo Mekkelson, Mary Culbertson,
McCall Mash, Mekenna Malan,
Mike Brown, Mistress Nancy,
Morgan Keller, Olivia Greene,
Paige Zuckerman, Palak Jayswal,
Parker Scott Mortensen, Patrick Gibbs,
Peter Fryer, Rachel Jensen, Rio Connelly,
Russ Holsten, Sage Holt, Sam D'Antuono,
Steve Goemaat, Tim Schoof,
William Swartzfager, Zoe Zorka

Contributing Writers:
Abby Gray, Addison Austin-Lou,
Alex Dawson, Aliyah Beringer,

Alton Barnhart, Angela Lezaic,
Arica Roberts, Arthur Diaz, Asha Pruitt,
Aspen English, B. Allan Johnson,
Becca Ortmann, Bailee Elaine, Bianca Hill,
Cailey Rohovit, Christian Ledek, CJ Hanck,
Daniel Kirkham, Dustin Hardebeck,
Elle Cowley, Emily Ward, Emma Anderson,
Eric Ray Christensen, Estelle Jang,
Genevieve Vahl, Grace Simpson,
India Bown, India Mendoza,
Jacqueline Read, Jake Fabbri,
Jackson Piersee, Joe Roberts, Joni Bianca,
Kate Neal, Katie Jenkins, Keegan Hayes,
Kirby Dorsey, Leah Call, Libby Leonard,
Lucy O'Connor, Mallory Meados,
Marissa McEntire, Max Bennion,
Marzia Thomas, Mickey Randle,
Nadia Valentine, Nicole Bradham,
Nicole Gaddie, Nicole Svagr,
Noah Jenrich, Norm Schoff, Olivia Glod,
Olivia Watts, Parly Scott, Pace Gardner,
Payton Rhyan, Paulina Burnside,
Peter Eckhardt, PJ, Rachel Brooks,
Rosie Mansfield, Samantha Easter,
Sarah Dahl, Sara Milano, Seth Turek,
Shaylee Navarro, Sophie Caligiuri,
tin Rodriguez, Vashti Hansen,
wphughes, Yonni Uribe

SLUG's Official Podcast:
SLUG Soundwaves

Soundwaves Producer:
Staff

Sustain SLUG's coverage of Utah's underrepresented subcultures.

DONATE TODAY!



40 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Urban Utah
HOMES & ESTATES

FREE FREE FREE
market analysis of your home, condo or parents' home—text me!

No obligation, just an honest opinion.

Babs DeLay,
Principal Broker
UrbanUtah.com (801) 201-8824

REALTOR 40 YEARS

Midway COFFEE

SHOW THIS AD TO ONE OF OUR BARISTAS + RECEIVE A

BOGO!

SLUG CLUB!

@MIDWAYJERKS
270 S 300 E

BEER GARDEN & LIVE MUSIC

10:00AM UNTIL 2:00PM

VINYL KOALA JUNE 8

THE SHAKES JULY 13

JON BURGOYNE AUGUST 10

POMPE N' HONEY SEPTEMBER 14

CORY MON OCTOBER 12

BEER GARDEN PRESENTED BY

**LOCALLY MADE
LOCALLY PLAYED**

LEVEL CROSSING

BLOCKS

HANNAH RUTH ZANDER

THE NEXT *Kate Spade*

By Brooke Hannel
brookehannel8@gmail.com

Hannah Ruth Zander's home is exactly how you would imagine it: a big bow greeting you on the doorstep, vintage photo frames above the piano, green velvet chairs and an accompanying sofa. And, of course, two wizened weiner dogs with equally stylish names that have a penchant for licking. All this to say, if Zander's home doesn't transport you back to the swinging '60s, her clothes definitely will.

Known for her vintage, experimental pieces, Zander's styling of herself and others has made her quite a contender in Salt Lake City's fashion ring. Since the first time I spoke to her for *SLUG*, she has been featured in the likes of *Cosmopolitan* and *Elle*. Her romantic and ultra-feminine pieces bring a sense of nostalgic fun that leaves everyone wanting their own vintage alter ego. "I grew up in a home filled with tomboys," says Zander. "I think that made me just want to dress super feminine and romantic everyday." It's as if looking through vintage clothing racks and magazines for inspiration was her own form of playing dress up in her mom's closet. That sense of imagination shines through in her content.

"I have grown, and am so different as a person—my inspirations have stayed steady but I've honed in on it so much more," explains Zander when I ask how her style has changed since we last spoke. "I've been able to nail down the absolute core of my style, and what I love and my passions. Going back to my roots, Kate Spade is someone that really inspired me, so [I've been] really thinking back to those pivotal turning moments in fashion."

Zander may be known for her styling (it's why we interviewed her the first time, of course) but now she's gone down another fashion path, one that only seems natural for her to follow. Since I've last spoken to her, she's garnered two collections under her belt—"Slumber Party" and "Chapel of



Stylist Hannah Ruth Zander has been stretching her kitschy, vintage wings to expand her work as a fashion designer and work toward starting her own label.

Photo: Ashley Christenson

Love." The foundations of both collections are embedded in her love of vintage. She procures pieces and upcycles them into something special. "When you take vintage, you want to keep the heart of it," explains Zander. "That's definitely the task at hand: finding pieces that actually need love, that [are] ripped or discolored or kind of ugly and could be cute because [they] have good material. I use vintage because I like the timeless, chic elements of it."

"Chapel of Love" made an impression beyond the mountains of Salt Lake City. The vintage bridal collection, which premiered at the *SLC Fashion Show* and is known for its whimsical, '60s aura, became Zander's first viral moment. "It blew up like nothing that I've ever made before," says Zander. "I've never had a video go viral, I've never had a viral moment, so for my first to be about something I made—I was so happy about that. It was a confirmation that other people like this [and that] I want to keep doing this." And people did—including one **Marisa Dabice** of **Mannequin Pussy** fame.

The lead singer of the indie pop-rock band reached out to Zander for her own styling moment with the collection. "She found my video and was going to be in Salt Lake City for a show. She asked if she could come over and pick out one of my pieces to wear. I've never had a musician wear my pieces before; it was so healing," she recounts. Zander hopes to continue styling and designing for "It Girls," including **Chappell Roan** and **Sabrina Carpenter**—she personally thinks the "Chapel of Love" collection would suit them both, and I'd have to agree.

Stay up to date with Zander by following her on Instagram at [@hannahruthzander](#) and by reading her newsletter, "I Got Dressed Today," which comes out bimonthly.

ABYSS BODY PIERCING



**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF BEAUTIFUL TRANSFORMATIONS**
THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR HEALING JOURNEY

- PIERCING • FINE JEWELRY • REIKI •
• MASSAGE • CARD READING •

ALL THINGS HEALING

245 EAST & BROADWAY

801.810.9247

**CELEBRATE ALL MONTH WITH 10% OFF ANY SERVICE
& FRIDAY THE 13TH WITH \$13 PIERCING FEES**

Since 2008, *FICE Gallery* has acted as an exhibition of the widespread niche known as streetwear. Think about it, the store thrived through the swag and hype-beast interpretations of the craze throughout the early aughts. The history of the style is traced back to Black and Latino artists in New York through the '70s and '80s, during the musical transition from disco to hip-hop. The influence of performers in such genres crossed over with the growing relevancy of team sports and skate culture in the United States, leading to the genesis of the style.

The subculture is enjoyed by many and deeply interlaced with class and race, as a large majority of the physical and creative labor in the United States has been done by marginalized people. Even the sentiment behind collecting and taking care of sneakers is tied to the value of work. It signifies a commitment to an individual's occupation and interests—the same commitment it takes to be an NBA basketball player like **Michael Jordan** or a world-renowned music group like **Run-D.M.C.** The trend is anything but trendy; it continues to evolve with the people who actively participate in it.

In the heart and sole of downtown Salt Lake City exists a haven for the most avant-garde of sneakerheads and streetwear fanatics. With a glorious depiction of Mother Mary on the side of the building, anyone with an ounce of style is attracted to the boutique like a moth to a flame. The ideal intersection of modern art and intellectual fashion, *FICE Gallery* provides retail space for Utah locals to secure stellar new styles and shoes. **Emerson**, lead buyer and merchandiser for *FICE*, shares her thoughts about the recent developments in streetwear trends and the role the establishment plays in dressing the people of Salt Lake well. "As people become more comfortable in themselves, the love for streetwear has grown," Emerson says.

As the name of the style implies, the innovation grows around everyday wear as displayed on the pavement. Given the active nature of Utah culture, function over fashion may be prioritized in footwear. Running and hiking brands like **HOKA** and **Salomon** are gaining traction as the "gorpcore" aesthetic takes over the

Heavenly High tops AND HAUTE COUTURE At FICE Gallery

By Marzia Thomas • marziamercurythomas@gmail.com || Photos by Chay Mosqueda

great outdoors and our explore pages. As mindful consumption and sustainable shopping have been en vogue, expect well-made apparel built to last for friends of the environment at *FICE Gallery*. "What sneakerheads are after is ever evolving," says Emerson. As per usual, the iconography of a swoosh remains relevant, so be on the lookout for **Kendrick Lamar's** favorite Nike Cortez in black and white, alongside the Air Max 90s in varying colorways to match any wardrobe.

"It's more than a shoe; it's a collector's piece," says Emerson. What drives the interest of sneakerheads is often exclusivity. It's almost a competitive sport in and of itself, a rivalry of who can own the most rare pieces or have the largest collection. Some returning patrons of *FICE Gallery* have personal collections of up to 500 pairs. Other customers may buy two pairs of the same shoe, one to keep at home and the other to wear out. The most committed sneakerheads camped outside *FICE* for four days to wait for the **Sean Wotherspoon** and Nike collab released in March 2018. These days, the shop holds raffles for exclusive pieces, making it more accessible to anyone who participates. *FICE* is on the same release schedule as Nike, meaning they stay updated with the most recent fads and don't attempt to resell any higher than market price.

Keeping the streets of Salt Lake City adorned in fresh beauty and displaying a multitude of local artists is an underrated act of virtue. In gratitude to *FICE*, communities of aestheticism can gather for the common purpose of drip. Spend your next Sunday browsing the latest releases from Dr. Martens and Comme des Garçons—it may just be more blessed worship than, well... you know. Follow the shop on Instagram at [@ficegallery](https://www.instagram.com/ficegallery) or visit [ficegallery.com](https://www.ficegallery.com) to hear more about upcoming art gallery strolls and raffles for exclusive shoe drops.



"It's more than a shoe; it's a collector's piece," says Emerson, lead buyer and merchandiser for *FICE Gallery*.



FICE Gallery has been providing SLC with some of the best streetwear and sneakers since 2008.



beauty
 BODY WAXING
 LASH & BROWS
pamper
 EUROPEAN FACIALS
 SPA PEDI & MANI
results
 CHEMICAL PEELS
 LASER
 801.530.0001
 SKINWORKS.EDU

ADVERTISE WITH
SLUG MAG
 Scan to learn more

UMBRELLA CAFE
 511 W 200 S
 Suite 120
undertheumbrellabookstore.com
 a safe space for
 2SLGBTQIA+
 folks to gather

HAIR X JOSIE
 Alternative Cuts and Color
 Mention Slug Mag
 and Receive 20% Off
 Any Service

HAIRX.JOSIE.COM
 *Offer valid for 1st time clients

FESTA ITALIANA
 SALT LAKE CITY
Food. Wine. Music!
 September 14-15
 THE GATEWAY
 400 W 200 S, Salt Lake City, UT
festaitalianasl.com

Sage Nelsen:

UPCYCLED IN EVERY SHADE OF PINK

By Paulina Burnside • paulina@burnsides.org
 Photos by Alanna Lowry



Nelsen's latest collection is a futuristic and fashionable interpretation of how trash can be repurposed.

Bad bitch! Over the top! Pop girly! Sustainable fashion designer Sage Nelsen identifies with these words as well as with her brand's slogan, "statement clothing for statement people." We chat about her path to this current stage in her fashion career while sitting on her denim couch that looks like it has been clipped from an aughts *Teen Vogue* issue. Light falls through pink curtains that cover the vaulted ceiling of her living room, where clothing racks, frames and posters collage the walls—including a giant portrait of Nelsen looking relevant as hell in a flash photo where she's surrounded by clothing. She pours me a glass of water in a cup that is shaped like an ice cream cone. She sports a set of Silly Bandz on her wrist.

Nelsen was not always interested in being a fashion designer. While she dressed crazy as a young kid growing up in Utah, she went through a fashion shift when she transferred school districts for junior high and high school. "It was very Mormon and white. I was just trying to conform and lost all style," she says. Later, when Nelsen studied film in California, she began to regain her sense of style. On a trip to New York, she stumbled across a shop that made gender fluid, upcycled clothing. The fact that the pieces were selling at a high price point, as well as the evocative fashion that she saw in the city, inspired Nelsen to pursue sustainable design.

When I ask her about where she learned to sew, Nelsen mentions a ninth grade sewing class and a class at *Salt Lake Community College*. "We had to sew a zipper 16 times—it took like an hour," Nelsen says. "And then after the class I looked on TikTok and found a way that took 20 minutes." Her online learning has taken her far, to numerous runway collections and a constant stream of statement pieces that she sells at markets. A cropped blazer that hangs on her wall catches my attention—tulle trapping thousands of fabric scraps. Nelsen shows me the matching pants, full of the same scraps that could pose for a page in an *I Spy* book. All of her pieces share these qualities: bright colors and intricacies that have you exploring them down to the stitch.

When asked about where she draws fashion inspiration from, Nelsen unhesitatingly mentions the influence of **Anna Molinari** (TikToker and fashion designer), the power of her own brain (occasionally with the help of her green substance of choice) and weirdly, *Fortnite* skins. While she is not into *Battle Royale* herself, Nelsen watches for notable outfits when her boyfriend plays and has a coworker who sends her screenshots of skins.

Nelsen is proudest of her most recent collection, "Trashionably Yours," which was themed to portray the fashion of the future. She overcame several creative blocks during its creation, something that she did not struggle with when conceiving her buzz-generating tie collection. When I ask about a striking gown of stuffed grocery bags, those hauntingly familiar Shein ziplocks, an iPhone box and many other bits of artificial polymers, she tells me it's the "showstopper" of the collection. "All of my showstoppers are under my bed because they're too big and I hate them... in a loving way," says Nelsen with a laugh.

Nelsen is looking forward to developing future collections that will inspire positive change in her audience. She teases the concept of a "jollection"—pieces made entirely of jeans—as well as a collection that discusses mental health. She plans to launch an online shop soon at sagenelsen.com and can be found on Instagram at [@sage.nelsen](https://www.instagram.com/sage.nelsen).

Sage Nelsen prioritizes upcycling and gender fluidity to create "statement clothing for statement people."



the **AVENUES** street fair

FREE ADMISSION LIVE LOCAL MUSIC ALL DAY
 200+ FOOD VENDORS & ARTIST BOOTHS

MARY KATE WALTON | MANDY LYNN DANZIG | WASATCH MUSIC COACHING ACADEMY | SALT LAKE ACADEMY OF MUSIC | THE OFFBEATS JAZZ BAND

SATURDAY 9.14.2024

9 AM — 6 PM

LOCATED ON 3RD AVENUE BETWEEN D & I STREETS

WWW.AVENUESSTREETFAIR.ORG
 FOLLOW @AVENUESSTREETFAIR FOR UPDATES

CAFFE IBIS

coffee roasting company

BIRD FRIENDLY USDA ORGANIC FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED

SLUG SOUNDWAVES

SLUG MAGAZINE'S OFFICIAL PODCAST

Local stories from local musicians

MUSIC · ARTS · LIFESTYLE · EVENTS

@SLUGMAG Listen on Podcasts Spotify

Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
 UtahStateUniversity.

FREE EXHIBITION
 AUGUST 23 - DECEMBER 1, 2024

BEAUTY AND THE BEAKS

A PHOTOGRAPHIC LOVE LETTER TO THE SWANER PRESERVE
 BY STEVE KRONGARD AND JODI BUREN

Breathtaking photographs and hands-on interactives reveal the science and splendor of the Swaner Preserve and the cranes who thrive here. Fun for all ages! *Esta exhibición está disponible en español.*

MADE POSSIBLE BY GRANTS FROM JOHN C. KISH FOUNDATION SUMMIT COUNTY RESTAURANT

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and is committed to a learning and working environment free from discrimination, including harassment. For USU's non-discrimination notice, see equity.usu.edu/non-discrimination.

SCAN FOR HOURS & DETAILS OR VISIT SWANERECOCENTER.ORG
 1258 CENTER DRIVE, PARK CITY, UT



THE SUSTAINABLE FASHIONISTA'S GUIDE TO SALT LAKE CITY'S SECONDHAND MARKET

By Arthur Diaz • arthur.f.diaz@gmail.com

"Doesn't the crocodile print remind you of Alexander McQueen's 'Plato's Atlantis'?" My friend **Allison Hurd Watts**, a local style content creator, nods in agreement from the other end of a steel rack neatly crammed with countless secondhand steals. I'm still holding the brown turtleneck dress when I notice and exclaim, "Oh my God, it's Proenza Schouler!" I feel the rush you can only get from a remarkable pre-loved find. In the new fashion economy, the miraculous origin story of a unique wardrobe piece holds more value than equally-priced new garments—and spending roughly \$200 instead of \$2,200 on the total haul, it's my best day of shopping in Salt Lake City ever.

We're on our first of three swoon-worthy local stops that every sustainability-minded cool girl will adore, standing beneath a very *Barbie*-core chandelier as **Hilary Duff's** 2003 film soundtrack plays softly. It's impossible not to sigh in admiration at the dozens of Y2K bags from cult-classic labels Liz Claiborne, Michael Kors, Kate Spade and countless others, before I decide on a black leather Guess minibag priced at \$15. I clock a multicolor dress from the Coperni summer 2022 runway on a mannequin and ask to try it on. Here at *Revive Boutique*, Utah's newest thrift store at 342 East and 900 South, the shopping is truly *what dreams are made of*.

Their team was eager to see the curated treasures we'd leave with—or leave behind. **Cherish**, a personal stylist at the boutique explains, "We just want you to come in here and make sure that you leave feeling beautiful. Whether you buy something or not, we want to get to know your style." It's a refreshing mindset that seems pervasive in the growing SLC fashion community, where personal style trumps novelty. Becoming more fashionable is a sustainable practice in itself, when you learn what suits you well enough to leave behind what does not. Among the pieces we tearfully parted with after the fitting room were a pair of khaki Jil Sander shorts and a Maison Margiela pixel-printed midi dress.

Stopping in at *Copperhive Vintage*, a store focused on mid-century clothing and housewares, owner **Jacqueline Whitmore** explains that "trends are, for lack of a better word, the gateway drug into vintage." Some of the buzziest 2024 trends are easily thrifted, like "Office Siren," "Mob Wife" and "Eclectic Grandpa"—and secondhand shopping is steadily growing in popularity as a more ethical choice. "Fast fashion is at a threshold right now where they can't get any faster without violently exploiting people," Whitmore says. "So I think that secondhand and reworked clothing is going to make its way into the mainstream, which has been exciting to see," she continues.

Our conversation reminds me of agenda-setting fashion moments such as **Miuccia Prada's** reworked vintage leather jackets on the fall 2022 runway or the Coach (Re)Loved program. This approach to fashion is also catching on locally, which I see while exploring *Annata Collective*. The storefront carries local brands like Checkered Out, a mix of vintage, handmade and reworked pieces. **Hannah**, the creative director of the brand, tells me *Annata* has been in business for a year.

After our final stop, I'm sad we aren't able to visit *The Preppy Bohemian*, another secondhand favorite Allison introduced me to that recently rebranded and is preparing to reopen soon. It's where I found my vintage leopard print Miu Miu clutch and ETRO sequined shoulder purse, both of which I wear multiple times a week. Counting these pieces among the two designer dresses I scored today for \$75 and \$120—which retail for \$490 and \$1,690, respectively—I'm still blown away by how much cooler our humble pioneer city is growing to be. These outings remind me how important it is to invest the time to select clothes mindfully beyond clicking "add to cart." Instead, opting to hunt for hidden treasures alongside friends means ultimately curating a more fulfilling wardrobe I'll wear more often from clothes that didn't create new waste.



Illustration: Kit Cactus

You never know what you will find hidden in SLC's vintage, consignment and thrift shops.

IRIS

PIERCING STUDIO
— JEWELRY —



@IRIS_PIERCING_STUDIOS

2431 S HIGHLAND DR SLC, UT 84106



Regan Ku'ulei
Reactivates Kinderwhore

By Bianca Velasquez • biancavelasquezslc@gmail.com || Photos by Evan Hancock

FIG. 01 Regan Ku'ulei explores creative freedom in their design work through upcycled materials and varied gender expression.

Upcycling has become a popular sustainable practice in recent years, with some fast-fashion retailers such as H&M adopting the trend. On an individual level, the practice allows artists such as Regan Ku'ulei to gain their footing as designers through recycled materials that are much more affordable, giving their work the creative breathing room they need to express their vision. Whether it is hand-painted vintage suede or a cropped high-low beaded top—made from a curtain—Ku'ulei has a healthy and delicate sense of play within both material and gender expression through their inclusive, accessible and sustainable clothing designs.

To Ku'ulei, the idea of going to a store and getting an article of clothing feels disconnected and stale, “not to mention imagining the conditions it was made in,” they say. “I think slow fashion is much more exciting and more fun, and that is what gets me excited. But also sustainability is incredibly important to me.” Like many of us, Ku'ulei strives to practice sustainability in other areas—like taking public transit and recycling—as they try to navigate their role within the current fashion landscape. “The fashion industry is the number two polluter, the way that whole machine functions is so fucking wasteful. As individuals we can demand better for ourselves and for our planet and hold larger corporations accountable,” Ku'ulei says.

In Ku'ulei's rolodex of work you'll see upcycled hand-painted denim, embroidered mesh tops, bombastic-yet-tender puff sleeves, skirts with tiered ruffles and enough lace to put your mother's wedding dress to shame. With inspiration rooted in the kinderwhore (egre-

gious feminine designs perverted by rebellious undertones—think **Courtney Love** and **Madonna**) and grunge trends, Ku'ulei's eye for the dainty yet abrasive shines. Meanwhile, they assert that materials and silhouettes that can seem “meant for women” are actually genderless. “**Marina and the Diamonds** was a huge part of that (kinderwhore) resurgence. I think that allows for a range of genderplay which I find exciting,” they say. “I see a lot of it in online spaces and in Salt Lake, people really playing with masculine and feminine and being a little slutty.”

Inclusivity is an important cornerstone of Ku'ulei's work, and they deliberately practice it in terms of who they choose as models in photoshoots and runway shows. “In my very first show I knew I wanted it to be different from a traditional fashion show,” they say. “I was just coming out as nonbinary and lacked a community here in SLC, and I knew I wanted to use queer models.” The goal wasn't to have “visibly queer” models, though, but rather make the show feel inclusive to folks who wanted to participate. For the ten models who were chosen for the show, it was their first time walking. “I remember after the show one of the models said, ‘For someone like me to have this kind of opportunity meant a lot to me,’ and I knew I wanted to continue to use marginalized bodies and people who are part of other marginalized communities.”

Ku'ulei participated in the 2023 *Utah Pacific Fashion Show*, featuring 18 Pacific designers from Utah to New Zealand. “It was really intimidating,” they say, “but it gave me the confidence to take myself seriously enough to go to school for fashion.” As a Samoan/Hawai'ian designer, the opportunity allowed

them to connect with other designers from similar backgrounds. “After that show I was like, ‘No, I am talented. I have a lot to offer and a lot to say, and people haven't seen anything like this before,’” they say.

Ku'ulei is currently preparing for their fall semester at *Salt Lake Community College's* fashion program. “When I finish a project I can say when it is ‘done,’ but I know there is more and that I can do better if I just keep learning,” they say. As they take time to increase their skill set and solidify the trajectory of their fashion career, they hope to learn how to screen print and collect inspiration for their next collection. Check out Ku'ulei's available work on their Instagram at [@kuulei.co](https://www.instagram.com/kuulei.co).



FIG. 02 Slow, sustainable fashion is important to Ku'ulei, both for the sake of the environment and the excitement of connecting with a deliberately crafted piece.

PUNCTURED
PIERCING & TATTOO

CUSTOM TATTOO

PROFESSIONAL BODY PIERCING

FINE BODY JEWELRY

SPECIALIZING IN CHILDREN'S
EARLOBE PIERCINGS

2459 SOUTH MAIN STREET, STE 6
BOUNTIFUL, UTAH
801-397-2459

Fall Bulb & Native Plant Sale

Fri, Sep 27, 1-7:30 pm Sat, Sep 28, 9 am-3 pm

Red Butte Garden Amphitheatre

RED BUTTE GARDEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

redbuttegarden.org

CLARK PLANETARIUM
SALT LAKE COUNTY

DARK UNIVERSE

Narrated by NEIL deGRASSE TYSON

The planets, stars and everything you can see are less than 5 percent of the universe. What is the other 95 percent?

Dark Universe brings audiences to the cutting edge of cosmic exploration to reveal the breakthroughs that have led astronomers to confront two great cosmic mysteries: dark matter and dark energy.

110 S 400 W | clarkplanetarium.org | 385-468-1236

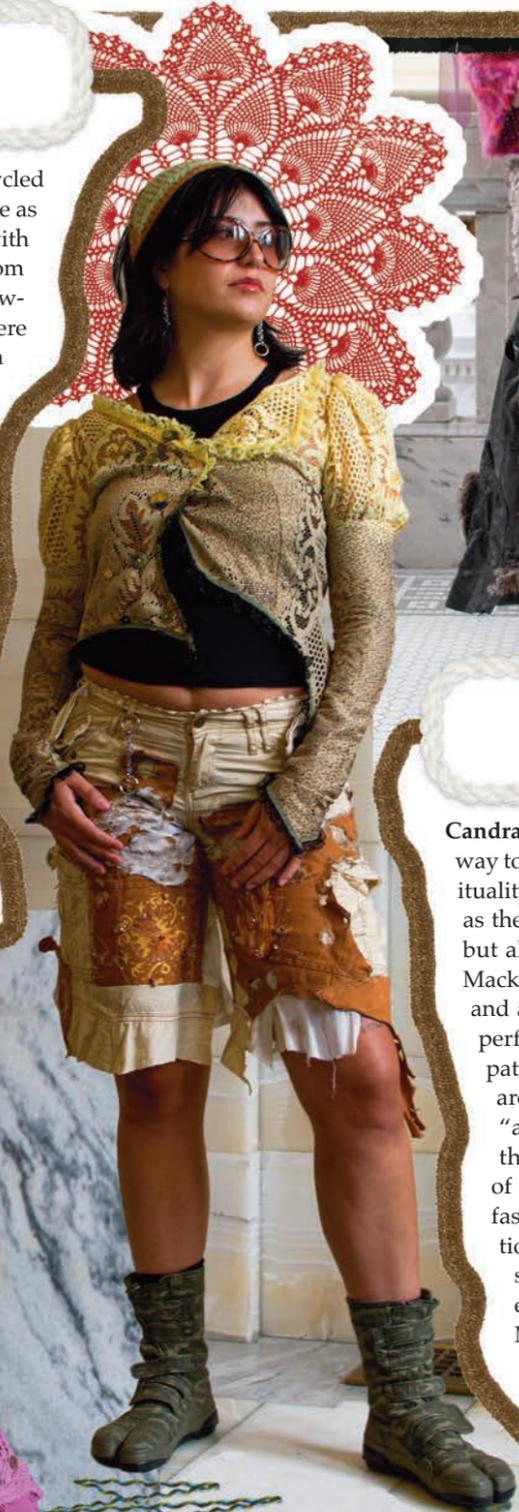
Building Extraordinary Looks with Four SLC Fashion Designers

By Asha Pruitt • asha@slugmag.com || Photos by Jovvany Villalobos

These four Salt Lake City fashion designers are changing the game. While using different materials such as upcycled lace tablecloths and natural yarn fibers, and finding inspiration from diverse sources like anime characters and Mother Nature herself, their pieces all fit together to create multiple extraordinary looks. From patchwork pants to coffin jewelry and crochet bonnets to metallic bralettes, each designer brings something unique to the table. All outfits are modeled and styled by **Ashley Favila** (@*ashleyfavv* on Instagram).

J.J. STÜCKER

Jaclyn Shahan, the designer behind the upcycled clothing brand J.J. Stücker, describes her style as “extremely whimsical and ultra-feminine with a slight edge.” Her textile skills first came from her mother, who taught her how to sew pillow-cases and tablecloths at a young age, but were honed at *Academy of Art University* in San Francisco, where she received a Master of Fine Art in Fashion Design. Shahan’s newest collection, titled “Hot Flash,” is “inspired by the fervor and intensity that we all have inside of us for that one thing we are passionate about in life, and how our flare for it comes and goes at times.” Her other design inspirations include the 1960s space-age movement led by **André Courrèges** and 1980s cartoons such as *Rainbow Brite* and *Jem and the Holograms*. Shop J.J. Stücker online at jjstucker.com and find her work on the runway at the Walking for Gold charity fashion show on September 14.



POUT PANTS

Candra Lee Mackey has always seen clothing as a way to express her emotions, personality and spirituality. “Function and fashion go hand in hand, as the right clothes not only reflect who you are but also support what you’re doing,” she says. Mackey made her first pair of Pout Pants in 2020, and after months of product testing, she finally perfected the stitching formula that keeps the patches together. Mindfulness and spontaneity are important to Mackey’s creative process, “allowing [her] eyes and hands to guide the design wherever they lead.” Her goal of bringing awareness to the damage of fast fashion goes hand-in-hand with her inspirations from the natural world—one piece that she’s incredibly proud of is a pair “dedicated to expressing my gratitude for the sun,” Mackey says. Though she’s been entirely self-taught so far, she’ll be studying fashion at *Salt Lake Community College* this fall. Check out her current inventory at poutpants.com and contact her for commissions on Instagram at @*poutpants*.

BIG YARN IS MY GOD

“I love the way that an outfit can make an impression on the world around you without saying a thing,” says **Ashley McDougal**, the designer and fiber artist behind Big Yarn is My God. When it comes to crocheting, her method of choice when creating clothes, she feels very connected to her pieces because “not only are you designing a dress or pants, you’re also making the material,” McDougal says. “It feels like a little part of me walking around in the world.” She looks to other fiber art brands like Nong Rak and Loupy Studio for ideas on how to experiment with natural textures and play with freeform design. “I love to play with color and shape ... I come up with my favorite pieces when I spend time admiring other mediums like paintings, glass [and] ceramics,” she says. Find McDougal’s yarn creations on Instagram at @*bigyarnismygod* and look out for her fall 2024 collection coming this October.



PUNX JEWELRY

“Growing up, I always wanted to look different,” jewelry designer **Maranda Espinoza** says. “I would make kandi bracelets and sell them to kids at school.” Her early involvement in the emo and scene subcultures later influenced her brand, Punx Jewelry, and its bold, dramatic style. Using thrifted charms and stainless steel materials—sometimes incorporating ethically-sourced skunk and raccoon bones as well as human wisdom teeth—Espinoza handcrafts chokers, earrings, belts, keychains and more. Her chainmail-esque designs, inspired by vampire aesthetics, emphasize classic goth motifs like spiders, coffins and crosses alongside stereotypically feminine symbols like hearts, stars and bows. She couldn’t possibly choose a favorite piece, though: “All my creations are very special to me. It takes so much time to bring [the designs] to life,” she says. Shop Espinoza’s recent collections online at punxjewelry.net and keep up with new drops or request a commission on Instagram at @*punxjewelry*.



Center: Ashley Favila wears spider star earrings and matching choker (Punx Jewelry), a metallic bralette and pink lace top (J.J. Stücker), dyed denim with brushed yarn pants and a multicolor tube scarf/belt (Big Yarn is My God).

Center: Ashley Favila wears a mint and brown bonnet (Big Yarn is My God), chainmail dangly earrings and belt charm (Punx Jewelry), a yellow lace buttoned top (J.J. Stücker) and painted brown patchwork shorts (Pout Pants).

SLUG STYLE

Felix Diaz

Photos by John Taylor | john@visionfoto.com

Felix Diaz is a fashion stylist, multimedia creative, model and community organizer deeply integrated into SLC's flourishing underground, alternative fashion scene. Follow them on Instagram at @felixdiaz and read the full interview on SLUGMag.com!

"I've found so much bliss in approaching fashion and gender in a limitless way. Art has no deficit and neither do we. As free-hearted beings, it is within our right to step out of the binary for reasons no one besides yourself is entitled to."



"Modeling has helped me always be willing to step into a persona any day. From casual to editorial high fashion to streetwear, my bookings as a model will constantly vary and I absolutely adore that."

"What the beautiful Utah creatives have taught me is the blessing and love that is community. Learning what community truly means and having the opportunity to share intimate spaces for creating art has invoked the most special bonds."



TOWER OF TERROR

FAVORITE CULT HORROR FILMS EVERY WEEKEND
FRI, SEPT 13TH-SAT, OCT 26TH **at the BROADWAY**

And don't miss The Rocky Horror Picture Show with live performers
THURS, OCT 31ST-SAT, NOV 2ND

BROADWAY CENTRE CINEMAS: 111 E Broadway (300 S), Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Dates and movie titles may change, see website for details.

UTAH'S HOME OF INDEPENDENT FILM DONOR SUPPORTED THEATER



SLFS
salt lake film society

YOUR FALL PLANTING HEADQUARTERS



It's a great fall at **Millcreek Gardens**

Your favorite garden center since 1955
3500 South 900 East
801-487-4131

FIVE WIVES VODKA

Supporting locals since 2010..




www.ogdensown.com

ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE

By Alton Barnhart • alton@slugmag.com | Photos by Derek Brad



SLUG Editorial Assistant Alton Barnhart is on the hunt for the hottest, most fashionable garments at the treasure trove of Redwood Drive-in Theatre's weekly swap meet.

• AT THE REDWOOD DRIVE-IN THEATRE SWAP MEET •

I know zip about fashion. My only reference points come from my three vogue-centric sisters and binge-watching many seasons of *America's Next Top Model*. And we all know how well that show aged... The way I see it, fashion is just one overpriced, trendy circle: What's not a fad right now will be later, as the dominant cultures continue to harvest the subordinate ones. However, let me kill two birds with one bedazzled stone with a shop-til-you-drop honey hole that's both cheap and "with the times." Let's burn down to West Valley City and head northbound to Redwood Drive-in Theatre for their year-round, weekend swap meet.

Since 1960, Redwood has been hosting this acre-wide flea market, featuring over 500 different vendors to boot. What those vendors might be selling, though, is anything and everything you could imagine. The range of items varies between every visit, both secondhand and brand-new, but that's the beauty of it! With some pocket change for entry and a few Andrew Jacksons withdrawn on Saturday morning, you could be walking out with a brand-new wardrobe and a few trinkets to spare.

I normally go searching for antiques and oddities on my Sunday adventures. Previous purchases include but are not limited

to: retro wind-up tin robots, a piranha head frozen in a block of resin, spring-locked switchblades, a rusted-out *Gremlins* lunchbox, a complete DVD set of *Cowboy Bebop* and a raggedy copy of a BDSM pornographic magazine that was strictly AGAINST vendor guidelines. Aside from the bizarre and peculiar, the swap meet supplies a range of vintage and high fashion. Catch some screen printed band tees from the *OliFer Rock* tent, where I got both a *Gorillaz* and an *Elvira* shirt. Scope out the few vendors that come equipped with belts and handbags from highbrow brands like Gucci and Louis Vuitton (I can neither confirm nor deny that these were legitimate products). If you feel the need to indulge in both of your secret fandoms, the NFL jersey tent and Hello Kitty stand are both a stone's throw away. I can't emphasize it enough when I say you can find almost ANYTHING.

Now, buying used and pre owned items is nothing new. We saw this craze when *Macklemore's "Thrift Shop"* hit number one in the *Billboard* Hot 100 charts, and scalpers began reselling our childhoods back to us like bastards, but Redwood is different. Instead, "take it or leave it" offers don't really exist here. You can haggle and barter for better prices, but please be reasonable. You may be getting a deal, but

some vendors rely on the swap meet as a secondary (sometimes primary) source of income. Practice this unspoken word of respect between buyer and seller. You're not *Rick Harrison*, and this is not *Pawn Stars*.

Sadly, to end on a sour note, Redwood is now facing its biggest buyer of all: *EDGEhomes*. As of June 2024, the community of West Valley City has been fighting tooth and nail against a rezoning proposal that will demolish the drive-in into a row of "affordable housing." Many petition signatories and upset community members have urged the West Valley Planning Commission to say no, but this is just the beginning. My advice to first-timers or veteran patrons is to continue the early-weekend wakeups, drive down to this antiquity goldmine and show your appreciation through second-hand hauls (or even just with your one-dollar admission fee). Just like the treasures inside, if you don't keep a wary eye out for this Wasatch Front staple, it'll vanish without a trace.

To show your love and support for fellow treasure-hunters like yourself, check out the Redwood Drive-in swap meet every Saturday and Sunday morning at 3688 South Redwood Road. Exact times may vary depending on the season. Happy hunting!

RED BUTTE GARDEN

OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES 2024

THU, SEP 5
THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT
TYLER RAMSEY

MON, SEP 9
JESUS AGUAJE RAMOS & HIS
BUENA VISTA ORCHESTRA

WED, SEP 18
CROWDED HOUSE
LIAM FINN

TUE, SEP 24
RODRIGO Y GABRIELA
OKAN

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
REDBUTTEGARDEN.ORG/CONCERTS

3200 E
BIG COTTONWOOD RD.
THEHOGWALLOW.COM

BEER
BITES
SPIRITS
SHENANIGANS

Craft Lake City makers take over Millcreek Common

SEPT. 9 - OCT. 20
SHOP 7 DAYS A WEEK
11 A.M. - 9 P.M.

GRAND OPENING:
SEPT. 12, 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

MILLCREEK COMMON

LOCALIZED OLIVIA BIGELOW

By Parker Scott Mortensen • parkermortensen@gmail.com

This month's *SLUG Localized* showcase on Thursday, September 19 features the unique, upbeat sounds of DJs from all across Utah: Olivia Bigelow, **AUXO** and **kimmi!** This all-ages electronic extravaganza at *Kilby Court*, sponsored by *Riso-Geist*, costs just \$5 for entry. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and music kicks off at 8:00 p.m.

The cover art for Olivia Bigelow's 2022 album *Zex Tape* is a smattering of internet junk ephemera on top of the iconic "Dust II" map from *Counter-Strike: Source*. Just to the left is a pixelated figure holding a JPEG of an AK-47. It's Bigelow, but the visage is so mosaicked you might not have been able to tell it's her without already knowing.

The Salt Lake City-based producer and DJ released *Zex Tape* in September 2022 and, like a lot of her work, it's a cacophonous EDM bomb that can't be defused. It's full of noisy beats and obscure samples from society's weirdest corners. Foley, sound effects, boing-oing-oings—for Bigelow, more is more, and her music blasts loud, hard and stupid. It works, even as—maybe because—it sounds insane.

But *Zex Tape*, like most of her released music, builds on a different era of Bigelow's life, before she embraced her identity as a trans woman. The pixelated, hidden Bigelow has a mustache. "I really didn't like how I looked then," Bigelow says. "I couldn't put my face on there, because that wasn't me." While she knew she was trans at age 13, she was outed and mistreated then. "I just kind of locked myself away," she says.

When Bigelow turned 18, she felt like it was too late to start hormone therapy. "I felt like ... I was gross, irredeemable—that

hormones would only make me a freak and people would hate me more," Bigelow says. There was nothing stopping her from doing what she had wanted, but now the equation felt different. Maybe she could find another way around.

Bigelow played jazz in high school and first turned to producing music at 16. Music quickly became an outlet. "When I made music, that was actually me," she says, "and people couldn't say nothing about that." She knew she was expressing herself, but she didn't always know or even like how she appeared. In 2020, for instance, she released a project in which she rapped over beats. She ended up deleting it. Move on, try again. Since 2022, Bigelow has started doing more DJing and live performances. "It's very freeing, being on stage," she says. "I just love being in front of people and having them captive to whatever I do."

She sinks her claws deep into your brain to fire as many different neurons as possible. "I try to capture the sensation of just scrolling, scrolling endlessly," she says. No time for intent or meaning—911 calls, documentary sound bites, "Epic Rap Battles of History," bingo was his name-o. In every moment, you're invited like lightning to be in on a new joke. She works on tracks for nine months at a time, layering and gutting and building, anything but sitting still. But



Photo: Anna Chapman

Olivia Bigelow's experimental music is the outlet and safe space she created for herself while navigating her identity and gender transition.

even as Bigelow made music a space for herself, her jokes and silly impulses, she simultaneously found it hard to be serious, especially when it came to saying anything meaningful about herself. What if she tried hormones and found everyone had been right, she was just faking it? The music wasn't enough.

Around February, she bit the bullet. She was working on music with a trans friend who said, "You can always just stop taking hormones. You've already got dysphoria. What do you have to lose?" That conversation made all the difference. "It really took having another trans woman who I'd known for so long tell me I'm not [faking it]," Bigelow says. Now, HRT is going well. "I feel like I'm not hiding now," she says. "[With] a lot of my older stuff, I was scared to be serious and be open and really say anything about myself. And I think that's why I avoided making anything with meaning." In retrospect, *Zex Tape* reflects a lot of Bigelow's issues with her body and her identity.

Still, her maximalism endures. "I try to put as much as I can into everything I make," she says, "because I want the next thing I make to definitely say everything in case I die or I disappear or I stop doing this. I need it to be everything." Follow Bigelow on Instagram at [@olivia_bigelow](https://www.instagram.com/olivia_bigelow).

LOCALIZED AUXO

By Parker Scott Mortensen • parkermortensen@gmail.com

AUXO's new album *CIRCA* is a 28-minute whirlwind of drum and bass, EDM and pop in exquisite balance. It's an experimental and danceable concoction that cooks with jungle and footwork ingredients to create a work reminiscent of **Machine Girl** and microwave-nuked vaporwave. There's no wasted space, either—almost every track is high energy and moves you to dance, and it considers what would be an interesting way to do that through lyrics, samples, vocals and unexpected drops, never resting on just an incredible rhythm and beat. It's easily the best and most dense of what the duo have made so far.

Benjamin Davie and **Austin Cannon**, both from St. George, comprise the group. Davie, the producer, moved to Salt Lake City to attend the *University of Utah* to study graphic design, and Cannon, the singer, still lives in St. George. The two are close friends and have been since middle school, when they found themselves gravitating to one another in a larger friend group and goading each other's music tastes to new heights. "There wasn't a lot to do in St. George," Cannon says. "Davie started producing tracks, and we started to make little funny songs." They got into **Yung Lean** and vaporwave and liked the all-encompassing sound of reverb. "It turned serious, I guess," says Davie.

That was 2019–2020. Now they live far apart, but their chemistry survives the distance. Cannon sends vocals to Davie, who chops and bakes them into whatever tracks he's currently toying with. Though they miss the days of spending all day making music together in a bedroom, they say the separation has brought growth. "You can have your times where you're alone and your lyricism can be, like, truly yours," Davie says to Cannon. "I can see where your writing has just improved over time, and it's just beautiful. I don't know. I love it." The heart grows fonder.

Their early music was under a different name and leaned more **\$UICIDEBOYS\$**-inspired with rap-heavy instrumentals. Under the AUXO name, the duo has moved more toward a drum and bass foundation that edges into pop. It's hard to pin down, but the music emphasizes explosive, euphoric moments that happen in surprising ways, even when you hear a drop coming. There's always a little extra detail that pushes every moment over into something sublime, such as the heavy panting over the opening synths of "Werk 2nite" that lend the song a pounding heft. "I've always thought it's interesting to try to make something that's extremely palatable, but also [has] experimental elements," says Davie. "To just push this—whatever genre we're doing—forward."



Photo: Jess Gruneisen

Benjamin Davie (left) and Austin Cannon (right) overcome the barrier of distance to craft danceable drum and bass tracks.

Cannon's vocals bring another edge. His breathy delivery brings a **Dangerous Muse**-esque sex appeal that dredges up the aughts-era party boy persona. And then there are the confessional moments on "Navigation" that play like a voice memo: "We're our happiest when we do us. Silly little rant: Like, it's not fully a bad thing to like, grow into your ways. Fucking grow into your ways! People will love you. It's fine. Do what you fucking want to do. You don't want to use Google Maps? Or Apple Maps? Fine. It's no reason to fuck off. Just love each other. It's a goddamn map service." The orchestral synths sear back up and drown him out.

The boys complement each other's creative impulses that way. They provide cover for the other to do their thing and divulge that elusive sense of pop authenticity, which ultimately comes as a feeling, one that lives and dies by the creator's willingness to be themselves in front of others. "For me, it's always just been like, how does this make me feel?" says Cannon. "If I turn on a song ... I just ask myself that question. You've got to stay true to what you like, and that's just what I've always done."

Find AUXO on Spotify or follow them on Instagram at [@benauxo](https://www.instagram.com/benauxo) and [@austinauxo](https://www.instagram.com/austinauxo).

IzaaJade: BUILDING A BRAND WITH BELLA WATERS

By Kyra Cortez • kyracortez23@gmail.com || Photos by John Barkiple

Bella Waters, the screen printer, textile designer and creator behind IzaaJade, has crafted her creativity into her own brand. She first started painting on shoes and making jewelry in 2018. "People would [ask] 'Where did you get that?' And I'd [say] 'I made it.' [Then] they're like, 'Can you make me one?' And then that progressed." Waters explains IzaaJade as a creative platform that has fluctuated according to her ever-evolving niche, but one that always reflects her passion for making and creating.

"It took me like two years to be good at screen printing," shares Waters. "I pretty much failed for most of those two years." She personally designed every one of her screen printed pieces.

"I print in my basement and then I take the fabric that I print, and use that as textile fabric to make the wallets and the journals," says Waters, describing how each piece initially starts out as one big design and then gets distributed into smaller items. Wallets are Waters' personal favorite, she says, "because it's something that I

use every single day [and] they have really good durability [and] quality."

Waters initially grew an interest in screen printing through her job at a screen printing warehouse. "I would watch these huge screens in this warehouse full-time," she says. "Through watching screens, I got to experience the process from a bigger lens. I really just liked how many things you have to remember. I like having to-do lists and structure." Screen printing stems from both artistic creativity and structure, and "that's why I think I flourish in that pursuit," says Waters.

Her love of structure doesn't end at screen printing, though. She also practices structure through bullet journaling. "I love making lists and [with] bullet journaling, I get to totally design my spread," says Waters. She started journaling as a kid, a practice that eventually turned into sketching, then bullet journaling. "I just kind of do it. It's a part of who I am," she says.

Waters' brand isn't limited to material items; it extends to YouTube, too. She finds

"There are no boundaries that could ever define where my brand [will be]," Waters says confidently.



her YouTube channel—where she shares seemingly endless content through tutorials, advice and more—to be a place where she is present and authentic in sharing her passions. Waters envisions IzaaJade to continue to be "a source of inspiration for people that enjoy my brand ... I don't care if I make money on YouTube. I don't care if I have a lot of subscribers. I [prefer] a small, [strong] circle of support," shares Waters.

When asked about her inspirations, Waters didn't point to many specifics (aside from the Spanish architecture she posted in an Instagram story), but rather feels inspired by creating and sharing things through her art that wouldn't be experienced otherwise. "My cake journals, for example, [are inspired by] my behind-the-scenes dream of being a cake decorator," Waters says with enthusiasm. Another outlook Waters projects onto her brand, IzaaJade, is the "Kate Spade perspective," which she describes simply as Kate Spade doing whatever she wants.

"IzaaJade is going to be IzaaJade. There are no boundaries that could ever define where my brand [will be]," she says confidently. See more of Waters' creations on her YouTube channel @SEWIZAA and follow @izaajade on Instagram!



Bella Waters' brand IzaaJade spans more than just screen printed textiles and also includes an educational YouTube channel.

Open 7 days

VERTICAL DINER
GREAT FOOD! GREAT PEOPLE!

BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!

Reserve the Jade Room for your private events.

COCKTAILS • BEER • WINE • MIMOSAS
(801) 484-8378 | 234 W 900 S | SLC, UT
verticaldiner.com

Whiskeys and Rums ACTUALLY from Utah



Proudly distilled in Sandy, Utah

RED ROCK ARTS FESTIVAL
September 27-29, 2024

FREE! All Ages Moab, Utah

Music! Workshops! Artisan Vendors! Community Art Show! Story Slam! Painting! Films!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. ▶ **Storytelling Workshop with Holly** (So you can practice for the Story Slam on Friday!)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. ▶ **Community Mural Painting**
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. ▶ **Community Art Show Reception (& Voting)**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. ▶ **Story Slam with the Storied Self**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. ▶ **STREET FEST**
A day of live music, artisan market, free arts activities for kids & adults, Diné Tah Dancers, plus great food & beverages!
12 - 12:30 p.m. ▶ **Diné Tah Dancers**
1 p.m. - 2 p.m. ▶ **Sturtz**
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. ▶ **Gabrielle Louise**
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. ▶ **The Cross-Eyed Possom**
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. ▶ **Pijama Piyama**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. ▶ **Painting Water & Reflections in Oil**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. ▶ **Water(color)ways: Travel Journaling w/ ink & wash**
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. ▶ **Wet Felting Basics**
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. ▶ **Making Ink with Soot**
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. ▶ **Tie-Dye Bilingüe! Taller de teñido a mano!**
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. ▶ **Trivia Hour**
6:30 - 9 p.m. ▶ **Film Screening: WATERWORLD** with Kevin Costner

FREE WORKSHOPS

redrockartsfestival.com

MOAB ARTS Utah Division of Arts & Museums SLUG MAG MOAB RUSTIC LIVING EXPEDITION TREEBEE HYATT PLACE THE CITY OF MOAB

With the uptick of tourism to Japan in the last few years, it's been easy to feel left out when seemingly my entire Instagram feed is filled with pictures of cherry blossoms, niche cafes and the neon lights of Tokyo. Yet *Koyoté*, one of Salt Lake's newest Japanese restaurants, brings the flavors of the East right into the Mountain West.

Located in the Marmalade district, *Koyoté* is situated in a quieter neighborhood, alluding to a casual and welcoming dining experience. The first thing I noticed upon walking in was how hands-off-yet-friendly the whole experience was. After the host sat my party and I down at a table, he explained the digital menu system and left us to it. We were not left helpless, though; throughout the meal, multiple members of the staff came over to check in. This created a feeling of independence, yet familiarity. By the end of the meal, we had talked to almost all the front-of-house staff.

A trip to *Koyoté* is wasted without heavily sampling the various appetizers offered. Our table decided on Lotus Chips (\$3), Whipped Tofu (\$10) and Mabo Tofu (\$10), but only after a heated debate, as each dish had distinct appeal.

The Lotus Chips ended up being better, crispier and more delicious than any potato chip. The delicately sweet and incomparable lotus flavor was complemented by the taste of the frying oil and

Koyoté's staff offers a comfortable dining experience that is inviting without being overbearing.

the salt and vinegar-based seasoning that was sprinkled throughout. The combination was so memorable that my companions ended up ordering a second serving to take home.

The Whipped Tofu and Mabo Tofu could not have been more different in terms of taste, texture and presentation. The Whipped Tofu was creamy and sour, with the soy-based meat alternative and the scalion pancake on top, while the Mabo Tofu's spice could not be cut—the dish consisted of chunks of tofu mixed with a shiny red broth that let me know it'd be spicy before it even hit my tongue.

Somewhere between the appetizers and the main entrée is when we received our drinks. Seduced by the name alone, the Horchata Sake (\$12) was a marvel. Smooth, not too sweet and served with a cinnamon-rimmed glass, the first few cups had the forward bite known to sake. Yet after a refill or two from the flask, the taste mellowed and was indistinguishable from a traditional horchata.

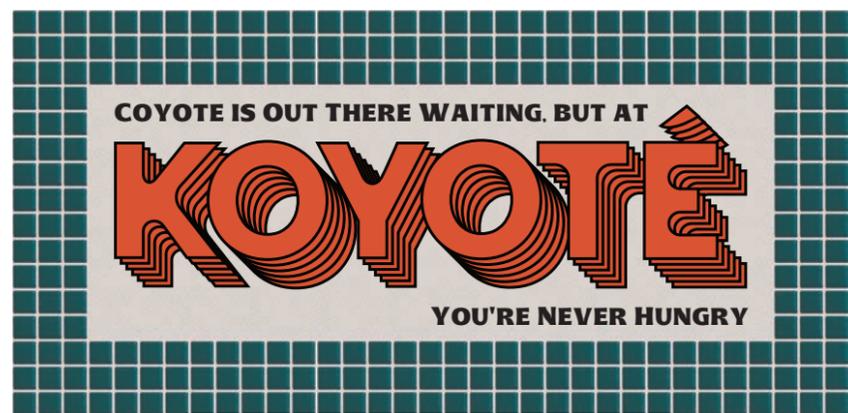
Diners should keep in mind that even though the restaurant highlights their most popular dish on their website, there is a wide array of traditional Japanese cuisine to choose from. I decided on the K.O. (*Koyoté* Original) Mazemen (\$16). It was advertised as a good alternative to normal ramen for those hot summer nights, and to my delight, it delivered! While ramen normally has me sweating halfway through the bowl, I reveled in the brothless dish. The perfectly soft poached egg's jammy nature made the

noodles gooey, and the crispy collards and green onion provided a needed crunch. While I wish the pork wasn't sliced and diced beforehand, as it made the meat a little too chewy, it combined well with the other ingredients, so it was a fair compromise.

Since we ordered all of our food ahead of time, by the time the

Purin (\$7.50) came out, we barely had any room. But the Japanese custard with its burnt caramel sauce and fresh whipped cream was ultimately the perfect end to dinner with a cherry on top—literally.

The quality of service and food we received felt like a steal considering the prices, making *Koyoté* an absolute go-to spot in Salt Lake for all who want quality ingredients prepared with utmost care. I eagerly look forward to my next opportunity to stop by and sample even more of what *Koyoté* has to offer at my earliest convenience.



By Caitlyn Hartung
c.hartung97@gmail.com



Photos by Justin Lagman

Koyoté's brothless ramen satisfies summer cravings without the sweat.

551 W 400 N, Salt Lake City

(385) 262-5559

koyoteslc.com

Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Dinner: Monday–Saturday, 5–9 p.m.

OPEN SUNDAYS
Starting Sept 1st

Dragonfly
WELLNESS

Good things come in small packages.
Great things come in white packages.



Medical Cannabis Delivered

Schedule your free delivery at
www.dragonflywellness.com

711 South State St.
Salt Lake City UT 84111

SOUTH SALT LAKE
CRAFTOBER
20 FEST 24



LIVE MUSIC | ARTISTS | CRAFT BEER | COCKTAILS | FOOD TRUCKS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 FROM 12–5 PM
OAKLAND AVE. (2460 S.) BETWEEN MAIN & WEST TEMPLE
SSLARTS.ORG/CRAFTOBERFEST



FEATURING CHOREOGRAPHY BY
LAJA FIELD & MARTIN DUROV, MONICA BILL BARNES & DANIEL CHARON
SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, 7:30 PM
JEANNE WAGNER THEATRE
ROSE WAGNER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

LOCAL MUSIC SINGLES ROUNDUP

Please! *SLUG* needs your help. We have so many good, local singles that need to be listened to. If you don't listen and adopt them, they'll be euthanized and no one will ever get to hear them again. You might just be their only hope!



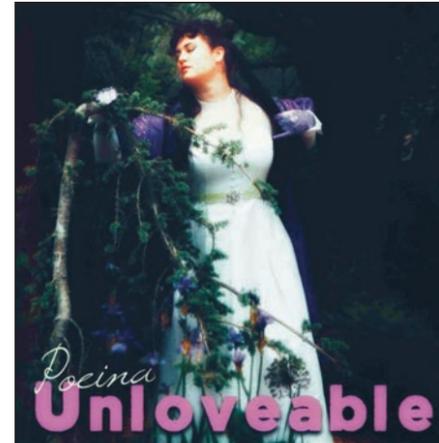
Head Portals



Melancholy Club



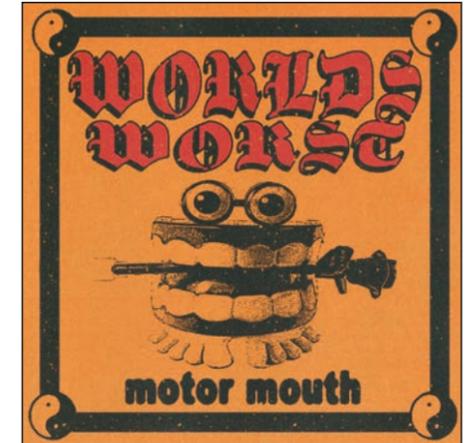
Painted Lines



Poeina



This Valley Glow



Worlds Worst

"Mouth"
Self-Released
Street: 07.16
Head Portals = Pinegrove + *Good News* + Modest Mouse (a little bit of Kishi Bashi)

Head Portals has always reeked of confidence, less of a group that's feeling out a sound and more shooting the gun straight ahead. Though taking a hiatus from 2019-2024 (no obvious reason why they would've needed a break during that time), they've come back with a short EP in *EPI* and the announcement of a fully new project in *A Lesson In Object Permanence*. "Mouth," their promo single for the album, is a track that feels laid back but hard-driving, like dropping the driver's seat back and going 100 on the highway. The choral quality of the vocals lifts the song above the muddy bass and high-tempo guitars, taking it into that sweet spot between grim and melancholy. This group's overall sound is straight out of 2012-2016 indie-rock without all the horniness and twee, and it's why I have gravitated to the band so much. By the time this review is out, the full album will be released—give it a spin and follow the group on Bandcamp. —*wphughes*

"u up"
Sleepy Heart Records
Street: 04.26
Melancholy Club = Jawbreaker + Paramore + Brand New

SLC emo band Melancholy Club has released their newest single from their EP *sle-ep* titled "u up." Distinct Midwest emo influences, along with guitar playing reminiscent of Jawbreaker, leads to this track being a pretty successful trip through the genre. The opening guitar playing is also very similar to Paramore's "All I Wanted." As the emo genre obviously suggests, the vocal passages carry emotional baggage throughout the song, almost sounding on the verge of tears with backing vocals that are closer to screamo in tone than anything (similar to emo legends Brand New or **Rites of Spring**). Later down the track through triumphant choruses we make a return yet again to the more Midwest emo instrumentation and influences, with the guitar in the bridge practically dancing down the fretboard. In conclusion, "u up" is a successful endeavor into the genre that Melancholy Club has declared their home, with impressive guitar work carrying the track all the way there. —*Jake Fabbri*

"Didn't Get Your Name"
Split End Records
Street: 06.04
Painted Lines = The Cure + The Sound

On "Didn't Get Your Name," local post-punk group Painted Lines serves up a wistful and dancey throwback to goth music's early days. The track's plush bass lines roll your brain around like a lollipop between a bombshell's lips and the melancholy guitar riffs (which are reminiscent of **Will Sergeant**) melt with reverb. All the while, the band's vocalist sings about an amorous encounter with an alluring stranger in a crowded dance hall. The story shimmers like neon through cigarette smoke as only a memory of a brief entanglement can. Unfortunately though, it amounts to nothing more than "a love story meant to be left in the past," as the singer longingly croons. By the close of the three-and-a-half-minute track, the stranger has driven away without saying goodbye or imparting their name. C'est la fuckin' vie. "Didn't Get Your Name" can now be found on Painted Lines' eponymous EP which dropped on all major streaming platforms on July 10. —*Joe Roberts*

"Unloveable"
Self-Released
Street: 08.09
Poeina = Dolly Parton + Celine Dion

Like the whimsical aunt of the family with just a little too much time on her hands, something is enchanting about the commonplace fairies existing among us. In August 2024, Poeina brings a mystical single to the public in a soul-bearing and honest tone. There is something about the power ballads of the past that are continuously stuck in your head to this day—a quality that is hard to capture. It's impressive to perform a piece with the same aura as the song at the end of a childhood movie, equal parts kitsch and cozy. There is not even a wink of irony in the melody; it's oddly refreshing. Something turned me off of this track at first, the title felt too self-deprecating, or maybe it's because I judge album covers too often. Book meet music. Yet when I listened to it, I enjoyed the intricacy of the production and how true it sticks to its guns. Ingenuity results in art that cuts through the ordinary it was born in, even if the lyrics are a bit barefaced. —*Marzia Thomas*

"On Its Way Out"
Self-Released
Street: 07.26
This Valley Glow = Ritt Momney + Noah Kahan

"On Its Way Out" has a title that begs a question: "What is 'it'?" The song begins with gentle taps—four of them—before the drums kick in and then an airy acoustic guitar layered above hopeful, consistent chords. It's these layers that begin to give the song its shape: a "fallback to the fallback," as vocalist **Ryan Delvie** opens the song. These lyrics signify a return to simplicity, safety and comfort. The same gentle taps echo in the final seconds of the song. "On Its Way Out" is a sunset. As a warm, orange sky closes the day, This Valley Glow simultaneously celebrates and mourns the ending of a moment or a phase, finding peace with the truth that nothing lasts. —*Harper Haase*

"Motor Mouth"
Smoking Room Record Label
Street: 07.15
Worlds Worst = Soundgarden + Nothing + Foo Fighters + Whirr

With electrifying guitar and heavy drum beats, Worlds Worst's new single "Motor Mouth" has the perfect contrast of fuzzy vocals and upbeat instrumentation. The shoegaze punk-rock band layers the music louder on top of the lyrics, creating a softer effect against the wall of sound that the instruments make. Almost incoherent, the vocals add a delicate touch to the song along with a "trance-like" effect from the guitar's wavy distortion. The shredding of the guitar transported me to a '90s grunge/emo bar, in the middle of a crowd, swaying my body and tossing my head along to the fast tempo music. "Motor Mouth" is the kind of song you can mumble along to, imagining your own lyrics to go along with the intensity of the instruments. Combining dreamy pop and hardcore elements, the band creates a song that could convert a pop fan to a shoegaze listener. This song is a great addition to a driving playlist or an at-home retrospective dance party. —*India Bown*

S&S
PRESENTS

SEPTEMBER 2024

Broken Social Scene - 9.06 Ogden Twilight | **Tycho** - 9.13 Ogden Twilight | **Mon Rovia** - 9.17 Soundwell
Jazmin Bean - 9.18 The Complex | **Louis The Child** - 9.20 Granary Live | **The Rare Occasions** - 9.21 The Complex
Cuco - 9.21 The Complex | **Joywave** - 9.21 Soundwell | **Ziggy Alberts** - 9.23 Soundwell
Hazlett - 9.24 Soundwell | **The Strike** - 9.27 The Complex | **Descendents + Buzzcocks** - 9.28 The Union
The National + War On Drugs - 9.29 Granary Live | **FIDLAR** - 9.30 The Complex

KILBY COURT

Ian McConnell 9.1
 McKenna Esteb + Mopsy + The Lip 9.3
 Super American 9.4
 Jack Botts 9.5
 Charlieonnafriday **LOW TICKETS** 9.6
 Sunhills Album Release with:
 Under Over + Horrible Penny 9.7
 Palestine Benefit Show:
 Kipper Snack + PS Destroy This +
 YSKOV + Transmitter 9.8
 Renforshort 9.9
 Caleb Hearr **LOW TICKETS** 9.10
 Taylor Ashton 9.11
 Under The Rug 9.12
 Bent Knee 9.14
 Mexican Slum Rats 9.15
 Rocket 9.16
 Noah Floersch **SOLD OUT** 9.17
 The Dare **SOLD OUT** 9.18
 SLUG Localized: Olivia Bigelow
 + AUXO + kimmi 9.19
 Sub-Radio **LOW TICKETS** 9.20
 Dana and Alder **LOW TICKETS** 9.21
 Gable Price & Friends 9.22
 Friday Pilots Club **SOLD OUT** 9.24
 Jamboree 9.26
 Jonathon Richman **LOW TICKETS** 9.27
 Flamingos In The Tree 9.28
 English Teacher 9.30

METRO MUSIC HALL

Alien Ant Farm **LOW TICKETS** 9.1
 Nervosa 9.4
 Goth Prom: Doomcupcake 9.5
 Broadway Rave! **LOW TICKETS** 9.6
 Viva La Diva: 8 Year Anniversary Show **LOW TICKETS** 9.7
 Viva La Diva: 8 Year Anniversary Show: **LOW TICKETS** 9.8
 Kishis Bash! **LOW TICKETS** 9.9
 Osees **LOW TICKETS** 9.10
 Crucial Fest '24
 Friday: Mars Red Sky + Midwife +
 Gost + Howling Giant 9.13
 Saturday: Black Tusk + Frail Body +
 Horseburner + Somnuri 9.14
 Sunday: Jaye Jayle + The Otolith +
 The Well + Eleuthero 9.15
 Let's Not Meet: **LOW TICKETS** 9.19
 A True Horror Podcast LIVE
 The Emo Night Night **LOW TICKETS** 9.20
 Full Set Fest: Nymphia Wind 9.21
 Richie Kotzen 9.23
 Amorphis + Dark Tranquility 9.24
 Butcher Babies 9.26
 Marrio Suzanne & The Galaxy Band:
 A 70's Rock Drag Show! 9.27
 Novo Amor **LOW TICKETS** 9.28
 Foxing 9.30
 Oceano 10.1
 An Evening With Phosphorescent
 Las Espookys 10.3

URBAN LOUNGE

Hippie Death Cult 9.3
 Dead On A Sunday 9.4
 Arkansauce 9.5
 Popszene Presents:
 The Limousines 9.6
 Signs Of The Swarm 9.7
 Pixie & The Partygrass Boys 9.8
 Anthony Green **LOW TICKETS** 9.10
 The Drought 9.11
 Sweet Lillies 9.12
 August Slipped Away:
 Taylor Swift End Of Summer BASH! 9.13
 Strung Out + Adolescents 9.14
 OMB Peezy 9.15
 The Sheepdogs 9.18
 Hulder 9.19
 WHY? 9.20
 Bit Brigade Performs:
 Super Mario World + F-Zero 9.21
 MEST 9.23
 Leather Strip 9.24
 FREE SHOW! Hoppy Album Release 9.25
 Odie Leigh 9.26
 Mass Of The Fermenting Dregs 9.27
 Mo Lowda & The Humble 9.28
 Emarosa 10.2
 Point North 10.5
 Dialbolic Records + KUAA Presents:
 Acid Mothers Temple 10.7
 Your Old Droog 10.8



FOR MORE INFO VISIT SNSPRESENTS.COM



THANK YOU FOR MAKING

THE 16TH ANNUAL CRAFT LAKE CITY

DIY FEST

DO IT YOURSELF

PRESENTED BY **HARMONS**
NEIGHBORHOOD GROCER®

A SMASHING SUCCESS!

#CLCDIYFEST

@CRAFTLAKECITY

CRAFTLAKECITY.COM



END OF SUMMER SAVINGS

FLOWER EIGHTHS

4 ^{\$}75 FOR



CARTS & DISPOSABLES

B2G1 FOR 1c

& MORE sip ELIXIRS PRESIDENTIAL EXOTICS GREENWAY CAMP

8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Roll Up & Celebrate with us!

DON'T MISS THE PARTY! 9.20 & 9.21

30% OFF
 YOUR ORDER
 FOR 1ST TIME CUSTOMERS ONLY
 SLG30SEPT24

Coupon expires 9/30/24. Coupon cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts. Valid at all locations. Management reserves all rights. Keep out of reach of children. For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. (RD397) © 2024 Deep Roots Harvest, Inc.

20% OFF
 YOUR ORDER
 WITH \$100 PURCHASE
 SLG20S100SEPT24

Coupon expires 9/30/24. Coupon cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts. Valid at all locations. Management reserves all rights. Keep out of reach of children. For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. (RD397) © 2024 Deep Roots Harvest, Inc.

\$15 OFF
 YOUR ORDER
 WITH \$60 PURCHASE
 SLG15S60SEPT24

Coupon expires 9/30/24. Coupon cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts. Valid at all locations. Management reserves all rights. Keep out of reach of children. For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. (RD397) © 2024 Deep Roots Harvest, Inc.



VIEW SPECIALS ONLINE

[deeprootsharvest.com](https://www.deeprootsharvest.com)

Shop, Earn, & Redeem with

deep roots harvest REWARDS



Keep out of reach of children. For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. (RD397) © 2024 Deep Roots Harvest, Inc.

