

EXCAVATING EMPIRICAL DATA



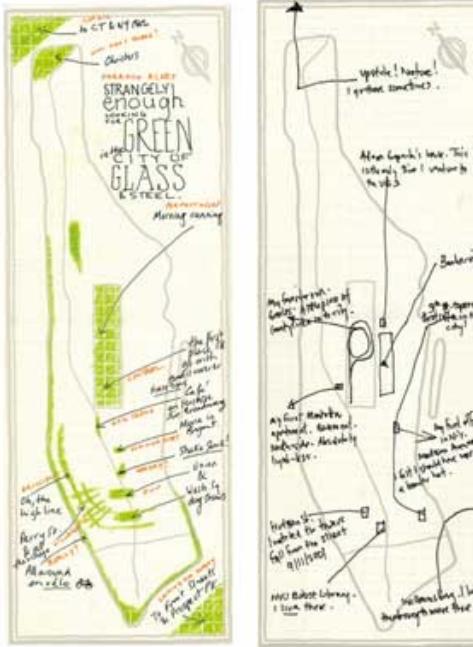
# AUSTIN'S ATLAS ORIGINS

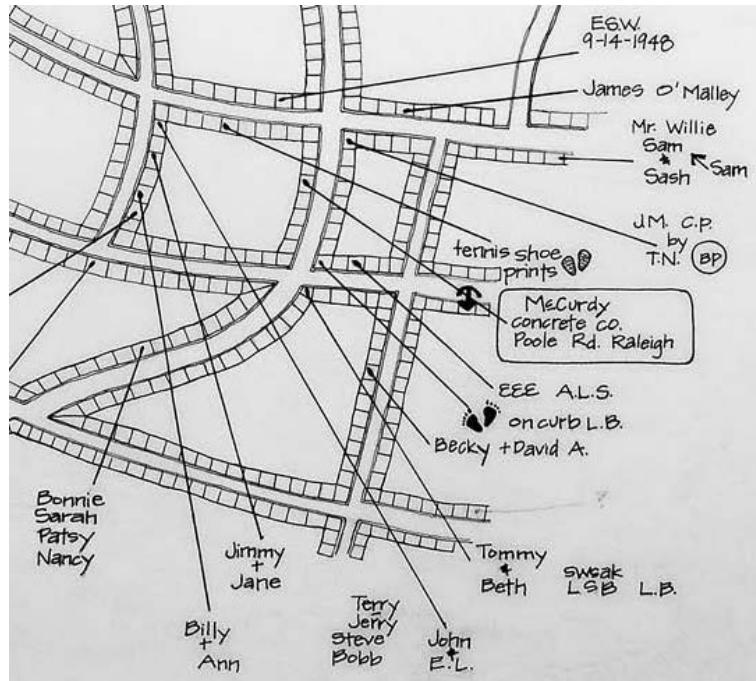
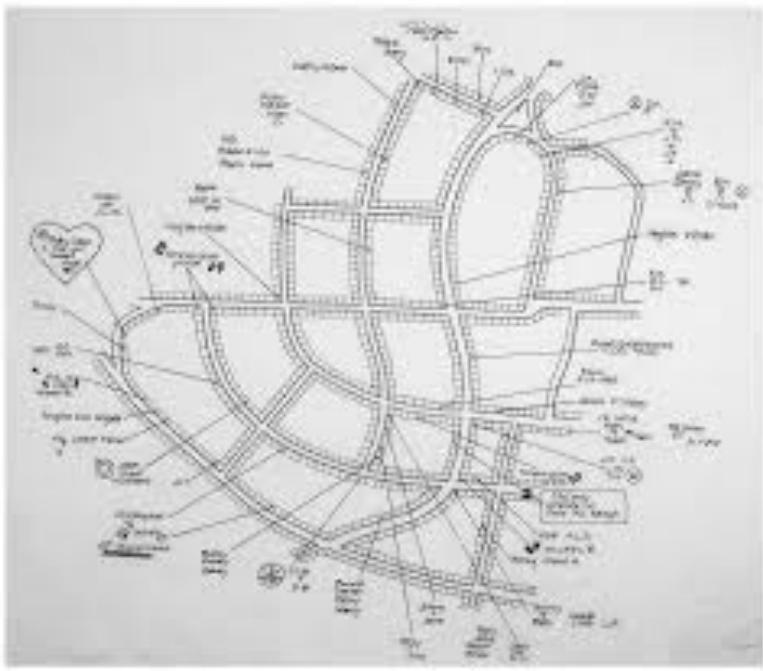
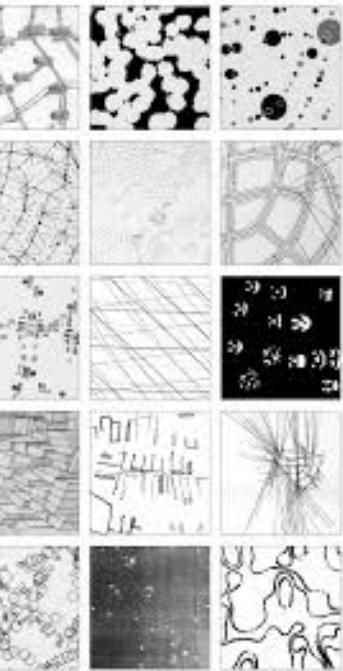


Infinite City, Rebecca Solnit



Mapping Manhatten, Becky Cooper



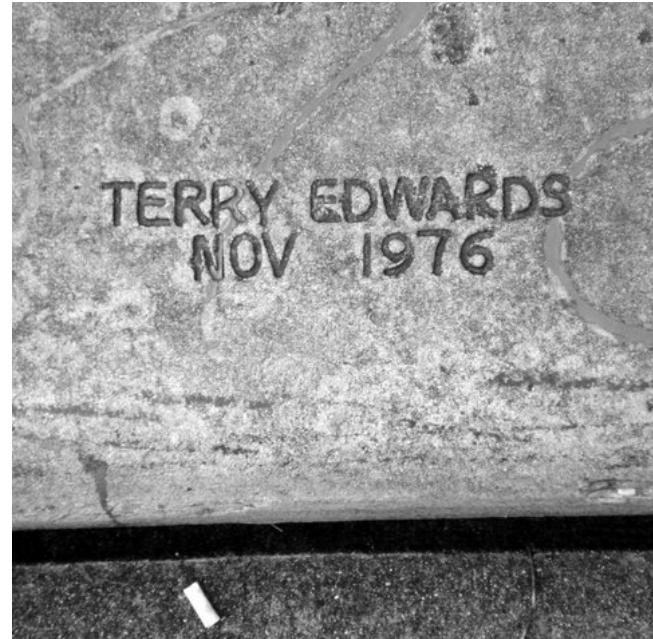
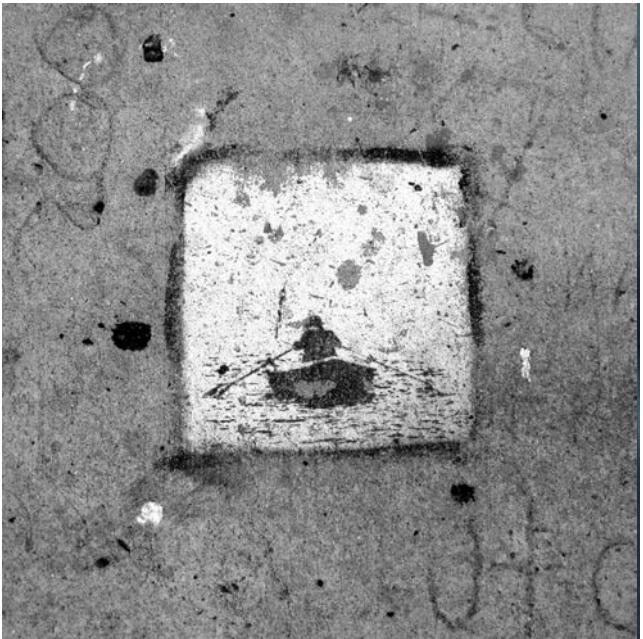
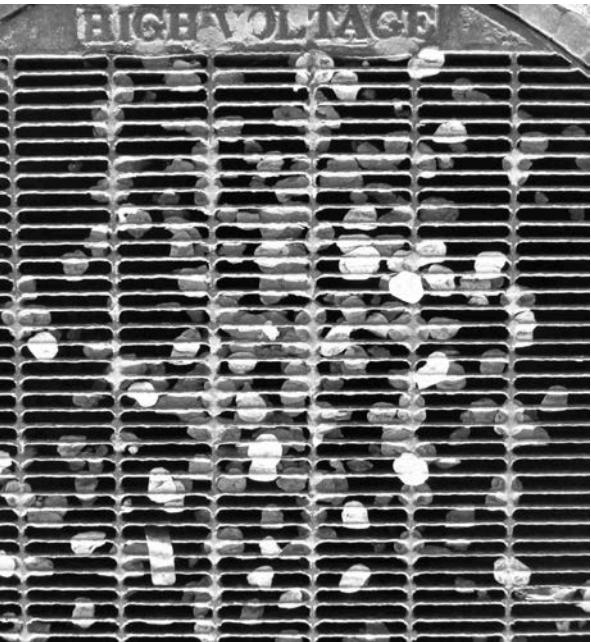


Everything Sings, Denis Wood

EXCAVATING EMPIRICAL DATA



AUSTIN'S ATLAS  
PROJECTS





## AUSTIN'S ATLAS WALK #1: Walls and Voids (and the voids we find within walls)

April 27th, Capital steps @ 10am. Group Walk until 11:15, then meander back to the Capital steps. Meet/debrief @ 11:45.

TO PONDER: CAN YOU RECALL A PERSONAL MEMORY/MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE RELATED TO A VOID OR A WALL?

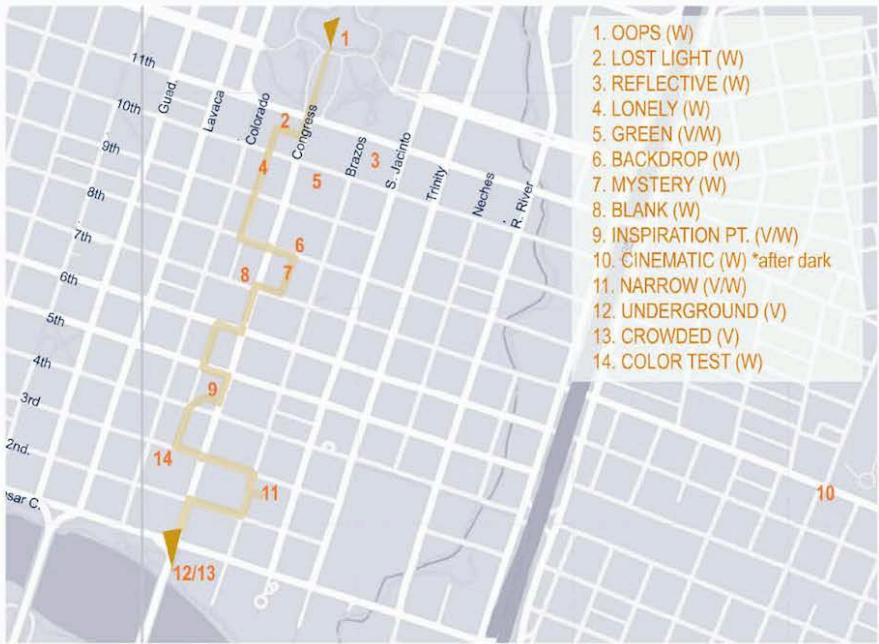
**WALL** Etymology: From Middle English wall, from Old English weall ("wall, dike, earthwork, rampart, dam, rocky shore, cliff"), from Proto-Germanic \*wallaz, \*wallaz ("wall, rampart, entrenchment"), from Latin vallum ("wall, rampart, entrenchment, palisade"), from Proto-Indo-European \*wel- ("to turn, wind, roll"). Cognate with North Frisian wal ("wall"), Dutch wal ("wall, rampart, embankment"), German Wall ("rampart, mound, embankment"), Swedish vall ("mound, wall, bank"). More at [wallow](#), [walk](#).

NOUN: 1) Each of the substantial structures acting either as the exterior or divisions within a structure. 2) A point of desperation. 3) A point of defeat or extinction. 4) An impediment to free movement. 5) A barrier. 6) A divisive or containing structure in an organ or cavity. 7) A personal notice board listing messages of interest to a particular user.

**VOID** Etymology: From Old French vuit, voide (modern vide) NOUN: 1) an empty space; emptiness 2)something experienced as a loss or privation 3) a gap or opening, as in a wall 4)a vacancy; vacuum.



"Emptiness is the pregnant void out of which all creation springs....." -Wayne Muller





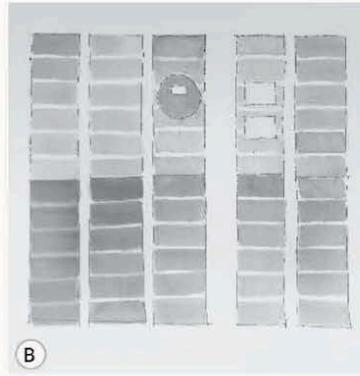




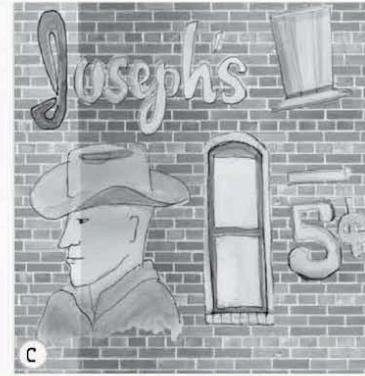
FOR YOUR OWN ILLUSTRATED COPY OF THE AUSTIN'S ATLAS URBAN ODDITY GUIDE, VISIT THE INFORMATION DESK IN THE LOBBY AND USE THE SECRET PASSWORD: "LOOK."



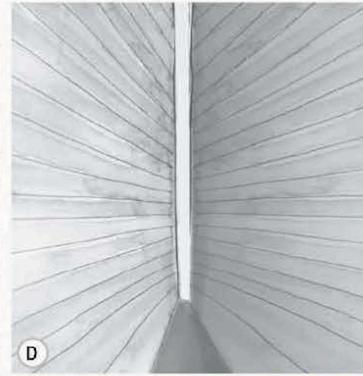
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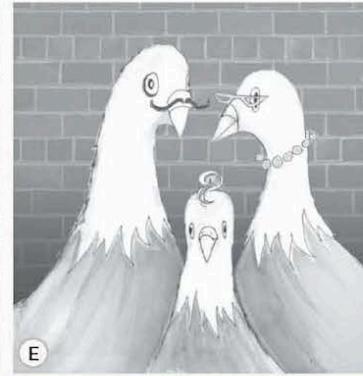
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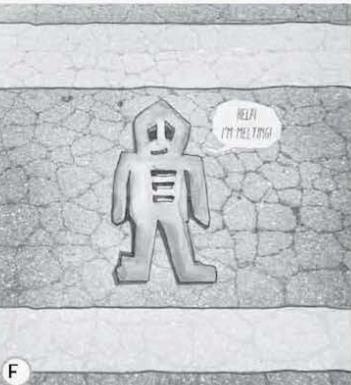
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D



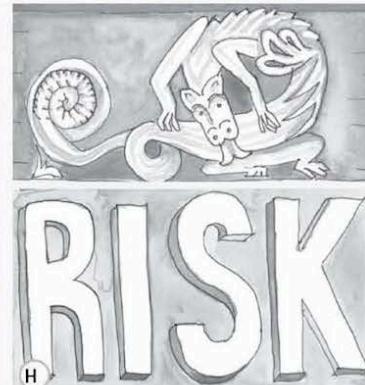
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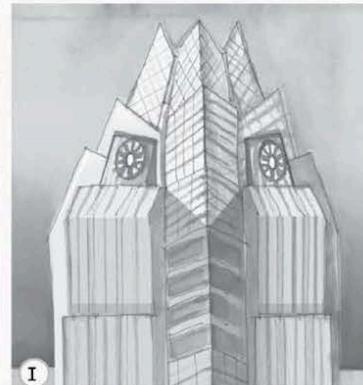
F



G



H



I



J



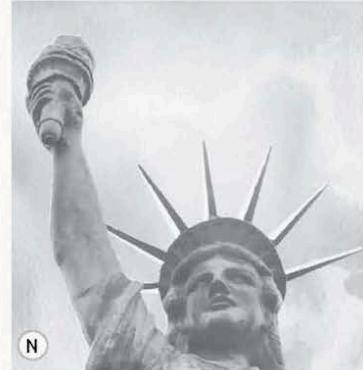
K



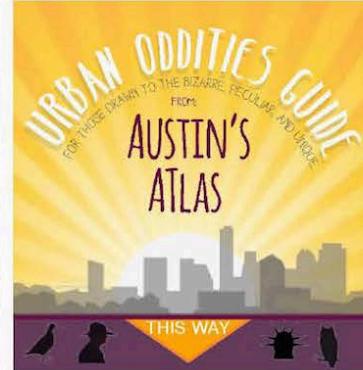
L



M



N



## SITES:

**A) AMPHIBIOUS TREE** - Thousands of Lady Bird Lake trail users head west under the I-35 bridge and then pass this magnificent pecan tree each day, its amphibian-faced inhabitant hidden in the tree's cool shadows on the northwest side its trunk. Species: Pecan, *Carya illinoensis*

**B) OLD HIPPY TREE** - This long-haired hippy, this classic live oak, is a relic living in a new world. The sprawling branches of native live oaks are typically not compatible with downtown density, but this is an exception. Walk inside the floor-to-ceiling canopy for a green urban oasis. Species: Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*

**C) MARFA TREE** - Look closely at this small elm at northwest corner of the intersection, and in it you'll find a tumbleweed from West Texas. Look even closer, and you will find a bird has made its roost in the tumbleweed. Species: Elm, *Ulmus*

**D) MELTED WAX TREE** - Within this tree, located just a few steps south from E 3rd St along the Palm Park trail and next to Waller Creek, strange forces are at work. Globular protrusions, squirrel perches, emerge and give the tree a melted appearance. Species: Durand oak, *Quercus sinuata*

**E) SQUARE ROOT** - This twisted mass of roots are boiling up and over the edge of the tiny, geometric, hard-armored subterranean box allotted for this tree. Imagine what our urban landscapes could look like if the organic shapes of green infrastructure defined the hard surface space instead. Species: Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*

**F) E.T.REE** - Trees recover from old pruning wounds by growing new tissue and sealing it over instead of repairing the wood tissue. In the case of this tree just north of =Royal Blue Grocery, this alien face is frozen in the response wood on its trunk, ready to greet and terrify those who want to believe. Species: Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*

**G) HIPPO FACE TREE** - There is a silent, insidious hippocracy at the State Capitol. Not that one, the one that is emerging from the southeast corner of the lawn near the Capitol Visitors Center. Species: Post oak, *Quercus stellata*

**H) MEDUSA TREE** - Once nourished and protected by tibits of food and water between the crack in concrete, this tree emerges and fights against the bridge. View this long-term battle by standing on the Waller Creek bridge's south side. Species: TBD

**I) SNAKE-BITE TREE** - As you walk across the sidewalk on south side of 12th Street over Waller Creek, gaze into the serene little piece of wilderness in the middle of the city. Then, look down and to the left at the bridge handrail and EEEK ITS A SNAKE-TREE "biting" the bridge handrail. Species: Chinese tallowtree, *Triadica sebifera*

**J) WOMAN TORSO TREE** - In the grassy strip between the the parking structure and the sidewalk on the south side of 12th St, behold the voluptuous form of a nude female torso. (Look towards the edge of the parking structure that's closest to the creek. Got wood? Species: Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*



**K) ELEPHANT TREE** - From the southeast corner of N Congress Ave and 15th St, a short elevated driveway leads you to the site of an epic battle between man and nature. The tree, the sidewalk, the curb and the handrail are duking it out. Place your bets. Species: live oak, *Quercus virginiana*

**L) JAYWALKING TREE** - Sometimes the magnificent and the beautiful are above the law. Sometimes they break the rules without remorse. This one is jaywalking in the street, near 13th St and Nueces, completely beyond the curb, telling you to yield. Species: live oak, *Quercus virginiana*

**M) TWISTED HOPE TREE** - this grove of trees is wrapped in perfect camouflage. Species: multi

**N) ON ITS LAST LEGS** - Urban creeks are hotbeds for OddTrees, including Shoal Creek, where flooding and disturbances mold this landscape. From the Shoal Creek trailhead at W 9th St and Henderson St, walk south. A few hundred feet along this creekside trail, a tormented tree is grabbing hold of the creek bank as its trunk pulls away. How long can the tree hold on? Species: TBD

**O) URBAN CANOPY** - As we densify our urban surroundings we bring trees with us because we love their form and ask them to function and thrive in our urban canyons between buildings and hot dry parking mesas without causing us trouble. Perhaps this tree, on the northwest corner of W 6th St and West Ave, is the perfect urban tree. Species: Fe, Ni, Cr, C

**P) HIGH VOLTAGE TREE** - A creek tree woven into the pipes and conduit below the pedestrian bridge along West Ave bulges and bursts against its metal competitor. Species: TBD

**Q) GROVE OF SELF-LOVE** - These trees are clones and as a result, they look and act the same. Look up. At about 7 feet high, this entire grove of trees is grafting onto and "kissing" themselves. Behold this grove of self-love. Species: Crepe Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia*

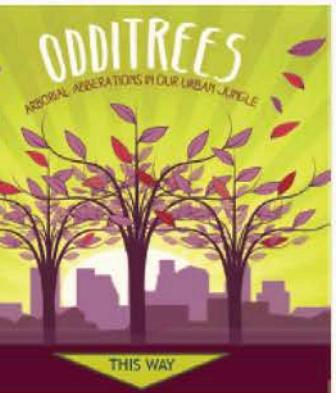
**R) TREE SNORKELS** - Knobby wooden fingers emerging from the mud beneath the 1st Street Bridge, are these natural root extensions used for breathing, support, or to capture nourishment for the tree? Nobody knows for sure. Species: Bald Cypress, *Taxodium Distichum*

**S) INTERSPECIES ROMANCE** - These trees shared love of river habitats brings them together in a taboo embrace. Species: Bald Cypress and Sycamore, *Taxodium Distichum* and *Platanus*.

**T) CRAGGY GRASPING TREE** - At the water's edge, where a support for the I-35 bridge reaches the ground, a tree is hugging its old concrete friend. Species: black willow, *Salix Nigra*

OddTrees is a collaborative project between Angel Hanson and Austin's Atlas. For more info on this & other Austin exploration guides, visit: [austinatlas.com](http://austinatlas.com). OddTrees First Draft, 10.18.14.





#### INTRODUCTION:

This guide explores the interactions of trees and their man-made environments, as well as natural environments around central Austin. Please note this is a first draft/work-in-progress. If you have any questions or feedback, we'd love to hear it: austinsaltas@yahoo.com.

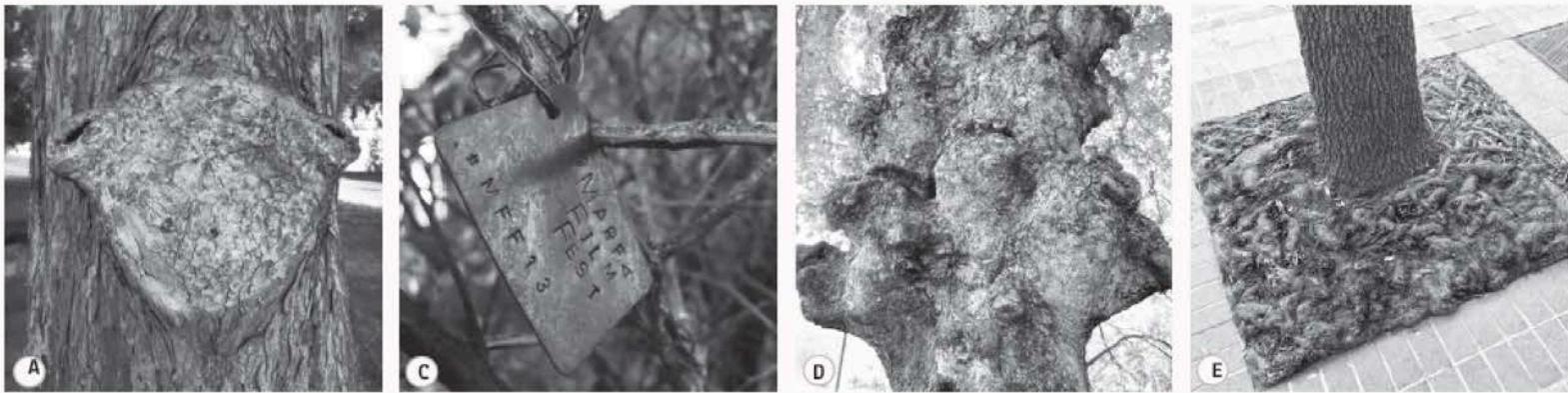
What is an OddTree? It's a tree that is out of the ordinary, and more unique than its neighbors. Trees are magnificent organisms that grow with and reacting to the natural and unnatural forces around them and as they prevail in finding a way to live among us in our urban jungle of fast-growing Austin, their forms become indicators of their environment. The closer you look around the more OddTrees there are. Of course, if you look hard enough...every tree might be an OddTree. Pause to recognize and appreciate the resilience and pervasiveness of trees in our urban environment.

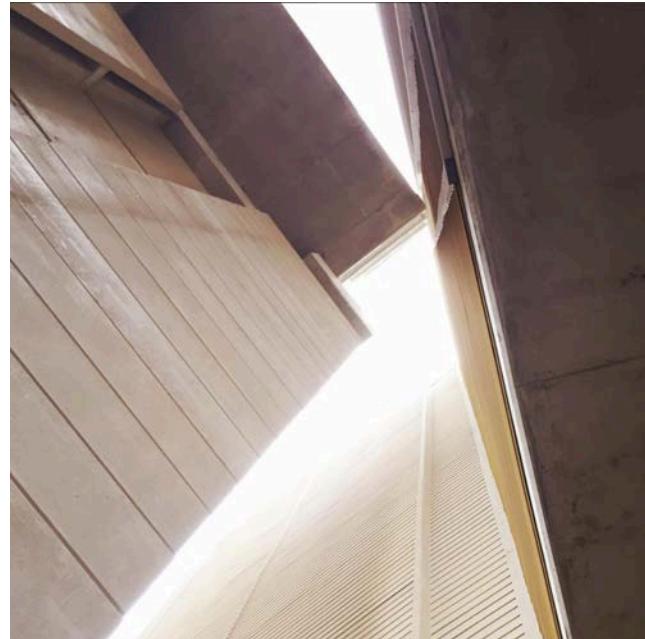
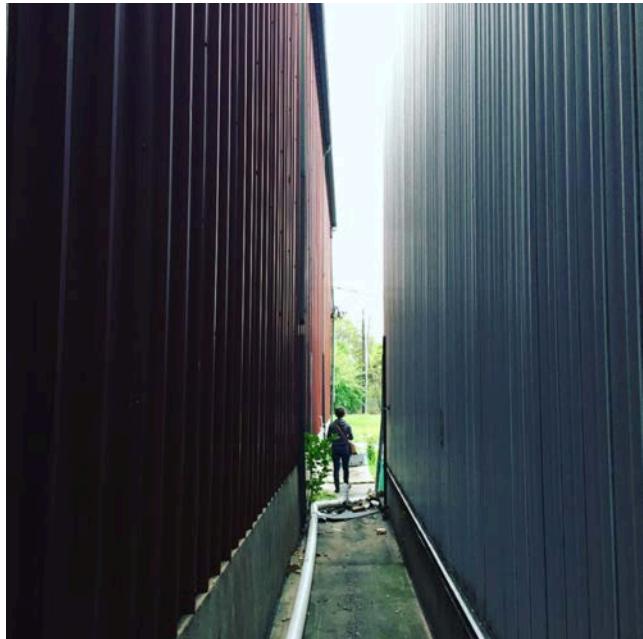
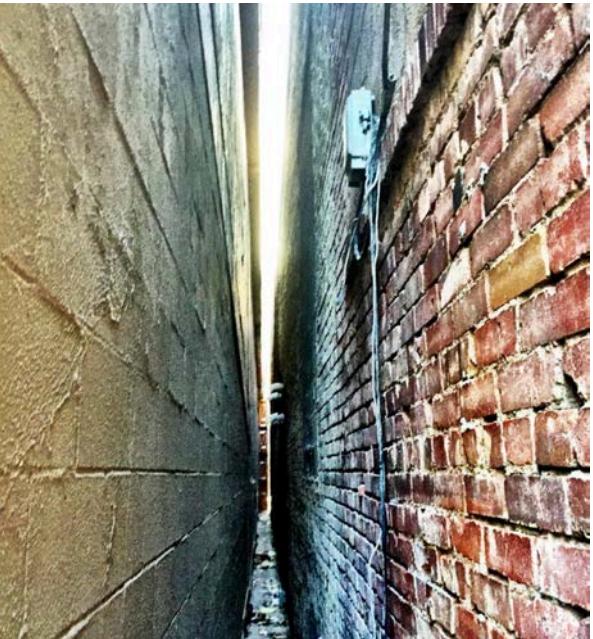
#### INSTRUCTIONS:

This page contains visual clues. The reverse side has a map and additional info. We recommend you undertake this exploration during daylight hours with a friend—as soon as it gets dark, many of these sites and formations will be hard to see, and if you walk around the city with a map, you're slightly more vulnerable (sad face). Last, but not least, obey traffic signs and look both ways before crossing the street! (It IS a Jungle out there!)

#### CONTRIBUTION:

Do you want to share an OddTree of your own? Some features of trees, such as, fruit and nuts, galls, and wildlife inhabitants are cool but ephemeral so we did not include them in this map—but if you have a photo of one, we'd love to see it! Photos can be shared via our interactive online map at austinsaltas.com or by emailing a JPEG and photo location to austinsaltas@aol.com. For extra clues and/or more detailed info on some of the above sites, or to see an oddly that is PERCHANCE no longer there, visit: austinsaltas.com/ODDTREES





78702 Church Map

Using photos to map communal hubs in east austin.  
1 view

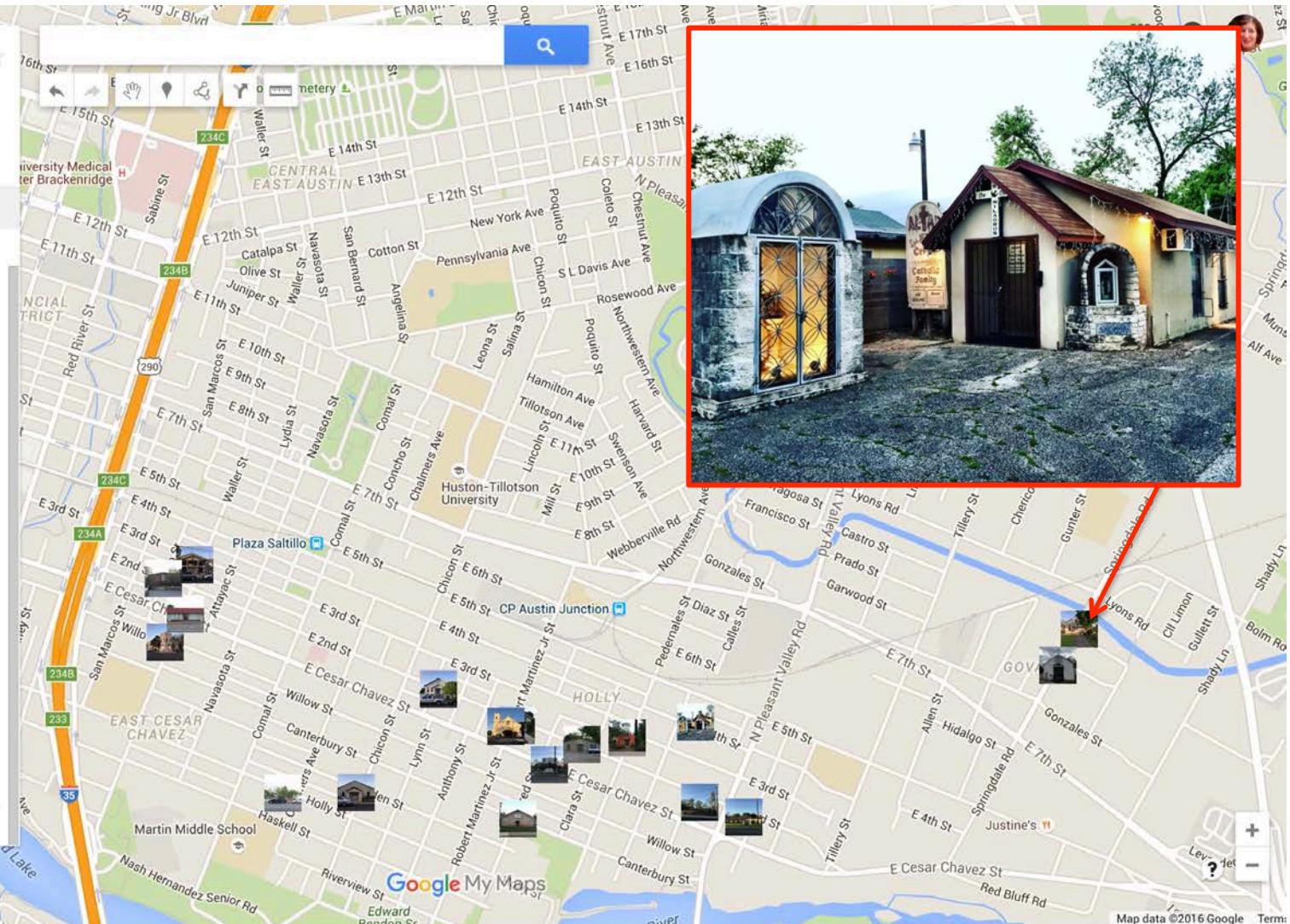
All changes saved in Drive

 Add layer  Share

## Individual styles

-  78702 churches etc
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### Base map



EXCAVATING EMPIRICAL DATA

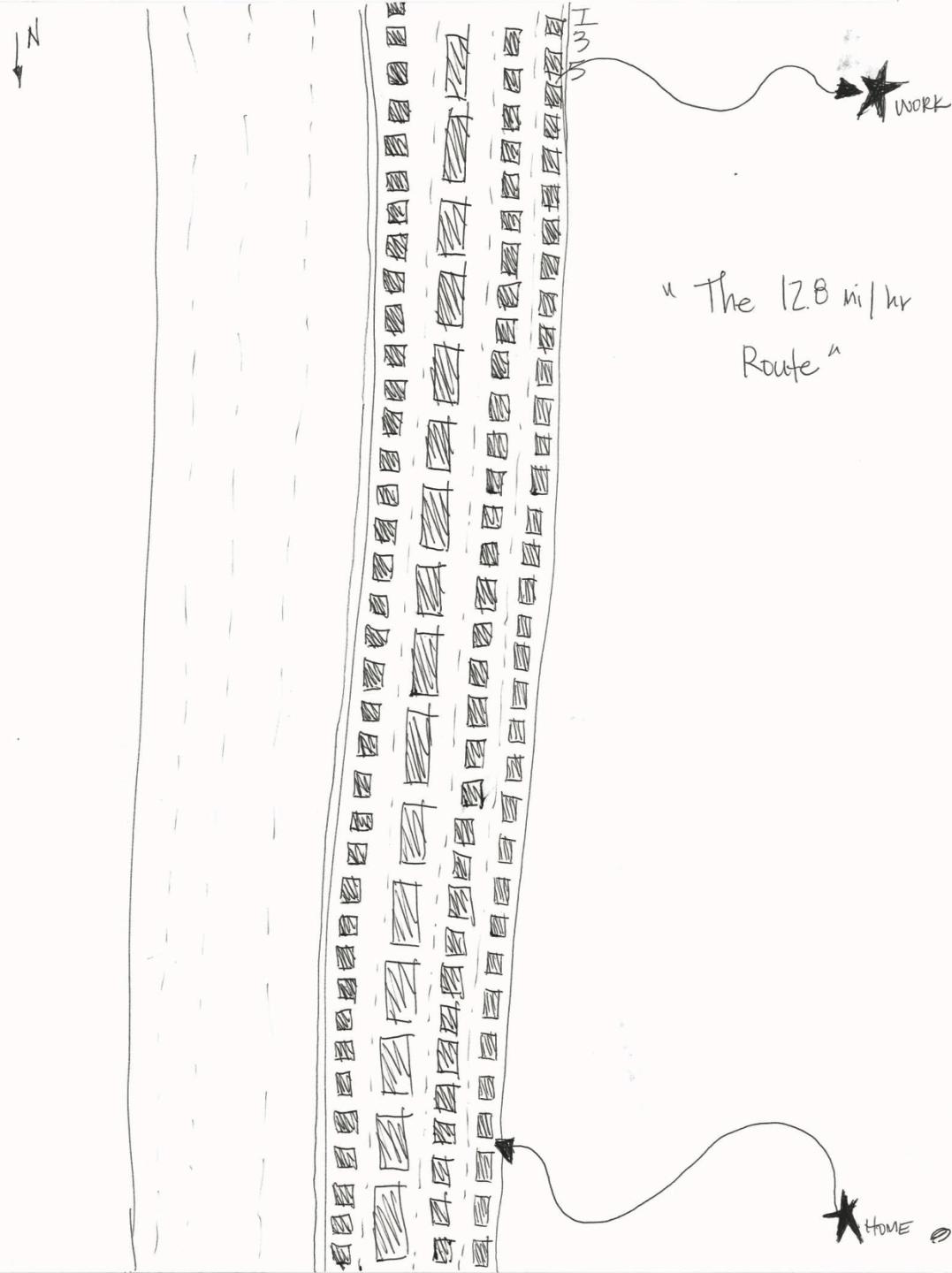


AUSTIN'S ATLAS

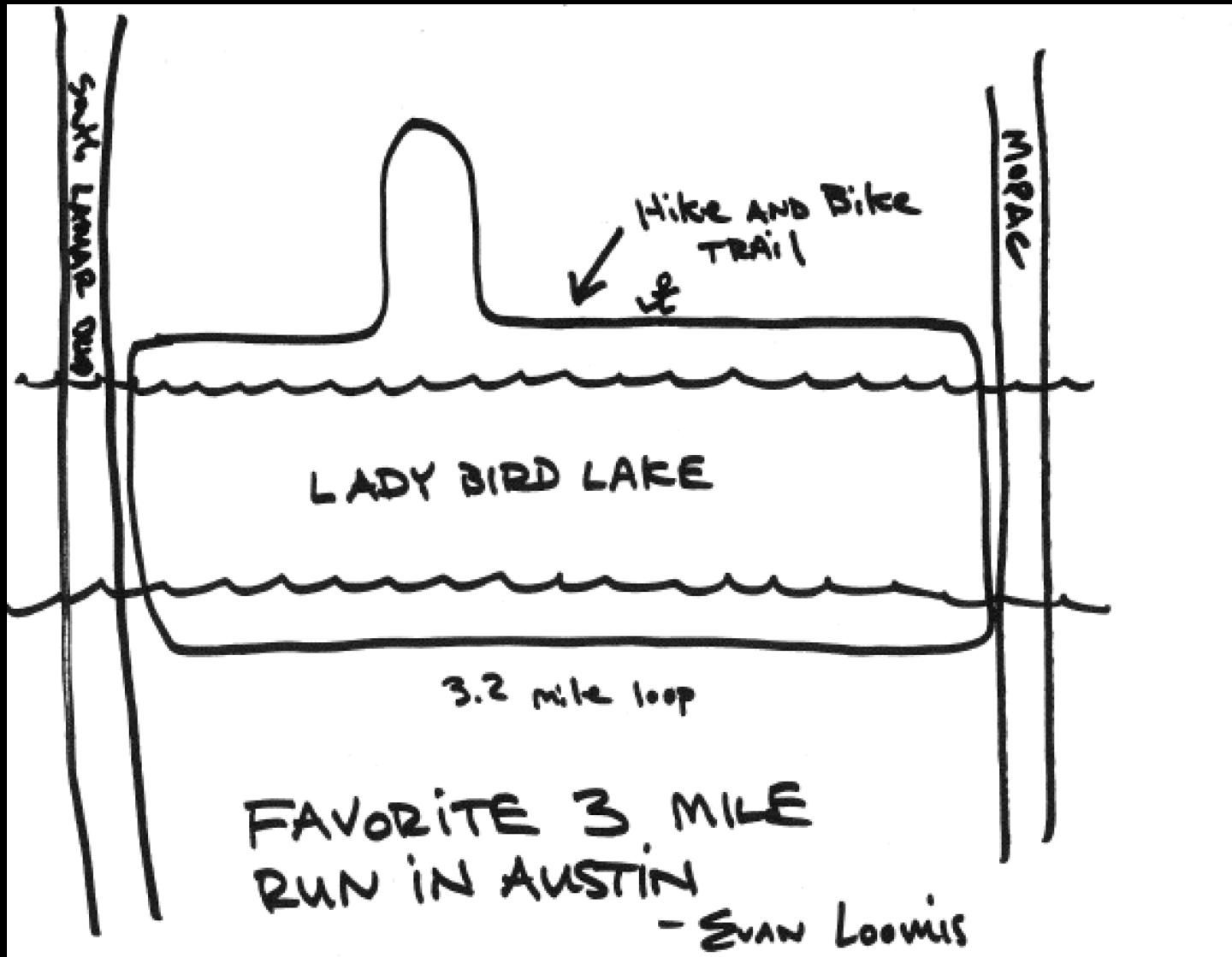
THE ATLAS

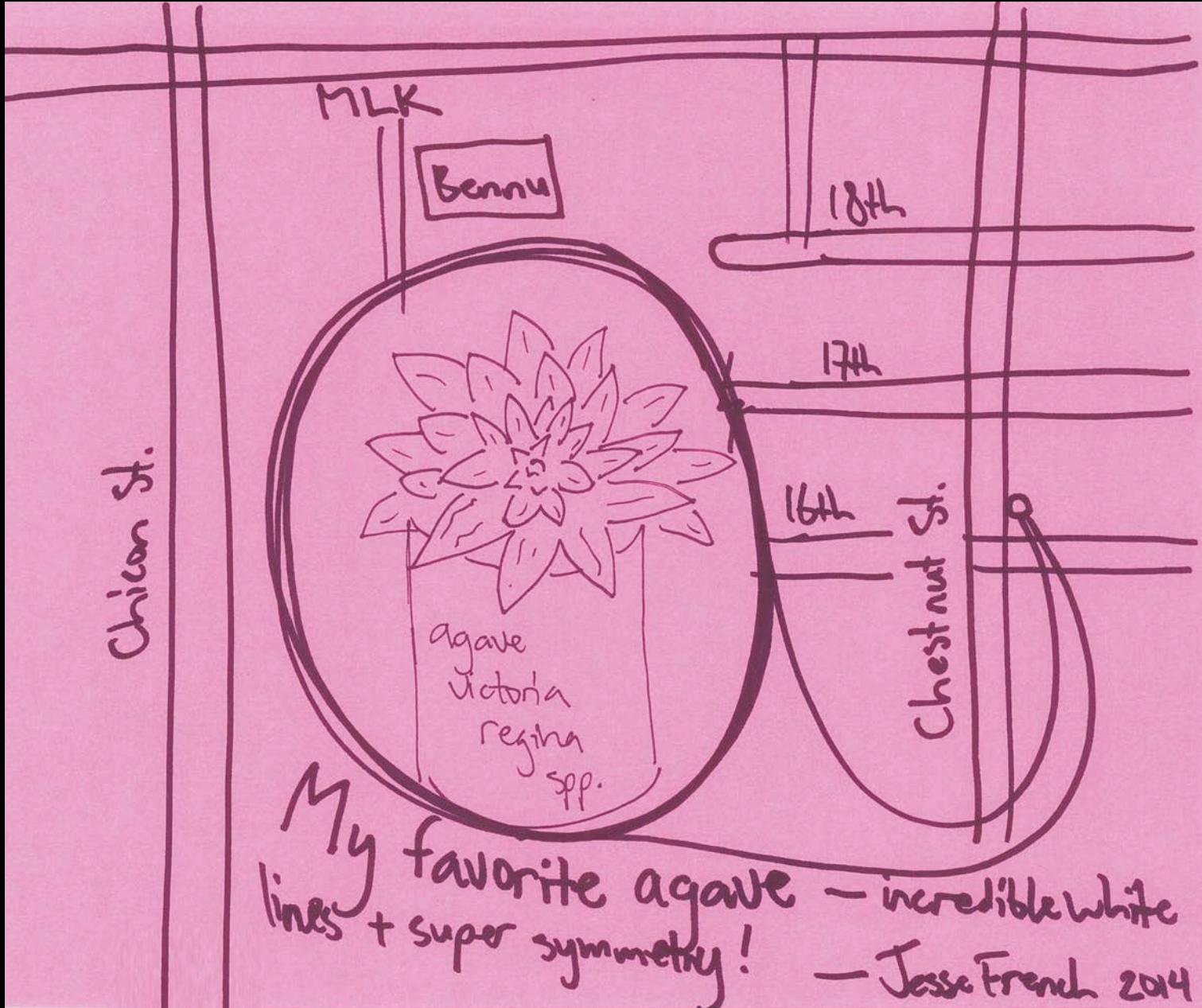






"The 12.8 mi/hr  
Route"





# THE SPIKY MYSTERY TREE!

San Marcos St.

Funky Victorian house for rent.  
Bus Stop

Try the ginger ale rank!  
Centote

Melina

There was a small Hobo's  
going up in October

Waller St.

5.5¢  
Punkles

Cesar Chavez

Compramos  
Oro  
DOMY  
is  
Farewell  
Books

The gates to the  
parking lot are  
locked at 9pm

Terrazzo  
Library

There's a  
health clinic  
or something  
here.

Bus Stop

Fast  
Folks  
A bike shop  
that sells vegan  
Tacos!?

WAL-MART

WENDY'S

H-E-B

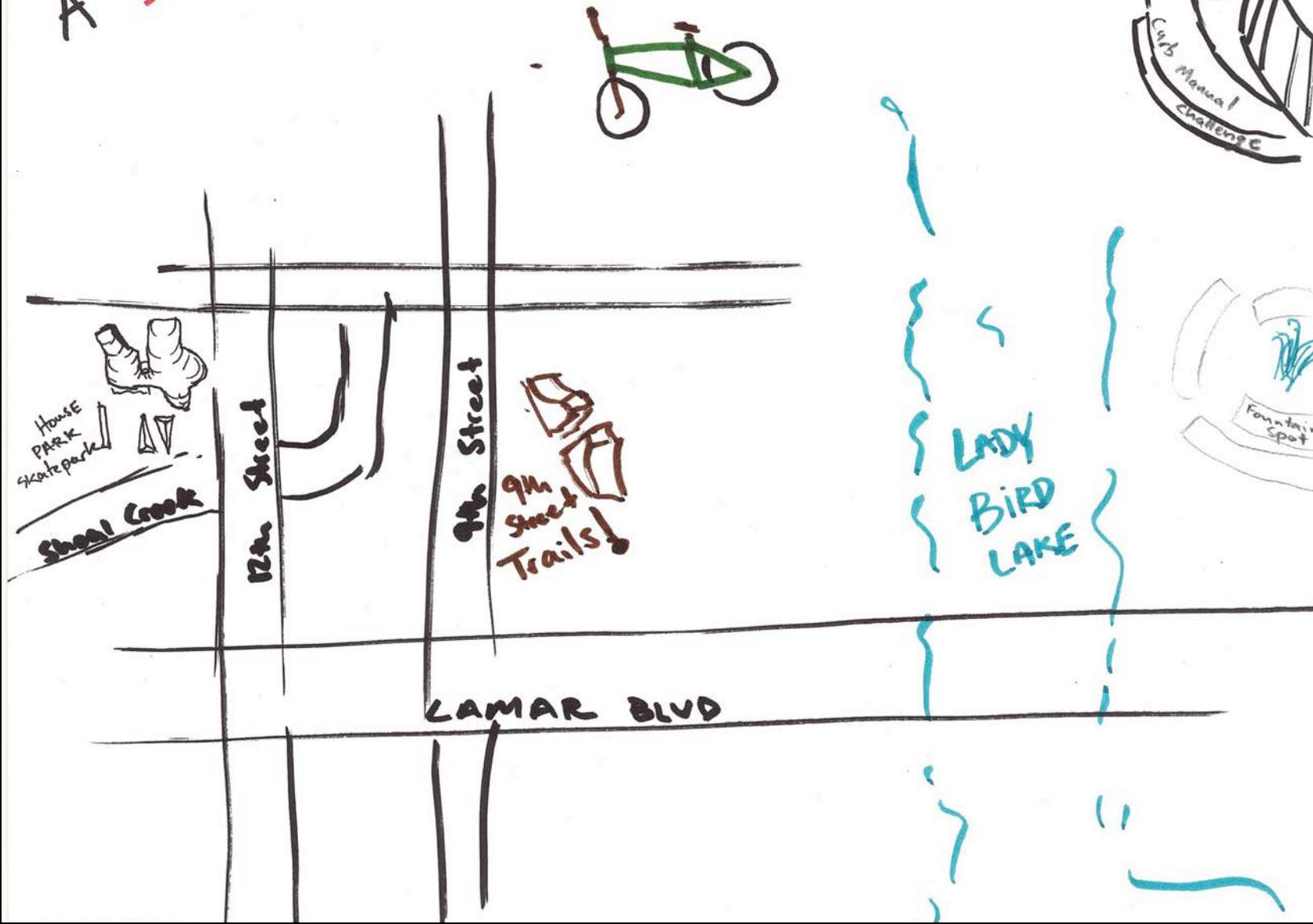
Popeyes!

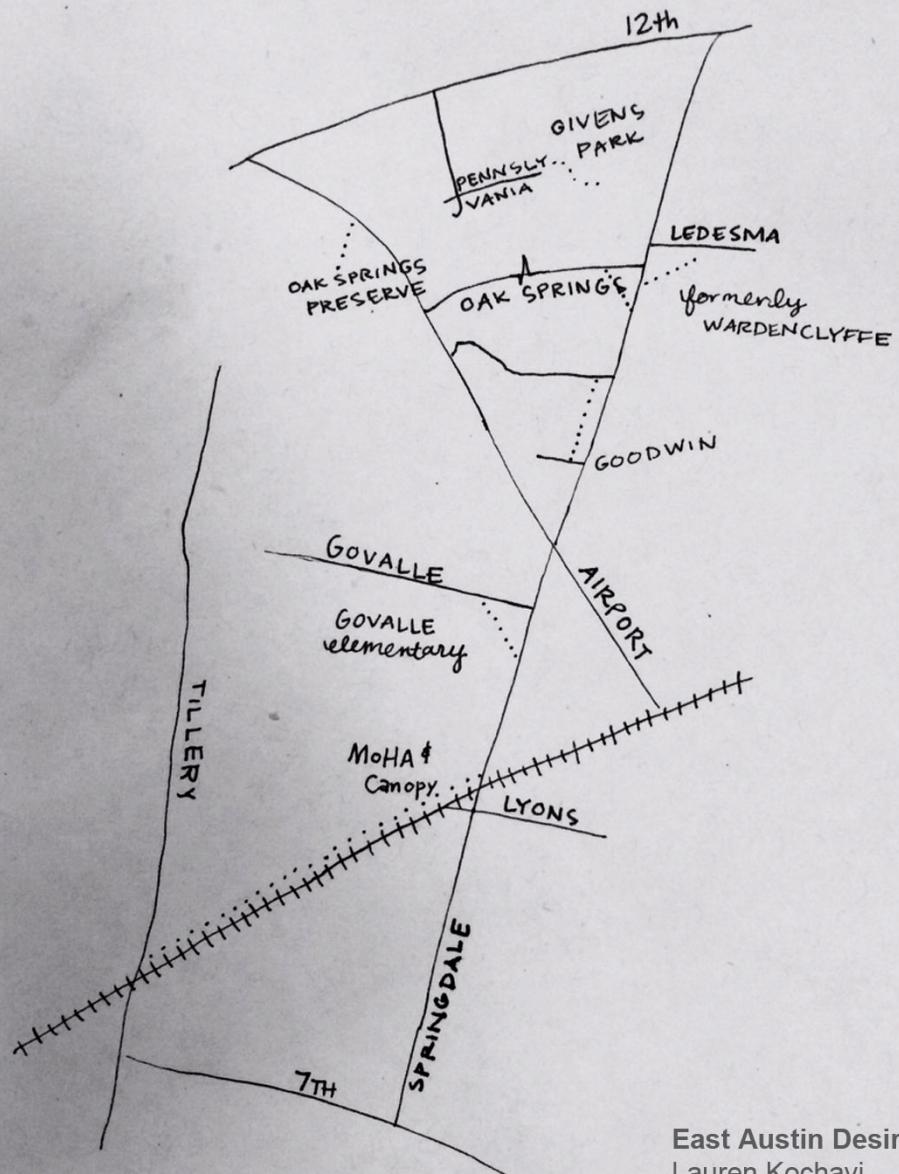
Taco-Bell!

McDonald's

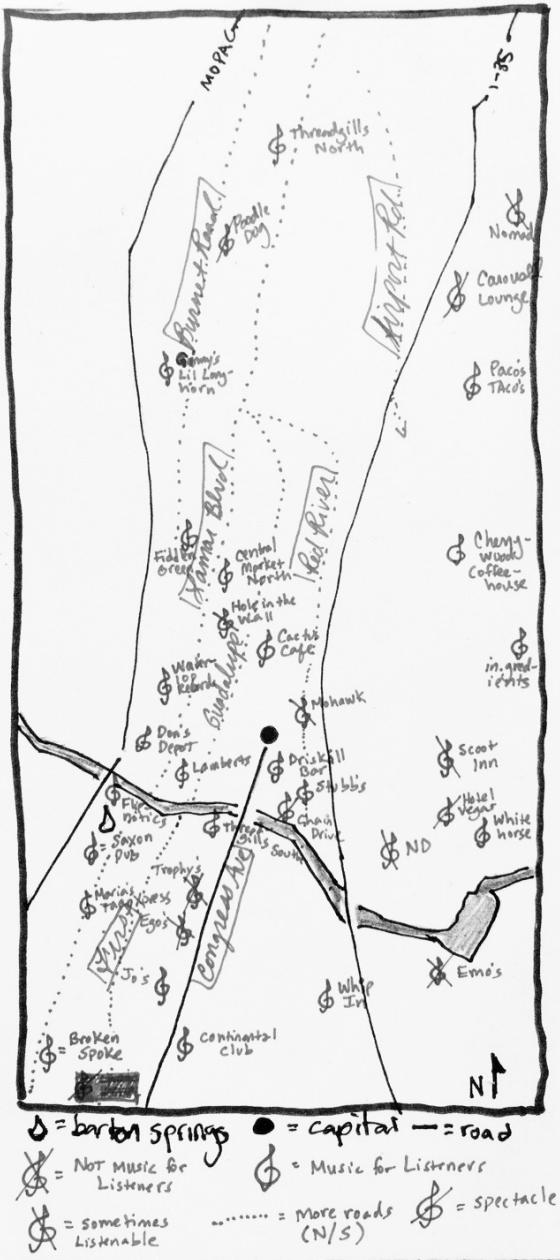
Churches!

# A BMXer's Guide to Austin





East Austin Desire Lines  
Lauren Kochavi  
April 2014



MUSIC LISTENING  
MAP  
A. Moreland  
April 2014



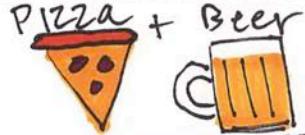
mi  
casa es  
tu casa

Jim Hogg Ave.

Jeff Davis St.

clay Ave.

THRIFTY



## BURNET RD.



TACOS!!



Boozy  
Sabor

Boot Scootin' Fun!



Fried  
yummies



BURGS



SUSHI  
FUSION

st.  
ton  
ton

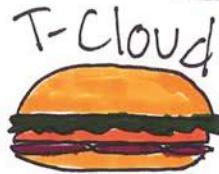
McMansion

Monstrosity

\* please keep  
houses that fit  
in w/ the hood.  
No boring boxes!  
... but keep it up  
w/ the taco joints

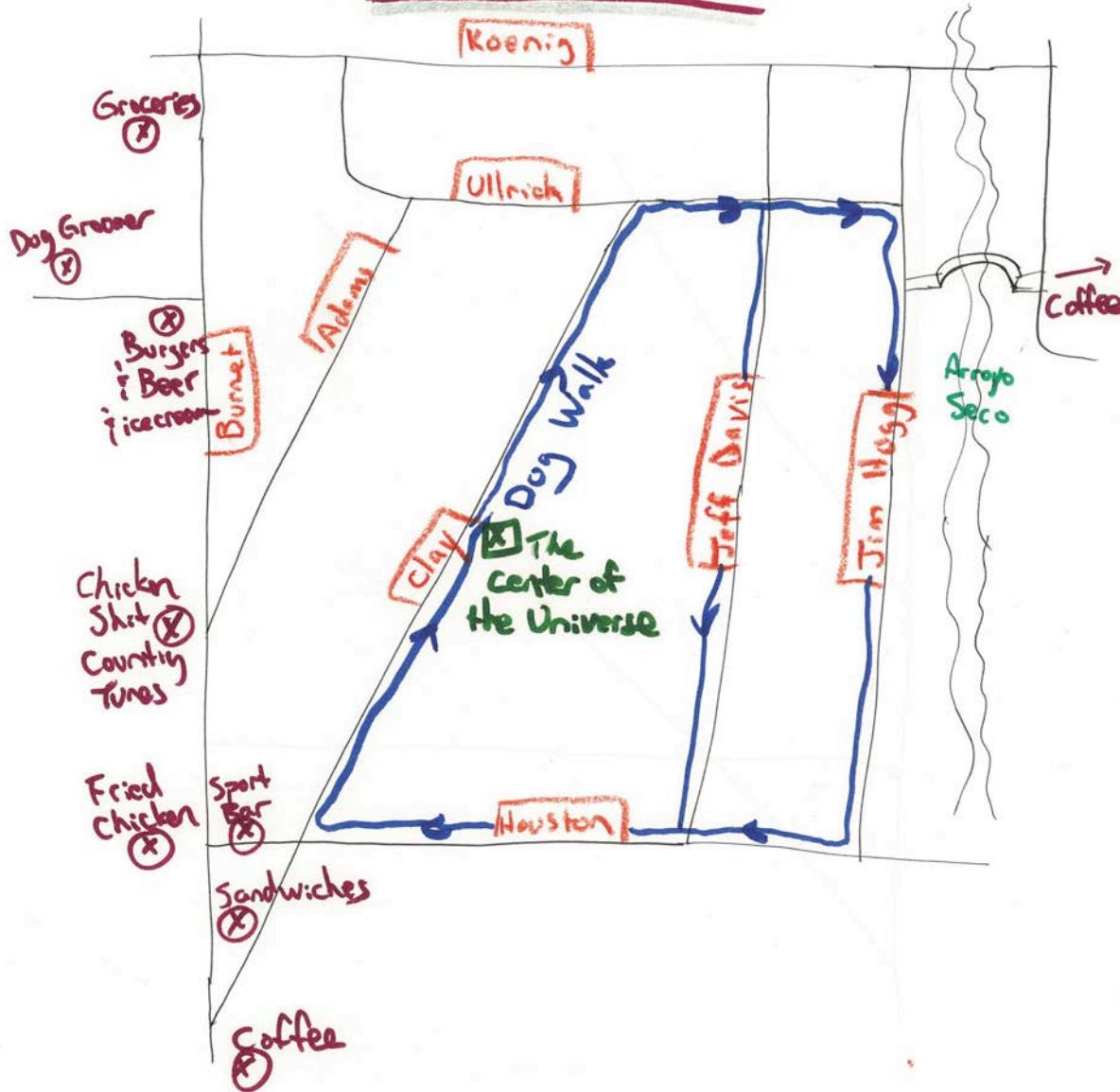
Jeff Davis

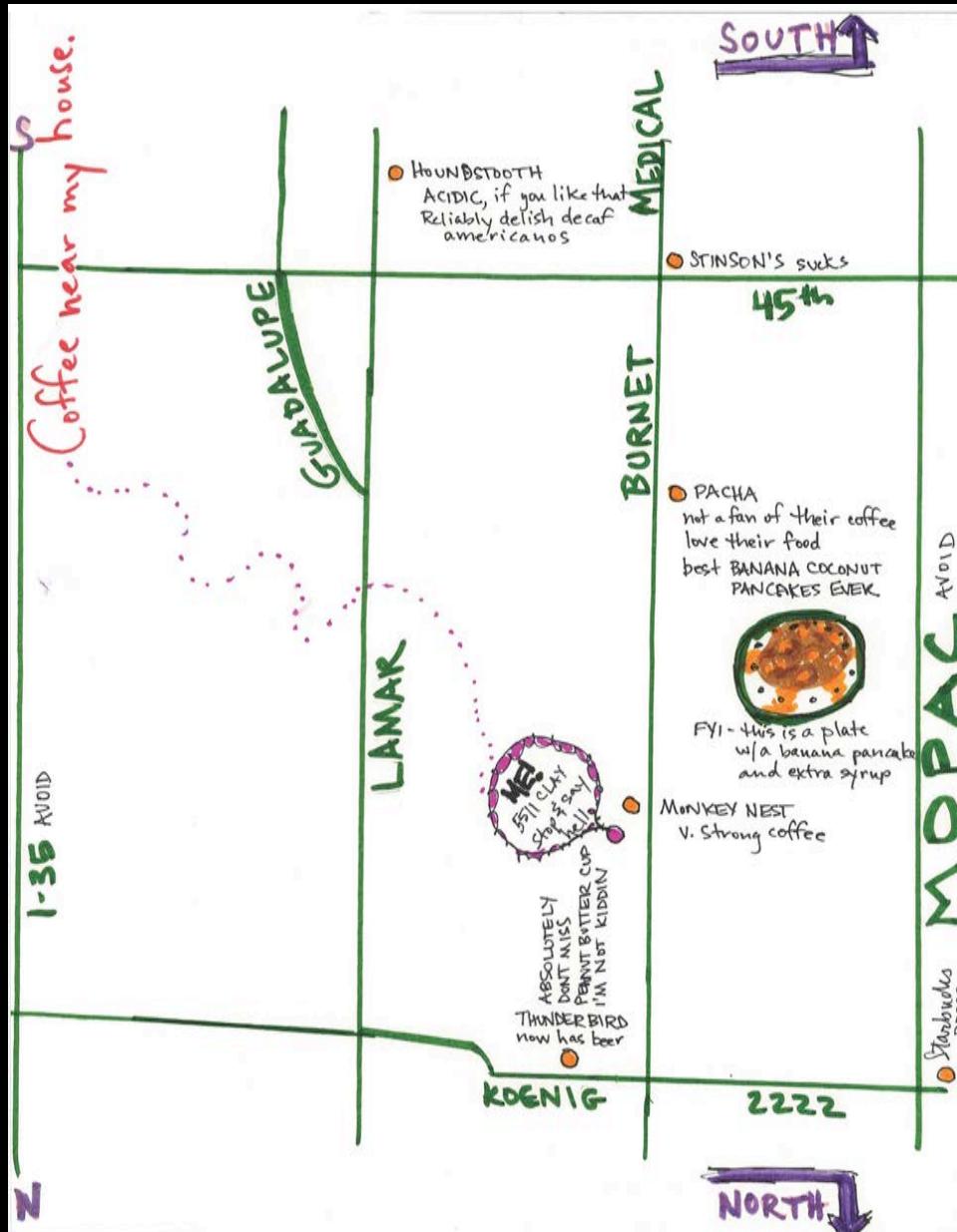
AA - should be  
Food Rehab!

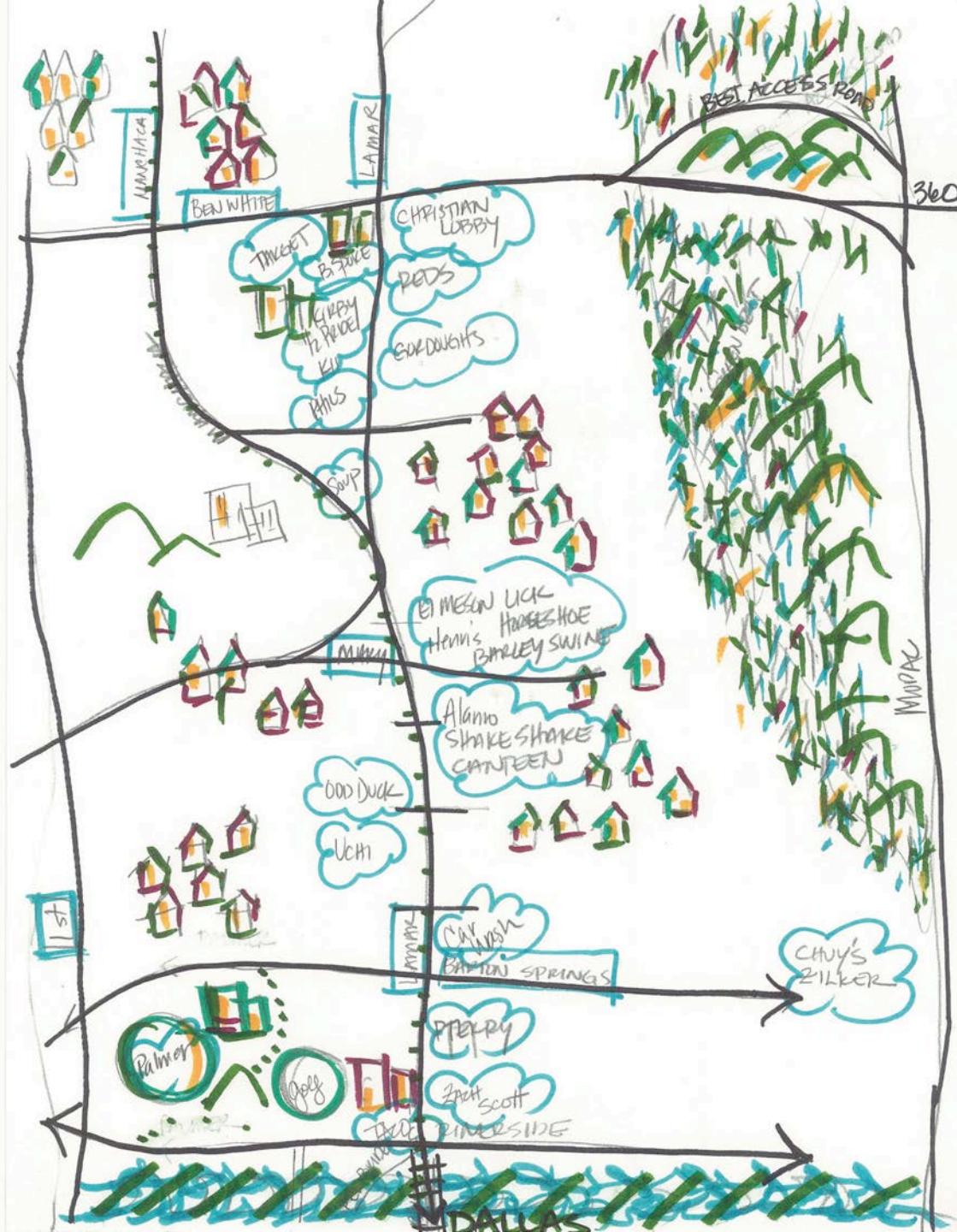


COFFEE

# Burnet, Durnit, Learn it

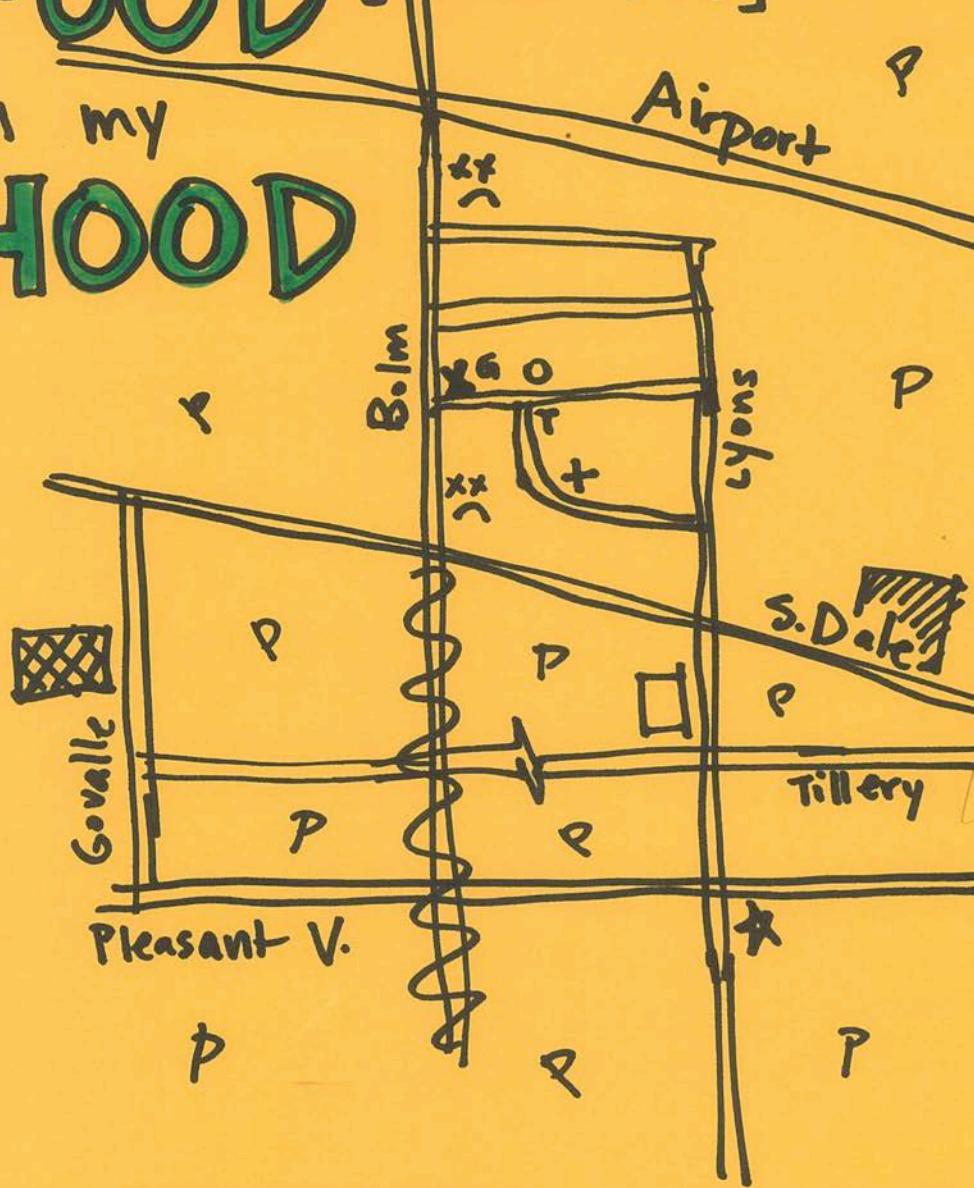






# FOOD [AND NOT FOOD]

in my  
**HOOD**



G = Grapefruit  
+ = Mulberry

\* = Mullberry

z = Does not Exist, actually

o = Fig, Plum, etc.

xx = Poison Ivy in Sidewalk

~ = B.Creek Farm

z = S.Dale Farm

+= Haus

X = Blackberry

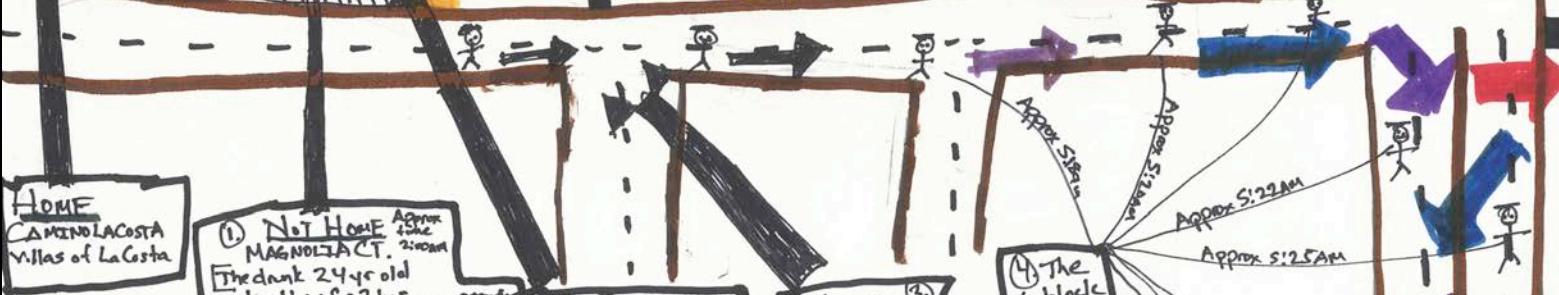
T = Tangerine

P = Pecans (everywhere)

# Surviving Cameron

REAGAN  
HS!!!  
Gro Gipper!

Cameron Road



On a cold December night in 2013, a man excessively drunk 24 yr old walked out of a sixth street bar and wandered into the night. An out of townie, he had no idea where he was, nor how to get home. All he knew was the address of the apartment where he was staying. His phone was dead so he had no way of contacting a ride. He wandered until he found a cab. To this day, he knows not where the cab left him but he believes he was left at the park next door. He walked around hopelessly looking for his temporary abode. Rejected from

The (2) Approx time: 2:00 AM  
drunk wandered for 2+ hours. He tried to crash parties; he was unsuccessful. He walked and walked, never finding where he wanted to go. He finally laid on some steps and slept.

There is much lost time in this story. There are also significant gaps in memories of these events. Nonetheless, at around 5AM, the drunk jumped the electric gate and stumbled along the road.

(3) The 6 block walk.

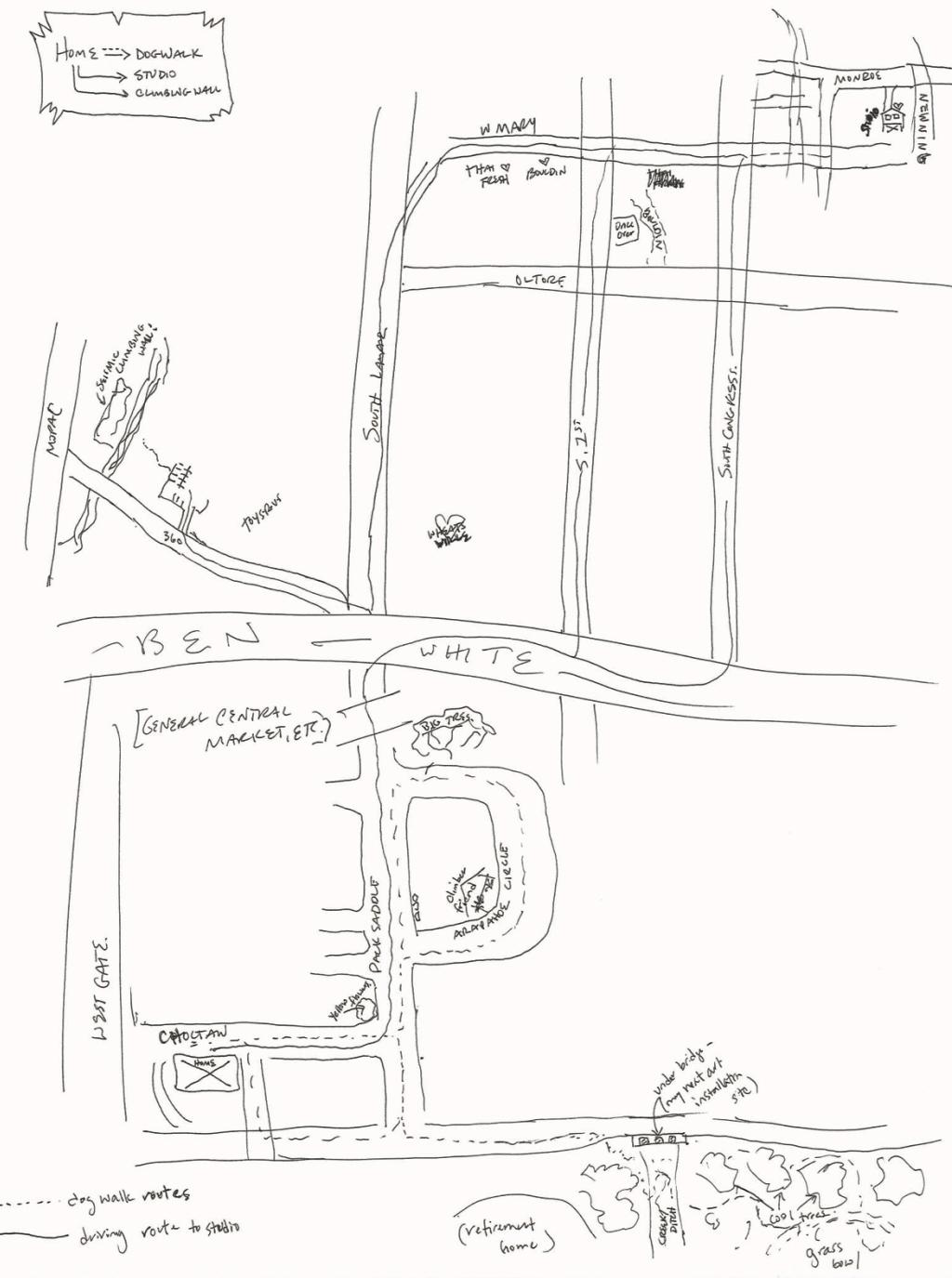
(5) Approx time: 5:35 AM  
He finally reached a phone booth where he called his friend. They promptly got into a fight because the d.s. appeared without letting anyone know where he was. His friend, ever the gracious

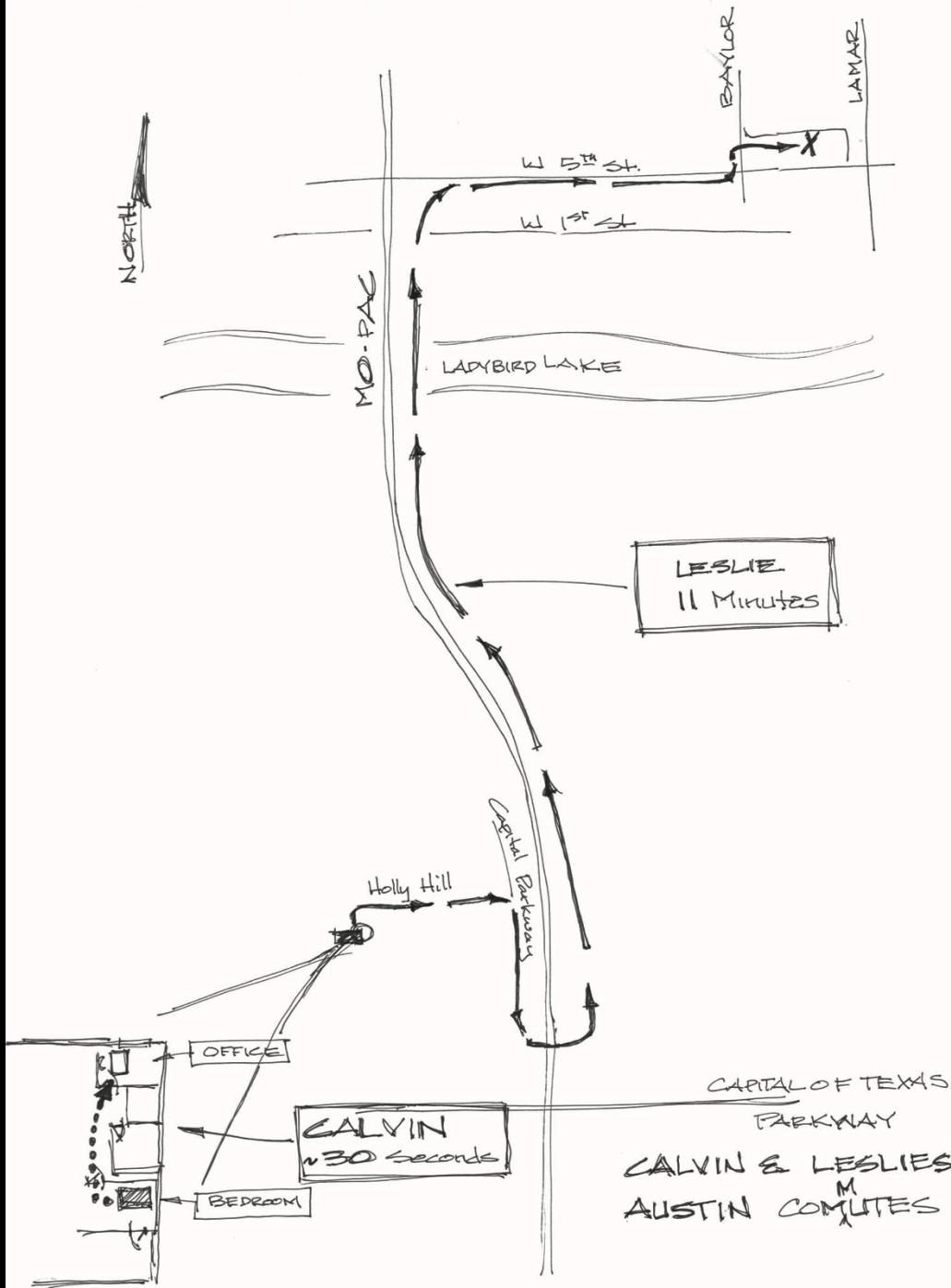
soo! then picked him up and drove him home

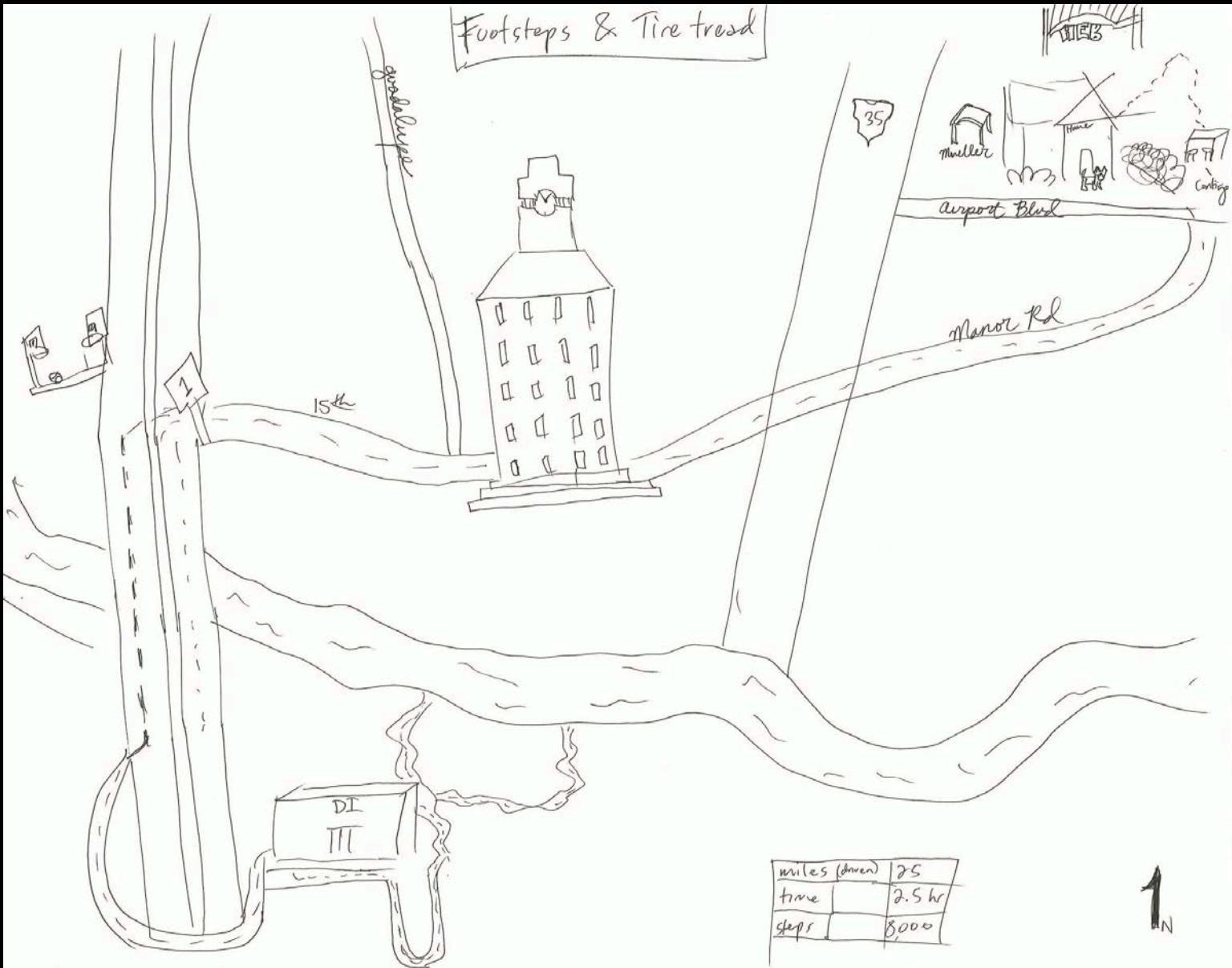
U.S. Hwy 290

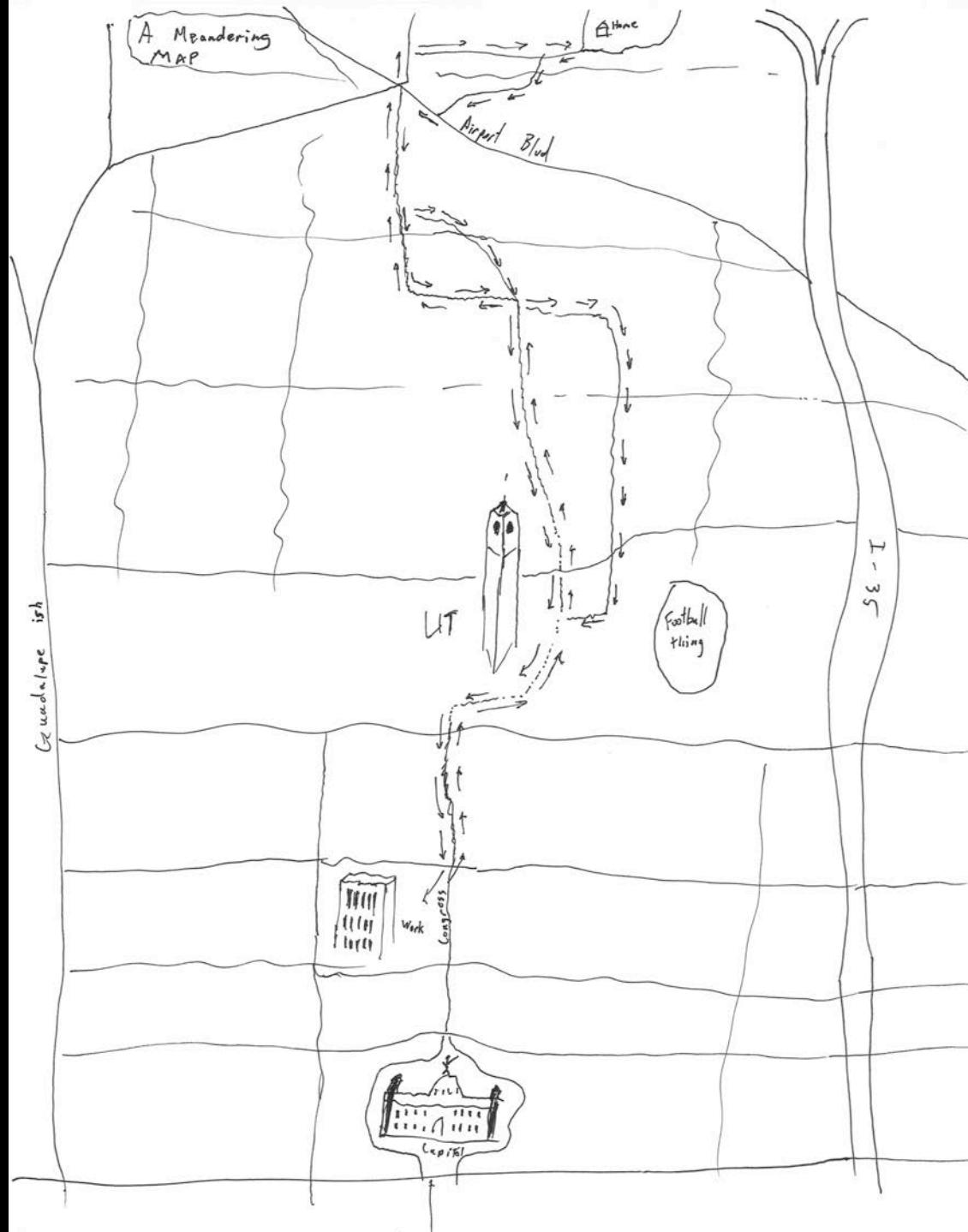


R. Diaz 11/15/2014



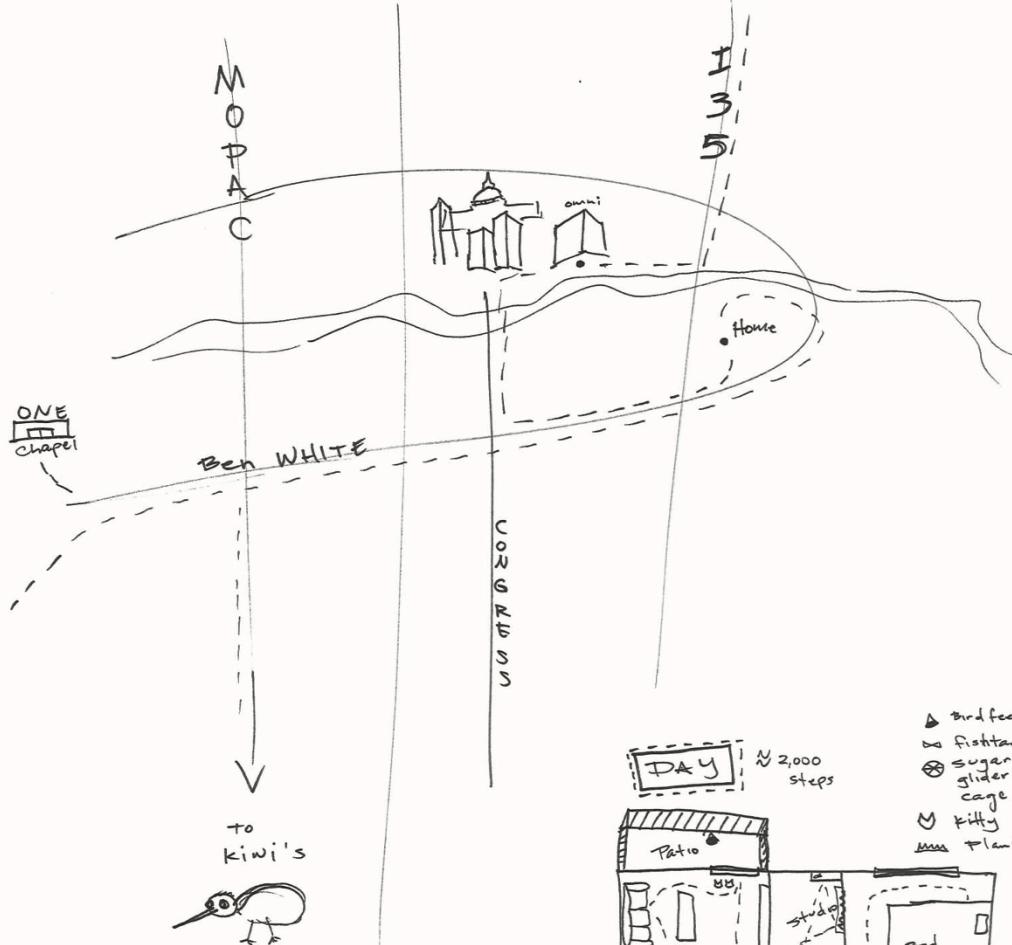






# Common Routes

**WEEK** ≈ 70 mi



Job Club

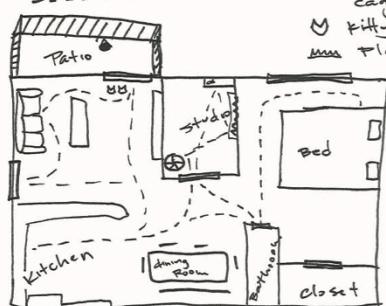


Asian markets  
w/ dragon

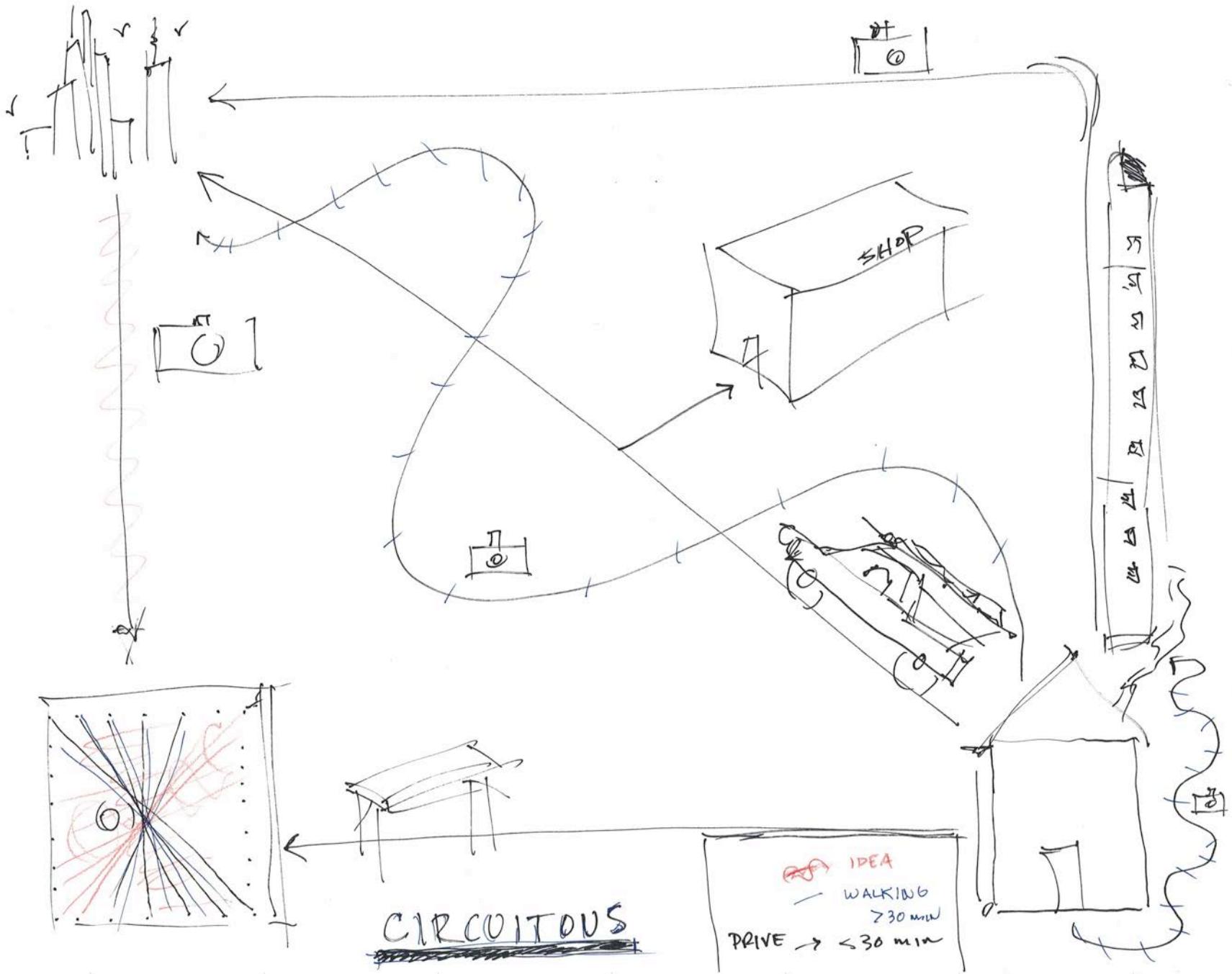
I  
3  
5

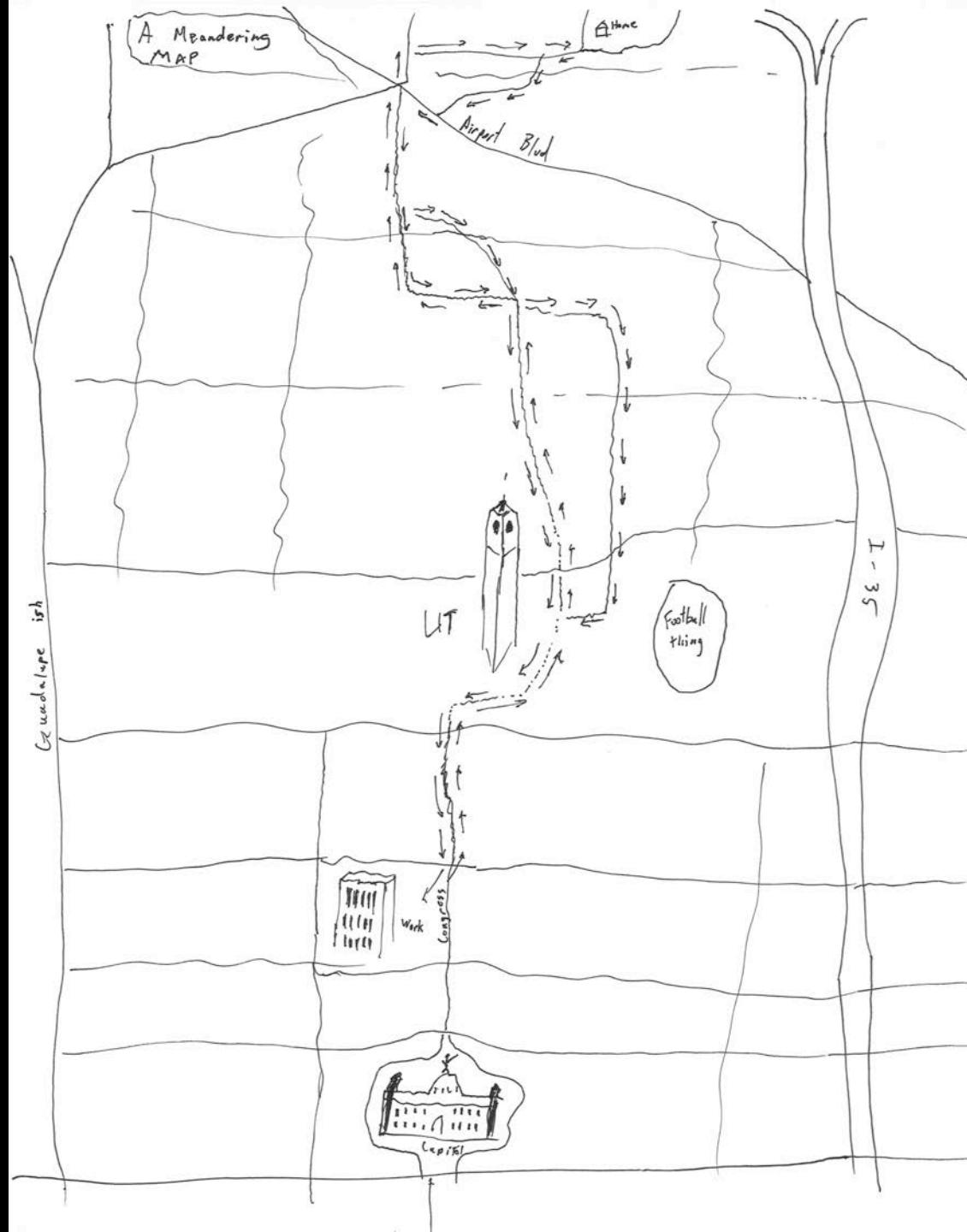
**DAY**

≈ 2,000 steps



- ▲ bird feeder
- fishtank
- ⊗ sugar glider cage
- ◎ kitty
- plants





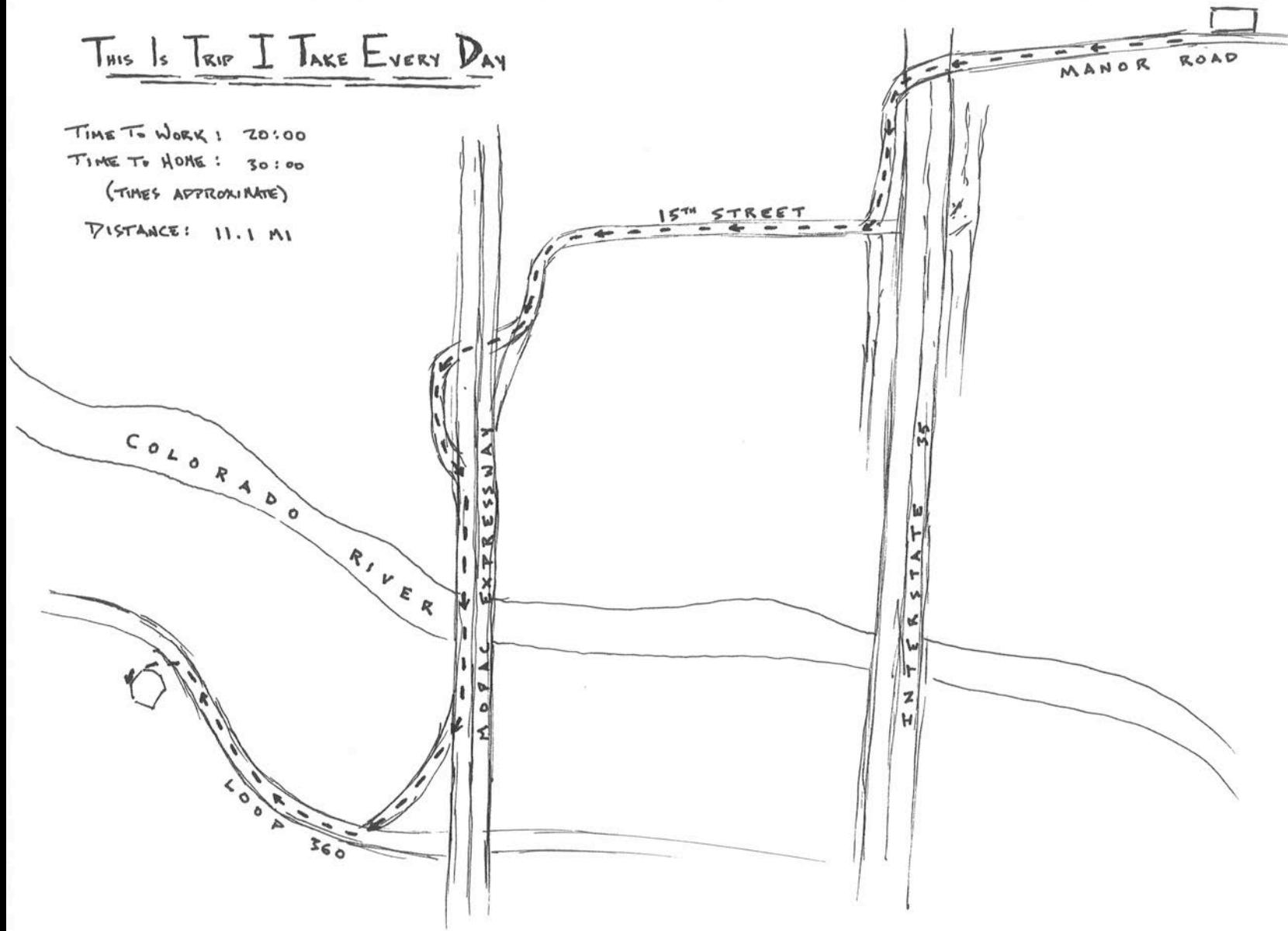
# THIS IS TRIP I TAKE EVERY DAY

TIME TO WORK: 20:00

TIME TO HOME: 30:00

(TIMES APPROXIMATE)

DISTANCE: 11.1 MI



THERE IS NO EASY WAY

8+miles each way  
 $8 \times 4 = 32$  miles = 2 gallons of gas  
times a day M+W+F

NORTH

START FINISH

N

briffin  
School

Citizen

187

AIRPORT

181

PLEASANT VALLEY

1-35

LAMAR

GUADALUPE

CONGRESS



COLORADO RIVER

70 S. Lamar

100

100

100

100

100

100

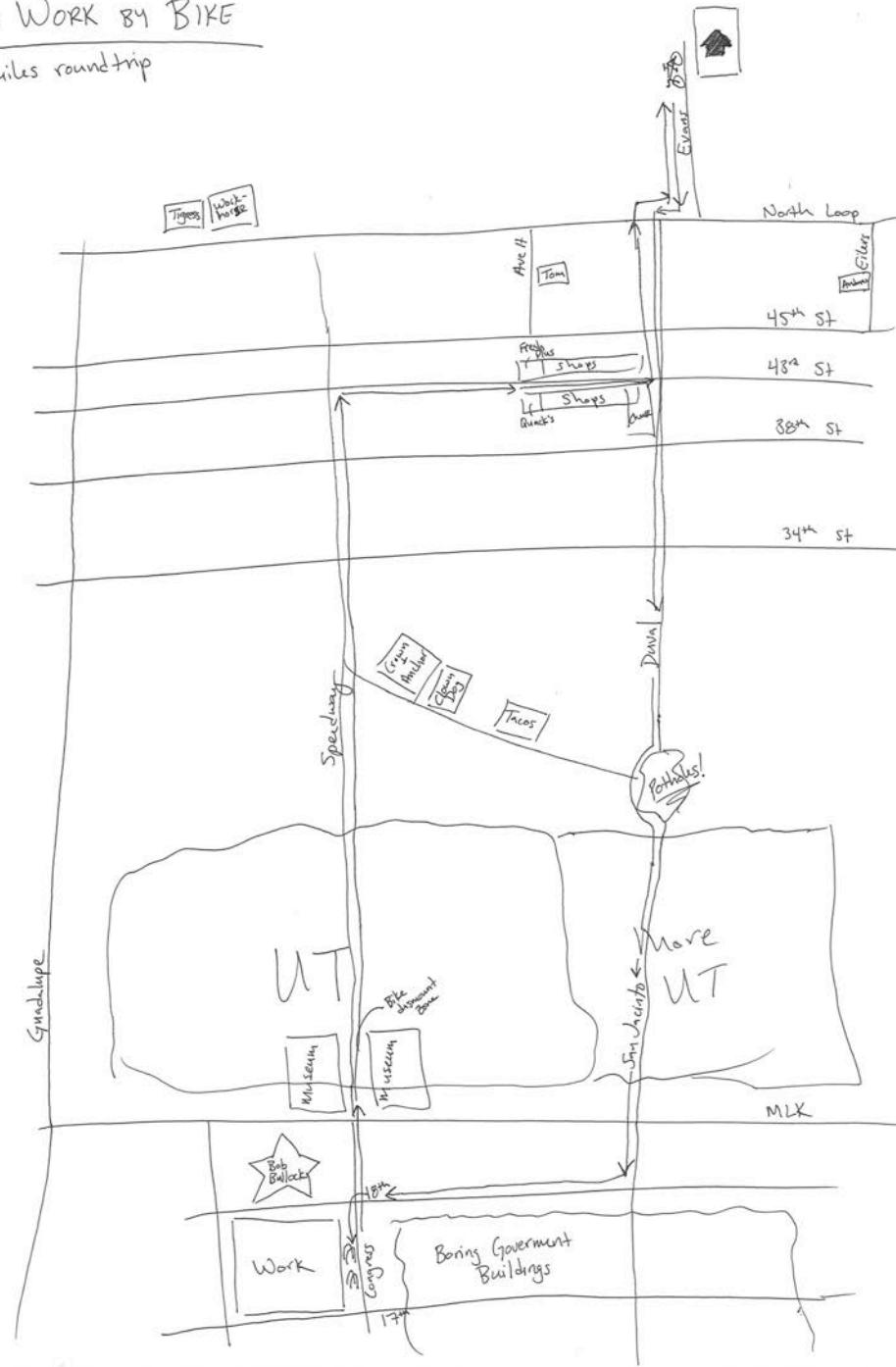
100

100

SOUTH

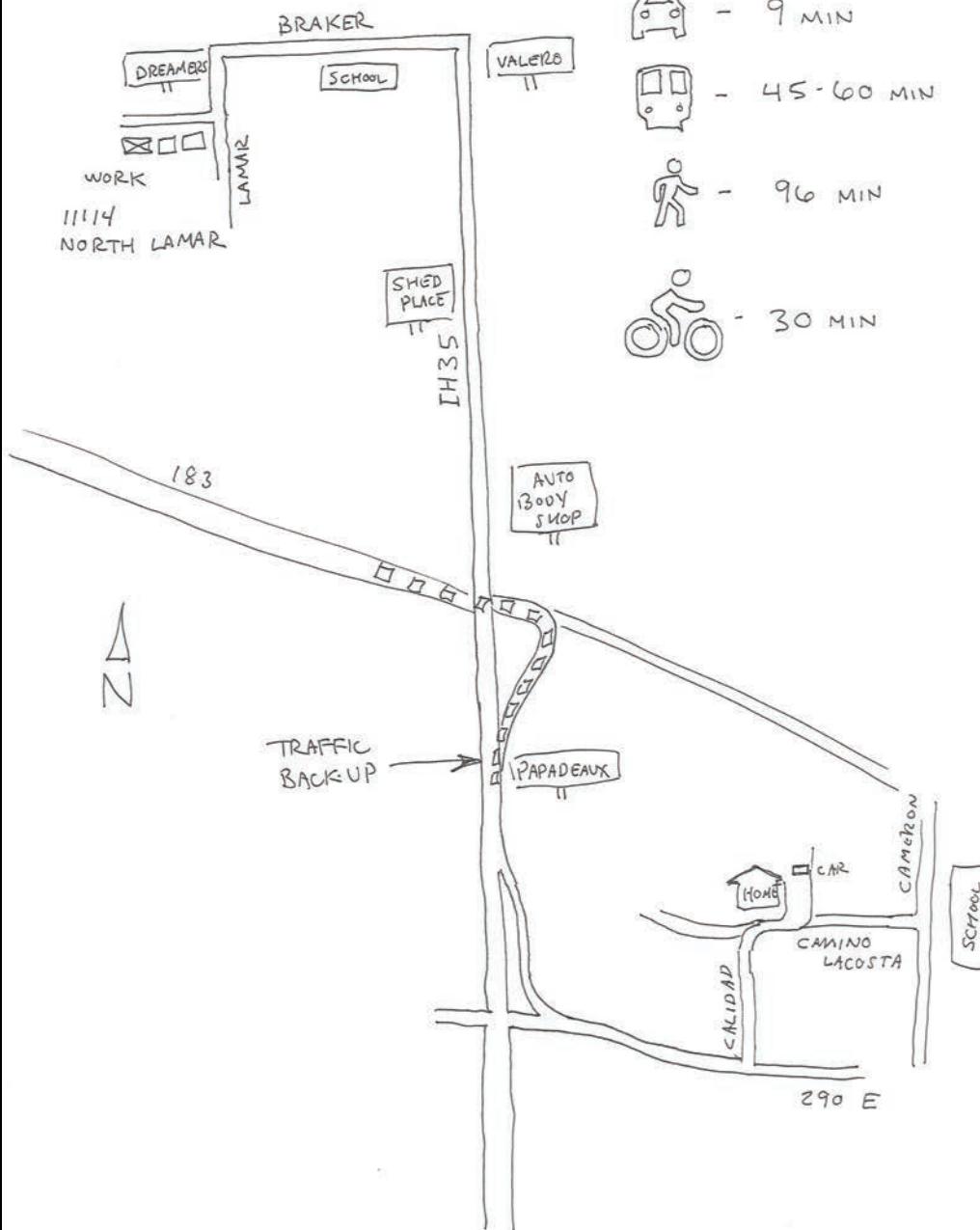
# HOME TO WORK BY BIKE

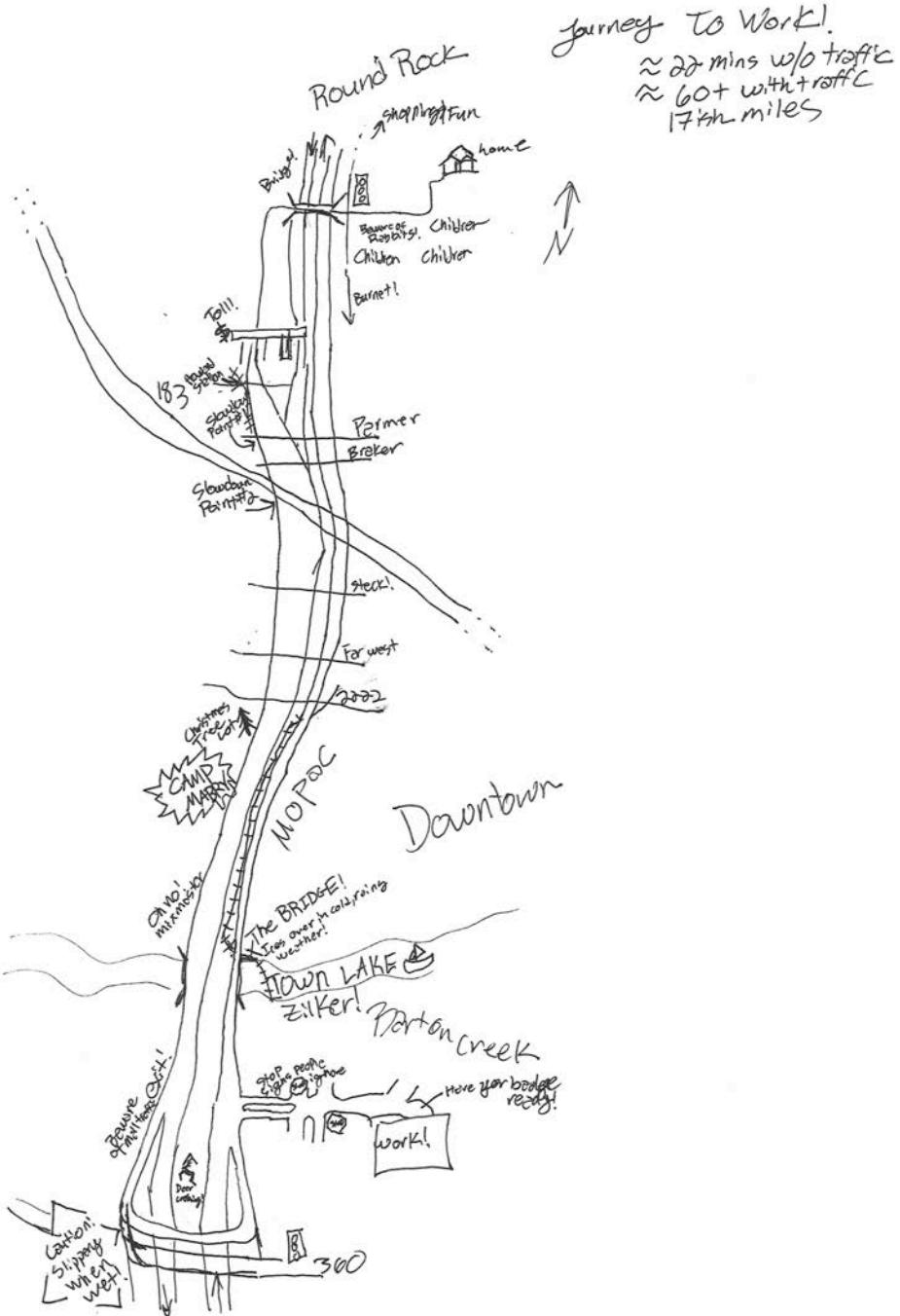
~ 6.8 miles roundtrip



"No time for Dreamers"

5.6 MILES





EXCAVATING EMPIRICAL DATA



AUSTIN'S ATLAS

[austinsatlas.com](http://austinsatlas.com)

Austin's Atlas is a collaborative project interested in discovering, capturing, and expanding Austin's sense of place.

**Austin's Atlas aims to accomplish the above through:**

- (Illustrated) Pedestrian Guides
- Crowdsourced Maps/ The Atlas
- Place-Based Public Art Projects
- Workshops + Walks + Events

**CURRENT PROJECTS:**

Field Guide to the South Central Waterfront (in progress)

**EVENTS::**

- April 30 All Day SCW Event (details coming soon)
- Oct. 18 Photo Safari
- Sept. 24 Found Object Walk
- Walk and Draw #2/ #3

**OTHER RESOURCES ON THE SITE:**

- Aggregated Maps of Austin
- People and Projects We Like

**PHILOSOPHY:**

1. We believe one of the greatest joys in life is the act of discovery.
2. We believe in the active study of, and engagement with, our natural and man made surroundings.
  3. We believe in walking and biking more, driving less.
  4. We believe in art.
  5. We believe in the power of place.
6. We believe the more we slow down, the closer we observe, and the more fully we listen—the more we can experience.  
The more we experience, the more human we become.
7. We believe Austin's Atlas encourages all of the above.