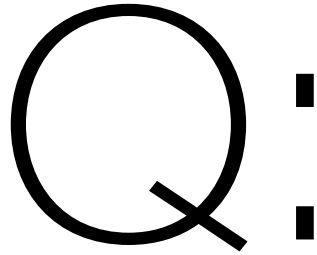


MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



Sharon Blair with husband Bob
Quapaw Quarter Historic District

Occupation: Owner of Empress of Little Rock Bed and Breakfast, Empire Financial Architects financial adviser and Downtown Neighborhood Association president

Where do you live? Quapaw District

How long have you lived downtown? 15 years

What's your favorite thing about living downtown?

Besides the beautiful old homes and really large, gorgeous trees, it's the sense of community down here.

What would you recommend to a newcomer?

I would suggest they come down and stop and talk to some people. Go to a garden meeting.

How close is your job from where you live?

One block away

What made you choose downtown as a place to live?

I wanted an old home and to be in a tree-lined area where people talk to each other. It was like we came home. This is one of the warmest groups of people I've ever seen in my life.

What's your favorite downtown activity?

Coffee on Wednesday mornings with the group at Community Bakery



Ian Beard

MacArthur Park Historic District

Occupation: Museum educator, Old State House Museum

Where do you live? Cromwell Court on Seventh Street in the MacArthur Park Historic District

How long have you lived downtown? Three-and-a-half years

What's your favorite thing about living downtown? Being close to work, restaurants, bars, entertainment and museums

What would you recommend to a newcomer?

Great free museums, Arkansas Travelers baseball games, Flying Saucer, music venues, easy access to Alltel Arena, River Trail, Robinson Center and Riverfront Amphitheater

What made you choose downtown as a place to live?

I had been commuting from Conway, and exchanging a 40-minute commute for a four-minute one sounded great; already worked downtown and hung out here. I can bicycle to work.

What's your favorite downtown activity? Arkansas Travelers baseball games, karaoke, beer, music, the Junction Bridge, the trolley, museums



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Troy Deal with partner Michael Puckett 300 Third Tower

Occupation: Director of development for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

Where do you live? 300 Third Tower – west view overlooking the Territorial Restoration and downtown

How long have you lived downtown? Nearly two years. We were one of the first to move into 300 Third Tower when it opened.

What's the best thing about living downtown? Being connected to the heart of our city. You can't help but feel immersed in the cultural events and activities that take place downtown.

What would you recommend to a newcomer? Buy the bicycle and hit the streets.

How close is your job from where you live?: About five miles. My office is at St. John's place in the Heights.

What made you choose downtown as a place to live? For the modern, simplified, pared-down lifestyle that high-rise living presents

What's your favorite downtown activity? Hitting the streets – for events, for coffee and breakfast on the weekend, for fresh produce from the farmers' market (especially on a Tuesday morning before work), for dinner and drinks, on my bike to connect with the River Trail, doing these activities and connecting with neighbors, friends, that all work, live and play in "MY NEIGHBORHOOD," and having friends over.

What is your favorite place to visit downtown? I am partial to Crush wine bar. It has a great neighborhood feel with a nice selection of wines by the glass.

Other positive things about living in downtown Little Rock: The fact that I actually spend more time outside than when I lived in the suburbs with a yard and patio. I'm out to go to dinner, to exercise, to connect with the river trail. Most every day there is an opportunity to be out and about on foot. It is a great way to burn those few extra calories you consume from having so many opportunities to indulge in food and drink!

Constance Sarto

Quapaw Quarter Historic District

Occupation: Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Museum, director

How long have you lived downtown? 22 years

What's your favorite thing about living downtown? Diversity; cohesive community that values sense of place; mutual support among downtowners in preserving traditional neighborhoods, homes, churches, and businesses; quality of life

What would you recommend to a newcomer?: Get to know as much as possible about Arkansas, greater Little Rock, your fellow citizens, and be of service. Live your dreams.

How close is your job from where you live?: Five blocks

What made you choose downtown as a place to live? Old-house fanatic

What's your favorite downtown activity? Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Museum exhibits, programs and events!



Tom and Sara Braswell

Rock Street

Occupation: Tom - physician; Sara - state housing official

Where do you live? 609 Rock St.

How long have you lived downtown? Five years

What's your favorite thing about living downtown? Proximity to so many activities, entertainment and restaurants

What would you recommend to a newcomer? Get out of the house and enjoy the area. Meet new friends.

How close is your job from where you live? Tommy - 25 miles; Sara - three blocks

What made you choose downtown as a place to live? We found the perfect house!

What's your favorite downtown activity? Going for walks with the dogs



Dr. Jay Barth

Quapaw Quarter Historic District

Occupation: History professor at Hendrix College

Where do you live? 1711 Center St., near the Governor's Mansion

How long have you lived downtown? 12 years

What's the best thing about living downtown? Little Rock is a very divided city, socially. Downtown is one of the few neighborhoods where folks from different racial, ethnic and social backgrounds come together in a community.

What would you recommend to a newcomer? There will be occasional frustrations about living downtown. You'll wish there were more restaurants within walking distance, and the grocery options will frustrate you. But it's worth whatever occasional frustrations arise.

How close is your job from where you live? 30 minutes

What made you choose downtown as a place to live? I was originally drawn by the architecture, but have come to love the community.

What's your favorite downtown activity? Seeing neighbors at Community Bakery

