

What's  
happening this  
weekend? See  
the Planner, D2

Your guide  
to all things  
summer. Friday  
in Austin360



Dale Roe  
The Buzz

## Is Lake Travis full yet? Find out

In the midst of all the rainy weather, are you wondering about the current status of Lake Travis? There may not be an app for that, but there's a website: [isthelakefullyyet.com](http://isthelakefullyyet.com). When you visit the site, the text there reads "NOPE" and displays the number of feet still required for the lake to reach capacity.

The domain was registered by Austin's Greg Storey, who has designed websites for around 20 years. Storey is part of a Slack community – think of it as an online, private chat room for business teams or groups of like-minded individuals – called ATX Built.

"It's a bunch of other people who make, design websites and applications, what-not who are part of the Austin community," Storey says. He leaves Slack open in the background on his computer and, when he wants to take a break from work, checks in to see what other members are up to.

Although he owns the domain name, Storey is quick to point out that he did not create the site.

"It's been raining a lot, so people have been asking, 'jeez, is the lake full yet?'" Storey says. "And so one of the guys (on Slack), Dave Rupert, created a web page that scraped data from a site to show how much more we need to go."

Storey suggested the group purchase the domain name [isthelakefullyyet.com](http://isthelakefullyyet.com) and make a real site out of it. He says they made it for themselves and, in fact, was unaware that links to the site were being passed around on social media until I told him so.

"It was kind of a joke," he says. "Dave actually made the thing work; Sophie Shepherd put it on a server somewhere and I pointed the domain. It was done relatively quickly, like within 10 minutes. It's cool that something that came out of the ATX Built community could be used or seen

Buzz continued on D3

## ART



Los Outsiders' art exhibit "Gently Fried" is at the Mexican American Cultural Center. CONTRIBUTED BY ERIKA RICH

# Sparking a conversation

Artists seek to spur a dialogue about the gentrification of Austin

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin  
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There's a quiet hiss that emerges from the improbably large inflated sculpture that occupies one corner of the high-ceiling gallery at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

More than 20 feet tall, Claire Ashley's "My Little Pony" is brightly spray-painted in neon shades, its rump backed into a corner like some parade balloon waiting to launch.

The enormous inflatable huddles on the east part of the gallery, a deliberate choice by the creative collective Los Outsiders, which curated the exhibit "Gently Fried," on view through June 13.

Its title is an affable reference to the gentrification impacting Austin's east side and creative community. And "Gently Fried" speaks less to specific issues than it does to broader issues of home, displacement, community, economic forces and, above all, change.

Los Outsiders – artists Jaime Salvador Castillo, Michael Anthony Garcia, Hector Hernandez and Robert Harrington Jackson – will use a public discussion on Saturday



Artists (from left) Michael Anthony Garcia, Jaime Salvador Castillo, Hector Hernandez and Robert Harrington Jackson make up Los Outsiders, who will lead a community discussion Saturday. CONTRIBUTED

to give a face-to-face format to the conversations that have lately percolated through Austin and, especially, its creative community.

"Too many times discussions about gentrification, race, economic divides and the swath of changes affecting Austin during this unprecedented growth take place in private," says Garcia. "Or, these conversations happen on Facebook with like-minded individuals, so some perspectives get left out of the dialogue. That is how quiet resentments foment. That is what causes communities to

Exhibit continued on D3

### 'GENTLY FRIED'

**When:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Mondays–Thursdays,  
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturdays through June 13

**Where:** Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St.

**Tickets:** Free

**Information:** 512-974-3772, [austintexas.gov/esbmacc](http://austintexas.gov/esbmacc)

**Public discussion:** Noon Saturday





Artist Jenny Kendler's art points out the plight of endangered birds.

## Exhibit

continued from D1

break down."

As an exhibit "Gently Fried" eschews direct confrontation. It's an exuberant, fresh, diversified grouping from talented artists, some emerging, some established. Whatever commentary might be embedded in some of the individual works on display takes a little unpacking.

Jenny Kendler's vintage pup tent outfitted with a faux fur interior and encamped among fake plants hints at displacement as well as the continually transient nature of contemporary life. On a wall nearby are sculptural figures from Kendler's "Camouflage" series, endangered birds fitted with strange helmets and shields to protect them from life-threatening circumstances of all sorts.

Gil Rocha's "El Diabli-to" is a red dolly overloaded with a heap of red clothing, a reference to the vast apparel manufacturing that happens everywhere but in the United States — even though our consumption of cheap "fast fashion" is legion. Much of what's left over heads south of the border to Mexico, with huge warehouses in border towns like Laredo — where Rocha is from — stockpiling excess and used clothing.

In a poignant fashion, Jill Bedgood's "Cradle-Rocker" documents life's trajectory, an outline of a cradle and a rocking chair rendered in thin wood strips on the wall while mirror images of both cradle and chair

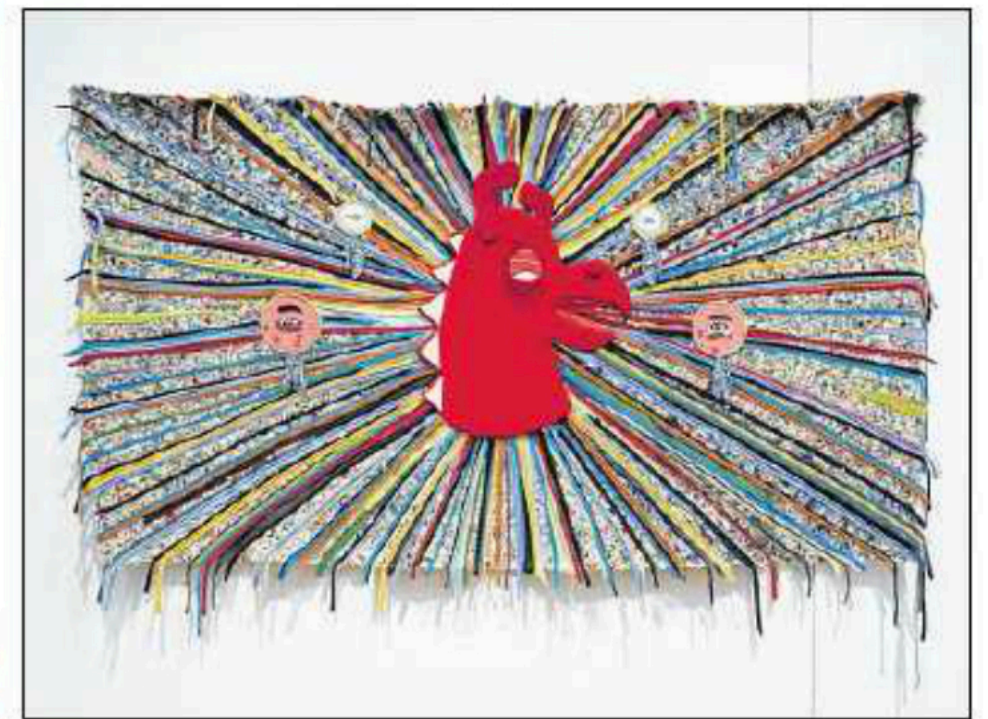


Los Outsiders' art exhibit "Gently Fried" at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center features art about the rapidly changing face of Austin. The exhibit runs through June 13.

**It's an exuberant, fresh, diversified grouping from talented artists, some emerging, some established.**



"My Little Pony" by Claire Ashley examines the looming multifaceted conundrum of gentrification and affordability.



"Red Dragon" by Jason Villegas is part of the Los Outsiders' art exhibit "Gently Fried" at the Mexican American Cultural Center.

are traced out in sawdust on the gallery floor.

Made from strips of cheap plastic tablecloths, "Oiliostream" hangs from the ceiling, a brilliant rain shower of synthetic color by Sunny Sliger and Marianne Newsom, a sweet homage to modest domesticity.

And finally, Ashley's "My Little Pony" is kind of the proverbial elephant in the room — the looming multifaceted conundrum of gentrification and affordability.

When the exhibit opened in mid-April, "Pony" was actually the centerpiece of a perfor-

mance. A dozen people slipped into the inflatable through clever openings. Then, shouldering the giant balloon from within, they rather blindly and very humorously plodded it around the cultural center's plaza in a silly dance — it was cumbersome, colorful, charming and out of control.

Three years ago, Los Outsiders netted an Austin Critics' Table Award for the exhibit "Heir Today Gone Tomorrow," a likewise smart snapshot of fresh art that also had plenty of timely resonance to it.

And as a collective, the

quartet has been tapped for "Drawing Lines," the recently launched city-wide public art initiative that's assigned an artist — or collective — to each of the city's new designated council districts to create a project that reflects

each district. Los Outsiders will work with District 1 in Northeast Austin, an area in which each of them actually lives.

If the opening performances were the first act of "Gently Fried," the group maintains that

the exhibit is the second act, the chance to view and consider ideas. Saturday's discussion is the third act, Garcia says, a chance to "look at the topics more in depth. We all have a lot to talk about," he says.