

HISTORY

Pilsen is one of Chicago's oldest neighborhoods, and a large portion of the neighborhood was designated as an official historic district in 2006. In the early 20th century, Pilsen was predominantly Czech and Slovak. Pilsen even acquired its name from the Bohemians, who named it after one of the largest cities in their home country, Plzeň. Pilsen later became a magnet for immigrants from a number of Eastern European countries including Poland, Yugoslavia, and Soviet Lithuania.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the neighborhood's cultural tapestry became increasingly Mexican.

FUN FACT

Pilsen is home to a variety of lively community events. Savor a variety of regional and specialty mole dishes at the **Mole De Mayo** Festival in May or enjoy live entertainment at the Midwest's largest Latino festival, **Fiesta del Sol**, happening every July.

Today, Pilsen is a predominantly Hispanic community, and for many Mexican immigrants, it continues to be a vibrant home-away-from-home that is only three miles from downtown Chicago. Pilsen's history of having a strong cultural identity continues and the neighborhood is home to a variety of independent galleries, youth arts programs, local businesses, and community gardens.

WHAT TO DO?

- Sip margaritas on the lively patio at **La Vaca**, then satisfy your sweet tooth with gorditas dulces at **Panaderia Nuevo Leon**.
- Spend an evening exploring open studios and galleries in Pilsen's arts district during free **Second Fridays** events.
- Stop for tacos at some of Pilsen's staple carnitas joints like **Carnitas Don Pedro** and **Carnitas Uruapan**.
- Celebrate **Día de los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) in Pilsen, when Harrison Park is filled with colorful ofrendas, live music, and family-friendly activities.



La Vaca

CULTURE

Pilsen is a haven for offbeat boutiques, hip eateries, and cool music venues standing alongside bodegas, panaderias, and family-owned restaurants serving authentic Mexican cuisine. The neighborhood's thriving arts scene has become known as the **Chicago Arts District**. This seven-block stretch is filled with artists lofts, studios, retail spaces, galleries, and more. Another must for art lovers is **Pilsen Arts and Community House**, a local gallery focused on community and accessibility.

FUN FACT

Pilsen is filled with colorful street art. The buildings are covered in massive paintings and mosaics that pay homage to the neighborhood's Mexican culture. Take a stroll around the neighborhood to soak it all in, particularly the **16th Street Murals**.

You can't leave the neighborhood without exploring one of the city's most beloved music venues, **Thalia Hall**, where you can catch indie rockers, famed comedians, and live DJs in a striking space modeled after the Prague Opera House. The venue shares a historic building with **Dusek's Board & Beer** (award-winning tavern fare), **Punch House** ('70s vibes and large-format drinks), and **Tack Room** (live piano music in the building's former carriage house).



Thalia Hall

GETTING THERE

BY CAR

Pilsen is conveniently located a few miles away from Chicago's downtown area. **From the Loop via I-90/I-94 E. Take exit 52C toward 18th St.**

BY BIKE

From Michigan Avenue, head to E Van Buren St and turn left onto State St. Turn right onto W 18th St and bike ahead into Pilsen.

BY TRAIN

Visit Pilsen by taking the CTA or Metra. Take the **Pink line to 18th or the BNSF Metra Electric line to Halsted Street**.

Please confirm routes and schedules at www.transitchicago.com and www.metra.com

BY BUS

Several CTA lines service the Pilsen neighborhood: **4, 21, 62**.

Please confirm routes and schedules at www.transitchicago.com

VISIT PILSEN



National Museum of Mexican Art

Panaderia El Acambaro

El Milagro

PILSEN

Rich in Mexican culture, Pilsen is a neighborhood that is filled with music, art, culinary tradition, and nightlife. It's home to award-winning restaurants, iconic music venues, and sensational murals as far as the eye can see—just a few reasons it was named one of the coolest neighborhoods around the world by Forbes. Pilsen's 18th Street is a bustling commercial district with endless options for shopping and dining. As you walk down 18th Street, you'll be able to choose from enjoying authentic Mexican cuisine, stopping in at a bookstore or record shop, or even visiting a tortilla factory.

INSIDER TIP

Don't miss the **National Museum of Mexican Art** while you're in the neighborhood. This free museum immerses visitors in Mexican culture through a stunning collection of textiles, folk art, prints, photos, and more.

For more info on this and other neighborhoods:



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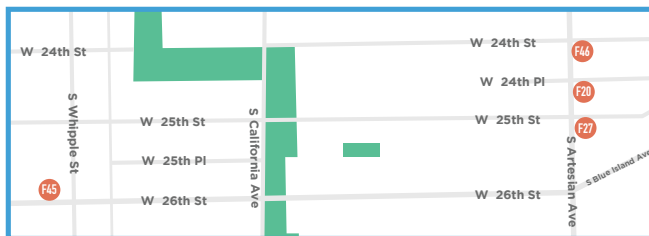
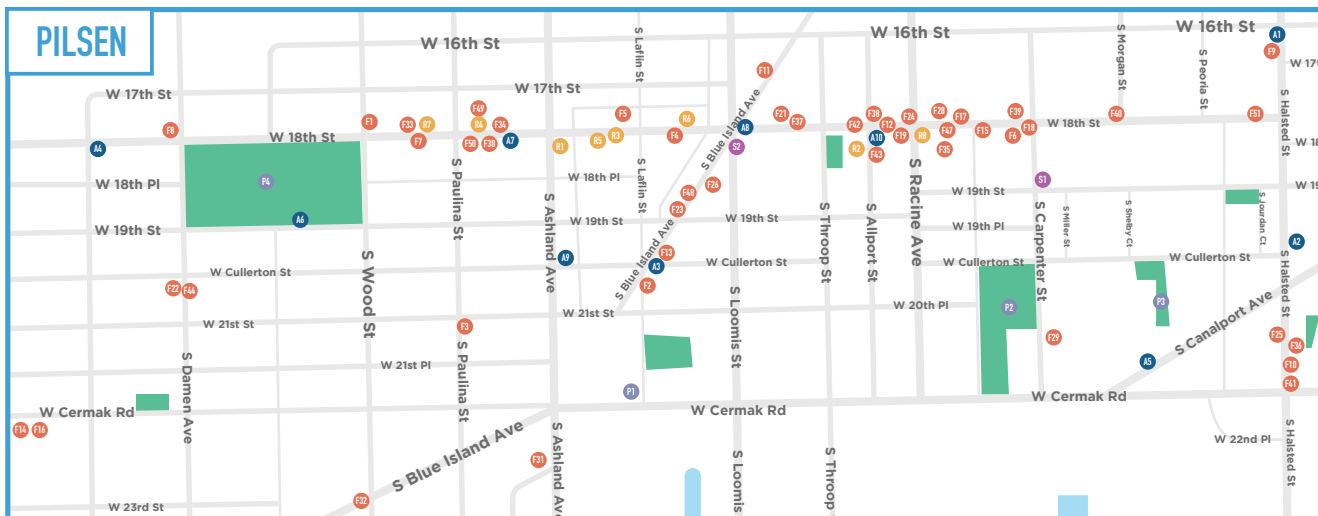
[#ChicagoNeighborhoodGems](https://twitter.com/ChicagoNeighborhoodGems)

ART, CULTURE, THEATER, AND MUSEUMS

16th Street Murals	800 W 16th St.....	A1
Chicago Arts District	1945 S Halsted St.....	A2
Citlalin Art Gallery Theater	2005 S Blue Island Ave.....	A3
La Casa De Cultura	2057 W 18th St.....	A4
MANO Gallery	2150 S Canal Port.....	A5
National Museum of Mexican Art	1852 W 19th St	A6
Pilsen Arts and Community House	1637 W 18th St.....	A7
Plaza Tenochtitlán	1811 S Blue Island Ave.....	A8
St. Pius V Catholic Church	1919 S Ashland Ave.....	A9
Thalia Hall	1807 S Allport St.....	A10

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

5 Rabanitos Restaurant and Taqueria	1758 W 18th St.....	F1
Alulu Brewery and Pub	2011 S Laflin St.....	F2
Bob's Pizza	1659 W 21st St.....	F3
Cafe Jumping Bean	1439 W 18th St.....	F4
Cantón Regio	1510 W 18th St.....	F5
Carnitas Don Pedro	1113 W 18th St.....	F6
Carnitas Uruapan Restaurant	1725 W 18th St.....	F7
D'nuez	2000 W 18th St.....	F8
DeCOLORES Galería y Sabores	1626 S Halsted St.....	F9
Del Toro	2133 S Halsted St.....	F10
Don Churro El Moro de Letran	1626 S Blue Island Ave.....	F11
Dusek's Tavern	1227 W 18th St.....	F12
El Milagro Tortilla	1927 S Blue Island Ave.....	F13
El Taco Azteca - Pilsen	2151 W Cermak Rd.....	F14
El Trebol Liquors and Bar	1135 W 18th St.....	F15
Ghin Khao	2128 W Cermak Rd.....	F16
Golden Gai Sushi and Bar	1144 W 18th St.....	F17
HaiSous Vietnamese Kitchen	1800 S Carpenter St.....	F18
Honky Tonk BBQ	1213 W 18th St.....	F19
Il Vicinato Ristorante	2435 S Western Ave.....	F20
Juice House	1324 W 18th St.....	F21
L' Cafecito Jumping Bean	2010 S Damen Ave.....	F22
La Esperanza Restaurant Pilsen	1864 S Blue Island Ave.....	F23
La Luna	1726 S Racine Ave.....	F24
La Malinche Coffee and Tea House	2110 S Halsted St.....	F25
La Michoacana Premium	1855 S Blue Island Ave.....	F26
La Pulqueria - Pilsen	2501 S Western Ave.....	F27
La Vaca Margarita Bar	1160 W 18th St.....	F28
Lo Rez Brewery and Taproom	2101 S Carpenter St.....	F29
Mandala Cafe	1641 W 18th St.....	F30
Manjares Restaurant	2230 S Ashland Ave.....	F31
Mole Village Restaurant	2302 S Blue Island Ave.....	F32
Panaderia El Acambaro	1720 W 18th St.....	F33
Panaderia Nuevo Leon	1634 W 18th St.....	F34
Pilsen Yards	1163 W 18th St.....	F35
Pleasant House Pub	2119 S Halsted St.....	F36
Punch House	1227 W 18th St.....	F37



A1	ART, CULTURE, THEATER, AND MUSEUMS
F1	FOOD AND BEVERAGE
P1	PARKS AND GARDENS
R1	RETAIL AND SPECIALTY SHOPS
S1	COMMUNITY SERVICES

DISCOVER MORE



FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Rubi's Tacos	1316 W 18th St.....	F38
Senoritas Cantina, Tacos and Tequila	1104 W 18th St.....	F39
Simone's	960 W 18th St.....	F40
Skylark	2149 S Halsted St.....	F41
S.K.Y.	1239 W 18th St.....	F42
Tack Room	1807 S Allport St.....	F43
Taqueria El Costeño	2007 S Damen Ave.....	F44
Taqueria El Milagro	3050 W 26th St.....	F45
Taqueria Tayahua	2411 S Western Ave.....	F46
The Alderman	1163 W 18th St.....	F47
The Giant Penny Whistle	1854 S Blue Island Ave.....	F48
The Jibarito Stop	1646 W 18th St.....	F49
Urban Treez Chicago	1649 W 18th St.....	F50
Yvolina's Tamales	814 W 18th St.....	F51

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ESDC	1843 S Carpenter St.....	S1
Rudy Lozano Library	1805 S Loomis St.....	S2

PARKS AND GARDENS

Benito Juarez Hero's Park	2150 S Laflin St.....	P1
& Statue of Emiliano Zapata	2150 S Laflin St.....	P1
Dvorak (Anton) Park	1119 W Cullerton St.....	P2
El Paseo Community Garden	944 W 21st St.....	P3
Harrison Park	1824 S Wood St.....	P4

RETAIL AND SPECIALTY SHOPS

18th Street & Just One Vintage	1549 W 18th St.....	R1
606 Records	1808 S Allport St.....	R2
Chicago Midwest Made	1517 W 18th St.....	R3
Escaramuza USA	1644 W 18th St.....	R4
Mestiza Shop	1512 W 18th St.....	R5
Pilsen Vintage	1430 W 18th St.....	R6
Pinwheel Records	1722 W 18th St.....	R7
TRASH Vintage	1801 S Racine Ave.....	R8