

As the East Bay Express so succinctly put it this week: Uptown Oakland is on its way up, again. [<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/uptown/Content?oid=1623547>]

Uptown is fast becoming an arts and entertainment destination for the Bay Area, thanks to an influx of clubs, art galleries, bars and artists workshops. This area of town was once one of the Bay Area's most vibrant arts districts and less than a hundred years later, it is becoming so again. But there's much more than just an arts renaissance going on in Oakland today. Uptown and Downtown are attracting a wave of new businesses from renowned restaurateurs to coffee baristas, doctors and dentists to flower arrangers.

What brings them here? Where else can you feast on award winning Caribbean-Creole food, step around the corner to watch a performance of Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead, check out Mos Def's beats, take on a poetry slam and finish up with a liquid chocolate cake with Stolli before jumping on BART for home?

This new spirit of business is being buoyed by self-help groups such as the Lake Merritt-Uptown District and Downtown Oakland Associations actively working to complement positive steps being made by the City. For more information, check out the following web resources:

www.downtownoakland.org
www.lakemerritt-uptown.org

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