



Bronzeville Eateries

Bronzeville's African-American creativity extends to food.

Stylish **Blu 47** (4655 South Martin Luther King Drive; blu47restaurant.com) serves creative Creole fare such as crab- and spinach-stuffed fried catfish. Or head to **Pearl's Place** (3901 South Michigan Avenue) for heaping portions of soul food—fried chicken, crab cakes, collard greens, and sweet potato pie.

The Negro League Café (301 East 43rd Street) supplies Southern favorites including rosemary blackened salmon, fried catfish nuggets, and smothered steak. Profits help fund players' pensions.

ORD

Entertain
This

Chicago's Bronzeville Galleries

This historical African-American neighborhood has art aplenty.

A STORIED PAST BURSTING WITH MUSICAL AND LITERARY greats, landscaped boulevards, and gloriously restored mansions are no longer Bronzeville's only claims to fame. The Southside Chicago neighborhood, home to such landmarks as U.S. Cellular Field (formerly Comiskey Park) and the Illinois Institute of Technology, also boasts the city's hottest art gallery scene. The newly relocated **Neleh Galleries Internationale** (Tel: 312-225-5692 or nelehgalleries.com) heads the list of must-see art spaces. Its four galleries are housed in a four-story 1894 Frank Lloyd Wright row house, one of only four ever built. The gallery focuses on international artists and original oils, acrylics, sculpture, and lithographs. Owner Helen West also hosts the annual **Lake Meadows Art Fair** June 15–17 outside the Lake Meadows Shopping Center.

Make it a night:
Tour the Bronzeville galleries and then partake in a different kind of art—the culinary variety.

For cutting-edge contemporary photography and mixed-media works, photographer Bryant Johnson's **Steelelife Gallery** (above, Tel: 773-538-4773) presents provocative art in a glossy, loftlike setting. At the sunny **Nicole Gallery 2** (Tel: 773-373-4700 or nicolegallery.com), charming Haitian expatriate Nicole Smith concentrates on Caribbean art, Shona stone sculpture, and contemporary African pieces. A diverse collection of ceramics, blown glass, sculpture, and paintings representing the African diaspora fills the impressive three-level **Gallery Guichard** (Tel: 773-373-8000 or galleryguichard.com), run by painter Andre Guichard. To easily visit all the galleries in one artsy evening, hop on the monthly art district trolley tour, starting at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place and stopping at each gallery every 30 minutes. Sponsored by the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center, the tour begins at 6 p.m. every third Friday of the month (Tel: 888-782-2842). ■—*Rosalind Cummings-Yeates*