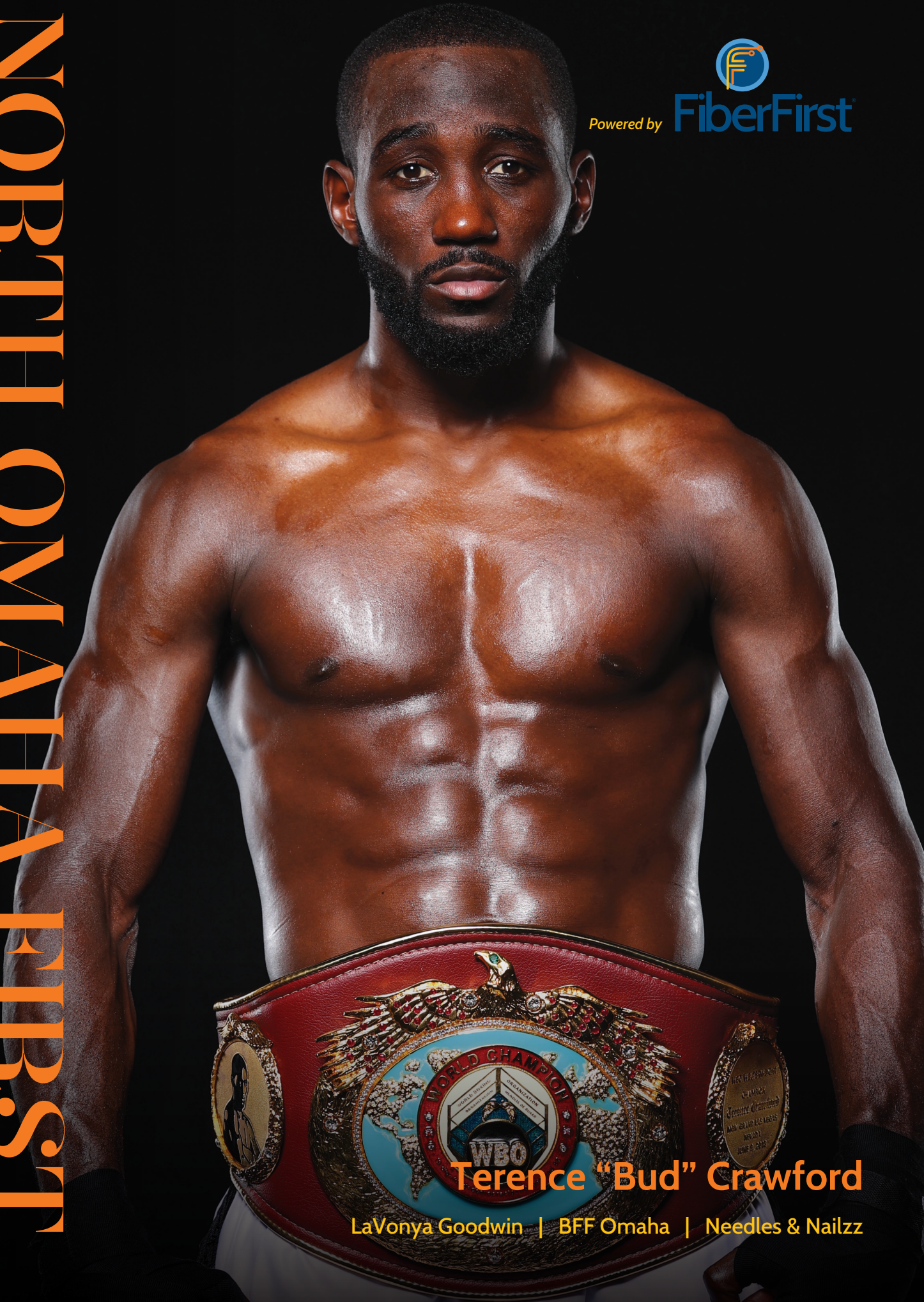




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Letter from the Editor

Spring Blooms in North Omaha

Sports have always had a place in North Omaha, being home to well-known athletes such as Gale Sayers, Bob Boozer, Bob Gibson, and others. One of those notable athletes is Omaha legend Terence “Bud” Crawford, a nationally acclaimed boxer who has won 10 belts across four weight classes: lightweight, junior welterweight, welterweight, and junior middleweight. The story of how he got started in boxing, and how he remains committed to his North Omaha roots, starts on page 8.

Along with being committed to his North Omaha roots, he’s also helping to enrich the lives of other youth, particularly in North Omaha, through his B&B Sports Academy. This athletic center is Crawford’s training gym, but is also a youth sports facility that, according to their website, “builds body, mind, and character.” The story of one special event held there can be found on page 14.

While many enjoy being able to get outdoors and play catch or hula hoop, others think of spring as a time to take a long walk in near-perfect temperatures or plant a garden. This edition of *North Omaha First* will introduce you to other fabulous people and activities.

More than 10 years ago, an event started in an area of Omaha my husband and I have always loved. Benson began hosting a monthly art walk, lovingly named BFF for Benson First Fridays. At the helm of BFF was Alex Jochim, who not only helped get Benson First Fridays started, he has elevated BFF to nonprofit status, cofounded Petshop (now the official BFF Omaha office), and has seen the monthly walk through this popular neighborhood grow to host annual arts festivals, artist markets, and more. How Jochim has done all this (without burning out) is the subject of a People First article.

LaVonya Goodwin, board president of the North 24th Street BID, has been making sure the heritage of her home area of North 24th Street remains true. She has been leading an effort to restore and revitalize the stretch of North 24th Street between Cuming Street and Meredith Avenue.

Shannon Kyler, manager of City Sprouts community garden, is upholding the organization’s mission to develop equitable food systems, build community, and provide educational opportunities using urban agriculture. While the gardens themselves are a way for anyone to try their hands at growing food, the nonprofit also holds educational programs, tours, and offers a free fridge and pantry to those in need.

Business owner Quincy Hughes created a way for people all over North Omaha to wear personal art through Needles & Nailzz—a tattoo parlor and nail salon. It’s a unique concept that allows a variety of creatives to express themselves.

Daisy Hutzell-Rodman
Managing Editor
Content Studios Omaha

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Omaha’s own Bud Crawford has lived a knockout life. Story Page 8.

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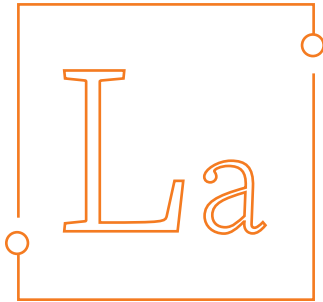
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BRINGING PRESTIGE BACK TO 24TH STREET

LaVonya Goodwin and the North 24th Street BID

Story by J.D. Avant // Photography by Bill Sitzmann



“We want to invite people back to this area and show them how much it has to offer. —LaVonya Goodwin”

Vonya Goodwin, board president of the North 24th Street BID (Business Improvement District), is leading an effort to restore and revitalize one of Omaha’s most culturally significant neighborhoods while safeguarding its rich heritage.

Known as the historic heart of Omaha’s Black culture, North 24th Street is a symbol of resilience, identity, and community. Goodwin and the BID are working tirelessly to preserve the character of the neighborhood as they implement plans to modernize and beautify the area.

“We can be a catalyst for change for North Omaha, (but) we don’t serve all of North Omaha,” Goodwin said, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the culture and identity that has long defined North 24th Street. While the BID covers a specific area—from Cuming Street to Meredith Avenue, and from 25th Street to 20th Street—its impact resonates far beyond its boundaries.

Since its establishment in 2020, the North 24th Street BID has successfully raised over \$15 million in infrastructure funds to kick-start the transformation. These efforts are part of the larger North 24th Street Streetscape Master Plan, a \$53 million multiyear project designed to modernize the area while ensuring it remains connected to its roots.

The master plan includes comprehensive updates, from improving pedestrian safety to enhancing the visual appeal of the neighborhood.

“It’s literally implementing sidewalks where there currently are none,” Goodwin explained.

For example, the corridor has only one bus shelter between Cuming Street and Meredith Avenue, and certain stretches of the street still feature outdated brick pavement.

“BIDs exist in places that need to improve,” Goodwin said, underscoring the significance of the initiative in bridging the past and the future.

North 24th Street’s designation as the heart of Omaha’s Black community by the National Register of Historic Places serves as both an inspiration and a responsibility for Goodwin and her team. The BID board, which is comprised of stakeholders from the district, is dedicated to making thoughtful, community-centered decisions.

“Elevate the fact that we sit within a historic district,” Goodwin said.

The BID’s boundaries encompass over 500 properties, each contributing to the area’s vibrant identity. From corporate stakeholders like McDonald’s to local institutions such as the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge and North End Teleservices, the BID works collaboratively to ensure their shared vision is realized.

One of the primary objectives is to support the neighborhood’s existing businesses, particularly those that have been vital to the community for decades. With a \$2 million façade improvement program,

the BID aims to help restore and enhance the exteriors of these businesses, ensuring they thrive as the area develops.

“Our first and primary goal is to ensure legacy businesses that have been holding it down have the opportunity to function as the area grows and develops,” Goodwin said.

The BID is also navigating partnerships with local entities and municipal governments to unlock over \$200 million in additional infrastructure investments for the corridor. These projects will elevate the neighborhood’s profile, attracting visitors from outside North Omaha.

“We want to invite people back to this area and show them how much it has to offer,” Goodwin said.

While attracting new businesses is a long-term goal, the immediate focus remains on uplifting existing ones. The revitalization effort is as much about community pride as it is about economic development.

“With challenges come great rewards,” Goodwin said, a sentiment that captures the spirit of North 24th Street—a neighborhood poised for a bright future while staying true to its storied past. 🌍



Scan to learn more about
North 24th Street BID



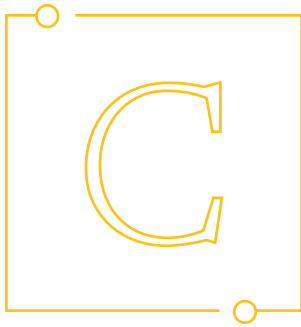
LaVonya Goodwin



Shannon Kyler

CITY SPROUTS: Community Through Gardening

Story by Tamsen Butler // Photography by Sarah Lemke



ity Sprouts has a mission to develop equitable food systems, build community, and provide educational opportunities using urban agriculture. With two campuses in the Metro area (the Garden Campus on 40th and Seward streets, and the Farm Campus on Fourth and Fort streets), this not-for-profit charitable organization offers residents of all ages the opportunity to get their hands in the dirt and gain a better understanding of where their food comes from.

Both campuses are managed by City Sprouts' Shannon Kyler, who said that the community truly enjoys the garden spaces. She said that many community members share vivid and happy memories of their grandparents gardening and are excited to utilize the space.

The only exception, Kyler admitted with a laugh, is that many people don't want anything to do with the chickens on the campus. Though her passion is connecting people with food and animals, and her experiences with everyone has been largely positive across the board, she said that people have mixed reactions to chickens. She said that people "either really love them or are totally freaked out by them."

How does Kyler help people feel more at ease with chickens? "What I tell people is chickens are the closest living relative to the T-rex, so maybe they just seem like a raptor," she said. "Chickens are just weird."

Alektorophobia aside, City Sprouts allows community members to pick foods from the garden—a change from years past, when people would rent out individual garden beds. Nowadays, a volunteer group plants the garden and anyone can come visit to

harvest. Kyler estimated that around a thousand pounds of produce goes out to people from the garden every season.

She estimated that another 15,000 pounds of produce grown at the City Sprouts farm are then distributed to a local food bank.

When she conducts garden tours with visitors, Kyler enjoys teaching them about edible flowers, such as nasturtiums. "It's a little spicy and people gather round to eat it and think it's kind of cool," she said. She also enjoys digging up potatoes and helping kids make the connection that potatoes are French fries. "There's a lot of stuff in the garden that are tactile that people can touch and smell and taste," she added, saying that engaging in all the senses makes garden tours more fun and memorable.

Kyler, who lives four blocks from the Garden Campus, said that North Omaha "has a super-rich history and diversity, and so many kind, beautiful, interesting, people." She's happy to serve the community she loves.

City Sprouts recently celebrated its 30th birthday—a milestone that Kyler attributed to the partnerships the not-for-profit has with other local organizations doing work in North Omaha that address food insecurity and urban agriculture, such as Big Garden, No More Empty Pots, the Malcolm X Foundation, and more. "Everyone's doing a little different thing, but they all complement each other. What's important is we're all working together towards the same goal," Kyler said.

As for the Garden Campus, it offers educational programs, tours, and a free fridge and pantry that's open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's a way for people in the community to either donate or get food. It opened during the pandemic and the staff has been pleased and surprised to see it in use at all hours, especially when they see kids on their way home from school stopping to grab a bite to eat. Kyler also said that she often sees people walking through the garden, appreciating the scenery, and sometimes stopping for a leisurely picnic on the grounds.

Last spring, City Sprouts received the OPPD Greener Together grant, which allows the organization to have solar panels installed and to put a sidewalk in throughout the garden, making it more accessible.

Kyler's advice for anyone wanting to get started in gardening is that there's no need to be intimidated or scared. "You can start small," she advised. "It can be fun without being perfect or knowing everything." And for those people who don't want to garden, she offered encouragement to "support local farms and talk to your neighbors who are growing fresh things."

Volunteering for City Sprouts is another excellent way to either get involved in gardening or to share a love of gardening with the community. The organization is always looking for volunteers who are ready to "grow" with it. 🌱

Visit omahasprouts.org for more information.



[North Omaha] has a super-rich history and diversity, and so many kind, beautiful, interesting, people.

—Shannon Kyler

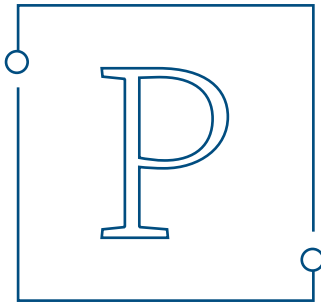


Scan to learn more about
City Sprouts

TERENCE “BUD” CRAWFORD

Boxing Great Leads Knockout Life

Story by Kara Schweiss // Photography Contributed



Professional boxer Terence “Bud” Crawford has held multiple world championships in several weight classes, and, since his professional debut in 2008, is undefeated at 41-0 with 31 knockouts. He’s known worldwide and has achieved a level of success that would allow him to live pretty much anywhere, but Crawford still chooses to make his home and raise his seven children in his hometown.

“I love Omaha. I feel this is a great place to raise a family,” he said.

His boxing trunks with “Omaha” across the back of the waistband pay subtle homage to Crawford’s roots in every bout. He grew up in North Omaha, and in 2018, Larimore Avenue was renamed Terence “Bud” Crawford Street in his honor.

“I’m proud to rep my city. You know, a lot of people rep their city; they like to say where they’re from: ‘I’m from Texas,’ ‘I’m from New York,’ ‘I’m from Chicago,’ ‘I’m from California,’” he said. “And me, personally, I’m just proud to be from Omaha.”

Crawford is quick to laud North Omaha’s unique cultural and historical importance, referencing Malcolm X, North 24th Street, and the area’s character. “I want North Omaha to grow...North Omaha is important to all of us,” he said.

His North Omaha upbringing shaped him as a person, Crawford said. “Trials and tribulations and poverty...I think things that I had to overcome and face as a youth is what led me to be who I am today, as a humble individual.”

While Crawford and his two sisters were growing up, their father, Terence Sr., was in the Navy and usually stationed far away. Their mother, Debbie, was left to manage the family alone much of the time, and they often faced significant financial stress. Crawford has spoken openly about the difficulties of his childhood and sometimes-strained relationship with his mother, whose misguided efforts to make her boy tough included paying neighborhood kids to try to beat him up. Not surprisingly, fighting became a problem. Neighbor Carl Washington—owner of C.W. Boxing Club, where Crawford’s father, grandfather, and uncle had trained—introduced a 7-year-old Crawford to the idea of focusing his athleticism and channeling his aggression in the ring. Local boxing legend and coach Fred “Midge” Minor soon became a mentor, and Crawford learned to box—and excel at the sport.

In 2001, he connected with trainers Brian “BoMac” McIntyre, who also grew up in North Omaha, and Esau Dieguez, a national amateur boxing champion from Guatemala. The two still work with Crawford today. In 2013, McIntyre and Crawford opened B&B Boxing Academy (B&B for Bud and BoMac), a non-profit gym they describe as “dedicated to building the body, mind, and character of young people, including at-risk youth in need of positive, structured activities.” Now B&B Sports Academy, the facility welcomes area youth who want to pursue fitness, explore recreational or competitive boxing or mixed martial arts, or simply find the same kind of sanctuary McIntyre and Crawford discovered at CW Boxing Club and its associated CW Youth Resource Center.

“We wanted to make a different avenue for the kids in North Omaha to have a place to go to and be safe, to learn new trades, to learn self-discipline, and to teach these young individuals about being responsible for their own actions and (being) young adults,” Crawford said.

Crawford emphasized that B&B serves both boys and girls. In fact, girls interested in boxing have been welcome to train at B&B since the beginning.

“Now, that’s something that we were always going to do,” he said. “The females, they could come in and train, they could come in and box. You got Laila Ali, you got Claressa Shields. You got Anne Wolfe—and those are just a couple of marquee women that have done great things in the sport of boxing. So, it’s not just a man’s sport; it’s a woman’s sport as well. And you want to pay homage to not only the fellas, but to the women as well.”

▶ continued on pg. 14



We wanted to make a different avenue for the kids in North Omaha to have a place to go to and be safe, to learn new trades, to learn self-discipline, and to teach these young individuals about being responsible for their own actions and (being) young adults.

—Terence ‘Bud’ Crawford



Terence "Bud" Crawford



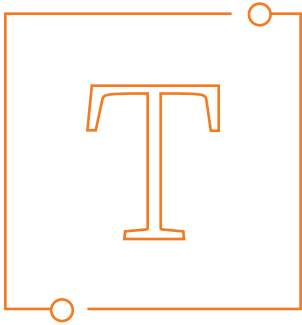


Alex Jochim

CONTINUING INSTEAD OF BURNING OUT

Alex Jochim Turns Volunteer Art Walk into Popular Nonprofit

Story by Sean McCarthy // Photography by Sarah Lemke



The first few weeks of the new year are typically known as a slow time in art circles. The Benson area, however, bucked that trend.

The night of Jan. 3, 2025, proved brisk and chilly, not the sort of weather one thinks of for a hot, hip night on the town; yet the year's first Benson First Friday (BFF) art walk was just getting started. Staff at Edge of the Universe, 6070 Maple St., were busy preparing for a group of Cirque du Soleil-style dancers as well as finishing decorating for the café's new theme. The staff had to change the décor from its then-roaring '20s Great Gatsby-inspired setup into a Salvador Dali-esque theme, titled *Dreamscape: An Adventure in Surrealism*.

"We still need to get our melting clocks installed," said Adam Van Osdel, owner and operator at Edge of the Universe, in the hours before the event.

The second week of January, Alex Jochim was in the Petshop gallery, 2725 N. 62nd St. He walked past a thrift store-style couch and a sink spattered by hundreds of paint supplies, and into a general workspace. Jochim is co-founder and executive director of the organization that hosts BFF. In 13 years, Jochim has taken BFF from hosting scrappy art gallery pop-ups in abandoned buildings to being an established nonprofit with three full-time members.

Jochim graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007 with a degree in journalism. He moved to New York in 2008 to study photography at the New School in Manhattan. Tragedy brought Jochim back to Omaha. In

2009, Jochim's mother, Sharon, died. While tending to family matters, he took a job bartending at Jake's Cigars & Spirits. That gig put him in contact with other artists and creatives. In 2012, Jochim, artist J.D. Hardy, and a few other friends and artists attempted an art walk in Benson. The unofficial, inaugural First Friday almost didn't happen. It rained until an hour before the walk was supposed to begin. The rain finally dissipated, and the event's success demanded more walks.

For almost three years, this routine continued, but at the expense of Jochim and other organizers. The then-named Benson First Friday was a volunteer effort requiring almost full-time work for the organizers. Their strategy of putting in long, unpaid hours to keep the First Fridays afloat was becoming unsustainable. "It was a matter of burning out or continuing," Jochim said.

In 2015, Jochim and the BFF team began the process of becoming a nonprofit. During this time, BFF board secretary Sarah Cavanagh, who was a law school student at Creighton, helped guide the group through the arduous legal labyrinth. She quickly learned that becoming a nonprofit requires a lot of steps, such as submitting a 25-page application to the Internal Revenue Service.

"It was very overwhelming, even as an attorney, to look at that paperwork and see what all had to get put together," Cavanagh said on a phone call from her law office at Houghton Bradford Whitted.

BFF gained its status as a nonprofit in 2015. This meant the organization could now apply for federal and state grants as well as foundations. Along with the influx of grant money, the designation also gave it a much-needed boost of credibility.

"It gives you a bit more legitimacy as well when you're going into communities," Cavanagh said.

"We're not just a couple of ragtag kids. We've put in the work."

In order for each Benson First Friday to happen, J.P. Gurnett, BFF's communications and creative director, reaches out to roughly 30 galleries, businesses, and venues to see what will be showcased. That information gets updated on BFF's website as well as a physical map of the neighborhood. Jochim said they usually revise the map up until the Wednesday before the First Friday event. A typical map will have between 30 and 40 events to pick from.

"It's kind of a 'choose your own adventure,'" Jochim said.

BFF has worked to improve overall accessibility to its galleries as well as the First Friday events. Last year, BFF had American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for all of its events. With assistance from the Nebraska Arts Council, the south side of Petshop's lot was paved. Jochim hopes to pave even more of the gravel lot next to Petshop so that those with limited mobility could have better access to its outdoor venues as well as the MaMO, its mobile art gallery. "Our goal is to have the accessibility changes done in May," Jochim said.

Once those changes are done, Jochim hopes to have a summer outdoor concert series in the parking lot near Petshop. In April, BFF plans to start a weekly gallery night, where he hopes to get many Benson art galleries open Thursday nights.

Between organizing these events and fundraising, Jochim isn't able to indulge in his original passion for photography. More than half of his time today is spent on fundraising. But Jochim said working with other creatives in Omaha has kept him inspired artistically.

"I feel like I haven't lost my creative edge," Jochim said. 🌍

To learn more about BFF, visit bffomaha.org.

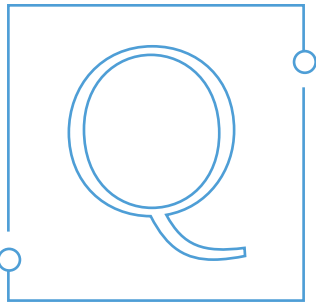


Scan to learn more about
Benson First Friday

NEEDLES & NAILZZ:

Where Creativity and Community Meet in Omaha

Story by Brandi Long-Frank // Photography by Bill Sitzmann



uincy Hughes, the founder and owner of Needles & Nailzz, created a unique space in Omaha, Nebraska, where art and community intersected. Specializing in both tattoos and nails, Hughes' shop became a hub of creativity, collaboration, and support for artists and clients. Though the tattoo side of the business received attention, it was the nail salon that became the heart and soul of the operation, drawing clients from across the area.

"We started by working in someone else's space. I rented the front area of a shop to work as both a tattoo and nail artist. But we quickly recognized the need for our own space, a place to bring in others who shared the same vision," Hughes recalled. "We began from scratch, borrowing money from family members, including our moms, to make it happen. Our first location was in south Omaha, and from there, we brought in other artists who needed a place to grow, as well as performers who valued the freedom our space offered."

Once Needles & Nailzz found its footing, it became more than just a place for tattoos and manicures—it turned into a sanctuary for those wanting to express themselves through art. While the tattoo side was popular, Hughes' nail salon gained a loyal following, with clients often returning for the atmosphere just as much as the services.

"Our clients often told us that what kept them coming back was the energy of our space," Hughes said. "While we had talented artists, it was the people and the environment that created the

most relaxed and enjoyable experience. The friendly vibe, the camaraderie, the laughs—it was always a great time. That's the type of environment we built, and its why people loved coming back."

What set Needles & Nailzz apart was the collaborative spirit that flowed throughout the shop. Hughes and his team shared ideas and inspiration freely, feeding off each other's creativity. Whether it was new nail designs, innovative nail products, or fresh tattoo ideas, the team always looked for ways to push boundaries.

"We were very collaborative, constantly sharing ideas," Hughes said. "If I came across something interesting—whether it was new tattoo art, nail art, products, or jewelry—I immediately shared it with the team. We kept the creative energy flowing and inspired each other. We also taught each other a lot. For example, tattoo artists would visit the nail salon and offer fresh ideas for designs, and we assisted one another in various ways."

This spirit of collaboration was especially evident with the nail artists at Needles & Nailzz. The shop attracted some of the most talented nail artists in Omaha, each bringing their own unique style and perspective. Together, they pushed the limits of nail art, offering everything from intricate designs to bold, statement-making nails.

The artists at Needles & Nailzz didn't just focus on traditional nail care—they blended tattoo art, fashion, and even fine art into their designs, creating truly one-of-a-kind looks for their clients.

"We worked primarily by appointment, catering to our clients' specific needs," Hughes explained. "If a client came in with a design they saw on Pinterest, I made sure to offer options that personalized it to fit their unique style. We believed in creating something that reflected their individuality, even if the original design came from a completely

different culture. It was important to incorporate personal elements to make it truly theirs."

This commitment to customization was evident in the nail art services at Needles & Nailzz. Whether a client wanted a specific color palette or an intricate design, Hughes and his team worked closely with each person to ensure they left the shop with a nail look that perfectly reflected their personal style.

One of the core values that drove Needles & Nailzz was inclusivity and education. Hughes was passionate about sharing his knowledge and skills with anyone eager to learn. Whether through formal training or casual mentorship, he and his team were dedicated to helping others succeed in the nail and tattoo industries.

"Our biggest contribution to the community and industry was our commitment to teaching anyone who wanted to learn," Hughes said. "Our space was open to anyone eager to develop their skills, and we were passionate about sharing the knowledge we had. We didn't discriminate—everyone was welcome. We focused on teaching the proper techniques, tools, and safety protocols to ensure those who joined the industry were equipped to succeed."

At Needles & Nailzz, creativity and community thrived. Hughes' commitment to building a space that encouraged collaboration, self-expression, and education allowed both clients and artists to grow. Whether clients came in for a unique nail design or just to enjoy the lively atmosphere, Needles & Nailzz became a place where people felt at home—a space where they could truly be themselves. 🌍



Scan to learn more about
Needles & Nailzz



Quincy Hughes



▶ continued from pg. 8

His own children are not involved in boxing at this time, but Crawford stands behind them in their other individual pursuits. In his everyday life, the world-class athlete drives his kids around to their activities like any other involved parent and strives to be present for milestones and special occasions.

“I always was taught ‘family first’; my family is very family-oriented. But when I was growing up, my dad was in the Navy, so he was pretty much on the road or out to sea, and I really didn’t get to see him too much. He was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, so that was kind of tough on me,” he said. “I vowed, I’d say if I ever had opportunity to have children that I was going to be there with them every step of the way.”

He’s often recognized when he’s out and about, but Crawford is sometimes seen merely as someone’s dad or another guy in the neighborhood, and that’s all right by him.

“I always had the mindset that I’m no better than the next person...I’m humbled enough to be in the position that I am, and I’m just blessed; God gave me opportunities to be where I’m at to help people. So, I didn’t ever want to feel like I’m better than anybody. I never want to feel like I need special treatment because of who I am,” he said. “So, I walk around like I’m a regular person—because I am a regular person.”

Crawford said he hopes his legacy will be as much about his family and service to the community as it is about his athletic career.

“I want people to remember me for, of course, how great I was inside the ring,” he said. “But I want them to remember before that—even greater than that—as a person that helped, not always my children, but other people’s children as well and who has set a good example for the children coming after me.”



Scan to learn more about
B&B Sports Academy

Sports First:

SISTER CITY DELEGATES VISIT NORTH OMAHA B&B Sports Academy Hosts Event

Story by Kara Schweiss // Photography by Contributed



B&B Sports Academy, along with Butler-Gast YMCA in North Omaha, hosted a unique collaboration this spring.

The Omaha Sister Cities Association welcomed the Kenyunjuku Karate School from Shizuoka, Japan, Omaha’s Japanese Sister City, on March 22 and 23. The exchange program brought the karate school together with B&B, offering minority youth in North Omaha an opportunity to experience martial arts and cultural connection.

The first day, students of the boxing school were able to cross-train with the visiting group, learning about the history of karate, its cultural significance in Japan, and foundational techniques. B&B offered insights into American boxing and the gym’s community outreach efforts. On March 23, the program held a public demonstration at Butler-Gast YMCA by five different martial arts schools showcasing Japanese techniques.

Shizuoka, Japan, was the first of Omaha’s sister cities, established in 1965 by leading Omaha businessmen who saw the importance of establishing international connections and cultural education for Omaha and its citizens.

“We’re always looking for cultural exchanges to get them to different parts of the city,” said Joe Chapuran, an OSCA board member who used to live in Shizuoka. “I

was thinking of ways to get different parts of the community involved. What would the minority community in Omaha be interested in? I knew about B&B, and I love what they’re trying to do—trying to get kids off the streets by getting them into boxing. This is something the kids would get a kick out of. It ties in the cultural aspect to B&B’s mission. At the end of the day, it’s about learning about the culture of Japan, the traditions and the influence on their lives. It was a neat fit.”

B&B opened in 2013 as a nonprofit gym dedicated to supporting youth fitness and character-building through boxing, and now offers mixed-martial arts training in addition to boxing training, making this collaboration perfect for the venue. B&B’s objective as a community-based athletic center is to build body, mind, and character. The mission states that “Expert, caring coaches help members reach goals inside and outside the ring. Positive, structured activities teach confidence, discipline and healthy habits for a lifetime.”

“The United States is like the number-one country for obesity. It’s critical that we get kids active,” said founder Terence “Bud” Crawford. “We have to push eating right, the proper exercises, so they can have a healthier life.”

Fun First: ACTIVITIES / EVENTS AROUND NORTH OMAHA

Event information is correct as of presstime. Details are subject to change, please check the official websites as provided.

EASTER IN THE VILLAGE

April 19
24th Street from Ohio to Burdette Streets
402-502-5153

Easter in the Village is the perfect way to kick off spring. The entire family is invited to come to North Omaha for a day packed with fun activities, live entertainment, and festive treats for all ages. Connect with friends, neighbors, and the community while enjoying games, music, and that springtime energy. Save the date—you won't want to miss this joyful celebration!

—empoweromaha.com

FLORENCE DAYS

May 17
North 30th St. from State to McKinley Streets
402-453-6688

Florence celebrates its heritage each year with a parade and lots of other activities; this year the parade will be on the Saturday of the second full weekend of May. There are several historical attractions in this area, such as The Mormon Winter Quarters Temple and Pioneer Mommon Cemetery, Mill Museum, Florence Park, Keirle House, and Notre Dame Academy and Convent, and the festival includes performances by the Florentine Players and a parade on Saturday.

—historicflorence.org

FIFTH ANNUAL OMAHA FREEDOM FESTIVAL

June 14
Malcolm X Event Plaza
531-772-0842

This festival celebrates the Juneteenth holiday, which honors the emancipation of those enslaved in the United States. Events include a kidz zone, family-friendly and educational activities, community info, free health screenings, a vaccine station, local artists and musicians, and food and beverage vendors.

—omahafreedomfestival.com



Photos Contributed

APRIL

HOLY NAME FISH FRY

Fridays through April 11
Holy Name Catholic Church
2901 Fontenelle Blvd.
402-451-6622
—holynamemaha.org

MONO WEIGHT + TRAJECTORY

Through April 19
The Union for Contemporary Art
2423 N. 24th St.
402-933-3161
—u-ca.org

BENSON FIRST FRIDAYS

Fridays April 4, May 2, June 6
Along Maple St. between 57th & 70th Streets
info@bffomaha.org
—bffomaha.org

OMAHA TATTOO ARTS FESTIVAL

April 4-6
CHI Health Center
455 N. 10th St.
402-341-1500
—chihealthcenteromaha.com

DANCEFESTOPIA PRESENTS: YELLOW BRICK ROAD TOUR

April 9
Reverb Lounge
6121 Military Ave.
402-884-5707
—reverbblounge.com

SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOWCASE NIGHTS

Thursdays April 18, May 15, June 19
NOMA
2510 N. 24th St.
531.867.4280
—northomahamusic.org

ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE

April 18-May 11
Omaha Community Playhouse
6915 Cass St.
402-553-0800
—omahaplayhouse.com

EASTER IN THE VILLAGE

April 19
24th Street from Ohio to Burdette Streets
402-502-5153
—empoweromaha.com

UNION DAYS

April 26-27
The Union for Contemporary Art
2423 N. 24th St.
402-933-3161
—u-ca.org

MAY

HAMILTON

May 7-19
Orpheum Theater
409 S. 16th St.
402-345-0606
—ticketomaha.com

ARM'S LENGTH

May 8
Waiting Room Lounge
6212 Maple St.
402-884-5353
—waitingroomlounge.com

FLORENCE DAYS 2025

May 17
Florence area (North 30th St. from McKinley St. to Sorenson)
—historicflorence.org

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

May 26
Memorial Park
6005 Underwood Ave.
402-444-5955
—parks.cityofomaha.org

SHANE GILLIS LIVE

May 30
CHI Health Center Omaha
455 N 10th St.
402-341-1500
—chihealthcenteromaha.com

JUNE

FARMERS MARKET

Sundays starting in June
Florence Mill
9102 N 30th St.
402-551-1233
—florencemill.com

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

June 13-23
Charles Schwab Field
808 N. 13th St.
402-554-4404
—cwsomaha.com

ART BATTLE OMAHA

June 14
Culxr House
3014 N. 24th St.
402-320-4769
—culxrhousomaha.com

OMAHA FREEDOM FESTIVAL

June 19
Malcolm X Outside Event Plaza
3448 Evans St.
800-645-9287
—malcolmxfoundation.org

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