

BLANTON MUSEUM 卨 ART



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The Blanton and Justine's Brasserie Announce Café Partnership

Sister restaurant and daytime version of the acclaimed Austin favorite is expected to open at the Blanton in Spring 2025 with a breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu.

AUSTIN, TX— April 22, 2024—The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin and Justine's Brasserie are excited to announce their collaboration on a new museum café. Expected to open in Spring 2025 next to the Blanton's Check-In lobby, it will offer a prime location for visitors to dine and drink, including a shaded outdoor deck for al fresco dining with views of the Capitol and *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly. Joel Mozersky, renowned designer for Austin standouts such as Uchi, Uchiko, and La Condesa, has been tapped for the new concept.

"At the Blanton, we've created a vibrant space where art, creativity, and community can flourish, and Justine's brings that same commitment and energy to this collaboration," said Blanton Director Simone Wicha. "Much like our museum, they offer a unique aesthetic and memorable experience while remaining true to their Austin roots. I can't wait to see how they capture the spirit of the museum and infuse it into this new café. It'll add so much to the Blanton experience, providing a warm, welcoming space with delicious food, a place to linger and reflect before and after exploring the galleries, and a fun destination to meet for brunch or Saturday evening drinks."

Well-known for its French bistro classics and late-night dining, Justine's opened in 2009 in a remodeled bungalow in East Austin. Now a staple of the city's dynamic restaurant scene with a seasonal dinner and drink menu, it's also renowned for its creativity, artistic collaborations, and live music performances. Justine's has been lauded by *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, among other national and international publications. It consistently ranks on *Eater's* list of 38 Essential Restaurants in Austin and has been a multi-year winner of "Best French" and "Best Romantic Dinner" awards from *The Austin Chronicle*, which also deemed it "possibly the coolest restaurant in town" (2023).

"Pierre and I are thrilled about this opportunity," says Justine Gilcrease, who runs Justine's with her husband Pierre Pelegrin. "We originally opened Justine's to share our love of art and beautiful food in a space that welcomes everyone, and the Blanton has the same joyful, inclusive sensibility. That our new restaurant will look out onto Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, largely inspired by the Romanesque cathedrals and Cistercian chapels he visited when he lived in France, makes the partnership even dreamier, as does working with Simone and this incredible museum staff. They share our vision for a multi-faceted café that will offer everything from a counter bakery that combines fresh local produce with French classics,

to a quick garden lunch before seeing the newest exhibition, and an elegant bar for lingering with friends over chilled rosé. It will be a creative hub like the great unrushed Parisian cafés, only its magic will be enhanced by the Texas sunshine, distinct Austin energy, and location at one of the city's most dynamic cultural institutions.”

The new café will serve breakfast and lunch during museum hours, with dinner offered on Saturdays, when the Blanton is open late until 8:00 p.m. Grab-and-go items will also be available, including picnic boxes for those who wish to enjoy a meal outside on the Blanton's Moody Patio or amidst the live oaks of the Butler Sound Gallery. Throughout the year, special menu items will be inspired by the museum's exhibitions and collections.

More information on the café name, menu, design, and pre-opening on-site pop-ups will be announced later. To track the project as it unfolds, follow @justinesxblanton on Instagram.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

About Justine's 1937 Group Inc.

Justine's 1937 Group Inc. was established in 2006 by partners in business and life Justine Gilcrease and Pierre Pelegrin. They opened the doors to Justine's Brasserie on East 5th Street in 2009 and have been expanding ever since into catering and adding an in-house bakery to their operations.