

## Austin's 30 most influential

### **Clifford Antone, Founder, Antone's**

[Clifford Antone](#) was noted as founder of the internationally known nightclub Antone's — known to many as Austin's home of the blues — and a driving force behind making Austin and Sixth Street synonymous with live music.

Since its founding in 1975, Antone's hosted such musical luminaries as Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, [Willie Dixon](#), [John Lee Hooker](#), [Fats Domino](#), Sunnyland Slim, [Hubert Sumlin](#), [Eddie Taylor](#), [Walter "Shakey" Horton](#), Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, [Pinetop Perkins](#), Albert King, [James Cotton](#), [Calvin Jones](#), Willie "Big Eye" Smith, Bobby Blue Bland and B.B. King.



Despite legal troubles late in his life — he pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in 1999 and served a prison term — Antone did not let that be Austin's last memory of him. He was involved in a fundraising campaign called "Help Clifford Help Kids" for American Youthworks. In 2005, he coordinated musicians in a charity concert that raised money for victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

In January 2006, Antone resumed management of his club, which was operated by Austin-based Direct Events Inc. for three years. A little less than six months later, he died.

### **Joe Aragona, General partner, Austin Ventures LP**

About 30 years ago Harvard-educated [Joe Aragona](#) co-founded what's become Austin's most prolific venture capital firm.

Austin Ventures has propelled scores of startups in Austin and elsewhere, and has been a cornerstone of Central Texas' high tech success. Aragona has worked closely with dozens of Austin companies such as LDR Spine, Pervasive Software and ClearCommerce. His venture capital firm now has almost \$4 billion under management and has jettisoned darlings like HomeAway and Bazaarvoice into dot-com fame.

Aragona served on the board of the National Venture Capital Association from 1999-2006 and steers the cancer-fighting nonprofit Livestrong as a board member.

## **Lance Armstrong, Cyclist and founder of Livestrong**

[Lance Armstrong](#)'s impact on Austin goes well beyond the recognition he brought to the city by winning the Tour de France a record seven consecutive times.

His more lasting legacy will be the [Lance Armstrong](#) Foundation, the nonprofit that helps people affected by cancer, and its globally recognized trademark — Livestrong. Armstrong's successful battle against cancer is well-known.

The foundation has made a commitment not only to bettering the lives of cancer patients and their families, but also to being a visible East Austin neighbor. Two years after moving into a renovated paper company building on East Sixth Street, the foundation launched The Livestrong Center, a pilot program aimed at helping low-income East Austinites navigate the health care system.

Meanwhile, it has become the title partner of the Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon, a 20-year-old event that has generated more than \$90 million for the local economy and about \$6 million for area nonprofits.

## **[William Powers](#), University of Texas president and Enron investigator**

The University of Texas carries a lot of weight, and so does its chief, [William Powers](#).

Harvard-educated Powers came to UT in 1977 to teach law. He became dean of the law school, and in 2006 Powers took UT's reins as president.

His tenure has been filled with praise — but it hasn't escaped controversy, most recently related to the amount of research UT undertakes and the new Longhorn Network.

Powers has worked as a legal consultant with the U.S. Congress, the Brazilian Legislature and the Texas Legislature.

In 2001, he chaired a special investigation committee that examined the financial transactions of Enron Corp. The resulting report, which has come to be known as the "Powers Report," and his subsequent testimony before Congress, gained national recognition and exposed the inner workings of America's most infamous business.

## **Louis Black, Co-founder, Austin Chronicle and SXSW**

Louis Black has been editor of the Austin Chronicle since he and Publisher Nick Barbaro co-founded it with two others in 1981.

As editor, Black has overseen a brand of reporting and writing that challenges the status quo and influences political thought. His newspaper has become the essential weekly resource for information on entertainment and local culture.

Oh, and there's that festival, too.

Black and Barbaro are also co-founders of South by Southwest. What began in 1987 with the intention of being a small local music festival has evolved into a three-pronged — music, film and interactive — event over 10 days that draws thousands of people from around the world to Austin.

### **Bill Bunch, Executive director, Save Our Springs Alliance**

Bill Bunch has been executive director of the Save Our Springs Alliance since 2000, after also having been part of the group that drafted and lobbied for the 1992 Save Our Springs Ordinance.

Throughout those years, he has been a tireless advocate for safeguarding the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and Central Texas' watersheds.

Bunch, a Texas native who earned a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, practice environmental law in Austin with a firm and as a sole practitioner before becoming chief counsel for the SOS Alliance.

### **Paul Bury, CEO, Bury+Partners Inc.**

Paul Bury has spent many of his more than 30 years in development building an engineering, land planning and landscape architecture firm that has helped shape Central Texas.

And when he wasn't running Bury+Partners Inc., founded in 1984, he was often advocating for Austin, particularly as part of the Austin Chamber of Commerce's Opportunity Austin initiative, in which he was instrumental in recruiting businesses to Central Texas to increase the region's employment base.

In 2007, he received the W. Neal Kocurek Lifetime Achievement Award from the Austin Business Journal in recognition of his impact on the commercial real estate industry. In 2006, he was named the Volunteer of the Year in Economic Development by the Chamber, for which he served as chairman in 2009.

Bury+Partner's extensive résumé includes Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, the redevelopment of the Robert Mueller Airport, 1890 Ranch shopping center, AMLI Downtown, Crestview Station, Round Rock Premium Outlets and The Domain.

### **Paul Carrozza, CEO and founder, RunTex Inc.**

Paul Carrozza has been known to appear at a business awards event in running attire without anybody thinking it odd.

Perhaps no one in Austin personifies physical fitness — as a lifestyle and an industry — as much as Carrozza. In 1988, he founded RunTex Inc., and built it into a major retail company devoted to running and a hub among Austin's running community.

Meanwhile, Carrozza has been a go-to man for several initiatives aimed at improving the health and fitness in Austin, throughout Texas and nationwide. He's been an executive committee member of President [George W. Bush](#)'s Council of Fitness and Sports, co-chairman of Gov. [Rick Perry](#)'s Advisory Council on Fitness for Texas and chairman of the Mayor's Fitness Council for Austin. RunTex was named Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation of the Year in 2000.

The city's website for the Mayor's Fitness Council described Carrozza as "a visionary" who develops programs and events that contribute to the community's economic growth and increased quality of life.

### **[Susan Dawson](#), President and executive director, E3 Alliance**

[Susan Dawson](#) had already made an impact on Austin as a technology consultant and entrepreneur — and one of the Austin Chamber of Commerce's youngest chairwomen in 2001 — when she founded the E3 Alliance in May 2006. E3 — short for Education Equals Economics — is a regional collaborative that aims to increase economic outcomes by aligning local educational systems. Toward that end, the alliance has produced research and analysis about educational outcomes and trends, and engaged the community in new ways.

Dawson was active in education long before founding E3, having been a former board chairwoman and 13-year board member of American Youthworks. Other current and previous board positions include the executive board of the Austin Area Research Organization, Austin Chamber's Education and Talent Council, United Way Education Leadership Council, Leadership Austin, the AISD High School Redesign Task Force and Austin Partners in Education.

Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, including Austin Under 40 "Austinite of the Year," First Tee's 2011 Leadership Award and the McCombs School of Business's "Trailblazer Award" for distinguished women in business and the community. In 2005, she was recognized as a Hero for Children by the State Board of Education.

### **[Michael Dell](#), Founder, chairman and CEO of Dell Inc.**

During the past 28 years, [Michael Dell](#) has grown his company from a reseller of IBM computers into a global technology powerhouse that employs more than 100,000 people around the world — including an estimated 14,000 in Central Texas. The University of Texas dropout now ranks as the 19th-richest American, with an estimated net worth of \$15 billion, according to Forbes.

His company has spawned scores of millionaires and helped solidify Austin's stature as a high tech mecca. Dell and his wife, Susan, have contributed millions of dollars to various charitable causes in Central Texas. Seton's children's hospital bears the Dell name, and so does the Round Rock Express' baseball stadium and a theater at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

## **Patricia Hayes, Civic and business leader**

Pat Hayes came to Austin almost 30 years ago not knowing a soul. But after leading two of Austin's largest institutions, she ultimately became the go-to person for many of Austin's elite.

She was the first woman to lead St. Edward's University. From 1984 to 1998 Hayes led the university as president and steered it through a time of growth. It gave her the wherewithal to transition to be the chief operating officer of one of Austin's biggest employers — Seton Healthcare Family. It was a post she held until about five years ago. But while she oversaw the operations of 22 medical service locations — including several major hospitals — Hayes excelled at community service.

Hayes championed projects such as the Dell Children's Medical Center, KLRU, United Way Capital Area, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians and the Travis County Healthcare District, now known as Central Health.

## **Gary Hoover, Founder, Bookstop and Hoover's Inc.**

Few people embody the term "thought leader" like [Gary Hoover](#) does when it comes to entrepreneurship.

Hoover, after working as a securities analyst on Wall Street and an executive for two department store companies, created pioneering book superstore Bookstop, which was sold to Barnes & Noble for \$41.5 million when it was 7 years old. He started Hoover's, the Internet-based provider of information about enterprises around the world, which went public in July 1999 and was bought in March 2003 by Dun & Bradstreet for \$117 million.

Since then, Hoover has been sought after as a sage on how to think and act entrepreneurially. In 2009, Hoover was named entrepreneur-in-residence for a year at the Herb Kelleher Center for Entrepreneurship at the McCombs School of Business, where he focused on inciting and inspiring entrepreneurial thinking among students of all types, inside and outside the business school.

Meanwhile, he has started Hoovers World, a website "for lifelong learners."

## **Bobby Inman, Managing Director of Gefinor Ventures, and Limestone Ventures**

[Bobby Inman](#) reached the rank of admiral before retiring from the Navy in 1982. But the former director of the National Security Agency and former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency hardly retired after leaving government service.

He was brought aboard in 1983 to lead Austin's newly organized Microelectronics & Computer Technology Corp. — a hardware and software consortium created to help the United States preserve its edge in computer technology — and was one of the early board members at what's now Dell Inc. He also was chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 1987 through 1990.

Inman, largely through his firm Gefinor Ventures, has invested in more than 50 startups, and even at age 80 he said he doesn't intend to slow down. In fact, he's on the hunt for promising tech startups now.

**Gary Keller, Chairman and co-founder, Keller Williams Realty Inc.**

From a depressed residential real estate market in the 1980s, [Gary Keller](#) reinvisioned his local firm of 38 agents and grew Keller Williams Realty Inc. into a nationwide home-selling institution.

Now a real estate franchise company, Keller Williams has more than 80,000 real estate agents, operating in roughly 690 offices across the United States and Canada.

Keller's influence in his industry have yielded several accolades. He was named among the 100 Most Influential Real Estate Leaders of 2010 by Inman News and the second-most influential person in real estate by REALTOR magazine, and he has been voted one of the five "Most Admired People" in a survey conducted by Real Trends magazine. He was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Central Texas and was a finalist for Inc. magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year award.

**Laura Kilcrease, Founder and managing director of Triton Ventures LLC**

Some call [Laura Kilcrease](#) the mother of Austin's birth as a technopolis.

From 1992 to 1997 she was executive director of the University of Texas' Center for Commercialization and Enterprise at the IC<sup>2</sup> Institute.

While at IC<sup>2</sup>, Kilcrease co-developed and launched the Austin Technology Incubator, and was its founding executive director from 1989 to 1996.

During her tenure, the incubator nurtured 70 tech companies that created nearly 1,500 jobs and raised about \$170 million in funding.

Kilcrease also set up The Capital Network, a group of angel investors, and co-founded what's now the Austin Technology Council.

Before her involvement with UT, the London native was chief operating officer and chief financial officer of Austin's Nova Graphics International Corp., and was financial and sales manager of Control Data Corp. in London. In 1999, she founded Triton Ventures, an Austin firm that invests in technology startups and spinoffs.

## **Joe and Teresa Long, Founders, The Long Foundation**

You could say Joe and [Teresa Long](#) have made giving an art form in Austin.

Many recognize the Longs — even if they don't know who they are — as the main benefactors behind transforming the former Palmer Auditorium into the Long Center for the Performing Arts. The couple, who pledged \$20 million to the project, received a 2005 Texas Medal of Arts.

The Longs' philanthropy hasn't been limited to the arts. The couple has given millions to the University of Texas to create endowments for a faculty position and scholarship at the UT School of Law. [Joe Long](#) was a lawyer and banker, while his wife has a doctorate in education.

The Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Foundation was established in April 2000. The foundation is operated in connection with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine.

## **Neal Kocurek, Civic and business leader**

When Kocurek died in 2004 at age 67, he left a void in Central Texas' civic and business community.

At the time of his death, Kocurek was president and CEO of St. David's HealthCare and was helping to create Travis County's hospital district. Before that, he was executive vice president of environmental engineering services company Radian International LLC — a company he founded in 1969.

Kocurek helped lead the effort to build the Austin Convention Center, which now bears his name. He served the Austin Chamber of Commerce as its vice chairman, was president of the Austin Area Research Organization and was founder and chairman of Envision Central Texas.

## **[John Mackey](#), Chairman and co-CEO of Whole Foods Market Inc.**

A magazine once called [John Mackey](#) the [Bill Gates](#) of organic foods. That's pretty high praise, but it's deserved.

With an initial investment of \$45,000 borrowed from relatives and friends, Mackey and his then-girlfriend in 1978 opened a vegetarian health food store in Austin called SaferWay. Two years later, SaferWay merged with Clarksville Natural Grocery to form Whole Foods Natural Market, the country's first supermarket-style natural foods retailer.

Thirteen years after going public, Whole Foods Market has mushroomed to become the world's largest natural and organic foods retailer. The company has 316 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, with dozens more in the planning stages. The chain rung up \$2.4 billion worth of sales during its most recent quarter, and Mackey reduced his salary to \$1 in 2007.



## **Tom Meredith, General partner of Meritage Capital LP and CEO of MFI Capital LLC**

[Tom Meredith](#) may be best known as the chief financial officer who helped grow Round Rock's Dell Inc. into a top computer manufacturer during the 1990s.

Meredith arrived in Austin in 1992 when he became senior vice president and chief financial officer of Dell. He helped tame severe challenges before stepping down from that post in 2000 to serve one year leading Dell Ventures, where he oversaw the investment of more than \$1 billion in tech startups.

He ultimately founded Meritage Capital LP — where he serves as general partner — and his family investment arm MFI Capital LLC.

He also serves on the board of directors for Motorola Inc. and Austin-based Motive Inc.

He and his wife, Lynn, have donated millions to the Austin Museum of Art and the Long Center for the Performing Arts. His latest civic endeavor, however, revolves around making the American dream of owning a home attainable for everyone, and he has done that via recent real estate projects.

## **J.J. “Jake” Pickle, Congressman**

[Jake Pickle](#) played a critical role in transforming Austin into a center for high tech research and development, particularly through the establishment of International Sematech and Microelectronics & Computer Technology Corp.

He also secured significant federal funding for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, the Balcones National Wildlife Refuge and the University of Texas. In fact, the UT research campus in North Austin now bears his name.

Pickle, who served 31 years in the U.S. House, died six years ago at age 91.

In 1999, the UT alumnus told the Austin Business Journal about helping cultivate the university's research center in Austin: “A lot of people thought our only obligation to the university students was four years of education, and then send them on their way. The problem is, we were losing them to companies in the Northeast. There was nothing to keep them here.”

## **Pike Powers, Civic and business leader**

Pike Powers has been a powerful force in the formation of Austin as a high tech hub.

He helped secure two foundations of Austin's tech business — Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., or MCC, and International Sematech Inc. More recently, he was pivotal in getting Samsung Electronics Co. to invest several billion dollars into Austin chip-making plants.



The former state lawmaker chaired the initial board of the Austin Technology Incubator, has been chairman of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, was president of the Austin Area Research Organization and was co-creator of the Texas Technology Initiative.

He spent decades at law firm Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, and for the past few years has been tapped by a variety of consulting firms for his ability to secure government incentives for corporations and nonprofits.

### **Jamie Rhodes, Serial entrepreneur and investor**

[Jamie Rhodes](#) knows startups, and in this town that means a lot.

With the support of the Austin Chamber of Commerce and others, Rhodes founded and is chairman of the Central Texas Angel Network, and he recently organized the Alliance of Texas Angel Networks to foster entrepreneurship across the state.

Not long ago Texas A&M recognized Rhodes' startup savvy and appointed him director of new ventures. He travels to College Station frequently to sniff out commercialization opportunities.

Rhodes has more than 30 years of experience in technology management and has walked the entrepreneur's walk. He co-founded National NanoMaterials, started Perceptive Sciences Corp. and several other companies. His technological foundation was laid during stints at National Instruments and IBM, and he has steered several organizations, including the University of Texas' IC<sup>2</sup> Institute, the Rice Alliance Austin Chapter and the local United Way.

### **Robert Rodriguez, Filmmaker**

In 1990 [Robert Rodriguez](#) was just another University of Texas student aspiring to make movies.

But after making "Desperado" with [Antonio Banderas](#) in 1995, his fate as an iconic filmmaker began to materialize. Since then films such as "From Dusk Til Dawn," "Spy Kids," "Sin City" and "Machete" have thrilled audiences throughout the world — and helped solidify Austin's spot as a movie-making mecca.

From [George Lucas](#) to [Quentin Tarantino](#), Rodriguez's network is impressive, and the filmmaker has vowed to continue to make Austin his top choice for movie backdrops. Consequently, so are many other directors and producers.

### **Mike Rollins, Austin Chamber of Commerce president**

Need to get something big done in Austin? You'll probably need to get [Mike Rollins](#) in the loop.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce is typically at the center of all the major economic deals done in Central Texas — and is usually the starting point for CEOs considering moving their company here or expanding operations with the help of government incentives.

Rollins was tapped to lead the chamber in 2002 after heading several other chambers, including Nashville's. He has since gained a solid reputation for advancing Austin's economy and growing the chamber's operations through initiatives such as Opportunity Austin, an initiative that has raised tens of millions of dollars from business leaders to mature Austin's business climate.

### **Roy Spence, Co-founder, chairman and CEO of GSD&M**

The "S" in GSD&M is the face of what's now one of the largest advertising firms in the country.

Back in 1971, Roy Spence and a handful of other University of Texas graduates needed jobs and settled on starting an ad agency. Today, it's the most prolific Austin ad agency, and it's responsible for cultural icons such as the Don't Mess With Texas campaign and Southwest planes painted like Sea World's killer whale, Shamu.

Spence is a major supporter of collaboration and entrepreneurship and gets a kick out of side projects such as his Royito's Hot Sauce.

### **Denise Trauth, Texas State University President**

During the past decade [Denise Trauth](#) has steered Central Texas' second-largest university, Texas State, in a new direction that makes many business leaders rejoice.

One claim to fame is that she steered the school through a name change almost as soon as she got there in 2002. It was formerly Southwest Texas State University.

But her lesser-known missions have actually been more impactful. Trauth's acumen and connections have brought home some of Texas State's largest donations — including \$20 million for the naming of the College of Business Administration and the college's new building. And Trauth was able to secure state funding to launch the school's Round Rock campus, which is crucial to meeting workforce demands in areas such as health care.

### **[James Truchard](#), President and CEO of National Instruments Corp.**

Truchard, known affectionately as "Dr. T," is a high tech pioneer.

He co-founded National Instruments in 1976 while working at the University of Texas. At the time, he was managing director of the acoustical measurements division of UT's Applied Research Laboratories. Under Truchard's leadership, the company has pioneered development of virtual instrumentation software and hardware for engineers.

What began as a three-man business has evolved into a highly profitable company with more than 5,500 employees — and it routinely makes Forbes magazine's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

## **Lee Walker, Business and civic leader**

[Michael Dell](#) brought aboard [Lee Walker](#), then an East Coast venture capitalist, in 1986 to help build the management structure of PC's Ltd.

In fact, it was Walker who persuaded Dell to change his company's name. Walker steered Dell Inc. as president for four years — including its initial public offering — until he resigned in 1990, citing health problems.

He went on to become chairman of the [Lance Armstrong](#) Foundation, Community Investment Corp. and Pavilion Technologies Inc., and a board member of IntelliQuest Inc. He was named Austinite of the Year in 1998 by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and spent several hectic years as the chairman of Central Texas' embattled transit system — Capital Metro — after the turn of the century.

## **Kirk Watson, State senator**

Observers credit [Kirk Watson](#) with helping put Austin on the business map.

During Watson's tenure as mayor of Austin from 1997 to 2001, Forbes and Fortune magazines anointed Austin as the country's best place to do business — and they've been doing so ever since.

Watson propelled Smart Growth principles, which pushed developers away from the suburbs and near the city's core — but often with incentives involved. He also championed the idea of creating a “digital downtown,” and was instrumental to turning the city's core into a place where people didn't just work, but also lived and played.

Today, Watson is serving as Austin's representative in the Texas Senate.

## **Pete Winstead, Founding shareholder of Winstead PC**

Dallas' loss is Austin's gain.

Winstead moved from Dallas to Austin in 1987 to open his law firm's Austin office and he's stayed here ever since — even though his firm is based in Big D.

Early on, Winstead mentored Austin startups that needed guidance on finances, management and legal matters. One of his first clients: Dell Computer Corp. Winstead assisted Dell with its initial public offering in June 1988.

Winstead's business and civic contributions since then have been seemingly endless: chairman of the Texas Turnpike Authority, chairman of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, president of the Real Estate Council of Austin, chairman of the United Way Capital Area, chairman of Austin's March of Dimes WalkAmerica, vice chairman of the Long Center for the Performing Arts and vice chairman of the St. Edward's University Board of Trustees.

He's also been involved with the YMCA of Austin, the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Austin Lyric Opera, SafePlace, the Austin Community Foundation and the local Boy Scouts.

*[Editor's note: This is part of the ABJ's 30th anniversary issue, which contains a series of stories looking at Austin's evolution since 1981.]*