

From Human Is the New Vinyl · Chapter 10

MICAH VORARITSKUL

The Experience Guide

Forty encounters with distinctly human creativity. Go somewhere. Hear something live. Buy something made by hand. Let yourself be surprised.

Before you begin

In a world moving toward artificial everything, this guide is evidence of something easy to forget: human creativity isn't fragile, endangered, or rare.

It is everywhere—abundant, alive, and waiting to surprise you.

This isn't a bucket list, and you don't need to try everything. Pick a few experiences that spark your curiosity. Go in person when you can. Pay attention to the people behind the work.

The point is to remember: we're not running out of human magic.

Some links have been updated from the print edition to reflect current URLs.

[Open the current online guide](#)

EXPERIENCE THE ELECTRIFYING



The Sphere, Las Vegas

If U2 is playing at The Sphere in Las Vegas, go. No hesitation. Their custom-built show helped launch the venue and redefine what live performance can be. If they're not, go anyway. Whatever's playing will be unforgettable. You can still check out the U2 experience online. See [thesphere.com](https://www.thesphere.com/).

→ <https://www.thesphere.com/>



Taylor Swift

Catch Taylor Swift's next tour, even if you're not a Swiftie. It'll sound amazing and feature spectacular stage design and effects. See [taylorswift.com](https://www.taylorswift.com/).

→ <https://www.taylorswift.com/>



Live Comedy

Find a live stand-up comedy or improv show. You'll be amazed, or at least amused. See what's nearby on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/).

→ <https://www.eventbrite.com/>



Spoken Word • Poetry Slam

Find a spoken word or slam poetry night near you. Start with poets.org or search for "Poetry Slam Inc." People share the good, the raw, and everything in between.

→ <https://poets.org/>



Tiny Desk

Check out NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, intimate, stripped-down performances by incredible artists. Start with T-Pain's set. It blew minds. See npr.org/series/tiny-desk-concerts.

→ <https://www.npr.org/series/tiny-desk-concerts/>

SEE ART ON THE FRINGE



MoMA • Refik Anadol

Visit MoMA and experience Refik Anadol's immersive installation. If you can't go in person, explore it online. It's still incredible. Try [moma.org](https://www.moma.org/) or search "YouTube documentation of Unsupervised machine hallucinations MoMa."

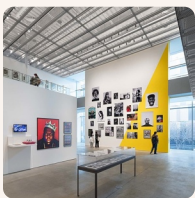
→ <https://www.moma.org/>



Street Art

In most US cities, local artists turn walls into public canvases. Check out spots like Wynwood Walls in Miami or Five Points in Atlanta. See what's near you at streetartcities.com.

→ <https://streetartcities.com/>



Int'l Center of Photography

Explore photography from around the world through the International Center of Photography. They offer curated online exhibits, collections, interactive experiences, and educational resources. Visit [icp.org/explore](https://www.icp.org/explore).

→ <https://www.icp.org/explore>



Bauhaus

The Bauhaus movement had a profound influence on the development of modern art and design. Learn more at the Bauhaus Archive Museum: [bauhaus.de/en](https://www.bauhaus.de/en).

→ <https://www.bauhaus.de/en/>

You can also take a free Coursera course at [coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org/). Just search for "Bauhaus" or "history of graphic design."

→ <https://www.coursera.org/>

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISANS



Local Galleries

Discover what local art galleries are showcasing nearby, featuring original works by local artists. Stop by, even if you're not planning to make a purchase. Ask what's selling. Ask what's not selling but should be because it's incredible. Search "art galleries near me" on Google Maps or Yelp. Most galleries have rotating exhibits.



Street Musicians • Buskers

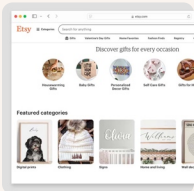
And if you pass someone making music on a sidewalk, subway, or bridge, give them a twenty.



Saint Armand Paper Mill, Montreal

Celebrate the art of traditional bookbinding and paper-making. In Montreal, Saint Armand Paper Mill offers public demonstrations of handmade paper. Visit st-armand.esteemfoundation.org. Their website is wonky and wonderfully old-school, as it should be.

→ <http://st-armand.esteemfoundation.org/>



Etsy

Check out Etsy for handmade jewelry, pottery, and more, all crafted by independent creators. Save up for a one-of-a-kind. Visit [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com).

→ <https://www.etsy.com/>



Gaziano & Girling

Or check out the custom shoe-making mastery of Gaziano & Girling in London at [gazianogirling.com](https://www.gazianogirling.com).

→ <https://www.gazianogirling.com/>



Ledbury

Explore bespoke, old-world tailoring, like Ledbury in Richmond, Virginia, which my friend Paul built. See [ledbury.com](https://www.ledbury.com).

→ <https://www.ledbury.com/>

GET FOODIE & DRINKIE



Wineries

If you imbibe, consider visiting a winery where you can see how the grapes are grown and learn about their vintages. Just search "wineries near me."



The Veil Brewing Co., Richmond

If you're in Richmond, VA, head to The Veil Brewery Co. and get whatever they're making. It's all small-batch and tastes like the weather. Stand in line. Say hi to my friend David. Become part of the cult following. See theveilbrewing.com.

→ <https://www.theveilbrewing.com/>



Borough Market, London

Visit the Borough Market in London, one of the world's oldest and most extensive food markets. See boroughmarket.org.uk.

→ <https://boroughmarket.org.uk/>



Alo Farms, Atlanta

Support the farm-to-table movement and local artisans, like Alo Farms in Atlanta. See alofarms.com.

→ <https://www.alofarms.com/>

GET HANDSY



Wool and the Gang

Try your hand at knitting, crocheting, and other fiber arts. Wool and the Gang make pretty cool DIY kits. See woolandthegang.com.

→ <https://www.woolandthegang.com/>



Craftsy

Craftsy offers beginner-friendly courses and online videos in a wide range of needlecrafts. Visit craftsy.com. Or just search "crafts that wow" and have a go.

→ <https://www.craftsy.com/>



John C. Campbell Folk School

Attend a workshop at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. They offer classes in traditional Appalachian crafts. Visit folkschool.org.

→ <https://www.folkschool.org/>



Int'l Printing Museum

Take a letterpress printing class at the International Printing Museum in Carson, California. Check out printmuseum.org.

→ <https://www.printmuseum.org/>

LET YOUR EARS WANDER



Welcome to Night Vale

Try audio dramas like Welcome to Night Vale. It's a highly regarded podcast. The voice acting and sound design are fantastic.

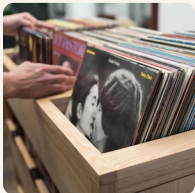
→ <https://www.welcometonightvale.com/>



Opera

Go to see an opera. Visit metopera.org. If you can't attend, consider purchasing an opera album, like the first-ever recording by Enrico Caruso.

→ <https://www.metopera.org/>



Vinyl

Do what I did recently: get yourself a decent, affordable record player. I found mine for about \$70 on Amazon. Pick up two of your favorite albums. They're not cheap, but they're worth every penny. Digital is fine, but it's not the same. A fun goal: collect twenty albums you love. Not sure where to start? See my list of top-selling vinyl classics in Chapter 2. Still unsure? Start with Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours*.



The Moth

Go to a storytelling event. If you can't, check out The Moth Radio Hour on NPR. Some of these stories will make you laugh, cry, or both. They've also got a great podcast. Visit themoth.org.

→ <https://themoth.org/>



Limetown

Another standout audio drama, Limetown, from Two-Up Productions. Immersive storytelling at its best.

→ <https://twoupproductions.com/>

GET WORDSY



Poetry Readings

Support people taking a brave and intimate step by reading poetry at the coffee shop. Google "poetry readings near me."



Book Clubs

Join or start a book club. Talk about real stories with real people. Most libraries or bookstores host regular gatherings.



Author Readings

Attend an author reading or signing. Bookstores and libraries frequently host these events. Stay for the Q&A. Often, that's the best part because you can learn how they think and write.



Literary Magazines

Explore literary magazines. Subscribe to those that feature both new and established voices. *Medium.com* is a great platform to discover a wide range of excellent writing about life, the universe, and everything. *The New Yorker* is always a solid bet, in print or online.

GET FESTIVE



Sundance Film Festival

Attend the Sundance Film Festival in Utah (relocating to Colorado in 2027). See gritty films and meet the people who made them. If you can't, Google "indie film festivals near me." Make a day of it. See a few screenings. Visit [sundance.org](https://www.sundance.org/).

→ <https://www.sundance.org/>



Coachella • Glastonbury • Bonnaroo

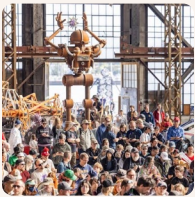
Take a road trip to Coachella, Glastonbury, or Bonnaroo. Just Google them. If you go, go all in. Buy the T-shirt.



American Craft Council

Check out the annual American Craft Council shows, held in cities across the US. Their big one is the American Craft Made Baltimore Marketplace. See craftcouncil.org.

→ <https://craftcouncil.org/>



Maker Faire

Maker Faire brings together creators, innovators, and DIY enthusiasts to share ideas and showcase amazing projects. It hosts numerous events, both in-person and online. See makerfaire.com.

→ <https://makerfaire.com/>

EXPERIENCE THE ICONIC



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Check out the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for music history. If you're in Ohio, go in person. Otherwise, explore at rockhall.com.

→ <https://rockhall.com/>



Broadway

If you're in New York or London, see a Broadway (or off-Broadway) show. Almost any hit production will blow your mind. You can score same-day discounted tickets at TKTS booths. But jump in line early. For showtimes, including revivals, visit broadway.com.

→ <https://broadway.com/>



New Orleans

New Orleans is the birthplace of Jazz, one of America's greatest art forms. Check out its music scene at [neworleans.com/things-to-do/music](https://www.neworleans.com/things-to-do/music/).

→ <https://www.neworleans.com/things-to-do/music/>

BECOME A SOJOURNER



Graceland

Graceland, Elvis Presley's home estate, includes the mansion and an entertainment complex packed with artifacts from his career, including cars, jumpsuits, and private jets. If you're near Memphis, go in person. Otherwise, explore at [graceland.com](https://www.graceland.com/).

→ <https://www.graceland.com/>



National Gallery, London

If you want to see 'The Execution of Lady Jane Grey' in person (from Chapter 6), visit the National Gallery in London or take the virtual tour at [nationalgallery.org.uk](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk). Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' and Botticelli, Titian, Turner, and others are there too.

→ <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>



Berlin Philharmonic

See a symphony. If you can't, stream a concert from the Berlin Philharmonic's digital hall: [digitalconcerthall.com/en](https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en). Or search YouTube for "best symphony performances of all time."

→ <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en>



The Louvre

Visit the Louvre in Paris. If you can't go in person, take the virtual tour at [louvre.fr/en/online-tours](https://www.louvre.fr/en/online-tours). Try to decode Mona Lisa's facial expression, but don't ignore the rest: a staggering collection of human creativity and Renaissance masterpieces.

→ <https://www.louvre.fr/en/online-tours>

That's the invitation.

Don't treat these as forty boxes to check. Let them remind you of the enduring goodness of human-made things—and of what becomes possible when real people gather, practice, perform, build, and share.

Choose one experience. Show up in person if you can. Pay the artist. Ask a question. Notice what stays with you.

Then make your own list.

We're not running out of human magic. But we do have to keep showing up for it.

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