



Beat Box Records is located at 2148 Logan Ave.

Beat Box Records Offers Barrio Logan Residents and Analog Music Lovers a One of a Kind Experience

“I’m blessed to be in this neighborhood...”
- DJ Inform

By Roberto ‘Rob’ Camacho

The Barrio Arts District is an eclectic blend of both working class families, small businesses, and warehouses interwoven with a myriad of local galleries, boutiques and bars which have grown in popularity in recent years. Nestled amongst these burgeoning small-businesses and art galleries is Beat Box Records, one of San Diego’s premier record shops.

Though modest and almost indiscreet in its outward appearance, located on Logan Avenue adjacent to Por Vida Cafe, Beat Box Records is part of a collective of small businesses and art studios housed in the building complex known as La Vecindad, and is a music lover’s treasure trove of vintage music.

Stocked with vintage Funk, Soul, Jazz and Hip-Hop records and cassettes, as well as other rare and obscure music, Beat Box is filled with records one would be hard pressed to find anywhere else in the city. In fact, the shop’s catalog alone makes it a hot location regularly frequented by DJs, producers, and rare vinyl collectors alike.

Initially selling vinyl online and at record shows, shop owner Bernie “DJ Inform” Fishman be-

gan selling records in the neighborhood several years ago after leasing space through ‘thChrch’, a since re-located venue across the street from the shop that offered Fishman, along with shop event organizer Tim “Ill Poetic” Gmeiner, space as vendors and served as the first home of Beat Box Records.

After several months of operating out of thChrch’s facilities, Fishman was able to secure the space which is now the shop’s current home; and in November 2015 Beat Box opened its doors to the public as a stand-alone business.

On top of the warm, friendly atmosphere, the shop periodically holds showcases for local DJs and artist to perform sets, as well as network with other local performers.

“Music is really one of those things that really ties people together no matter where you come from. Music and community go hand in hand,” Fishman said in regards to the role the shop has played in the community since its opening almost four years ago.

“Sure, you can just sit at home and order records on the internet, but it’s a different experience to go somewhere, physically look through stuff and

discover new music and talk to someone who might have some tips or even steer you in another direction. It's just a totally different experience, even though we have a lot of stuff online and information on the Internet people still need those human interactions and experiences; and looking through music is still a way for people to do that."

For nearly the past four years, that's precisely the experience Beat Box Records has offered Barrio Logan and the greater music community of San Diego. As a growing music hub, it's not unusual to see both local and out-of-town artists make surprise visits to the shop. In fact, notable performers who have frequented the shop in the past have included artists such as DJ Z-Trip, Atmosphere, The Beatnuts, Gaslamp Killer and Eric Wilson of Sublime amongst others.

Serving as a space where music lovers can both congregate and discover new music Fishman has expressed appreciation for the support the shop



Photos by Chris Zertuche.

has received from the community since first opening.

"The thing with music is that if people don't play it then people don't hear it, so if you're just listening to the radio or if you're not actively seeking it out you're not going to hear it...But I'm blessed to be in this neighborhood where people do value it, they seek it out and they respect it because it's great stuff."

~ COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS ~

GREATER LOGAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

April 8 at 7pm
SDPD - 2501 Imperial Ave

BARRIO LOGAN ASSOCIATION BL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

April 9 at 5pm
Estrella Del Mercado - 1985 National Ave.

BARRIO LOGAN COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

April 10 at 6pm
Logan Heights Library - 567 S. 28th St.

BARRIO ART CRAWL

April 13 - 4pm-10pm
Barrio Logan

BARRIO LOGAN COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

April 17 at 6pm
Woodbury School - 2112 Main St.

49th ANNUAL CHICANO PARK DAY CELEBRATION

April 20 from 10am-5pm
Chicano Park

SDPD CAPTAIN'S MEETING

April 23 at 5:30pm
SDPD - 2501 Imperial Ave

BARRIO LOGAN GRAND PRIX

April 27 from 6am-5pm
Between Cesar Chavez Pkwy and Beardsley

CHICANO PARK HERB GARDEN

Volunteers garden every Sunday morning at 10am at the Chicano Park Herb Garden