

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Tulsa is not a sleepy, college town. It is a vibrant city, full of things to do and see. In my three years here, I have discovered a number of places in Tulsa that make me love the city.

Here is my top five:

No. 1 – Cherry Street

When I say Cherry Street is one of my favorite spots in Tulsa, what I am really talking about is Andolini's Pizzeria. A favorite local restaurant is one of the most important discoveries you make as a college student. Andolini's is the best pizza I've ever had, though I can rarely finish it after devouring an order of garlic knots first. This is the restaurant at which my parents insist on eating each time they visit, and where I take all of my friends. Cherry Street has more than just great pizza, however. There are over 20 restaurants in the area, as well as shops and entertainment spots. Each Saturday in the spring and summer, there is also a Farmer's Market on Cherry Street full of locally grown produce, baked goods, and art.

Brady Arts District – Brady Arts District is a cultural hub for Tulsa. It has restaurants, businesses, parks, and a number of art museums. These museums are free and open to the public for "First Friday" on the first Friday of each month, and hundreds of people flock to the area for art, food, and socialization. The center of the Brady Arts District is Guthrie Green, the location of Saturday yoga sessions, outdoor concerts, and cultural festivals. The area also hosts "Food Truck Wednesdays" to promote local restaurants. On the Northwest end of the Brady District is Cain's Ballroom. Cain's is one of the best and oldest concert venues in the country. It is an intimate space where you can get up close to your favorite artists. I have seen Twenty One Pilots, Lord Huron, Alt-J, and many more at Cain's ballroom. The annual Center of the Universe music festival is also held right outside Cain's doors during the summer. On the district's east end is Driller's Stadium, the home field for Tulsa's minor league baseball team.

Brookside – You may notice a theme to my list. Brookside is yet another fantastic place in Tulsa to eat great food. The Brook, Hop Bunz, Cosmo, and Brookside by Day are just a few examples. These restaurants are fantastic places to meet with friends for brunch or a fun dinner. The area is also full of new, upscale shopping destinations, as well as small boutiques. Within the last few years, lululemon and Urban Outfitters have popped up, and more stores and restaurants continue to open.

Philtower – Tulsa's downtown is famous for its historic Art Deco architecture. The churches, residences, and offices are built in this unique style, designed by such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright. I get to visit one of these beautiful buildings every week, the Philtower, built in 1928. I work for a small PR and Communication firm called Propeller that operates out of the Philtower building. The first floor is full of

shops and restaurants, but even more fantastic is the architecture inside the building. I have loved being so close to downtown, with the ability to work off campus and explore the city.

Philbrook Museum of Art – The first time that I got off campus as a freshman, it was to go to the Philbrook museum. As an out-of-state student, I was feeling lonely, and disconnected from the city of Tulsa. When I was offered a trip to the Philbrook Museum, I quickly accepted. The building is a refurbished mansion, once a private residence. Admission to this museum is free to TU students, and our dining dollars can be used at the delicious museum restaurant. The museum has an impressive permanent collection, as well as a rotating exhibit, which most recently featured the work of Andy Warhol. The best part of Philbrook, though, in my opinion, is the gardens. In the garden, you will feel as though you have stepped out of Tulsa entirely and into a natural paradise. Late August is the best time to visit Philbrook, as everything is in bloom and growing. Since entrance to the museum is free to TU students, I often go there to sit outside and study.

These places have made Tulsa feel like home for me. You have to come to Tulsa to discover your own favorite places, but there is no shortage of choices.