



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Self-guided visits to the Houston Farmers Market are free of charge and do not require coordination with property personnel. We recommend guests bring cash to purchase food and drinks from on-site vendors. An ATM is also located in Pavilion G for your convenience.

Hours of Operation

The Houston Farmers Market is open daily from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The market is only closed two days a year: Christmas (12/25) and New Years Day (1/1). Below, you will find more information about our history and what to expect during your visit.

Parking

The Houston Farmers Market offers over 600 parking spaces for your convenience. The property can be entered via the front entrance off Airline Drive or through either of the two entrances on Service Street. Our parking lots are interconnected, allowing easy access and flow to the front, side, and rear parking lots once inside the market. For more details, please refer to the Market Map.

If traveling by large bus, please plan ahead and call 713.862.8866 to coordinate a designated parking location with one of our on-site property managers.

Restrooms

Restrooms are conveniently located on the West side of the Braun Building and the East side of the Strack Building. For exact locations, please refer to the Market Map

Emergencies

Each group is responsible for providing their own general first-aid kit. For any other emergencies, please call 911 immediately.



History

The history of the Houston Farmers Market traces back to 1937, when a determined group of local farmers banded together to overcome the tough selling conditions they faced. Competing with non-farming vendors, or speculators, made it nearly impossible for them to succeed. To ease the burden of these challenges, the farmers formed the Farmers Protective Association, which evolved into the **Farmers Co-operative Market Co-Association (FCMA)** by 1942.

One founding board member suggested an ambitious idea: the **"100 Club,"** where 100 people would each contribute \$100 to buy land for the market. With the support of fellow farmers, they raised the funds, and the nine original members purchased 9.5 acres—establishing a permanent home for Houston's hard working farmers.



Canino Produce Company, founded by Joe Canino Jr., opens at the Houston Farmers Market in June 1958

On May 13, 1942, The Houston Farmers Market officially opened, giving farmers a dedicated space to connect directly with the community and offer fresh, local produce. This opening marked the start of what would grow into the beloved Houston Farmers Market we know today.

In April of 1958, the closure of the Downtown Farmers Market prompted discussion about the expansion of the FMCA facilities to support the growing number of farmers looking for a space to sell their produce.

The Canino Produce Company, one of the most notable produce merchants at the Houston Farmers Market, opens in June 1958.



The Houston Farmers Market's growth and evolution after 1958 highlight its significance as a community hub.

In 1960, the Farmers Co-operative Market Co-Association expanded by purchasing the Anson Land for \$45,000, which now houses the old FMCA offices and the original location of the Triple-A Café. In 1963, another expansion added over five acres with the acquisition of the "Hill Property" for \$90,755. However, in 1965, the original Triple-A Café building suffered a fire, partially destroying it. The café was eventually rebuilt in 1969, serving the community for nearly 50 more years.

Financial challenges arose for the FCMA in 1975, as reflected in board meeting notes stating, "Added revenue is a must in order to survive." Despite these hurdles, the market persisted, though its annual Vegetable Day celebration was discontinued in 1978.

A major shift occurred in 1988 when the FMCA reorganized into a corporation, renaming itself the **Farmers Marketing Association of Houston**, as the majority of sellers were no longer traditional growers.

The market reached its full footprint in 1998 with the purchase of additional plots, bringing the total acreage to nearly 18 acres, double the size of the original parcel of land. In 2004, a fire destroyed one of the original west sheds, one of the two original structures from 1942. It was replaced two years later in 2006 with the existing building still there today.





In 2017, **MLB Capital Partners** acquired the market, bringing a bold vision to blend its historic charm with modern needs. Their goal was to transform the 18-acre site into a vibrant destination for dining, shopping, and community gatherings, while honoring the spirit and history of its original merchants.

Despite the challenges posed by Hurricane Harvey and the COVID-19 pandemic, and keeping the tenants open during the renovations, the market celebrated its **Grand Reopening in 2021**, offering a refreshed mix of traditional and contemporary experiences that welcomes a new generation of visitors.

The addition of popular restaurants and unique vendors such as Underbelly Burger, Shop Local Market, Alamo Tamales, R-C Ranch, Drop Shots, and Toddler Towns has transformed the Houston Farmers Market into a dynamic culinary and shopping destination. Each vendor brings something special to the market's vibrant atmosphere, creating a one-stop location where visitors can experience Houston's diverse food culture and local craftsmanship.

Today, the Houston Farmers Market is more than just a place for fresh produce and local goods—it's a thriving community hub, hosting annual events that celebrate the best of each season. These gatherings invite visitors to enjoy seasonal offerings and connect with Houston's agricultural heritage, featuring family-friendly activities, cultural celebrations, and year-round opportunities for community engagement.



Want to explore our history more closely? Check out our Houston Farmers Market timeline located across from Underbelly Burger on the Nagy building to learn more about our journey!

Grand Champion Junior Division Derrall Frey with Jeri Bledsoe and Homer L. Tumlinson. (Left to Right)



What to Expect

The Houston Farmers Market hosts a wide array of businesses such as Underbelly Burger, Alamo Tamales, R-C Ranch Texas Craft Meats, Shop Local Market, and Drop Shots. Visitors are invited to explore and shop for fresh produce from our 40+ merchants in the open-air markets and warehouses.

Our produce merchants offer an incredible variety of unique tropical fruits, peppers, vegetables, and spices—many of which are not readily available at traditional grocery stores or other farmers' markets. All merchants are locally owned and, in most cases, family-operated businesses that have been serving the Houston communities for generations.





Community Life and Outdoor Artwork

The Houston Farmers Market has grown into a vibrant community hub, offering diverse programming that celebrates Houston's rich cultural heritage. With events like the annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Fall Pumpkin Patch, and Rodeo Festival, the market provides year-round activities that invite guests of all ages to come together, creating an energetic space for families and friends to connect. Stay updated on our event calendar by following us on **Instagram @houstonfarmersmarket** or visiting our website, **thehoustonfarmersmarket.com**.



Beyond food and shopping, visitors can explore Houston's artistic soul through the striking outdoor murals that adorn the market. Created by celebrated local artists like Suzanne Sellers, DonkeeBoy, and JoyBrush, these murals capture the spirit of the community, visually connecting the market's dynamic energy to the culinary experiences within. The artwork is a testament to the Houston Farmers Market's commitment to supporting local artists and creating a welcoming space for all who visit.



Market Map

