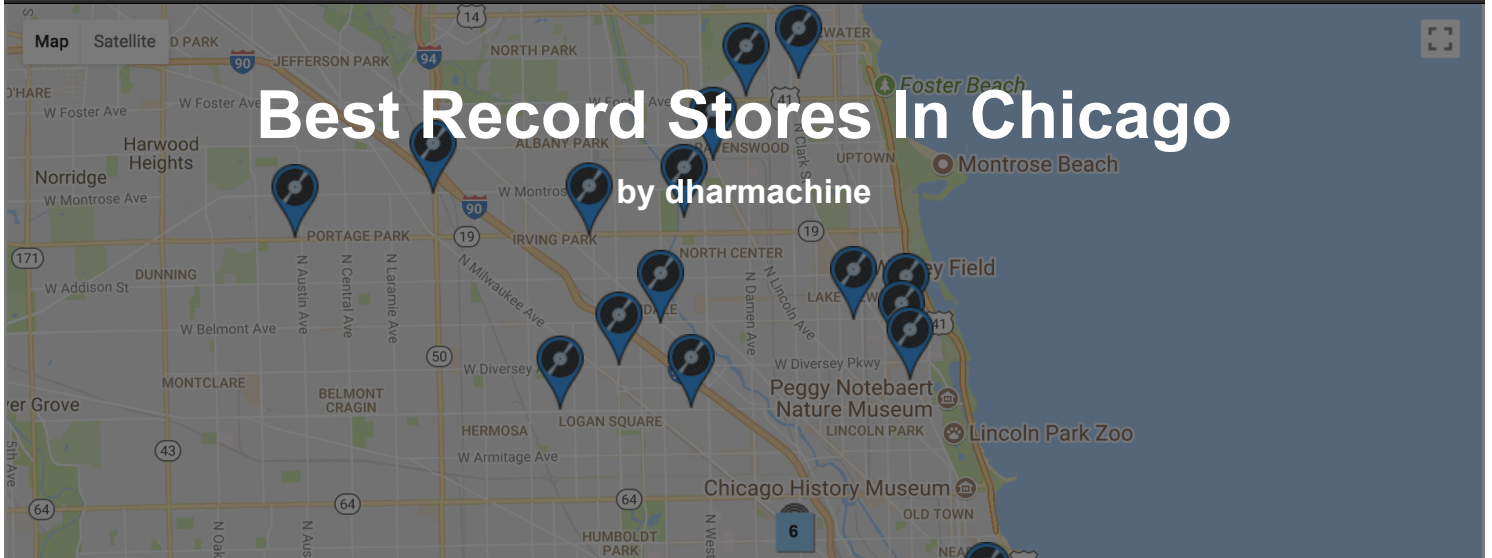


Source: <https://blog.discogs.com/en/best-record-stores-chicago/> (November 2017)

Discogs BLOG



We're heading to Chicago with our friends at Red Bull Sound Select for 30 Days in Chicago at House of Vans! We're celebrating the partnership with an incredible list of record stores in Chicago, Illinois. We asked some of our favorite Chicagoans, like [Andrew Bird](#), Chicago Tribune's [Greg Kot](#), James Weir of [NE-HI](#), and many more to chime in on The Best Record Stores In Chicago.

We give you... The Best Record Stores In Chicago!

Laurie's Planet of Sound – (4639 N Lincoln – Chicago IL) – VinylHub



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There are so many Chicago record stores that are long gone, and I want to honor their memory. The [Jazz Record Mart](#) was like nothing I've ever seen. If you couldn't find it there...

I could go way back to my days in the [Chicago Youth Symphony](#) at the Fine Arts Center then hitting [Rose Records](#) next to Carl Fisher Sheet Music on Wabash. That was a completely different reality, but it's heartening to see a few great stores still thriving. [Dusty Groove](#) on Ashland Avenue is a great curated shop of choice soul, [funk](#), [afro-pop](#), and [jazz](#). The focus seems to be danceable and tasty tunes mostly '60s to early '80s. [Laurie's Planet of Sound](#) is a solid neighborhood indie store. Friendly and approachable and not as specialized as [Dusty Groove](#). A good place to go for new releases. I remember around the turn of the last century going to Laurie's and ceremoniously buying my first current [pop](#) albums. Until then, I was only known to hang out at [Jazz Record Mart](#) or the blues and jazz room at [Tower](#). I had never really purchased records by living artists. I picked up the [Flaming Lips](#)' ['The Soft Bulletin'](#) and [Lambchop](#)'s ['Nixon'](#). It seems quaint now but that was a big deal for me.
– [Andrew Bird](#)

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Dusty Groove – (1120 N Ashland Ave – Chicago IL) – VinylHub



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It's impossible for me to name just one great record store in Chicago. [Reckless](#), [Dave's Records](#), [Laurie's Planet of Sound](#), [Gramophone](#) — they're all well-curated shops run by music connoisseurs, and their stock oozes personality and taste because of them. But if pressed to name just one, I'd have to go with [Dusty Groove](#). They have long been my go-to for [soul](#) dusties and [funk](#), [Tropicalia](#), [Afrobeat](#), French pop, [avant-garde](#) electronic music, German [art-rock](#), [jazz](#) and a bevy of left-of-center genres. It's the kind of place that rewards browsing — you walk in looking for a particular record and inevitably find it, but you also wind up stumbling into three more discs that you just have to buy. — [Greg Kot](#), [Chicago Tribune](#)

“
Hands down, my favorite record store in Chicago is [Dusty Groove](#). If you're looking for [soul](#), [jazz](#), [funk](#), [Brazilian](#), etc., this is the place to be. Every time I walk in thinking I'm going to be financially responsible and only buy one record, the music being played in the store makes me behave otherwise. One of the best ways to hear great new sounds is just by hanging out in the shop. If you want to buy new vinyl from around the world, from every era, or just find some obscure soul 45 from 1979, go to Dusty Groove. Don't forget to walk down the block to [Alegria's](#) for Mexican-seafood after. — [James Weir](#), [NE-HI](#)

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Reckless Records – (1379 N Milwaukee Ave – Chicago IL) – VinylHub



“ I drop most of my disposable income at [Reckless Records](#)—chiefly because it’s close to my house, but also because it’s one of the most deeply stocked record stores in town. It also has its sometimes lovable, sometimes frustrating little quirks; every single [electronic](#) album is lumped under “Dance,” for example, regardless of whether you can move to it, and that’s if they haven’t been filed according to someone’s individual whim. (I guess that’s why they call it “Reckless”). But the staff is knowledgeable and has good taste, and they put stickers with whole paragraphs’ worth of descriptors and endorsements on the sleeves that have led me to a lot of stuff I might have overlooked otherwise. I’m lucky to have it. – [Sean O’Neal](#) Editor, [The A.V. Club](#) ”

“ [Reckless Records](#) is a Chicago staple with three locations. The one in [Wicker Park](#) somewhat recently moved a few blocks down Milwaukee Avenue so it could stretch out into a bigger location. They’ve always had a fantastic selection of pre-loved vinyl, and now there’s room for even more. I’ve found original pressings of some of my favorite classic albums at this location. They carry new releases, too, but I love this location for a nice long browsing experience. – [Mike Maimone](#), [MUTTS](#) ”

Kiss The Sky – (180 1st Street – Batavia IL) – VinylHub



“ Chicago has no shortage of really phenomenal record stores. Wicker Park alone hosts half a dozen. But I’m going to suggest [Kiss the Sky](#) out in Batavia, IL, because of its role as an anchor of the community. Not only the record buying, music-loving community. But the community of performers and artists who populate the way western suburbs of Chicago. You can buy records anywhere and anytime these days but a place to gather with like (and unlike) musical minds has always been critical to the health of musicians and fans alike. From what I’ve seen over the years the support of [Kiss the Sky](#) for music makers and vice-versa is beautifully symbiotic. – [Richard Milne](#), “[Local Anesthetic](#)” [WXRT](#) ”

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Rediscover Records – (9 S Spring Street – Elgin IL) – VinylHub



“ There are so many record stores in Chicago it’s easy to get lost amid them all, and for crate diggers, the competition can be fierce. That’s why it’s worth the 30-minute drive past O’Hare to the Fox River Valley to visit [Rediscover Records](#) in historic downtown Elgin. Owner Rich Wagner left his family catering business to fulfill a lifelong dream, and his store captures the feeling of those days when record stores doubled as community centers for music freaks. Wall-to-wall vinyl fills his shop (no CDs), most of it culled from collections throughout Chicago’s suburbs. His specialty is alt-country of all stripes with special emphasis on the early Chicago scene. (Check out the framed cover of Illinois Entertainer on the wall featuring a new band called [Uncle Tupelo](#).) There’s a healthy collection of 45s and 78s, and on Saturdays check out whatever local band he booked to play a few sets. Wagner is a diehard who understands browsing is not a get-in, get-out experience, so his store is designed as an open invitation to climb inside and become a loyalist to the music. – [Mark Guarino](#), Music Journalist

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Bric-a-Brac Records & Collectibles – (3156 W Diversey Ave – Chicago, IL) – VinylHub



“ One of my favorite Chicago stores is [Bric-A-Brac Records](#). Owned and operated by the ever pleasant husband and wife team Nick & Jen, Bric-A-Brac always stays on the pulse of current music, whether it's local or national, and their collection soars! The store also constantly hosts live shows during business hours that are a ton of fun. I've seen so many great bands there over the past couple years and even played a fun show in there myself with the local band [Speed Babes](#). Added bonus, they ALSO sell vintage toys and gadgets of all kinds! It's quite a collection, and a trip to skim through especially if you're into 1980s/'90s nostalgia. I've definitely picked up a lot of great items from that section including an old-school Batman water bottle and Dick Tracy folder, which is just THE BEST. I've also snagged some great vinyl over the years including [The Dicks'](#) 'Hate The Police' EP, [Women's](#) 'Public Strain' LP, and many killer local records. Long live the mighty Bric-A-Brac! – [Donnie Moore](#), frontman/guitarist from [Absolutely Not](#)

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Oak Park Records – (179 S Oak Park Ave – Oak Park IL) – [VinylHub](#)



“ A ‘Must Visit’ record store on any crate-diving adventure is [Oak Park Records](#). They keep a selection of LPs, EPs, 45s and CDs that’s good for a novice and exciting for a collector. They hold a high bar for the quality of the albums they bring in and have a years-long track record of consistent and accurate grading. If you see something you like, move quick – dust doesn’t settle on the bins! The shop’s owner, Alan Heffelfinger, has a keen ear for suggesting music you may not know but may like based on who you’re currently listening to. He seems to take genuine joy in turning someone onto new music! Street parking isn’t typically a problem, and the shop is a few blocks south of the Oak Park CTA Green Line stop. – [Ryan Arnold, WXRT](#)

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