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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Allston-Brighton ranked as 18th 'best hipster neighborhood' in US by Forbes

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 21, 2012 12:10 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Allston-Brighton ranks as the nation's 18th "best hipster neighborhood," according to Forbes.

The inaugural list of 20 places in the US where "hipsterdom is most likely to flourish" was compiled by the business news outlet's website and San Francisco-based startup Nextdoor.com, a private social network for neighborhoods.

The abutting Boston neighborhoods of Allston and Brighton were described by Forbes as a "diverse enclave."

"Blue collar meets college hipsters," Dabney Lawless, a vice president at Nextdoor.com, told Forbes.

"Brighton Ave. is home to a selection of restaurants, bars, and clubs catering to

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the large student population," Forbes added. "New England's biggest food truck festival manifested in this neighborhood, as well."

The "best hipster neighborhood" was Silver Lake in Los Angeles followed by the Mission district in San Francisco.

The list began with more than 250 neighborhoods in the country's biggest cities.

To whittle that group down to, the two companies assessed data from each neighborhood, including: walkability; the number of neighborhood coffee shops per capita; local food trucks; locally-owned bars and restaurants; the number and regularity of farmers markets; and the ratio of residents who work in artistic occupations, according to Forbes.

Nextdoor.com's "Neighborhood 'Hipness' Index" was also used as a measure. The index "is based on how often words associated with hipness (for example art, gallery, designer, musician) appeared on each Nextdoor neighborhood's site pages, and Nextdoor conducted a survey in which members sounded off on their communities," according to Forbes.

The only other New England neighborhood to make the list, Downtown Portland in Maine, ranked 11th.

"One of New England's hippest hoods, Downtown Portland dishes out an eclectic arts scene that includes the First Friday Art Walk," Forbes wrote. "Caffeine fixes are best satiated at Coffee By Design, several microbreweries offer stronger libations, and fresh food ingredients can be had at the farmers market."

Other neighborhoods in the Northeast that made the list were Williamsburg in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, which ranked third; and the Northern Liberties neighborhood of Philadelphia, 15th.

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