

## What Makes Dallas Different?

When I moved to Dallas a few years ago from France, I was only 4 years old. On the way from the airport to Dallas, I told my mom and dad that I remembered this city. My mom said, "That's impossible - you've never been here before." What I remembered were all the stores and highways that I had already seen in several other cities in America. They all look alike!

When we decided to move to Dallas, my dad, who is French, dreamed of the Wild West and seeing the "real United States". At first, we were kind of sad that all we saw in Dallas were stores and more stores (Mom thinks there are more stores and restaurants in Dallas than people) and big buildings and highways. But then we went out to discover Dallas, and first visited the West End (where I got my first cowboy hat!) and went to the state fair at Fair Park (the buildings and sculptures are really neat, and the corny dogs are too great). I even got to go to Deep Ellum - the music and shops are so much fun, but mom wouldn't let me get a tattoo. We love to go to White Rock Lake and watch the swans by the beautiful Bath House. We all felt better when we found out that Dallas isn't only the "shopping capital of the world" - there are fun things to do and wonderful places to see here too!

Last year, my mom took my brother and me to a concert downtown at the Cathedral Guadalupe. The music was performed by the Orchestra of New Spain, and we couldn't believe how beautiful the concert was. It reminded me of being back in France and going to concerts at the cathedrals there (the one in my home town in France was built hundreds of years ago). We are so lucky to have this awesome cathedral! It is so much prettier than the other buildings downtown.

Please help preserve and protect the wonderful monuments and beautiful places in Dallas. If we don't, this city is just going to become one big strip mall (like so many other cities).

Thank you very much for everything you do!

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