

Thomas Nauls

- Co-Owner of The Tipping Point, a sneaker lifestyle store located in the historic Humble Building
- Entrepreneur
- Sneaker culture aficionado and renaissance man
- Volunteer baseball coach, umpire and tutor



Where do you live and what you like best about it?

I live in Humble Tower apartments. One of my favorite features about the building is valet parking. Then there is the fitness center onsite and the pool on the 11th floor. I also like being able to walk to Starbucks and to work.

Favorite cool thing to do downtown?

There are two places I like to go the most. One of them is Notsuoh, it's a really cool place to get coffee, they're pet friendly and they have bands at night. That place it totally unpredictable, you never know what could be going on and I like that. The other place I like is Minute Maid Park for Astros day games. When the roof is open, that's the epitome of baseball, seeing it played outdoors during the day, walking to the game and seeing the fans and kids. Oh and then there is also Frank's Pizza, 'cause I like pizza a lot...

Favorite downtown moment?

It was when I went to an Astros day game and Minute Maid Park was filled with kids from all these different day camps in their t-shirts with the different camp colors filling the stadium in blocks of purple, yellow, orange... Hearing them cheer, that was the greatest scene ever. The energy level was so big.

Tell us something about downtown that most people don't know.

A fascinating thing to me is that there is a law school downtown - South Texas College of Law and then there is also U of H Downtown. To have two universities downtown is kind of exciting to me. Education is a part of what makes a good community.

Funniest thing that has happened to you since you've been living downtown?

I've become a traffic cop. People have been driving down Main Street and turning onto the rail tracks and I'm trying to signal them to turn onto the road.

Whose art would you love to own?

I think both Andy Warhol and Jean Michel Basquiat are two that I would pick right off the top. Part of it is that they had such a big influence on the current fashion and sneaker culture. With Basquiat, some of the graffiti work he did helped open the doors and minds of people in urban society. Locally I'd love to own the work of the late John Biggers.

What book should everyone read?

The Tipping Point, not to sound cliché, I think it's good because I think that in reading it people will find that they are all a part of the philosophy in the book. We all fit into this grand scheme of spreading ideas to each other and play a role in the word of mouth phenomenon. Once you know about how it works, you can apply it in everyday life to spread positive ideas. It's all about the little things making the difference.

What music are you into now?

I'm listening to a lot of jazz, and getting more into a lot of different types of music - country, actually, plus house music and old school hip hop. Before it became oversaturated with the gangster element and demeaning women, old school hip hop was a positive element. You had DJ's and graffiti artists and breakdancers involved in it. It has a positive vibe to it and that's what I've been listening to and playing in the store.

Television show you can't bear to miss?

The Charlie Rose Show on PBS. I like watching his show because the people who are on there might not necessarily be celebrities or people in pop culture but they are decision makers. They might not be popular but they are important. Rose brings panels on to discuss ideas; if you want to effect change you have to keep an eye towards the future. But, I will also confess to my guilty pleasures, Flip That House and Bridezilla.