Westside is the Bestside

English Comp 1101

Atlanta, technically, is divided into 6 zones, or “labels” used by the APD for different parts of town, but civilians usually group Atlanta into the “East”- and/or “Westside”. There are dozens of contrasting factors of East and West Atlanta, most of which I’m not versed enough about to elaborate on. However, I’ve worked for, and have been a patron of several businesses in each domain. Moreover, I’ve owned a home in West Atlanta for two years, and at least feel knowledgeable enough to say the Westside is better relative to business culture, real estate, and architecture.

In terms of business, Eastside venues seem to pride themselves on a certain abrasiveness, or edge. A popular bar in East Atlanta’s Little Five Points neighborhood even has rules, written on the menu in a snarky tone, consisting of trivial do’s/don’ts. Conversely, the Upper Westside seems to be built around more customer-service oriented business, while retaining the independence achieved by Eastside establishments. Additionally, due to its popularity, I’d assume it’d be challenging for an individual to start a business on the Eastside, whereas the pockets of offices around Chattahoochee Ave/Marietta Blvd, in Northwest Atlanta, seem more welcoming for an entrepreneur. The Atlanta headquarters for Uber, once a tech startup itself, being in that area lends credit to that assumption.

Additionally, the homebuying process led me to believe that, in general, an individual looking to finance a home in Atlanta would have a higher chance of success on the Westside, as opposed to East Atlanta. This belief is based off how few Eastside houses I found in my price range during the homebuying process. Granted, when I did find affordable properties, they didn’t meet the criteria for a standard FHA mortgage. With this said, I’m not disputing whether
East Atlanta’s home prices are justified or not. Rather, I was merely stating that a buyer willing to sacrifice quick access to certain intown amenities could benefit from looking Westward.

Finally, unlike the more historically preserved East Atlanta, Westside infrastructure seems to be developing around a more modern compromise. For example, a popular Westside music venue, Terminal West, appears to be housed in a standard loft space on the outside, but it’s interior has hints of old and new with its antiquated train terminal theme. Considering the facility it’s located in was an industrial complex in the past, Terminal West and the neighboring businesses make for the best balance of historical preservation and modern architecture.

Ultimately, East Atlanta has made great strides in terms of urban development in recent years. The general sense of independence and anti-corporation that permeates East Atlanta businesses is respectable, and partially what makes it such an in-demand area to reside. However, West Atlanta seems to be adopting East Atlanta’s strengths, and improving on them; in terms of business/customer relations, affordable real estate, and structural design. With that in mind, it currently is the “best side” to reside (rhyme not intended).