## Austin Food Bloggers Form Non-Profit Organization to Support and Educate

**Austin, Texas (March 8, 2011)** — A leading group of Austin bloggers dedicated to online food journalism have joined together to create the Austin Food Blogger Alliance (AFBA), a non-profit organization. According to the mission statement created by the founding board and advisory board members of AFBA, the purpose of the alliance is to work together to set a standard of transparency and fairness by adhering to a code of ethics.

Membership is available to Central Texans who have a blog that is at least four months old when they submit their application and who blog at least twice a month on a food-related topic. The group will support the Austin community through classes, social events, and philanthropy. Benefits of membership will include access to special events and classes, networking opportunities, exposure for their blog, and more.

"Austin has an amazing group of food bloggers who love exploring and writing about food and drink," said Natanya Anderson, president of the Austin Food Blogger Alliance. "We love sharing our experiences with others, and have naturally formed a strong community. We look forward to growing our support and involvement in Austin through this formal alliance."

An unofficial group of food bloggers in Austin was formed in 2008 as a Facebook group by *Austin American-Statesman* food writer and blogger Addie Broyles. "I had just started a food blog, and I wanted to meet who was behind the other food blogs in the city," said Broyles, who is hosting a panel at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, at the South by Southwest Interactive Festival to talk about <u>building offline blogger communities</u>. "We got together for a happy hour, and then we started having potlucks every few months. By formalizing the group beyond a casual Facebook group, we can be a better resource for current food bloggers and those interested in connecting with us."

The <u>AFBA website</u> currently includes basic information about the group along with a form to sign up for membership information. It also houses the "Austin Food Blogger Alliance 2011 City Guide," a list of recently updated and expanded posts first created for visitors to Austin in March 2010. For more great content from local food lovers, search for the <u>#sxswfood</u> hashtag on Twitter or go to <u>sxswfood.com</u>.

Founding board members of AFBA include:

• Natanya Anderson, Fête & Feast

- Jodi Bart, <u>Tasty Touring</u>
- Addie Broyles, <u>Relish Austin</u> and <u>The Feminist Kitchen</u>
- Jennie Chen, MisoHungry
- Michelle Cheng, <u>Foodie is the New Forty</u>
- Rachelle King, <u>Blinded by the Bite!</u>
- Mike Krell, Austin Food Carts
- Rebecca Otis, <u>TheRebeccammendations</u>
- Mariam Parker, <u>Creative Test Kitchen Blog</u>
- Kristi Willis, Austin Farm to Table
- Kristina Wolter, Girl Gone Grits

Founding advisory board members of AFBA include:

- Adam Holzband, Talking Machine
- Dave Shaw, Russell/Shaw
- Marshall Wright, <u>Eat This Lens</u>

Logo design for AFBA is courtesy of Aron Hoag, <u>Design Secrets Revealed</u>. More detailed membership information will soon be posted online, those interested in the group can sign up for <u>e-news here</u>.

## Austin Food Blogger Alliance

The Austin Food Blogger Alliance was formed in early 2011 with the purpose of working together to set a standard of transparency and fairness by adhering to a code of ethics. We will also support each other and our community through classes, social events, and philanthropy. More information about the Austin Food Blogger Alliance can be found online at <a href="http://www.austinfoodbloggers.org">http://www.austinfoodbloggers.org</a>. Follow AFBA on Twitter at <a href="http://www.twitter.com/atxfoodblogs">http://www.twitter.com/atxfoodblogs</a>.

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