

VIVA POPS COMES TO NORMAL HEIGHTS

If you've strolled through the Little Italy farmers' market on a Saturday, chances are you've noticed Lisa Altmann. Standing behind her pristine white Viva Pops pushcart, Lisa is the one with a constant smile, handing out handmade popsicles to eager market-goers. Her pops, which are inspired by Mexican *paletas*, come in a dizzying array of colors and a stunning combination of flavors—think Lavender Lemonade, Strawberry Basil and Cucumber Chili. "I've always been attracted to more creative flavors," Lisa explains.

Altmann sources much of her fruit from local growers, including citrus and herbs from Schaner Farms and strawberries from Kawano Farms. Her pop flavors change based on what is available each season; this summer, Lisa is excited to work with stone fruit like cherries and nectarines.

But the big Viva Pops news this summer is not the new flavors. It's Viva Pops' new home. Spurred by Lisa's search for a larger kitchen, Viva Pops has moved into a storefront on Adams Avenue. Keeping with Viva Pop's playful design, the store is awash in what Lisa calls "tropical fun colors that reflect the colors of the pops." Behind the colorful storefront, a larger kitchen helps Lisa keep up with a growing demand for her pops.

For all you Little Italy market-goers, don't worry—the festive Viva Pops cart will continue to be at the market. Lisa also brings her Viva Pops cart to the Solana Beach market, and also caters to special events and parties. But if you find yourself looking for some thirst-



quenching relief from the heat this summer and can't wait until a weekend market, head on over to the Normal Heights storefront. Lisa promises it will be the same friendly experience she offers at the market: "Come by, say hi, grab a pop and we'll talk a little." Then you'll continue on your way, but not without pausing to relish that delightful explosion of local flavor.

— Lauren Duffy