

Renity



**VINYL GROOVE
RECORDS**

VINYL GROOVE RECORDS
Cleveland's Best Record Store

A Vinyl Haven For Music Lovers

There's something special about vinyl. The weight of an LP in your hands, the subtle crackle before the first note hits the airwaves that makes them sound like masterpieces—it's an experience digital music just can't replicate.

If you're looking for a record store in Cleveland that understands that love for vinyl, you've just found it. We're more than just a place to buy records—we're a music sanctuary, a hangout for collectors, and a hub for people who appreciate the way music was meant to be heard.

It doesn't matter if you're a seasoned vinyl enthusiast with a library of rare pressings or just getting into collecting—we're here to help you find the perfect album, the hidden gem, or the classic that inspired your taste in music.

500K+ Records Bought & Sold

250+ Serviced & Restored Turntables

50K+ Vinyl Records in Stock

100% Happy Listeners & Clients

More Than A Store—A Vinyl Community

We're more than just a record shop, we're a gathering place for music lovers. Collectors swap stories about rare finds, newcomers get advice on starting their collections, and friends bond over their shared love of vinyl!

Conversations about music history fill the air, and there's nothing better than being someone who, when they find out a record store has been looking for forever, that excitement is what makes our shop special.

New Vinyl & Reissues

Some albums are too good to fade away. We stock fresh vinyl from today's top artists along with reissues of timeless classics—ready to spin.

Pre-Owned Vinyl Selection

Great records get better with time. Our used vinyl is carefully graded and hand-picked, offering everything from classic rock to obscure punk.

Hard-to-Find Collectibles

For serious collectors, we carry the pressings, limited editions, and rare variants. We might have that vinyl you've been searching for.

Affordable & Unique Finds

From rare releases to vintage finds, our collection has something for everyone. Each pre-owned release is hand-picked for great performance and timeless appeal.

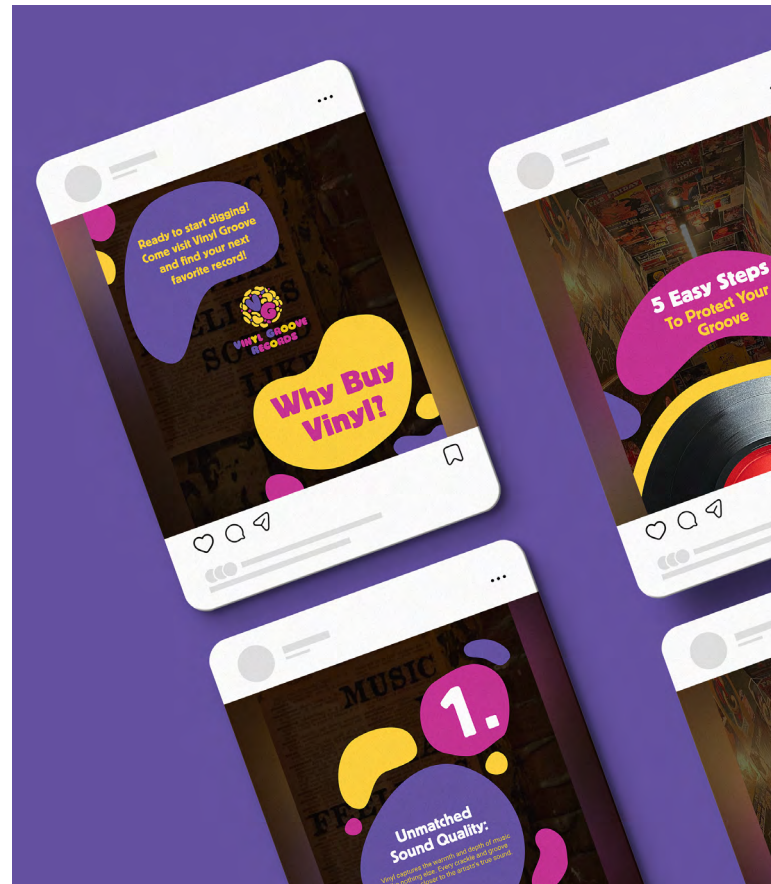
What You'll Find On Our Shelves

Location
5100 Pearl Rd, Suite 208
Cleveland, OH 44129

Hours
Mon-Tue: Closed
Wed: 12 PM - 6 PM
Thu-Sat: 12 PM - 7 PM
Sun: 11 AM - 5 PM

Socials
Instagram, Facebook, Twitter

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Shop Our Newest Drops!

Record Store Day
Black Friday | 11.28.25
10 AM-7PM

5100 Pearl Rd, Suite 208, Cleveland OH
Questions? Give us a call at 440-439-8371

DJ's, Giveaways, & Limited Releases in store!





BlackOut! | Magazine Cover and Spreads | Typographic Exploration

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across a YouTube video and inadvertently after my opinion of pop music for years. After randomly browsing the YouTube channel for hours, the YouTube video directed me to a new artist named CL. I was riding song "Hello B*tches" a South Korean rapper. I never heard of her before, I would later discover that this genre was called K-pop.

At the time, I paid no mind to the blatant cultural appropriation of Black culture in CL's music video. It didn't bother me that non-Black backup dancers wore cornrows and bantu knots or that they utilized African-American Vernacular English (AAVE). I just passively consumed. After my accidental introduction, I quickly became a super fan. I dedicated an absurd amount of time and money to streaming songs, watching videos, buying merch, and attending concerts. Despite my love for the genre, my fandom, and my favorite groups, I felt as if I didn't belong in the K-pop community. My years as a Black fan juxtapose the roots of the genre.

Black culture has been integral to the development of K-pop, just as it has almost every modern genre. As CEO of Black Entertainment, home to BTS, stated "Black music is the base. Even when doing many genres like house, urban, and pop, there is Black music." I go as far as to say that there would be no K-pop, as we know it, without Black people.

To analyze the influence of Black culture, it's important to know the history of the first "K-pop group" in existence: Seo Tai and Boys. Seo Tai and Boys consisted of three friends: Seo Taiji, Yang Hyun-suk, and Lee Juno. The group experimented with different genres and created a fusion of Western and Korean music, setting up K-Pop and making the genre what it is today.

Seo Taiji and Boys found influence in Rap and other Black music styles to lay the groundwork for the new genre. The group mixed aspects of Hip-Hop, RNB, EDM, Jazz, and Rock into their albums and even went more than one genre in one song.

The utilization of Black culture

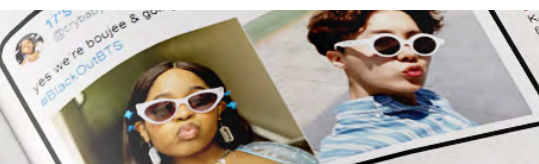
The group pioneered a new look to Korean music as well. This new look was inspired by Black culture, from Seo Taiji's fashion choices and performance styles, to their beats, and even their call for subordination. Seo Taiji and Boys' political anthems songs created a new Korean youth culture and mirrored Black youth culture and experience in the US.

Seo Taiji and Boys radically shaped K-pop to be what is today. Even after the group disbanded, their influence remained. Sub-labels established in Entertainment, which has infamous K-pop groups like **Blackpink**, **Bigbang**, **2NE1**, **Epik High**, **Cube**, and more. The groups' impact on Korean Music would not have been possible without the Black artists they looked up to and listened to. SM group H.O.T. applied Seo Taiji and Boys' appropriated style with a new format, making them the first, official K-pop group.

Pictured: SM group H.O.T



K-pop fans have been pivotal to the success of the genre and industry in the United States. In her video essay with the New York Times, Nicole Fineman stated that "A significant amount of K-pop fans are Black."



Yes we're boujee & go #BlackOutBTS



Seo Taiji and Boys

With outrage from Black and international fans

comes more clicks and streams for groups, K-pop idols hardly ever make apology statements and when they do their agencies restrict them from being published. For example, K-pop Star **Henry** apologized for utilizing Black hairstyles but the video was later taken down by his managers.

Although Kpop idols' careers have never been jeopardized due to cultural appropriation or racism towards the Black community, more and more Black fans and international fans are taking action. Some fans boycott groups while others leave fandoms completely. In **October of 2020**, international and Black K-pop fans called for a boycott of **NCT album Resonance (2020)**.

The boycott trended on Twitter during the debut of the album. Even though fans called for a boycott, neither **SM** nor **NCT** cut out a statement to address their fans' grievances. The boycott was not successful, as the album did well on the charts.

The tensions between Black K-pop fans and K-pop agencies, non-Black fans, and idols hit a catalyst in the Summer of 2020 after the unjust killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department. Although K-pop fans were praised for flooding the **#WhatLivesMatter** and **#BlueLivesMatter** and Dallas Police Department's website with K-pop fan cams, Black K-pop fans were reported and doxxed on Twitter. Fellow fans for calling on K-pop artists to speak out on **#BlackLivesMatter**.



G-Dragon and Missy Elliott

The events that unfolded that summer forced me to take a step back from K-pop and "stan Twitter." I felt I could no longer care about an industry or a fandom that did not care about me. The **silence of the industry** and the people who profit off the creators was deafening.

In the weeks following George Floyd's murder, I, similarly to other Black K-pop fans, was harassed on **Twitter** and **WeVerse** (an artist-to-fan mobile app) for trying to spread awareness on **#BlackLivesMatter**. I now no longer consider myself a K-pop fan, just a person who is a fan of K-pop. As the debate around cultural appropriation becomes more heated fans are calling for idols and agency to transition from **appropriation to appreciation**.

"I now no longer consider myself a K-pop fan, just a person who is a fan of K-pop."

There are many ways agencies can practice cultural appreciation. One thing more Black staff and paying **PR agents, and more** can help K-pop agencies build stronger ties with the Black community. Hiring more Black stylists can allow for outfits and hairstyles to be double-checked for respectability before the artist goes out or films.

The connection between K-pop and Black culture is strong and inter-generational. Just like many genres, Black people have been critical of the development and the foundations of K-pop. As new K-pop groups form and more fans join the genre, it is important that we understand the history of **Black culture in K-pop**.



BTS on the set of American Hustle Life

Black PR agents can communicate with Black or international fans when problematic situations arise. Agencies should also boost the Black staff who are already there. Paying them more, giving them more credit, and boosting their other work can all be impactful to their staff.

Along with these options, education can help bridge the gap between Black people and Koreans. For example, one viral YouTube video from 2020 featured K-pop trainees learning about cultural appropriation. Similar to this, **K-pop group BTS** learned about Black Music directly from Black content creators and artists in their show **American Hustle Life**.







Blue Tree Cafe | Buildout | *Typographic Exploration*

"Whole Food
Is Soul Food"

Blue Tree Cafe
Vegan Soul Food



**Build Your
Blue Soul Bowl**

\$15.99

Choose One Main:

- BBQ or SPICY BBQ Bella Mushrooms
- Calli Curry Chickpeas
- Crispy Cauli Wings

Choose Two Sides:

- Collard Greens
- Candied Yams
- Steamed Cabbage
- Mac n Cheese
- Blackeyed Peas
- Plantains
- Seasoned Rice
- Brown Rice
- Lite Basmati Rice

Yes \$4.99
1 Cheese
d Peas

Add Ons

- One Cornbread \$1.50
- or Crispy Cauli-Wings \$5.00
- Seasoned Fries \$3.99
- Crabless Balls \$4.00/each

Entrées

Calli-Curry Chickpeas \$13.99
Mild curry chickpeas, fresh spinach, red peppers
served with steamed cabbage & sweet plantains
Choice of brown rice or white basmati rice.

Crabless Balls \$15.99
Three crabless balls made with heart of palms,
chickpeas, seaweed, and spices. Served with a
side and a sauce. (Sauces: BBQ, ranch, spicy BBQ,
or chipotle mayo)

Rasta Pasta \$16.99
penne pasta, mushrooms, onions, bell peppers,
coconut milk, cashew cream, and jerk seasonings.
Topped with parmesan cheese and green onions.

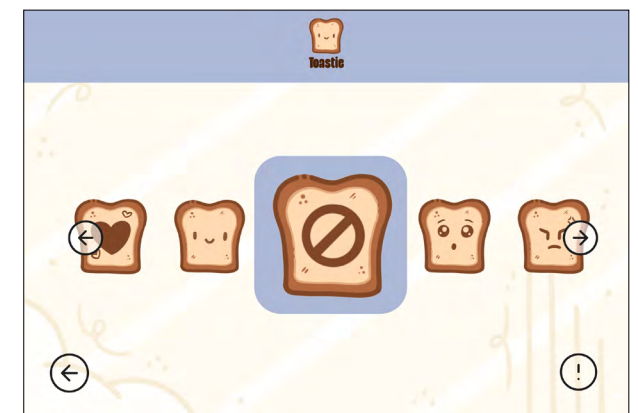
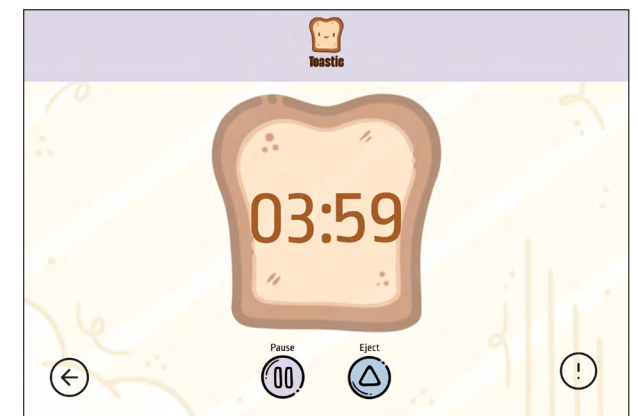
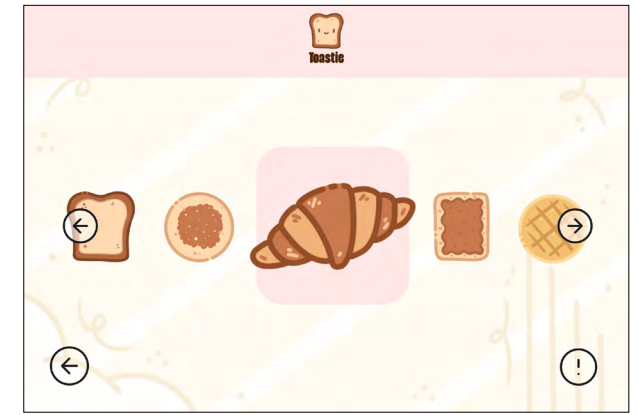
Chef's Chili \$9.99
Homemade chili made with lentils, kidney beans,
corn, onion and tomato. Served with a
cornbread muffin.

Drinks

- Hibiscus and Ginger \$3.99
- Water (in a can) \$2.00
- Water (in a carton) \$3.00

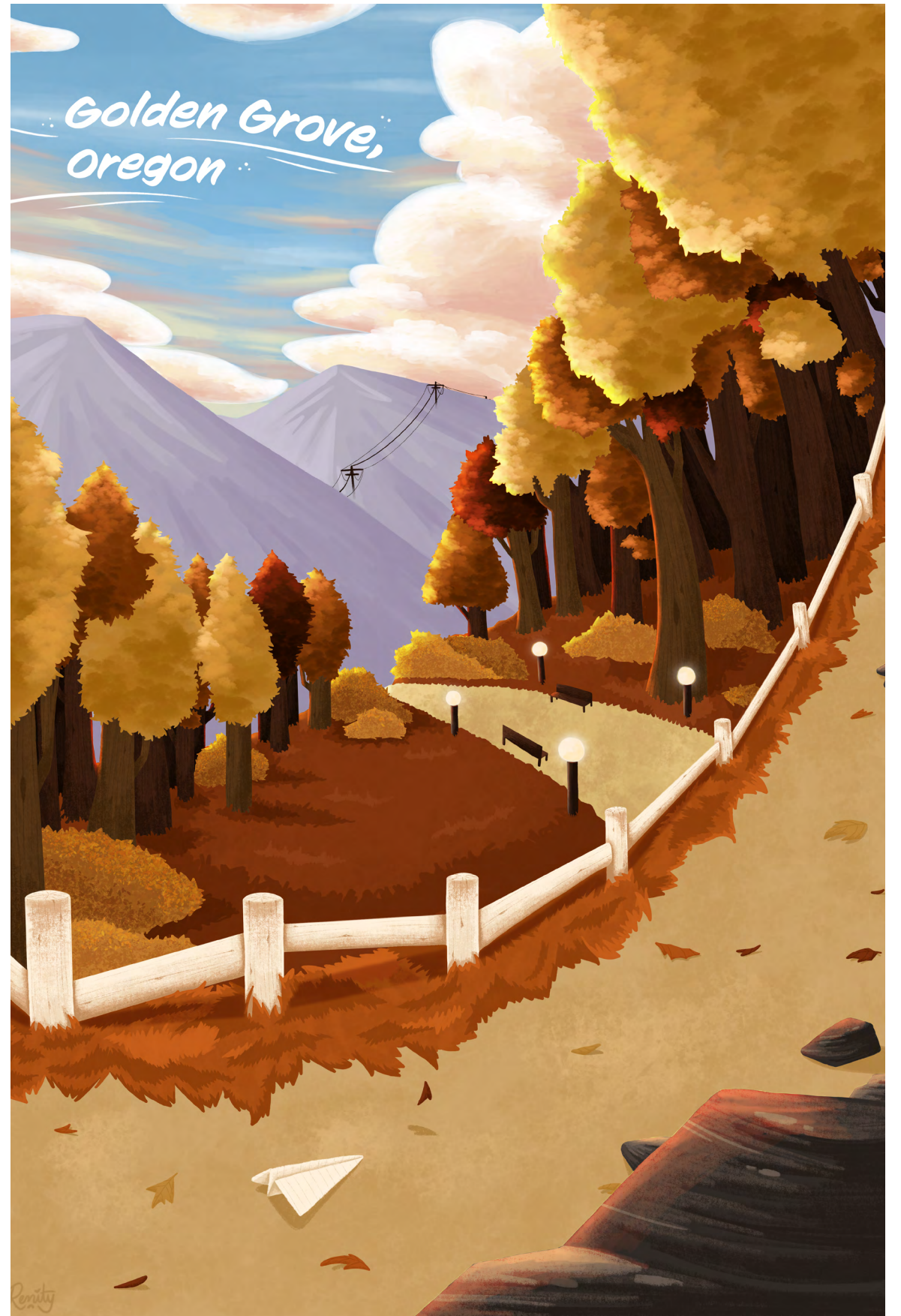
Dessert

- Mini Sweet Potato Pie \$6.99

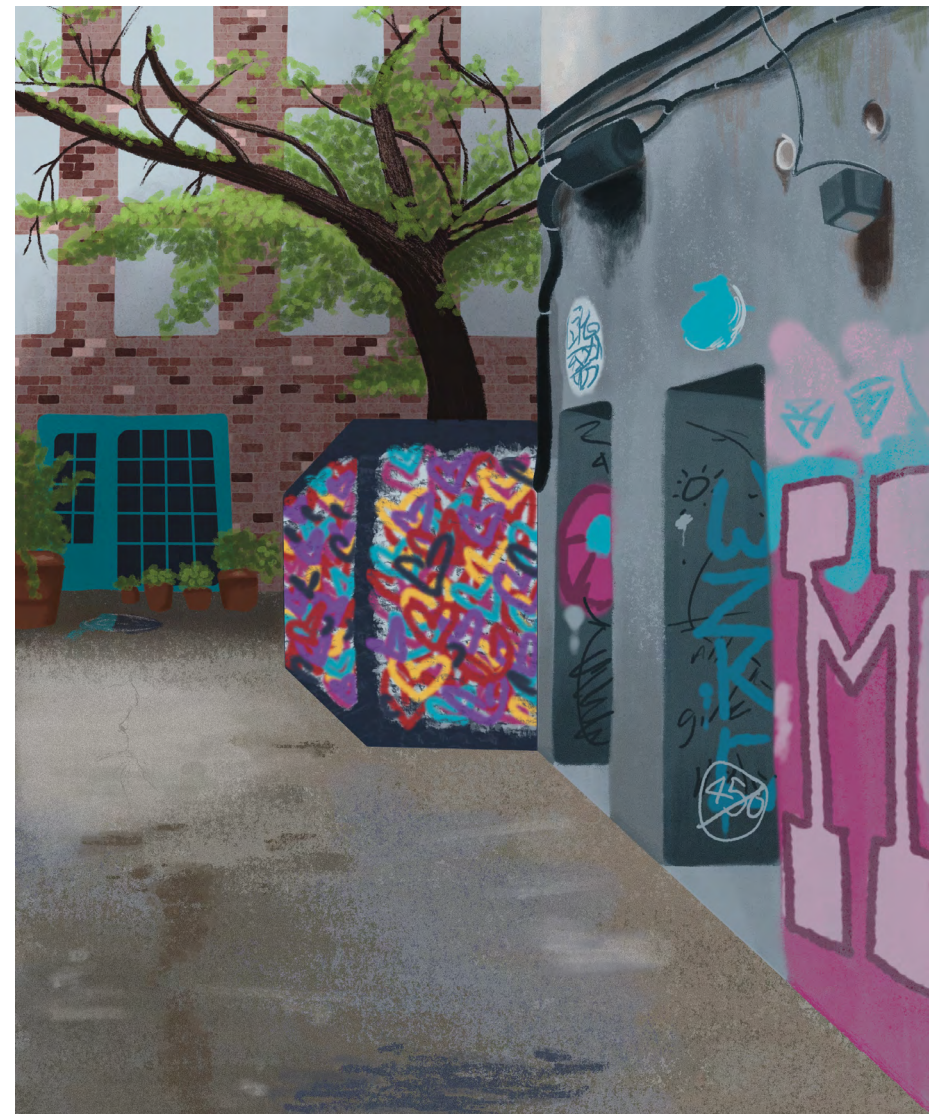


Toastie | App Development | User Experience





Sunset Bird and Golden Grove | Travel Poster Advertisement | Illustration





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