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Liberty Kitchen's Lance Fegen brings some Gulf Coast comfort to Last Chef Standing competition

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BY TYLER RUDICK

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Among the finalists in CultureMap's Last Chef Standing Restaurant Challenge, Liberty Kitchen is the new kid on the block.

Opened just this past December to rave reviews, the Heights cafe and its eclectic offerings of east Texas comfort food have already managed to make their mark on the Houston foodie scene thanks to chef Lance Fegen, whose [Glass Wall](#) and [BRC Gastropub](#) maintain an equally-enthusiastic following.

A graduate of the [Culinary Institute of America](#) in New York, Fegen spend a good portion of his childhood in the greater New York City area before his family relocated to Houston in the early 1980s.

"I come from a big Italian family," says chef Fegen. "Huge meals and comfort food are in my blood."

"I come from a big Italian family and have these memories as a kid of going down to Trenton, New Jersey to pick up lasagna and meatballs," he tells CultureMap. "Huge meals and comfort food are in my blood."

After a success string of jobs in the kitchens of local institutions like [Brennan's](#) and the [Houstonian](#), Fegen set his sights on opening his [Glass Wall](#) in 2006 to focus on an ever-evolving menu of season, local cuisine — a theme he's continued to develop with resto-bar [BRC](#) and the casual [Liberty Kitchen](#).

"I like cooking American regional," he explains. "I've just never been as into Asian or European recipes."

While he has yet to finalize his menu for the Last Chef Standing [tasting event](#) on April 9, Fegen says he'll be looking to the greater Houston area for inspiration. "It may be a variation of our gumbo, with fried oysters and okra. . . definitely something seafood-y and Gulf Coast for sure."

Join [CultureMap](#) for its [Last Chef Standing Restaurant Challenge Tasting Event](#) on Monday, April 9 at [Hotel Zaza](#). For \$45, guests can sample food from a list of top Houston restaurants ranging from [The Tasting Room](#) to [The Grove](#) and [Mockingbird Bistro](#) to [Samba Grille](#). [Click here](#) for details and tickets.

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 Liberty Kitchen & Oyster Bar

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