

BROCK L. WAGNER
FOUNDER / BREWER

There was not much of a craft beer market in Texas when Brock Wagner founded Saint Arnold Brewing Company in Houston in 1994. Today Saint Arnold is Texas' oldest craft brewery.

Brock began homebrewing in 1985 while an undergraduate at Rice University. After graduation, he spent six years in investment banking working on corporate finance, bankruptcy and mergers and acquisitions primarily in the oil service sector. And kept homebrewing most weekends. While he always knew he wanted to have his own business, six years of investment banking made him realize he wanted to follow his passion: brewing.

On June 9, 1994, Saint Arnold opened in a multitenant distribution warehouse in northwest Houston with a 30 bbl brewhouse and three fermenters. The goals were modest. Today Saint Arnold is located just north of downtown Houston with a 120 bbl brewhouse and the Saint Arnold Beer Garden and Restaurant next door. The team has grown from 3 people to over 200. Saint Arnold beers (and ciders) are distributed only in Texas and Louisiana. Brock has been on the forefront of making Texas laws friendlier to craft brewing including getting the rights to sell beer on premise at breweries in 2013 and off premise in 2019. Brock was a founding member of the board of directors of both the Brewers Association and the Texas Craft Brewers Guild. In 2017, Saint Arnold won the Midsized Brewery of the Year award at the Great American Beer Festival. In 2023, Saint Arnold repeated this feat, winning Brewery of the Year for the second time.