

The Pitch

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BEST OF KC 2025



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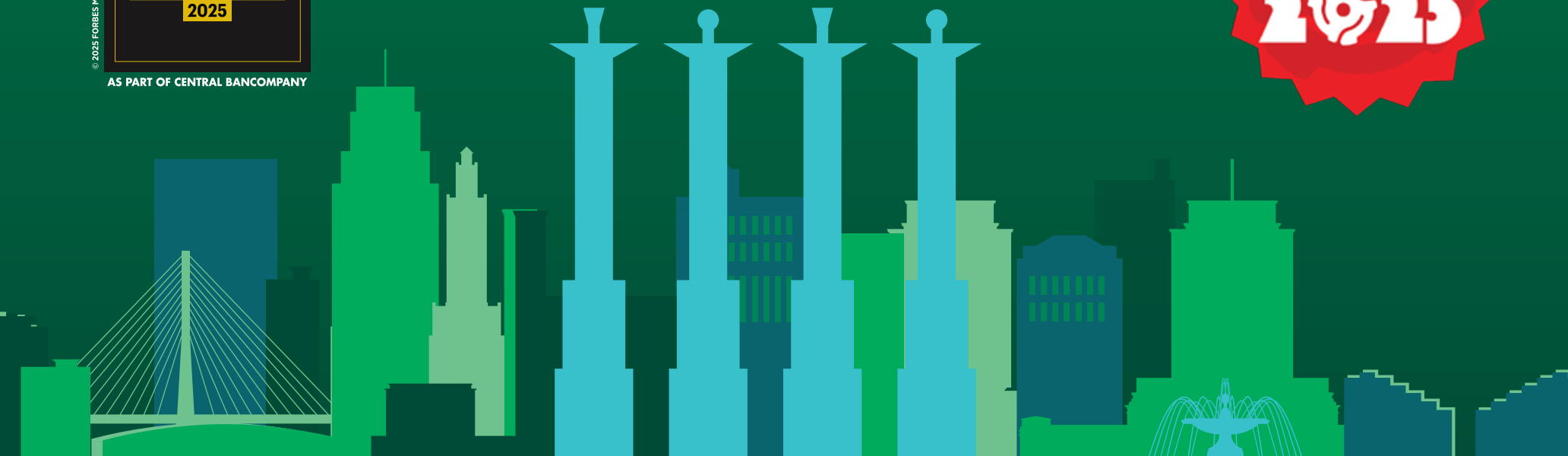
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The Pitch

Editor-in-Chief

Brock Wilbur

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Sarah Sipple

Music Editor

Nick Spacek

Film Editor

Abby Olcese

Little Village Creative Services

Jordan Sellergren

Contributing Editor

Joe Ellett

Editorial Designer

Teddy Rosen

Editorial Intern

Rowan Bickelhaupt, Collyn Robinson

Contributing Writers

Tiffany Watts, Beth Lipoff, Jordan Baranowski,

Michael Mackie, Kaylynn Mullins, Adrian Torres,

Zoe Strohm, Nancy Le, Alexander Omorodion

Contributing Photographers

Tarik Sykes, Isabella Galvan, Allison Scavo, Jordan

Hirse Korn, Haley Mullenix, Stephen Fuller, Kylee

Gregg

VOICE MEDIA GROUP

National Advertising

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The Pitch

420 Nichols Rd

2nd Floor

Kansas City, MO 64112

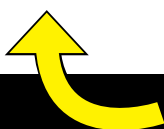
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Letter from the Editor

THE BEST IS YET TO COME
By Brock Wilbur

Dearest readers,

Welcome to the "Best of 2025" Issue of *The Pitch* magazine—homegrown right here in Kansas City. This is our annual gala. The big night, but done our way. Informal attire required, the bar is cash but will never be cashed, and no one goes home until the afterparty's afterparty. This magazine is the stack of glossy paper we work towards all year, and in its binding are the stories that make this year singular, spontaneous, spectacular, and shareable by all who wish to join. Each issue of our magazine holds a special place in our hearts, but the *Best of* outings are the pinnacle performances we'll talk about for years to come.

We're goddamned proud of this. That's the gist, if you weren't picking up the vibes. We're goddamned proud because we are in the business of telling KC stories, and this is 2025's encyclopedia of moments that can't be forgotten. These are flashes of what makes life worth living, what makes fights worth forcing, and a pure, uncut packet of the good shit.

This is the big show. Now we're passing the spotlight to you.

To build the *Best of 2025* magazine, over the course of five months, we've watched members of the public nominate and vote, across several rounds, to highlight the people, businesses, creators, musicians, artists, organizers, and general inspiration engines that defined your year. En masse, the public overloads our systems with your opinions, your voices, and your ballots—with the end result of finalists and runner-ups in 450 categories. We have something for everyone, and everyone has a reason to go home happy.

This year, across those 450 categories, there were 2,421 nominations, and over 407,793 votes. These are, I reiterate, in no way affected by anyone on the publication's side. I don't even vote here. These results represent your voices alone, and no one will ever put a finger on that scale.

If you're the recipient of a category victory this year, please understand that not only are you great at what you do, but your friends, neighbors, and even strangers took time out of their lives to make sure you got exactly what you deserved. If you didn't make the cut on these lists, then I promise you 2026's issue is still a long way off, and I've learned that in this city, absolutely any-

one with the drive and dedication can rise to the top. If 2025 isn't your year, you have not been left out or let down. You're exactly where you need to be to swoop in and sweep the competition off their feet in less than 12 months. Godspeed. Rising tides raise all boats, etc., things of this nature. We'll all be better for it.

All of that voting and those awards live in the back half of this issue—YOUR PICKS. The first half of the magazine, OUR PICKS, is where the primary writers and editors from the site are singling out the things, small and large, that changed our 2025—as a group, as a part of community, as just some person that was lucky enough to glimpse a look at the small slips in the veil, where the promise of a better world is seeping through, and where our expectations were obliterated. Some are huge spectacles, others are incredibly tiny slivers of lives well lived. Each paragraph has a place in our parade.

2025 was not an easy year. It was not a good year. It was a year for which history is going to have to reckon with a lot of darkness, disappointment, confusion, and damnation. Don't worry. We'll keep wrestling with every moment of these antagonisms on a daily basis. We'll keep reporting on the ways that we can all fight back. But this issue gets to live as a reminder, purely and simply, of all the good that is worth fighting for.

We at *The Pitch* want to thank you for everything you've given us in 2025. Each story you shared, the thousands of you that answered our questions at events or picked up the phone when we called, or brought a situation to our attention because you trusted us to be the only publication to take you seriously... You are not just who we do this *for*, you are who we could do none of this *without*.

As this magazine passes through its final editorial read-through, I'm sitting at a large table in a huge room. I'm surrounded by many of my favorite people in the world, and all we are discussing is how many of you are our favorite people in the world. Right now, a vinyl record is playing at full blast, we've got pens and highlighters giving perfectionist passes to each word of the issue, and the only thing on our minds is how lucky we are to be able to be here, and to watch you shoot for the stars. You're an inspiration. We're following in your path.

We intend to keep doing exactly that, no matter what life throws at us. There's an upcoming stretch after this issue hits stands where *The Pitch* more likely than not will be unavailable in print form for a while. The world has reached a point where the finances and unexpected hurdles keep changing on a dime, and in order to keep serving KC the way we want, there will be a period where picking up these glossy pages won't

be an option. That's fine, actually. We're genuinely excited about how much time this frees up for us to do more in-depth, timely, daily reporting on all the things that matter to you—stories and breaking news that the added work of publishing a physical magazine increasingly ate into. As always, we are at www.thepitchkc.com, each and every day, writing stories we're proud of that highlight the best, the worst, and the weirdest of what the metro has to offer.

We will not be paywalling the website. *The Pitch* will always be accessible to all, and it belongs to the people. Our membership program, which you can subscribe to for only \$8 a month, brings with it expanded stories, bonus material, and personal dispatches from the team about our passions that are a bit more off the beaten path—and some private surprises for those of you who value supporting the brand of local cheer-leading/journalism/exploration that we've been doing here since the '80s.

This is our 45th year, and as such, this issue revolves around 45 rpm records. *The Pitch* was born in a record store years before I was born, and the party will hopefully still be raging long after I'm gone. Thank you to all of you for reading. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being a part of our lives, and thank you for letting us impact yours.

I've never had a job where my first thought each day is "Who will I meet today and how can I change their world for the better?" From all of us on the team who get to live this dream, thank you for giving a little direction each year, to make sure this positivity project doesn't disappear. We'd all be lesser without *The Pitch*, and we can still make this entire expanding project into so, so much more.

Pitch in and we'll make it through,

Brock Wilbur P



Cover by Teddy Rosen

Help support The Pitch's local journalism with a contribution today! the-pitch-kc-llc.fundjournalism.org/membership

KC 2026 RESTAURANT WEEK



The most delicious days of the year are back in January, offering endless ways to sample and savor Kansas City's culinary landscape. Plus, a portion of all proceeds benefit reStart.



January 9-18
KCRestaurantWeek.com
#KCRW2026



OUR PICKS

By Rowan Bickelhaupt, Joe Ellett, Alexander Omorodion,
Collyn Robinson, Sarah Sipple, Nick Spacek, Tiffany Watts, Brock Wilbur
All art by Teddy Rosen



OUR PICKS

KANSAS CITY PROTECTS ITS OWN

Since the inception of the second Trump term, a new energy has been brought to the city—one where people who have not historically been involved in politics feel called to advocacy. Grassroots organizations like Boots on the Ground Midwest and Midtown KC Now, along with community members across the city, have coordinated crucial workshops and events to help educate citizens on how to protect themselves and their neighbors.

While decisions made from the highest office in the land continue to plague communities and roll back long-fought civil protections, both across the country and in our own backyard, being equipped with the tools to thwart abuses of power has become more important than ever before.

Recent community training efforts have taken the form of teach-ins that not only educate people on the misconceptions surrounding immigration, but also offer rapid-response training that teaches what to do if someone spots ICE activity in their area. This trend has also included workshops that prepare the public for basic disaster response, covering events such as floods, terrorism, or other hazards requiring immediate medical attention.

This blooming in community training culture and intervention has transformed local activism from mere performativity to serious action. Get out and get involved. Your neighbor needs you.

RACHEL MCCARTHY JAMES' BOOK WHACK JOB CUTS DEEP

Lawrence-based writer Rachel McCarthy James spent the last few years digging into the history of a singular object, and what her Indiana Jones-style research turned up is an object of extreme and terrible power—i.e., a must-have for your bookshelf and easily the best stocking stuffer our book writers will recommend for this holiday season.

Whack Job: A History of Axe Murder is the story of the axe: tool, weapon, and status symbol of culture and technology through the ages. First as a convenient danger and then an anachronism, this examination is told through the murders it has been employed in throughout history and covers a dizzying swathe of history. Like a bloody version of Bill Bryson's *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* or *Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat* by Bee Wilson filtered through the vibrant readability of Mary Roach, James' *Whack Job* is a book that you'll find utterly unputdownable.

While your staples of the true crime genre, a la Lizzie Borden, have their appearances here, they all arrive in forms and from perspectives that are truly peerless in that entire sphere of storytelling. Inherent in this separation is the mix of anthropological know-how mixed with Midwestern sass



Chappell Roan // Photo by Daniel Fuchs

that allows James to spit in the face of long-standing narratives. What she offers is less a listing of people felled by the bladed instrument and more of a holistic look at how and why this object took such a profound place in cultures across continents and centuries.

At points, the axe is a weapon of ultimate revenge, while other cultures considered it such a utilitarian instrument that its mere creation could be proof that a man had the personality type required to befriend and inspire people from across a spectrum of allegiances. Yes, making your own axe could be proof that you would be a good husband because it meant you proba-

bly had the temperament to get along with folks from all walks of life. Like we said, this book is wild.

James' work is a page turner, her voice in this space is singular, and the wit cuts like a blade. *Whack Job* is truly the high watermark for lit in the region this year, and you owe it to yourself to track this one down.

PINK PONY CLUB OVERRUNS MIDTOWN FOR CHAPPELL ROAN WEEKEND

October's spookiest event didn't revolve around an outdated haunted house in the West Bottoms or a movie marathon at Screenland. Rather, the return of the Mid-

west Princess to her homeland made for the scariest spectacle of the year.

Chappell Roan, launching a limited *Visions of Damsels & Other Dangerous Things* Tour (for basically just us), overtook WWI Memorial Park—and every other facet of the city. Across two nights, more than 60k people attended the dual gigs, while navigating the infrastructure and crosstown travel for a venue that rarely hosts any spectacle of this size. Drowning in a sea of pink, wigs, and cowboy hats, the most age-diverse crowd we've ever seen partied the night away. It's a rare thing to catch a family of eight dancing with an absolutely obliterated set posse

OUR PICKS

Good Karma
Coffee //
Photo by Zach
Bauman

of drag queens, at least out in the *normal* world, but at the Pink Pony Club, the unrelenting party kept space for all invited.

Roan herself took command of a Maleficent-style Disney haunted castle set, backed by Don Bluth-style animation, and floored us with one of the best live voices we've ever heard—plowing through every track in her catalogue, along with a cover of “Barracuda” that's destined to soundtrack movie trailers for years to come. Her band provided a heavy-metal flair to the pop anthems, almost taunting us with the talent on display.

But Roan's event was much, much more than just the show itself. Pop-ups across the city made certain to highlight local businesses, creatives, and makers, with the princess putting all her power into guaranteeing that the scene from her origin story was backed, both in exposure and in financial boon. Multiple LGBTQ+-owned businesses and drag bars were part of the officially distributed weekend guide, and drag performers served as opening acts for both shows. Seeing local superstars get to push their personal Venmos for show tips, out to an all-ages sea of people, was the most “KC thing” that *The Pitch* has seen from a hometown hero in quite some time.

The planning and execution, on stage and off, was not just the definition of a Fem-

inomenon but genuinely the standard by which future visiting superstars will be held. This wasn't just a show; this was *everything*.

KC'S COFFEE CULTURE GREW AT ESPRESSO-FUELED SPEED

Kansas City craves caffeine and yearns for third spaces. At least that's one takeaway from our non-stop coffee shop culture. New spots with distinct identities opened in the last year, such as Good Karma Coffee, Origin Coi Nguon Coffeehouse, Pitchside Coffee, Cortadito, Penrose Espresso Bar, Le Champion, and even coffee/matcha carts. We also saw the expansion of established spots like Café Corazón, Sweet Tee's, and Grand Coffee.

Not only did cafe openings outpace closures, but most of the new spots didn't stop at coffee. Good Karma hosts a variety of after-hours events and socials. Le Champion converts to a cocktail bar in the afternoon. Pitchside frequently invites food vendors to pop up so guests can linger longer.

Between expanding the expectations of a coffee shop and having a baseline menu of relatively inexpensive items (<\$10), local spots continue to bridge the gap for large groups of people that weren't as large a few years ago: non-drinkers who still want somewhere to hang out and socialize, remote workers needing a change of scenery,



and individuals who seek irl connection after the glimmer of internet fades... all while leaning into “little treat culture.”

No matter the state of the economy, little treat culture prevails. When things are good, celebrate life and treat yourself. When things are down, you deserve a treat. You can't afford a home, and you're not one to spend big on cars or bags, so little treats are practically self-care, right?

Most of us? We're skipping the 'bucks and Dutch Bros for local spots that offer pockets of respite, connection, and fun alongside our caffeinated bevvie of choice.

MELINDA RYDER'S HALF-CENTURY CENTER-STAGE

When it comes to drag, some could argue

that Melinda Ryder has been the best for 50 years. Since the late '70s, she has absolutely dominated the scene, winning Miss Gay Missouri 1979, Miss Gay Kansas City America 1982, Miss Gay Missouri America 1984, and 2nd Alternate to Miss Gay America 1985.

Bruce Winter—the person behind the Melinda Ryder personality—made his way to Kansas City from St. Louis in 1975, set up shop, and never left. To this day, Winter can still be seen as Ryder around town, most recently featured at The Museum of Kansas City, showcasing the exhibit, *Arrive As A Star. Leave As A Star*, which is on display through February of next year. How lucky are we?

What is truly mesmerizing about Ryder's legacy is that it never diminished, coming on 50 whole years still completely intact. The same cannot be said about most drag pioneers, as there has been a drive to mass erase queer existence from the country's historical documentation. Fortunately, Ryder never fell victim to this blatant eradication. That resistance can be partially attributed to the City of Kansas City.

Individuals within our cherished Midwest metropolis noticed the disparity when it comes to historical queer representation and have worked to ensure that records remain. While The Museum of Kansas City is the organization that spearheaded this for Ryder, the city as a whole continuously works to transparently portray drag in the community.

Currently, Ryder is working on a documentary with director John Crite, titled *Melinda Ryder; Still Here*, further highlighting her decades' worth of work and significance within Kansas City's queer scene. Melinda Ryder is truly one of one. And her impact on the city will last forever.

UNEVEN SEASONS KEEP TOP ATHLETES ON THEIR TOES

Let's be honest. For the last few years, Kansas City has been absolutely spoiled when it comes to our professional sports teams.



KC Current // Photo by Tarik Sykes

The Chiefs claimed back-to-back Super Bowl Championships in 2022 and 2023, the Royals scraped up enough wins last season to make a postseason push, even winning the wildcard round against the Baltimore Orioles, and the Current placed fourth in the NWSL 2024 Season, playing their first games on CPKC Stadium grass. I mean, you can't ask for much more from your three core sporting groups.

But that changed this past year. Yes, the Chiefs continued their dominant run throughout the regular season and most of the playoffs, but they didn't get it done. Their chances at being the first team to ever win three consecutive Super Bowls came to a devastating ending when the Philadelphia Eagles got revenge for their 2022 championship loss to the team, pummeling Andy Reid and the crew 40-22 in Vegas.

Our standards may be high, but regardless of any accomplishments made throughout this past season, if we don't win the Super Bowl, all of the work put in feels like a waste. And this 2025 season hasn't quite kicked off on the best note, either, as the team is 4-3 at the time of this writing, with our three victories sparking the re-emergence of the 'ref conspiracy theories' that have long haunted the team.

As far as the Royals go, disappointment is the standard. But after a successful 2024 season, attitudes toward the team around the city had shifted from awaiting an inevitable letdown to a slight sense of faith, especially considering the contract extension of star shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. And as the team remained in the wildcard hunt as August approached, that faith was worthy. However, once September rolled around, the 'Yals dropped 14 of the 25 games played, diminishing any chances at a blue October.

But there is one team that continues to put on for KC, baby. Our friends by the riverfront are no strangers to winning, currently leading the NWSL with a record of 20-3-2—eight wins ahead of the current second-place team at the time of this writing. By the time this magazine hits stands, the regular season will be completed and the team will be gearing up for the playoffs. Given the success that the soccer stars have had, led by most recent league MVP Temwa Chawinga, a long play-off run and hoisting of the trophy seem to be right around the corner.

At a time when we are unsure if the Chiefs are the Chiefs and we now know that the Royals are still the Royals, it is nice to take a stroll to the only women's soccer stadium in the world and watch our players absolutely dismantle opponents. Head up to CPKC Stadium to cheer on the team in teal as they push for the 2025 NWSL Championship.

JIMI POE BECOMES THE OWNER OF THE STATE'S FIRST MICROBUSINESS DISPENSARY

Over the summer, Platte City granted a warm welcome to a new neighbor, 816 Dispensary—the first microbusiness dispensary to open in the state. When Missourians voted for legal cannabis in the state, lawmakers paved a way for disadvantaged individuals to own a business in the industry. As a result, the social equity cannabis microbusiness program was established.

In order to be eligible for a microbusiness license, applicants must meet one of the five following criteria: have a net worth under \$250,000; have disabled veteran status; have been convicted of a nonviolent marijuana felony; reside in a low-income zip code; or have graduated from an unaccredited school.

816 Dispensary Owner Jimi Poe qualifies due to a nonviolent marijuana conviction that he received in 2007. What had previously haunted his reputation now serves as the sole reason why he was able to start the business in the first place. And while he was shy to make his felony known previously, he now has it hanging within the walls of 816 Dispensary for all visitors to see.

After opening in June, 816 Dispensary is still working on getting up to speed, currently only holding a few different strains of flower and pre-rolls from three microbusiness wholesalers in the state. But Poe says this will soon change. By the time this magazine hits stands, he is hopeful that his shop will be stocked with edibles and vape car-

tridges now that the wholesalers have had more time to settle into the work.

The opening of 816 Dispensary shows that this microbusiness program can at least get a licensee to the finish line. Whether or not the small niche within the cannabis industry can be prosperous or not will be known once more microbusinesses reach commencement and have time to make waves in the market. Until then, Poe is deserving of a pat on the back, given the fact that 34 of the 96 awarded licenses have been revoked since the program's emergence.

DOCUMENTARY SOUNDS OF THE CITY IS A MUSICAL LOVE LETTER TO KC

Before director Dustin Phillips completed his project *Sounds of the City* this year, finding information on the city's historical involvement in the evolution of music was tough to come across. Now, Kansas Citians can turn to the 2025 documentary that historically lists Kansas City's influence within music culture since the 1920s.

The doc hits on all of KC's guidance in the subculture from the early jazz pioneers such as Bennie Moten, Count Basie, and Charlie 'Bird' Parker, to some of the acts that you may see today perusing through town.

Throughout Phillips' production, he makes it clear where the different genres of music intersect, which, in turn, shaped the melodic scene throughout the metro, then shaping sound throughout the nation.

Many thanks must be given to Phillips, considering that, without *Sounds of the City*, much of this historical context can be lost

and washed down over time. Phillips paints a clear picture of what music was then, what it is now, and what it may be.

UNICORN THEATRE'S FIRE WORK STAGED DYSTOPIAN COLLISION BETWEEN CHARLES SCHULZ AND CHILD LABOR

One stage play in 2025 took us all by storm, and *The Pitch* is ride or die for a little show that delivered a delightfully horrible time—thanks to the killer creatives over at Unicorn Theatre.

fire work is exactly what we yearn for when we crave clever criticism, and the Orwellian comedy of the whole thing does what satire has failed to do in our modern era: find a way to escalate beyond how fucking bad things have gotten.

Director Katie Gilchrist and playwright Mary Glen Fredrick set the scene of a dystopian industrial hellscape, where a group of children aged six to 12 live alone in the ruins of whatever came before. They work long hours of grueling labor in a struggle to stay alive—and even to help fiscally support their own parents, wherever they might be. Despite the bleak conditions, the youth are enraged by a new law that the local politicians seem set to approve: banning child labor for those under a certain age. What should seem like progress is instead met with feral frustration as the kids themselves move to stop said legislation for fear that they will be unable to work and, therefore, die penniless.

Like the violent frustration of an animal forced to gnaw off its own arm to es-



fire work // Photo by Don Ipock



Fearless Jack
Rabbit Art // Photo
Courtesy of Jeff
Parson

cape a trap, no recent original stage play has made the audience laugh while tasting the blood of the moment so memorably. Pulling from *Mad Max*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Disco Elysium* equally, you'd need to hunt down future productions of *You're a Good Comrade*, *Charlie Brown*!

FEARLESS JACK RABBIT STANDS TALL IN RIVERSIDE

By the time our annual Best Of magazine hits stands, Jeff Parson—the face behind Fearless Jack Rabbit Art—will be halfway done crafting his collection of Kansas City Chiefs yard art. What started out as an avenue for self-expression has led to a seven-year tradition in Riverside.

The local artist paints wood carvings that resemble members of the hometown team, adding a new player to the yard each week. By the end of the NFL Season, Parson has a whole gang of Chiefs in his yard, along with locals wanting to take a closer look at the art and snap photos.

But Parson's artistic expertise is not merely centered around painting buff football bros; his portfolio runs deep, whether that be his yard art, his mural at B.B.'s Lawnside BBQ, his numerous pieces for rock band Jackyl, or his personal collection that the public may never have a chance to lay eyes on.

What makes the Riverside dweller's art so eccentric is that everything he does has purpose. While his yard art started as his own desire, it transitioned into a way for him to give back to his community. Now, there are musicians, television and movie characters, drag queens, and much more.

In all of Parson's art, intentionality and passion can be found. He seems to never really put the brush down, and for good reason. Riverside residents are lucky that they

have such easy and free access to one-of-a-kind craftsmanship in their neighborhood.

"CLUBBING" FINDS NEW FORMS FOR A REINVENTION GENERATION

Though we don't think people really say "going clubbing" anymore, it used to imply late nights, dark clubs, drugs and alcohol, hookups, and cover charges. In 2025, Kansas City experienced a shift in club culture: not taking anything away from the late-

night scene, only adding to it. Cover charges remain, but other aspects of clubbing have become more inclusive.

Now, there are more opportunities than ever to see and be seen, dance, and hear DJ sets (for better or worse). Only now, it may happen at 9 a.m., or be held at a coffee shop, or be a completely dry event. For example, Cougar Club and its monthly dance parties target the 35 and older crowd, promising guests access to shake their asses on a week-

night, then be home and in bed with their skincare routine complete by 11 p.m.

Other new parties bring the club environment to the other half of the day. AM Club is exactly as it sounds, creating a pop-up joint in a coffee shop or non-traditional location at 9 a.m. There is no alcohol served at most AM Club events, and it takes the club mentality even further in the opposite direction by kicking off the day with a run, cold plunge, and massage before turning down the lights and bringing out the DJ. Caféton brings a Latin lounge atmosphere to Café Corazón, also at 9 a.m., with a darty centered around Latin beats, community, and strong coffee or yerba mate.

As fewer people choose to drink alcohol but still prioritize social connections, what transformations will we be observing in 2030? For now, we're loving that both types of "clubbing" exist.

LAUREN LOVELLE & THE MIDNIGHT SPLIFFS SPARK THE FLAME

Making music was always in the cards for Lauren Lovelle, as she has been accompanying her dad's band, Two Way Traffic, since she was just four years old. With musical backgrounds on both sides of her family, it's no surprise that she now heads her own act, Lauren Lovelle & The Midnight Spliffs.

Her father grew up in the church, where he found a passion for music and received traditional training singing hymns. His love for music-making carried on outside of the





Lauren Lovelle // Photo
by Deanie Chen

religious walls, blending into an affection for folk, country, and blues. This expansion from traditional liturgical melodies transitioned on with Lovelle, as her paternal grandfather taught her to pick up a guitar.

Lovelle says that she got involved with a top 40 cover band shortly after graduating high school, but that came to a screeching halt. And after listening to the band's EP, *Other Dreams*, it makes sense why she may go crazy covering Lady Gaga and Journey when she has so much to offer herself.

Lovelle and The Spliffs have built some chemistry throughout the years, and it shows on *Other Dreams*, as the songs are incredibly strong and vibrant, despite the project being only four tracks. In spite of its short composition, the diversity is there, as "Anxiously Attached" offers soulful swing with Devon Teran's pedal steel, while "Won't Tell You Goodbye" puts the Lovelle vocals at the forefront of the tune.

The instrumentation and lyrics throughout offer a strange experience to listeners. While some tracks may be upbeat, like closing tune "In My Jeans", there is still emotional baggage behind every word, making Lauren Lovelle & The Midnight Spliffs' intricate project an easy favorite of ours.

Q KC IS WHERE THE BEAT MEETS BELONGIN' Q KC may be new, but it has the aura of being there for ages. You can sense it as soon as you walk in: the neon lights flashing, the bass pumping through your whole body, and the hum of conversation beneath it all. To exclusively call it a club would be an understatement, as this is a space where KC's queer community comes to life.

DJs keep the floor moving with everything from high-energy hits to deep, sticky grooves, local drag queens command the stage with ferocious confidence, and the crowd follows them, enthralled by the un-

apologetic self-representation. Even the quieter corners buzz with life, as friends share stories over drinks and romances ignite.

Beyond its nightlife, Q KC is a center for creativity and connection. Local creatives infuse the space with artistry and pride every night. The layout of the club is intentionally designed with crowded dance floors to make your heart race, while hidden sofas and an outdoor patio encourage secluded conversation and laughter.

In a city that's always changing, Q KC isn't just keeping up; it's setting the standard. The best nights out aren't remembered for the lights, music, and cocktails, but rather for discovering a place where you fit in. Q KC serves as an incredibly inclusive host for some of the most intriguing nights out.

RAINY DAY BOOKS MACHINE PUNCHES ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

Fairway's Rainy Day Books is a modest powerhouse when it comes to bringing giants of the literary world—in what seems like every week—to Kansas City for our enrichment. This year, they're celebrating 50 years as a bookish beacon.

From Pulitzer Prize-winning authors like Percival Everett (*James*) to notable White House journalists Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes (*Fight: Inside the Wildest Battle for the White House*), Rainy Day Books has a knack for spotlighting local voices while also bringing incredible national talent to the Midwest.

These efforts are community-centered and hardly cost-prohibitive. When you attend Rainy Day Books events, you not only receive a copy of the featured work, but also a rare opportunity to interact with some of your favorite authors.

However, outstanding events hosted by this team might go unnoticed if you don't keep a close eye out. We recommend

you follow this local indie gem on their social media, including their Eventbrite page, to stay in the know of all the good they're doing around town. Who knows? Maybe the author of your most prized piece of literature is right around the corner.

BRUCE BRESLOW'S DECADES OF MARBLE MUSE

Bonner Springs is home to one of the metro's most unique craftsmen: Bruce Breslow. After a trip to Iowa in his twenties, he snagged a jar of marbles from an antique shop. Fascinated by the swirling spheres, Breslow knew he wanted to begin making his own.

Formerly serving the community as a woodworker, he transitioned his then business, Bruce's Woodworks, to Moon Marble Company at 600 East Front St. Since the inception of the business, Breslow has worked steadily in his shop, crafting some of the smallest, yet most eccentric pieces of art that Bonner Springs has to offer.

As far as his style goes, he takes a few different routes when configuring his art. He says that there have been plenty of times that he has mixed a few colors together by accident, only for them to result in intricate patterns.

At his brick-and-mortar, Breslow hosts free demonstrations for members of the community to take a glance at his process. Kansas Citians gather in Breslow's establishment, accompanied by the shop cat, Ringer, as they watch the man mold colorful glass into illuminated balls.

Breslow and his business Moon Marble Company are a reminder that, regardless of your age, it is never too late to find passion, take on a new task, and develop a fresh skill set. His slight spark of curiosity on a random vacation has ultimately led to a lifelong vocation and career, and Bonner Springs residents get to reap the benefits.

WE WERE ALL SUPER-NORMAL ABOUT TED LASSO COMING HOME

Three seasons in, *Ted Lasso* was set to call it a day. Apple TV+ wasn't about to let that cash cow out to pasture, and word began seeping in that the show was headed to KC to film for a new season. That wave of excitement quickly hit a few blunders, especially as a company online seeking ex-

tras to hire for the show was revealed to be a scam. Big yikes, but we're glad that everyone seemed to emerge from that unscathed.

When the show properly arrived, it was a bit of a shock, especially to our publication, as the film crew posted up outside (and eventually inside) *The Pitch* offices. It made for a helluva week, and we're always happy to have Jason Sudeikis in our orbit. Did we hide some of our *Ted Lasso* posters on display in the office? I mean. We didn't want to make it weird.

And that's perhaps our favorite part of the whole experience: KC went out of its way, literally, to not make it weird. With some Plaza streets shut down, most folks seemed to merely adjust their daily transit routes. We think that plenty of Midwestern cities would've wound up flooding a Hollywood shoot, with folks lurking and gawking, being a little too starstruck.

Nope. KC went on about its day. We as a publication found that, collectively, a pretty good sign of becoming the kind of major city that sets us apart from our peers. Look at us, being cool and chill with celebrities, and not making it weird. We haven't really said it out loud before this issue, but like, good on y'all.

FK MENACE'S 'ON THE COUCH' SERIES UNITES THE DJ SCENE

As Mike Shorey's voice belts out the chorus of "Can't Let You Go", the distinctive bongos of The Gap Band's "Outstanding" bleed into the track before seamlessly transitioning to the warm vocals of Charlie

Wilson. Behind the scenes, rhythmically turning dials, shifting sliders, and tapping the soundboard is a DJ whose identity is well-known despite his enigmatic, faceless persona.

Dressed in Made Mobb gear and donning a vibrant Lucha Libre mask, DJ FK Menace is the mastermind behind the 'On The Couch' series. The concept is simple: Once a month, he takes over Third Place Lounge, sets up his turntables on a coffee table, and spins his set from the comfort of a couch.



Jason Sudeikis // Photo by Tarik Sykes



Seven Swans Creperie // Photo Courtesy of Seven Swans Creperie

Each installment features a guest DJ who performs their set in the same laid-back style.

Third Place Lounge is the perfect venue for this event. Its array of living room-style furniture creates a cozy, inviting atmosphere that complements the leisurely vibe of On The Couch. The lounge also boasts a diverse cocktail menu, alongside a full selection of non-alcoholic mocktails to suit all tastes.

In a city with a thriving arts scene, On The Couch shines as a unique experience.

With a lineup of skilled DJs, the intimate setting of Third Place Lounge, and a food truck on standby, the event fosters a welcoming environment for people from all walks of life. Attendees can expect a rich tapestry of sounds, centered around R&B, Latin, and hip-hop.

WE WANT FLORA FROM KANSAS TO COME HOME

Flora from Kansas isn't your average Lawrence teenager donning Jayhawks gear.

OUR PICKS

She is a worldwide music sensation. After the release of her EP *Keep Calling* in 2021 and her full-length cassette *Emerald City* in 2022, she went ghost.

For two years, the artist refrained from releasing any new music. However, that hiatus broke in November of last year when the UK's Melodic Records announced the signing of the artist. Shortly after, her project *Homesick*, a six-track EP, was released in March 2025, which was mixed by highly acclaimed producer Ali Chant.

Since its release, Flora from Kansas has gained international attention, as NPR selected one of her songs to be played on its "The songs we can't stop playing this week" series, also receiving regular airplay on the BBC.

Offering our ears to the artist, it is easy to see why this Midwestern teen has gained such appreciation, specifically overseas. We eagerly await Flora from Kansas to return to Lawrence or KC for well-deserved spotlight, although it appears that global stages far, far away are destined for the young artist.

SWEET AND SAVORY AT SEVEN SWANS CREPERIE

Sevens Swans Creperie—crepe you very much! Founded locally in 2020 by Kate Bryan, Seven Swans captures the homey, cozy feeling of eating in your grandma's kitchen paired with divinely decadent recipes. With locally- and organically-sourced ingredients, including coffee served by Oddly Correct, this creperie remained a standout this year.

The menu rotates throughout the 365

days to keep ingredients fresh according to the season, while maintaining fan favorites year-round. The offerings range from savory to sweet, with vegan and gluten-free options available. From the savory side of the fall menu, the Vermonter is a mouth-watering choice with rosemary sausage, sharp white cheddar cheese, and caramelized apples, topped with rosemary. If fall means sitting around the bonfire making s'mores, the campfire sweet crepe is for you, featuring chocolate ganache and marshmallows, topped with housemade graham crackers, whipped cream, and a toasted mallow.

The space is thoughtfully decorated with a timeless, European folk-tale-inspired motif. All of their dishes are thrifty and unique, adding to the cozy atmosphere. It only seats up to 45 guests at a time and doesn't accept reservations, but the crepes are well worth the wait.

KANSAS CITY'S STAGE BELONGS TO LANA LUXX

When Lana Luxx steps on stage, the city pays attention. As a full-time drag performer and trans activist, she has revolutionized Kansas City's nightlife into a showcase of spectacle, turning her performances into high-production events that feel more like pop-star world tours than bar acts. With regular appearances at Hamburger Mary's, Missie B's, and Brick's Pub & Grub, she has become one of the city's most visible and celebrated entertainers. This year, she also opened for drag icon and former Drag Race USA winner Sasha Colby, cementing her place among the most exciting performers working today.

Her creativity shines brightest in her Taylor Swift drag revue shows, where she reimagines the pop icon's eras with original looks and electrifying energy. At KC Pride this year, she performed as Taylor Swift for family day, giving children the opportunity to "meet" one of their heroes.

Surpassing the glamour, however, is her impact through her authenticity. Luxx first made national headlines in 2015 as Missouri's first transgender homecoming queen—a trailblazing moment of representation that emboldens trans youth today.

Her profession is now defined by the same tenacity and honesty. Luxx has taken her platform into activism as the grand marshal of the Kansas City Pride Parade, powerfully advocating for her community. Drag is more than a mere spectacle to her; it's self-affirmation and a means of LGBTQ+ portrayal within the metro.

Luxx exemplifies both bravery and creativity in a city that thrives on both. Her activism is the only thing that can match her artistic talent, demonstrating the importance of drag in Kansas City's narrative. Luxx is here to transform what it means to belong in more spaces than just the spot-



Warehouse on Broadway // Photo by Maggie Gulling



Blackhole Bakery // Photo by Steph Castor

light, although that is exactly where she should be.

ARTSKC CONSTRUCTS THE FUTURE OF LOCAL CREATIVES

For 25 years, the heart of Kansas City's creative community has been founded in ArtsKC, as the organization ensures that artists and audiences get the tools and exposure they need to thrive. As the region's nonprofit arts council, they serve five counties with a mission that blends funding, advocacy, and connection.

2025 has been historic. With performances by Ensemble Ibérica, the Ernest Melton Trio, Owen/Cox Dance, and Stone Lion Puppet Theatre, ArtsKC held a well-deserved celebration for its 25th anniversary with a grand event at CPKC Stadium. In addition to commemorating a quarter-century of influence, this milestone demonstrated the vibrancy and diversity of the Kansas City subculture today.

That momentum soon brought national recognition. Earlier this year, ArtsKC was selected to join the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program, becoming the first Missouri organization invited into this innovative cohort. The initiative helps cultural nonprofits build digital capacity and deepen audience engagement—an investment in the arts ecosystem's long-term resilience.

Grantmaking remains central to ArtsKC's work, having supplied Mission Support Grants worth \$215,000 to support dozens of local arts nonprofits. But ArtsKC's impact goes far beyond grant dollars. Their Marketing Capacity Program gives small and mid-size arts organizations the tools and coaching they need to grow, while ArtsKCGo.com serves as a go-to hub for

events, artists, and venues across the region. Through their Now Showing program, they bring art into mundane spaces to transform lobbies and workplaces into galleries where local artists receive fair compensation and visibility while keeping 100% of their sales.

At its core, ArtsKC remains an advocate for the local creative scene, bringing together civic leaders, enhancing the arts' cultural and economic influence, and guaranteeing fair access throughout the metro. Their work in 2025 serves as a stark reminder that Kansas City's arts sector is nurtured, supported, and developed with a purpose.

WAREHOUSE ON BROADWAY'S ELONGATED SQUISH-SPACE PULLS IN ECCENTRIC ACTS

Over at 3951 Broadway in Westport, a building that has cycled purposes dozens of times over the years landed the spinner with a variation on a previous purpose, with Warehouse on Broadway re-launching as a music venue with both tonal and physical twists on the norm. When Riot Room closed during the pandemic, it left a hole in the market for a mix of hip hop, EDM, metal, and indie shows for a mid-tier venue size. For genre mixing in a market that keeps losing out on these shows to the likes of St. Louis or Minneapolis, having Warehouse here offers a delightfully enticing 600-ish person space at an accessible crossroad for music fans across the metro.

The room itself is designed in an elongated space, where an unexpected stretch makes for more opportunities to find yourself front and center for artists, instead of being buried several hundred feet behind a crowd. Along with food, reasonably priced drinks, and dual raised bars with seating, there's hardly a bad view in the house.

Notable among the first round of en-

tertainers were HEALTH, Santigold (with a two-night stint), Destroyer, drag queen balls, raves, and Chiefs watch parties. Between the atmosphere and the spatial arrangement, Warehouse on Broadway has become a new dependable hang for *Pitch* staff on any night of the week. As that listed line-up suggests, the only throughline is that you're going to have a good time—everything else feels random.

We'll also denote that Omaha's dance-punk stalwarts The Faint were among the very first acts to play this space, and for those of us in *Pitch* orbit who were unaware that they were the maiden voyage, Warehouse will forever be responsible for one of the most puzzling nights of the year. We were at a rock club, sure, but everything was *too* clean. It felt like we'd wandered onto the set of a music venue that had just been constructed for a CBS sitcom set—no graffiti, no piss, not even a sticky surface. It was disorienting. Luckily, we can verify that drugs were used in the bathroom. Everything is right in the world, and nothing hurts. Again, come find us at Warehouse *anytime*.

NEW HITS AND OLD FAVES IN FOOD WORLD

You, *Pitch* readers and discerning diners, voted Hank's Garage and Grill as your favorite New Restaurant of the year. Like you, we're glad it has brought another food option to a historic downtown experiencing a revival—all done in a way that looks chill but plays it serious in the kitchen.

New is exciting and necessary, but at *The Pitch*, we're never going to overlook the established, proven, and old-reliable eateries that have earned a spot in Kansas Citians' weekly or monthly meal rotations. For Food & Drink Editor Sarah Sipple, one of the most frequented stops of the last year is Blackhole Bakery.

At 56th & Troost, Blackhole Bakery has mastered the balance of consistency with surprise. New mochi donut flavors are announced each month, but the majority of the menu remains stable year after year, as they've perfected both the recipes and the quantities demanded by the adoring public.

The mochi donuts are a must-get each time, especially the chocolate and anything nut or berry flavored, but don't forget to try a pastry now and then. The savory puff pastry with caramelized onions and goat cheese is the most satisfying baked good in the city, and the creative selection of shmears that accompany bagels could be just the shake-up your day needs. We're excited for them to expand into the West Plaza soon.

New vs. proven, habitual vs. adventurous... both approaches matter when it comes to our plates. It's natural, even practical, to gravitate towards restaurants in your own neighborhood, but we hope you're expanding your palate with new areas and cuisines regularly. If your prideful

KC BBQ opinions are based on a spot you committed to decades ago, and you haven't branched out since then, it's time to get out of your bubble before you're deemed obnoxious in a comment section.

GHOSTED BY THE INSIDIOUS LIVE SHOW

Some of our favorite stories this year are the ones that, frankly, didn't happen at all. Case in point: The Lionsgate horror film series *Insidious* had a "live show" that was set to hit KC. *Insidious: The Further You Fear* was billed as an "immersive theatrical event" that, from the video trailer released online, seemed like a mix of haunted house and scientific showmanship—promising to also bring the "real" Specs and Tucker, the actual paranormal investigators who inspired the original movie. This sort of unspecific summary merged with a performance set for The Kauffman Center (of all places! And with Kauffman Center prices!) gave us an itch at *The Pitch* for exactly the kind of bizarre adventure that we took this gig to cover.

Unfortunately, *Insidious* ghosted us. The night of the show, hours before the doors opened, a PR team reached out to let us know the event would not be happening, and even they seemed stunned and uncertain about what led to this. Turns out, the show had opened a few nights earlier, and audiences in Detroit and Omaha had left in fits of fury. Demands for refunds had come flooding in, we found out, after a half-baked evening of crowd work (with obviously planted actors) merged with an evening devoid of special effects, and ending suddenly and unexpectedly with no explanation.

In reading the bewildered, furious, or straight frenzied reactions from the other early audiences, who presumed they had perhaps been part of a *Nathan for You*-style prank or social experiment, we're still sore over missing our chance to be the final stop of an apparently near-historic horror-show—for all the wrong reasons.

To the producers of *The Conjuring*: the ball is in your court. We'll be seated.

EXCLUSIVE INCLUSIVITY AT IN GOOD COMPANY

At In Good Company, the mission is revealed in the name: an exclusively inclusive cocktail lounge dedicated to fostering great company and crafting exceptional drinks. Co-founders Cedric Ransburg and Daniel Edwards lead the way in this membership-based lounge in the Crossroads. So, what does it mean to be "exclusively inclusive"?

IGC offers a variety of memberships ranging from \$25 to \$250 per month. Each membership offers a varying number of drink credits, bottle credits, and additional guest invites. The purpose of the membership is not profit; even the cost of the base membership at \$50 (\$25 for educators) is

OUR PICKS



Above: Cannabis // Photo by Zach Bauman

balanced out with the four drink credits. Instead, it's a symbolic gesture to show that members are intentional about wanting to pour into the space. While IGC is inclusive of all backgrounds, it is also exclusively for those truly desiring to be there.

The lounge's cozy, inviting ambiance is defined by plush living room-style furniture and industrial exposed plumbing. IGC also hosts a variety of events and regularly has a DJ. The layout of the space is a reflection of Ransburg's experiences in the service industry from Kansas City to California, and with every cocktail poured at In Good Company, more unforgettable moments are on the horizon.

BENDING THE TERM 'BARBECUE' AT LOS HORNOS

KC has more to offer than just BBQ... or at least, more than just KC-style BBQ. Owner

Isolina de la Vega has brought South American flavors and traditions to the metro, thereby adding to the color of our culinary scene.

At Los Hornos in North Kansas City, asado is the name of the game—a social setting enhanced by sizzling meats on the grill with sides to tie it together. The restaurant serves a variety of traditional Argentinian foods, including choripán and empanadas. The star, however, is the Asado Argentino: a platter of grilled meats accompanied by a side of chimichurri sauce. One variation of this is the parrillada, which includes chorizo (sausage) or morcilla (blood sausage), brisket, molleja (sweetbread), beef short ribs, and pork rose meat, typically complemented with a side of fries and mayochimi.

De la Vega represents Los Hornos as

an Argentinian native, and her experiences bleed through from top to bottom. Argentinian jerseys and artwork adorn the dining room, while you can also find traditional teas and pastries available for sale. However, the true essence of Argentina shines most when partaking in the traditional Argentinian Asado. Step out to NKC and broaden your barbecue perspective.

GOAT & RABBIT KEEPS US COMING BACK FOR MORE COCKTAILS

Goat & Rabbit has carved out its spot on 39th Street with cocktails that push past the ordinary. The menu blends classics like the espresso martini with inventive options built on unexpected flavors like roasted shishitos, Thai basil, and yuzu.

At one point this year, their menu consisted of drinks like the Plum Luck, made with Kanbe's Market plum syrup and rosewater. And Yuzu You, Boo, a specialty cocktail made with a blend of gin, yuzu curacao, roasted shishitos, and Thai basil, showcasing a mix of local sourcing and unexpected flavor play. Even the mocktails are crafted with the same care, making Goat & Rabbit a spot where non-drinkers aren't left out of the fun.

The lounge itself sets the tone. The vibe is always relaxed but intentional, stylish without being pretentious, and buzzing enough to feel alive whether you're there for happy hour or a late-night round.

When paired with the bar's friendly, knowledgeable staff, the experience feels less like a night out at a cocktail bar and more like being welcomed into a neighborhood favorite that just happens to have world-class drinks.

MO SUPREME COURT SAVES MISSOURI WEED-CONSUMERS MILLIONS EACH MONTH

Since October 2023, Missouri cannabis consumers have been taxed double the amount that the law intended when voters passed legal recreational cannabis in the state. The Missouri Constitution permits municipalities to implement a 3% sales tax on all recreational cannabis products. Where municipalities were not implementing the 3%, the county could then do so. But, some-

where along the lines, wires were crossed, and both municipalities and counties were taxing 3%, leading to consumers paying an overall 6% sales tax.

On July 22, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled 6-1 to end the double-stacking taxes. In turn, Missourians are set to save a total of \$3 million per month, according to the Missouri Cannabis Trade Association (MoCannTrade).

Nearly two years later, cannabis users in the Show-Me State can finally save the extra pocket change when they head to the dispensary to purchase products.

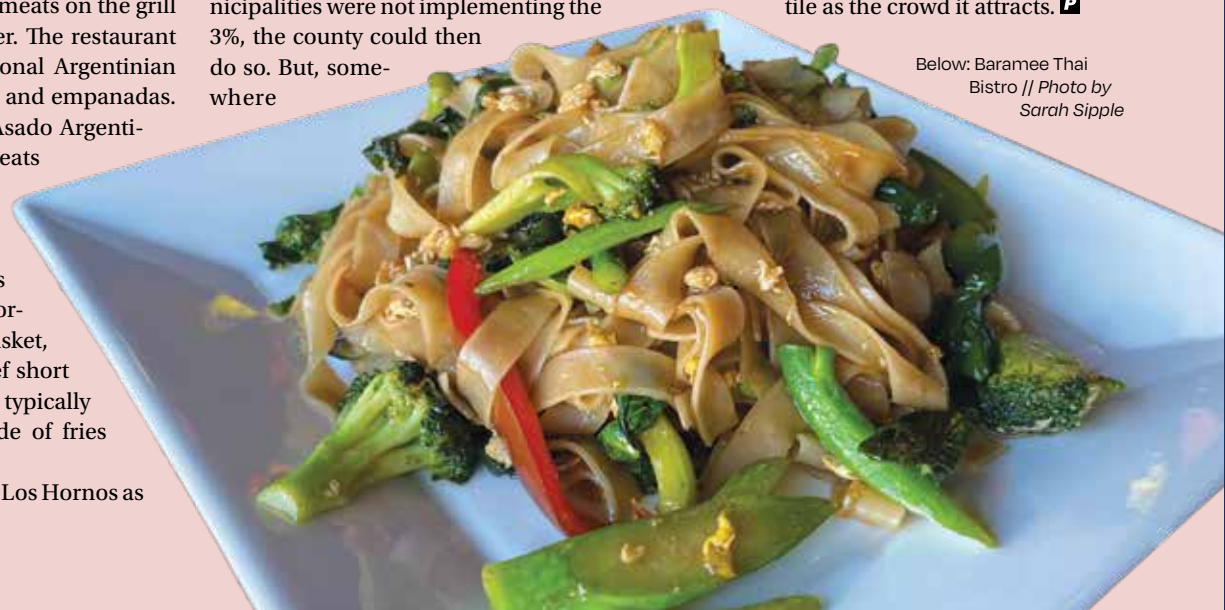
BARAMEE THAI BISTRO GAINS FULFILLMENT THROUGH MAKING YOU FULL

Baramée Thai Bistro has been serving Kansas City since 2019, when Thai native and chef-owner Nutnisa Hoffman opened the doors with her husband, Doug. The word baramée can mean "fulfilling yourself by making others happy," and the restaurant lives up to that promise with dishes rooted in Northeastern Thai traditions.

By sourcing fresh produce from City Market and working with local growers, Baramée Thai Bistro delivers plates with a bright, balanced punch. It has become one of Kansas City's go-to spots for bold, reliable Thai food without the fuss. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming—casual enough for a quick lunch or a prolonged stay on the leafy patio or in the uncomplicated dining room that makes it just as easy to linger over dinner.

The menu covers all the essentials: pad Thai, pad kee mao, curries, and fried rice, but regulars know to branch out. The Baramée Thai Catfish, topped with a sweet-spicy sam rod sauce, is a standout, and the Baramée platter makes the perfect shareable starter with its mix of spring rolls, crab rangoon, and dipping sauces. Portions are generous, flavors are balanced, and there are plenty of vegetarian options.

To round it out, the bar serves cocktails that echo the kitchen's bright, fresh approach—think Thai basil, ginger, and citrus—alongside bubble tea, hot sake, and other drinks that make the menu as versatile as the crowd it attracts. **P**



Below: Baramée Thai Bistro // Photo by Sarah Sipple



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BEST ART EXHIBIT

WINNER: "A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN: KATHERINE BERNHARDT x JEREMY SCOTT" at NERMAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Finalists: "Mujer: Poder y Fuerza" at Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery, "Shifting Perspective" at Belger Arts

BEST ART FESTIVAL

WINNER: PLAZA ART FAIR

Finalists: Art Garden KC, Downtown Overland Park Art Fair, Kansas City Underground Film Festival, KC Fringe Festival

BEST ART GALLERY

WINNER: INTERURBAN ARTHOUSE

Finalists: Belger Arts Center, Buttonwood Art Space, MOD Gallery, Monarca Art Space - MÁS

BEST BLUES VENUE

WINNER: KNUCKLEHEADS

Finalists: B.B.'s Lawnside BBQ, The Blue Room, Green Lady Lounge, The Phoenix

BEST BURLESQUE TROUPE

WINNER: VAMP KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Burlesque Downtown Underground, Dive Bar KC: Grit and Glam, Kater Tot Productions, Risqué Revelry, Variety Society KC

BEST CLUB DJ

WINNER: SIRQUEEN

Finalists: Angel Lynn, DJ B-Well LLC, DJ Diehard, DJ MIC-KC, DJ Smiles Marie

BEST COMEDY CLUB

WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY THEATER

Finalists: The Comedy Club of Kansas City, First Amendment Brew Haha, Funny Bone Comedy Club

BEST CULTURAL EVENT

WINNER: KC PRIDE

Finalists: Alphabet Soup: Theater from Queer Voices - Whim Productions, The Cookout hosted by Karmella Uchawi, Ethnic Enrichment Festival, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Irish Fest, KC Fringe Festival

BEST DANCE CREW/STUDIO

WINNER: QUIXOTIC

Finalists: Kansas City Ballet, The Kansas City Canaries, Kater Tot Productions, NVEntertainment, The Olympians

BEST DRAG ARTIST

WINNER: BURLY ESQUE

Finalists: The Baddest, Kade Jackwell, Karmella Uchawi, Lana Luxx, Nikolette Kilz, Touretta Lynn

BEST DRAG SHOW

WINNER: DRAG BRUNCH at HAMBURGER MARY'S

Finalists: Daisy Buckët's Musical Mondays at Missie B's, GAGGED! at Sidekicks Saloon, Nikolette's Nightcaps at Sidekicks Saloon, Not Safe for Work (NSFW) at Gaels Public House & Sports, SMUT Variety Show at Missie B's

BEST FILMMAKER

WINNER: FOREST KINSEY

Finalists: L. Tanner Smith, Lolo Loren & Patrick Poe, number9ine, Paul South



Best Local Actor: Katie Gilchrist // Photo by Paul Andrews Photography



Best Local Artist: Amanda Davis, Mandolin Artworks // Photo by John Mann



12/2 MAMMOTH WVH

12/10 TRIVIUM

12/11 THE JINKX AND DELA HOLIDAY SHOW

12/19 ANCIENT ALIENS LIVE!

12/27 MERSIV WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

1/22 BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS

1/24 NEKO CASE

3/10 VITAMIN STRING QUARTET

3/13 THE FAB FOUR: HELP!

3/27 BBNOS

3/30 ASHNIKKO

4/16 DREW AND ELLIE HOLOCOMB

5/7 KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND

11/2 DYLAN GOSSETT

11/5 YUNG GRAVY

11/11 FIT FOR A KING

11/12 BRIAN CULBERTSON

11/13 STRAY CATS

11/20 YELAWOLF

11/22 KATHLEEN MADIGAN

11/28 SAY ANYTHING

+ MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

11/3 MON ROVIA

11/5 JOSHUA RADIN

12/5 CHRISTMAS WITH THE CELTS

2/11 MAGIC CITY HIPPIES

MADRID THEATRE

3/22 LET'S SING TAYLOR

5/9 THE MOSS



11/8 JEFF TWEEDY BAND

12/12 COUNTESS LUANN

3/4 ALL THEM WITCHES

5/2 JOYCE MANOR

11/ 12 THE FRIGHTS

12/19 LIAM ST. JOHN

1/20 RUSTON KELLY



THE MIDLAND THEATRE

11/26

GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE LIVE!



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BEST FUNDRAISING EVENT
WINNER: BIG SLICK CELEBRITY WEEKEND
 Finalists: Evening at the Square - American Public Square, HamBINGO at Hamburger Mary's, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival's Romantic Revels Gala, Thadapalooza

BEST HOUSE/COVER BAND
WINNER: THE M80s
 Finalists: Bound & Determined, EleveN2twenty2, Lost Wax, Midnight Rodeo

BEST IMPROV/SKETCH TROUPE
WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY
THEATER PLAYERS
 Finalists: Explosive Group Chat, Improv SpringBoard, Truck Noises

BEST JAZZ ARTIST
WINNER: LONNIE McFADDEN
 Finalists: Charles Williams, Eboni Fondren, Eddie Moore, Joanna Berkebile, Seth Andrew Davis, Talya Groves

BEST JAZZ BAND
WINNER: BACK ALLEY BRASS BAND
 Finalists: Alex Abramovitz and His Swing'n Kansas City Jazz Band, All Night Trio, EMAS, Tom's Town Trio

Best Local Actor Runner-Up: Lily Gojcevic // Photo by Joe Zlatnik

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST JAZZ VENUE

WINNER: GREEN LADY LOUNGE
Finalists: Black Dolphin, The Blue Room, Lonnie's Reno Club, The Phoenix

BEST KARAOKE

WINNER: MISSIE B's
Finalists: Arts on Broadway, Carrieoke Productions, Hammers Dueling Piano Bar, Mainstreet Tavern, Rewind Video and Dive, Woody's KC

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE (KANSAS)

WINNER: AZURA AMPHITHEATER
Finalists: Aztec Shawnee Theater, The Granada, Hillsiders, Liberty Hall, SERV

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE (MISSOURI)

WINNER: KNUCKLEHEADS
Finalists: Farewell, KC Live!, The Midland Theatre, recordBar, The Ship, The Truman, Warehouse on Broadway

BEST LOCAL ACTOR

WINNER: KATIE GILCHRIST
Finalists: Lily Gojcevic, Patrick Poe, Rachel Klewicki, Ryan Tucker, Shannon Rousseau, Tyler Lindquist, Valeri Bates

BEST LOCAL ARTIST

WINNER: AMANDA DAVIS - MANDOLIN ARTWORKS
Finalists: 9 Patrick di Santo, Dulcinea Herrera, Heidi Pitre, Jillian Guthrie, Morgen Agesen, Nate Evans, Sarah Ruth Frey Creative Studio

BEST LOCAL BAND

WINNER: VIBRALUX
Finalists: Belle & The Vertigo Waves, Case Trick, honeybee, Redder Moon, The Village Prairie

BEST LOCAL CRAFT ARTIST

WINNER: GAMER GIRL JEWELRY
Finalists: Katy McRoberts, @megancreatesart, West Kester, Who is she?

BEST LOCAL EVENT

WINNER: BOULEVARDIA
Finalists: Bird Watching Film Festival, Caféton with DJ Astro at Café Corazón, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival: Love's Labour's Lost, Horror at the Drive-In, Intoxicant, Kansas City Underground Film Festival

BEST LOCAL PODCAST

WINNER: KANSAS CITY REVIVAL
Finalists: Divas, Ingénues & Vixens, Draggin' The Survivors, First Timers Movie Club, Kansas City Marketing Legends, Lens of a Lawyer, Nightmare Junkhead

BEST LOCAL STAND-UP COMIC

WINNER: CASSIE DUNCAN
Finalists: Aaron Scarbrough, Brittany Tilander, Dan Rathmann, Jolley, Michelle Kendrick (MK), Tiffany Michelle

BEST MOVIE THEATER

WINNER: SCREENLAND ARMOUR
Finalists: AMC Barrywoods 24, B&B Theatres Mainstreet KC, Glenwood Arts, Stray Cat Film Center

BEST MUSEUM

WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART
Finalists: Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, The Museum of Kansas City, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, National WWI Museum and Memorial, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rabbit hOle

BEST MUSIC STUDIO

WINNER: CASTLE STUDIOS
Finalists: 64111 Studio, B-24 Studios, Element Recording Studios, Weights and Measures Soundlab

BEST MUSICIAN

WINNER: CALVIN ARSENIA
Finalists: Danielle Ate the Sandwich, Drew Little, Jillian Riscoe, Kat King, musicbyskippy, Nneoma Lanea

BEST NEW LOCAL ALBUM

WINNER: "MIDTOWN GIRL" BY HONEYBEE
Finalists: "Before the Devil" by The Village Prairie, "Fumbling" by Danielle Ate the Sandwich, "If You're Falling, Dive" by Redder Moon, "METRO9" by Case Trick, "What Makes Us" by Eddie Moore

BEST NIGHTCLUB

WINNER: MISSIE B's
Finalists: Aura, In The Lowest Ferns, Nighthawk, Q Kansas City

BEST OPEN MIC

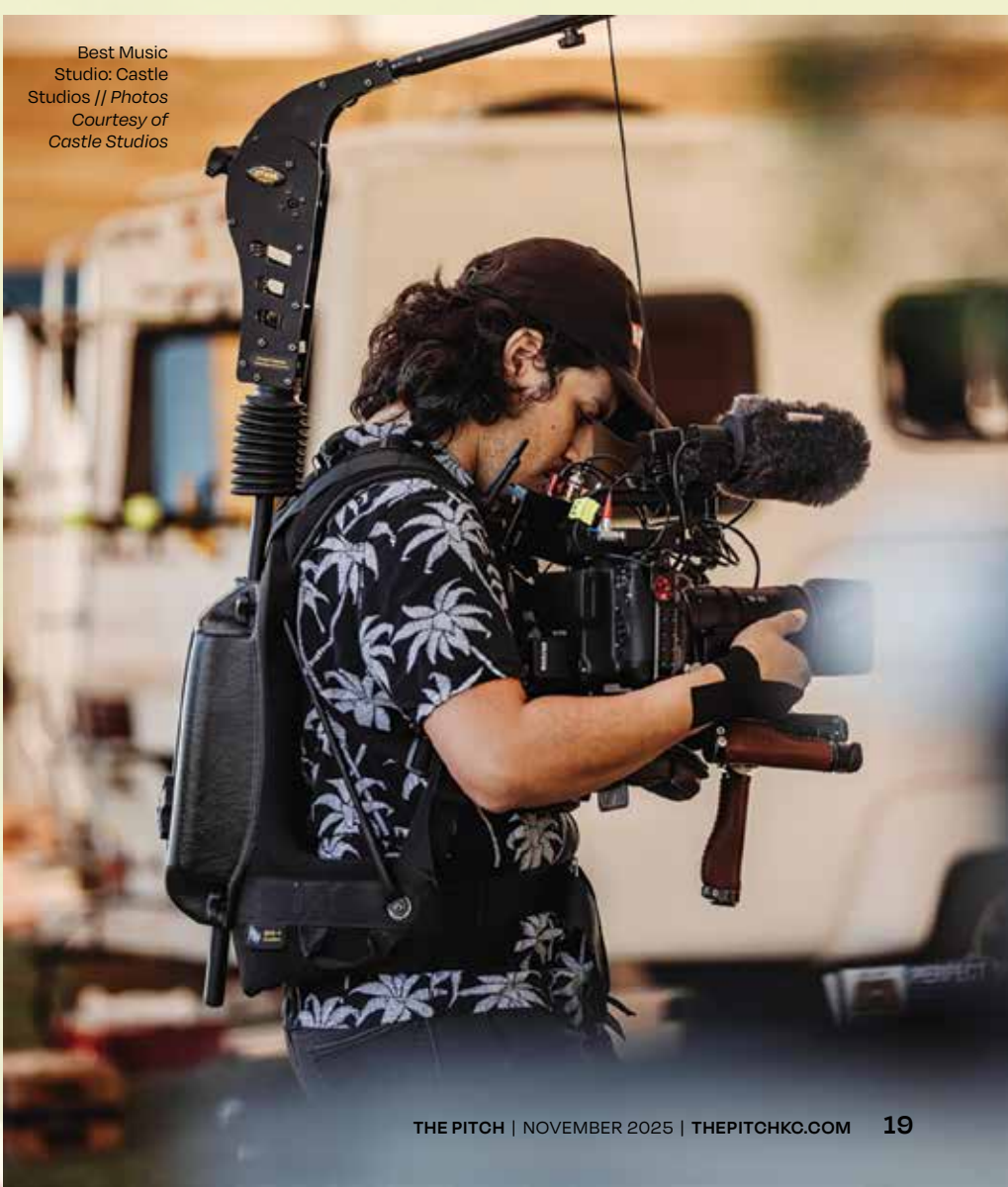
WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY THEATER
Finalists: Jerry's Bait Shop, Juke House, Lumpy's, Poetic Underground KC at Blip Roasters, The Rino

BEST OUTDOOR VENUE

WINNER: STARLIGHT THEATRE
Finalists: Grinders KC, Lemonade Park, Southmoreland Park - Heart of America Shakespeare Festival

BEST PAINTING PARTY

WINNER: ART BY JONNIERAE
Finalists: Happy Trees Painting, Pinot's Palette Leawood, Puff & Paint with Amy, Sarah Ruth Frey Creative Studio



Best Music Studio: Castle Studios // Photos Courtesy of Castle Studios



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER (ARTISTIC)

WINNER: ROY INMAN

Finalists: Dawn Higgins, Morbid Awakening LLC, otterlope media, Samantha Levi

BEST PLACE FOR A KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

WINNER: THE STORYBOOK FOREST

Finalists: Expressive Art and Music, MY Play Café, Rink Ratz

BEST PLACE TO SHAKE YOUR BOOTY

WINNER: MISSIE B's

Finalists: Cougar Club, Funky Town, In The Lowest Ferns, The Ship

BEST PLAY

WINNER: HEART OF AMERICA

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL:

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

Finalists: 7 Naughty Men - The Bird Comedy Theater, The Banned Book Librarian of the Midwest - KC Fringe, for ... girls - Kansas City Public Theatre, Hitchcock'd: A Spooky Shit Show - KC Fringe, Sticks & Stones - Megan Reynolds & Chelsey Shirrell at KC Fringe

BEST POET/SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

WINNER: CHRISTINA SANTIAGO

Finalists: Abby Bland, Asia Raine, John "Hypocrace" Lewis, Poet t.l. sanders

BEST SONG BY A LOCAL BAND

WINNER: "FUMBLING" - DANIELLE

ATE THE SANDWICH

Finalists: "charmed life" by honeybee, "Desert Rose" by The Village Prairie, "Dfi" by Belle & The Vertigo Waves, "High Wide Luck" by Case Trick, "Red Corvette" by Maggie Moon

BEST THEATER COMPANY

WINNER: THE BLACK REPERTORY THEATRE OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: The Arts Asylum, The Bird Comedy Theater, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Actors Theatre, Kansas City Public Theatre, Padgett Productions, Whim Productions



BEST TRIBUTE BAND

WINNER: THE YACHTIES

Finalists: Almost KISS, Bob Jovi, Found A Job, Shakedown Strings, Wildest Dreamers

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

WINNER: INTELLIGENCE CHECK TRIVIA

Finalists: All-Star Trivia at Hamburger Mary's, Big 5 Trivia, Geeks Who Drink Pub Trivia at Transport Brewery, HomeTown Trivia, Lifted Spirits Distillery Thursday Trivia with Sammy Sanchez, Rocket Surgery Super Quiz at Farewell

Best Vocalist: Danielle Ate the Sandwich // Photo by Paul Andrews Photography

BEST VOCALIST

WINNER: DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH

Finalists: Big Body Caprice, Kat King, Lizzi Leigh, Maggie Moon, Morganna Lee

Best Play: Heart of America Shakespeare Festival: Love's Labour's Lost // Photos by John Siebs



Best Play: Heart of America
Shakespeare Festival: Love's Labour's
Lost // Photo by John Siebs



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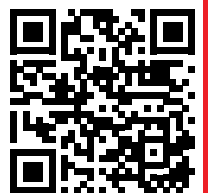
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Museum of BBQ // Photo by Beth Lipoff

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BAR-B-QUE



BBQ

BEST BARBECUE

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Char Bar, Crazy Good BBQ, Jack Stack BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, Slap's BBQ

BEST BARBECUE SANDWICH

WINNER: Z-MAN at JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Beastmode at Chef J BBQ, Burnt End Burner at Crazy Good BBQ, Burnt Heaven at Char Bar, Mr. Burns at Q39

BEST BARBECUE SIDE DISH

WINNER: FRENCH FRIES at JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Cucumber Onion Salad at Q39, Fried Pickles at Char Bar, Hickory Pit Beans at Jack Stack BBQ, Warm Baked Potato Casserole at Slap's BBQ

BEST BRISKET

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Jack Stack BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, Slap's BBQ

BEST BURNT ENDS

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Jack Stack BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39

BEST CRAFT BARBECUE

WINNER: Q39

Finalists: Chef J BBQ, Harp Barbecue, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Point and Flat BBQ

BEST MIXED PLATE

WINNER: Q39

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Char Bar, Crazy Good BBQ, Gates BBQ, Hawg Jaw Que & Brew

BEST OLD SCHOOL BARBECUE

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Arthur Bryant's Barbeque, Crazy Good BBQ, Gates BBQ, Hayward's Pit BBQ, LC's Bar-B-Q, Zarda BBQ

BEST PULLED PORK

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Chef J BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39

BEST RIBS

WINNER: JACK STACK BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, Slap's BBQ

BEST RUB

WINNER: Q39

Finalists: Crazy Good BBQ, Gates BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, The Rub BBQ

BEST SAUCE

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Arthur Bryant's Barbeque, Gates BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39

BEST SAUSAGE

WINNER: SLAP'S BBQ

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Chef J BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39



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 TIMELESS





CBD/HEMP/THC

BEST BUDTENDER

WINNER: GREG at SUNRISE DISPENSARY

Finalists: Jason at From the Earth, Damone at Greenlight Dispensary, Jeremy at NatureMed, Robert at Kansas City Cannabis, Sunni at SWADE, Tiffany at The Forest

BEST CANNABIS EVENT

WINNER: GREENLIGHT UNDERGROUND

Finalists: 710 Banger by Elevate, Monopoly Melts 4/20 Flower Release Party, Smoke on the Water

BEST CBD STORE

WINNER: AMERICAN SHAMAN

Finalists: High End Smoke and Vape, Smoke Tokz, Smokers Heaven

BEST CONCENTRATE/DAB BRAND

WINNER: ILLICIT

Finalists: Curio Wellness, Elevate Cannabis, HeadChange, Sinse Cannabis, Vibe, Vivid



BEST DISPENSARY

WINNER: NATUREMED

Finalists: The Forest, From the Earth, Greenlight Dispensary, Kansas City Cannabis, Key Cannabis Dispensary, ReLeaf Resources Dispensary, SWADE

BEST EDIBLES BRAND (CANNABIS)

WINNER: ELEVATE CANNABIS

Finalists: Curio Wellness, Good Day Farm, Greenlight Dispensary, Grön, Illicit, Panda, Smokiez

BEST FLOWER

WINNER: ILLICIT

Finalists: AMAZE Cannabis, Curio Wellness, Elevate Cannabis, Greenlight Dispensary, Sinse Cannabis, Vibe, Vivid

BEST MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLINIC

WINNER: ELEVATE HOLISTICS

Finalists: Bluebird Wellness Center

BEST PLACE TO BUY DELTA PRODUCTS

WINNER: THE HUB SMOKE SHOP

Finalists: American Shaman, High End Smoke and Vape, It's A Dream Smoke Shop, Vapor Room 816

BEST PRE-ROLL (BRAND AND STRAIN)

WINNER: SINSE CANNABIS

- BLUEBERRY MUFFIN

Finalists: AMAZE Cannabis - Rainbow Cadillac, Curio Wellness - Blissful Wizard, Elevate Cannabis - Mac & Cheese, Franklin's - Berries & Cherries, Illicit - Gorilla Pie, Rogue Green - Glitter Bomb, Timeless - Tumble

BEST VAPE CARTRIDGE BRAND

WINNER: ELEVATE CANNABIS

Finalists: CORE Cannabis, Curio Wellness, Illicit, Sinse Cannabis, Timeless

Photos by CannashotsKC



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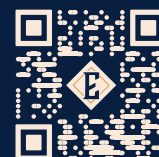
🏆 BEST VAPE CARTRIDGE 🏆 BEST EDIBLES BRAND

RECOGNIZED FOR 🏆 FLOWER 🏆 CONCENTRATE/DAB

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Pitch
BEST OF KC
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BEST 3 AM BAR

WINNER: GREEN LADY LOUNGE

Finalists: Harry's Bar and Tables, Helen's JAD Bar & Grill, John's Big Deck, Mainstreet Tavern, miniBar, Sidekicks Saloon, The Quaff Bar & Grill

BEST BAR

WINNER: DRASTIC MEASURES

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Barley & Vine, Fern Bar, Le Lounge, Oak & Steel

BEST BAR [LAWRENCE]

WINNER: JOHN BROWN'S UNDERGROUND

Finalists: The Bourgeois Pig, The Bottleneck, Red Lyon Tavern, The Sandbar

BEST BAR STAFF

WINNER: FERN BAR

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Barley & Vine, Le Lounge, Oak & Steel, Sidekicks Saloon

DRINK

BEST BAR TO MEET PEOPLE

WINNER: KING G

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Border Brewing Company, Fern Bar, Le Lounge, Mainstreet Tavern

BEST BARTENDER

WINNER: DARCY at CORVINO

Finalists: Manny at Le Lounge, Mary Pat at Patrick's Bar and No Grill, Sage at Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Sergio at The Belfry

BEST BEER TAPS SELECTION

WINNER: INTERNATIONAL TAP HOUSE

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, The Belfry, Craft Putt, Oak & Steel, River Bluff Brewing, Taps on Main

BEST BLOODY MARY

WINNER: THE FARMHOUSE

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Beer Kitchen, Brick House, District Pour House, Jazz a Louisiana Kitchen, Streetcar Grille & Tavern, Urban Egg

BEST BOBA/BUBBLE TEA

WINNER: DRAGONFLY TEA ZONE

Finalists: Ari Delights, Blue Koi, Bruú Café, Kung Fu Tea, Tsaoaca

BEST BREW PUB

WINNER: BREWERY EMPERIAL

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Border Brewing Company, Brew Lab, River Bluff Brewing



Best Bartender:
Darcy at Corvino
// Photo by Hallie Sigwing

Best Bar (Lawrence): John Brown's Underground // Photo by Sophia Lail



BEST CHEAP DRINKS

WINNER: HILLSIDERS

Finalists: Block 15 Tavern & Exchange, Chez Charlie, The Easy Inn, Jimmy's Jigger, Sidekicks Saloon

BEST COCKTAILS

WINNER: MEAN MULE DISTILLING CO.

Finalists: Drastic Measures, Fern Bar, Goat & Rabbit, Le Lounge, Sagebrush, Songbird, Wild Child

BEST COFFEE SHOP FOOD/SNACKS

WINNER: MILDRED'S

Finalists: Bear Necessities Coffee Bar, Café Corazón, Cowboy Coffee Post, Hammerhand Coffee, Rebel Coffee, Scratch KC, Two Sugars

BEST COFFEEHOUSE

WINNER: CAFE CÀ PHÊ

Finalists: Blip Roasters, Café Corazón, Rebel Coffee, Take Care by OLEO, Thou Mayest, Two Sugars

BEST DIVE BAR

WINNER: HI-DIVE LOUNGE

Finalists: Chez Charlie, The Easy Inn, Helen's JAD Bar & Grill, Hillsiders, Jimmy's Jigger, Lucky Boys, Patrick's Bar and No Grill



Best Bar Staff: Fern Bar
// Photo by Jon Hargett

BEST IRISH BAR

WINNER: KELLY'S WESTPORT INN

Finalists: Conroy's Public House, Fitz's Blarney Stone, Gaels Public House & Sports, Walsh's Corner Cocktail

BEST LGBTQ+ BAR

WINNER: MISSIE B's

Finalists: Gaels Public House & Sports, Q Kansas City, Sidekicks Saloon, Woody's KC

BEST LOCAL BEER (IPA)

WINNER: RAD AF (CITY BARREL BREWING COMPANY)

Finalists: Counterculture (BKS Artisan Ales), JoCo Juice (Limitless Brewing), Never Say IPA (KC Bier Co.), Pattern Variation (Alma Mader Brewing), Phantom IPA (Barley & Vine), Speedliner IPA (River Bluff Brewing), Stay Classy (Border Brewing Company)

BEST LOCAL BEER (LAGER)

WINNER: DUNKEL (KC BIER CO.)

Finalists: Cebeda Cerveza (Barley & Vine), Club Country (River Bluff Brewing), Hank (Alma Mader Brewing), Rooftop Red Lager (Border Brewing Company)

BEST FRENCH 75

WINNER: WESTPORT CAFE

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Barley & Vine, Goat & Rabbit, Le Lounge, Lifted Spirits Distillery

BEST HAPPY HOUR (DRINK)

WINNER: LA BODEGA

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Fern Bar, Goat & Rabbit, Le Lounge, Red Door Woodfired Grill

BEST HORSEFEATHER

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Dodson's Bar & Commons, Harry's Bar and Tables, West Bottoms Whiskey Co.

BEST HOTEL BAR

WINNER: PERCHERON ROOFTOP BAR at CROSSROADS HOTEL

Finalists: Horsefeather Social at Loews Kansas City Hotel, Le Lounge, Nighthawk at Hotel Kansas City, The Savoy at 21c, Show Pony, XR at Crossroads Hotel

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Art by K. Wroten, September 2016 issue

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DRINK

BEST LOCAL BEER (SOUR)

WINNER: LIFE OF THE PARTY (VINE STREET BREWING)

Finalists: Chickadee (Sandhills Brewing), KC Currant (River Bluff Brewing), Ma & Pa (Rockcreek Brewing Company)

BEST LOCAL BEER (STOUT)

WINNER: CHOCOLATE MILK STOUT (BORDER BREWING COMPANY)

Finalists: Half Turn Oatmeal Stout (Barley & Vine), Goldlion (River Bluff Brewing), House Brew (Torn Label Brewing Company), Six (Alma Mader Brewing)

BEST LOCAL COFFEE ROASTER

WINNER: THE ROASTERIE

Finalists: Blip Roasters, Broadway Roasting Company, Café Corazón, Hammerhand Coffee, Messenger Coffee, Oddly Correct

BEST LOCAL DISTILLERY

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Lifted Spirits Distillery, Mean Mule Distilling Co., Restless Spirits, Tom's Town Distilling Co., Union Horse Distilling Co., West Bottoms Whiskey Co.

BEST LOCAL WINERY

WINNER: KC WINE CO.

Finalists: Amigoni Urban Winery, Belvoir Winery & Inn, Holy-Field Winery, Jowler Creek Vineyard & Winery

BEST LOCALLY MADE KOMBUCHA

WINNER: LUCKY ELIXIR

Finalists: Daily Culture

BEST LOCALLY OWNED KANSAS BREWERY

WINNER: FREE STATE BREWING COMPANY

Finalists: Discourse Brewing, Friction Beer Company, Rockcreek Brewing Company, Sandhills Brewing

BEST LOCALLY OWNED MISSOURI BREWERY

WINNER: KC BIER CO.

Finalists: Alma Mader Brewing, Barley & Vine, Border Brewing Company, Callsign Brewing, River Bluff Brewing

BEST MANHATTAN

WINNER: WEST BOTTOMS WHISKEY CO.

Finalists: Cheval, Corvino, Lifted Spirits Distillery, Mitch e Amaro

BEST MARGARITA

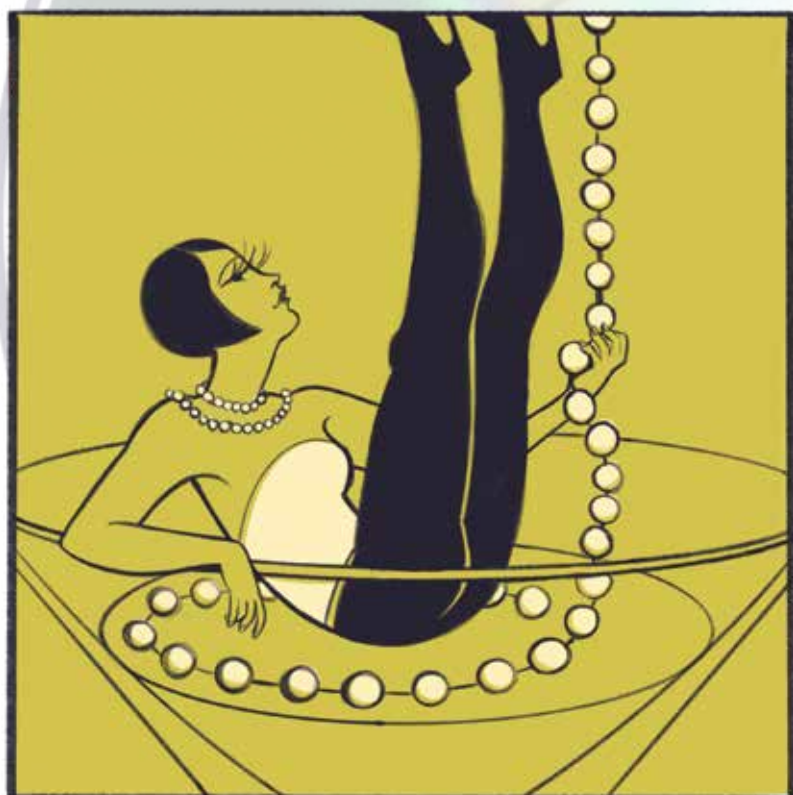
WINNER: MEAN MULE DISTILLING CO.

Finalists: Aqua Penny's, Barbacoa, Fern Bar, Sagebrush

BEST MARTINI

WINNER: GREEN LADY LOUNGE

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, The Campground, Fern Bar, Goat & Rabbit, Le Lounge, Stock Hill, The Wise Guy



Best Sports Bar: Gaels Public House and Sports // Photo by Kala Elkinton

BEST MILKSHAKE

WINNER: COSMO BURGER

Finalists: Burger Shed, Hammerhand Coffee, Hi-Boy Drive-In, High Hopes

BEST MOJITO

WINNER: MEAN MULE DISTILLING CO.

Finalists: El Patron, Fern Bar, Hank's Garage & Grill, The Primrose

BEST NEGRONI

WINNER: THE CAMPGROUND

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Bar Medici, Cheval, King G, Mitch e Amaro

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

WINNER: JIM'S ALLEY BAR

Finalists: Dodson's Bar & Commons, Hillsiders, Jimmy's Jigger, Mainstreet Tavern, Patrick's Bar & No Grill, Sagebrush

BEST NEW BAR

WINNER: SAGEBRUSH

Finalists: Hammers Dueling Piano Bar, Le Lounge, Q Kansas City, Something Good

BEST NEW BREWERY

WINNER: STRAWBERRY HILL BREWING COMPANY

Finalists: Force of Nature Brewing

BEST OLD FASHIONED

WINNER: WEST BOTTOMS WHISKEY CO.

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, The Belfry, The Campground, Goat & Rabbit

BEST PATIO

WINNER: CHAR BAR

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Bamboo Penny's, Border Brewing Company, The Campground, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Sidestreet Bar, Two Sugars

BEST POP-UP BAR

WINNER: VIGNETTES

Finalists: Condor's Cove, Conductor Club, Jade Jaguar, Mirage

BEST ROOFTOP BAR

WINNER: PERCHERON ROOFTOP BAR

Finalists: Blanc Champagne Bar, John's Big Deck, Vye Cocktail Lounge

BEST SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT

WINNER: EXTRA VIRGIN

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Corvino, Fern Bar, Mainstreet Tavern

BEST SPORTS BAR

WINNER: GAEL'S PUBLIC HOUSE & SPORTS

Finalists: Craft Putt, John's Big Deck, Maloney's Sports Bar & Grill, Oak & Steel

BEST TEA SHOP/PLACE TO BUY TEA

WINNER: DRAGONFLY TEA ZONE

Finalists: Anna Marie's Teas, Emilie's French Teas, Nature Made Me, Shang's Tea House, Tea Market, Two Sugars

BEST TIKI BAR

WINNER: THE BLUE PALM

Finalists: Kon Tiki

BEST UPSCALE BAR

WINNER: THE MONARCH BAR

Finalists: Drastic Measures, The Mercury Room, Swordfish Tom's, XO HiFi

BEST WHISKEY SELECTION

WINNER: HARRY'S COUNTRY CLUB

Finalists: The Belfry, Oak & Steel, The Sentinel Room, Veritas Whiskey & Wine

BEST WINE SELECTION

WINNER: TANNIN WINE BAR AND KITCHEN

Finalists: The Antler Room, Barley & Vine, Sail Away Wine, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Stock Hill

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FOOD

BEST APPETIZERS

WINNER: BEER KITCHEN

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Charlie Hooper's, Gaels Public House & Sports, Red Door Woodfired Grill

BEST BAGELS

WINNER: MESHUGGAH BAGELS

Finalists: Blackhole Bakery, Bread Friends, Brookside Bagels, Luca Bagel

BEST BAKERY (BREAD)

WINNER: IBIS BAKERY

Finalists: Blackhole Bakery, Bloom Baking Company, Farm to Market Bread Co., HAMU Bakery

BEST BAKERY (GLUTEN FREE)

WINNER: BILLIE'S GROCERY

Finalists: Lara's Cakes and Bakes, The Littlest Bake Shop, Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery, Mud Pie Bakery, Three Bears Bakery

BEST BAKERY (SWEETS)

WINNER: McLAIN'S BAKERY

Finalists: Blackhole Bakery, Lara's Cakes and Bakes, Scratch KC, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST BAR FOOD

WINNER: THE PEANUT

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, The Easy Inn, Gaels Public House & Sports, Jim's Alley Bar



BEST BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANT

WINNER: NIECIE'S RESTAURANT

Finalists: The Combine KC, District Biskuits, Ruby Jean's Juicery, Urban, Wah Gwan

BEST BOWL (ACAI)

WINNER: RUBY JEAN'S JUICERY

Finalists: Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Everbowl, Pura Vida Açaí Cafe, Taste of Brazil Restaurant & Bar

BEST BOWL OF SOUP

WINNER: VIETNAM CAFE

Finalists: Bamboo Penny's, HomeGrown, Housewife KC, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST BREAKFAST

WINNER: THE BIG BISCUIT

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Eggtc, First Watch, HomeGrown, Succotash, Urban Egg

BEST BRUNCH

WINNER: THE FARMHOUSE

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Beer Kitchen, The Big Biscuit, Nour's, Urban Egg, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST BUFFET

WINNER: CINZETTI'S

Finalists: Joy Wok, Kari's on 39th, Legend of Asia, THE Pizza Place

Best Family Restaurant: Baba's Pantry // Photo by Pilsen Photo Co-op

BEST BURGER

WINNER: TAY'S BURGER SHACK

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Beer Kitchen, Burger Shed, Corvino, Cosmo Burger, Disco Burger, Red Door Woodfired Grill

BEST BURRITO

WINNER: PANCHE'S MEXICAN FOOD

Finalists: Barbacoa, Champion Burritos To Go, El Pico, Taco Naco, Tiki Taco

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BEST BUTCHER

WINNER: LOCAL PIG

Finalists: Bichelmeyer Meats, Broadway Butcher Shop, Fareway Meat Market, The Upper Cut KC

BEST CARIBBEAN FOOD

WINNER: ISLAND SPICE

Finalists: Sankofa Cafe & Bar, Wah Gwan

BEST CATERING

WINNER: BRANCATO'S CATERING

Finalists: Blue Pot Catering, Chef Caleb Fechter, Forks N Chill, Well Rounded Events

BEST CHARCUTERIE BOARD

WINNER: GREEN DIRT ON OAK

Finalists: Affäre, Amazing Graze KC, Graze & Gather KC, KC Snack Co.

BEST CHEAP EATS

WINNER: TOWN TOPIC

Finalists: Cosmo Burger, John's Big Deck, Tiki Taco, Winstead's

BEST CHEF

WINNER: PENNY MUFUKA

- BAMBOO PENNY'S

Finalists: Bobby Stearns - Ophelia's, Brett DeHart - The Go To, Celina Tio - The Belfry, Chef Caleb Fechter, David Ruiz - Overland Park Convention Center, Jacob Hilbert - Stock Hill, Michael Corvino - Corvino, Nick Goellner - The Antler Room

BEST CHICKEN (BAKED OR GRILLED)

WINNER: EL POLLO REY

Finalists: Lula Southern Cookhouse, Red Door Woodfired Grill, WingStand by Jefferson's

BEST CHICKEN SANDWICH

WINNER: RED DOOR WOODFIRED GRILL

Finalists: The Big Biscuit, Lucky Boys, Minsky's Pizza, WingStand by Jefferson's

BEST CHICKEN STRIPS/TENDERS

WINNER: GO-CHICKEN-GO

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, Strip's Chicken, Red Door Woodfired Grill, WingStand by Jefferson's

BEST CHICKEN WINGS

WINNER: THE PEANUT

Finalists: Al's Bar & Grill, Char Bar, Minsky's Pizza, WingStand by Jefferson's

BEST CHILI

WINNER: DIXON'S FAMOUS CHILI

Finalists: The Brick, Char Bar, Fritz's, Hawg Jaw Que & Brew



Best Chef: Chef Penny Mufuka -
Bamboo Penny's // Photo Courtesy
of Bamboo Penny's

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

WINNER: BO LINGS

Finalists: ABC Cafe, China Feast, Jasmine Garden, Pine & Bamboo Garden, Princess Garden Restaurant, Ye's Master Wok

BEST CHOCOLATE SHOP

WINNER: CHRISTOPHER

ELBOW CHOCOLATES

Finalists: Andre's Confiserie Suisse, Bizz & Weezy Confections, Bootleg Bourbon Balls, Laura Little's Candies

BEST CINNAMON ROLLS

WINNER: CORNER CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Jerry's Cafe, McLain's Bakery, Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery, Rye, Tin Pan Cinnamon Rolls

BEST DELI

WINNER: MARCO POLO'S ITALIAN MARKET

Finalists: Breit's Stein & Deli, Fetterman's, The Italian Sausage Company, King G, M&M Bakery and Deli

BEST DESSERT MENU

WINNER: JASPER'S RESTAURANT

Finalists: The Antler Room, Baba's Pantry, Red Door Woodfired Grill, The Town Company

BEST DONUTS

WINNER: LAMAR'S DONUTS

Finalists: Blackhole Bakery, Donut King, Duck Donuts, Fluffy Fresh Donuts, Hana's Donuts, Mr. D's Donuts

BEST ETHIOPIAN FOOD

WINNER: BLUE NILE CAFE

Finalists: Abol, Black Garlic

BEST FALAFEL

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Hummus and Pita, Kari's on 39th, Meddys

BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

WINNER: BABA'S PANTRY

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, The Big Biscuit, Craft Putt, Rudy's Tenampa Taqueria

BEST FOOD POPUP OR STANDALONE FOOD TRUCK

WINNER: TC'S FULLY LOADED

Finalists: Ghost Kitchen, Junkyard Dog, Pura Vida KC, The Stuffed Mushroom

BEST FRENCH FRIES

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Beer Kitchen, The Campground, Lucky Boys, Tay's Burger Shack

BEST FRENCH RESTAURANT

WINNER: LE FOU FROG

Finalists: Café des Amis, Café Provence, French Market, Westport Cafe

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

WINNER: STROUD'S OAK RIDGE MANOR

Finalists: Corvino, Go-Chicken-Go, Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken, Rye

BEST GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS (RESTAURANT)

WINNER: BILLIE'S GROCERY

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Strip's Chicken, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST GREEK RESTAURANT

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Chef Aristo's, Hummus and Pita, Meddys, Mr. Gyro's Greek Food & Pastry, Nick the Greek, Sinbad's Grill, Tasso's Greek Restaurant

BEST GYRO

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Hummus and Pita, Kari's on 39th, Mr. Gyro's Greek Food & Pastry

BEST HAPPY HOUR (FOOD)

WINNER: BLUE SUSHI SAKE GRILL

Finalists: 54th Street, District Pour House + Kitchen, Extra Virgin, Summit Grill

BEST HOT DOG (RESTAURANTS/ FOOD TRUCKS)

WINNER: WIENER KITCHEN

Finalists: Charlie Hooper's, Disco Burger, Junkyard Dog, K-Street Hotdog, The Pizza Man, Up Dog

BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT

WINNER: THE SAVOY

Finalists: BarCentral, Burger Shed, Chaz on the Plaza, Lazia, The Town Company

BEST ICE CREAM

WINNER: BETTY RAE'S

Finalists: Clinton's Soda Fountain, High Hopes, Summer Salt, Sweet EMotion, Syllas & Maddy's

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FOOD

BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: TAJ MAHAL

Finalists: Aahaa Modern Indian Cuisine, Elephant Wings, Flavor of Himalaya, Of Course Kitchen & Company

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: GAROZZO'S

Finalists: Bella Napoli, Farina, Jasper's Restaurant, Ragazza Food & Wine

BEST ITALIAN SAUSAGE

WINNER: SCIMECA'S ITALIAN SAUSAGE CO.

Finalists: Carollo's Grocery & Deli, The Italian Sausage Company, Marco Polo's Italian Market

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

WINNER: FRITZ'S

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, The Big Biscuit, Craft Putt, Waldo Pizza

BEST KOREAN

WINNER: KOBI-Q

Finalists: Bōru Asian Eatery, Chosun Korean BBQ, CM Chicken

BEST LATE NIGHT EATS

WINNER: TOWN TOPIC

Finalists: Anjin, Atomic Cowboy, Charlie Hooper's, Pancho's Mexican Food

BEST LOCAL PACKAGED SNACK

WINNER: GUYS GREEN

ONION POTATO CHIPS

Finalists: Lite Bites KC, PJ Snacks Pretzels

BEST BEST LOCALLY MADE SAUCE/ SALSAS/CONDIMENT (NON-BBQ)

WINNER: MARGARITA'S SALSA

Finalists: Dipp-it Salsa, Johnny's Tavern Wilson Sauce, Pammy Sue's Salsa, Spanish Gardens, Zim's Sauces & Spices

BEST LUNCH

WINNER: BABA'S PANTRY

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, The Big Biscuit, Blind Box BBQ, Jazz a Louisiana Kitchen, Nour's, Red Door Woodfired Grill, The Russell

BEST MEAL KIT/PREPARED FOODS

WINNER: FRENCH MARKET

Finalists: KITCH Meals, Social Suppers

BEST MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: BABA'S PANTRY

Finalists: Habashi House, Jerusalem Cafe, Kari's on 39th, Meddys, Mineral Lounge

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: TACO NACO

Finalists: Barbacoa, Cactus Grill, El Patron, El Pico, El Potro, K-Macho's

BEST NACHOS

WINNER: RUDY'S TENAMPA TAQUERIA

Finalists: The Belfry, Blind Box BBQ, Johnny's Tavern, Taco Naco



Best Chili:
Dixon's
Famous Chili
// Photo by
Zach Bauman

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

WINNER: HANK'S GARAGE AND GRILL

Finalists: Anjin, Besos y Abrazos, The Go To, Jimmy B's Pizza and Wings, Triune

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

WINNER: CHAR BAR

Finalists: Aixois, The Campground, Verbena, The Westside Local

BEST PHO

WINNER: VIETNAM CAFE

Finalists: Nguyen Pho & Grill, Pho Good, Pho La La, Pho Tower

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NOV. 10-16

Week



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CHICKEN TINGA TACOS

Shredded tender chicken cooked with spicy onion and tomato, wrapped in double corn tortillas and topped with chipotle cream. Three hearty tacos with savory black beans, white rice, and corn salsa

TINGA CHICKEN NACHOS

Stewed chicken atop house-fried tortilla chips with queso blanco, black beans, corn salsa, jalapeño and sour cream

5424 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 802-7015



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Your favorite dumplings just got a street taco makeover. Savory smashed pork dumpling filling, crunchy slaw with a zesty ponzu-style vinaigrette wrapped in four soft tortillas. Topped with Scallions and served with lime wedges for an extra burst of flavor.

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Your choice of smoked chicken, taco meat, smoked brisket, or carnitas with shredded cheddar cheese, melted queso, and pico de gallo on top of corn tortilla chips served with your choice of salsa and sour cream

928 Wyandotte St, Kansas City, MO 64105
816.255.3396



FOR UP TO DATE DETAILS FOLLOW THE EVENT ON  AND AT [THEPITCHKC.COM](https://thepitchkc.com)
TO INCLUDE YOUR RESTAURANT IN THIS PROMOTION CONTACT [JASON@THEPITCHKC.COM](mailto:jason@thepitchkc.com)



FOOD



Best Food Pop-Up or
Standalone Food Truck: TC's
Fully Loaded // Photo by
Heather Terry

BEST PIE

WINNER: THE UPPER CRUST

Finalists: Ashleigh's Bake Shop, Pie Time, Rye

BEST PIZZA (MULTIPLE LOCATIONS)

WINNER: MINSKY'S PIZZA

Finalists: Buffalo State Pizza, Old Shawnee Pizza, Pizza 51, Pizza Tascio, Providence Pizza

BEST PIZZA (SINGLE LOCATION)

WINNER: ARTEGO PIZZA

Finalists: Atomic Cowboy, The Go To, Jimmy B's Pizza and Wings, Leo's Pizza, Long-Bell Pizza Co., Northeast Pizza, Orange by Devoured

BEST PLACE TO DINE ALONE

WINNER: WESTPORT CAFE

Finalists: Buenos Aires Restaurant, Chez Elle, Jerry's Cafe, Strang Hall, XO HiFi

BEST POKE

WINNER: FREESTYLE POKE

Finalists: Kobi-Q, Pokéloha, Pokesan, QZ Poke & Ramen

BEST PORK TENDERLOIN

WINNER: KITTY'S CAFE

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Christine's Firehouse, The Lunch Box

BEST PRETZEL

WINNER: KC BIER CO.

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, KC Pretzel Boy's, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST QUESO

WINNER: JOSE PEPPER'S

Finalists: El Pico, Los Tules, Margarita's, Mi Ranchito, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Taco Naco, Tiki Taco

BEST RAMEN

WINNER: KC CRAFT RAMEN

Finalists: Bōru Asian Eatery, Mama Ramen, OMO Japanese Ramen & Sushi, QZ Poke & Ramen

BEST RESTAURANT

WINNER: RED DOOR WOODFIRED GRILL

Finalists: The Antler Room, Baba's Pantry, Bamboo Penny's, The Campground, Corvino, Osteria Bianchi, The Restaurant at 1900, Stock Hill

BEST RESTAURANT (LAWRENCE)

WINNER: FREE STATE BREWING COMPANY

Finalists: 715, The Burger Stand at The Casbah, LIMESTONE - pizza. kitchen.bar, Merchants Pub & Plate

BEST RESTAURANT SERVER

WINNER: NaNa at JAZZ A

LOUISIANA KITCHEN

Finalists: Angel at Beer Kitchen, Cara at Cafe Trio, Eddie at Corvino, Steve at The Antler Room

BEST REUBEN

WINNER: BREIT'S STEIN AND DELI

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Conroy's Public House, Jim's Alley Bar, KC Bier Co.

BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

WINNER: LE FOU FROG

Finalists: The Antler Room, The Campground, Corvino, The Majestic Restaurant, Stock Hill

BEST SALAD

WINNER: THE MIXX

Finalists: The Antler Room, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, The Russell, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST SANDWICH SHOP

WINNER: BAY BOY SPECIALTY SANDWICHES

Finalists: The Italian Sausage Company, King G, Marco Polo's Italian Market, Pickleman's Gourmet Cafe, Pigwich

BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

WINNER: EARL'S PREMIER

Finalists: Aqua Penny's, Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar, Jazz a Louisiana Kitchen, Pearl Tavern

BEST SERVING STAFF

WINNER: THE ANTLER ROOM

Finalists: Anjin, The Big Biscuit, Blind Box BBQ, Corvino, Red Door Woodfired Grill

BEST SMALL PLATES

WINNER: LA BODEGA

Finalists: Anjin, The Antler Room, Chewology, Corvino, Extra Virgin

BEST SMOOTHIE/JUICE BAR

WINNER: RUBY JEAN'S JUICERY

Finalists: Bean & Vine, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Nekter Juice Bar

BEST SOUL FOOD

WINNER: NIECIE'S RESTAURANT

Finalists: Donnell's Kitchen & Lounge, Lula Southern Cookhouse, PeachTree Buffet and Cafeteria

BEST STEAKHOUSE

WINNER: J. GILBERT'S

Finalists: Golden Ox, Jess and Jim's, Johnny's Italian Steakhouse, Stock Hill

BEST SUSHI

WINNER: BLUE SUSHI SAKE GRILL

Finalists: Jun's, Kata Nori, RA Sushi, Sake Lounge, Sushi UNI

BEST TACOS

WINNER: TIKI TACO

Finalists: Barbacoa, El Patron, In-A-Tub, Sugar Skull Grill, Taco Naco, Tacos El Gallo

BEST TAKE OUT

WINNER: LONGBOARDS

Finalists: Baramée Thai Bistro, The Go To, The Mixx, Moti Mahal, Red Fortune

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

WINNER: LULU'S THAI NOODLE SHOP

Finalists: Bamboo Penny's, Baramée Thai Bistro, Lemongrass Thai Cuisine, Thai Place, Tuk Tuk Thai

BEST TOTS

WINNER: COSMO BURGER

Finalists: BRGR Kitchen + Bar, Charlie Hooper's, Conroy's Public House, Moretina's Caddy Shack

BEST VEGAN OPTIONS

WINNER: THE FIX

Finalists: Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Gigi's The Vegan + Wellness Cafe, Tree Hugger Kitchen, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

WINNER: BABA'S PANTRY

Finalists: The Antler Room, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, The Fix, The Stuffed Mushroom, Whole Harvest Kitchen





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🌐 thebarberette.com

📍 **Creekside**
15325 Old Town Drive Ste 107
Parkville MO 64152
☎ 816.326.7070



GOODS & SERVICES

BEST ACCOUNTING FIRM

WINNER: S. PAIGE SANDER CPA, LLC

Finalists: Abacus Accounting Solutions, AM CPA, Cash Tax & Accounting, Jordan J Bookkeeping

BEST AD/MARKETING AGENCY

WINNER: SQUARE PEG

MARKETING & BRANDING

Finalists: BarkleyOKRP, Fare Creative, KES Studio, Page Communications, Web Force KC

BEST ADULT CLUB

WINNER: SHADY LADY

Finalists: Bazooka's Showgirls

BEST AESTHETICIAN

WINNER: CHAR HIGGINS (Mirabile MD)

Finalists: Anna Norman, Annie McBee, Joyce Pursley, Kimberly Boesel, Lena Dolbow, Madison Nesburg

BEST APARTMENT COMMUNITY

WINNER: THREE LIGHT

LUXURY APARTMENTS

Finalists: Converge KC Uptown, The Grand, Midland Lofts, Peppertree Apartment Homes, Villa Medici

BEST AUCTION HOUSE

WINNER: THIS & THAT KC

Finalists: Andrew Turner Auctions, Carrell Auctions, Equip-Bid.com, Legacy Auction Group, M&M Auction House

BEST AUTO SERVICE/REPAIR

WINNER: KC AUTOWORK

Finalists: Applied Phzix, Casey's Auto Repair, Nicole's Auto Care Center, Northtown Auto, Star European Repair

BEST BANK (COMMERCIAL)

WINNER: COMMERCE BANK

Finalists: Academy Bank, Arvest Bank, Central Bank, Country Club Bank, UMB Bank

BEST BANK (CONSUMER)

WINNER: CENTRAL BANK

Finalists: Arvest Bank, Bank Midwest, Capitol Federal, Commerce Bank, UMB Bank

BEST BARBER

WINNER: MORGAN LAPIN

Finalists: Ethan Fenske at Pelo on Penn, Justin Lemos at MidWest Barbery, Lady Barber KC, Lavayne McGinnis at The Barberette, Maggie Perales at Spitfire Hair

BEST BARBERSHOP

WINNER: THE BARBERETTE

Finalists: B KLASSY Barber Studio, BOB or SHOP, Catalyst Barber Co., Exquisite Cutz KC, MidWest Barbery, My Cuts Travel

BEST BODY PIERCING

WINNER: SUPERNATURAL BODY PIERCING

Finalists: Austin Penca at Midtown Tattoos, Freaks on Broadway, Pixel Piercing at SideQuest Collective, Radiance Piercing

BEST BOUDOIR PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: STAG & BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Finalists: Babe City Boudoir, Barefoot Lifestyle Photography, Boudoir by K Eden, Cassidy Drury Photography, Cinder & Ivory, Illuminated Palette Photography

BEST BROWS

WINNER: HANNAH HAWKINS

at BROW GIRL LLC

Finalists: Brows Body Face, Jennifer Jones at The Grove Spa, Luxury Brow + Skin, Radiant Beauty by Tasha, Shelby Ayres Stylist & Educator

BEST BUSINESS CONSULTANT/

BUSINESS COACH

WINNER: BOBBY KERR

Finalists: Intentional Hairdresser Workshop, Lakeesha Scott - Great People Resources, Robin Ferguson, Tashawna McHenry - Her Boss LLC, Tom Mulligan - Sandler Training

BEST CAR WASH

WINNER: GO CAR WASH

Finalists: The Better Wash, Charlie's Car Wash, Club Car Wash, McBee's Coffee N Carwash, Rainbow Car Wash, Tidal Wave Auto Spa

BEST CHILD CARE CENTER

WINNER: PRIMROSE SCHOOL

AT KU MEDICAL CENTER

Finalists: Itsy Bitsy Learning Center, Kid Stop, Kid's Kingdom, Rainbow School





Best Photographer (Business): Stag & Bird
Photography // Photo by Stag & Bird Photography

BEST HAIR REMOVAL

WINNER: MIRABILE MD

Finalists: Kansas City Aesthetic Center,
Milan Laser Hair Removal, Plaza Aesthetics
& Wellness, Radiant Beauty by Tasha

BEST HAIR SALON

WINNER: THE HAIR SALON & CO.

Finalists: Elevate Organic Hair Salon +
Spa, Glitter Pixies, Hairpins, Pelo on Penn,
Roots & Branches Salon, Savvy Salon

BEST HAIR STYLIST

WINNER: SHELBY AYRES STYLIST & EDUCATOR

Finalists: Bettina Delfin, Dalton
QW, Johanna Brown, Rebekah
Mossey - Bekah Behind the Chair

BEST HANDYMAN

WINNER: SCHLOEGEL HANDYMAN SERVICES

Finalists: Candor Upkeep Handyman
Services, Swiftly's Home Services

BEST HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY

WINNER: MIDWEST HEATING, COOLING & PLUMBING

Finalists: Comfort Systems
Heating & Cooling, Hotter Than
Hell Heating & Cooling, Integrity
Heating & Air, Pride Mechanical

BEST CLEANING SERVICE

WINNER: GROOVY ORGANIC CLEANING

Finalists: Clean Heart Maids;
Crum Cleaning; Linda's Cleaning
Service, LLC; Sunflower Maids

BEST BEST CLINICAL TRIALS/ PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

WINNER: CHILDREN'S MERCY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Finalists: AMR Kansas City,
Clinical Associates Midwest,
Johnson County Clin-Trials

BEST COMPUTER/IT SERVICES

WINNER: AKINS PC REPAIR

Finalists: Integral, Loquent
Technology Services, Web Force KC

BEST CONTRACTOR

WINNER: SCHLOEGEL DESIGN REMODEL

Finalists: Candor Upkeep Handyman
Services, The Decksperks, Roeser Homes

BEST COWORKING SPACE

WINNER: SPARK KANSAS CITY

Finalists: The CO-OP at Shoal
Creek, Industrious, Switchyards

BEST CREDIT UNION

WINNER: COMMUNITYAMERICA CREDIT UNION

Finalists: Azura Credit Union, CSD Credit
Union, Mainstreet Credit Union, Mazuma
Credit Union, R-G Federal Credit Union

BEST CUSTOM BLINDS/ WINDOW TREATMENTS

WINNER: BUDGET BLINDS

Finalists: The BlindBroker, Bumble
Bee Blinds of North Kansas City,
Shawnee Blinds, Solar Shield
Blinds Shades Solutions

BEST CUSTOM COUNTERTOPS

WINNER: ROCKTOPS GRANITE & STONE FABRICATION

Finalists: Any Top Shop, Central
Surfaces, Gaumats International

BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: ash-thetics Concierge Medical
Aesthetics, Bloom Health & Wellness,
Central Surfaces, The Sweet Granada

BEST DOG TRAINING

WINNER: CAMP BOW WOW

Finalists: Collars Dog Resort,
The Dogs' Spot, Elkhound Ranch
Kennels, K.I.S.S. Dog Training

BEST ELECTRICIAN

WINNER: HANNAH THE ELECTRICIAN

Finalists: Current Solutions Electric, Fusion
Electric, Scott the Electrician, SJ Electric

BEST EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

WINNER: STAFFING KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Chief of Staff, Great People
Resources, Kelly Services, LandaJob

BEST FINANCIAL PLANNING

WINNER: CREATIVE PLANNING

Finalists: Buttonwood Financial
Group, Keith Allen at BMG Advisors,
Prevail Innovative Wealth Strategies

BEST GROUP THERAPY

WINNER: MOCSA

Finalists: The Counseling Collaborative,
Healing Towards Wellness, Simple
Empathy, Soileau Partners Psychotherapy

BEST GUTTER CLEANING

WINNER: THE GUTTER GUYS

Finalists: Candor Upkeep Handyman
Services, Clean Gutter Services,
Pro-Wash & Gutter, Rigdon

BEST HAIR COLORIST

WINNER: PAIGE GOWER - PAIGE PAINTS HAIR

Finalists: Ashlee McGeachy - The Kind
Hair Human, Dalton QW - Pelo on Penn,
Rebekah Mossey - Bekah Behind the
Chair, Shelby Ayres Stylist & Educator





GOODS & SERVICES

BEST HOME INSPECTION COMPANY/HOME INSPECTOR

WINNER: URBAN KC INSPECTIONS
Finalists: Avid Inspections,
Diamond Heritage Inspections

BEST HOTEL

WINNER: LOEWS KANSAS CITY HOTEL
Finalists: Crossroads Hotel; Hotel
Kansas City; Kansas City Marriott
Downtown; No Vacancy; The Raphael
Hotel, Autograph Collection; The
Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

BEST INJECTOR

**WINNER: KIM OVEROCKER -
ELEMENTS AESTHETICS**
Finalists: Ashley Pratt - ash-thetics, Carrie
Adams - Dew Aesthetics & Wellness,
Heather Taylor - Amazingly Ageless
Medspa, Jessica Brooks - Mirabile MD,
Megan Griffiths - Plaza Aesthetics &
Wellness, Rania Tayiem - Blush Aesthetic
Bar, Taylor Hagan - RefineKC Aesthetics

BEST INSURANCE AGENT

WINNER: NICK MORTALLARO - STATE FARM
Finalists: Andrea Johnson - USI Insurance
Services, Beth Tiffin - American
Family Insurance, Staci Blackwell-
Bundy - Farmers Insurance, Steve
Whitlow - Inszone Insurance Services

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

WINNER: NEST INTERIORS
Finalists: KCBR Design | Remodel,
Mid-West & Co., RESET Interiors,
Spirit Animal Interiors

BEST KITCHEN & BATH REMODELER

WINNER: SCHLOEGEL DESIGN REMODEL
Finalists: KCBR Design Remodel,
Kitchens by Kleweno, Let's Remodel
KC, Shamrock Cabinet

BEST LANDSCAPER

WINNER: NEXT TO NATURE LANDSCAPE
Finalists: Essence Lawn Care,
The Greensman, S&S Lawn Care,
SK Lawn and Landscape

BEST LASHES

**WINNER: KRISTIN SANDBORN at
AMAZINGLY AGELESS MEDSPA**
Finalists: @bewitched.est, Chic
Beauty, Coastal Beauty by Rachel
Robbins, Ritual Beauty

BEST LAUNDROMAT

WINNER: WASH HOUSE
Finalists: The Bubble Room, Duds 'n Suds,
Quinn's Laundry, WishWash Laundry

BEST LAW FIRM/LAWYER

WINNER: DM INJURY LAW
Finalists: Benjamin Arnold; Brandan
Davies; David Bell; DeVaughn James
Injury Lawyers; Hoppock Law Firm;
Humphrey, Farrington & McClain, P.C.

BEST LIBRARY BRANCH: KS

**WINNER: JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY
- CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY**
Finalists: Cedar Roe Library, Lenexa
City Center Library, Merriam Plaza
Library, Olathe Indian Creek Library

BEST LIBRARY BRANCH: MO

**WINNER: THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC
LIBRARY - CENTRAL LIBRARY**
Finalists: Kansas City Public Library -
Plaza Branch, Mid-Continent Public
Library - Green Hills Library Center,
Mid-Continent Public Library - North
Oak, North Kansas City Public Library

BEST LOAN OFFICER

**WINNER: DEREK MCGOWAN -
MCGOWAN MORTGAGES**
Finalists: Adriana Bates - Clear Mortgage,
Emily Conaty - PrimeLending, Jason
Dreiling - US Mortgage Connection, John
Alderman - CommunityAmerica Credit
Union, Lacy Oliphant, Summit Funding

BEST LOCAL FARM

WINNER: MESSNER BEE FARM
Finalists: The Frazier Farms,
Parks Family Farm, Silent Spring
Farm, Urbavore Urban Farm

BEST LOCAL MOVING COMPANY

WINNER: METRO WIDE MOVERS
Finalists: EZ Breezy Moving LLC,
McDermott Moving Company, Mike
Hammer Moving, Out & In Moving

BEST MAKEUP ARTIST

**WINNER: GLAM & GLOW
WITH KALSIE JO LLC**
Finalists: Kate Norton, Madee Stewart
Makeup Artistry, Makeup Myriee,
Makeup Undefined by Nichole

BEST MOBILE SPRAY TAN

WINNER: GLOW KANSAS CITY
Finalists: Bronze Me KC, Fix Beauty
Co., Tanfastic Mobile Spray Tanning,
TanTara Mobile Airbrush Tan

BEST MORTGAGE/HOME LOAN PROVIDER

WINNER: MCGOWAN MORTGAGES
Finalists: CommunityAmerica
Credit Union, Fountain Mortgage,
LeaderOne Financial, PrimeLending,
US Mortgage Connection

BEST NAIL SALON

WINNER: LUXE NAIL SPA
Finalists: Blush Nail Lounge,
Diva Nails, Mindy's Nails & Spa,
Nail Noir, Organic Nails

BEST PARTY BUS/LIMO SERVICE

WINNER: SHOWTIME TRANSPORTATION
Finalists: Barley Bus Tours and
Transportation, DJ Mic Productions,
Skyline KC Limousine

BEST PEST CONTROL

WINNER: BLUE BEETLE PEST CONTROL
Finalists: Pete's Pest Control,
Rottler Pest Solutions, Smithereen
Pest Management Services

BEST PET BOARDING/DAYCARE

WINNER: CAMP BOW WOW
Finalists: CITYDOGS KC, Collars
Dog Resort, Kate's Canine
Resort, Woof's Play & Stay

BEST PET GROOMER

WINNER: CAMP BOW WOW
Finalists: Collars Dog Resort, The
Flying Hair, For Pet's Sake, Furever
Family Dog Care, Pawsperity

BEST PHOTO BOOTH SERVICE

WINNER: THE PHOTO BUS
Finalists: Click Fun Photo Booth, Glam
Cam KC, InstaFun KC PhotoBooth

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER (BUSINESS)

WINNER: STAG & BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY
Finalists: Cinder & Ivory, Fawn & Fable
Photography, Page Two Creative,
theRYEstudio, Wreckcreation Co. Studio



Best Tattoo Artist: Lindsay Cadillac // Photo Courtesy
of Lindsay Cadillac



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BEST PLACE TO ADOPT A PET

WINNER: KC PET PROJECT

Finalists: Always & Forever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, Chain of Hope, Heart of America Humane Society, Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, Wayside Waifs

BEST PLUMBING

**WINNER: ANTHONY PLUMBING,
HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRIC**

Finalists: A.B. May, Affordable Plumbing & Sewer, Kevin Ginnings Plumbing, Lutz Plumbing

BEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY

**WINNER: PRICE BROTHERS
MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

Finalists: Abbott Properties, Block Multifamily Group, Cordish Living, Premiere Property

BEST PSYCHIC/TAROT READINGS

WINNER: DR. MATT TURNER

- BE LOVE HEALING

Finalists: Haven Wellness + Spa, Juli the Pink Witch, Natosha Keefer, Veil and Vow Tarot

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

WINNER: KRISTENA RICHEY

Finalists: Angela Lamb, Cheyenne Grimes, Christina McCord, Erin Slocum, Heather Baer, Jordan Heffner, Mary Hutchison

**BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY
(COMMERCIAL)**

WINNER: REECENICHOLS

Finalists: Realty ONE Group, RE/MAX Heritage, West Star Development

BEST REAL ESTATE TEAM

WINNER: RICHEY REAL ESTATE GROUP

Finalists: The Brand KC, The Collective at Compass Realty Group, Heffner Homes, Shaun Ashley Team, Show-Me Real Estate

BEST ROOFER/ROOFING COMPANY

WINNER: CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ROOFING

Finalists: Best Roofing Kansas City, Buck Roofing & Construction, Easton Roofing, Manning Roofing, Redhammer Roof Group, True Grit Roofing Company

BEST SCREEN PRINTING

WINNER: MOON TEES

Finalists: Gladhand Studio, Oddities Prints, Seen Merch, Union Press

GOODS & SERVICES

BEST SOLAR PROVIDER

WINNER: SUN SOLAR

Finalists: Blue Raven Solar, Cromwell Solar, Good Energy Solutions, Lifetime Solar, Luce Renewables

BEST TAILOR/ALTERATIONS

WINNER: ELIZABETH'S ALTERATIONS

Finalists: Amazing Garment Repair, Alyx Jacobs Repair, Anna's Tailor Shop, Expert Alterations, Vali's Tailor

BEST TANNING SALON

WINNER: SUN TAN CITY

Finalists: District Tan, Image Sun Tanning Center, Recreating Rays

BEST TATTOO ARTIST

WINNER: LINDSAY CADILLAC

Finalists: Cheyenne Furrow, Jeremy Angotti, Josh Martin, Justin Nolasco, @tattoos.stephanie, Tay Johnson, Tina Penca

BEST TATTOO STUDIO

WINNER: DEAR YOU TATTOO

Finalists: Bleeding Heart Tattoo, The Cherry Bomb Tattoo Co., Gold Cathedral, Midtown Tattoos, Purgatory Tattoos, SideQuest Collective, Tintoretta Tattoo Studio

BEST TRAVEL AGENCY

WINNER: FLYOVER TRAVEL

by BEACH HAPPY

Finalists: AAA Travel, Cruise Holidays of Kansas City, Destination Fun Travel, Samantha Trempey - Magical Mama KC

BEST VETERINARIAN

WINNER: PET RESOURCE

CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Dr. Andrew Rambo, Eagle Animal Hospital, Family Pet Hospital of Shawnee, Independence Animal Hospital

BEST WINDOW CLEANING

WINNER: FISH WINDOW CLEANING

Finalists: Crum Cleaning, O'Leary Window Washing, Sparkle Squad of Kansas City North, Triton Window Cleaning





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HEALTH & FITNESS

BEST ACUPUNCTURE

WINNER: MAGNOLIA WELLNESS

Finalists: Amy Satterfield, Grace Family Acupuncture, OM Chiropractic, Taochemy

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

WINNER: KC CHIRO

Finalists: F.I.T. Muscle & Joint Clinic, Journey Chiropractic, RH Chiropractic, Seoul Chiropractic

BEST COSMETIC SURGEON

WINNER: DR. JOSEPH SPANIOL - MONARCH PLASTIC SURGERY

Finalists: Dr. Elizabeth Killion, Dr. Jeffrey R. Dillow, Dr. Jonathan Amspacher, Dr. Joseph Cannova, Dr. Levi Young



Best Martial Arts: Low Kick Camp // Photo Courtesy of Low Kick Camp

BEST DAY SPA (NON-MEDICAL)

WINNER: HAVEN WELLNESS + SPA

Finalists: HAND & LAND, Spa on Penn, The Therapy House

BEST DENTIST

WINNER: LeBLANC & ASSOCIATES DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN

Finalists: Dr. Grant R. Smith - Prairie Village Dentists, Dr. John Humphrey - KC Dental Works, Dr. Luke Joliff - Leawood Dental, Sloop Dental Co., Dr. Ragan Newland - BluHawk Dental Group

BEST HOSPITAL

WINNER: THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Finalists: AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, NKC Health, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Saint Luke's Health System Kansas City

BEST EYE CLINIC

WINNER: MISSION EYECARE

Finalists: Fairway Eye Center, LasikPlus, Midwest Family Eyecare, Precision Optics, Ridgeview Eye Care

BEST IV THERAPY

WINNER: LUX WELLNESS

Finalists: Bloom Health & Wellness, Honey B Aesthetics, IV Nutrition, Recovery Hydration Therapy

BEST FACIALS

WINNER: REFINE KC AESTHETICS

Finalists: Amazingly Ageless Medspa, The Grove Spa, HAND & LAND, Haven Wellness + Spa

BEST MARTIAL ARTS

WINNER: LOW KICK CAMP

Finalists: Bodyfit KC, Brazil Academy North, Chen Huixian Taijiquan Academy, Marathon Mixed Martial Arts

BEST FITNESS CLASS

WINNER: ALPHA COLLECTIVE

Finalists: Deposit The Work Fitness, F45 Training Leawood, Grit Fit KC, VIBE Dance at Goddess Maker Fitness

BEST MASSAGE CLINIC

WINNER: HAVEN WELLNESS + SPA

Finalists: Corazon Fuerte Therapeutic Massage, HAND & LAND, Lifestyle Massage + Bodywork, The Therapy House

BEST GYM

WINNER: MC CROSSFIT

Finalists: Beastified Gym, Body Shop Gym, Deposit The Work Fitness, F45 Training Leawood, Goddess Maker Fitness, Zone 6 Fitness

BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

WINNER: MICHAEL SHORT at WILD YONDER

Finalists: Corey Huntsucker at Alliance Massage Therapy, Erik Sandborn at Amazingly Ageless Medspa, Katie Brock at Haven Wellness + Spa, Vincent Lawhon at HAND & LAND

BEST HEALTH CLINIC

WINNER: PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Finalists: Baby Haven KC, Enhanced Health & Wellness, Kansas Mental Health Medicine (KMHM), KC CARE Health Center

BEST MEDICAL SPA

WINNER: REFINE KC AESTHETICS

Finalists: ash-thetics Concierge Medical Aesthetics, Blush Aesthetic Bar, The Grove Spa, Mirabile MD, Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, SOKO Aesthetics & Wellness

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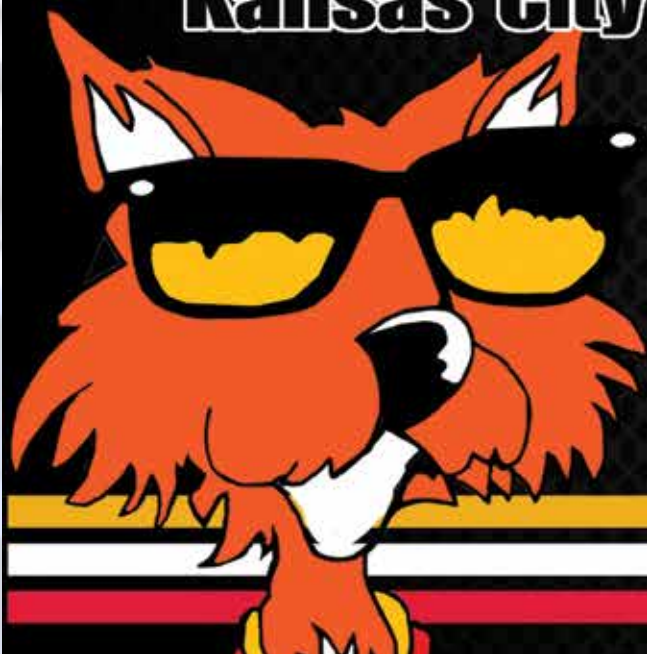
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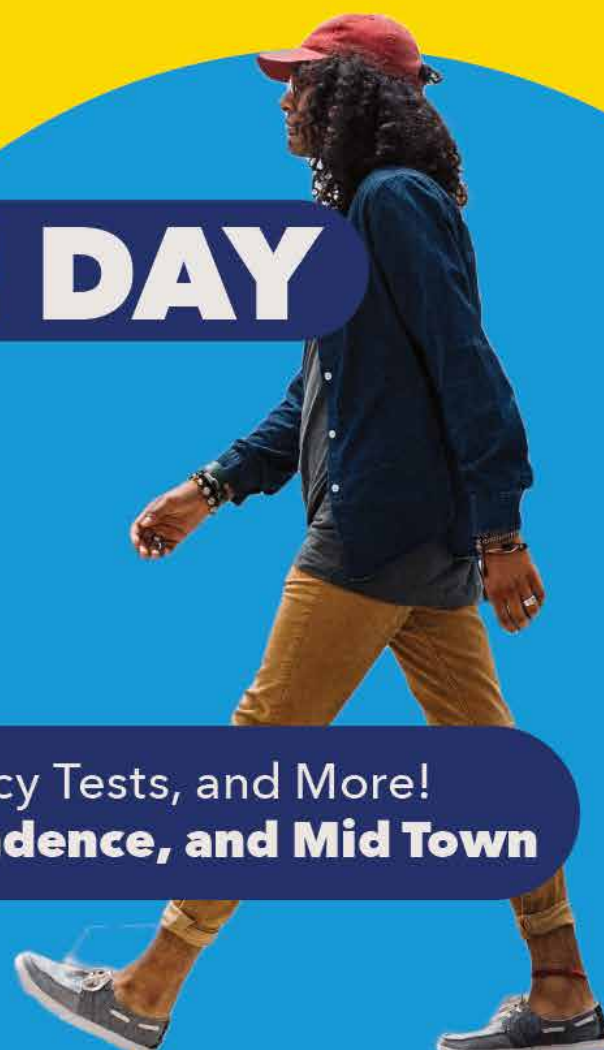
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HEALTH & FITNESS

BEST MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER WINNER: THE COUNSELING COLLABORATIVE

Finalists: Casey Toews - Clinical Associates; Connected Families Counseling; Healing Towards Wellness; Soileau Partners Psychotherapy; Tedoni Trauma-Informed Therapy, LLC

BEST NUTRITIONIST WINNER: DENISE SKINNER at THE TASTY BALANCE

Finalists: Anna Biggins, Jackie Roth, Katy Harvey

BEST ORTHODONTIST WINNER: FRY ORTHODONTICS

Finalists: Hannah Orthodontics, Hoffman Orthodontics, Jewell Orthodontics, Starting Point Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

BEST PEDIATRICIAN WINNER: DR. LUKE ENGELMAN - JOHNSON COUNTY PEDIATRICS

Finalists: Dr. Deborah Winburn - Premier Pediatrics, Dr. Grace Baysa-Ng - NKC Health, Dr. Kallie Foss - Olathe Health Pediatrics, Dr. Lance Slaymaker - Village Pediatrics

BEST PERSONAL TRAINER WINNER: NATHAN MARTIN - MC CROSSFIT

Finalists: Anna Pruter, Caleb Blankenship - Blankslate Fitness, Talia Pernice - Grit Fit KC

BEST PHARMACY WINNER: PHILLIPS FAMILY PHARMACY

Finalists: Albers Medical Pharmacy, Crosetti Health & Wellness, NKC Health Outpatient Pharmacy, Price Chopper Pharmacy (Wornall)

BEST PHYSICAL REHAB CENTER WINNER: F.I.T. MUSCLE & JOINT CLINIC

Finalists: ARC Physical Therapy+, Full Range Mobile Physical Therapy, Hill Pro-Motion Physical Therapy, KC Rehab

BEST PHYSICIAN WINNER: DR. JAMES MIRABILE

Finalists: Dr. Ameet Deshmukh, Dr. Benjamin Quick, Dr. Gay Purcell

BEST PILATES WINNER: CLUB PILATES LENEXA

Finalists: Ballet Bod, Beyond Barre Fitness, The Practice Yoga and Pilates, Studio 7 Pilates, Studio on Main

BEST SWIMMING POOL WINNER: WOODSIDE

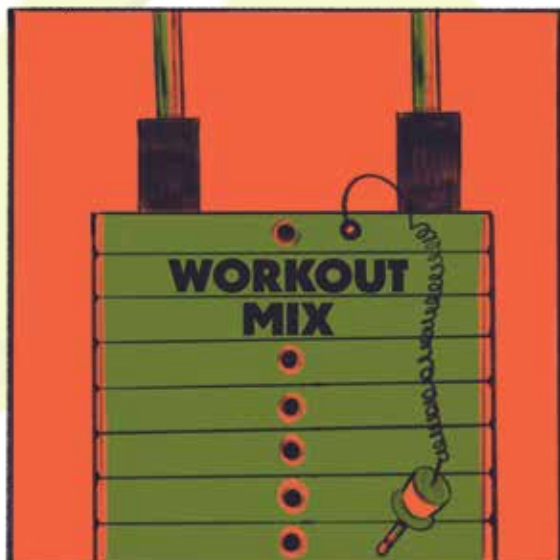
Finalists: Carson Ross Community Recreation Center, NKC Health, Round Hill Bath & Tennis Club, Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park

BEST WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC/COUNSELING WINNER: MIRABILE MD

Finalists: Horizon Med Spa and Wellness, MoKan Weight Loss and Metabolic Health LLC, Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, Total Weight Loss, Vitality Lifestyle Medicine

BEST YOGA STUDIO WINNER: MEGAN'S YOGA TRIBE

Finalists: AIMwell Yoga, Graceful Wellness and Med Spa, Inner Space Yoga, The Practice Yoga and Pilates, The Sweat Vault



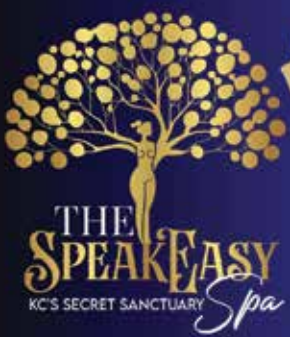
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PEOPLE & PLACES

BEST ATTRACTION
WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART
Finalists: Country Club Plaza, KC Wheel, National WWI Museum and Memorial, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

BEST BUSINESS THAT COULD ONLY EXIST IN KC
WINNER: MADE IN KC
Finalists: Healing Towards Wellness, KC Book Beat, Local Liquid, Muscle Cars KC, MYKC Eyewear, Pawsperity, Stray Cat Film Center

BEST COMMUNITY GARDEN
WINNER: EWING AND MURIEL KAUFFMAN MEMORIAL GARDEN
Finalists: Ivanhoe Community Garden, Kansas City Community Gardens, reStart, Squier Park

BEST DAY TRIP
WINNER: WESTON
Finalists: Excelsior Springs; Jamesport, MO; Lawrence; Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens; Silent Spring Farm

BEST DOG PARK
WINNER: SHAWNEE MISSION DOG PARK
Finalists: Happy Tails Park, Leawoof Dog Park, Olathe Indoor Dog Park, Waggin' Trail Dog Park, Wayside Waifs Bark Park

BEST FACEBOOK PAGE
WINNER: MISSION DRIVEN
Finalists: Always & Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, First Timers Movie Club, Four Kids For Kritters, Kansas City Eats, Muscle Cars KC, The Spooky ShXt Show

BEST GIRL'S NIGHT OUT DESTINATION
WINNER: HAMBURGER MARY'S
Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Craft Putt, Hammers Dueling Piano Bar, Missie B's

BEST GREEN BUSINESS
WINNER: SOAP REFILL STATION
Finalists: Elevate Organic Salon + Spa, Green Utopia, The Organic Salon

BEST HALLOWEEN DESTINATION
WINNER: DARK FOREST at POWELL GARDENS
Finalists: Apparition, The Beast, Exiled - Crooked Rose Woods, The O'Bannon Terror

BEST LOCAL ACTIVIST
WINNER: SCOTT POORE
Finalists: Andrea Knobbe, Jae Moyer, Lesa Patterson-Kinsey, Nikolette Kilz

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR
WINNER: VANESSA KRAMER
Finalists: 9 Patrick di Santo, Andrea H Rome, Dan B. Fierce, EC Garrett, Michael Mackie

BEST LOCAL BLOG/SUBSTACK
WINNER: PEOPLE I WANT TO PUNCH IN THE THROAT by JEN MANN
Finalists: All the Fits That's News by J. Alex Greenwood, Haterade by Liz Cook, Nightswimming by Caleb Doyle, Notes from KC by Dan Margolies

BEST LOCAL BUS TOUR OR WALKING TOUR
WINNER: KC GANGSTER TOUR
Finalists: Barley Bus Tours & Transportation, Cowtown Tours Kansas City, Just One Day Travel Tours, KC Rainbow Tour



BEST LOCAL CHARITY
WINNER: MISSION DRIVEN
Finalists: Always & Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, Forever Smiles Foundation, Heart of America Humane Society, Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, Metro Junction Townhall, MOCSA, Pet Resource Center of Kansas City

BEST LOCAL INSTAGRAM
WINNER: @RyanWesleyOfficial
Finalists: @thebalancedmama Anna Pruter, @CR.Reid, @kansascityfashion, @linsanity Lindsey Nhingsavath, @moonbodyspirit Lauren Chavez

BEST LOCAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
WINNER: MATT FLENER
Finalists: The Kansas City Defender, Kaylie McLaughlin, Mili Mansaray, Peggy Lowe

BEST LOCAL PERSONALITY
WINNER: MICHAEL MACKIE
Finalists: Heather Heckroot, Lindsey Nhingsavath @linsanity, Nikolette Kilz, Ryan Wesley

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN
WINNER: SHARICE DAVIDS
Finalists: Cindy Holscher, Eric Bunch, Laura Kelly, Quinton Lucas

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY
WINNER: DANA WRIGHT
Finalists: Jen Johnson, Marisa Butler, Michael Mackie, Scott Parks

BEST LOCAL RADIO STATION
WINNER: KMBZ 98.1
Finalists: 90.9 The Bridge, 102.1 BOB FM, KCUR 89.3, KKFI 90.1

BEST LOCAL TIKTOK
WINNER: @RyanWesleyOfficial
Finalists: @bbcortess, @liveloughlarkpc, @socialkansascity, @urbanspaceman23



Best Business that Could Only Exist in KC Runner-Up: Stray Cat Film Center // Photo Courtesy of Stray Cat Film Center



PEOPLE & PLACES

BEST LOCAL TV PERSONALITY

WINNER: MATT STEWART

Finalists: Abby Eden, Dave Eckert, Kris Ketz, Michael Mackie, Ryan Wesley

BEST LOCAL TV SPORTS ANCHOR

WINNER: LEN JENNINGS

Finalists: Mick Shaffer, Rob Collins

BEST LOCAL TV STATION

WINNER: KANSAS CITY PBS

Finalists: FOX4, KCTV5, KMBC 9, KSHB 41

BEST LOCAL TV WEATHER FORECASTER

WINNER: BRYAN BUSBY

Finalists: Gary Lezak, Joe Lauria, Karli Ritter, Nick Bender

BEST LOCAL TWITTER

WINNER: @KrisKetzKMBC

Finalists: @hartzell965, @Jeremy_Danner, @jstoner44 Reverend Winston

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

WINNER: BROOKSIDE

Finalists: East Crossroads, Leawood South, Power & Light District, River Market, Volker, Waldo, Westside North

BEST OUTDOOR EVENT

WINNER: KC PRIDEFEST

Finalists: Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, KC Oktoberfest, Wanderfest, West 18th Street Fashion Show

BEST PARK

WINNER: LOOSE PARK

Finalists: Black Hoof Park, Macken Park, Meadowbrook Park, Roanoke Park, Shawnee Mission Park, Swope Park

BEST PLACE FOR A CHEAP DATE

WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

Finalists: Belger Arts Center, The Brick, Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden, Jerry's Bait Shop, Lucky Boys

BEST PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE

WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

Finalists: ADHDY™ Craft Cafe, Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Bamboo Penny's, Craft Putt, Hammers Dueling Piano Bar

BEST PLACE FOR A LONG WALK

WINNER: LOOSE PARK

Finalists: Berkeley Riverfront, Macken Park, Parkville English Landing Park, Rock Island Trail, Shawnee Mission Park

BEST PLACE FOR A PICNIC

WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART (LAWN)

Finalists: Lake Olathe Park, Loose Park, Meadowbrook Park, Shawnee Mission Park

BEST PLACE FOR A VIEW OF THE CITY

WINNER: NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Finalists: The Blue Palm in Strawberry Hill, KC Wheel, The Scout statue in Penn Valley Park, Waterworks Park

BEST PLACE TO GEEK OUT

WINNER: SCIENCE CITY at UNION STATION

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, National WWI Museum and Memorial, TableTop Game & Hobby

BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLES

WINNER: VOLLEYBALL BEACH

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Cosentino's Sun Fresh Market, TableTop Game & Hobby, Where To Find Us events

BEST PLACE TO PLAY BOARD GAMES

WINNER: CARDBOARD CORNER CAFE

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Mindgames and Magic, Pawn and Pint, Rewind Video and Dive

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT OF TOWN GUESTS

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: 18th & Vine Jazz District, Lonnie's Reno Club, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Union Station

BEST PLACE TO WORK (OVER 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: CHILDREN'S MERCY

Finalists: Central Bank, Cornerstones of Care, Garmin

BEST PLACE TO WORK (UNDER 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Always & Forever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, The Grove Spa, Haven Wellness + Spa, Midtown Signs, Pawsperity, Square Peg Marketing & Branding, Timeless

BEST PLACE TO WORSHIP

WINNER: CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Finalists: Christ Church Anglican, Jacob's Well, Life.Church Northland, Temple Buddhist Center



BEST SHOP PET

WINNER: BRUTUS at THREE

DOG BAKERY - BLUHAWK

Finalists: Dolly at Truly Madly Depot, Eddie at K9 Closet, Oliver at The Organic Salon

BEST SPORTS TALK RADIO HOST

WINNER: BOB FESCOE

Finalists: Carrington Harrison, Jonathan Wier, Soren Petro, Sterling Holmes

BEST YOUTUBER

WINNER: RYAN WESLEY

Finalists: James Hunter Gamez, Kyle Talbot, Midge Munster, The Vanguard

Best Place to Geek Out Runner-Up: The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
// Photo Courtesy of the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures

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SHOPPING

BEST ACCESSORIES STORE

WINNER: RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: Bella B KC Boutique, Hula Hoop, KC Style Haus, Truly Madly Depot

BEST ADULT STORE

WINNER: CIRILLA'S

Finalists: Sazzy's Lingerie

BEST ART SUPPLY/CRAFT STORE

WINNER: SCRAPSKC

Finalists: ADHDY™ Craft Cafe, Yarn Social

BEST BATH AND BODY SHOP

WINNER: SOAP REFILL STATION

Finalists: HAND & LAND, Suds Refillery

BEST BICYCLE SHOP

WINNER: 816 BICYCLE COLLECTIVE

Finalists: Erik's, Trek Bicycle, Velo Garage and Tap House

BEST BLACK-OWNED RETAIL STORE

WINNER: THE BLACK PANTRY

Finalists: BLK + BRWN, Nature Made Me, The Missing Piece

BEST BOOKSTORE

WINNER: UNDER THE COVER

Finalists: Monarch Books & Gifts, Monstera's Books, Rainy Day Books, Read & Rooted

Best Farmers' Market: City Market // Photo by Shea McGraw

BEST BOUTIQUE STORE

WINNER: RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: Clairvaux, Green Utopia KC, Hula Hoop, KC Style Haus

BEST CANDLES

WINNER: EFFING CANDLE CO.

Finalists: Embers Candle Bar, Groupie Candles, KCMOCO. Candles, Sacred Creations

BEST CIGAR SHOP/CIGAR LOUNGE

WINNER: SHERRI'S EXECUTIVE LOUNGE

Finalists: The Cigar Box, The Shop Cigar Lounge, Vape Stop Plus

BEST CLOTHING STORE (MEN'S)

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Michael's Clothing, Nigro's Western Store #1, Prairie Sailor, Todd's Clothiers & Tailor Shop, ULAH

BEST CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN'S)

WINNER: DONNA'S DRESS SHOP

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Clairvaux, Hula Hoop, KC Style Haus, Retro Vixen, Urban Trends

BEST COMIC BOOK STORE

WINNER: A to Z COMICS

Finalists: Brute Squad Entertainment, Crossroads Comics and Art, Elite Comics, Kansas City Comics + Collectibles

BEST CONSIGNMENT STORE

WINNER: LULU'S BOUTIQUE

Finalists: Big Muddy Gear Exchange, Fetch, Hula Hoop, Retro Vixen

BEST FARMERS' MARKET

WINNER: CITY MARKET

Finalists: Brookside Farmers' Market, Mission Market, Overland Park Farmers' Market



BEST FASHION DESIGNER

WINNER: WASTELAND SOCIETY

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Bonk Supply, Lifewar Outfitters, Madison Stitch

BEST FLORIST

WINNER: THE FIDDLY FIG

Finalists: All A' Bloom, Chicken Creek Co., Daylight Flora, Lily Floral Collective, The Little Flower Shop

BEST GARDEN STORE/NURSERY

WINNER: FAMILY TREE NURSERY

Finalists: Antioch Urban Growers, Larry's Nursery, Read & Rooted, Soil Service

BEST GIFT STORE

WINNER: TRULY MADLY DEPOT

Finalists: The General Store & Co., Genevieve's, Green Utopia KC, KC Style Haus

BEST GROCERY STORE

WINNER: TRADER JOE'S (WARD PARKWAY)

Finalists: Franklin General Store, Hy-Vee (NW 64th St), Price Chopper (103rd St), World Fresh Market

BEST HOME FURNISHING STORE (LOCAL)

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Charmed House Interiors, Couches to Curios, Urban Mining Vintage, Victor's Home & Upholstery, Vintage Source

BEST HOME GOODS

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Charmed House Interiors, Genevieve's, KC Style Haus, Truly Madly Depot

Best Florist: Fiddly Fig // Photo Courtesy of Fiddly Fig

BEST JEWELRY STORE

WINNER: MEIEROTTO JEWELERS

Finalists: TIVOL, Two Jewelers, Vinca Jewelry, Whiskey and Bone

BEST KC PRIDE CLOTHING

WINNER: MADE IN KC

Finalists: Bleach Bae, The Bunker, MADE MOBB, The Sunflower Market

BEST LINGERIE STORE

WINNER: BIRDIES

Finalists: Passions KC, Sazzy's Lingerie

BEST LIQUOR STORE

WINNER: GOMER'S

Finalists: Bubbles Wine and Spirits, Cellar Rat Wine Merchants, Macadoodles, Mike's Wine & Spirits, Mitch e Amaro

BEST LOCAL MAKER

WINNER: UNSEAMLY THREADS

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Meeks Me Smile Studio, Who is She?

BEST LOCALLY MADE SOAP/SCENT

WINNER: INDIGO WILD - ZUM BAR SOAP

Finalists: Messner Bee Farm, Midtown Soap Company, Silent Spring Farm

BEST METAPHYSICAL/SPIRITUAL STORE

WINNER: CATS AND CRYSTALS KC

Finalists: Elsewhere Apothecary & Bookstore, Haven Wellness + Spa, Oracle Natural Science, Sacred Creations, Spectrum a new age shop





SHOPPING

BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEGLASSES

WINNER: VISION SOURCE

Finalists: Blue Valley Eyecare, Fairway Eye Center, Kansas City Eye Clinic, MYKC Eyewear, Ridgeview Eye Care, Romanelli Optix

BEST POP-UP SHOP

WINNER: HULA HOOP

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Cowtown Vintage & Art Exchange, Helianthus Books, Sarah Ruth Frey Creative Studio, Unseamly Threads

BEST RECORD STORE

WINNER: MILLS RECORD COMPANY

Finalists: Brothers Music, FM MUSIC Vintage Sounds, Planet Queen Records & Vintage, Sister Anne's Records and Coffee

BEST RETAIL STORE (LAWRENCE)

WINNER: 1313 MOCKINGBIRD LANE

Finalists: Daisy Lee Vintage, Love Garden Sounds, Third Planet, Wild Man Vintage, Wonder Fair

BEST SHOE STORE

WINNER: THE RUNNING WELL STORE

Finalists: The Bunker, Dva Percent, Nigro's Western Store #1

BEST PET SUPPLY STORE

WINNER: BROOKSIDE BAKERY & BATH

Finalists: Camp Bow Wow, For Pet's Sake, Go Pet Go, Tail Waggin' PetStop

BEST PLACE TO BUY A NEW CAR

WINNER: HENDRICK LEXUS

Finalists: BMW of Kansas City South, Rob Sight Ford, Volkswagen Lee's Summit

BEST PLACE TO BUY A PLANT

(PLANT BOUTIQUES)

WINNER: VIRGIL'S PLANT SHOP

Finalists: Bonsai Tree For Me, KC Bloom, rROOTS KC, West Bottoms Plant Co

Best Gift Store: Truly Madly Depot // Photo Courtesy of Truly Madly Depot

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Best Pop-Up Shop:
Hula Hoop // Photo
Courtesy of Hula Hoop

BEST SHOPPING CENTER

**WINNER: TOWN CENTER
PLAZA & CROSSING**

Finalists: Country Club Plaza, Crown
Center, Legends Outlets, Mission Farms,
Oak Park Mall, Summit Woods Crossing

BEST SKATE SHOP

WINNER: ESCAPIST SKATEBOARDING

Finalists: River Rat Print & Skate

BEST TABLE TOP GAME STORE

WINNER: MISSION: BOARD GAMES

Finalists: Level One Game Shop,
Peculiar Games and Hobbies,
TableTop Game & Hobby

BEST THRIFT STORE

WINNER: HILLCREST THRIFT SHOP

Finalists: Blessings Abound, Gnarly
Hussle, Hula Hoop, Two timin'
thrift co., Weird Stuff Antiques

BEST TOY STORE

WINNER: BROOKSIDE TOY & SCIENCE

Finalists: 1313 Mockingbird Lane,
Bubble Wrapp, The Learning Tree,
The Toy Store [Lawrence]

BEST VAPE SHOP

WINNER: KC SMOKE & VAPE

Finalists: It's A Dream Smoke
Shop, Rocky Mountain E-Cigs,
Smoke Tokz, Vapor Room 816

BEST VINTAGE CLOTHING STORE

WINNER: DONNA'S DRESS SHOP

Finalists: Daisy Lee Vintage, Hula Hoop,
Lulu's Boutique, Retro Vixen, River Market
Antiques, Two timin' thrift co., The Wears

BEST VINTAGE FINDS

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Cowtown Vintage & Art
Exchange, Family Tree Furniture, Green
Utopia KC, Hula Hoop, Two timin' thrift co.

BEST WEST BOTTOMS VENDOR

WINNER: BELLA PATINA

Finalists: Charmed House Interiors,
Fetch, Weird Stuff Antiques,
West Bottoms Plant Co.

BEST WINE SHOP

WINNER: TOTAL WINE & MORE

Finalists: Bliss Books & Wine, Cellar
Rat Wine Merchants, Mike's Wine
& Spirits, Underdog Wine Co.



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SPORTS & RECREATION



Best Place to Play Pickleball: Chicken N Pickle // Photo Courtesy of Chicken N Pickle

BEST ATHLETE

WINNER: PATRICK MAHOMES
Finalists: Temwa Chawinga, Mason Finley, Chris Jones, Travis Kelce, Bobby Witt Jr.

BEST BOWLING ALLEY

WINNER: RETRO BOWL
Finalists: Diamond Bowl & Billiards, Sterling Bowl

BEST BREAK OUT ROOM

WINNER: BREAKOUT KC
Finalists: The Basement: A Live Escape Room Experience, Breakout On-The-Go, BRKTHROUGH, Double Tap KC, The Escape Game

BEST CASINO

WINNER: AMERISTAR CASINO HOTEL KANSAS CITY
Finalists: Argosy Casino & Hotel, Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway

BEST GOLF COURSE

WINNER: OAKWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
Finalists: Brookridge Golf Club, Indian Hills Country Club, Painted Hills Golf Club, Sykes/Lady Overland Park Golf Club, Tiffany Greens Golf Club

BEST LOCAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITY

WINNER: DEANNA ROSE CHILDREN'S FARMSTEAD
Finalists: BRKTHROUGH, Cool Crest Family Fun Center, Craft Putt, Game Show Battle Rooms, Kansas City Current game, Kansas City Northern Miniature Railroad, The Rabbit hOle



BEST LOCAL STADIUM/ARENA

WINNER: GEHA FIELD at ARROWHEAD STADIUM
Finalists: CPKC Stadium, Kauffman Stadium

BEST ORGANIZED FOOTRACE/RUN

WINNER: GIRLS ON THE RUN
Finalists: CCVI Trolley Run, Cliff Hanger Run, Garmin Kansas City Marathon, Gillham Road GobbleTrot

BEST PLACE TO GET AN ADRENALINE RUSH

WINNER: WORLDS OF FUN
Finalists: BRKTHROUGH, Shady Lady, Volleyball Beach

BEST PLACE TO PLAY PICKLEBALL

WINNER: CHICKEN N PICKLE
Finalists: Bois D'Arc Park, Char Bar, The Sandbox, SERV

BEST PLACE TO PLAY PINBALL

WINNER: UP-DOWN
Finalists: 403 Club, Rapid Fire Arcade, Solid State - Pinball Supply

BEST PLACE TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES/ARCADE

WINNER: UP-DOWN
Finalists: Rapid Fire Arcade, Rewind Video and Dive

BEST PLACE TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL

WINNER: VOLLEYBALL BEACH
Finalists: Berkley Riverfront Park, The Sandbox

BEST SPORTS TEAM

WINNER: KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
Finalists: Kansas City Current, Kansas City Mavericks, Kansas City Royals, Sporting Kansas City



Best Place to Play Volleyball: Volleyball Beach // Photo Courtesy of Volleyball Beach



Best Place to Get a Wedding Cake Alternative: Kate Smith Soirée // Photo by Aveni Weddings

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WEDDINGS

BEST COUPLES THERAPIST

WINNER: TEDONI TRAUMA-INFORMED THERAPY, LLC

Finalists: Healing Towards Wellness, Kieri Olmstead - Simple Empathy, Soileau Partners Psychotherapy

BEST DIVORCE LAWYER

WINNER: MEGAN NOBLE - FISHER LAW

Finalists: Lauren Fields - Roth Davies LLC; Mande Pingel - Pingel Family Law

BEST BACHELOR PARTY LOCATION

WINNER: SUNSET RANCH WEDDING AND EVENT SPACE

Finalists: Craft Putt, Hammers Dueling Piano Bar, The Sandbox, Tick Tock Escape Room

BEST ENGAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: STAG & BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Finalists: Cassidy Drury Photography, Cinder & Ivory, Haley Sparks Photography, Illuminated Palette Photography

BEST BACHELORETTE PARTY LOCATION

WINNER: THE ELMS HOTEL & SPA

Finalists: Afterword Tavern & Shelves, Corvino, The Therapy House, Wandering Vine at the Castle

BEST HOTEL FOR YOUR WEDDING NIGHT

WINNER: HOTEL KANSAS CITY

Finalists: The Elms Hotel & Spa, Embassy Suites Olathe, Kansas City Marriott Downtown, No Vacancy



Best Wedding Photographer: Stag & Bird Photography // Photo by Stag & Bird Photography



BEST LOCAL WEDDING CATERER

WINNER: BRANCATO'S CATERING
Finalists: Hefter Catering, Kitchen Integrity, Premier Catering of KC, Scrumptious Catering

BEST PLACE FOR A REHEARSAL DINNER

WINNER: LIDIA'S
Finalists: Harvey's at Union Station, Strang Reserve, Studio Kansas City, Wandering Vine at the Castle

BEST PLACE FOR WEDDING PHOTOS

WINNER: THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART
Finalists: Fire House KC, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Sunset Ranch Wedding and Event Space

BEST PLACE TO GET A TUX

WINNER: DAN DAN THE TAILOR MAN
Finalists: bridal by SHL, Todd's Clothiers

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING CAKE

WINNER: McLAIN'S BAKERY
Finalists: The C Word Cakery, Chef Stop Stark, Clever Cakes, Kate Smith Soirée, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING CAKE ALTERNATIVE

WINNER: KATE SMITH SOIRÉE
Finalists: Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery, Mr. D's Donuts, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING DRESS

WINNER: TRUE SOCIETY BY BELLE VOGUE
Finalists: Aisle Studio, bridal by SHL, Bridal Extraordinaire, Something White Bridal Boutique



WEDDINGS

BEST WEDDING BAND

WINNER: LOST WAX
Finalists: Bound & Determined, The Crossroad Sound, Twice on Sunday

BEST WEDDING DJ

WINNER: COMPLETE WEDDINGS + EVENTS
Finalists: DJ Code P, DJ Mic Productions, DJ Smiles Marie, Feel The Music DJ

BEST WEDDING FLORIST

WINNER: DAYLIGHT FLORA
Finalists: Botanical Floral Design, Lily Floral Collective, Sidelines Custom Floral, Wild Hill Flowers and Events, Wyld Heart Flower Farm

BEST WEDDING HAIR STYLIST

WINNER: LOVELY BEAUTY KC
Finalists: 7th Row Productions, Bettina Delfin, Glam & Glow with Kalsie Jo LLC, Hair by Terin, Shelby Ayres Stylist & Educator

BEST WEDDING JEWELER

WINNER: MEIEROTTO JEWELERS
Finalists: Brooks Fine Jewelry, Kennedy's Jewelers, Spratford Fine Jewelry, Two Jewelers

BEST WEDDING MAKEUP ARTIST

WINNER: LOVELY BEAUTY KC
Finalists: Glam & Glow with Kalsie Jo LLC, Makeup Myriee, Makeup Undefined by Nichole, Radiant Beauty by Tasha

BEST WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: STAG & BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY
Finalists: Barefoot Lifestyle Photography, Cassidy Drury Photography, Cinder & Ivory, Meredith Graves Photography, Monphotography, Renata Zimmer Photography

BEST WEDDING PLANNER

WINNER: ONYX EVENTS & DESIGN
Finalists: Creating Memories + More, Jaded Events, The Perfect Touch KC, ThirtyOne:Thirty Events

BEST WEDDING RECEPTION VENUE

WINNER: THE GUILD
Finalists: The Brim, Olathe Conference Center at Embassy Suites, Fire House KC, Sunset Ranch Wedding and Event Space

BEST WEDDING VENUE

WINNER: THE GUILD
Finalists: The Brim, Lone Summit Ranch, Strang Reserve, Sunset Ranch Wedding and Event Space

BEST WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHER

WINNER: HER THIRD EYE PRODUCTIONS
Finalists: Enlow Productions, The Happers, Optimum Visuals, SKreeN GawD Productions

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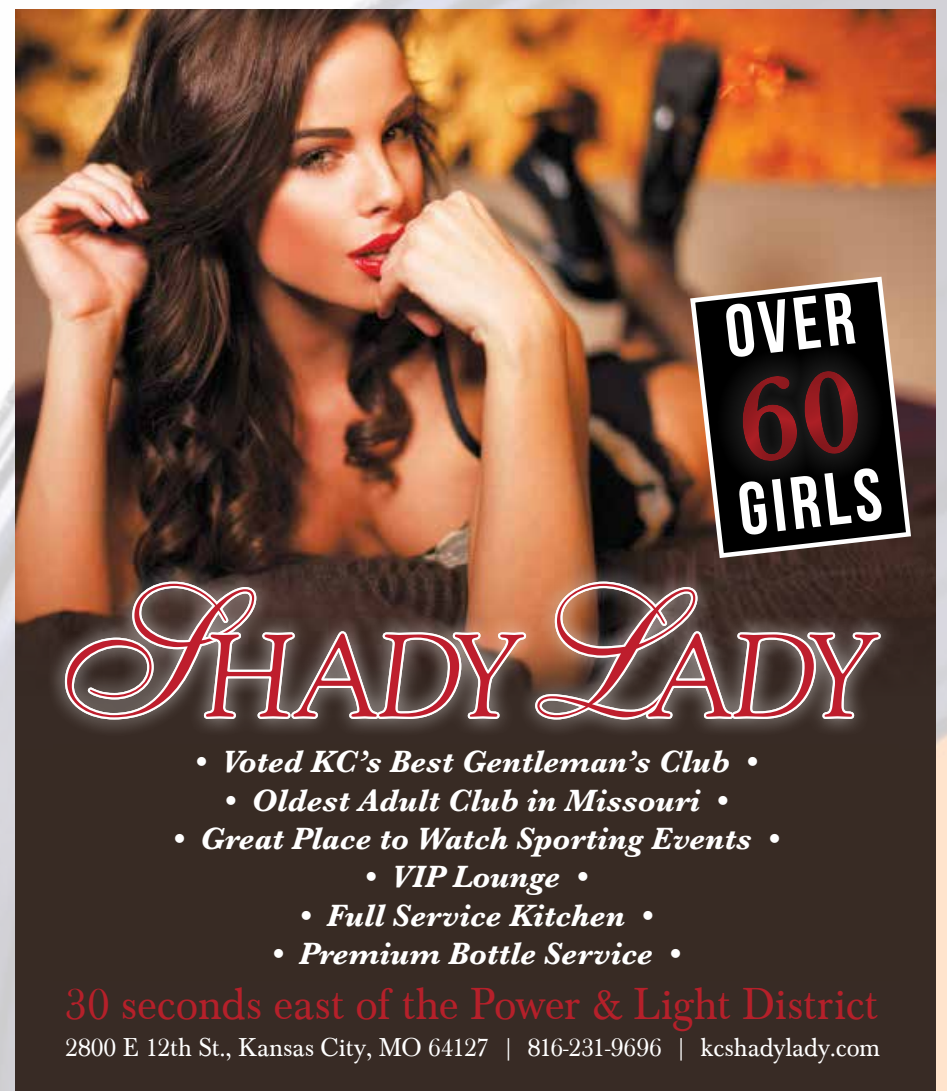
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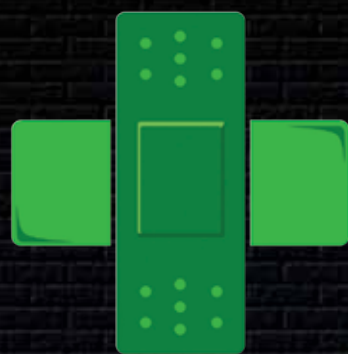


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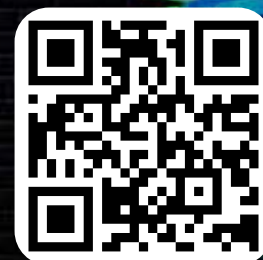
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