

The Pitch

BEST OF KANSAS CITY

2026





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Letter

Midwest Nice, Revisited

As we welcome visitors from near and far, there's a new flavor of Kansas City love seen around town. Let's hope it continues.

BY SARAH SIPPLE

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The Best of KC 2026

Adventure Guide

Side quest like a local. Our team shares their go-tos for relaxation, recreation, ramen, and more. It's your new Kansas City bucket list.

BY PITCH STAFF

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Your Picks

Pitch readers cast 282,878 votes in 425 categories, cementing these locals as the best the greater Kansas City area has to offer. From Best Drag Show to Best Divorce Lawyer, here are YOUR 2026 winners, KC!

BY PITCH READERS



Cover by Teddy Rosen

CHECK IT OUT ONLINE



Suffocation, Photo by Jason Colvin

As a 45-year-old mag of music origins, we had to curate a list of can't-miss summer concerts

Fun fact: we've got over 50 live music venues scattered across the KC metro. Which means, of course, an exciting lineup of summer concerts on our radar—including some you can hopefully add to yours. Earlier this month, our team put out a list of our most anticipated concerts of the summer. Take your pick from heavy hitters at T-Mobile, Starlight, and the new Morton Amphitheater, or scale down for some intimate deep cuts at Warehouse on Broadway and Replay Lounge in Lawrence, KS. We've got folk, we've got symphonies, we've got psychedelic rap, etc. etc. If you're looking for recs across the everything of it all, *The Pitch* has you covered.



We're biased, but have you seen how great our sports photographers are?

That thing called the World Cup is globalizing our sports scene, but we've long been in the business of covering events big and small across the city. Especially in the photography department. Eli Ralls is following an undersung but dominant minor league hockey run with the Kansas City Mavericks, while Tarik Sykes covers just about everything else, from the major professional teams and NASCAR races, to the nooks and crannies of rugby, college softball, and soccer's indoor sibling, futsal. That's not to leave out our writers who are spotlighting places where you can get a little athletic with it, and have tracked the city's World Cup prep (for better or worse). Keep an eye out for our on-the-ground coverage of Fan Fest and Tarik's match photos right from Kansas City Stadium.



KC Mavericks, Photo by Eli Ralls

Delicious drops: Keep current with KC restaurants, bars, cafes, and more

When it comes to our Kansas City food and drink coverage, we keep it real. Real local and real useful. We cut through the noise of the latest chain restaurant expansions and skip the "so and so hopes to open six months from now!" Our stories focus on what's available now and what's good. When we do zoom out from specific dishes we're devouring, we focus on the humans who define our KC food and hospitality culture. Follow along for all the foodie news, from your next brunch inspo to what your community is doing about food waste.



Nivi's Minis, Photo by Sarah Sipple



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Photo by Grace Chappell

Letter from the Editor

Let's explore the complexities of "Midwest Nice" as we welcome the world. We're full of snark and idiosyncrasies, as well as consideration.

By Sarah Sipple

Kansas City loves Kansas City. To a point.

We proudly wear the KC shirts and put the stickers on our water bottles, but at least once a month, I hear someone say they're "nervous" to drive downtown from the suburbs, or that they won't be visiting a restaurant I recommend simply because it's on Troost. Then there are the people claiming they'll disown the top sports team(s) if they dare to cross state lines. (My eyeroll is towards the border showdown mindset, never at the concerns over taxpayer-funded stadiums for multi-billion-dollar businesses.)

We love KC in a sibling way—full of snark and idiosyncrasies, fighting in town halls and comment sections over issues that do and do not matter, but we will ruthlessly defend it against other cities.

However, a new facet of KC love has been revealed in our approach to the global soccer fanfare happening this summer.

In many ways, we've turned our focus outwards, at least in the most unifying element outside of the sport itself: food and drink.

There's Scavuzzo's Foodservice offering restaurants a multi-part newsletter on international fare that visiting fans may expect, plus French Custard and Betty Rae's debuting new flavors based on our home-base teams' cultural dishes.

Then there are the spots hiring more Spanish-speaking local content creators and servers, and neighborhood bars ordering more imports rather than defaulting to domestics alone: Kansas City has invested in welcoming global nods, rather than only doubling down on made-in-KC favorites.

The well-earned KC clichés of burnt ends and beer remain, and many visitors, likely most, will seek them out.

But I have to think that if our overall first impression for visitors is a warm welcome—by showing some attention

to detail in cultural diversity—the quintessentially KC elements will be that much better received. It's a smart strategy of making something comfortable by blending the new with the familiar.

I hope to see some of these inclusive strategies remain long after the futbol summer ends. Adding menus in multiple languages (as many have) isn't free for restaurants to implement, but it's one way to make any business a little more accessible. It's almost as if we could be more culturally sensitive and accommodating to those already living in Kansas City... what a concept.

Our team at *The Pitch* is unified by our connection to journalism but diverse in aspects such as our neighborhoods, backgrounds, ideas of fun, age, skin color, taste, and more.

In the following pages, we share our own selections of Kansas City musts: Local rites of passage, whimsical side quests, and niche experiences. Nothing was assigned or based on any quotas; we gave the team free rein to share their real-life highlights. These are spaces where we feel safe or excited or enlightened, and trust that you will too.

It's our contribution to the myriad KC propaganda flowing out of the Midwest right now, but we filtered our recs through the lens of our independent magazine's origins—a few people cobbling together a gritty, honest, street-level pile of cool things to do, and trusting that it would reach the correct audience.

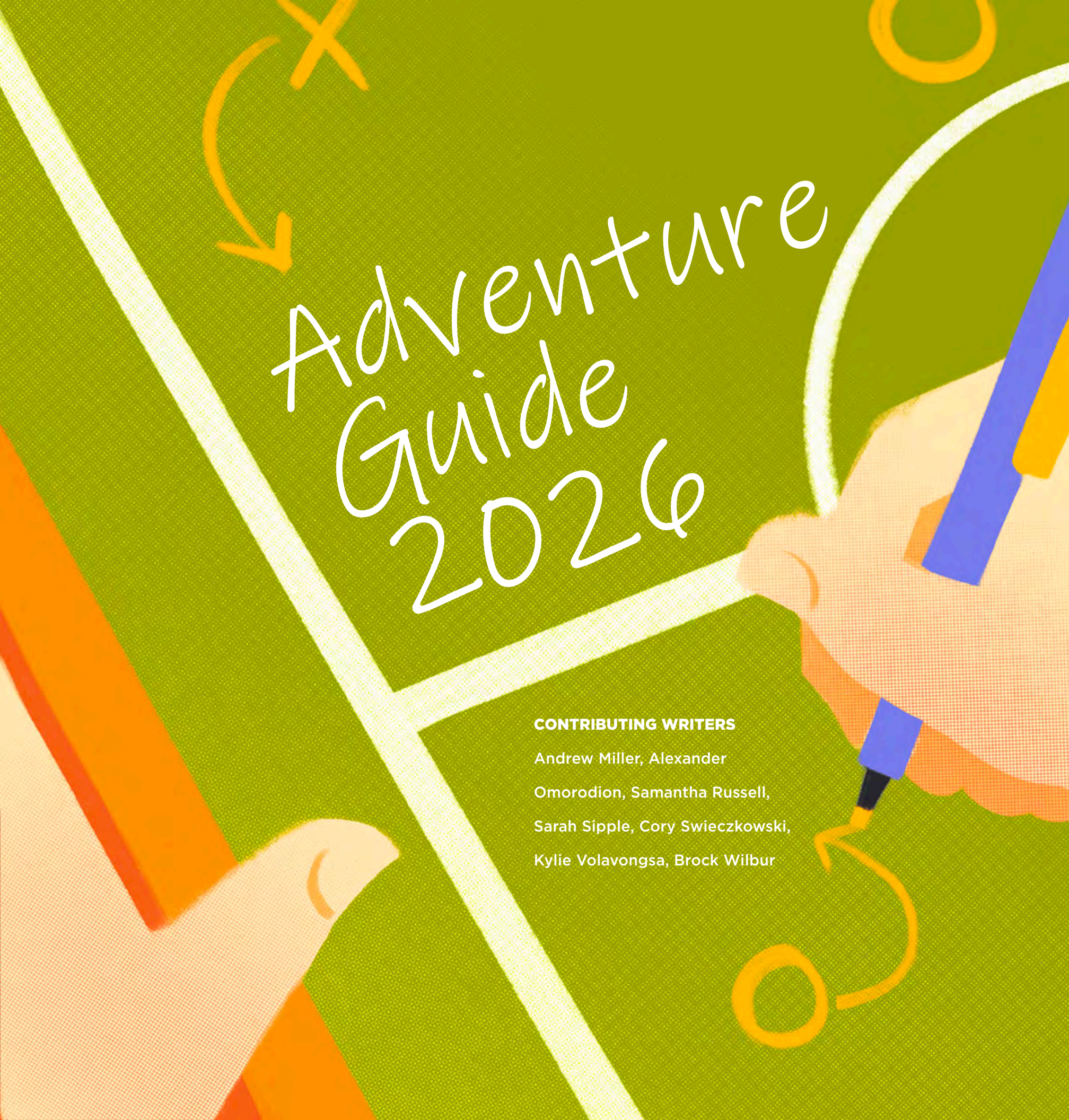
The "correct" audience is anyone who won't kill the vibe.

People who aren't afraid to try something new and aren't too cool to try something popular.

So if you're a fan of Japanese cuisine or Balkan pop, who likes birding or imaginative theater, and who's open to taking a pedicab home after a night of mystery beers, these pages are for you. Thanks for checking out our version of loving Kansas City.

P

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

An illustration of a hand holding a blue pen, drawing a yellow path on a green map. The path starts with an 'X' and an arrow, and ends with a circle. The background is green with white lines and a yellow path. The title 'Adventure Guide 2026' is written in white cursive.

Adventure Guide 2026

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Kanza Prairie Nature Trail, Photo by Kylie Volavongsa

A HEALING AT HARRY'S BAR AND TABLES

We were told to gatekeep this, but why conceal a wonderful thing? Harry's Bar and Tables in little 'ol Westport has great Guinness pours and warm bowls of gumbo with a kick—best served at the end of a night out. Skip Taco Bell Cantina, and opt for one of the local service industry's favorite spots.

A JAUNT IN THE WESTSIDE

Up the hill from the Kauffman Center, atop Kansas City's western bluff, you can immerse yourself in the Westside neighborhood for a mountain-town feel. Streets share a unique fill of houses, new and old, for a picturesque saunter any time of day. Take your fill of the city view, and fill your stomach with a wide range of restaurants.

Los Alamos Cocina, a 25-year-old staple

for Mexican food, invites passersby from the corner of Summit and W. 17th St. Blue Bird Bistro and Chez Elle Creperie offer a down-to-earth ambiance, while Clay and Fire dishes hearty Middle Eastern fare with a warm, homey vibe (check out the upstairs bathroom goldfish tub). The Westside Local heaps big portions that make it worth the price. And the small but ever-popular Zero Zero Handmade Pasta puts its double-digit name behind a small storefront, making it 100% likely you'll need a reservation far in advance. A tip: day-of reservations for the patio may be available as long as space and weather permit.

If you're in the mood for a little treat, Goat Hill Coffee & Soda is a small community hub that satiates caffeine cravings through mid-afternoon, and across the street, you can treat yourself to a new plant at rROOTS KC. Gift shops like Westside Storey

tout Kansas City merch, and whimsical and sassy gifts at Fetch help you snag a forgotten present in the midst of it all. A handful of hair salons and a tattoo shop round out the area for self-beautification needs. You can breakfast, lunch, dinner, preen, gift, and whatever else you please—all within reach of the same block.

BIRDS ARE(?) REAL AT OUR LAKES

Lake Jacomo, or any of the metro's recreational lakes, makes for a lovely evening of floating down easy street. Take your pick between Shawnee Mission Lake, Wyandotte County Lake, or even the mighty Missouri River if you're brave enough. If you rent a kayak or paddleboard, look to the sky for the real treat: in the diversity of its songbirds lives the heart of America. Am I getting old, or are the birds just getting cooler? At Lake Jacomo, it doesn't matter because I just saw an indigo bunting's

nest. And be prepared for your fair share of turkey vultures and brown-headed cowbirds—they need love too.

BOARD, BUT NEVER BORED. IT'S A GAMING TOWN.

The River Market is changing. Yes, the farmers' market stalls and typical fare are still available every weekend, but the 35-year-old Arabia Steamboat Museum is closing its doors in November. You'll need to find something else to do with your history-obsessed father.

Thankfully, the intersection of history nerd and general geek is almost perfectly aligned at Level One Game Shop. Sometimes it takes a brick-and-mortar store to ignite a curiosity for any sort of game you can dream of. The shop houses tabletop RPGs, puzzle games, and virtually every board game under the sun.



BEER FRIDGE @ THE HI-DIVE LOUNGE

Hi-Dive Lounge, Photo by Sarah Sipple



Dj Billo at a COLORS show!

COLORS Show, Photo by Mark Serrano

Even if you haven't played a capital 'B' board game recently, there are familiar starters like Uno or Codenames, or instructional nights to learn the deep cuts. Ask the staff for recommendations too—surprising entries may spark your inner child.

DIGGING THE DIVES OF STRAWBERRY HILL

As a gentle entry into the dive bars of KCK's historic Strawberry Hill neighborhood, Hillsiders is innocent enough. Minor instances of busty beer-branded decor, designed for ye-olde-heterosexual male, contribute to a nostalgic charm for a joint that opened just four years ago. Nearly every night of the week except Mondays, there's a chance you'll catch live music. Cover can be paid in cash and hovers around \$10. From Clayton's Yeehaw presenting country music on Tuesdays to punk bands and even comedy nights, the variety keeps things interesting.

Hit the pool table before heading out back, where an outdoor patio extends into a gravel backyard as big as the bar's interior, complete with picnic tables and chairs. A fire pit blazes on colder nights.

Down the street is the next spot for the night's tomfoolery. The Easy Inn is a cozy bar that feels like Hillsiders' devious younger stepbrother. It's got a wild energy that, if I were to check its pulse, gives a reading that anything can happen here.

For the average introvert, sit in the left corner booth nook. With your back against the wall western-style and a speaker above bellowing the evening's tunes, you can watch friends play darts and tiki toss from the comfort of your music-loving seat. Plus, the kitchen is known for burgers and tacos—in fact, we recommend the Wednesday special.

You'll know you're in the right spot at both bars: literal signs congratulate you for avoiding the Power and Light District.

FALL IN LOVE AT WHISKERS CAT CAFE

They don't call Kansas City the "Paris of the Plains" for nothing. A Parisian aura of romance surrounds our quaint coffeehouses and limestone bluffs. One moment you can wander, starry-eyed, beneath the Eiffel Tower-sized KCTV communications tower; the next, you can

stare at the love of your life through a cafe window.

I speak from pure experience. My soulmate was a cafe worker: beautiful orange hair, playful winks, and a furry tail.

Yes, my heart was stolen at Whiskers Cat Cafe & Coffeehouse. Unlike the typical coffee shop, though, you are encouraged to take these eligible bachelors home. As the name implies, Whiskers is filled with farm-to-lap cats sourced from local shelters and feline rescues. And, it might be the best spot to get some work done while surrounded by like-minded intellectuals.

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN (AND HIKERS OF ALL GENDER EXPRESSIONS)

It's a two-hour drive from Kansas City proper, but if you're looking for a quiet hike that takes you through the quintessential Kansas prairie, you will journey to the outskirts of Manhattan, Kansas.

Konza Prairie Nature Trail is one of our go-tos, with three trails ranging from 2.6 to 6.4 miles. You can sigh lovingly at cows and bison herds, take in a hilltop view of the river valley, or run into the stone ruins of a former Swedish homestead. And when you start to crave civilization, there's a college town for dilly-dallying in the backyard. As long as you're not a KU fan, that is.

HI-DIVE INTO MYSTERY BEERS AND CHIEFS HISTORY

While the distinction between a dive and regular bar is razor-thin, we'll stick with the one that keeps "dive" in the name: The Hi-Dive Lounge on 39th Street. Whether it's admiring the graffiti on the walls around the urinal or shooting the shit with one of the locals, you are bound to have a memorable time.

Not sure what to order? The mystery beers take care of that for you. The bartender presses a button on a vintage vending machine that holds a variety of a gas station's finest. Meanwhile, the kitchen will level up your visit with legitimately delicious meatloaf and burgers.

Then, sit by a well-aged, seasoned local and ask how many Chiefs quarterbacks they can name—wow, Warren Moon started a game for them? Keep the lore coming. Since the national consensus became "I



MTH Theater, Photo by Cory Weaver

hate the Chiefs,” this may give you a deeper appreciation of the previous 30 years of misery. Better to learn with a mystery beer in hand, too.

HIGH FIDELITY XS AND OS

You’ll find, in XO Hi-Fi, Kansas City’s only high-fidelity listening bar with an eclectic collection of vinyls played at the staff’s whim. This Westside joint is cozily low-lit, a tad upscale, and serves Japanese-inspired cocktails and small plates.

There are two ways to approach XO. One: during their weekend floating hours (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), where they’ve got a selection of coffee and teas alongside their regular cocktail menu. Here, things are quieter and more relaxed while, as one bartender tells us, they play whatever weird records they want to a smaller crowd.

Evenings are first-come, first-serve and crowded, but a warm layer of chatter over that rich sound system is wonderful to soak in when you’ve got a buzz going. Other delights: the bathroom’s heated toilet seats and the fire pit on the patio.

IMMERSIVE THEATER (NO, NOT THE ANNOYING KIND) AT MUSIC THEATER HERITAGE

The story of humanity is one of cyclical improvement. A brilliant mind comes up with a new idea, then other brilliant minds take that idea and develop it further. This is surely true at Music Theater Heritage—hidden inside Crown Center—where they honor the legacy of American theater and music through innovative interpretations of the art that came before theirs.

Beyond the production, MTH expands the scope of the theatrical experience through its pre- and post-show production. From a lobby filled with bubbles and stilt walkers to live music and locally commissioned paintings of jazz artists, MTH curates a special experience before you even enter the theater—all tailored for the show you’re about to see.

KC CRAFT RAMEN... EMPHASIS ON CRAFT

A walkway lined with Japanese beverages, snacks, and action figures immediately greets those who step foot into KC Craft Ramen in Overland Park.

With a hint of whimsy, KC Craft Ramen brings regional Japanese cuisine to Kansas

City. They host a variety of themed events, usually scheduled on a monthly basis, that explore regional Japanese cuisine, but it’s the craftiness that truly stands out. Alongside traditional recipes, this suburban restaurant invites special guest chefs from Japan who provide a top-level cultural experience and culinary virtuosity. From a live tuna cutting to Tenho-style Ebi Chili, KC Craft Ramen always has something going on.

KC’S TRUE COLORS

Keep an eye out for this DIY party series featuring international dance music. COLORS hosts DJs from Kansas City’s underground, featuring newcomers and veterans alike.

Now with a residency at West Bottoms venue In The Lowest Ferns, you’ll catch a mix of genres close to home for performers (think: South African amapiano, Balkan pop, and UK bassline). Almost always, you’ll find a dance floor that is young and rowdy. Plus, you’re partying for a good cause: COLORS events often fundraise for organizations like Sunrise Movement and Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation.

LUXURIATE IN CAFÉ CÀ PHÊ’S THEMED BATHROOMS

Everything is so shiny that it’s almost a challenge to locate the toilet paper dispenser in the fractal landscape that is Café Cà Phê’s left bathroom. The mirrors dance with disco ball glimmers. The whole space is fantastically alive and akin to ping-pong for the attention-deficit brain. What did I need in this room?

Where usually an above-sink mirror would be, in a room full of mirrors, there is instead a painting of a dragon. Lettered words of “you are infinitely enough” unfurl below it. It makes a declarative statement with no room for argument, a phrasing that doesn’t require profuse affirmative nods to someone’s upward inflection asking you to validate them. On a day where you really, painfully understand there is no break from yourself, the whole bathroom can do a great number to uplift the spirit. Local artists Meagan Kilgas and PK Mitchell created it as a tribute to the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, citing her name as inspiration on the wall.

If an overwhelming moment of self-reflection isn't your move, the right-side bathroom is decked out in a playful Home Alone motif. It's got movie details down to a hand-drawn, framed map of Kevin McCallister's Battle Plan and a remake of Little Nero's pizza box. VHS tapes and posters complete the encapsulation of Macaulay Culkin's childhood face, but this one does have a mirror for checking your own.

NOT JUST EVERY FOUR YEARS: SOCCER BARS SCORE IN KC

We don't call ourselves the Soccer Capital of America for nothing.

While our own teams are in a rough patch at the time of writing (...some more than others), it's the watching that's electric. If you've got an allegiance, catch a Spurs

match at Strange Days Brewing Co. by the River Market or head to Johnny's Tavern at Power & Light to find friendship with the Gooners.

Got a preference for German soccer? They've got Bundesliga on the screens at KC Bier Co. on weekend mornings. And if you simply love the beautiful game for what it is, head to casual cocktail bar Varsity Club, with Disco Burger on its patio, for a more agnostic experience of the Premier League and international footy.

We'd argue that VC has some of the best Guinness pours in the city with which you can "plant the flag"—a local version of splitting the G that involves drinking to the bottom of the VC glass's flag logo. Another great thing about Kansas City, too, is our love for the women's game. Catch

that at The Dub, one of only a handful of dedicated women's sports bars in the country, and a reliable host of KC Current watch parties.

OUR FAVORITE NICHE ACTS

Decades ago, *The Pitch's* Best of KC issue featured blurbs on individual concerts, highlighting contributors' favorite shows of the past year, usually headlined with an esoteric distinction.

For example, a memorably frenetic Bob Log III gig won "Best One-Man Band"; there might not have been much competition in that category, but the point was to recognize that something outstanding happened, and to congratulate both the performer and the venue that booked them. (Pretty sure that Bob Log III's plaque is still on display at The Brick.)

By similar standards, this year we could anoint Silvee "Best One-Woman Band" for her spellbinding sets at Hillsiders (guitar, backing tracks, strikingly intimate lyrics), or name Land Lion "Best 10-Person Band" for its raucous, horn-section-bolstered takes on prickly early-2000s folk-rock at The Rino, or award "Best Improv Interlude" to Rude Cousin's "Barista," which interrupts its jagged riot-grrrl structure for an always-entertaining, ever-evolving exchange between the titular condescending barista (in a band) and the musician who blows off his fumbling, entitled overtures.

Nan Turner's musical "Sequins Before Noon," staged at The Black Box, could be "Best Supernatural '90s Figure Skating Narco-Comedy with Courtney Love as a Character"; *Pitch* readers more simply nominated it for "Best Play."



XO Hi-Fi Lounge, Photo by Rosy He



Varsity Club, Photos by Sarah Sipple and Kylie Volavongsa



PICTURESQUE PARKVILLE, COMPLETE WITH A WATERFALL

Though the Missouri River cuts through Kansas City, there are few places you can actually walk alongside its banks. Parkville's English Landing Park is a choice spot.

It offers a scenic view of the muddy Missouri along a gravel path, with a glimpse of Kansas on the other side. Staid benches memorializing a grandmother or a couple's long-enduring relationship turn outward underneath the shade of cottonwood trees. For those who enjoy a good wall-staring pastime, I highly recommend river-staring.

Sit on one of these benches and stare at the river's swirling undercurrent. It is hypnotic and serene and conjures a semblance of purpose. The landing as a whole crafts a picturesque scene that is every historical impressionist painter's reference for a perfect park day. The only things missing are actual parasols and wide-brim hats fond of frivolity.

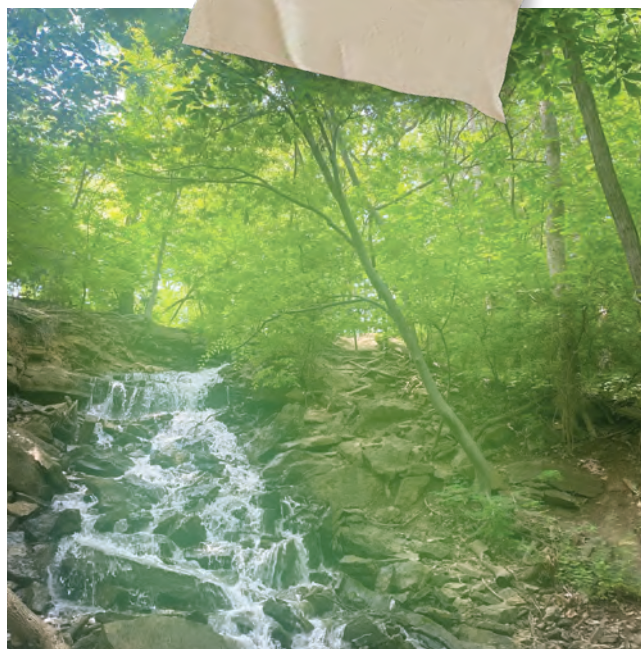
Just across town is the Parkville Nature Sanctuary, contained in 115 acres of protected land. In spring, summer, and sometimes fall, the sanctuary boasts a natural waterfall not far from the start of the trail. A trickling stream runs beside the footpath and leads to a towering Midwestern waterfall, all of 20 feet tall. The sanctuary has over three miles of hiking trails. You can combine all of them to hit the full 3 miles, or take them piecewise, with trails ranging from 1.5-mile loops to ADA-accessible paths. Or, the I'm-only-here-for-the-waterfall short hike that's less than a mile round trip for prime viewing. No matter what you pick, Parkville Nature Sanctuary resurrects the enchanting childhood belief that fairies really could exist.

PROTEST DU JOUR

Come to Mill Creek Park on a Saturday to join one of our many protests against whatever the US government is fucking up that week! You'll meet great people and pups.

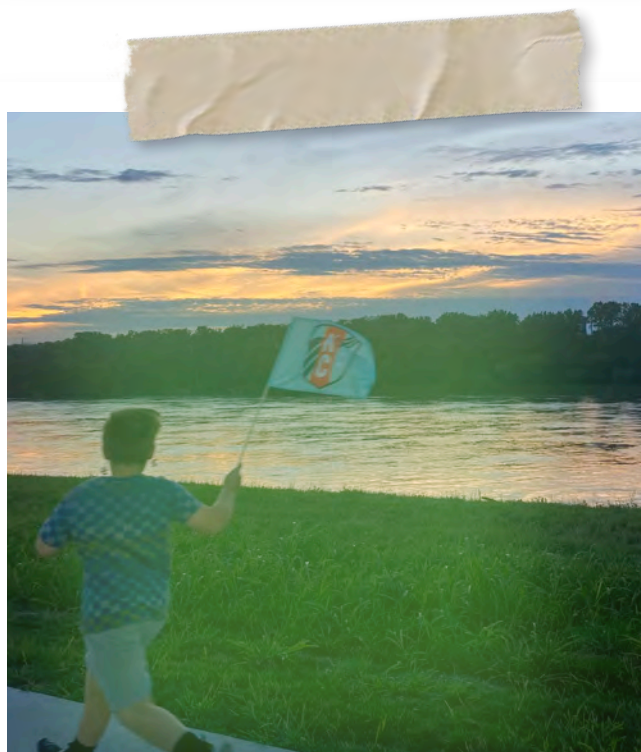
TAKE A RIDE ON THE SILLY SIDE

Here's a relatively new addition to locals' hometown bucket list. Close the Uber app—you've got KC's only electric pedicab service either a phone call or text away. The



Parkville's
"waterfall"

Parkville, Photo by Kylie Volavongsa



SHOWING
LOCAL PRIDE

Berkley Riverfront, Photo by Kylie Volavongsa

drivers are characters, the LEDs are bright, and the speakers are loud ("Diet Pepsi" by Addison Rae is a romantic request with your hair in the wind). Book a driver at your own discretion, or catch them at events like concerts and KC Current games. Then, you've got some options: head right where you need to be, take the scenic route, or spend some quality time with the city on a tour. Is it a pretty penny? Yes. Is it worth it? At least once in your chud life.

THE COOL TYPE OF SCREEN TIME

Go to any AMC theater, and you'll get that glorious Nicole Kidman ad where she announces, "We come to this place for magic... Somehow, heartbreak feels good in a place like this."

Go to the one and only Screenland Armour Theatre in North KC, and you'll find one of the few movie theatres in the area that can brag about 35mm and 70mm screenings—complete with a large metal man to part the curtains in the big theater. And can we just say? Heartbreak feels even better when you've got a THC seltzer, a Nathan's hot dog in your lap, and enough time after the show to check out the kooky little dive bar, Rewind Video and Dive, downstairs.

At Rewind, grab a beer, browse their neon-lit equivalent of the Criterion closet, and play an old-school Nintendo game on their mom's basement-esque couches. Plus, none of it counts toward your weekly screen time tracking.

THE YEAR OF THE BLUE BLAZE

We've been gabbing about Bay Boy Specialty Sandwiches' hearty Dutch crunch sammies for ten years now, but one particular savory and sweet heat combo rose to new heights in 2026.

The Blue Blaze is not your average turkey sandwich. Between chewy Dutch-crunch buns with its signature crunchy exterior rests smoked turkey, local blueberry jam, melty white cheddar, hot cherry peppers, arugula, and mayo. We recommend subbing in Swiss cheese, though. The sandwich is like a summery sister to a Thanksgiving leftover sandwich. It's complex and satisfying.

Our Food & Drink Editor Sarah had this sandwich when it was a limited-time summer special in 2024. During a

Summer Bucket List in Kansas City

- ☐ Enjoy ice cream from French Custard while you walk the Harry Higgins Trolley Track Trail.
- ☐ Get a tattoo at one of Kansas City's nearly 100 tattoo shops.
- ☐ Attend a donation-based Shakespeare in the Park performance, Tuesday – Sunday evenings, June 16 – July 5, 2026.
- ☐ Get a McLain's pepperjack breakfast burrito.
- ☐ Refuse to park backwards downtown near KCMO City Hall and get a ticket.
- ☐ Get a wine slush and play Midwest yard games at KC Wine Co in Olathe.
- ☐ Catch a last-minute concert at miniBar, recordBar, or Lemonade Park.
- ☐ Soak up jazz history and new talent during the late-night hours at Mutual Musicians Foundation jam sessions.
- ☐ Buy a new tire after a pothole-induced flat.
- ☐ Spend \$20 on tickets for the KC Wheel just to realize the view is better at the free National WWI Museum and Memorial.
- ☐ Brave the stairs at John's Big Deck after a few drinks.
- ☐ Tired of splitting the G? Head to Lenexa Public Market in the 'burbs, order a 20 oz. Guinness at Topp'd Pizza, and chug 'til you split the 't'—well past halfway through that plastic cup.

SIDEQUEST LIKE A LOCAL



Photo courtesy of the Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium

conversation with Bay Boy owner Julian Garcia, she lamented how she'd love to write about it, but couldn't since it would be gone before the next magazine hit the streets. Garcia uno-reversed the situation, saying he would keep the Blue Blaze on the menu a little longer.

Two years have passed, and not only is the Blue Blaze still on the menu, it won top spot as a fan favorite in this year's March Madness voting bracket. Blue Blaze, thanks to its many loyal fans, is now a permanent sandwich at Bay Boy... and Sarah will make good on her bet to get a Dutch crunch tattoo.

WHIMSICAL USE OF FREE WILL: DISPO THEN ZOO

Wide open greenery. We're talking both Missouri's rapidly expanding marijuana industry and the 116-year-old Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium.

Nestled in Swope Park, the zoo offers over 202 acres full of family-friendly, AZA-accredited environmental education. Everybody loves a zoo: kids, retirees, and especially your local stoner.

Some people need the excuse of "family or friends" to enjoy the whimsy of otters and elephants. Thanks to a groundbreaking

technology called "getting zooted off of 10mg edibles," you no longer have to hire children to accompany you to the zoo.

Think about it: Dippin' Dots, a ski lift, and staring at a sassy gibbon. What an afternoon. Hit up one of the dispensaries listed in the Your Picks: CBD/THC/Hemp section of this issue, grab a gummy, and make sure you pack sunscreen.

Legally, we're recommending using a rideshare service or a designated driver, though.

Oh, and good thing the zoo added "&

Aquarium" to its name in 2023. The cliché of getting high at an aquarium is still, in fact, very fun. For some, it's a safe way to connect with a world they'll never see in nature. For others, a place to cry over the success story of the rehabilitated sea turtle, Tortellini.

YOUR PICKS

The illustration features a large, stylized profile of a person's head in shades of yellow and orange on the left. The person is holding a smartphone in their hand. The phone's screen displays a soccer game with players in red and orange uniforms on a green field. In the background, a large stadium with a red and white striped roof and blue seating is visible under a dark blue sky with yellow lights. The text 'YOUR PICKS' is prominently displayed in a white oval in the upper right corner.

ART WITHOUT LIMITS



KC FR!NGE FESTIVAL

JULY 16 - 26

The KC Fringe Festival is the largest celebration of **arts** and **culture** in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

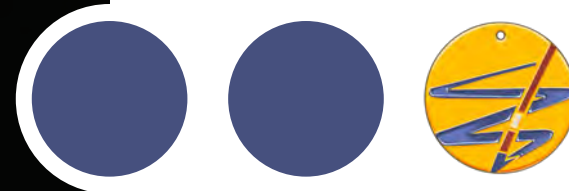


kcfringe.org





Lonnie McFadden,
Photo by Jason Piggie



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST ART FESTIVAL

WINNER: PLAZA ART FAIR

Finalists: Art Westport, Arts in the Park, Chicano Art Festival, KC Fringe, SpraySeeMO

BEST ART GALLERY

WINNER: MOD GALLERY & SPACE

Finalists: Blue Gallery, Prairiebrooke Arts, Sala de Arte, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art

BEST BLUES VENUE

WINNER: KNUCKLEHEADS

Finalists: BB'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, Moulin Noir, Risqué Revelry

BEST CLUB DJ

WINNER: DJ CHEF NGUYEN

Finalists: DJ Cruse (Hot Mics Entertainment), DJ Dawna, DJ Smiles Marie, SirQueen

BEST COMEDY CLUB

WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY THEATER

Finalists: Clint's Comedy Club, The Comedy Club of Kansas City, Funny Bone Comedy Club

BEST CULTURAL EVENT

WINNER: KANSAS CITY IRISH FEST

Finalists: The Cookout, KC Folk Fest, KC Fringe, KC Oktoberfest

BEST DANCE COMPANY/CREW

WINNER: QUIXOTIC

Finalists: The Kansas City Canaries, The KC Swingsters, Moulin Noir

BEST DRAG ARTIST

WINNER: LANA LUXX

Finalists: The Baddest, Burly Esque, Glittah Gal, Karmella Uchawi, Minti Varieties, Rey Markable, Touretta Lynn

BEST DRAG SHOW

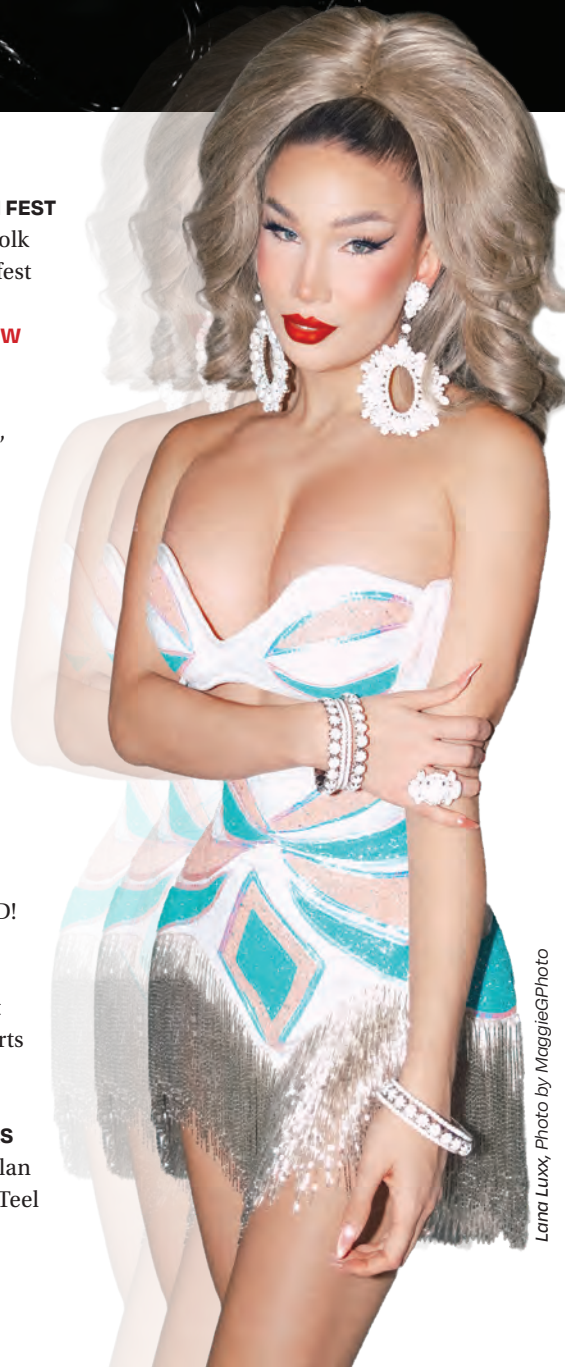
WINNER: LUXX SUNDAY AT MISSIE B'S

Finalists: The Cookout at Hamburger Mary's, GAGGED! at Sidekicks Saloon, Nightingales at Nighthawk, Not Safe for Work (NSFW) at Gaels Public House and Sports

BEST FILMMAKER

WINNER: COURTNEY HONORS

Finalists: Brandon Lowe, Dylan Welter, Forest Kinsey, Sadie Teel and Marcus Leacox



Lana Luxx, Photo by MaggiePhoto

BEST FUNDRAISING EVENT

WINNER: BIG SLICK

Finalists: Every Girl Evening- Girls on the Run, Food Stock, Jazzoo, Mi Casa Es Su Casa, Thadapalooza, Thundergong!, Wayside Waifs Fur Ball

BEST HOUSE/COVER BAND

WINNER: THE M80S

Finalists: Joyride, KC Groove Therapy, Post Clarity, Suburbans, The Zeros

BEST IMPROV/SKETCH TROUPE

WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY THEATER PLAYERS

Finalists: Crusty Mustard, The Murder Mystery Co., Truck Noises

BEST JAZZ ARTIST

WINNER: LONNIE MCFADDEN

Finalists: Clarence Copridge, Cynthia van Roden, Eboni Fondren

BEST JAZZ BAND

WINNER: MIGHTY MO JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Finalists: Back Alley Brass Band, Jim Lower Trio, Mire Pral, The Waldo Jazz Collective

BEST JAZZ VENUE

WINNER: GREEN LADY LOUNGE

Finalists: Black Dolphin, The Blue Room, The Majestic Restaurant, The Phoenix

BEST KARAOKE

WINNER: DJ STRAWHAT YETI

Finalists: The Black Box, Crit & Ale, DJ Truff, Hot Mics Entertainment, Woody's KC

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE (KANSAS)

WINNER: AZURA AMPHITHEATER

Finalists: Aztec Shawnee Theater, The Granada, Hillsiders, Liberty Hall, Midwest Trust Center

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE (MISSOURI)

WINNER: KNUCKLEHEADS

Finalists: The Midland Theatre, recordBar, The RINO, The Truman, Uptown Theater

BEST LOCAL ACTOR

WINNER: MIKAH BLAKEMORE

Finalists: Bobby Miller Jr., Dominique Evans, Kameron Cole, Tiffany Michelle Foster

BEST LOCAL ARTIST

WINNER: TASHA RANSOM

Finalists: Heidi Pitre, Katy McRoberts, Mark Exline, Vania Soto

BEST LOCAL BAND

WINNER: ATYPICAL

Finalists: Big Fat Cow, Jamogi & the Jammers, Maggie Moon, Ramona Clay, Rude Cousin, Timbers

BEST LOCAL CRAFT ARTIST

WINNER: HIGH NOON POTTERY

Finalists: Gamer Girl Jewelry, @megancreatesart, Tiffany Ascensio Designs, West Kester

BEST LOCAL EVENT

WINNER: KC FRINGE

Finalists: Bird Watching Film Festival, Greater Kansas City Japan Festival, Orchid Delirium, Panic Fest, Stems: A Garden Soirée

BEST LOCAL PODCAST

WINNER: KC REVIVAL

Finalists: Artful Connections Along the Streetcar; Divas, Ingénues & Vixens; The Lawnarchy; Nightmare Junkhead; PERSPECTIVES: Artist Talks with Lavender Studios; The Substance

BEST LOCAL STAND-UP COMIC

WINNER: AARON SCARBOROUGH

Finalists: Cassie Duncan, D Anthony, Dan “HITMAN” Rathmann, Emily Bruns, HB from KC

BEST MOVIE THEATER

WINNER: SCREENLAND ARMOUR

Finalists: B&B Theatres Shawnee 18, Glenwood Arts, Pharaoh 4 Cinema, Stray Cat Film Center

BEST MUSEUM

WINNER: NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM

Finalists: The Arabia Steamboat Museum, The Museum of Kansas City, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, National WWI Museum and Memorial, The Rabbit hOle

BEST MUSIC STUDIO

WINNER: LAVENDER STUDIOS

Finalists: 64111 Studio, Code Red Productions, Cowart Music Studio, Emerald Dreams Lab, Weights and Measures Soundlab

BEST MUSICIAN

WINNER: DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH

Finalists: Calvin Arsenia, Emmitt Rickey, Jeff Freling, musicbyskippy

BEST NIGHTCLUB

WINNER: MISSIE B’S

Finalists: Aura, In The Lowest Ferns, Mosaic, Q Kansas City

BEST OPEN MIC

WINNER: THE BIRD COMEDY THEATER

Finalists: Arcadian Moon, Jerry’s Bait Shop, Poetic Underground KC, The RINO

BEST OUTDOOR VENUE

WINNER: STARLIGHT THEATRE

Finalists: Azura Amphitheater, Grinders KC, KC Live!, Lemonade Park

BEST PAINTING PARTY

WINNER: PUFF & PAINT WITH AMY

Finalists: Happy Trees Painting, Sarah Ruth Frey Creative Studio

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER (ARTISTIC)

WINNER: JILLIAN GUTHRIE

Finalists: Ben McBee Photography, Lexi De Napoli, Michael Stoufer, Rebecca Kerns

BEST PLACE FOR A KID’S BIRTHDAY PARTY

WINNER: CROWN CENTER

Finalists: Atlas9, Kansas City Northern Miniature Railroad, Rink Ratz, The Storybook Forest

BEST PLACE TO SHAKE YOUR BOOTY

WINNER: FUNKY TOWN

Finalists: In The Lowest Ferns, Missie B’s, Q Kansas City, The Ship

BEST PLAY

WINNER: THE TOXIC AVENGER: THE MUSICAL - THE ARTS ASYLUM

Finalists: 1309 - Greenwood Social Hall, And Then There Were None - The Barn Players, Sequins Before Noon by Nan Turner, Trojan Women MCI - Unicorn Theatre

BEST POET/SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

WINNER: ABBY BLAND

Finalists: Alburkirky, Asia Raine, Erin McGrane, John “Hypocrace” Lewis

BEST THEATER COMPANY

WINNER: THE BLACK REPERTORY THEATRE OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: A Place for Us Productions, The Bird Comedy Theater, Kansas City Actors Theatre, Kansas City Public Theatre

BEST TRIBUTE BAND

WINNER: THE PHIL COLLINS EXPERIENCE

Finalists: Elwood and the Blues Masters, Greene Daeye, Shakedown Strings, Simply Tina, Union of the Snake: A Tribute to Duran Duran

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

WINNER: INTELLIGENCE CHECK TRIVIA

Finalists: Big 5 Trivia, Crit & Ale, Hot Mics Entertainment, KC Trivia Geeks

BEST VOCALIST

WINNER: DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH

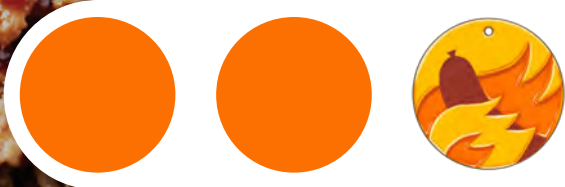
Finalists: Big Body Caprice, Cham Newhouse, Chloe McFadden, Cynthia van Roden, Maggie Moon



Mikah Blakemore
Photo by Page Two Creative



Photo courtesy of Q39



BARBEQUE

BEST BARBECUE

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Char Bar, Crazy Good BBQ, Jack Stack BBQ, Q39, Slap's BBQ, Zarda BBQ

BEST BARBECUE SANDWICH

WINNER: Z-MAN AT JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Burnt End Burner at Crazy Good BBQ, Mr. Burns at Q39, Notorious P.I.G. at Blind Box BBQ, Turkey Crunch at Zarda BBQ

BEST BARBECUE SIDE DISH

WINNER: LIMITED RESERVE BURNT END BEANS AT ZARDA BBQ
Finalists: Brussels at Burn Theory Fire Kitchen, Onion rings at American Way Smokehouse, Pasta salad at Porky's Blazin' Bar-B-Q, Potato salad at LC's Bar-B-Q

BEST BRISKET

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Gates BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, Slap's BBQ

BEST BURNT ENDS

WINNER: JACK STACK BBQ
Finalists: Char Bar, Crazy Good BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39

BEST CRAFT BARBECUE

WINNER: Q39
Finalists: Harp Barbecue, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Night Goat, Point & Flat BBQ

BEST MIXED PLATE

WINNER: JACK STACK BBQ
Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Char Bar, Crazy Good BBQ, Q39

BEST PULLED PORK

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, The Rub BBQ

BEST RIBS

WINNER: JACK STACK BBQ
Finalists: Arthur Bryant's Barbeque, Blind Box BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39

BEST RUB

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Chef J BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Q39, The Rub BBQ

BEST SAUCE

WINNER: GATES BBQ
Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Crazy Good BBQ, Meat Mitch Barbecue, Zarda BBQ

BEST SAUSAGE

WINNER: SLAP'S BBQ
Finalists: Char Bar, Hawg Jaw Que & Brew, Q39, The Rub BBQ

BEST TRADITIONAL BARBECUE

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ
Finalists: Arthur Bryant's Barbeque, Filling Station BBQ, Gates BBQ, LC's Bar-B-Q, Shawnee's Bates City BBQ, Zarda BBQ



THANK YOU KANSAS CITY

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V O T E D
**BEST VAPE
CARTRIDGE**
TWO YEARS RUNNING

Thanks, Kansas City!



RECOGNIZED FOR

🌿 FLOWER

🌿 CONCENTRATE/DAB

🌿 EDIBLES

🌿 PRE-ROLL STRAIN



BEST ELEVATE SELECTION FOUND AT 🌿 KEY+CANNABIS



Photo courtesy of Illicit





No, You're The Best!

NatureMed is the Best Dispensary with the Best Budtender in KC thanks to you.



Pitch
BEST OF KC
2026

Stop by & see for yourself. Great deals daily.
Independence • Gladstone • Kansas City

Only one offer can be redeemed per visit. Some restrictions may apply. Only while supplies last. See budtender for details.

BEST BUDTENDER

WINNER: AJ AT NATUREMED

Finalists: Alex B. at SWADE, Greg at Sunrise Dispensary, Janice at CODES Dispensary, Jason at From the Earth, Jeremy at NatureMed, Shawna at Riverside Wellness, Thayz at Kansas City Cannabis

BEST CBD STORE

WINNER: AMERICAN SHAMAN

Finalists: Dr. Smoke, Mr. Nice Guy, West Bottoms Hemp Co.

BEST CONCENTRATE/DAB BRAND

WINNER: ILLICIT

Finalists: Curio Wellness, Elevate Cannabis, Farmer G, Local Cannabis Co., Sinse Cannabis, The Standard, Vivid

BEST CULTIVATOR

WINNER: LOCAL CANNABIS CO.

Finalists: Carroll County Cannabis Company (C4), Illicit, Proper Cannabis, Sinse Cannabis, Standard Wellness, Westside Growers

BEST DISPENSARY

WINNER: NATUREMED

Finalists: CODES Dispensary, The Forest Dispensary, From the Earth, Kansas City Cannabis, Key Cannabis Dispensary, ReLeaf Resources Dispensary, Riverside Wellness, Sunrise Dispensary, SWADE Dispensary

BEST EDIBLES BRAND (CANNABIS)

WINNER: ILLICIT

Finalists: Elevate Cannabis, FLWR PWR, Grön, Sinse Cannabis, The Standard, Wyld

BEST FLOWER

WINNER: ILLICIT

Finalists: Chi Chi Boutique Flower Co., Elevate Cannabis, Farmer G, Local Cannabis Co., Sinse Cannabis, The Standard, Westside Growers

BEST PLACE TO BUY THCA/DELTA PRODUCTS

WINNER: THE HUB SMOKE SHOP

Finalists: KC Smoke & Vape, Motion City Cannabis, West Bottoms Hemp Co.

BEST PRE-ROLL (BRAND AND STRAIN)

WINNER: SINSE CANNABIS - BLUEBERRY MUFFIN

Finalists: Carroll County Cannabis Company (C4) - Bubba Fett, Chi Chi Boutique Flower Co. - Cap Junky, CODES Dispensary - Red Pop, Elevate Cannabis - Headband Cookies, Franklin's - Berries & Cherries, Illicit - Dr. Funkenstein, The Standard - Purple Octane

BEST VAPE CARTRIDGE BRAND

WINNER: ELEVATE CANNABIS

Finalists: Franklin's, Good Day Farm, Illicit, Local Cannabis Co., Proper Cannabis, Sinse Cannabis, Timeless

BACK TO BACK CHAMPS

BLUEBERRY MUFFIN - BEST PRE-ROLL

Back to back.

Blueberry Muffin Pre-Rolls just took home Best of the Pitch for the second year running, because some strains just don't miss. Celebrate in style with the full Blueberry Muffin collection, including exclusive gear from our Stash Smokewear line.

Wear the win.

Purchase a Blueberry Muffin pre-roll at any Swade location to be entered to win the full Blueberry Muffin collection from

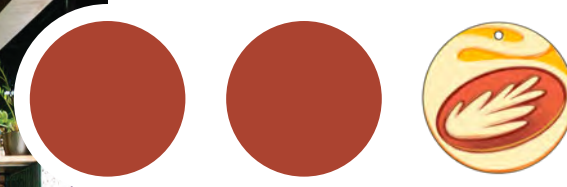


WWW.SWADE.SHOP





King G
Photo by Alyssa Broadus



DRINK

BEST 3 AM BAR

WINNER: GREEN LADY LOUNGE

Finalists: Flo's Poke-A-Dot Lounge, Harpo's, Mainstreet Tavern, Sidekicks Saloon

BEST BAR

WINNER: DRASTIC MEASURES

Finalists: Fern Bar, Goat & Rabbit, Mineral Lounge, Pawn and Pint, The Primrose

BEST BAR [LAWRENCE]

WINNER: THE SANDBAR

Finalists: The Bourgeois Pig, Henry's Upstairs, Jazzhaus, John Brown's Underground

BEST BAR STAFF

WINNER: KANSAS CITY BIER COMPANY

Finalists: Gaels Public House and Sports, Mainstreet Tavern, Pawn and Pint, The Primrose

BEST BAR TO MEET PEOPLE

WINNER: KING G

Finalists: Chicago's, Gaels Public House and Sports, Mainstreet Tavern, Pawn and Pint

BEST BARTENDER

WINNER: DARCY AT GOAT & RABBIT

Finalists: Aaron at The Mercury Room, Amber at Flo's Polk-A-Dot Lounge, Caleb at Gaels Public House and Sports, Mary Pat at Patrick's Bar and No Grill

BEST BEER TAPS SELECTION

WINNER: TAPS ON MAIN

Finalists: Barley's Kitchen and Tap, Diametric Brewing Co., International Tap House, Oak & Steel, River Bluff Brewing

BEST BLOODY MARY

WINNER: BEER KITCHEN

Finalists: Bricks Pub & Grub, District Pour House + Kitchen, Jazz A Louisiana Kitchen, Shack Breakfast & Lunch

BEST BOBA/BUBBLE TEA

WINNER: GOCHA

Finalists: Ari Delights, Bubble Box, Dinh Tea and Coffee Shop, Tsaocaa

BEST BREW PUB

WINNER: KANSAS CITY BIER COMPANY

Finalists: 3Halves Brew Pub & BBQ, Callsign Brewing Company, Diametric Brewing Co., River Bluff Brewing

BEST CHEAP DRINKS

WINNERS (TIE): HILLSIDERS, SIDEKICKS SALOON

Finalists: Chez Charlie, Patrick's Bar and No Grill, Tommy's The Happy Place

BEST COCKTAILS

WINNER: GOAT & RABBIT

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Drastic Measures, The Mercury Room, The Primrose, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen

BEST COFFEE SHOP FOOD/SNACKS

WINNER: MILDRED'S

Finalists: City Market Coffee, Front Range, Nirvana Coffee & Games, Rebel Coffee

BEST COFFEEHOUSE

WINNER: CAFE CÀ PHÊ

Finalists: Good Karma Coffee, Oddly Correct, Rebel Coffee, Urban Prairie Coffee

BEST DIVE BAR

WINNER: HI-DIVE LOUNGE

Finalists: Flo's Poke-A-Dot Lounge, Hillsiders, Lucky Boys, Patrick's Bar and No Grill

BEST FRENCH 75

WINNER: WESTPORT CAFE

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Goat & Rabbit, Le Fou Frog, The Primrose

BEST HAPPY HOUR (DRINK)

WINNER: DODSON'S BAR & COMMONS

Finalists: Harpo's, Mainstreet Tavern, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Sidekicks Saloon

BEST HORSEFEATHER

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Dodson's Bar & Commons, Eighth Street Taproom, Veritas Whiskey and Wine, West Bottoms Whiskey Co.

BEST HOTEL BAR

WINNER: XR AT CROSSROADS HOTEL

Finalists: Chaz on the Plaza, Horsefeather Social at Loews Kansas City Hotel, KC Craft & Co., Le Lounge, Show Pony



Oddly Correct
Photo by Sarah Sipple

BEST IRISH BAR

WINNER: KELLY’S WESTPORT INN

Finalists: Conroy’s Public House, Gaels Public House & Sports, Llywelyn’s Pub, O’Malley’s Pub

BEST LGBTQ+ BAR

WINNER: MISSIE B’S

Finalists: Bistro 303, Gaels Public House & Sports, Q Kansas City, Sidekicks Saloon, Woody’s KC

BEST LOCAL BEER (IPA)

WINNER: BLOCK IPA (CINDER BLOCK BREWERY)

Finalists: Never Say IPA (Kansas City Bier Company), Phantom IPA (Barley & Vine), Rupert’s IPA (Diametric Brewing Co.), Speedliner IPA (River Bluff Brewing)

BEST LOCAL BEER (LAGER)

WINNER: DUNKEL (KANSAS CITY BIER COMPANY)

Finalists: Cebeda Cerveza (Barley & Vine), Juan Moore (Diametric Brewing Co.), Premiant (Alma Mader Brewing), Union Lager (River Bluff Brewing)

BEST LOCAL BEER (SOUR)

WINNER: BLACK CHERRY SOUR (CINDER BLOCK BREWERY)

Finalists: Border Trails (Border Brewing Company), Crimson Bog (Diametric Brewing Co.), KC Currant (River Bluff Brewing), Purple Pretender (Discourse Brewing), Vacation Island (BKS Artisan Ales)

BEST LOCAL BEER (STOUT)

WINNER: WHISKEY BARREL STOUT (BOULEVARD BREWING COMPANY)

Finalists: Chocolate Milk Stout (Border Brewing Company), Goldlion (River Bluff Brewing), Policy of Truth Coffee Milk Stout (Friction Beer Company), Stick ‘em Up Stout (3Halves Brew Pub & BBQ)

BEST LOCAL COFFEE ROASTER

WINNER: ODDLY CORRECT

Finalists: Broadway Roasting Company, Doña Fina Café, Flowstate Coffee, Sway Coffee Roasters

BEST LOCAL DISTILLERY

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Mean Mule Distilling Co., Restless Spirits, Tom’s Town Distilling Co., West Bottoms Whiskey Co.

BEST LOCAL WINERY

WINNER: AMIGONI URBAN WINERY

Finalists: Aubrey Vineyards, Bourgmont Winery, Holy-Field Winery, Jowler Creek Vineyard & Winery

BEST LOCALLY OWNED

KANSAS BREWERY

WINNER: FREE STATE BREWING COMPANY

Finalists: Fields & Ivy Brewery, Friction Beer Company, Rockcreek Brewing Company, Sandhills Brewing, Servaes Brewing Company

BEST LOCALLY OWNED

MISSOURI BREWERY

WINNER: KANSAS CITY BIER COMPANY

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Callsign Brewing Company, Cinder Block Brewery, Diametric Brewing Co., River Bluff Brewing, Vine Street Brewing Co.

BEST MANHATTAN

WINNER: WEST BOTTOMS WHISKEY CO.

Finalists: Anjin, The Brass Onion, Lifted Spirits Distillery, The Mercury Room, Mitch e Amaro, The Primrose

BEST MARGARITA

WINNER: MEAN MULE DISTILLING CO.

Finalists: Aqua Penny’s, Barbacoa, Barrio, El Patron, Fern Bar, Los Corrals, MMG Frozen Beverages

BEST MARTINI

WINNER: GOAT & RABBIT

Finalists: The Campground, The Mercury Room, Prima Facie Bistro, The Primrose

BEST MILKSHAKE

WINNER: WINSTEAD’S

Finalists: Betty Rae’s, Cosmo Burger, High Hopes, Town Topic

BEST MOJITO

WINNER: GOAT & RABBIT

Finalists: El Patron, Fern Bar, Jade Jaguar, Mitch e Amaro

BEST NEGRONI

WINNER: RAGAZZA FOOD & WINE

Finalists: Anjin, Mitch e Amaro, The Primrose, Sea Capitán

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

WINNER: GAELS PUBLIC HOUSE AND SPORTS

Finalists: Dodson’s Bar & Commons, Mainstreet Tavern, Pawn and Pint, The Primrose, Vita’s Place

BEST NEW BAR

WINNER: THE COMMONS

Finalists: Arrow Dart Club, Beckett’s, Cory Frank’s Bar & Grill,

Kohinoor, Moonstone, Ricochet, Two Birds One Stone

BEST OLD FASHIONED

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Barley & Vine, Goat & Rabbit, The Phoenix, West Bottoms Whiskey Co.

BEST PATIO

WINNER: ELECTRIC PARK GARDEN BAR BY J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: The Campground, Gaels Public House and Sports, Kansas City Bier Company, Penny’s in the Village

BEST ROOFTOP BAR

WINNER: PERCHERON ROOFTOP BAR

Finalists: John’s Big Deck, Maloneys Sports Bar & Grill, The Mercury Room, Palm Tree Club, Sandbox KC

BEST SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT

WINNER: EXTRA VIRGIN

Finalists: Diametric Brewing Co., Goat & Rabbit, Mainstreet Tavern, The Primrose

BEST SPORTS BAR

WINNER: THE DUB

Finalists: Arrow Dart Club, Beckett’s, Gaels Public House and Sports, No Other Pub, Patrick’s Bar and No Grill

BEST TEA SHOP/PLACE TO BUY TEA

WINNER: DRAGONFLY TEA ZONE

Finalists: Anna Marie’s Teas, Emilie’s French Teas, Nature Made Me, Tian Tea House

BEST UPSCALE BAR

WINNER: THE MERCURY ROOM

Finalists: Goat & Rabbit, Mineral Lounge, The Monarch Bar, Moonstone, The Primrose

BEST WHISKEY SELECTION

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: The Belfry, Friction Beer Company, Harry’s Country Club, Veritas Whiskey & Wine

BEST WINE SELECTION

WINNER: SAIL AWAY WINE

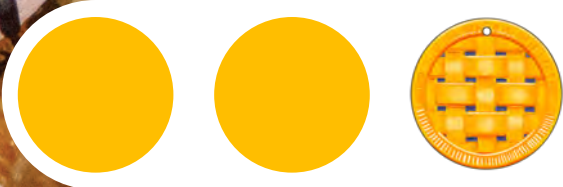
Finalists: Amigoni Urban Winery, The Antler Room, Barley & Vine, Mineral Lounge, Osteria IL Centro, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Sunken Cork



Photo courtesy of Goat and Rabbit



Photo courtesy of McLain's Bakery



FOOD

BEST APPETIZERS

WINNER: RED DOOR WOODFIRED GRILL

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Blue Sushi Sake Grill, Enzo Bistro & Wine Bar, Palm Tree Club, Third Street Social

BEST BAGELS

WINNER: MESHUGGAH BAGELS

Finalists: Anchor Island Coffee, Blackhole Bakery, Bread Friends, Luca Bagel

BEST BAKERY (BREAD)

WINNER: IBIS BAKERY

Finalists: Bloom Baking Company, Farm to Market Bread Co., Heirloom Bakery & Hearth, Sour Rabbit Bakery

BEST BAKERY (GLUTEN FREE)

WINNER: BILLIE'S GROCERY

Finalists: Lilacs and Lemons Farmhouse Bakery, The Littlest Bake Shop, Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery, Mud Pie Bakery

BEST BAKERY (SWEETS)

WINNER: MCLAIN'S BAKERY

Finalists: Blackhole Bakery, Bloom Baking Company, Lilacs and Lemons Farmhouse Bakery, Morning Rounds Bakery, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST BAR FOOD

WINNER: THE PEANUT

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Gaels Public House & Sports, Hamburger Mary's, Lucky Boys

BEST BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANT

WINNER: NIECIE'S RESTAURANT

Finalists: Blue Nile Cafe, Devoured Pizza, Triune, Urban

BEST BOWL (ACAI)

WINNER: RUBY JEAN'S JUICERY

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

BEST BREAKFAST

WINNER: THE BIG BISCUIT

Finalists: Caleb's Breakfast & Lunch, Eggtc, HomeGrown, Succotash

BEST BRUNCH

WINNER: HARVEY'S AT UNION STATION

Finalists: Burn Theory Fire Kitchen, District Pour House + Kitchen, Gaels Public House and Sports, Nour's

BEST BUFFET

WINNER: JOY WOK

Finalists: Em Chamas, India Palace, Legend of Asia, THE Pizza Place

BEST BURGER

WINNER: COSMO BURGER

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Danny's Burger Shack, Disco Burger, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Tay's Burger Shack, Westport Flea Market

BEST BURRITO

WINNER: TIKI TACO

Finalists: Antojitos Mexicanos El Agave, Barbacoa, Champion Burritos To Go, Pancho's Mexican Food, Ponak's Mexican Kitchen

BEST BUTCHER

WINNER: THE UPPER CUT KC

Finalists: Carne Diem - Fine Meats & Pantry, Local Pig, McGregor's Butcher & Bistro, New York Butcher Shoppe

BEST CARIBBEAN FOOD

WINNER: BLACK GARLIC

Finalists: Santana's Sazon, Wah Gwan

BEST CATERING

WINNER: BRANCATO'S CATERING

Finalists: Blue Pot Catering, Dutzel's Catering & Events, Storia Fine Catering, Well Rounded Events

BEST CHARCUTERIE BOARD

WINNER: GREEN DIRT ON OAK

Finalists: Affäre, Salumi Rose, Third Street Social, Well Rounded Events

BEST BOWL OF SOUP

WINNER: VIETNAM CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Cliff's Taphouse, Earl's Premier, Houlihan's, Housewife KC



Bay Boy Specialty Sandwiches
Photo by Sarah Sipple



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Sun: 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM

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BEST CHEAP EATS

WINNER: TOWN TOPIC

Finalists: The Brick, Cancun Fiesta Fresh, Cosmo Burger, Luna's Chicken N Seafood

BEST CHEF

WINNER: PENNY MUFUKA - BAMBOO

PENNY'S

Finalists: Jacob Hilbert - Cafe Trio, Mitchell Fetterling - Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Nick Goellner - The Antler Room, Peter Hoang - Akoya Omakase

BEST CHICKEN (BAKED OR GRILLED)

WINNER: STROUD'S

Finalists: Artego Pizza, El Pollo Rey, Garozzo's, Jack Stack BBQ

BEST CHICKEN SANDWICH

WINNER: RED DOOR WOODFIRED GRILL

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, The Big Biscuit, District Biskuits, Minsky's Pizza, Pigwich

BEST CHICKEN STRIPS/TENDERS

WINNER: MOTHER CLUCKER

Finalists: Game Day Chicken Wings Burgers & Fish, The Granfalloon, Neighborhood Cafe, Strip's Chicken

BEST CHICKEN WINGS

WINNER: THE PEANUT

Finalists: 92 Chicken, Char Bar, Minsky's Pizza, Rhythm & Booze, WingStand by Jefferson's

BEST CHILI

WINNER: DIXON'S FAMOUS CHILI

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Char Bar, Hamburger Mary's, Tanner's Bar & Grill 87th St.

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

WINNER: BO LINGS

Finalists: ABC Cafe, Lucky Dynasty, Pine & Bamboo Garden, Princess Garden Restaurant

BEST CHOCOLATE SHOP

WINNER: CHRISTOPHER ELBOW CHOCOLATES

Finalists: Andre's Confiserie Suisse, Bootleg Bourbon Balls, Fifth & Emery, Laura Little's Candies, The Sweet Granada

BEST CINNAMON ROLLS

WINNER: CORNER CAFE

Finalists: Neighborhood Cafe, Tin Pan Cinnamon Rolls, Waldo Cafe, Wild Flour Baking Co.

BEST DELI

WINNER: MARCO POLO'S ITALIAN MARKET

Finalists: Breit's Stein & Deli, Carollo's Italian Grocery & Deli, The Italian Sausage Company, King G

BEST DESSERT MENU

WINNER: THIRD STREET SOCIAL

Finalists: The Antler Room, Jasper's, Rye, Triune

BEST DONUTS

WINNER: LAMAR'S DONUTS

Finalists: Donut King, Donutology, Duck Donuts, Le Donuts & Coffee, Mr. D's Donuts, Ray's Donuts

BEST ETHIOPIAN FOOD

WINNER: BLUE NILE CAFE

Finalists: Black Garlic

BEST FALAFEL

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, The Basha Cuisine, Falafel Express, Habashi House, Mediterranean Taste

BEST FOOD POPUP OR STANDALONE FOOD TRUCK

WINNER: GHOST KITCHEN KC

Finalists: Dragon Wagon, Pit Stop Catering, Point and Flat BBQ, The Stuffed Mushroom

BEST FRENCH FRIES

WINNER: JOE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Tannin Wine Bar, Tay's Burger Shack, Westport Cafe

BEST FRENCH RESTAURANT

WINNER: LE FOU FROG

Finalists: Aixois, Café des Amis, Café Provence, French Market

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

WINNER: STROUD'S

Finalists: 92 Chicken, The Brass Onion, Go Chicken Go, Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken, Red Door Woodfired Grill

BEST GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS (RESTAURANT)

WINNER: BILLIE'S GROCERY

Finalists: Beer Kitchen, Blue Bird Bistro, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Minsky's Pizza

BEST GREEK RESTAURANT

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Hummus and Pita, Meddys, Mr. Gyro's Greek Food & Pastry, Paros Estiatorio

BEST GYRO

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Baba's Pantry, Habashi House, Hummus and Pita, Mr. Gyro's Greek Food & Pastry

BEST HAPPY HOUR (FOOD)

WINNER: BLUE SUSHI SAKE GRILL

Finalists: Charlie Hooper's Brookside Bar & Grille, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Summit Grill

BEST HOT DOG (RESTAURANTS/FOOD TRUCKS)

WINNER: WIENER KITCHEN

Finalists: The Brick, Chartreuse Saloon, Ding Dong Dogs, Disco Burger, Third Coast Pizza

BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT

WINNER: LAZIA

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

BEST ICE CREAM

WINNER: BETTY RAE'S

Finalists: Fairway Creamery, High Hopes, Just Chill, Sweet EMotion, Syllas & Maddy's Homemade Ice Cream

BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: AAHAA MODERN INDIAN CUISINE

Finalists: Of Course, Seva Cuisine of India, Spice of Bombay, Taj Palace

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: GAROZZO'S

Finalists: Bella Napoli, Farina, Jasper's, Osteria IL Centro

BEST ITALIAN SAUSAGE

WINNER: SCIMECA'S ITALIAN SAUSAGE COMPANY

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

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

WINNER: FRITZ'S

Finalists: The Big Biscuit, Char Bar, Hemma Hemma, Minsky's Pizza

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: KOBI-Q

Finalists: 92 Chicken. Choga Korean Restaurant, Chosun Korean BBQ

BEST LATE NIGHT EATS

WINNER: TOWN TOPIC

Finalists: Anjin, Helen's JAD Bar & Grill, Mae's Tavern, Muni

Photo courtesy of Helen's JAD





BEST LUNCH

WINNER: THE ROCKHILL GRILLE

Finalists: Blue Bird Bistro, Chez Elle, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, The Russell

BEST MEAL KIT/PREPARED FOODS

WINNER: PERSONAL CHEF COLLECTIVE

Finalists: FitStyle Foods, KITCH Meals, Well Rounded Events

BEST MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: JERUSALEM CAFE

Finalists: Habashi House, Holy Land Cafe, Meddys, Mineral Lounge, Zhoug Mediterranean

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

WINNER: MARGARITA'S

Finalists: Barbacoa, El Patron, Taco Naco, Tarahumaras Mexican Restaurant

BEST NACHOS

WINNER: BLIND BOX BBQ

Finalists: Burn Theory Fire Kitchen, Casa Amigos, Gaels Public House and Sports, Knub's Pub

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

WINNER: AKOYA OMAKASE

Finalists: Dear Donna, Lilico's Taverna, Mae's Tavern, Nour's, The Paella Mix, Palm Tree Club, The Parker Hollow

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

WINNER: CHAR BAR

Finalists: The Campground, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Trezo Mare, Vivimore

BEST PHO

WINNER: VIETNAM CAFE

Finalists: Broken Rice, Hien Vuong, Nguyen Pho & Grill, Pho Sai Gon

BEST PIE

WINNER: CORNER CAFE

Finalists: Ashleigh's Bake Shop, Pearl Tavern, Rye, Tippin's Pies

BEST PIZZA (MULTIPLE LOCATIONS)

WINNER: MINSKY'S PIZZA

Finalists: Buffalo State Pizza, Martin City Brewing Company Pizza & Taproom, Pizza Shuttle, Pizza Tascio

BEST PIZZA (SINGLE LOCATION)

WINNER: BELLA NAPOLI

Finalists: Artego Pizza, The Cove, Gaels Public House & Sports, Jimmy B's Pizza & Wings, Northeast Pizza, THE Pizza Place

BEST PLACE TO DINE ALONE

WINNER: ANJIN

Finalists: Avelluto's Pizzeria & Ristorante, Los Tules, Muni, Wally's Grill & Drafhouse

BEST POKE

WINNER: QZ POKE & RAMEN

Finalists: Pokesan

BEST PORK TENDERLOIN

WINNER: KITTY'S CAFE

Finalists: 3Halves Brew Pub & BBQ, Beer Kitchen, Christine's Firehouse, Christy's Tasty Queen, Minsky's Pizza

BEST PRETZEL

WINNER: KANSAS CITY BIER COMPANY

Finalists: KC Pretzel Boy's, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Sugar Whipped Bakery, Tanner's Bar & Grill 87th St.

BEST QUESO

WINNER: JOSE PEPPER'S

Finalists: Barbacoa, Barrio, Chelly's Cafe, K-Macho's

BEST RAMEN

WINNER: KC CRAFT RAMEN

Finalists: JINYA Ramen Bar, Mama Ramen, QZ Poke & Ramen & Boba Tea

BEST RESTAURANT

WINNER: RED DOOR WOODFIRED GRILL

Finalists: Anjin, The Antler Room, Bamboo Penny's, The Brass Onion, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Triune

BEST RESTAURANT (LAWRENCE)

WINNER: LADYBIRD DINER

Finalists: 715, The Mad Greek, Mass St. Fish House & Raw Bar, Merchants Pub & Plate, Morningstar's Pizza

BEST RESTAURANT SERVER

WINNER: ADDIE AT RAGAZZA FOOD & WINE

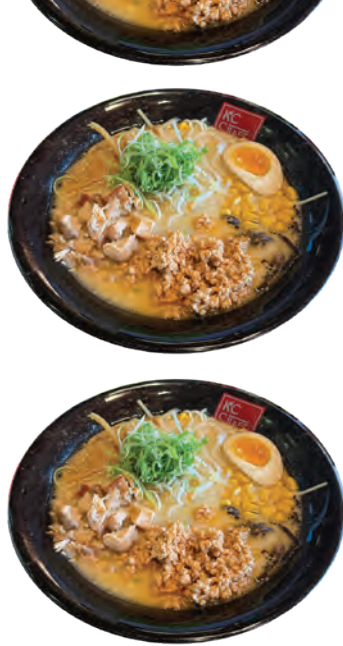
Finalists: Angel at Beer Kitchen, James at Anjin, Karma at Rhythm & Booze, Layton at Aqua Penny's

BEST REUBEN

WINNER: BREIT'S STEIN AND DELI

Finalists: Blind Box BBQ, Bloom Baking Company, Carne Diem - Fine Meats & Pantry, Point and Flat BBQ, Summit Grill

Photo courtesy of KC Craft Ramen



BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

WINNER: LE FOU FROG

Finalists: Affäre, The Antler Room, Wandering Vine, Westport Cafe

BEST SALAD

WINNER: MINSKY'S PIZZA

Finalists: The Antler Room, Brown & Loe, Cliff's Taphouse, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Whole Harvest Kitchen

BEST SANDWICH SHOP

WINNER: BAY BOY SPECIALTY SANDWICHES

Finalists: Capriotti's, Carne Diem - Fine Meats & Pantry, Fetterman's, The Italian Sausage Company, Pigwich

BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

WINNER: EARL'S PREMIER

Finalists: Akoya Omakase, Aqua Penny's, The Parker Hollow, Pearl Tavern

BEST SERVING STAFF

WINNER: THE BIG BISCUIT

Finalists: Anjin, Red Door Woodfired Grill, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen, Tanner's Bar & Grill 87th St.

BEST SMALL PLATES

WINNER: LA BODEGA

Finalists: The Antler Room, Extra Virgin, Fox and Pearl, Scratch Gourmet Kitchen

BEST SMOOTHIE/JUICE BAR

WINNER: RUBY JEAN'S JUICERY

Finalists: 816 Nutrition, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, Grand Coffee + Smoothies, Zen Donkey Wellness Cafe and Juicery

BEST SOUL FOOD

WINNER: NIECIE'S RESTAURANT

Finalists: District Biskuits, Lula Southern Cookhouse

BEST STEAKHOUSE

WINNER: THE MAJESTIC RESTAURANT

Finalists: 801 Chophouse, Sierra Grill, Silo Modern Farmhouse, Stock Hill

BEST SUSHI

WINNER: BLUE SUSHI SAKE GRILL

Finalists: Akoya Omakase, Fortune Wok & Sushi, Jun's, Kata Nori, Sake Lounge, Sushi UNI

BEST TACOS

WINNER: TACO NACO

Finalists: Barbacoa, Besos y Abrazos, Bonito Michoacán, KC Taco Company

BEST TAKE OUT

WINNER: MINSKY'S PIZZA

Finalists: Avelluto's Pizzeria & Ristorante, Baramée Thai Bistro, Cosmo Burger, Fortune Wok & Sushi

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

WINNER: LULU'S THAI NOODLE SHOP

Finalists: Baramée Thai Bistro, Penny's in the Village, Thai House, Thai Orchid

BEST TOTS

WINNER: COSMO BURGER

Finalists: The Bars KC, Helen's JAD Bar & Grill, Saints Pub + Patio, Tin Roof

BEST VEGAN OPTIONS

WINNER: THE FIX

Finalists: Artego Pizza, Blue Bird Bistro, Blue Nile Cafe, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink

BEST VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

WINNER: BLUE KOI

Finalists: Cliff's Taphouse, Enjoy Pure Food + Drink, The Stuffed Mushroom



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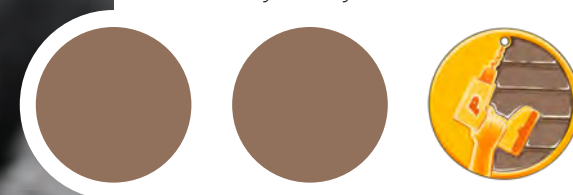
Columbus Park



COME SEE WHAT ALL THE **BUZZZ** IS ABOUT!



Photo courtesy of Catalyst Barber



BEST ACCOUNTING FIRM

WINNER: PRISM BOOKKEEPING

Finalists: AM CPA; The Fullinwider Firm, LLC; Howe & Company, CPA, P.C.; S. Paige Sander CPA, LLC; Walsh & Stverak

BEST AD/MARKETING AGENCY

WINNER: SQUARE PEG MARKETING & BRANDING

Finalists: GANSA Marketing; Impact Communications, Inc.; KES Studio; Page Communications; Trozzolo Communications Group; VML; Web Force KC

BEST AESTHETICIAN

WINNER: CHAR HIGGINS (MIRABILE MD)

Finalists: Amber Syer - Bad Cat Beauty, Annaliese Lombardo - Bella Derma Medical Aesthetics & Wellness, Annie McBee, Cecilia Smith - The Facial Bar, Jessica Hager - Monarch Plastic Surgery and Skin Rejuvenation Center, Joyce Pursley - Horizon Med Spa and Wellness, Nikki Garey - Monarch Plastic Surgery, Tama Veltri - SOKO Aesthetics & Wellness

BEST APARTMENT COMMUNITY

WINNER: THE LANDING AT BRIARCLIFF APARTMENTS

Finalists: Apex on Quality Hill, Eastland Trails Apartments, The Residences at New Longview, Summit on Quality Hill, Three Light, The Vue

BEST AUCTION HOUSE

WINNERS (TIE): BROWN BUTTON ESTATE

SALES, KC AUCTION COMPANY
Finalists: Cates Auction & Realty Co., Inc.; Equip-Bid.com; This & That KC, LLC

BEST AUTO SERVICE/REPAIR

WINNER: CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AUTOMOTIVE

Finalists: Cheshire Automotive, Donovan's Service, Nicole's Auto Care Center, Northtown Auto, Southwest Body Shop

BEST BANK (COMMERCIAL)

WINNER: CENTRAL BANK

Finalists: Academy Bank, Capitol Federal, Commerce Bank, Country Club Bank

BEST BANK (CONSUMER)

WINNER: CENTRAL BANK

Finalists: Academy Bank, Capitol Federal, Landmark National Bank, UMB Bank

BEST BARBER

WINNER: MACEY NICKOLE AT THE PINK BARBER

Finalists: Courtney Johnston at The Fade Hideaway, Justin Lemos at MidWest Barbary, Morgan Lapin Hair, Tiffany Coty at SilverFox

BEST BARBERSHOP

WINNER: CATALYST BARBER CO.

Finalists: Classic Guy Barber Lounge on 9th, MidWest Barbary, Old Town Barber, SilverFox, Spitfire Hair

BEST BODY PIERCING

WINNER: SUPERNATURAL BODY PIERCING

Finalists: Austin Penca at Midtown Tattoos, Kaylee Ristau at Landlocked Tattoo & Piercing LLC, Pixel Piercing at SideQuest Collective, Radiance Piercing

BEST BOUDOIR PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: DREAM BELIEVE CAPTURE BY MELISSA TOOMEY

Finalists: Babe City Boudoir, Boudoir by K Eden, Evergreen Exposures, Segura Boudoir, Stag & Bird Curated Photo Experiences

BEST BROWS

WINNER: ESTEVAN RIOS AT THE FACIAL BAR

Finalists: Amber Syer at Bad Cat Beauty, Brows by Mace, Jennifer Jones at The Grove Spa, Luxury Brow + Skin

BEST BUSINESS CONSULTANT/BUSINESS COACH

WINNER: S RICH LIFE COACHING

Finalists: Debra Kunz, The Dental SEO Consultant, Sarah Uchytel, Wendy English

BEST CAR WASH

WINNER: GO CAR WASH

Finalists: The Better Wash, Charlie's Car Wash, Club Car Wash, McBee's Coffee N Carwash, Waterway Carwash

BEST CHILD CARE CENTER

WINNER: PRIMROSE SCHOOL AT KU MEDICAL CENTER

Finalists: Child Development Center at The J, Growing Futures, Kiddi Kollege, Vada's Creative World

BEST CLEANING SERVICE

WINNER: CLEAN HEART MAIDS

Finalists: Crum Cleaning; Gleam Team; Shannon's Cleaning Services; White Oak Residential Kleaning, LLC

BEST COMPUTER/IT SERVICES

WINNERS (TIE): AKINS PC REPAIR, DRAGONFLY MSP

Finalists: ALLO Business; Cenetric, Inc.; Loquent Technology Services

BEST CONTRACTOR

WINNER: WEEKEND WARRIOR CONSTRUCTION

Finalists: Brasstacks, The Decksperts, KCBR Design | Remodel, Restoration 1 of Kansas City, Roeser Homes, Schloegel Design Remodel, Stag Homes

BEST COWORKING SPACE

WINNER: THE CO-OP AT SHOAL CREEK

Finalists: Ennovation Center, Industrious, SquareWork, Switchyards

BEST CREDIT UNION

WINNER: COMMUNITYAMERICA CREDIT UNION

Finalists: Holy Rosary Credit Union, Kansas City Credit Union, Mazuma Credit Union, R-G Federal Credit Union

BEST CUSTOM BLINDS/WINDOW TREATMENTS

WINNER: BUDGET BLINDS OF LEE'S SUMMIT AND CASS COUNTY

Finalists: The Blind Broker, Bumble Bee Blinds, Shawnee Blinds, Solar Shield



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BEST CUSTOM COUNTERTOPS
WINNER: ROCKTOPS GRANITE & STONE FABRICATION
 Finalists: Any Top Shop, Central Surfaces, Gaumats International, Stone Surface

BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE
WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY
 Finalists: ash-thetics Concierge Medical Aesthetics, Central Bank, Dragonfly MSP, The Facial Bar, SWADE Dispensary

BEST DIVORCE LAWYER
WINNER: MEGAN NOBLE - FISHER LAW
 Finalists: Denise Ramos; Marissa Mallon - Roth Davies LLC; Rachel Highsmith - Van Osdol, PC; Scott M. Mann - MannGordonHussey

BEST DOG TRAINING
WINNER: WAYSIDE WAIFS
 Finalists: Collars Dog Resort, The Dogs' Spot, Great Plains SPCA, Kansas City K9 Academy, K.I.S.S. Dog Training

BEST ELECTRICIAN
WINNER: ANTHONY PLUMBING, HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRIC
 Finalists: Current Solutions Electric, KAL Electric, Ric Ginn Electric, TrueVolt Electric

BEST FINANCIAL PLANNING
WINNER: CREATIVE PLANNING
 Finalists: Dogwood Wealth Management, Holistic Planning, Keith Allen at BMG Advisors, RBC Wealth Management

BEST GROUP THERAPY
WINNER: THE COUNSELING COLLABORATIVE
 Finalists: Brookside Anxiety & Mental Health, Fearless Counseling, Lilac Center, Talking Circle (peer-led support group)

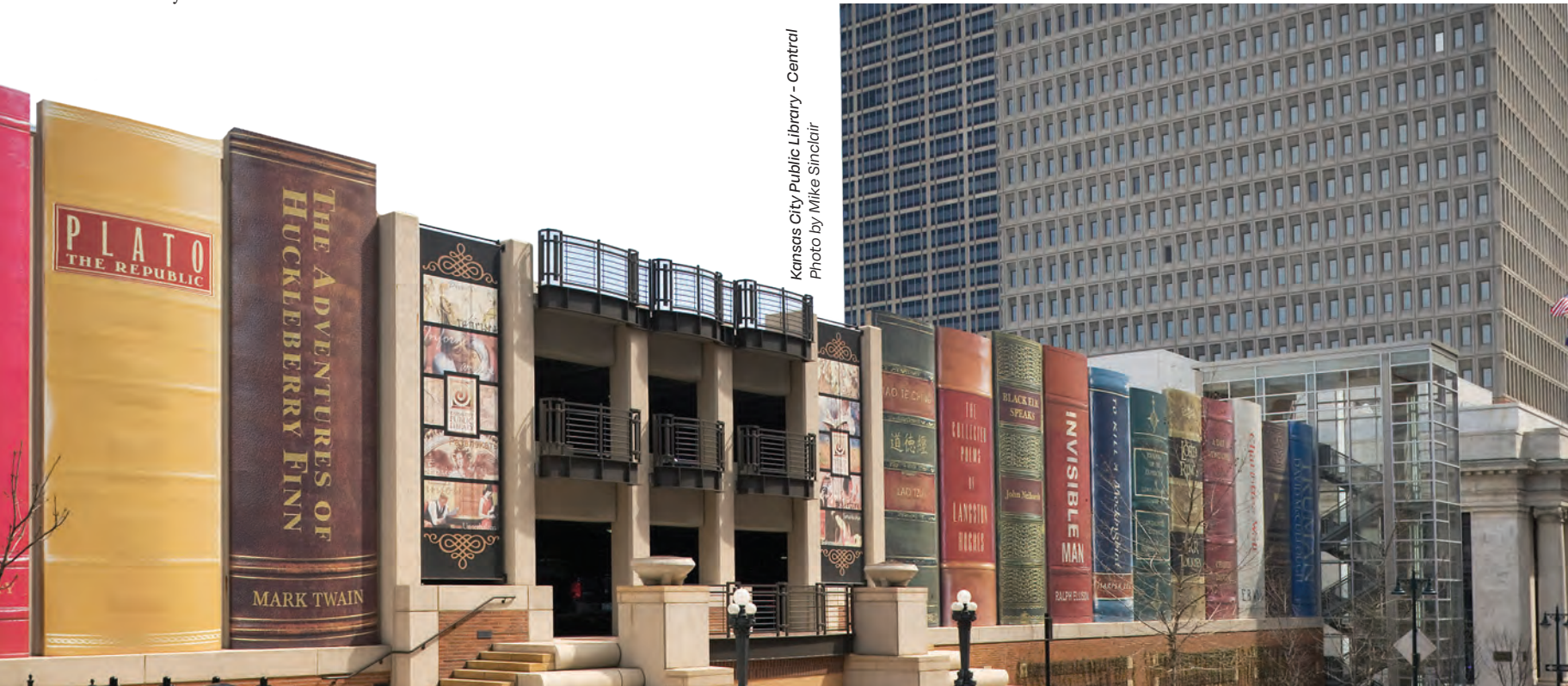
BEST HAIR REMOVAL
WINNER: THE GROVE SPA
 Finalists: Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, Laser Derm Med Spa, Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, There (S)he Glows Beauty Bar

BEST HAIR SALON
WINNER: SALON 152
 Finalists: American Honey Hair Co., Collab, HAIR Salon, Pelo on Penn, STITCH Salon Luxury Extensions, Vibe KC

BEST HAIR STYLIST
WINNER: HILARY HOPE
 Finalists: Brittney Booth, Dalton QW, Emma Snider, Liz Rogers, Morgan Lapin

BEST HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY
WINNER: ANTHONY PLUMBING, HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRIC
 Finalists: Creature Comfort Cooling, Integrity Heating & Air LLC, Pronto Air, Reddi Services

BEST HOTEL
WINNER: LOEWS KANSAS CITY HOTEL
 Finalists: Crossroads Hotel; Hotel Indigo Kansas City Downtown; Origin Hotel; The Raphael Hotel, Autograph Collection



Kansas City Public Library - Central
 Photo by Mike Sinclair

BEST INJECTOR

WINNER: SOPHIA GAROZZO KOURY - SOKO AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

Finalists: Ashley Williams - Monarch Plastic Surgery, ash-thetics by Ashley Pratt, Caitlin Hachinsky - Dew Aesthetics & Wellness, Jessica Brooks - Mirabile MD, Kim Overocker - Physician Aesthetic Specialists, Kyleigh Armilio - Fiore Wellness Center, Megan Griffiths - Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, Susan Testerman - Eden Aesthetics & Wellness

BEST INSURANCE AGENT

WINNER: NICOLE FELTZ - AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Finalists: Andrea Johnson - USI Insurance Services, Brian Rauber - Pennant Insurance Agency, Juliana Arifi - SmartMatch Insurance Agency

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

WINNER: KC INTERIOR CO.

Finalists: KCBR Design | Remodel, Kristen Ridler Design, Shelly Roeser, Spirit Animal Interiors, A Well Dressed Home

BEST KITCHEN & BATH REMODELER

WINNER: KCBR DESIGN | REMODEL

Finalists: Astoria Design Build, Brasstacks, Bussone Painting & Remodeling LLC, Iconic Home Renovations, Shamrock Cabinet

BEST LANDSCAPER

WINNER: NEXT TO NATURE LANDSCAPE

Finalists: Belfield Botanica, Essence Lawn Care, Heinen Landscape, Sevy Lawn and Landscape

BEST LASHES

WINNER: THE FACIAL BAR

Finalists: AS Eyesthetics, Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, Krosbie Lashes and Skincare, Lashed by Suzee, Spa on Penn

BEST LAUNDROMAT

WINNER: DUDS 'N SUDS LAUNDROMAT

Finalists: Best Wash Laundromats, MegaWash Gladstone, Mur-Len Laundry, Walnut Place Laundromat

BEST LAW FIRM/LAWYER

WINNER: DM INJURY LAW

Finalists: AGH Law; Dameron & Meier, LLP; Devkota Law Firm; Rick Frawley; Van Osdol

BEST LIBRARY BRANCH: KS

WINNER: JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY - CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

Finalists: Bonner Springs Library, Lenexa City Center Library, Olathe Indian Creek Library, West Wyandotte Library

BEST LIBRARY BRANCH: MO

WINNER: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL LIBRARY

Finalists: Mid-Continent Public Library - Blue Springs South Branch, Mid-Continent Public Library - Colbern Road Library Center, Mid-Continent Public Library - Green Hills Library Center, North Kansas City Public Library

BEST LOAN OFFICER

WINNER: DEREK MCGOWAN - MCGOWAN MORTGAGES

Finalists: Emily Conaty, Jason Dreiling, John Alderman, Katie Grimes, Ryan Underwood

BEST LOCAL FARM

WINNER: KC FARM SCHOOL AT GIBBS ROAD

Finalists: Barham Family Farm, Juniper Gardens Training Farm, Pendleton's Country Market, Silent Spring Farm

BEST LOCAL MOVING COMPANY

WINNER: METRO WIDE MOVERS

Finalists: Moving Proz, Out & In Moving, Pink Zebra Moving, You Move Me Kansas City

BEST MAKEUP ARTIST

WINNER: GLAM & GLOW WITH KALSIE JO LLC

Finalists: April Rudy, Karli Petrillo, Keely Fink

BEST MORTGAGE/HOME LOAN PROVIDER

WINNER: MCGOWAN MORTGAGES

Finalists: Central Bank, CrossCountry Mortgage, PrimeLending, US Mortgage Connection

BEST NAIL SALON

WINNER: LUXE NAIL SPA

Finalists: The Nail Lounge, Nail Society, Tips N' Toes, Vibe Nail Studio

BEST PARTY BUS/LIMO SERVICE

WINNER: RED MACHINE PARTY BUS

Finalists: Elite Fleet, Pech Limousine

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Lindsey Chevalier, Photo by Stag and Bird Photography

BEST PEST CONTROL

WINNER: PETE'S PEST CONTROL

Finalists: Alta Pest Control, Gunter Pest & Lawn, Pink Pest Solutions, Rottler Pest Solutions

BEST PET BOARDING/DAYCARE

WINNER: CAMP BOW WOW

Finalists: CITYDOGS KC, Collars Dog Resort, Fetchers Play & Stay, Kate's Canine Resort, Pete and Mac's Pet Resorts, Pooches Paradise, Swanson's Streamway Dog Park and Daycare

BEST PET GROOMER

WINNER: PAWSPERITY

Finalists: Collars Dog Resort, Pete and Mac's Pet Resorts, Silas Hernandez at Camp Bow Wow, Simply Grooming by Gia, U-Wash Puppy

BEST PHOTO BOOTH SERVICE

WINNER: KC PHOTO BOOTH CO

Finalists: ClickFun Events Co, InstaFun KC, Lumen Events, PardeePix Photo Booth, The Photo Bus

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER (BUSINESS)

WINNER: THERYESTUDIO

Finalists: Cinder & Ivory, Evergreen Exposures, @shotsbyxiu, Stag & Bird Curated Photo Experiences

BEST PLACE TO ADOPT A PET

WINNER: KC PET PROJECT

Finalists: Always & Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, Chain of Hope, CritterHouseKC, Great Plains SPCA, Heart of America Humane Society, Melissa's Second Chances, Wayside Waifs

BEST PLUMBING

WINNER: ANTHONY PLUMBING, HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRIC

Finalists: Beemer Plumbing, Best Plumbing, Bristol Plumbing, Superior Mechanical Services

BEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY

WINNER: PRICE BROTHERS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Finalists: 333 Rent, Block Multifamily Group, Ellis Real Estate Services, FirstService Residential, JVM Realty

BEST PSYCHIC/TAROT READINGS

WINNER: ILLUMINATING THE SOUL - TAMMY BARTON

Finalists: Carolyn Ullrich, Healing Across Dimensions, Dr. Matt Turner - Be Love Healing, Veil and Vow Tarot

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

WINNER: KRISTENA RICHEY

Finalists: Angela Lamb, Kelli Becks, Lauren Hruby, Sandy Murphy

BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY (COMMERCIAL)

WINNER: REECENICHOLS

Finalists: Brookside Real Estate Company; Haith & Company, Inc.; Real Broker, LLC; West Village Realty

BEST REAL ESTATE TEAM

WINNER: RICHEY REAL ESTATE GROUP

Finalists: Core Team KC, KM Real Estate, Novel Group - Compass Realty, The Rob Ellerman Team, Van Noy Real Estate

BEST ROOFER/ROOFING COMPANY

WINNER: CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ROOFING

Finalists: Best Roofing Kansas City, Buck Roofing & Construction, Iconic Home Renovations, KanMo Roofing, True Grit Roofing Company

BEST SCREEN PRINTING

WINNER: CUMPY'S SPORTS & APPAREL

Finalists: Moon Tees, Moss Printing, Oddities Prints, Seen Merch, Union Press

BEST SOLAR PROVIDER

WINNER: GOOD ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Finalists: Cromwell Solar, Shinnova, The Solar Guys, Solar Planet

BEST STRIP CLUB

WINNER: SHADY LADY

Finalists: Bazooka's Showgirls, Pure Ultra Lounge

BEST TAILOR/ALTERATIONS

WINNER: DAN DAN THE TAILOR MAN

Finalists: Elizabeth's Alterations, Joy's Tailor Shop, Oak Park Tailors, Stitchin' Post, Unseamly Threads

BEST TANNING SALON

WINNER: TOASTE

Finalists: District Tan, Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, Rejuv Aesthetics + Wellness, There (S)he Glows Beauty Bar

BEST TATTOO ARTIST

WINNER: LINDSEY CHEVALIER

Finalists: Blake Schamberger, Dame Electrique, Jessie Hopeless, Noah Moore, Paige Hinshaw

BEST TATTOO STUDIO

WINNER: OLD SOULS TATTOO PARLOUR

Finalists: The Cherry Bomb Tattoo Co., Easy Rose Tattoo, Golden Stag Tattoo, Hopeless Collective, Irezumi Tattoo, Landlocked Tattoo & Piercing LLC

BEST TRAVEL AGENCY

WINNER: AAA TRAVEL

Finalists: Acendas Travel, Sara Sent Me, Tammy - Love to Travel, Union Hill Travel

BEST TUTORING COMPANY

WINNER: TUTORING WITH TORI

Finalists: Adaptive Academics, The Wordshop

BEST VETERINARIAN

WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Animal Medical Center Of Kansas City, Eagle Animal Hospital, Family Pet Hospital of Shawnee, Marketplace Animal Hospital, Union Hill Animal Hospital



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For voting **Anthony** Best of KC



Best Electrician



**Best Heating & Air
Conditioning Company**

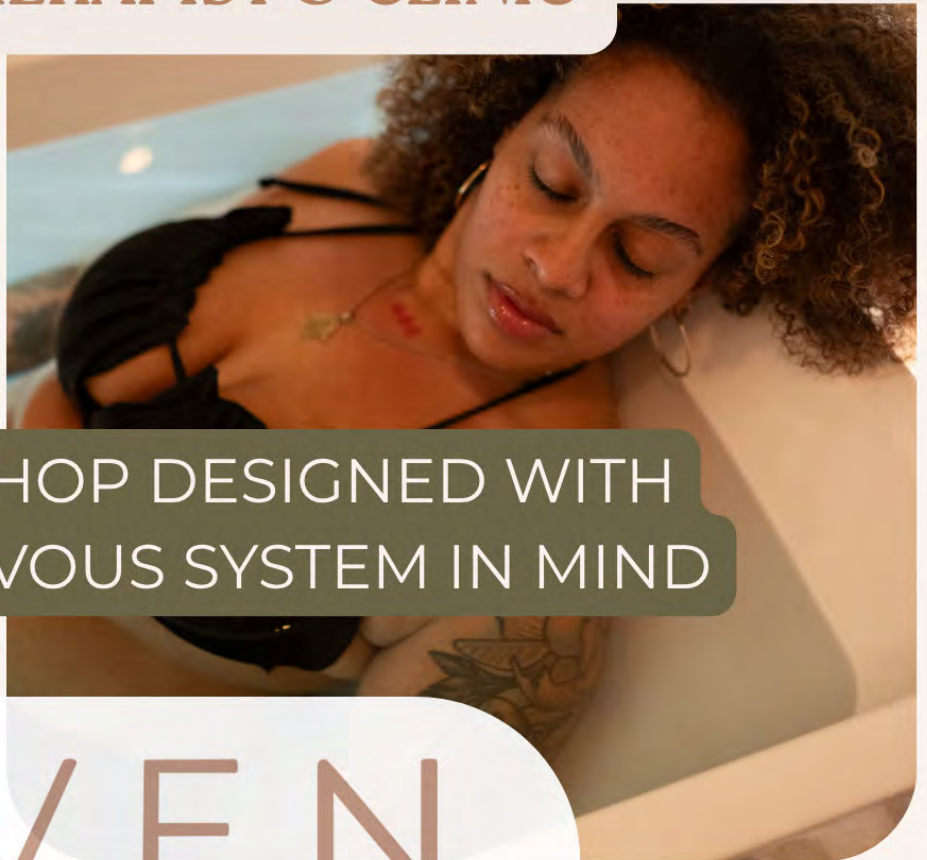


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BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST & CLINIC



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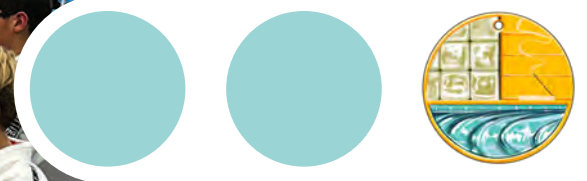


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HEALTH & FITNESS

Photo courtesy of Stride Martial Arts & Fitness



BEST ACUPUNCTURE

WINNER: LUX WELLNESS

Finalists: Dr. Christy Breau - Sunrise Chiropractic & Acupuncture, Donna Tatum -Magnolia Wellness, OM Chiropractic, Stephanie McGuirk - Totem Health

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

WINNER: JOURNEY CHIROPRACTIC

Finalists: AllCare Chiropractic, Body Renew Chiropractic, Identity Chiropractic, KC Chiro, OM Chiropractic

BEST CONTRAST THERAPY

WINNER: HAVEN WELLNESS + SPA

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

BEST COSMETIC SURGEON

WINNER: DR. JOSEPH SPANIOL - MONARCH PLASTIC SURGERY

Finalists: Dr. Jeff Markey, Dr. Paul Leahy, Dr. Selena Fu

BEST DAY SPA (NON-MEDICAL)

WINNER: SOKO AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

Finalists: The Facial Bar, Haven Wellness + Spa, Horizon Med Spa and Wellness, Spa on Penn

BEST DENTIST

WINNERS (TIE): THE SMILE LINE STUDIO, SLOOP DENTAL CO.

Finalists: BluHawk Dental Group, Jackson Family Dental, Skylark Dental

BEST EYE CLINIC

WINNER: FAIRWAY EYE CENTER

Finalists: Advanced EyeCare, Jeff LaFerla Vision Institute, Littlefield Eye Associates, WestGlen Eyecare

BEST FACIALS

WINNER: SOKO AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

Finalists: Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, The Facial Bar, Haven Wellness + Spa, Monarch Plastic Surgery and Skin Rejuvenation Center, The Only Facial

BEST FITNESS CLASS

WINNER: EPOC

Finalists: Alpha Collective, Grit Fit KC, Lagree Pulse 45, Sunflower Gyrotonic

BEST GYM

WINNER: DISTRICT ONE ATHLETICS

Finalists: City Gym, Flex Fitness Gym, MC CrossFit, WellWay

BEST HEALTH CLINIC

WINNER: BABY HAVEN KC

Finalists: Enhanced Health & Wellness, KC CARE Health Center, NKC Health Primary Care Gashland, Vitality Lifestyle Medicine

BEST HOSPITAL:

WINNER: THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

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

BEST IV THERAPY

WINNER: LUX WELLNESS

Finalists: Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, Gen 3 IV Hydration and Wellness, Recovery Hydration Therapy, Restore Hyper Wellness

BEST MARTIAL ARTS

WINNER: STRIDE MARTIAL ARTS AND FITNESS

Finalists: AmeriKick Martial Arts, Grupo Axé Capoeira, Low Kick Camp, PRIDE Martial Arts

BEST MESSAGE CLINIC

WINNER: HAVEN WELLNESS + SPA

Finalists: Corazon Fuerte Therapeutic Massage, HAND & LAND, Just B Massage and Body Work, Salve Bodywork + Massage

BEST MESSAGE THERAPIST

WINNER: KATIE BROCK AT HAVEN WELLNESS + SPA

Finalists: Alexis Atwell at Salve Bodywork + Massage, Bambi Hill at Just B Massage & Bodywork, Michael Short at Wild Yonder, Rachel Minnis at Spa on Penn

BEST MEDICAL SPA

WINNER: SOKO AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

Finalists: Bella Derma Medical Aesthetics & Wellness, Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, Mirabile MD, Monarch Plastic Surgery and Skin Rejuvenation Center, Physician Aesthetic Specialists, Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, Rejuv Aesthetics + Wellness

BEST MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER

WINNER: THE COUNSELING COLLABORATIVE

Finalists: Connected Counseling; Eden Aesthetics & Wellness; Fearless Counseling; Tedoni Trauma-Informed Therapy, LLC



Photo courtesy of Kirsty Abenoja



BEST NUTRITIONIST

WINNER: KRISTIN GERHARDT AT THE TASTY BALANCE

Finalists: Harley Herd at Natural Grocers

BEST ORTHODONTIST

WINNER: FRY ORTHODONTICS

Finalists: Facial Surgery Group, Kanning Orthodontics, Klein Walker & Weber Orthodontics, Oltjen Orthodontics

BEST PEDIATRICIAN

WINNER: PREMIER PEDIATRICS

Finalists: Cradle Thru College Care: Ellen Glotzbach, MD; Health Care for Children - Dr. Theresa 'Tessa' Rinker; Dr. Kerri Fellows; Dr. Kirsten Weltmer

BEST PERSONAL TRAINER

WINNER: KIRSTY ABENOJA - ALPHA COLLECTIVE

Finalists: Kyle Egger - Genesis Health Clubs-Independence, Lexi Johnson - Lexi J Wellness, Nathan Martin - MC CrossFit, Talia Pernice-Lindquist - Grit Fit KC

BEST PHARMACY

WINNER: HY-VEE PHARMACY (PRAIRIE VILLAGE)

Finalists: Cosentino's Price Chopper Pharmacy (Woods Chapel Rd), Hen House Market Pharmacy (Fairway), NKC Health Outpatient Pharmacy, Phillips Family Pharmacy

BEST PHYSICAL REHAB CENTER

WINNER: ARC PHYSICAL THERAPY+

Finalists: F.I.T. Muscle & Joint Clinic, Hill Pro-Motion Physical Therapy, Johnson County Rehabilitation Hospital at Overland Park, SERC Physical Therapy

BEST PHYSICIAN

WINNER: DR. SARA DEFFENBAUGH

Finalists: Dr. Alice Hwang, Dr. Gay Purcell, Dr. Kyle Reed, Dr. Nora Gomez

BEST PILATES

WINNER: STUDIO7 PILATES

Finalists: BODYBAR Pilates, Mindful Evolutions, Paradiso Pilates, Pilates of Kansas City

BEST SWIMMING POOL

WINNER: LENEXA REC CENTER

Finalists: 44 Washington, Prairie Village Swimming Pool, Tomahawk Ridge Aquatic Center, Woodside

BEST WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC/COUNSELING

WINNER: SOKO AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

Finalists: Eden Aesthetics & Wellness, MoKan Weight Loss and Metabolic Health LLC, Monarch Plastic Surgery and Skin Rejuvenation Center, Plaza Aesthetics & Wellness, Total Weight Loss

BEST YOGA STUDIO

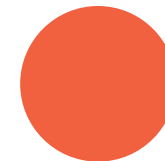
WINNER: HOUSE OF GLADITUDE

Finalists: AIMwell Yoga, Darling Yoga, Megan's Yoga Tribe, The Practice Yoga and Pilates

*EPOC Fitness,
Photo by Sarah Jansson*



Nelson-Atkins Museum,
Photo by Gabe Hopkins



PEOPLE & PLACES

BEST ATTRACTION

WINNER: KANSAS CITY ZOO & AQUARIUM

Finalists: Atlas9, Nelson-Atkins Museum, The Rabbit hOle, Union Station

BEST COMMUNITY GARDEN

WINNER: OVERLAND PARK ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Finalists: Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden, Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden at Loose Park, WiNc Community Garden & Orchard

BEST DAY TRIP

WINNER: WESTON

Finalists: Lawrence; Plattsburg, MO

BEST DOG PARK

WINNER: SHAWNEE MISSION DOG PARK

Finalists: Heritage Park Dog Off-Leash Area, Swanson's Streamway Dog Park and Daycare, Waggin' Trail Dog Park, Wayside Waifs Bark Park

BEST FACEBOOK PAGE

WINNER: ALWAYS & FUREVER MIDWEST ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Finalists: DeNoon Dogs, Kansas City Dungeons and Dragons, Kansas City Fashion @kansascityfashion, Kids In KC, Pet Resource Center of Kansas City

BEST GREEN BUSINESS

WINNER: HEARTLAND PET

AQUAMATION

Finalists: Green Utopia

BEST HALLOWEEN DESTINATION

WINNER: DARK FOREST AT POWELL GARDENS

Finalists: Apparition, The Beast, Halloween Fashion Show at Zhou B Art Center KC, Kansas City Live! End of Days Halloween Party

BEST LOCAL ACTIVIST

WINNER: ANDREA KNOBBE

Finalists: Dame Electrique, Hailee Bland-Walsh, Isabella Valenciaga, Scott Poore

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

WINNER: MICHAEL MACKIE

Finalists: Carrie Beamer, Dan Bugbee, Mía Mercado, Mireya Saldúa, Sierra Simone, Vanessa Kramer

BEST LOCAL BLOG/SUBSTACK

WINNER: PEOPLE I WANT TO PUNCH IN THE THROAT BY JEN MANN

Finalists: Kansas City Stack, KC Daily, Natalie's Substack (Natalie Dameron), Nightswimming by Caleb Doyle



Maggie, Photo courtesy of Callie Mae's Barkery

BEST LOCAL BUS TOUR OR WALKING TOUR

WINNER: KC GANGSTER TOUR

Finalists: Barley Bus Tours & Transportation, Just One Day Travel Tours, Red Machine Party Bus KCK Taco Trail Tour

BEST LOCAL CHARITY

WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Center of Grace, Chain of Hope, Forever Smiles Foundation, Heart of America Humane Society, In the Name of GRACE

BEST LOCAL INSTAGRAM

WINNER: @CHIPOTLE_ON_MAIN

Finalists: @anna.is.always.reading, @inthepetstore The Baddest, @kansascityfashion, @RyanWesleyOfficial

BEST LOCAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

WINNER: MATT FLENER

Finalists: The Kansas City Defender, Peggy Lowe

BEST LOCAL PERSONALITY

WINNER: MICHAEL MACKIE

Finalists: The Epitome KC (Hood Dude Food Reviews), Jamez Hunter, Jillian Carroll, Ryan Wesley

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN

WINNER: QUINTON LUCAS

Finalists: Emanuel Cleaver, Jordan Herrera, Laura Kelly, Stephanie Clayton

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY

WINNER: DANA WRIGHT

Finalists: Ivani Bing, Samuel Stueve, Scott Parks, Scott Stanton

BEST LOCAL RADIO STATION

WINNER: KMBZ 98.1

Finalists: 90.9 The Bridge, KCUR 89.3, KKFI 90.1

BEST LOCAL TIKTOK

WINNER: @RYANWESLEYOFFICIAL

Finalists: @andr3wsky, @kansascityfashion, @urbanspaceman23



Photo courtesy of PrideFest

BEST PLACE FOR A CHEAP DATE

WINNER: NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Finalists: The Bird Comedy Theater, Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden, Pawn and Pint, Ricochet

BEST PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE

WINNER: NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM

Finalists: ADHDIY™ Craft Cafe, City Market, Grassroots Garden Lounge, Osteria IL Centro

BEST PLACE FOR A LONG WALK

WINNER: OVERLAND PARK ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Finalists: Berkeley Riverfront Park, Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, Heritage Park, Loose Park, Shawnee Mission Park

BEST PLACE FOR A VIEW OF THE CITY

WINNER: NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Finalists: Boulevard Brewing Beer Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, KC Wheel, Town of Kansas Bridge

BEST PLACE TO GEEK OUT

WINNER: POWELL OBSERVATORY

Finalists: Level One Game Shop, National WWI Museum and Memorial, Pawn and Pint, Up-Down

BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLES

WINNER: KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Finalists: Guitars & Cadillacs, Mosaic, Pawn and Pint, Volleyball Beach

BEST PLACE TO PLAY BOARD GAMES

WINNER: PAWN AND PINT

Finalists: Cardboard Corner Cafe, Mission: Board Games, Nirvana Coffee & Games, TableTop Game & Hobby

BEST PLACE TO TAKE A SELFIE

WINNER: GRINTER'S SUNFLOWER FARM

Finalists: Art Alley, CPKC Stadium, The Scout statue in Penn Valley Park, Union Station

Photo courtesy of Plaza Art Fair



BEST LOCAL TV PERSONALITY

WINNER: NICK VASOS

Finalists: Kris Ketz, Michael Mackie, Ryan Wesley, Shane Konicki

BEST LOCAL TV SPORTS ANCHOR

WINNER: LEN JENNINGS

Finalists: Dennis Evans, McKenzie Nelson, Taylor Kauffman

BEST LOCAL TV STATION

WINNER: KMBC 9

Finalists: FOX4, Kansas City PBS, KCTV5, KSHB 41

BEST LOCAL TV WEATHER FORECASTER

WINNER: BRYAN BUSBY

Finalists: Brittany Foster, Joe Lauria, Luke Dorris, Melissa Meeder

BEST LOCAL TWITTER

WINNER: @KRISKETZKMBC

Finalists: @NatureMedMo, @jstoner44 Reverend Winston

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

WINNER: BROOKSIDE

Finalists: Downtown Overland Park, Hyde Park, North Kansas City, River Market, Union Hill, Waldo

BEST OUTDOOR EVENT

WINNER: PLAZA ART FAIR

Finalists: Horror at the Drive-In, Jazzoo, KC Oktoberfest, KC PrideFest

BEST PARK

WINNER: LOOSE PARK

Finalists: FranklinPark, Macken Park, Meadowbrook Park, Shawnee Mission Park

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT OF TOWN GUESTS

WINNER: UNION STATION

Finalists: Boulevard Brewing Beer Hall, Country Club Plaza, Joe’s Kansas City BBQ, Nelson-Atkins Museum

BEST PLACE TO WORK (OVER 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: PET RESOURCE CENTER OF KANSAS CITY

Finalists: Central Bank, Cornerstones of Care, Kansas City Skin & Cancer Center, McCownGordon Construction, NatureMed, Schloegel Design Remodel

BEST PLACE TO WORK (UNDER 50 EMPLOYEES)

WINNER: COLLARS DOG RESORT

Finalists: Horizon Med Spa and Wellness, Pawn and Pint, Riverside Wellness, Square Peg Marketing & Branding

BEST PLACE TO WORSHIP

WINNER: CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Finalists: LifeMission Church; Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church; St. James United Methodist Church; The Temple, Congregation B’nai Jehudah

BEST SHOP PET

WINNER: COPPER AT WEST BOTTOMS WHISKEY CO.

Finalists: Dolly at Truly Madly Depot, Enzo & Louise at U-Wash Puppy, Kingston at Ellis Real Estate Services, Maggie at Callie Mae’s Barkery & Bath

BEST YOUTUBER

WINNER: RYAN WESLEY

Finalists: Angie Glez, Captain Logan (Geekvolution), Forest Kinsey, James Hunter Gamez

Copper, Photo courtesy of West Bottoms Whiskey Co.







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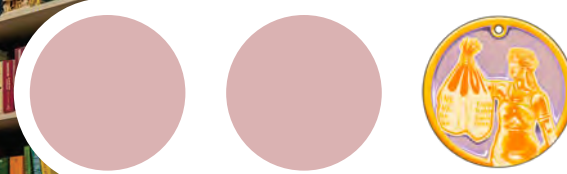
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SHOPPING

Photo courtesy of Under the Cover



BEST CIGAR SHOP/CIGAR LOUNGE

WINNER: THE OUTLAW CIGAR COMPANY

Finalists: The Cigar Room, Sherri's Executive Lounge, The Shop Cigar Lounge

BEST CLOTHING STORE (MEN'S)

WINNER: NIGRO'S WESTERN STORE

Finalists: Guevel, Halls Kansas City, Michael's Clothing

BEST CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN'S)

WINNER: RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: Dear Society, In Clover Boutique, The Parlor, Shopgirls

BEST COMIC BOOK STORE

WINNER: CROSSROADS COMICS AND ART

Finalists: Brute Squad Entertainment, Elite Comics, Kansas City Comics + Collectibles, Outland Mercantile

BEST ACCESSORIES STORE

WINNER: RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: Fiorella's Boutique, Hula Hoop, KC Style Haus, Shop Annie Austen

BEST ADULT STORE

WINNER: CIRILLA'S

Finalists: Passions KC

BEST BLACK-OWNED RETAIL STORE

WINNER: PLUMP PLUS SIZE RESALE

Finalists: AiZen Root Remedy

BEST BOOKSTORE

WINNER: RAINY DAY BOOKS

Finalists: Prospero's Books, Read & Rooted, Seven Stories, Smitten Booktique, Under the Cover

BEST BOUTIQUE STORE

WINNER: RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: a store named STUFF, Green Utopia KC, Hula Hoop, KC Style Haus, Lulu's Boutique, The Parlor

BEST CANDLES

WINNER: THE FRIENDLY FLAMER

Finalists: The Corner Candleshop, Effing Candle Co., KCMOCO. Candles, Pickwick & Co.

BEST CONSIGNMENT STORE

WINNERS (TIE): ARIZONA TRADING COMPANY, RETRO VIXEN

Finalists: Clothz Minded, Lulu's Boutique, Style Encore

BEST FARMERS' MARKET

WINNER: CITY MARKET

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

BEST FASHION DESIGNER

WINNER: WASTELAND SOCIETY

Finalists: Abigail Ruta at AOM Fashioni; Bleach Bae; Lifewar Outfitters; Love, Boy Jordan; Meeks Me Smile Studio

BEST FLORIST

WINNER: FIDDLY FIG

Finalists: Bloom with Love Flowershop, Chicken Creek Co., Floral Frontier, Lily Floral Collective, The Little Flower Shop

BEST GARDEN STORE/NURSERY

WINNER: FAMILY TREE NURSERY

Finalists: Antioch Urban Growers, Read & Rooted, Soil Service, Windy Ridge Greenhouse

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BEST GIFT STORE

WINNER: MADE IN KC

Finalists: Dutch Flowers, Fetch, Genevieve's, It's a Beautiful Day

BEST GROCERY STORE

WINNER: COSENTINO'S MARKET IN BROOKSIDE

Finalists: Cristina's Produce, Franklin General Store, Gladstone Hy-Vee, Hen House

BEST HOME FURNISHING STORE (LOCAL)

WINNER: VINTAGE SOURCE

Finalists: Populuxe, Swanky

BEST HOME GOODS

WINNER: FETCH

Finalists: The Fabulous Fern, KC Style Haus, Swanky, Vintage Source

BEST JEWELRY STORE

WINNER: MEIEROTTO JEWELERS

Finalists: Dalia's Silver Lining, Joslin's Jewelry, Shop Annie Austen, Vinca Jewelry

BEST KC PRIDE CLOTHING

WINNER: CHARLIE HUSTLE

Finalists: Bleach Bae; HyperKC; Love, Boy Jordan; Made Mobb; Wasteland Society

BEST LINGERIE STORE

WINNER: BIRDIES

Finalists: Circadian Intimates, Cirilla's, Intimate Designs, Passions KC

BEST LIQUOR STORE

WINNER: GOMER'S

Finalists: Brown Bag Liquor, Justin's of Lenexa, Mass Beverage KC, Mike's Wine and Spirits, Plaza Liquor, River Market Liquor, Total Wine & More

BEST LOCAL MAKER

WINNER: SHUT THE FRONT DOOR KC

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Gamer Girl Jewelry, Meeks Me Smile Studio, Unseamly Threads

BEST LOCALLY MADE SOAP/SCENT

WINNER: YAL&YANA

Finalists: Great Scop Soapery, MOC BOD - Strapped, Silent Spring Farm

BEST METAPHYSICAL/SPIRITUAL STORE

WINNER: LUNA'S LIGHT AND APOTHECARY

Finalists: Crescent Springs, Enchanting Winds Metaphysical Shoppe, Sacred Creations, Third Eye Sadie's

BEST PET SUPPLY STORE

WINNER: BROOKSIDE BARKERY & BATH

Finalists: Callie Mae's Barkery & Bath, k9 Closet, Tail Waggin' PetStop, U-Wash Puppy, Wayside Waifs Whiskers & Wags

BEST PLACE TO BUY A NEW CAR

WINNER: LEE'S SUMMIT SUBARU

Finalists: Aristocrat Motors, Baron BMW, Van Subaru

BEST PLACE TO BUY A PLANT (PLANT BOUTIQUES)

WINNER: WEST BOTTOMS PLANT CO

Finalists: rROOTS KC, Virgil's Plant Shop

BEST PLACE TO BUY A USED CAR

WINNER: KC MOTOR COMPANY

Finalists: GoodAutos, Ramsey Motors, Reynolds Automotive

BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEGLASSES

WINNER: BROOKSIDE OPTICAL

Finalists: Burlingame & Mock Vision Associates, eyeSmith Sport & Fashion Optical, Fairway Eye Center, Noyce Family Eyecare

BEST POP-UP SHOP

WINNER: TACKLEBOX JEWELRY

Finalists: Bleach Bae, Chain Theory, Lex Moderne, Lover's Library

BEST RECORD STORE

WINNER: MILLS RECORD COMPANY

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

BEST RETAIL STORE (LAWRENCE)

WINNER: 1313 MOCKINGBIRD LANE

Finalists: Love Garden Sounds, Striped Cow, Third Planet

BEST SHOE STORE

WINNER: NIGRO'S WESTERN STORE #1

Finalists: Bunker, Comfort Plus Shoes & Footcare, Dva Percent, The Foot Spot

BEST SHOPPING CENTER

WINNER: TOWN CENTER PLAZA

Finalists: Country Club Plaza, Oak Park Mall, Ward Parkway Center, Zona Rosa

BEST TABLE TOP GAME STORE

WINNER: PAWN AND PINT

Finalists: Cardboard Corner Cafe, Level One Game Shop, Mission: Board Games, TableTop Game & Hobby

BEST THRIFT STORE

WINNER: HILLCREST THRIFT SHOP

Finalists: Necessities Thrift Shop, Troost39 Thrift Store

BEST TOY STORE

WINNER: BROOKSIDE TOY & SCIENCE

Finalists: Cast-a-Way Toys, The Toy Store

BEST VINTAGE CLOTHING STORE

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Donna's Dress Shop, Fetch, Hula Hoop, Lulu's Boutique, Retro Vixen

BEST VINTAGE FINDS

WINNER: RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES

Finalists: Aesthetic Bloom, POP! Vintage Furniture & Accessories, Urban Mining, Wonderland

BEST WEST BOTTOMS VENDOR

WINNER: BELLA PATINA

Finalists: All Keyed Up Piano Shop, Good Ju Ju, Hammerpress, Vintage Source

BEST WINE SHOP

WINNER: RED DOOR WINE STORE

Finalists: Bliss Books & Wine, Cellar Rat Wine Merchants, Underdog Wine Co.

*Mills Record Company,
Photo by Zach Bauman*



Photo courtesy of The Brim



BEST BACHELOR PARTY LOCATION

WINNER: J. RIEGER & CO.

Finalists: Arrow Dart Club, Mainstreet Tavern

BEST BACHELORETTE PARTY LOCATION

WINNER: HAMBURGER MARY'S

Finalists: Amigoni Urban Winery, Expressive Art and Music, The Facial Bar, Goat & Rabbit

BEST BRIDESMAIDS DRESS SHOP

WINNER: TRUE SOCIETY BY BELLE VOGUE BRIDAL

Finalists: Bella Bridesmaids, bridal by SHL

BEST COUPLES THERAPIST

WINNER: JENNIFER REGIER - KANSAS CITY RELATIONSHIP INSTITUTE

Finalists: Claudia Tedoni - Tedoni Trauma-Informed Therapy, LLC; Fearless Counseling; Grace Meikenhaus; Kieri Olmstead - Simple Empathy

BEST ENGAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: STAG & BIRD CURATED PHOTO EXPERIENCES

Finalists: Cinder & Ivory, Fraction Foto, Kymberly Janelle Photography, Renata Zimmer Photography

BEST HOTEL FOR YOUR WEDDING NIGHT

WINNER: LOEWS KANSAS CITY HOTEL

Finalists: Ambassador Hotel Kansas City, Autograph Collection; Hotel Kansas City; Kansas City Airport Marriott

BEST LOCAL WEDDING CATERER

WINNER: BRANCATO'S CATERING

Finalists: Culinary Creations, Dutzel's Catering & Events, Olive Events, Sugar & Spice Catering

BEST PLACE FOR A REHEARSAL DINNER

WINNER: LIDIA'S

Finalists: The Brass Onion, The Guild, Jack Stack BBQ - Freight House, Jumelle & Co.

BEST PLACE TO GET A TUX

WINNER: DAN DAN THE TAILOR MAN

Finalists: Houndstooth, Slabotsky's

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING CAKE

WINNER: MCLAIN'S BAKERY

Finalists: Blue Thistle, Clever Cakes, Kate Smith Soirée, Sugar Whipped Bakery

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING CAKE ALTERNATIVE

WINNER: SUGAR WHIPPED BAKERY

Finalists: Andre's Confiserie Suisse, Kate Smith Soirée, Morgana's Gluten Free Bakery

BEST PLACE TO GET A WEDDING DRESS

WINNER: BRIDAL BY SHL

Finalists: Bridal Extraordinaire, Savvy Bridal, Something White Bridal Boutique

BEST WEDDING BAND

WINNER: LOST WAX

Finalists: Flashback, The Patrick Lentz Band, Post Clarity

BEST WEDDING DJ

WINNER: COMPLETE WEDDINGS + EVENTS

Finalists: DJ Code P, DJ Maverick, Feel The Music DJ, Smoov (Hot Mics Entertainment)

BEST WEDDING FLORIST

WINNER: FIDDLY FIG

Finalists: Botanical Floral Design, Lily Floral Collective, Studio Dan Meiners, Wild Hill Flowers and Events

BEST WEDDING HAIR STYLIST

WINNER: LOVELY BEAUTY KC

Finalists: Earth Tones Salon, Glam & Glow with Kalsie Jo LLC, Shelby Ayres Stylist & Educator, White Carpet Bride

BEST WEDDING JEWELER

WINNER: MEIEROTTO JEWELERS

Finalists: Brooks Fine Jewelers, Especially Jewelry, Helzberg, Krigel Mesh Diamonds, Vinca Jewelry



Photo courtesy of Sugar Whipped Bakery



Photo courtesy of Renata Zimmer Photography

BEST WEDDING MAKEUP ARTIST

WINNER: MAKEUP BY CINTHIA

Finalists: Glam & Glow with Kalsie Jo LLC, Hillary Rehms - @makeuphill, Lovely Beauty KC, Soft Glow Studio, White Carpet Bride

BEST WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: STAG & BIRD CURATED PHOTO EXPERIENCES

Finalists: Ashleigh Locke Photography, Cinder & Ivory, Jenny Jolley Photography, Renata Zimmer Photography

BEST WEDDING PLANNER

WINNER: THE PERFECT TOUCH KC

Finalists: Confetti Events, Creating Memories + More, Jeanette Carter Coordination, Onyx Events & Design

BEST WEDDING RECEPTION VENUE

WINNER: THE BRIM

Finalists: Ball Event Center, The Guild, The Hobbs, Sunset Ranch Wedding and Event Space, The Vineyard at J. Creek

BEST WEDDING VENUE

WINNER: THE BRIM

Finalists: The Guild, The Hobbs, La Villa, The Maverick, Sunset Ranch Wedding and Event Space

BEST WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHER

WINNER: TAYLOR'D FILM CO.

Finalists: Cinder & Ivory, Focus + Films, Glenwood Weddings, Optimum Visuals

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Strains vary daily but always over a dozen sale strains to choose from!

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The Pitch

1000	2000	7000
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Thank you, Kansas City!

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Pitch Best of KC 2026

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RUNNER-UP BEST RESTAURANT

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AQUA PENNY'S
NOMINATED BEST SEAFOOD

Pitch Best of KC 2026

PENNY'S IN THE VILLAGE
NOMINATED BEST THAI

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BAMBOO PENNY'S



AQUA PENNY'S



**PENNY'S
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