

GATEWAY ARCH PARK FOUNDATION

# VIEW 630'

FALL 2024



GATEWAY ARCH PARK  
FOUNDATION



## Front Desk Concert Brings Arch Alliance Together in Song

Earlier this fall, Arch Alliance members gathered in the Gateway Arch Visitor Center to perform their take on a recent National Park Service social media trend, the “Front Desk Concert” series. “The Eero Heads” (named as a nod to Arch architect Eero Saarinen) chose a rendition of Johnny Cash’s “Big River,” referencing the Mississippi River, which flows at the edge of Gateway Arch National Park. With representation from Gateway Arch Park Foundation, the National Park Service, and Bi-State Development, this collaboration was a lively and creative showing of partnership and the park’s unique connection to the river.

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## WINTERFEST

GATEWAY ARCH PARK FOUNDATION

BANK OF AMERICA

World Wide Technology

NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 31

Winterfest, presented by Bank of America and World Wide Technology, is bringing back all the fan favorites, including the Winterfest 5K, ice skating, s’mores stations and igloos underneath 100,000 twinkling lights in the shadow of the Gateway Arch. New this year, experience The Lodge at Winterfest, our holiday pop-up bar across from Kiener Plaza. Celebrate the winter season with us!

Visit [archpark.org/winterfest](http://archpark.org/winterfest) for details.



## Arch Alliance Partners



STAY CONNECTED

# From Our Executive Director

**Ryan McClure**

It was 59 years ago that St. Louisans celebrated the completion of the Gateway Arch—a monument representing dreams and discovery and an icon signaling the pride of the St. Louis region. The big idea behind the Arch wasn't just to shine a spotlight on our city, but it was also to design a space that would revive the riverfront.

That spirit of doing big things to support our region's vibrancy and accessibility has never waned. The CityArchRiver Project led by the Arch Alliance exemplified this commitment. This project brought together public and private entities to make Gateway Arch National Park, the Mississippi Riverfront, and Kiener Plaza easier to access and safer for everyone by connecting and invigorating the park's grounds and museums.

Last month, we again stood up to ensure that we—as St. Louisans—would play an integral role in the future of downtown. On September 19, we announced alongside our partners our plans to purchase the Millennium Hotel site. This critical location has been vacant since 2014, so when there was an opportunity to submit an offer, we knew we had to seize the moment.



This project beautifully aligns with our mission to better connect Gateway Arch National Park and its surroundings and nurture a vibrant, world-class experience for both residents and visitors from around the world. We will work tirelessly to ensure the community's priorities and best interests will be front and center, which means that St. Louis will have a role in what happens with this site—our region deserves that.

As we stood with our partners to announce this news, I was reminded that our community can take on monumental tasks when we do it together. Greater St. Louis, Inc., the City of St. Louis, and the St. Louis Development Corporation are with us every step of the way, showcasing yet again the importance of cross-sector collaborations for our region's success.

We also have the courage to pursue bold ideas because of you—our supporters. I hope you, too, feel that sense of civic pride when we take on transformational projects such as this. You made this happen. And, we hope news like this encourages others to join the effort.

This project is also not that different from what we do every single day at Gateway Arch Park Foundation. Whether it's bringing people downtown by hosting family-friendly events like Winterfest, ensuring that every child in St. Louis can experience our park, or preserving historic monuments like the Old Courthouse—we will always work to celebrate our city today while championing its future.

Thank you for standing with us in moments big and small.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

**Ryan B. McClure**

Executive Director, Gateway Arch Park Foundation



LOOKING BACK

# Picnic in Your Park

June 9, 2024

The Foundation welcomed over 280 picnic-goers at its marquee fundraiser

As the wind chills and leaves fall from the trees, we remember just a few months ago when Gateway Arch National Park sprung to life for the fourth annual Picnic in Your Park. In early June, hundreds of picnic-goers ushered in the warm weather, enjoying a delicious, catered lunch amidst the stunning backdrop of the Arch. The park was filled with the lively sounds of the Red and Black Brass Band, creating an energetic atmosphere as families participated in yard games, took in breathtaking views, and—new this year—explored our signature “What’s in Bloom” cart.

Since its inception in 2021, we have had the pleasure of watching Picnic in Your Park blossom into a vibrant early-summer tradition that brings the community together. With dozens of guests returning for their fourth Picnic in a row, we are overjoyed to see our community rally in the park to celebrate and support our mission each year.

Thanks to your generosity and enthusiastic participation in Picnic in Your Park, we raised more than \$80,700 in support of our mission. These funds are vital for providing conservation, preservation, education, and community programming at Gateway Arch National Park. Every contribution, including each basket purchase, uplifts our park, our city, and our region. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition and hope to see even more familiar faces at next year’s event!

SAVE THE DATE

# June 8, 2025

Picnic in Your Park returns on June 8, 2025. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Chris Casey, Manager of Corporate Partnerships, at [chris.casey@archpark.org](mailto:chris.casey@archpark.org).





## LOOKING BACK

# Blues at the Arch Festival

August 9-11, 2024

In its ninth year, the Festival drew record-breaking attendance

In August, the Foundation hosted its ninth annual Blues at the Arch Festival, presented by the Missouri Division of Tourism, in the North Gateway of Gateway Arch National Park. Produced in collaboration with the National Blues Museum and the National Park Service, the Festival hosted a curated lineup of talented blues artists that took a record-breaking audience of more than 15,500 people through a weekend celebration of blues across genres.

Friday's lineup included acts from Amber Bullock and DK Harrell, both drawing a crowd that filled the space with fans and blues-lovers alike. The soulful scene continued on Saturday, with lively performances from Jeremiah Johnson, The Soulard Blues Band, Lamar Harris, The SlideShow STL, Marquise Knox, and Nikki Hill. The Premium Experience, a new addition to the Festival this year, provided a stylish spot for attendees to cool off and meet their favorite artists. A fireworks display above the grounds, soundtracked by Nikki Hill and Marquise Knox, was the perfect end to Saturday night. The third annual Blues Brunch took place the following morning at 612North Event Space + Catering. While attendees enjoyed a gourmet brunch spread and views of the Festival grounds, The Coleman-Hughes Project elevated the experience with their smooth and dynamic performance.

Thank you to our partners, sponsors, and attendees for making this year's Festival a success. We look forward to celebrating 10 years of Blues at the Arch next summer.

### BY THE NUMBERS

15,500+  
Attendees

15  
Hours of Live Music

8  
Local Food & Drink Vendors



LOOKING FORWARD

# Winterfest 5K

November 23, 2024

Fourth annual Winterfest 5K returns to Downtown St. Louis

As cooler temps arrive, the Foundation eagerly awaits the kickoff of our annual Winterfest celebration with the Winterfest 5K on November 23. This 5K run is the perfect way to get outside and explore St. Louis while supporting our mission. Continue the tradition or start a new one by joining us on our unique downtown route.

Runners will take a scenic journey through Downtown St. Louis and Gateway Arch National Park. Beginning in Kiener Plaza, they'll get a first glimpse of the Winterfest decorations, jog past the Old Courthouse, and enter Gateway Arch National Park. On the grounds, they'll traverse through the 91-acre park, taking in sights such as the North Gateway, reflection ponds, the Riverfront, and, of course, the Arch! All participants will receive a medal and t-shirt, with winners receiving a special prize.

Those who still want to participate at a more leisurely pace can check out the 1-mile Fun Run/Walk! This route takes participants on a loop around the Gateway Arch, so you'll still take in that iconic view before crossing the finish line. And, for the first time ever, we are offering ice skating immediately following the 5K. Be sure to stick around and take a victory lap around the ice.



Head to [archpark.org/5K](https://www.archpark.org/5K) to register for the Winterfest 5K and Fun Run/Walk and learn more.



## ONGOING FUNDING

# Philanthropy Supports Park Projects

Learn more about the projects made possible by supporters like you

Beyond our highly visible projects and programs, like riverfront cleanups and free community events, we are proud to support Gateway Arch National Park in ways that may not be immediately noticeable to the two million visitors that come to the park each year.



### North Gateway Power Project

The 7.5-acre North Gateway in the park is a natural amphitheater, making it an ideal space for special events and concerts throughout the year, including our Blues at the Arch Festival. To better support existing events and attract future event organizers, we funded the work to bring additional power to this area of the park. This project was completed in July.



### New Welcome Desks

Work is underway to find new solutions for the existing Visitor Center Desk and welcome desk outside of Tucker Theater. The new desks will allow park staff to better assist visitors looking for general information, Junior Ranger activities, accessibility services, and park passes. The desks will also feature the National Park Service arrowhead logo.

### Updating Wayside Maps

Throughout the 91 acres of the park, there are more than 16 maps that provide helpful historical and directional information to visitors. With age and constant sun exposure, these waysides have faded and are difficult to read. We are currently working with the park to fund a project to update these signs with better protection from the elements and provide higher graphic contrast to make them accessible to those with visual impairments.



SPONSOR RECOGNITION

# Greater St. Louis, Inc.

Represented by Kurt Weigle,  
Sr. Vice President and Chief Downtown Officer



Kurt Weigle, Sr. Vice President and Chief Downtown Officer



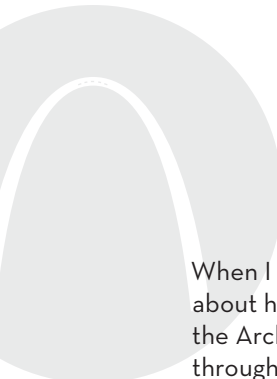
Greater St. Louis, Inc. is dedicated to driving inclusive economic growth throughout the 15-county St. Louis metro. For years, they have been a committed partner to Gateway Arch Park Foundation, showing their support on efforts from Winterfest to the recently announced intent to purchase the Millennium Hotel property.

**Their foresight, expertise, and convening power makes Greater St. Louis, Inc. a trusted and essential collaborator. We caught up with Kurt Weigle, Greater St. Louis, Inc.'s Chief Downtown Officer, to talk about why Gateway Arch National Park and the work of the Foundation are unique and critical assets to the future of St. Louis.**

**You're relatively new to St. Louis—you moved here in 2022. What were some of your first impressions of the Arch and the surrounding grounds?**

It may sound trite, but there is a magnetism to Gateway Arch National Park that immediately struck me when I moved here. It is an extraordinary international asset that represents innovation, creativity, new beginnings, and a grit that is so unique to this region. I think it's important to remind ourselves how special this monument is—it's always there, so it's easy to get used to it, but it really is something that we shouldn't shy away from when it comes to planning for St. Louis.





When I think about the future of our city, I think about how we can continue to anchor activity to the Arch. Take Paris as an example. Restaurants throughout that city have chairs facing sidewalks to watch people walk by. But—as soon as the Eiffel Tower is within the line of sight, all cafe chairs point towards the iconic monument.

I know we're a very different city than Paris, but I think we have the opportunity to do something similar and really special here—all things can point to the Arch, its beauty, and what it represents for St. Louis.

**You've had leadership roles in the downtown revitalization of other major cities like New Orleans and Detroit. What do you think makes St. Louis unique?**

One of the things that continues to impress me about St. Louis—historically and today—is that we are a city and a region that produces things with our hands. We manufacture fighter jets, automobiles, electronics, and let's not forget about beer! I think that creates a psyche that just feels different from other cities. We're not Silicon Valley, and we shouldn't try to be.

I believe what we make translates to the culture of our city. St. Louis and St. Louisans have guts. We've faced adversity in the past, but it has contributed to our toughness. The Finnish have a phrase called "Sisu"—it means strength of will, determination, perseverance, and acting rationally in the face of adversity. There's no one word that serves as a translation, but I think St. Louis represents the essence of it.

In fact, the video that you see at Gateway Arch National Park about the construction of the Arch speaks to the persona of St. Louis. You can feel that sense of pride the designers and the construction workers brought to their work—it was seeping out of them from St. Louis, in St. Louis, and for St. Louis. I still feel that today.

**A lot of your work is about partnership. What makes a successful partnership, and why does Gateway Arch Park Foundation make a strong partner for big projects like the Millennium Hotel project?**

A good partnership comes down to trust and commitment. Greater St. Louis, Inc. and Gateway Arch Park Foundation have always had inherent trust, not just on an organizational level but person to person, working alongside each other for the greater good of the community. When you have that kind of faith in your partners, almost anything is possible.

Creative problem solving is also essential to strong collaboration. We've always found that in our work with Gateway Arch Park Foundation, and the Millennium Hotel project is a perfect example of that. A massive hotel sat vacant in our downtown; our two organizations banded together with the St. Louis Development Corporation to think outside the box. To think what would happen if...how could we work together to... how could we ensure St. Louis is part of the future redevelopment? We are so grateful for the leadership of Gateway Arch Park Foundation on this effort.

**“Greater St. Louis, Inc. and Gateway Arch Park Foundation have always had inherent trust...working alongside each other for the greater good of the community.”**

**You spend a lot of time downtown. You work here, you live here. Do you have a favorite memory about downtown?**

It was a very simple moment, almost a meditative one. I was sitting in City Garden on a national holiday. I heard the trickle of water, the voices of children playing, the smell of freshly-cut grass, the grand sight of the Arch, the feel of a cool breeze. I honestly thought to myself...wow it doesn't get much better than this. It's one of my favorite moments because everyone around me was enjoying downtown in different ways. Some were reading books, kids were playing in the fountain, others were eating lunch—as a community everyone was in the same space, enjoying the day in the shadow of the Arch. It was really quite special.

# Old Courthouse Updates

## Past, Present, and Future of the Historic Renovations

In March 2020, the Old Courthouse closed its doors to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, like many other attractions, businesses, and offices. But, planning for the building's renovations continued behind the scenes to ensure that visitors would experience and connect with the Old Courthouse in new ways and learn about the significant moments in American history that occurred at this site.

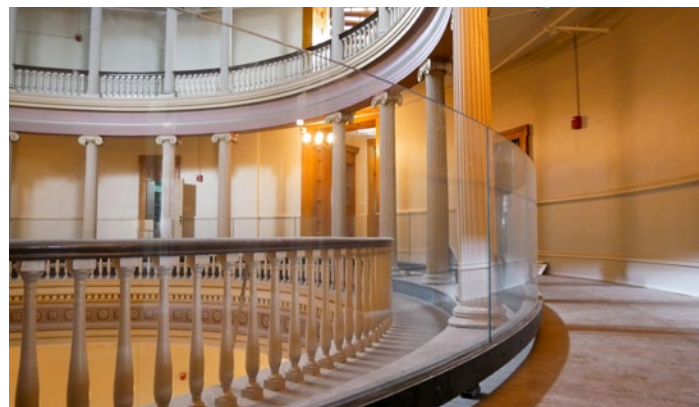
St. Louis-based Tarlton Corporation and Trivers were selected for construction, while U.K.-based Haley Sharpe Design focused on designing four new museum exhibit galleries. The Universal Design Group and the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation were also closely involved in pre-planning to ensure accessibility and historical accuracy would be present throughout the courthouse. In January 2023, community members and civic leaders joined with the National Park Service and the Foundation to officially kick off the historic renovations.

Last year saw several major milestones in the Old Courthouse's rehabilitation project. Non-historic walls and ceilings were torn down, and outdated appliances like radiators, air conditioners, and fire suppression systems were removed. An elevator shaft and large elevator bays were created in the building's first and second floor hallways while crews installed modern piping, ventilation, electrical, and heating systems throughout the building's skeleton. By 2024, the inner-workings of the building had been entirely modernized.



This past summer, the focus shifted to restoring the building's public-facing features. Plaster walls were repaired and ceilings were installed in preparation for incoming exhibits and office spaces. A curved, glass guardrail was installed on the second floor of the building's iconic rotunda to improve visitor safety and maintain visibility for guests. On top of improved walls and floors, the courthouse's four wings and gift shop space were updated with bright, adjustable lighting, which will complement future exhibits, artwork, and merchandise. As construction fencing comes down this fall, those who live and work downtown will notice the building's exterior changes, including restored exterior windows and accessible entrance ramps.

The building's first elevator was also installed this summer. This two-story, family-sized elevator is specially designed to bring guests with mobility challenges and other members of their party between the first and second floors of the building, creating a universally accessible visitor experience.



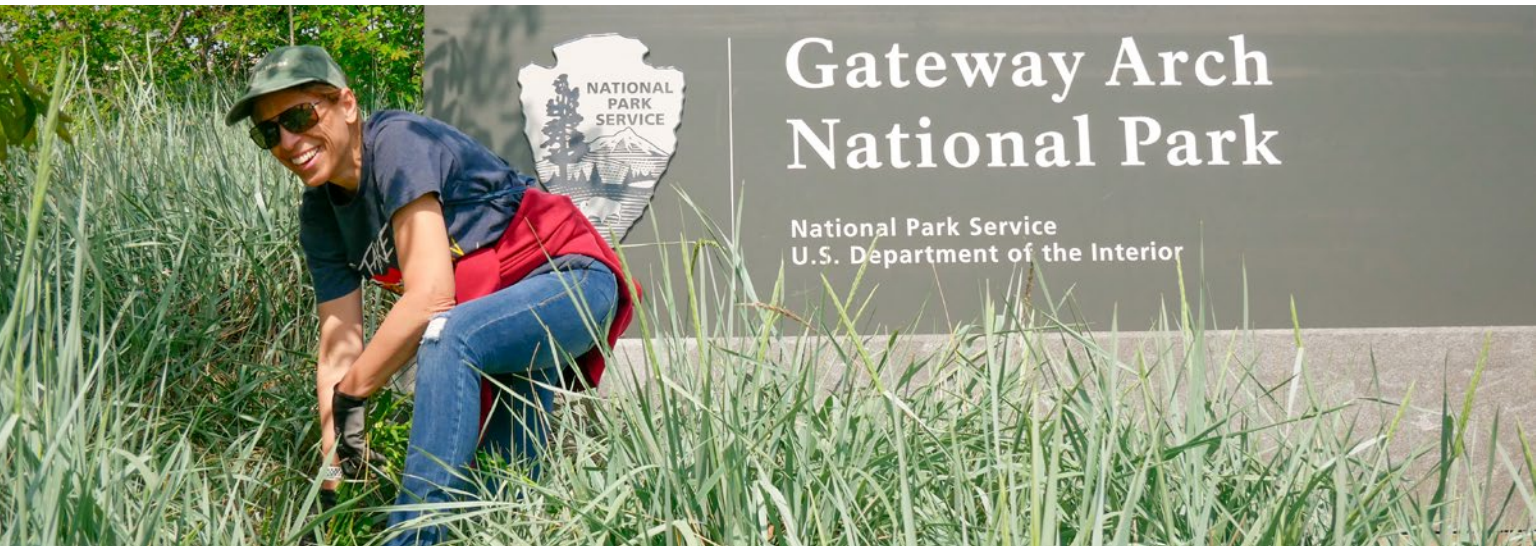
Looking ahead to early 2025, the building will soon welcome four new museum galleries in its first-floor wings. These exhibits will feature information on the legacy of Dred and Harriet Scott, African American life in St. Louis during the pre- and post-Civil War eras, the role of courts in society, and the architectural, art, and craftsmanship features of the Old Courthouse. Meanwhile, National Park Service staff will return to their updated offices on the building's second floor.

These historic renovations would not be complete without you, our St. Louis community, to enjoy them. A grand reopening ceremony and festival will take place in late Spring 2025, featuring distinguished speakers, musical performances, and interactive activities—a celebration not to be missed—followed by programming from the National Park Service and park partners throughout the year. We look forward to seeing visitors in the halls of the Old Courthouse again.



# Bio Blitz/iNaturalist

## GAPF Launches New Ecological Monitor Volunteer Position



Earlier this year, we introduced a brand-new volunteer initiative that spans all four Foundation mission pillars: community programming, conservation, preservation, and education. Even in its urban landscape, many native species call Gateway Arch National Park home, and our new Ecological Monitor Position works to identify them, with the help of data from park visitors and volunteers.

Using a smartphone app called iNaturalist, these keen-eyed volunteers take pictures of birds, insects, arachnids, and other creatures seen throughout the park. The park, St. Louis community members, and more can then access and use this data to know which critters are living on the grounds. In the past few months alone, there have been nearly 200 observations of 88 species made by over 50 volunteers, with around 300 other “eco-monitors” chiming in to suggest species’ identifications.

During April’s National Park Week, we also hosted Gateway Arch National Park’s first-ever BioBlitz in partnership with the National Park Service. A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time, usually 24 hours. Our first BioBlitz was such a success that we hosted a second session during National Public Lands Day on September 28.

Beyond making an impact for Gateway Arch National Park, this program has also broadened the Foundation’s volunteer efforts by offering a more science-based and time-flexible option for those looking to get involved locally and an opportunity to get outside and explore the park in a new way. In addition to drawing urban ecology enthusiasts, it provides another way for families or more independent volunteers to get involved.

If this program sounds like something you’d enjoy, head to our website to register to become a volunteer. Winter is one of the best times of the year for observations since there are fewer people out and new varieties of species to discover.



Become a Volunteer, visit  
[archpark.org/volunteer](http://archpark.org/volunteer)

## MEET THE TEAM

# Foundation Staff, Lately

## See what our colleagues have been up to this year

The staff at the Foundation goes above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to drive even more impact in the region and in our industry.



### Being Featured in the News

Our Volunteer Manager, Grace Teofilo, had the opportunity to share her experience and reflections on stepping into her new role at Gateway Arch Park Foundation in *Legacy Magazine*, the National Association for Interpretation's premier periodical. Within the article, Grace shared her advice to young interpretation professionals on how to lead as a first-time manager and how her position at the Foundation allows her to build connections with the passionate St. Louis volunteer community. It's exciting to see Grace shine on the national stage of interpretation professionals and be recognized for the enthusiasm and tenacity she brings to her role here at the Foundation.



### Leading Conference Sessions

Over the summer, Meagan Beattie, Senior Manager, Operations and Volunteer Engagement, held an informative session at Greater & Greener, a multi-day conference from City Parks Alliance that explores the power of urban parks, held this year in Seattle. She led a group of park decision-makers and innovators through a conversation about the vision behind the CityArchRiver Project that reimagined our hometown national park and surrounding areas and outlined the steps that were taken throughout the project to protect those original values. The Foundation is a clear thought leader in the urban parks space, and we're thankful to Meagan for representing us among peer organizations and sharing her subject matter expertise on this topic.



### Volunteering in the Region

Arielle Claypool, Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing, was inducted to the Regional Business Council's Young Professionals Network Leadership 100 cohort. This cohort, selected due to its members' demonstrated leadership and service to the community, provides professional, cultural, and community service opportunities that offer unique experiences and engagement across St. Louis. Since her induction, Arielle has participated in valuable experiences that make an impact on the St. Louis region. Arielle is an amazing representation of the Foundation's efforts in the community. Congratulations to Arielle and the rest of this year's cohort!

SAVE THE DATE

# Ninth Annual Winterfest

November 23-December 31, 2024



Winterfest, presented by Bank of America and World Wide Technology, returns to Downtown St. Louis for its ninth year this November. The season-long celebration is bringing back all the fan favorites, including ice skating, s'mores stations, and igloos illuminated by 100,000 twinkling lights in the shadow of the Gateway Arch. Guests can also look forward to several special events including the Ameren Missouri Festival of Lights, free skate rentals for all on opening day, courtesy of Ameren, and free skate rentals for kids on Fridays, courtesy of the St. Louis Blues, visits from princess and superheroes, and a

family-friendly New Year's Eve spectacular, made possible with support from Greater St. Louis, Inc.

Plus, for the first time since 2017, Winterfest's footprint is expanding! The Lodge at Winterfest, St. Louis' newest holiday pop-up bar, opens on November 23 at UKRAFT Brunch Café, located just across 7th Street from Kiener Plaza.



Join the fun at [archpark.org/Winterfest](https://archpark.org/Winterfest)



Show your support for our mission with a set of our new holiday cards.

Featuring an incredible photo by local photographer and friend, George Eichelberger, these cards capture the spirit and beauty of the winter season in Gateway Arch National Park.

# Members are Monumental

## THANK YOU

If you're already a Foundation member, please know that we are sincerely grateful for your investment in our mission. We appreciate you being an ambassador for our nonprofit by sharing our social media posts, forwarding our emails, wearing our merch, and inviting your friends and family to our events. You make it all possible.



When you become a Foundation member, not only do you help us sustain our hometown national park and make a difference in our city, but you also get access to incredible perks.

Members at the Supporter level and above receive Tram Ride to the Top passes, free and discounted downtown parking with no blackout dates, and shopping discounts at some of your favorite local retailers, including the Arch Store and the Foundation's online store. On top of that, you get access to exclusive benefits, including discounts on our newest holiday popup, The Lodge at Winterfest.

Visit [archpark.org/membership](https://archpark.org/membership) or contact Alissa Korn, Assistant Director of Individual Giving and Stewardship, at [alissa.korn@archpark.org](mailto:alissa.korn@archpark.org) to learn how to become a member.

## GIFTS OF STOCK

Have you considered supporting Gateway Arch Park Foundation with a gift of stock? When you make a gift of publicly traded stock that has appreciated over more than one year, you could make a larger impact for the Foundation while also providing you with potential tax benefits.

**For more information, please contact Amanda Goldsmith, Director of Philanthropy and External Affairs, at 314-881-3535 or [amanda.goldsmith@archpark.org](mailto:amanda.goldsmith@archpark.org).**

Please note: Gateway Arch Park Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional financial, tax, and legal advisors when considering a charitable gift.



Join or renew now at [archpark.org/membership](https://archpark.org/membership)



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## GATEWAY ARCH PARK FOUNDATION OUR MISSION

The official philanthropic partner and conservancy of Gateway Arch National Park, Gateway Arch Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public spaces, and attractions will be a vital, welcoming, and well-supported resource for the community and nation for generations to come.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION The Arch belongs to everyone.

Gateway Arch Park Foundation seeks to create inclusive environments for people to be themselves by identifying, accepting, embracing, and celebrating our differences. We are authentic in our work in Gateway Arch National Park and Downtown St. Louis by creating places, programming, and experiences that reflect the community. **We are committed to ensuring all feel welcome at the Arch.**

## LOOKING AHEAD UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 23: Winterfest 5K

Registration is now open for our fourth annual Winterfest 5K and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk, the only official run/walk that journeys through Gateway Arch National Park and also supports the park!



### November 23–December 31: Winterfest

This ninth annual seasonal festival in Kiener Plaza features ice skating, cozy igloos, s'mores stations, New Year's Eve fireworks, and more.



[archpark.org/events](https://archpark.org/events) | @gatewayarchpark