Did You Know
Learn interesting facts about your Gateway Arch National Park.

Kiener Plaza is named after Harry Kiener, a USA Track & Field member who competed at the 1904 Olympics.

On August 20, we celebrate the 100th birthday of the designer of the Arch, Eero Saarinen!

The Old Courthouse, designed by architect William Rumbold, modeled the wrought- and cast-iron dome after St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

Celebrate the 55th birthday of the Arch on October 28!

The Captains’ Return - a sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and their dog, Seaman - is located on the riverfront, just north of the Arch.

Preserving History at the Old Courthouse
St. Louis was a significant part of our U.S. History

The grand architecture of the Old Courthouse at Gateway Arch National Park provided an awe-inspiring setting for the first trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case, and is also where Virginia Minor’s case for a woman’s right to vote came to trial.

Together with the National Park Service, we are committed to preserving and protecting this historical treasure - both the physical building and the history housed inside it - for future generations.

With renovations to the Gateway Arch museum and visitor center, park grounds, St. Louis Riverfront and Kiener Plaza complete, now comes the final component of the $380-million CityArchRiver project: vastly improving the visitor experience at the Old Courthouse.

A project jointly funded by the National Park Service and Gateway Arch Park Foundation, this will be only the second significant renovation to the Old Courthouse since it was built between 1839 and 1862 (the original building was expanded during this time). Structural updates, which will help revitalize and maintain the building’s integrity, include a new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system, renovated ceilings and flooring, a new fire suppression system, and general restoration and improvements. Additional renovations include the installation of an elevator for greater accessibility within the building, in conjunction with the wheelchair ramps that were previously installed at both entrances to the building.

The most visible improvement for visitors will be new and updated exhibit galleries. Designed by Haley Sharpe Design in conjunction with Gateway Arch National Park staff, exhibits will engage visitors with stories about the Old Courthouse and the people who sought justice under its roof, including:

Northeast Gallery: The Dred and Harriet Scott Decision – Focusing on both the human and legal sides of Dred and Harriet Scott’s struggle for freedom, which began in this courthouse; exploring how the legal and political environment at the time culminated in the infamous U.S. Supreme Court Decision; and reflecting on the legacy and relevancy of the Dred Scott case today.

Northwest Gallery: Pathways to Freedom - The exhibits in this gallery explore slavery in St. Louis; the tortured legacy of enslaved individuals seeking freedom; post-Civil War St. Louis; the civil rights movement; and more.

Southwest Gallery: Designed for Justice - The exhibits in this gallery highlight the architectural features of the Old Courthouse and the spirit of innovation of the architects, designers, builders and craftsmen.

Southwest Gallery: In this interactive space, visitors can explore how courts function by role-playing the various officers of the court, jury members or litigants in a lawsuit. Wall-mounted exhibits examine the importance of courts in our society and show how a case moves through the court system from initial suit to appeals through various court levels, and finally up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Renovations to the Courthouse will begin later this year. We are eager to embark on this project that will bring new ways to connect with history at the Old Courthouse. Please follow along at archpark.org.

Places

The land for the Old Courthouse was donated for use as a public square by Auguste Chouetteau and J. B. C. Lucas. The historic building, once the tallest in Missouri, was designed in the Greek Revival style. The dome of the Old Courthouse is wrought and cast iron with a copper exterior.

Four lutenets in the dome have paintings by Carl Wimar, a German-American painter who specialized in Western scenes. These paintings depict four significant events in St. Louis history,
Dear Friends,

So much has changed since our last newsletter to you. Every single one of us has been forced with a worldwide pandemic and seen how it has threatened our health and drastically changed our everyday life. We are struggling to find a new normal and to figure out what that means for our loved ones and our lives.

In times like this, it is so important to find moments of gratitude and joy. We know it is important to get fresh air and be outside while following the social distancing recommendations of health officials. While the Arch and Old Courthouse closed on March 18 until further notice, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have an urban national park in the center of our downtown. Time outside is good for our spirits in periods of uncertainty. The park surrounding the Arch is still open and spacious enough to let all of us give one another the social distance our leaders are recommending and the fresh air our bodies need to recharge.

I also think about the courage the Gateway Arch represents—the American Spirit that drives us to overcome insurmountable odds. We need that spirit now more than ever. Here at Gateway Arch Park Foundation, we continue to be driven by that spirit and support the park we love. While ensuring that our staff is safe and healthy, we continue our work for the park and international icon that represent St. Louis to the entire world. Our mission to keep the Arch vital, welcoming and well supported for generations to come does not stop, but we need your continued support to make that happen.

Last year, Gateway Arch Park Foundation programming brought 45,000 people to the Park to enjoy Blues at the Arch, yoga, Winterfest ice skating, and so much more. As soon as it is safe, we cannot wait to continue bringing those programs to our community and its visitors.

I close this letter by thanking you for believing in Gateway Arch National Park and what it means to our community as a whole and as a symbol of resilience and courage. Do not hesitate to reach out to us during this time of uncertainty. We are here for you.

Take Care,

Ryan McClure
Executive Director
Gateway Arch Park Foundation

Gateway Arch Park Foundation

Gateway Arch Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure that the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public space and attractions is a vital, welcoming and well supported resource for the community and nation for generations to come.

Carolyn Holez Betz (Corporation Counsel), President and Executive Director, Corporation Holdings Foundation

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Amanda Goldsmith, Esq., as director of development

CityArchRiver Alliance Partners

Shaniqua Jones, Communications Manager
There is no doubt that St. Louis is a blues town. Whether we are listening to our favorite local artists or cheering on the home team, we can’t get enough of the blues. St. Louisans have loved blues music dating back to the early 1930s, when locals would come to The Old Rock House to hear the soulful melodies of Rock House Annie. Not only has blues music played a significant role in St. Louis’ history, but many believe it is the foundation for American music today. The event is produced by Gateway Arch Park Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and the National Blues Museum. We are proud to continue the tradition of Blues at the Arch, a celebration of music and culture that brings local and national blues artists together. Blues music has always had a way of uniting us all, and just in time for summer, Blues at the Arch, presented by Emerson, returns for its fifth year, bringing us together again to celebrate. We invite the entire community to come and enjoy live blues music, as this concert series is sure to lift your spirit and ignite the passion in your soul. This family-friendly event is free and guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages. The fun kicks off on August 7 and continues every Friday in August from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This year’s lineup is full of talented blues musicians who are sure to have you dancing the night away. Blues at the Arch takes place in the renovated North Gateway of Gateway Arch National Park, next to Laclede’s Landing. We are working closely with our partners to ensure a safe event for our visitors. While the event may look different this year, we guarantee the music will always sound incredible. Stay tuned for event updates and more information about our amazing artists at archpark.org/blues.

**EXPLORE**

**Welcome to Flora’s House**

**A Gateway Arch Museum Gallery Glimpse**

The Gateway Arch Museum has been completely renovated and reimagined, featuring six new galleries that cover 201 years of history that tell the stories of many who journeyed to St. Louis. Let’s travel back to the mid-1700s—a time much different than the one we know today, before St. Louis became the hometown that we all know and love so much.

St. Louis’ colonial period, from 1764 to 1804, is one of the six newly designed galleries featured in the Museum at the Gateway Arch. Here, you’ll find stories of early Spanish and French settlers, enslaved workers, American Indians, and African free persons of color. During this period, it was common for diverse people who lived in this region to defy cultural norms of the era. They were neighbors, friends, and some even intermarried.

Within the Colonial St. Louis exhibit, you will see a French Colonial Home called Flora’s House. French and Caribbean cultures greatly influenced the architecture of homes and buildings, including this one. Many visitors might think the most interesting thing about this home is its design, but Gateway Arch National Park historians believe there is more to the story. Flora’s House tells the story of a free black woman who owned a home similar to the one on display. Inside the home, there is a painting showing Flora with Spanish Governor Pedro Piernas as she finalizes the contract to purchase her new home. This story adds new context to what life may have been like for some free blacks during this time—some owned their own homes and participated in village society. With the additional historical references included in the new museum, visitors will learn from stories like Flora’s that show a variety of perspectives throughout different periods. For information about this exhibit, visit archpark.org/museum-at-the-gateway-arch.

**EVENT**

**A Celebration of Music and Culture**

**Blues at the Arch returns for a fifth fantastic year!**

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**2020 BLUES AT THE ARCH CONCERT SCHEDULE**

- **AUGUST 7, 2020**
  - Uvee Hayes 6–7:15 p.m.
  - Shemekia Copeland 7:30–9 p.m.
- **AUGUST 14, 2020**
  - Little Dylan 6–7:15 p.m.
  - Jontavious Willis 7:30–9 p.m.
- **AUGUST 21, 2020**
  - Kingdom Brothers 6–7:15 p.m.
  - Torenza Cannon and The Chicago Way 7:30–9 p.m.
- **AUGUST 28, 2020**
  - Carolyn Mason 6–7:15 p.m.
  - My, SHA 7:30–9 p.m.

**SPONSORS**

**2019 in Best Cultural/Worship Category!**

- Mz. ShA
- Carolyn Mason
- T oronzo Cannon
- Kingdom Brothers
- Jontavious Willis
- Li/ttle Dylan
- Shemekia
- Uvee Hayes
- Cary Copeland
- Carolyn Mason
- My, SHA
- T oronzo Cannon
- Kingdom Brothers
- Jontavious Willis
- Li/ttle Dylan
- Shemekia
- Uvee Hayes
- Cary Copeland
- Carolyn Mason
- My, SHA

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Has your special event been canceled or rescheduled due to the current stay-at-home orders? Looking ahead to when we can gather again, dates are available for fall 2020 and beyond for corporate events and weddings. Contact us for more information about hosting a MONUMENTAL event at the Museum at Gateway Arch National Park.

www.archpark.org/privateevents

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You already know being a member of Gateway Arch Park Foundation has many benefits:

- The knowledge that your contributions are making a difference every day in preserving our urban national park and the Museum at the Gateway Arch
- Pride in your personal connection to our iconic monument
- Member passes and discounts that make your Arch visits even more special

We are entering VIP season. Join or renew your membership today so you don’t miss out on these upcoming member-only events:

- Due to the cancellation of Fair Saint Louis Fireworks celebration, the Eero Saarinen Society members watch party at the Gateway Arch Park Foundation office is canceled for 2020. We are looking forward to hosting this event again in 2021.
- Blues at the Arch member tent with complimentary dinner and refreshments to kick off the Blues at the Arch concert series on August 7.
- Eero Saarinen Society Members enjoy exclusive events every year. This fall a new experience is in the works for our members at the $1,000 level and above.
- Member event at Winterfest to be announced in our next newsletter!

Visit archpark.org/membership to join or renew your membership today!

RSV(i)P to Member Events
Celebrate with Gateway Arch Park Foundation

Stop and look around.
It’s a beautiful world out there. Springtime in downtown St. Louis.
@eichelbergerphoto

There’s nothing better than blue skies, sunny days and the Gateway Arch. Keep your head up St. Louis - we got this! @jminerbro

Social Connections

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Everyone loves the @gatewayarchch -- just ask @shaggytravels! We can’t get over how cute this photo is, and we hope this midday pick-me-up helps to brighten your day, too!