Did you know?

Gateway Arch National Park recently celebrated what would’ve been the 101st birthday of Richard “Dick” Bowser, inventor of one of the most unique transportation systems in the world: the Arch’s Tram Ride to the Top.

Born Sept. 15, 1921, Bowser was a second-generation elevator manufacturer who was asked by Gateway Arch architect Eero Saarinen to devise a way to bring visitors to the top of the Arch and back down. The project was challenging given the Arch’s curve (much narrower at the top than at the base) and the fact that he had to accommodate an observation platform at the top, as well as space for an emergency stairway.

Bowser was given just two weeks to come up with a design! He was hired to build and install the tram, which opened in 1967, two years after the Arch’s completion. He served as tram maintenance supervisor until 1972 and is known as a trailblazer in innovation and an important figure in Arch history.

An Iconic Evening

Thursday, October 27
There’s still time to reserve your spot at our biggest fundraising event of the year! Celebrate the birthday of the Gateway Arch at An Iconic Evening, featuring incredible food and drinks, live entertainment and a great atmosphere. You’ll have a chance to take a tram ride to the top of the country’s tallest monument, take in illuminated night views of the St. Louis skyline and enjoy private access to our state-of-the-art Museum.

Best of all, your attendance supports our mission of sustaining our hometown national park for generations to come.

Get your ticket by October 19 at archpark.org/iconic.
Autumn is here, and we’re excited to usher in our busiest — and most colorful — season of the year here at Gateway Arch Park Foundation.

I am so pleased to report to you that after two years of virtual concerts, our first Blues at the Arch back in person was an enormous success. We welcomed nearly 9,000 guests over the three days of festivities. There aren’t many annual, Downtown events outside of Cardinals and Blues games that draw that type of crowd in a weekend, and we’re thrilled to do our part to invigorate the city’s core with a festival that celebrates the best of St. Louis. We heard great feedback from guests of all ages and backgrounds praising the music, vendors, affordability (free!), and atmosphere. One of my favorite comments came from a dad who said this event gave him the chance to enjoy fantastic music with his teenage son, and another who said he was happy to have a place to go that was safe for young children to run around while also relaxing and fun for the adults.

We are so grateful to you — our loyal supporters — for making this event possible for our community. Not only are you helping connect St. Louisans to one another, but you’re helping families create new memories together right here under the Arch.

Looking ahead, we still have so much in store in 2022, including our biggest fundraiser of the year, “An Iconic Evening” on Oct. 27. We’ll also be hosting our Salute to Veterans tribute concert on Nov. 5, our Winterfest 5K on Nov. 19, and an incredible Winterfest lineup every weekend from Nov. 19 through Jan. 1. You’ll find details about all these events and more in the following pages.

Also in this edition of the View 630’, we’re introducing a new series spotlighting two of the local entrepreneurs with whom the Foundation has partnered to offer our city unique experiences at the Arch. We view our events not just as the phenomenal programs they are for St. Louisans to enjoy, but as opportunities to shine a spotlight on some of the incredible movers and shakers in our hometown. This “Supporting Local” series will showcase the ways in which the Foundation and our small business partners mutually lift each other up.

In addition to our hyper-local community involvement, we’ve been going national! As a board member of the National Park Friends Alliance, I’ve recently had the opportunity to be more involved in the movement for national parks taking place across the United States. Our Foundation hosted a Friends Alliance reception this past spring in St. Louis, and our team is helping to plan this fall’s Friends Alliance Meeting at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In these and other ways, we continue to be part of a collective voice representing the interests of national parks, urban parks, their conservancies and their local communities at the national level.

Thank you for everything you do to uplift our conservancy, our hometown park and our St. Louis region. As you can see, your support has untold ripple effects, and we are grateful to have you with us.

Hope to see you soon,

Ryan B. McClure
Executive Director, Gateway Arch Park Foundation
LOOKING BACK

Blues at the Arch Festival
August 12–14

Our Blues at the Arch Festival — the seventh installment and the first one back in person after two years of virtual concerts — was a great success! Produced in partnership with the National Blues Museum and the National Park Service, the Festival paid tribute to St. Louis’ rich blues history.

For the first time, this year’s Festival offered a variety of food trucks — including a special partnership with Brewers’ Heritage featuring local craft brews and cocktails — a Kids Korner encouraging musical experimentation and education, a performance by Circus Harmony, a Barre3 fitness class, local artists and a Blues Brunch.

Thank you for attending and contributing to such a fantastic event in Downtown St. Louis. We are also grateful to our sponsors and partners for helping make the event possible. We’ll see you next year at the North Gateway of Gateway Arch National Park!
LOOKING FORWARD

Salute to Veterans Concert
1–2 p.m. | Saturday, November 5

Honoring the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. military veterans, this program will feature a performance by the Missouri Brass Quintet from the 399th Army Band based at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Co-hosted by the National Park Service, the performance will include both patriotic and traditional repertoire. Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert will take place outdoors at Luther Ely Smith Square. Learn more at archpark.org/veterans.

Winterfest 5K
7:30 a.m. | Saturday, November 19

Presented by Caleres and produced in partnership with Big River Running, the second annual Winterfest 5K kicks off the six-week Winterfest season in Kiener Plaza.

The only official run routing through Kiener Plaza and Gateway Arch National Park, the 5K offers runners and walkers alike magnificent views and a chance to experience the park in a new way. It doesn’t get more “St. Louis” than this!

Participants get a Winterfest 5K t-shirt and medal, and winners will receive additional prizes. An added bonus - Foundation members receive $10 off registration! Don’t miss this great wellness event supporting our mission.

Learn more and register at archpark.org/5K.
Bank of America has been a longtime supporter of Gateway Arch Park Foundation, dating back to before the Foundation became a conservancy during the days of the CityArchRiver project to transform the Arch grounds.

Today, the company is a presenting sponsor of Winterfest — the Foundation’s largest community event and an annual St. Louis holiday tradition — while St. Louis market executive Katie Fischer serves on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

We caught up with Katie to talk about why Gateway Arch National Park is so important to Bank of America and to her own family.

How has the partnership between Gateway Arch Park Foundation and Bank of America grown over time?
We’ve been a supporter of the Arch for many years and were thrilled to have been a part of the largest public/private partnership project in the history of the National Park Service in 2018, which included “the lid” (over the highway). It makes me proud to see what we can accomplish in St. Louis when we collaborate. I am so thankful that a committed group of people carried out that vision and made it a reality, and I think that it completely changes for the better how our visitors experience the Arch.

We’re happy to continue our support of Gateway Arch Park Foundation and serve as co-presenting sponsor of Winterfest. It aligns nicely to our commitment to Downtown, and it helps attract people to experience Downtown to celebrate the holidays. We look forward to seeing it continue to grow.
Why is it important for Bank of America to support Gateway Arch Park Foundation?
The Arch is our biggest and best gem. It connects us all, defines us, brings us great pride, and it’s our icon.

What has surprised you over the years in working with Gateway Arch Park Foundation?
It’s a privilege to serve and see firsthand the impact of the work of the dedicated Foundation team: how they steward the Arch, how they ensure that it’s in great shape for generations to come and how they take their role really seriously. And I have confidence they’ll continue to do that, reach new heights, and continue to do more.

What do you think St. Louisans should know about Gateway Arch National Park?
We have this incredible national park in our front yard. Not many cities get that. It’s so deserving of our consistent appreciation.

I enjoy having the opportunity to walk to the Arch during my workday from my office Downtown.

We cannot underestimate what Eero Saarinen and his vision did for our region. I’m so thankful that the judges back in 1948 selected his design, because we could’ve ended up with something different that might not have attracted as many people and served as an icon. He was ahead of his time, and we (St. Louisans) were forward-thinking.

What would you tell other businesses that are considering supporting the Foundation?
They’re a great partner. Their values, brand and vision align nicely with ours. There is really something in a partnership for companies of all sizes.

And again, it’s a special landmark that means so much to all of us and helps us build a thriving community. It is part of the fabric of our region – the whole bi-state region.

What has the Arch meant to your family over the years?
I am a native St. Louisan. For me, when I see it, I know I’m home. And I think it’s about the 11-mile marker in Illinois when it first comes into view.

It’s the No. 1 stop of all our family and friends visiting St. Louis, so by now I’ve been to the top dozens of times. It never gets old. I love telling the story of the Arch. Most of my holiday cards have my children, who are now grown, in front of the Arch at every stage of their lives. And watching fireworks here for the Fourth of July, it’s the perfect backdrop.
GET TO KNOW

Volunteers Contribute to Park Sustainability

Our volunteers continue to make a big impact at Gateway Arch National Park.

With the introduction of our Volunteer Program in 2021, co-managed with our partners at the National Park Service (NPS) and building upon the existing NPS program, volunteers from across St. Louis and beyond have been contributing to new sustainability efforts at the park.

By having so many volunteers contribute to park conservation through planting, caretaking and pollution-reduction projects, NPS has greater capacity to effectively respond to biodiversity challenges such as invasive species and promote a healthier environment in Downtown St. Louis.

“Volunteers are essential to fulfill our mission of ensuring the Gateway Arch, its grounds and neighboring public spaces are vital, welcoming and well-supported for the community for generations to come,” said Meagan Patterson, volunteer manager at Gateway Arch Park Foundation. “We would not be able to sustain this beautiful urban green space without their efforts and dedication.”

We’re excited to highlight some of these recent efforts here.

Corporate Volunteers

One of the hallmarks of our Volunteer Program is the ability to engage corporate volunteer groups and facilitate corporate stewardship of our shared public lands.

In August, 10 volunteers from Abstrakt Marketing Group took on a project to cut seed heads off Johnson grass and simultaneously cut the grass back in the North Gateway meadow in order to mitigate the number of seeds being distributed naturally, reduce the spread of the invasive species and eradicate it from the area.

“This is going to allow our partners at NPS the ability to overseed the area and have the appropriate grasses thrive,” said Patterson.

And in October, 22 participants from Edward Jones cleared the fencing along the railroad trestle near the Lenore K. Sullivan Boulevard, which helped eradicate thistle and invasive species from the area.
“I think it’s important to give back to the community and do some beautifying work around one of our great national monuments,” said Mike McMahon, one of the volunteers. “They [the grounds crew] do a great job keeping it nice for all the people who come to see the Arch.”

Volunteer Groups
We’ve also been thrilled to welcome several special volunteer groups to advance sustainability at the park.

In April, we hosted nine Cub Scouts who helped spread mulch around shrubs and trees in the park next to the “Old Cathedral.”

We also had 10 volunteers from AmeriCorps join us in June to plant 224 Blue Zinger sedge plants near the north leg of the Arch.

“In this area, the NPS team had started with a different type of sedge that was not holding up in that environment,” Patterson said. “They did a test plot and noticed that the Blue Zinger held up perfectly. AmeriCorps helped reestablish that area with the appropriate sedge that is going to fill the area’s needs aesthetically and functionally.”

Days of Service
Finally, our “days of service” events invite individual volunteers as well as groups to team up for large-scale cleanup projects.

As part of Earth Day weekend, we hosted a “day of service” cleanup of the St. Louis Riverfront on April 23, welcoming 50 volunteers from across the region. Together, they collected 35 full bags of trash, 40 pounds of plastic, 10 pounds of metal scraps, 30 pounds of wet fabric and 14 pounds of glass, keeping it out of the Mississippi River.

And on Sept. 24, for National Public Lands Day, we welcomed 54 volunteers for a Riverfront and park cleanup, who collected 37 bags of trash (803 pounds of trash and recyclables), including 50 pounds of plastic and 13 pounds of metal and aluminum.

The Mississippi River is one of the largest sources of oceanic plastic debris, so by keeping trash out of the river, our volunteers subsequently helped keep it out of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean – and helped keep St. Louis’ “front door” looking amazing.

The Volunteer Program at Gateway Arch National Park continues to grow, with 2,920 hours served in 2022 (as of Oct. 1). Looking to the future, volunteer leaders at the Foundation and NPS hope to expand with new volunteer opportunities to reach a much larger audience.

“Volunteers have made a huge impact on sustainability, visitor experience and event satisfaction based on the feedback we’ve received over the past two years,” said Patterson.

“One of the most rewarding aspects is seeing the excitement of so many volunteers as they realize the significance of their work and how their ‘day of service’ truly helps keep the park beautiful for so many people who enjoy it,” she continued. “I’ve met people from all walks of life who contribute for a variety of reasons – care for the environment, love of St. Louis, wanting to make new friends or have a fun outing with coworkers – but they ultimately leave as park stewards even more committed to this mission.”

GET INVOLVED!
To learn more about becoming a volunteer at Gateway Arch National Park, contact our volunteer manager Meagan Patterson at meagan.patterson@archpark.org.
It’s an honor to be writing to you as chair of the Gateway Arch Park Foundation Board of Trustees. I have enjoyed serving this past year in this role after being actively involved as a board member since 2018, and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

I first became acquainted with the Foundation when the Arch grounds were still under construction during the CityArchRiver project, shortly before the reopening. John McDonnell, a board member at that time, introduced me to the organization and asked me to consider getting involved. It’s hard to overstate how important I think this treasure in Downtown St. Louis is, knowing what an asset it is to the community, and I thought, “What more important thing could I be involved in?”

At that time, I was impressed by the capabilities and energy of the staff and all they were taking on, and that has only grown over the years. The Foundation’s leadership and staff today, while a small team, is an especially strong one.
During the past few years, as you know, we’ve made a transition from CityArchRiver “project manager” to a conservancy. We’ve been building out the staff, which was originally oriented toward construction and is now focused on operations. The progress we’ve made in that regard — the strong position that Foundation operations are in at the current time — is what I’m most pleased about.

We’ve been seeking new sources of revenue, ensuring we are in a good place to continue to steward the growth and success of this park for future generations, and enhancing our fundraising capabilities. We’ve also implemented a DEI program that elevates our ability to achieve our mission and best serve the entire St. Louis community.

Executive Director Ryan McClure and the Board have put into place a strong strategic framework, incorporating themes integral to the original CityArchRiver project, with an overall message that we are doing everything we can to bring people Downtown by enhancing the Arch experience and contributing to the region’s vibrancy.

And there are things we are doing with the National Park Service that we have never done before, including supporting full-time NPS education positions, taking on the co-management of the volunteer program, and providing ongoing funding for regular Museum repairs.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand and grow our operational capabilities and develop strategies to support the national park’s evolving needs in the decades to come. As we all know, parks are never “done,” and we anticipate supporting shorter-term and longer-term projects as they arise to maintain a world-class park experience. One of these projects is the upcoming renovation to the Old Courthouse, only its second significant renovation since it was built, for which preparations have been underway.

In this regard, we will maintain a strong Board and build the financial strength of the Foundation. And we will adapt our strategic framework each fiscal year to account for changes in our environment over time.

As tourism and travel continue to “come back” following the pandemic hiatus, and as our own St. Louis community demonstrates their enthusiasm for our events and programs again and again, I remain exceedingly optimistic about the future of not only this organization and this park, but of the entire St. Louis region.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to another great year!
Nicole Coglianese
Owner and Fitness Instructor, Citra Fitness & Movement

In 2021, after a tumultuous series of challenges in her fitness studio prompted Nicole Coglianese to explore outdoor spaces as an alternative, she reached out to the Foundation. Serendipitously, the Foundation needed a new instructor to host our 2022 Sunrise Yoga series in Kiener Plaza, and a partnership was born.

Throughout the summer, Coglianese led six Sunrise Bootcamps and will have offered 26 Sunrise Yoga classes (some canceled due to weather) by late October. This year’s attendance has shattered previous years’ records, with some Tuesdays seeing more than 100 participants.

We’re excited to grow our partnership with Coglianese in her unique approach to activating St. Louis’ beautiful outdoor spaces with enthusiastic residents.

What has surprised you about the Foundation?
I was surprised initially that there even was Gateway Arch Park Foundation. When I was researching, I found out that you all care for the grounds and activate the park. I thought, ‘Well, that makes sense, there needs to be someone who does that!’ And then also how involved you all are in the community. It’s a national park, but also, it’s a park within a city, so who integrates all this?

Have you seen business growth because of this partnership?
It’s hard to say exactly where everything comes from because I do have so many partners now [including Laumeier Sculpture Park, the 9 Mile Garden, and the Endangered Wolf Center]. However I think Sunrise Yoga and the photos we have from that, the media I get because of those photos – that is huge. Apartment Guide named St. Louis the “Best City to Do Yoga” in 2022, and when I was approached by KMOX to talk about it, they let me know it was because of Sunrise Yoga that St. Louis was chosen. I’ve also seen a jump in my social media followers, so that’s huge: that’s organic marketing right there.

What should St. Louisans know about Gateway Arch Park Foundation and the national park?
That it’s accessible. I think a lot of people see something as beautiful, as large and iconic as the Arch and they don’t think they have access to that. But it’s actually the opposite. When people realize ‘there’s someone I can go to if I want to do something here’ – that changes the whole conversation, versus something that’s looked at like a shrine.

This is your town, your city, your tax dollars at work: utilize it! Reach out if there’s something you want to see, and your voice will be heard.
SUPPORTING LOCAL

Juwan Rice
Owner and Chef, JR’s Gourmet, JRice Spice Company

Last year, Juwan Rice found himself cooking for a yoga event under the Arch hosted by The Collective STL when Camille Brooks of the Foundation, who had helped facilitate the event, tried his food.

“She was really impressed,” said Rice. “Lo and behold, a couple of weeks later we get a call about Winterfest.”

A native St. Louisan, Rice grew up cooking, and at age 14 founded JR’s Gourmet as a licensed catering business. From there, he worked in country clubs, casinos and restaurants, receiving mentoring from chefs around the region. In 2020, Rice founded Feeding the Frontline STL. And at age 21, he’s been featured on the Food Network and competed in the World Food Championships.

Rice will be back for his second year catering Winterfest with big goals to make our Winterfest Café and “Igloo Village” a premier St. Louis holiday experience. He’s also a host committee member for “An Iconic Evening.”

What were the most popular items at Winterfest last year?
Totchos and Louville sliders. For beverages, our top seller was white hot chocolate because that was something people hadn’t seen before.

What else can we look forward to at the Winterfest Café this year?
Short-rib totchos, some budget-friendly options and some shared items. Brisket sliders, lots of vegetarian options, as well. I have two pastry chefs on my team who are working on dessert packages.

For beverages, we’ll have a whole line of hot chocolate options with toppings. We’ll have a separate bar to make sure our lines are slimmed down. Another thing that will be different – we’ll have a service area just focused on igloos.

What should St. Louisans know about the Foundation?
We have to be more aware of the efforts people are trying to put into St. Louis and support those efforts. I would want to tell St. Louisans, ‘Hey, start supporting the Foundation as much as you can.’

I really think the Foundation does a lot in offering free events. It takes our city to give back. When there’s a paid event, like the Blues Brunch in August, that’s a way to give back to the Foundation that’s giving so much to us.

I’m on the host committee for the [Iconic Evening] gala, so we’re making sure we get the ticket sales to make that an amazing event for the Foundation.
Save the Date

Winterfest

November 19, 2022–January 1, 2023

Winterfest, presented by Bank of America and World Wide Technology, is back for its seventh year, brighter and bolder than ever!

All the fan favorites will be back, with ice skating, s’mores stations and igloos underneath 70,000 twinkling lights in Kiener Plaza. We’ll have the return of skating lessons, free skate opportunities, St. Louis Blues-sponsored 3-on-3 tournaments, and cameos from princesses and superheroes, in addition to our family-friendly New Year’s Eve celebration and fireworks spectacular.

Chef Juwan Rice of JR’s Gourmet is back for his second year with a whole new menu, creative team and vision to ensure the Winterfest Café offers a premier St. Louis holiday food experience.

And One Nation Day on Dec. 3 will showcase the best of St. Louis - not just our sports teams, but our cultures interwoven into the fabric of St. Louis, along with some of our region’s favorite retail vendors for a special Winter Market.

And don’t forget: Winterfest is the perfect setting for your company holiday party! A limited number of private reservations are available on Thursday evenings during the Winterfest season. Contact events@archpark.org to learn more.

Find a complete schedule of events at archpark.org/winterfest.

Support our mission to bring community programs to Gateway Arch National Park and the greater Downtown St. Louis region with official Winterfest merchandise!

Our online Winterfest storefront features sweatshirts, long-sleeve tees, and mugs - a perfect holiday gift for yourself or your fellow Winterfest fans.

Scan QR Code to Buy Now
Did you know our membership program comes with some incredible perks? In addition to the great feeling of knowing you’re making a difference in Downtown St. Louis and helping us sustain our hometown national park, there are a host of benefits you can take advantage of by becoming a member this season.

We’re excited to announce our newest member benefit: an exclusive discount to Arch Apparel!

As a Foundation member at the Supporter level and above, you can receive a 20% off discount any time you purchase clothing and special goods from the beloved St. Louis retailer.

In announcing the new partnership, Arch Apparel said offering this perk to Foundation members was an easy decision.

“We value our partnership with Gateway Arch Park Foundation and appreciate all the organization and its members do to help preserve the history and culture of the Gateway Arch, its beautiful park grounds, and the city of St. Louis as a whole,” said Chelsea Shepherd, owner and CEO at Arch Apparel. “We’re looking forward to seeing members take advantage of this great discount online or in-store to get the latest, city-inspired streetwear and accessories.”

Contact Alissa Korn, our manager of individual giving and stewardship, at alissa.korn@archpark.org to learn more about this benefit and become a member.
LOOKING AHEAD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 25: Sunrise Yoga
Led by Citra Fitness & Movement, this is our last Sunrise Yoga class of the season (weather pending). Start your day off right and join us for our signature weekday tradition in Kiener Plaza.

Oct. 27: An Iconic Evening
Celebrate the 57th anniversary of the completion of the Gateway Arch with a private dinner to benefit our mission, featuring tram rides to the top, exclusive Museum access, live entertainment and more.

Nov. 5: Salute to Veterans
Hosted together with NPS, this free afternoon concert honors the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. military veterans. The program will feature a performance by the Missouri Brass Quintet from the 399th Army Band based at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and will include both patriotic and traditional repertoire.

Nov. 19: Winterfest 5K
The second annual Winterfest 5K, presented by Caleres, and Kids Fun Run kick off the Winterfest season. It’s the only official run/walk to route through Kiener Plaza and Gateway Arch National Park: don’t miss the amazing views!

Nov. 19–Jan. 1: Winterfest
Winterfest, presented by Bank of America and World Wide Technology, is back for its seventh year, brighter and bolder than ever! Don’t miss ice skating, cozy igloos, toasty s’mores stations, incredible food, a market, a New Year’s Eve fireworks show and so much more, all in the shadow of the Gateway Arch in Kiener Plaza.

ArchPark.org/events | @gatewayarchpark