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For Immediate Release

## Gateway Arch Park Foundation Announces Line-Up for Blues at the Arch Festival: A Celebration of St. Louis' Rich Blues Heritage

**St. Louis, MO** (June 12, 2024) – Gateway Arch Park Foundation is thrilled to announce the artist line-up for the highly anticipated ninth annual Blues at the Arch Festival, taking place August 9-10. Blues at the Arch Festival is free to attend, and it is the only music festival of its kind to take place on national park grounds. The Festival will immerse attendees in the rich history of blues music, showcasing the genre's profound influence on country, gospel, rock 'n' roll, and more. The weekend concludes with a ticketed Blues Brunch on August 11.

### Festival Line-Up:

#### Friday, August 9, from 4:45 to 8 p.m., at the Whitaker Foundation Stage

- **Festival Kick Off (4:45 p.m.):** Robert Nelson, performing artist and director of the National Blues Museum, will emcee the evening and kick off the Festival, setting the stage for an unforgettable weekend.
- **Amber Bullock (5 p.m.):** Winner of B.E.T.'s Sunday Best, Amber Bullock will grace the Whitaker Foundation Stage with her powerful urban contemporary gospel music, rooted in blues.
- **D.K. Harrell (6:30 p.m.):** 2024 Blues Music Awards nominee for Best Emerging Artist D.K. Harrell will close the evening with a soulful blues guitar set.

#### Saturday, August 10, from 11 a.m. to 8:12 p.m., at the Whitaker Foundation Stage

- **Jeremiah Johnson (12:30 p.m.):** Experience a blend of Mississippi River Blues with a touch of country flair from Blues Music Awards-Nominated Guitarist Jeremiah Johnson.
- **The Soulard Blues Band (2 p.m.):** With over 25 years of performing around St. Louis, The Soulard Blues Band brings their authentic blues sound to the Whitaker Foundation Stage.
- **Lamar Harris (3:30 p.m.):** Enjoy Lamar Harris' unique tribute to blues with his unmatched trombone style influenced by jazz, hip-hop, world music, and classical themes.
- **The SlideShow STL (4:30 p.m.):** Get up and dance with an interactive line dancing demonstration led by The SlideShow STL, where everyone is encouraged to join in the fun and dance to the infectious rhythm of blues music.
- **Marquise Knox (5 p.m.) -** Blues Music Awards-Nominated and Living Blues Award-Winning Artist Marquise Knox will deliver an impressive performance.



- **Nikki Hill (6:30 p.m.):** Closing the Festival, Nikki Hill’s unique rock 'n' roll sound is influenced by a variety of genres, ensuring a high-energy conclusion to the festivities.
- **Fireworks Spectacular with Nikki Hill and Marquise Knox (8 to 8:12 p.m.)**

### **Blues Brunch:**

**Sunday, August 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 612North Event Space + Catering**

- Wrap up the weekend with the ticketed Blues Brunch on Sunday, August 11, at 612North Event Space. Enjoy a live performance by The Coleman-Hughes Project while savoring delicious brunch offerings. Tickets are \$49.99 for adults and \$14.99 for kids aged three to twelve, with an option for unlimited mimosas and bloody marys for an additional \$22. Proceeds support Gateway Arch Park Foundation, ensuring the continuation of free events like Blues at the Arch Festival.

### **Honoring St. Louis’ Storied Blues History**

Blues at the Arch Festival is more than just a music event—it’s a full-fledged celebration of culture, community, and the timeless legacy of blues.

“Last year, more than 12,000 people came together at Blues at the Arch Festival to honor St. Louis’ storied blues history,” said Ryan McClure, executive director of Gateway Arch Park Foundation. “Not only does the Foundation work to bring people together in Downtown St. Louis to ensure a vibrant future for our great city, but we also honor the past by playing a part in preserving the Park’s most important pieces of history and culture, including the legacy of blues music. We’re looking forward to celebrating with thousands of music fans again this year.”

Nestled at the confluence of two major rivers, St. Louis has been a melting pot of musical innovation, particularly during the Great Migration when millions of Black Americans moved north, bringing with them the soulful sounds and the heartbeat of blues music. In fact, the Arch grounds were once home to the Old Rock House, which was most popularly known as a nightclub in the 1930s and a popular music venue for Blues music performed by Black artists, including regular vocalist “Rock House Annie.” However, the Old Rock House was eventually dismantled in the 1950s to make way for a railroad tunnel, but thanks to the CityArchRiver project that revitalized Gateway Arch National Park, you can now find the Old Rock House’s reconstructed building facade in the Museum at the Gateway Arch, preserving this key piece of blues music history.

### **A One-of-a-Kind Blues Music Experience**

Beyond the musical performances at Blues at the Arch Festival, guests will have access to a variety of enriching experiences to elevate the festival atmosphere. On August 9, Gateway Arch Park Foundation members at the Supporter level and above are invited to relax and mingle in the Member Tent, enjoying complimentary bites and beverages as a token of appreciation for their support.



On Saturday August 10, the Festival kicks off with a refreshing fitness session led by The Collective. Attendees can join a yoga class to energize their bodies and minds, setting the tone for a full day of music and movement. Guests can also enhance their festival day with the all-new ticketed area: The Blues at the Arch Premium Experience in the Explorers' Garden. For \$35, Premium Experience guests will receive Blues at the Arch swag, a drink voucher, small bites, passes for concerts at the National Blues Museum, and one-on-one meet-and-greets with the festival performers.

The National Blues Museum will also showcase their "Queen of the Blues" exhibit for free at Blues at the Arch Festival. Featuring inspirational illustrations by local artist Hayveyah McGowan, this exhibition pays homage to the first women to influence blues music, including Bessie Smith, Koko Taylor, and Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

Families with children will find plenty to enjoy in the Kids Korner, where young festival-goers can explore a musical "petting zoo," featuring real instruments to help them discover the joy of making music, play yard games like build-an-arch and bean bag toss, and engage in interactive sports activities.

Even canine companions are welcome! As always on the Gateway Arch National Park grounds, dogs can join their owners in the festivities. Attendees are reminded to follow B.A.R.K. Ranger responsibilities, ensuring a pleasant experience for all festival-goers.

For those traveling from afar or simply looking for a convenient stay, the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark offers a special discounted rate for festival attendees from August 8 to August 12. With rates starting at \$187 per night, guests can enjoy close proximity to the festival and support Gateway Arch Park Foundation, as the hotel will donate \$20 back to the Foundation for every reservation booked.

Food and drink options abound, with vendors like Narwhals, Little Busy Bee, MooMobile, MO Kettle Corn, and Pour Decisions serving up a delicious array of treats to satisfy every palate. Whether you're indulging in sweet kettle corn or savoring a refreshing beverage, there's something for everyone to enjoy as they soak in the sounds of blues.

Finally, if you're looking for Blues at the Arch Festival merchandise, order it in advance at the Foundation's [online storefront](#). All proceeds from merchandise purchases support the Foundation.

Gateway Arch Park Foundation hosts this event as part of their mission to ensure Gateway Arch National Park and its attractions are vital, welcoming, and well-supported resources for generations to come. For more information, visit [www.archpark.org/blues](http://www.archpark.org/blues).

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**GATEWAY ARCH PARK  
FOUNDATION**



### **About Gateway Arch Park Foundation**

Gateway Arch Park Foundation is the official philanthropic partner and conservancy for Gateway Arch National Park. Its mission is to ensure the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public spaces, and attractions are a vital, welcoming, well-supported resource to the community and nation for generations to come. It seeks to fulfill its mission by providing for ongoing conservation, preservation and education at the park, in addition to hosting, facilitating and promoting community programs that bring the park and its surrounding areas in Downtown St. Louis to life. The Foundation is part of an alliance that helps meet this mission, which includes the National Park Service, Bi-State Development, Great Rivers Greenway, Jefferson National Parks Association, and the City of St. Louis. For more information, visit <http://archpark.org>.

### **Media Kit:**

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