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explore st.louis

annual meeting & awards

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING & *Hospitality Hero Recognition*

NATIONAL ANTHEM
St. Louis Children's Choirs

WELCOME & REMARKS
Brad Dean
President & CEO, Explore St. Louis

Mayor Cara Spencer
City of St. Louis

Dr. Sam Page
St. Louis County Executive

THE FUTURE OF THE ST. LOUIS BRAND & THE FUTURE OF DISCOVERY
Julie Gilbert
Chief Marketing Officer, Explore St. Louis

STRATEGIC GROWTH & MAJOR EVENTS
Brian Atchison
Chief Sales Officer, Explore St. Louis

COMMUNITY ENERGY & REGIONAL MOMENTUM
Catherine Neville
Executive Vice President, Community Engagement, Explore St. Louis

CONVENTION & VOLUNTEER SERVICES
Jennifer Poindexter
Vice President, Convention & Volunteer Services, Explore St. Louis

HOSPITALITY HERO RECOGNITION
Mary Elizabeth Grimes
Chair, Hospitality Hero Committee
Secretary-Treasurer, Explore St. Louis Board of Commissioners

CIVIC PRIDE FOUNDATION AWARDS
Catherine Neville
Executive Vice President, Community Engagement, Explore St. Louis

CHAIRMAN'S AMBASSADOR IMPACT RECOGNITION
Steve O'Loughlin
Chairman, Explore St. Louis Board of Commissioners

CLOSING VISION
Brad Dean
President & CEO, Explore St. Louis

Thank you for joining us!
Please scan the QR code to view the Explore St. Louis FY 2026 Annual Report.

Frontline employees are the heart of St. Louis hospitality. When they go above and beyond – solving problems, handling the unexpected or creating special moments – we recognize them as Hospitality Heroes who don't just meet expectations, but redefine them.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Knight Center Hotel, Washington University
Bernard Brooks

St. Louis Union Station Hotel
Randy Will

2026 HOSPITALITY SUPERHEROES

The Fabulous Fox Theatre
Scott Schumacher

Kirkwood Performing Arts Center
Janis Korn

Midas Hospitality, LLC
Traran McPike

Missouri History Museum
Conor Killen
Samantha Smith

Mid America Adventure
Kaitlyn Umfleet

2026 HOSPITALITY HEROES

4 Hands Brewing Co.
Tom Behnen

Angad Arts Hotel
Greg Kanaday

Anheuser-Busch
Isaiah Easley
David Goetsch
Mark Meyer
Tom Restoff

Ballpark Village
Andrew Dreyer

Bi-State Development - Gateway Arch & Riverboats at The Gateway Arch
Brian Debernardi
Aniyah Elliott
Robert Fithen
Lanaisha Goodwin
Hubert Moore

Lauren Owen
Savanna Robinson
Jerrick Spencer
Jim Stolarski
Andrew Welsh
Robert Williams
Dejuandre Wynn

Butler's Pantry
Mike Cruise
Amy Swarthout

Cahokia RV Parque
Frank Gold

Cheshire Inn
Kevin Johnson
Emil Parnell

City Museum
Drew Landers
Denver Leonard
Jeff Heydt
Denise Hunter
Marinnie Sanders
Stephanie Von Drasek
Sara Lee Woods

Clementine's Naughty & Nice Ice Cream
Kevin Smith

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
Josh Boyshaw
Jenna McNeal

Courtyard St. Louis Downtown/ Convention Center
Craig Anderson
Hope Mairidith
Mona Fowler

DoubleTree by Hilton St. Louis Westport
Mikey Hossenlopp
Beatrice Nzamwitakuze

Drury Hotels
Thomas Burner
Daniel Catoe
Terrance Edwards
Unique Foston
Maria Macias
Miranda Manning
Devanshe Sanders

Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Louis Downtown
Willie Banks

Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Louis Airport
Ellyot Lee

Enterprise Center/Stifel Theatre
Jeff Adkins
Ernestine Robinson
Kyle Worman

The Fabulous Fox Theatre
Krista Catanzaro
Jalen Clower
Haley Gebauer
Mary Glover
Patrick Henroid
Alyssa Hodges
Lindsay Mosher
Matt Richardson
Krystle Roth
Cheryl Schuessler
Rena Simmons

Forest Park Forever
Diane Kainz
Rebecca Whiffen
Russ Volmert

The Fountain on Locust
Nathan Ford

Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis
Rakesh Baddula
Marshail Caver
Lauren Heebner
Patrick Johnson
Pabitra Khapangi
Alex Lustgarten
Marisol Santiago
Jacob Smith

Gateway Arch Park Foundation
Carla Hudson

Grant's Farm
Chris Cowart
Kurt Jones
Steve Langhorst
Tom Maddox

Hampton Inn by Hilton St. Louis Airport
Ellen Viglasky

Hilton Garden Inn O'Fallon
Partese Witter
Tayhon Darden
Taisha McDonald

Hilton Garden Inn St. Louis Airport
Carey Wilson

Hilton Garden Inn St. Louis Chesterfield
Heather Lanwermeyer
John Stafford

Home2 Suites by Hilton St. Louis/Forest Park
Lisa Smith

Homewood Suites St. Louis Wesport
Aaniye Hammond

Hyatt Place St. Louis Chesterfield
Dalal Hlal

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch
Demarco Weatherspoon
Isaac Johnson
Regina McNeil
Ok Shin
Lakeisha Sims
Jerelyn Williams

Kirkwood Public Library
Lynne Haynes

Live! by Loews – St. Louis
Ellis Cunningham

LM Services Corporation
Robert Yancey

LOVEtheLOU
Tawana Lawson

Marriott St. Louis Airport
Sanchez Robinson

Mid America Adventure
Kaitlyn Donovan
Maurice Neil
Clarence Reed
Tom Rollinger

Midas Hospitality, LLC
Rodney Bauer
Jason Gavin
Ebony Paden
Salma Ascencio Patino
Anthony Robinson, Jr.

Missouri Botanical Garden
Gabriel Beckerle
Deborah Bledsoe
Liz Byrde
Haley Howard
Jean Whatley
Winston Spivey

Missouri History Museum
Marjorie "MJ" Jones

Pappy's Smokehouse
Todd Jordan

Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center – Divine Events
Lexii Gregory

Pulitzer Arts Foundation
Kevin Warren

Residence Inn by Marriott St. Louis Clayton
Antione Jones
Marvin Juarez
Avelina Oviedo

The Royal Sonesta Chase Park Plaza St. Louis
Caitlyn Crimi
Alice Jones
Darrin Kahl

Saint Louis Art Museum
David Helling
Vick Johnson
Donnell Lawrence
Charles Liermann
Jane Peters
Makeda Wells

St. Louis Lambert International Airport
Tamilia Ammons
Larry Brown
Payton Capettini
Kayne Evers
Jackie Oglesby
Sherry Meier
Valerie Palma
Kennedy Williamson
Transportation Security Officers & Department Staff

Saint Louis Science Center
Lacey Chaney
Cheyenne Davis
Dave Gioia
Emily Lemonds
Michelle McGruder
Octavia Pastoriza
Alexis Schwamle

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
Susanne Mertens

St. Louis Union Station Soda Fountain
Jade Vaughn

Saint Louis Zoo
Carla Altnether
Carolyn Kelly

Salt + Smoke
Collie Collie

Sheraton Westport Hotels
Charles Carter
Liubov Dravets
Yuliia Hryhorychenko
Brian Jordan
Kurt Walker

Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House
Olivia Phillips
Shayan Farhang

STAGES St. Louis
Donna Alden
Lorena Doss
Alicia Scott-Aune
Emily Stevenson
Barbara Talleur

Staybridge Suites St. Louis Westport
Tori Parker
Salma Ascencio Patino

STL Crew Shuttle
Tom Place

Washington University Dining Services
Tiffany De La Roche

Wolfe Productions, LLC
The Wolfe Pack

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Midas Hospitality

Omniskope

Pattan & Company

SLDC St. Louis Development Corporation

STL St. Louis Lambert International Airport

Wolfe Production

DESSERT SPONSOR

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