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# Hemispheres

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# Munich

## THE OPENING

By Susan B. Barnes



# New Heights

The Gateway Arch gets a much-needed makeover

The Gateway Arch had come to a crossroads. Cut off from the rest of St. Louis by Interstate 44, Eero Saarinen's 630-foot-high monument to westward expansion had languished for years, with attendance dipping to all-time lows. But all of that is set to change this month, thanks to the debut of the \$380 million CityArchRiver project, which will see an expanded museum and an enhanced 91-acre park, the newly dubbed Gateway Arch National Park.

"It really is a symbol of the renewal of St. Louis," says Anthony Paraino, the director of communications for Explore St. Louis. "The whole project better connects the Arch with all of downtown and provides easy access to one of the most famous monuments in the country."

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, the renowned landscape design firm behind Brooklyn Bridge Park, outfitted the grounds with more than five miles of pathways, green space for riverfront picnicking, and a

pedestrian land bridge that connects the park to the city center and the Mississippi River.

The museum features interactive displays that guide visitors through 200 years of history, including the Lewis and Clark expedition, which began and ended here, and the Dred Scott case, which was heard at the Old Courthouse, also in the park. "Most museums collect and display artifacts," says Bill Haley, whose firm, Haley Sharpe Design, reimagined the exhibits, "but key events *happened* here."

St. Louisans hope that these improvements will raise the area to the level—figuratively, anyway—of their famous monument. "The architectural phenomenon that is the Gateway Arch is one that people travel from around the world to see," says Gateway Arch Park Foundation executive director Eric Moraczewski, "and now we have a world-class museum experience and amazing park space that they will enjoy and embrace on their visit."

## THE DETAIL

### A Musical Instrument Lending Library

With two on-site music venues and an assortment of local artworks, the Autograph Collection's new Elizabeth Hotel is a celebration of burgeoning Fort Collins, Colorado. Our favorite amenity is the instrument lending library, from which guests can check out stringed instruments, keyboards, and a host of accessories for jamming in their rooms or the sun-drenched lobby. The collection features several unique instruments, including a retro-style banjo and an ebony ukulele. "You can stay and check out all this music paraphernalia at the hotel, then look off your balcony and see a free concert [during a festival]," says Michael Bashkin, a Fort Collins-based luthier. "It supports the music ecosystem that will continue to grow in Fort Collins."

—Stacey McKenna



Gateway Arch Park Foundation (Arch); The Elizabeth Hotel (guitar)