

# LIVE TO EXPLORE AND INSPIRE.

— DESTINATION PROFILE —

**COLUMBUS**  
LIVE FORWARD



14TH  
LARGEST CITY  
IN THE COUNTRY

# COLUMBUS AT A GLANCE

## EXCEPTIONAL



Columbus ranked **"Highest in Visitor Satisfaction in the Midwest"** by J.D. Power\* in the 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study.

## SMART



Columbus won the U.S. Department of Transportation's **Smart City Challenge** and was named a 2018 winner of the **Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge**.

## SAFE



Columbus is coordinating **GBAC STAR™ Accreditation** for the airport, public transit, attractions, convention center and hotels, while encouraging businesses to prioritize visitor safety with the **Live Forward Pledge**.

## INCLUSIVE



Columbus has continually scored 100% on the **Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index** and City Council, with the support of more than 3,000 local businesses, **declared racism as a public health crisis**.

## DYNAMIC



*Travel Channel* named the capital city one of the **Top 10 Domestic Destinations to Visit in 2020**. As one of the **New York Times' 52 Places to Visit in 2019**, Columbus is a top travel spot.

## BOOMING



Columbus has been declared as one of the **10 Best Big Cities to Live in Right Now** by *TIME* and the **Best American City to Work in Tech** by *Smart Asset*.

\*Columbus, OH received the highest numerical score among 8 cities in the Midwest in the J.D. Power 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study, based on 26,124 total responses, measuring the experiences and perceptions of travelers who visited a top 50 U.S. destination, surveyed February-July 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).

# DISTRICTS: FIVE ON HIGH

Columbus' vibrant districts offer endless entertainment options. Collectively, the neighborhoods along the city's main thoroughfare, High Street, are referred to as the **"Five on High."**



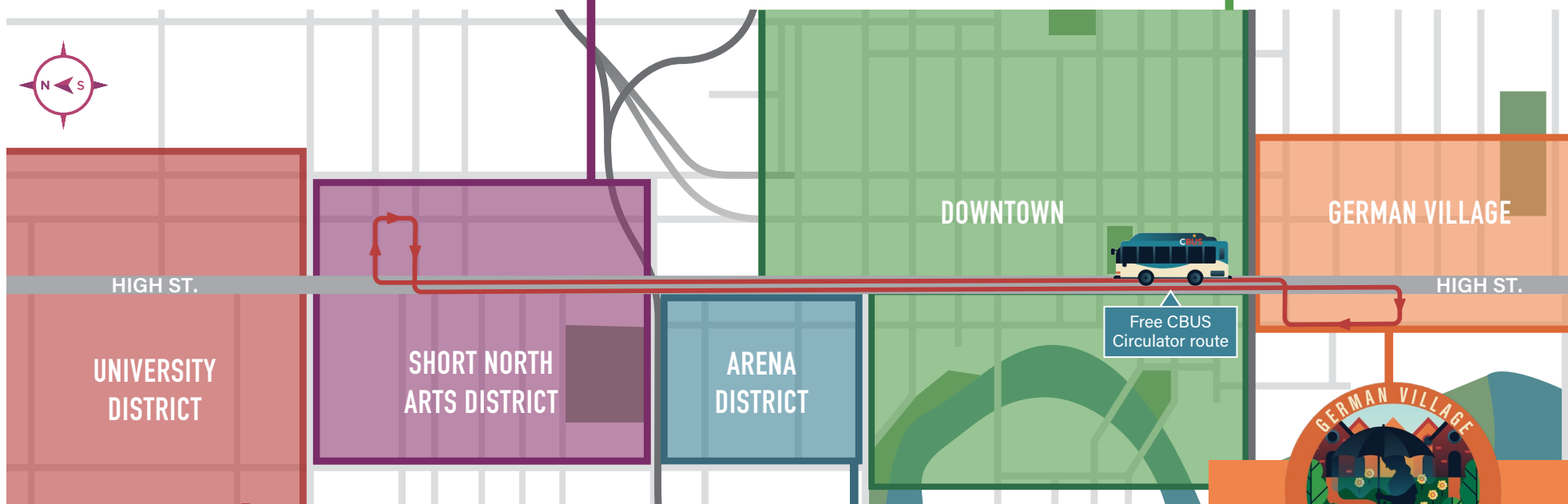
## SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT

The "art and soul" of Columbus is lined with charming buildings that house the city's best boutique shopping, art galleries, dining and trendy nightlife.



## DOWNTOWN

Downtown holds hotels, historic theaters, world-class museums and acres of green space that create an iconic skyline in the heart of the city.



## UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Home to The Ohio State University, this neighborhood is packed with cutting-edge science and tech resources as well as sports, shopping, music and nightlife.



## ARENA DISTRICT

This district will soon be home to all of the city's professional sports teams and brings live music, nightlife and dining within steps of the convention center and adjoining hotels.



## GERMAN VILLAGE

This quaint, historic neighborhood is one of the most atmospheric in the country, brick-lined sidewalks alongside charming homes, cozy restaurants and delightful shops.



# TOP ATTRACTIONS

Columbus is filled with so many can't-miss attractions, you'll surely want to experience them all time and again.



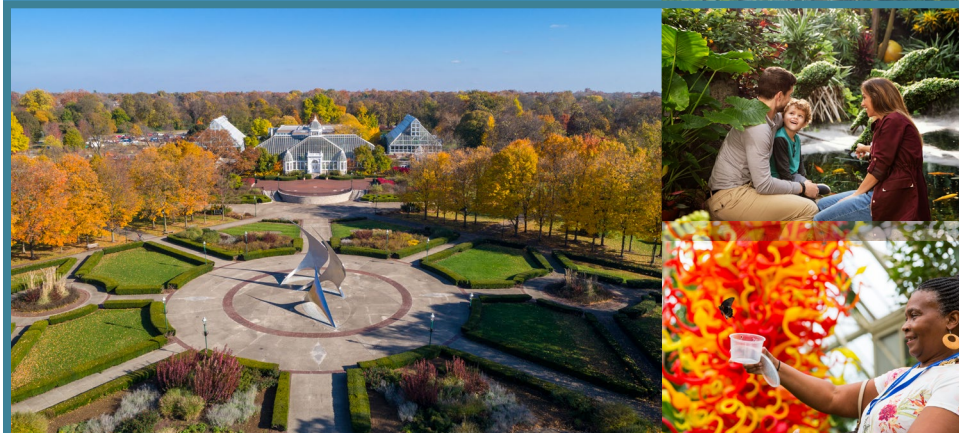
COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

Hand-feed giraffes in the heart of Africa at "Jungle" Jack Hanna's home zoo, the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**. Or splash around in the wave pool at the connected **Zoombezi Bay** during summer months.



COSI

**COSI**, a top-rated science center, offers more than 300 interactive exhibits including a dinosaur gallery that thrills visitors and locals alike.



FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

The **Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** pulses with life as you explore over 400 species of plants and marvel at the newly imagined, larger-than-life, technicolor glass sculptures by artist Dale Chihuly.



NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Especially unique to Columbus is the **National Veterans Memorial and Museum**, the only place where stories of veterans, their families and the fallen across all branches of service and eras of conflict are told together.



# BUSINESS IN COLUMBUS



“Columbus isn't the next business destination. It's already happening.”

– Inc.

**#1 Fastest-Growing Midwest City**  
for GDP, Job Growth and Population

**#1 Top City**  
for Rising Tech Start Ups  
–Forbes

**Home to 53**  
Colleges and Universities  
– One Columbus

## WORTH A FORTUNE

Columbus is a startup and innovation hub. We are also home to 5 Fortune 500 companies, 15 Fortune 1000 companies and these other notable brands:

Abercrombie & Fitch



Bath & Body Works®



Bob Evans®



covermy meds®

DSW  
DESIGNER SHOE WAREHOUSE™



EXPRESS



GREIF



jenie's

METTLER TOLEDO



THE Scotts Miracle-Gro  
COMPANY



VICTORIA'S  
SECRET



# COLUMBUS FOR EVERYONE

"Because when I yell 'O-H' and some stranger yells back 'I-O' and we burst out laughing with pride...it's not just about college football or the **famed 'Columbus nice'** culture, it's about knowing that...I have yet again made a home for myself in this burning world. And when I say **'this is my home,'** my home says 'you're damn right.'"

– **Saeed Jones**, award-winning poet and author



Columbus thrives, thanks to the inclusivity that is quintessential to our city's DNA.  
You, your friends and family will feel welcome here.



## EMBRACING DIVERSITY

One of the most valuable characteristics of Columbus is our diversity. Nearly 3,000 local business leaders have signed a petition and the Columbus City Council has declared racism a public health crisis.

When you come to our city, you'll see efforts that reflect the spirit of our city—collaborative, forward-thinking and eager to stand up for what matters.



## SUPPORTIVE & INCLUSIVE

"I'm so proud to call Columbus home... This smart, open and welcoming community...is a place that has supported me, shaped me and allowed me to be truly and authentically me."

– **Nina West**, Miss Congeniality on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 11



## ENABLING MOBILITY

High Street Streetscape Improvement project redesigned sidewalks in the Short North Arts District, surrounding the Greater Columbus Convention Center, to be safer and more accessible for all – especially those with mobility impairments.



## CLOSING THE GENDER WAGE GAP

Nearly 400 Columbus companies have joined the Columbus Women's Commission in signing The Columbus Commitment: Achieving Pay Equity for women.



# CREATIVE CULTURE OF COLUMBUS

## FESTIVALS

With festivals for music, arts, food, cultures, sports, tech and more, Columbus boasts a year-round schedule of celebrations throughout the city.



## VISUAL ARTS

Can there ever be too many murals? We say no. On our streets or in our acclaimed museums and galleries, you'll be surrounded by inspiration and creativity.



# COLOMBUS

Columbus was named one of the **"30 Most Fun Places to Live in the U.S."** by *U.S. News & World Report*, and is bursting with creativity from independent artists, professional performance companies and artists-in-residence.

## PERFORMING ARTS

Are you moved by ballet, stunned by symphony or thrilled by theatre? See world-renowned talent in inspiring spaces, from historic grand theaters to open-air parks.



## FASHION

Columbus is home to more fashion designers than any U.S. city, outside of New York City and Los Angeles. For visitors, that means fantastic fashion events and an abundance of boutique shops.





# DIVERSE AND DISTINGUISHED DINING



**WORLD-FAMOUS DESSERTS**  
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams



**ARTISAN EATERIES**  
Service Bar



**GLOBAL CUISINE**  
North Market



**ROOFTOP VIEWS**  
Goodale Station



**CRAFT BREWERIES**  
Land-Grant Brewing Co.



**PREMIER, PLANT-BASED**  
Comune



**INNOVATIVE CHEFS**  
The Guild House



**LIQUOR, FARM-FRESH FOOD**  
Watershed Distillery

“ [Columbus] has a nearly Sun Belt-esque buoyancy about it these days, as it welcomes all-comers, from all over the world... From some of the **best momos** in the country, to a **promising young chef** recreating the fast food favorites from childhood, to makers creating everything from **terrific charcuterie** to very **fine chocolates**, you're never short on things to eat... **Don't sleep on this city.** Good things are happening. ”

– Food & Wine Magazine



# COLUMBUS HAS NO OFFSEASON

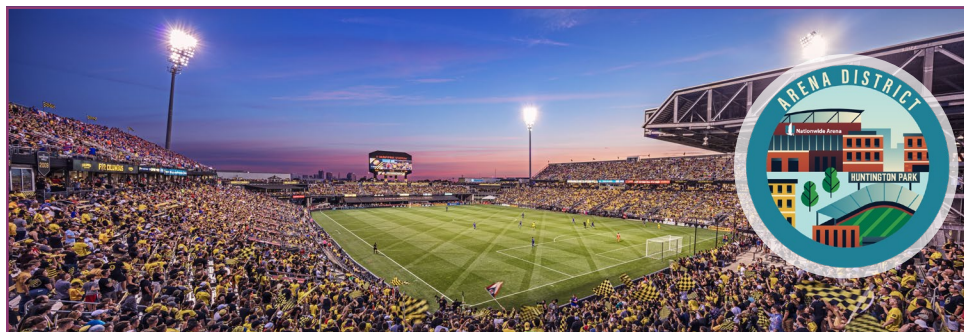
Throughout the year, the thrill of pro sports pulses in downtown's Arena District. Columbus is home to professional sports, nationally recognized collegiate athletic programs and elite annual events, including the PGA Tour's Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide. The city also often draws premier hosted events, including the 2018 NCAA Women's Final Four.



## NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE



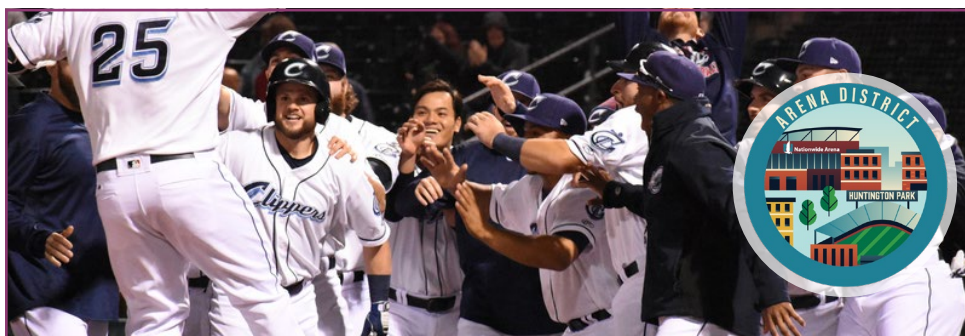
**Columbus Blue Jackets** have called Columbus home since 2000. Catch a game at Nationwide Arena to hear the fire of the cannon after a Blue Jackets' goal.



## MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER



**Columbus Crew SC** plays at MAPFRE Stadium, the nation's first soccer-specific stadium built by an MLS team. In 2021, Crew SC will move into a new 20,000-seat facility in the Arena District.



## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



**Columbus Clippers**, Triple-A baseball affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, play at Huntington Park, a multiyear winner of *Baseball Digest's* "Best of the Ballparks" award.



## COLLEGIATE SPORTS



**The Ohio State Buckeyes** are a must-see in Columbus. Ohio State Football plays at Ohio Stadium, or "The Shoe," one of the most recognizable landmarks in college athletics.