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**YOUR 2025 GUIDE TO
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY**



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Hello there!

Not only is it the 25th year of this century, but it's also my 25th year of promoting the city I love. Not many people stick with one company that long, but not many people get to work at Visit Buffalo Niagara either. From my start as an intern back in 2000 to Vice President of Marketing today, I realize I'm one of the lucky ones. It's a privilege to raise my kids here and experience the joy in their eyes, and my heart, as we spend our weekends discovering our city.

What a difference two decades make! I've witnessed visitor reactions change from, "Buffalo?" to "Buffalo!" We've quietly blossomed into one of America's most creatively alive cities. TIME Magazine recently named the Buffalo AKG Art Museum one of the World's Greatest Places. (Yep, the world!) We've got color splashed all over the city thanks to our public art initiative. Local musicians and bands take their stages every night of the week in venues you won't soon forget. Our James Beard award finalists are cooking up creative fare in kitchens and behind the bar.

We've got a lot to celebrate in 2025, and the pages ahead are your invitation and road map to start planning your sneaky cool getaway to Buffalo. If you need a personal recommendation or two, give me a shout at fashana@visitbuffaloniagara.com.

Enjoy!

Karen Fashana

Karen Fashana
Vice President, Marketing
Visit Buffalo Niagara



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Issue 1, 2025

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A Pulitzer Prize-winning Cartoonist's Take on Buffalo Suitcase Essentials

STAY CONNECTED. STAY #INTHEBUF. FOLLOW US ON ALL PLATFORMS.

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ON THE COVERS:



Borderland Music + Arts Festival, set on the pastoral grounds of Knox Farm State Park, is a celebration of music, art, and good vibes.

Photo: Borderland/
Jesse Faatz



The Seneca Chief, a recreation of a historic packet boat, will traverse the Erie Canal in 2025, celebrating the 200th year of the famed waterway.

Photo: Tom Burns



Pizzeria Florian in East Aurora, NY opened in 2024, but has already ranked as the 44th best pizzeria in the US according to 50 Top Pizza.

Photo: Sharon Cantillon

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Downtown Buffalo - Photo by Scotty Siegel

Buffalo: A Design

BY MICHELLE KEARNS



Mecca



Buffalo's first developer unfurled the city's blueprint with streets like spokes on a wheel and an idea that's shaped it ever since: Good design makes this breezy lakeshore city more beautiful, welcoming and fun to explore. The cityscape tells an old-turned-new American story. Parks and parkways built more than a century ago still make neighborhoods shady and green.

Groundbreaking design keeps emerging and reemerging in this "city within a park." In recent years, Buffalonians have come together to renovate, reimagine and reuse parks, buildings, museums and neighborhoods. They started a renaissance. New and renewed landmarks are always on the horizon in Buffalo. As travel writer Ashlea Halpern put it, "I always look forward to visiting because its evolution is constant and inspiring."

The declaration by America's first landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, in 1876, that Buffalo was the best planned city in the world remains truer today than ever before. Weave Buffalo's cutting-edge designs into your itinerary. Lose yourself in the places where innovation meets style.

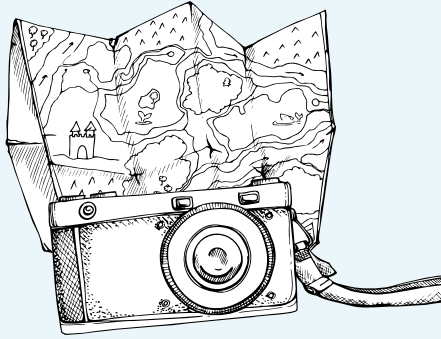


Explore

The **Buffalo AKG Art Museum**, 1285 Elmwood Ave., reopened after three years of construction and reimagining. A new glass building added enough space to allow for new views of its world-class modern and contemporary art collection – from Picasso and Warhol to the cutting edge – as well as of the surrounding neighborhood that includes Frederick Law Olmsted’s Delaware Park.

At **Frank Lloyd Wright’s Martin House**, 143 Jewett Parkway, and estate, the open floor plan allows rooms to flow into one another among 400 art glass windows and panoramic views of a lush, restored original garden. The architect’s favorite winged Victory of Samothrace statue replica stands among the ferns and palms of the rebuilt and once-lost plant conservatory. A half hour’s drive down the lakeshore, find Wright’s restored **Graycliff**, 6472 Old Lake Shore Rd., Derby, a summer home on a bluff with Lake Erie views. It embodies the architect’s aim to promote harmony between nature and people. For a look at a Wright-designed gas station with an elegant living-room-like space, venture over to the **Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum**, 263 Michigan Ave. Nearby, the visitor center at Louis Sullivan’s **Guaranty Building**, 140 Pearl St., tells the story of the 1896 terra cotta clad skyscraper.





Tour around town

Buffalo Harbor Cruises

buffaloharborcruises.com

Sightseeing rides along the waterfront at Canalside.

Explore Buffalo

explorebuffalo.org

This nonprofit specializes in walking tours throughout the city and region.

Richardson Olmsted Campus

richardson-olmsted.com/tours

Explore the former insane asylum and grounds from 1880 on Forest Avenue.

No Illusions Tours

noillusionstourbuffalo.com

Walking tours focusing on the lesser known, like Louise Bethune, one of the country's first women architects, who designed the downtown Hotel Lafayette.

Buffalo Bike Tours

buffalobiketours.com

Roll with history and cycle the city, with electric or classic wheels.

Forest Lawn Cemetery Tours

forest-lawn.com/tours-events

Trolley rides and riveting history in this landmark cemetery at 1411 Delaware Ave. with 152,000 permanent residents.



Wayland Brewing Company - Photo by Sharon Cantillon

Eat & drink

At **The Terrace at Delaware Park**, 199 Lincoln Parkway, dine in a converted boathouse along Hoyt Lake that has views of Delaware Park and the Buffalo History Museum. For a night cap, nearby **Saint Neri**, 220 Lexington Ave., recreates Art Deco's gilded glamour with intimate speakeasy style. Among the old grain silos at the waterfront, stop in at the tavern and music venue **Duende**, 85 Silo City Row. The former flour company office, with repurposed elements of industrial heritage, mixes cocktails and light eats with the sounds of Americana folk, jazz and string ensembles.

A short drive south and **Wayland Brewing Company**, 3740 N. Buffalo St., Orchard Park, is another well-designed refuge with floor-to-ceiling window views of

pine trees, fresh tapped beer and a seasonal menu. Its winning Nordic aesthetic within a renovated 1806 farmhouse won recognition from Interior Design magazine.

See a show

Immerse yourself in the baroque and gilded glamour of the former 1926 movie palace, **Shea's Buffalo**, 646 Main St. Now it's an elegant showcase for nationally touring Broadway shows at the heart of Main Street's Theater District. Just down the street, a former 1941 Art Moderne style Greyhound bus terminal, with curving walls and metal trims, is home to the **Alleyway Theatre**, 1 Curtain Up Alley. For a sleek take on a performance space, take a seat inside **Kleinhans Music Hall**, 3 Symphony Circle, home to the **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra**.



Shea's Buffalo - Photo by Grant Taylor

This 1940 International Style concert hall was built by father and son team Eliel and Eero Saarinen to resemble a giant curve of a stringed instrument.

Sleep in

Experience the work of three design trailblazers in one place. The soaring ceilings, yawning windows and park-like grounds at the nonprofit **Richardson Olmsted Campus** on Forest Avenue, with the **Richardson Hotel** at the center, was once an 1880 insane asylum. It has a healing building plan by a doctor and mental health

innovator, architecture by H. H. Richardson and a landscape by Frederick Law Olmsted. At the Elmwood Village's **InnBuffalo**, 619 Lafayette Ave., an inventor's Gilded Age mansion, is now a cozy city refuge. Live it up downtown in the grandeur and charm at the **Hotel Lafayette**, 319 Washington St., created by the nation's first woman architect, Louise Bethune. A half an hour south of the city, the circa-1905 **Roycroft Inn**, 40 S. Grove St., East Aurora, invites diners and overnight guests into the authentic vibe of the hand-built nature-inspired Arts and Crafts movement. **BUF**

ON THE WRIGHT PATH

Embark on the **Great Wright Road Trip**, an epic 2-3 day adventure connecting Frank Lloyd Wright's greatest designs in Western New York and Western Pennsylvania. Scan the QR code to find out more!





Celebrating 100 Years!

Since 1926, Shea's Performing Arts Center has been at the heart of Buffalo's cultural scene, bringing 100 years of unforgettable entertainment, enriching education, and unwavering community support.

Opening under the name The Wonder Theatre, Shea's Buffalo Theatre invites you to celebrate with us and be part of our next century of excellence. Together, we'll continue to shine brightly as Buffalo's premier destination for world-class entertainment and cultural enrichment.

Visit Shea's Performing Arts Center and experience the wonder!

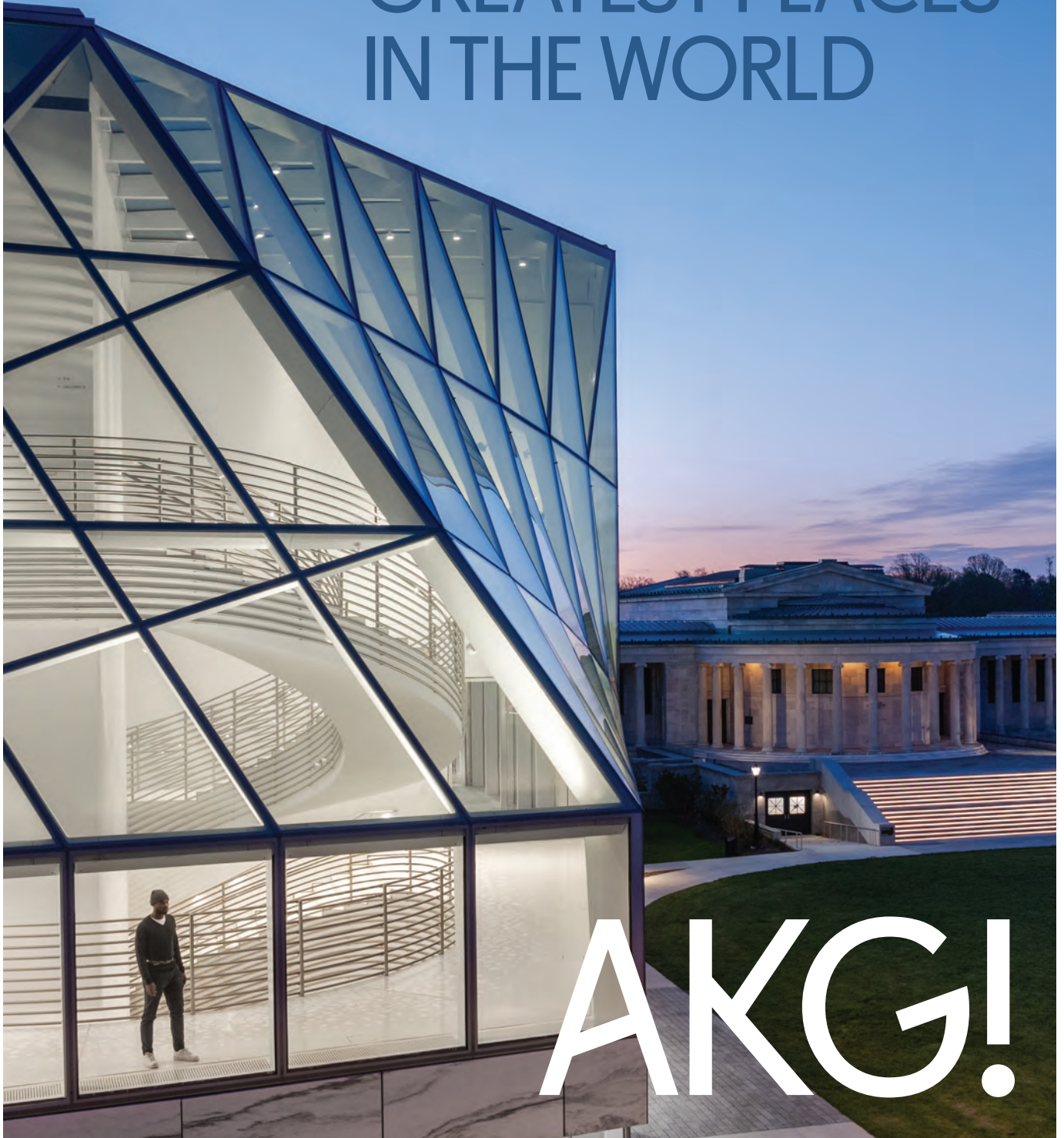
PHOTO BY TOM BURNS

BUFFALO AKG ART MUSEUM

One of TIME Magazine's 2024

GREATEST PLACES IN THE WORLD

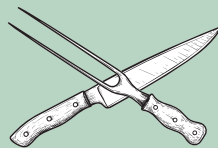
Photo: Jason O'Beir



AKG!

10 Buffalo Chefs You Should Know

BY ANDREW GALARNEAU



With two Buffalo restaurants named James Beard Award finalists, dining travelers are adding the Queen City of the Great Lakes to their itineraries. While the honorees Waxlight Bar à Vin, with its creative menu and remarkable wine and drink list, and Southern Junction's Indian-spice infused barbecue fare are first on the list for curious eaters, Buffalo is home to many culinary talents with menus worth traveling for.

Here are 10 Buffalo-area restaurants where the chefs are masters of their craft, feeding people with dishes drawn from their lifelong pursuit of cooking that makes any meal a celebration.

1 **Ryan Fernandez,**
Southern Junction, Buffalo

Born in India and raised in Texas, Fernandez fused home cooking with barbecue to create a classic joint that has garnered nationwide buzz. Taste applewood-smoked chicken dipped in spice-infused coconut oil, caramelized onion and curry leaf accent. Swoon over beef brisket in coconut curry sauce with a side of smoked cauliflower Manchurian. Do what the regulars do: Hit the bar while one in your party waits in line.



2

Zelalem Gemmeda,
Abyssinia Ethiopian Cuisine,
Buffalo

Originally hailing from Ethiopia, Gemmeda learned the restaurant business in a Yemeni refugee camp as she made money for her children's education. Her Ethiopian kitchen originally began at a local incubator, the West Side Bazaar. She and husband Gezaghne Derseh serve vegan, vegetarian, and meat dishes on injera, a gluten-free sourdough pancake made from teff, an ancient grain.

3

Dina Mattiello,
The Dove, Orchard Park

Mattiello was trained by her father, a Naples native and chef. Two decades after The Dove opened, its vision of dinner, and its bonanza of welcoming freebies with your entree, remain unchanged. Expert servers greet guests with warm house-baked bread, whipped butter, and a meatball in tomato sauce. After ordering, pasta fagioli with onion and Romano cheese arrives, followed by a salad with house-made creamy parmesan dressing, and a shot of chilled limoncello.

4

Vincent Thompson,
Prescott's Provisions,
Tonawanda

Buffalo-born Thompson worked his way up to executive chef at Buffalo Chophouse. In 2018, he opened Prescott's with a menu that prizes steak, seafood and casual pizza. The result is a host of creative appetizers and special-occasion blockbusters, with a view of the Erie Canal. Premium ingredients plus expert service have put Prescott's Provisions at the top of many local diners' splurge lists.



5

**Joe Fenush and Ed Forster,
Waxlight Bar à Vin, Buffalo**

Fenush and Forster were chefs at other beloved local restaurants before they decided to combine their talents at Waxlight. They turn local ingredients into a relentlessly creative menu with wide-ranging price points. On the menu, which changes weekly, you may find kohlrabi marinated and grilled, dry-aged beef coulotte, misoyaki hasselback potato, haricot verts, and a charred onion hollandaise on steak.

6

**Oded Rauvenpoor,
Falafel Bar, Amherst**

Born in Israel, Rauvenpoor has served classic and obscure dishes of the Levant and Greece for two decades. His restaurant is a frequent stop for vegans, halal eaters, and people who want thin, crispy Israeli-style chicken schnitzel speckled with sesame seeds. Try fluffy falafel with emerald-green insides, Israeli street food like sabich -- fried eggplant, hummus, salad, tangy mango hot sauce and fresh hummus. Sunday brunch, once a month, features khachapuri, the schooner-shaped Georgian cheese bread.



7

**James Roberts,
Toutant, Buffalo**

Roberts, a New Orleans native, named this restaurant after his family's bayou fishing camp. Tables made of fenceposts lend an authentic air to the space. The menu features seafood flown in from Roberts' dockside contacts along the Gulf of Mexico. Highlights here include the barbecue of the week, shrimp po'boys on crackly rolls, and a Nashville chicken tower on dill brine white bread.

PHOTO BY LUKE COPPING

PHOTO BY LUKE COPPING

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
Yemeni Coffee
IN BUFFALO**



The aroma of ginger, cinnamon and cardamom greets you when you walk in the door. Warm slices of honeycomb bread and bint al-sahn practically beg to be eaten. At Buffalo's numerous Yemeni coffee houses you'll find more than just your typical caffeine boost—they serve a taste of tradition and community.

Raha Coffee House

370 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207
716-615-5555

rahacoffeehouse.com @rahacoffeehouse

Sana'a Cafe

1207 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216
716-370-0080

sanaahousecafe.com @sanaa_cafe

Penny's Coffee Shop (Turkish)

916 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202
716-370-0308

pennys.coffee @pennys_coffeeshop

Socotra Coffee House

671 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna, NY 14218
716-939-2778

@socotra.coffee

Haraz Coffee House
(coming soon)

471 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222
harazcoffeehouse.com @harazcoffeehouse.com

Qamaria Yemeni Coffee Co.

5363 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221
716-276-3213

qamariacoffee.com @qamariacoffee

8

Tab Daulton,
Winfield's Pub, Buffalo

In 2014, Daulton turned a neighborhood tavern into a showcase. Local producers contribute to pasture-raised chicken pot pie, duck confit poutine with gravy and cheddar curds, and a warm Velveeta potato salad with green olives. Specials like shrimp scampi may feature foraged ramps. His wife, Cherryl, shepherds customers to tables while son Thomas jams out on custom cocktails for one of the tightest family acts in Buffalo.

9

Brad Rowell,
Grange Community Kitchen, Hamburg

Rowell, a graduate of the French Culinary Institute, turns out Neapolitan-style pies with seasonal ingredients. The mains draw from local producers and world cuisines. Creative desserts debut weekly. Try his sister restaurants in Orchard Park: breakfast sandwich and pastry takeout Grange Outpost, and Wayland Brewing Co., a stylish brewpub with a bocce court.

10

Fabio Consonni,
DiTondo, Buffalo

Consonni was cooking at a hotel on Italy's Lake Garda when he met Buffalo sommelier Rita DiTondo. Together they reinvigorated the Seneca Street restaurant founded by her grandfather. Its open kitchen makes fresh pastas, focaccia, and regional specialties like the Calabrian swordfish pesce spada alla griglia. **BUF**



Andrew Z. Galarneau is the founder and editor of Four Bites, a Substack-based food news service.



PHOTO BY LUKE COPPING



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and legacies of the
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Plus, be sure to visit the Lucy Desi Museum, just three blocks away, where we celebrate the legacies and remarkable influence of Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, Desilu Studios and the greatest TV comedy of all time, *I Love Lucy*. Laugh all day with us in Jamestown. The story of comedy lives here.



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200 YEARS

ON THE ERIE CANAL.

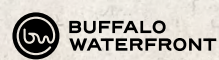
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CANAL 2025
BICENTENNIAL

ERIE 1825
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Explore the vast history of this iconic waterway with events and exhibits for all ages at Canalside, all summer long.

ErieCanalTurns200.com



Celebrate 200 YEARS of the Erie Canal

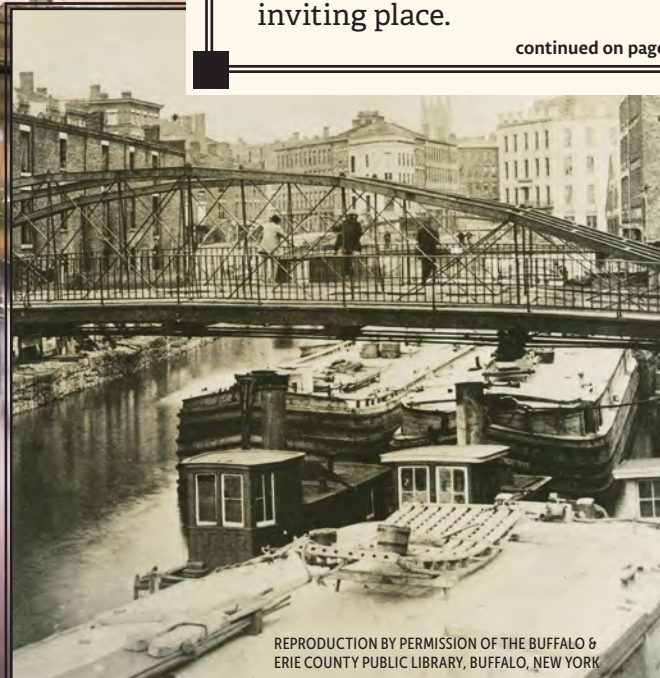
BY MICHELLE KEARNS





The Buffalo port at the western terminus of the Erie Canal, celebrating its 200th birthday this year, made the city rich and famous. Then, the port nearly vanished, covered up by streets and parking lots. A transformation started with an archeological dig. When shovels hit a whiskey distillery's foundations a decade ago, the old bones of the city's lost harbor came to light. The stones revealed the story of Buffalo's beginnings and the shape of the original canal. Local passion for its restoration and preservation grew. A public effort emerged to make the waterfront an inviting place.

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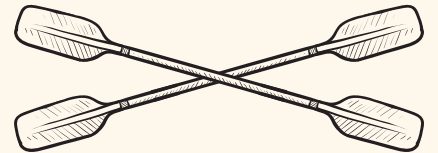
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BFO Harbor Kayak - Photo by Sharon Cantillon



Seneca Chief - Photo by Sharon Cantillon



Buffalo Heritage Carousel - Photo by Sharon Cantillon



“IT’S A WATERSHED MOMENT”

The banks of the old Erie Canal harbor are now Canalside, 12 acres at the downtown edge of Lake Erie. Here people come together, walk the promenades, take in sunsets, head to the lighthouse, get on a kayak and ride a schooner, catamaran or ferry.

This metamorphosis arrived in time for 2025’s bicentennial commemorations where the canal that changed a nation began.

The enduring engineering marvel, now beloved by boaters and kayakers, has 351 intact miles and a Buffalo harbor that invites people to explore history and enjoy the water.

Head to the Commercial Slip, a restored portion of the original canalway, to visit the home of the Seneca Chief. This recreated version of the first canal boat to skirt Niagara Falls and travel from Buffalo to New York City has been readying for a September 2025 journey along the original route, the water highway that shifted and changed since its 1825 beginnings. Nearby, a pedestrian crossing replicates a bygone truss bridge.

Just steps away is another recreation: The Longshed was built to look like warehouse from the canal’s heyday. Now it is home to a new museum stop opening in the summer of 2025. The “Waterway of Change” is an immersive exhibit designed so visitors can take virtual journeys and see how the canal shaped New York State.

The canal’s opening led to Buffalo becoming the world’s largest grain port and the eighth largest city in the country. Two centuries later, Buffalo’s harbor enjoys this 21st century reimagining and transformation of what was once an off-limits industrial waterfront. This renaissance combined history with new public access, said Mike Vogel, and current president of the Buffalo Lighthouse Association.

“The most amazing thing about Canalside is that it’s a watershed moment,” he said. “It’s trying to build a sense of place and incorporating Buffalo’s very rich heritage into a gathering space, a place where people want to come, a place that celebrates history, but also offers a lot of opportunity just to enjoy the present, in terms of lawns and a wharf, and above all, nearness to the water, which is, I think, the key.” **BUF**



4 WAYS TO ENJOY CANALSIDE

1 The “Waterway of Change” exhibit at the Longshed, 1 Marine Drive, is a companion to the nearby Seneca Chief canal boat, 44 Prime St.

2 At Explore & More: The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children’s Museum, 130 Main St., the “Moving Water” exhibit lets kids try hands-on time travel and steer a boat, hoist loads and take in a two-story waterfall cascading into a model showing how canal locks work as water elevators, helping boats move past obstacles, like rapids.

3 Main Light Lighthouse and Park, 1 Fuhrmann Blvd., opened in 1833 on a pier built to enlarge the harbor to become the Erie Canal’s end point. Check buffalolight.org for tours running Memorial Day through September. Take a ferry or drive to the Canalside’s companion Outer Harbor park, where the path to the lighthouse begins.

4 Buffalo River History Tours, 44 Prime St., a boat tour offering from BuffaloBoatTours.com, focuses on Erie Canal history with stories about the city and its gold-rush-like boom times.

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum & The Buffalo Filling Station by Frank Lloyd Wright

263 Michigan at 201 Seneca - Downtown Buffalo, NY 14203

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WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT

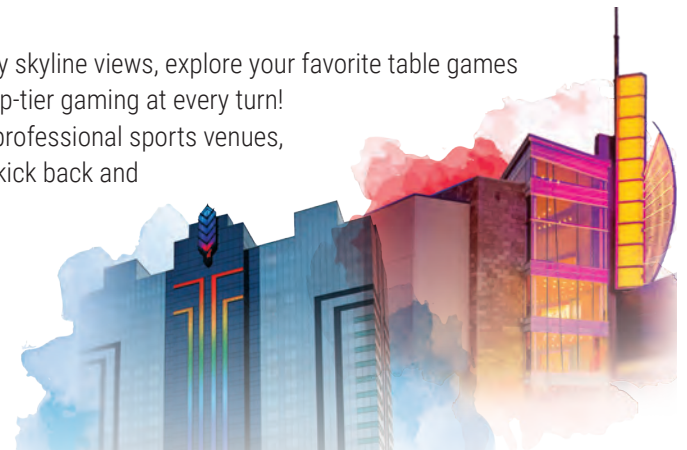
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Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino

Nestled in the heart of Buffalo's action with spectacular city skyline views, explore your favorite table games and discover hundreds of slot machines on our floor. It's top-tier gaming at every turn! Within walking distance to world-class entertainment and professional sports venues, we're the perfect spot to gather before a game or show or kick back and unwind with friends. Step inside and tap into the pulse of the City of Good Neighbors!



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Buffalo's Summer ▶ Playlist

By Drew Brown





“**M**an, the city is singing right now,” my friend said on a Thursday evening summer bike ride through Buffalo. The destination? A concert at Terminal B, the newest outdoor venue on Buffalo’s Outer Harbor. Along the way, our bike ride had its own soundtrack -- from a street musician at the corner of Allen and Franklin Streets, a local act jamming out at the Thursday & Main concert series, a DJ pumping out remixes of Whitney Houston’s greatest hits for dancers at the waterfront, lawn chair and blanket sitters nodding to wailing guitars at Riverfest Park, the notes of bluegrass spilling onto Ohio Street from Duende tavern at Silo City, and the cool Lake Erie breezes and warm tones flowing from the amphitheater at Terminal B. Arriving, it was a thrilling feeling to know that just a couple years ago this place on the water was overlooked and driven past. Now, it’s a music destination worthy of the acts that grace its stage.



Terminal B at the Outer Harbor - Photo by Joe Cascio

As we rode, it was like someone put the city on shuffle. For your own unforgettable experience, press play and take in Buffalo's summer playlist with our suggestions below.

New Venues & Series

In its first year as a venue in 2024, **Terminal B** brought in some heavy hitters. Acts like Chappell Roan, Primus, Lil Yachty, and the legendary local band moe. kicked off the 5,000-capacity venue's inaugural season. Situated on the shores of Lake Erie, the new stage juts out from the steel beam bones of an industrial warehouse that once occupied the site. Just like the genres of music that play here, it's a perfect blend of historic and contemporary. The vibes couldn't be better at this amphitheater, especially when the band's light show is enhanced by Buffalo's own light show -- a setting sun over Lake Erie.

All around, relatively new music series are cementing their place in the season's musical offerings.

Thursday & Main concerts take place at Fountain Plaza each week from June to August. They feature local and national artists like



Elmwood-Bidwell Summer Concert Series - Photo by Aaron Ingrao

Lowest of the Low, Willie Nile, and the Strictly Hip. Did we mention it's free?!

Out in East Aurora, at the stables of Knox Farm State Park, 42 North Brewing's **Sunset at the Stables** series, on Fridays throughout July, is an unofficial teaser to the Borderland Music + Arts Festival. (We'll get to that later.) It's fueled by great food

from local food trucks, fresh craft beer, and tunes by local bluegrass, folk and rock acts. Plan to catch a show as the sun goes down at the park's scenic rolling hills.

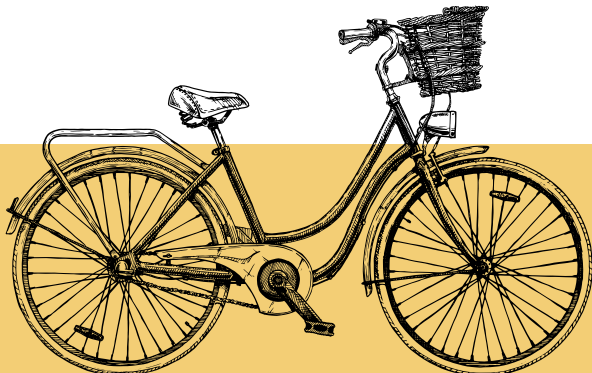
Long Standing Show Stoppers

Music is a unifier in Buffalo. Coming off the chill of winter, neighbors in communities all around Buffalo re-connect each week for some of our longest running music events.

Tuesdays in the Elmwood Village burst with sound as residents exit their front doors with coolers and

blankets in tow. They flock to Bidwell Parkway for the decades-strong **Bidwell Concert Series**, running from June to August.

On Wednesdays, two staples crank up the volume. **Live at Larkin** ends a long workday with music. People in suits and ties who work in the businesses of Larkin Square loosen up alongside the neighborhood's residents. See the show under the pergola or grab a bite and enjoy the tunes from the patios of nearby restaurants, Hydraulic Hearth or Bratts Hill.



Biking to the show at Terminal B?

Take the Queen City Bike Ferry to access the Outer Harbor directly from Canalside. Fares are \$1 each way.

In the Old First Ward neighborhood, **Riverfest Park's** stage brings out this proud community to the banks of the Buffalo River. Chill on the lawn, take in the tunes, and gaze across the water to Buffalo RiverWorks' urban adventure playground.

On Thursdays, the historic village of Williamsville shuts down its Main Street to host more than a dozen bands each week for **Music on Main**. Grab an ice cream from Sweet Jenny's or a brew from RationAles or Britesmith. Stroll the street, stop by Glen Falls and find your music of choice.

Keeping it Jazzy

Jazz has deep roots in Buffalo. From the Colored Musicians Club's more than century-long history to the legacy of jazz clubs, like the Little Harlem and artists like George Caldwell and Elvin Shepard, it's no surprise that the summer months are overflowing with the smooth sounds of jazz.

In July and August, three festivals celebrate that rich heritage. Marking 30 years in 2025, the **Pappy Martin Legacy Masten Jazz Festival** takes place at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and recognizes the musical contributions of James "Pappy" Martin, over two weekends in July. The **Pine Grill Jazz Reunion** honors the former club of its namesake, also at MLK, Jr. Park, across two weekends

in early August. At Lafayette Square in Downtown Buffalo, the leaders behind the Colored Musicians Club carry the torch of the club's history through the **Queen City Jazz Festival**, taking place during the last weekend of July.

Throughout the entirety of the season, JazzBuffalo organizes numerous events like jazz on the lawn of the Richardson Olmsted Campus and the **Buffalo Jazz Festival** in early September.

Fests on Fests on Fests

While Buffalo's seasonal music offerings are bolstered by the smaller community series and shows, there are a handful of summer festivals that draw in music fans from across the region.

Starting in May, Buffalo **Porchfest** in the Elmwood Village takes over hundreds of porches in this charming community. Over the course of six hours, wander the neighborhood and see folk musicians on one porch, EDM next door, and killer covers of 90s alternative on another. The options are seemingly infinite.

In August, on the grounds of the Buffalo Central Terminal, **Beau Fleuve Music and Arts Celebration** is

punching above its weight class by bringing in emerging hip hop, R&B, and neo-rock artists that have moved on to become chart-topping acts.

In September, the sun sets on summer at **Music Is Art Festival** - a one day event with dozens of stages and performances curated by Robby Takac, the bassist of Buffalo's very own Goo Goo Dolls.

Circling back to Knox Farm State Park, the **Borderland Music + Arts Festival** embodies the transition from summer to fall. National acts like the Flaming Lips, Portugal the Man, and the Black Crowes have graced the festival's stages. Set in the uber-idyllic village of East Aurora, there's something special about swaying to the music, watching the sun set over the tree-lined fields of Knox Farm and reflecting on what an amazing summer of music it's been in Buffalo and Erie County. We invite you to experience it. [BUF](#)



Pine Grill Jazz Reunion - Photo by Rhea Anna





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Freedom Wall - Photo by Nancy J. Parisi

My 48 Hours in Buffalo

A Curator Shares Her Ideal Buffalo Weekend

By Tiffany Gaines

As a New York City native, I love when friends and family visit Buffalo. I take them to familiar favorites, the places that showcase Buffalo's vibrant history and culture and make this city feel like home.

Tiffany Gaines - Photo by Stephen Gabris



On Day 1,

fuel up for adventure with a start at **Unapologetic Coffee**, 899 Main St. The sustainability-minded, Black women-owned coffee shop has a warm atmosphere of culture, and community. About two miles away is Elmwood Avenue with its leafy Victorian neighborhood of shops, restaurants, cafes – and museums! Start at the **Burchfield Penney Art Center**, 1300 Elmwood Ave. As a curator there, I'm proud of the diverse exhibitions and artists, and of the history of Charles Burchfield and his watercolor landscapes that seem to hum and vibrate. This is a good place for a warming bowl at the museum's Roux Soup Bar and Cafe.

Cross the street to the **Buffalo AKG Art Museum**, 1285 Elmwood Ave. Stroll through the new exhibits at the new three-story glass cube-like Gundlach building. Follow the curvy windowed bridge to the original 1905 gallery and take in the historic campus and renowned international collection.

Head outside and explore the AKG commissioned murals on buildings and walls in the neighborhoods all over the city. Take in the **Freedom**

Clockwise L-R: Unapologetic Coffee - Photo by Nancy J. Parisi, Buffalo AKG Art Museum - Photo by Sharon Cantillon, Zawadi Books - Photo by Nancy J. Parisi



Wall's collection of portraits celebrating the legacies of local and national African American trailblazers at the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street in East Buffalo. From there, keep going for two more miles to the **Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor**. Discover the stories of musicians with Buffalo connections, like Aretha Franklin. See the 1845 church and refuge built by freedom fighters. Tour the house

museum where the minister lived who was instrumental in starting the local NAACP.

Dinner and drinks? Connecticut Street is my favorite stop. Try a milkshake cocktail, sweet potato fries and fried chicken sandwich and lots of vegan options at **Mister Sizzles**, 346 Connecticut St. On the next block, at 365 Connecticut St., don't miss **Southern Junction's** award winning Indian-fusion barbecue.

Start Day 2

by sipping a good morning brew at **Golden Cup Coffee**, 1323 Jefferson Ave. You will be on an iconic street in a historic African American neighborhood. This Black-owned coffee shop makes grits that taste like they're from Grandma's kitchen. It's surrounded by landmarks like the **Challenger Community News**, founded in 1963 and publishing weekly papers on Wednesdays, and the **Frank E. Merriweather Library**. Stop



at the Tops supermarket at 1275 Jefferson Ave. where you can pay your respects at a memorial and remembrance site for Buffalonians lost in the massacre on May 14, 2022. Down the street at 1382 Jefferson Ave., **Zawadi Books**, named for the Swahili word for “a gift,” has been a community staple for nearly 50 years. A six-minute drive away is another one of my favorites: **Fitz Books and Waffles**, 433 Ellicott St., has Belgian-style waffles you can hold and eat while perusing books that “reveal hidden histories and motivate us to be agents of change.”

Another six-minute drive east leads to **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**, at Fillmore Avenue

and Best Street. This historic Buffalo Olmsted Park with walking tours, jazz festivals, concerts, is home of the annual **Juneteenth** parade, one of the nation’s oldest and largest celebrations. About a mile away at 683 Northland Ave., **Manna @ Northland** specializes in soul food and doesn’t disappoint.

Niagara Falls is about a 30-minute drive and an easy trip to the **Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**, 825 Depot Ave. The museum tells the story of the freedom fighters who helped people escape slavery and find safety across the bridge in Canada. It’s a great reminder of how much history is right here.

As afternoon turns to evening, make your way to Buffalo’s waterfront where the sunsets mesmerize at the horizon. **Canalside**, a downtown park and promenade along the old Erie Canal, features the **Buffalo Heritage Carousel**, a restored merry-go-round built a century ago at a now-defunct local factory. At the day’s end, wind down with dinner and drinks at **Deco Lounge**, 69 Delaware Ave. The stylish bar serves small plates and cocktails, sometimes with live music.

*Tiffany Gaines is a curator at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. **BUF***

4

WAYS TO EXPLORE THE CORRIDOR

The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor (michiganstreetbuffalo.org) is a neighborhood where the nation’s history changed course. Discover this rich heritage at four historic museums and landmarks near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Broadway.

The recently restored Michigan Street Baptist Church (511 Michigan Ave.), built in 1845 and a stop on the Underground Railroad that once hosted luminaries like Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington.

The newly renovated and expanded Colored Musicians Club and Museum (145 Broadway),

one of the nation’s oldest Black-owned clubs, where legends like Dizzy Gillespie and John Coltrane once jammed.

WUFO Black Radio History Collective (143 Broadway) features historic radio equipment and exhibits about Buffalo’s WUFO 1080 AM, broadcasting since 1962.

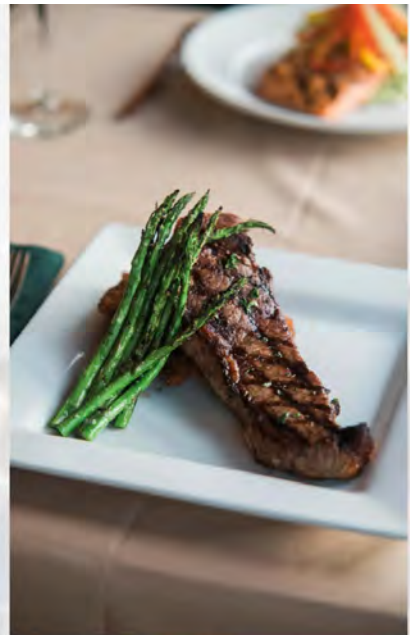
The Nash House Museum (36 Nash St., Buffalo) shares the legacy and impact of The Rev. J. Edward Nash, longtime pastor of the Michigan Street Baptist Church.

By Terry Alford, executive director of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor.



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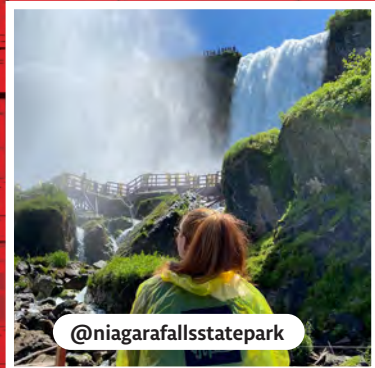
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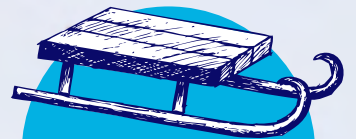


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How to Plan a **SNEAKY COOL** Winter Getaway

Winter in Buffalo isn't for everyone. But you're not everyone, are you? For those in the know and into snow, Buffalo offers the perfect weekend of chilled thrills. Spend a weekend here at a fraction of the cost of a summer visit and discover what makes winter here so special, from ice biking at the Ice at Canalside, to admiring the frozen spectacle of Niagara Falls. Your new favorite sneaky cool winter getaway awaits! Explore our winter guide by scanning the QR code below and start planning your trip. [BUF](#)



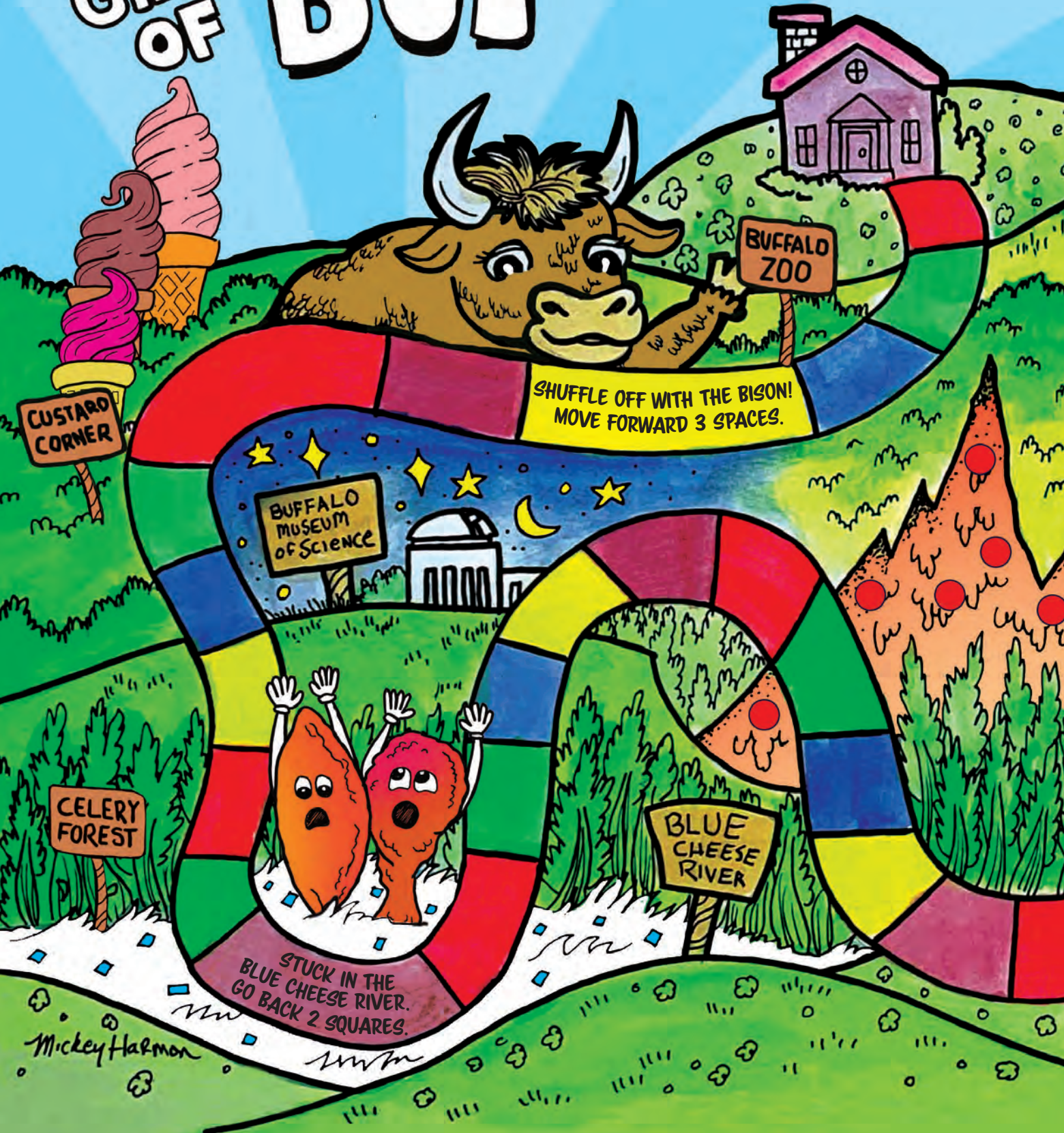
The legendary toboggan chutes at **Chestnut Ridge Park** offer one of our region's favorite winter thrills.



Photo by Sharon Cantillon

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&
MORE

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CUP & CHAR
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CAROUSEL

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CASTLE

GAME KEY ON
NEXT PAGE!

THE GAME OF **BUF** GAME KEY



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BUFFALO HERITAGE CAROUSEL, 1 Marine Drive, Buffalo: Hop on a noble steed, and let this century-old Merry-go-round whirl you away to a sweeter, simpler time.



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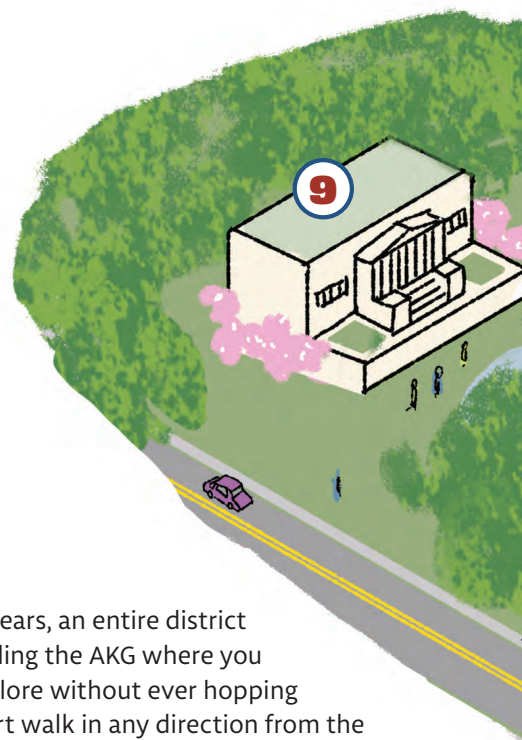
BY BRIAN HAYDEN / ILLUSTRATION BY PETE REILING

TIME Magazine recently named the newly expanded **(1) Buffalo AKG Art Museum** 1285 Elmwood Ave. one of the top places to visit in the world. Visitors who admire its collection of paintings from masters like Van Gogh, Picasso and Monet will discover that this “world’s greatest place” is the perfect jumping off point to explore a host of other nearby extraordinary attractions.

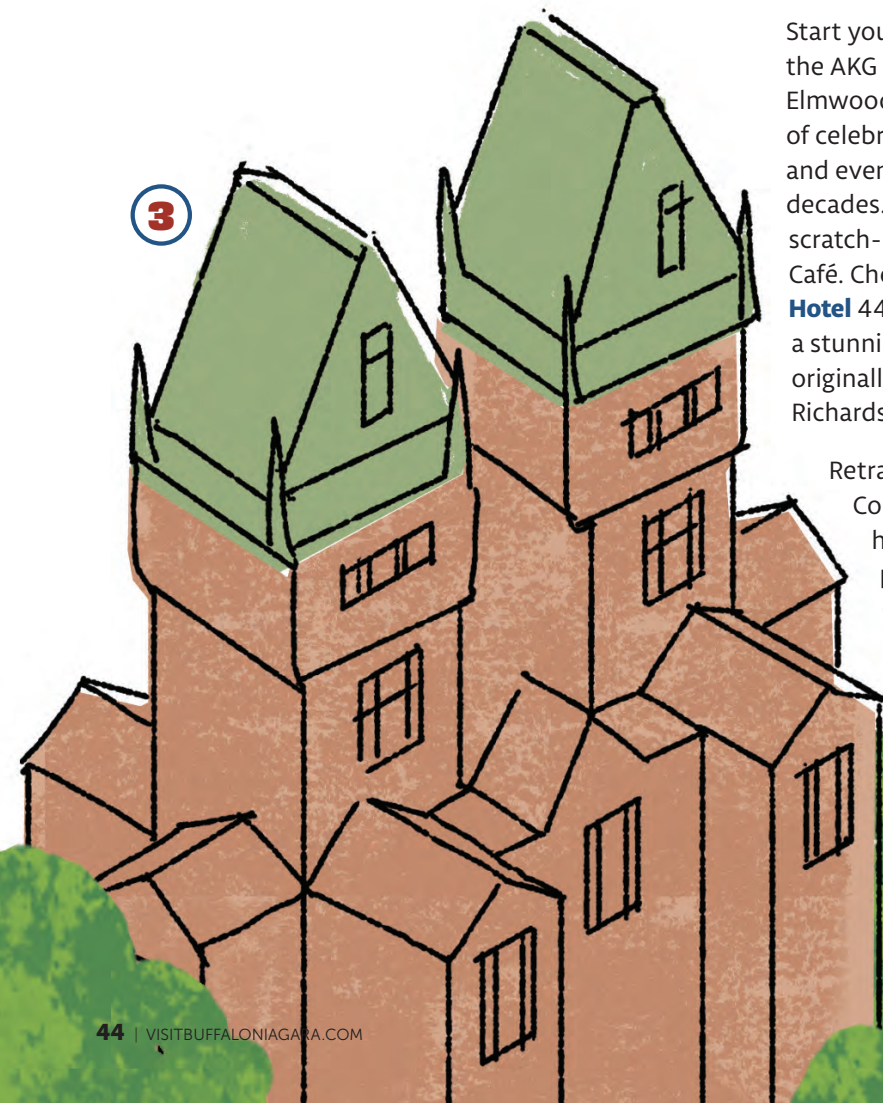
Over the last several years, an entire district has emerged surrounding the AKG where you can stay, dine and explore without ever hopping in your car. Take a short walk in any direction from the AKG to discover more breathtaking beauty, inspiring history, incredible architecture, and amazing art, culture and culinary delights.

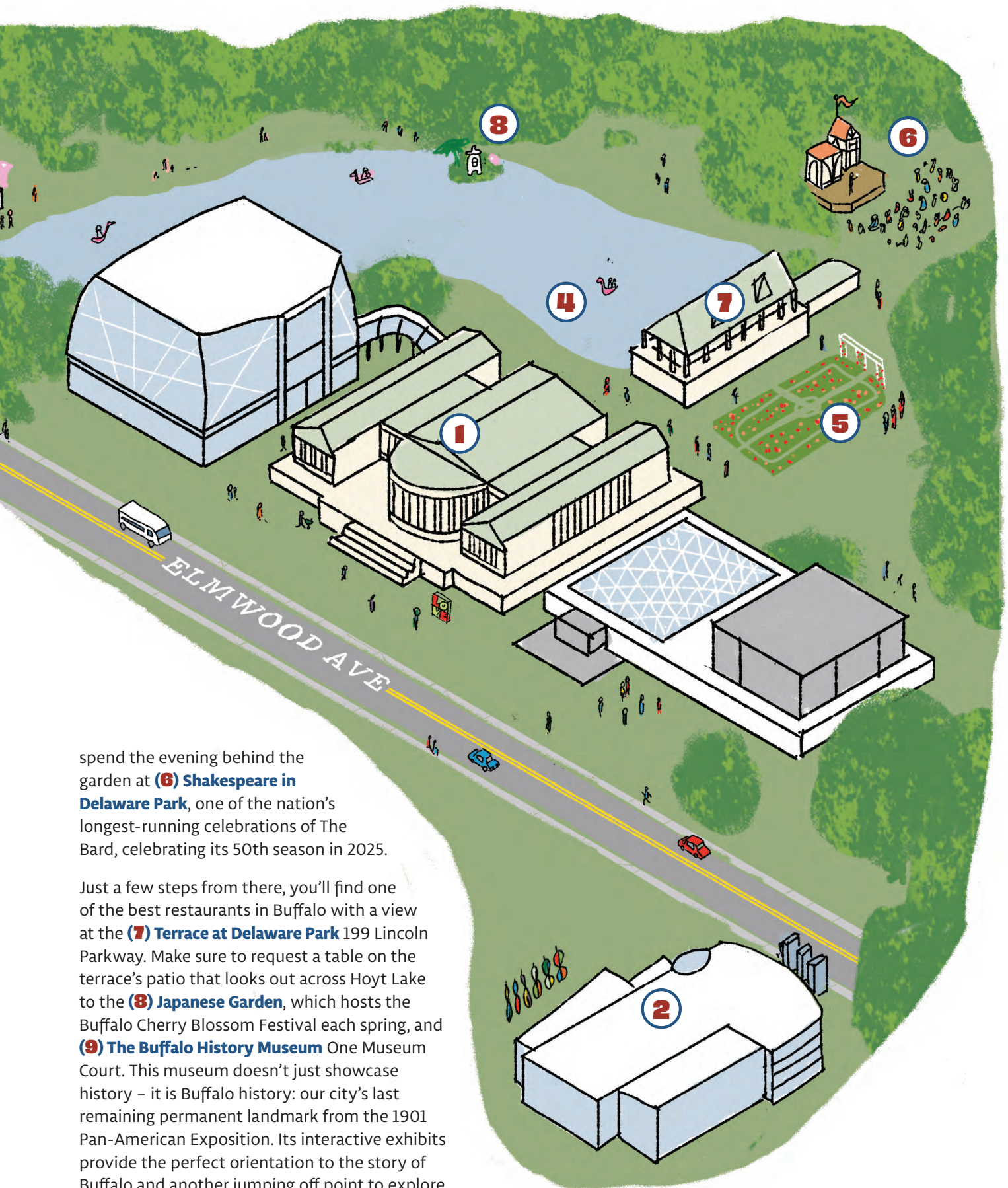
Start your journey by walking across the street from the AKG to the **(2) Burchfield Penney Art Center** 1300 Elmwood Ave., which features the signature collection of celebrated local watercolorist Charles Burchfield – and even the recreated studio where he drew from for decades. Don’t leave without trying some of the best scratch-made soups in the city at Roux Soup Bar and Café. Check in around the corner at the **(3) Richardson Hotel** 444 Forest Ave., which opened in 2023 within a stunningly reimaged National Historic Landmark originally designed 150 years ago by Henry Hobson Richardson as the Buffalo State Asylum.

Retrace your steps and stroll through the AKG’s Common Sky, the free glass-covered atrium that has quickly become one of Buffalo’s favorite public spaces and features delicious eats at Cornelia Café. On the backside of the AKG, you’ll find the western edge of **(4) Delaware Park**, the crown jewel of Frederick Law Olmsted’s nearly 160-year-old Buffalo park and parkway system. Pedal your way across Hoyt Lake on a FLOATmingo, or take a stroll through the park’s beautiful **(5) Rose Garden**. Then



3





spend the evening behind the garden at **(6) Shakespeare in Delaware Park**, one of the nation's longest-running celebrations of The Bard, celebrating its 50th season in 2025.

Just a few steps from there, you'll find one of the best restaurants in Buffalo with a view at the **(7) Terrace at Delaware Park** 199 Lincoln Parkway. Make sure to request a table on the terrace's patio that looks out across Hoyt Lake to the **(8) Japanese Garden**, which hosts the Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival each spring, and **(9) The Buffalo History Museum** One Museum Court. This museum doesn't just showcase history – it is Buffalo history: our city's last remaining permanent landmark from the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Its interactive exhibits provide the perfect orientation to the story of Buffalo and another jumping off point to explore the rest of the city. [BUF](#)



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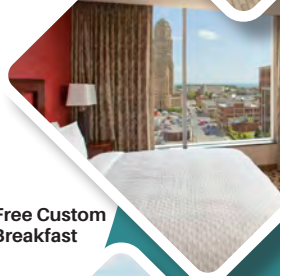
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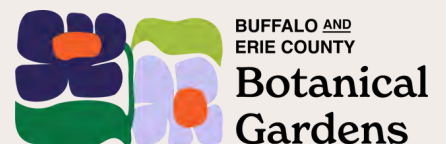
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EAST AURORA A STROLL THROUGH CLASSIC AMERICANA



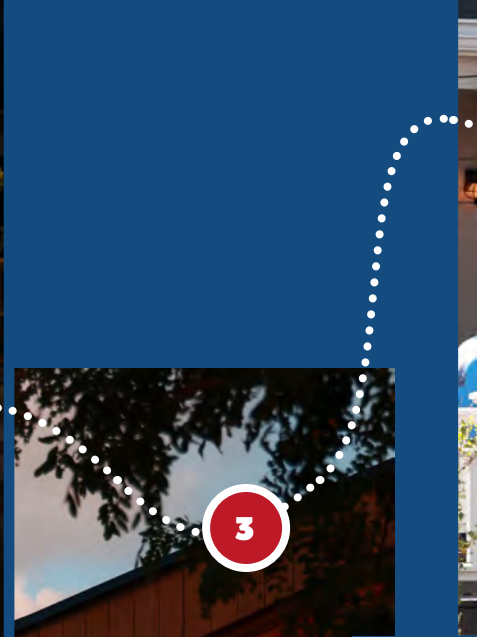
1 Peruse the candy counter and capture a core memory at Vidler's 5&10.

1

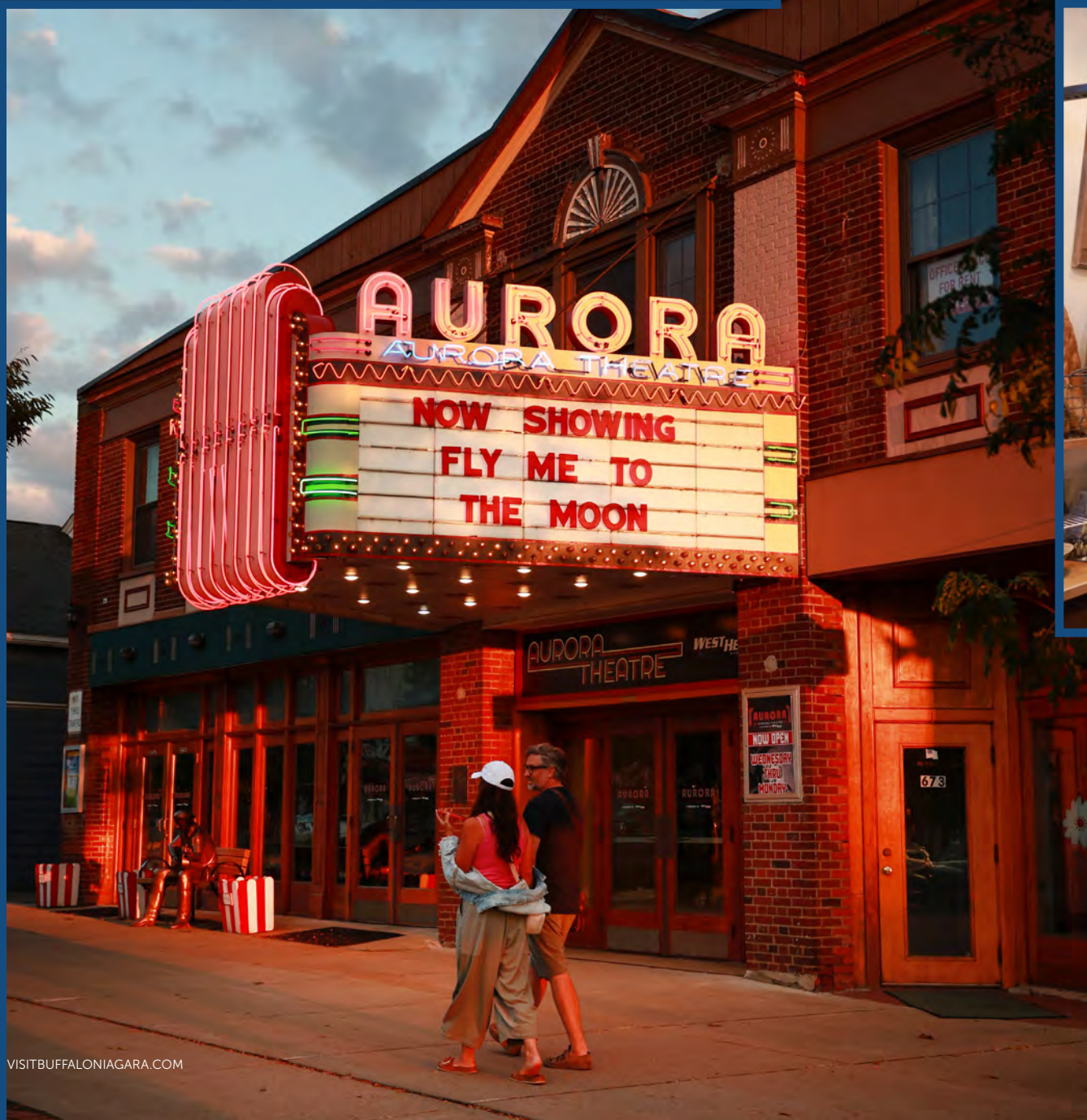
As picturesque as it is inviting, East Aurora, N.Y., feels like a storybook brought to life. Nestled in rolling hills just south of Buffalo, E.A. (as locals lovingly call it) blends historic charm with contemporary pleasures. Take a stroll through this walkable village, where historic landmarks, delicious restaurants, and quaint shops line Main Street, inviting you to linger and explore. Wander through neighborhoods steeped in history and soak in the natural beauty of a place that captures the essence of small-town Americana. Each photo in this guide is a step along the way, offering a real-life look at a village that seems to be a snapshot of a simpler, slower time.



2



3





4

2 Grab a beer and sit by the fire at the beer garden of 42 North Brewing Company, which brews popular favorites like the Asylum Porter and the Borderland IPA.

3 Catch an old-time flick at the Aurora Theatre, a village mainstay since 1925.

4 Dine al fresco at Rick's on Main, one of the village's most popular restaurants with a bustling front patio that faces Main Street.



5

5 Indulge in the freshest baked goods on display before your eyes at Elm Street Bakery.

6 Walking the side streets just off Main Street, like Oakwood Avenue (pictured), provides a glimpse of the village's beautiful homes and historic charm.



6



7

7 Book a room at the Roycroft Inn, a beautifully restored National Historic Landmark, and brunch with friends on the peristyle.

8 Travel back in time to the village's creative beginnings by taking a class or shopping at the Roycroft Campus, the birthplace of the American Arts & Crafts Movement.

9 Find a bit of respite and wander the tranquil grounds at Knox Farm State Park, the former estate of the Knox family that has transformed into 633 acres of hiking trails and public space.

10 Eat Josh Allen's favorite wings at Bar-Bill Tavern, a stop along the Buffalo Wing Trail where every order is hand-brushed with hot sauce.

8





9

10



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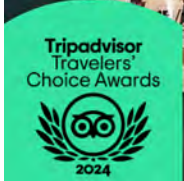
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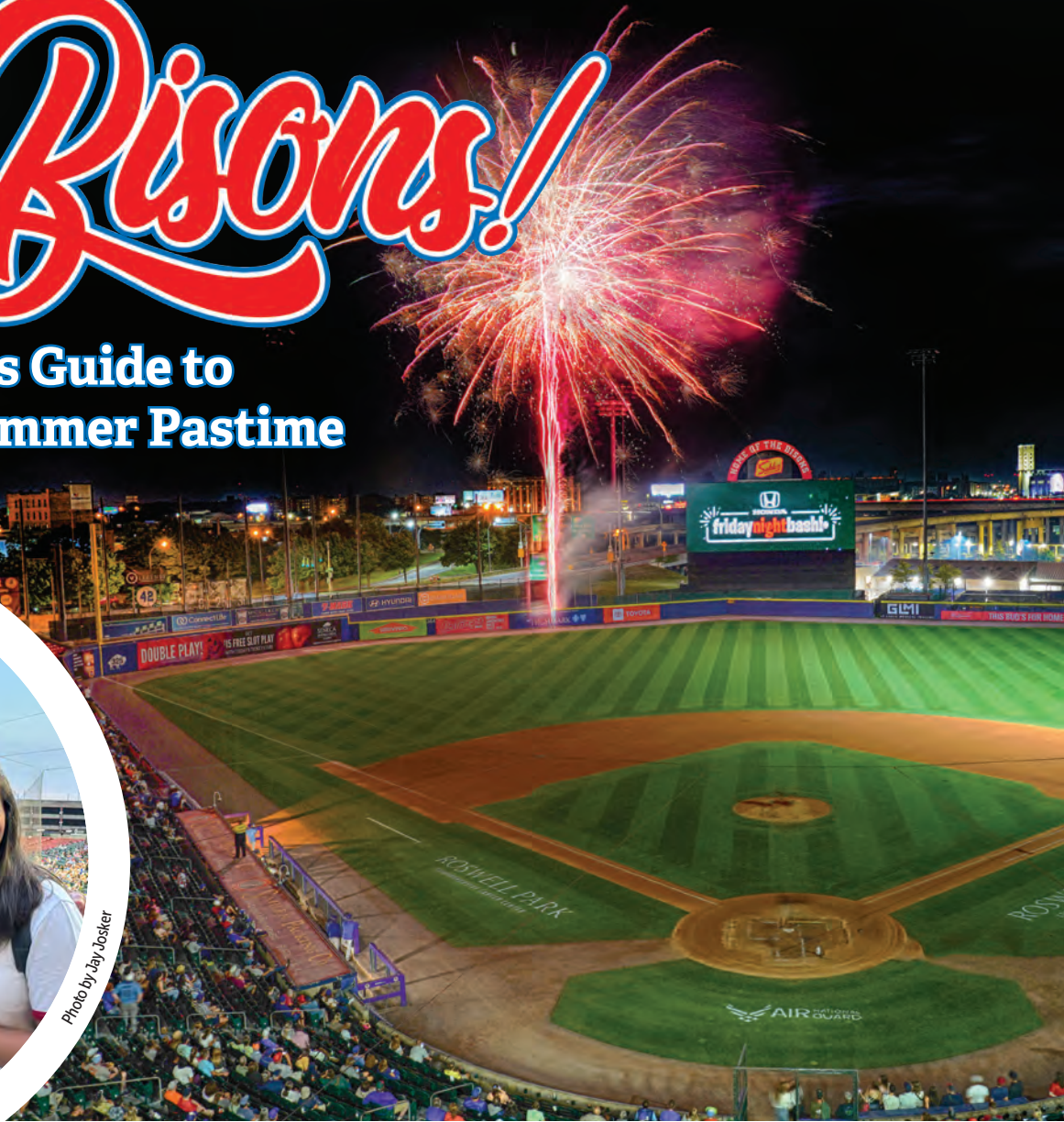
Take me out to the Bisons!

A Superfan's Guide to Buffalo's Summer Pastime

By Jay Josker



Photo by Jay Josker



Let me spare you the romantic “crack of the bat” language that gets used in every story about baseball and simply say this: Going to a Bisons game is awesome! It’s easily top five on any Buffalonian’s summer to-do

list and it ain’t number five. Why is it awesome? Well, for all those romantic baseball platitudes I just breezed by of course, but also because at a Bisons game, there’s something for everyone. Let me explain:

Baseball purists will love it

Sahlen Field, the Bisons’ home, was designed by the same architects that designed Baltimore’s iconic Camden Yards. It’s the first example of a retro-classic ballpark fully

integrated into a city center. It’s the largest Triple-A park in the country. If you’re a baseball fan, this is a grail.

It’s family friendly

Tickets are affordable, there are no bad seats and the games are fun! They’ve



Photo courtesy of the Buffalo Bisons



Photo courtesy of the Buffalo Bisons

got all the fixins of a major league park: t-shirt tosses, between-inning contests, ice cream, hot dogs, and an absolutely mammoth video board for those crowd shots of people dancing. The leader of this nine-inning party is Buffalo mascot Buster Bison. Catch him dancing on the dug-out, snapping pictures with kids, or interfering in the chicken wing mascot races. There's \$2 hot-dog and ice cream nights, and on Sundays kids get to run the bases. Speaking of promos...

Nobody is doing baseball promos better than the Bisons

Friday nights end with a fireworks show, there's Star Wars Night and Superhero Day and merch to go with both. There's a specialty hotdog and featured specialty nachos for every homestand, Mark-down Mondays for discount tickets, early season Hot Stove specials for groups, and bobbleheads! Ohhhhh, the bobbleheads. Last year local superfan and ballpark icon "Mark" got his own. This year NFL Network star and known Buffalo Bills enthusiast Kyle Brandt got one. He

showed up to host the game and autograph them, too! Oh! And dogs! They have bring your pup to the park days!

Adults can hang, too

Bisons games aren't just for the kids. There's plenty to keep the 21-and-up crowd entertained as well. The newly renovated restaurant inside the stadium has a full complement of bourbons to work through and a buffet special that includes a game ticket. You can watch "the Herd" from inside the restaurant or access its stadium seats with your drink in hand. There's a multi-level party deck in the outfield with its own bar and high-top tables that groups can rent out. Pro tip from a local: You don't need a special ticket to access the restaurant –it's available to everyone. If no one rented out the party deck, you can head down to those high-top seats for a one-of-a-kind view of the game.

It's Quintessentially Buffalo

A Bisons game is a classic Buffalo experience. Sahlen Field sits in the heart of downtown Buffalo and everything has a local twist to it. "The Blue Zone" is an entire section

dedicated to a Buffalo staple: Labatt Blue beer. You can also get local microbrews, including my favorite – a Big Ditch Hayburner – at various concession stands throughout the park. Suds are served by beloved Buffalo concessionaire Conehead and his famous, "You get a warm beer from me, you drink it for free" catchphrase that's echoed the concourses of Buffalo sporting events for the last 30 years. La Nova – the first name in Buffalo pizza – slings slices in the concourse while world-famous Charlie the Butcher's carves it up fresh for the beef on salted weck roll sandwiches. Even the ice cream is local! Not content for just an actual Buffalo mascot, the Bisons have chicken wing and blue cheese mascots too, and every visitor is welcomed to Sahlen Field by a statue of famous Buffalo Mayor Jimmy Griffin.

Whether you're a visitor or local, no summer is complete without a Bisons game. I've heard people say that Buffalo is the "World's Largest Living Room." If that's true, all the couches are at Sahlen Field.

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Where to find Buffalo souvenirs

The perfect Buffalo souvenir awaits. Whether you're new here, an ex-pat, a longtime local, or just find yourself digging our vibe, there are endless ways to show off your Buffalove. Rock a Buffalo tee. Hang those Buffalo ornaments. Deck out your place with 716 swag and sip on your morning coffee from a Buffalo mug. Fill your suitcase with these Buffalo-themed gifts and goodies from our favorite local shops.



The Museum Store at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

641 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

This gift shop sells mementos that celebrate the life and legacy of America's 26th president, who took the oath of office here.

PICTURED ITEM: **Teddy Roosevelt Bobblehead** \$\$



Oxford Pennant

810 Main St., Buffalo

Deck out your home or office with creations from this Buffalo-born company, which designs customized vintage wool and cotton pennants, apparel and other accessories.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo Forever Pennant** \$\$



My Cuzin Vintage

168 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

This go-to spot for classic Buffalo gear and sportswear sells an ever-changing collection of vintage jerseys, varsity jackets, designer sneakers and streetwear.

PICTURED ITEM: **90s Buffalo Beanie** \$\$

The Shop at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum

1285 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

The newly expanded museum's gift shop sells books, stationery, prints, exclusive exhibition merchandise and one-of-a-kind jewelry from artists all over the world.

PICTURED ITEM: **Public Art in Buffalo Tote** \$\$



Vidler's 5 & 10,

694 Main St., East Aurora

Vidler's is overflowing with more than 75,000 practical, unique and whimsical finds, from whoopee cushions and yodeling pickles to novelty hats and more than 300 cookie cutter shapes.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo Wing Soda** \$





BFLO Store with locations at the Walden Galleria Mall in Cheektowaga 4199 Transit Rd., Williamsville, and 3701 McKinley Parkway, Blasdell

The BFLO Store is the region's largest shop for Buffalo-themed everything, like bow ties, drinkware, frames, pillows and specialty items.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo socks** \$



The Lounge Shop

799 Seneca St., Buffalo

This storefront offers super cozy Buffalo-inspired loungewear, from sherpa wraps and pullovers to sweaters, slippers, bath bombs and coffee mugs.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo Crewneck** \$\$



Buffalo ShopCraft,

773 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

Find creative products and designs here from more than 100 local artists, including ornaments, jewelry, wall art and apparel.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo Mug** \$\$



The Zootique at the Buffalo Zoo

300 Parkside Ave., Buffalo

The Zootique is filled with animal-themed items from all over the world, including jewelry, home decor and apparel.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo stuffie** \$\$

New Era Flagship Store, 160 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

Inside the Official New Era Cap Company headquarters, you can find more than 500 different hats from professional sports teams across the country, including Buffalo-themed styles that can't be found anywhere else.

PICTURED ITEM: **Buffalo Bisons Hat with Buffalo Flag** \$\$





Stitching together a community

Hkawng Lung, a refugee from Burma, puts the finishing touches on a felt house blessing hanging at **Stitch Buffalo**, an artisan collective of refugee women. The grassroots nonprofit on Buffalo's West Side at 284 Plymouth Ave. offers community, English practice and economic opportunity for more than 200 from places like Bhutan, Nepal, Egypt, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iraq and Bangladesh. The entrance to the expansive storefront, with a tailoring and sewing service and classrooms for lessons in macrame and embroidery, is a gift shop that welcomes with a riot of color, embroidered wares, jewelry and textiles. **BUF**



Stitch Buffalo - Photo by Michael Mandolfo

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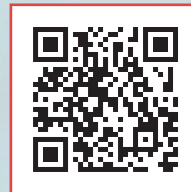
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By Kate Scaduto

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Above the Falls

Get up close and personal at **Niagara Falls State Park**, 15 Goat Island Loop Rd., where you can explore a network of footpaths along the banks of the Niagara River. The paths stretch from **Three Sisters Islands**, and the unique view of the upper rapids that churn towards the Falls, to **Prospect Point**, which offers a stunning view of the American Falls. Sightsee with ease on the **Niagara Scenic Trolley**, 332 Prospect St., as it stops at the park's most popular attractions. Get a real bird's eye "above the falls" view on **Rainbow Air Helicopter Tours**, 9990 Porter Rd.



INSIDER TIP

Snap a pic by the statue of the genius inventor Nikola Tesla reading his notes on Goat Island in Niagara Falls State Park. Get a selfie with the man whose electrical power-making innovations at Niagara Falls changed history!



INSIDER TIP

Climb approximately 160 steps to the “Crow’s Nest” for a one-of-a-kind view of the American Falls. Near the Maid of the Mist docks, it is only available to Maid of the Mist riders.

At the Base of the Falls

Reach out and touch – yes, touch – the Falls along the walkways of **Cave of the Winds**, 10 Goat Island Loop Rd., where you’ll begin your journey on an elevator that descends 175 feet into the Niagara Gorge. As you explore, be sure to make your way up to the **Hurricane Deck**, where you’ll get soaked beneath the torrents of Bridal Veil Falls. Hop on the world-famous **Maid of the Mist**, 1 Prospect St. The electric boat ride brings you to the base the Falls. Take in the impressive power of 600,000 gallons of water crashing down around you as mist drenches everything.

Beyond the Falls

See some of our wet and wild friends at the **Aquarium of Niagara**, 701 Whirlpool St., and its newest expansion, **Great Lakes 360**, 600 Discovery Way. Discover the powerful stories of freedom seekers at the **Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**, 825 Depot Ave. West, where the history of the Underground Railroad comes to life. Further north, up the Niagara River, explore breathtaking hiking trails at **Whirlpool State Park**, Niagara Scenic Parkway, and **Devil's Hole State Park**, Niagara Scenic Parkway, Niagara Falls. Both offer spectacular views of the swirling rapids below the Niagara River Escarpment. If a glimpse of a **Whirlpool JetBoat Tour** whipping by intrigues, get on one at 115 South Water St. in Lewiston!



INSIDER TIP

Explore the Schoellkopf Power Plant Ruins Site in Niagara Falls State Park, where a hydroelectric power station collapsed in 1956. Open seasonally, the elevator ride is FREE.



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Adam Zyglis is the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for The Buffalo News, his hometown newspaper, and author/illustrator of the popular book of illustrations on WNY culture, *You Know You're From Buffalo If...*



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