

News Release

Kansas City Jazz History Tour In conjunction with the Fifth Annual Charlie Parker™ Celebration

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The Celebration of "Bird" in Kansas City Continues. Jazz History Tour partnerships to include Kansas City Jazz ALIVE, BAC Horn Doctors, HOK Architecture Firm and Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC



*Charles Parker™ is a trademark of the Estate of Charles C. Parker, Jr.

What: *Kansas City Jazz History Tour*

When: August 25, 2018 | 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Historic Jazz District & Multiple Sites

Tickets: \$40 - Visit www.charlieparkercelebration.com

The 5th Annual Kansas City Charlie Parker Celebration will again explore and recognize the legacy of one of the most influential saxophonists and jazz icons to ever perform. The Celebration, a comprehensive Charlie Parker tribute, is recognized as the largest celebration of its kind in the world.

Parker was born in 1920 in Kansas City, Kan., and moved in 1927 to Kansas City, Mo. -- where jazz was flourishing, and the city was one of several ports instrumental in ushering in the musical improvisation style of Bebop, which Parker is identified with.

The 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration includes a mix of jazz venue showcase performances throughout the city as well as education, public programs and special events. In partnership with KC Jazz ALIVE, BAC Horn Doctor, HOK, and Midnight Blue Jazz LLC, this year's celebration will include an expanded version of our popular Jazz History Tour.

Greg Carroll, President of Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC and Vice-President of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE notes ... "We are very excited to expand our Jazz History Tour experience this year. Tour patrons will participate in a two-phase tour consisting of a short walking tour within the historic jazz district, followed by lunch, a special district development presentation, musical salute to Bird and a traveling bus tour to sites that played a significant role in the development of Kansas City's formidable jazz scene." Patrons will also be provided with a complimentary *KC Jazz Self-Guide* tour booklet. Our 2018 Tour Guides include **Jacob Wagner, PhD** (Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design, UMKC). Kansas City Jazz ALIVE board member, **John Nobles** remarks that... "Jacob's efforts supported the application to designate Kansas City as the first Creative City of Music in the United States by UNESCO. His engaging and compelling understanding of the value of Kansas City's jazz history is precisely why UNESCO acknowledged our city as one of the most significant jazz cities in the world." Leading our phase 2 tour is **Christopher Burnett** (COO/ Founder of ARC – Artists Recording Collective) – whose passionate and authentic insight on KC's rich jazz history is infectious.

Just before the tour's lunch stop, patrons will enjoy experiencing the refreshed outdoor jazz exhibit at 12th and Vine which very few have come to experience. Lunch under the tent at the 12th Street & Vine Goin' to Kansas City Plaza is near BAC Musical Instruments/Horn Doctor – one of the only remaining custom brass instrument manufacturers in America led by the irrepressible **Mike Corrigan**.

Most notably, the tour will visit "The Bowl" – the sunken gardens on the Paseo that served as a special "invitation only" gathering spot for KC's best jazz musicians. Our visit here will include a musical salute to Charlie Parker and the many iconic KC jazz artists who followed in his footsteps. Salute musicians will include celebrated artists from the KC jazz scene as well as students from the UMKC Jazz Studies program.

Limited seating for the tour buses and lunch is available so early registration is highly advised.

Visit www.charlieparkercelebration.com to learn more about this fantastic day and reserve your space today!

MORE

MORE ABOUT CHARLIE PARKER...



Parker's early music lessons occurred in the KC public schools. He began playing alto sax at age 13 and worked occasionally with semi-professional groups before leaving school at age 15 and becoming a full-time musician. For the next four years he would perform primarily in KC with a variety of local blues and jazz groups. His craft was developed mostly through practical experience and listening to older jazz performers. He began traveling to other cities in the late 1930s. He joined Jay McShann's band, began touring, performed solo in many of McShann's recordings and soon prominence followed.

As part of the Charlie Parker Celebration, organizers have assembled a series of events that offer performance, education and of course, tributes. Visit www.charlieparkercelebration.com for more details and a complete listing of the 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration.

2018 Charlie Parker Celebration – *Jazz History Tour*

August 25, 2018

Meet Your Tour Guides...



Jacob A Wagner AICP – Phase 1 Tour Guide

Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Design, UMKC

Dr. Wagner's teaching and research focuses on the regeneration of urban neighborhoods in Kansas City through creativity, music and design for urbanism.

In 2005 he joined UMKC to help build the Urban Planning and Design program. Having worked previously on neighborhood hurricane recovery in New Orleans, Dr. Wagner currently works in Kansas City focusing on the geography of jazz in the city's historic African American neighborhoods. His research has helped to build the case for the international impact of Kansas City jazz and swing musicians on the global development and diffusion of jazz music. His work supported the designation of Kansas City as a Creative City of Music by UNESCO. He has collaborated with a variety of neighborhoods and is the faculty founder of the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods.



Christopher Burnett – Phase 2 Tour Guide

COO/ Founder of ARC – Artists Recording Collective

Chris Burnett is the *Founder & Artistic Director of KC Area Youth Jazz*, a prominent Kansas City saxophonist, bandleader, instructor, and raconteur. He operates *Artists Recording Collective*, a record label that has released dozens of albums by jazz musicians from around the world. Mr. Burnett returned home to the Kansas City area in 2001 after serving 22 years with military jazz bands. Previous posts include teaching faculty member with Leon A. Brady's KC Youth Jazz education program and Director of Marketing with the American Jazz Museum. He has served on the board of the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra.

MORE



The Charlie Parker Celebration is presented by **Kansas City Jazz Alive**. The mission of KC Jazz Alive is to build awareness, serve as a listening body, provide a platform for integrating ideas, function as a voice, provide exposure to resources, and unite the Kansas City jazz community. As a catalyst organization - supporting artists, enthusiasts and venue owners, we strive to “raise the tide that lifts all jazz boats.”

Visit www.kcjazzalive.org | www.charlieparkercelebration.com



Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC is a transformative corporation providing seamless fusion of services for multiple sectors within the global jazz, education, non-profit, and corporate communities. Our mission is to celebrate jazz - its authenticity and genius, by delivering high quality products through creative, scholarly, and strategic services to enduring global jazz, education, non-profit, and corporate communities.

Visit www.midnightbluejazzkc.com | Facebook - @midnightbluejazzkc



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Visit <https://www.bacmusicshop.com>



HOK’s mission is to deliver exceptional design ideas and solutions through the creative blending of human need, environmental stewardship, value creation, science and art. Design is the art and science of defining and creating optimal, sustainable and beautiful environments for people. HOK’s design solutions result from a collaborative process that encourages multidisciplinary professional teams to research alternatives, share knowledge and imagine new ways to solve the challenges of our built environment.

This event is supported by these generous sponsors:



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