



**Preliminary Agenda**  
**ESU Annual Conference**  
*Blueprint for Growth: Unity of Purpose*  
**Kansas City, Missouri**  
**October 20-22, 2023**  
 All times tentative

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

Attendees are welcome to arrive Thursday before the Conference to visit some of Kansas City's historic landmark attractions and restaurants throughout the day on your own. Hotel check-in begins at 4:00 pm. See separate list of optional attractions. Conference registration begins Friday at 12:00 pm in the hotel lobby. Special ESU hotel room rates apply Thursday night through Monday night stays for those who want to explore more of Kansas City on Monday and Tuesday.

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

10:00 am-12:00 pm **Meeting of the National Board of Directors.** Brookside Meeting Room

12:00-6:00 pm **Registration** in lobby of hotel.

11:30-12:30 pm **Lunch on your own.** Many choices in Crown Center Shops connected to the hotel.

12:30-1:45 pm **Extended Breakout Session.** Washington Park 1 Meeting Room

2:15-5:00 pm



**Tour of the National WWI Museum and Memorial.** In 2004, the U.S. Congress designated the museum as America's official World War I Museum. It holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history, and personal experiences of the war. World War I and

ESU's founding are closely tied together. Experience WWI's history and learn why our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, believed it was so important to create the English-Speaking Union after the Great War. Please wear your ESU lanyard for ID. Bus departs from hotel entrance at 2:15 pm. Bus leaves museum at 4:45 pm returning to hotel.

6:30-9:00 pm **Welcome Dinner** at Westin Hotel. Liberty Meeting Room.

## Saturday, October 21, 2023

- 9:30-10:00 am      **Continental Breakfast** Washington Park 2 & 3 Meeting Room
- 10:00-11:00 am      **Blueprint for Growth—First Step: Unity of Purpose.** The first approach in setting goals for growth is to be sure everyone in the organization has a Unity of Purpose—a common cause that brings us all together which our founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, believed was a core principle of the ESU. Washington Park 2 & 3 Meeting Room.
- 11:00-11:15 am      [15-minute break]
- 11:15-12:15 pm      **Breakout Session:** Washington Park 1 Meeting Room
- 12:15-1:15 pm      **Lunch on your own.** Many choices in Crown Center Shops.
- 1:30-2:45 pm      **Hallmark Visitors Center and Museum Tour.** Discover how a teenager from Nebraska tucked two shoeboxes of postcards under his arms and set out to create an iconic company in Kansas City. Hallmark has one of the world’s largest creative communities and, just like the ESU, helps to foster a more emotionally connected world. Directions to the Hallmark Visitors Center will be in your ESU tote bag. It is a short eight-minute walk from the Westin Hotel lobby.
- 2:45-3:00 pm      [15-minute break]
- 3:00-4:00 pm      **Breakout Session:** Washington Park 1 Meeting Room
- 4:00-5:00 pm      **Breakout Session:** Washington Park 1 Meeting Room
- 6:00-7:30 pm      **National Patron Reception and Lecture** Belvedere Room at Pierpont’s Restaurant located in the historic Union Station. Union Station is a short 10-minute walk using sky bridge from the Westin Hotel.
- 6:00 pm onward      For those not attending the National Patron Reception, we invite you to enjoy dinner on your own. See separate list of suggested restaurants that are nearby. Reservations are recommended.

## Sunday, October 22, 2023

- 9:30-10:00 am      **Continental breakfast** Washington Park 2 & 3 Meeting Room
- 10:00 am-12:00 pm   **Annual General Meeting.** Washington Park 2 & 3 Meeting Room
- 12:00 pm-1:30 pm   **Lunch.** Keynote speaker: Maryfrances Wagner. Missouri's Past Poet Laureate. Liberty Meeting Room.
- 1:30 pm-2:00 pm      [30-minute break]
- 2:00 pm-2:40 pm      **Breakout Session.**
- 2:50 pm-3:30 pm      **Breakout Session:** Washington Park 1 Meeting Room

### **Choice of one of two tours:**

- 4:15-6:15 pm      **Tour A: Walking Tour of Country Club Plaza** with tour guide. Historic upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment district. Celebrating 100 years in Kansas City, the Country Club Plaza was established in 1922 and was the first planned suburban shopping district in the United States and the first regional shopping center in the world designed with parking to accommodate shoppers arriving by automobile. It is an outdoor museum of European art and romantic Spanish architecture inspired by Kansas City's sister city, Seville, Spain. It is home to some of the oldest and most valuable fountains in the world—some over 300 years old. There are many photo ops including the famous Clementine and Winston Churchill statue. The ESU Kansas City Branch was a major benefactor in commissioning the statue. Bus departs hotel at 4:15 pm. Return to hotel at 6:15 pm.
- 4:30-6:15 pm      **Tour B: Kansas City Gangster Tour** In the 1920s and 30s, Kansas City had it all and we tell you the full story. This tour puts you hot on the trail of our city's most notorious Goodfellas. Johnny Holiday and his friends will guide you on an interactive bus tour of Kansas City showing you sites of speakeasies, brothels, murders, mob homes, and infamous crimes like the Union Station massacre! Kansas City was known as a wide-open town, and we have all the dirty details. Bus departs hotel at 4:30 pm. Return to hotel at 6:15 pm.

**\*\*Conference Ends\*\***

Note: For those who would like to stay over Sunday and Monday night and explore more of Kansas City's historic landmarks on your own, the Westin Crown Center Hotel will honor the same ESU room rate for Sunday and Monday night. Inquire at the hotel front desk.

## **Monday, October 23, 2023 Choice of one of two Add-On tours**

### **Tour C: Harry S. Truman Library and Museum (\$70 per person, 15 minimum for group tour)**



Harry S. Truman was the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States from 1945-1953. The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence, Missouri is part of the Presidential Libraries system and is one of just 15 presidential libraries in the country. The Library uses President Truman's life and legacy to inform, inspire, educate, and engage modern audiences about his timeless wisdom and significant contributions from which the world continues to benefit.

Between 2019 and 2021, the museum underwent a full \$29 million renovation, its first major renovation in more than 20 years and the largest in its history. Visitors will witness a cinematic experience of some of the most dramatic chapters of world history. Designers incorporated the latest storytelling techniques so visitors will experience the extraordinary journey of America and its 33<sup>rd</sup> President. The museum includes an exact replica of Truman's Oval office in the White House. Visitors have hailed this newly renovated Truman Library and Museum as one of the best Presidential Libraries in the country.

This tour includes a 20-minute bus trip to the Library and Museum from the Westin Hotel. The guided tour lasts approximately 1 ½ hours. Bus leaves hotel at 10:00 am and returns to hotel at 1:00 pm approximately.

### **Tour D: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (\$80 per person, 12 minimum for group tour)**



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is recognized internationally as one of the finest art museums in the United States. The Museum is home to collections of over 42,000 works of art, all of which provide the opportunity to create new connections and unique experiences at every turn.

The Nelson-Atkins has one of the three largest collections of Chinese art in the world and many art historians consider the Nelson-Atkins to have the finest Chinese collection in the world. When the Bloch Gallery of Art building was added to the main museum in 2007, *Time* magazine ranked it *number one* on its list of "The 10 Best New Architectural Marvels" in the world. The Bloch Building is truly breathtaking.



Museum collections include African, American, American Indian, Ancient, Architecture, Design and Decorative Arts, Chinese, Contemporary, European, Japanese, Modern, Photography, Prints and Drawings, South, Southeast and West Asian. In addition, major art outdoors covering over 22 acres includes the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park, which houses more than 35 sculptures by many of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's finest artists.

This tour includes a short 10-minute bus trip to the Museum from the Westin Hotel. The docent-guided tours will be in small groups and last approximately 75 minutes. Following the tour, all guests may enjoy lunch on your own at the Museum's spectacular Rozzelle Court, a re-creation of a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Italian cloister, before returning to the hotel. Bus leaves hotel at 10:30 am and returns to hotel at 2:00 pm approximately.

Some of Kansas City's Favorite Attractions  
As Optional Choices Before or After  
the ESU Annual Conference

Updated 6-19-23

If you arrive on Thursday before the conference or stay after the conference, these are optional attractions you are welcome to arrange on your own. Depending on the days and hours of operation, these would be good options for either Thursday, October 19, Monday, October 23, or Tuesday, October 24. In all cases, it is recommended that current operating days and hours for attractions be confirmed before attending. If you have a question about these or other choices, please contact one of our ESU KC Volunteer Hosts who will be happy to give you other options.

### 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine District



At the historic 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine District in Kansas City are two museums and a spectacular jazz club you should not miss during your visit to Kansas City—the American Jazz Museum, the Negro League's Baseball Museum, and The Blue Room Jazz Club—all under one roof. Jazz was born in New Orleans, lived in Chicago, but grew up in Kansas City. Kansas City was home to the legendary William “Count” Basie. Other

Jazz greats like Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald often played at the Gem Theatre in the District. **All three venues are located at 1600 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO. A 10-minute drive from the Westin Hotel.**

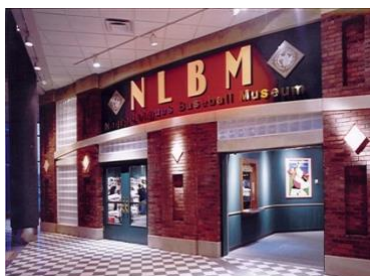
### The American Jazz Museum



The Jazz museum preserves the history of American jazz music, with exhibits on Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and others. The museum has interactive listening stations, touch-screen adventures, and custom-mixing soundboards. Located in the historic 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine district of Kansas City. Museum hours: Monday: closed. Tues-Sat: 10 am to 5 pm; Sun: 12 to 5 pm Admission:

Adults: \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9 [Learn more.](#)

### The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum



The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving the history of Negro League baseball in America. The museum recreates the look, sounds, and feel of the game's past. Video presentations and memorabilia in the 10,000 square-foot multimedia exhibit chronicle the history and heroes of the leagues from their origin after the Civil War to their demise in the 1960s. The federal government designated the museum

America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Museum Hours: Monday: 10 am to 2 pm; Tues.-Sat. 10 am to 5 pm; Sun. 12 pm to 5 pm. Admission: Adults: \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9. [Learn more.](#)



### **The Blue Room Jazz Club at the American Jazz Museum**



The Blue Room is an operational jazz club as part of the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City. Named after the famed 1930s Street Hotel club in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District, The Blue Room simultaneously honors the past and showcases the present names in jazz. It is part museum and part jazz club and includes a multifaceted exhibit highlighting the countless musicians who crafted "Kansas City Jazz," a sound known all over the world. The Blue Room provides a distinctive platform to present dynamic performances from upcoming bands, seasoned veterans of the local jazz scene, national talent, and internationally renowned jazz artists. Schedule varies and admission price varies but in the range of \$10-15. Hours: Mon: 7:00-11:00 pm, Fri: 5-midnite, Sat: 8-midnite, First two Thursdays of each month: Noon start. [Learn more.](#)

FREE Monday Night Jam Sessions (7-10PM)

FREE Jazz @ Noon (first and second Thursdays)

FREE Indigo Hour (every Friday at 5PM)

Friday Night Sets @ 8:30 and 10PM

Saturday Night Sets @ 8:30 and 10PM

(\$10 for one set, \$15 for both. Some show prices vary)

[See full schedule and reserve tickets here.](#)

### **Boulevard Brewing Company Tours & Recreation Center**



Founded in 1989, Boulevard Brewing Company has grown to become the largest specialty beer brewer in the Midwest. This beloved destination in the heart of the city boasts three floors of great times. Whether you take a tour of the beautiful brewery, or just enjoy good beer and good food with good friends, the view of the Kansas City skyline is one of a kind. The standard public tour is a 1-hour walking tour of the brewery that concludes with samples in our Tasting Room. Join our knowledgeable guides to see the brewery, imbibe something new, and wax poetic on all

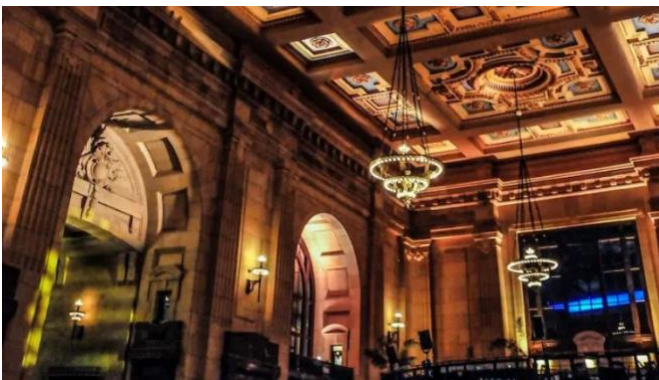
things beer and Boulevard!

Tour tickets are \$10 on weekdays and include four 5 oz samples. Tickets are \$15 on weekends and holidays and include five 5oz samples to be enjoyed during and after the tour. Tickets should be purchased in advance by clicking [HERE](#). Advance ticket sales stop at 10:00 am CT on the day of the tour. Occasionally day-of tickets will be available if all tickets are not sold by door opening; However, please note that weekend and holiday time slots typically fill up fast! The Brewery is about a 6-minute drive from the Westin Hotel. Tour hours: Mon-Thurs 12pm - 8pm; Fri-Sat 11am - 9pm; Sun 10am - 6pm. Location: 2534 Madison Avenue, Kansas City, MO. [Learn more.](#)

## Union Station in Kansas City



For conference attendees who did not attend the National Patron Reception and Lecture at Pierpont's restaurant (Belvedere Room) in Union Station, we strongly recommend you visit Union Station during your stay in Kansas City. It is a short 10-minute walk on the enclosed skybridge between the Westin Hotel and the Union Station. The Beaux-Arts masterpiece of marble, limestone, and terra cotta opened in 1914 and, at the time, was the second-largest train station in the country, second only to Grand Central in New York City. The building encompasses 850,000 square feet. The ceiling in the Grand Hall is 95 feet high and there are three chandeliers, each 12 feet in diameter and each weighing 3,500 lbs. In 1972, Union Station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Union Station is historically significant because in 1921 the five supreme Allied commanders of World War I traveled to Kansas City by train to Union Station for the groundbreaking ceremonies for the World War I Memorial, also known as Liberty Memorial, located across the street from Union Station. The five Allied commanders were General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshall Ferdinand Foch of France, General John Pershing of the U.S., and Admiral David Beatty of the United Kingdom. This was the first time in history these five leaders were together in one place.

Because of declining passenger train traffic, Amtrak moved out of Union Station in 1985 and the Station's decline accelerated, and it sat vacant and decaying until a historic Bi-State tax was created to help renovate the Station in 1996. With that tax and private contributions, the \$250 million renovation began. The renovation was completed in 1999 and resulted in *Architectural Digest* naming it one of the 37 most beautiful train stations in the world. It not only includes an Amtrak station, but it is also home to Kansas City's internationally-awarded Science City, the Arvin Gottlieb Planetarium, the Regnier Extreme Screen movie theatre, a model train exhibit called Model Railroad Experience, as well as a live theatre venue, and other shops and restaurants.

In October 2021, the FIFA World Cup delegation toured Kansas City as one of 17 cities in the U.S. competing for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Union Station wowed the delegation and was one of several key factors in awarding Kansas City one of 16 cities in North America to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Union Station is free to the public; however, there is a charge for some attractions such as Science City, the Planetarium, and special events. But if you only have time to walk through the Grand Hall to have lunch or sip an espresso, it will be well worth your visit. [Learn more.](#)

### **Kansas City Museum**



The Kansas City Museum preserves, interprets, and celebrates Kansas City through collections, exhibitions, and bold programs that reflect the City's evolution and spirit, and engage visitors in unfolding stories about Kansas City's vibrant history, culture heritage, and pride. Museum hours: Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Closed: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The museum is about 12 minutes from the Westin Hotel.

Admission: free. Location: **3218 Gladstone Blvd. Kansas City, MO.** [Learn more.](#)

### **Country Club Plaza**



If the Walking tour of the Country Club Plaza on Sunday has sparked your interest in seeing more, you are welcome to return on your own to explore local specialty and national brand stores and world-class restaurants. It's a 12-minute taxi or Uber ride to the Plaza from the Westin Hotel. [Learn more.](#)

### **World War I Museum and Memorial**



For those who would like to spend more time exploring the World War I Museum than was allowed on Friday of the Conference, attendees are invited to take a short trip to the Museum from the Westin on your own. If you are wearing your ESU Conference lanyard, your admission price is only \$10. This ESU rate is valid Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday. (Closed on Monday). Hours: Tuesday thru Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Even though the Museum is immediately west of the Westin, it is not easy to walk there, but would take about 10 minutes if you decided to walk. Other options are Uber or taxi. (Note: the World War I Museum Tour on Friday, Oct. 20 is included in the Conference and there is no admission charge to attendees. Please wear your ESU lanyard for ID) [Learn more.](#)

### **Kansas City Chiefs**





The Kansas City Chiefs are currently the National Football League's premiere organization, having appeared in 3 of the last 4 Super Bowls and winning in both 2020 and 2023. The team will play their AFC Western Division rivals, the Los Angeles Chargers, on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:25 pm CT at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. Tickets will be in high demand; however, anyone who has an interest in attending the game on October 22, please contact Ben Martin, President of ESU Kansas City Branch as soon as possible. He may have the ability to reserve a limited block of tickets. Email: [brmbj3@gmail.com](mailto:brmbj3@gmail.com). Otherwise, there are venues throughout downtown Kansas City and in the Westin Hotel and Crown Center Shops that will be televising the game. [Learn more.](#)

**Continue to next page for suggested restaurants**

## Suggested Restaurants Near Westin Hotel

Reservations recommended

### Barbeque

Since the early 1900s, the words “Kansas City” and “barbecue” have been synonymous. Today, barbecue still stands as the city's signature cuisine. So much so that it attracts people from all over the world who just must see and taste it for themselves.

Research has found Kansas City has more barbeque restaurants per capita than any other city in the U.S. Kansas City's barbeque style differs from the popular methods of cooking barbecue in Texas, Memphis, or even St. Louis. Here in the heartland, our barbecue meat is slow-smoked over wood, typically hickory, and slathered in a sweet, molasses, and tangy tomato-based sauce.

Kansas City barbecue enthusiasts can satisfy their cravings at more than 100 mouth-watering barbecue restaurants dotted around the metro area. From short and long-end pork ribs, to lamb ribs, brisket, beef burnt ends, pork shoulder, chicken, ham, rib tips and even mutton, you'll find something to tickle your barbecue fancy.

So, which are the best barbeque restaurants in Kansas City? If you ask 10 people, you'll get 10 different answers. But here's a short list of BBQ joints you can't go wrong:

1. **Q39**—Winning dozens of local competitions and national championships, the late owner Rob Magee has received some of the most prestigious accolades, honors, and awards in barbeque cuisine in the country. Q39 is well-known to KC natives and travelers from all over the world as one of the city's best barbeque restaurants. 1000 W 39th St., Kansas City, MO. It is a short 5-minute drive from the Westin Hotel. Hours: Sun-Thurs 11 am to 9 pm; Fri-Sat. 11 am to 10 pm. (816) 255-3753.
2. **Jack Stack BBQ**— Jack Stack Barbecue is in its fourth generation of family ownership and has evolved into the largest wood-fired cookery in the United States. With more than 11 hickory-smoked meats, Jack Stack has the most extensive barbecue menu in Kansas City. From beef burnt ends to lamb ribs, there's something for everyone. The closest Jack Stack BBQ is in the Freight House District at 101 W 22nd St, Kansas City, MO., a 3-4-minute drive from the Westin Hotel. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11 am to 9 pm; Fri-Sat: 11 am to 10 pm; Sun: 11 am to 8:30 pm. 816-472-7427
3. **Joe's Kansas City BBQ**—Joe's KC BBQ has won so many awards, they have run out of wall space to display them all. A *USA Today* poll for the 10 Best readers' poll for Southern U.S. BBQ, Joe's Kansas City BBQ came in first place. Located on the Kansas side of the State Line at 3002 W 47th Ave, Kansas City, Kansas, it is just a 12-minute drive from the Westin Hotel and well worth the trip. Hours: Mon-Sat. 11 am to 9 pm. Sunday: closed. (913) 722-3366
4. **Gates BBQ**—Gates is a Kansas City original family restaurant that started in 1946. It has grown from a single storefront at 19th and Vine to a family of six up-to-date restaurants throughout the metro area. Its award-winning barbecue sauces and rubs are a favorite to millions of patrons. The closest location is at 3205 Main St.—just a 4-minute drive from the Westin Hotel. Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11 am to 11 pm. Fri.-Sat. 11 am to 12 am. (816) 753-0828

5. **Arthur Bryant's BBQ**—Arthur Bryant, is the legendary King of Ribs in Kansas City. He created a sauce that has attracted the likes of former Presidents Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama to his restaurant. In 2021, the American Royal Association inducted Arthur Bryant into the Barbecue Hall of Fame along with Ollie Gates, founder of Gates BBQ. Bryant's list of customers was impressive. The late President Harry S. Truman was a regular. Actors Robert Redford and Jack Nicholson were frequent visitors. Arthur Bryant's is located at 1727 Brooklyn Ave—a six-minute drive from the Westin Hotel. Hours: Mon-Sat: 11 am to 8 pm. Sun: 11 am to 7 pm. (816) 231-1123.

**Grünauer**—Austrian Cuisine. 101 West 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Kansas City, MO. 3-4-minute drive from Westin Hotel. Located in the Freight House District, it's next to Jack Stack BBQ. 816-283-3234

**Farina's**—Italian. A James Beard Chef-driven restaurant. 19 W. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO. A short 4-minute drive from Westin Hotel. Hours: Tues to Thurs: 5 to 9 pm; Fri-Sat: 5 to 10 pm. 816-768-6600.

**Pierpont's at Union Station**—American Steakhouse, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO. Inside the Union Station. Easy walk in skybridge from Westin Hotel to Union Station. Hours: Tues-Thurs: 3 to 9 pm; Fri: 3 to 10 pm; Sat: 10 am to 10 pm; Sun: 10 am to 9 pm. Closed Mon. 816-221-5111.

**Affäre**—Modern German. 1911 Main St., Kansas City, MO. 816-298-6182. 4-minute drive from Westin Hotel. Hours: Wed-Sun: 4 pm to close. Mon-Tues: closed. 816-298-6182.

**Lidia's**—Northern Italian. Owned by Lidia Bastianich. Lidia is an Emmy award-winning public television host, and a best-selling cookbook author of a dozen books. Lidia is the owner/co-owner of three acclaimed New York City restaurants: Felidia, Becco and Del Posto. Along with her daughter, she owns Lidia's Kansas City and is also a partner in Eataly NYC, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Lidia's is also located in the Freight House District in Kansas City at 101 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. 3-4-minute drive from Westin Hotel. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 5 to 9 pm; Fri-Sat: 5 to 10 pm; Sun: 4 to 8 pm. 816-221-3722

**Tiocali's**—Authentic Mexican. Considered by many to be one of the best family-owned authentic Mexican restaurants in Kansas City. The family comes from Teocaltiche, Jalisco, Mexico. They use the same recipes that have been in their family for generations. This is not Tex-Mex. The best part: it's close to the Westin Hotel! Less than a 3-minute drive from the hotel. 2512 Holmes St., Kansas City. Hours: Mon-Sat. 10:30 am to 10 pm. Sun. closed. 816-221-4749.