



KC

WEATHER THE STORM
BEING PREPARED NEVER
LOOKED SO GOOD

NO AUTOGRAPHS PLEASE
WE CATCH A HOLLYWOOD
CELEBRITY PARTY-CRASHING
IN DOWNTOWN KC

JEANETTE PRENGER
OUR COVER GIRL ROCKS
THE RUNWAY AND THE
BOARDROOM IN STYLE

THE KC MAGAZINE

10

INCLUDING:
JANE CHU
GEORGE GUASTELLO
JULIAN ZUGAZAGOTIA
ANTHONY MAGLIANO
PEREGRINE HONIG
BRUCE HARTMAN
EMILY VOTH
JOE POLO

OUR ANNUAL LIST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE
CHANGED LIFE IN KANSAS CITY FOREVER

the 100

by KC MAGAZINE STAFF



If there was ever a time to be a proud *Kansas Citian*, this is it. But a city this great doesn't get that way on its own. Our first annual KC Magazine 100 has the people who make life better in Kansas City. How many do you know?

JULIAN ZUGAZAGOITIA

Sure, his last name gets people tongue-tied, but Zugazagoitia's leadership at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art has been anything but confusing. Since coming on board, he's taken off the white-glove stigma associated with museums and made art fun, accessible and inclusive of local artists.



attitude toward self-worth. She also launched YWOM's own culinary center to give girls the chance to learn social entrepreneurship and cook healthful foods. That's food for thought we're happy to enjoy 365 days a year.

RYAN MAYBEE: Many a bartender remains content with mixing drinks and sliding libations down the counter to thirsty patrons. Not Maybee. Check out The Rieger Hotel Grill & Exchange and the Paris of the Plains Festival to see why we're his biggest fans.

JANE CHU: The opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts caught the attention of fine arts enthusiasts around the world, and as CEO, Chu has made sure the venue lives up to the well-deserved hype.

★ PEREGRINE HONIG: "Work of Art" TV star, mastermind behind the West 18th Street Fashion Show, owner of Birdies and a prolific, evocative artist if we ever saw one—Honig has put her creative thumbprints all over Kansas City with no signs of stopping.

PATRICK RYAN: The reason street food became so cool. Who knew combining a food truck with a mouthwatering, perfectly cooked pork butt would get such a loyal following?

ERIC ROSEN: As the fourth artistic director of the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Rosen has brought national acclaim to his lineup of phenomenal performances that "wow" audiences season after season. Encore, Rosen, encore!

ERIN MCGRANE: As an actress, musician and songwriter, McGrane has quite the repertoire. In 2009, she snagged a role in the Oscar-nominated film "Up in the Air," as the former flame of George Clooney's character. Closer to home, she produced and starred in "unReal Housewives of Kansas City," a Web series parody of the Bravo TV series featuring, shall we say, certain lifestyles of the rich and famous. These days, she showcases her musical gifts as a singer in the vintage-pop duo Victor & Penny. Since September 2010, they've been traversing the country to entertain audiences in the mood for the perfect ukulele-guitar duo. Although McGrane's line of work has her moving around, she still calls Kansas City home base.

ANTHONY MAGLIANO: Any time we hear word of a Quixotic Fusion performance, we drop everything to go witness the incredible talent and superhuman strength of the performers and the genius of creative director and co-founder Magliano. The company also gives locals a taste of aerial acrobatics by holding classes at its studio downtown.

RANDY WISTHOFF: Just when KC thought it saw the last of its days at the zoo, Wisthoff breezed in from Nebraska and put visiting the lions, tigers and a polar bear on a whole new level. Next up? Penguins and twin golden lion tamarins for our viewing pleasure.

PETER WITTE: Since Witte became dean for the UMKC Conservatory of Dance and Music, the Conservatory has partnered with almost every performance group in town to bring us shows worthy of Carnegie Hall. Witte's leadership continues to give the Conservatory the chance to perform with national names on a national stage.

★ JABULANI LEFFALL: Nobody touches the dial at KCUR's mid-morning time slot unless they're Walt Bodine. But when Bodine moved his show to Fridays, he publicly gave his blessing to Leffall. Now, the "Central Standard" host is becoming the crossroads



for blogs, radio shows and print magazines all over Kansas City. He's always making us hungry with his food blog on KCMag.com.

BUTCH RIGBY: Our city thrives from a flourishing film scene, and Rigby, owner of Screenland Theatres, wants to bring those homegrown films into the spotlight. He has purchased and renovated local buildings, many of them with a rich Kansas City history, to transform into early-style movie theatres. With modern screen quality and sound coupled with old-time theater flair, Screenland Theatres often show first-run, locally made films for a different viewing experience. "I wanted to bring Kansas City a theater that would show films that otherwise wouldn't get a screening," Rigby says. He now has four Screenland Theatre locations, giving every local an excuse to miss Rigby's take on lights, camera, action!

BOB MYERS: A good Realtor is hard to find, but one that's rated in the top 5 percentile in the country is darned near impossible. Bob Myers has set the highest bar in the KC real estate industry by selling luxuriously modern homes designed by architect gods such as Frank Lloyd Wright, all while providing concierge services to potential home buyers. We're sold!

BRADY VEST: Aside from landing Hammerpress, his insanely inventive, classically quirky letterpress store in the heart of the Crossroads Arts District, Vest keeps giving locals fun ways to say everything from "Happy Birthday" to "Feliz Navidad!" You'll be hard-pressed to find a better local source.

JOHN & MAXINE BELGER: Rather than giving locals snippets of art collections, the Belgers set up shop in the history-filled Belger building in the Crossroads to give the public access to collections that span artists' careers. The museum also plays nice with other art institutions and displays around the world by letting them borrow the collections.

CROSBY KEMPER: The Kemper family has left positive footprints all over the city, and Crosby continues that legacy through the KC Library. As executive director, Crosby keeps literature relevant through movies, exhibits and classes to keep us all computer- and business-savvy.

WILLIAM WHITENER: His name is practically synonymous with the sparkling reputation of the Kansas City Ballet Company. After 16 years as the artistic director, Whitener continues to share his vision for spectacular dance with the city, through the Company, the Kansas City Ballet School and by making dance performances accessible to all.

KAR WOO: Record-high gas prices haven't put the brakes on Woo's desire to help those in need. Locals might see him behind the wheel of his Be The Change van as he drives the city's homeless to shelters, rehabilitation services and more. Woo started the nonprofit Artists Helping the Homeless in February 2008, which includes a transportation service and weekly meal service for the local homeless population. Woo's efforts give KC an extra bonus: By giving rides to those in need, Woo helps the community save tax dollars by lessening the use of unnecessary emergency services. From 2010-11, 9,271 van trips were made to assist 1,538 homeless individuals.

JOHN McDONALD: As if brewing the best beer that the Midwest has to offer weren't enough, McDonald, owner of Boulevard Brewery, also is the brains behind the Ripple Glass sustainability operation, helping businesses and locals recycle enough glass to produce 100 million Boulevard bottles. McDonald's mission is simply unbreakable.

ANGELA LINDVALL: Heidi Klum's shoes aren't only fashionable, they're also hard to fill. But that's all in a day's work for Lee's Summit

GERI HIGGINS



As the owner of Portfolio Kitchen & Home, Higgins has tailored East Coast flair to Kansas City, making upscale kitchens and homes even more fabulous. Setting up shop across the street from Union Station made Portfolio a symbol of elegance from KC's history combined with sleek and chic designs for its future.

MUST SEE VIDEO

native Angela Lindvall, who stepped in as the host of "Project Runway: All Stars," a spin-off of "Project Runway," hosted by Klum. As a woman who rocks the catwalk, Lindvall has appeared on the cover of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* and has modeled for the likes of Chanel and Louis Vuitton. And just like any down-to-earth gal, Lindvall is an active environmentalist who created The Collage Foundation, a nonprofit that supports grassroots movements that inspire green living and sustainability.

DANNY O'NEILL: We get a high from The Roasterie's air-roasted coffee, thanks to the owner of the specialty coffee roasting company. O'Neill lends his premium coffee-tasting skills to cupping and barista competitions round the world, all while keeping KC caffeinated with the best java in town.

VIVIEN JENNINGS & ROGER DOEREN: From kitchen and home décor queen Martha Stewart to "Laguna Beach" beauty Lauren Conrad, these two owners of Rainy Day Books work hard to bring in more than 300 national authors and speakers a year to hang with locals.

TOM WAYNE & W.E. LEATHERM: As a co-owner of Prospero's book store, Wayne, known for his outspoken banter, got a shout-out from CNN and Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert for his book burnings in protest of the decline in demand for books. Since then, he and fellow co-owner Leatherm continue to heat things up with their events and store of 45,000 books.

MATT & DONNA JONES: There was an era when jazz was snuffed out at one of the Midwest's oldest jazz clubs, The Phoenix. But thanks to this couple, locals can once again hear toe-tapping beats in the former speakeasy while munching on new menu items in this downtown destination.

VICKIE PERKINS & DR. KATHLEEN HANLON: Cristo Rey, a private school serving underprivileged students, landed in KC under the leadership of President Sister Vickie Perkins. After Perkins retired, Dr. Hanlon continued the solid tradition of graduating seniors to reputable colleges and workplace environments, making this school a ray of sunshine in our city.

★ SISTER CORITA & SISTER BERTA: These ladies have won the hearts of people nationwide with their childcare center's rags-to-riches story. At Operation Breakthrough, they serve 600 kids daily in health clinics and before- and after-school programs.

RUSTY SNEARY: Sneary established The Living Room, a playhouse in the Crossroads, to live up to its name by providing an intimate atmosphere

with comfy couches and chairs. Unlike other theaters that tempt you to smuggle in candy to avoid paying big bucks for concessions, TLR invites patrons to bring food into the performance. Besides serving as The Living Room's artistic director, Sneary can be spotted on the cast list of many of the plays. Sneary and other TLR actors pride themselves on showing thought-provoking performances that entertain theater buffs and music aficionados.

BRUCE HARTMAN: As director of the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Hartman has established what is believed to be the largest collection from local artists in Kansas City. His success in keeping the Nerman a learning experience for JCCC students while still attracting national attention has been a work of art.

TODD BOLENDER & JEFF BENTLEY: The dream that the late artistic director, Bolender, and executive director Bentley had to move the Kansas City Ballet Company out of the cramped, low-tech space in Westport finally came to fruition in September 2011. Ballerinas in KC are still jumping with joy.

★ SLY JAMES: After conducting one of the most civil campaigns in the history of the world, Mayor James rolled up his sleeves and created a unified front with KCK Mayor Reardon. His biggest job? Ensuring KCMO businesses don't go border-hopping.

BARBARA KING: Great Getaways, a local travel agency co-founded by King, offers anything but cookie-cutter vacations. King has the expertise to plan an out-of-this-world excursion and is the only local provider of trips to outer space. She was selected by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic as one of the original 47 accredited Space Agents, and since then, locals have had the chance to book a flight to 50,000 feet, where a rocket ship will detach and climb 70 miles above Earth. With plans for blastoff early next year, clients can really shoot for the moon.

LEROY & BARB SHATTO: Any time a locally-owned, family farm can produce delicious milk—in root beer,

coffee, chocolate, strawberry, cotton candy and banana flavors—while still being nice to animals and the environment, we will raise our glass in honor of its noble efforts.

EMILY VOTH: Indigo Wild does a great job of keeping us smelling clean and helping spiff up countertops or bathrooms. No wonder the good folks at *Ladies Home Journal*, *Everyday with Rachael Ray* and *O, The Oprah Magazine* took notice and started spreading news of its environmentally friendly Zum Line products all over America.

SARAH HOFFMANN & JACQUELINE SMITH: These sheep-loving, earth-saving ladies create the homegrown magic behind Green Dirt Farm. Anyone lucky enough to have dined at their Farm Table Dinners or purchased their hand-crafted cheeses knows what we're talking about.

RAECHELL SMITH: As director and curator of the H&R Block Artspace for the Kansas City Art Institute, Smith helps create superior exhibits for KC with art from local, national and international artists. She holds fast to the Artspace mission to foster community for local artists.

TIM BUTT: Before motion in the Crossroads got going, Butt opened his eclectic Asian antique and furniture store, Black Bamboo, smack dab in the middle of it. The store's placement helped give the Crossroads the momentum it needed to become the next great neighborhood in KC.

JENNY VERGARA: Vergara has created an experimental haven for local chefs with her ever-evolving Test Kitchen and Vagabond pop-up dinners. Curious locals can sit down to meals involving big-name chefs, blowtorches and Campbell's soup cans. She gets all As on these tests.

BRAD NICHOLSON: At the helm of Nicholson Group Real Estate, Brad single-handedly started breathing new life into the historic buildings and streetscapes of the Crossroads. Now with more than 100 restaurants, galleries and shops settled in, Nicholson has officially helped resurrect a lifeless neighborhood and transformed it into a work of art.

JEFF ALPERT & MELANIE MANN: Not satisfied with keeping Park Place just a square on a Monopoly game board, Alpert and Mann developed the upscale, mixed-use property in Leawood, giving shops like Tallulah Belle's and restaurants like Mestizo a place to park.

PAUL DORRELL: Leopold Gallery is a nationally ranked art gallery that also has a slant toward mentoring urban youth through its charitable foundation. As the owner, Dorrell funnels 100 percent of the gallery's donations to help students at Paseo Academy, Lincoln Prep Academy and other institutions in need of an arts education.

JOE POLO: As CEO of Original Juan Specialty Foods in KCK, Joe Polo isn't afraid of a little heat in the kitchen, especially when it comes to creating spicy food and sauces. Polo's local food manufacturing facility pumps out 13 different brands of more than 150 specialty products, including hot sauces, salsa and snacks, for more than 100 companies worldwide. He also sets a high bar for environmentally friendly manufacturing practices by keeping waste to a minimum and recycling products.

JEFFREY OWEN HANSON: Hanson continues to capture our hearts with his victory over visual impairment, his world-renowned artistic ability (just ask Elton John) and his desire not to let "Clod" stop him from using his creativity and fundraising efforts to fight AIDS and cancer.

JEFF "STRETCH" RUMANER: He feeds us at Grinders. He enlightens us with sculptures at H&R Block and music at Crossroads @ KC. He entertains us on the Food Network,

Discovery Channel and Spike TV. No matter what he has up his sleeve, Stretch keeps Kansas City eagerly watching for what crazy-cool stuff he'll do next.

JOE REARDON: As mayor of KCK and Wyandotte County, Reardon has lent huge helping hands to the turnaround of KCK. Those in The Dot, along with the rest of us, have him to thank for Google paying attention to us, LIVESTRONG Sporting Park and the red-hot growth around Kansas Speedway.

GALE TALLIS: The executive director at the Folly Theater consistently sends gale-force breezes of fresh arts performances through downtown KC. Hosting world-renowned jazz artists, local talent and kid's entertainment, the Folly Theater has had a legacy of household names grace its stage. Tallis orchestrates fundraising, management and promotion of world-class acts such as Yo Yo Ma that light up the century-old historic theater.



MAYOR PEGGY DUNN



It's hard to ignore Leawood when there are so many amazing developments taking place in an already vibrant piece of KC. Kudos to Dunn for sharing her vision and saying "yes" to big ideas.

TOM WATSON



Pro golfer or not—not just anyone could sink a hole-in-one at the British Open. Amazing golf skills aside, Watson annually takes to the green in the nationally renowned golf exhibition to raise money for Children's Mercy Hospital.

DR. GLEN MILES



As senior minister at Country Club Christian Church, Miles is consistently fostering community and conversations that include missions, the fine arts and spirituality.

DR. TENG-KEE TAN: Along with faculty at UMKC, Dean Tan has blazed the business education trail by helping the university land on the top 25 graduate entrepreneurship programs named by the *Princeton Review*. Think that's impressive? In 2011, UMKC was ranked No. 1 in the world for innovation management research, beating out MIT and Harvard.

DR. AUDREY KUNIN: KC's DERMAdoctor has developed her brand of beauty products that are sold across the country. The miracle-working dermatologist also earned the ear and the audience of Dr. Oz and serves as an expert on his blog board. Kunin always has a way of softening us up.

JON COOK: Locally headquartered VML helps big-time brands amplify their messages and keep up in the digital business realm. Jon Cook joined the VML team when there were only 30 employees and in five short years became CEO and president, with over 900 VML employees worldwide. The company has bagged numerous recognitions and awards and has scored contracts with national labels. You might have heard of a few—Gatorade, Microsoft, Ford and others. From creative direction to social media, VML puts Kansas City on the map as a world leader for digital marketing.

MICHAEL WUNSCH & SARAH STRNAD: You might not know the name behind productions like the Carondelet commercials or the Craig Morgan music videos, but that means co-founders Wunsch and Strnad and their team at Outpost Worldwide are doing things right.

NEAL PATTERSON AND CLIFF ILLIG: Aside from bringing life to Cerner, one of the world's foremost innovators in health information technology, co-founders Patterson and Illig have channeled their influence to help bring LIVESTRONG Sporting Park to fruition.

SHARON WRIGHT: This big-screen star found herself behind the camera as director and writer of "Change for a Dollar," a 10-minute short film that earned accolades from movie critic Roger Ebert. Wright shot the film in Osawatomie, Kansas, to depict a man trying to change people's lives with just a dollar. After Wright and her Kansas City-based crew wrapped up filming in just two days, she posted it on YouTube and wound up with 1.7 million viewers. "It really showcased the Kansas small-town community," Wright says. We think the world could use a little more change from her.

STEVE MCDOWELL & BNIM TEAM: Have you caught a glimpse of the amazing, incredible, energy-efficient, beautiful performing arts center that now defines the downtown skyline? Enough said.

JANELLE MONAË: This P. Diddy protégé did musical wonders for the 2011 Grammys and contributed to Fun.'s "We Are Young," this year's breakout single that reached No. 3 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, making KCK proud of its R&B/soul-singing hometown girl.

DAVID HUGHES: It could be said that Hughes has a green thumb for the arts, as he grew and cultivated the local arts scene nearly 20 years ago, long before it blossomed into what it is today. His Charlotte Street Foundation serves non-commercial artists, whose fragile careers can quickly wilt if not supported in the early stages. The effects of his work helped the revitalization of downtown and the now thriving, world-renowned arts community.

HEIDI VAN: As curator for The Fishtank Performance Studio, Heidi works, directs and performs to give locals a low-risk, low-cost arena to foster theatrical inspiration. In this creative haven, artists combine their fortes to present a performance series that continues to wow us.

DREW6: Shame on you if you haven't heard the versatile tunes of this pop/country/rock band. Super fans, or "Drewpies," have seen it open for Counting Crows, Backstreet Boys, Rick Springfield and more headliners.

MICHAEL AMIGONI: What started as a wine-making experiment in his own backyard has fermented into an urban winery Amigoni and his wife, Kerry, now operate down in the West Bottoms. Now we all can sip, sample and purchase fantastic local wine that's earned blue ribbons and a dedicated following of wine connoisseurs.

DENNIS & CINDY REYNOLDS: This former-attorney/executive duo swapped their business suits for work gloves and wine barrels to establish the first winery in Miami County after the prohibition. Now Somerset Ridge has joined vines with four other wineries and hosts tastings in dozens of local shops, including The Tasteful Olive and Renée Kelly's at Caenen Castle.

MIKE LUNDGREN: Great ideas are worth spreading. That's the mentality behind TED, a national nonprofit that hosts conferences about breakthrough thinking in technology, entertainment and design. When TED offered the chance for local organizers to create a Kansas City-based event, Lundgren jumped on the hot opportunity. After a few phone calls and a lot of hard work, he established TEDxKC, which gathers creative locals who want to share their brilliant ideas with the world. "There was a thirst for this kind of thinking in Kansas City, and I wanted people to be exposed to it," Lundgren says.

WINFRED WRIGHT: As the self-proclaimed Crew de Food member of Bread! KC, Wright is the gusto behind Bread's publicity. The nonprofit facilitates public dinners where guests pay for a meal (hence, the bread) and receive a ballot to vote on artists' projects. The artist with the most votes gets the funds collected from the dinner.

REILLY HOFFMAN: Taking a heap of metal and transforming it into a phenomenal sculpture is all in a day's work for Hoffman. The KCAI grad has fashioned grand and thought-provoking work for Saint Luke's Hospital, Zahner and the Leedy-Voulikos Art Center.

ALEX POPE: After carving his niche as sous chef under Debbie Gold at The American, Executive Chef Pope elevated the menu at R Bar and wound up with a nomination for Best Chef in the Midwest by *Food and Wine* magazine. His latest ventures involve opening The Local Pig and collaborating on The Test Kitchen concept.

BARCLAY MARTIN ENSEMBLE: This foursome delights us and the rest of the world with its easy-listening music, but its ongoing partnership with water.org to drill wells, promote health education and build sanitation

systems in Kenya makes our philanthropic heart skip a beat.

FRANNY KNIGHT & KARIN PAGE: The abandoned homes, vacant lots and the high crime rate along sections of Troost Avenue are a common observation for many Kansas Citians. However, after seeing the potential for revitalization in those rundown neighborhoods, these two go-getters founded Emerald City to make their dream—and the dream of many others—a reality. Through the organization, Knight and Page plan to turn these neglected streets into beautiful neighborhoods that reflect the atmosphere of the surrounding communities, such as the Plaza or UMKC. This DIY group insists that they are not developers but grassroots organizers with a plan to make this area into a street that shines in Kansas City once again.

BILL HAW: Raising the Kansas City Livestock Building from the ruins wasn't enough for Bill Haw, the cattle baron who has set his sights on helping the West Bottoms thrive once again. He's now getting his hands dirty developing a \$5 million mixed-use project in the Bottoms.

BILL LUCAS: Crown Center will always have a special place in the hearts of Kansas Citians, and thanks to Lucas, president of Crown Center Redevelopment, locals soon will have to make room for a little more love. Get ready to dive in with SEA LIFE aquarium and channel your inner child with Legoland.

JOHN GORDON JR.: While working in northern California, Gordon noticed a connection between young men and the lessons taught by life on a farm. The KC native came back to launch BoysGrow, a local nonprofit that teaches inner-city boys the entrepreneurship ropes through farm work. Gordon mentors the

boys as they learn to grow crops on donated land and develop a product to sell in local stores or restaurants. We snatched a jar of their delicious salsa at Pryde's Old Westport last fall. The boys are paid for a hard day's work and learn valuable business skills. As he sees the fruits of the boys' labor, Gordon knows this goes beyond harvesting a crop. "It's big in my mind for a 15-year-old to say, 'Hey, I like working.'"

KLIFF KUEHL: As CEO of Kansas City Public Television, Kuehl continues to engage locals with relevant content and build partnerships with key area organizations, such as Kauffman Center and the Kansas City Public Library, to keep viewers glued to the public tube.

GERALD DUNN: If you haven't heard, there's a reason the Blue Room is listed in the top 100 jazz clubs by *DownBeat* magazine. As general manager, Dunn has done a stellar job of keeping the joint classy and bringing in unbelievable jazz talent from across the country.

AARON CONFESSORI

MORE TO KNOW



His constant attention to elevating the Westport restaurant scene has earned Confessori our respect and our business. After hitting a home run with Westport Café and Bar, he opened a nice little Italian place, The Boot, right down the street. We won't be saying "ciao!" to Confessori any time soon.

BEN SUNDERMEIER: If most of us put our living quarters above our office spaces, there's no telling how long it would be before insanity kicked in. However, Sundermeier maintains a healthy balance between home and his design firm, attracting customers here and across the pond.

MATT BALDWIN: Aside from setting the "Standard" for local boutiques with his wife, Emily, Baldwin makes a huge effort to promote his affinity for KC with his famous Baldwin Denim line.

CHEF BOB BRASSARD: Training high school students to cook might sound like kitchen fire waiting to happen, but Brassard turns Shawnee Mission students who aspire to chefdom into masterful Iron Chefs at the Broadmoor Bistro in Overland Park.

KEVIN LYMAN: As president of the KC Originals, Lyman creates a tight-knit network of restaurants that serve delicious food and promote the value and camaraderie of eating local.

MICHAEL STERN: A night out at the symphony is music to many Kansas Citians' ears, and thanks to Music Director Michael Stern, who conducted orchestras 'round the world, the Symphony continues to accompany the Ballet and perform on its own with brilliance.

DR. ROY JENSEN: Even the slightest consideration for National Cancer Institute designation is reason for applause, but Dr. Jensen and his team at the University of Kansas Medical Center are well on their way to making the hospital one of the premier cancer treatment sites in the country.

SHANE EVANS: With a knack for storytelling coupled with his illustrative talents, Evans has brought stories to life and sparked the imaginations of children around the world. Evans is a talented artist, designer, illustrator and photographer whose work has caught the eye of daytime TV queen Oprah Winfrey, "The Today Show," "Late Night with David Letterman" and other media outlets. He has developed quite the resumé through his collaborations with the likes of basketball star Shaquille O'Neal and has worked with publishers such as Scholastic Inc. and HarperCollins.

With an illustrative hand in celebrating the African American community, Evans has given adolescents inspiration to take pride in the irreplaceable roles they play in society.

FRED ANDREWS: Dissatisfied with the lacking network for local filmmakers, Andrews created the Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee to enhance opportunities for filmmakers to craft films. The Jubilee now hosts KC Film Fest, which attracts films and documentaries from all over the world.

CHERYL KIMMI: After shedding her businesswoman roots in 2001, Kimmi established the KC Fringe Festival to give local artists unbridled creative expression, packing in 368 acts in 11 days.

BUNNI COPAKEN: Bringing the Alvin Ailey Dance Company to Kansas City was a Copaken's dream that finally came to fruition in 1984, making KC the second home of the famous Company. Now local urban youth have access to arts education programs and AileyCamp, which impacts 30,000 youth annually.

★ **JIM LEEDY:** KC's world-renowned artist has many accolades attached to his name, but locals endearingly call him the father of the Crossroads. Just as well, given that despite being featured in galleries in Chicago, Finland, Norway and beyond, he still calls Kansas City his stomping grounds.

BOB MARCUSSE: The Kansas City Area Development Council uses its best sales skills to attract employers to the local marketplace, and Marcusse, KCADC president and CEO, is at the helm of the ongoing effort. He works seamlessly with a team representing 18 local counties to stimulate economic and entrepreneurial growth, bringing in hundreds of companies and providing thousands of jobs. Examples, you ask? Mars Chocolate, Google and Frontier Airlines. "There are a lot of organizations that play a role in the economic vitality of the region, and we're proud to be one of them," Marcusse says.

FRANK MORRIS: As Harvest Public Media's news director, Morris is responsible for bringing local stories on "food, fuel and field" to KC news outlets like KCPT and KCUR.

BARBARA UNELL: This KC sweetheart has her footprints all over philanthropic efforts in the city. Unell is the founder of the nationwide Back in the Swing retail therapy event to benefit breast cancer survivors and cancer research, which gives us the very best reason to shop.

MARY PAT HENRY: Sure, the KC Ballet and the UMKC Conservatory get loads of attention,

but anyone who hasn't seen the Williams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company is missing out. As the Company's artistic director, Henry creates jaw-dropping performances that draw national eyeballs.

PAUL MESNER: As founder Paul Mesner Puppets, headquartered in Kansas City, Mesner performs for more than 10,000 kid and adults annually nationwide. He's joined his playful puppet hanter with the Symphony and Ballet to put together highly entertaining acts that have earned him awards for his puppet mastery.

RICHARD WHITE: No one likes spending the holidays alone, and for 35 years, retired KCPD officer Richard White has ensured that Kansas City's elderly and disabled citizens have someone with them to celebrate Christmas. The Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner is a feast for locals older than 60 who don't have friends or family able to join them for the festive feast. In 2011, the dinner expanded to three local areas, providing meals and companionship to more than 400 locals.

LISA GOSHON: As owner of Seduzione Leggs, Goshon believes every woman should have the pleasure of wearing fun or sultry couture hosiery. She has certainly gone the extra mile by founding Fashion on a Limb, which fits women with disabilities in designer garments.

PAUL GUTIÉRREZ: After noticing a serious lack of community among business owners in the 17th and Summit district, Gutiérrez launched several social media campaigns and events to create camaraderie among locals and give us fun things to do downtown.

SCRIBE: Also known as Donald Ross, Scribe is a local artist with a passion for Children's Mercy Hospital. As the hospital's art director, Scribe creates vibrant, animated murals that are brushed onto the walls to create a colorful environment for the young patients. We wouldn't be surprised if you've also seen them on Children's Mercy ambulances buzzing around town or on the Lifelight helicopter. His murals are featured in Midtown and beyond, in Canada and Mexico.

DONA BOOE: As CEO of Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), Booe helped nab a state contract to begin Adopt Kansas Kids, which compiles all children up for adoption in the state of Kansas on one website. Her tireless efforts to give kids a safe and happy home have made adoption accessible for any hopeful parent.

DANIEL DOTY: As CEO of Kansas City's largest and oldest homeless shelter, City Union Mission, Doty continues to provide rehabilitation services, medical treatment and shelter to the city's 13,000 homeless. ■



JOHN R. BERRY/STYLING