

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2 JUNE 2025

GROW

BUSINESS

KC CHAMBER DIGITAL MAGAZINE



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Resolve Counseling
& Wellness



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2025's Outstanding
Small Businesses



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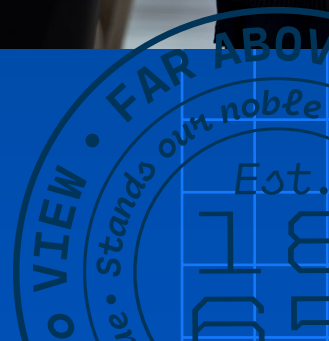
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NEW MEMBERS

Milestone Anniversaries,
President's Circle
and Leadership Circle



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On the cover: Amber Reed, Owner, Resolve Counseling & Wellness, the KC Chamber's 2025 Small Business of the Year. Photo by Roger Ridpath of Ridpath Creative.



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PRESIDENT & CEO'S POINT OF VIEW

If you want to understand what drives Kansas City forward, look no further than our small business community. Across every industry and neighborhood, small businesses are fueling ideas, creating opportunity, and shaping a region that's bold, inclusive, and full of promise. They don't just support our economy; they define our character, culture, and resilience.

That spirit was on full display earlier this month at one of the most uplifting events we host each year: the KC Chamber's Small Business Awards Luncheon on June 17. As the grand finale of our annual Small Business Celebration, the event recognized the 2025 Top 10 Small Businesses, a remarkable group of companies leading with purpose, investing in their people, and giving back to the communities they call home.

We concluded the afternoon with the presentation of the prestigious Mr. K Award, named for legendary entrepreneur and civic icon Ewing Marion Kauffman. This honor represents the highest level of small business excellence in the Kansas City region, and it serves as a powerful reminder of what's possible when passion and purpose align.

But even as we celebrate where we've been, we're also looking ahead to what's next. In less than a year, Kansas City will host the world as part of FIFA World Cup 26™. And our small business community will play a starring role. On June 6, we joined KC2026 and regional business organizations for a Small Business Readiness Preview at Union Station, kicking off the next chapter in our preparation efforts.



This is about more than soccer. It's about economic opportunity. It's about showcasing the incredible businesses that make Kansas City unique—from the meals that welcome visitors to the music, murals, and makers that reflect our city's soul. When people travel here from across the globe, they'll experience Kansas City through the lens of our entrepreneurs. This is our chance to tell the story of who we are, and our small businesses are the storytellers.

Whether you're a restaurant owner, retailer, creative, or service provider, your role in this moment matters. Now is the time to get involved. The KC Chamber is working closely with KC2026 and our partnering chambers of commerce, entrepreneurial support organizations and economic development agencies to ensure businesses of all sizes have the tools, training, and connections needed to thrive. You can learn more and stay up to date at kansascityfwc2026.com.

And as you read through this issue of GROW KC magazine, you'll find the stories of our 2025 Top 10 Small Businesses and specialty award winners, each one a testament to the power of vision, grit, and community. These are the leaders shaping our city's future. Let's celebrate them, support them, and keep building a Kansas City the world will never forget.

Let's show the world what Kansas City can do when we come together as a regional community. ➡

JOE REARDON @JReardonKC @KCChamber

POWER OF DIVERSITY LUNCHEON



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Join us for the KC Chamber's 2025 Power of Diversity Celebration — the region's premier event honoring the vibrant diversity of Kansas City's business community. This annual celebration recognizes individuals, companies, and nonprofits that are championing a more inclusive, representative, and welcoming workplace and region.

At the luncheon, the Chamber will present Ace Awards to outstanding mid- to senior-level professionals from diverse backgrounds, as well as the Champion of Diversity Award to a nonprofit organization that exemplifies inclusive leadership through its workforce practices, internal culture, and community impact.

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**GUIDED BY PURPOSE,
GROUNDED IN CARE:**

RESOLVE COUNSELING WINS 2025 MR. K AWARD





"We wanted to reduce barriers and provide care when people need it most," she says. "Mental health support shouldn't be reserved for emergencies. It should be accessible, immediate, and stigma-free."

Amber Reed

When Amber Reed co-founded Resolve Counseling & Wellness in 2017, she wasn't chasing accolades; she was answering a call for help.

As an inpatient mental health therapist, Reed saw too many people hit crisis points simply because they couldn't access care soon enough. "We wanted to reduce barriers and provide care when people need it most," she says. "Mental health support shouldn't

be reserved for emergencies. It should be accessible, immediate, and stigma-free."

That belief became the foundation of Resolve. Eight years later, it has grown into one of Kansas City's most trusted mental health providers. With nearly 50 employees and three metro locations, Resolve delivered over 38,000 therapy sessions in 2024 alone. Now, the company has earned the region's highest recognition for small business excellence: the 2025 Mr. K Award for Small Business of the Year.

Named in honor of entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Mr. K Award honors companies that



▶ ▶ ▶

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2025 TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

➤ demonstrate excellence in growth, employee engagement, welcoming and belonging, and community involvement. Resolve excels in every area.

Growth has been steady, and mission driven. What began with five therapists in a single Prairie Village office now includes school-based services, community partnerships, and a broad range of specialties serving children, teens, couples, families, and individuals. “Our growth has never been just about size,” says Reed. “It’s about impact, meeting people where they are with quality care and compassion.”

Employee engagement is at the heart of Resolve’s workplace culture. Staff receive contributions toward health insurance, wellness stipends, 401(k) matching, and support for professional development, an invest-

ment of more than \$27,000 in 2024 alone for clinical training. Team members are also celebrated with birthday gifts, anniversary trips, and quarterly outings. “We believe the health of our organization is directly tied to the wellbeing of our staff,” Reed says. “When our team feels valued and empowered, they can do their best work for the people we serve.”

Fostering belonging is central to how Resolve leads and serves. The team is 89% women and 17% racially diverse, with a leadership team composed entirely of women. In 2024, Resolve established a committee that offers trainings on bias, invisible disabilities, and inclusive leadership. “Our goal is to create a space where every person—whether client or clinician—feels not just welcomed, but genuinely respected and understood,” says Reed.

Resolve’s commitment to community runs deep. Through its internship program, the company has provided more than 24,000 discounted therapy sessions. It partners with organizations like Seton Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Artists Helping the Homeless to deliver services in schools, shelters, and nonprofit spaces. “We want mental health care to feel normal,” Reed says. “To feel like it belongs to everyone, because it does.”

For Resolve, the Mr. K Award is more than a milestone; it’s a powerful reminder of the impact small businesses can make when purpose drives the mission.

“We didn’t set out to win awards,” says Reed. “We set out to build something that mattered. This reminds us that doing the right work, with intention and compassion, can change lives.”



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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

**CAFÉ
CORAZÓN**
DULCINEA HERRERA
CEO



➤ CAFÉ CORAZÓN: WHERE CULTURE, COFFEE, AND COMMUNITY CONVERGE

At Café Corazón, coffee is more than a beverage—it's an expression of culture, a reflection of resilience, and a daily act of community building. Founded in 2022 by Miel and Curtis Herrera, Café Corazón has quickly become a Kansas City favorite, earning a spot as one of the KC Chamber's 2025 Top 10 Small Businesses.

"Our mission has always been about more than coffee," says CEO Dulcinea Herrera. "We created Café Corazón as a space where Latinx and Indigenous culture is not just represented, but celebrated; where people can gather, feel seen, and feel proud of their heritage."

With two thriving locations in the Crossroads and Westport, and a brand-new third location in Brookside, the café serves up ethically sourced coffee, Latin-inspired drinks, and hand-blended teas, all crafted with intention. Their food is locally sourced, and every bean, chocolate, and yerba mate product is selected through ethical trade relationships rooted in South and Central America. "We're telling stories through every item on the menu," Dulcinea says. "It's about honoring where we come from and sharing that with Kansas City."

Since opening, Café Corazón has seen consistent growth in revenue, profitability, and staffing. But for Dulcinea, the real measure of success is the environment they've built for their employees. Full-time staff receive health insurance, paid time off, cash bonuses, and opportunities for CPR and leadership training. Artists on staff are even invited to exhibit their

work in the café space.

"We want our employees to thrive, and not just in their jobs, but in their lives," she explains. "Whether someone is with us short-term or building a long-term career, we invest in their growth. Our café is a launchpad for future leaders, artists, and entrepreneurs."

Diversity and inclusion aren't talking points—they're baked into the café's DNA. With 85% of employees identifying as people of color and 95% as women, Café Corazón's team reflects the community it serves. Sign language training, cultural events, and support for affinity-based nonprofits are part of the everyday experience. The café has also created specialty drinks that fundraise for local causes, donated meals during the pandemic, and regularly opens its doors for nonprofits, poets, artists, and educators.

"Our culture teaches us to uplift each other," Dulcinea says. "That's what we do, whether it's a customer walking in for the first time or a young staff member discovering their voice."

Café Corazón may be a small business, but its impact is expansive. Through heritage, hospitality, and heart, it has created a space that feels like home...where coffee connects people and culture is the cornerstone. In doing so, it's not just growing a business; it's building a legacy.



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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

**CENETRIC
NETWORK
SERVICES**
BRITTANY FUGATE
CEO



➤ CENETRIC NETWORK SERVICES: PEOPLE-FIRST TECHNOLOGY, KANSAS CITY ROOTS

In an industry often defined by firewalls and fiber optics, Cenetric Network Services proves that human connection is just as essential as high-speed internet. Founded in 2008 by Britany Fugate, Cenetric has grown from a local startup to a nationally recognized managed IT provider, serving clients across industries with tailored solutions in cybersecurity, cloud computing, and 24/7 support. But it's their unwavering commitment to people-first service that sets them apart.

"Our work is technical, but our mission is relational," says Fugate, Cenetric's CEO and sole owner. "We exist to help businesses thrive by removing the stress and confusion around IT. We lead with empathy and proactive problem-solving because that's what our clients deserve."

That approach is anchored in Cenetric's four core pillars: Proactivity, Communication, Partnership, and Compassion. These values aren't just words on a wall; they shape everything from how the team responds to client issues to how they support each other in times of need. When the company lost a beloved team member in 2023, the outpouring of care, including therapy services, client transparency, and a tribute wall in Cenetric orange, spoke volumes about their culture.

Over the past three years, Cenetric has seen consistent growth, with revenue increasing by more than 30% in both 2023 and 2024, and profitability rising nearly 68% in one year alone. Yet Fugate says their biggest achievement isn't the numbers; it's the talent.

"Our people are the heart of Cenetric," she says. "We've invested deeply in leadership training, professional development, and creating an environment where every employee feels supported and seen."

That includes a 401(k) with 6% match, chaplain services, BetterHelp mental health support, and a quirky peer-recognition system called "Hey Taco!"—where virtual tacos can be redeemed for perks like extra vacation or team outings.

Creating a culture of belonging for all is also front and center. Nearly 45% of Cenetric's workforce is made up of women, which is well above the tech industry average, and 67% of its leadership team are women. Employees represent six different countries, along with veterans, individuals with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. "We want every voice at the table," Fugate emphasizes. "Diversity isn't just a value—it's a competitive advantage."

Beyond its internal culture, Cenetric makes a deep impact across Kansas City. The company provides free IT support to nonprofits like Ronald McDonald House, MOCSA, and Cancer Action.

"Technology can be overwhelming," says Fugate. "Our job is to make it empowering."



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2025

TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

DMC SERVICE
KAREN CRNKOVICH
PRESIDENT AND CEO



➤ SHARP, RESILIENT, UNMATCHED: DMC SERVICE IS THE DIAMOND STANDARD

An the fast-paced world of commercial HVAC and plumbing, trust is everything, and for more than 20 years, businesses across Greater Kansas City have placed their trust in DMC Service, Inc. Founded on a commitment to transparency, integrity, and superior service, DMC isn't just keeping facilities running; it's redefining what excellence looks like in the trades.

"Being selected as a Top 10 Small Business by the KC Chamber is both humbling and energizing," says Karen Crnkovich, owner and CEO. "It reaffirms that doing things the right way—honestly, ethically, and with compassion—makes a lasting impact."

Crnkovich's leadership journey is a powerful story of resilience and reinvention. When she became the sole owner in 2015, she did more than take the reins; she broke barriers, becoming the only woman in Johnson County, KS to hold Master Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical licenses. She redefined DMC as Diamond Mechanical Contractors, a nod to the company's sharp precision and enduring strength. That vision became a rallying cry (#diamondstrong) and a promise to deliver "brilliant work" every day.

DMC now services more than 2,000 locations throughout the metro with 24/7 emergency response, master-licensed expertise, and a no-commission model that prioritizes people over profits. The company's impact extends beyond job sites. Through its annual Diamond Day of Service, DMC donates time and resources to organizations like Rainbow School and Cristo Rey. In 2024 alone, the team con-

tributed 236 hours of in-kind service, valued at over \$30,000. Crnkovich also founded Strong Homes-Strong Families, a 501(c)(3) that provides free home repairs to families in need.

Employees are at the heart of DMC's mission. With fully covered healthcare, paid time off, and even 0% interest loans for tools or personal needs, the company fosters a culture of belonging and support. "We've been through hard times and triumphs together," Crnkovich shares. "Whether someone needs flexible hours for family or a second chance after a misstep, we step up. That's who we are."

It hasn't always been easy. In 2018, DMC lost \$100,000 on a single project, a near-catastrophic blow. Crnkovich invested her own funds to keep the company afloat, pivoted strategies, and led a 275% profit turnaround within a year. "Our grit is our superpower," she says. "We don't just survive setbacks; we use them to grow stronger."

Today, DMC is proudly woman-owned, powered by a diverse team, and growing fast, surpassing \$5 million in revenue in 2024. Yet its core remains unchanged: honest work, done right.

As Crnkovich puts it, "We aren't just building systems, we're building trust, building careers, and building Kansas City." And that's the kind of legacy that truly lasts.



**Watch the Video
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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

**FRESCO
MARKETING**
LUIS PADILLA
CEO



➤ FRESCO MARKETING: MEANINGFUL MARKETING WITH A MISSION

From a one-man operation to one of Kansas City's most respected multicultural marketing agencies, Fresco Marketing's story is one of bold purpose, deep community ties, and meaningful impact.

Founded in 2018 by Luis Padilla, an international student turned entrepreneur, Fresco was built on the belief that marketing could do more than sell; it could connect, uplift, and transform. "When I launched Fresco, my goal was to help businesses reach diverse audiences in ways that felt real and empowering," says Padilla. "We saw a gap in how small businesses, especially those owned by minorities, were being supported, and we stepped in to bridge it."

Today, the agency is known for culturally informed strategies that amplify underrepresented voices. From social media management and branding to community outreach and storytelling, Fresco serves both small businesses and national brands, including the Kansas City Royals, Wells Fargo, and Arvest Bank. But it's the agency's local roots and community investment that truly set it apart.

In 2022, Fresco partnered with Wells Fargo and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to launch the Folklore Grant Program, distributing more than \$300,000 in funding to Latino-owned businesses across Kansas City. The initiative is just one example of how Fresco puts its values into action. "We're not just marketers; we're connectors and advocates," Padilla explains. "If we can help a small business grow or a young student discover a career path, that's a win for all of us."

Fresco's internship program is another standout, giving Latino students hands-on experience in an industry where representation is still lacking. The team's commitment to mentorship and inclusion is echoed throughout their work culture: flexible schedules, professional development, and even paid vacations that include a one-week hotel stay anywhere in the U.S.

Fresco has doubled its team size year over year and maintained profitability. Padilla credits that success to consistency, authenticity, and relationships. "We built this by delivering results and treating people right," he says. "Marketing is personal. It's about telling the right story to the right people in the right way."

Those stories come to life not just through client work but also at events like the annual Folklore celebration, hosted during Hispanic Heritage Month. The gathering brings together local business owners and creatives to honor Latino culture and strengthen community ties.

Fresco Marketing isn't just a business—it's a movement. With a mission rooted in impact, this 2025 Top 10 Small Business proves that meaningful marketing can shape culture, fuel growth, and build a more connected Kansas City. "We're just getting started," Padilla says. "There are still so many stories to tell."



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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

HOLLAND 1916
MIKE STRADINGER
CEO



➤ HOLLAND 1916: A CENTURY OF INNOVATION AND A FUTURE FORGED IN PURPOSE

When your business legacy dates back to 1916, it would be easy to rest on tradition. But for Holland 1916, heritage is simply the foundation for forward motion.

A Kansas City manufacturing mainstay for over a century, Holland 1916 has transformed from its beginnings as a nameplate and engraving company into a cutting-edge, multi-division operation serving clients around the globe. Today, Holland is a recognized leader in industrial branding, human-machine interface (HMI) solutions, and RFID tagging, delivering mission-critical products to customers in manufacturing, oil and gas, transportation, medical equipment, and more.

CEO Mike Stradinger attributes the company's enduring success to its adaptability and core values. "Our values—respect, openness, accountability, continuous improvement, and giving back—aren't just words on the wall. They guide every decision we make," he says. "That's what keeps us relevant after 100 years."

And relevant they are. With an industry-leading five-day lead time on custom nameplates and rugged RFID tags designed to perform in the toughest environments, Holland 1916 now serves more than 1,200 customers worldwide. In 2024 alone, the company achieved 15% revenue growth and an impressive 71% jump in profitability, results driven by strategic acquisitions, lean operations, and a relentless focus on innovation.

But perhaps what sets Holland 1916 apart most is how it invests in people, both within its walls and across the community.

Internally, employees are supported with best-in-class healthcare, tuition reimbursement, clear pathways for advancement, and a company culture rooted in compassion and connection. "During the hardest time of my life, Holland was there for me; not just as an employer, but as family," said longtime employee Brad Farmer. "They gave me the time, space, and support I needed to heal."

Externally, Holland's civic impact is equally impressive. Its signature "Math in Manufacturing" program brings more than 800 fifth graders through its North Kansas City facility annually, introducing them to STEM careers and showing how math connects to real-world opportunities. The company also partners with The Power of Work, offering second-chance employment to individuals reentering the workforce after incarceration.

As Holland 1916 looks ahead to \$50 million in annual sales by 2027 and continued international expansion, its mission remains rooted in Kansas City values. "We're proud to be a manufacturing company in the heartland," says Stradinger. "But more than that, we're proud to be a company that cares about our people, our community, and the future we're building together."



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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

IBC
BRANDY MCCOMBS
CEO



► IBC BUILDS BETTER LIVES—AND A BETTER KANSAS CITY

When Brandy McCombs founded IBC in 2009 from the corner of her master bedroom, she didn't set out to make history, she set out to make a difference. Today, IBC is not only a multimillion-dollar construction firm; it's also the largest woman-owned traffic control and striping company in the Kansas City metro area and one of the KC Chamber's 2025 Top 10 Small Businesses.

IBC (short for Innovative Building & Construction) specializes in commercial trim carpentry and traffic control, providing high-end interior finishes for commercial buildings and keeping roads safe through expertly managed detours, closures, and signage. "When you open the door to a building and walk into a restroom, you might not think about the craftsmanship behind the frames, hardware, or partitions," says McCombs. "But chances are, we touched that space."

It's that behind-the-scenes excellence and visibility on roadways across the region that has made IBC a local staple. "I had a colleague's kids come up to me and say, 'I know who you are! You're that cone lady,'" McCombs recalls with a smile. "I cried. That kind of recognition shows we're making an impact."

IBC's success is rooted in innovation, collaboration, and a deep commitment to balance—core values that extend from job sites to the office. The company invests in its people through annual wellness fairs, paid volunteer time, CPR training, and professional development programs. "We want our team to grow, not just professionally but personally," McCombs says.

"That's why we invested in leadership coaching for our senior staff. We believe in developing the next generation."

The company's growth tells its own story. In just the past three years, IBC has expanded from 76 to 102 full-time employees, with revenue consistently surpassing \$5 million and profitability increasing by 15% in 2024 alone. McCombs attributes this upward trajectory to resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of community responsibility.

"When COVID disrupted everything, we leaned into who we are: problem solvers," she says. "Weather, supply delays, we've seen it all. But we keep moving forward."

IBC's impact extends far beyond construction zones. Whether it's sponsoring the new Big Brothers Big Sisters building, donating supplies for racial justice murals, or setting up traffic control for the Pride Parade, IBC shows up for Kansas City. "Stewardship is the foundation of our company," says McCombs. "We improve everything we touch."

From modest beginnings to Top 10 recognition, IBC's story is one of grit, growth, and giving back. As McCombs puts it: "We're not just building buildings or closing roads. We're building better lives and a better Kansas City."



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2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

**PERFECT
PROMOTIONS**
JOAN CHARBONNEAU
CEO & FOUNDER



➤ PARTNERING WITH PURPOSE AT PERFECT PROMOTIONS

For nearly 25 years, Perfect Promotions has helped clients turn brand messages into meaningful moments. The women-owned merchandising agency isn't just about promotional products; it's about purpose-driven solutions that leave a lasting impact without creating unnecessary waste.

"We design every solution with the end in mind," says CEO Joan Charbonneau, who founded the company in 2001. "Our goal is to help clients make a lasting impression with intention, creativity, and integrity."

Headquartered in Lee's Summit, Perfect Promotions works with a diverse client base—from pharmaceutical and animal health companies to nonprofit organizations, finance firms, and educational institutions. Each project begins with strategy and ends with a solution that aligns with the client's goals, values, and audience.

As a certified Women's Business Enterprise and member of industry associations Promotional Products Association International (PPAI) and Advertising Specialty Industry (ASI), the company adheres to the highest standards while leading in sustainability. Eco-conscious sourcing is a priority, and the team receives regular training on green materials and practices. Perfect Promotions also offers staff composting programs and partners with green-certified suppliers, ensuring that the promotional products they deliver reflect their environmental values.

The company's journey has been marked by both bold growth and strategic pivots. From navigating changes in pharmaceutical regulations to launching a new affiliate company, Safire Merch+, to avoid client conflicts, Joan and

her team have consistently found ways to adapt and thrive. Despite national trends of budget tightening during election cycles, Perfect Promotions continues to expand its services and invest in its people.

Community involvement is core to the company's identity. Perfect Promotions has supported Big Slick KC, Variety KC, the Veterans Community Project, Global One Urban Farming, and the Parade of Hearts, where it served as the exclusive merchandise partner in the inaugural year. Employees are encouraged to take paid time off for volunteer work, and one team member even leads community service efforts across the company.

Inside the workplace, culture comes first. With hybrid schedules, personalized mentorship, and team-building opportunities, employees are empowered to grow and bring their strengths to the table. "We genuinely care about each other—professionally and personally," Joan says. "That's how we've built something special."

As Kansas City prepares for the spotlight of FIFA World Cup 26™, Perfect Promotions is poised to meet the moment, offering creative, sustainable, and community-minded solutions that reflect the best of what small business can be.

"We're proud of what we've built," says Joan. "But more than that, we're proud of who we serve, how we show up, and the difference we make right here in Kansas City and beyond."



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2025

TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

**TALIAFERRO &
BROWNE**

LEONARD GRAHAM

PRESIDENT

AND

HAGOS ANDEBRHAN

CEO



➤ ENGINEERING A LEGACY AT TALIAFERRO & BROWNE

Few firms can say they've helped shape the very identity of Kansas City. Taliaferro & Browne, Inc. can, and has, again and again.

Founded in 1968 and reimagined in 1992 under the leadership of CEO Hagos Andebrhan and President Leonard Graham, this Black-owned, multidisciplinary engineering firm has evolved from a 13-person operation into a regional powerhouse of nearly 75 professionals. Their award-winning portfolio reads like a blueprint of modern Kansas City: the new Kansas City International Airport terminal, KC Current Stadium, Loews Convention Center Hotel, Power & Light District, and key redevelopments in Downtown, 18th & Vine, Beacon Hill, and the Riverfront.

"From the beginning, our mission has been to help transform communities—not just build within them," says Graham. "We see ourselves as visionary partners, working side by side with our clients to turn ideas into impact."

With expertise in civil and structural engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying, and construction inspection, Taliaferro & Browne has broken barriers in an industry long dominated by large national firms. In a landmark achievement, they became the first Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) in Kansas City to serve as the prime consultant on a billion-dollar infrastructure project, leading the landside civil design for the new KCI terminal.

Their rise is powered not only by technical expertise but by a people-first, values-driven culture. Through a flexible hybrid work model,

professional development stipends, and inclusive initiatives like the SCORE Committee and T&B Champion Series, the firm prioritizes employee growth and connection. Team members are actively involved across projects and markets, cultivating broad skill sets and pride in their contributions.

"We don't just engineer sites, we help engineer progress," says Andebrhan. "Whether it's a streetscape or a stadium, we're laying the groundwork for what Kansas City can become."

That commitment extends far beyond the job site. The firm actively mentors other diverse businesses, partners with M/W/DBE firms on 95% of its prime contracts and provides pro bono services to community causes like the Veterans Community Project. They've also been long-time sponsors of the Kansas City Chalk & Walk Festival, investing in arts and cultural connection.

"We've never lost sight of where we came from or who we're here to serve," adds Graham. "Every project is an opportunity to give back, uplift, and inspire."

With more than five decades of leadership, innovation, and community impact, Taliaferro & Browne is helping build more than infrastructure. They're building a legacy: bold, inclusive, and built to last.



**Watch the Video
Learn More**

2025
TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

WOODSIDE
BLAIR TANNER
PRESIDENT AND CEO



2025

TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESS

► WOODSIDE: WHERE KANSAS CITY COMES TO THRIVE

For more than 50 years, Woodside has redefined what it means to be a health club; not just a gym, but a daily retreat. Nestled in Westwood, Kansas, this luxury health and wellness destination blends fitness, rejuvenation, and community to help members live their healthiest, happiest lives.

Today, Woodside is celebrating another milestone: being named one of the Greater Kansas City Chamber's 2025 Top 10 Small Businesses.

From its origins as a high-end racquet club in the 1970s to its \$30 million transformation into a modern wellness destination, Woodside has always been ahead of the curve. President and CEO Blair Tanner, who owns 100% of the business, has led the club with a vision rooted in longevity, innovation, and purpose. "We're proud to be more than a gym—we're a sanctuary, a community, and a partner in each member's wellness journey," says Tanner.

That community is loyal and growing. While the average gym membership lasts six to twelve months, Woodside's is closer to four years. In fact, one 80-year-old member who joined in 1972 still comes in daily. In 2024, membership reached an all-time high, supported by the completion of a \$13 million renovation and expanded recovery and longevity offerings.

The pandemic tested every part of the business. Woodside closed for 10 weeks and saw a 30% membership drop and 40% revenue loss. In response, leadership launched "The Woodside

Standard"—a comprehensive safety strategy that included HVAC upgrades, touchless technologies, and enhanced health protocols. That transparency and investment helped regain trust and rebuild membership. By 2022, the club had recovered to near pre-pandemic levels and has since posted annual revenue growth over 20%.

But Woodside's influence goes far beyond fitness. Events like Cycle for the Cure raised \$30,000 in its first year for the University of Kansas Cancer Center. Local partnerships with schools, musicians, and small businesses reflect the club's commitment to the community. "We want to be a third place," says Chief Business Officer Jeff Yowell. "A space where people care for themselves and connect with others."

That care extends to employees, too. With more than 150 year-round staff, Woodside offers generous benefits, complimentary membership, leadership training, and its internal development program, "Woodside University." More than 56% of the team identify as women, and nearly one-third as people of color.

"At Woodside, we're not just keeping up," Tanner says. "We're setting the pace for fitness, for wellness, and for what it means to truly belong."



**Watch the Video
Learn More**

SMALL BUSINESS

Vine Street Brewing

Emerging Small Business Award

Two years after pouring their first pint, Vine Street Brewing has earned its place among Kansas City's brightest business stars as the KC Chamber's 2025 Emerging Small Business of the Year. As Missouri's first Black-owned brewery, Vine Street Brewing blends culture, craft, and community in every glass, creating a space that's as welcoming as it is visionary.

Located in the heart of the historic 18th & Vine district, the brewery has quickly become a hub for connection, creativity, and celebration. From hosting neighborhood events and live music to collaborating with local artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits, Vine Street is proving that great beer can be a catalyst for greater impact.

Their success is rooted in purpose and pride, honoring the past while shaping the future of craft brewing—not just in Kansas City, but across the country.

**Café Corazón**

Small Business Equity Award

Café Corazón has been named the 2025 Small Business Equity Award winner, recognized for its deep commitment to cultural authenticity, community empowerment, and inclusive entrepreneurship. Founded by the Herrera family, this Latin and Indigenous-owned café has grown from a grassroots vision into a beloved local institution—serving ethically sourced coffee, yerba mate, and housemade pastries that honor their rich heritage.

The path to this recognition wasn't easy. After initially facing resistance in securing a location, the Herreras persisted, ultimately creating a space that uplifts their ancestry and welcomes all cultures. Their dedication to diversity and resilience in the face of adversity perfectly reflects the spirit of the Small Business Equity Award.

Now with three thriving locations (including the newest in Brookside), Café Corazón continues to shape Kansas City's culinary landscape.



SMALL BUSINESS

Bestway International International Small Business of the Year

From Kansas City to ports around the globe, Bestway International has built its success on trust, expertise, and a bold international vision. That global reach, grounded in Midwestern values and a commitment to service, has earned the company the 2025 Weida Award for International Small Business of the Year.

Founded in 1988, Bestway has grown from a small freight forwarder into a global logistics powerhouse, serving more than 170 countries. Under the leadership of Managing Partner Jay Devers, the company delivers seamless, door-to-door solutions in air, ocean, and ground transportation, backed by a skilled team and strong international network.

Even amid global disruptions, Bestway has remained resilient, focusing on long-term strategy and client success. From hosting trade webinars to mentoring new exporters, Bestway proudly represents Kansas City on the world stage, making international business more personal, efficient, and accessible.



2025 SPECIAL AWARDS

Taliaferro & Browne Legacy of Kansas City Award

Taliaferro & Browne is the 2025 Legacy of Kansas City Award winner, honoring more than 15 years of excellence, community service, and enduring impact across the region.

Founded in 1968, the firm has helped shape Kansas City's built environment for decades. Under the leadership of President Leonard Graham and CEO Hagos Andebrhan (both proud alumni of the University of Missouri-Kansas City), Taliaferro & Browne has contributed to some of the city's most iconic projects, including the redevelopment of Union Station, renovations to Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums, and the new KCI airport terminal.

This recognition celebrates not only the firm's engineering and design expertise, but also its unwavering commitment to service, equity, and representation. As one of the region's largest minority-owned multidisciplinary firms, Taliaferro & Browne exemplifies inclusive leadership and civic pride.



Complex Flavors Home + LifeLuminary Arts & Creative
Small Business Award

With bold design and cultural storytelling, Complex Flavors Home + Life transforms interiors into expressions of identity. Founded by Keisha Jordan, the Kansas City-based brand is the 2025 recipient of the Luminary Arts & Creative Small Business Award, honoring her originality, impact, and leadership at the intersection of art, entrepreneurship, and empowerment.

Since launching in 2021, Jordan has combined hand-drawn sketches with digital design to create wallpaper and textiles that celebrate culture, history, and heritage. Her work is deeply personal, visually powerful, and rooted in representation.

From national collaborations with Issa Rae and Big Boi to local partnerships with G.I.F.T. KC and Porterhouse KC, Complex Flavors leads with purpose and pride. Its rapid rise is matched by a clear mission: to spark connection and identity through visual storytelling. For Jordan, wallpaper isn't just decoration; it's the story itself.



2025 VISIONARY PARTNERS



2025 PINNACLE PARTNERS

centric


FLEISHMANHILLARD

menlo 
K12  • Civic 

Deloitte.

 fnbo

 Meta

大成 DENTONS

Google Fiber

 portkc

eag[®]
ADVERTISING
& MARKETING

 Grant Thornton
An instinct for growth™

 SpencerFane™

ENTERPRISEHOLDINGS.





 HENDERSON
ENGINEERS  INC

UMKC
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
KANSAS CITY

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these members who recently joined the KC Chamber.

Albaugh, LLC

Jean Vulgamott
www.albaugh.com

Altius Capital

Jonathan Haas
(347) 304-9890

CarbonHealth

David Simcox
(417) 822-5933
www.carbonhealth.com/
locations/
kansas-city-mo-ward-parkway-
mall

CLA

Jeremy Juliette
(816) 704-7310
www.claconnect.com/en/locations/
missouri/offices/cla-kansas-city

Dalia's Silver Lining

Jael Ramon
(913) 804-5183
www.daliassilverlining.com

Gray Ram Tactical, LLC

Bret Brooks
(816) 769-7088
www.grayramtactical.com

Groundswell Growth

Joy Ellsworth
(913) 522-3529
www.groundswellgrowthapp.com

Iconoclast Advisors, LLC

Ryan Martin
(913) 205-8610
www.iconoclastadvisors.com

JD Bishop Construction

Savanna Bishop
(816) 271-3517
www.jdbishopconstructionllc.com

Knapheide Truck Equipment Center

Kansas City
Shannon Blackburn
(816) 472-4444
www.knapheide.com

Kutak Rock LLP

Jason Kotlyarov
(816) 960-0090
www.kutakrock.com

Missouri College & Career
Attainment Network - KCCAN
Mako Miller

New Reflections Technical Institute

Sheoni Givens
(816) 361-5239
www.Newreflectionskc.org

New York Butcher Shoppe & Wine Bar

Scott Sovereign
(816) 200-0411
www.nybutcher.com

PEC

Caleb Flake
(800) 754-2691
www.pec1.com

PorchLight Insights

Kate Bender
www.porchlightinsights.com

Prime IV Hydration & Wellness

Chad Davis
(816) 640-4943
www.primeivhydration.com

The Office of Congressman Emanuel

Cleaver, II
Andrew Huber
(816) 842-4545

Thornbird Consulting

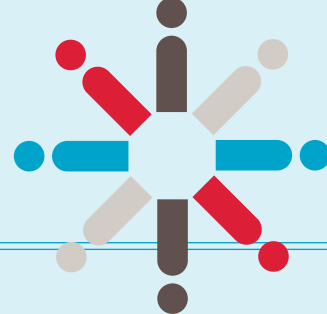
Kelle Snow
(913) 210-0506
www.thornbirdconsulting.com

UniFirst

Alex Villasana
(816) 231-0300
www.unifirst.com

Vazquez Commercial Contracting

Kevin Robertson
(816) 569-6869
www.vazquezcc.com



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE & LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's President's Circle.

Accenture
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
CBIZ/MHM
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Deloitte LLP
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
H&R Block, Inc.
Henderson Engineers, Inc.
HOK
Kansas City Royals Baseball Corporation
KidsTLC

Kissick Construction Co., Inc.
NKC Health
Parris Communications, Inc.
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
State Street

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's Leadership Circle.

Advantage Metals Recycling, LLC
American Royal Association
Bernstein-Rein
Block & Company, Inc., Realtors
C2FO
Community Blood Center
Core Catalysts
Culinary Virtue | Restaurant Collective
Emprise Bank
Ervin Cable Construction

Fox Rothschild LLP
John Knox Village
Kansas City Aviation Department
Kansas City Marriott Downtown
KCTV / KSMO
Knapheide Truck Equipment Center Kansas City
Labconco Corporation
McDowell Rice Smith & Buchanan PC
Monarch
Multistudio

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Resurrection Leawood
Russell
Sosland Publishing
Sporting Kansas City
Terracon
U.S. Engineering Company
Vicinity Energy
VML

MILESTONES

The following companies recently celebrated membership milestones.

5 years

Element | Sotheby's International Realty
Empowered Electric LLC
JACOR Contracting, Inc.
Novella Brandhouse
Raising Cane's - Tiffany Springs
reStart, Inc.
School Smart KC
T-Shotz

10 years

BCCM Construction Group, Inc.
Core Catalysts
Harry's Country Club
Midwest Innocence Project
Sierra Pacific Mortgage
Vireo

15 years

Block & Company, Inc., Realtors
First Business Bank
Mattie Rhodes Center
The Francis Family Foundation

20 years

BASYS Processing Inc.
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Holland 1916 Inc.
Johnson County Government
KVC Niles
Nonprofit Connect

25 years

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLC
INTRUST Bank

30 years

Delta Sweeping Co.
John Knox Village
Kansas City Aviation Department
Kissick Construction Co., Inc.
McDowell Rice Smith & Buchanan PC
The Meritex Company
Twin Traffic Marking Corp.
Walz Tetrack Advertising

35 years

DST Systems
Fisher & Phillips LLP
Menorah Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health
North Kansas City Hospital & Meritas Health
Vicinity Energy

40 years

Madden-McFarland Interiors, Ltd.
Multistudio
Thoroughbred Ford, Inc.

45 years

HOK
Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council
Lyric Opera of Kansas City
Miller & Company P.C.

50 + years

Kansas City Chapter, Associated General Contractors (52)
Visit KC (52)
Newmark Zimmer (53)
PGAV Architects (54)
Westin Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center (54)
BNIM Architects (55)
Hunt Midwest (55)
Kansas City Royals Baseball Corporation (57)
Bernstein-Rein (61)
H&R Block, Inc. (65)
Holliday Sand & Gravel Co. (67)
MKS Pipe & Valve Co. (68)
Research Medical Center - Brookside Campus (68)
American Royal Association (73)
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (73)
Boyle's Famous Corned Beef Co. (74)
Deloitte LLP (74)
Arrow Truck Sales, Inc. (76)
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (83)
Starlight Theatre Association of Kansas City, Inc. (83)
U.S. Engineering Company (83)
Sosland Publishing (85)
KCTV / KSMO (89)
Massman Construction Co. (93)
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (99)
John A. Marshall Company (103)
Commerce Bank (117)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Empowering Careers, Strengthening Communities

When your business is people, your purpose runs deep. That's the driving force behind Alliance Workforce, a mission-minded staffing agency that connects individuals to meaningful work while helping employers build reliable, high-performing teams.

Founded by workforce veteran Tony Semaan, Alliance Workforce was born from a desire to do staffing differently. The company's team understands that every job placement is more than a transaction — it's a chance to change a life, support a family, and elevate a community. Today, they specialize in light industrial staffing, providing temporary, temp-to-hire, and direct-hire solutions to employers throughout the Kansas City metro and beyond.

What sets Alliance apart is their proactive, partnership-focused approach. Their core philosophy is simple: "We listen, we care, we deliver." That mindset shows up in everything they do, from recruiting the right candidates to showing up on-site and supporting client success day in and day out. Alliance Workforce is

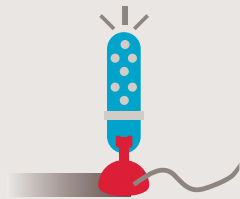
also deeply committed to advancing inclusion and access in the workforce.

Their impact hasn't gone unnoticed. Alliance Workforce was recently honored as a KCNSC Fan Favorite as part of the KC Chamber's annual Small Business Celebration — an award selected by public vote following the Candidates' Showcase event. It's a powerful testament to their strong community support, client loyalty, and the meaningful connections they've built across the region.

Being part of the Chamber has helped Alliance grow their network, elevate their visibility, and connect with companies and leaders who share their values. They've built relationships that matter, not only to their business, but to their mission of building better workplaces through trust, transparency, and integrity.

As they look ahead, Alliance Workforce continues to expand its reach, always guided by a belief that opportunity should never be out of reach and that strong communities start with strong jobs. ▀

GOOD NEWS



People

Park University has appointed Dr. Paul Orscheln as Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services. His main responsibilities will be directing recruitment efforts, addressing issues of access, affordability, college readiness and the K-16 pipeline, and student success.

John Knox Village, a life plan community in Lee's Summit, Missouri, announced that Anthony Columbatto has been named President and Chief Executive Officer. Columbatto has been with the Village for nearly nine years, most recently as Vice President of Health and Community Services. He will succeed Dan Rexroth, current President and CEO, upon his retirement on June 30, 2025. Rexroth recently celebrated his 35th anniversary with the Village.

Linda Hall Library has named Nancy Steinacker as vice president of advancement. In this role, she over-

sees the Library's growing development, membership, and grants writing efforts.

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures announced that Susan Stanton has been appointed as Interim Executive Director, following the departure of Petra Kralickova after eight years of dedicated leadership. A long-time supporter of the arts and civic engagement, Stanton has served on the Museum's Board of Directors, where she has played an integral role in strategic planning and financial governance.

The **University of Missouri-Kansas City's** Institute for Urban Education, known as IUE, honored Jerry Reece with the Hugh J. Zimmer Award for Excellence in Urban Education at the fourth annual Forever IUE celebration. Reece has been part of the IUE and the program's mission for more than a decade. Reece also has an established endowment scholarship with his wife, Patty Reece, for IUE students.

LIBERTY LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



GOOD NEWS

Continued...

Henderson Companies welcomes Penny Spence as chief financial officer. Spence will oversee budgeting, compliance, forecasting, reporting, and financial planning and analysis strategies for Henderson Companies, Henderson Engineers and Henderson Building Solutions.

Agriculture Business Council of Kansas City has announced the 2025 Young Leaders in Agribusiness. They are: Taylor Adcock, Roots and Legacies, Inc.; Emily Cowley, **Bayer Crop Science**; Shayna DeGroot, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers; Glenn Gibson, **Dairy Farmers of America**; Alison Rasmussen, **AdFarm**; and Lucas Simmer, Livestock Marketing Association.

On National Mascot Day, Dan Meers, the **Kansas City Chiefs'** original KC Wolf, announced his retirement after 35 years as the team's mascot and "Director of Shenanigans".

Miscellaneous

SpecialtyCare is excited to announce a new partnership with **Midwest Transplant Network** to enhance the field of organ donation and transplantation through the use of Normothermic Regional Perfusion. This collaboration aims to improve the viability of donor organs and increase the success of transplants, ultimately helping to save more lives. The process allows transplant teams to evaluate organs more thoroughly and restore them to an optimal condition before transplantation.

Metropolitan Community College is in the midst of its College for Kids Summer Youth Programs. College for Kids offers enrichment programs for ages 11-17, designed to engage kids in new experiences, develop new interests, teach meaningful skills, and excite students about learning.

BRONZE LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



GOOD NEWS

Continued...

A newly released report from the National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data identifies **Kansas City University (KCU)** as an impactful force in addressing the growing demand for physicians across Missouri, Kansas, and the nation. The comprehensive study, which tracks the practice locations of KCU's College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates, underscores the University's leadership in improving access to health care—particularly in underserved areas—by producing physicians who are practicing where they are needed most. The data reveals that KCU is the fourth-largest medical school in the United States by class size, the leading producer of physicians practicing in Missouri and the second-largest in Kansas.

Enterprise Bank & Trust is expanding in Arizona and Kansas through the acquisition of 12 banking offices from **First Interstate Bank**. The parties expect to close on the purchase and sale by early fourth quarter 2025.

The AdventHealth Championship announced the inaugural Grayson Murray Be Kind to One Another Legacy Award, in memory of the late 2023 AdventHealth Championship winner. The two-part award will recognize a Korn Ferry Tour player or caddie, and a local community member or organization that embody Grayson's belief in spreading kindness and supporting those experiencing mental health and addiction challenges.

After conducting a successful pilot in the fall, **KC Studio**, the only source of professional arts journalism for Kansas City audiences, artists and arts organizations, has launched TeenTix KC (kc.teentix.org). The program, created 20 years ago in Seattle, offers a free, downloadable pass to any teen (13-19 years old). The pass allows teens to purchase \$5 tickets to any participating arts organization in the KC metropolitan area.

SILVER LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



managed by **Honeywell FM&T**



UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT

McCOWNGORDON
C O N S T R U C T I O N

GOOD NEWS

Continued...

HCA Midwest Health hosted its third annual colleague volunteer initiative, “We Show Up for Our Communities Week,” in mid-to-late April, which positively impacted the lives of community residents and visitors. The initiative continues to grow year after year, with the 2025 event involving more than 900 physicians, colleagues and nursing students donating 1,252 service hours supporting 26 local organizations. In 2024, nearly 300 HCA Midwest Health colleagues volunteered 525 hours.

Gray Ram Tactical is offering outsourced safety and security training for businesses and organizations. Visit www.grayramtacticaltraining.com.

Café Corazón, Kansas City’s beloved Latin and Indigenous coffee shop and awarded a Top 10 Small Business in Kansas City, is thrilled to open its third location in Brookside! Known for its ethically sourced, house-roast-

ed coffee and commitment to local ingredients and merchandise, Café Corazón will offer a delicious selection of coffee, tea, yerba mate, housemade pastries and food, craft cocktails, beer, and wine. This new location will also introduce merienda—a cherished Argentinian midday meal featuring sandwiches, pastries, tea, and coffee, celebrating the café’s rich heritage.

2025 Top 10 Small Business **Perfect Promotions** is proud to announce three major milestones that reflect the company’s continued leadership in sustainability and innovation within the promotional products industry. The company earned a Gold medal from EcoVadis for sustainability performance, achieved ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system, and was named Distributor No. 59 on the PPAI 100 list—an exclusive, research-backed ranking of the top 100 distributors and top 100 suppliers in the industry.

GOLD LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



GOOD NEWS

Continued...

Foolish Club Studios is part of the **Kansas City Chiefs'** broader strategy to invest in media, storytelling, and global brand expansion. It operates alongside the club's existing 65 Toss Power Trap (65TPT) Production group, the award-winning in-house production arm of the team, which will continue to generate both short-form and long-form football and club content for the core football fan.

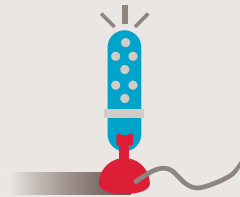
North Kansas City Hospital and Meritas Health are now known as **NKC Health**. They have more than 4,700 staff members – including over 600 dedicated physicians – along with specialists and caregivers across 35 locations.

LimeLight Marketing has officially partnered with SCAYLE – one of the fastest-growing enterprise eCommerce platforms in the world. As one of the first U.S. agencies with access to SCAYLE's game-changing en-

terprise platform, it enables them to deliver advanced digital commerce solutions that drive real results. SCAYLE's comprehensive, scalable tech, combined with LimeLight's integrated design, development and marketing solutions, enables them to deliver next-level digital experiences to drive performance, personalization, and rapid growth for clients.

Taliaferro & Browne, a 2025 Top 10 Small Business and winner of the Legacy Small Business Award from the KC Chamber after nearly 60 years of engineering excellence in our community, has rebranded to T&B.

Loews Kansas City Hotel has announced that The Stilwell restaurant is now serving lunch daily. It's available Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on weekends from noon to 3.



TITANIUM LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS

Community**America**[®]
CREDIT UNION


JEDUNN[®]
CONSTRUCTION

 **evergy**[™]

 **EWING MARION
KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION**

PLATINUM LEVEL 2025 INVESTOR



Kansas City

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



Union Station
30 W Pershing Road
Suite 301
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

**For membership information,
call (816) 221-2424
or email info@kcchamber.com**

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We are a boutique graphics design shop equipped to manage your
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1

EXPERIENCED

Experience matters. Our team has a combined fifty plus years of creative experience. The result, we provide our clients with a wealth of options and ideas.

2

BROAD RANGE OF CAPABILITIES

Our client focus is narrow. Our range of services and experience is broad. The result is a synergy of all your creative marketing needs, web, design and photography.

3

SMALL TEAM, BIG IDEAS

Our team is small. Our experience is broad. We provide dedicated focus on your projects. We focus on timely delivery and quality results. All at a reasonable cost.

Roger Ridpath
creative

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