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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Media Contact:

Mindi Love Pendergraft, Executive Director  
913-372-0021  
mindilp@aaefm.org

Named by *Smithsonian Magazine* as one of The Most Anticipated Museum Openings of 2023, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum has been captivating visitors since its grand opening on April 16, 2023.

### **Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum Nominated for Best History Museum in USA TODAY'S 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for 2026**

ATCHISON, Kan. (January 12, 2026) — The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum is nominated for a 2026 USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice Award for the third consecutive year. Voting for this year's award begins on Monday, January 12 at 11:00am CST. Fans of the Museum can vote **daily** at <https://10best.usatoday.com/qr/55713/> through February 9, 2026.

Located in Amelia's hometown of Atchison, Kansas, and just 40 minutes from Kansas City, Missouri, the Museum is nominated in the **Best History Museum** category. Travel experts selected the 20 nominees, and now it's up to you, the public, to decide the winners through your votes over the next four weeks.

Mindi Love Pendergraft, the Museum's Executive Director, expressed her gratitude, stating, "We are thrilled to be nominated for the third consecutive year! This national recognition of our Museum's quality is invaluable and attracts visitors from all over the world. In addition to our local followers, we've welcomed visitors from every U.S. state and 37 countries. The allure and intrigue surrounding Amelia Earhart continues to captivate us all."

The state-of-the-museum blends interactive storytelling with STEM learning to celebrate Earhart's life as a trailblazing aviator who defied the odds to become the first woman to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean. She continued to achieve aviation records and used her celebrity to advocate for women and aviation. At the heart of the Museum is "Muriel" -- identical to the plane Earhart flew on her final flight around the world. Named after Earhart's younger sister, Grace Muriel Earhart Morrissey, "Muriel" stands as the world's last remaining Lockheed Electra 10-E -- one of only 14 ever built by Lockheed.

In a story that continues to captivate, Earhart vanished without a trace four weeks into her daring quest to circumnavigate the globe -- a staggering 29,000-mile journey along the earth's equator. With only three stops remaining, she disappeared over Howland Island in the vast Pacific Ocean. Last heard from on July 2,

1937, the mystery of her disappearance, along with the tireless search to find her and the plane's wreckage has intrigued the public for nearly a century.

The USA TODAY's flagship program, 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, highlights the top national attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants for in the U.S. A panel of travel experts nominates attractions, and the final nominates are selected by USA Today's 10BEST editors. Said Love Pendergraft, "We're proud the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum placement in previous years. We soared to #4 in the Best NEW Museum category in 2024 and clinched #4 in the Best History Museum in 2025."

Fans and supporters of the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum can vote for the Museum in the Best History Museum category of the USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards daily through Monday, February 9 at 10:59pm CST at <https://10best.usatoday.com/qr/55713/>. The Best10 will be announced on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 11am CST.

### **About the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum**

Named by *Smithsonian Magazine* as one of The Most Anticipated Museum Openings of 2023, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum has been captivating visitors since its grand opening on April 16, 2023. The Museum received tremendous support from the global aviation and aerospace industry leaders including Boeing, Bombardier, FedEx, Garmin, Lockheed Martin, NASA, and the State of Kansas. Regional philanthropic supporters include the Patterson Family Foundation, the Regnier Family Foundation, the Sunderland Foundation, and the William T. Kemper Foundation, and local support from Adair-Exchange Bank Foundation, Amberwell Health, the Guy I. Bromley Foundation and the Courtney S. Turner Trust. An approved Kansas STAR Bond project in 2017, the Museum is located at the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport (K59) in Atchison, Kansas. Learn more at [www.AmeliaEarhartHangarMuseum.org](http://www.AmeliaEarhartHangarMuseum.org) and follow *@AEHangarMuseum* on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation**

The [Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation](#) was formed in 2016 to honor the aviation legacy of Amelia Earhart — whose dreams of flying began in her Atchison, Kansas, hometown. The Foundation is dedicated to inspiring future aviation and aerospace leaders through the story of Earhart's tenacity and determination to overcome obstacles on her journey to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to leading the \$17 million capital campaign to build the [Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum](#), the Foundation led the effort to bring the bronze statue of Earhart to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. in 2022 to represent the State of Kansas in [National Statuary Hall](#); the Foundation was the sole funder. A "twin" bronze statue stands at the entrance of the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3).

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