



NEWS RELEASE

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Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum Ranks 5th Best History Museum in USA TODAY'S 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for 2026

ATCHISON, Kan. (February 18, 2026) —The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum competed against the 20 of the best museums in the nation in the 2026 USA Today Readers' Choice Award and the results are in after four weeks of voting. The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum ranked 5th [Best History Museum](#) in this year's USA Today Readers' Choice Award.

The Museum's Executive Director, Mindi Love Pendergraft shared, "We are incredibly excited to be ranked in the fifth spot by supporters and visitors across the country. Each of the nominated museums tell important stories about America's history, and to be included among them is a great honor."

Located in Amelia's hometown of Atchison, Kansas, and just 40 minutes from Kansas City, Missouri, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museums blends interactive storytelling with STEM learning to celebrate Earhart's life as a trailblazing aviator. 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. Earhart defied the odds to become the first woman to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean and she continued to achieve aviation records throughout her career. She also used her celebrity to advocate for women and the aviation industry.

USA TODAY'S 10BEST Readers' Choice 2026 Travel Awards for Best History Museum:

1. Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh, PA)
2. Cincinnati History Museum (Cincinnati, OH)
3. Museum of the American Revolution (Philadelphia, PA)
4. National Orphan Train Complex (Concordia, KS)
5. **Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum (Atchison, Kansas)**
6. First Americans Museum (Oklahoma City, OK)

7. Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation (Dearborn, MI)
8. Mill City Museum (Minneapolis, MN)
9. The National WWII Museum (New Orleans, LA)
10. National Museum of the Pacific War (Fredericksburg, TX)

The Museum was nominated for the third consecutive year in USA TODAY's flagship program, 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, which highlight the top national attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants in the U.S. A panel of travel experts nominates attractions, and the final nominees are selected by USA Today's 10BEST editors. Previous rankings by the Museum include #4 Best NEW Museum in 2024 and #4 Best History Museum in 2025 in the USA Today Reader's Choice Awards.

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 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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