



WICHITA
#RELENTLESSLY ORIGINAL

TALENT

Tough Questions

PERCEPTION Wichita is far away and isolated.

THE REAL WICHITA Wichita has the largest airport in the state (ICT) located just 10 minutes from downtown Wichita with non-stop service to 12 major cities - Denver, Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Orlando and Minneapolis-St. Paul - via six carriers. Because of Wichita's central location, direct flights both to and from ICT are typically two hours or less and, with a beautiful new airport, there's easy parking and short security lines. By car, Wichita is less than three hours from Kansas City and Oklahoma City with drives to Dallas and Denver and the Colorado Rockies five to eight hours. The region is also connected via Amtrak. You can easily take a one-day trip within the region to explore new areas to hike, swim, fish and so much more.

PERCEPTION Wichita is ultra conservative and stuck behind the times.

THE REAL WICHITA Like many other places, the headlines don't always tell the whole story. It doesn't take long to discover the full scope of Wichita with a mix of different ideas and background and its share of free thinkers and fresh ideas. Wichita also is welcoming new, young leadership in the community. As a local example of young leadership and diversity in thought, check out the stories of Wichita's newly elected County Commissioner Lacey Cruse and City Councilmember Brandon Johnson. Kansas just elected its third woman governor who is a Democrat along with a Republican-led state legislature. Wichita is also home to several colleges and universities encouraging innovation and new ideas. No matter your background or beliefs, with the many groups that celebrate and welcome diversity, you'll find a fit in Wichita.

PERCEPTION Wichita lacks diversity.

THE REAL WICHITA Wichita is home to people from all over the world. Students in Wichita Public Schools come from 94 countries and speak 109 languages. Wichita has multiple diverse communities and the region welcomes and celebrates diversity and different cultures through multiple festivals, art and museums as well as an amazing array of ethnic eateries and businesses. There are many opportunities to get involved with diverse groups, too. Wichita has vibrant young professional groups that both represent and include diverse backgrounds. And, there are more than 90 religions and denominations represented and 500 places of worship in Wichita.

PERCEPTION There's nothing to do in Wichita.

THE REAL WICHITA With the region's affordable cost of living, short commute times and overall work-life balance, you'll actually have the time and money to enjoy its many amenities. Check out visitwichita.com/events to check out what's happening in Wichita.

- **Music:** With more than 300 concerts a year, there is everything from local bands jamming at hip breweries to big-name tours at INTRUST Bank Arena. Wichita's many new and long-running venues feature music for every original person and their individual passion. The city holds music festivals and festivals like Riverfest, the largest and longest-running festival in the state, which features nine days of concerts and more on the Arkansas River downtown. The Wichita Vortex Fest is an "urban camping" and music festival right on the river near the iconic Keeper of the Plains.
- **Visual and Performing Art:** No matter the type of art you're interested in, Wichita has it. Unique to a city of its size, Wichita is home to Wichita Grand Opera, Broadway-caliber Music Theater of Wichita and the Wichita Symphony. And those are just the beginning with ballet, community theater, national tours and more. Final Fridays feature the latest in eclectic local and national artists. You can soak up nationally and internationally recognized sculpture, paintings, photography and more at the Wichita Art Museum and the Ulrich Museum of Art. Or you can get hands-on with classes at Mark Arts or explore the abundant murals throughout the city. There are numerous opportunities and communities to get involved in as an artist, too.
- **Film:** Wichita's Tallgrass Film festival is the biggest film festival in the state bringing in filmmakers from around the world and attracting more than 16,000 attendees. It was named one of the "Top 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" in 2018. There are several unique weekend film festivals showcasing independent filmmakers that pop up throughout the city, too.
- **Food & Drink:** There are plenty of relentlessly original establishments to explore throughout the region including numerous locally-owned breweries, a beer garden in a shipping container and the largest nightclub in Kansas that features live and mechanical bull riding, just to name a few. Walk through Old Town and check out the restaurants and nightlife in a renovated warehouse district. Whether it's a specialty donut shop, vegan food truck, taco or wings festival, Kansas-grown beef burger or ethnic restaurant, Wichita has your cravings covered.
- **Outdoors/Fitness:** Wichita offers everything from the latest trends in boutique gyms to outdoor yoga and recreation in 125 parks and greenways. Wichita has even been designated as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists. Bike Share ICT, a bike share program, allows users to affordably rent a bike from more than 40 stations located throughout the city. Water sports lovers can paddle board or kayak on the river that runs right through downtown or sail one of the region's lakes. Wichita is home to abundant golf courses, one of the top-ranked zoos in the country and the beautiful Botanica, which offers 30+ themed gardens and exhibits. Within a quick drive, you'll find hiking trails and the stunning Flint Hills, one of the only tallgrass prairies in North America.

PERCEPTION Wichita has tornadoes and bad weather.

THE REAL WICHITA : Every region in the U.S. has some risk of a natural disaster. Here, with tornadoes or severe weather there is plenty of warning and time to take shelter if needed. Even though schools have FEMA shelters, most houses have basements and businesses have plans, most residents monitor the weather and take cover only when needed. While residents and businesses are plenty prepared, most Wichitans have not recently experienced a real tornado threat. Kansas ranks among the sunniest states in the nation and enjoys all four seasons. Winters are typically mild with brief periods of very cold weather.

PERCEPTION Wichita doesn't offer the same career opportunities as a "big city" would.

THE REAL WICHITA Living in Wichita means the opportunity to move up from a junior position to managing high-level projects at an accelerated pace. You can sit on a community or professional board in your 20s and make a name or difference in your industry and community. Wichita offers room for growth and leadership plus a paycheck that will go further with a lower cost of living. There are thousands of jobs available in the region with more than a thousand companies in seven main sectors that are eager to hire the best and brightest. People and companies in the Wichita region recognize and reward talent no matter the age.