



Omaha Road Trip Agenda

Wednesday, Sept. 30

2:00 p.m. | Farnam Hotel/Landmark Center lobby (1299 Farnam St)

Welcome and walk to Gene Leahy Mall Performance Pavilion.

2:30–5:00 p.m. | Riverfront Walking Tour

***The RiverFront** is a 72-acre system of three interconnected public parks in downtown Omaha. Created through a \$325 million public-private redevelopment, the parks connect the Old Market and North Downtown to the Missouri River and feature green spaces, playgrounds, public art, performance venues, a skate ribbon, trails, gardens, and year-round community programming. The RiverFront has become a major gathering place and centerpiece of Omaha's downtown revitalization and demonstrates the role public spaces can play in catalyzing private development.*

Speakers:

- Katie Bassett, VP Capital Projects and Development – Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA)
- Zach Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation and Ashley Kruse, Communications and Events Manager – City of Council Bluffs

5:00–7:00 p.m. | Dinner and Reception at Kiewit Luminarium (River Room)

*The **Kiewit Luminarium** is a next-generation, interactive science center located on The RiverFront. Designed for learners of all ages, it features more than 125 hands-on exhibits that invite visitors to explore science, technology, engineering, art, math, and human perception through experimentation and play. A signature civic investment and anchor for Omaha's RiverFront redevelopment, the Luminarium demonstrates how destination amenities can attract visitors, residents and future investment.*

Speakers:

- Jody Holston – Executive Director, Front Porch Investments
- Tina Cherica – President, Heritage Omaha
- Jill Shudak – Mayor, City of Council Bluffs
- Tentative – Greater Omaha Chamber

Return transportation on your own

Thursday, October 1st

Breakfast on your own

8:30 a.m. | Gather in Farnam Hotel/Landmark Center lobby (1299 Farnam St)

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | The Venue at Highlander

*The **Highlander neighborhood** is a nationally recognized, mixed-income community redevelopment in North Omaha led by the nonprofit Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp. Built on the site of former public housing, Highlander takes a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization by combining high-quality mixed-income housing with education, community wellness, economic development, and gathering spaces. At its center is the Highlander Accelerator, a community hub that brings together educational institutions, health and social services, local businesses, dining, events, and community programming.*

Speakers:

- Dennis Steigerwalt – President, Housing Innovation Alliance
- Jody Holston – Executive Director, Front Porch Investments
- Sharlon Rodgers – Executive Director, Seventy Five North
- Cesar Garcia – Executive Director, Canopy South

10:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Millwork Commons

***Millwork Commons** is a 50-acre mixed-use neighborhood in North Downtown Omaha that is transforming a historic industrial district into a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, arts, and community. The development combines restored warehouses dating to the 1880s with new housing, offices, restaurants, shops, and public spaces. Anchored by historic buildings such as the Mastercraft and Ashton, Millwork Commons is home to more than 70 businesses and nonprofit*

organizations and is designed as a walkable neighborhood where people can live, work, create, and connect.

Speakers:

- Stephen Osberg, PGSA
- Jamie Grayson, Peter Kiewit Foundation

Lunch generously sponsored by PGSA/Millwork Commons

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Urban Core/Streetcar Route

Omaha's future streetcar will be a 3-mile, fare-free urban transit system connecting key destinations across downtown and midtown Omaha. The route will run primarily along Farnam and Harney Streets, extending from the University of Nebraska Medical Center area near 42nd Street east through the Blackstone and Midtown Crossing districts to downtown, with a loop connecting to The RiverFront and CHI Health Center. Designed to support walk-ability and continued development along the urban core, the streetcar is expected to begin passenger service in 2028.

Speaker:

- Steve Jensen – Interim Director, Omaha Streetcar Authority

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Edge District and Catalyst

*The **EDGE District** is a 30-acre health and life sciences innovation district adjacent to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in midtown Omaha. Designed to bring together healthcare, research, entrepreneurship, and industry, the district is transforming former industrial land into a mixed-use hub with research facilities, offices, retail, public spaces, and future development. Its first major anchor, **Catalyst**, is a 170,000-square-foot innovation hub created from the historic Omaha Steel Casting facility. Opened in 2025, Catalyst brings together health-tech startups, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, and UNMC innovation programs alongside coworking, dining, event, and community spaces, all designed to encourage collaboration and turn research and ideas into new businesses and healthcare solutions*

Speakers:

- Garry Clark – Executive Director, Omaha Inland Port Authority
- Adam Flanagan, Managing Director and Co-Owner, Bluestem Capital
- Jason Thiellen – CEO, E&A Consulting and President, Welcome Home Coalition
- Aaron Moulton – Division President, DR Horton

- Jay Lund – Partner and Co-Founder, Greenslate Development Partners
- Scott Dobbe – Partner and President, Greenslate Development Partners

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | ULI Networking Event at Big Grove Brewery

ULI Nebraska is the Nebraska chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a global nonprofit network of real estate and land-use professionals focused on shaping the future of the built environment. Established in 2023 and based in Omaha, ULI Nebraska brings together developers, architects, planners, investors, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and other professionals to share expertise and collaborate on issues affecting development. Its work includes educational programs, project tours, networking, and Technical Assistance Panels (TAPs) that bring multidisciplinary experts together to address complex local land-use and development challenges.

Return transportation: Arrow Bus departs for Farnam Hotel twice - **4:30pm and 6:00pm**