

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



USA Today-Ranked Food Truck Festival Rolls Back Into Hilliard This August

HILLIARD, Ohio (June 30, 2025) — The Columbus Food Truck Festival returns Aug. 16–17 to the Franklin County Fairgrounds for its 14th year, bringing with it a full weekend of great eats, live music, unique shopping and a brand-new VIP experience. Recently named the **No. 4 Best City Food Festival in the U.S.** by *USA Today*, the event continues to grow as one of the Midwest’s premier summer celebrations. This year’s festival features more than 40 food trucks, a curated artisan and vintage market, and a lineup of musical performances on the outdoor stage.

A new VIP experience, the [Long Drink](#) VIP Lounge will offer exclusive perks, including live acoustic sets by MikelParis of O.A.R., complimentary Pepsi products and dessert, and VIP-only merchandise.

Festival Hours and Location

Saturday, Aug. 16 – 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17 – 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, 4951 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, 43026

Tickets

- General Admission: \$5 in advance; \$10 day-of (online or at gate)
- Children 12 and under: Free with a paid adult 18 years of age or older
- **VIP Passes:** \$30 in advance; \$50 beginning Aug. 16 (limited availability)

Music Lineup

Performances will take place throughout the weekend on the festival’s single main stage. Artists

include:

Saturday: School of Rock Dublin, Blue Spectrum, A Band Called Dreamland, Friends of The Dead, The Liner Notes

Sunday: School of Rock Columbus, Andy Shaw Band, Angela Perley, Lawler

Long Drink VIP Lounge (Limited availability)

Located inside the Ganyard Building, the new VIP experience offers a relaxed indoor space with exclusive benefits. VIP passes include:

- Complimentary Pepsi products and two nonalcoholic drink tickets (water and Pepsi)
- Access to a VIP-only bar serving Long Drink, margaritas, vodka lemonade and beer (credit card only)
- One Graeter's Ice Cream dessert ticket
- Rotating sample-size bites from select food trucks
- Four daily 20-minute acoustic sets by MikelParis of O.A.R.
- A digital download of his *GuitarDrumming 01* album and music videos
- A signed merchandise item from MikelParis
- A limited-edition Columbus Food Truck Festival T-shirt (first 50 VIP guests courtesy G&J Pepsi)

VIP hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. VIP guests must be 21 or older; underage guests require adult accompaniment.

Food Trucks

More than 40 food trucks will participate, offering everything from BBQ and tacos to gelato, egg rolls, crepes and more. Confirmed vendors include:

American Mess Hall, Amish Country Donuts, Bada Bing Bada Wing, Big Dogs Pizza, Big Mouth Egg Rolls, Big Pappy's BBQ, Brazilian Grill and Bakery, Chicken Mac, Ciao Gelato Truck, Cousins Maine Lobster, Diamonds Ice Cream, Eden Food Truck, Eiffel Street Food, Empanadas and More, Fat Kid Burgers, For the Love of Dough, Frida's Authentic Mexican, Glaze-Em Gourmet Funnel Cakes, Gourmet Mac Shak, Graeter's Ice Cream, Grateful Griddle, Grilled Cheese Gangster, Happy Elephant Food, IrieJam Island Grill, Island Noodles, Komodo Loco, Kona Ice, La Orangette, Lyle's Crepes, Mother Mel's Wholesome Diner, Rime Time Pops,

Robinson Smokehouse, Sonara Bites, Spanish Bowl, Taco Veloz, Taqueria Las Costeñas, The Icy Paw, The Lumpia Queen, The Original Steaks and Hoagies, Tortilla Street Food, TurkeysRUs BBQ, Zaki Grill, Zapatas Street Food + more TBA

Shopping

Two standout vendor areas enhance this year's event, offering unique finds for shoppers seeking something special. The festival's vendor village features local artisans, handmade goods, jewelry, natural body care, original art and more. Returning this year, the [Columbus Vintage Exchange](#) anchors the shopping experience with a curated collection of retro toys, vinyl records, vintage clothing and collectibles. Vintage Exchange vendors TBA.

Confirmed Artisan Village vendors include: Coffico African Beauty and Fashion, Native Findings, Magic Hands Massage Bus, Angry Irishman LLC, The Creation Circus, Face and Body Art by Mit, Sunlight Splatter Dyes, Rubyard, JW Sticker Shop, Bluebird Meadow Llama Farm, and more TBA.

Community Impact

As in year's past, a portion of the proceeds from the festival benefit [Music Loves Ohio](#) as well as [Besa](#). Since its founding in 2011, the Columbus Food Truck Festival has donated more than \$107,000 to local charities, including [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio](#), [Music Loves Ohio](#), [Nationwide Children's Hospital](#) and others.

Additional Info

The event is rain or shine. All tickets are single-day admission. No re-entry. Free onsite and street parking is available. Alcohol purchases require a valid photo ID.

For tickets, vendor lists, FAQs and more, visit www.ColumbusFoodTruckFest.com.

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About the Columbus Food Truck Festival

Launched in 2011 at Columbus Commons, the Columbus Food Truck Festival quickly grew into one of the largest events of its kind in the Midwest. After stops at the Scioto Mile and a successful transition to the Franklin County Fairgrounds in 2021, the festival now attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually to celebrate food, music, small business and community.

Follow the festival on Facebook and Instagram [@colsfoodtruckfest](#)

About MikelParis of O.A.R.

MikelParis (also simply known as MP) is best known as an essential part of the celebrated American rock band O.A.R. for nearly two decades, contributing his talents as a keyboardist, percussionist, and backing vocalist. MP is a multi-talented musician, songwriter, and performer whose solo work showcases his distinct artistic vision.

His latest solo album, *GuitarDrumming 01*, released on March 28, 2025, highlights his signature *GuitarDrumming* style—a fusion of rhythmic guitar playing and percussive drumming techniques. The eight-track album, available on vinyl, digital download, and streaming platforms, features original songs and notable collaborations with Vernon Reid and G. Love. *GuitarDrumming 01* has been spotlighted by Howlin Wuelf Media, Glide Magazine, and Apple Music.

As a songwriter, MikelParis blends lyrical depth with compositional flair, drawing inspiration from iconic artists such as Elton John, James Taylor, U2, and the Dave Matthews Band. His distinctive style fuses the introspective hues of folk and soul with the vitality of funk and rock, creating a vibrant and dynamic sonic landscape that resonates both on record and during his intimate acoustic performances. For more information about MikelParis, visit [mikelparis.com](#).

About Music Loves Ohio

Music Loves Ohio is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides opportunities for Central Ohio youth to pursue their passion for music. Their financial assistance is focused on music education classrooms (public schools, private schools, and after school programs) and providing instruments to financially underserved students in Central Ohio. For more information about Music Loves Ohio, visit them online at [musiclovesohio.org](#).

About Besa

Besa is a Columbus-based nonprofit dedicated to powering a wave of civic engagement that lifts us all. We fulfill critical needs by connecting people to community service to make giving back easy—and transformative. For more information about Besa's mission, please visit [besa.org](#).

About the Franklin County Fairgrounds and the Franklin County Agricultural Society

The Franklin County Fairgrounds is operated by the Franklin County Agricultural Society. The objectives of the Society are the improvement of agriculture, horticulture, better livestock, uniform domestic science and art, and the promotion of youth activities, and the general community betterment together with all other industrial, commercial, and educational interests of the County. The Franklin County Fairgrounds is located at 4951 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, OH 43026. For more information about the Franklin County Agricultural Society and the Franklin County Fairgrounds visit them online at fcfair.org.

About Destination Hilliard/Hilliard Ohio

Hilliard, Ohio is a thriving community of more than 33,000 residents. Residents and corporate citizens enjoy dependable city and safety services, a highly rated public-school system, scenic parks and trails, terrific recreational programs and a variety of safe and attractive neighborhoods. Situated just west of the Scioto River along I-270, Hilliard is only a 15 to 20-minute commute to downtown Columbus. With roots that began as a village built in 1869 around the railroad station, Hilliard has grown into a city full of local pride and history. For more information about Hilliard, Ohio, activities, accommodations, and attractions, please visit them online at destinationhilliard.com.