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Columbus, Ohio ranks as BEST city in the WORLD

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Columbus, as you will read in the below list of awards, is by far the best city in the Country, and, in fact, the World. Unlike every other major city in the world, Columbus, Ohio, has not peaked.

Many cities have seen their heyday and fallen from grace and faltered in their recovery.

Columbus, however, has the best <u>library in the country</u>, the best <u>zoo in the country</u>, the <u>best science center in America</u>, and <u>America's largest University</u>. This may have led it to being known as the one of the 7 <u>Smartest Cities in the World</u> and why we won the <u>U.S. Department of Transportation \$40 million Smart City Challenge</u>. We have so much more potential. We may not be as pretty as Paris or Venice or even New York, but Columbus has personality.

Columbus has been named:

- One of the 6 Best Big Cities by Time Money Magazine
- A Mecca for Designers and Fashionistas
- The Most Underrated City in America for Gay Travelers
- One of Top 3 Best Cities for Black-Owned Small Businesses
- Best City in America for Single Women
- One of Top 6 "American Dream Cities"
- · One of the top 6 "Arts & Culture" Cities beating out San Fran and NYC!
- Number ONE Opportunity City according to Forbes

- Top 3 "Best City for Millennials"
- 2nd MANLIEST City in America
- 2nd Safest City for Young Families with Kids
- 3rd BEST Place to have Thanksgiving
- Top Ten State that produced the Most Craft Beer
- 7th Best City for Young Professionals
- · 3rd Happiest City in the Country (according to Instagram)
- Best Cocktail Bar in the Western Hemisphere
- Best Italian Restaurant in the Midwest
- AND #1 Startup City in America!

With all these awards, it is no wonder that National Geographic did a feature story on Why All the Cool Kids Love Columbus, Ohio.

Home to the nations 3rd largest US Small Business Administration intermediary micro-lender (<u>ECDI</u>), Columbus has become a proving ground for entrepreneurs. Another resource for small businesses, <u>Rev1 Ventures</u>, is the number one seed fund in the region supporting startups and entrepreneurs.

Even Silicon Valley has begun to take notice. <u>Andy Jenks, partner at Drive Capital (venture capital firm founded by two Sequoia Capital veterans)</u>, wrote, "Here I am, at <u>Drive Capital</u>'s offices in sunny Columbus, Ohio, and I'm happy as hell about it" after moving his family from San Francisco. He went on to state why Kvamme and Olsen, founders of Drive Capital came to Columbus, "In the Midwest I see and meet entrepreneurs solving real-world problems that they are passionate about. That's how great companies get built, and that mentality is why I am here ultimately."

When Silicon Valley money - \$300m in Drive Capital's first fund – come to Columbus, it isn't just fake news and internet memes anymore.

Jenks ended his article with this invitation, "No matter who you are, I would love to show you this incredible place and introduce you to some of the smartest, most passionate entrepreneurs in the whole world."

I echo his invitation. Columbus, for all its accolades and recent attention, continues to be a place that you can walk down the street and say hello to neighbors you haven't met and welcome new friends to town with a potluck and a tailgate.