

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota State Fair Announces “2023 Best Awards”

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St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota State Fair presented awards to 12 of the very best of the State Fair’s nearly 1,000 commercial exhibitors, concessions, attractions and food and beverage vendors at the 2023 Great Minnesota Get-Together. In a ceremony held at 10 a.m. today on the International Bazaar Stage, State Fair CEO Renee Alexander presented Best Awards to the following:

Afro Deli - Menu includes beef, chicken and veggie sambusas, plantains, mango juice and iced and spiced Somali tea. This is their inaugural year at the State Fair. (Located in the Food Building, east wall)

Aria Handmade - They feature a handcrafted collection of products made from naturally recycled and repurposed materials, plus handbags, jewelry and clothing. (Located at the International Bazaar, southwest section)

Bamboo Switch - Sells a full line of branded earth-friendly products, including cutlery, travel items, bags, baskets, hair ties and more. (Located in the Grandstand, lower level, south section)

Downdraft by Family Entertainment - This ride is located at Mighty Midway.

Jammy Sammies by BRIM - Serves a variety of sandwiches and coffee and lemonade drinks, including an Official New Food this year – two flavors of a jam’nade beverage – blueberry mint and strawberry jalapeño. (Located at the North End, northwest section, across from the North End Event Center)

Long-Range Basketball by Oren Concessions - This game is located at Mighty Midway.

The Minnesotan - Sells logo’d caps and hats and sweatshirts and T-shirts for adults and kids. (Located west of Nelson Street, just south of the Grandstand)

Must Be Ruff - Sells all-natural, soft-baked, Minnesota-made dog treats. (Located in the Pet Pavilion, north wall)

O’Gara’s at the Fair - Menu includes food and drinks from Reuben rolls to fish & chips to burgers and more, plus a wide selection of brews. (Located on the southwest corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Cosgrove Street)

Raiders by Wanderlust Amusements - This fun house is located at Kidway.

Union Hmong Kitchen - Menu includes Nqaij with chilled rice noodles, 5-Spiced Thai Tea as well as an Official New Food this year - Galabao (steamed pork bun). (Located at International Bazaar, south wall, west corner)

Visit Bemidji - Promotes tourism to Bemidji. (Located in the Education Building, south wall)

These recipients were selected because they exemplify these characteristics:

- Provide exceptional, efficient customer service and an outstanding experience for fair guests;
- Knowledgeable staff with positive attitudes who are courteous, thoughtful and professional;
- An amazing visual presentation and positive image;
- Present a premium quality product/service;
- Offer great value.

For more information about the Best Awards, visit mnstatefair.org/competitions/best-awards/.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round Minnesota State Fair updates. The 2023 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 24 through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.