



UNITED 2026

A united bid to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Has Been Included in United Bid to Host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™

*22 Other Cities Join, Kansas City in Final Bid Submission to FIFA;
United Bid Projects 5.8 Million Tickets to be Sold in 2026, Generating \$2.1 Billion in Revenue.*

KANSAS CITY, MO (March 15, 2018) – Kansas City has been included as an official Candidate Host City in the United Bid of Canada, Mexico, and the United States to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. The United Bid announced its list of 23 Candidate Host Cities that will be included in the Bid Book earlier today.

Kansas City is part of the most comprehensive and far-reaching hosting strategy ever developed for a mega-sporting event. Kansas City is thrilled at possibility of welcoming the world to a united and inclusive celebration of football in Arrowhead Stadium, offering an advanced and existing stage on which the world's best players will compete.

The full list of Candidate Host Cities can be found below. If the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ is awarded to the United Bid, FIFA will select up to 16 Host Cities from the proposed slate of 23.

“Canada, Mexico, and the United States have joined together to deliver a United Bid that offers FIFA and its member associations the power of unity, the promise of certainty, and the potential of extraordinary opportunity,” said John Kristick, Executive Director of the United Bid. “We are confident that the combination of our 23 existing world-class stadiums, 150 existing elite training facilities, and our modern and interconnected transportation network can help FIFA to achieve new records for attendance and revenue which will allow the entire global football community to improve and grow.”

“Kansas City is the absolute perfect place to host the World Cup Soccer tournament in 2026. This City is welcoming, inviting, it's diverse, it's rich in culture and rich in attitude,” said Kansas City, MO Mayor Sly James. “We're known for our food, we're known for our BBQ, we're known for our jazz, but most of all we're known for our people. They are the nicest people in our country.” [Click here for Mayor Sly James' full statement.](#)

“Kansas City is the soccer capital of the United States and is the ideal place to host games during the 2026 World Cup. As a region, KC and KCK offer numerous world class soccer facilities, from Children's Mercy Park and the Pinnacle training facility in KCK, to Arrowhead Stadium in KCMO,” said Mayor David Alvey, Kansas City, Kansas. “Being selected as part of the North American bid to host the World Cup shows what working together can accomplish. It also affirms the positive impacts of the economic development efforts the Unified Government has undertaken.” [Click here for Mayor David Alvey's full statement.](#)

“All of Kansas City should be proud that our community is officially in contention to serve as a host city for the biggest sporting event in the world. Highly acclaimed for our hospitality and perfectly positioned in the heart of North America, Kansas City's modern amenities and accommodations strengthen the United Bid and provide a world-class experience for guests,” said Cliff Illig, Vice Chairman of the board and co-founder of Cerner and principal investor in OnGoal, LLC. “The inclusion of Kansas City also showcases

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a strategic vision and a spirit of togetherness made possible by a coalition of leaders in multiple cities, states and municipal agencies. All of us involved in the local effort are delighted to support the United Bid and are committed to continuing our mission to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup to Kansas City.”

Canada, Mexico, and the United States require no new stadium construction to stage the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. Kansas City, along with the United Bid, will instead be able to work with FIFA to ensure the players, officials, and fans have an extraordinary experience at the largest FIFA World Cup™ ever staged.

“Kansas City has served as the backdrop for some of the world’s greatest sporting events and we are thrilled to be a candidate to become a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup,” said Clark Hunt, Chairman & CEO of the Kansas City Chiefs. “Arrowhead is a “bucket list” destination for fans across all sports and we are confident it would be a tremendous environment for the world’s best soccer teams to showcase their talent. We are excited to be working closely together with this group of government and civic leaders who are determined to bring one of the world’s premier sporting events to Kansas City for all fans to enjoy.”

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Across every metric, the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ in North America has the potential to deliver something extraordinary for Kansas City, North American, FIFA, and for football.

The United Bid’s final Candidate Host Cities are:

Canada:

- Edmonton
- Montréal
- Toronto

Mexico:

- Guadalajara
- Mexico City
- Monterrey

United States:

- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Cincinnati
- Dallas
- Denver
- Houston
- Kansas City
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- Nashville
- New York/New Jersey
- Orlando
- Philadelphia
- San Francisco Bay Area
- Seattle
- Washington DC

About the United Bid Committee

The United Bid Committee was created by the National Federations of Canada, Mexico and the United States to manage the bidding process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™.

About The 2026 FIFA World Cup™

The 2026 FIFA World Cup™ will be the first tournament with the expanded 48-team format and will require world-class facilities and infrastructure to ensure a successful tournament. The United Bid of Canada, Mexico and the United States is uniquely suited to accommodate FIFA’s high-level standards for hosting a FIFA World Cup™. If the United Bid is selected by FIFA as the host for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™, up to 16 Host Cities will be selected as venues for games. Canada, Mexico and the United States also have a long and successful history as hosts - 13 FIFA World Cups™ have been hosted in Canada, Mexico and the United States, five of which have set attendance records.

About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

The mission of the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation is to drive Kansas City’s overall sports strategy, to enrich the quality of life, create economic impact and raise visibility for our region, with the vision of making a better Kansas City through Sports. For the latest on Kansas City Sports Commission news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Also follow the Kansas City Marathon presented by Garmin on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). www.sportkc.org