

**St. Louis Community Credit Union**  
**Gateway Branch**  
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St. Louis, MO 63115  
[www.gatewayslccu.com](http://www.gatewayslccu.com)  
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Welcome to the community.\*

## Fact Sheet

### **St. Louis Community Credit Union Gateway Branch: Preserving the Legacy**

Established in 1965, Gateway Bank was the first and only minority-owned commercial bank in Missouri. It took local deposits and made loans in a neighborhood where few other banks focused. In 2009, Gateway Bank was acquired by Central Bank of Kansas City, which operated on the site for three years. In 2012, that institution announced that it was leaving the area. During that time, St. Louis was the third highest underbanked African-American community in the U.S. according to the FDIC.

The St. Louis City NAACP was determined to find a solution to save Gateway Bank. As a partner of the Credit Union, the NAACP was familiar with St. Louis Community's ability to provide access and financial capability to financially underserved communities. St. Louis City NAACP President Adolphus Pruitt reached out to Stifel Bank & Trust to discuss a plan. Together, the two parties connected Central Bank of Kansas City with St. Louis Community to work out an agreement that allowed the sale of the property to the Credit Union.

St. Louis Community's commitment to honoring Gateway Bank did not end there. The Credit Union provided a means for Gateway's customers to open accounts and even hired a few employees from Gateway to work at some of its locations.

Furthermore, St. Louis City NAACP leadership helped point St. Louis Community Credit Union in the right direction to procure a Community Development Block Grant that facilitated completion of the project. The original Gateway Bank building was demolished in 2015. Thanks to additional funding from the Community Development Block Grant, as well as support from the City of St. Louis, Stifel Bank & Trust, the St. Louis City NAACP, TIAA Direct and others, St. Louis Community Credit Union built a new state-of-the-art facility while still preserving Gateway Bank's great heritage. In fact, the St. Louis Community Credit Union Gateway Branch is adorned with a gallery of vintage photographs that pay tribute to Gateway and its founders.

Several of Gateway's traditions still live on today through the St. Louis Community Credit Union Gateway Branch. As part of our community giveback, we offer:

- Affordable loans and account services
- Advanced technology with Interactive Teller Solution (ITS) access – a fast and easy way for member-customers to do their banking
- Expanded full-service drive-up lanes for ultimate on-the-go convenience
- A caring staff that comes from the communities we serve
- Free financial counseling

The St. Louis Community Credit Union Gateway Branch opened in March 2016.

*Architectural rendering of the new  
St. Louis Community Credit Union  
Gateway Branch.*



## Gateway Bank's History

Gateway Bank was founded based on need. At the time, there weren't any financial institutions that served African Americans. Without equal banking access, African Americans could not get loans to buy homes or start businesses, nor would white-owned banks hire blacks for white-collar professional positions.

A large percentage of Gateway's founders and board members held higher degrees – several were medical doctors; one was a dentist; others had backgrounds in business, real estate and/or finance. Most of them attended the city's two local African-American high schools at the time, Vashon and Sumner.

On Sunday, June 27, 1965, Gateway Bank held its grand opening celebration. The remodeled building provided walk-up and drive-through banking facilities. A full range of services were offered, including checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, safe deposit boxes, and loans. Gateway went on to operate for 40-plus years. The bank's founders were committed to the cause.



Gateway Bank 1965

(Photo Courtesy of St. Louis Community Credit Union / Lisa Gates Collection)



**Gateway Bank, Board of Directors, left to right:**

Clyde Cahill, Dr. John Jackson, Leo Bohanon, Melvyn Harrington, Tom Jones, Dr. Benjamin Davis, Clifton Gates, James Harding, Dr. Jerome Williams, Sr., George Montgomery, James Hurt and James Clark

(Photo Courtesy of St. Louis Community Credit Union / Lisa Gates Collection).

To learn more about Gateway Bank's rich history, visit [www.gatewayslccu.com](http://www.gatewayslccu.com).

## About St. Louis Community Credit Union

Credit Unions are not-for-profit cooperatives that are owned by its members. As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), St. Louis Community Credit Union is a full-service financial institution that primarily serves low-to-moderate-income individuals living in and around the region's urban areas.

### Key Facts

- More than \$246 million in assets
- 50,000+ members
- 14 locations (three embedded within social service agencies)
- Recognized as a Low-to-Moderate-Income Credit Union (as designated by the National Credit Union Administration)

For more information, visit [www.stlouiscommunity.com](http://www.stlouiscommunity.com).



Gateway Bank President Clifton Gates (l) and Executive Vice President Tom Jones (r) review building plans, 1965

(Photo Courtesy of St. Louis Community Credit Union / Lisa Gates Collection).