

BIG CITY BLUES CLUBS

A Look at River City Slim's Grand Rapids, Michigan's latest entry in dining, entertainment and blues

River City Slims is Grand Rapids Michigan's latest new comer to the rush of night clubs flourishing in our city. It's located at 243 Commerce SW, a short distance from downtown GR and can easily be gotten to from main downtown arteries and nearby US-131 off the Wealthy exit. The club is a barrier free establishment, and on site parking is available.

Upon entering the club, you are struck by the spaciousness. This is a big club, seating 500 patrons, ranking among our city's largest entertainment-dining complexes. The club's theme and décor bring way-down-yonder-in-New Orleans ambience. The walls resound with brilliant shop front motifs found on Bourbon and Royal streets of the famed French Quarter. New Orleans style cuisine is offered in traditional Cajun and Creole styles along with some highly imaginative selections Handsome round



café tables coupled with Bentwood back-supporting chairs gives the floor a real street café feel. The bar is impressive: yards of massive countertop cling about the clubs south wall. At first glance you think the bar is constructed of polished granite, but cement is the main ingredient. Not only are the bar counters etched and epoxied in concrete, but just about everything is. The main life is stamped in convincingly true-to-life life courtyard brick, dyed and set in cement. So too are the faux wood floor sections. The

Photo courtesy of River City Slims



Larry McCray performing at River City Slim's.

Big City Blues Clubs

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|---|--|---|
| Ann Arbor, MI
The Ark - 734-761-1800
(*see ad) | Your Place Lounge -
313-881-4850 | Tiptina's - 504-891-8477 |
| Angola, IN
Skip's Place - 260-665-3922 | Hermosa Beach, CA
Cafe Boogaloo -
602-265-4842 | New York, NY
B.B. King's - 212-997-4511 |
| Atlanta, GA
Blind Willie's - 404-873-2583 | Indianapolis, IN
Slippery Noodle -
317-631-6974 (*see ad) | Dinosaur BBQ -
212-694-1777 |
| Austin, TX
Antone's-512-320-8424 | Kansas City, MO
BB's Lawnside BBQ -
816-888-8188 | Joe's Pub - 212-539-8770 |
| Baton Rouge, LA
Phil Brady's - 225-927-3786 | Knuckleheads -
816-483-1456 (*see ad) | Phoenix, AZ
The Rhythm Room -
602-265-4842 |
| Chicago, IL
B.L.U.E.S. - 773-528-1013 (*see ad) | Lafayette, LA
El Sid O's - 318-239-1959 | Prairie Point, MS
Betty's Place |
| Buddy Guy's Legends -
312-427-1190 (*see ad) | Lake Worth, FL
The Bamboo Room -
561-585-2583 | Rochester, NY
Dinosaur BBQ -
585-325-9127 |
| Harlem Ave. Lounge -
708-484-3610 | Lincoln, NE
Zoo Bar - 402-435-8754 | Sacramento, CA
Torch Club - 916-443-2797 |
| Kingston Mines -
773-477-4646 | Los Angeles, CA
Babe's & Ficky's -
323-295-9112 | San Diego, CA
Humphrey's - 619-224-3577 |
| Lee's Unleaded Blues -
773-493-3477 | Memphis, TN
B.B. King's - 901-527-5464 | San Francisco, CA
Biscuits & Blues -
415-292-BLUES |
| Rosa's Lounge -
773-342-0452 | Mishawaka, IN
Midway Tavern -
574-255-0458 | The Saloon -415-989-7666 |
| Clarksdale, MS
Ground Zero - 662-621-9009 | Nashville, TN
B.B. King's - 615-256-2727 | San Jose, CA
JJ's Blues Club -
408-243-6441 |
| Fat Fish Blue -216-875-6000 | Cleveland, OH
Fat Fish Blue-216-875-6000 | Santa Monica, CA
Harvelle's - 310-395-1676 |
| Coco Beach, CA
Beach Shack -
321-783-2250 | Des Moines, IA
Blues On Grand -
515-244-3092 | Sherman Oaks, CA
Cozy's - 818-986-6000 |
| Detroit, MI
Berts Market Place -
313-567-2030 | Detroit, MI
Butcher's Inn-Eastern Market
313-566-0966 | St. Louis, MO
BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups - 314-436-5222 |
| Lager House-Corktown
313-961-4668 (*see ad) | New Orleans, LA
Handa Wanda -
504-813-3496 | Syracuse, NY
Dinosaur BBQ -
315-476-4937 |
| | Mother-In-Law Lounge -
504-947-1078 | Tampa, FL
Skippers Smokehouse -
813-971-0666 |
| | Maple Leaf - 504-866-9359 | Teaneck, NJ
Mexicali Blues -
201-833-0011 |
| | The Point Bar -
504-364-0950 | Windsor, ON
Alibi's - 519-969-3135 |

dance floor is beautifully refinished in a high dyed gloss etch and bordering the stage wings are two gigantic in-your-face Spanish moss trees poured and formed from cement and topped off with tons of replicated Spanish moss. The stage is roomy enough to house a 10-piece swing band with no crowded elbows.

Presently, River City Slims showcases blues and roots music Friday and Saturday nights, and hosts a Wednesday blues jam. Since opening last August, the club has booked dozens of national touring acts and will celebrate its first anniversary celebration with a rare club appearance by Johnny Winter in September. Several Chicago acts make the easy two hour drive to Grand Rapids to perform there, while a number of Detroit performers have found River City Slims a welcome addition to their touring itinerary. Historically, the West Michigan area has ignored Motor City blues acts due to a geographic affinity to Chicago. Slims is changing that, booking Detroit bands on a regular basis.

Keeping the blues alive,
Felix Ybarra, President
West Michigan Blues Society
www.rivercityslims.com