

2020 Natural and Cultural Grant Program Awardees

Applicant: St. Luke AME

Project Title: *St. Luke AME Church: Brick & Window Rehabilitation*

Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Requested amount: \$60,759

Award: \$57,750

Project Description: The plan is to anchor, repoint and rehabilitate the west and north exterior brick gable walls of the building. The work also includes removing the two large stained-glass windows by professionals, transporting them offsite for rehabilitation. They will be reinstalled, including protective covering.

Applicant: Grassland Heritage Foundation

Project Title: *Restoring the Prairie Connection at Black Jack Battlefield*

Site is designated a National Historic Landmark

Amount Requested: \$58,383

Award: \$36,790

Project Description: Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park is nationally recognized as the site of a historic Civil War era clash, the Battle of Black Jack. The combat would have occurred in a field very different from what we see today, at the intersection of old growth forest and tallgrass prairie. While woody growth would have encompassed the tributaries of the Wakarusa River, tallgrass prairie would have dominated the remaining landscape. Today, Black Jack Battlefield has been invaded by non-native and woody plants, altering the services provided by the ecosystem, like resources for pollinators, water-infiltration, and soil structure. The undesired plants also greatly alter the historic aesthetic of the site. Through this project, we will bring Douglas County communities together to restore significant portions of the historic cover at this site, providing improved natural areas, a more accurate representation of mid-1800s landscape, and a community education space. The restoration work will be driven by community volunteer days incorporating education regarding the site's natural and cultural history. The community will engage with the project at each stage, from seed collection to invasive species management to wildflower plantings. Each aspect of the restoration will consider the historic landscape, long-term management responsibilities, and public engagement.

Applicant: Haskell Foundation

Project Title: *Haskell Stadium Archway Rehabilitation*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Amount Requested: \$39,882

Award: \$15,000

Project Description: The Haskell Stadium Archway was dedicated in 1926 as a World War I Memorial. It also serves as an entry and “ticket booth” to the 1926 Haskell Stadium. Last year, the Haskell Foundation submitted an application to the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council for a grant to rehabilitate the Archway, specifying some \$89,589 in needed funding. The Council wisely granted the Foundation \$10,000 to perform a thorough professional conditions and close assessment as the basis for a preservation plan. As a result, a professional engineer, in collaboration with a roofing contractor, lead paint expert and core sampling analysis expert determined a detailed rehabilitation plan with an estimated cost of approximately \$400,000, as specified in a 78-page report, (The Rehabilitation Plan). Based upon the Rehabilitation Plan, this proposed project has identified the roofing replacement, door replacement, lighting and electrical needs specified in The Rehabilitation Plan as the basis to effectively and positively move this Archway rehabilitation effort forward. This is the first step in the rehabilitation of the Archway. A substantial funding effort will start in 2020 to complete the rehabilitation of the Archway based upon The Rehabilitation Plan prepared in 2019, and this funding effort will be combined with funding costs to rehabilitate the south Haskell Stadium (“Tinker Hall”).

Applicant: Douglas County Historical Society

Project Title: *Third Floor Core Exhibit Installation, Phase 3*

Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Amount Requested: \$35,215

Award: \$17,600

Project Description: Phase 3 of the Watkins Museum’s core exhibit installation will complete a transformation of the museum’s visitor experience begun in 2012. This phase includes exhibits employing cutting-edge interpretive and visitor engagement techniques to explore themes that influenced development of the communities we know today: Innovation/Entrepreneurship, Railroads, Public Education, Universities in Douglas County, Lawrence in the Movies, and an Interactive Learning Center exploring home and work life in the early 1900s (themes detailed below). The DCHS seeks funding for exhibits exploring indigenous and emigrant tribes in Douglas County, the founding of the county and establishment of Lawrence as an economic center, and the histories of two iconic historic structures, the Eldridge Hotel and Watkins Building. These exhibits strengthen connections with Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area themes and address community interest in stories of native

peoples. As the DCHS has little in its collection relating to native cultures, the Native American exhibits will be developed in partnership with Haskell Indian Nations University. A student at Haskell, advised by faculty member Eric Anderson, will develop content and utilize resources in the Haskell Cultural Center.

Applicant: Vinland Fair Association

Project Title: *Vinland Fair Barn Exterior Maintenance*

Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Amount Requested: \$7,140

Award: \$7,140

Project Description: In 2007 a 945 square foot restroom/storage addition was added to the north end of the original 1927 Fair Barn. The exterior was covered with car siding to match the exterior of the original structure. Unfortunately, unlike the fir siding on the original barn, the car siding installed was pine and has not weathered well. The clearstory windows on the west side are also showing signs of weathering. The overall project is to replace the siding on the addition with T-111, 4 inch vertical grooved siding, clean, scrape the clearstory windows and original barn siding and paint the entire barn to preserve the historic structure.

Applicant: Santa Fe Trail Historical Society, Inc., of Douglas County

Project Title: *Black Jack Ruts/Ivan Boyd Prairie Trail Project*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Amount Requested: \$19,815

Award: \$17,800

Project Description: The Santa Fe Trail ruts found at this site are some of the premier ruts/swales along the entire 870 mile trail. However, public access is severely limited and handicapped access is non-existent. We propose to develop a 350 foot long five foot wide ADA accessible trail of compacted chip gravel which will extend from the entrance road to the first rut. From there we will construct an additional 1,500 feet long trail that is three foot wide and consists of compacted soil. It will go south from the gravel trail to the main ruts, loop to the southeast and then return to the chip gravel trail. Three interpretive panels will be designed by the National Park Service (NPS). One will be placed at the beginning of the trail, the other two, as well as two concrete benches, will be placed at the first rut. Also as part of this project we will restore two historical markers at the site and construct an ADA accessible path to the log cabin museum.

Applicant: Eudora Area Historical Society

Project Title: *Improvements at the Eudora Community Museum 2020*

Listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places

Amount Requested: \$17,415

Award: 5,000

Project Description: The Eudora Community Museum (ECM) has a number of important improvement projects that require immediate attention and action. The Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS), owners of the ECM, would benefit greatly from assistance from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council for the completion of these projects. These projects include: (#1) Lighting improvements, install badly needed track-heads and LED lightbulbs in the southern portion of our second story. (#2) Window coverings, install solar shades over all 19 windows in the museum to block harmful UV rays from damaging our collections. (#3) A variety of rehabilitation projects at the museum. These projects include repairing exterior stucco, repairing a section of the roof, replacing the deteriorated exterior sidewalk and stairs with a new concrete sidewalk and stairs.

Applicant: Friends of the Kaw

Project Title: *Eudora and Wakarusa: Prairie and Riparian Restoration and Protection*

Amount Requested: \$39,813

Award: \$20,000

Project Description: The beautiful Wakarusa River begins in the limestone hills of Wabaunsee County and flows 80 miles to join the Kansas River at Eudora. The riparian buffers and upland landscapes that protect these rivers are neglected and damaged. Native grasslands slow rainwater and force it into the soil for filtration, before it reaches the riparian zone. The riparian buffer is the last line of defense to extract debris and pollutants. With this proposed project we will restore native vegetation to a portion of the riparian buffer zone and upland area along the Wakarusa River, where it joins the Kansas River. We will also install two bioswale gardens designed to slow stormwater runoff from the city's paved surfaces and filter out debris, nutrients, and impurities, before it reaches the river. This project will provide education for the Eudora community members through volunteer experiences and to students of Eudora High School through our Kids About Water program. Students will also visit the project site and learn about the importance of this work in protecting the Wakarusa River and thereby the Kansas River, which is a drinking water source to over 800,000 Kansans.

Applicant: Friends of the Baldwin City Library

Project Title: *150 Years of Baldwin City History & The Story of Mayor Lucy Sweet Sullivan*

Amount Requested: \$ 23,160

Award: \$5,000

Project Description: 2020 is an unprecedented opportunity to share the story of Lucy Sweet Sullivan and to expand understanding of Baldwin City's history and contributions to the Women's Suffrage Movement. Lucy's story connects our historical assets and lends a human element to engage present and future generations. The Baldwin City Library with the Lumberyard Arts Center and City of Baldwin City seek HCC funding to produce and implement eleven coordinated engagement activities, plus their document and promotion to collectively and innovatively share the story of the first woman to be elected mayor of Baldwin City, Lucy Sweet Sullivan.

Applicant: St. John the Evangelist Church/La Yarda Project

Project Title: *Digitization and Transcription of Oral Histories of La Yarda Residents*

Amount Requested: \$ 5,000.00

Award: \$5,000.00

Project Description: Mexican families who came to Lawrence to work for the Santa Fe railroad in the 1920's were housed either in boxcars or in a humble settlement known as La Yarda located east of the railroad tracks in East Lawrence. Twenty years ago, as part of a special project, historian Helen Krische interviewed many Douglas County residents who grew up in the La Yarda community. Her interviews were recorded on audiotape and VHS. The oral histories document residents' stories, describing the economic and social conditions of Mexican immigrant families in the early twentieth century in Douglas County. The recordings offer vivid descriptions of family and community life in La Yarda. It is important to make them available to the public and to research. These tapes are physically located at the Watkins Museum of History and are accessioned there, but need to be catalogued. A prerequisite of cataloguing the tapes requires first converting them to digital format and transcribing their contents, making them useful to researchers. We request funding at this time to have these tapes digitized and transcribed in order that the important oral histories may be catalogued at the museum, and made available for public and research use.

Applicant: Kansas Land Trust

Project Title: *Kansas Land Trust Junior Naturalist Journal*

Amount Requested: \$ 4,187

Award: \$4,187

Project Description: This project's goal is to inspire children and their families to spend time outside, nurturing their appreciation and support of local landscapes. The Kansas Land Trust (KLT) requests funds to cover the development, design, and printing costs of 300 copies of the Kansas Land Trust Junior Naturalist Journal. The journal is a Douglas County-specific, 20-page, professionally illustrated activity guide with space for nature journaling. These journals will be given to children in Douglas County as prizes for completing our Young Naturalist Activity Calendar – a summer journaling calendar and activity sheet that complement the Lawrence Public Library's (LPL) Summer Reading Program and Lawrence Green Spaces Art Project. The Lawrence Green Spaces Art Project collaborates with local artists to create artwork celebrating parks and green spaces. Our journaling calendar and activity sheets will include specific links to and descriptions of these parks and other green spaces throughout Douglas County. KLT will distribute the Young Naturalists Summer Activity Calendar in cooperation with LPL, the Baldwin City Public Library and the Eudora Public Library. KLT is initiating this program to celebrate thirty years conserving unique Kansas lands, 1990-2020, and plans to use this legacy booklet for outreach and education beyond 2020.

Applicant: Clinton Lake Historical Society

Project Title: *Wakarusa River Valley Community Spotlight Exhibits*

Amount Requested: \$ 8,733.00

Recommended Award: \$8,733

Project Description: In 2020, WRVHM will begin a series of in-depth exhibits to honor Wakarusa River Valley communities effected by the building of Clinton Reservoir. The series will start with Richland, our western-most community in the Wakarusa watershed, and work our way east. The communities of Twin Mound and Old & New Belvoir will be next. The grant fund request will cover 2 years of exhibit development, printed displays, and an investment in professional, flexible use "museum furniture" that will benefit any museum exhibit in the future. The 2020 exhibit highlights the town of Richland, an economic and social hub for rural families prior to its purchase/destruction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The exhibit's objective is threefold: to convey Richland's historical importance to the region; spotlight longtime resident Dr. Weed Tibbitts; and honor memories of former residents through quotes gathered via oral histories the past two years. Ultimately, the "Remembering Richland" exhibit, and subsequent community exhibits in the series, will enable museum visitors an opportunity to understand the historical significance of this extinct town while former residents can reminisce memories of days gone by.