

Director's Message

We love local history for so many reasons; it's our own unique story, the people and places are close at hand, it's familiar and when it is not, it's fascinating! Recently a departing visitor thanked admissions staff and remarked that, "It's like getting a piece of my life back!" – so true.

The Museum is off to an exciting year beginning with the special exhibit partnership formed with Exploration Place; our two guitar exhibits have practically created a 3 month, city-wide guitar festival. The annual exhibit featuring local art history opens this month in the Lois Kay Walls Gallery. Finally, the year will also see the opening of new exhibits featuring the original 1890's Mayor's Office and an exhibit exploring Civics and Government.

This Spring we are beginning to enjoy Heritage Square as it has not been experienced in many years. As summer unfolds, visitors will find it an inviting urban oasis and also an environment that addresses the interpretation of our history in accordance with the Museum's mission. We urge you visit and see for yourself!

Eric M. Cale
Executive Director



Heritage

The Wichita-Sedgwick County
Historical Museum Association



THE ART OF Cecil McAlister

A new exhibit will open soon in the Lois Kay Walls Art Gallery. *The Art of Cecil McAlister.*

Cecil McAlister achieved national recognition with his 1937 design of the Wichita flag, but he was a fine and commercial artist in Wichita for decades. See examples of his work at this exhibit opening from 5-7 pm on April 29th; the exhibit will be on view through April 2017.

Born in Wichita in 1890, Cecil McAlister found employment as a young man at the Western Sign Works Company, notably designing a flour milling exhibit at the 1915 International Wheat Show held at the Forum. After leaving the city in 1918 to study art in Chicago, McAlister returned to Wichita in 1919 and opened the Wichita Sign Company, producing outdoor signs and advertising. In 1920, McAlister, aspiring to the life of a fine art painter, eschewed sign painting to focus on landscapes, portraits, and still life at his newly opened Modern Studio. McAlister continued to supplement his income with

McAlister continued on page 2



Exhibit opening
Final Friday,
April 29, 2016
5-7 pm

McAlister

continued from page 1

display work for the Boston Store, Rorabaugh Dry Goods, and Greenfield Brothers, as well as residential decorating work.

The Great Depression forced the closure of the Modern Studio in Wichita and McAlister moved the studio to his farm on South Broadway. McAlister continued his fine art work, but he was forced to return to sign painting and commercial art to support his family.

His award-winning Wichita flag design brought him national recognition. Sponsored in 1937 by the American Legion and the Rotary Club, McAlister won \$40 for his entry featuring a white sun circle, a blue sun, and red and white stripes, symbolizing the Indian word “Wichita,” which means “scattered lodges.” In a statement to the *Wichita Eagle* on June 15, 1937, McAlister said, “These stripes running in and out of red and white are symbols of rays of light or ways to come and go, open and free to all.”

McAlister’s later work was greatly influenced by his background in large scale graphics, and he became well-known for his interior murals adorning the walls of Wichita homes. He died in Wichita on January 6, 1969.

This exhibit runs through March 19th, 2017 and has been generously funded through the Lois Kay Walls Foundation.

SHOP STAFFING MANAGERS NEEDED!

Loyal Museum Shop volunteer staffing managers Cynthia Carl and Flo Crawford have announced their retirement. The Museum Shop enhances our visitor’s experience and provides downtowners a convenient place to purchase cards, souvenirs and gift items. Cynthia and Flo enjoyed trading month to month and making calls to schedule shop volunteers. Their dedication and the loyal group of volunteers who keep the shop open, are central to the success of the Museum, and we are grateful for their service. Cynthia and Flo will be happy to talk to anyone interested in this opportunity – call the Museum for more information – 265-9314

National History Day & The Devore Essay Contest

The Historical Museum celebrates young historians! We partnered with Friends University for a sixth successful year in sponsoring the National History Day competition on February 28th. This national competition engages young people by challenging them to interpret history through various mediums including exhibits, video, website design, essay and performance. Students choose historical topics related to the national theme of “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.” Nearly 300 area students participated this year.

For students, nothing brings academics into focus like reflecting on one’s own history and heritage. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, acting as a conduit to the past, does this more effectively than any other educational institution. In support of our mission, the Museum encourages participants to use local history as a basis for their NHD projects. This begins early in the year with an Essay Contest sponsored by the DeVore Family Foundation. The essay is a warm-up exercise for their projects and challenges students to approach the theme with a local perspective.



The winner of the 5th Annual DeVore Essay Contest is Austin Parcell for “Wichita’s B-29 Superfortress: Encountering Challenges, Exploring Options, Rebounding with Success.” Austin will be honored during the Young Historian Awards on May 1st at 2pm. The event includes a special keynote address by filmmaker, historian, and educator Ken Spurgeon.

Business Memberships Now Available

An exciting opportunity is now available for businesses to support the Museum through annual business memberships. Not only does the membership support the Museum's varied programs and exhibits, it provides many opportunities for company employees, including:

- Free admission to the Museum and Heritage Square for employees and their guests
- Invitations to special membership events
- Free admission passes for clients
- 10% discount in the Museum's gift shop

In addition, company principals will receive the biannual Heritage Newsletter, Museum mailings and email notices of upcoming events. All business members will be recognized on the Museum website and in the Heritage Newsletter. Patron members will be given special recognition on the Museum's first floor. What a wonderful way to support the Museum that supports the community by preserving our local history!

The Museum thanks our current Business Members for their support, including the following:

Bever Dye, LLC	McCormick –Armstrong
Builders, Inc.	Midwest Hearing Aids
Cozine Memorial Group	Old Town Architectural Salvage
Dillons Stores	Platt, Adams &
Dondlinger & Sons Construction	Bradley Architects
Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview	The Nifty Nut House
Fidelity Bank	The Orpheum Theater
Fruhauf Uniforms	Powell's Jewelry
Golden, Inc.	Remax Premier
Hephener T.V. & Electronics	Southwest National Bank
Hyatt Regency Wichita	Star Lumber
Juliana Daniel Antiques	The Frame Guild
KMUW	Trust Company of Kansas
KPTS	Watermark Books & Café
Lusco Brick & Stone Company	The <i>Wichita Eagle</i>
McClelland Sound	

For additional information including levels of membership, contact Sally Buch, Development Director, 316-265-9314.

History Projects & Summer Student Programs

This June and July, the Museum presents local history based programs for students with creative interests. Cursive Writing will be offered this year for the first time! Additional sessions will be offered on Creative Writing, Song Writing, Historical Research, and National History Day Competition preparation. See the Museum's website for upcoming programs, further details and scheduling, www.wichitahistory.org.

Elected Trustees

At the Annual Membership Meeting on March 16th, 2016, museum members unanimously elected the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees.

New trustees are Patty Armstrong, Cheryl Golden (City of Wichita appointment), David Hawkins, Ron Ingle, and Dale Richmond.

Serving a 2nd term: Paul Buchanan and Martha Linsner.

Officers elected at the following Board of Trustees meeting were: President Janet Meyer, 1st Vice President Jay Fowler, 2nd Vice President Dean Bradley, Treasurer Jack Kellogg and Secretary Martha Linsner.

Carolyn Conley was elected by the Board to serve a 3 year term on the Endowment Committee.

The Board bids farewell to outgoing trustees: Bill Ard, Douglas Brehm, Matthew Hoofer, Peter Janssen, and Jay Price. We thank these trustees for their many contributions, including participation in monthly meetings, service on committees, and a wide range of other activities that benefit the Museum.

Memorials

The following have been honored with gifts to the Museum's Memorial Fund from March 31st, 2015 through April 20, 2016:

Karol Callison	Caroline C. Carson Hatcher
Richard "Dick" DeVore	Robert C. Israel
William C. "Bill" Ellington	Phillip T. Miller
Cyrus G. Frazier	Herman A. "Jim" Osment
Vee Shawver Gordon	Ralfe Reber
Keith Gravel	

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, May 14th –1-4 pm • HERITAGE SQUARE



WHiMS hosts this year's social in Heritage Square, featuring activities, contests and Ice Cream. The public will enjoy reduced admission of \$2 for individuals or \$5 for family groups; members can bring their guests with free admission as always.

A great way to introduce friends and potential new members to the Museum.

Senior Wednesdays

AT THE WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Visit the Museum the 4th Wednesday of each month from January to October and enjoy special Historical Museum programs developed with active senior audiences in mind. A special \$2 admission for seniors and their guests is offered; admission is free for members. The Senior Wednesday programs at the Historical Museum begin at 10:00 am, and the doors open at 9:30. Refreshments are served. For more information about the Museum's Senior Wednesday programs, visit www.wichitahistory.org or www.seniorwednesday.org.

BLUE MOON at the Museum



You're invited to come celebrate in high style! Join us Saturday, April 30th, 7-10pm for an exciting evening of dinner, drinks and music. The event will transform the Museum into the original Blue Moon Nightclub, which was located on South Oliver during the 1940s and 50s. The club was a popular gathering spot for adults to dine and dance to the nation's most famous orchestras. Donna Tucker, internationally renowned jazz singer, and her quartet will entertain with songs of the era as guests enjoy fine food and drink.

This is a very popular event in its 8th year – only 90 reservations will be accepted, so act soon. For reservations and more information, call 316-265-9314 or email wschm@wichitahistory.org. Admission to the Blue Moon Party is \$100 per person, of which \$50 is a tax deductible donation to the Museum, a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Organization.

This fundraising event for the Museum is hosted by the Wichita Historical Museum Society (WHiMS) and underwritten by generous sponsors.

Wichita Art Day of Giving April 29, 2016

Historical Museum supporters can participate in April's Final Friday from 5-7 2008, and hipm with the Wichita Art Day of Giving (ArtDOG). ArtDOG, a project of the Wichita Community Foundation, is a 24-hour charitable fundraising campaign on April 29th created to unite the community around local nonprofit arts organizations.

Featured this year is the Lois Kay Walls

Art Exhibit Opening – "The Art of Cecil McAlister." McAlister achieved national recognition with his design of the Wichita flag in 1937, but he was a respected fine and commercial artist in Wichita for decades. See examples of his work at this exhibit opening from 5-7 pm on April 29th!

Also featured this year is music with renowned guitarist Jerry Hahn, part of the concert series for *The Electric Guitar: Wichita's Instrument!*

The 2016 event on April 29th gives the opportunity to Wichita art and culture lovers to give back to their favorite nonprofit organizations by making donations online for one day only. The minimum donation is \$10. Donations are tax deductible, and each donor receives a charitable contribution receipt by e-mail. Visit www.wichitahistory.org to make your donation.



2015 MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Sarah Bagby and Eric Cale – Collage created by artist David W. Cale, 1999.

Eunice L. Bradley – Collection of documents, postcards, and photographs from Charles Edward Keller, early 20th century.

Carl Brewer – Material received by the Honorable Carl Brewer while serving as Mayor of Wichita, 2007-2015.

Judge Paul Buchanan – Architectural rendering of Wichita City Hall, circa 1970.

Cynthia Carl – Girl's clothing, late 1970s, and woman's fashion accessories.

Ransom Brown Conrow – Scrapbook from Ransom Hunt Brown, Sedgwick County Surveyor, 1890s-1920s.

Theresa G. Cromwell – Women's clothing and accessories, circa 1900.

Charley Davidson – Collection of late 19th century color lithographed Wichita advertising cards and Riverside Park Season Pass for Mary Richardson, 1884.

Valerie Ellington – Photograph of the Gospel Team Convention, Wichita, 1914.

Cindy Entriken – Doll accessories from the Anna Beachy collection, 1930s.

Charles Frodsham – Large collection of KFH material, including Russel "Fid" Lowe scrapbook, newsletters and clippings.

Traci Futo – Wichita text book from the collection of Carl Bitting, Wichita, 1893.

Jean and Willard Garvey Fund – Women's fashions and fashion accessories, 1920s-1960s.

Cathy Henkel – Political poster, Gil

"Will" McNabb for City Commissioner, 1971.

Robert Hiller – Large collection of fine costume jewelry, 19th and 20th centuries.

Dr. John Hyde – Oshkosh travel trunk used by G.A. Hyde, Wichita, early 20th century.

Floyd and Ruth Jantz – Souvenir belt buckle, Wichita, 1983.

Carol Jones – Man's bowling shirt, 1960s.

Katharine H. Knorr – Collection of girl's fine clothing, 1940s; woman's bathing suit, 1920s; Wichita photograph, 1945.

Estate of Adeline Pringle Merrill – Framed needlepoint sampler, 1969.

Jane Mingenbach – Photographs and postcards from the Mary Mingenbach family.

Orpheum Performing Arts Centre – Material from the Orpheum Theater, including poster, performance schedule, and Theatrical Stage Employees Local 190 booklet, 1959.

Edwin and Rachel Parrish – Political sign, Garner Shriver for US Congress, 1960s-1970s.

Ann McGill Perrin – Collection of material from Senator George McGill, 1930-1939.

Karl Peterjohn – Book, *William Mathewson: The Original "Buffalo Bill"* by Richard J. Mathewson.

Dr. Jay Price – Collection of Innes Department Store construction photographs, 1948.

Robert A. Puckett – Collection of fine silverplate tableware, 1950s-1960s.

Dan R. Rouser – Newspapers, *The Wichita Public Voice* 1981.

R. Kent Shawver, donated in loving memory of Leta Rence Shawver – Elaborately embroidered World War I souvenir with twelve flags.

Melissa Short – Photographs of the Hillcrest Apartments, 1927.

Ron and Lee Starkel – Photographs, clothing and clothing accessories, 1960s-1970s.

Geraldine Lauer Steiner – Wichita Hospital and Training School for Nurses uniforms and documents, early 20th century.

Tracy Sternberger – Cowboy boots crafted by Carl McDowell, 1980s.

Joyce Suellentrop – Lithographs by Zona Wheeler and C.A. Seward; woman's leather coat from Henry's Wichita; and Wichita documents, 20th century.

Barbara Thompson – Collection of World War I Victory Arch snapshots.

James E. Thorn – Collection of material from Wichita Chamber of Commerce Good Will Tours, 1930s – 1950s, including souvenir booklets, newsletters, and photographs.

Doris J. Uhlig – Framed oil painting of Kirby Castle by Wichita artist Larry Fanning, circa 1962, and US Air Force officer's dress hat worn by Dr. Edward N. Tihen, 1950s.

Ellen Louise Walker – Wichita photographs, 1930s-1940s.

The Electric Guitar: Wichita's Instrument

The 20th century brought a technological revolution through electric power. By the 1920s, the expanding electrical power grid was inspiring the development of many new applications. These included labor saving household appliances, medical equipment, and communication devices including the radio, sound films, public address systems, sound amplification systems, and electrically recorded music. Attempts to amplify musical instruments also began at this time. Success in this area eventually propelled instruments of acoustically low volume – like the guitar – to the forefront.

Wichita holds the distinction of being the first to feature the electric guitar on the world's stage, thanks to the initiative of local guitarist Gage Brewer. His relationship with the electric guitar's inventors in Los Angeles afforded him the opportunity to bring the first examples to Wichita. Already a popular

performer, Brewer's introduction of the new instruments in October of 1932 caused a sensation, and soon Wichita was establishing some of the earliest studios and guitar stores in the nation. The exhibit, *The Electric Guitar: Wichita's Instrument* celebrates our supporting role in what has become the world's most popular instrument.

The Museum's exhibit features an exceedingly rare collection of instruments

assembled from prominent collections and 16 individual lenders. Artifacts range from the most historically significant to celebrity-owned instruments, including guitars owned by Joe Walsh, Les Paul, Charlie Christian, and Alvino Rey. These artifacts tell the story of the quest for volume and the development of the electrically amplified guitar. Visitors can hear the earliest electric guitar music recorded at a sound sample station within the exhibit.

Since the "Let'em Hear You Play" exhibit was developed by the Museum in 2002, the Museum has created four exhibits focused on the electric guitar and Wichita's unique role, gaining international recognition for sharing the story of our critical place in music history. Our most recent exhibit was inspired by an opportunity to partner with the Sedgwick County Science and Discovery Center Exploration Place, hosting *Guitar: The Instrument that Rocked the World*.

A special exhibit developed by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum with Guest Curator Lynn Wheelwright - on view through June 5th, 2016



The Museum is indebted to collector and scholar Lynn Wheelwright of Utah for co-curating The Electric Guitar: Wichita's Instrument. Wheelwright has been a stalwart supporter of the Museum since 2008, and his scholarship and generosity as a lender have made our guitar exhibits possible.

The Museum is also grateful to The Arts Council, Sharon and Alan Fearey, Matthew Hoofer and Melissa Wefald, Peter and Kay Janssen, Barbara and David Rolph, Sara Sluss and Marty Pawlocki, and Lee and Ron Starkel for their support of the exhibit and its programming.

The Electric Guitar Symposium

Friday, May 6th,
Saturday, May 7th, and
Sunday, May 8th

What is the origin of the electric guitar? The question has resulted in so many confusing and conflicting theories that a reasonable answer has been elusive. This special exhibit and related symposium will explode myths, eliminate confusion, and answer contentious questions. Detailed information regarding schedules may be found on the Museum's website, www.wichitahistory.org or by calling the Museum at 316-265-9314

The Symposium features the following panelists of international significance and authority:

Deke Dickerson – Author, Collector, and Guitarist, Los Angeles, CA.
Expertise: Mid-century guitar culture

Alan DiPerna – Music Journalist and Author, Phoenix, AZ.

Dr. Wayne Goins – University Distinguished Professor, Director of Jazz Studies, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Dr. Goins is the leading authority on seminal guitarist Charlie Christian.

Dr. Mathew Hill – Author and Scholar, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Expertise: Early electrical musical instruments

Emanuele Marconi – Conservator at the National Music Museum, Vermillion, SD

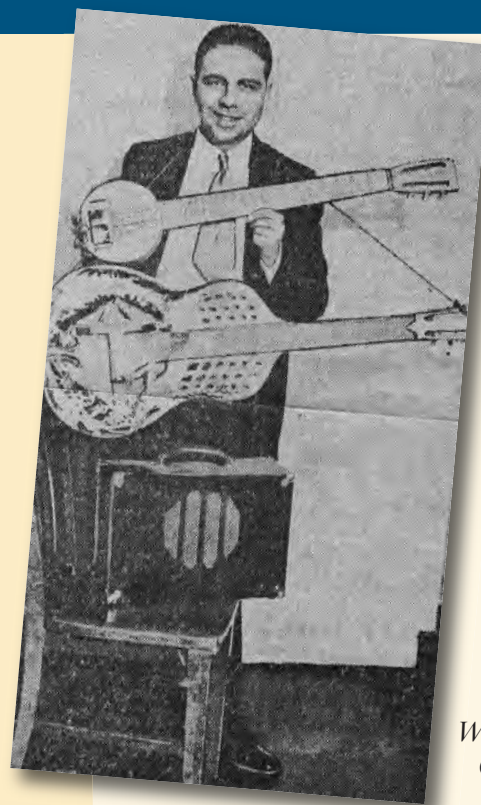
H.P. Newquist – Author and Executive Director, National Guitar Museum

Arian Sheets – Curator, Stringed Instruments, National Music Museum, Vermillion, SD

Richard Smith – Author and Curator, Fullerton Museum, Fullerton, CA.
Expertise: Rickenbacker and Fender Guitars

Dr. John Troutman – Scholar
Expertise: Hawaiian guitar music history

Lynn Wheelwright – Author, Collector, and Owner of Pro-musician, Clearfield, UT
Expertise: early electrically amplified stringed instruments



*Gage Brewer,
Wichita Beacon
Oct. 2, 1932*

Programming Fees for Electric Guitar Symposium

Friday – afternoon session \$25; includes
Museum admission (members \$20)

Saturday – morning session \$25; includes
museum admission (members \$20)

Saturday – afternoon session \$25; includes
museum admission (members \$20)

Sunday – morning session \$25; includes
museum admission (members \$20)

Sunday – afternoon session \$25; includes
museum admission (members \$20)

VIP PACKAGE – Includes all sessions
and lunch Saturday & Sunday \$150
(members \$125)



The Wichita-Sedgwick County
Historical Museum Association
204 South Main · Wichita, Kansas 67202 · 316-265-9314 · www.WichitaHistory.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 759
Wichita, KS



Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum
activities are made possible in part by the
City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Board
of Commissioners

Welcome to Recent Members

We are pleased to acknowledge recent Museum members. Membership is an important way to support the Museum financially and a great way to stay apprised of exhibits, programs, events and progress. While not listed here individually, our gratitude also goes out to the many who have increased their level of membership or who have contributed through an annual gift or supported an event, all of which has led to the increase of programs and exhibits over the past year.

Al & Nancy Bacon
Nancy Boewe
Marilyn Bower
Twila Brown
Krysti Carlson-Goering
John Carnay
Betty Carter
Carolyn Chambers
Jill Clapp
Kathy Clements
Wade & Jessica Davis
Jim & Nancy Dieckman
Harry Dobbin
Jane Eaton

Twila Flowers
Bryan & Sheila Frye
Deborah Gafvert
Greg Gann
Dr. Cheryl Golden
John Harris
John & Fran Hershberger
Teri & Jerry Kasperek
Beverly Klag
Bob Layton & Beth King
Barbara Lyle
Eric Magazu
Cynthia Martinez-Woelk
Marilyn Mason

Nancy Mendell
David & Rynthia Mitchell
Shirley Mosher
Chris & Corey Nichols
Robert Parnacott
Jeff Patterson
George Pena & Jennifer Daran
Steven Peschka
Charlotte Pope
Mary Lou Rivers
Chris & Debbie Scarlett
Ross Tidemann
Steve Witherspoon
Jerry & Kelly Yocum
