FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Museum is emerging from a challenging time through which we’ve successfully and safely navigated. We have remained open and provided nearly all of the unique experiences only we can provide. This could not occur without the support of the Museum’s 25 Trustees who meet each month to provide governance. They have brought us to our 10th decade and a time when the Museum is celebrated as one of America’s finest.

Let’s also salute the Museum’s professional staff. The dynamic operation of the Museum requires a very special team. This year we recognize Jami Frazier Tracy for 30 years service as Curator of Collections. Her career path as a museum professional could have taken her anywhere but she chose to stay and we’re glad she did.

Finally, hats off to Museum Members. You have shown your commitment to our mission through your generosity in membership support and other special gifts. Giving in 2020 actually increased, even without the fundraising events that we have enjoyed in the past and look forward to again in time. Thank you for your support.

Eric Cale
Museum Director

Heritage
The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association

“Electric guitars are an abomination. Who ever heard of an electric violin? An electric cello? Or for that matter an electric singer?”
Andrés Segovia (1893-1987)
1st Marquis of Salesbrèña,
Virtuoso Spanish classical guitarist from Linares, Spain

Turn it up to 90!

THE ELECTRIC GUITAR and the 90th Anniversary of its WICHITA WORLD DEBUT

This special exhibit features dozens of historic electric guitars and explores Wichita’s connection to the most popular musical instrument of our time. The Museum has researched this subject

Exhibit opens May 7 and runs through September 2022
since 2002, producing several well-received exhibits, revealing Wichita’s unique place in the instrument’s history.

In 1932, Wichita musician Gage Brewer took a trip to Los Angeles to meet with guitar manufacturers of the Ro-Pat-In Corporation (later named Rickenbacker Company) who supplied him with the very first available electrically amplified guitars. Brewer took these back to Wichita and gave a public performance—the first the world had seen. His pioneering work inspired local followers who also made early history with the instrument. Milo Wiley continued this tradition of experimentation after learning to play Hawaiian-style guitar. During World War II, he began production of electric guitars on a small scale to fill the need created by wartime restrictions. Bob Wiley grew up in his father’s guitar shop, where his skills quickly elevated, allowing him to perform with seasoned musicians. He too experimented in guitar building, creating guitar organs, electronic one-man-band machines, and finally the all-neck Ministar, for the guitarist travelling light.

Another Wichitan who chose a life dedicated to the electric guitar was Lowell Kiesel. He experimented with this new technology, eventually moving to Los Angeles to establish the L.C. Kiesel and Carvin Companies that produced firstly pick-ups, then guitars and amplifiers.

Visitors will also see the electric guitars from the Museum’s collection that belonged to some of Wichita’s noteworthy players.

The Museum thanks exhibit sponsors:
Bonavia Properties
Devlin Interiors
David & Barbara Rolph
Ron & Lee Starkel
And collectors who have loaned instruments for exhibition.

*Turn It Up to 90!* will be open from May 7, 2021 through September 2022.
A SPELL CREATED was written to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Wichita and Sedgwick County. It is planned for release during the Finale Celebration of the Sesquicentennial held at the Museum on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25. The book will be a vivid pictorial history in the same tradition of Wichita Century, 1870-1970, published by the Museum 50 years ago.

The book’s author, Dr. Judith Heberling, former Curator at the Museum, worked directly with the Museum’s current Curator, Jami Frazier Tracy. Together they developed the content of the book based on the Museum’s permanent collection of images and artifacts.

The firm charged with the book’s design and production is award-winning Lucia | Marquand who have designed exceptional books for more than 250 museums worldwide. The book itself is 360 pages, hardbound, large format, full color, featuring over 425 images accompanied by scholarly text and fully indexed. Printing is limited to 2000 copies.

Pre-order of the book is available through the Museum Office until July 4 for a discounted price of $60 (including sales tax). The retail price of the book is expected to be $85 once available. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be placed in the Museum’s Memorial Fund.

The Museum is grateful to the Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation, the Ross Foundation, and contributors to the Museum’s Memorial Fund for their support of this major publishing initiative.
MEMORIALS
The following have
been honored with
gifts to the Museum’s
Memorial Fund since
March 2020

Joan Bouska
Georgia Chandler
Brenda Farha
Lois Hawkins
Kenny Lowrance
David Marteney
Bud Norman
Nan Porter
Tom Whitney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
Sedgwick County

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
Wichita

The Wichita-Sedgwick County
Sesquicentennial Finale Celebration –
Saturday and Sunday July 24th and 25th 1-5 pm.

Join us at the Museum for our tradition of celebrating the
“birthday” of Wichita and Sedgwick County as we close the 150th
year and welcome in the 151st. This year’s celebration looks back
to 1870 and the official founding of what we know as home.
There will be music and refreshments served in Heritage Square
as well as exceptional Museum experiences throughout the
Museum’s galleries.

This free admission festival is sponsored by:

Devlin Enterprises
Mitchell & Richards, CPAs
Colby Sandlian
Freddy’s Frozen Custard and
Steakburgers
McClelland Inc.
Hite, Fanning & Honeyman
Lusco Brick & Stone Co.
Platt, Adams, Bradley & Assoc.
Architects

IMA, Inc. Wichita Div.
The Trust Company of Kansas
Evergy
Bonavia Properties
INTRUST Bank
The Spice Merchant
Fidelity Bank
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

The Historical Museum joins more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, from Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15 through Labor Day 2021. A collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America, the program, established in 2010, provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation’s cultural heritage and learn more about their community, especially after a military move. The list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Leadership support for Blue Star Families programming and promotional materials has been provided by MetLife Foundation. The effort to recruit museums has involved partnerships with the American Alliance of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Children’s Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, the Association of Science-Technology Centers, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and family members. Contact the Museum for details.

LUNCH IN HERITAGE SQUARE

The Museum offers free lunchtime admission April 15 through May 30. The public is invited to bring lunch and enjoy it outdoors in the Square. After eating, visitors may tour through the Museum (no food or drink inside please). WHiMS takes advantage of this opportunity to introduce new guests to the benefits of membership as they conclude their part of the current Membership Drive.

The Museum offers free lunchtime admission April 15 through May 30. The public is invited to bring lunch and enjoy it outdoors in the Square. After eating, visitors may tour through the Museum (no food or drink inside please). WHiMS takes advantage of this opportunity to introduce new guests to the benefits of membership as they conclude their part of the current Membership Drive.
THANK YOU! SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

These businesses support the Museum annually and are recognized as Business Members. In appreciation of their support they enjoy: Free admission to the Museum and Heritage Square for employees and their guests, invitations to special membership events, free admission passes for clients, discounts in the WHiMS Museum’s Gift Shop. These businesses receive communications including the Heritage Newsletter and other mailings and email notices for upcoming events. Business members are recognized on the Museum website and at events.

Ambassador Hotel
Bever Dye Law Firm
Bonavia Properties
Coleman Company
CONCO Construction
Cozine Memorial Group
CVI Funeral Supply
Devlin Enterprises, Inc.
Dondlinger Construction
Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
Evergy
Fidelity Bank
Foulston Siefkin L.L.P.
Frame Guild
Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Hatman Jack’s, LLC
Hephner TV & Electronics
High Touch Technologies
Hite, Fanning & Honeyman
Hillside Nursery
Hotel at Old Town
Hotel at Water Walk
Hyatt Regency
IMA Financial Group
INTRUST Bank
Juliana Daniel Antiques
KMUW
KSN-TV
Kings North American
Lusco Brick & Stone
McClelland, Inc.
Mitchell & Richards, CPAs
Nifty Nut House
Old Time Clock Shop
Old Town Architectural Salvage
One Source Technology
PBS Kansas
Platt, Adams, Bradley & Assoc. Architects
Radio Kansas
Reece Nichols South Central Kansas
Rutledge Property Group LLC
Senseney Music
Sullivan Gang Creative
Sweet Allie B’s
The Candle Club
The Carnahan Group
The Spice Merchant
The Times-Sentinel
The Trust Company of Kansas
Visit Wichita
Watermark Books & Café
Wells Fargo Advisors
Wichita Eagle
Wichita Festivals
WIBA

Charter membership card for Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Redmon from 1939.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

New Trustees Elected at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 17

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce eight new volunteer trustees serving three-year terms of service on the Museum’s Board: Dean Bradley, Tom Dondlinger, Jay Fowler, Dr. Tera Hedrick, Dr. Dan Housholder, Jack Kellogg, Tracy Rutledge, and Georgia Stevens.


The Association thanks outgoing trustees for their service to the community through the Museum: Sam Chandler, Dave Crockett, Bruce Gilkeson, Richard Honeyman, David Mitchell, Steve South, Dave Unruh, and Liz Workman.

A meeting of the new board saw the election of officers: TeOndra Phillips, President; Jay Fowler, 1st Vice President; Joanne McClelland, 2nd Vice President; Cynthia Hand, Treasurer; Dean Bradley, Secretary.

STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE MUSEUM

The Museum embarks on a new strategic planning initiative under the guidance of Wichita State University’s Department of Public Policy and Management, led by Lisa Dodson who also serves as the Director of the Kansas Museums Association. The initiative will ultimately aid in meeting AAM accreditation requirements, which the Museum has maintained since 1972. A steering committee chaired by Museum Trustee LaShonda Garnes will ensure objectives identified through the process are organized and presented to the Museum’s Board for approval later this year.

The input of our primary supporters, the Museum Members, will factor in greatly for Strategic Planning. Please communicate your thoughts to the Museum Office. As a prompt to generating your input, consider answering these questions:

1. Looking ahead, how do you see the Museum contributing to the community’s positive development?
2. How would you describe the Museum today?
3. How would you like to see it described in 5 years?
4. What challenges or concerns does the Museum currently face?
5. What opportunities should the Museum embrace?

Please write or email (office@wichitahistory.org) with your response noting if you prefer them to remain confidential. Also, please note if you have interest in serving on any committee formed through this process. The strategic planning outcome will be revealed to museum members once the process is completed.

WHiMS News

The WHiMS Committee and its President Alice Smith work to provide support to the Museum in ways that reflect its mission and vision while enhancing visitor experience, attracting the public, and providing a dynamic connection to volunteers. We thank WHiMS for their efforts in hosting Kansas Day, Blue Moon Party, Wreath Festival, the Museum’s Senior Wednesday Programs, and operation of the Museum’s Gift Shop.

Committee Chairs include:

- Gift Shop – Nancy Shawver
- Shop Scheduling – Gail Williams and Diana Palenz
- Wreath Festival – Gail Williams
- Publicity – Janice Van Sickle
- Social Media – Susan Osborne
- Volunteer Communications – Sandy Binn

The WHiMS meets monthly and welcomes Museum Member participation. Visit WHiMS on Facebook – listed as “Wichita Historical Museum Society” or contact WHiMS President Alice Smith at

wschm@wichitahistory.org

for more information about this dynamic group.
Education News

This past year the Museum has pursued a variety of new ways to help schools. These include the development of virtual programs that are available to anyone with access to the internet. They are both recorded and broadcasted live from the Museum and are often archived and made available on the Museum’s Facebook and YouTube page (www.youtube.com/wichitahistory). The Museum has collaborated with USD 259 in creating history webcasts that are presented by Museum Docents and seen by thousands of students statewide.

The Museum also offers teachers the ability to assign a visit to the Museum using a Teacher’s Pass which gives free admission to students and their families. This provides students with much needed educational experiences outside of the classroom and in the safety of their own family group.

The Museum’s Educators recently assisted educators in Upstate New York as they led students in Project Based Learning activities focused on the Dust Bowl. These activities led to students creating podcasts. Many of these students incorporated the oral history of Patrick Rowley, Faye McCoy, Tom Kincaid, and others that the Museum recorded in the early 2000s for use in the “Spirit of Wichita” exhibit.

Health and Safety at the Museum

We are pleased to report that surveys indicate visitors find the health and safety measures in effect at the Museum to be perfectly sufficient and support a safe environment for all. Studies have recently revealed that for indoor public spaces, museums have proven especially safe. We thank the City and the County governments for their initial leadership in establishing guidelines and remain committed to following the direction of national guidelines.
National History Day Competition & DeVore Essay Contest

This year the Museum once again partnered with Friends University in sponsoring National History Day competition, which engages hundreds of area students by challenging them to interpret history through various mediums including exhibits, documentary, website design, essay, and performance. Students applied this year’s theme of “Communication in History – the Key to Understanding” to guide their projects. Students placing first enter State competition and may proceed to National competition in June.

For students, local history is especially relevant. The Museum is their portal to the past. We encourage students to use local history as a basis for their NHD projects. This begins early in the school year with an Essay Contest sponsored by the DeVore Family Foundation. The essay, using the NHD theme, challenges students to use local history for their topic. The winners of the 11th Annual DeVore Essay Contest will be celebrated in the Museum’s Davis Gallery.

Ruth Spooner Stone Charitable Trust

The Museum has received a generous grant that will fund a unique and timely web-based resource, replacing textbooks once used by the public schools in teaching Social Studies curriculum featuring local history. This initiative comes at a time when teachers and schools are seeking easily accessible online content more than ever. The Museum has worked for over 80 years to collect these stories and the artifacts that support them and is now the leading educational institution teaching from local history.

This unique resource will deliver a format that includes text, images, video, links, and downloadable lesson plans meeting Kansas’s established educational standards. Additionally, it will be available to any teacher free of charge. Students will gain new knowledge and broader understanding by engaging with local history. They will also find a profound appreciation for our community, both their place in it and its place in the wider world.

Raise Funds for the Museum through the Dillons Community Rewards Program

Here is how you do it:

• Enroll your Dillons Plus Shopper’s card into the program www.dillons.com/communityrewards

• The Museum’s exclusive Community Rewards identification number is XL394. You can search for Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum by name or by XL394 and enroll using your Dillons Plus card.

• The Museum will receive a donation from Dillons every time you shop.

Dillons is committed to community engagement, positive social impact, and charitable giving at the local level. This is a wonderful way to support the Museum.

For more information please call Sally Buch, Development Director, 316-265-9314.
Robyn Morrison Belt – Photograph, Wichita Old Settler’s Association Banquet in Turner Opera House, 1885.

Gladene Booth – Woman’s Relief Corps Cook Book, circa 1900.

Rocky R. Burris, Jr. – Collection of black and white photographs from the Hot Rod Gang motion picture world premiere in Wichita, 1958.

Eric M. Cale – Photograph of Wichita artist, gallery director, and art instructor Genevieve Frickel with art students, 1952; Index Gallery invitation and gallery guide, 1960; photograph of Jefferson School at broomcorn factory, 1950; photographic postcard of identified women in downtown Wichita, circa 1944.

Colleen Crawford – Woman’s dress, mid-20th century.

J. Eric Engstrom – Collection of Major General John Sedgwick materials, including carte-de-visites, letters, tokens, and engraving, 1860s-1900s.

Bruce Gilkeson – Color architectural rendering of the proposed Roosevelt Hotel, 1930.


Michael Heaston – Wichita Association of Colored Women program, 1957; Thurlow Lieurance scrapbook, assembled by Walter Duerkson; Peru Van Zandt Implement Company documents, 1908; Sedgwick County teacher’s ledgers, late 19th century; Henry J. Allen Lotus Club menu broadside, 1922; Kechi Township vital records ledger, 1902.

Leanne Heney – Photographs of the Wichita Optical Company, circa 1918.

John M. Hyde – Walking stick with embossed gold handle, inscribed to George Strong, Wichita and Suburban Railway, 1889.

Estate of Kenneth Lowrance – Elgin gold pocket watch owned by Flavius Josephus Wiseman of Wichita, produced 1899.


Diana Palenz – Woman’s cotton romper, 1930s; archival materials, 1930s-1960s.

Robert A. Puckett – Kashmir paisley shawl, mid-19th century; Wichita Police badge, 1920s-1940s; beaded handbag, 1930s.

Patricia Garver Rank – Oil painting on canvas, landscape by Wichita artist Myrta Lee.

Larry W. Schwarm – Broadside, Pain’s World’s Fair and Coney Island Fireworks at Wichita Fairgrounds, circa 1900; collection of digital photographs and color photographic prints of Wichita scenes, 2020.


David Walker – Collection of Fred Wassall prints, *Road Through Mexico*.

Jonathan Whatcott – Photograph album compiled by Louis Roe of Wichita, 1925-1939.

Wichita Airport Authority – Color photograph of the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport Terminal, 2015.

W. Grant Wright and Sharon Louise Wright Raymond, given in loving memory of Esther Mae Myers Wright – Oil painting on canvas, still life by Wichita artist Elaine Myers Rader, 1960s.
Senior Wednesdays

AT THE WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM – HOSTED BY WHiMS

Senior Wednesday Programs at the Museum occur every 4th Wednesday, January through October at 10am and can be viewed remotely through the Museum’s Facebook page or in person by reservation. Senior admission discounts are offered. Most presentations are followed by a relevant exhibit tour. The Museum’s Senior Wednesday Programs are sponsored by generous grants by The Trust Company of Kansas and Mickey Armstrong and by the Museum’s friends’ organization WHiMS.

Further information & update are found on the Museum’s website and at seniorwednesday.org

January 27th - A Kansas Day Celebration in Song, presented by Orin Friesen and a cavalcade of folk and cowboy collaborators near and far, referencing Kansas’s 160th anniversary as a State.

February 24th - Cori Sherman North, Curator of the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery presents In the Center of it All: 90 Years of the Prairie Print Makers. Celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Prairie Print Makers.

March 24th - Join Wichita Art Museum Curator Tera Hedrick for a closer look at the exhibition The Artistic Life and Work of Genevieve Frickel who was a key figure in the mid-century Wichita art scene during the 1950s.

April 28th - Archivist Gary Huffman takes an in-depth look into the life of one of Wichita’s earliest settlers: Robert E. Lawrence. Huffman continues to transcribe and archive the diaries of Lawrence, Watching as Lawrence lives day to day in the blossoming city of Wichita, working as a banker, real estate operator, commercial builder; serving on the Wichita Board of Education and the Kansas State Legislature as a devout member of the First Presbyterian Church.

May 26th - Jay Price and Enrique Navarro tell the story of the Somos de Wichita/We are Wichita project, a bilingual exhibit that tells the story of Latino families in Wichita in the 20th century. Funded through a Humanities Kansas grant, this project originally was to consist of portable free-standing displays with an accompanying photo digitization project. With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, however, the project had to be re-envisioned as a virtual exhibit with the cornerstone being the Somos.wichita.edu web site and continues in 2021 with a photo history on the North End’s Latino story.

June 23rd - Historian Patrick O’Connor tells a story through a collection of 100 interviews, 2019-2021, concerning early days in some of Wichita’s old neighborhoods. They contain what the participants lived through, hard times or good, and give a glimpse into a simpler, more upright life. The interviews are audio recorded, and will be housed in Wichita State University Library’s Special Collections.

July 28th - Curator of Collections Jami Frazier Tracy and Museum Director Eric Cale discuss the Museum’s major publishing project, A Spell Created. The Museum has a tradition of publishing books. Its most recent book is published in celebration of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary). Learn about what the Museum has published, and about the tremendous amount of work that goes into creating a book.

August 25th - Historian and journalist Beccy Tanner examines the influenza pandemic of 1918 as it swept through Sedgwick County. The first documented case occurred in Kansas, then spread across the globe, killing millions.

September 22nd - Turn it up to 90 – the Electric Guitar and the 90th Anniversary of its Wichita World Debut Museum Director Eric Cale presents the history behind the instrument’s genesis and explores its ascent to become the world’s most popular instrument. This presentation is in conjunction with the museum created exhibition of the same name which runs through 2022.

October 27th - Gone But Not Forgotten: Restaurants of Wichita’s Past, presented by Denise Neil. A historic look at much loved and missed Wichita restaurants; based on her upcoming book to be published by Arcadia Press.
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS CURRENTLY ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM

- **Metal to the Pedal** – An impressive collection of children’s pedal cars – Slawson Gallery, 4th floor. Held-over!

- **The Artistic Life of Genevieve Frickel** – Local Art History – Lois Kay Walls Gallery, 3rd floor

- **Turn it up to 90! The 90th Anniversary of the Electric Guitar and Its Wichita World Debut** – West Gallery, 2nd floor

- **Vintage Film** – 1924 Boys Loyalty Parade in downtown Wichita – Windows on Collections Case, 1st floor

These exhibitions are in addition to many other core exhibits exploring the unique history of Wichita and all of Sedgwick County.