



Heritage

The Wichita-Sedgwick County
Historical Museum Association



Thunderbolt Sirens on Exhibit

This year, the Sedgwick County Department of Emergency Management rededicated historic Thunderbolt sirens for continued use. This action was prompted by citizen-historians who lobbied for the preservation of these fascinating machines, which were being replaced in the county's state-of-the-art public warning system. County efforts were festively celebrated at the Park City fire station, with ribbon cutting and a celebratory sounding of the siren.

In 1952, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Civil Defense installed 13 Thunderbolt sirens. At the time, America was embroiled in the Cold War. The Thunderbolts acted as air raid sirens and alerted citizens to possible nuclear attacks, for which they were encouraged to find a fallout shelter and wait it out.

Then, in June of 1958, a powerful tornado demolished parts of El Dorado, Kansas – killing 15 people and injuring others. Of course, this was before smart phones that can alert someone about dangerous weather wherever they might be. Back then, you might hear it on the radio, see it on the television, or get a call from your neighbor. No buzzing in your pocket, and no siren. The Thunderbolts were only used for air raids. But on the evening following the El Dorado disaster, when the Wichita Weather Bureau anticipated a tornado to enter east Wichita, someone decided more needed to be done. Sgt. Paul Hansen of the Wichita Police Department received the tornado warning and made some calls to his superiors. He wanted permission to activate the Thunderbolt sirens in the area. But no one answered. With the tragedies faced by El Dorado likely in the forefront of his mind, Sgt. Hansen made the decision to activate the Thunderbolts and send Wichitans running for cover.

This was the first recorded use of air raid sirens used to warn of a weather event. Sedgwick County has continued this practice ever since then.

Loaned artifacts courtesy of the Sedgwick County Emergency Management office and Ryan Dean



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support of the Historical Museum. We have a dynamic year underway and much planned ahead. You will learn of the details in this issue and you can keep abreast of all that happens through our website and social media presence.

Annually renewing members receive special communication and enjoy free museum admission including their guests. We are exceptionally fortunate to have a city/county museum as we do.

We owe it to ourselves to support and take advantage of this exemplary community asset. Please make it your goal to introduce the Museum to a friend at the next program, event or special tour.

Eric Cale
Museum Director

Find us listed under:
"wichitahistory"



Our Mission: The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum's mission is to educate the community and its visitors about local history by collecting, preserving, and interpreting materials reflecting the heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Special Exhibitions Currently on View at the Museum

The Museum features dozens of exhibitions that interpret aspects of our local history. These include core exhibits and special exhibits featured for a brief time. Do plan to see them!

Sculptures by Bill Rutherford – Local architecture represented as sculptures of brass, copper, and glass by a celebrated local artist – Windows on Collections, 1st Floor

Thunderbolt Siren – Two Thunderbolt sirens, introduced to Wichita in 1952, designed to save lives. – Heritage Square and Devore Auditorium, 2nd Floor

Why We Collect What We Collect – A glimpse into the Museum's collection and what factors are considered while building the collection – West Gallery, 2nd Floor

Art Deco on the Plains – A celebration of design in the 1920s and 30s as it appeared locally – Slawson Gallery, 4th Floor

The Art and Artistic Life of Genevieve Frickel – Lois Kay Walls Visual Art Gallery, 2nd Floor

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Tuesday, May 16, 10am

As they say, it takes a village to keep an accredited museum operating effectively 365 days a year. Thanks to the passion and generosity of our volunteers, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum does just that.

With students and adults coming in by the busload, we have our docents to guide and engage, sharing our local history year after year. To staff the gift shop and coordinate various museum events fostering community engagement, we have our friends organization WHiMS. For governance, we have our Board of Trustees. These friends and supporters of the Museum provide nearly 5,000 volunteer hours each year. If quantified to a monetary value, that would be well over \$100,000 annually.

If you qualify as a volunteer, contact the Museum office to reserve your seat at the table and enjoy the fellowship and celebration that this special meeting provides!



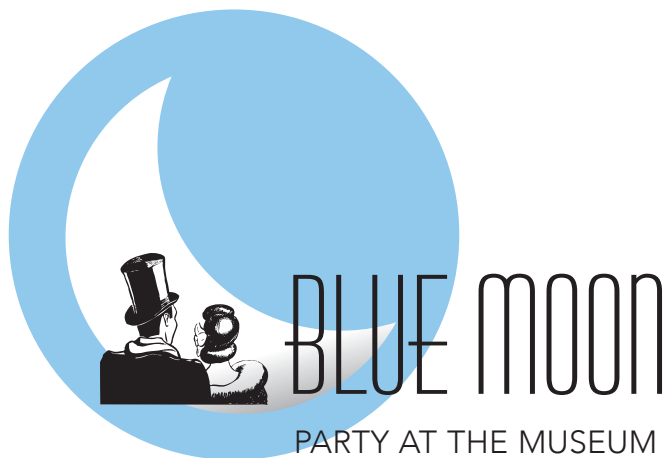
Annual Membership Celebration

Wednesday, May 17th
5 to 7pm

Come and go –
no reservation necessary!

With music and refreshments in Heritage Square, it's sure to be a pleasant evening. Of course, attendees are welcome to peruse the Museum's many exhibits as well as take a special clock tower tour.

As is true any day the Museum is open, annually renewing museum members may bring guests free of charge. We are certain that most of our members know someone who simply needs to see the Museum. Invite them along – they might just end the evening as members.



PARTY AT THE MUSEUM
Saturday, June 24, 7-10pm

You are invited to celebrate in high style! Join us for a fabulous evening of food, drink, 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 vocalist, and her band will entertain with songs of the era.

Additionally, the entire Museum will be open, from Heritage Square to the Tower.

For reservations and more information, call the Museum Office at 316-265-9314 or email wschm@wichitahistory.org.

Admission to the Blue Moon Party is \$100 per person. Group reservations are available.

The Blue Moon fundraising event is hosted by the Museum's friends group, WHiMS, with the support of many generous sponsors.

BLOOMFIELD CARILLON CONCERT

Around certain holidays, the streets of downtown Wichita may suddenly come alive with music. Often a pleasant surprise, the songs emit from the Museum's clock tower, played on our carillon by the area's foremost carillon artists. The Museum's Heritage Square is a great spot to listen and admission for these concerts is free to the public.

These concerts are held in celebration of holidays such as Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. They are provided through Wichita State University's School of Music.

HERITAGE SQUARE CONCERT SERIES

Plan to attend!

Music returns to the Museum every Wednesday in September over the noon hour.

Bring friends and family to enjoy these performances in the serene setting of Heritage Square.

Free Public Admission thanks to the Museum Business Patron Sponsors.

SPONSORS

CGP Group

Devlin Enterprises, Inc.

Evergry

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers

IMA Inc. Wichita Division

INTRUST Bank

Mitchell & Richards, CPA's

The Trust Company of Kansas

Times-Sentinel Newspapers



Happy Birthday Weekend for Sedgwick County and Wichita



Saturday and Sunday,
July 22 (County Day)
&
July 23 (City Day) 1-5pm



These last 153 years have gone by quickly,
but we still know how to party!

Celebrate the origin of our County, followed quickly by its first city with activities, programs, and refreshments in Heritage Square, then take a trip through the exhibition galleries.

Free admission to members and their guest.

For all others - bring a birthday card for free admittance to this annual celebration.

Senior Wednesdays

Senior Wednesday Programs at the Historical Museum occur every 4th Wednesday, January through October at 10am, doors open at 9:30. Programs are held in the Museum and most are posted online for later viewing. Presentations are followed by a related tour in the exhibition galleries. Sponsored by the Museum's friends organization, WHiMS. The Historical Museum hosts Senior Wednesday Programs in partnership with other public service cultural arts organizations found at www.seniorwednesday.org



Free admission for active duty military personnel and their families from May 20 (Armed Forces Day) through Labor Day 2023.

This 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**.

For a list of participating museums, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.



MEMORIALS

The following people have been honored with gifts to the Museum made in their memory:

- Bill Ard
- Judge Paul Buchanan
- Ken Brasted
- Sherrill Brasted
- Vicki Churchman
- Kathryn Compton
- Donalda Edwards
- Pam Kingsbury
- Phillip Knighton
- John Luerding
- Mary Manlove
- Joan Mason
- John D & Charlotte McEwen
- Robert O'Connor
- Debbie Oller
- Mary Quinley
- Patricia Starkel

Business Membership 2023

The Museum is supported by the following community of business members:

PATRONS

- CGP Group
- Devlin Enterprises
- Evergy
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steakhburgers
- INTRUST Bank
- Mitchell & Richards, CPA’s
- The Trust Company of Kansas
- TSNEWS.COM

MEDIA SUPPORTERS

- KMWU
- PBS Kansas
- Radio Kansas
- KAKE – TV
- KSN – TV
- KWCH – TV
- The Times – Sentinel Newspapers, LLC
- The Wichita Eagle

SUSTAINERS

- Cozine Memorial Group
- Dillons
- Fidelity Bank
- Foulston Siefkin, LLP
- Hatman Jack’s, LLC
- Hite, Fanning & Honeyman
- IMA, Inc. Wichita Division
- KU School of Medicine – Wichita
- Lusco Brick & Stone
- McClelland, Inc.
- Platt, Adams & Bradley, Architects
- R & J Discount Liquor
- The Spice Merchant

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

- Ambassador Hotel
- Bever Dye Law Firm
- Candle Club
- Coleman Company
- CONCO Construction
- Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
- Frame Guild
- Hillside Nursery
- Hotel at Old Town
- Hotel at Waterwalk
- Hyatt Regency
- Janet Huber Creative
- King’s North American
- Nifty Nut House
- Old Time Clock Shop
- Old Town Architectural Salvage
- One Source Technology
- PrimeCoPainting, LLC
- Visit Wichita
- Watermark Books & Café
- Wichita Festivals

CONTRIBUTORS

- Bonavia Properties
- Dondlinger Construction
- Hephner TV & Electronics
- High Touch Technologies
- Juliana Daniel Antiques
- Kendra Scott Jewelry
- Rutledge Property Group
- Senseney Music
- The Carnahan Group
- The Wichita Independent Business Association

Museum Association Elects Trustees

At the Annual Membership Meeting on March 15, Museum members unanimously elected the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce three new volunteer trustees serving three-year terms of service on the Museum's Board: Kianga Crowley, Lisa Dodson, and Lisa Parcell. They join trustees continuing to serve: Jim Bothner, Dean Bradley, Steve Criser, Myra Devlin, Ross DeVore, Tom Dondlinger, Jay Fowler, Orin Friesen, Dr. Tera Hedrick, Dr. Robin Henry, Andee Higgins, Dr. Dan Housholder, Kay Janssen, Jack Kellogg, Donte Martin, Robert Moore, TeOndra Phillips, Tracy Rutledge, Alice Smith, Robin Spurrier, Georgia Stevens, and Gail Williams.

At this meeting, outgoing Board President TeOndra Phillips was thanked and honored with a framed commemorative plaque and print of the Museum by artist Doran Barham. The Association thanks outgoing trustees Cindy Hand, Joanne McClelland, and Kristi Zukovich for their service to the community as trustees.

Following the membership meeting, the Museum Board elected officers for a term of one year:

Dean Bradley President, Jay Fowler 1st Vice President, Georgia Stevens 2nd Vice President, TeOndra Phillips Treasurer and Orin Friesen Secretary.

Donate to the Museum through the Dillons Community Rewards Program



Anytime you shop at Dillons a portion of your purchase can go to help the Museum.

Here is how you can make that happen. The Community Rewards section on the

Dillons website www.dillons.com makes it easy:

Using your Dillons Plus Shopper's card number simply enroll in 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.

-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.



Museums Working Together

The Historical Museum is proud to assist the Wichita Art Museum in a special exhibition, **WICHITA WORE WHAT? A CENTURY OF LOCAL FASHION**, spotlighting our city's fashionable history. In 1870, Wichita officially boasted about 700 residents. By the turn of the 20th century, however, Wichita had become a major regional center offering a wide variety of shopping spots, places to see and be seen, and residents eager to assert their identities as refined citizens of the world. With nearly a dozen department stores dotting the downtown area alone, Wichitans could admire and purchase the latest styles from the East Coast and beyond. As the city continued to flourish after World War I and World War II – with the success of companies including Coleman, Metholatum, Travel Air, Beech, Stearman, and Cessna – residents continued to embrace the most up-to-date designs.

WICHITA WORE WHAT? features clothing and accessories worn in Wichita from 1888-1988, surveying changes in both apparel and lifestyle from the corseted and bustled silhouette of the Victorian era to the lavish and luxe designs of the 1980s. Featuring designers Charles James, Oscar de la Renta, Pauline Trigere, Norman Norell, James Galanos, Geoffrey Beene, Adrian, and more, the exhibit includes garments worn by key figures in Wichita's history including Olive Ann Beech, the city's first female mayor, Connie Peters, and civil rights icon Chester I. Lewis.

Exhibition featured at the Wichita Art Museum with assistance from the Historical Museum through June 18, 2023.

A Dozen Docents More

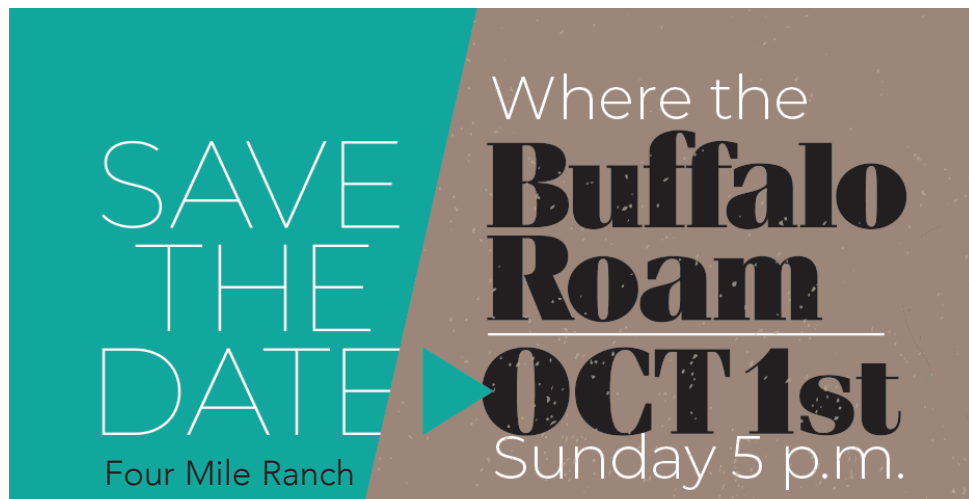
We are the only museum in the world that explores the history of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas. But don't let that intimidate you. All one needs to join our docent force is an interest in our community's past and the ability to share that knowledge.

Docents use artifacts and exhibits to teach all ages about our community's unique and diverse history. A noble task, to be sure! One crucial to fulfilling our Mission.

Docents meet monthly as a group and as needed for tours, programs, and events.

If this interests you, please contact Museum Educator, Samantha Carter, at

316-265-9314 or edu@wichitahistory.org.



SAVE THE DATE
Four Mile Ranch

Where the **Buffalo Roam**
OCT 1st
Sunday 5 p.m.

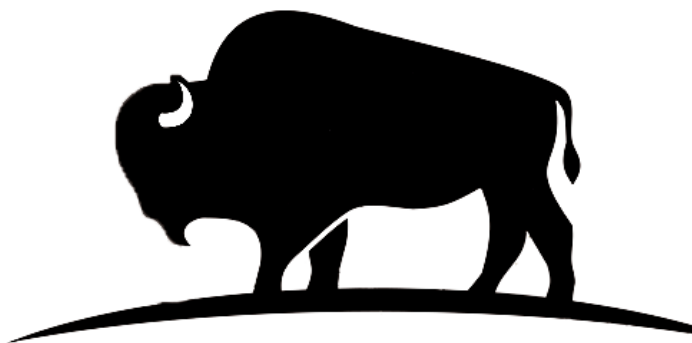
Sunday, October 1st, 5-7:30pm

Four Mile Ranch is the place to celebrate and support the Museum in a timeless setting of great natural beauty and comfortable accommodations.

Take in the spectacle of the majestic bison herd from the bunkhouse and enjoy food and music befitting of the occasion.

Four Mile Ranch is located minutes East of Wichita, just east of the Flint Hills National Golf Club. Invite friends!

Make reservations through the Museum Office for a contribution of \$75 per person.



SUNFLOWER SUMMER

Once again, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum will be participating in Sunflower Summer. The Kansas State Department of Education created this program to help families go out and explore Kansas. Any Kansas resident with children in Pre-K through 12th grade can use the Sunflower Summer app to receive free tickets for every child (and up to two accompanying adults) to any of the 90 attractions. The Historical Museum along with all the other museums, zoos, state parks, and more can't wait to see all the sunflower families this summer!

Get the App at www.sunflowersummer.org

Young Historians Awards Celebration

At the Museum, Saturday, May 6

Featuring National History Day Competition &
DeVore Essay Contest

NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

The Museum works year round to open young minds to the value of history. A major effort is placed in supporting Friends University and sponsorship of our region's participation in National History Day competition. The competition engages hundreds of area students by challenging them to interpret

history through various mediums including exhibits, video documentary, website design, essay writing, and dramatic performance. Students applied this year's theme of "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas" to guide their projects. For students, local history is especially relevant. The Museum acts as 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 Museum celebrates these achievements with the Young Historians Awards, held May 6 at 2 pm in the DeVore Auditorium. It is an afternoon set aside to honor and inspire National History Day participants and the winners of the 13th Annual DeVore Essay Contest.

THE MUSEUM'S SUMMER PROGRAMS

School is out, but history doesn't take vacations! Summer programs abound in June and July.

Summer programs for young historians are based on the Museum's many exhibits and teach from the stories of our past. With tours and activities, these programs connect young museum guests to a place in history and teach museum literacy, which enables them to take advantage of museum experiences.

This Summer, kids can become Art Deco designers, tour the Old City Hall Clock Tower, have fun like it's 1899, and create a Victorian calling card to pass out to friends. We will also be having a Cursive Writing Workshop this summer (parents, they'll thank you later).

Sunday tours are back! The Museum welcomes people of all ages to join a docent-led tour every Sunday this summer, 2-3pm. And don't forget, it is still free admission for all on Sundays.



2022 MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

THE MUSEUM BEGAN ASSEMBLING ITS COLLECTION IN 1939. THESE OBJECTS ARE PRESERVED IN PERPETUITY TO USE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF OUR LOCAL HISTORY AND TODAY NUMBER OVER 70,000 CATALOGED ARTIFACTS. WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE OFFERED SUCH GIFTS, CONSIDERING THE MUSEUM AND ITS UNIQUE MISSION. HERE IS THE CUSTOMARY ANNUAL LISTING OF THOSE ARTIFACTS ACCEPTED TO THE COLLECTION IN 2022.

Dona Baba – Watercolor paintings by Henrietta Fortney Pitts, late 20th century.

Richard Basore – Framed photograph of Otto Weiss Alfalfa Stock Food Co. Circa 1910.

Sam Bidwell – Record album, Sam Bidwell, 1988.

Ronald E. Bogard – Collection of material related to the Vietnam Veterans Homefront Memorial Committee, 1993-1994.

Eric Cale – Monark Silver King bicycle, 1937.

Estate of Lloyd and Peggy Creed – Ivory rayon gown worn by Peggy Creed at Wichita High School East Holiday of Hearts, 1947, photographs of Lloyd and Peggy Creed, 1947-1948.

Celia Daniels – Men's and women's clothing from Henry's, 1960s-1970s.

Peggy Davidson – Booklet, address by W.C. Edwards to the Postmasters of Kansas, 1911.

William D. and Alta DeVore – Dental office sign for Dr. Noble Jackson DeVore, Wichita, mid-20th century.

Diana Dobbins – Queen Rebekah Lodge photographs, 1940s-1950s.

Irvin D. Emerson & Betty Emerson Revocable Living Trust – Plasterer's kit used by Charles Albert Emerson, 1920s.

Clarice L. Gaskill and Cindy Tate – Coffee table designed and built by Richard "Dick" Gaskill, Gaskill Custom Furniture Manufacturing, 1970s.

Kenneth Grotewiel – Collection of Kenneth Grotewiel political campaign and elected office material, 92nd District, 1983-1994.

Esther Harrington – Photographs of Douglas Avenue Bridge and Wichita Municipal Airport, by Clement A. Schreck, circa 1940.

Brenda Hubbard – Wichita photographs, 1920s-1940s, National Service Board for Religious Objectors correspondence, 1941.

Sam Jack – Midian Shrine scrapbook, 1922-1923.

David Jensen – Toy gun, Hubley Flintlock two-shot pistol, 1950s.

James E. Mason – Collection of Wichita photographs, 1900s-1970s, collection of Sedgwick County documents, 1870s-1950s.

James Meyer – Brochures and photographs, Radiolab of Wichita, 1920s-1930s.

Dr. Gwendolyn Fuller Mukes – Photographs of Dr. Gwendolyn Fuller Mukes, educator, and Jack and Jill Club, Wichita, 1970s-1980s.

Rudy Nydegger – Tempura painting of the Verne Nydegger Orchestra by Ray Trout, 1940s.

James and Heide Presse – Pair of child's denim jeans produced by the Johnston & Larimer Dry Goods Company, Wichita, 1920s.

The Family of Patricia Rank – Photographs of Myrta Lee, Carlton O. Lee family documents.

Renton History Museum – Photograph of Southwestern Pump Co., circa 1888.

Dr. Philip Rhea – Photographs of Adams Elementary School students, 1952-1957.

Debra Lee and Stephen Ray Shaw – Collection of material related to Lisa Leanne Shaw, Valley Center High School student, 1989-1990.

Smoky Hill Museum – Photograph of East Douglas by Ong & Hartough, 1878.

Larry Schwarm – Color photograph of Boeing fire, 1953.

Lee Starkel – Photograph of the Schouten family, circa 1914.

Randal Strong-Wallace – Archival material and souvenirs from Joyland Amusement Park, 1960s-1980, Wichita Metropolitan Transit Authority driver identification pin, circa 1990, Boeing paperweight, 2014.

Lynne Tinker – Kansas Humane Society Woofstock promotional material, 2021.

Samantha Wilde – Political yard sign and t-shirt, 2022.

Why we collect. What we collect.

Special Exhibition features the Museum's permanent collection

The Museum's mission focuses on collecting, preserving, and interpreting artifacts of significance to our local history. Beginning with a donation from the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County in 1939, the Museum has added over 70,000 artifacts including photographs and archival material to its permanent collection. The collection plan organizes artifacts by category.



Through active stewardship of the collection, the Museum preserves the stories that make up our community's history. Recently acquired artifacts are used to explain the collection plan, while offering a glimpse of Sedgwick County's far-reaching history.

On view through October



Being Modern

An upcoming exhibit

This exhibition will explore the style of design that took over at the end of the Art Deco era, with the conclusion of WWII. With its origins forming in the 19th century, Modernism evolved and ripened until it became fully realized during the 1950s. Today this style – commonly referred to as “mid-century-modern” – endures as a strong contemporary influence.

Being Modern opens in August, replacing Art Deco on the Plains in the Slawson Gallery (4th floor), a feature of the Lois Kay Walls Local Visual Art History Series. Opening and subsequent programming dates will be announced.



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



The Guests Have Spoken!

Excerpts from the Register

Great collection! Wonderful experience!

– Petra and Pavel G., Burgas, Bulgaria

A remarkable town indeed! Loved everything!

– Markus H., Germany

A step back in time with so much to learn!

– Matt H., Wichita

Art Deco exhibit was fab ...

– Jen M. and Mike B., Seattle, Washington

One of the greatest museums I've visited.

– Chief H., Edmond, Oklahoma

Vielen Dank! (many thanks!)

– Holger E., Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

I want to ride the elevator all the time!

– Virginia H., Watonga, Oklahoma

Bravo!! Magnifique musée!! (Bravo !! Magnificent museum !!) –

Sandrine B., France

Loved the history! Will be coming to visit Wichita again. –

Janneth and Eduardo G., San Antonio, Texas

Very interesting!

– Naoko O., Tokyo, Japan

Great History! ☺

– Gabriela R., Paraguay

We're natives, in our 60s & 1st time visiting.

Enjoyed our history!

– Rich and Valerie M., Wichita

Best museum ever visited!!

– Brenton D., Western Australia