

From: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum  
204 S Main St; Wichita, KS 67202

**Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Receives Highest National Recognition  
Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums**

Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum has been accredited since 1972. Reaccreditation review occurs every 10 years.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 50 years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, fewer than 5% are currently accredited. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is one of only 11 museums accredited in Kansas, four of them in Wichita.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

"Accreditation is the gold standard for museums—a significant achievement of which the institutions and their communities should be extremely proud," said Brooke Leonard, AAM Interim CEO and Chief of Staff. "By undergoing reaccreditation, these museums have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to maintaining this distinction and have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to excellence."

The Museum's Executive Director, Eric Cale, said, "Reaccreditation has been a team effort involving the Museum's professional staff, its Board of Trustees, and many volunteers all working together to demonstrate our museum's strengths during a rigorous national review. For 85 years, the Museum has served the community and its visitors in a way no other institution can. The people of Wichita and Sedgwick County can take great pride in the fact that their museum is one of America's premier museums."

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum has served the community since 1939 and since 1980 has occupied Wichita's original 1890 City Hall building.

**About the American Alliance of Museums**

*The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).*

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Website: [wichitahistory.org](http://wichitahistory.org) for additional information

Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Supported in part by the City of Wichita and the Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County Kansas

*OUR VISION: To provide a world-class museum experience, advancing the understanding and exploration of the rich historical and cultural heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas.*