



Heritage

The Wichita-Sedgwick County
Historical Museum Association



Museum proudly receives accreditation

The Museum has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest recognition afforded to the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The Museum has maintained accreditation since 1972. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status.

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 accredited. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is one of only 12 museums accredited in Kansas.

"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."



*Director Robert Puckett raises the Wichita flag at the Museum
3751 E. Douglas, circa 1972*



Find us listed under:
"wichitahistory"



FROM THE DIRECTOR

How fortunate we are to have a museum dedicated to our local history when many communities do not. What is more, ours is once again accredited, a distinction that is attained by fewer than 5% of the nation's 33,000+ museums. 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.

Eric Cale
Museum Director

In this issue of the Heritage

Cover – Accreditation
Granted by the AAM

Page 2 – From the Director

Page 3 – Special Traveling
Exhibitions this Year

Page 4 – Featured
Speakers & Museum
Programs

Page 5 – Gallery
Renovations/Membership
Party/Memorials

Page 6 – Recognition of
Support

Page 7 – Friends of the
Historical Museum

Page 8 & 9 – Museum
Education News

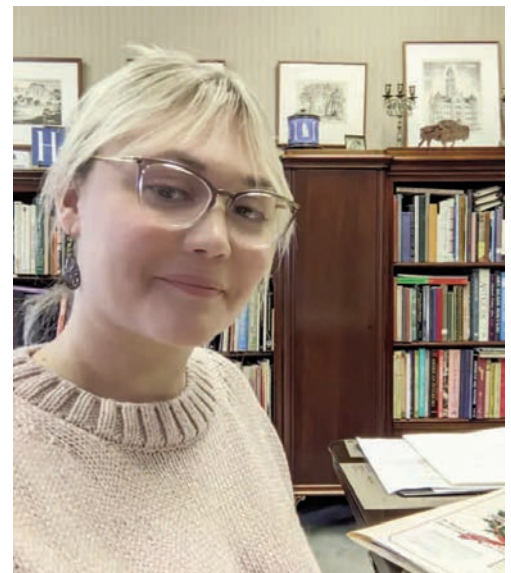
Page 10 – 2023 Collections
Acquisitions

Page 11 – Board of
Trustees News

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.

Welcome Michelle Frikken, Communications Specialist

The Museum welcomes Michelle Frikken as the newest member of its professional staff. Michelle is a life-long resident of Sedgwick County and has long been active in our cultural arts community. Since November, her marvelous skill set has greatly added to the efficacy of communications and raised the Museum's public profile.



Special Traveling Exhibition, *Small Expressions*

July 2 - August 6

Members reception Wednesday, July 10, 6:30-8:30pm

Public reception Sunday, July 14 2-4pm

Small Expressions is an annual juried exhibition showcasing contemporary small-scale works using fiber techniques in any media. Small in scale but visually compelling, Handweavers Guild of America's *Small Expressions* exhibit features work that speaks to the intricacy of expression, intimacy of design, thoughtful communication, and visual excitement. The artists in this exhibit create a big impact through small pieces.

The artists whose works are exhibited, use a variety of textile techniques, incorporating both traditional and nontraditional materials, while paying special attention to the limitations involved in creating small-scale works. These works consist of diverse fiber techniques such as weaving, interlacing, basket making, bead weaving, embroidery, felting, and mixed media. They interest those who appreciate diverse techniques utilized by contemporary fiber artists, as well as those dedicated to preserving handweaving in all of its customary forms.

This exhibition was produced by the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA). All works courtesy of the artists. This exhibition is made possible with support from the Fiber Trust.

Special Traveling Exhibition, *Thrift Style*

September 1 – October 5

Members Reception September 6, 5-7pm

Thrift Style explores the reuse of feed sacks to make clothing and other household objects and illuminates how the “upcycling” of these bags mutually benefitted twentieth-century consumers and businesses. With forty-one works from patterns to garments, it serves as an example of past ingenuity that can inform today's efforts towards sustainability.



The exhibition, organized by the Historic Costume and Textile Museum and the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, both at Kansas State University, provides a nostalgic view into American ingenuity, sensibility, and optimism during a particularly challenging time of economic hardship and war—the period of the Great Depression and World War II. The reuse of feed, flour, and sugar sacks was a cost-saving and resource-saving approach employed by homemakers to make new items to meet their families' needs.

In the 1920s and '30s, manufacturers began producing patterned and colored feed sacks to give home seamstresses more options. During World War II, the federal government limited fabric use for individual garments and homemakers were obligated to use thrifty approaches to repurpose what was available to them. As fabrics from feed sacks were not considered a limited resource, women turned to them as an accessible and patriotic option during the war effort. In response, trade organizations and manufacturers promoted the thrifty use of feed sack fabric by publishing how-to brochures and booklets with clothing designs, mending instructions, and other suggestions for restyling clothes.

The artifacts in the exhibition demonstrate a mutual goal of sustainability. Local businesses—mills and feed and seed operations—tailored product design and marketing campaigns to attract customers. Consumers used their imaginations and practical skills to tailor clothing, aprons, quilts, dolls, and more out of the industry's byproduct: feed sack cotton.

This exhibition offers a snapshot of domestic life during this time, when recycling was as critical as it is today, and it provides one of the best examples of upcycling in our nation's history.

Thrift Finds: ***Thrifted Treasures from the Museum's Collection***

Museums acquire objects in many ways, including purchases from thrift stores. Thrift stores sell donated used or second-hand items to the public at moderate prices, often as a way to support charitable organizations or causes. By promoting green practices, encouraging the re-use of items, and providing funds and services to underserved audiences, thrift stores support the community in important ways – and you never know what you'll find at a thrift store! Created as a companion to *Thrift Style*, *Thrift Finds* features thrifted treasures from the Museum's Permanent Collection.

About ExhibitsUSA – *Thrift Style* is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than twenty-five exhibitions on tour to over 100 small and mid-sized communities every year. These exhibitions create access to an array of arts and humanities experiences, nurture the understanding of diverse cultures and art forms, and encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in local communities. For more about ExhibitsUSA, email MoreArt@maaa.org or visit www.eusa.org.

About Mid-America Arts Alliance – Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. Additional information about M-AAA is available at www.maaa.org.

ExhibitsUSA
A PROGRAM OF MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Speakers at the Museum

The Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation sponsor programs related to our local history mission. Presented in the Museum's DeVore Auditorium.

The Charles and Joanne McIlwaine quarterly speakers' series

All presentations are at 2pm

- Beyond the Veil: A history of Spiritualism, Katie Keckeisen, Humanities Kansas – Sat. March 16
- Six Wichita Stories of Aviation, Edward Phillips – Sat. & Sun. May 18 & 19
- The Women of Brown, Donna Rea Pearson, Humanities Kansas – Sat. Aug. 10
- Researching Your Home and the People Who Lived There, Diana Staresinic-Deane, Humanities Kansas – Sat. Nov. 9

Senior Wednesdays

Held on the 4th Wednesday at 10am January through October. Programs are followed by a related tour within the Museum's exhibits. Admission is free to members and their guests, and \$2 for non-members. Doors open at 9:30. Come early for refreshments and grab a seat before they're gone!

- January 24 - Celebrating Statehood in song and verse with Orin Friesen of the Diamond "W" Wranglers and company.
- February 28 - Building Modern: Exploring Local Architecture of the 1950s and 60s by Dean Bradley, WSCHM Board President and Principal Architect at Platt, Adams exploring local architecture of the 1950s and 60s.
- March 27 - Century II Civic Center: Wichita's 100 Year Celebration by Celeste Racette. Chairwoman of the Save Century II.
- April 24 - Local Film Projects. Filmmakers and sisters Sara and Charity Harmon will present their latest short films and current projects.
- May 22 - Jana Erwin, Public Art Manager for the City of Wichita will present local mural projects and the City's new online public art portal.



- June 26 - "You Say Kohn of Humanities Kansas is an Associate Professor in English and Director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University.
- July 24 - A Conversation with Wichita Weavers. Local weavers will discuss the history, their personal craft and the special exhibition on view *Small Expressions*.
- August 28 - Local author Sondra Langel will present her latest book, *Crave Covet Collect*, which features local Wichitans' personal collections.
- September 25 - Waste Not, Want Not: Reimagining Fashion Through Thrift Style by Marla Day of Humanities Kansas. Day is the curator of Kansas State University's Historic Costume and Textile Museum.
- October 23 - Museum Docents Favorites. The Museum's docents present their favorite artifacts from the Museum's collection.

Membership Celebration



Wednesday, May 15 from 5-7 pm

With music and refreshments in Heritage Square, it is sure to be a pleasant evening. The Museum is open and so is the Museum Shop! Gallery renovations will be noticed and celebrated. Visit the clock tower for fun. Members are encouraged to bring friends, so invite them along – they might just end the evening as members.

Gallery Renovations in our Core Exhibits

Wichita, the Magic City (3rd floor)
and
Spirit of Wichita (4th floor)

The Museum's exhibition staff have been hard at work, refreshing two featured exhibits with improved graphics and newly acquired artifacts. These exhibits explore formative periods and various subjects beginning in 1865 and spanning to 1939. Docents will be on hand to reveal these improvements during the



Membership Celebration held Wednesday, May 15 from 5-7pm.

These important renovations are made possible through the generous support of the Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation and Bill and Donna Ard Family.



MEMORIALS

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

Paul R. Lueker

Lauren Howell

Bill DeVore

Al Buch

Sondra Reber

Here, the Museum gratefully acknowledges much of the support received to sustain its work.

Celebrating the support of the Business Community 2024

PATRONS

- CGP Group
- Devlin Enterprises, Inc.
- Dondlinger Construction
- Everygy
- Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers
- INTRUST Bank
- Mitchell & Richards, CPAs
- The Trust Company of Kansas
- TSNEWS.COM

Sponsoring the Heritage Square Concert Series and City/County Birthday Celebration

SUSTAINERS

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Sponsoring the City/County Birthday Celebration

CONTRIBUTORS

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- The Carnahan Group
- The Wichita Independent Business Association

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- KWCH-TV
- The Times-Sentinel Newspapers, LLC
- The Wichita Eagle

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

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- Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
- Frame Guild
- Hillside Nursery
- Hotel at Old Town
- Hyatt Regency
- King's North American
- Nifty Nut House
- Old Time Clock Shop
- Old Town Architectural Salvage
- One Source Technology
- PrimeCoPainting, LLC
- The Candle Club
- Visit Wichita
- Watermark Books & Café
- Wichita Festivals

Business Supporters enjoy free admission to the Museum for employees and clients as well as other special recognition.



Also for the public operational funding invested over the years through the City of Wichita and the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners.



Special Gifts *from the following donors have helped the Museum sustain various initiatives.*

- Mrs. Edward (Mickey) Armstrong
- Clark & Sharon Bastian
- Clay & Kate Bastian
- Fred and Sue Berry (Berry Foundation)
- Gregory Brown
- Cynthia & Richard Carl
- Rosemary Cauley
- Steve Criser
- Myra & Tom Devlin
- Lisa & Dave Dodson
- Tom & Colleen Dondlinger
- Nick & Sarah Dondlinger
- Martin and Melodee Eby
- Stephen A. English
- J. Eric Engstrom
- James & Sara Farley
- Gil Guthrie
- Greg Gilmer
- Robert & Rosalie Goebel
- Michael D. Heaston
- Daniel & Martha Housholder
- Steve & Carla Jacobs
- Kay & Peter Janssen

- Carolyn Lindsey
- Rita & Tom Montgomery
- Jerry Olson
- Steven L. Overstreet
- Diana G. P. Palenz
- Terry & James Pfister
- TeOndra Phillips
- Barbara McCune
- Jane McHugh
- David & Rynthia Mitchell
- Pat Myers
- Tom & Rita Montgomery
- Megan Pinkerton & Caleb Miller
- Michael & Sheila Nally
- Karen Pollock
- Scott and Betsy Redler
- Barbara & David Rolph
- Edward Salguero
- Colby B. Sandlian
- Dwayne & Dottie Shannon
- Kent & Marty Shawver
- Alice A. Smith

- Sarah T. Smith
- Ron and Lee Starkel
- Georgia & Keith Stevens
- Bill and Lynne Tinker
- Janice & Jeff VanSickle
- Gail Williams
- The Barton Foundation
- The Bonavia Family Charitable Trust
- The Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation
- The Darrel and Dee Rolph Family Fund
- The DeVore Family Fund
- The Mosby Lincoln Foundation
- The Reifsneider Memorial
- The Ruth Spooner Stone Charitable Trust
- The SJL Foundation
- The Sheppard Foundation
- Humanities Kansas

Thanks to all who sustain the Museum through their contributions.

MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME IN HERITAGE SQUARE

The Museum explores and celebrates both the past and present of our arts, culture, and MUSIC. Throughout the year, we offer opportunities to take a break during the week and experience music at the Museum's Heritage Square.

Traditional Carillon concerts are aligned with five holidays. Also, enjoy the Heritage Square Concert Series every Wednesday at noon in September. When you do, order lunch at a nearby local restaurant and bring it with you to enjoy in the Square.



Friends Appreciation Lunch

Tuesday, May 21, 12pm
Held in the Museum's
DeVore Auditorium

Let's celebrate the spirit of volunteerism and community at the Friends of the Historical Museum Appreciation Lunch! Thanks to the passion and generosity of volunteers, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is recognized as one of the finest museums the United States. Our volunteer docents engage and guide guests. Volunteers staff the Museum Shop, as well as support museum programming and events; and for governance we thank the Board of Trustees. These friends of the Museum provide nearly 5,000 volunteer hours each year. If you are a volunteer, you are invited. Please contact the Museum to offer your RSVP!

Friends of the Historical Museum meet each month with the Steering Committee to provide support to the Museum by fostering a dynamic connection to volunteers in ways that reflect its mission and vision, while enhancing visitor experience and attracting the public. All volunteers are welcome! Meetings occur at the Museum at noon on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Zoom link is available on request. Light refreshments are provided.

**FREE
ADMISSION
SUNDAY**

The Ruth Spooner Stone Charitable Trust through INTRUST Bank has provided funding for free admission on Sundays during 2024, the third year for this successful program. Thousands of guests, many of them first time visitors, have benefited though this generous support.

GIFT APPRECIATION

Dean Bradley Transportation Gift for School Tours

Dean Bradley, president of the Museum’s Board of Trustees, has provided a gift reimbursing schools of Sedgwick County’s unified school districts for student transportation to the Museum during the 2024-2025 school year. This funding removes a formidable expense barrier to the Museum’s free school tour options. Tours are designed to augment curriculum and aid teachers in meeting the state standards. The excellence of the Museum is not lost on children. When they learn that it is their own, it imbues their world with significance.

William and Ruth Heaston Educational Fund

GIFT OF MICHAEL D. HEASTON

The fund continues to make possible the Museum’s work in supporting institutions of higher education with museum and local history studies for students. The Museum has provided local universities an educational setting for classes who learn from the Museum’s professional staff. Additionally, students receive the Museum’s support with guided projects and resources enabling them to realize special projects. Students may submit a letter of introduction, which includes areas of interest and educational goals, to The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, attention: Heaston Edu., 204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202.



Open access to the Museum is available through a variety of programs! Blue Star Museums, Museums for All, public library passes and the Museum's own teacher's pass issued to students and their families by teachers.



Young Historians Awards Celebration

At the Museum, Saturday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.
Featuring National History Day Projects,
The DeVore Essay prize, scholarships, and a reception.



The Museum holds its 14th annual Young Historians Awards to celebrate student achievement of the past year. History projects from school, home, or created here at the Museum receive recognition and inspire further student effort.

History on a local level is especially relevant to young people and the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is their portal to the past. We promote local history as a basis for their studies and projects. The Museum emphasizes the National History Day theme, which is now: "Rights and Responsibilities." The DeVore Essay Contest challenges students to use this theme as it applies to local history.

The Museum works with others, year round, to engage students with the value of history. Friends University and the Museum sponsor our region's participation in the 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. This year's awards ceremony was held at the Museum on March 1st.



National History Day award ceremony led by Kenneth Spurgeon, Professor of History Friends University

THE MUSEUM'S SUMMER PROGRAMS for YOUNG HISTORIANS

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

This summer, kids can create a modern masterpiece, play in the past, tour the clock tower, and create Victorian articulated dolls. We will also have our ever-popular Cursive Writing Workshop. You can watch for more details and dates on our www.wichitahistory.org or socials @wichitahistory.

Summer programs teach from the Museum's exhibits with stories from our past. Tours and activities connect young museum guests to the past while teaching museum literacy, which enables them to take advantage of museum experiences anywhere.

Join a docent-led tour most Sundays, 2-3pm. Are you interested in being a docent at the only museum in the world that explores the history of Wichita and Sedgwick County? Docents meet monthly as a group. Their work benefits museum guests with tours, programs, and special events. To participate please contact Museum Educator, Samantha Carter, at 316-265-9314 or edu@wichitahistory.org

2023 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.

Evelyn Adams – Park Cottage Café souvenir ashtray, 1950s

Eric Cale – Performance poster, 1988

Craig Crosswhite – Reproduction issue of Wichita City Eagle, April 12, 1872, Rorabaugh’s material, 1930s

Rebecca Anne Davis – Snapshots of Wichita flood, 1944

Linda Houser Dietz – Wesley Hospital name badges and employee event programs, 1950s-1970s

Floyd County Museum and Historical Society – Collection of *Menthology* Mentholatum Magazine, 1925-1934

Orin Friesen – Wild West World shirts and parking pass, 2007

Jon Gustafson – Woman’s printed cotton romper, circa 1960

Esther Harrington – pair of Gillinder Glass Company World’s Fair frosted glass vases, 1876

Freya Harris – Photos and correspondence related to Lloyd Harris of Beechcraft Hawker Corp., 1970-1974

Margaret Jacobs – Color snapshot of Wichita musician Bob Shepherd, circa 1985

Cynthia Kane – Lithograph and etching by John Sandlin, 1968

John W. “Jack” Kellogg – “Aeronaut” newsletter, Planeview High School, 1948-1950, Osteopathic Hospital booklet, circa 1966

Carolyn Lindsey – Hallmark Party Fashions Flower Fantasy paper dress worn by the donor, 1967

Vincent B. Marshall – Pastel drawing of Kirby Castle, 1959-1960

Rebecca J. Martin – Watch fob of human hair, circa 1895, St. Mark School booklet, 1948, and funeral card, 1947

James E. Mason – Collection of Wichita carte-de-visites, postcard photographs, letters, and promotional materials, 1870s-1950s

Gerald Norwood – Collection of Wichita Union Stockyards Stock Certificates, 1936

Victoria Schumacher – Photograph of Wichita children, 1937

Charles Schreck – Collection of Sedgwick County real estate documents, 1878-1892

Larry Schwarm – Cotton patchwork quilt in Airplane/Aviation pattern, pieced by Alice Gierhart Schwarm, 1920s.

Georgia Y. Stevens – Wichita Collegiate School “Collegian” yearbooks, 1966-1967

Pamela Sullens – Photographs of Perennial Farms, Haysville, 1960s, and Eloise Brown Poundstone, 1920s-1960s

Barbara Thompson – Woman’s dress worn by Dorothy Seward Thompson, circa 1930

Nancy Vine – American Brilliant Period cut glass, circa 1900

Museum Association Elects Trustees

At the Museum's Annual Membership Meeting, held March 20, members unanimously elected the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association is pleased to announce five new trustees serving three-year terms of service on the Museum's Board: Robert Minter, Lynn Rogers, Laura Taylor, John Troutt, and Kate Young

They join trustees continuing to serve Dean Bradley, Steve Criser, Kianga Crowley, Myra Devlin, Ross DeVore, Lisa Dodson, Tom Dondlinger, Jay Fowler, Dr. Tera Hedrick, Dr. Robin Henry, Dr. Dan Housholder, Jack Kellogg, Robert Moore, Dr. Lisa Parcell, TeOndra Phillips, Tracy Rutledge, Georgia Stevens, and Gail Williams.

At this meeting, Board President Dean Bradley thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and the Trustees whose terms were ending Jim Bothner, Orin Friesen, Andee Higgins, Kay Janssen, Donte Martin, and Robin Spurrier.

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 Gail Williams Secretary.

Director Eric Cale expressed special appreciation to the Museum's Trustees, past and present, for their generosity in providing foundational support through governance.

Happy Birthday Weekend for Sedgwick County and Wichita Saturday and Sunday, July 20 (County Day) and July 21 (City Day) 1-5pm

The last 154 years have gone by like a rocket! Celebrate the origin of the of Sedgwick County followed months later by its first city, Wichita. Enjoy activities, programs, and refreshments in Heritage Square, then take a trip through the Museum to see the latest exhibits.



Free admission to members and their guests. For all others, bring a birthday card for free admittance to this annual celebration.





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

Care to Comment?

Excerpts from the Museum's Guest Register

"Very beautiful museum. We need to come back."

– Jeff and Jennifer of Pittsburgh, PA

"Always delightful!"

– Vanessa Whiteside of Wichita

"One of the best museums we've seen"

– Lucy, Jan, & Julie of Arlington, KS

"So well kept! Lovely"

– Jim & Paula of Spokane, WA

"Love the payphone and typewriter. :-) <3"

– Mia of Wichita

"Very nice to see the building and contents preserved."

– Marvin of Bonner Springs, KS

"The glass collection looked really nice!"

– Levy of Austin, TX

"Captivating! :-) <3"

– Breonne of Huntington Beach, CA

*"The outside drew me in,
the inside was amazing."*

– Debby of Thaxton, MS

"Great city, people, and museum!"

– David of Shanghai China

"Thank you so much for the different perspective"

– Nicole & Douglas of Wichita

"My kids love this museum.

Thank you :-)"

– Matt, Sharon, Rae, Isaac, Cae of Topeka, KS

"I could spend days taking it all in."

– David of Wichita