

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

Oct. 3, 2025

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

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: *Wichita's Guitar Heroes: Electric Guitars from the Permanent Collection* November 1 – 16, 2025

Wichita occupies a special place in guitar history. It is recognized as the city where the electric guitar made its world debut in 1932. For this reason, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum has taken the initiative to collect electric guitars with local historical connections. This special exhibit features the electric guitars of notable local musicians. On view are the electric guitars of: Bill Goffrier, Berry Harris, Ralph Krenzer (Sammy Hart), Clif Major, Pat McJimsey, Henry Walker, Marce Reyes, Shark Shelton, Bud Victory, Joe Walsh, Bob Wiley, and Johnny Western.

The scheduling of this special exhibition coincides with the VetsAid Concert at INTRUST Bank Arena, Saturday, November 15th - a concert for our veterans hosted by Joe Walsh, Wichita's native son and internationally recognized Guitar Hero. In support of this event, concert ticket holders and their guests will receive free admission to the Museum during the month of November.

Additionally, the Museum celebrates National Electric Guitar Day (Nov. 27) throughout November with the special exhibition of the first electric guitar, introduced to the world from Wichita in 1932. The guitar, a 1932 Rickenbacker Electro prototype, was used by Gage Brewer, who brought it directly to Wichita from Los Angeles for a sensational introduction. The guitar, on loan to the Museum, is featured in numerous books and articles published worldwide and has been exhibited recently at the Musical Instrument Museum and the Eiteljorg Museum.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is one of America's leading local history museums and accredited by the American Alliance of Museum since 1972. It has served the community since 1939 and, since 1980, has occupied Wichita's original 1890 City Hall building, a National Historic Landmark featuring dozens of exhibits on all four floors.

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Website: 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.