

2018 Natural and Cultural Grant Program Awardees

Applicant: Baker University

Project Title: *Palmyra Post Office Restoration*

Requested amount: \$64,710.00

Recommended Award amount: \$64,710.00

Project Description: This urgent project will restore the Palmyra Post Office (listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places) to a condition that permits accessibility to the public and will save the building. Grant funds will help provide a new foundation, roof, shingles, and windows. As one of only a few remaining Santa Fe Trail-era buildings in this area, the Post Office has historic and cultural value. Preserving it would benefit Douglas County by saving a building that is part of the county's settlement history. The histories of the Santa Fe Trail and of Territorial Kansas are intertwined. This building is one of only a few, if any, actual physical pieces remaining from those histories. It was located in a town that was a stop on the Santa Fe Trail, and in a Territorial Kansas town that was home to many abolitionist settlers. The building connects these stories of Kansas' past with the present. The building is located near the Old Castle Museum in Baldwin City on the Baker University campus.

Applicant: Clinton Lake Historical Society

Project Title: *The Digitization of the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum 1970s Oral History and Slide Collection*

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Recommended Award amount: \$5,000.00

Project Description: The Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum was established to preserve and maintain the histories of the ten communities affected by the construction of Clinton Lake in the 1970s. The Museum's founder and former Director, Martha Parker, conducted taped interviews of people in those communities. She also saved radio broadcasts and recorded county commission meetings whenever the Clinton Lake project was discussed. There are approximately 75 cassette tapes containing oral histories, public meetings and broadcasts. There are an additional 30 cassette tapes with oral re-enactments of historical events in those ten communities: Bloomington, Clinton, Kanwaka, Lone Star, New Belvoir, Old Belvoir, Richland, Sigel, Stull, and Twin Mound. There are slide negatives to go along with many of the cassettes that provide corroborating documentation as to the information and people contained in the cassettes. There is an urgent need to get this information digitized as the tapes are now becoming fragile.

First, Mrs. Parker is a reliable historian, at this time, and can recount information and circumstances contained in these tapes. However, she is almost 90 years old.

Second, the tapes were made in the 1970s and are at an age to be at risk of deteriorating. There is concern that all of that important history will be lost if it is not transferred to a digital medium as soon as possible. This is why we are looking to hire a company to handle the digitization, since they would have the skills to handle time consuming and detailed task.

Applicant: Douglas County Historical Society

Project Title: *Exhibit – Douglas County’s Agricultural Heritage*

Amount Requested: \$17,950.00

Recommended Award amount: \$17,950.00

Project Description: Douglas County Town and Country,” the second section of the Watkins Museum’s third floor core exhibit scheduled for installation, will examine the lifeways of the people of Douglas County from the 1880s through the 1950s. Drawing extensively on the Douglas County Historical Society’s collection of tools, agricultural equipment, and consumer goods, and utilizing historic photos from across Douglas County, the exhibit will give visitors a look at what life was like for past generations and invite comparisons between how we live now, and what our community is like, with how things were “back then.” The exhibit comprises three sections: the first introduces Lawrence and Douglas County in the last decades of the 19th century and the growth of the community following the Civil War; the second explores life in Lawrence, long-time downtown businesses, and how lifestyles changed through economic expansion and technological innovation; the third section examines the role of agriculture in the growth of Douglas County, long-standing family farms, and the importance of agricultural associations and fairs. Two major interactive elements will explore growth and change along Massachusetts Street and give visitors an opportunity to experience the lives of Douglas County residents through the things they used every day.

Applicant: Eudora Area Historical Society

Project Title: *Improvements to the Eudora Community Museum*

Amount Requested: \$26,999.35

Recommended Award amount: \$27,000.00

Project Description: The Eudora Community Museum has three (3) projects that require immediate attention and action. **(Project #1):** The largest project that we need to complete soon is to construct a new concrete deck, ramp, and sidewalks at the rear of our property. Currently, the ADA-door on our second story that serves as an outside exit is three feet above the ground. The door has no deck and flimsy temporary stairs. A deck, ramp, and sidewalks would improve the accessibility of the second story. **(Project #2):** The exterior of rear addition needs to be painted soon, the siding is starting to separate. Caulking and painting would stop the separation and improve the aesthetics. The front of the building requires painting as well; it has been ten years since it was last painted. The paint on the front is starting to peel and fade. **(Project #3):** Finally, the cement floor on the first story interior requires a better surface. Currently, the first floor has stained cement. We add sealant to the floor often to improve the look. But the sealant wears fast. And every time we seal the floor we have to move artifacts. We would like to install a vinyl floor (that resembles wood) in order to limit the movement of the fragile artifacts, to improve the aesthetics, and restore the look of the first story to its original look (the first story originally had a wood floor).

Applicant: Friends of the Kaw

Project Title: *Protecting the Watershed of Douglas County through History, Education, and Action*

Amount Requested: \$77,634.50

Recommended Award amount: \$77,635

Project Description: Our project is called “Protecting the Watershed of Douglas County through History, Education and Action”. In order to understand where we are headed, we must first learn about how to restore the beauty and functionality of the watershed. Despite many successes in restoring the Kaw, the most neglected piece of the Kansas River’s ecosystem is the connection between the riparian buffer and the water quality of the river. The riparian buffer is the last line of defense to filter out pollutants. For this project, we plan to do an invasive tree removal and native planting, using history as a guide and educating for the future. The second piece of our connection of residents to the watershed involves hosting community educational paddle trips for residents. These events will include cleaning up trash on the sandbars along the way as well as providing a sandbar lecture about the history of the river in Douglas County. The third piece of our watershed connection is bringing our Kids About Water (KAW) Classes to the county. The KAW Project is a five-lesson water quality issues and actions curriculum that targets students in grades 6-12. Each lesson is aligned with the Kansas Next Generation Science Standards.

Applicant: Lawrence CFA/Sunrise Project

Project Title: *Untold Stories: Douglas County Social Movements from 1968-2018*

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Recommended Award amount: \$5,000.00

Project Description: Working with the Sunrise Project (Lawrence Community Food Alliance) as a fiscal sponsor, the People’s Intercultural Project will research and produce the exhibition, Untold Stories: Douglas County Social Movements from 1968-2018. This will include material never exhibited before from the collections of the Kansas Key Press, C.J. Brune Radical Library and Solidarity Revolutionary Center among others. The exhibition will take place in February of 2019 at the Murphy Bromelsick House in Hobbs Park, a significant Lawrence progressive landmark of its own. Special events associated with the exhibition include lectures by one of the original February Sisters and another by an original member of the Solidarity Center, and a hands-on protest poster-making workshop. The exhibition and all related events will be free and open to the public.