

2019 Natural and Cultural Grant Program Awardees

Applicant: Baldwin City

Project Title: Baldwin City's Pioneer Cemetery & Prairie Heritage Preservation

Requested amount: \$38,270.00

Recommended Award: \$31,750.00

Project Description: This project seeks to reset and clean headstones as needed for the specific stone in Pioneer Cemetery as recommended by the professional contractor, Pishney Restoration Services. Due to cost this service has been broken down in to three phases, quote attached to this application. This project is also to preserve the natural prairie that exists on three sides of the cemetery. In addition, a covered shelter area will be built. This kiosk/shelter area would provide educational panels noting the history of the area and the first settlers, some of whom are buried in this cemetery. It would also provide a panel of information about the prairie which would be provided by the Kansas Biological Survey. It is anticipated that this cemetery will be an educational destination for classroom fieldtrips, people enjoying nature and historical tourism. This area ties in well with other areas, Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, Ivan Boyd Prairie Preserve and Baker University, for historical preservation and these areas will be noted in the panels as well. Beyond the areas already mentioned are the added benefits provided by the land and prairie such as bird watching, tagging Monarch butterflies and the occasional deer.

Applicant: Clinton Lake Historical Society

Project Title: Digitization of the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum Phase II

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Recommended Award: \$5,000.00

Project Description: The Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum received a HCC grant in 2018 for the digitization of the taped interviews conducted by museum founder Martha Parker in the 1970s and 1980s. CLHS is now looking at Phase II of our digitization project: transcribing the audio files for the collection, upgrading the museum computer software to allow for compatibility to Collection Software (acquired through separate grant), and purchasing supplies for presentations and educational outreach. The goal is to have a usable digital file for public use and a means to display the information in a variety of mediums. Examples of use: a full-length transcription of the oral history interview for the WRVHM collection of family histories, an audio clip embedded in website or narration to a slideshow about the Underground Railroad (UGRR).

Applicant: Douglas County Conservation District

Project Title: Douglas County Water Festival for Fifth Grade Students

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Recommended Award: \$5,000.00

Project Description: A water festival is an educational, interactive, and fun event that will increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of local water resources and issues. The Douglas County Water Festival "Our Water, Our Home", will consist of structured learning stations and exhibits where students will actively engage in hands-on water-related activities and learn about the communities that were impacted by the building of Clinton Lake. The delivery mechanism promotes an understanding of water-related topics including: the hydrologic cycle, historic use of water, watersheds, stream formation and flow, and water availability. The Next Generation Science Standards have identified knowledge of the water cycle and water issues as important fifth grade benchmarks, so the Douglas County Water Festival will target fifth grade students throughout Douglas County. The grant request is for a two-year cycle, with evaluation after the first year and improvements incorporated for the second year.

Applicant: Douglas County Extension Council

Project Title: Planting Natives Education Project

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Recommended Award: \$5,000.00

Project Description: Douglas County Extension Council (Extension) is requesting \$5,000 in funding for the Planting Natives Education Project which includes publishing The Guide for Planting Natives in Northeast Kansas, developing a corresponding website, and hosting educational activities demonstrating the importance of native plants. Northeast Kansas was once covered with tallgrass prairie. Due to land use changes, development, and other factors, much of that prairie has disappeared and the ecosystem services it provides have declined. Prairie holds a unique place in Kansas history and culture. To lose it completely would mean losing part of our heritage.

This project, undertaken by Extension in collaboration with the Kansas Rural Center and Grassland Heritage Foundation, will provide essential information and guidance to landowners and urban homeowners on how to reconstruct and manage prairie and garden with native plants. HCC funding will be used to publish the guide, make the guide available in print and online, and host one educational event in Douglas County with a leader in the field of prairie ecology. By reintroducing native plants to the landscape Kansans can again enjoy the benefits they provide and reconnect with a part of our prairie heritage.

Applicant: Eudora Area Historical Society

Project Title: Improvements at the Eudora Community Museum

Amount Requested: \$27,995.00

Recommended Award: \$6,900.00

Project Description: The Eudora Community Museum (ECM) has a number of important improvement projects that require immediate attention and action. The Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS), owners of the ECM, would benefit greatly from assistance from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council for the completion of these projects. These projects include: (#1) Enhanced Security. This improvement would change the museum's locks and install an exterior video surveillance system. (#2) Landscaping improvements, to install dirt and sod over the mud in our backyard. (#3) Lighting improvements, install badly needed track-heads and LED lightbulbs in the southern portion of our second story. (#4) Window coverings, install solar shades over all 19 windows in the museum to block harmful UV rays from damaging our collections. (#5) A variety of rehabilitation projects at the museum. These projects include repairing exterior stucco, repairing a section of roof, installing metal hand-railings along our new rear ramp and stairs, installing a fencing around the accessibility deck, installing a new metal gate, replacing the deteriorated exterior sidewalk and stairs with a new concrete sidewalk and stairs, installing a smoother threshold at our front door, painting parking lines and a handicap symbol at our parking-lot, among other projects.

Applicant: First United Methodist Church of Lawrence, KS

Project Title: Bell Tower Restoration

Amount Requested: \$51,055.00

Recommended Award: \$28,930.00

Project Description: Restoration of the prominent Bell tower; including the replacement of the slate roof and metal trim, deteriorated stone, and repointing the stone with original mixture (and color) of mortar. Repair wood trim and corbels. Paint all exposed wood and trim features. To provide a complete restoration, the Bell needs to be removed from the tower and shipped to Cincinnati to be restored and the stained glass windows need repairs and new clear window coverings to allow their beauty to show through the now yellowed and opaque coverings. Once the Bell is restored and craned back into the tower it and the new, restored windows will again draw people to the beauty of the building and the reassuring sound of the Bell as it is rung on Sundays and special celebrations or commemorations in the City.

Applicant: Douglas County Historical Society for Guardians of Grover Barn

Project Title: Interpretive Kiosk Project: Grover Barn Heritage Site

Amount Requested: \$ 7,300.00

Recommended Award: \$7,300.00

Project Description: In partnership with the City of Lawrence and the Guardians of Grover Barn, a citizens group dedicated to building awareness of the history of this important territorial period structure and FFNHA Partner, the Douglas County Historical Society seeks grant funding to support the development, fabrication, and installation of ADA accessible interpretive kiosks at the Grover Barn site located at 2819 Stone Barn Terrace in Lawrence. The stone barn was built by abolitionists Joel and Emily Grover in 1858. In addition to its important presence as one of the few territorial period agricultural structures still standing in Lawrence, the barn was a station on the Underground Railroad through which John Brown conducted a group of freedom seekers on their way to Canada in the winter of 1859. This extraordinary well-documented story of national importance has qualified the barn for inclusion on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the Kansas African American History Trail. There is nothing on site, however, to identify the structure, which was adapted for use as a fire station in 1980, or reveal the barn's rich and varied history and national significance to the public. This project would address that need, increasing public awareness of the site and providing access to its heritage stories.

Applicant: Haskell Foundation

Project Title: Haskell Stadium Archway Rehabilitation

Amount Requested: \$69,789.00

Recommended Award: \$10,000.00

Project Description: The Haskell Stadium Archway was built in 1926 as a World War I Memorial in conjunction with, and as an entry and "ticket booth" to, the Haskell Stadium which was also built in 1926. In 2001, on the 75th anniversary of the Archway, it was re-dedicated in honor of the 415 Haskell Warriors" that served in World War I, and in memory of those Warriors that made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Due to a lack of funding, the maintenance and upkeep of the Archway has been neglected over the years. The scope of this project is that of rehabilitation of the Archway, inclusive of the following upgrades: re-roofing of the low slope of the roof; the repair of plaster spalling of exterior surfaces, as needed; application of waterproof coating to horizontal surfaces; installation of new ticket windows to the original size of the windows (approximately 4' by 8'); replacing the two (2) non-historic doors to the ticket booth with new security doors and hardware; installation of new exterior lighting (yard spotlights illuminating the exterior of the Arch); replacement of interior lighting within the ticket booths; installation of emergency lighting fixtures; replacing existing electrical panel; re-routing electrical service wiring to enter Arch at interior; and installation of new general purpose electrical receptacles.

Applicant: Winter School Preservation, Inc. (& Lecompton Historical Society)

Project Title: The Winter School, No. 70

Amount Requested: \$ 58,313.69

Recommended Award: 35,120.00

Project Description: In partnership with the Lecompton Historical Society, we are actively planning to preserve and extend the educational legacy of the Winter School as a museum and cultural community center. Winter School Preservation, Inc. has raised money to preserve the building according to historic preservation standards. Eventually, the property will be gifted and endowed to The Lecompton Historical Society to provide stewardship.

History can be found in buildings, but it can also be found in ethos. The Winter School served as a beacon for teaching and learning as well as community gathering space for the region's rural pioneers. With help from the Douglas County Natural & Cultural Grant Program we hope to provide modern additions that will allow the building to function once again as a vital public space. At the Winter School we want to use our heritage to better understand the origins and evolutions of the education system; the schoolhouse will serve as a memorial to early pioneers and educators while exploring the tradition of generational growth through education. Community is an integral part of the Winter School project, without public access the building would be preserved but remain static and divorced from its original intent and historical significance.