

2021 Natural and Cultural Grant Program Awardees

Grantee: Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery/City of Lawrence

Project Title: *Restoration of Selected Grave Markers at Oak Hill Cemetery*

Amount Requested: \$40,000

Recommended Award: \$11,000

Project Description: This pilot project seeks to restore 121 most urgent, historic grave markers in Lots 1-6, 51-65, and 105-109 located in the southwestern curve of Section 2. Specifically, Pishny Restoration Services (<http://pishny.com/>) recommends removing and resetting 84 single and 21 multi-piece grave markers, creating new concrete bases for 12 markers, and repairing 4 broken markers. They also recommend professionally cleaning a total of 140 grave markers. In a separate phase of this project, Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery hopes to encourage the City to prune trees in this same area (to keep dead limbs from falling on people and markers) and to recommend new landscaping (to reduce the need for mowing). Dr. Kelly Kindscher, KU professor of Environmental Studies, is currently working with four senior-level students in his Capstone course, who will make landscaping recommendations in May 2021.

Grantee: Kansas Land Trust

Project Title:

Amount Requested: \$69,600

Recommended Award: \$59,400

Project Description: The Kansas Land Trust (KLT) preserves and protects lands of ecological, agricultural, scenic, historic, or recreational significance in Kansas. KLT accepts only conservation easements granted in perpetuity. KLT commits to upholding the terms of the easement, forever. A landowner granting a conservation easement to KLT can be assured that compliance with the easement terms will be strictly enforced. The easement property will be monitored regularly. Future owners cannot alter the land contrary to the owner's originally specified wishes—wishes that carry into the future. Ken Lassman and Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg will donate a 135-acre conservation easement (Wells Farm) to KLT to protect a Farm Bureau Century Farm that is characterized by hedge rows and small fields characteristic of early farming practices in the county, a pond built by the Civilian Conservation Corp, Wells Mound, native vegetation and native habitat restoration projects. This land surrounds Wells Overlook Park, a 16-acre parcel donated to Douglas County in 1970 by William H. Wells to honor his father Charles and grandfather, William Dougal Wells, who arrived in the Kansas Territory in October 1854 as a member of the 3rd Party of the New England Emigrant Aid Society.

Grantee: KU Center for Research/City of Lawrence

Project Title: *Connecting people with pollinators through partnerships in Douglas County. Project 1: City of Lawrence and KU Endowment Association*

Amount Requested: \$73,607

Recommended Award: \$35,000

Project Description: To provide community education, engagement and quality green spaces while counteracting the dramatic decline of monarch butterflies and vital pollinators resulting from habitat loss and pesticides, the Kansas Biological Survey will collaborate with the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department and the KU Endowment Association to restore three grassland sites within the Lawrence city limits. The three sites are the Mutt Run Off-Leash Dog Park, Rock Chalk Park, and the District III open space on Clinton Parkway adjacent to La Petite Academy. Habitat improvements will increase the abundance of native grasses and wildflowers, including the milkweeds that are essential to monarch reproduction. Carefully selected plants will ensure flowering throughout the growing season to provide critical food and habitat for pollinators and other insects, as well as visual interest to human visitors. Partner organizations will develop materials about pollinators, offer public programs, and organize a planting day at the District III site. The pollinator habitats will be open to the public so people can enjoy observing nature within the city limits.

Grantee: Eudora Holy Family

Project Title: *Restoration and Protection of Stained Glass Windows and Tuck Pointing of Original Holy Family Church*

Amount Requested: \$68,500

Recommended Award: \$8,000

Project Description: The project goal is to complete two projects that will prevent deterioration and damage to the foundation, sandstone walls, and stained-glass windows. Toward that crucial goal, the exterior of the building will be tuck pointed, following The Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. In addition, the 18 stained-glass windows and two door transoms will be removed and cleaned, lead repacked, holds and cracks repaired, openings scraped and primed with oil bonding primer; aluminum vented framing installed and caulked to the stone, and windows replaced and covered with 1/4" clear glass for preservation. Two windows and one transom must be totally rebuilt with a new lead and matching stained-glass. One window, for an unknown reason, has a small stained-glass panel instead of full stained glass window and wood fills the remaining space. This existing panel will be removed and used as the center of a new window built and leaded to match the other windows.

Grantee: Vinland Cemetery Association

Project Title: *Vinland Cemetery Sesquicentennial*

Amount Requested: \$12,100

Recommended Award: \$8,500

Project Description: The goal of this project is to make improvements at the Vinland Cemetery in preparation for the 150th anniversary of the cemetery's establishment and to create ways for the public to learn how the people buried there have contributed to Douglas County's development and cultural history. Project objectives include the following:

- Repair and restoration work on the nearly-100-year-old Shelter House.
- Straightening and realignment of gravestones.
- Development of a brochure with history and photos about the cemetery and persons of interest buried there, including the Harveys, a formerly enslaved couple and their descendants who were well-known Douglas Countians.
- Development of a narrated walking tour featuring the history of notable people buried in the cemetery.
- Development of a short video version of the walking tour that incorporates historic photos of the people and places for which they are associated.

Grantee: NAACP Lawrence Branch

Project Title: *Untold Stories: African American Burials in Douglas County, Kansas*

Amount Requested: \$4,500

Recommended Award: \$4,500

Project Description: *Untold Stories: African American Burials in Douglas County, Kansas* will conduct research to identify the final resting places of African Americans in Douglas County and create a searchable database and virtual story map for the public, researchers, and genealogists. Through research and oral histories the project will compile stories related to African Americans who have lived in Douglas County since Territorial Days. The overall goal of the project is to prevent the locations of these burials and the important stories they tell about the African American community, and their critical contributions to the development of Douglas County, from being lost to history.

Grantee: Clinton Lake Historical Society

Project Title: *Let's Get ADA Compliant!*

Amount Requested: \$38,209

Recommended Award: \$8,000

Project Description: Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum was originally established in an existing milk barn on the J.C. Steele homestead now located on US Army Corps of Engineers property at Clinton Lake. The original 790 square feet included a stairway leading to a very small storage area, a small sink with an overhead cabinet, an under-the-stairs small storage area, and a very small and non-ADA compliant restroom added to the northeast edge of the milk barn. The structure was expanded in 2012 to provide additional exhibit space and onsite collections storage. Overlooked in that expansion was an important aspect: having an ADA compliant bathroom and a prep kitchen. This grant would provide the funds we need to revise the original storage space and build an accessible restroom and prep kitchen space.

Grantee: Pantaleon Florez III

Project Title: *Incubator Farm Frontage Planting Project*

Amount Requested: \$15,157

Recommended Award: \$4,000

Project Description: The Incubator Farm is a cultural site providing beginner farmers access to agriculturally rich soils. The site is currently heavily exposed to Highway 40 and would benefit beginner farmers for generations with a well-established frontage planting. The frontage planting requires labor intensive site remediation from one of the most noxious weeds impacting US agriculture, Johnsongrass. This remediation work will refuse chemical controls and help enable the county to once again lease the southwest plot at the Incubator Farm. This part of the project helps the county meet all objectives within Goals 1, 2, and 4 and Goal 3.2 of the County Food System Plan. The remediation will also provide two beginner farmers the opportunity to develop a more longitudinal proof of concept for Johnsongrass remediation for possible further research through the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education branch of the USDA. The frontage planting itself will provide a wind/pollution break, scenery for those travelling Highway-40, a carbon sink, and a polycultural habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and beneficial insects.

Grantee: Baker University

Project Title: *Baker University Archives Newspaper Digitization Project*

Amount Requested: \$5,000

Recommended Award: \$5,000

Project Description: We want to digitize the portion of Baker University's student newspaper, the *Baker Orange*, that is not currently in the public domain (1924-2020) and make the digital copies available for public use.

Grantee: Lawrence Arts Center

Project Title: *Good Morning Indian Country*

Amount Requested: \$8,000

Recommended Award: \$8,000

Project Description: *Good Morning Indian Country* is a thrice-weekly morning show, hosted by legendary Gathering of Nations Master of Ceremonies Ruben Littlehead Sr. and streamed live online from the Lawrence Arts Center in Lawrence, Kansas. The twelve-episode pilot season of this exciting and much-needed project will launch this August. From August 16th – September 10th, each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9:00 – 10:30 AM, Ruben Littlehead Sr. will entertain viewers with discussion of everything from high school sports to national news, as well as host guest speakers and performers: “morning radio for the reservation,” as project organizer Freddy Gipp put it. *Good Morning Indian Country* was developed in response to a monumental threat to Native American’s ability to safely gather to honor culture and pass tradition from one generation to the next. Accustomed to serving as Master of Ceremonies for audiences of nearly 72,000 members of the 565 tribes from around the United States and 220 from Canada who ordinarily travel to Albuquerque to participate in the Gathering of Nations, Littlehead Sr. is an engaging and talented speaker who will bring a lifetime of experience and humanities knowledge to this project.

Grantee: Douglas County Historical Society

Project Title: *Embattled Lawrence Volume 3: Building Lawrence in Douglas County, KS*

Amount Requested: \$34,375

Recommended Award: \$15,000

Project Description: In 2001, Dennis Domer and Barbara Watkins published *Embattled Lawrence: Conflict & Community*, featuring a collection of articles from historians, civic leaders and community stakeholders. Today, *Embattled Lawrence* remains the only summary of the history of Lawrence published in the last three decades. As David Katzman, Professor of American Studies and History at the University of Kansas aptly stated, “for anyone whose path has run through Lawrence, it is essential reading.” Now *Embattled Lawrence* is being expanded. Over the past three years, Dennis Domer and a team of editors have worked to gather and organize content for three additional volumes of this community history anthology. Volume 2: *The Enduring Struggle for Freedom*, is nearing completion and will be published in Summer 2021. Volume 3 focuses on the building of Lawrence. Volunteers have sorted through countless photographs from local archives and private collections for the fourth volume: *People and Places: A New Pictorial History of Lawrence*. This remarkable undertaking will be a valuable addition to the community consciousness of Lawrence – an extensive anthology to preserve and communicate the past. This grant would provide support for the production and printing of Volume 3: *Building Lawrence in Douglas County, Kansas*.

Grantee: Eudora Area Historical Society

Project Title: *Nine Bronze Plaques for Historical Eudora Buildings*

Amount Requested: \$3,615

Recommended Award: \$3,600

Project Description: The Eudora Community Museum (ECM) requests grant funds for the creation and installation of nine bronze plaques on nine historical buildings in the Eudora Community. In 2021, with HCC funds, we were able to install 13 bronze plaques on historical buildings in Eudora. Those 13 bronze plaques detail the history of their respective buildings and they have educated thousands of people about local history. The original 13 bronze plaques have been very popular; therefore, we have selected another nine historical buildings in Eudora (seven on Main Street, two on Church Street) that deserve bronze plaques. These nine new plaques will detail the history of their respective buildings. The history and stories that will be told on these plaques deeply relate to the Eudora community. These bronze plaques will educate the public and help thousands of people understand the identity of the Eudora community.

Grantee: St. Luke AME Church

Project Title: *St. Luke AME Church: Brick Rehabilitation*

Amount Requested: \$ 30,000

Recommended Award: \$ 30,000

Project Description: The plan is to anchor, repoint and rehabilitate the west and north exterior brick gable walls of the building. The work also includes removing the two large stained-glass windows by professionals, transporting them offsite for rehabilitation. They will be reinstalled, including protective covering.