

Kansas Humanities Council
Kansans Tell Their Stories

Kansans Tell Their Stories is a Kansas Humanities Council initiative encouraging Kansans to identify and interpret their local stories. What does it mean to be a Kansan? Since 2004, the initiative has encouraged Kansans to make a more thorough examination of our state's history and its impact on today's citizens. Projects funded through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities *and* the State of Kansas include (listed by community):

ATCHISON

[Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, Atchison \(\\$7,131\)](#)

Telling Our Story: A Trolley Tour of Atchison's African American Historic Sites

A research and oral history project resulting in the creation of a tour highlighting the heritage of the African American community in Atchison. Stan Lawson, project director.

BALDWIN CITY

[Baker University, Baldwin City \(\\$13,514\)](#)

Bauer, Baker, and Baldwin City: Electrifying a Small Town's Identity

A documentary short that tells the story of W. C. Bauer, a Baker University professor who was instrumental in electrifying Baker University and Baldwin City in the early 1900s. Joanne Toltoff, project director.

[Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce](#)

Famous Kansans Chautauqua

A 4-day event exploring the life and times of Carry A. Nation, Dr. Brinkley, Langston Hughes, and William Allen White. Along with tent performances, residents participated in a youth camp, continuing education workshops for adults, and oral history projects.

[Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Baldwin City \(\\$10,205\)](#)

Black Jack Battlefield Interpretive Sign and Brochures

An interpretive signage project exploring the 1856 battle between pro- and anti-slavery forces. Carol Von Tersh, project director.

[Old Castle Museum, Baldwin City \(\\$5,000\)](#)

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the Famous Kansans Chautauqua. Brenda Day, project director.

BAXTER SPRINGS

[Baxter Springs Historical Society, Baxter Springs, \\$3,314](#)

Route 66 Oral History Project

To preserve first-person accounts from business owners and residents along Kansas' 13.2 mile stretch of Route 66. Catie Myers, project director.

BELLEVILLE

[Main Street Program, Belleville, \\$14,894](#)

Downtown Belleville Historic Walking Tour

The creation of a walking tour of downtown, complete with markers, and interpretive kiosk, companion brochure and audio component. Melinda Pierson, project director.

BREMEN

Low German Heritage Society, Bremen (\$3,467)

Low German Language & Heritage Revitalization Project

Monthly language and heritage classes will be held throughout Marshall and Washington counties. Scott Seeger, project director.

Low German Heritage Society, Bremen (\$3,466)

Low German Language & Heritage Revitalization Project

A continuation of the monthly language and heritage classes will be held throughout Marshall and Washington counties. Scott Seeger, project director.

COLLYER

Collyer Community Alliance, Collyer (\$8,000)

Honoring Our Immigrant Heritage

An oral history project involving the descendents of the original Irish, Bohemian, and Volga German immigrants to Collyer. Sandra Stenzel, project director.

CONCORDIA

Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Concordia (\$15,000)

Connecting the Past to the Present: Putting a Face on the Orphan Train

An exhibition project on the men, women, and children involved in the Orphan Train movement. Stephanie Haiar, project director.

EMPORIA

Flint Hills Tourism Coalition, Emporia (\$3,500)

Flint Hills Ranching Impact Oral History

An oral history project examining the legacy of ranching on the Flint Hills. William Smith, project director.

Girl Scout Council of the Flint Hills, Emporia (\$7,982)

My Story/Our Stories/Herstory: What It Means to be Female and Hispanic in the Flint Hills

Thirty-six Latina girl scouts conducted oral histories of women who immigrated to Emporia from Central and South American countries. Ann Birney, project director.

FORT SCOTT

Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity, Fort Scott (\$7,916)

Buried Roots of African American Ancestry in Fort Scott, Kansas

A research and oral history project exploring the heritage of the African American community in Fort Scott. Sandra L. Dudley, project director.

FRONTENAC

Center for Learning Tree Institute, Frontenac (\$7,982)

Coming to Kansas: Telling the Family Stories of Immigrants to the Little Balkans

An oral history project documenting the immigration of Southeastern Europeans to Southeast Kansas to work in the coal and lead mines. Jim Rodman, project director.

GARDEN CITY

Finney County Historical Society, Garden City (\$7,807)

Starting Over, Staying On: Southeast Asian Citizens in Garden City, KS

An oral history project documenting the immigrant experience of refugees from Vietnam and Southeast Asia into Garden City in the mid-1970s. Mary Regan, project director.

Finney County Historical Society, Garden City (\$5,792)

As American as We Could Be, Garden City (\$5,792)

An oral history, research, and exhibition project examining the Mexican immigrant experience post World War II. Mary Regan, project director.

HIGHLAND

Highland PRIDE, Highland (\$12,204)

Samuel Dixon Gilmore Finds his Freedom's Frontier

A digital documentary grant exploring the story of one family's move from Missouri to Kansas during the 1850s. Julie Dorrell, project director.

HILLSBORO

City of Hillsboro Museums Department, \$12,089

A Visitor Orientation Exhibit in the Hillsboro Museum Visitor Center

An exhibit featuring the 1874 Russian Mennonite immigration to Marion County and the subsequent founding of the City of Hillsboro. Stan Harder, project director.

HORTON

Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Horton (\$4,000)

The Kickapoo Cultural Experience

A research and oral history project on the Kickapoos journey from the Great Lakes to Kansas. Janis Simon, project director.

HUTCHINSON

Reno County Historical Society, Hutchinson (\$8,000)

Exploring Hispanic History & Culture in Hutchinson, Kansas

An exhibit development project documenting the long history of Hispanics in Hutchinson. Jim Jackson, project director.

JETMORE

Hodgeman County Historical Society, Jetmore (\$3,168)

World War II Impacts Hodgeman County

An oral history project exploring the impact of World War II on the families and individuals of Hodgeman County. Mary Ford, project director.

KANSAS CITY

Annual 1951 Flood Reunion Organization, Kansas City (\$8,000)

Voices from the Past - Mexican Americans Trace Their Family Histories

An oral history project documenting the family histories of Mexican immigrants in the communities of Argentine, Armourdale, and Rosedale. Gene Chavez, project director.

Hmong Village, Kansas City (\$3,500)

From Xieng Khuang Province to Kansas City: Oral History on the Hmong Experience

An oral history project featuring Hmong immigrants in Kansas City and their lives before, during, and after the Vietnam War. Wayne Yang, project director.

KINGMAN

Kingman County Historical Society, Kingman (\$15,000)

The Clyde Cessna Story

A documentary short featuring the story of Clyde Cessna, aviation pioneer and Kingman County resident. Prisca Krehbiel, project director.

KINSLEY

[Kinsley Public Library, Kinsley \(\\$3,248\)](#)

Patchwork of Dependency: The Effects of World War II on Edwards County, Kansas
An oral history project exploring World War II's impact on the citizens of Edwards County.
Joan K. Weaver, project director.

LA CYGNE

[La Cygne's Historical Society \(\\$3,500\)](#)

Visiting La Cygne's Past - Relating to the Present -- Connecting to the Future!
A series of twelve podcasts highlighting individuals who have played a major role in the development of La Cygne. Janet Reynolds, project director.

LANSING

[Lansing Historical Museum, Lansing \(\\$9,859\)](#)

The Kansas State Penitentiary: An Institution & Neighbor
A digital documentary grant exploring the concept of community. Laura Phillippi, project director.

LAWRENCE

[Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, Lawrence](#)

A partnership with KHC to create build-your-own visitor friendly tours using a written narrative highlighting historical voices and podcasts of contemporary Kansans telling the Freedom's Frontier story.

[Kansas African Studies Center, Lawrence \(\\$8,000\)](#)

Identity, Voice, and Community among New African Immigrants to Kansas
An oral history project documenting the stories of new African immigrants from Somali, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, and Zanzibar to northeastern Kansas. John M. Janzen, project director.

[Second Century Fund, Lawrence \(\\$4,200\)](#)

A Place for Us: Celebrating the St. Luke AME Church Centennial and Restoration
An oral history project documenting the African American heritage of Lawrence. Leonard Monroe, project director.

LEAVENWORTH

[Leavenworth County Historical Society \(\\$1,129\)](#)

Eight Elements of Leavenworth County
A series of eight podcasts featuring the architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people of Leavenworth County. Joanie Soukup, project director.

LENEXA

[Lenexa Historical Society \(\\$3,500\)](#)

Lenexans Tell Their Stories
An oral history project featuring interviews of fifteen Lenexa residents who have contributed to Lenexa's early growth. Terry Clark, project director.

LIBERAL

[Liberal Memorial Library, Liberal \(\\$8,000\)](#)

Crossroads of Commerce, Culture, and Community
An oral history project documenting the Hispanic immigration into the Liberal area. Kristen Becker, project director.

LYNDON

Historic Preservation Partnership, Lyndon (\$3,417)

The Bailey House

A research project to authenticate the story of the home in relationship to a Native American settlement. Peggy Clark, project director.

MCPHERSON

McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau, McPherson (\$3,455)

Telling Our Story: A Trolley Tour of McPherson

The creation of a guided tour exploring the history of McPherson. Included in the research is the Opera House, the WR Mill-Rogalsky Milling Company, McPherson College, and the Globe Refinery Olympic Basketball Team. Janette Hess, project director.

MEDICINE LODGE

Medicine Lodge Chamber of Commerce

Famous Kansans Chautauqua

A 4-day event exploring the life and times of Carry A. Nation, Dr. Brinkley, Langston Hughes, and William Allen White. Along with tent performances, residents participated in a youth chautauqua camp, continuing education workshops for adults, and oral history projects. John Nixon, project director.

Medicine Lodge Heritage Center

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the 2007 Famous Kansans Chautauqua. Lois Wortman, project director.

NEWTON

Bethel College Oral History Institute, North Newton (\$6,950)

From Mexico to Kansas: Immigration Narratives of Mexican Kansans in Newton, Kansas

An oral history project to record the stories of Mexican immigrants to Newton. Results will be compared with earlier immigration stories of Mennonite settlement in the area. Penelope A. Moon, project director.

Historical Preservation Commission, Newton (\$4,355)

Newton, Kansas and the Railroad People: Work, Housing, Religion, and Architecture

A research and oral history project documenting the Newton/North Newton railroad heritage through the stories of railroad workers from Newton's Hispanic, African American, and Anglo populations. Patrick Duffy, project director.

NORTH NEWTON

Kauffman Museum, North Newton (\$2,500)

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the 2007 Famous Kansans Chautauqua. Rachel Pannebecker, project director.

Kauffman Museum, North Newton (\$7,684)

A Charge to Keep: The Story of Hall's Chapel AME Church in Newton, Kansas.

An oral history project documenting the legacy of Hall's Chapel on the African American community.

OAKLEY

Wild West Foundation, Oakley (\$15,000)

Buffalo Bill & Northwest Kansas Heritage

An interpretive outdoor exhibit exploring Buffalo Bill Cody and heritage of Northwest Kansas. Raelene Keller, project director.

OLATHE

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop, Olathe, \$15,000

Interactive Media for Border War Interpretation

An audio-visual exhibit exploring perspectives and motivations in the Kansas and Missouri Border War. Tim Talbott, project director.

OTTAWA

Franklin County Historical Society, Ottawa (\$15,000)

Pottawatomie Creek Massacre Exhibition

A permanent exhibition examining the 1856 massacre and other Territorial Kansas events. Deborah Barker, project director.

PARSONS

Parsons Historical Society, Parsons (\$3,320)

Reclaiming the Past: An Oral History Project of Frederick Douglass School, 1908-1958.

An oral history project documenting the African American experience at the segregated Douglass School. Jean Patterson, project director.

PEABODY

Peabody Historical Society, Peabody (\$3,500)

Women in Peabody's History

An oral history project to collect and preserve the stories of women with leadership roles in the community. Marilyn Jones, project director.

SENECA

Seneca Downtown Impact, Seneca (\$14,834)

Seneca's "Historical Tour" Kiosk and Podcast

A project to create an informational kiosk and a series of podcasts telling the history of Seneca. Linda Honeyman, project director.

SHAWNEE

Shawnee Town, Shawnee (\$7,950)

Growing Together: Cultivating Shawnee's Ethnic Roots

A research project to identify, study, and record stories of the Belgian and German immigrants to Shawnee through the late 1920s. Sharron G. Uhler, project director.

Shawnee Town, Shawnee (\$2,500)

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the 2007 Famous Kansans Chautauqua. Gay Clemenson, project director.

Shawnee Town, Shawnee (\$6,800)

Family Stories

An extension of the StoryCorps Door-to-Door experience, creating oral history opportunities for all residents in Shawnee.

TOPEKA

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Topeka (\$2,500)

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the 2007 Famous Kansans Chautauqua. William Beteta, project director.

Justicia, Inc., Topeka (\$14,792)

Mariachi Estrella Ad Astra Per Aspera

A documentary short featuring the story of Mariachi Estrella de Topeka, one of the first all-female mariachi bands to form in the United States. Marlo Angell, project director.

Railroad Heritage, Inc., Topeka (\$7,984)

Making Tracks: Mexicanos and the Railroads in Northeast Kansas

An exhibit development project documenting the story of Mexican railroad workers in the Topeka and northeast Kansas community. Beth Fager, project director.

Washburn University History Department, Topeka (\$7,943)

Far Travelers: Taiwanese-& Chinese-Born Topekans Stories of Leaving One Home & Making Another

An oral history project featuring Topekans from mainland China, Taiwan, and Malaysia. Sara Tucker, project director.

WICHITA

La Familia Senior / Community Center, Wichita (\$8,000)

Exploring the History of the Mexican People in 'El Huarache' During the Early 1900s

An oral history project involving the descendents of the original residents of a Mexican community in Wichita nicknamed El Huarache. Carolyn Benitez, project director.

McCormick School Museum, Inc., Wichita (\$3,500)

Separate is Not Equal: Research on Wichita Public Schools

A project to research the public education experience of African American students from 1873-1958. Galyn A. Vesey, project director.

Wichita Public Library (\$5,000)

StoryCorps Door-to-Door

A statewide companion oral history project as part of the 2007 Famous Kansans Chautauqua. Julie Linneman, project director.

Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Wichita (\$7,999)

Chester I. Lewis: A Civil Rights Legacy

An oral history and research project on the legacy of Civil Rights leader, Chester I. Lewis. Susan Miner, project director.

Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Wichita (\$7,289)

Standing Up by Sitting In

An oral history project exploring the Dock-Um Drugstore sit-ins. Susan Miner, project director.

WILSON

Amazing 100 Mile Coalition, Wilson (\$12,852)

A Drive-Through History along the Post Rock Scenic Byway

A digital documentary exploring the relationship between community and the landscape, featuring the story of the Novak family (Bohemian Czechoslovakian immigrants who settled between Wilson and Lucas in 1885). Connie Dougherty, project director.

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