

THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective

JOY TO PAIN

CHIEFS KINGDOM
EMOTION'S SWING PAGE 2



Wichita's Storytime Village Wins
\$5 Mil Capital Projects Grant
Page 6



Meet Kansas City's First
Poet Laureate
Page 12



Volume 31, No. 4 · communityvoiceks.com · Friday, February 16, 2024

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA KS
PERMIT NO. 560

Change Service Requested

The Community Voice
P.O. Box 20804
Wichita, KS 67208

THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 4
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Chiefs Fans Go From Joy to Pain

Celebration to Crime Scene: We Can't Accept This

Commentary By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Wednesday was supposed to be a celebration, a city-wide love fest on Valentine's Day.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to celebrate the Chiefs' second Super Bowl in a row. We were under the spotlight. People were swag surfing, getting autographs, and generally reveling in what has become an annual celebration of all things KC.

Schools across the area closed for what was supposed to be a whimsical 'red snow day.' Chris Jones said he wanted to come back, Patrick Mahomes said it'd be a three-peat, Isaiah Pacheco was spotted with a baby goat wearing a Chiefs jersey, and an inebriated Travis Kelce sang an augmented country song. This should have been all there was to the story.

Then shots rang out at Union Station. Everything changed; the site of the celebration became a crime scene. A beloved local radio DJ perished, over 20 were injured, and a dozen children suffered gunshot wounds.

"This is a tragedy, the likes of which we did not expect and likely won't forget," said Mayor Quinton Lucas.

"This is not Kansas City," said KC Police Chief Stacey Graves.

As much as we may want to believe that, no, this is who we are. Until we aren't. The past four years

have seen the highest number of gun deaths in the city. No amount of redevelopment, sports victories, or innovative art will make Kansas City a world-class city until we fix this.

On an individual level, gun violence cuts short otherwise promising lives and has ripple effects crushing the spirit of the family and friends of those affected. On a broader scale, almost nothing has the economic chilling effect of murder.

I don't claim to have the answers. Some will say we need more police, well there were over 800 cops there. While their fast response was commendable, a mass shooting still happened.

Some will say it's a gun issue, and indeed Missouri has some of the loosest gun laws in the country. The state legislature even went as far as to vote to allow kids to open carry without adult supervision. Well we see how far that's getting us with the arrest of two juveniles in this shooting.

Some will say it's mental health. Yes, someone is clearly disturbed if they are bringing an assault weapon to a parade.

We've seen this cycle time and again when there are mass shootings, but nothing gets done.

We have to change that. People can't live in fear everywhere they go.

ON THE COVER:

A 2024 Super Bowl Champions Hat says a lot about the Joy and the Pain of Chiefs fans in light of all that's happened.



PHOTO BY KEVIN HARRIS.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

PO Box 20804 | Wichita, KS 67214
316.681.1155 | ISSN 1090-3852
www.communityvoiceks.com

The contents of each issue of The Community Voice are copyrighted. Articles appearing in The Community Voice may not be reproduced without written permission of the Editor. All rights reserved.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Email: Oswald@tcvpub.com

EDITORIAL: Readers with story or photo ideas, tips, criticisms or suggestions on coverage are urged to contact the Editor. All submissions to the paper, letters and columns are subject to editing for length, style, taste and legal considerations.

CORRECTIONS: The Community Voice

strives for accuracy and fairness. Readers who believe a story or headline is inaccurate or misleading should contact the Editor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Published BiWeekly
\$27.95/yr. Sedgwick County
\$35.95/yr. Outside Sedgwick County
\$73.99/yr. Outside Kansas

CONTACTS:

Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases
Bonita Gooch
Wichita | press@tcvpub.com
KC | cvoicekc@tcvpub.com

Publisher:
Kurt Oswald | oswald@tcvpub.com
Press Releases: press@tcvpub.com
Advertising: adcopy@tcvpub.com

Contributing Writers:

Thomas White | kansas-city@tcvpub.com
twwhite@tcvpub.com
P.J. Griekspoor | wichita@tcvpub.com
griekspoor@tcvpub.com

Advertising Sales:
Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com

Office Administration:
Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

**NOW RUNNING –
3 WEEKENDS ONLY!**

NINA SIMONE FOUR WOMEN

NOW THRU MAR 3
COPAKEN STAGE
KCRep.org
816.235.2700

Starring



ALEXIS J. ROSTON
as *Nina Simone*



**GABRIELLE
LOTT-ROGERS**
as *Aunt Sarah*



TONI MARTIN
as *Sephronia*



BRITNEY MACK
as *Sweet Thing*



MATTHEW HARRIS
as *Sam Waymon*

Experience the **soul-stirring** journey of Nina Simone's iconic music and the powerful stories of four extraordinary women in this **captivating and moving** play featuring *Nina's music performed live.*

ORDER TODAY— TICKETS GOING FAST!

Written by **CHRISTINA HAM**

Directed by **MALKIA STAMPLEY**

Co-Produced with **MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATRE**

Mark Clements, Artistic Director

Chad Bauman, Executive Director

Lead Sponsor:



Additional Support provided by:



KCRep is the professional theatre in residence at UMKC

WYCO Trying Again for Indian Springs Redevelopment



Three Developers are being asked to submit development ideas for the site of the once popular midtown KCK shopping center.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

After many fits and starts and development agreements that have fallen through, the Wyandotte County Unified Government is once again seeking development ideas for the 49.1 acre, former site of the Indian Springs shopping center located at the southwest corner of State Avenue and Interstate 635.

This time, they're taking a different approach and anticipating better results.

Shortly after parting ways with their last potential developer in 2022, the UG implemented a new approach for identifying a developer for the Indian Springs site and two other parcels of land – a plot of land just off 4th and Minnesota and a plot at 18th and Quindaro. That process for all three projects began last year with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

UG planners say the RFQ process offered developers a much lower barrier to entry into the process.

Instead of having to pull together a full-blown development package, with drafted plans, estimated construction cost and a project team, developers simply expressed their interest in working with the city on the project.

Interested developers simply submitted a letter of interest in one or more of the projects along with documentation supporting their experience and ability to handle the job.

"It let them raise their hands and let us know they're interested," said WYCO Director of Planning and Urban Design Gunnar Hand.

After a review of the RFQ's the city selected three developers to move forward to the Request for Proposals (RFP) phase. This is where the developers submit their specific plans for the site along with info on their development team.

Since releasing the RFQ, the UG completed a marketing analysis of each of the sites to better understand what the market can support. In addition, they reached out and engaged with the community to better understand their goals for each of the sites.

The UG staff used information from the marketing analysis and community engagement sessions in the finalization of the RFP. While the RFP will allow developers a lot of room for creativity in their approach to the project, it does include some firm guiding principles for the project.

"Hopefully, that [RFP] will spark creativity and limit just throwing spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks," said Hand.

The three firms selected to submit RFPs for the Indian Springs site are: Block & Co – Christie Development (blockandco.com), Oak Impact (oakimpact.com) and Copaken Brooks (copaken-brooks.com).

The RFP for the Indian Springs site is currently scheduled for release on Feb. 22, with development proposals due this spring. The submitted proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the UG staff before they are submitted to the UG Commissioners for consideration.

See INDIAN SPRINGS Page 9 →

SouthPointe at 63rd Development Breaks Ground

Key Points

- After 25 years, development is set to begin on \$250 million SouthPointe at 63rd project.
- The project includes a hotel, restaurant, office, and residential spaces.
- Minority-owned firms CJR Development and Urban America collaborate on the project.
- The Southpointe project aims to uplift the surrounding community, particularly after years of blight and environmental hazards at the site.



Southpointe development. Is bound on the south by 63rd and the east by 71 Hwy.

After more than 25 years of delays, blight, contamination and broken promises, development on this South KC site finally appears set to begin. Plans include a hotel, restaurant, office, and residential spaces.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

City and community leaders joined alongside developers Jan. 29 to celebrate the long-awaited groundbreaking of the \$250 million Southpointe at 63rd development project.

The four-phase project hopes to revitalize a 25-acre plot of land near on the northside of 63rd Street and the westside of Prospect that has been vacant for decades. When completed, the mixed-use development will feature 240 apartments and townhomes, catering to various income levels, along with office spaces, large and small retail outlets, restaurant spaces, and a 114-room hotel.

Construction is set to be completed in phases, with the project projected to be fully complete by 2032. Phase One, which includes a 114-room hotel, office and retail space, and multi-family mixed-income

housing, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Minority-owned Developers

Development of the project is a collaborative effort between two minority-owned firms: CJR Development and Urban America.

“We believe in building the middle class. We believe our communities deserve better,” said CJR Partner Harold Johnson. “The collaboration between the city of Kansas City, CJR Development, Urban America, and enterprising capital partners showcases the power of public-private partnerships in driving impactful change and fostering community growth: Southpointe will do just that.”

Mayor Quinton Lucas said the development represents a foundational and fundamental change in the area. “[Redevelopment] often it is somebody sitting in a city hall or at HUD saying, ‘this is what we are going to do for you.’ which too often it seems like ‘this is what we are going to do to you,’” said Lucas. “Instead, this is years of collaboration about what this community wants, what our business community — particularly our Black business community — is working on and building.”

Lucas emphasized the project’s commitment to promoting local and national Black-owned and Black woman-owned businesses. “Folks who don’t always have an opportunity to show their excellence will be heralded and will be the center of what this project is all about,” said Lucas.

Uplifting the Surrounding Community

The site of the Southpointe redevelopment project is surrounded by a majority Black neighborhood and has been awaiting development on the set of large empty lots next to Research Hospital since at least 1994.

“The Southpointe development is not just about constructing buildings,” said Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw. “It’s about building a brighter future for our community. This groundbreaking represents a commitment to reducing blight and enhancing the neighborhood creating a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive space for all of us who call this area home.”

Despite ongoing efforts to get a successful development project for the site off the ground, the community has had to deal with the vacant, often blighted site for

almost 25 years. For many of those years, the site was full of cancerous construction debris, generated by a developer who demolished houses in the area without first properly removing asbestos and then left much of the asbestos-laden debris on the site.

The long and challenging delay in the project was often referred to during speeches at the groundbreaking.

City Manager Brian Platt, noting how hard urban development can be, mentioned that when he met former council member Lee Barnes, who served eight years on the council, Barnes listed this development as his No. 1 and only priority.

In one of the most stark indications of how long this development has been in the making, Mayor Lucas mentioned asking his mom about the project site when he was a child.

Indicating his frustration with the project’s adversities, 5th District Councilmember Darrell Curls said, “It’s a great day for the 5th District, but it’s an even greater day for this community because this community now can say that hopefully, eventually, there’s gonna be something there that we can see, as opposed to blight, dead trees, and trash.”

Decades of Delays

Visions for the development of this prime property in the heart of Kansas City’s Black community date back to 1994, with the City designating the area for tax increment financing — an incentive given to encourage development in an area. In a move praised by many, the City awarded the development contract to the community-based non-profit Community Development Corporation of Kansas City (CDC-KC).

The organization went to work purchasing the nearly 160 plots of land needed to pull together the land needed for the massive project. The planned \$80 million project, called the Citadel, was to bring housing, restaurants, retail, and a full-service grocery store to the area.

From 2001 to 2005, lots were razed, but much of the debris was never hauled away. Then, it was discovered the developers had not removed asbestos — a cancerous material — from the homes before they were demolished, creating an environmental hazard on the land that wasn’t remediated until 2014.

As lawsuits and judgments against CDC-KC began to pile up, it became clear the developers were struggling financially, but it took the city until 2010 to cancel the development agreement. Eventually, the City paid \$15 million to settle lawsuits filed by individuals who weren’t paid by CDC-KC and, through some creative financing, ended up taking control of the land under a long-term lease with the City’s Tax Increment Financing Commission.

Still, the city wasn’t finished paying. It cost over \$1 million to remediate the environmental hazard on the site, with the city footing about half that bill. The balance was covered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, who had been intrinsically involved in funding the project from the start and also lost millions on the project.

In 2016, 20 years after the project was envisioned, the city put out a request for proposal seeking a new

See SOUTHPOINTE Page 9 →

Wichita Home Repair Program Open Again

City of Wichita relaunches homeowner repair loan program; offers up to \$25,000 to those who meet income requirements.

By P.J. Griekspoor
Wichita Reporter

Do you need to make critical repairs to your home but lack the money to tackle them? The City of Wichita may be able to help.

The city is re-launching the homeowner repair loan program, offering up to \$25,000 in forgivable and deferred loans to help make critical repairs, such as water or sewer lines, heating and air systems or electrical repairs.

Sarah Gooding with the Wichita Housing Authority explained how the program works at District 1 Councilman Brandon Johnson's monthly breakfast on Feb. 3.

Gooding said the city began taking new applications on Feb. 1.

To qualify for the home repair loan program, you must be the homeowner of record, you must live in the property as your primary residence, you must be current on property taxes, you must have homeowner's insurance and you must be at or below 80% of the median household income for the size of your household.

You can borrow up to \$5,000 as a forgivable loan. If you continue to live in the home for five years, the loan is forgiven. Any amount borrowed between \$5,000 and \$25,000 remains as a lien on the property and must be repaid when the house is sold or transferred. All deferred loans require a 10% homeowner match.

For example, if your project costs \$13,000, you will get \$5,000 as a loan that will be forgiven in five years and \$8,000 as a zero-interest loan that will be deferred until you sell your home or transfer the title. You will have to pay \$800 out of pocket to match the deferred loan, making the amount you will have to repay when you sell the property \$7,200.

Gooding said that repayment of deferred loans when the property is sold helps to maintain a pool of money that can in turn be used by the city to provide more loans.

But she acknowledged there can be circumstances where the lien can be a problem. If, for example, you need to do more work on your home down the road and try to apply for a home equity loan, having a city lien in place may cause the lender to say "no."

But, she said, the banker can send a letter to the city asking for the city lien to be made subordinate to the bank's loan.

In most cases, the city will agree and the bank will go ahead and make a new home improvement loan to the



homeowner, she said.

A homeowner who has the resources does not have to maintain the city loan in deferment. If he wants to pay it back, there's no rule that prevents that.

Some homeowners at the Feb. 3 meeting argued that there should be some provision to forgive some or all of the deferred loan if the homeowner maintains the home as his primary residence for much longer than the five years required to forgive the first \$5,000.

"You can't leave your heirs a home that's paid for if they have to pay off a \$20,000 loan to clear the title," one homeowner said. "It seems to me like there ought to be a system that forgives a percentage of the deferred loan for

every additional five years you live in the home. Chances are whatever the city loan paid for all those years ago has had to be re-done at least once."

Gooding explained that it is the repayment of deferred loans that provides the city with the funds to make additional loans to other needy homeowners.

"Most homes are worth more money – sometimes a lot more – as time goes by," she said. "The city loan is interest-free, so it's not costing you anything as long as you live in the house."

How much is 80% of median income?

For the Wichita area, the income limit for the city repair loan program is based on household size.

The annual income limit for a one-person household is \$47,700; for two people, \$54,500; for three people, \$61,300; for four people, \$68,100; for five people, \$73,550; for six people, \$79,000; for seven people, \$84,450; and for eight people, it is \$89,900.

For additional info or to apply, visit wichita.gov/420/Home-Repair. Program questions may be directed to Home Repair staff members at (316) 462-3713.

Nominate public service employees by
Feb. 29, 2024 by 5 p.m.

Do You Know a Great Wichita Public Servant?

Nominations are open for Excellence in Public Service Awards through Feb. 29.

By The Voice News Service

Residents are encouraged to nominate public service employees for the annual Excellence in Public Service Award. Now in its 36th year, each year the award recognizes an employee from the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, and Wichita Public Schools who exhibits a high standard of service in their job and in the community. Each honoree will receive a \$2,500 prize.

The nomination process continues through 5 p.m. Feb. 29. Nomination forms

are available in English and Spanish in the City Manager's Office, the County Manager's Office, and Wichita Public Schools' Strategic Communications Office. Nomination forms may be turned in at the City Manager's Office – City Hall 13th Floor, 455 N. Main.

Nominations will also be accepted at <https://shorturl.at/iAKT3>.

The Excellence in Public Service Award honors public employees who go beyond the call of duty and demonstrate the following:

- Exemplary performance that has contributed to the public interest;
- Innovative problem-solving skills that improve service delivery;
- Adherence to high ethical standards in carrying out job responsibilities; and

- A record of community involvement through participation in civic organizations.

Honorees will be selected by a committee of nine public and private sector representatives.

The Excellence in Public Service Award is sponsored by the DeVore Foundation and KSN-TV.

In April, the winners will be surprised at work by their supervisors, colleagues, selection committee members and media. In May, the winners will be honored at a reception attended by family, friends, co-workers, previous honorees, the selection committee and members of the DeVore Foundation.

Wichita's Storytime Village Wins \$5 Million Grant

State award will fund a new literacy-based community center and create 50 new child care slots.

By **PJ. Griekspoor**
Wichita Reporter

Wichita's Storytime Village is one of seven organizations statewide to receive a share of nearly \$28 million in Capital Projects Fund Accelerator awards that will create 458 new child care slots, Gov. Laura Kelly has announced.

Storytime Village's award is \$5 million and will fund a new literacy-based community center for all ages, focused on removing barriers for families to receive quality care and resources.

It will create 50 new child care slots. Storytime Village Founder and CEO Dr. Prisca Barnes said the

money for the organization will be transformational.

Barnes plans to partner with other agencies to offer wrap-around services that will help the entire community thrive, including helping people to find jobs and tap into resources that will support them at work.

She plans a child care center for 50 children that she wants to make into a "hub that serves the home-based child care providers that make up the bulk of caregivers in the community."

"I want it to be a place where those providers can access resources and help more children enter kindergarten ready to learn to read," she said. "There will also be health resources through a partnership with HealthCore Clinic and an event center where the community can come together to share special events."

She hopes to include a cafe space and is looking for a vendor for that.

Barnes said her inspiration is rooted in Africa.

"There is a tribe where the standard

greeting is 'How are the children?' and the hoped-for response is 'The children are well.' That comes from the idea that when the children are well, the community is well. I want our community in Wichita to be able to say 'The children are well!'"

Barnes said she will be working with Hutton Construction on building plans and will be announcing more specifics about the plan in the next few weeks.

The governor's announcement said the funding is made possible by using American Rescue Plan funding from the U.S. Capital Projects Fund, which awarded \$40 million to Kansas for the program.

"Supporting early literacy and healthy development opens doors to success and opportunities for our children and families," said Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Kansas Senate District 29. "The creation of the Storytime Village Literacy Center will strengthen early childhood development and provide families



Prisca Barnes (right) is founder and CEO of Storytime Village, a Wichita nonprofit that promotes childhood reading skills.

much-needed access to quality care and resources in my community and across Wichita."

Through two rounds of funding, the Capital Projects Fund Accelerator has provided \$38 million to create 771 new child care slots at multi-purpose community facilities. Combined

with the Child Care Capacity Accelerator program grants previously announced last year, the Kelly administration has provided \$94 million to expand access to child care for working families. These two funding opportunities have funded the creation of nearly 6,400 child care slots.

Celebrating
Culture **TKAAM**

THE KANSAS AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM / 1997 ▶ 2024

The Kansas African American Museum serves as the cultural hub for innovative collaboration, familial and historic storytelling, thought provoking exhibits, highly sought-after collections and interactive continuous learning centered around the African American experience.

INSPIRE • IGNITE • INNOVATE
Embracing the Future

Visit us

**THE KANSAS AFRICAN
AMERICAN MUSEUM**

601 N. Water St, Wichita, Ks 67203
316-262-7651
www.TKAAMuseum.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Tues - Fri: 10am - 5pm
Saturday: 12pm - 4pm
Closed: Sunday, Monday
and Major Holidays

Current Location

Future Location



**MBE / WBE
INVITATION TO BID**

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding the Blue Springs R IV School District – Middle School Storm Shelter Additions at Delta Woods and Moreland Ridge and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to: Final Cleaning; Polished Concrete; Cast-In-Place Concrete and Paving; Precast Concrete (Supply Only); Masonry; Structural Steel, Precast Erection, and Misc. Metal; Rough Carpentry, Selective Demolition, Finish Carpentry Install, and Specialties; Metal Wall Panels and Sheet Metal Flashing; Membrane Roofing; Waterproofing, Air Barrier, and Joint Sealants; Aluminum Storefronts and Glazing; Metal Stud Framing, Drywall, and Acoustical Ceilings; Painting and Coatings; Tile; Resilient Flooring and Carpet; Resinous Flooring; Acoustical Spray Insulation; Signage (Supply Only); Theater and Stage Equipment; Millwork, Casework, and Solid Surface Supply; Theatrical Seating; Fire Protection; Plumbing; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Electrical and Low Voltage; Earthwork and Site Utilities; Asphalt Paving and Landscaping

We would appreciate your indication of the scope of work you will include in your proposal by March 5, 2024. Proposals must be submitted to buildingconnected.com or our office by March 5, 2024, before 2:00 PM.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 1001 Locust Street Kansas City, MO 64106 Monday, February 19, 2024, at 10:00 AM

JE Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Emily Allen, Project Manager, by phone at (217) 550-6157, or by email at Emily.Allen@jedunn.com.

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

**Apply for Spectrum ‘Pay It Forward’
Grants for Multicultural Small Businesses**

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter



Spectrum Reach is calling on small multicultural businesses to apply for this year’s Pay It Forward grants before the Feb. 25 deadline. In 2021, Spectrum Reach – Spectrum’s advertising and marketing arm – started the Pay It Forward program as part of the company’s stated commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the business world.

Since then, the Pay It Forward program has invested \$50-plus million in advertising and resources, benefiting more than 2,000 businesses across 36 states. In 2024, an additional 250 businesses will be empowered through grant awards

The Pay It Forward initiative provides grant recipients with free TV and streaming advertising, an original 30-second commercial, local marketing support, on-demand educational resources, and exclusive networking opportunities. The program is open to businesses of all shapes and sizes. To be eligible for the Pay It Forward grant, businesses must be in one of the eligible markets, like Kansas City, and be in business for at least a year, among other criteria, but preference is given to minority-owned businesses.

“Local businesses and entrepreneurs form the backbone of the communities where we live and work. Simply put, when businesses thrive, so do their communities,” said Spectrum Reach Senior V.P. Michael Guth.

The selection process for Pay It Forward grants involves a committee evaluating the completeness of the application, demonstrated need for the grant, a well-articulated plan for achieving growth goals, and the business’s commitment to advancing DEI initiatives.

The application deadline is Feb. 25 at 11:59 p.m. For more eligibility info or to submit an application, visit SpectrumReachPayItForward.com.




Built on values.

When our founder, C.Q. Chandler II, first said, “You do business with people, not companies,” he understood that shared values are what create long-term relationships. These timeless values remain central to how we support you throughout the home loan process. Trust, honesty, and clear communication will always come first, and we’ll be with you every step of the way.

Apply now at intrustbank.com.




What does leadership look like?



Leadership isn't about where you come from or what you look like. It has nothing to do with your gender or where you fall on an org chart.

LEADERSHIP IS FOR EVERYONE.



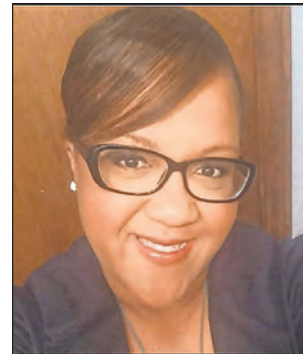
kansasleadershipcenter.org

Wichita Native Wins Master Educator Honor in Oklahoma

Passion Burkhalter Bradley, daughter of Pastor Earl and Carolyn Burkhalter, has been named a top-tier educator in the state of Oklahoma. She will be honored during halftime of the University of Oklahoma women's basketball game in Norman on Feb. 24.

Bradley was one of 900 educators nominated for the honor and was among the top 20 selected as a Master Educator. Each honoree will be awarded a \$20,000 prize, with \$15,000 going to the school where they teach and \$5,000 going to the educator. Funding is provided by the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board.

After obtaining her teaching degree, Bradley went to work as a teacher and has taught elementary and middle school for 24 years.



Passion Burkhalter Bradley

Read more <https://bit.ly/49jqjIX>

Lee's Summit Student Wins WSU's Gore Scholarship

What started with a competition between 547 of the best and brightest of the Class of 2024 ended with the selection of Lee's Summit student **Karinton Newton** winning one of three \$64,000, 4-year-scholarships to attend Wichita State University.

Newton, a student at



Karinton Newton

Summit Christian Academy, won the Harry Gore Memorial Scholarship, awarded through an invitational only competition, where students must have a 27 or higher ACT score, a 3.5 or higher GPA, or rank in the top 10% of their class.

Newton's high school record includes three varsity letters in track and field as a star hurdler, and four years on the student council, this year as president.

Newton has been a student ambassador all four years



Chief Brian Roberson

and outside school, she volunteers on a building crew helping renovate homes for the poor in Kansas City.

She plans to study criminal justice on a pre-law track.

Read more <https://bit.ly/3TOGHbL>

Roberson Has Made History in Johnson County: Hopes to Make More

Byron Roberson, made history in Johnson County when he became Chief of Police for the City of Prairie Village KS in January 2021. He is the first African-American Chief of Police of any municipality in the 154-year history of Johnson County, KS.

He hopes to make history again this year. He's filed to run for Johnson County Sheriff and if he wins in November, he'll be the first Black Sheriff in the County.

Johnson, who has served the cities of Prairie Village and Mission Hills, KS for over 29 years, rose up through the ranks, excelling every step of the way.

Chief Roberson is a graduate of Grandview High School and holds a Bachelor's Degree of Criminal Justice from Jackson State University, and a Master's Degree of Administration of Justice from the University of Central Missouri.

You can learn more about Roberson's campaign for sheriff and donate to his campaign at his website www.roberston4sheriff.com.



Earn a tax-free stipend

Classroom Foster Grandparents:

- Tutor and Mentor children in local schools or daycares
- Volunteer 15-40 hours a week
- Make new friends of all ages
- Must be 55 or older
- Earn Tax-Free stipend if income requirements are met*

Call to learn more!

Call (316) 264-8344, ext. 1211.



*To be eligible, household income must be below 200% of the federal poverty level based on household size.

WE ARE HIRING!

BROOKSIDE CHARTER SCHOOL

CAREER FAIR MARCH 2, 2024
10:00A-2:00P

Brookside Charter School
1815 E 63rd St KCMO 64130

See Open Positions at www.BrooksideCharter.org

The **REFLECTOR**



Henry Sewing: **The Midwest's First Black-Bank Owner** From Picking Cotton to Bank President

Page R7

The Black Arts Movement
The Cultural Side of the Black
Power Movement R5

Segregation By Policy
How the FHA Policies Kept
America Segregated R7-8

A Shero You May Have Missed
Callie House and the National E-Slave Mutual
Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association R15



Black History Theme 2024: African Americans and the Arts

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month, selects an annual theme for the celebration. This year's theme, "African Americans and the



Arts," explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of "visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression."

In each of these fields, African-American influence has been paramount. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen.

In 2024, as Black History Month encourages you, take time to examine the varied history and life of African-American artists and artisans. In addition, find ways to support Black artists of today.

More than just listening to the Black music or watching a Black film, we encourage you to take in a Black art exhibit, a play, poetry reading or read a Black book.



Give tribute to and enjoy the work of some famous Black Artists of Kansas and Missouri. The work of Topeka native Aaron Douglas is celebrated with a mural reproducing one his works, on Topeka's 12th Street between Lane and Washburn. A large artwork by Kansas City, KS, native and first Black astronaut turned sculptor Ed Dwight can be seen in the Linwood Square Shopping Center in Kansas City. Or a poem by Missouri native Maya Angelou is as close as a Google search.

Judge Constance Baker Motley 47th Black Heritage Stamp

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

Judge Constance Baker Motley (1921–2005), a civil rights pioneer and judiciary trailblazer, is the 47th honoree in the Black Heritage stamp series.

About Judge Motley

Motley was the first African-American woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court and the first to serve as a federal judge. A master legal tactician, Motley played a key role in knocking down legal segregation.

She started her career in 1945 when she began working for the future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF). She would stay 20 years, rising to associate counsel, second from the top.

While at the LDF she sued the University of Mississippi on behalf of James Meredith, who had been refused entrance, and the state of Mississippi on behalf of "Freedom Riders," who had been jailed while testing the interstate transportation laws.

She also represented Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., after he was arrested for marching in Birmingham, AL, in spring 1963. Motley worked on about 60 cases that reached the Supreme Court. She won nine of the 10 cases she argued before the Court.

In 1966, Motley was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Motley was sworn in on Sept. 9, 1966, and became the first African-American woman on the federal bench.

Motley was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2001 by President Bill Clinton. She died Sept. 28, 2005.



Constance-Baker-Motley

About the Stamp

The stamp features a portrait of Motley by internationally acclaimed artist Charly Palmer, based on an Associated Press photograph. Palmer's signature style involves providing his subjects with dynamic, stylized settings.

For the postage stamp image, Palmer created an arc of lace-like wheel shapes that surround the judge's head like a halo. He exaggerated a corsage that Motley is wearing in the reference photograph he worked from, setting his subject's face above a lush arrangement of tropical flowers whose colors are picked up in the background. Faint scratch marks add a nice textural component to the vibrant image.

"For me, painting a portrait isn't just capturing the likeness, but the spirit," says Palmer, who notes that he had the chance to speak to the late judge's son in preparing for the portrait.

Black Heritage Stamp

In 1978, the Postal Service initiated the Black Heritage stamp series, to recognize the achievements of individual African Americans.

NAACP

Wichita Branch

GET INVOLVED BECOME A MEMBER:

\$30 per Year/Adults - **\$10** per Year/ Youth & College

you can Join at: www.wichitaksnaacp.org use the

DONATE button or

mail a check to Wichita NAACP • PO Box 8695 • Wichita, KS 67208

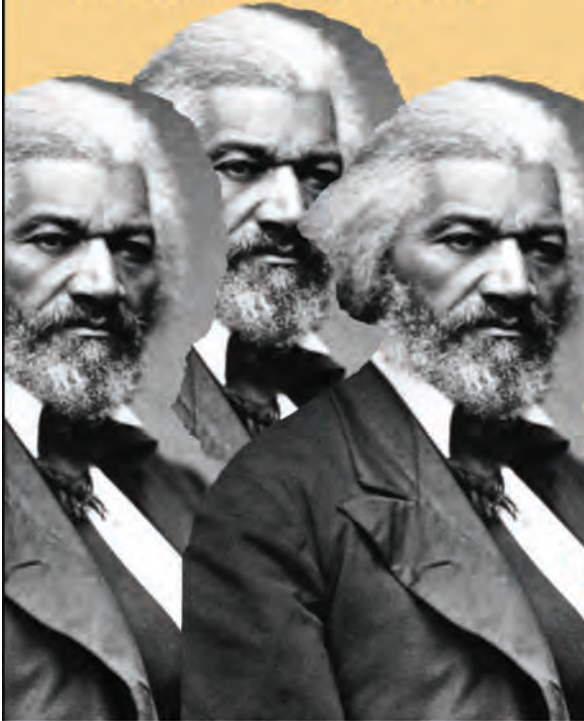
GET INVOLVED JOIN A COMMITTEE

- Criminal Justice • Economic Development • Education • Health
- Labor • Communications • International Affairs • Political Action
- Veterans Affairs • Housing

*"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."
Frederick Douglass*

BLACK History is **AMERICAN** History

General Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month
(contact mzemg@sbcglobal for location and time)



CELEBRATING KANSAS WOMEN WHO SHINE!



Are You Ready to Shine!

March 8, 2024

11 am | Wichita Art Museum

The International Women's Day Celebration recognizing Women who shine is back! Get your tickets now to honor 14 unforgettable women!

Proceeds will support Storytime Village's early literacy initiatives in Kansas



Scan Here to Get Tickets &
Learn About Sponsorships
or visit StorytimeVillage.org/shine2024!





Spirit AeroSystems is proud to celebrate Black History Month!



Robert McMeans
787 Project Manager
Spirit AeroSystems

A special congratulations to Robert McMeans who has been selected as the 2024 Walt W. Braithwaite Legacy Award honoree. He will be recognized at the Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) conference this month.

Learn more about career opportunities at spiritaero.com/careers.

Art: The Cultural Side of the Black Power Movement

The Black Arts Movement was one of the most influential art movements from the 20th century.

By **Bonita Gooch**
The Community Voice

The Black Arts Movement was a Black nationalism movement that focused on music, literature, drama, and the visual arts made up of Black artists and intellectuals. This was the cultural section of the Black Power movement, in that its participants shared many of the ideologies of Black self-determination, political beliefs, and African American culture.

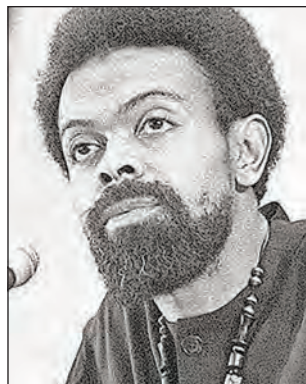
By incorporating visual motifs representative of the African Diaspora, as well as themes of revolutionary politics supporting Black Nationalism, the Black Arts Movement overtly distanced itself from White Eurocentric forms of art. It not only highlighted the work of Black artists but sought to define a universal experience of Blackness that expressed empowerment, pride, and liberation.

The Beginning

The Black Arts Movement is credited with starting in 1965 when poet Amiri Baraka established the Black Arts Repertory Theater in Harlem, New York, as a place for artistic expression, shortly after the death of Malcolm X.

Malcolm's death is also seen as an impetus for the movement, but others say... it was just time. With the creation of the Black Arts Movement, the Black Power movement often fell into one of two camps: the Revolutionary Nationalists, who were best represented by the Black Panther Party, and the Cultural Nationalists.

The latter group called for the creation of poetry, novels, visual arts, and



Amari Baraka

theater to reflect pride in black history and culture. This new emphasis was an affirmation of the autonomy of Black artists to create black art for black people as a means to awaken black consciousness and achieve liberation.

Amiri Baraka

Widely perceived as the father of the Black Arts Movement, the eminent African American poet was one of the most pertinent figures of the 20th century poetry and drama. Although he was born Everett Leroy Jones, he invented a moniker LeRoi Jones and became connected to other writers of the Beat generation in the late 50's.

Since he was already an established artist and play-writer at the time of the advent of the movement, many people find his turn to Black nationalism as a breaking point in the Black Arts history. His biggest contribution was the founding of the Black Arts Repertory Theatre / School (BARTS), a theatre that operated for a short period of time, but its influence remained strong in the following years.

However, for the majority of African American poets and writers, it was the 1962



Two Sides of Black Unity, Elizabeth Catlett, Black Unity, 1968, (cedar)

Umbrage Workshop that gave impetus to the Black Arts as a literary movement. The group consisted of young Black authors, mostly writers and musicians, with a few members who were involved in visual arts as well. It was based in Manhattan's Lower East Side, which is where Baraka used to live before he decided to start BARTS in Harlem.

At the upstart of the Black Arts Movement, theater and poetry took precedence. Baraka's poem, "Black Art," published in "The Liberator" in 1966, was a call to arms for Black artists to galvanize and assert themselves using language and aesthetic expressions that were uniquely indicative of the Black experience. In the poem, Baraka wrote:

"We want a black poem. And a / Black World. / Let the world be a Black Poem / And Let All Black People Speak This Poem / Silently / or LOUD."

In addition to Baraka, other notable Black Arts Movement authors and poets include Audre Lorde, James



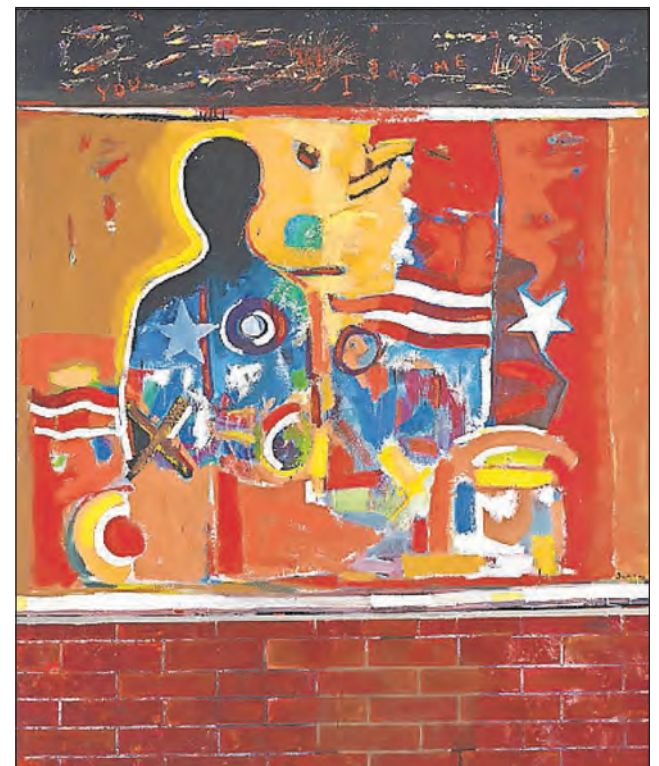
Revolutionary Suit

Jae Jarrell, Revolutionary Suit, 2010 (Wool, suede, silk, wood, pigment)
Baldwin, Gil Scott-Heron, Sonia Sanchez, Nikki Giovanni, Dudley Randall, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Maya Angelou.

Theater Groups and Journals

Key roles in the Black Arts Movement were played

See **ART** Page 18 →



David Driskell, "Ghetto Wall #2," 19 (oil, acrylic and collage on linen)

Nikki Giovanni Black Art Movement Poet

Nikki Giovanni is of the most famous female poets related to the Black Art Movement, along with Sonia Sanchez and Rosa Guy. The poet has written more than 30 books of poetry and some of the most famous among them have brought her great recognition. She was given the Princess of Black Poetry title by the "New York Times" and the Woman of the Year by "Ebony" magazine in 1970. She is one of the most devoted advocates of the Hip Hop subculture, which she sees as "a modern day civil rights movement."



Nikki Giovanni. ANDY MANIS

Celebrating Wichita's Black History



Thursdays, February 1-29
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Advanced Learning Library
(711 W. 2nd St.)

wichitalibrary.org



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

 **Capitol Federal** capfed.com
True Blue® for over 130 years 888-8CAPFED     

 FDIC

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



THECHAMBER

The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrates African American entrepreneurs and business owners who have helped shape, influence and cultivate Wichita's vibrant business community.



Local artist Hank Smith painted this mural-scale history of Douglass State Bank.

Henry Warren Sewing Founded the First Black-Owned Bank in the Midwest

How he went from cotton picker to a successful bank president dedicated to serving the Black community.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Henry Warren Sewing came from humble beginnings, but his tireless work led to him founding the Douglass State Bank, the first Black-owned and operated bank in the Midwest.

Born in Bremond, Texas, in 1891, his parents were Thomas and Margaret Sewing, who worked as a sharecropper and a washwoman. Sewing helped out the family by seasonally picking cotton and attended public school before he graduated from Tillotson College in 1915.

H.W. met his wife, and aside from a brief military service during World War I, they began settling into Austin, TX. Sewing had taught at Tilloston and Fisk while pursuing his education, so post college he found work as an educator in an elementary school before teaching Latin and math at an area high school.

With Black teachers making half of what their White counterparts did, Sewing took an accounting class as a possible new direction.

Sewing ran into a friend of his who was leaving Texas for



The Sewing Family 1939: Seated are Dimple Lee and H.W. Sewing, standing are Margaret Alma Sewing and Ina Rebecca Sewing.

a better opportunity, and that moment changed his trajectory. Sewing confided with his friend that he wouldn't mind leaving if an opportunity came his way.

"They [opportunities] will not come to you," Sewing recalled in his memoir. "You have to go to them."

Sewing tore up his teaching contract and set out for Chicago, where he looked for work but realized the area wasn't for him. He took a train to Kansas City and stayed at the Paseo YMCA until he found work in the meatpacking and railroad

industries.

"I don't believe that you can keep a good man down if he is determined to stand up and go forward," said Sewing.

Before long, he sent for his wife and child. The Sewings settled into Kansas City, KS, and Henry found more suitable work as a math instructor at Western University in Quindaro, Kansas. The industrious Sewing supplemented his low teacher's income first as a shoe cobbler, then as a part-time insurance salesman.

This began a successful decades-long career in the insurance industry for Sewing.



Douglass State Bank in Kansas City, Kansas.

He was an immediately successful salesman in 1922 for the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Prosperous years followed for Sewing, and he became the president and founder of his own Sentinel Loan and Investment Company that gave out small loans and underwrote insurance policies.

The idea of opening a Black-owned and Black-run bank seemed to come out of nowhere for Sewing. He recalls in his memoir mentioning the need for a Black bank in Kansas at a banquet without having thought of it before. But once the idea

was in his mind, he couldn't shake it, and he set out to open a bank even if it cost him his security.

"I must not only take the risk of losing such a substantial income, along with retirement and welfare benefits, but I must also do it with a smile of satisfaction because I am duty-bound and heaven-bound to take the leadership in these ventures," Sewing wrote in his diary April 21, 1946.

At the time, there were only eight banks in the US that were Black-owned and operated. Sewing hit the road and visited those banks and

Commissioned Douglass State Bank Mural

Upon an expansion, Sewing commissioned local artist Hank Smith to paint a mural-scale history of Douglass State Bank. The mural stayed at the original location of Douglass State Bank when it became Liberty Bank, which recently changed locations.

Mural ownership was transferred to the Sewing family, who donated it to the Black Archives of Mid-America. A dedication ceremony celebrating the mural's donation and relocation to the Black Archives is set for March 16.

their owners as he prepared to open his own. Sewing says that he didn't set out to establish a segregated bank but wanted one that was open to all and catered to the underserved Black community in the area.

See **BANK** Page 18 →

Segregated by Policy

How U.S. Government Housing Policies Segregated America

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

Key Points:

- For decades, federal policies for home loans locked Black families into ghetto-like neighborhoods in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.
- Prohibited from buying homes in the suburbs, they did not gain the equity appreciation in their homes that White families gained, resulting in generational wealth and higher quality of life.

We all know that discrimination against Black people in America continued beyond slavery. However, a lot of people, both Black and White, aren't aware how discriminatory the country's housing policies were. They weren't separate but equal, but separate and very unequal.

Economists agree the residual effects of the historic federal housing policies and programs have had a negative economic impact on African Americans that will be felt for generations to come.

The Depression

The U.S. government housing programs began during the Great Depression (1929-1933) with the government stepping up to help Americans of all races and to help stabilize the economy. Through the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), the federal government began buying up and refinancing delinquent loans to help families save their homes.

To further stimulate the housing market, the National Housing Act of 1934 created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). This new agency insured mortgages issued by qualified lenders, which protected the lenders from homeowners who might default on their home loans.

Before the establishment of the FHA, purchasing a home could be tough, with most mortgages requiring homebuyers to pay 50% of the cost of the home upfront. To encourage new and first-time homebuyers, the

new FHA loans offered more favorable loan terms with low down payments and interest rates, and longer repayment terms.

Redlined

As great as the FHA loans were, FHA policies made it nearly impossible for Blacks to qualify for these favorable loans.

Intending to develop national standards for analyzing the "risk" of a long-term home loan, HOLC created Residential Security Maps for 230 cities that were based on similar standards.

For each of these cities, they produced maps identifying neighborhoods they deemed safe to risky for home loans. Neighborhoods graded safest were given a grade of A and colored green on the map. "Still Desirable" neighborhoods were given a B and colored blue. "Definitely Declining" neighborhoods were given a C grade and colored yellow.

"Hazardous" neighborhoods were given a grade of D and colored red - hence the term redlining. On the maps, these high-risk areas were outlined in red, or sometimes colored red.

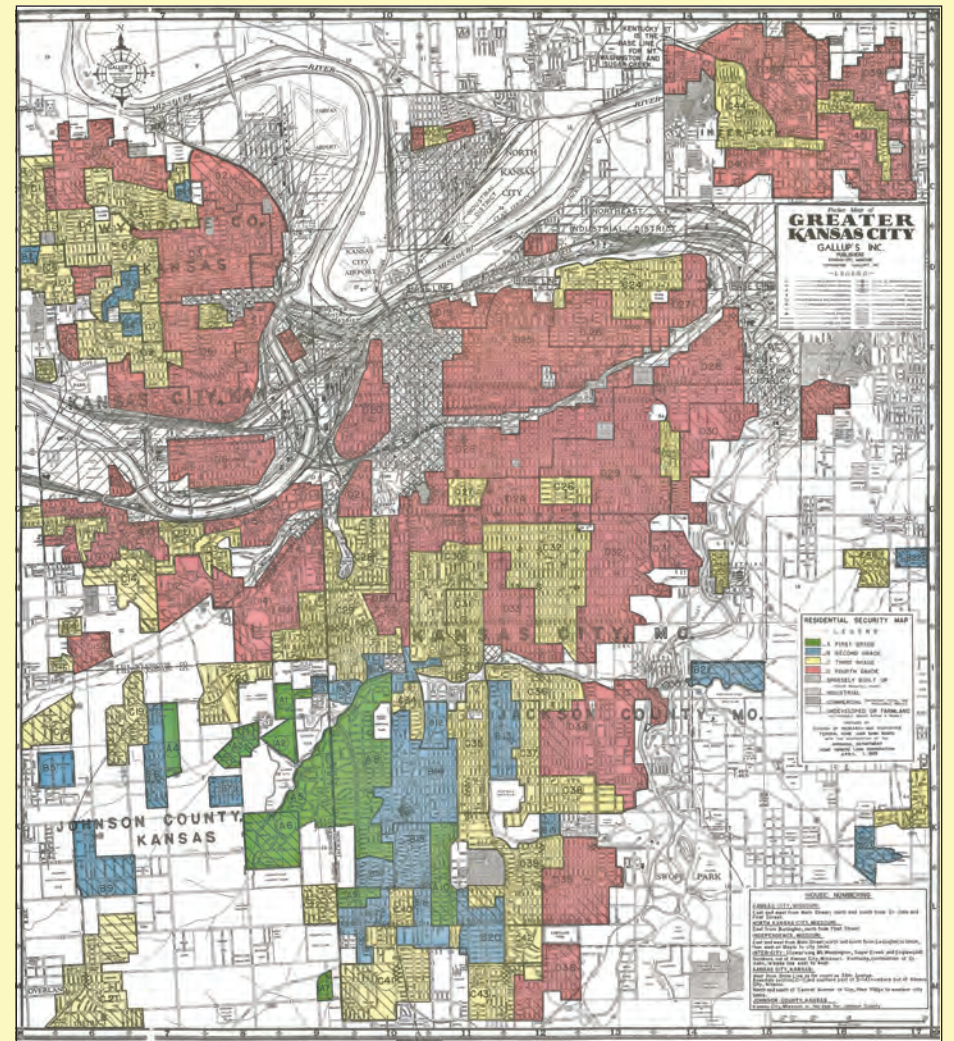
Areas where Blacks lived were almost always classified as hazardous, no matter the income level of the Blacks living in the area. The FHA usually wouldn't offer their amazing new mortgages in redlined inner-city Black neighborhoods, it didn't matter how financially safe the buyers were.

Many private banks, savings and loans, and later the Veterans Administration, copied federal redline lending standards when making their mortgages.

Policies Supported Segregation

The FHA wouldn't make a loan in a "Hazardous" area other than to Black buyers and they wouldn't let qualified Black buyers purchase homes in green, blue or yellow areas.

The early FHA "Underwriting Manual," which all lenders who issued FHA-insured mortgages were required to follow, had numerous references to the importance of maintaining racially separate housing areas as a way to maintain the "stability" of neighborhoods and to minimize decreasing



Residential Security Map Kansas City Home Owners' Loan Corporation

4% Best
7% Desirable
26% Definitely Declining
41% Hazardous

HOLC Area Description and Characteristics of Hazardous Area

This far-flung area, containing the principal negro habitat of Kansas City, MO, is that old section where values were "shot" several years ago. The colored belt extends from the vicinity of Troost east to the vicinity of Cleveland, south to 27th Street and north to the vicinity of 12th Street. Scattered throughout the negro district is the typical wide variety of large old houses, poorly kept, occupied by low-income wage earners and laborers.

values of homes they insured.

As an example, section 937 “Quality of Neighboring Development” in the Underwriting Manual read, “If a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes.”

The Underwriting Manual also recommended highways as a good way to separate African-American from White neighborhoods. While policies like these weren’t a matter of law, they were published government regulations and they weren’t hidden.

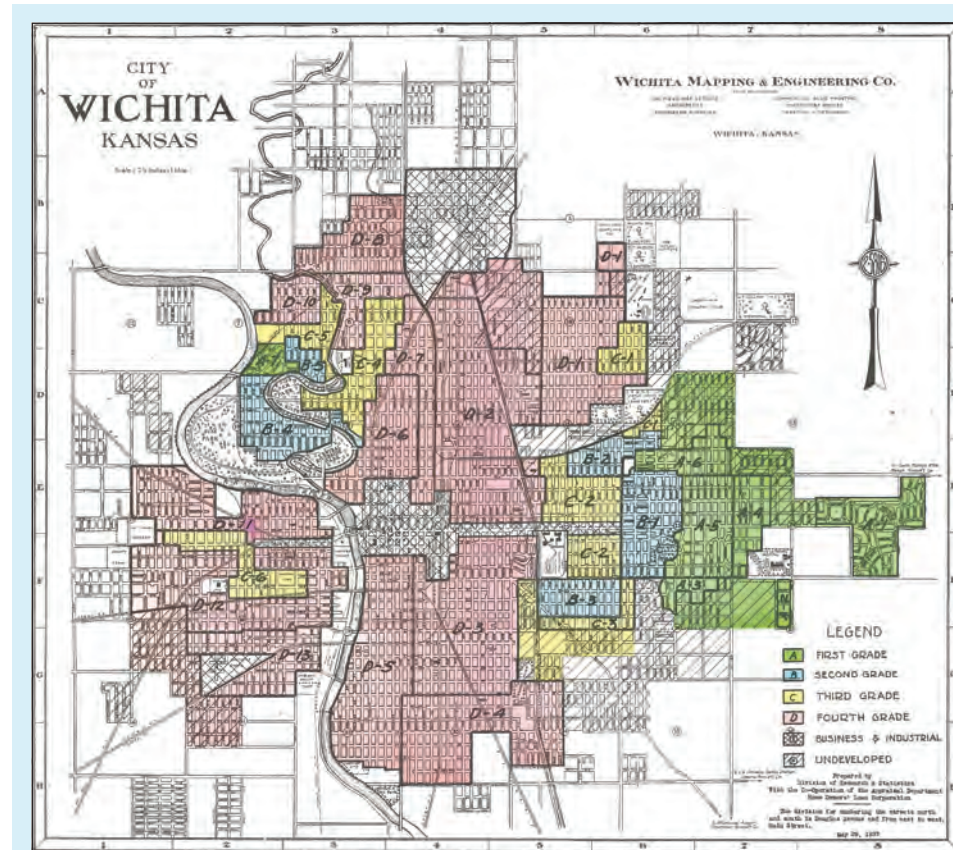
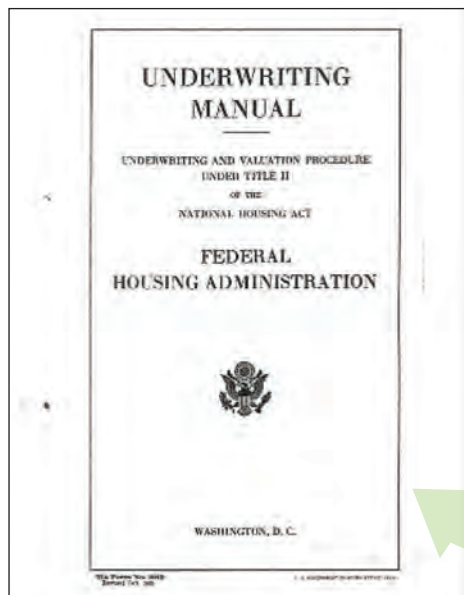
Racial Covenants

Another way FHA and developers helped maintain segregated communities was by supporting the use of racial covenants or deed restrictions. Race covenants typically restricted selling or even renting a home to a person of color.

With no laws against them, racial covenants were an accepted practice in most new suburban developments in the 1950s. The FHA Underwriting Manual section 980G encouraged the use of restrictive covenants to “prohibit the occupancy of properties except by the race for which they were intended.”

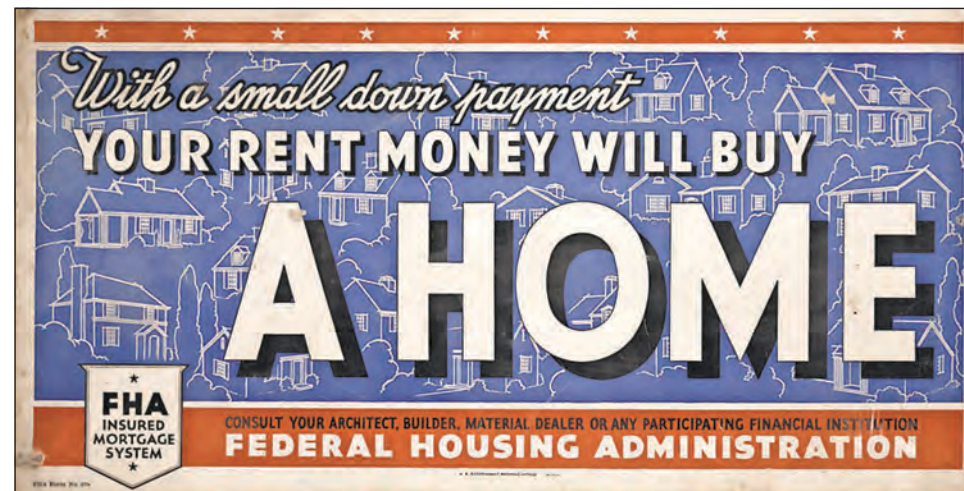
Creating Ghettos

With African Americans restricted from moving into many areas due to racial restrictions, FHA underwriting policies and other lending practices, they were limited to purchasing homes -- almost exclusively -- in predominantly Black or redlined communities. The FHA and VA were sometimes willing to secure mortgages for qualified Black homebuyers wanting to buy homes within redlined areas. While this practice maintained segregated areas, it did generate a slight uptick in Black homeownership in the ’50s and ’60s.



**Residential Security Map
Wichita Home Owners'
Loan Corporation**

14% Best
7% Desirable
11% Definitely Declining
28% Hazardous



Excerpt from the 1938 Underwriting Manual, a federal policy guidebook courtesy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

937, Quality of Neighboring Development

Areas surrounding a location are investigated to determine whether incompatible racial and social groups are present, for the purpose of making a prediction regarding the probability of the location being involved by such groups. If a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes. A change in social or racial occupancy generally contributes to instability and decline in values.

Economic Consequences

Generations of Black families are still suffering from the economic consequences of residential segregation. Because African Americans were prohibited from buying homes in the suburbs in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s, they did not gain the equity appreciation in their homes that White families gained.

As a result, today African-American incomes on average are about 60% of average White incomes, but African-American wealth is about 5% percent of White wealth. With most middle-class families in this country gaining their wealth from the equity they have in their homes, it’s easy to see how the enormous difference in wealth is almost entirely attributable to federal housing policies that kept Black homeowners out of suburbs and in segregated ghettos.

In the 1940s and ’50s, homes were affordable for working-class families – both Black and White – with homes selling for about twice the national median family income. Those VA and FHA homes financed during the period when Black families were shut out of the suburban market are now selling for \$300,000 or \$400,000, or eight to nine times the national median income.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 made discriminatory housing practices illegal. But by then homes were no longer affordable for working-class Americans.

Off of their gained equity, White families were able to send their children to college, care for their parents in old age, and bequeath wealth to their children. None of those advantages accrued to African Americans, who, for the most part, were blocked from the suburbs.

Sources:

- “Redlined: Cities, Suburbs, Segregation” – jcpd.com/museum
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – st-louisfed.org and fredblog.stlouisfed.org
- Nation Community Reinvestment Coalition – ncr.org
- The Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston – bostonfairhousing.org
- History.com
- NPR.org
- Catalyst.independent.org
- Forbes.com
- Bankrate.com

Donald Sewing: Trailblazer of Integration in Johnson County

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Developer J.C. Nichols' expanded his influence on the Kansas residential market when he expanded development into northeast Johnson. Along with his upscale style, he brought along his firm beliefs in racial segregation.

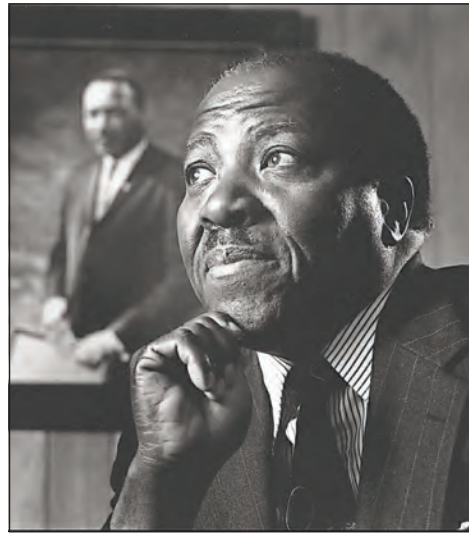
Nichols developed a "Declaration of Restrictions" that he filed with plat maps for his suburban subdivisions. In addition to governing minimum size and cost, they also race restrictions.

Segregationists.

These restrictions were stronger than deed restriction that just covered on home, the Declarations of Restriction applied to the entire subdivision and applied for a minimum of 20 years. By 1950, an estimated 96% of all subdivision in Johnson County, KS were under racially restrictive covenants.

But then came Donald Sewing, a visionary real estate agent whose efforts reshaped the demographic landscape of Johnson County.

Sewing, alongside his wife, Virginia, made history as the first Black family to integrate the new Johnson County subdivisions. There had been a couple of pockets of Black residents in Johnson County – in Merriam and Olathe – but the new suburban developments were all White when the Sewings purchased their home



Realtor Donald Sewing is H.W. Sewing's nephew.

in Fairway, KS in 1966.

Because of the racial restrictions, the Sewings had to purchase their home through a series of straw buyers and a White friend who sold them the home in 1966.

The Sewings faced pushback. At first, there was a lone picketer outside their home on a hot day, who the Sewings invited inside for a soda to talk and get to know them. Then the Sunday edition of "The Kansas City Star" got a hold of the story and printed a bold headline, "Negro Moves Into Fairway," and things escalated.

According to an archival interview with

Sewing, cars paraded all day in front of their home. They were blocked from getting into their driveway. Some protesters threw paintballs, rocks, and large firecrackers over and around their new home.

Someone set up loudspeakers where the Sewings heard angry, racist, hate messages. Car horns were blown, car lights were flashed and threats were made on the Sewings' lives.

For several weeks, Fairway Mayor Neale Peterson sent police escorts to their home. Some friendly nearby neighbors, including the Schechter family, the Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly, and members of Village Presbyterian Church, made regular visits to the home to support the Sewing family.

Over time the protestors disappeared and the Sewings and their neighbors began to respect each other, even if everyone wasn't friendly.

"I know my neighbors got a genuine education," Sewing said in an oral history interview. "I wanted them to know that whenever you think of yourself, think of us because it ain't no difference except color."

Sewing did not stop with his family. Through his real estate company, he worked to integrate other suburban neighborhoods throughout Northeast Johnson County. He utilized the 1964 Fair Housing Act and the 1968 Civil Rights Act to help Black families purchase homes in Merriam, Prairie Village, and Leawood.

He deployed a sophisticated strategy of

scattering Black families across Johnson County to prevent racial turnover of White families, or "blockbusting."

"The theory was if you use the scatter approach to integration in housing, there was no place [for White families] to run to," said Sewing.

By 1969, about 30 Black families had purchased homes in previously segregated Johnson County, and by 1971, the number had jumped to nearly 60. Sewing even received national attention when his efforts were featured in "The Wall Street Journal" in February 1969.

Donald Sewing lived in Johnson County until his death in 2007 at age 76. His widow, Virginia Sewing, still resides in Johnson County.

Virginia also made significant contributions to the cause of integration, when she became the first African-American elected to the Northeast Shawnee Mission School Board and as the first Black person to graduate from Johnson County College School of Nursing.

In 2022, Virginia and Donald Sewing were given the Civil Rights Pioneer Award by the Johnson County NAACP, recognizing them for breaking barriers and blazing a trail for future generations in the area.

Sources:

Redlined: Cities, Suburbs, Segregation
<https://www.jocohistory.org/digital/collection/oralhist/id/32/>

ART, from Page 13 ↓

by Black theaters and journals that began operating independently, if not differently, from the system established by the White society. Besides its initial purpose as a home for performance, dance, music and drama, the Black theater was used perpetually as a place for lectures, talks, film screenings, meetings and panel discussions.

More importantly, it kept the spirit of a productive, activist cultural center, as opposed to other theatres (Black or White), which were either vastly commercialized or restrictive, primarily focused on high art.

Black theater groups opened all across the United States - in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc. Some of the most famous ones include The New Lafayette Theatre and Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre from New York and The Organization of Black American Culture (OBAC) in Chicago. OBAC attracted visual artist groups as well,

whose work inspired mural movements and reportedly influenced the inauguration of Afri Cobra - the African Commune of Bad, Revolutionary Artists.

However, all that was achieved in theatres wouldn't have been as influential had there not been the magazines and journals that popularized Black literature and made it known by the public. The most important magazine to publish Black literature was "Negro Digest / Black World," a journal that became famous for high-quality publication content, that included fiction, poetry, drama, criticism and theoretical articles as well.

Significance and Legacy

Although the movement does not exist as such today - the members took separate ways, as their political views started diverging in 1974 - you can hear, feel and see the influence of the movement in its spirit echoing in today's music, Rap music; poetry, Spoken Word; and art with its expressive aesthetics of many kinds.

BANK, from Page 15 ↓

"The color of a man's skin is not a safe standard for measuring his credit risk," said Sewing.

In 1947, he opened the Douglass State Bank at 1314 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS, to a great ceremony. A motorized parade began at the segregated Lincoln High School in Kansas City, MO, and ended at Sumner High School, its Kansas counterpart that was six miles away.

"Douglass State is a continuation of the things Frederick Douglass fought for," remarked a speaker at the bank's dedication day.

This so-called "Negro bank," the product of Henry Sewing's vision, provided home mortgages and small business loans and brought economic development to its community. Douglass State Bank was the first in the area to have a night deposit box, and through their efforts, they showed other area banks that Black folks' money is just as good as White.

Douglass State Bank was the first in the area to offer home loans to Black individuals no matter where they intended to buy a home. Over the first 30 years of operation, the bank invested over \$17M in home mortgages, empowering the community with home ownership.

The bank also offered good-paying jobs for the Black community and boasted several future bank presidents they trained and employed.

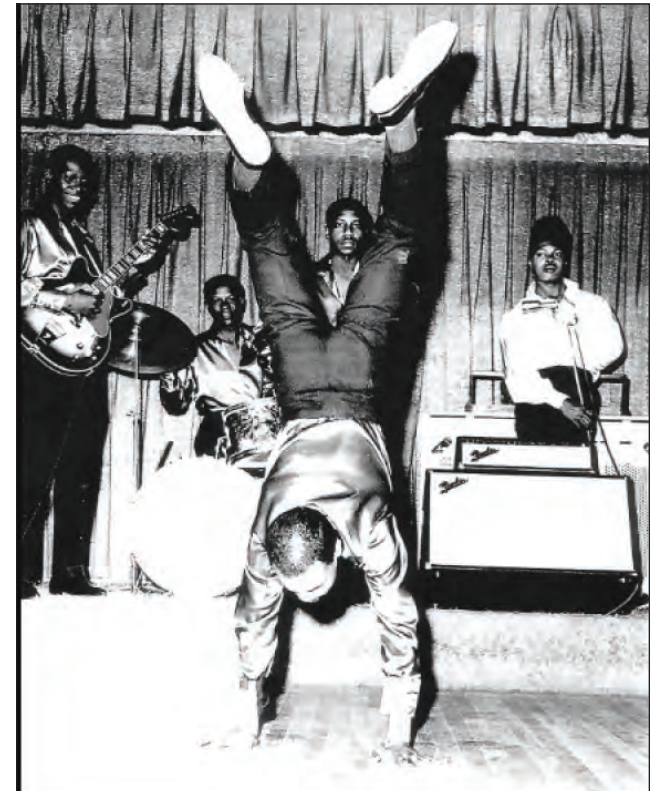
Henry Warren Sewing passed away in 1980, and Douglass State Bank closed in 1983.

Sources:

Henry Warren Sewing: Founder of the Douglass State Bank, 1971
An oral history interview was also used for reference:
<https://kchistory.org/islandora/search/Henry%20Warren%20Sewing?type=edismax>



These Smart Brothers Band were a local hit in Wichita, known for their high energy and big instrumental sound.



Brother John Smart was known for popping handstands and back flipping at the climatic end of a song period

Hall of Fame Family: Historic Wichita's Smart Brothers Band

The soulful sound of Wichita's Smart Brothers Band has a much deserved recognition: a place in the Kansas Music Hall of Fame. The band was inducted in 2017 into the

hall, established in 2004 to recognize Kansas and Kansas City Metro Area musicians' contribution to music in Kansas and across the world.

The Smart Brothers Band

was a Wichita favorite in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. While the group's membership and name changed over the decades, they always stayed true to their soulful roots. The group was primarily composed of the Smart Brothers – there were eight of them – who played instruments and knew how to entertain an audience.

Band leader Richard "Dick" Smart says the brothers all played instruments and loved engaging the audience.

"The Smart Brothers

were exciting," Smart says. "They had a lot of showmanship, showmanship I don't even see today."

John and Leroy Smart were the band's animated front line. John was known for popping handstands and back-flipping at the climatic end of a song, and for dancing while balancing his saxophone on the back of his neck. Leroy "Iron Jaw" Smart's moves were even more unbelievable. He'd warm up with some handstands and back-flips, then jump off the stage into the splits,

pick up a table or chair by his teeth and toss it aside.

In the '60s and early '70s, the band played weekends at their family-owned club and restaurant, called Smart's Palace. The band was also the opening act for The Temptations and The Staple Singers when they came to Wichita to perform.

Theirs was an old school, funky sound, heavy on live instruments. The band had a full-instrumental ensemble with some real funky guitar players.

Dick was the band's

bass-player and business manager and the power behind the Smarts' soul empire, which included the band, club, restaurant, record store, and record label.

If you want to hear what the band sounds like, in 2009, they released on the famed Numero reissue label a compilation of songs by the Smart Brothers and Smart Palace-affiliated groups.

Listening to the 19-song mix gives you a real understanding of Wichita's historical music scene.

You can hear the album on Spotify, and probably other streaming channels. Search "Eccentric Soul: Smart's Palace."

The Smart Brothers joined other notable African Americans with Kansas roots in the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, including Count Basie, Bobby Watson and Charlie Parker. Another early inductee into the hall was Wichita star Rudy Love.

So tiny, so small,
you are **LOVED** by all.

Choices Medical Clinic, Inc.®

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IS BLACK HISTORY
trustwomen.org

TRUST WOMEN



During Black History month, we're recognizing trailblazing individuals like **CHRISTYN GUNTER**, Sr. Pastor at Rock Christian Fellowship church. Christyn hosts Alzheimer's educations for her ministry leaders and congregation and encourages them by saying, "We need to take better care of our bodily temples and each other by accessing resources such as the Alzheimer's Association." Christyn has also served on the Memory Gala Committee and provided the invocation at both the Gala and an AWARE event. Learn more about Alzheimer's disease at [alz.org](https://www.alz.org).

If you need help, please know that the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline is here for you every day, all day.

800.272.3900

Offered in more than 200 languages



Harrison R. Brown
First Black Police Officer to
lose his life in the line of duty
1923-1925.



Jeff Thompson
First Black Wichita
Police Detective



Sam Jones
First Black Police Officer
1896-1930



Charles Giles
First Black Police Officer to
arrest whites.



Floyd Powell
First black police officer to attain
the rank of major and interim
Chief of Police



Wanda Parker-Givens
First Black Female Deputy Chief



Captain Robert Peach
First black police officer to make
the rank of captain 1957-1977

Wichita Police Department Celebrates Black History

This month, we honor the outstanding African Americans who have made an indelible impact on the Wichita Police Department and our beloved community. Their invaluable contributions and sacrifices have paved the way for generations of African American leaders in Wichita and across the United States. It is our privilege to acknowledge their achievements during Black History Month.

From trailblazing officers to community advocates, we recognize and salute those who have played a pivotal role in shaping the fabric of Wichita. Their resilience, courage, and dedication have inspired us all.

As we commemorate Black History Month, let us celebrate the rich cultural heritage, the triumphs, and the adversities that have shaped our nation's history. Together, we honor the legacy of African Americans who continue to inspire us with their enduring spirit and unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

Join us in celebrating Black History Month and honoring the profound impact of African Americans in our community and beyond. Together, let's continue to strive for a future where diversity, inclusion, and unity reign supreme.

The Wichita Police Department is currently seeking eligible candidates who are willing to contribute to their community and build a legacy story for themselves. If you are enthusiastic about serving and wish to follow in the footsteps of African Americans who played a significant role in law enforcement, we invite you to join our team and apply today at wpdjobs.com.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“The History of the Negro Baseball Leagues”

presentation by BYRON MOTLEY

Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Butler Community College - El Dorado Campus
Hubbard Welcome Center - Clifford/Stone Room

Mr. Motley's presentation will include a short introduction and then the presentation of a documentary movie he has created called, "The League." This will be followed by Q&A by Mr. Motley.

Free and open to the public.

Made possible by the Harold Smith Cultural Series through the Butler Foundation.



ButlerCC.edu

This Black History Month, we're rebuking the legacy of felony disenfranchisement that continues to silence Black voices.

Join us for our **Restore My Vote** training, where you'll hear from system-impacted Kansans about the effects of felony disenfranchisement, take part in a "Know Your Voting Rights" training, and learn about community resources.

This training is for all of us who care about an equitable and fully representative democracy.

Restore My Vote:

Empowering Returning Citizens with Voting Rights Education and Community Resources

Sedgwick County **Wyandotte County**
March 5 @ 6:30 PM Feb 25 @ 1:30 PM

RSVP @ restoremyvoteks.org



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proud to offer dependable water and electric service to every household and business in our community. We're committed to the neighborhoods that we serve and work hard to maintain your satisfaction through stable and reliable service.

It's more than simply providing a service. It's a commitment to a better quality of life.



540 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101
913-573-9000 | bpu.com



Callie House Dedicated Her Life to Getting a 'Pension' for Ex-Slaves

Key Points:

- Callie Guy House co-founded the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association.
- Crusaded for the U.S. Government to pay pensions for ex-slaves.
- Her idea was popular and gained a lot of supporters but also a lot of enemies who tried to stop her crusade.

them in powerful places.

House was born a slave in Tennessee in 1861, not long before the end of slavery. So, she grew up free, but in the Jim Crow South.

She didn't receive much education, but in 1883 she married William House and they had five children. She worked taking in laundry and moved with her family to Nashville in the mid-1890s.

In south Nashville, House saw various advertisements and flyers for pro-reparations movements.

Encouraged, she teamed up with Isaiah Dickerson, also a former slave, to organize the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association in 1894 to provide relief and services on a local level while agitating for reparations on a national level.

In 1898, House and Dickerson traveled throughout

southern and border states gathering support for the new organization.

The organization was open to everyone regardless of their religion, financial standing or race.

During her 1897-99 lecture tour, the association's membership increased by 34,000, mainly through her efforts. By 1900, its nationwide membership was estimated to be around 300,000.

On a local level the organization functioned similarly to immigrant aid societies that emerged in urban areas in the early 1900s.

Local chapters were established and funded through monthly dues to provide burial expenses for members and to care for those who were sick and disabled.

On a national level, the organization held conventions, elected national officers, and worked for the passage of congressional legislation in support of ex-slave reparations.

The national organization also provided traveling expenses to reparation lobbyists and local chapter organizers. Additionally, it corresponded with local chapters, which responded by paying national dues to further the goal of a reparations bill that would provide monetary compensation for ex-slaves for their labor in the

antebellum American South.

Is This a Scam?

Leading Blacks of that time, like W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, pretty much ignored House and her movement. They were busy working on Civil Rights.

Newspapers of the time often ridiculed her efforts.

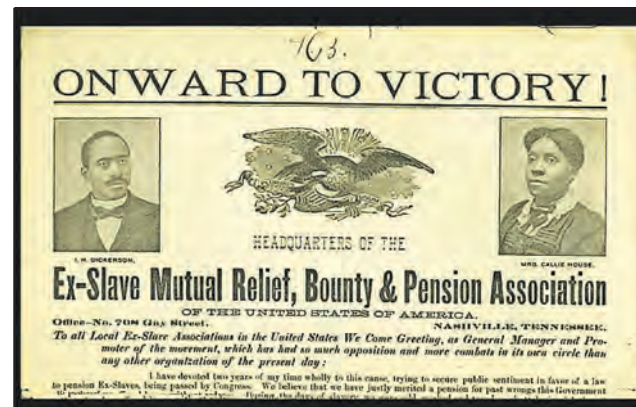
Whites were so convinced that the reparations legislation wouldn't pass that they suspected House and Dickerson were defrauding African Americans out of their money with promises of reparations.

In response from supposed complaints from White constituents, the U.S. Pensions Bureau, the governmental agency that supervised the dispersion of money to Union veterans, started covert surveillance on House and the association.

Federal mail fraud laws gave the U.S. Post Office wide powers to deem any piece of mail fraudulent and deny the use of mail to persons engaged in fraud or perceived fraud.

In 1899, House received notice that the Post Office had issued a fraud order against her and her organization, ostensibly because they were, according to postal authorities, soliciting money under false pretenses.

Continued federal hostility led House to step down from her post as assistant secretary of the Ex-Slave Pension Association in 1902. She continued to organize local chapters throughout the South, but after the failure of Alabama Congressman Edmund Petus'



reparations legislation in 1903, the reparations movement in Congress lost momentum and support eroded.

The Audacity to Sue

Facing the prospect of stalled legislation, House enlisted the aid of attorney Cornelius Jones to sue the U.S. Treasury Dept. for \$68,073,388.99 in cotton taxes traced to slave labor in Texas. In 1915, they filed the suit in district court and, although the litigation raised the profile of the slave reparations issue, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals dismissed the suit, citing governmental immunity from litigation.

Indicted

In 1916 Postmaster General A. S. Burleson sought an indictment against Callie House. On May 10, 1916, Nashville District Attorney Lee Douglass filed indictments against House and other officers of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association charging that they had obtained money from ex-slaves by fraudulent

circulares proclaiming that pensions and reparations were forthcoming.

The district attorney's evidence was flimsy. None of the victims of the supposed fraud were named, and the literature in question stated only that the monies paid to the national organization would be used to promote the passage of legislation for slave reparations.

Additionally, House still resided in the same home in South Nashville, undermining the allegation that she personally profited from her work with the association.

Although the evidence was weak, an all-male, White jury convicted House on the charge of mail fraud, resulting in a sentence of a year and one day. She served her sentence in the Jefferson City, MO, penitentiary from Nov. 1917 to Aug. 1, 1918, earning early release for good behavior.

Following her release from prison, she resumed her work as a laundress in her south Nashville community. She died in 1928.



By Bonita Gooch,
Editor-in-Chief

Between 40 acres and a mule and the modern-day reparations movement, sits Callie Guy House.

House was a Black woman in the South who dared to believe ex-slaves should receive some financial benefits for their years of free service.

She found lots of fans, but made lots of enemies, some of

BLACK HISTORY COMPARISON



Marcus Garvey (1887-1940)

Marcus Garvey was founder of the Black Nationalist movement the Universal

Negro Improvement and Conservation Association, more often referred to as the UNIA, also built a big grassroots organization.

At its height, the movement reportedly had more than 2,000,000 members. The organization was dedicated to racial pride, economic self-sufficiency, and

the formation of an independent Black nation in Africa.

However, like House, he attracted many enemies and was eventually bought down by an indictment and conviction of mail fraud. He was arrested in 1922, just six years after House was similarly indicted.



John Conyers (1929 - 2019)

John James Conyers Jr. served as a Michigan Congressman from 1965

to 2017 and was the longest-serving African-American member of Congress in history.

Like House, Conyers was a big supporter of reparations. Conyers first introduced the "Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act"

in January 1989. At that time, he stated his intention to annually propose this act until it was approved and passed, and he did each year until he left congress in 2017. The bill's designation was changed to HR40 in 1997, alluding to the promise of "40 acres and a mule."



Diversity is a Powerful Resource

At Evergy, we believe it's important to tap into the diversity of our region. Diversity strengthens and enriches our company and our communities.

**We are proud to celebrate
Black History Month.**

 evergy

Mennonite Housing *Realize Your Dreams*

NEW HOMES FOR SALE WITH INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

HOUSE PAYMENT \$625 OR LESS

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

For info, visit mhrsi.org or call Julie Smith at 316-942-4848

Sylvester Thompson
Retirement & Insurance Advisor

Does your family have life insurance or will you need to "GoFundMe" to bury your loved ones?

I CAN HELP!

HEALTH | LIFE | CANCER | BURIAL

Contact me at: Cell (316) 648-1972
nvestor77@gmail.com

This season brings with it the potential risks of infections that can be prevented through vaccination. By taking this step, we protect ourselves and our loved ones.

Every conversation, every smile, every shared memory – they're all worth protecting.

Because we care.

VACCINATE + PROTECT

LEARN MORE AT **WeHelpKansas.com**

KANSAS AGING & DISABILITY Resource Center

INDIAN SPRINGS,
from Page 3 ↓

Indian Springs Mall History

Indian Springs Mall originally opened in 1971, but like many malls across the

country lost traffic to changing shopping habits and more modern retail spaces. Shortly after its last major anchor tenant pulled out in 2001, the mall closed for retail.

The old structure has been

demolished and the only structures currently on the site are a KCATA bus transfer center, a KCKPD patrol station and the offices of the Area Agency on Aging. The UG currently owns the property.

SOUTHPOINTE
from Page 4 ↓

developer for the site, and Urban America was selected. As City Manager Platt said, urban development can be tough, as indicated by it taking six years from that

point to get to a ceremonial groundbreaking on the site.

As Councilmember Curls said, "Hopefully, eventually, there's gonna be something there that we can see."

And it's taken a full six years since then to finally get to a ground breaking.

The city then spent hundreds of thousands on environmental remediation to remove the cancer-causing asbestos from the site. In the meantime, two of CDC-KC's executives plead guilty to grand jury charges stemming from improper handling of asbestos during the demolition process.

In 2016, the city put out a request for proposals to find a new developer, and Texas-based Urban America, the current developer of Southpointe at 63rd, was selected. Since that time, Urban America formed a partnership with CJR Development and has gone through the process of acquiring incentives, including TIF and Central City Economic Development funds.

The project faced further delays with the COVID-19 pandemic. A concerted effort from the community, developers, and city—they've met weekly to try and advance the project over the past three years—led up to the groundbreaking.

Kansas City took possession of the land, but they were ven. razed by CDC-KC from 2001 to 2006, but the developers failed to properly monitor asbestos removal before some of the homes were torn down. From there, the project collapsed amid financial and environmental problems.

In 2011, the City Council approved the \$15M to settle several lawsuits facing the development. That settlement also transferred ownership of the properties to the city and cleared the way for another chance at development.

GIVENS
DISASTER RESTORATION
FLOOD FIRE MOLD AIRDUCT

We work with all Insurance Companies

24 HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

316-265-1315
Locally Owned and Operated 50 Years of Experience

FINAL EXPENSE LIFE INSURANCE

This policy covers the policyholder for his/her entire life, with final expense insurance benefits at an affordable rate. Whole life program.

Final Expense Monthly Premium
(non-smokers)

Age	Female	Male	Amount of Insurance
50	\$23.10	\$26.04	\$10,000
55	\$26.38	\$30.64	\$10,000
60	\$30.99	\$36.46	\$10,000
65	\$37.32	\$44.82	\$10,000
75	\$35.82	\$42.66	\$5,000

KSKJ LIFE! AMERICAN SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC UNION

For more information call **CLIFF CROSS**
316.721-4200 (OFFICE) • 316.841-0091 (CELL)

40 YEARS
of insurance service

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
All your protection under one roof®

Sammy O. Oduniyi Agency
1117 S. Rock Rd. Ste 4A • Wichita, KS 67207
316.685.7700 • soduniyi@amfam.com
www.sammyoagency.com

Sammy O. Oduniyi

• Auto • Home • Life • Business

Competitive Rates Quality Service Monthly Payment Plans
Discounts Available 24-Hour Claims Reporting & Customer Service

Royals Choose Downtown Stadium Location

The proposed site in the East Crossroads area hopes to 'connect neighborhoods' like 18th & Vine with downtown development

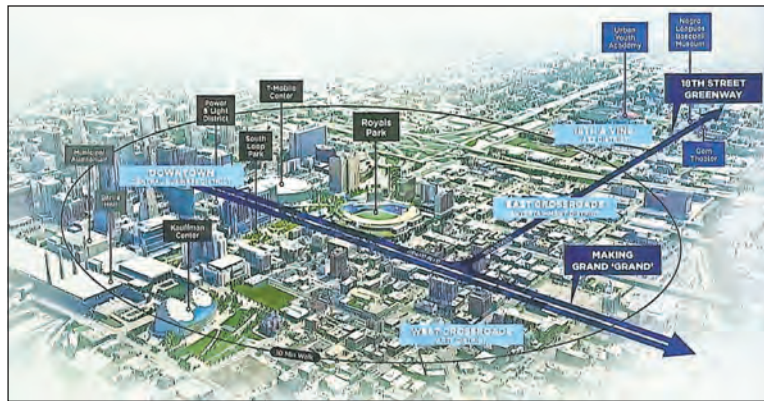
By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

In a move that could reshape Kansas City's downtown, the Royals unveiled plans to build a new ballpark in the East Crossroads neighborhood.

The chosen site for the new stadium is bordered by Grand Boulevard on the west, 17th Street to the south, Locust Street to the east and Truman Road to the north. The site covers the former Kansas City Star Press Pavilion location overlooking the highway directly across from the T-Mobile Center, downtown.

The renderings shared by the Royals depict a grand-scale project that includes a new stadium, office spaces, retail outlets, residential areas, and other area development.

The 173-acre site would be the largest public-private partnership in Kansas City's history, costing a



An ariel view of the ballpark, the circle marks a 10-minute walk to the stadium.

total of \$2 billion. One billion will go towards building a new stadium and would be subsidized by taxpayers through a proposed extension of a 3/8th cent sales tax. The Royals ownership group also promises to put forward \$1B in a new ballpark district and development into the

area.

"I believe in my gut the timing is right for the Royals to become residents of the crossroads, and neighbors to Power & Light, 18th & Vine, and Hospital Hill, helping to further connect the cultural center of our great city," said Royals majority

owner John Sherman.

The Royals claim the site was chosen as a way to interconnect neighborhoods. Plans include improvements along 18th Street, including walking and bike lanes, hoping to connect 18th & Vine and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) to the proposed new Royals Stadium.

"This is transformative," said NLBM President Bob Kendrick. "Understand that the transformation of Kansas City's east side is good for our entire city."

The Royals project that their investment will spur more investment. For example, Kansas City is in the fundraising stage to build a park over a stretch of Interstate 670 downtown just north of the ballpark site. The Royals say that their move will spur the needed investment to finish that project, and they will contribute to extending the cap over

the highway three blocks to their stadium.

The announcement has come with some pushback, as the proposed ballpark and ballpark district would displace at least 20 small businesses. The Royals say that they will pay a fair rate to acquire the needed properties for their plan.

Bridget Williams, CEO of the Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City, says that this downtown stadium project will likely only be completed if the sales tax renewal is passed. A vote is scheduled for April 2 for a 40-year, 3/8th cent sales tax extension in Jackson County that would fund both this project and stadium renovations for the Chiefs.

See more photos of stadium and area plans on our website.

Public Can Weigh in on Proposed Wichita School Closures

By **P.J. Griekspoor**
Wichita Reporter

Six Wichita schools, four elementary and two middle schools, are facing closure as USD 259 works to figure out how to cut their budget to overcome an anticipated \$42 million deficit in the coming year.

The proposed closures are Clark, Park, Payne, and Cleaveland Elementary Schools, and Hadley and Jardine Middle Schools. Cleaveland is a traditional magnet and Jardine is a STEM and career explorations academy.

According to Superintendent Kelly Bielefel, the closures would save about \$16.5 million and affect about 2,000 students who would be redirected to magnets or nearby neighborhood schools.

The closure recommendations were made at the Feb. 12 school board meeting, with a final decision to be made by the board on March 4.

In the meantime, the public will have chances to weigh in at public meetings set for:

Wed., Feb. 21, 5:30pm, Marshall Middle School (1510 N. Payne) - Focus on Hadley and Park



Thurs. Feb. 22, 5:30pm, West High School (820 S. Osage) - Focus on Cleaveland and Payne

Feb. 26, 5:30pm. AMAC Administrative Center (903 S. Edgemoor) - Focus on Jardine and Clark

Thurs., Feb. 29, 6pm, AMAC Administrative Center (903 S. Edgemoor). This will be a public hearing the the Board. All those who desire to address the BOE must register in advance with the Clerk of the Board, (316) 973-4553

"This is a sad time and I know that people are facing a loss and have concerns," said

school board member Melody McCray Miller. "I would encourage people to bring their concerns and share them. The more input we have, the better the decision we can make."

The schools proposed for closing are all heavily minority and all have high populations of economically disadvantaged students.

Miller pointed out that mirrors the district at large.

"Our district overall is almost 70% minority and we have more than 80% of our students on free and reduced lunch," she said. "I think a lot of people don't know that."

The district as a whole is 37.5% Hispanic, 29% Caucasian, 19.7% African American, 8.1% multi-racial, 4.67% Asian and 1% Native American or Pacific Islander.

Clark Elementary, near Lincoln and Woodlawn, is 76.7% minority, 42.6% Black, and 91.9% impoverished.

Park Elementary, at 1025 N. Main, is 93.6% minority, 64.4% Hispanic and 92.4% impoverished.

Payne Elementary, near Harry and Meridian, is 64.3% minority, 36.8% Hispanic and 95.3% impoverished.

Cleaveland Traditional Magnet Elementary,

near 31 Street South and Meridian, is 61.8% minority, 38.5% Hispanics, and 81.7% impoverished.

The middle schools up for closure continue the trend.

Hadley, near Ninth and West, is 65.8% minority, 39.2% Hispanic and 90.4% impoverished.

Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy, near Pawnee and Hillside in the Planeview neighborhood, is 82.5% minority, 48.4% Hispanic and 94% impoverished.

Former Wichita District 1 Councilwoman Lavonta Williams said she has a number of questions, including the impact on property values in the surrounding neighborhoods when school buildings stand vacant, as past experience shows they often do, sometimes for years.

"I want to know what this does to bus routes, what time these little elementary school kids will have to get on the bus and what time they'll get home," Williams said. "And I sure think the public needs to stay on top of what kind of decisions will be made on what to do with the buildings."

For more info, visit www.usd259.org/transform24.

Black Educators Hall of Fame & Art Show Coming

Nine new inductees will be honored at the annual Art That Touches Your Heart show Feb. 24.

By **P.J. Griekspoor**
Wichita Reporter

The annual Art That Touches Your Heart show and Black Educators Hall of Fame recognition will be Sat., Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. on the first floor of the Wichita State University Rhatigan Student Center.

As always, the show will include art from Black professional and Black student artists.

The show “gives the students a chance to compare their work and see it featured side-by-side with the work of professionals,” said Janice Thacker, founder and CEO of Art That Touches Your Heart.

This year’s show will also include a display of paraphernalia and information from each of the “Divine Nine” Greek letter organizations.



Members of the 2022 Black Educators Hall of Fame gathered for a photo after their induction program.

On special loan for the show is a sculpture from Kansas City native Ed Dwight. One of the most insightful and prolific sculptors in America, Dwight has completed more than 128 public art and large-scale memorial installations throughout the United States. He has also created more than 18,000 gallery sculptures and is

represented in galleries across the country.

Now in his 90s, Dwight lives in retirement in Colorado but sent a sculpture he calls “The Hands that Picked the Cotton” for display in this year’s show. The sculpture shows a pair of hands, each holding a boll of cotton above a single hand dropping a ballot into a ballot box.

Held each year during Black History Month, the Art That Touches Your Heart exhibit is always partnered with the installation of a new class into the Kansas Black Educators Hall of Fame. The hall started in 2017 and has 61 members, with nine new members to be added on Feb. 24.

Thacker says she came up with the idea for the hall of fame and the art show that accompanies the induction, to honor generations of Black teachers and to encourage today’s Black students to become tomorrow’s Black teachers and Black artists.

Inductees are chosen by community-based voting. This year’s new members are:

- Samuel Allen - Retired Principal, Wichita Public Schools;
- Dr. Bobby Berry - Assistant Dean for Diversity and Outreach, College of Applied Studies, Wichita State University;
- June Faucette - Retired Music Teacher, Wichita Public Schools;

- Deborah James - Retired English Teacher, Wichita Public Schools;
- Jeanne Ponds - First African-American High School English Teacher, Wichita Public Schools (Deceased);
- Dr. George Rogers - First Director of Minority Studies, Wichita State University (Retired);
- Shallruan Samone Thomas - Middle School Teacher, Gordon Parks Academy, Wichita Public Schools;
- Linda Watson-Morris - Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Bartlesville Public Schools (Retired); and
- Frank Wooden - Elementary & Middle School Teacher, Wichita Public Schools (Deceased).

The hall-of-fame program will also include an acknowledgement of the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation in schools.

For more info about the programs, visit ATTYH.org.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH







CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

The month of February celebrates Career and Technical Education Month. CTE classes offer a variety of hands-on learning opportunities to prepare students for high-skill and high-demand careers.

Scan to learn more



SEE THE GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR DISTRICT

- | | |
|---|---|
|  wichitapublicschools |  @wichitausd259 |
|  /escuelaspublicasdewichitausd259 |  wichitapublicschools |
|  Cox 20 & usd259.org/wpstvonline |  @wichitausd259 |

903 S. Edgemoor St.
Wichita, KS 67218



(316) 973-4000
[usd259.org](https://www.usd259.org)

I'm more than my number.

MORETHANMYNUMBER.COM

WORKING TO END AGEISM



Central Plains Area Agency on Aging



City's 1st Poet Laureate Aims to Spark Avenues of Expression

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

Melissa Ferrer Civil demonstrated her poetry skills with the lyrical and provocative delivery of a five-minute poem she wrote for her introduction as Kansas City's first poet laureate on Feb. 1.

Her inaugural poem, "Mounting Meditations on the Shoulders of Giants," paid tribute to five Black giants of poetry who inspired her life: Maya Angelou, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Lucille Clifton, Nikki Giovanni, and Langston Hughes.

Referring to Angelou's poem "Still I Rise," Civil said, "Her words taught me to rise, while this world told me to stay low." After hearing that poem at age 12, Civil says she began writing poetry.

"It was then that I knew how I would serve my community: By helping to provide solidarity through my own vulnerability," said Civil.

Very open about her "battles" with mental illness, she said, "Poetry helped me to express myself, to account for my perspective and actions, to respond to what I witnessed, to be honest with myself and with others. It set me on a path of telling the truth."

Poet Laureate's Role

KC Mayor Quinton Lucas announced the creation of the poet laureate position in spring 2023.

"Our poet laureate will be an ambassador for poetry and arts; encouraging the teaching, reading and writing of poetry as an avenue for education, culture



Melissa Ferrer Civil, Kansas City's inaugural poet laureate greets friends after the announcement of her selection.

and entertainment across the city," said Lucas.

As poet laureate, Civil will be expected to attend events, deliver poems, and serve as an advocate for the arts. She will be paid \$5,000 for the part-time, one-year appointment.

Pulling on the role poetry has played in her life, Civil said she wants to plan programming that "teaches poetry as a medium for transformation, liberation, recognition and solidarity."

About Civil

Civil, formerly known as Missy T. Ferrari, uses the pronouns "she/they" and, according to the mayor's press announcement, identifies herself as "a first-gen, queer, Black, femme, poet, organizer, educator and theologian."

Civil received a bachelor's degree in both creative writing and Italian from Florida State University. She has also received her master's degree in education with a specialization in urban education from

Park University.

She is a Charlotte Street studio resident, an alumna of the Chrysalis Institute for emerging artists and was long-listed for the 2021 Palette Poetry Emerging Poet Prize.

Civil is quick to go beyond the honors and recognitions to tell the story of her life that has had her in and out of mental hospitals; in and out of college; joining a communal religious organization; living out of a van with "some hippie friends" before finally arriving in KC, as she says, "on her knees."

"I had been trying to shirk off God's will for my life by trying to chase what someone else had or found, instead of going to the throne of God which is in my very heart," she writes on her webpage www.MelissaFerrerAnd.com. You can go there to learn more about her intriguing story.

Follow her on Instagram @melissaferrerand and Twitter @melissapoet.

'We Are Enough' Art Exhibit Celebrates KC's Diverse Artistic Community

Curator Harold Smith showcases local talent at Leedy-Voulkos Art Center through April 26.

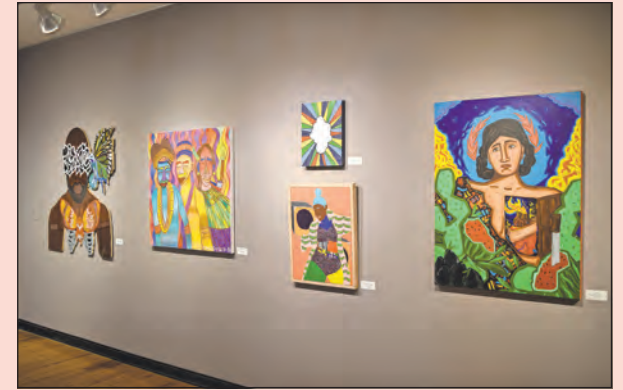
By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

The vibrant and diverse artistic community of Kansas City takes center stage at the "We Are Enough" art exhibit at the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center. Curated by esteemed local artist Harold Smith, this exhibition celebrates the strength, resilience, and creativity of the city's artists.

"We Are Enough" aims to present a comprehensive view of KC's artistic landscape, showcasing the work of both established and emerging artists from varied backgrounds and life experiences. From self-taught creators who have overcome significant challenges to college-educated artists who have garnered recognition for their innovative work, the exhibit explores the multifaceted question of what it means to be human through the lens of art.

"These are people who have found that within them was enough to overcome the challenges that life threw their way, and they still hung on to their artistic dreams," says Smith.

One of the distinctive aspects of the exhibit is the inclusion of 56 local artists with remarkable stories, such as Crystal Major, a blind artist making her debut, and Juanita Maxine Harris Gibson, exhibiting for the first time at age 102. The exhibit also showcases a number of local Black artists like Wolfe Brack, Anita Easterwood, Kwanza



"We Are Enough" exhibit, curated by Harold Smith, runs through April 26 at the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center

Humphrey, J.T. Daniels, and Taylor Sanders.

"You'll see a sampling of Kansas City's artist community," says Smith. "You'll see all the different styles and subject matter offered by the artists here."

The exhibit features a diverse range of artistic styles and subject matters, reflecting the richness of the area's cultural landscape. From traditional paintings to contemporary mixed media installations, visitors can expect to encounter a dynamic array of artworks that provoke thought and inspire dialogue.

The "We Are Enough" exhibition not only celebrates the talent of local artists but also seeks to elevate the city's status as an arts destination.

"People act like all the great art is in New York or Los Angeles, but we have our own art scene that, to me, is just as strong as any place else," says Smith. "KC is not New York, so our art is different, but it is more than good enough."

To get the most out of the

exhibit, Smith — a former teacher himself — offers educational resources on the Leedy Voulkos, <https://shorturl.at/cixzX>. Smith gives lesson plans designed to enhance the experience for students visiting the exhibit, but they can be utilized by visitors before stopping by.

"The lesson plans make the experience more beneficial; it's good to have some pre-knowledge," says Smith. "That way, before you go in, you kinda know what you're looking at and why the artists do certain things."

"We Are Enough" will be on display at the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center through April 26.

"We Are Enough" Leedy-Voulkos Art Center

2012 Baltimore Ave.

KCMO

Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open until 8 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.

First Friday reception March 2, beginning at 5 p.m.

Canady's Award-Winning 'Brothers of the Dust' Makes Kansas Premiere

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

Washburn University Theatre, in partnership with the Topeka Chapter of the Links, will present the Kansas premiere of "Brothers of the Dust," a play written by award-winning Topeka High School alumnus Darren Canady, at the end of the month.

This play, the winner of the M. Elizabeth Osborn Award from the American Theatre Critics Association, is set in 1958 on the barely-surviving Colton family farm outside Conway, AR. As estranged family members unexpectedly come together, secrets are revealed, lives change, and relationships are tested.

About the Play

Brothers Roy, Wilson and Ollie all inherited the farm from their parents, but Roy is the only brother who stayed, barely eking out a living for himself, his wife Mayetta and son Jack. The play comically covers the family reckoning that occurs when brothers Wilson and



Miami's M Ensemble production of the award-winning play "Brothers of the Dust." The M Ensemble staged the world premiere of the play at Chicago's Congo Square Theatre in 2014.

Ollie surprisingly return home for a visit, each with plans of their own.

The play is jam-packed with twists and surprises, bound to keep the audience engaged and entertained.

About Darren Canady

Canady's talent and passion for writing for the stage led him to attend three well-known schools: Carnegie

Mellon University, Juilliard, and New York University. At Juilliard he received an artist diploma and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts he received a master's degree.

He currently teaches playwriting as a professor in the english department at the University of Kansas.

At least eight of his plays have been staged by professional theater

companies across the world. His plays grow out of his Black Midwestern roots.

"My family told stories about each other: full-bodied, act-it-out, relive-it-again stories that always paired well with good food, spades, dominoes, brown liquor and a belief that family – both blood and chosen – is something worth celebrating and memorializing. If you know that about my origins, then I feel like you know the core of who I am," he says.

How to See the Play

The Washburn University Theatre production of Canady's "Brothers of the Dust" will be staged in the Neese Gray Theater, inside the Garvey Center on the Washburn University Campus, 1700 SW College Ave., Topeka. Shows are Feb 23, 24, 29 and March 1, 2, and 3. All shows are at 7:30 p.m. except on March 3, which is a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for Washburn students and staff, and offered with a pay-what-you-can option

for all productions. Tickets can be purchased only at www.showtix4u.com. Type in "Washburn University" as the organization.

Special show events include an afterglow, opening-night reception on Fri., March 23. Tickets for the play and reception are \$40 each. Sat., March 2, is youth night, with a talkback after the show with the playwright and production personnel.

Showtimes

Fri., Feb. 23, Sat., Feb. 24,

Thurs. Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., March 1, Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Sun., March 3, 2 p.m.

Neese Garvey Center, Washburn University
1700 SW College Ave., Topeka
Tickets \$10

Special Shows:

Fri., Feb. 23 - Afterglow reception -
Tickets \$40

Includes price of the show

Sat., March 2 - Youth Night

Includes talkback with playwright and production team



MIDWEST TRUST
CENTER SERIES

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DELFEAYO MARSALIS AND THE
UPTOWN JAZZ ORCHESTRA

SAT / FEB. 24 / 7 PM / YARDLEY HALL

Midwest Trust Center / 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210



WINTERLUDE



Promoting jazz appreciation through world-class performance, artistic excellence, education and building community.

JCCC.EDU/MTC

TICKETS START AT \$25.
SCAN THE CODE AND GET TICKETS NOW.



Box Office: 913-469-4445 / Mon.-Fri. / 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

@MidwestTrustCenterJCCC

@MidwestTrustCenterJCCC

@MTC_JCCC

We Want to Quit

Each year over 58% of African Americans attempt to quit, and only 3.3% are successful.



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Health Department



COMMUNITIES
ORGANIZING TO
PROMOTE
EQUITY

KanQuit

1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-800-784-8669

HealthEducation@sedgwick.gov

WICHITA

Feb. Now thru Feb. 25, 5-8 pm: “Art That Touches Your Heart: Black Art From Across the U.S.” CityArts, 334 N Mead. “Sounding Fire” by Jennifer Ray in the Balcony Gallery, “Prism Shift” in the Boardroom Gallery. FREE

Tue., Feb. 20, 6-7:30 pm: How to Serve on a Board, Wichita Public Library, 711 W 2nd. Being on a board is great way to get involved in your community, give back, and build your leadership skills. FREE

Wed., Feb. 21, 2 pm: Wichita Pop-Up: Wichita Cheesecake Company, 801 E. Douglas #110. Stop by and mingle with your Phoenix Home Care & Hospice team. FREE

Sat., Feb. 24, 6:30 pm: Dr. Wayne Goines Jazz Quartet. Walker’s Jazz Lounge, 252 N Mosley. Immerse yourself in the rich harmony, intricate rhythms, and soulful improvisation. COST: \$12+ <https://bit.ly/3w5boDp>

Sat., Feb. 24, 11 am: 300 Men’s Conference, The Center, 1914 E 11th. Lunch options. Enjoy the event or just get you some Jive Turkey. FREE

Sat., Feb. 24, 10 am: Annual WIN Workshop, Urban League of Kansas, 2418 E 9th St. Wichita Independent Neighborhoods will gather to hear encouragement, brainstorm ideas and vote on Board positions. Come to share your vision, concerns and successes in your neighborhoods. Light snacks will be shared. FREE

Sat., Feb. 24, 5 pm: Black Educators Hall of Fame Recognition, WSU Rhatigan Student Center. This year’s show and along with recognition of 9 inductees will also include a display of paraphernalia and information from each of the “Divine Nine” Greek letter organizations. On special loan for the show is a sculpture from Kansas City native Ed Dwight. FREE

Sun., Feb. 25, 1 pm: Blood Drive, The Center, 1914 E 11th St. By donating blood, you’re not just saving a life, you are bringing hope to those who face the daily challenges of sickle cell. Give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com gift card by email. See rcblood.org/heart. FREE

Sun., Feb. 25, 3-5 pm: Black History Celebration of the Harlem Renaissance. Frederick Douglass Lodge No. 99, 2221 E. 12th. Meet our Mystery Guests. Join in on the food & fun. Meet, greet, socialize and win a prize.

Tue., Feb. 27, 6 pm: Learn How to Get Your Food License With KDKA, Evergreen Community Center, 2601 N. Arkansas. Join upcoming food license workshop and learn everything you need to know about obtaining a food license for your business. Get expert guidance from the Dept. of Agriculture. REGISTER <https://bit.ly/3OFbvft>

Wed., Feb. 28, 6 pm: Let Your Resume Soar with Spirit AeroSystems, Evergreen Community Center, 2601 N. Arkansas. Unlock

the doors to career opportunities with a resume workshop hosted by Spirit AeroSystems. In this dynamic and interactive session, participants will gain the skills needed to build and/or enhance their resume. REGISTER <https://bit.ly/3HTzW59>

Sat., March 2, 2 pm: Full Count: A Financial Literacy Program, League 42 Learning Center, 1212 E 17th. Mid-American Credit Union has agreed to drop \$50 into a bank account for every L42 player who enrolls as a learning tool on money management. Our players ages 9-14 are eligible for this program, and you must be registered, as spots are limited. Email league42wichita@gmail.com if interested.

Sun., March 3, 7-10 pm: 2024 Miss ICT and Miss ICT Teen Pageant, WSU Duerksen Fine Arts Center, 1845 N. Fairmount. Come and support these incredible young women as they compete for the prestigious titles. COST \$35 <https://bit.ly/3SStnWO>

KANSAS CITY

Wed., Feb. 21, 7 pm: Radical Alignment Presents | Rebuild Honestly: A Seat at the Tech Table. Keystone CoLAB, 800 E 18th. Featuring Gee Watts, founder of “Grit Tech/We Power,” by Black Excellence Kansas City. FREE

Fri., Feb. 22, 7 pm: THE SPACE RACE; The Untold Story of the First Black Astronauts... The Ed Dwight Story. The Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St., Kansas City, Movie Screening to benefit ASTEAM Village. Ed Dwight is a Kansas City native, come learn his story. General tickets \$10, with vip reception beginning at 6pm, \$20. Tickets online @ <https://bit.ly/4byVEcf>

Fri., Feb. 23, 9:30 pm: Black at the Barrel (Standup Celebrating Black Comedians in KC). Barrel of the Bottoms, 1427 W 9th. HBFROMKC has gathered the best and brightest Black comics in KC to showcase the incredible talent and diversity in this city. COST \$12 <https://bit.ly/3OE4ED0>

Fri., Feb. 23, 4:30 pm: Songs of the Black Pioneers. Mid-Continent Public Library - Grandview Branch, 12930 Booth Ln. Hear original songs from storyteller Brother John. His performance will explore the remarkable contributions of African American pioneers such as astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison. FREE

Fri., Feb. 23, 3-6 pm: PoetryIs, Black Archives Of Mid-America, 1722 E 17th. Some of Kansas City’s best spoken word artists, poets & storytellers. FREE

Sat., Feb. 24, 7-8:30 pm: “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution,” Kansas City Public Library, 14 W 10th St. Light snacks will be provided. “This documentary weaves together the voices of those who lived this story - police informants, journalists, White supporters and detractors, those who

remained loyal to the party and those who left it.” RESERVATIONS <https://bit.ly/3OB0sCc>

Sat., Feb. 24, 7-10 pm: The Power of Black Art Showcase. The Blakk Co., 1108 East 30th. This will showcase the powerful and inspiring works of talented Black artists from various mediums. FREE

Sat., Feb. 24, 5:30 pm: Black Futures - Restaurateur Edition. 1200 Main St. Enjoy live music from local artists and eclectic tunes from DJ Q, 30+ local Black owned artists, vendors and community partners will attend. Symposium + Art + Music + Networking. \$10 <https://bit.ly/4bqThYO>

Sat., Feb. 24, 10 am: Mentor Me! I Can & I Will, Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. Join us as we raise awareness about the value and benefits resulting when Black men mentor. Keynote speaker: Louis Negron Sr., CEO and president of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta. FREE. RESERVATIONS <https://bit.ly/3HROJNL>

Sat., Feb. 24, 9:30 - 10:30 pm: Let Me Explain My Blackness, The Bird Comedy Theater, 103 W. 19th. Fresh from performing live at SF SketchFest, Katherine Garry, (It’s A Cultural Thing, The Anarchy Fun Time Show) brings back KC Fringe 2023’s Best of Venue show about the stereotypes of Black culture for one night. COST \$12+ <https://bit.ly/42z5Ih6>

Mon., Feb. 26, 1:30 pm: Racial Wealth Gap Symposium for Kansas City Area Residents,

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, 1616 E 18th. Ebony Reed and Louise Story will provide a public preview to original data they have curated in their forthcoming book, “Fifteen Cents on the Dollar: How Americans Made the Black-White Wealth Gap” (HarperCollins). FREE

Thu., Feb. 29, 9:30 am: Hack the Dream KC 2024, Vine Street Brewing Co., 2010 Vine St. A comprehensive look at the social, cultural, historical, and political contexts that determine health equity. See in real time how solutions can be identified through the lens of tech innovators and community partners. FREE. RESERVATIONS <https://bit.ly/3OCFqVq>

Sat., March 2, 6:30 p.m. Dope Black Dads KCK, 2100 N. 13th St. Black fathers do matter; Their involvement in the lives of their children, as well as advocating for them and their involvement in decision-making for services for children is critical, valuable and direly needed. FREE

Sat., March 2, 6-8 pm: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Global Africanism in Literature. BLK + BRWN, 104 1/2 W 39th. Literary analysis series aspires to illuminate the rich tapestry of Black literature, offering participants a comprehensive exploration of the works of prominent authors. Through focused sessions, attendees will delve into the life, literary style, and thematic contributions of different Black authors. FREE

MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID



JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding SMSD Indian Hills Middle School Addition & Renovation and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 02B – Selective Demolition | 09H – Flooring & Carpet |
| 03A – Building & Site Concrete | 09I – Resinous Flooring |
| 04A – Masonry | 09B – Painting |
| 05A – Structural Steel & Miscellaneous Metal | 10G – Signage |
| 06D – Rough Carpentry, Finish Carpentry, DFH, & Specialties | 12C – Roller Window Shades |
| 07G – Roofing, Wall Panels & Sheet Metal | 21A – Fire Suppression |
| 07H – Sealants & Firestopping | 22A – Plumbing |
| 08G – Glass & Glazing | 23A – Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning |
| 09A – Drywall & Acoustical Ceilings | 26A – Electrical |
| | 31G – Earthwork & Site Utilities |
| | 32G – Landscaping |

Sealed Bids will be received at SMSD Center for Academic Achievement 8200 W 71st St, Overland Park, KS 66204 or via Upload to Building Connected by March 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE - A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Indian Hills Middle School, 6400 Mission Rd Prairie Village, KS 66208 at 2:00 PM on February 22, 2024, for the purpose of answering any questions regarding the above scopes of work on the project.

JE Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Ethan Wegner, Project Manager, by phone at (816) 809-9486, or by email at ethan.wegner@jedunn.com.

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

“... if we work
together, there
is no problem in
the world that
can stop us.”



– Ewing Marion Kauffman

The Kauffman Foundation provides access to opportunities that help people achieve **financial stability, upward mobility, and economic prosperity** – regardless of race, gender, or geography.

Learn more at
Kauffman.org

