

# Douglas County Historical Society

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www.watkinsmuseum.org

May 7, 2015

Mayor Jeremy Farmer  
City of Lawrence  
City Hall  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: City Funding for Watkins Museum Core Exhibit

Dear Mayor Farmer,

On behalf of the Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) Board of Directors, I would like to thank the City of Lawrence for their commitment to provide \$30,000 in funding to support the development of the Watkins Museum's third floor core exhibit in 2015 and ask that the City consider continuing their support of this project in 2016. The effort to revitalize the Watkins Museum of History, in downtown Lawrence, and install a new permanent core exhibit on the history of Lawrence and Douglas County was initiated in 2011. The second floor core exhibit was completed in 2013. The stair hall will be completed in 2015. In 2014 the DCHS approached the City of Lawrence to request \$100,000, potentially spread over several fiscal years, in support of the nearly \$600,000 third floor project. In 2015, the City allocated \$30,000 from the Guest Tax Fund toward the project. We request \$30,000 in continuing support for this project in 2016. A project description and preliminary budget are enclosed.

We are currently seeking a 2015 Douglas County Heritage Conservation Grant to fund about \$80,000 worth of infrastructure improvements—including plaster repair, electrical upgrades and floor refinishing—necessary to support the third floor core exhibit. A 2012 gift from the Dolph Simons Family Fund of the Douglas County Community Foundation provided funding to plan the core exhibit. Douglas County Heritage Grants and grants from the Douglas County Community Foundation, Capitol Federal Foundation, and donations from many private individuals have funded progress so far. The DCHS Board of Directors is now developing the strategy to fund the installation of the third floor core exhibit.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our exhibit project. We appreciate your consideration. Thank you also for investing in the preservation of the Watkins Building and for your support of the core exhibit installation on the second floor. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Nowak  
Executive Director

enc.

cc: Diane Stoddard  
Casey Toomay

 **Watkins Museum of History**  
Third Floor Core Exhibit

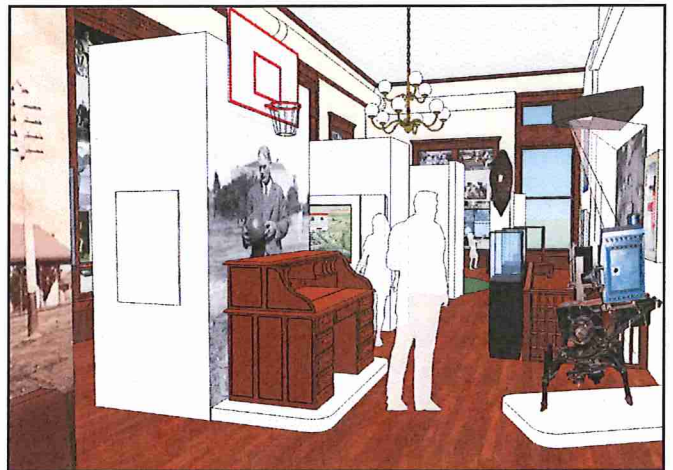
The core exhibit to be installed on the third floor of the Watkins Museum will explore life in Lawrence and Douglas County through themes that outline the forces that have made our communities what they are today:

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Living and Working in Town and Country
- Mass Street Then and Now
- The Impact of the Railroads
- The Power of Philanthropy
- Forces for Social Change
- Public Education and The College Town Experience

The exhibit will utilize historic artifacts, photos and documents to highlight the people, causes, and events that shaped our communities. Exhibit storylines will feature native populations, early settlers, business leaders, activists, educators, athletes, philanthropists, and immigrants. Displays will allow visitors to experience the past and learn how it influences who we are today. Interactive elements will draw visitors back in time and give them an opportunity to reflect on today's issues. A family education center will help children and parents understand how things used by earlier generations reveal what life was like in the past.



Third Floor, looking northwest



Third Floor, looking west



Third Floor, overview



## Watkins Museum of History

Estimated Budget for completion of Core Exhibit

May 1, 2015

### Core Exhibit Planning

Design Fees	\$39,375
Audience Research	\$3,700
<b>Exhibit Design Total:</b>	<b>\$43,075 (work completed in 2014)</b>

### Stair Hall

Window Coverings/Interpretive Panels	\$10,850
Painting/Plaster Repair	\$4,115
Upgrade Electrical Systems	\$699
Light Fixtures	\$3,600
Graphic Design	\$7,500
<b>Stair Hall Total:</b>	<b>\$26,764 (in progress)</b>

Supported by Douglas Co. Heritage Grant and  
Douglas County Community Foundation Grant

### Third Floor

Exhibit and Lighting Design	\$40,000 (completed)
Exhibit Fabrication and Installation	\$350,000
Casework and Mounts	\$50,000
Window Coverings	\$39,000
Refurbish Playhouse	\$1,500
Upgrade HVAC System	\$25,834 (completed)
Additional HVAC Work	\$450
Upgrade Electrical System	\$35,000
Plaster Repair	\$2,900
Painting	\$6,450
Wood Floor Repair	\$11,125
Marble Wainscoting/Mosaic Floor Repair	\$17,700
Refurbish Family Restroom	\$1,000
Security System Upgrade/Cameras	\$3,000
Permits and Construction Contingency	\$8,000
<b>Third Floor Total:</b>	<b>\$591,959</b>