



# HISTORIC KANSAS CITY



PRESERVE BUILDINGS · PROMOTE NEIGHBORHOODS  
— REVITALIZE KANSAS CITY —

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Left: Members and supporters gather at our Annual Meeting at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

Historic Kansas City is nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of greater Kansas City's heritage, neighborhoods and historic built environment.



[www.historickansascity.org](http://www.historickansascity.org)

# Board of Directors

## From our President

Dear Friends,

Thanks to our many friends and supporters, Historic Kansas City Foundation built further momentum in 2015. We attained several landmark achievements that advance historic preservation in our city and region. Maybe not on a par with winning the World Series, but it was most certainly a banner year.

Many of our leadership volunteers invested tremendous time and effort advancing the Midtown/Plaza Area Plan in Kansas City, Missouri, and that effort was vindicated when Highwoods Properties announced that it would sell the Country Club Plaza. The Plan had just arrived at the City Council for consideration, and the need for enhanced protection for the Plaza could not be clearer. Fortune rewarded the ready, and Highwoods elected to implement a Plan recommendation for height and use limitations in the historic heart of the Plaza. This has been an objective of planners and preservationists for decades. Now done. And we thank Highwoods and advisors for an act of exceptional corporate citizenship.

In 2015, our immediate past vice president Katheryn Shields departed our board of directors - TO JOIN THE KANSAS CITY CITY COUNCIL! Collaboration with the City is in better shape than has existed for many years. We have seen an important "save" at the 100 block of West Armour; a group of buildings we fought to save will be restored by Mac Properties with City help. We also fielded a number of volunteers in the Nelson Museum community planning effort and are working on initiatives focused on modern structures and improved protection in and near 18th and Vine. We have been a voice to temper wholesale demolitions in neglected parts of the City with enhanced consideration of historic resources.



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# Board of Directors

## From our President

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We lost our effort to protect and save Nelle Peter's designed apartments on the west side of the Plaza. Once again owner objection prevented listing historic buildings on the Kansas City Register of Historic Places. It was a great disappointment. However, sometimes in mission-driven work you win when you lose. There has been a great advancement in awareness and understanding from the Nelle Peters controversy, and we believe the public and public officials will concur that a process for demolition reviews are necessary given the difficulty and cost advancing historical designations.

We had a great partnering event and annual meeting in May 2015 at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Our annual awards ceremony at the Hotel Phillips was exceptionally well attended and supported. Our Most Endangered List again alerted the larger community to exceptional properties at exceptional risk - to the extent risk and threats are public and known to us. Our partners at KC Modern continue their efforts to advance appreciation of modern structures, our Young Preservationists are hard at work hosting great events, our tours committee and speaker's bureau keep expanding their education each. It is a busy and big tent at Historic KC with something to offer all of us.

A special priority this year was to expand our base of financial support through additions to our group of Heritage Partners and Jane Flynn level donors. Special thanks to all of those supporters for digging deeper and helping us back our inspired volunteers and staff.

In May 2016, I complete my two-year term as president of this organization to be succeeded by my esteemed colleague Joan Adam. I will remain active and on the board. The work of preservation is never done. And right now is one of the most exciting chapters in preservation in Kansas City that I can recall - in thirty years involvement in the cause. Don't miss it - I know I won't.

Sincerely,



Greg Allen, President

# Board of Directors

## 2015

- Greg Allen, President
- Joan Adam, Vice President
- Jim Wanser, Treasurer
- Jan Bentley, Secretary
- Jake Wagner, Ph.D., Past President
- Dan Cofran
- Anita Dixon
- Julie Garvey
- Walter Guth, Ph.D.
- Michael Jantsch
- Bob Myers, KCModern Liaison
- Nancy Powell
- Lucinda Rice-Petrie
- Joy Swallow, FAIA
- Eric Youngberg, AICP

Amanda Crawley, Executive Director

*History/Background:* The Historic Kansas City Foundation was founded in 1974 by a group of citizens concerned with the ongoing demolition of our city's historic resources. More than 40 years later, we continue to protect Kansas City's unique heritage. Our goals are to serve as a public advocate for preservation causes within the greater Kansas City area and to inform and educate the public about the important benefits of preserving our cultural resources.

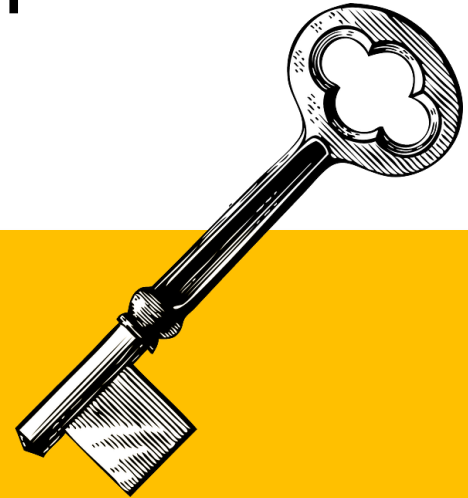
Over the years Historic Kansas City has been involved in a number of preservation successes including the Coates House, Bunker Building, New York Life Building, President Hotel, Cosby Hotel and Balcony Building. We also promote preservation as an economic development tool. In order for our city to be viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and attract new businesses and residents, it needs to retain a built environment that has density, character and a sense of place. Simply stated, Historic Kansas City works to protect the buildings and places that people want to be.

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# Participation and Support

Historic Kansas City strives to create a culture of preservation awareness and establish a diverse base of support. In 2015 we accomplished this by:

- ◆ Hosting 200 people at our Annual Meeting to discuss preservation and celebrate the legacy and impact of KC's Parks and Boulevards System
- ◆ Creating fun, community building events such as Vintage Holiday Happy Hour and Trivia Night, both organized by our Young Preservationists affiliate group
- ◆ Hosting four guided tours for the Association for Preservation Technology Annual conference
- ◆ Honoring successes at our annual Preservation Awards



13,000

people

are actively engaged on our social media pages

Left: Preservation Awards recipients gather for a group photo at the Hotel Phillips

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# Participation and Support: KC Modern and Young Preservationists

Historic Kansas City is proud of the growing interest in our affiliate groups, both of which directly address a preservation challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; the history of the recent past and recruiting and engaging a next generation of preservationists. Some highlights from 2015 are:



## Drummond Weekend

In October KC Modern organized and hosted a weekend of tours and events about noted Kansas City builder Donald Drummond. The event drew over 220 people from across the region.

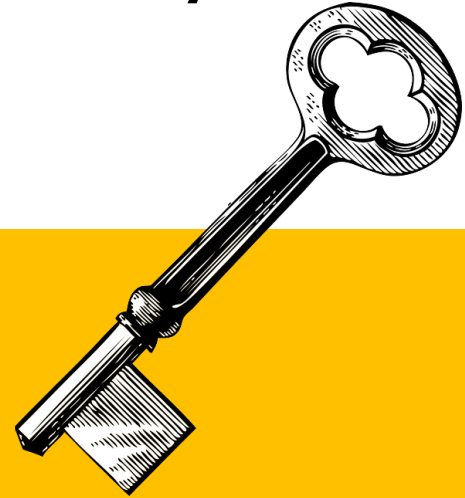
## Trivia Night

In April the Young Preservationists organized and hosted a sold out Trivia Night with topics about Kansas City history, architecture and culture. The event engaged candidates running for City Council to serve as special guest experts.



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# Advocacy and Public Policy



Historic structures connect us to our collective past and richly enhance our city as a remarkable and unique place. For more than 40 years, HKC has continued to protect KC's unique heritage and has served as a leader to affect public policy. In 2015 we:

- ◆ Increased awareness of threats to historic resources through our Most Endangered list
- ◆ Worked to successfully maintain the Historic Tax Credit program in Missouri; this year marked \$2 billion in total investment!
- ◆ Engaged with the City and other stakeholders to determine protection strategies for the Country Club Plaza, Kemper Arena, Modern Architecture and 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine
- ◆ Led efforts to save 100-118 W. Armour Boulevard and Nelle Peters Apartments on the Plaza

**Over 100**  
public hearings  
and community  
meetings attended  
by HKC staff and  
Board Members





This city's history would be rubble if not for the watchful eye of the Historic Kansas City Foundation.

-The Pitch Magazine, naming HKC Best Nonprofit of 2015

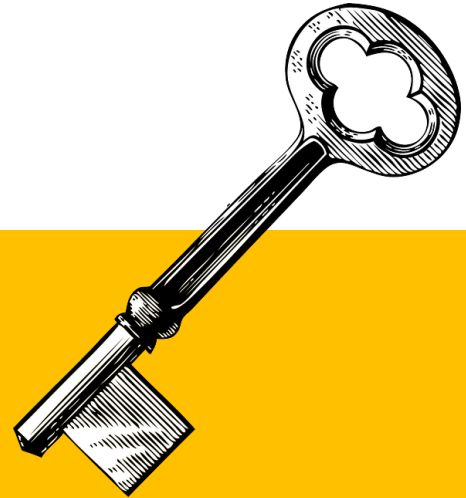
HKC works everyday to save the historic resources that contribute to our city's sense of place. This is accomplished through participation in community meetings and public hearings, raising public awareness, strategic partnerships with other advocacy groups, and ongoing communication and collaboration with city staff and elected officials on issues affecting preservation in KC.



Historic Kansas City partnered with Women in Design - KC to host an educational event about the work of Nelle Peters and to raise awareness about threats to three of her apartment buildings on the Country Club Plaza.

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# Outreach and Education



Historic Kansas City's tours and educational programs continue to highlight the important history of our city. We are raising public awareness and appreciation for the unique history and character of our city by offering:

- ◆ Heritage Hikes for an in-depth look at historic neighborhoods
- ◆ Walking Tours based on Kansas City history and architecture
- ◆ Urban Explorers Tours for member only exclusive access to places not open to the public
- ◆ Legacy Bars Happy Hour to learn about the history of eating and drinking establishments open for 35 years of more in the community.



## 1,300

## people

attended an HKC  
tour, event or  
program

Left: KC Modern President Scott Lane talks to a group about builder Donald Drummond at a special event



Thanks for your great work on the **Urban Explorers Tours**. Each tour that I've attended has been first rate.

—Debbie Lane, HKC Member

One way in which HKC is able to bring important information to the citizens of Kansas City is through our popular and always at capacity Urban Explorers Tour series. The tours offer unique opportunities to explore buildings not open to the public and investigate what they reveal about the history Kansas City.



Urban Explorers Tour of the Workhouse at 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine. Other buildings and sites toured in 2015 include:

- Corinthian Hall
- Faultless Starch
- Block at 36<sup>th</sup> and Broadway
- Mutual Musicians Foundation
- BMA Tower

# 2015 FINANCIALS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

<b>Revenue</b>	
Individual Contributions	\$54,318
Corporate Contributions	\$7,475
Programs	\$14,136
Grants	\$10,300
Legacies and Bequests	\$7,491
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$93,720</b>

<b>Expense</b>	
Advocacy and Personnel	\$64,403
Programs	\$5,165
Contract Specialty Services	\$4,708
Operating	\$18,637
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,913</b>

## In-Kind Support:

- Board of Directors: 3,000 hours, \$60,000 value
- Volunteers: 2,500 hours, \$30,000 value
- Legal and Professional Services: \$15,000 value
- Office Space: \$17,000 value

The Historic Kansas City Foundation is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. HKC contracts with a outside bookkeeping service and a CPA for year-end tax documents. Rates for volunteer hours are standard for the MO State Historic Preservation Office.

## List of Donors

### **Heritage Partners** (\$2,500+)

Earl and Joan Adam, Suzanne Allen,  
Pete and Julie Browne, Willie Dugan, Joyce Holland,  
Lucinda Rice-Petrie, Michael Schaadt, O'Reilly Investments,  
Jason Swords, Steve and Linda Taylor

### **Jane Flynn Society** (\$1,000+)

Commerce Bank, Martha Dunalewicz,  
Shirley and Barnett Helzberg, James B. Nutter, Jantsch Architects,  
Piper-Wind Architects Inc., Hotel Phillips,  
Katheryn Shields and Philip Cardarella,  
Strata Architecture + Preservation,  
Sally Schwenk Associates, David and Lucille Terry  
James Wanser, Ken Wentzel

### **Benefactor** (\$500+)

A & F Real Estate, Greg and Susan Allen,  
Carolee and Russell Atha, Hearthmasters Inc.,  
Anne and Craig Patterson, Heather Paxton, Missouri Bank,  
Plasterkraft, Rosin Preservation

### **Partner** (\$250+)

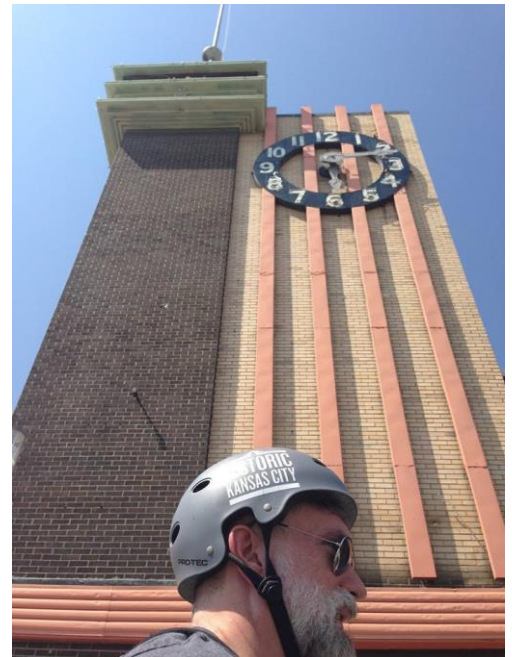
Acme Brass Custom Plating Inc., Suzie Aron, Jan Bentley,  
Mary Shaw Branton, Built KC, Walter and Judy Guth, Helix,  
House of Rocks, Gary Hummel, Sarah Ingram-Eiser,  
Steve and Barbara Mitchell, John McDonald,  
Paul and Jaqueline Mueller, Earl Padgett,  
Scott and Robin Page, Nancy Powell,  
Catherine Spitzenberger, Joy Swallow and Brian Ball,  
Kathleen Vescovi, White Goss, George and Gwendolyn Wolf,  
Rosalie Wooten, Eric Youngberg and Gary Krogh

# GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can get involved to help support the work of Historic Kansas City:

- ◆ Become a member
- ◆ Make a donation
- ◆ Sign up for our e-newsletter
- ◆ Become a volunteer
- ◆ Follow us on social media
- ◆ Attend an event
- ◆ Sponsor an event

For information please visit our website at [historickansascity.org](http://historickansascity.org) or call us at (816) 931-8448.



Top: An HKC supporter sports a decal on his bike helmet.

Left: Members and volunteers at a Martini Modern party



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