



EVENTS

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, Historic Kansas City has reviewed our upcoming events schedule, and in light of the recent ban by the Mayor's office on events in Kansas City, we have decided to postpone or reschedule three of our spring events. See details below.

Take care and be safe.



POSTPONED

Date-to-be-determined

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The March 26th Historic Preservation Awards event was postponed.

We will continue to monitor the situation to determine a future reliable date for hosting the event. Please continue to watch our events page, our social media channels and our email communications for announcements.

A special thank you to [The Temple](#) for their understanding and generous support.

POSTPONED

Date-to-be-determined

MEMBER MEETING

We have decided to postpone the May 14th annual members meeting.

We will continue to monitor the situation to determine a future reliable date for hosting the event. Please continue to watch our events page, our social media channels and our email communications for announcements.

A special thank you to [The Fire House](#) for their



understanding and generous support.



POSTPONED MOVED TO SUMMER 2021 LAWN PARTY

We have decided to postpone the Lawn Party event until the summer of 2021.

Know that this is not an easy decision. However, our overriding concern is for the health and safety of our community.

A special thank you to [The Mansion in the Park](#) for their understanding and generous support.

Take care and be safe.

JOIN OUR TEAM

As we work to keep you entertained and engaged during the COVID-19 outbreak, please consider a donation to HKC, renew your membership or become a new member.

With our three events on hold, we deeply appreciate any support you can give during this time.

[Join today](#)

[Donate today](#)



NEWS



MIDWEST ART DECO

The Art Deco Style - Returns

When considering world capitals of the Art Deco style, we might think of New York or Los Angeles. The Midwest would probably not immediately leap to mind. But the region was indeed a hub; the influence of the Art Deco style will be demonstrated by the exhibition “[Midwest Art Deco: Art of the People](#)” which runs October 30, 2020 - February 14, 2021 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The project is a collaboration between The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, a community advisory group and supporting partners like **Historic Kansas City**.

Few design styles are as widely recognized and appreciated as Art Deco. The term alone conjures visions of the Roaring Twenties, Machine Age metropolises, vast ocean liners, sleek typography and Prohibition-era hedonism. The iconic movement made an indelible mark on all fields of design throughout the 1920s and '30s, celebrating society's growing industrialization with refined elegance and stunning craftsmanship.

More details on this exciting collaboration to follow.



FORMER HOME OF SACHEL PAIGE

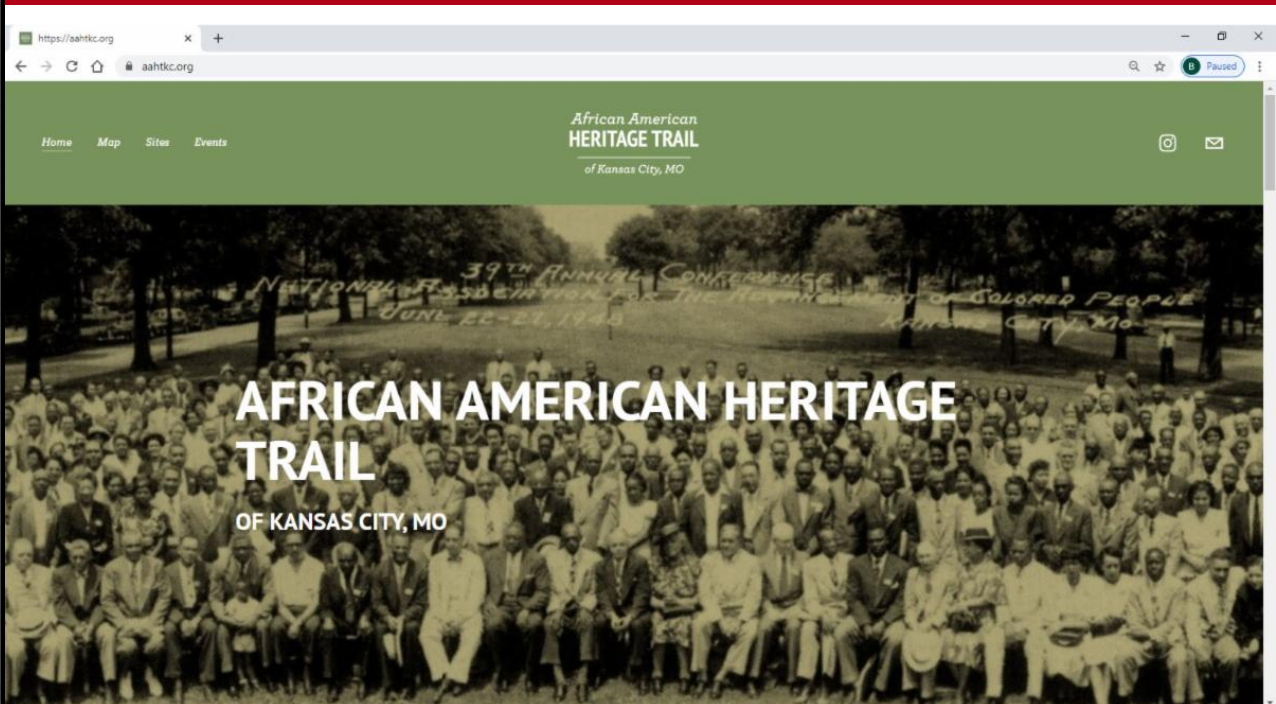
Stabilization Underway

Restoring a community treasure

Stabilization Underway

Cleaning and stabilization is underway at the former home of Satchel Paige, one of the most celebrated athletes in the history of American sports, located at 2626 E. 28th St. in the Santa Fe Neighborhood. After a fire in 2018, **HKC** and our partners the Santa Fe Neighborhood, Kansas City Homesteading Authority, Representative Emanuel Cleaver II, and many others, set out to honor Paige's local legacy by stabilizing his former home.

HKC and our partners received two grants from the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund to complete a structural assessment of the house and to stabilize and secure it. The Kansas City Homesteading Authority purchased the home to protect the structure for future use. Stabilization will enable the City to issue an RFP for the home's redevelopment.



The African American Heritage Trail Website is live!

A new virtual trail is documenting more than 100 years of black history in the metro. The African

America Heritage Trail of Kansas City aims to connect sites and tell untold stories. Each stop on the digital tour includes historical photographs and information, explaining its significance. This digital tour is a collaboration between Kansas City Historic Preservation Office, *Historic Kansas City* and the Black Archives of Mid-America, to name a few. The next step is creating historic markers or even kiosks along the actual trail route. Site creators are also still accepting suggestions for the interactive trail to grow at KCHP@kcmo.org.

[Check it out.](#)



LOSS OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

St. John the Divine church part of the rich, deep history of KCK's Argentine neighborhood was lost **by fire March 4th**. A Gothic Revival structure built in 1887, St. John the Divine became a cultural anchor in the historically Mexican-American neighborhood of Argentine. With diminishing attendance, the building had been vacant since 1992 and suffered from neglect. St. John the Divine was one of less than 100 sites on the National Register associated with Hispanic heritage, and the only one in the State of Kansas designated because of its historical association with the Mexican-American community.

On the Endangered list since 2013, the Church was previously threatened with demolition by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County. HKC engaged with community partners and County officials to try to save the Church. The owner, St. John the Divine Community Art and Education Center reported that they were fortunate to obtain a 2017 Heritage Trust Fund grant that covered roof repair and replacement. They were hopeful that with evidence of progress on the roof replacement and demolition order, they could enlist the support of a qualified developer to move toward a full reuse and rehabilitation plan.



Thank you for your interest and feedback regarding the proposed demolition of the historic home at 236 W. 54th St. As an organization that works to create public awareness of endangered historic buildings of significance, you have certainly responded on social media, with over 85,760 individuals reached, 29,105 engagements, and 364 comments.

Many have asked what they can do. Historic Kansas City encourages you to engage in the established city public process provided by the Preservation Commission. Many of you have responded with over 70 emails sent! If you have not done so already, express your concerns to Bradley.Wolf@kcmo.org; City Historic Preservation Officer.

Background: On February 26th, HKC first alerted you that an application had been filed by the homeowners to demolish the existing historic home at 236 W. 54th St so they may construct a new home on the large corner lot. Case #CH-DR-2020-00009 was originally scheduled to be heard by the Historic Preservation Commission on February 28th, it was continued to March 27th at the request of the applicant. **That March 27th hearing was cancelled, therefore the case will be heard on April 24th.**

This demolition request will likely involve a two-step hearing process. The purpose of the first hearing is to determine if the property is a contributing historic property and does it retain its historic integrity. If the commission agrees with the staff summary of denial, the applicant will have the opportunity to claim economic hardship at the next hearing. The application includes all required information to proceed with both hearings.

View the application, photographs showing demolition of the interior, by clicking [here](#).

See recent house sale details and images at [ZILLOW](#).

The applicant proposes to demolish the house due to deterioration and environmental concerns and the cost to repair those issues. The Georgian-revival style home was designed by the noted architectural firm of Shepard, Farrar & Wiser. The staff summary on page 3 reads "Therefore, the proposal to demolish the house is in violation with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2 and staff recommends denial of the application." However, it is the right of homeowners to be given the opportunity to present their case based upon deterioration and environmental concerns.



7th Church of Christ Scientist Sold To Developer

Developer Seeks to Replace it with a Box

JH Investors, the developer of the Jack Henry Building, has completed the purchase of the church formerly owned by the Seventh Church of Christ Scientist with the intent to replace it with a box. Acquisition of the church is a move closer to demolition by the developer of a cherished and respected Plaza landmark. A copy of the recorded deed along with the separately recorded memorandum evidences some type of lease back to the church. The deed was recorded Monday, February 10. That transfer occurred before the NPD City Council Committee hearing on February 12 that considered the height deviation request with respect to the Jack Henry Building.

Note, that the demolition of the church was sought by RED Development last year, which may or may not be associated with JH Investors. **Historic Kansas City** advocated against the demolition and was ultimately successful in our effort with the adoption of the Plaza Bowl "Overlay" District.

The Overlay should prevent a new building over 45' tall from being built on this site, unless the deviation standard was grossly applied to allow additional, significant height. This is all the more reason for **HKC** and other supports of the Plaza to proceed expeditiously with the deviation standards.

Reach out to your 4th District Council Persons Today

Councilwoman Katheryn Shields (At-Large)

Phone: 816-513-6515

katheryn.shields@kcmo.org

Fourth District Councilman Eric Bunch

816-513-6517



Drake Development Wins Amendment to Plaza Bowl Overlay Ordinance Paving the Way for future Demolition of 7th Church of Christ

Drake Development succeeded in securing the first amended to the Plaza Bowl "Overlay" District's height restrictions, which were codified last year by Ordinance. The Overlay allows an applicant to seek the approval of a deviation from the City Plan Commission and City Council. Drake's plan called for the renovation of the existing Jack Henry building, including the addition of a small tower at the building's SW corner that would exceed the height restriction by 9 feet. See image at top left.

Historic Kansas City met with Drake Development twice and testified at both the City Plan Commission and Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee of City Council:

- It was built in 1954, altered in 1997, and has lost its historic integrity.
- This case will set a dangerous precedent.
- Drake submitted no compelling need that justifies the height deviation.
- The precedent setting nature of the request for deviation to the Plaza Bowl Overlay District.
- That no standards exist to evaluate any request for deviation.
- We requested a 2 week continuance to address said issues. Request denied.

Various amendments were offered. 4th District Councilmember Shields advocated for an amendment to the Ordinance that would prohibit signage above the 65 feet maximum height restriction otherwise applicable under the Plaza Bowl Overlay District. Ultimately Ordinance No. 200088, as amended, was adopted, with only Councilmember Barnes voting against the request for the height deviation.

Prior to the hearing, Historic Kansas City worked with Councilmember Shields, requesting that the City within 30 days convene the Midtown Plaza Area Plan Implementation Group to consider the criteria for when exceptions to the maximum heights under the Plaza Bowl Overlap District should be granted. Establishment of criteria as to when to grant such exceptions is an important future safeguard. This amendment paves the way for the future demolition of the 7th Church of Christ.

Sara Rector Home

The Rector Mansion has been on HKC's "Most Endangered List" in an effort to bring awareness to the plight of this important site. As a part of our field service outreach, HKC has established a relationship with the new

building owner, United Inner City Services' (UICS) and have supported their efforts to seek funding and explore restoration of the Sarah Rector Mansion. A grant, field visit and house tour with HKC and the National Trust for Historic Preservation has laid the groundwork for this ongoing effort.

Sarah Rector's story is a relatively untold story of American success and a woman's prosperity. During segregation, her complex legacy reached beyond racial boundaries.

Learn more about Sarah [here](#).



Epperson House

UMKC is seeking a public-private partnership towards the restoration of the Epperson House; along with a strategic renovation and repurposing of the private spaces for compatible market rate revenue-generating office or hospitality uses that support the urban engagement mission of UMKC. The University has launched a two-phase project selection process:

- Phase 1 - Request for Information (due 2/13/20)
- Phase 2 - Request for Proposal

Direct Questions to Robert A. Simmons, AIA, at simmonsr@umkc.edu



Plaza Hotel

In 2016, many conditions of compromise were reached between the city, the developer and Plaza area stakeholders towards the development of a proposed hotel project, south of 46th St. and west of Wornall Road. In particular, an ordinance established a Sounding Board including Parkway Towers, the Plaza Westport Neighborhood Association, 4646 Broadway Condominiums, and HKC, to refine the development of a final plan.

The plan proposes a 175-room Tribute Hotel (10



stories), a 120-room Aloft Hotel (7 stories). The CPC approved the MPD plan in January. Post MPD final development plan approval by City Council, the Sounding Board will serve a critical role in assuring compliance of the exterior materials and refined elements with the Plaza architectural guidelines from the Midtown Plaza Area Plan. More details [here](#).

HKC SILVER SPONSORS



It benefits to partner with Historic Kansas City!

Whether it is to provide opportunities to reach a high-quality audience or to support economic growth or to protect tangible history, we know our events and outreach initiatives provide an atmosphere that is unmatched in their ability to bring together like-minded companies and individuals who have an interest in making historic preservation economically viable. As the design and construction industry continues to evolve and grow, relationships are increasingly important. **HKC's annual sponsorship program** is specifically focused on supporting the development of strategic connections between our members, followers and sponsors.

HKC's annual sponsorship program offers a range of sponsorship opportunities to give you direct marketing and visibility benefits for 12-months. Click [here](#) for details and the **FIVE reasons** why YOU should be a business sponsor for 2019.



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