

**Johnson County Museum**  
**Strategic Vision**  
**2006-2011**

**Presented to the Johnson County Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2006**

## Table of Contents

Mission.....	1
A Vision for the Future .....	2
Telling the Johnson County Story.....	3
Partnerships and Collaborations.....	5
Raising Public Awareness.....	6
Realizing the New Vision.....	6
Creating a Community Gathering Place.....	8
Staffing Needs.....	9
Context for Planning.....	9
Appendix.....	12

## **MISSION**

The Johnson County Museum is committed to expanding the public's sense of community through an understanding of the county's history and its place in American society. To achieve this purpose, the Museum collects and preserves artifacts and information that document the county's heritage, and produces interpretive exhibits, educational programs and publications. The Museum is dedicated to the belief that we can learn from the past to understand better the present and future.

\*The mission statement of the JCM was adopted in 1992 and re-affirmed in 2000.

## **A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

From its beginnings, the Johnson County Museum has actively worked to enhance and improve its services to the community. Since 1987, the Museum's leadership has created three long-range plans and overseen their successful completion, receiving fourteen regional and national awards for excellence as a result.

The leadership of the Museum has again come together to develop a plan for how the organization can better serve the growing population of Johnson County. The Museum is at a critical point in its history – not unlike Johnson County itself. The question arises -- will the Museum expand to provide the level and quality of services the ever-increasing number of county residents deserve and expect?

The answer of the Museum leadership is an emphatic YES!

The Museum Advisory Council, Friends Board of Trustees and the museum staff have developed a plan to ensure the Museum continues to be an "essential" community resource – a place for new and improved programs and services for residents of and visitors to Johnson County.

This new and improved Johnson County Museum – now called the Johnson County History Museum – will be an "essential" part of the Johnson County community and landscape – representing the pride and confidence Johnson County has in its people, heritage and future. The Museum will provide unique experiences and resources, life-long learning opportunities, and a community gathering space for people of all ages.

Upon visiting this new facility, you find a venue bustling with activity. As you approach the building, you notice colorful banners promoting the Museum's current exhibits. Ample parking provides room for school and tour buses as well as car traffic. The generous grounds provide space for outdoor programming and an environment for the 1950s All-Electric House.

Once inside the lobby, yours is one of several groups touring the facility. A group of schoolchildren is being ushered into an orientation video while a bus tour group tours the exhibits and enjoys a beverage in the Museum's café. You are greeted warmly by a pleasant attendant who provides all the necessary information you need to have a positive and successful visit. A feature that piques your interest is the cellular phone tour. You are told you can dial a number to activate a guided tour of the museum's exhibits via your cell phone, leaving you to tour on your own time frame and at your convenience -- and it's available in Spanish as well as other languages.

In the lobby is signage outlining the programming for the day which may include a lecture by a prominent national historian or scholar, a film series, play, or other theatrical performance in the Museum's 250-seat auditorium. There is a gallery devoted to children's hands-on learning activities; three temporary exhibits, which may include traveling exhibits of art, history, or science themes, some from the Smithsonian Institution; and an exhibit focused on the county's history, including the suburban development since World War II.

Just off the lobby is a large museum store fully stocked with a wide variety of items such as books, DVDs, gifts and merchandise related to Johnson County, the state of Kansas,

and national suburban themes. There are items specifically for children and unique jewelry and artistic pieces which you learn are made by local artists. In the café visitors are enjoying lunch, a light snack and a beverage.

As you continue to peruse the lobby you notice signage for an event that will be hosted in the Museum's lobby that evening. A convention group of 150 people will enjoy a plated dinner and tour the Museum's exhibitions.

The new facility is also the home of the Center for Suburban Studies, a non-circulating research library devoted to the study of the post World War II suburbanization of the United States. The library also provides the more traditional local history resources such as US Census records, genealogy records, maps, photographs, local club papers and records, and other primary and secondary resources related to Johnson County.

This new facility is recognized nationally as a leading local history organization for its innovative programs and exhibits for children and families; for the Center for Suburban Studies – a cutting edge national resource for the study of suburban issues; and as a community gathering space for people of all ages.

## **TELLING THE JOHNSON COUNTY STORY**

The vision of the new Johnson County History Museum is to bring the story of the people of Johnson County to life and to provide experiences for citizens of all ages that inspire, excite, educate, and actively involve them in making connections - connections between the past and the present; connections among people of different times and different heritages; and connections between the visions of people who shaped the county and its cities -- making Johnson County a "community of choice." The Museum leadership wants to make this new vision a reality in the next five years.

The heart of the new vision revolves around developing an invigorated interpretive program for the Museum – one that will increase the community's awareness and appreciation for its heritage and history; one that will educate children about the county's history and how it relates to national historic events and themes; and one that will engage all ages in life-long learning opportunities. The Museum has a history of providing excellent educational programs at the Lanesfield School and the Museum's leadership believes it is important to expand on that success by telling more completely the story of Johnson County's rise as a nationally recognized suburban community.

This will require a fresh approach to positioning the Museum within the county and metropolitan Kansas City. Strengthening community ties between the Museum and schools, cultural organizations, businesses, the library, parks and recreation, and other organizations will demand engaging museum experiences, increasing public awareness of current activities, and creating a facility capable of becoming a community gathering place. It also will require a new approach to funding the Museum to ensure sustainable revenue sources.

To accomplish these goals, the Museum will develop a permanent Children's Discovery Gallery – a completely hands-on interactive gallery dedicated to engaging children in the history of Johnson County, especially its post World War II history. Children and families will be drawn to this unique experiential learning resource, as will teachers and students visiting the Museum.

Three temporary exhibit galleries will entice visitors with a variety of exhibit themes. One gallery will be dedicated to traveling exhibits of topics ranging from history, art, science, natural history, and other cultural topics – anything that may interest the Johnson County community or exhibits that would not be displayed in the county if not for the Johnson County History Museum. An aggressive sponsorship program will help fund this exhibit program.

Additional galleries will feature temporary exhibits created by the Museum staff and focused on themes introduced in the permanent exhibit galleries. Potential ideas include: an analysis of first tier suburbs and their future redevelopment, architecture of Johnson County, sports in Johnson County, suburban experiences of new immigrant groups to the county, the role of county government, parks and recreation, law enforcement, politics, religion, education, transportation, and housing and employment patterns to name a few. The final gallery will be dedicated to exhibits created by community groups such as historical societies, school groups, artists, etc. This will provide a needed resource to community groups without access to such space today.

The final exhibit gallery will be an expansion of the current permanent exhibit, *Seeking the Good Life*. This exhibit will serve as an overview or survey of county history from the 1820s to current times. Significant upgrades will be made to the final section to more completely interpret the suburban history after World War II. Specific examples include:

- Impact of JCCC and other universities in the county, such as Mid-America Nazarene University
- Growth of the school districts; K-12 education and the community support for public schools
- Development of retail/shopping centers
- Changing demographics
- Reapportionment in the early 1960s
- Impact of liquor by the drink in restaurants
- Impact of local retail sales taxes
- Growth of support groups for cultural activities
- Youth sports leagues
- Development of College Boulevard/office development
- Transportation issues: highways, buses, light rail options
- Issues of race and cultural diversity
- Relationship between city, township and county governments

A second major focus to the new Museum will be the creation of the Center for Suburban Studies. It will include a non-circulating library and archives, a reading room, and computer work stations for scholars, the media, students and the public to research national issues and trends in suburban development. Over fifty percent of Americans now live in suburban communities – a dramatic increase over the fifteen percent in 1920. This shift in how Americans chose to live and organize their lives is arguably one of the most significant changes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A permanent exhibit on the evolution of the American Home will accompany this new research center. Johnson County epitomizes this change and this Center for Suburban Studies will elevate the county to national prominence. To accomplish this, the Museum will develop partnerships with local post-secondary educational institutions.

Traditional local history resources, specific to Johnson County, will also be available at the Center for local scholarship and research. The Museum will work with other community organizations – such as city and community historical societies, the Johnson County Library, the Johnson County Genealogical Society and Johnson County Archives – to ensure resources are easily accessible to the widest range of people.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

This expanded program, as described above, will require the Museum to develop new partnerships and to enhance existing collaborations. The Museum has a long history of successfully serving Johnson County school districts. A recent example of that success is the feedback received from teachers specific to our education programs. Compared to nine peer museums from across the nation, the Johnson County Museum outscored all the other museums in nine of ten performance categories. (see appendix)

The Museum will further expand its partnership with local school districts through the revival of the Educator's Advisory Group. Comprised of primary and secondary teachers, this group will play a critical role by providing input into the types of opportunities the Museum should develop for students. Through this dialogue and a commitment to providing programming that meets school curriculum standards, the Museum will continue to offer first-rate programming to all ages of students in Johnson County.

The Museum staff will also work to expand the Museum's online resources--enhancing the digital history site (a federally funded partnership initiated by the Museum with the Johnson County Library and other keepers of local history resources) beyond photographs to include maps, oral histories, newspapers and other resources. Curriculum developed by the Museum staff will provide teachers the tools to teach American history, both national and state, using local resources. Additional features will allow teachers to post curriculum plans they have developed to the website and allow students to create their own on-line exhibits. The public will also be invited to post pictures significant to their lives along with reminisces (similar to the national Story Corps program which will be coming to the Kansas City area in August of this year) about living, working and playing in Johnson County.

To provide necessary training for teachers, the Johnson County History Museum will develop a teacher in-service program to enhance teachers' understanding of how local history can be taught in classrooms and what programs and services the local historical community can provide to their students. A certified continuing education program will be developed in partnership with the Mahaffie Farmstead, the Shawnee Indian Mission, Shawnee Town and a local university to offer teachers with continuing education credit hours. The Museum will also seek partnerships with CUBE (Center for Understanding the Built Environment), Kansas City Urban Design Center, KU Edwards Campus and city/county planning departments as it pursues a built environment program to help children understand how their suburban communities have developed and continue to change.

The Johnson County History Museum will foster ongoing collaboration with members of other cultural institutions in the area, and develop a partnership with Johnson County Community College to develop a work-study program and to build a docent core of students for museum activities. It will continue to enhance its relationship with the Johnson County Library, incorporating a non-circulating children's library in the children's galleries. The Museum will explore ways to assist city and community-based history organizations within

its resources, develop joint marketing programs among all the local historical agencies and seek to pursue partnering with Park & Recreation to offer a joint membership between the Museum and Parks & Recreation facilities.

## **RAISING GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Developing virtual museum experiences and on-line resources will enable the Museum to reach audiences beyond the Kansas City metropolitan area. Video streaming of the 1950s All-Electric House tour will allow virtual visitors to more fully “experience” the significance and impact of the 1950s suburban model home built locally by Kansas City Power & Light. Video streaming of portions of the Museum’s permanent exhibit, *Seeking the Good Life*, and the Lanesfield School will provide similar value to out-of-area visitors. To enhance the Center for Suburban Studies, on-line finding aids will be made available for easier access to information. The expanded internet presence will establish the Johnson County History Museum as the go-to resource on local Johnson County history and a premier resource for suburban studies by scholars, students, the media, students and history enthusiasts.

Raising public awareness of current museum activities and fostering public anticipation for the new Museum will demand a dramatic increase in public relations and marketing activities. The Museum will need to create a “buzz” in the community about the future plans for a new museum. To do so, funding must be secured for the now-vacant marketing position. The new marketing coordinator will be charged with creating and implementing a vigorous marketing and communications plan to generate public interest in the Museum, build a sense of pride for the Museum, and articulate the value the new programming will afford the community.

## **REALIZING THE NEW VISION**

This new vision for the Museum demands an evaluation of the Museum’s current and future financial resources. The Museum leadership is committed to developing a diversified fund development program to realize this vision and to ensure a new degree of fiscal stability. The development program will include strategies to dramatically increase private contributions, a business plan for earned income revenue, and a renewed commitment from Johnson County government.

It is clear that the Museum needs to strengthen its fund raising efforts and increase the number and amount of contributed funds. To do so, the Museum leadership will create a diversified fund development program, along with aggressive marketing strategies to inform the public and potential individual, corporate, and foundation donors of opportunities at the new Museum. One strategy will be to create a Fund Development committee to include influential representatives of the community. Another will be to list the Johnson County History Museum with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation’s Donor Edge program – a tool used by members of the philanthropic community as they determine where to make contributions.

The importance of the Friends of the Museum cannot be overlooked. Membership in the Friends helps to build long term relationships with local residents and can be a critical means of raising funds. Increasing the number of members and the level of membership will be important to help sustain and expand the organization's support for the Museum. As the

new museum facility progresses, the Friends organization will realize new opportunities for membership recruitment. Initiating an admission fee at the new facility will enhance membership benefits thereby increasing the membership base. The Friends will also implement a new membership category for businesses and corporations with tangible benefits for specific giving amounts. For example, a business membership may include one free rental each year at the new facility.

The Friends, with the support of the Museum Advisory Council, will also increase their fund raising efforts through the development of an annual fundraising event. The goal will be two-fold: to increase awareness of the Johnson County History Museum within the community and its plans for a new museum facility and to raise dollars to support the new facility.

An aggressive corporate sponsorship program will be developed to underwrite traveling exhibits and community-based programs. The staff will continue its successful grant seeking strategies on the federal, state and local level. This new strategic vision will provide even more granting opportunities for the Museum staff to pursue.

The Museum leadership foresees hiring a fund raising professional to implement this fund raising program. A development officer will aggressively pursue federal and state grants, and seek support from foundations, corporations and individuals. The Johnson County History Museum will also implement on-line giving opportunities and museum store sales.

Once operating in a new, improved facility, many earned income opportunities will be realized to support the Museum operations through an integrated plan of user fees and retail sales. With the inclusion of appealing and engaging public spaces in the new facility, the Museum will capitalize on renting the facility to groups interested in hosting events in the grand lobby, the 250-seat auditorium, or one of the multi-purpose meeting rooms. A catering kitchen will provide the Museum the necessary accommodations for large receptions and group events after-hours in the facility and a café that will provide a place for refreshments for visitors and business meetings occurring during regular Museum hours.

Museum stores are increasingly a major source of revenue for many museums. The new facility will provide for an enlarged space for a store and the Museum staff will develop a merchandizing plan including a mix of custom items specific to Johnson County and Kansas. If appropriate, the staff will consider locating the museum store in such a way that it can be entered from the street whether or not the Museum is open, allowing the store to remain open beyond normal museum hours.

Another important source of earned revenue for the Museum will be the advent of an admission fee to all museums and sites, including the Lanesfield School and the 1950s All-Electric House.

The Museum leadership is committed to developing more aggressive fundraising and earned-income programs, but the Museum will still need the support of Johnson County government. In opening a new facility, the Museum will need increased support from the county, but the overall support by percentage will decrease. The goal of the financial plan is to strike a better balance between county support, donor support and the amount of earned income.

## CREATING A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE

The plan outlined above calls for a more responsive and engaged Johnson County Museum. In order for the Museum to better serve the people of Johnson County, the organization must have a facility that meets the operational and programmatic needs of the Museum.

Currently the Museum is the major repository for historic items related to the history of Johnson County. The Museum takes its role as steward of Johnson County history very seriously, yet it is unable to fully serve the community in its current facility and location. It is currently operating near capacity, presenting meaningful programming, yet is severely limited in its ability to generate revenue in its current facility.

The current facility is inadequate for basic museum functions and is severely restrictive in many of the Museum's core programmatic areas including:

- Inadequate space to provide guided tours to the public
- Inadequate space to accommodate most available traveling exhibits
- Inadequate space for large groups of school children and bus tours
- Inadequate space to professionally store the museum's collection: both in terms of size and environmental controls
- Lack of exhibit preparatory, workshop and storage spaces
- Lack of appropriate processing spaces for in-coming collection items
- Lack of space to assist researchers and store research materials
- Lack of space for robust volunteer and intern program
- Lack of office space for existing or increased staffing
- Lack of general storage areas
- Inability to capture the imagination of potential donors

To successfully realize the vision for the new Museum outlined throughout this report, a new facility is necessary. This program cannot be accommodated in the existing Museum of History structure. The current location is now land-locked and does not provide any room for expansion. The Museum leadership has developed a criteria list for selection of a new location:

- near major highway and/or major artery in the county
- central to the county population
- near another major attraction
- free from encroachment by other entities

In addition, the Museum leadership will consider and pursue partnership opportunities to develop a new facility. Finally, any new location must allow for the relocation of the 1950s All-Electric House.

The Museum Leadership has preliminarily identified the types and sizes of spaces required in a new facility, which approximates 50,000 sq. ft. The work was based loosely on the space planning outlined in the Strategic Facilities Master Plan document created by County Facilities. A more comprehensive process must be undertaken with the input of an architect to more accurately determine the size of a new facility.

Children's gallery	3,000 sq. ft.
Permanent exhibit	10,000 sq. ft.
Traveling exhibit gallery	2,500 sq. ft.
Temporary exhibit gallery	2,000 sq. ft.
Community gallery	700 sq. ft.
State-of-the-art collection storage	10,000 sq. ft.
Center for Suburban Studies	3,000 sq. ft.
250-seat auditorium	6,000 sq. ft.
Grand lobby	1,500 sq. ft.
Catering kitchen	500 sq. ft.
Classroom/meeting space	4,000 sq. ft.
Museum Store	1,000 sq. ft.
Café/lunch room	1,000 sq. ft.
Office space	2,000 sq. ft.
Collection processing space	1,000 sq. ft.
Volunteer lounge	500 sq. ft.
Exhibit preparation workshop/storage	1,000 sq. ft.

As the Museum's leadership discussed the future space needs of the organization, attention turned to the Lanesfield School Historic Site. Today, the site is located in rural Johnson County between Gardner and Edgerton. This rural environment is critical to the successful interpretation of the site: which includes the history of the one-room schoolhouse, the history of the town of Lanesfield, the impact of the railroad on Johnson County communities, the history of Bleeding Kansas and slave vs. free towns, and the history and impact of the Santa Fe Trail.

To maintain the quality of the experience at the site, the Museum will seek to acquire land north of the site to create a buffer zone and acquire the Dillie farmstead on the west side of Dillie Road to interpret the area's agricultural heritage at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the main activity in much of the county prior to urbanization.

## **STAFFING NEEDS**

A final element to the success of this new vision is appropriate staffing. The Museum must employ the appropriate number of skilled professionals to carry out Museum activities and provide exemplary service to its visitors. Beyond the marketing coordinator and development officer positions previously mentioned, new positions will include an events coordinator, an assistant curator/exhibit preparator, an assistant to the director/business manager, and a museum store manager. In addition, the Museum will need a strong core of volunteers to support its operations, and a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train and recognize the volunteer contributions.

## **CONTEXT FOR PLANNING**

With the encouragement of the Board of County Commissioners, the Johnson County Museum embarked on a planning process to transform the role of the Museum within Johnson County and define the future of the organization. Phase one of the planning process consisted of a series of institutional research studies including stakeholder

interviews, visitor surveys, town hall meetings, and work planning sessions with members of the Museum staff, Museum Advisory Council, and trustees of the Friends of the Johnson County Museum. A discussion paper outlining current Museum programs, operations and resources, and community perceptions analyzed the critical issues facing the organization, identified challenges and opportunities relevant to the future of the Museum. This paper served as the basis for discussions on how to reinvigorate and expand the Museum.

Forty-eight individuals including members of the Johnson County Museum staff, Museum Advisory Council members, trustees of the Friends of the Johnson County Museum, elected and appointed officials of Johnson County, and business, educational and cultural leaders were interviewed. Two focus groups were held—one with elementary teachers, and the other with leaders of the county's growing Hispanic population. Approximately thirty people attended two town hall meetings; and 350 people responded to an online visitor survey and a member survey. In total, over 450 people provided feedback for the Museum leadership to consider.

All participants welcomed the opportunity to engage in substantive discussion about the present and future of the Museum. Respondents beyond the immediate Museum family applauded the Museum's foresight in looking to the future. They thought it both pragmatic and visionary for the leadership to undertake such a comprehensive process and to "involve so many people" in the information gathering phase of the planning. Interviews were consistently supportive of the organization. Following is a representative sample of their opinions and perspectives.

"The best museums in the country add to the 'quality of life' of their city or county. Johnson County is a leading county nationally because it has nationally ranked schools, libraries, parks, perhaps the very best community college in the United States. We have to begin thinking about putting the arts on the same plain as those other resources, if we are to maintain our position as a nationally ranked county. The Museum is part of that venue," said a community leader.

"Our museum must do more," commented a businessman. "It's a nice museum, but is it relevant to the history of today? I think its exhibitions are out of balance. There is too much emphasis on pre-1950 and not enough on post-1950. We live in one of the great suburban areas in the country, our history museum should reflect that."

According to a philanthropist, "The Museum needs to have a bigger presence in the Kansas City community. It just wouldn't be anything that would come to mind when I hear the term Johnson County Museum. The name doesn't distinguish itself from all the other things going on in the county."

Elected and appointed officials, on the other hand, commented on the public value of the Museum saying, "The Museum adds to the quality of life here in Johnson County by preserving and sharing the county's heritage. They do a good job of telling the history of Johnson County, and have very good temporary exhibits. . . . They provide an important service to the schools, but need a lot more visibility. . . . They need to be more vital and vibrant and grow and become a destination."

The majority of people interviewed (four in five people) indicated that they prefer a Johnson County Museum as a "community gathering place," a place that can "transform people's thinking about suburbia." Said a local cultural leader, "Over half of Americans live in

suburbia, not in the urban core, not in rural America, but in suburbia. Here's a museum that can address the phenomena in which we live. Why would we not want to create a place that connects us and our history with others.”

Armed with examples of public opinion, the Advisory Council, Friends Board and Museum staff examined the critical issues identified in the research phase of the planning process and went on to create four planning task forces to address issues of interpretation, collaboration, facility and funding. The task forces, comprised of board members, staff and representatives from the broader community, met during late winter and spring of 2006 to develop a vision for the Museum. Each task force committed to developing creative and practical solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing the organization. They identified strategies to retool the Museum’s exhibitions, programs, marketing, and fund raising.

Detailed statistical information and feedback can be found in the appendix, along with a list of interview participants and task force members.

## **APPENDIX**

List of interviewees and community advisors

Awards received by Johnson County Museum

Attendance figures from 1999-2004

Member and visitor satisfaction survey results

Education pilot study report

Collection assessment from American Association of Museums

## Johnson County Museum – Community Input

### Stakeholder Interviews

#### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Annabeth Surbaugh, Chair  
Dolores Furtado  
David Lindstrom  
Edward Peterson  
John Segale  
Douglas Wood

#### MUSEUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Calvin Engelmann, Chair  
William Anthony  
Barton Cohen  
Benjamin Mann  
Joyce Rabas  
Nancy Wallerstein

#### FRIENDS OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Heather Woodson, President  
John Andrade  
Robin Burch  
Calvin Engelmann  
Linda Leeper  
Diane Linver  
Phil McAnany  
Jennie Stolper  
Carolyn Wake  
Andrew Zalucki

#### BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Jerry Cook, Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Ben Craig, former President of Metcalf Bank  
Carl Gerlach, Mayor of Overland Park  
Audrey Langworthy, Langworthy Companies & former Kansas State Senator  
Larry Meeker, Arts Council of Johnson County  
Robert Regnier, Bank of Blue Valley  
Steve Rose, Sun Publications

#### PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY

Laura McKnight, Johnson County Community Foundation  
Mary Jo Browne, American Century

#### MUSEUM STAFF

Mindi Love, Director  
Stephanie Clayton, Lanesfield Site Manager  
Russ Czaplewski, Collections Manager  
Kathy Daniels, Assistant Curator  
Anne Marvin, Curator of Collections and Exhibits  
Tristan Smith, Office Manager  
Tracy Quillin, Curator of Education

#### JOHNSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mona Carmack, Johnson County Public Library  
Michael Meadors, Johnson County Parks & Recreation  
Michael Press, County Manager  
Hannes Zacharias, Deputy County Manager

#### EDUCATION COMMUNITY

Patricia All, Superintendent, Olathe School District  
Charles Carlson, President, Johnson County Community College  
Brent Church, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, De Soto School District  
Maureen Donegan, Social Studies Coordinator, Olathe School District  
Jan Heinen, Director of Middle Level Education, Olathe School District  
Hal Jehle, K-12 Resource Specialist, Social Studies, Shawnee Mission School District  
Marjorie Kaplan, Superintendent, Shawnee Mission School District  
Sharon Zoellner, Superintendent, De Soto School District

#### MEMBERS OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Gloria Besselbacher, Director, Latin American Cinema Festival of Kansas City  
Irene Mendez  
Elena Morales, El Centro  
Maria Reyes, El Centro  
Silvia Romero  
Elizabeth Schilling, Language Coordinator, Olathe Medical Center  
Zeny Bustillo Schmidt, Bilingual Services, Olathe School District  
Esther Wolf

#### COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Neal Angrisano, County Facilities  
Irene French, former mayor of Merriam  
Carol Heil, Arts Council of Johnson County  
Roxie Jerde, Kansas City Community Foundation  
Fred Krebs, JCCC Professor  
Johnna Lingle, former County Commissioner  
Tony Rohr, Gould Evans Goodman  
Florent Wagner, Overland Park Historical Society  
Dale Warman, retired KCP&L  
Ann Zimmerman, Wonderscope Children's Museum

#### CONSULTANT

Mary Kay Ingenthron

## **AWARDS RECEIVED BY JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM**

Award of Excellence for the exhibit *Touching History: A Kid's Journey Through Time*, Kansas Museums Association, 2004.

Award of Excellence for the 1950s All-Electric House video project, Kansas Museums Association, 2003.

Award of Commendation for *Cold War: Promise and Fear in the 1950s* (an exhibit), American Association for State and Local History, 2002.

Special Projects Division—Citizen Education Projects – Excellence Award for the exhibit *Cold War: Promise and Fear in the 1950s*, National Association of County Information Officers, 2002

External Publications (Published Regularly)—Excellence Award for the quarterly newsletter, ALBUM, National Association of County Information Officers, 2002

Award of Merit for restoration of the 1950s All-Electric House, American Association for State and Local History, 1999

Award of Merit for *Seeking the Good Life*, American Association for State and Local History, 1999

Award for Excellence for *Seeking the Good Life* and 1950s All-Electric House, Kansas State Historical Society, 1999

Award for Excellence for *Seeking the Good Life* and 1950s All-Electric House, Kansas Museums Association, 1998

Award for Excellence for *Just Plain Simple: The One-Room School in Kansas*, Kansas Museums Association, 1992

Honor Award for the restoration of Lanesfield School, American Institute of Architects, Kansas City Chapter, 1990

Preservation Award for the restoration of Lanesfield School, Kansas Preservation Alliance, 1989

Award for Excellence for the Living History program at Lanesfield School Historic Site, Kansas Museums Association, 1989

Award for Excellence for school and public programming, Kansas State Historical Society, 1988