

City of Lawrence  
Outside Agency  
Bi-annual Report  
2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at [dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org](mailto:dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org). Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Agency Name: Douglas County Historical Society/Watkins Museum

**Reporting Period (please check one):**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January - June<br>(deadline July 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> January – December<br>(deadline February 15) |
|--|---|

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2016 City funds were used to supplement private funding for several projects associated with the Watkins Museum's core exhibit, which is installed on the second floor and will eventually include the majority of the third floor. On the second floor, the refurbishment of the museum's original bank tellers' counter, installation of family-focused hands-on activities there, and the development of a family guide to the second floor exhibit were completed in March 2016. On the third floor, progress on the restoration of the museum's 1870s playhouse was begun and two major artifacts installed in their permanent locations in anticipation of the third floor core exhibit. Throughout the building, permanent interpretive panels were installed to describe the history of the Watkins Building and its architectural detail.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

The second floor Tellers' Counter project included the outfitting of the original counter drawers to display collections artifacts and hold handling artifacts and interpretive materials. These drawers allow families and students an opportunity to explore life in early Lawrence through a variety of materials to see, touch, and smell. The "Old-Time" smells of Lawrence drawer has proven very popular with students, and even engages adults in a new way of thinking about history. Photographs of the completed exhibit are attached. Introduction of this experience on the second floor makes use of an original feature of the building and provides a family-focused exhibit in that gallery. It also brings the second floor to near completion of the original vision for the exhibit as planned in 2011, but reduced in scope for cost reasons. The full vision for the second floor will be realized in 2017 with the opening of an interactive exhibit kiosk now in development on Civil Rights in Lawrence. The new Family Guide, also available at the Tellers' Counter, provides an option for families to explore the second floor exhibit in a way that will engage younger children. A copy of the guide is attached.

The 1870s playhouse, our most popular family exhibit, is being restored to its original appearance, refurbished, and reinterpreted with new activities and hands-on furnishings. This project is partly funded by a gift in memory of longtime DCHS member Marnie Argersinger and is supported by City funding. To date, the exterior of the playhouse has been painted and missing architectural details replicated and installed. Remaining work includes the installation of a metal roof, replication of missing sash windows, replacement of the floor, painting the interior, installation of lighting, and development of new activities to be housed in the playhouse. Attached photos show the work in progress.

An original Watkins Bank vault door, removed in the 1970s to accommodate installation of the elevator, and the clock that originally hung in the Watkins Land Mortgage Company offices were permanently installed in the locations they will occupy in the third floor core exhibit. Photos are attached.

A series of thirteen interpretive panels and an acknowledgement panel were installed in various locations throughout the building. These panels provide visitors with information on the history and original use of the Watkins Building and point out its unique original architectural features (see photos). The acknowledgement panel recognizes funders who supported renovation of the stair hall and the building interpretation.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Since the Tellers' Counter interactive opened in March, just over 2,300 people have visited the museum. While not all of them have used the Tellers' Counter and/or Family Guide, many have. The interactive has been used directly by a number of school and visiting groups including students from Hillcrest Elementary, Santa Fe Trail Middle School, Prairie Park Elementary, Kennedy School, Sunset Hills Elementary, New York Elementary, Century School, Cub Scout groups, and the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Youth Camp, totaling 379.

With the summer games series beginning in June and a special scavenger hunt for the second floor, the Watkins Museum remains an attraction for families visiting downtown Lawrence. When the playhouse renovation is complete and the third floor reopens in late 2016, the full range of family attractions at the Watkins will become available again and artifacts relating to the original use of the building will be accessible to visitors again. For the first time, the history of the Watkins Building is accessible to visitors on-demand, as they explore the museum.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

No barriers have been encountered with the projects begun or completed in the first half of 2016. Progress on the completion of the larger third floor infrastructure improvement project has been delayed by about two months due to issues with discontinued lighting fixtures and delays in shipping lighting fixtures from the manufacturer.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

\$12,000 in grants and private donations have been secured to support some of these projects. Almost 31% (\$9,209.76) of the 2016 City allocation of \$30,000 has been spent so far this year.

Project Expenses through June 20, 2016:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Tellers' Counter/Family Guide Graphic Design     | \$3,500.00  |
| Tellers' Counter Fabrication and Installation    | \$7,355.62  |
| Tellers' Counter Activities                      | \$145.12    |
| Family Guide Printing                            | \$145.00    |
| Building Interpretation Fabrication/Installation | \$1,430.00  |
| Large Artifact Relocation/Installation           | \$6,500.00  |
| Playhouse Restoration                            | \$1,811.33  |
| Playhouse Activities                             | \$322.69    |
| Total Expenses:                                  | \$21,209.76 |

# Douglas County Historical Society/Watkins Museum of History

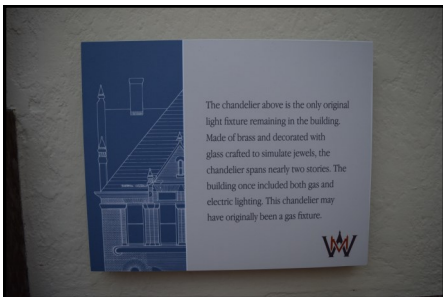
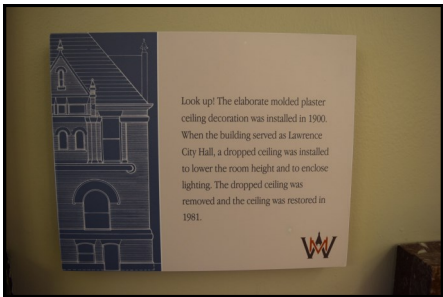
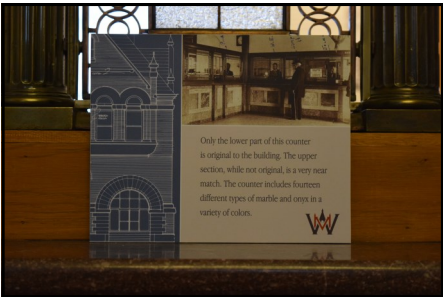
## 2016 Bi-annual Progress Report on City of Lawrence Funding

### Photographs

Tellers' Counter Family Interactive and Gallery Guide for Families



Examples of Watkins Building History Interpretive Panels and Acknowledgment Panel





Playhouse Renovation



Relocating Major Artifacts



# Living <sup>IN</sup> 1860s LAWRENCE

## A Gallery Guide For Families



Maggie Herrington

Explore early Lawrence with **Maggie Herrington**, a real girl who lived in Lawrence in the 1860s. Her family was one of hundreds who moved to Kansas Territory in the 1850s, before Kansas became a state. The family lived outside the town of Lawrence until 1866, when they moved to a house on New York Street, just a few blocks away from where the Watkins Museum now stands.

In 1867, Maggie kept a journal as a school assignment. Her entries describe her day-to-day life, from struggling with muddy streets to attending music classes and playing with friends.

**Thursday, May 16:** "I went to the social last evening. . . when I got up this morning it was very muddy but I came to school and brought my dinner. Then at noon we played drop the handkerchief and blind man's bluff."

**Monday, October 14:** "I am going to Mr. Dewolf's singing school this evening, I went to him two terms last winter and I think he is a good teacher. We are going to have another concert next Sabbath afternoon."



Massachusetts Street in 1868



Maggie Herrington's Sunday School Class  
Maggie is standing in the back row, next to the teacher

**Friday, November 22:** "When I got ready for school it was a quarter to 9 o'clock and I had to run with all my might and when I got to the steps the town clock was striking and when I got to my seat I was clear out of breath but I was not tardy."

**Thursday, December 5:** "It is very pleasant today and the mud is drying up nicely and now since the snow is gone the boys throw mud. Today I had my toe sticking a little too far out under my desk and a boy stepped on it."



Turn this card over to learn more about Maggie and her world.





The Herrington family lived several places in and around Lawrence, including a house on New York Street in East Lawrence. Maggie and her sister Mollie attended school, went to church with their parents and other siblings, and played with friends all over town. Look for Maggie's picture around the museum to discover objects that would have been a part of her family's daily life.



### How does a spinning wheel work?

To make yarn and thread by hand, a person can spin cotton, wool or other fibers on a spinning wheel. Pressing the foot pedal makes the wheel spin, which turns the bobbin that twists the fibers into yarn. Maggie liked to crochet using homespun yarn.

Check out the Watkins Museum YouTube Channel to see a video of a spinning wheel in action!



### Where would you hear a tuning fork?

When knocked against a hard surface, it rings a single pitch. It was used in church and school when singing songs. Singers listened to the tuning fork to hear the first note in a song. Maggie took music lessons from a teacher who lived nearby.

Check out the Watkins Museum YouTube Channel to see a tuning fork in use!



### Why would you carry a daguerreotype?

Before cell phones and wallet-sized photo prints, daguerreotypes (da-ge-ro-types), an early type of photograph, were a popular way to keep an image of a loved one close to your heart. These pictures were easy to scratch, so they were kept under glass in a little case. Maggie's father, a Civil War veteran, may have carried a picture of his family while he was separated from them.



### Who would sit in a rocking chair?

Many families treasured a rocking chair as a comfortable place to sit, work on knitting or sewing, or rock a baby. A fancy rocking chair, like the chair here in the museum, was kept in a family's best parlor to impress guests. Maggie attended several birthday parties celebrated in family parlors.



**Bring Maggie into your classroom! Ask us for information on a special hands-on activity made especially for school groups.**



Please return this guide to the Tellers' Counter when you have finished.