



“We Have Tomorrow – Bright Before Us, Like A Flame.”

Langston Hughes



City of Lawrence

The Flame | November 2022

Meet our new Sustainability Director, Kathy Richardson

The City of Lawrence is pleased to welcome Kathy Richardson as our new Sustainability Director.

Kathy moved to Lawrence while attending the University of Kansas as an international student from Costa Rica. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a focus in biodiversity, ecology and evolutionary biology.

She began working for the City of Lawrence shortly after graduating from KU, and has now been with the organization for 20 years.

Her previous years at the City were spent in the Solid Waste Division, first as the Waste Reduction & Recycling Specialist, then the Waste Reduction & Recycling Operations Supervisor, and finally as the Solid Waste Manager. As Solid Waste Manager, she oversaw the collection services for trash, recycling and yard waste as well as operations of the Compost Facility and Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Kathy is a Leadership Lawrence graduate (2014) and a Certified Public Manager, courtesy of the University of Kansas (2021).

City Manager Craig Owens announced in August 2022 that Kathy would be the City's next Sustainability Director. In that role she is the champion of the City's Environmental Sustainability commitment in the Strategic Plan. She also serves as staff liaison for the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Here is a little more information to help you get to know Kathy more.

Hometown: I was born and grew up in Costa Rica.

Places you have lived: Santa Ana, Costa Rica and Lawrence, Kansas.

Family: I am the youngest of nine! We have a lot of family traditions I cherish.

Education: I moved to the United States to pursue my college education through an academic scholarship at the University of Kansas and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, with focus in Biodiversity, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. While working for the City, I also became a Certified Manager of Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems (SWANA) and a Certified Public Manager (KU).

Favorite sports team(s): KU Basketball. Go Jayhawks!

The last book you read: Can't Hurt Me, David Goggins.

The last thing you listened to: I love listening to music! This morning I heard a Bob Marley song that made me smile.

Favorite holiday: Christmas, every year I spend it with family in Costa Rica.

Favorite Lawrence restaurant: Merchants, but I also love many other restaurants in Downtown Lawrence!

Favorite fall activity: Hiking.

Bucket-list vacation destination: New Zealand and Australia.

Your favorite way to spend a day off: Sleeping in and taking it easy. It seems like each day is very fast paced and while I enjoy having lots of activities throughout the day, it's good to slow down once in a while and become “un-busy” for a day.

What you're most excited for as Director of Sustainability: I look forward to working with the Lawrence community and the City of Lawrence team on ways we can incorporate environmental sustainability into our daily activities. Together we will accomplish the City's Strategic Plan commitment on environmental sustainability – “a deep respect for our place in relationship with the planet and environment.”



Results from 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey

The City of Lawrence has once again partnered with ETC Institute, a leading market research and survey company, for our 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey. This survey is meant to assess resident satisfaction with the quality of City programs and services.

Many of the survey questions directly align with progress indicators on the City's strategic plan. The progress indicators track ongoing work toward the five outcomes identified in the strategic plan: Unmistakable Identity; Strong, Welcoming Neighborhoods; Safe and Secure; Prosperity and Economic Security; and Connected City.

The 2022 survey is the fifth such survey administered by the City of Lawrence, with similar surveys completed in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

ETC Institute mailed surveys to randomly selected households throughout Lawrence earlier this year. In total, the City received 857 survey responses. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey after receiving an invitation to participate.

An in-depth report on the survey findings is available to read in its entirety online: lawrenceks.org/cmo/community-survey. The report is also presented to the City Commission.

As mentioned, several of the survey questions also serve as progress indicators in our City's strategic plan. More information on those results is listed below by outcome area.

UNMISTAKABLE IDENTITY

Lawrence is a welcoming community, synonymous with arts, diverse culture, fun, and a quintessential downtown. City parks and community events contribute to the vibrancy experienced by all people in Lawrence.

Two community survey questions are used as progress indicators for this outcome.

1. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with the Parks and Recreation system. The 2022 survey results show that 81% of residents are at least satisfied. Our goal is 84%.
2. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with the

amount of arts, diverse culture and events. The 2022 survey results show that 77% of residents are at least satisfied. Our goal is 60%.

STRONG, WELCOMING NEIGHBORHOODS

All people in Lawrence live in safe, functional, and aesthetically unique neighborhoods that provide opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles with access to safe and affordable housing and essential services that help them thrive.

One community survey question is used as a progress indicator for this outcome.

1. Percent of residents who perceive the City as an excellent or good place to live. The 2022 survey results show 88% of residents rated Lawrence as a good or excellent place to live. Our goal is 90%.

SAFE AND SECURE

Lawrence is a community where all people feel safe and secure and have access to trusted public and community-based safety resources.

Three community survey questions are used as progress indicators for this outcome.

1. Percent of residents who overall feel safe or very safe in Lawrence. The 2022 survey results show 78% of residents feel safe or very safe. Our goal is 90%.
2. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with their overall trust in the Lawrence Police Department. The 2022 survey results show 63% of residents are at least satisfied. Our goal is 85%.
3. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with their overall trust in Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical. The 2022 survey results show 92% of residents are at least satisfied. Our goal is 95%.

PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

The City of Lawrence fosters an environment that provides all people and businesses the opportunity for economic security and intentionally acknowledges, removes, and prevents barriers created by systemic and institutional injustice.

Our community succeeds because of collective prosperity and a vibrant, sustainable local economy.

One community survey question is used as a progress indicator for this outcome.

1. Percent of residents who rate Lawrence as an excellent or good place to work. The 2022 survey results show 67% of residents rate Lawrence this way. Our goal is 70%.

CONNECTED CITY

The City of Lawrence has well-maintained, functional, and efficient infrastructure, facilities and other assets. Connectivity supports accessible, sustainable methods for safely moving people and information throughout the community and the region. Investment in these assets reflects the City's commitment to contribute to the well-being of all people.

Five community survey questions are used as progress indicators for this outcome.

1. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of major City streets. The 2022 survey results show 41% of residents are at least satisfied. Our goal is 50%.
2. Percent of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with their driving experiences. The 2022 survey results show 58% of residents are at least satisfied.
3. Percent of residents who are satisfied with their walking experiences (including using an assistive device). The 2022 survey results show 53% of residents are at least satisfied.
4. Percent of residents who are satisfied with their experiences riding the bus. The 2022 survey results show 45% of residents are at least satisfied.
5. Percent of residents who are satisfied with their bicycling experiences. The 2022 survey results show 40% of residents are at least satisfied.

Residents are encouraged to further explore all the strategic plan progress indicators by visiting the City website: lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan.