

"We Have Tomorrow — Bright Before Us, Like A Flame." *Langston Hughes*



WELCOME BACK, STUDENTS!

August marks the beginning of the fall semester for both the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University. We're welcoming thousands of students back to Lawrence this month.

Our university communities are an invaluable part of what makes Lawrence, Lawrence. We're thrilled to have you back, and we're excited to see what the upcoming school year has in store!

OUR MISSION

We create a
community where
all enjoy life and
feel at home.

City information is available
at lawrenceks.org and on
cable Channel 25.

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Explore the 2023 Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition

Artworks for the 2023 Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition are displayed throughout Downtown Lawrence, with one piece at Theatre Lawrence on the west side of town.

When was the last time you got to explore Downtown Lawrence from a new perspective? The annual Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition (ODSE) is your opportunity! With eight artworks scattered around downtown, there is plenty for you to see!

We've created a couple of different resources for guiding your trip through this year's exhibition. On our website, you'll find this year's brochure, which includes a map and details on each artwork and the artist who created it. Another option for experiencing this year's exhibition is the Otocost app, which is available for free on the Apple App and Google Play stores. Links to download the app are on our website: lawrenceks.org/lprd/odse.

The artwork for the annual ODSE is selected by the City's Cultural Arts Commission. All of this year's pieces were created by local and regional artists, and they showcase a variety of styles and media. Each piece adds an unmistakable touch to our community!

The pieces and artists featured in this year's exhibition are:

- DEPTH OF FORM by Jacob Burmood, St. Joseph, Mo.
- SUBTERRANEAN FIGURE by Will Vannerson, Kansas City, Mo.
- HUMAN MATRIX by Myles Schachter, Lawrence, Kan. (pictured above at the corner of 8th & Massachusetts St.)
- STUDY IN LIGHT by Pat Slimmer, Lawrence, Kan.
- A STELLAR DODECAHEDRON by Alicia Kelly, Lawrence, Kan.
- COURSES OF ACTION by Sarah Gross, Lawrence, Kan.
- TROPHY WHEAT by Mara Strayer, Lawrence, Kan.
- WILLOWS by V. Skip Willits, Comanche, Iowa
- MARKS ON A LANDSCAPE by David Vertačnik, Lawrence, Kan.

The annual exhibition was first established by James Patti in 1987. With his foresight, the event remains a recurring — and highly anticipated — arts and culture mainstay in our community!

More information is available on our website: lawrenceks.org/lprd/odse.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATES

New guidelines for City recycling

This year, we're updating the City's single-stream recycling collection program. These new features and materials will educate residents on making recycling choices that are both sustainable and safe, keeping our community clean and helping to protect our local environment.

How does our single-stream recycling program work?

When you place items in your blue recycling carts for collection, team members from the City's Solid Waste Division transport the materials to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operated by HAMM. The City utilizes the MRF to process all items submitted to our single-stream recycling program.

The MRF uses a combination of skilled team members and high-powered machinery to quickly sort the items by material type. Once collected and packaged, HAMM sends the recyclable materials to markets across the world to be repurposed into other products.

How are we doing with our recycling?

To gauge how well we're recycling as a City, the recyclable materials collected in our single-stream program are audited two times every year to determine if unacceptable materials are being collected. If the City's "impurity percentage" is over a certain threshold, the City is required to pay an additional fee for every ton of recycling collected.

The November 2022 audit showed 11.3% of our audited recyclables were considered "non-recyclable, trash, or unacceptable items." This percentage was over the 10% threshold for nonacceptable items set by our contract with HAMM, so we had room for improvement!

What are we doing to improve our recycling program?

The City of Lawrence is rolling out an update to our recycling program with the intent to keep our recyclables clean and improve safety for staff as they transport and sort the recyclables collected throughout the City.

One of the most noticeable changes to the program can be seen with the new design of the recycling cart inlay. The new design, which will be imprinted on newly ordered blue carts, provides an updated, concise overview of the materials that are accepted in the program.

Additionally, the new inlay better explains the host of items that are not accepted as



part of our recycling program. Common unacceptable items that show up in recycling carts include:

- Plastic bags
- Scrap metal and wires
- Electronics
- Lightbulbs
- Batteries

Batteries of any kind are extremely dangerous to staff as they pose a significant fire risk.

With a QR code that directs users to the recycling materials directory, the updated inlay will help residents make safer recycling decisions.

Beyond the new design, the City is also launching a new recycling education campaign to better equip residents with the proper knowledge surrounding recycled items.

Our website, lawrenceks.org/recycling, will serve as the go-to resource for all questions and concerns about the City's recycling program. From ordering new recycling carts to showing residents proper places to recycle items not accepted in the blue carts, the recycling page is the best resource for those wanting to learn more about recycling in our community.

Looking Ahead

Over the next several weeks, we'll share more information about the changes to the recycling program, including some stickers you can add to your carts. We'll continue to celebrate the launch of our updated program all year long with social media posts, events and more.

And be sure to check out lawrenceks.org/recycling for the latest news!

Central Station to open January 2024

Two major public transit improvements that we planned for August are now delayed, with an expected completion date of January 2, 2024. The two projects are linked together – opening the new Central Station at Bob Billings & Crestline, and introducing redesigned routes that will better align with the new facility.

Several factors led to the delay, including supply chain issues with materials, unexpected utility relocations, and staffing changes in the groups working on the project.

"We are so excited to bring this major improvement to bus riders in Lawrence," said Adam Weigel, Transit & Parking Manager.

"As the project progressed, it became evident that if we want to launch this new facility and service correctly, we need more time. We apologize to our riders who are inconvenienced by this delay, and we know the end result will be worth the wait."

Central Station will have eight covered bays for Lawrence Transit buses, as well as bays for the K-10 Connector and Greyhound services. Amenities will include public restrooms, an indoor waiting area, bike racks and bike lockers, and digital signs with bus arrival information. Bus drivers will have access to improved features, including restrooms and a breakroom.

Lawrence Transit has been operating at 7th & Vermont as a temporary hub since 2013. When Central Station opens, seven routes will serve the new facility, and five bus routes will continue to serve downtown. A future public process will determine whether the transfer location for downtown buses remains at 7th & Vermont or another downtown location.



Pictured: A recent progress photo from the construction of Central Station.