



MSM Bellringer

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

SEPT 2023

What's New at McCormick School Museum?

With Willis Proudfoot and George Bird as architects and William Dunscombe as the contractor, the McCormick School is a proud landmark of the Wichita community which it has served since its completion on November 3, 1890. This stately limestone school was, for the citizens of early Wichita, a demonstration of the prosperity, growth, and progressiveness of the area as the municipality transitioned from a wide-open, untamed railhead and cattle town to a refined, modern, and bustling city of culture and commerce. The board of McCormick School Museum, Inc. took full ownership and responsibility for this facility from the Wichita Public Schools USD259 in August of 2021. Since that time, a group of dedicated retired educators and others have planned and worked to evaluate the extensive needs of the facility with the goal of putting this magnificent building back together again for the community's enjoyment and use. Following are several projects currently in progress.



Structural Engineer, Scott Mauler, Mauler Engineering, LLC, explains the technical aspects required to maintain and preserve the museum's exterior limestone blocks.

Rehabilitation Projects, Fall, 2023

The McCormick School Museum board, staff, volunteers, and interested friends would like to acknowledge a recent generous donation from the Langel Family who became interested in helping to restore the museum facility by funding some critical projects. A major portion of this gift will go towards the repair and refurbishment of the beautiful exterior limestone masonry and architectural features of the 1890/1910 building that have deteriorated due to aging and weather-related factors. These donation dollars will also facilitate our efforts to install security enhancements throughout the museum campus. Another allocation for these funds is to install an inclined platform lift that would provide wheelchair access to all floors and rooms in the 1930's building. We are grateful for this charitable gift that will allow work to proceed on the restoration of this impressive building. Thank You!

Grant Writing

Several museum volunteers are currently gathering information and carefully constructing the wording for a Kansas Heritage Trust Fund Grant from the Kansas State Historical Society. The monies awarded through this grant program would allow for the refurbishment of the windows and window frames in the 1930's building. With the application due to be submitted in early fall, much planning and consulting is currently in the works!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the McCormick School Museum is to showcase and protect its historical and architectural importance while telling the story of Wichita Public Schools through artifacts and archives.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to guide and assist in long-range planning, marketing, and development of the McCormick School Museum, seeking opportunities for growth and recognition through increased educational opportunities and significant fundraising efforts.

The Newsletter of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. is published six times per year to inform constituents of the Wichita Public Schools and other interested patrons of activities and events taking place at the museum. Contributions help us to produce this publication.

You may send your gift to
McCormick School Museum, Inc. at:

McCormick School Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 12881
Wichita, Kansas 67277
savemccormick.com

Electrical Wiring for Our Campus

Work has commenced to run additional electrical wiring throughout the museum to support strategic indoor lighting, more outlets, and additional building security components. We have replaced the fluorescent lighting in the auditorium with LED bulbs and are replacing outdated bulbs throughout the museum as we can to create a more energy-efficient facility.

McCormick School Becomes a Movie Set

“Quiet on the set! And roll ‘em! Cut!” Those were orders that were shouted numerous times recently when Ken Spurgeon brought his film crew and actors onto the campus of McCormick School Museum to film a school scene for his current movie project. We are proud to have Ken and his production teams choose the museum campus as one of the settings for this movie. We were impressed with the professionalism the entire crew displayed while on the campus; with obvious interest, many quietly wandered through the classrooms to view the educational displays as they waited for their filming directions. Break a leg, Mr. Spurgeon and cast and crew. We cannot wait to see the final movie!

With these and other improvements, enhancements, and activities currently in progress, much is happening at the McCormick School Museum, and we invite you to be a part of it! You can find more information at the website www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com, and Like and Follow us on Facebook at McCormick School Museum. We would love for you to come and see us in person and browse through the museum at 855 S Martinson in Wichita. The museum is open Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Call 316-708-0676 to schedule a tour or for further information. Together we can “Keep the Bell Ringing!”

Volunteers and Interested Persons Needed!

Do you like to be involved and in-the-know? Do you thrive in an educational setting? Are you fascinated by the past (especially if it's local history)? If you say yes to any of these questions, then we have a place for you at the McCormick School Museum. Here are some specific volunteer positions that we would like to fill with an enthusiastic person such as you!

Treasurer/bookkeeper; create and manage annual budget, write checks and pay bills, develop grant and project budgets and income/expense reports, and more. Previous experience needed. 2-5 hours per week.

Artifact catalog/data entry clerk; assign accession numbers to incoming artifacts, develop and enter accession numbers into museum collections records, and more. 2-3 hours per week.

Custodial services; dust counter tops, mop and vacuum floors, clean rest rooms, wash windows, maintain cleaning supplies and paper goods. Previous experience needed. 2-3 hours per week.

These are just a few of the positions we have available for you to consider. If you have the time and interest, then we have the job and place for you! For more information, call the museum Operations Manager at 316-708-0676.

EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Park in the north parking lot; enter through the north door from the parking lot. Ring the doorbell if needed. Call 316-708-0676 to confirm museum hours before your visit and to schedule tours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 N. Martinson in Wichita. The museum complex is not handicap accessible at this time. Free admission; donations are always appreciated.

Plan now to take part in the Winter Holiday Festivities at the McCormick School Museum. This year's holiday ornament will be a pretty little colorful Christmas tree with a golden banner that reads “McCormick Museum 2023” across the bottom. Ornaments will be available after October 1. There is a limited quantity, so attend one of these holiday events, or better yet come by the museum to purchase your collectible keepsake before they are all gone.

DECEMBER 1

Annual Holiday Open House, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Include McCormick School Museum's annual Holiday Open House in your seasonal traditions and festivities. Musical performances by students from 9:00 to 3:00. The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.

DECEMBER 2 AND 3

Holiday Open House Weekend, 2:00 to 5:00 pm both days. Take a tour or browse through the museum on your own. See what it was like to experience an old-fashioned holiday season in school. Ring the school bell and celebrate the holiday season! The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.

DECEMBER 14

Sing Around the Tree, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Sing and be merry at this seasonal McCormick School Museum holiday evening event. Doors open at 6:00, singing begins at 6:30. Enjoy some hot apple cider and ring the school bell. The 2023 McCormick School Museum holiday ornament will be for sale while supplies last. All ages welcome.