

*A joint collection
of the
University of Missouri
and the
State Historical Society
of Missouri*

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Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City New Facility Case Statement

Mission Statement

The mission of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City, a joint collection of the University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri, is to support the research needs of Missouri residents, University faculty and students, and the general public, by collecting, preserving, and making available various primary source materials documenting the history of the state and the region.

Background

The University of Missouri created the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (WHMC) in 1943 with the aid of a Rockefeller Foundation grant. Initially developed to serve as a repository for the Work Projects Administration's Missouri Historical Records Survey files, WHMC eventually came to include other documents of historical significance. In 1963 the State Historical Society of Missouri, which had been acquiring manuscript materials since 1900, and the WHMC became a joint collection when their manuscript holdings were physically combined. Provisions for branches of the WHMC were established in 1968 at the Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis campuses of the University of Missouri.

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City (WHMC-KC) first hired professional staff in 1980 and began actively collecting documents relating to western Missouri and Kansas City and received donations of documents to become one of the largest such institutions in the region. WHMC-KC is a significant collection of records and papers. In fact, it holds more than 15,000 linear feet of material containing: in excess of 15 million pages of manuscripts; more than 5 million negative and photographic images; 400,000+ sheets of architectural drawings and maps; 400 rolls of microfilm and 80,000 aperture cards and microfiche; over 10,000 volumes of books, scrapbooks and ledgers; and more than 3,000 hours of audio visual material including oral histories, home movies, and promotional, educational, and commercial moving images. WHMC-KC is the place where Kansas City's regional history resides.

WHMC-KC has contributed research assistance for an uncounted number of books, articles, dissertations, theses, term papers, and documentaries—as well as helped scratch the itch of persons curious about Kansas City's regional history. Additionally WHMC-KC has published two books and provided access to both primary and secondary data, such as reprinting Dr. Charles N. Kimball's Midcontinent Perspectives series, and research papers on the WHMC-KC WebPages <<http://www.umkc.edu/WHMCKC/>>.

Why this project is needed

WHMC-KC documents all phases of Kansas City area history, families and neighborhoods. The lives of "ordinary" citizens are as vital as political and cultural leaders. Neither is overlooked. WHMC-KC collects materials relating to all social, economic, ethnic and cultural groups. WHMC-KC receives items such as: diaries, letters, correspondence, journals and other papers of individuals; business records; social and cultural organization records i.e. minute books, directors' correspondence and officers' records; church records. Materials come in

all formats: hand written documents, typewritten original and carbon copies of correspondence, ledger books, photographs, oral histories, architectural records, audio recordings, and motion picture film and video. WHMC-KC strives to stimulate research in all areas of local and state history. Beyond the traditional use of manuscripts by historians, the documents preserved in WHMC-KC contain data of use to sociologists, political scientists, economists, artists, musicians and persons restoring buildings. [A short list of WHMC-KC holdings is in the appendix attached to this document.]

The WHMC-KC needs space to properly process, make available, and house its large and growing collection of historical records. Currently over 90 per cent of the collection is stored off-site from the main offices of WHMC-KC requiring 24-48 hours to be retrieved. Moreover, special materials such as architectural drawings, photographs, and moving images (film and video) need special equipment and environments to correctly handle and store them. The new facility we propose to build will have those necessary amenities.

Components of this Project

The goal of WHMC-KC is to renovate 18,800 square feet of the ground floor of the Miller Nichols Library on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus. WHMC-KC facility will have its own entrance, and though in the Library, will not be part of the Library and is not included in the Library's funding plan or requests.

This space will provide growth and needed environments to preserve the collections and room for programming and storage, including:

- A 3,000 square foot RESEARCH ROOM where the collection may securely and comfortably be used.
- A 500 square foot MICROFILM ROOM in which our microform collections may be accessed.
- A 1,000 square foot GALLERY (Exhibit area) where the WHMC-KC collections and other institutions' materials may be exhibited.
- A 900 square foot CLASS/MEETING ROOM to accommodate classes of students and groups meeting in our offices.
- A 300 square foot STUDIO/MEETING ROOM in which we will conduct video and oral histories to be added to our collection.
- A 900 square foot AUDIOVISUAL LAB in which we will set up film and video equipment we currently own or will acquire to work with and transfer our large film and video collection to modern media. Additionally the services of this lab—a facility unique in the Kansas City region—will be available to other area institutions.
- A 600 square foot IMAGING LAB with equipment to digitally scan photographs, documents, and architectural drawings for research use and publication.
- A 700 square foot CONSERVATION LAB in which special processing and preservation can be applied to materials.
- A flexible 3,000 square foot STAFF OFFICE/WORK AREA for current and future staff, including grant funded staff.
- A 1,500 square foot NEGATIVE AND FILM STORAGE area with the appropriate environment for the long term storage of these fragile materials. Additionally this room will contain reach-in freezers into which items requiring cold storage will be placed.
- A 1,500 square foot OVERSIZE STORAGE for items that are too large to be shelved in regular storage.
- Storage in the Miller Nichols Library's automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS) for 42,000 cubic feet of records—sufficient space for 15 years growth.

Why this project is important now

Planning and construction of the Miller Nichols Library expansion is preceding which gives WHMC-KC an important opportunity to build the facility that is demanded by its large and unique collections. It is vital that the collections enjoy greater accessibility for the benefit of local, regional, and national researchers; that environments meeting archival best practices for storage be provided to the variety of materials in our holdings; that we have room for current and additional staff to work with the collections; and that we have the programming amenities necessary for the appreciation and use of our collections. To those ends, the new facility will increase our woefully undersized spaces to equal other archives with comparable collections and programs. A new facility will:

- Assure the long-term preservation of the WHMC-KC current and future collections.
- Bring all of our collections into one location providing immediate access in minutes rather than the current 24-48 hour wait.
- Give the staff equipment and room to undertake both routine and special projects to the benefit of the collections, researchers, and the public. These will include exhibits, publications, greater levels of processing and description, and transfer of materials to more accessible modern formats.

Staffing and Governance

WHMC-KC is part of the statewide four-campus network of WHMC offices which are a joint collection of the State Historical Society of Missouri and the University of Missouri. It is, in fact, not administratively part of UMKC but has as its mission to serve the research needs of the UMKC community and the broader Kansas City region.

WHMC-KC has three full-time professionally trained archivists, a full-time support staff person, numerous volunteers and interns, and the support of various affiliate organizations.

With the availability of new work space we intend to increase our staff size and programming through grants and gifts, and the establishment of an endowment to support routine and special expenses of the operation.

How funds will be used

We seek \$3 million to renovate for WHMC-KC existing space in the Miller Nichols Library building and purchase the necessary equipment and furnishing for that new facility; and a \$1 million endowment to support the operation of the facility and programming.

Summary

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City's collections and programs require an enlarged and enhanced facility to make its unique and valuable collections accessible and to give them best practices care and storage. The benefits to the research community of scholars, students, and the public will be immeasurably increased permitting the lessons of our past to inform the present and future of our community.

WHMC-KC shares with the late Dr. Charles N. Kimball the belief that ideas move people to action. His credo, "Chance favors a prepared mind," reflects the confidence that the truest form of creativity requires that we look two directions at once—to the past for guidance and inspiration and to the future with hope and purpose. The study of experiences, both individual and communal—that is to say history—prepares us to understand and articulate the present, and to create our future—to face challenges and to seize opportunities.

Sponsorship opportunities

Although WHMC-KC will share its building with Miller Nichols Library, it is an autonomous organization and is not included in the Library's funding plan or requests. The proposed 18,800 square foot WHMC-KC suite at MNL will have its own entrance on the Library's north side, greatly improving visibility and community access. The facility will provide needed environments to interact with and preserve WHMC-KC's current and future collections. As such, an ambitious fundraising campaign is underway to fully fund the proposed project, and contributions large and small will be needed to make it a reality. To that end, the following program specific sponsorship opportunities have been identified. The generosity of these sponsors will be recognized by naming the associated spaces in their honor.

RESEARCH ROOM (3030 sqft): Envisioned to be a signature space featuring Prairie-style inspired interiors where the collection may be securely and comfortably used by the public. This space will include a staffed resource desk with adjacent photocopying space, large tables for spreading out research materials, wireless internet access and computer kiosks for patron use, permanent and/or rotating art displays, and a conversation area with soft seating. **Gift Amount: \$650,000.**

GALLERY (1030 sqft): An exhibit area where the WHMC and other institutions' materials may be displayed and enjoyed by the public. Exhibits will include both two dimensional and three dimensional artifacts, so display cases and wall space will be adaptable to suit a wide variety of materials. **Gift Amount: \$250,000.**

MICROFILM ROOM (510 sqft): Dedicated space in which microform and audiovisual collections may be accessed by the public. Viewing and listening stations will provide access to a wide variety of media. **Gift Amount: \$50,000.**

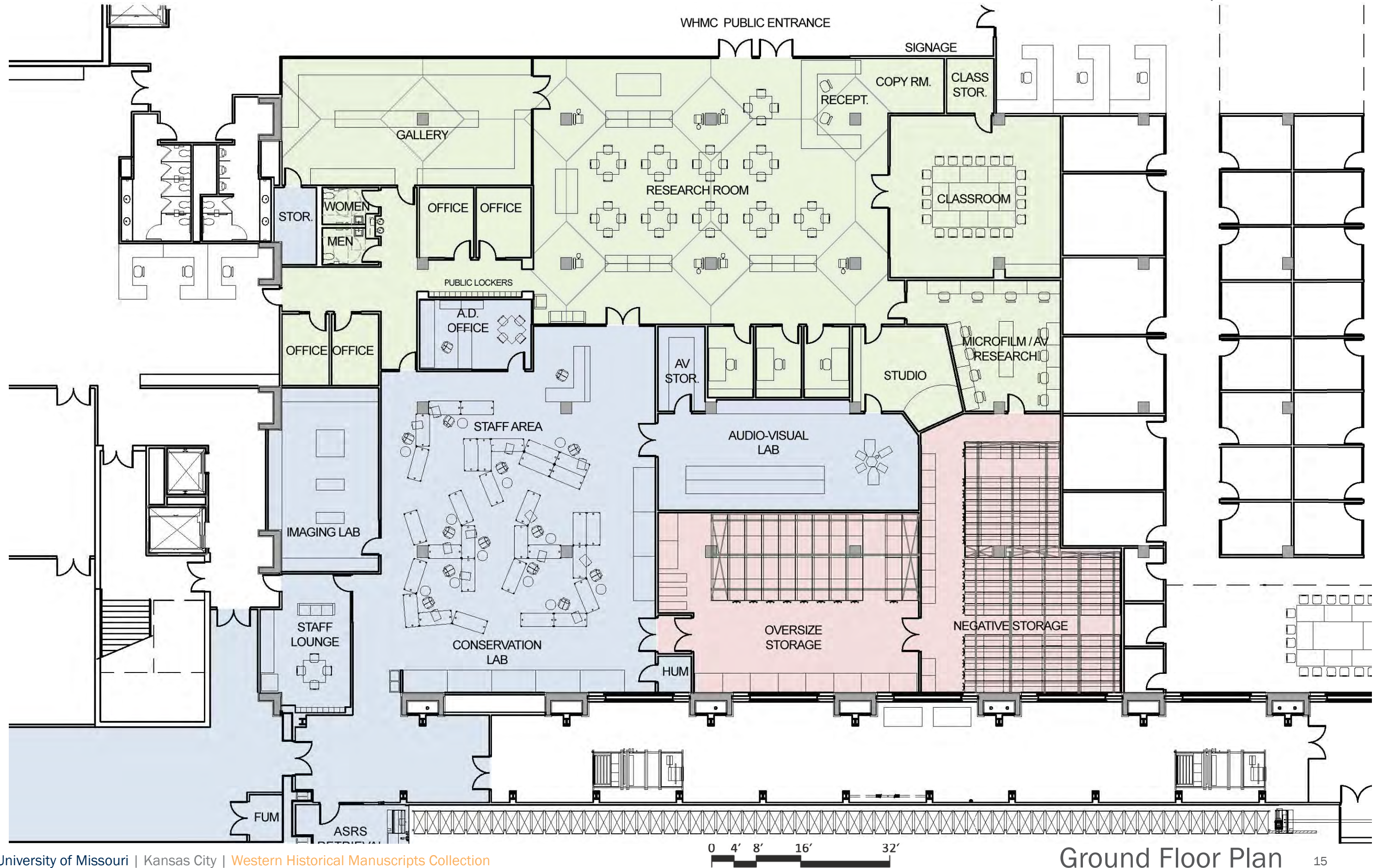
CLASSROOM (890 sqft): Large, flexible teaching space to accommodate student classes. When classes are not scheduled, the space will also serve as a meeting room for other groups utilizing the collection or simply gathering in the space. **Gift Amount: \$75,000.**

CONSERVATION LAB (700 sqft): An extension of the Staff Area in which special material processing and preservation can be performed. Amenities shall include a humidification closet, a large multi-basin sink, central vacuum with snorkel-type flexible arm, document presses, and a water/fume hood. **Gift Amount: \$100,000.**

STUDIO (300 sqft): Professional studio space for conducting live interviews and recording video and oral histories to be added to the WHM collection. When not being used for recording, this space will be available for use as a smaller meeting room. **Gift Amount: \$30,000.**

AUDIOVISUAL LAB (880 sqft): A technical space in which film and video equipment will be used to work with and transfer film and video collections to modern media for convenient access and posterity. This type of facility will be unique in the Kansas City region, and will therefore be available for use by other area institutions. **Gift Amount: \$150,000.**

IMAGING LAB (620 sqft): A technical space with equipment to digitally scan historic photographs, documents, and architectural drawings for research use and publication. **Gift Amount: \$100,000.**





Appendix

Selected collections within the
Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City
(a more complete list with descriptions may be found at www.umkc.edu/WHMCKC/)

A

Ad Hoc Group Against Crime Records (1109kc)
Allan Chapel AME Records (0421kc)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)-
Kansas City Chapter Records (KC0076)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) - Western Missouri
Records (KC0398)
American Institute of Architects/KC Records (0586kc)
American Public Works Association (APWA) Records
(0887kc)
American Royal Records (KC0265)

B

Alfred Edward Barnes Jr. (1892-1960) Architectural
Collection (KC0004)
Barstow School Records (KC0277)
Harold Roe Bartle (1901-1974) Papers (KC0154)
D. Brook Bartlett (1937-2000) Papers (1096kc)
Arthur A. Benson II (1944-) Papers (KC0250)
Eliot S. Berkley (1924-) Papers (KC0103)
Walter J. Berkowitz (1892-1966) Papers (KC0104)
George Caleb Bingham (1811-1879) Papers (KC0470)
Leon Milton Birkhead (1885-1954) Papers (KC0280)
Raymond Bennett Bragg (1902-1979) Papers (1416kc)
William Coleman Branton (1914-1985) Papers (0454kc)
Marshall Dwight Brown (1904-1994) Papers (1153kc)
Bryant School Parent-Teacher Association Records (KC0273)
Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City Records
(0551kc)

C

Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE)
Records (1391kc)
Central Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) Collection
(1396kc)
Central Industrial District Records (1047kc)
Childbirth and Parent Education, Inc. of Kansas City
Records (1160kc)
Jerome S. Cohen (1913 -2003) Papers (0901kc)
Richard P. Coleman Papers (1276kc)
Commercial Club of Kansas City Scrapbooks (KC0264)
Community Children's Theatre Records (1227kc)
Community Mental Health Center South Records (0088kc)
L. Perry Cookingham (1896-1992) Papers (KC0057)
Asa Beebe Cross (1826-1894) Papers (KC0082)

D

Donald Dwight Davis (1896-1987) Papers (0963kc)
Ilus Winfield Davis (1917-1996) Papers (KC0375)
Edward Buehler Delk (1885-1956) Collection (KC0243)
Carl J. DiCapo (1927-) Papers (1237kc)
Downtown (Kansas City, MO) Kiwanis Club Records
(KC0364)

E

Arthur Wayland Ellison (1899-1994) Scrapbooks (KC0271)

F

William Fambrough (1916-1983) Photograph Collection
(0400kc)
Film Society of Greater Kansas City Records (1028kc)
Fort Osage Restoration Records (KC0155)

G

Robert Gillham (1855-1899) Papers (KC0056)
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Records
(0720kc)
Greater Kansas City Chapter of Hadassah Records (1500kc)
Greater Kansas City Section, National Council of Jewish
Women (NCJW) Records (KC0145)

H

David R. Hardy (1917-1976) Papers (KC0319)
Hare and Hare Company Records (KC0206)
Heart of America Labor Council Collection (543kc)
Herbert V. Jones and Company/Jones and Company/
Whitney S. Kerr and Company Records (1106kc)
Historic Kansas City Foundation Records (KC0207)
Louis Edward Holland (1878-1960) Papers (KC0019)
Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendoff (HNTB)
Records (KC0268)

I

Independence Young Matrons Records (1133kc)
International Relations Council Records (KC0095)

J

J.C. Nichols Company Records (KC0106)
Jackson County Charter Commission Records (KC0007)
Jackson County Medical Society Records (KC0088)
Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri Records (KC0365)

K

Kansas City Archaeological Society Records (0515kc)
Kansas City Area Development Council/Prime Time
Records (0712kc)
Kansas City Athenaeum Records (1080kc)
Kansas City Athletic Club Records (KC0153)
Kansas City Branch/National League of American Pen
Women Records (KC0437)
Kansas City Camerata Records (0992kc)
Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Minutes (KC0274)
Kansas City College of Veterinary Medicine Records
(1100kc)
Kansas City Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy Minutes
(1144kc)
Kansas City Consensus Records (1065kc)
Kansas City Federation of Musicians Local 34-627 Records
(KC0431)
Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance Records (1389kc)
Kansas City Jazz Oral History Collection (KC0012)
Kansas City Jewish Chronicle Records (1440kc)
Kansas City Live Stock Exchange Records (KC0158)
Kansas City Monarchs Oral History Collection (KC0047)

Kansas City Parent-Teacher Association Council Records (0388kc)
Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education (KCRCHE) Records (0869kc)
Kansas City (MO) School District Desegregation Clippings (1038kc)
Kansas City Slide Manufacturing Company Records (1273kc)
Kansas City Star Photographic Collection (KC0379)
Kansas City Turnverein Society Records (0860kc)
Kansas City Women's Chamber of Commerce Records (KC0259)
Kansas City Youth Political Collection Records (KC0304)
Kansas Town Company Records (KC0352)
Katz Drug Stores Records (1058kc)
Keene, Simpson and Murphy Architectural Records (0778kc)
Clarence Marion Kelley (1911-1997) Papers (0661kc)
Charles Newton Kimball (1911-1994) Papers (KC0055)
Kivett and Myers Records (KC0289)
Kenneth Krakauer (1918-2001) Papers (1102kc)

L

Leawood Woman's Club, Inc. Records (1240kc)
Liberty Memorial and Allied Charities Campaign Collection (KC0353)
Alfred Hart Lighton (1917-1999) Collection (0762kc)
Anita Boresow Loeb (1929-) Jewish Cemetery Project (KC0430)
Lyric Opera of Kansas City Records (0994kc)

M

(LeRoy) Daniel MacMorris (1893-1981) Papers (KC0107)
Arthur Mag (1896-1981) Papers (KC0092)
Man of the Month Fraternity Records (KC0189)
Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human Relations Records (1087kc)
Menorah Medical Center Records (1303kc)
Mid America Coalition for Energy Alternatives Records (KC0060)
Milgram Food Stores, Inc. Collection (KC0325)
Missouri Equal Rights Amendment Coalition of Kansas City Records (0153kc)
Missouri River Navigation Association Records (KC0354)

N

National Panel of American Women Records (0834kc)
Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City Records (KC0279)
Naturalization Council of Metropolitan Area Kansas City Records (0509kc)
Oscar David Nelson (1895-1981) Papers (KC0069)
Neville, Sharp, and Simon Architectural Records (1340kc)
Miller Nichols (1911-2000) Papers (0925kc)
North Kansas City Development Company Records (0892kc)

O

Oakwood Country Club Records (KC0397)
Edwin V. O'Hara (1881-1956) Papers (KC0091)

P

Thomas J. Pendergast Jr. (1913-1990) Papers (KC0316)
Performing Arts Foundation of Kansas City Records (1030kc)
Nelle E. Peters (1884-1974) Architectural Records (KC0041)

R

Ellen "Nell" Quinlan Donnelly Reed (1889-1991) Papers (KC0444)
James Alexander Reed (1861-1944) Papers (KC0443)
Reform Movement Oral History Project (KC0266)
Dorothy S. and Robert E. Rosenwald Collection (0593kc)

S

Scandinavian Association of Greater Kansas City Records (1502kc)
Edgar Parks Snow (1905-1972) Papers (UA-KC)
Robert M. Snyder Jr. (1876-1937) Collection (KC0025)
Sorooptimist International of Kansas City Records (KC0253)
Torey Southwick Collection (0935kc)
Speaker Services for the United Nations Records (0304kc)
Nathan Julius Stark (1920-2002) Papers (KC0459)
Godfrey Swenson Film Collection (KC0315)

T

Joseph Herbert Tedrow (1885-1951) Transportation Collection (0428kc)
Theatrical Mutual Association - Lodge 13 Records (0878kc)
Third Regiment Missouri National Guard (KC, MO) Records (KC0368)
Thirty-sixth (36th) Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Collection (0819kc)
Trans World Airlines (TWA) Records (KC0453)
Marion A. Trozzolo (1926-1992) Papers (0517kc)

U

Union Cemetery Records (KC0385)
United Garment Workers of America (UGW), Local 47, Records (KC0458)
United States Army Mothers National Association Records (KC0260)

W

Homer Clark Wadsworth (1913-1994) Papers (0602kc)
Thomas A. Webster (1907-1988) Papers (1019kc)
Western Auto Supply Company Records (1162kc)
Western District, Missouri Federation of Teachers Records (0387kc)
Westport Tomorrow Records (0499kc)
Alan Dupree Wheat (1951-) Papers (0847kc)
Charles Bertan Wheeler Jr. (1926-) Senatorial Papers (KC0449)
Wight and Wight Architectural Records (0445kc)
Sidney L. Willens (1926-) Papers (1170kc)
William Volker and Company Records (KC0059)
Francis Royster Williams (1900-1998) Papers (KC0249)
Women's Division, Kansas City Philharmonic Association (0512kc)
Women's Jazz Festival Records (KC0314)
Women's Political Caucus Records (0804kc)
Wolf Brothers Company Records (KC0282)
John Bristow Wornall (1822-1892) Papers (KC0474)

Y

Young Audience Records (0226kc)
Young Matrons of Kansas City Records (KC0100)
Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA) of Kansas City Records (KC0332)