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## KANSAS CITY MUSEUM LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ‘MAKING A MUSEUM KC’

(KANSAS CITY, Mo.) — In front of the massive oak mantel that frames the fireplace in the Elizabethan-style Library of Corinthian Hall at the Kansas City Museum, the City of Kansas City, Missouri’s Parks and Recreation Department convened a news conference at 10:00 a.m. today. The room’s oak-paneled walls and leaded-glass bookcases and windows provided an historic backdrop for the announcement of major gift commitments for Stage I Construction of the Kansas City Museum.

Chair of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and Chair of the Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Jean-Paul Chaurand announced the launch of **“Making A Museum KC,”** a Capital Campaign initiative developed by the Kansas City Museum Foundation to raise private funds for the Kansas City Museum’s multi-year restoration project. The Kansas City Museum Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to develop initiatives, convene leaders, and mobilize resources through inclusive partnerships to support the mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities of the Kansas City Museum.

“Our first milestone goal is to raise \$2 million for Stage I Construction, which is for the renovation and restoration of Corinthian Hall to include exhibition galleries, educational spaces, and opportunities for earned revenue,” Commissioner Chaurand said. “I am extremely excited and proud to share the news that we have received pledged commitments in the amount of \$1 million toward our first milestone fundraising goal of \$2 million. Of this \$1 million, I am honored to announce a lead pledged grant from the R.A. Long Foundation in the amount of \$500,000. The Grand Hall of Corinthian Hall will be named ‘The R.A. Long Foundation Grand Hall.’”

Commissioner Chaurand said he was particularly proud that they have reached 50% of their first milestone goal in advance of launching the Capital Campaign.

Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James said he could not wait to see how the historic mansion is transmuted into a premier museum of Kansas City’s history and cultural heritage.

“I am so thrilled that the Kansas City Museum intends to inspire people to connect, collaborate, and engage in thoughtful citizenship that will bolster Kansas City’s transformation and growth,” Mayor James said. “It will serve as a community anchor and nucleus, sharing stories of the rich history and culture of KC’s vibrant residents and neighborhoods. The restored Museum will be an innovative hub, indeed!”

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Parks Department Director Mark McHenry emphasized the strong partnerships involved in the renovation project, and he introduced attending project team members included representatives from [International Architects Atelier](#) and [J.E. Dunn Construction Co.](#) who participated alongside with board members of [The Kansas City Museum Foundation](#) and staff of the [Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department](#).

City Manager Troy Schulte said the overall project design and construction costs for the restoration of Corinthian Hall are in the process of being finalized, and they are currently estimated at \$15 million. “Public funding is a critical aspect of the Museum’s restoration. In addition to the private fund raising that is underway, public funding is clearly needed for Stage I Construction,” Schulte said. “In addition to the Museum Levy that has enabled an allocation of \$6 million for the Museum’s renovation, Question #3 on the April 4 ballot calls for approving the issuance of \$50 million in bonds to repair public buildings, and if approved by voters, \$7 million from those bonds would support the Kansas City Museum renovation.”

Schulte said the City’s commitment of funds from the bonds is based on several factors including that the Museum restoration project is shovel-ready, it will leverage private resources, and it will promote new development. He said the project serves as a community redevelopment anchor and stabilizing influence for the Historic Northeast, and that the Museum’s restoration will have a significant economic impact on Northeast citizens and businesses, which benefits the City’s taxpayers. Schulte said that when it reopens, general admission to the Kansas City Museum will be free for all residents of the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Kansas City Museum Foundation Board Vice Chair Dr. Mary Davidson said that it was her great pleasure to serve on the Kansas City Museum Foundation Board during this critical and historic time, and as the Board works to structure the Foundation to effectively support the Museum. Kansas City Museum Foundation Board of Directors include Chair Jean-Paul Chaurand, Vice Chair Mary Davidson, Treasurer Kevin Pistilli, Secretary Mary Jane Judy, Shannon Cade, Allen Dillingham, Katrina Henke, and Dave Mecklenburg. Angela Tangen with t2k\_strategies serves as the Administrative Manager, Development Specialist, and Capital Campaign Strategist for the Kansas City Museum Foundation. Honorary Chairs and members of the Corinthian Cabinet—the committee that will serve to develop and implement the Capital Campaign—will be announced in the coming months.

Director McHenry also announced that a public open house would take place from 5:30 to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 29 in the Grand Hall of the mansion. Kansas City Museum Director of Collections and Curatorial Services Denise Morrison and City Architect Eric P. Bosch, AIA, will join Kansas City Museum Executive Director Anna Marie Tutera to give an overview of the Museum’s Visitor Experience Plan created by [Gallagher & Associates](#). Attendees will view detailed floor plans and conceptual renderings to understand how future visitors to the Kansas City Museum will experience these core stories that interpret and celebrate Kansas City’s past, present, and future.

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For more information on the Renovation, the Capital Campaign, and Open House, visit [kansascitymuseum.org](http://kansascitymuseum.org).

**BACKGROUND ON THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM**

Located in the Historic Northeast community of Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Museum is comprised of five original buildings, including the mansion Corinthian Hall, which was built in 1910 by Robert Alexander Long. The estate became a public museum in 1940. It is owned by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and operated and managed by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. The Collection contains more than 100,000 artifacts and several thousand more archival materials that interpret Kansas City’s local and regional history.

The Kansas City Museum is in the process of architectural design development to create a premier museum of Kansas City’s history and cultural heritage through a multi-year, multi-staged restoration and renovation project. Construction on Corinthian Hall (the mansion) is slated to begin in summer 2017 and be completed in 2019. International Architects Atelier is the lead architectural design firm, and JE Dunn Construction Co. is the Construction Manager at Risk. Museum Management Consultants produced the Museum’s Strategic and Business Plans, which were adopted in Fall 2016, and Gallagher & Associates is producing the Museum’s Visitor Experience Plan that provides the parameters for exhibition design and development.

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