

## Regional reach, local impact



Each year, at least 100 volunteers of all ages donate roughly 2,000 hours. The total 'investment impact' of this volunteer pool is substantial – about \$40,000 per year.

The Smoky Hill Museum utilizes six full-time and five part-time staff, as well as several interns. Skilled craftpersons and designers are contracted as needed, strengthening the community's economy.

The Museum draws families and conventioners from across the U.S. Since 45% of visitors come from outside Saline County, the Museum has a direct impact on many regional businesses. Nationally, cultural nonprofits contribute more than \$135 billion annually in direct spending.

## Leveraging resources

The Smoky Hill Museum is one of only 12 nationally accredited museums among the more than 400 across Kansas.

The institution and its staff strategically leverage their influence by partnering with organizations including the Central Kansas Cooperative in Education, the Kansas Humanities Council, Kansas State University-Salina, Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina Downtown Inc., Lakewood Discovery Center and USD 305. Skilled historians, artists and demonstrators also play a part. Donors who support such partnership projects see their gifts exponentially leveraged over time.



More than 25,000 artifacts are housed and preserved at the Museum. The collections staff ensures that artifacts are well cared for by adhering to national standards. Recently, more than 100 artifacts and numerous collections have been donated each year by local families, companies and civic or religious organizations.

*"Thank you for letting us visit the Smoky Hill Museum. I never did those things before. It was super fun! I want to do it all over again."*

**Haylee**

3RD GRADE  
CORONADO  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## Writing your chapter

The Museum celebrates each story that comprises the city's evolving historical tapestry. Each member of the community has something unique to share, so that Salina's overall story may be fully told.

Please explore how to best share your resources to support the Museum. Through your giving, the legacy of the Smoky Hill Museum can be safely ensured. When you give, you also make learning accessible to all, regardless of circumstance. The Museum welcomes financial gifts including annual memberships, individual or corporate sponsorships, and legacy gifts.

Each financial gift matters, as a sign of your support for the Museum's commitment to the community for generations to come. Gifts ranging from \$5 to \$5,000 or more have been entrusted to the Museum's leadership to enhance existing programs and make possible the renovation of the interactive learning area for children and their families, scheduled for 2013-2015.

We ask that you include the Smoky Hill Museum as one of your charitable gifts this year. Sharing your time and financial support is a wonderful way to provide for the Museum's collections and outreach. The Museum staff and board is readily available to talk with you about how your support can best be utilized.



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The Smoky Hill Museum is a division of Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina.



The Smoky Hill Museum inspires visitors of all ages to understand the region's rich history. Around each corner, exhibits featuring local people and artifacts explore topics including immigration, agriculture, education and more.

The Museum reflects the struggles and vision of the people of the Smoky Hill region and Salina since the city's founding in 1858. The Museum's collections began in 1879 as part of the Saline County Historical Society, initiated by town founders William A. Phillips and Alexander M. Campbell. Just over a century later, the Museum opened to the public in its current location in 1986 at the historic post office at 8th Street and Iron Avenue downtown, receiving national accreditation in 1997.

Today, it continues to operate as a division of Salina Arts & Humanities, with professionally trained staff who serve more than 35,000 visitors each year. The Smoky Hill Museum offers a wide variety of educational programs and a Kansas-focused Museum Store.



### Who we are, where we're going

The Museum's galleries and exhibits are a chronicle of who we are and where we've been, challenging newcomers and long-time residents to consider how they will leave their mark. As the official repository for Salina's history, the Museum fosters a strong sense of belonging and civic pride.

"I like seeing artifacts in their natural state and learning how to analyze them, how they were created and what impact they have," says Salina native Raymond Deiser, a history graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University who began interning at the Museum in fall 2010. Deiser is now pursuing a master's degree at Emporia State, with plans for a career in archival studies. "I really enjoy understanding the story behind each artifact."

### Common dream, common goal

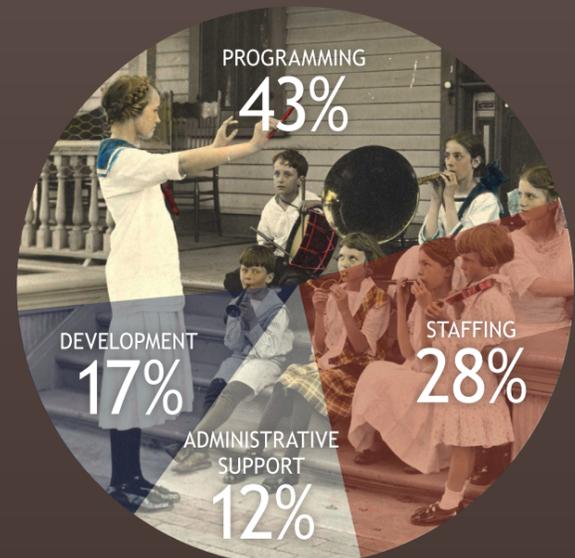
Museum visitors are encouraged to engage with history to learn how pivotal decisions have shaped our community and nation. Residents who are new to the area can also see how Salina has played a significant role in helping north central Kansas grow.

Experiencing the dynamic stories and activities of the Museum is a delightful way to form new friendships and find similarities that reach across differences in race, gender or time. Also, visiting authors and other experts challenge guests to look at the region in new ways.

The Museum's professional staff responds to several hundred public-research inquiries annually, while serving as consultants to other regional or national professionals and institutions.

### SMOKY HILL MUSEUM PRIVATE FUNDING

Alongside private funding from the Friends of the Smoky Hill Museum and other supporters, the City of Salina provides day-to-day operations, staffing and programming support, to help the Museum remain an excellent, free admission educational institution.



The Museum reaches more than 35,000 each year through face-to-face or online interaction, including new exhibits, tours and programs. About 20 percent of all Museum 'learning encounters' occur outside its walls at special events, speaking engagements and tours.



*"We are honored to work with the Museum in a way that helps us give back to our employees and their families. By providing the fundamental facts of our company and how we 'build America,' many children can learn, step-by-step."*

**Mark Hamade**  
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER  
PKM STEEL SERVICES

