

Freedom's Frontier

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





What is Freedom's Frontier?

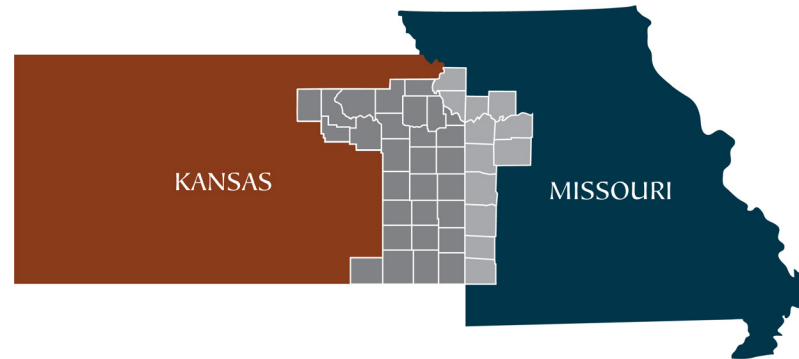
If you live along the Missouri-Kansas border, how you tell the story of freedom often depends on where you call home.

Along this border, a new nation set out in a long trek across the ancestral lands of Native Americans to settle the frontier and, in the process, hoped to find economic and religious freedom.

Along this border, the nation violently collided in skirmishes that helped instigate the Civil War.

Along this border, millions of Americans fought—over school segregation, over Native-American rights, over suffrage, over the right to choose how to live and love—in the enduring struggle for freedom.

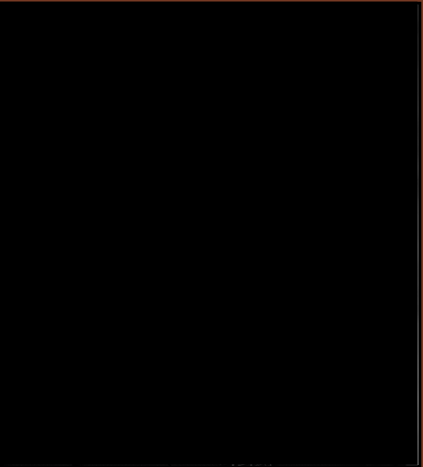
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area brings together the histories that started here but grew to change the course of history for the entire country, whether it is the history of the settlement of the frontier, the Border War and Civil War along the western frontier, or the enduring struggle for freedom.



Freedom's Frontier knits together the histories of the settlement of the frontier, the Border War and Civil War, and the enduring struggle for freedom into one American fabric. Its threads contain the remarkable histories from its partners: historical sites, museums, convention and visitor bureaus, educators, and support societies. Each is deeply invested in telling these stories.

More than three million people call Freedom's Frontier home. More than 30,000 square miles fall in the 41 counties that define Freedom's Frontier in both Missouri and Kansas. As we end our fifteenth year of operation, over 350 organizations have partnered with us.

On our cover: Youth Camp students at Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, Kansas. This partner and others in the heritage area tell the history of our struggle for freedom.



A Message from Kevin Wood, 2022 Trustee Chair

Outgoing board chair, Grant Glenn, led FFNHA with a steady hand as we emerged from COVID-19 in 2021. During his time as chair, Grant pushed FFNHA to new levels that will serve the heritage area for years to come.

One of his biggest accomplishments was the creation of the Project Success Committee, which oversaw development and implementation of the Freedom's Frontier software application for smartphones and tablets that allows partners and the public an additional resource for touring the heritage area and partner sites. In the wake of COVID-19 Grant helped FFNHA adapt to the sudden changes by using technology for virtual meetings and presentations to increase attendance/participation. Additionally, Grant established continuous resources by developing a discussion grant which encourages partners to provide learning opportunities and discussions on equal justice issues within their communities as well as establishing an Equal Justice Learning Project for trustees. Not only did Grant ensure FFNHA was serving its partners but that the organization is also providing financial support to KC Race Project, which funds programming for children on equal justice issues. Last, but not least, Grant was passionate about ensuring ongoing substantial efforts by trustees and staff towards achieving reauthorization and educating legislators and others about National Heritage Areas.

Upon the end of his term, FFNHA welcomes Kevin Wood as his successor. "Serving with Grant has been a wonderful experience. His steady leadership during COVID-19 made serving our partners not only possible but enriching for all of our stakeholders. Grant has the ability to envision the best for our communities which has continued to inspire our work today," said Wood.

The Road Ahead

As an organization that fosters history, we understand the past's effect on the present. The stories that define this region — the settlement of the frontier, the Border War, and the Civil Rights Era — are difficult, painful chapters in history. Now we find ourselves living through another trying chapter.

Over the last year, we've weathered a prolonged global pandemic, battled an insurgent misinformation campaign, and lost a beloved executive director. We were forced to scale back programming and adapt to challenging circumstances. Looming throughout was our congressionally mandated date for reauthorization.

But our history teaches us that struggle often leads to triumph. Facing those extreme challenges, Freedom's Frontier fought on. We discovered creative programming solutions that allowed our partners to safely engage with their visitors. We mobilized to inform the public at large of the law that governs the heritage area and restricts us from infringing on private property rights.

Today, we find ourselves on the other side of that struggle. Our smartphone app is thriving. And, thanks to Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, we have been congressionally reauthorized to operate.

Our region's difficult past shows that adversity is a vital component of our heritage — it drives us, shapes us, and makes us better. At Freedom's Frontier, the future has never looked brighter.

- Lucinda Adams, FFNHA Executive Director



Preserving History & Protecting Property

Each region's history is unique. When President George W. Bush signed into law the act creating Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in 2006, it capped a years-long, grassroots effort from Kansas and Missouri volunteers to nationally memorialize this region's history. In the years since, similar efforts have gained traction across the country. In 2019, President Donald Trump created six new national heritage areas that now sit alongside FFNHA as part of the National Heritage Area program.

Established under President Ronald Reagan, the program was envisioned as an alternative to the National Park Service, one that would preserve history and private property rights at the same time. There are now 55 heritage areas from coast to coast, and just as each region's history is unique, the laws that establish and govern each heritage area are distinct.

The law that created Freedom's Frontier is black and white. It states that *no land or organization is automatically "opted in" as a part of Freedom's Frontier*. By law, *no private property owner is required to participate* in or be associated with Freedom's Frontier, nor can Freedom's Frontier own real estate or property. We have *no influence over zoning or land-use regulations and no authority over mineral or water rights*. Any entity or organization who partners with Freedom's Frontier must be within our congressionally designated borders; even then, *we cannot require any entity or organization to partner with us*.

Over the last 15 years, more than 350 museums, historic sites, and organizations across eastern Kansas and western Missouri have voluntarily partnered with us. Together, they help fulfill *our mandate to spur tourism and economic development* by raising awareness of the exceptional, foundational stories that define this region and everyone who calls it home: the settlement of the frontier, the Border and Civil War, and the enduring struggle for freedom.

Those core themes of triumph and struggle reveal the 41 counties that form Freedom's Frontier to be singular, vital components of the American saga. Our mission is to help tell their stories, simultaneously preserving our past and fostering our future.

2022 Grants Report

FFNHA awarded nearly \$20,000 through Interpretive and Discussion Grants to partners in 2021. Eight organizations received grants in various amounts on the basis of community enrichment and local historical education.

Interpretive Grants assist partners with telling the nationally significant stories of the heritage area's main themes of shaping the frontier, Missouri-Kansas Border War and the enduring struggle for freedom. There were four Interpretive Grants awarded in 2021.

The first grant of \$3,000 was awarded in October to assist in support of an updated website design allowing Missouri's Cass County Historical Society to archive and share its history on a digital platform. The grant funding allowed CCHS to start a new feature on FFNHA's website - a history blog that features a variety of historical information about Cass County.

The second Interpretive Grant awarded \$3,000 to Marla's Quilts Inc., an African-American Quilt Museum and Textile Academy to fund a portable mural on the life and times of an enslaved person named Maria Rogers Martin. The program involved students using research and developing personas and characters for performances open to the partners of FFNHA. The grant assisted in the creation of three 19th century dress costumes, three historical quilts related to the Civil War, and a mosaic mural of Maria Rogers Martin.

The third Interpretive Grant was for \$3,000 to help finance the completion of a permanent broom making exhibit at the Poplar Heights Living History Museum. The exhibit, "Broom Corn: The Plant that Swept America," teaches museum visitors about the struggles against terrible hardships and dangers the settlers endured and conquered on the road to prosperity and freedom.

(Continued on next page.)



The last Interpretive Grant of \$1,000 was awarded to the Independence Historical Museum for the climate and energy exhibit, Environmental History of Montgomery County.

Other grants given in 2021 were awarded through FFNHA's Discussion Grant Program. This program encourages applicants to create community opportunities for discussions about civil rights. This year's recipients presented a variety of creative digital and in-person programs tailored to their community needs.

The first Discussion Grant for \$1,500 was awarded to the Johnson County (KS) Performing Arts Department in collaboration with the Johnson County Museum. This grant was able to fund a virtual field trip program for Shawnee Mission North High School Students. Over the course of three weeks, students were able to engage in content facilitated by the Johnson County Museum exploring the topic of residential segregation through the practice of redlining in Kansas City. Students also worked with a team of Performing Artists to do scene study work from the play *A Raisin in the Sun*. Finally, students worked with the Fine Arts Department and created their own mixed media art piece synthesizing the themes they engaged with.

The second Discussion Grant of \$2,500 was awarded to University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) Educate-Organize-Advocate (EOA) Conference. This grant helped fund speaker and student panels for the annual social justice conference which focused on telling the stories and experiences of marginalized people and communities in the fight for freedom. The keynote speaker was author Adrienne Maree Brown who discussed ways to build collective power towards greater freedom in part through collective storytelling. Participants were also able to engage in intimate settings for discussion, collaboration, and power building.

Humanities Kansas Speakers Bureau (HKSBB) was awarded the third Discussion Grant of \$2,500 which assisted in funding over 50 presentations. HKSBB presentations engage audiences with in-person and online humanities-based presentations designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement. A few topics in this year's group included: "A History of the American Indian Boarding Schools" by Eric Anderson, "Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills" by Rex Buchanan and "You've Got Mail: Exploring Letter-Writing Through Time" by Celia Daniels.

The last Discussion Grant awarded \$1,500 to the Curators of the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) in February to sponsor a presentation by Ibram X. Kendi as a part of the 13th Annual MLK Lecture Series.

2022 Partner Meetings

Fulfilling Our Mandate

2021 marked the true emergence of FFNHA's smartphone app, when it cohered its form and functions into the heritage area's primary medium for public engagement. Launched the year prior, FFNHA staff spent much of the initial pandemic months testing the app's functionality, discovering what worked with users and why. As the pandemic entered its second year, the app was positioned to harness the platform and leverage its capabilities.

In January, Freedom's Frontier partnered with the Middle Missouri River Lewis and Clark Network to build and release a series of four driving tours spanning the length of the heritage area. Adapted from material initially developed by the National Park Service in conjunction with CVBs throughout Missouri and Kansas, the tours led users from the center of FFNHA to its outermost borders.

That same month, FFNHA partnered with the National Park Service and Brown v. Board National Historic Site to create "Topeka, Kansas: From Brown to Brown." Tracing the city's history from John Brown to the *Brown v. Board* decision, the tour stretched the app's structure, allowing users to create their own path through the city's space and time. The African American experience was further chronicled in the "Kansas City Kansas African American Legacy Tour," a collaboration between FFNHA and Visit Kansas City Kansas.

With the "Charles Curtis Driving Tour" and the "Kansas City Kansas Native American Legacy Tour," the app expanded its scope to the history of the area's native peoples. Both tours synthesized the presentation of text and images with the software's GPS functions, offering users a new degree of interactivity.

FFNHA's second cooperative effort with Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, the "Santa Fe Trail Landmark Tour," topped its 2020 predecessor and proved to be the app's most successful and ambitious project to date. Combining audio, images, text, and



gamification features, the tour led users to 13 stops along the trail, each with audio descriptions and images that brought the trail's history to life like never before.

With its expanding library of interactive tours and exhibits, the FFNHA app has emerged as one of the heritage area's most valuable resources for partners and the public alike. The platform continues to grow at an exponential clip, bringing with it new audiences and opportunities. FFNHA looks forward to harnessing that potential, forging new connections with new audiences in the years ahead.

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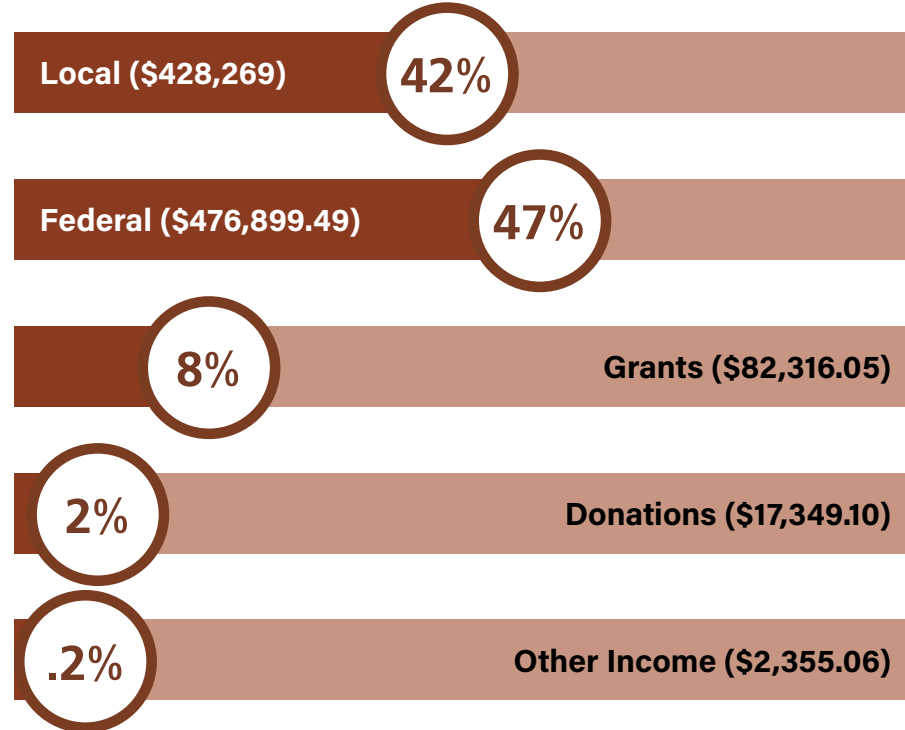
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Financials



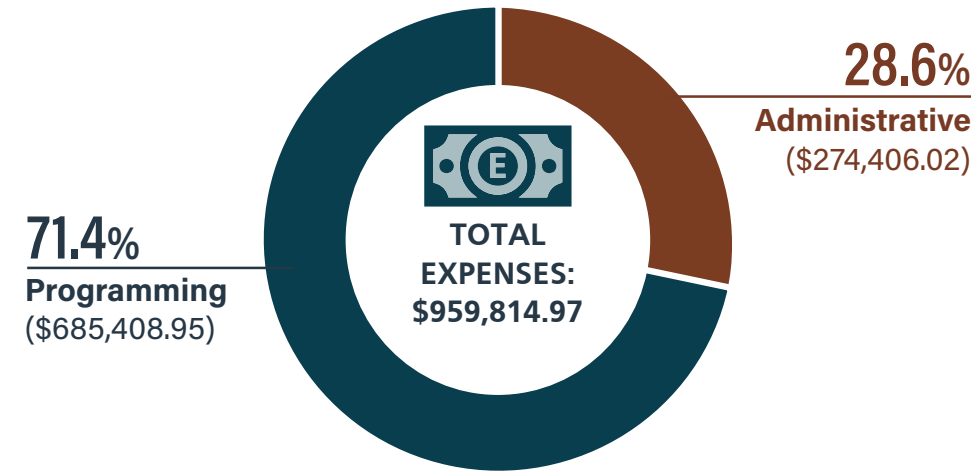
Income



TOTAL INCOME: \$1,007,188.70



Expenses



Board of Trustees

Honorary Co-Chairs

Mike Parson, Missouri Governor
 Laura Kelly, Kansas Governor

Ex-Officio Members

Gary Kremer, Missouri State Historical Society
 Jennie Chinn, Kansas State Historical Society

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 Treasurer — Walter Wulf, Humboldt, Kansas
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 Mary Hunkeler — Mission Woods, Kansas
 Larry Pfautsch — Harrisonville, Missouri
 Kristen Zane — Overland Park, Kansas

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 Martin Owens — Lee's Summit, Missouri

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Ray Hill — Kansas City, Missouri	Nancy Thellman — Lawrence, Kansas
Mary Ice — Manhattan, Kansas	Bob Totten — Topeka, Kansas
John McGee — Prairie Village, Kansas	Angel Tucker — Kansas City, Missouri
Caronda Moore — Manhattan, Kansas	



GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area was awarded the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, achieved by less than one tenth of 1% of nonprofits.

2022 Partners

1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum & Westport
Historical Society
1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum
1st Kansas Colored Infantry Civil War Monument
African-American Quilt Museum and Textile
Academy
Alexander Majors House and Barn
Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
American Flight Museum
American Jazz Museum
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
Appleton City Landmark Restorations, Inc.
Arabia Steamboat Museum
Arts And Recreation Foundation of Overland Park
Atchison County Historical Society Museum
Atkins-Johnson Farm & Museum
Banner Creek Science Center and Observatory
Basehor Historical Museum Society
Bates County Museum
Battle of Carthage State Historic Site
Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site
Battle of Lexington State Historic Site
Battle of Westport Museum
Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum
Battles of Newtonia
Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum
Beecher Bible and Rifle Church
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
Black Archives of Mid America
Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park
Blackpast.org
Bridging the Gap
Brown V. Board of Education
Burlingame Historical Preservation Society
Burning of Osceola Monument
Burnt District Museum and Sharp-Hopper Log
Cabin and Monument
Burr Oak Woods Nature Center
Carnegie Building
Carroll Mansion Museum
Carthage Civil War Museum
Cass County Historic Sites

Cass County Historical Society
Center for Midwestern Studies
City of Lee's Summit
City of Lowry City, Missouri
City of Osceola, Missouri
Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri
Clay County Historic Sites
Clay County Museum
Clearfield County Historical Society
Coffey County Economic Development
Coffey County Historical Society Museum
Concordia Area Museum and Historical Society
Confederate Memorial State Historic Site
Connecting For Good
Constitution Hall State Historic Site
Constitution Hall Topeka
Corps of Discovery Statue
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Curtis House Museum
Day Log Cabin at the Green
Deaf Cultural Center
Democratic Headquarters of Kansas Territory in
Lecompton
Dietrich Cabin
Dole Institute of Politics
Douglas County Heritage Area Conservation
Council
Douglas County Santa Fe Trail Assc.
Edgerton Community Museum
Ernie Miller Nature Center
Eudora Area Historical Society
Eudora Community Museum
Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives
Far West
First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site
Fishburn Archives, Park University McAfee
Library
Flint Hills Discovery Center
Forest Hill and Calvary Cemeteries
Fort Larned National Historic Site
Fort Leavenworth
Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery

Fort Osage National Historic Landmark
Fort Riley Museums
Fort Scott National Historic Site
Fort Scott, KS Convention and Visitors Bureau
Fractured Atlas
Frank James Bank Museum
Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Franklin County Historical Society
Franklin County Records and Research Center
Fredonia Area Chamber of Commerce
Freedom Fountain
Front Porch Alliance
Frontier Army Museum
Frontier Military Historic Byway
Gardner Historical Museum
Gardner Junction Park
Garrison School Cultural Center
Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America
Geary County Historical Society
General Jo Shelby Park and Statue
George Historic Cemetery Association, Inc.
George Washington Carver National Monument
Glacial Hills Scenic Byway
Glore Psychiatric Museum
Goodnow House State Historic Site
Gordon Parks Museum
Greenbush Education Resource Center
Grinter Place State Historic Site
Guardians of Grover Barn
Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site
Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
Harry S. Truman National Historic Site
Harry S. Truman National Historic Site Farm
Home in Grandview
Harry S. Truman National Historic Site Visitor
Center and Home
Haskell Cultural Center and Museum
Haskell Indian Nations University
Heartland Conservation Alliance
Hicklin Hearthstone
Historic Mt. Gilead Church
Historic Mt. Gilead School

Historic Topeka Cemetery
 Historical Society of New Santa Fe and the Trailside Center
 Humboldt Civil War Tour
 Humboldt Historical Museum
 Humboldt’s Orcutt Living Hisotry Backyard Museum, Humboldt Historical Preservation Alliance
 Huron Indian Cemetery
 Jackson County Historical Society
 Jackson County Parks and Recreation Historic Sites
 Jasper County Courthouse
 Jefferson County Genealogical Society
 Jefferson County Historical Society
 Jesse James Bank Museum
 Jesse James Farm and Museum
 Jesse James Home Museum/Patee House Museum
 John and Mary Ritchie House
 John Brown Museum
 John Brown Speaks
 Johnson County Historic Courthouse Museum
 Johnson County Library
 Johnson County Museum
 Johnson County, KS Arts and Heritage Center
 Johnson County, MO Historical Society
 Juneteenth, KC
 Kansas Byways/KS Dept of Transportation
 Kansas City Museum
 Kansas City, KS Public Library
 Kansas City Public Library and Missouri Valley Room
 Kansas State Capital
 Kansas State Historical Society
 Katy Trail State Park
 Kaw Point Park
 Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
 Konza Prairie Research Natural Area
 KU Natural History Museum
 LaBudde Special Collections, Miller Nichols Library, UMKC
 LaCygne Historical Society

Lakeside Nature Center
 Lanesfield School Historic Site
 Lansing Historical Museum
 Lawrence Public Library
 Lawrence Visitor Information Center and Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Leavenworth Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Leavenworth Historical Society and Carroll Mansion Museum
 Lecompton Historical Society And Territorial Capital Museum
 Lee’s Summit Historical Society and Historic Cemtery
 Leila’s Hair Museum
 Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University
 Lexington Historical Association
 Liberty Jail Historic Site
 Linn County Historical Society and Museum
 Little House on the Praire Museum
 Lone Jack Historical Society
 Loud Light
 Louisburg Historical Society
 Lowell Milken Center
 Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm
 Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Marais de Cygnes Society
 Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art
 Marla Quilts, and African Quilts Museum, Inc.
 Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
 Mclure Archives and University Museum
 Merriam Historic Plaza
 Merriam Visitors Bureau
 Miami County Historical Museum
 Mid-America Regional Council
 Mid-Coast Radio Project (KKFI)
 Mid-Continent Public Library
 Midland Railway Depot
 Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site
 Missouri State Capitol
 Missouri Town 1855
 Monticello Community Historical Society

Mound City Historical Park
 Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie
 Mount Mora Cemetery
 Muuseum of the Kansas National Guard
 Museum at Prairiefire
 Nathan Boone Homsetead State Historic Site
 National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame
 National Archives at Kansas City
 National Frontier Trails Museum
 National World War I Museum and Memorial
 Native Stone Scenic Byway
 Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
 Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
 Neosho National Fish Hatchery
 New Lancaster General Store
 Nicodemus National Historic Site
 Olathe Historical Society
 Olathe Memorial Cemetery
 Olathe Public Library
 Old Castle Museum at Baker University
 Old Depot Museum
 Old Jefferson Town
 Old Prarie Town and Warde-Meade Historic Site
 Old Stone House Along the Oregon Trail Conservancy
 Old Trails Regional Tourism
 Opothleyahola Memorial Building
 Oregon-California Trails Association
 Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society Museum
 Osage Village State Historic Site
 Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
 Overland Park Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Overland Park Historical Society
 Partners of the First Territorial Capitol
 Patee House Museum
 Pea Ridge National Military Park
 Pharis Farm
 Planting Peace (Equality House)
 Pony Express National Museum
 Poplar Heights Living History Museum
 Praire Park Nature Center

Praire State Park Prairie Center
 Prairie Trail Scenic Byway
 Quindaro Overlook and Ruins
 Quindaro Press LLC
 Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum
 Rader Farm
 Ray County Historical Society Museum and Genealogical Library
 Raytown Historical Society And Museum
 Remington Nature Center
 Richard Allen Cultural Center
 Riley County Genealogical Society
 Riley County Historical Society and Museum & Goodnow House State Historic Site
 Robert J. Dole Federal Courthouse
 Robidoux Row Museum
 Santa Fe Trail Association
 Sauk River Camp
 Shawnee County Historical Society
 Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
 Shawnee Kansas Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Shawnee Mission East High School
 Shoal Creek Living History Museum
 Silver Heart Inn
 Southeast Kansas Nature Center, Schermerhorn Park and Cave
 Spirit of Freedom Fountain
 Springfield National Cemetery
 St. Clair County Historical Society and Museum
 St. Clair County, MO
 St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau
 St. Joseph Museum And Black Archives Museum
 St. Joseph Visitors Center
 St. Philippine Duchesne Shrine and Potawatomi Trail of Death Memorial Park
 Sternberg Museum of Natural History
 Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
 The Abduction of Jacob Roxe: A Civil War Tragedy
 The Big Divide
 The Castle Tea Room
 The Great Overland Station

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
 The Rice-Tremonti Home
 Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site
 Thrive Allen County
 Tonganoxie Community Historical Society
 Topeka Center for Peace and Justice
 Topeka Genealogical Society
 Topeka Rotary Club
 Town of Kansas Bridge
 Trading Post Museum
 Union Cemetery
 Union Prison Collapse
 Union Station
 Vaile Victorian Mansion
 Vernon County Historical Society and Bushwacker Museum
 Virginia School
 Visit Topeka
 Wabaunsee County Museum
 Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum
 Wakefield Museum
 Warrensburg Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Watkins Community Museum of History
 Watkins Foundation Historical Society
 Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site
 Weaving the River
 Wells P. Bailey House
 Wide Awake Films, LLC
 Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center
 William Klein Park, home of Barnes Enclosure and Cave Spring and 3 Trails
 Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield
 Wonder Workshop Children’s Museum
 Wornall Majors House Museums
 Wyandot Nation of Kansas
 Wyandotte County Historical Museum
 Wyandotte High School

Staff

Lucinda Adams
Executive Director

Holly Zane
Associate Director

Johnny Szlauderbach
Director of Communications & Projects

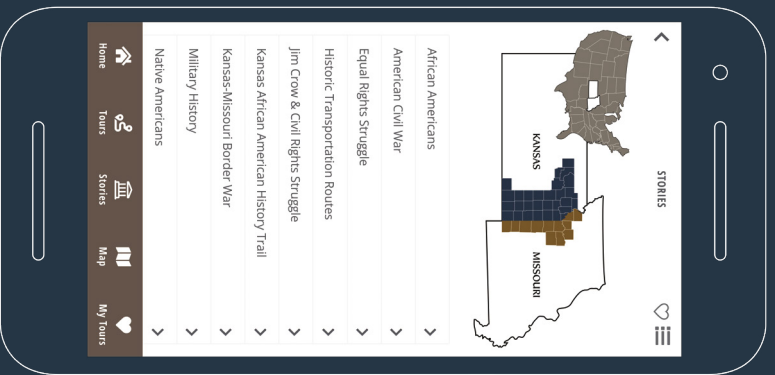
Kelly Sartorius
Director of Advancement

Kate Sutter
Director of Partnership & Programming



**Freedom's
Frontier**
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

200 W 9th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044



Freedom's Frontier Smartphone App

Tours

Audio

Games

Whether you want to ride with the settlers as they headed west, experience the passions that nearly tore our country apart during the border and civil wars, or share the moving story of the enduring struggle for freedom, the FFNHA app will guide you to the region's most exciting sites.



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App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



freedomfrontier.org
fnha.occell.com