

FUTURE FORWARD AT THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

Photos by
David Remley Photography

It's been three years since the historic Corinthian Hall at the Kansas City Museum (KCM) reopened to the public. More than a preservation project, the extensive restoration and renovation transformed KCM into a vibrant, leading-edge city museum that explores the history, present, and future of KC.

Today, Corinthian Hall is busy with visitors viewing exhibits, attending programs and events, shopping in Wisteria, enjoying food and beverages in Elixir, and sharing meaningful ideas, feedback, and resources. We are deeply proud of all we have accomplished; but, we have much more to do to realize our full vision for the 3.5-acre property (including four more original Beaux-Arts buildings slated for rehabilitation).

In 2024, KCM has been engaged in significant institutional planning and enthusiastically looking ahead to the next five years. We are working with San Francisco-based Museum Management Consultants on refreshed strategic and business plans, Kansas City-based Highline Partners on rebranding and marketing, and Kansas City-based International Architects Atelier on continued architectural design for the restoration and renovation of the rest of the property.

With bold capital projects nearing construction, we must build our capacity for future increased operations, offerings, and visitors. This means hiring and training additional staff, and



our top priority is providing paid internships and jobs for youth and young adults ages 13-23. We want to introduce youth and young adults to the employment and career opportunities available in museums and the humanities. We want to provide access to rewarding and sustainable pathways to economic mobility and prosperity.

To that end, we plan to establish a replicable workforce and career development initiative in collaboration with schools and nonprofit organizations in Kansas City that serve youth. We endeavor to invest in training and mentorships to foster competencies and capacities for both professional and personal growth. Opportunities will

be available to gain knowledge and skill sets for organizational and financial management, education and programming, event planning, fundraising, interpretation, curation, exhibit design, collections management, retail, and more.

We hope that this initiative will serve as a model for other museums and humanities institutions in the Kansas City region. Together, we can make systemic change by ensuring that future museum and humanities leaders come from a variety of diverse backgrounds, disciplines, experiences, and perspectives.

Imagine a future KCM and KC where youth are working and learning together cooperatively and restoratively; where they are nurturing a sense of belonging, are motivated to be more engaged citizens, and are collectively creating a city in which they can thrive.