

From the desk of Lesley White, Foundation Director
July 2023 / Volume 8, Issue 6

National Day of the Cowboy

Join us Saturday, July 22, 2023, with activities running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as we celebrate an American icon – the cowboy! It’s a celebration of the history and culture of the American West!



Wrangle up the family, friends, and neighbors for a day filled with activities that help participants experience and better understand the place and time when cowboys (and cowgirls) were a profession that shaped the 19th and 20th centuries in America. It took talent and skill.



Bison Sculpture Will Adorn Main Entrance

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation announces “Vigilance” a life-size bison sculpture to be placed in front of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

The sculpture features a life-size cow bison protecting a life-size calf together on a limestone platform. The sculpture will be made from one single piece of limestone, hand-carved by Emporia, KS artist Alan Tollakson.

The “Vigilance” sculpture project serves three primary purposes (1) serves as an educational tool for the public about geology, art, and the American bison, (2) contributes to the outdoor public art of Manhattan and the downtown Blue Earth Plaza area and (3) kick starts a proposed “Sculpture Trail” project at the FHDC. This symbolism aligns with the City of Manhattan, the Flint Hills Discovery Center, and the Flint Hills region.

In June, the Manhattan City Commission voted unanimously to accept the donation from the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation through the City's donor-initiated public art process.

"In the recent past, we could only imagine seeing a bison cow and newborn calf, near the Blue Earth village and a short walk to the riverbanks. Soon, we will celebrate that natural moment of life with a beautiful life-size statue at the Flint Hills Discovery Center," said Foundation President Jack Lindquist.



"We are thrilled to host Manhattan's next great piece of public art right here at the Flint Hills Discovery Center," said Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director, "Thanks to the generosity of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, we know that the "Vigilance" sculpture will become a memorable part of every visit to the Discovery Center." The "Vigilance" sculpture is privately funded and is scheduled to be erected in the summer of 2024.

600 Youth Passes distributed throughout the Flint Hills!

With your incredible support from GROW Green on April 23rd, the Youth Education Endowment purchased 600 youth admission passes to the Flint Hills Discovery Center. They will be distributed as prizes for children participating in summer reading programs throughout the Flint Hills region and meeting their reading goals.



El Dorado Public Library sends its thanks and appreciation. *"We rely on amazing donations like this to reward our kids who are actively participating in our program. We especially love it when the reward is the opportunity to learn more about their home state in a fun way. It leads to a life of literacy and lifelong learning. It also gives kids who may not otherwise have the opportunity to go and spend time with their family, learning and having fun together, that opportunity! Thank you so much!"*

Children in 18 organizations throughout Kansas have already redeemed their passes. We thank each of our GROW green donors, for making this possible.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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VISTAS is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center