

V I S T A S



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From the desk of V. Marie Martin,
Foundation Director

Dear Flint Hills Friends,

This month Bruce Snead, President of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, provides comments regarding the success of the Downtown Redevelopment project and its impact on the future of Manhattan...

The recent announcement of STAR Bond approval for the North Campus Corridor Development District in Manhattan has inspired me to share my perspective on this important action. I want to express my thanks to all those who have made it possible for the City of Manhattan to take advantage of the tremendously successful Downtown Redevelopment project and the investments made there, to leverage STAR Bond funds for investing in the newly approved District. This has been done in response to the tremendous opportunities presented by the construction of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF).



(Downtown Redevelopment, courtesy of Visit Manhattan,KS)

The STAR Bonds from the Downtown Redevelopment are being paid off at a rate which will meet the debt obligations in 15 (2021) rather than 20 years (2026). The City has taken the brilliant step of expanding the Downtown TIF district to the North Development corridor, which now makes possible the application of the anticipated revenue available from the TIF district to provide infrastructure improvements in support of NBAF.

Let's take a moment to recognize how this was made possible. Without the vision, planning, fiscal structuring, investments, pivotal decisions and perseverance of many people, this would not have happened.

It is a long list of critical participants who took crucial actions to achieve the Downtown Redevelopment:

City Administration	Star Bond Investors
City Commissions	Dial Realty
Volunteer Committees	Hotel Investors
Chamber Leadership	Retail Investors
Downtown Manhattan	State Elected and Appointed Officials
Bond Counsel	

The role of the Flint Hills Discovery Center was fundamental to the original Star Bonds request - without it – without a viable attraction – the Star Bonds would not have been approved. The FHDC has fulfilled that responsibility and more, having just completed its most successful year of operation. In support of the FHDC since it opened, the FHDC Foundation and its generous contributors have provided over \$1.5 million dollars to the City to help with debt on exhibits, technology maintenance and upgrades, and programming initiatives.

For all those who doubted the wisdom of Downtown Redevelopment, or its fiscal structuring, or planning decisions, or impact on city financing, or the attraction of the FHDC, it is time to say **thank you to all those who played a critical role in fulfilling the vision of this project. Bruce Snead- President, FHDC Foundation.**

New traveling exhibits at FHDC provide literature and art experiences for youth. “Framed Step Into Art” and “Storyland” will be on exhibit in the second floor Tallgrass Gallery and on the Mezzanine through May 12. FHDC staff have added a “Johnny Kaw” component to Storyland to include a local connection to this exhibit. We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors - **Capitol Federal, City of Manhattan Parks and Rec, City of Manhattan, Kansas and Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.**

Storytelling Saturday at FHDC is Saturday, February 23, from 10 - 2. There will be live musicians, a puppet show, and art activities from our partner the **Beach Museum**. This opportunity is focused on early childhood literacy (ages 2-8). See www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/548/Storytelling-Saturday for more details. This event is made possible by a USD 383 K-Link literacy grant and the FHDC Foundation.

Join us during spring break week, March 11-15, is this year’s Meet the Makers event in the Atrium of FHDC. Local crafters and artisans will be demonstrating their crafts like woodturning, watercolor painting, Henna body art, live pottery making and more. This event is free and open to the public! See details at www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/186/Meet-the-Makers.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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VISTAS, a monthly memo, is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center’s unique and dynamic mission.

Read VISTAS Memo, now online at the FHDC website, <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/414/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation’s pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and the Discovery Center