
From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, August 2019
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Dear Flint Hills Friends,

In late July we were saddened to learn of the passing of Cathy Hoy. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Jim Hoy and the Hoy family. Cathy was a wonderful multi-faceted Flint Hills woman who always had a smile for everyone. The Foundation had the privilege, in 2015, to recognize both Cathy and Jim as Friends of the Flint Hills, for their numerous contributions to the region, their love of the Flint Hills, and their tireless work to make the region a better place to live, work and visit.

Cathy touched the lives of thousands of people through her work. Symphony in the Flint Hills, Pioneers Bluff, Emporia State University, the Emporia Arts Council and more benefited from her leadership and hard work. Cathy and Jim provided significant input and guidance in the development of the ranching component in the permanent exhibit on the first floor of Flint Hills Discovery Center. Cathy, like many other people not raised in the Flint Hills, came to love the region like it was her birthplace. Thank you, Cathy, you made the Flint Hills a better place for all of us!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center held its first ever off-site Astronomy Night at Northeast Community Park in Manhattan. This free event was moved from the 3rd floor terrace at the Discovery Center where it had been held the preceding two years. Nearly 400 participated in the event and enjoyed a beautiful July evening. Various local astronomy buffs provided more than 12 telescopes for the evening viewing. Astronomy Night was organized to celebrate the Apollo 11 moon landing 50 years ago and provide guests with the opportunity to look at the moon, planets and stars. We extend our thanks to the Beach Museum and the Manhattan Public Library for their partnership in this family fun event!

The Discovery Center also celebrated another national event when it hosted the National Day of the Cowboy on July 27. Sponsors for this great family event included Dan and Beth Bird; Visit Manhattan, Kansas; Wrangler; Vanderbilts and Grass & Grain. Thank you everyone for your support!

Work has begun work on the Outdoor Classroom in the southeast portion of the landscaped area adjacent to the FHDC building. Cedar trees have been cleared and the ground is being prepared. Construction of the limestone benches and table is expected to begin in September, weather permitting, by Koch Construction Specialties LLC. The FHDC Education Staff is hoping the project can be completed so they can schedule at least one or two outdoor classes before winter.

The FHDC Foundation has completed its annual audit. As stewards of your charitable gifts the audit provides an independent accounting and review of our financial practices. Agler & Gaeddert Chartered Certified Accountants reported the Foundation was in compliance and accordance with general accounting principles.

A reminder! *Dream with DaVinci* and *Food First* close on Sunday, September 8. Make sure you come by and see the DaVinci exhibit. You will be amazed how DaVinci influenced present day math, science, art, technology, flight and so many of the things we take for granted. The AIB exhibit *Food First* located in the Mezzanine Gallery will give kids one last chance to play baker for a day so don't wait any longer. We extend a special thank you to the sponsors who helped make these exhibits possible: AIB International; KS State Bank; Kansas Gas Service; Orazem & Scalora Engineering, P.A.; City of Manhattan Parks & Rec; City of Manhattan, Kansas; and the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.



Community Day will be celebrated at the Discovery Center on Sunday, September 15 from 12-5 pm. Admission is free on this day, so come and enjoy what the Discovery Center and our wonderful community partners have in store for you. This special day is sponsored by Hy-Vee; Ascension Via Christi; Visit Manhattan, Kansas; and the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.

Saturday, September 21, the Discovery Center will open the fall/winter exhibits called *Zoo in You: The Human Microbiome* located in the Tallgrass Gallery, and *Eat Well, Play Well* located in the Mezzanine Gallery. These exhibits are underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation; in collaboration with OMSI, Everyday Encounter with Science, and supported by SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award); Ascension Via Christi; Visit Manhattan, Kansas; Manhattan Medical Group; Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation; Riley County Historical Museum; and Kansas Learning Center for Health.

There is still time to enjoy the end to a Flint Hills summer by exploring the Flint Hills Nature Trail. The trail is a great place for hiking, biking or horseback riding. The trail is the longest nature trail in Kansas at over 90 miles. You can travel the whole 90 mile trail or you can just enjoy a few miles between towns. A wonderful place to breathe in the great Flint Hills air! For more information, visit: <http://kanzatrails.org/flint-hills-nature-trail/>.

Be watching your mail for the **Save the Date Card** for the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation's first fundraising event, 6:30 pm, Saturday, November 2, at the Flint Hills Discovery Center! This special event fundraiser serves to support educational program enhancements at the Discovery Center!

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. www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/151/FHDC-Foundation