**Historic Kansas City Foundation (HKCF) - Liberty Memorial Restoration Project Collection**

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

The Historic Kansas City Foundation was founded in 1974 and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Kansas City area’s historic environment. The organization regularly serves as an advocate for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and neighborhoods and is financed though memberships, corporate and foundation gifts, and public grants.

At the end of the First World War the Kansas City City Council asked the Liberty Memorial Association, a group of 40 civic leaders, to investigate the funding, design and location of a monument to honor the men and women who served in the Great War. A site opposite Union Station was chosen since it would be the first sight visitors to the city would see. The site dedication occurred on November 1, 1921 and the construction was overseen by the architectural firm of Wight and Wight. The completed memorial was dedicated on November 11, 1926 by President Calvin Coolidge.

In 1994 the Memorial was closed to the public because of safety concerns. There was significant deterioration of the underlying supports of the buildings. The Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department has responsibility for the Liberty Memorial site (Kansas City owns the buildings and the land) and coordinated the planning as well as the construction work for the necessary repairs. In 1998 an eighteen-month sales tax for restoration of the Memorial and creation of an endowment for the memorial and the museum was approved by Kansas City voters. When the tax expired in 2000, it had raised $45.5 million dollars of the Memorial. Additional funds came from the State of Missouri and the federal government with an estimated total of $102,000,000 raised for the project. While the restoration of the existing Memorial was a focus of the Parks Board plan, it also included a significant expansion of the space for the Liberty Memorial Museum.

Sources:

<https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/museum-and-memorial>

<https://www.thepitchkc.com/news/article/20574887/who-paid-for-the-world-war-i-museum-at-liberty-memorial-anyway>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_World_War_I_Museum_and_Memorial>

<https://www.historickansascity.org/>

SCOPE:

This collection of two boxes was donated by the Historic Kansas City Foundation to the Jackson County Historical Society in June 2011 and covers HKCF’s involvement with the Memorial restoration from the mid-1990s through the early 2000s.

The collection includes HKCF correspondence, project planning documents, design and construction budgets, design and construction specifications, oversized architectural drawings, project contracts, project invoices, newspaper articles and other publicity about the restoration, meeting minutes, identification of and request to various funding sources (local, state and federal), the nomination and approval of the Memorial to the National Register of Historic Places, HKCF’s effort to find support for their concerns with the restoration plans, and the City Auditor’s 2001 audit of the restoration project.

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| BOX | FOLDER | DESCRIPTION |
| C43.01 | F 1 | January 29, 1999 Tax Credit for Contribution Program application to the Missouri Development Finance Board prepared by the City of Kansas City for Liberty Memorial Restoration funds. March 16, 1999 presentation by Kansas City Parks & Recreation to the Missouri Development Finance Board. |
| C43.01 | F 2 | Missouri Development Finance Board Funding for the Liberty Memorial Restoration: the approval of the Kansas City Park Board’s application to the Missouri Development Finance Board’s Tax Credit for Contribution Program, and HKCF and KC Parks Board correspondence on funds and tax credits usage. |
| C43.01 | F 3 | Liberty Memorial Project Restoration and Construction Costs and Contracts: This large file contains construction and design plans and budgets including those submitted by Abend Singleton (ASAI), JE Dunn, and Universal-Chrisman. Also in the file are project invoices with documentation regarding project charges, and detailed itemized cost lists. |
| C43.01 | F 4 | Business Case for the Liberty Memorial Museum Expansion: File includes the February 17, 1998 Midwest Research Institute’s report titled “An Economic Feasibility Analysis of the Liberty Memorial and Museum” prepared for the KC Parks & Recreation Commissioners. |
| C43.01 | F 5 | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: January 31, 2000 request from HKCF for involvement of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in the Liberty Memorial Restoration project, and the March 8, 2000 response by the KC Parks Board. Also in the file is the August 2, 2000 press release from HKCF announcing the creation of the National Preservation Advisory Council for Liberty Memorial which includes the list of members and their biographical information. |
| C43.01 | F 6 | Minutes and Reports of the Liberty Memorial Design Review Committee: Minutes from various meetings of the Design Review Committee, in many cases including documents made available during the meetings and reports on site visits by the MO State Historic Preservation Office. Also in the file is a copy of the KPMG 11/19/2001 KPMG report finding no errors in the construction cost allocation for the Memorial restoration by the KC Parks & Recreation Board which disputes recent audit prepared by City Auditor Mark Funkhouser. See also File C43.02 F 10 regarding the City Audit. |
| C43.01 | F 7 | Requests by HKCF for Documents and Information: This file contains copies of HKCF’s FOIA requests and responses received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development on the assistance award and grant Agreement with the City of Kansas City for the Liberty Memorial restoration, as well as requests made to the Liberty Memorial Association for tax returns for 1997 – 1999. Also included are HKCF requests for information on KC’s policy for encouraging minority business involvement, JE Dunn and ASAI contracts, and the tax credit agreement with the MO Finance Development Board. |
| C43.01 | F 8 | HKCF correspondence to and from KC City Council members, KC Parks & Recreation Board, Mayor Kay Barnes, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Norton & Schmidt, law firms, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Native Sons of Greater KC, and news organizations. The file also contains a summary of news articles on the Memorial restoration printed in the KC Star from 1999-2000. |
| C43.01 | F 9 | Kansas City Ordinances and Ballot language regarding the Liberty Memorial. |
| C43.01 | F 10 | Reports and Research collected by or created by HKCF: April 2001 Findings Summary of the Restoration Audit; January 31, 2000 goals of the Liberty Memorial Project; September 30, 1996 Preliminary Design of the New Liberty Memorial Museum; and two undated reports - “The Architectural and Artist Importance of the Liberty Memorial”; and “The Purpose of the Liberty Memorial.” |
| C43.01 | F 11 | Nomination and Entry of the Liberty Memorial to the National Register of Historic Places: 4/3/2000 National Register Nomination prepared by Cydney Millstein, approval of the nomination by various Kansas City government entities, HKCF’s 7/13/2000 analysis of problems with the nomination and the 10/6/2000 certificate of entry to the National Register. |
| C43.01 | F 12 | HKCF’s Fall 2000 newsletter sent to its members regarding Liberty Memorial restoration. Newsletter also contains a survey for HKCF members to complete and a tally of the survey results. |
| C43.01 | F 13 | Drafts and final version of 4/19/2000 Memorandum of Agreement between KC Parks & Recreation Board and the MO State Historic Preservation Office. |
| C43.01 | F 14 | Military History Museums in the US – general information about various museums. |
| C43.01 | F 15 | Correspondence from HKCF seeking advocacy and support of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for the original Liberty Memorial museum design. Also in the file is a 2/14/2001 press release from HKCF on museum expansion and a 2/15/2001 article in the KC Star about the museum expansion. |
| C43.01 | F 16 | Newspaper articles from 1997 – 2001 regarding the Liberty Memorial restoration and museum expansion project. |
| C43.02 | F 1 | Kansas City Parks & Recreation’s September 30, 1996 report titled “The Liberty Memorial. The Liberty Memorial Museum. Preliminary Report”. |
| C43.02 | F 2 | Specifications and Contract Documents for the Liberty Memorial and Liberty Memorial Museum Restoration November, 1999. Book 1. |
| C43.02 | F 3 | Specifications and Contract Documents for the Liberty Memorial and Liberty Memorial Museum Restoration November, 1999. Book 2. |
| C43.02 | F 4 | Specifications and Contract Documents for the Liberty Memorial and Liberty Memorial Museum Restoration. Addendums 1 – 10, 1999-2000. |
| C43.02 | F 5 | Liberty Memorial Restoration: ASAI’s May 26, 1995 Statement of Interest in the Liberty Memorial Project; GeoSystems Engineering’s reports on site issues; 11/14/1995 Professional Consulting/Engineering Services agreement between ASAI and KC Parks & Recreation; ASAI’s 11/6/1995 Revised Scope of Services; March 11, 1997 First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement between KC Parks & Recreation and ASAI; February 2, 1999 Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement between KC Parks and Recreation and ASAI; April 18, 2000 Third Amendment to Professional Services Agreement between KC Parks & Recreation and ASAI; ASAI Invoices for project work , 1999-2000; May 12, 2000 titled” Review of Design and Contract Documents for the Liberty Memorial and Liberty Memorial Museum Restoration and Additions” by John G. Waite Associates; 9/29/2000 RFP from KC Parks & Recreation soliciting professional services for Liberty Memorial project; John G. Waite Associates resume; identification of issues to be addressed by a preservation architect; HKCF correspondence regarding the selection of a preservation architect for the project. |
| C43.02 | F 6 | March 12, 2000 finding of no significant impact and intent to request release of funds published by KC Parks and Recreation in the KC Star. 3/27/2000 objection to the finding from Weisenfels & Vaughn on behalf of HKCF to the KC Parks Board; 4/21/2000 response by the Parks Board. Signing of April, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between KC Parks & Recreation and the MO State Historic Preservation. |
| C43.02 | F 7 | Application and Requests for Federal Funding: Kansas City’s 1999 application of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; 4/3/2000 Grant Agreement between KC and HUD. HKCF’s letter to Frelich Lettner re potential violation by the City to HUD grant terms; request by Freilich Lettner for involvement of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; fax to KC Star from HKCF regarding potential HUD grant violation; correspondence from Frelich Lettner to HUD requesting clarification on the grant issue and response by KC. |
| C43.02 | F 8 | Public Participation in the Liberty Memorial Restoration Project: includes details on KC Parks & Recreation meetings and presentations on the project from 1995 through 1999. Also in the file is information on Citizens to Save Liberty Memorial, Liberty Memorial Design Review Committee, National Preservation Advisory Council for Liberty Memorial (set up by HKCF) and the Liberty Memorial Association. |
| C43.02 | F 9 | History of the Liberty Memorial: 1929 “Historical Sketch of The Memorial” by JE McPherson; April, 2001 summary submitted to the As I See It feature in the KC Star by Sarajane Aber; portions of Sarajane Aber’s 1988 publication “Architecture History of the Liberty Memorial”; 5/30/1962 manuscript titled “Story of the Giant Frieze and the Dedication Wall” by Mrs. William Wight. |
| C43.02 | F 10 | Kansas City City Audit of the Liberty Memorial Project including April, 2001 findings summary. |
| C43.02 | F 11 | 1995 Norton & Schmidt, Consulting Engineers report titled “Phase II – Summary with Probable Construction Costs” regarding structural and architectural issues and recommendations. |
| C43.02 | F 12 | Correspondence from Jane Flynn (HKCF) regarding changes to the Liberty Memorial design. File includes architectural drawings and pictures. |