



**WILLIAM T. KEMPER FOUNDATION AWARDS
HISTORIC KANSAS CITY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT**

Kansas City, MO, October 30, 2008 The William T. Kemper Foundation/Commerce Bank Trustee and The National Trust for Historic Preservation have awarded Historic Kansas City Foundation a \$225,000 challenge grant to re-establish the Foundation as a leader in historic preservation within greater Kansas City. The grant will allow Historic Kansas City Foundation to build its staffing capacity, enhance public programming and expand its advocacy influence. The Foundation in turn must secure an additional \$150,000 in funding to match the challenge gift.

For over 30 years, Historic Kansas City Foundation has served as the leading advocate and educator for the preservation of Kansas City's historic resources. John Hoffman, HKCF board member and chair of the Preservation Challenge stated, "Kansas City's 'sense of place' expressed by historic preservation is an important element in city center revitalization, job creation, housing, and tourism. It is our challenge to make sure we continue to protect these historic assets."

Historic Kansas City Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods in greater Kansas City. Through public policy, outreach, and educational programming, Historic Kansas City Foundation demonstrates the proven economic and cultural benefits of historic preservation.

Current programs include:

- Speaker's Bureau available to educate students, organizations and the public about Kansas City's heritage.
- Heritage Hikes guided tours of Kansas City's historic districts.
- Walking and bus tours open to the public which gives participants a "live" history lesson.
- Special events which create awareness and illustrate the benefits of historic preservation.
- Public policy programs which monitor federal, state and local legislative issues.
- Advocacy action to rescue structures threatened with demolition.

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