

The Story of

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in  
Kansas City



This tour explores segregation in Kansas City through its most recognized landmarks. It is a complex story that continues to unfold today.

Kansas City remains one of the most segregated cities in America with a dividing line, Troost Avenue, running north and south through the heart of the city.

# The Story of Segregation in Kansas City

- ▶ **Right** on 87th St. from Central Resource Library  
Head east on W 87th St. towards Antioch Rd. until 79th St.; 87th St. turns into Santa Fe Pkwy. and curves north
- ▶ **Right** on 79th St.  
Head east to Floyd St.
- ▶ **Left** on Floyd St  
Head north to W. 75th St.
- ▶ **Right** on W. 75th St.  
Head east to Mission Rd.
- ▶ **Left** on Mission Rd.  
Head north to W. 59th St.
- ▶ **Left** on W. 59th St.  
Head west to Delmar St.
- ▶ **Left** on Delmar St.  
Head south on Delmar St. to W. 63rd St.
- ▶ **Left** on W. 63rd St.  
Head east on W. 63rd St. to Ward Pkwy.
- ▶ **Left** on Ward Pkwy.  
Head north to W. 55th St.
- ▶ **Left** on W. 55th St.  
Head west to State Line Rd.
- ▶ **Right** on State Line Rd.  
Head north to Shawnee Mission Pkwy./US-56
- ▶ **Right** on Shawnee Mission Pkwy.  
Head east on Shawnee Mission Pkwy. to Wornall Rd.; Shawnee Mission Pkwy./US-56 turns into Ward Pkwy.
- ▶ **Right** on Wornall Rd.  
Head south to W. 55th St.
- ▶ **Left** on W. 55th St.  
Head east on W. 55th St. to Swope Pkwy.
- ▶ **Left** on Swope Pkwy.  
Head north on Swope Pkwy. to E. 35th St.; Swope Pkwy. turns into Benton Blvd.
- ▶ **Right** on E. 35th St.  
Head two blocks east to Indiana Ave.

We will explore neighborhoods that are considered the crown jewels of the metropolitan area, as well as, neighborhoods that fell victim to redlining, blockbusting, and white flight. We will learn how and why which neighborhoods became which. Some areas may seem very familiar, others unfamiliar. Try to experience this tour through the lens of the story of segregation, be present and observant, paying close attention to what you see along the way.

## – Turn by Turn

-  **Left** on Indiana Ave.  
Head north on Indiana Ave. to E. 30th St.
-  **Left** on E. 30th St.  
Head two blocks west to Bellefontaine Ave.
-  **Left** on Bellefontaine Ave.  
One block south to E. 31st St.
-  **Right** on E. 31st St.  
Head west to Main St.
-  **Right** on Main St.  
Head north to Truman Rd.
-  **Right** on Truman Rd.  
Head east to Troost Ave.
-  **Right** on Troost Ave.  
Head south to E. 18th St.
-  **Left** on E. 18th St.  
Head east to Woodland Ave.
-  **Right** on Woodland Ave.  
Head south to 22nd St.
-  **Left** on E. 22nd St.  
Head east to Prospect Ave.
-  **Right** on Prospect Ave.  
Head south to E. 27th St.
-  **Right** on E. 27th St.  
Head west to Paseo Blvd.
-  **Left** on Paseo Blvd.  
Head south to E. 51st St.
-  **Left** on E. 37th St.  
Head west to Woodland Ave.
-  **Right** on Woodland Ave.  
Head south to E. 39th St.
-  **Right** on E. 39th St.  
Head west to Paseo Blvd.
-  **Right** on E. 51st St.  
Head east to Troost Ave.
-  **Left** on Troost Ave.

## Donald Sewing Real Estate Office

7544 Floyd St., Overland Park, KS

Donald Sewing moved with his family to Fairway, KS, in 1966 and proceeded to sell houses throughout the region to other African-Americans. Sewing's real estate company focused on scattering black families throughout the previously segregated northeast Johnson County and taking advantage of the 1964 Fair Housing Act and the 1968 Civil Rights Act. His strategy focused on preventing white turnover and fighting housing discrimination. By 1969, 30 black families lived across Johnson County and by 1971 the number had grown to 70.

The Kansas Real Estate Commission pressured Sewing to stop selling homes in Johnson County due to the white business community fearing that property values would decrease.

1



## Village Presbyterian Church

6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS

In the late 1940s, the young Rev. Robert Meneilly was assigned the area of Prairie Village to start a new Presbyterian church. Real estate agreements at the time required a church building to hold services. As an experiment, \$100,000 was given by small Presbyterian churches to start the church. The Meneillys went door to door inviting worshipers, so that when the first service was held on Feb. 13, 1949, there were 282 new members. Today there are over 4,000 members.

The 1960s were a time of unrest and Robert H. Meneilly recognized the need to fight for all people's rights. Progressive in his thoughts, he wanted to unite the city with the suburbs. He spoke out in newspapers, at meetings and from his pulpit. One of his sermons was reprinted on the front page of *The Kansas City Star*. He and his family received threats because of his advocacy.

2



## Donald Sewing House

4118 W. 59th St., Fairway, KS

In 1966, Donald and Virginia Sewing moved to the suburbs seeking better educational opportunities for their children. They were the first African-American family in an all-white community.

Donald worked as a real estate agent and helped integrate northeast Johnson County. Virginia was eventually elected to Shawnee Mission North High School's citizens advisory board in 1971.

3



## Prairie Village

W. 75th St. & Mission Rd.  
Prairie Village, KS

J.C. Nichols developed Prairie Village in the 1940s, turning farmland into suburban housing for soldiers returning from WWII. Nichols created the development with restrictive covenants, including some prohibiting ownership and occupation by African-Americans. The residential color line in suburban Johnson County would not be broken until 1966 with the Sewing family.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Prairie Village is 95.3% white, 1% black, 1.4% Asian, 3.4% Latino, and 1.6% two or more races.

4



## Mission Hills

W. 71st St. & Belinder Ave.  
Mission Hills, KS

J.C. Nichols developed Mission Hills in the 1920s as part of his Country Club District plan. The city started as a planned, upscale community to be built around the Mission Hills Country Club. The development was created with restrictive covenants, some prohibiting ownership and occupation by African-Americans and other minorities.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Mission Hills is 96.8% white, 0.2% black, 1.5% Asian, 1.8% Latino, and 1.1% two or more races.

5

## Ward Parkway

W. 63rd St. & Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO



At the end of the 19th century, Kansas City's newly formed Municipal Improvement Association was lead by August Robert Meyer, a multimillionaire businessman and advocate for beautification. Together with landscape architect George Kessler and *The Kansas City Star* newspaper founder William Rockhill Nelson, they began to educate citizens on the importance of thoughtful urban planning. All the while they sought support for their idea to build urban and suburban parks connected by a system of boulevards that took into consideration the natural topography of the region. This philosophy and aesthetic made Kansas City unique in the country and pioneered the "City Beautiful" movement which quickly spread, with Kansas City as a model that was emulated by communities throughout the nation.

Area real estate developers found that beautiful parks and boulevards increased the value of their developments and by the 1920s, J.C. Nichols was working with Kessler as he developed the Country Club Plaza to the south of the city's limits. Designed as a focal point for the Country Club District; Ward Parkway's largest lots were reserved for homes to be built along the boulevard. Nichols traveled to Italy and England to buy statues and monuments to place, along with ponds and decorative urns, throughout the length of the boulevard's median.

# Country Club District

W. 59th St. & Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO

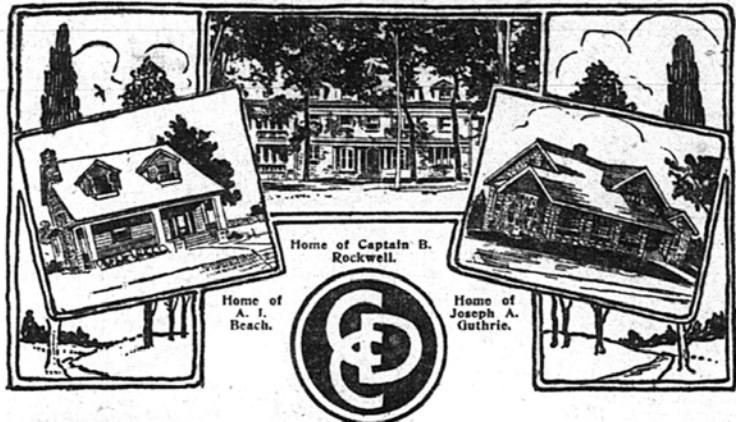
J. C. Nichols designed and developed the Country Club District in stages between 1906 and 1950. Nichols initially acquired 1,000 acres of land south of Brush Creek and successfully lobbied to the city for annexation to get city water, sewers and streets. Today, this district includes neighborhoods in Kansas City, MO, and northeastern Johnson County, KS.

The plats Nichols developed all included deed restrictions or restrictive covenants, which placed limitations on how the land could be used, what could be constructed on it, and to whom it could be sold, all with the intention of protecting property values. The top priority was to protect the permanence, beauty and character of Nichols developments. However, these covenants included racial restrictions, which prohibited ownership and occupation by African-Americans and other minority groups.

Nichols was the first to tie restrictions to the neighborhood level, which were enforced by the neighborhood associations he created. The restrictions require that a notice to amend be filed five years in advance of the deed restrictions renewal date, usually every 20 to 25 years; and that all homeowners must agree to the change with a notarized vote. Due to the difficulty of removal, language prohibiting ownership by minority groups still remains on most deeds and plats despite being unenforceable.

This practice soon spread to other cities throughout America.

7



LL Controversy Over the Extension of the City Limits is Ended. Greater Kansas City Has Won. The Decision Has Been Confirmed, Finally and Positively. Which Places the

## Country Club District 1000 Acres Restricted

—within and makes it forever a part of Kansas City, Missouri. The laying of a permanent city sewer system through this district will be begun at once; the extension of the city's parkway and boulevard system, along the broad, comprehensive lines already provided for in the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT, will be completed. And thus will be supplied immediately the only two needs of this beautiful residence section, recognized as the largest, most highly finished in Kansas City.

The locations of many sewer laterals and mains for the district already have been selected, profiles established and a large part of the right of way acquired. The Board of Public Works and the City Engineer will proceed at once with the letting of contracts and plan that the system in the Country Club District SHALL BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. This will be in ample time for the use of all homes to be built this summer and even for those, the building of which is now being begun.

Many thousands of dollars have been expended in the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT in the last five years in laying 20 miles of permanent macadam pavement on the streets, winding drives and boulevards. The construction is of the best known type and is superior in many ways to the paving on the average residence streets of Kansas City. It has been repeatedly approved by engineers and expert road builders, all of whom have unequivocally testified to its permanency and low cost of maintenance.

On both sides of each street are broad granitoid walks, thoroughly and accurately constructed under city specifications. Many blocks of large storm sewers have been built; concrete gutters constructed on every street, and thousands of elm trees and shrubs planted in the parkings throughout the district.

City water is available for every home, as is gas, electricity and telephone service. OUR TWO CAR LINES, SUNSET HILL and COUNTRY CLUB, require only a twenty-nine minute direct ride straight south from Twelfth street (no transferring). Both lines end in the heart of the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT, making it the most accessible as well as absolutely the CLOSEST-IN section of the territory included in the new city limits. The extension of these two lines into our property was made necessary last year by the marvelous growth in the number of homes in the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT, for though this large residence center is practically only 3 years old, more than 200 houses have been built there.

Property which sold in some sections of the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT one to two years ago for \$16 to \$20 per foot is now commanding \$30 to \$35 per foot. The additions we are now offering for sale only two blocks further south, though more carefully planned and more thoroughly improved; though possessing many advantages not heretofore available; though now obtaining every benefit incident to the settlement of the city limits controversy, are being offered at

\$20 and \$22.50 per Foot

all street improvements included. Convenient monthly or annual payments. In three years this same property should be worth THREE TIMES THIS PRICE.

You must remember the COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT is the most thoroughly protected, wisely restricted residence section in Kansas City (restricted to fifty foot to two hundred foot lots, and from \$3,000 to \$10,000 homes). A residence there is always recognized as a tribute to its owner's discernment.



This beautiful, voluminously illustrated portfolio, prepared at great expense, tells simply how the Country Club District was made into a permanent 1,000-acre residence tract, a model of health, comfort, sanitation and protection beyond anything heretofore attempted in America. We will be glad to send it free to all who telephone or send a postal asking for it.

**J. C. NICHOLS**

Home Phone 5265 and 5266 Main—Bell Phone 5266 Main.

Salesmen will be found in the little white Colonial buildings at the ends of both the Country Club and Sunset Hill lines. If you desire to look over the district in one of our motor cars, call up the downtown office and make an appointment. No obligation —we are only too glad to take you.

**Suite 1213-1214  
Commerce Bldg**

## J.C. Nichols House

1214 W. 55th St., Kansas City, MO

The J.C. Nichols House was designed by the Kansas City architectural firm of Shepard, Farrar & Wiser in 1913 and completed in 1914 for Charles S. Keith, a lumber baron and president of the Central Coal & Coke Company. J.C. Nichols purchased the estate in 1920 and lived there until his death in 1950.

The house has 22 rooms, plus six bathrooms, and sits on three-acre grounds, which were designed by Hare & Hare, a Kansas City landscape architecture firm. Located in the Sunset Hill subdivision, the home was one of the earliest upper-class homes to be constructed in the Country Club District.

8



## Mission Hills Country Club

5400 Mission Dr., Mission Hills, KS

Mission Hills Country Club was founded in 1913 through the efforts of J.C. Nichols to attract buyers to his Kansas developments. The country club formed a buffer to the north of Mission Hills, which was the area with the nearest neighboring housing. Most residents of Mission Hills could belong to the club by reason of purchase.



9

## Pembroke Hill School – Upper School

5121 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO

The Pembroke Hill School is an independent college preparatory school founded in 1910 as the Pembroke Day School. The widow of the Kansas City Country Club land donor, Vassie James Ward Hill, was instrumental in founding Pembroke Day School in 1910 and the girls' school, Sunset Hill, in 1913. J.C. Nichols donated sites and arranged favorable land purchases for the schools, and then used them in advertising for his housing developments. Pembroke Country Day School and Sunset Hill merged to provide coeducation in 1984.

Tuition and fees for the 2016-2017 school year totalled \$22,885 for 9th-12th grade students. By comparison, in-state tuition for the 2016-2017 school year at the University of Missouri was \$10,716. In-state tuition for the 2016-2017 school year at the University of Kansas was \$9,579. According to The College Board, the national average cost of tuition and fees for the 2016-2017 school year was \$33,480 at private universities and \$9,650 for in-state tuition at public four-year universities.

10



## Country Club Plaza

4750 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO

J.C. Nichols established the Country Club Plaza in 1922, naming it after the nearby Country Club District. Architect Edward Delk designed the shopping district using the unifying architectural theme of Spanish Revival with specific influences from Seville, Spain.

Nichols selected the location to provide residents of the district with a direct route to the Plaza via Ward Parkway, creating the first shopping center in the world designed to accommodate shoppers arriving by automobile.

11

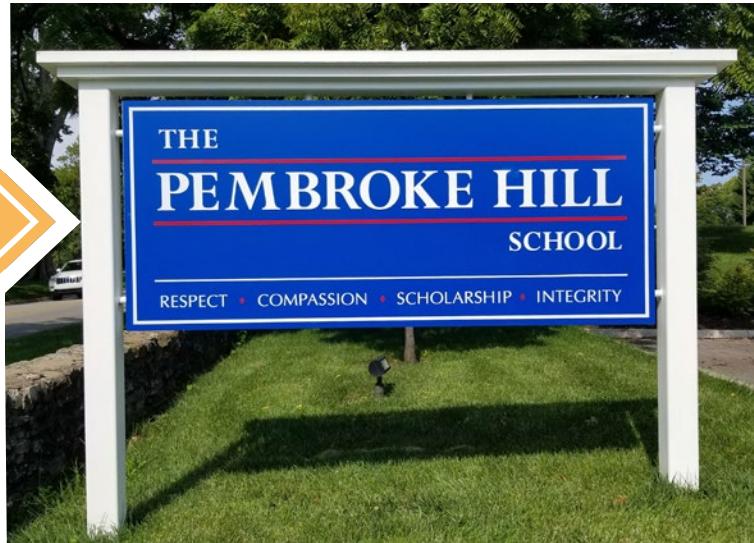


## Pembroke Hill School – Lower School

400 W. 51st St., Kansas City, MO

The lower school is a private, independent grade school that feeds into the Pembroke Hill college preparatory school. Tuition for the 2016-2017 school year for K-5th totalled \$18,650. The school is the former location of the Sunset Hill girls school.

12



## Loose Park

5200 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO

In 1896, a lease was signed with Seth Ward to use part of his property as a golf course for \$1 a year plus taxes. The property included what is now Loose Park and was used as the Kansas City Country Club until 1927. J.C. Nichols purchased the land surrounding the Kansas City Country Club in 1907 to develop the Country Club District.

In 1926, Ella Loose purchased the land in memory of her husband, Jacob Loose, upon the urging of J.C. Nichols. She donated Loose Park to Kansas City in 1927 and the Kansas City Country Club relocated to Mission Hills, Kansas.

The rose garden in Loose Park was founded 1931, when a group of citizens under the leadership of Laura Conyers Smith established the Kansas City Rose Society. The first garden contained 120 rose plants. Today, there are about 4,000 roses of nearly 168 varieties in the 1.5 acre garden. The garden underwent a \$400,000 renovation project in 2008.

13



## St. Teresa's Academy

5600 Main St., Kansas City, MO

St. Teresa's Academy is a private, Catholic, independent, college preparatory high school for girls. The school was founded in 1866 by the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet. Originally located in the Quality Hill neighborhood, the sisters relocated the school to the site at 5600 Main St. and built the first of what would be a campus that includes four buildings.

Tuition and fees at St. Teresa's for the 2016-17 school year was \$12,810.

St. Teresa's student body is majority white (86%), with 6% Hispanic students, 3% African-American students, 2.8% multi-racial students and 2% Asian students.



14

## Troost Avenue

E. 55th St. & Troost Ave.  
Kansas City, MO

Troost Avenue is a major north-south thoroughfare that runs through Kansas City, MO. Troost Avenue is named for Kansas City physician and civic leader Benoist Troost.

The economic crash of 1890 paved the way for many less affluent African-Americans to afford moderate homes. Ultimately, many relocated to the area east of Paseo at 24th Street, which became known as "Negro Quality Hill."

During the 1920s, J.C. Nichols developed neighborhoods on the west side of town with racially restrictive covenants prohibiting ownership of the homes by blacks and other racial and ethnic minorities.

In 1955, the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling forced the then all-white Kansas City, Missouri School District to integrate. However, members of the school board drew boundaries based on residential neighborhoods. Troost Avenue became the east-west border dividing white schools from black schools. Today Troost Avenue remains a dividing line with most white residents of Kansas City residing west of Troost Avenue and most black residents residing to the east.

15



## Blue Hills Neighborhood

5309 Woodland Ave., Kansas City, MO

The Blue Hills neighborhood lies between Paseo Boulevard and Prospect Avenue, and 47th and 63rd Streets. The houses in this neighborhood were built in the 1930s and the neighborhood was inhabited by mostly white, blue-collar workers.

During the 1960s, African-Americans began moving into the neighborhood and an era of white flight began as white residents moved to the suburbs. As more black families moved into the Blue Hills neighborhood panic set in amongst white residents. Congress passed the 1968 Fair Housing Act in response to governmental reports declaring that a number of the nation's housing and segregation woes were either directly or indirectly connected to the practices of the FHA, specifically the practice of redlining. The act attempted to shift the FHA away from the discriminatory practice of redlining to preventing housing discrimination.

The neighborhood shifted from 100% white, to about half white, half black in 1970, to about 80% black four years later. Currently, the neighborhood is approximately 90% black.

16

## U.S. Highway 71

W. 55th St. & U.S. Highway 71  
Kansas City, MO



In 1951, officials proposed a north-south link through Kansas City. The city and the Missouri Department of Transportation wanted to connect Lee's Summit, Grandview and the Northland to downtown. An original proposed destination for the highway was the streetcar tracks along Brookside Blvd., but the city decided on a cheaper and more direct route through Kansas City's east side.

The communities along the proposed route were home to mostly African-Americans. By February 1965, opponents had filed the first petition at City Hall complaining of the disruption to the neighborhood that the route would create. State highway engineers estimated the dislocation of 1,500 homes, 256 duplexes, 688 apartments and 87 businesses, and displacing approximately 7,400 people.

Concerns over dividing neighborhoods, civil rights violations and questions about potential environmental impacts led to a federal lawsuit filed in 1973 that was not resolved for 10 years. The lawsuit did not prevent the roadway's construction, but led to a series of compromises including the creation of Bruce R. Watkins Drive with a lower speed limit, three traffic lights on the roadway, and sidewalk bridges to make both sides accessible to the neighborhoods.

U.S. 71 was completed in October 2001. During the 50 years it took to build the highway, more than 10,000 people were relocated. The people displaced received an average of \$15,000 for their property and \$3,500 for relocation costs.

# ZIP CODE: 64113

<b>11,000</b>	Residents
<b>2.6%</b>	Below Poverty Level
<b>2.3%</b>	Unemployed
<b>\$163,573</b>	Average Household Income
<b>\$113,536</b>	Median Household Income
<b>289</b>	Business Establishments
<b>94.7%</b>	White
<b>1.7%</b>	Black
<b>2.4%</b>	Hispanic or Latino
<b>1.3%</b>	Two or more races
<b>99.2%</b>	High School Graduate
<b>78.4%</b>	Bachelor Degree or Higher

# ZIP CODE: 64130

<b>21,000</b>	Residents
<b>29%</b>	Below Poverty Level
<b>12.4%</b>	Unemployed
<b>\$35,734</b>	Average Household income
<b>\$28,493</b>	Median Household Income
<b>218</b>	Business Establishments
<b>91%</b>	Black
<b>4.5%</b>	White
<b>2.8%</b>	Hispanic or Latino
<b>2.8%</b>	Two or more races
<b>77.7%</b>	High School Graduate
<b>13.6%</b>	Bachelor Degree or Higher

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2010. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010.

## Swope Parkway

W. 55th St. & Swope Parkway

Kansas City, MO

Swope Parkway was developed as part of the City Beautiful movement, which advocated the development of aesthetically pleasing parks and boulevards. The parkway was named after Thomas H. Swope, a local land developer and philanthropist who donated the land for Swope Park to the city in 1896. At the time of his death, Thomas H. Swope was the largest individual land owner in Kansas City. His donation in 1896 of over two square miles of land made Swope Park the second largest park in the country. Named in honor of his generous gift, Swope Parkway is another of the connecting thoroughfares designed by George Kessler and runs along the eastern border of the park.

On June 25, 1896, a city holiday was declared and Swope Park was dedicated as a crowd of about 18,000 people made their way to Kansas City's newest park. The park was heavily used and offered space for picnics, swimming, golf, polo, shooting, boating, concerts and the zoo.

In 1951, a lawsuit was filed to desegregate the Swope Park swimming pool. The case overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine for the two main public pools in the city. Thurgood Marshall, then chief attorney for the NAACP came to town to try the case. The lawsuit ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in 1952, but the city appealed. The pool was closed during the appeals process. The Missouri Supreme Court denied the appeal and the pool was ordered to reopen. As a desegregated facility, attendance dropped by 60%.



# Central Academy of Excellence

(formerly Central High School)

3221 Indiana Ave., Kansas City, MO

Central High School was established in 1867. The school opened at 11th and Locust and Central High School moved to its current location in 1915.

Before 1954, the Kansas City, Missouri School District operated a state-sanctioned segregated school district. All white students attended all-white schools and black students attended predominantly black schools.

In 1955, in response to the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* Supreme Court ruling, the Kansas City, Missouri School District eliminated explicitly racial attendance zones and replaced them with neighborhood attendance zones. The school district made frequent shifts in attendance areas of its schools over the next two decades, typically shifting white areas from the western most portions of the racial transitional zones and attaching them to all-white school zones further west.

Central Academy was all white in 1954, 17% black in 1956, and 97% black by 1961. During this same time period, the schools west of Troost Avenue remained predominantly white. In comparison, Southwest High School was only 0.01% black in 1955 and only 0.8% black in 1970.

19



# Walt Disney House

3028 Bellefontaine Ave.

Kansas City, MO

Walt Disney moved to Kansas City with his family when he was nine years old in 1910. The family moved into 3028 Bellefontaine Ave. sometime around 1914.

20



## Laugh-O-Gram Studio

1127 E. 31st St., Kansas City, MO

Walt Disney founded Laugh-O-Gram Studio in 1922 at this location, which served as his first animation studio.

21



## F.W. Woolworth Building

3120 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO

Built in 1928, the F.W. Woolworth building was one of the secondary Woolworth stores established in Kansas City, MO, during the 1920s. Woolworth was the first dime store chain in the city. The site was selected due to the fact that Troost Avenue was a commercial corridor in the fastest growing ward in the city and had high pedestrian traffic.

Woolworth represented one of many commercial buildings along the corridor; others included leading doctors and dentists, banks, shops and offices. Troost Avenue remained an important commercial corridor throughout the 1950s, providing goods and services to the surrounding middle class neighborhoods.

The store closed in 1964.

22



## National World War I Museum & Liberty Memorial

100 W. 26th St., Kansas City, MO

After World War I ended on Nov. 11, 1918, a group of Kansas City civic leaders began work to create a memorial to those who had served, and formed an organization dedicated to the development of a war memorial project. R.A. Long, J.C. Nichols and William Volker all played important roles. The site was dedicated in 1921 and the monument was completed in 1926. The dedication ceremony included an address from President Calvin Coolidge.

The memorial closed in 1994 due to deterioration of its underlying supports. The city raised \$45.5 million between 1997-2000 from private donations, increased taxes and funding from the state of Missouri. The monument reopened in May 2002, after two years of reconstruction. Congress named the museum the nation's official World War I Museum in 2004.

23



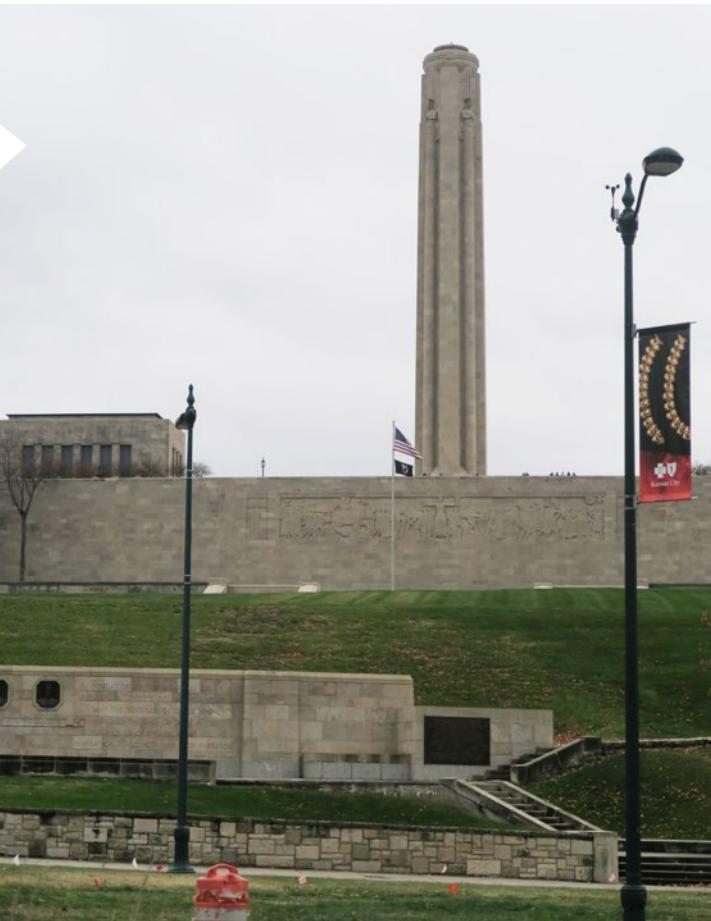
## Crown Center

2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

Prior to its creation in 1971, the area around Crown Center was rundown and falling into disrepair. Conceptualized by Joyce C. Hall, Hallmark Cards, Inc. founder, and his son Donald J. Hall, Hallmark President and CEO, the Center was opened as part of an initiative to improve the neighborhood surrounding Hallmark's headquarters.

The commercial complex initially consisted of five interconnected seven-story buildings. Today the Center is currently home to many shops, restaurants, hotels, theaters, a large law firm, as well as Hallmark's global headquarters.

24



## Union Station

30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO

Built in 1914, Union Station opened as a working train station with over 900 rooms and 850,000 square feet. At its height in the mid-1940s, hundreds of thousands of travelers passed through its doors each year, with one source estimating that a million people traversed its grounds during World War II alone.

The following decades would see a steady decline in use until Union Station officially closed in 1985. After numerous threats to tear it down, a unique bi-state initiative was voted upon and passed in 1996 to restore the building to its former grandeur to the tune of \$250 million. The renovations were completed in 1999 and Union Station reopened for business.

The grand landmark is now a historic destination for people in our own community and tourists alike. Union Station's mission is "a dedication to science education, celebration of community and preservation of history." Today Union Station features a 95-foot high ceiling in the Grand Hall, historic restaurants, Science City, an IMAX theatre, traveling exhibits, and is still a functioning train depot.

25



## Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO

In 1994, Muriel McBain Kauffman, civic leader and philanthropist, first presented her vision of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts to the community. Her vision was realized in September 2011, over a decade after her death.

The 13-acre location was chosen both for its size and its potential to rebrand the surrounding area as a "cultural campus" within the city. The \$413 million project includes \$326 million for the creation of the performing arts center, a \$40 million endowment, and a \$47 million, 1,000-car underground parking garage funded by the City of Kansas City, MO. Kauffman Center's construction and endowment costs were funded wholly from private sources.

By May 2015, less than four years after its grand opening, more than 1.5 million patrons have attended an event at Kauffman Center.

26

## Sprint Center

1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

Sprint Center is a large, multi-use indoor arena that opened in October 2007 as part of a unique private/public partnership in the ongoing revitalization of downtown Kansas City. The total cost of construction was \$276 million.

The venue houses concerts, sports tournaments, family programs, special events and more.



27



## Historic 18th & Vine District

E. 18th St. & Vine St., Kansas City, MO

18th and Vine is the historic center of African-American life and culture in Kansas City.

The neighborhood developed as a black settlement area in the 1880s and 1890s, but by 1907 white real estate brokers would only sell or rent to blacks inside the Vine Street corridor and the few other established black neighborhoods.

The area became the commercial and cultural center for black Kansas City residents, producing many notable jazz musicians in the 1930s and 1940s. The district has received more than \$30 million of investment since the 1980s.

28



## Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

1616 E. 18th St., Kansas City, MO

Founded in 1990, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is a privately funded, non-profit museum dedicated to preserving the history of Negro Leagues Baseball in America.

29

## Gem Theater

1615 E. 18th St., Kansas City, MO

The Gem Theater originally opened as the Star Theater in 1912 as a vaudeville and motion picture theater and was later renamed. The theater quickly became one of the best known theaters serving the black community.

The theater was again renovated in 1993 to create a 500-seat performance space.



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## The Call

1715 E. 18th St., Kansas City, MO

*The Call* was founded by Chester A. Franklin in 1919.

Franklin's father founded a newspaper serving Omaha and later, Denver. Franklin took over the paper after his father became ill and passed away. He served as editor, printer and distributor and continued to publish the paper until 1913 when he decided to pursue publishing to a larger black community in Kansas City. The start of World War I put his newspaper plans on hold, so Franklin ran a printing shop instead. Franklin opened *The Call* in April 1919. He taught himself and an assistant how to operate the Linotype typesetting machine, because white union workers were not allowed to work for black editors.

*The Call* has advocated to and for the Kansas City African-American community over the years. It has written about political and social issues affecting the welfare of its community and provided commentary about segregation and discrimination in education, housing, employment and public facilities. The newspaper continues to serve the black community of Kansas City.

31



## Attucks School

1815 Woodland Ave., Kansas City, MO

Attucks School was established in 1893 as a black primary school with a principal and two assistant teachers. In 1905 the Kansas City, Missouri School board deemed the original location inadequate to accommodate the growing population and the school relocated to 1815 Woodland Ave. The school opened with an enrollment of several hundred students. Most students came from the Paseo District, which included the 18th and Vine neighborhood. By 1922 the black population had dramatically increased and the school was so overcrowded that the school board authorized the construction of a second wing.

Over the next several decades, Attucks School was one of the primary grade schools for black students in Kansas City. In 1950, Attucks School had an enrollment of nearly 1,000, making it one of the largest black schools in the city.

The school continued to be used as a grade school for all races following integration of public schools in the 1960s until it closed in 2007 due to low enrollment in the Kansas City School District.

32



## Lincoln College Preparatory Academy

(formerly Lincoln High School)  
2111 Woodland Ave., Kansas City, MO

Lincoln Preparatory is a three-year middle school and four-year college preparatory school in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. Lincoln High School was established in 1865 as a school for black students. The current building opened in 1935 as a high school and junior college. The junior college functioned on campus until 1954 when Kansas City's metropolitan junior college was integrated.



The Kansas City School District established a policy of neighborhood schools in response to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and Lincoln continued to be an all-black high school as enrollment reflected residential segregation. Its location east of Troost Avenue in a predominantly African-American neighborhood maintained de facto segregation. The faculty of Lincoln integrated in 1973 and the student body integrated in 1978.

Today, with enrollment of 896, students must apply to attend and applicants must score at or above the 60th percentile on a national standardized reading and math tests to be eligible for entrance. Students must also have a record of good citizenship and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. 56% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. 89% of students belong to an ethnic minority group. The International Baccalaureate participation is 96%.

## Historic Site of Municipal Stadium

2123 Brooklyn Ave., Kansas City, MO

Opened in 1923, Municipal Stadium hosted the minor-league Kansas City Blues and Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues. The stadium was renovated prior to the 1955 baseball season and hosted baseball teams Kansas City Athletics from 1955 to 1967, and Kansas City Royals from 1969 to 1972, as well football's Kansas City Chiefs from 1963 to 1971.

After the 1972 baseball season, the stadium was replaced by the Truman Sports Complex and was demolished in 1976. Though public discussion was limited, there was a perception of discomfort among the predominately white, middle-class fan base with a stadium located in a poor, black neighborhood.

34



## KCMO Police Department East Patrol Campus

2640 Prospect Ave., Kansas City, MO

The East Patrol station opened Dec. 1, 2015. The city utilized eminent domain to purchase 66 homes over a four-block radius in the Wendell Phillips neighborhood to make room for the campus. The city faced litigation over how the four-block area was selected for the campus and for objections over compensation for property. The project cost \$74 million which was paid from a quarter-cent public sales tax and bond sales. The building offers a computer lab and a gymnasium open to area residents.

35



## 27th Street

E. 27th St. & Prospect Ave.  
Kansas City, MO

27th Street represents the original residential color line for the 18th and Vine District on the east side of Kansas City.

36



## The Paseo

E. 27th St. & The Paseo, Kansas City, MO

The Paseo is a major north-south parkway that runs through the center of Kansas City and was conceived as part of the extensive parkway and boulevard system during the City Beautiful Movement at the turn of the 20th century. It is modeled after the Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City and was laid out by George Kessler under the direction of August Robert Meyer, first president of the Commission of Parks. The boulevard was considered to be the crown jewel of the park system at the time. It was conceived as a series of small parks and featured a formal sunken garden, pergola and large fountains. The boulevard parallels the gridiron street pattern, with dual boulevards that are intersected by city streets, which form rectangles, each fashioned into a distinctive, individual park.

The selected location already had small, poorly built housing so the city used eminent domain. Its construction resulted in the eviction of predominantly African-American residents. Kessler viewed The Paseo not only as a boulevard, but also as the redevelopment of a slum area.

37



## Ivanhoe Neighborhood

E. 35th St. & Paseo Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO

The Ivanhoe neighborhood is bounded on the north by 31st St., on the south by Brush Creek, on the east by Prospect Ave. and on the west by Paseo Boulevard. Prior to white flight in the 1960s and '70s, Ivanhoe was originally a predominantly white, working-class neighborhood.

38

## Nutter Ivanhoe Neighborhood Center

3700 Woodland Ave., Kansas City, MO

The community center is a renovated firehouse and is the center of efforts to revitalize the Ivanhoe neighborhood. The center has a staff of four full-time and two part-time employees. It offers classes, minor home repair program, summer youth program and farmers market. UMB Bank partnered with the neighborhood council and houses a location inside the center. An empty lot next door to the center has been converted into a community garden.

39



# Electric Park Historic Location

E. 47th St. & The Paseo, Kansas City, MO

Electric Park served as the inspiration for Walt Disney's Disneyland. The first and second Electric Parks were built by brothers Joseph, Ferdinand and Michael Heim, owners of the Heim Brewing Company. The first park opened in 1899 at Chestnut and Guinotte. In 1907, the brothers relocated Electric Park further south at 47th and Paseo.

The park caught fire in 1925 destroying most of its attractions, but remained popular for public dances and for its pools until a second fire in 1934 completely destroyed the park. The remnants were razed in 1948 and replaced with the Village Green Apartments. Today it is the site of low-income housing.

40



## ELECTRIC PARK

Kansas City's Coney Island

The Biggest and Most Beautiful Amusement Park in the World

### Opens To-Day

And Will Be Open Every Afternoon  
and Evening of the Summer

RAIN OR SHINE

AT 2 P. M. AT 8 P. M.

### THE ELLERY BAND

Free Vaudeville in the  
German Village

And the Greatest Aggregation of Amusement  
Devices Ever Assembled in a Park

Take Rockhill and Troost cars direct to park. Passengers brought to  
main entrance of the covered promenade.

Vine street car entrance at 45th and Woodland Ave. Carriage, automobile  
and pedestrian entrance at 46th and Lydia Ave.

ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS

10 CENTS

Band Concerts  
Vaudeville  
Electric Fountain  
Ball Room  
Natatorium  
German Village  
Alligator Farm  
Chutes  
Dips Coaster  
Norton Slide  
Penny Parlors  
Novelty Stand  
Japanese Rolling Ball  
Scenic Railway  
Pool Room  
Hale's Tours of the World  
Electric Studio  
Boat Tours

Old Mill  
Temple of Mirth  
Flying Lady  
Double Whirl  
Circle Swing  
Soda Fountain and  
Ice Cream  
Knife Rack  
Doll Rack  
Shooting Gallery  
Air Gun Gallery  
Giant Teeter  
Boating  
Carousel  
Club House Cafe  
Casino 5-Theater  
Fortune Telling  
and Palmistry  
Covered Promenade  
Garage

## 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition

E. 51st St. & Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO

This coalition is one of the only neighborhood associations on both sides of Troost Avenue in Kansas City, MO. The neighborhood's north-south boundaries are 49th and 63rd and its east-west boundaries are Paseo and Oak. The coalition was established in 1971 in response to blockbusting and white flight. The coalition is still active in the neighborhood.

41



## Rockhurst University

1100 Rockhurst Rd., Kansas City, MO

## University of Missouri - Kansas City

5100 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO

Rockhurst University is a private, coeducational Jesuit university founded in 1910. Its campus is bordered on the west by Troost Avenue.

UMKC is a public research university that was established in 1933. The school is part of the University of Missouri System. Its campus is bordered on the east by Troost Avenue.

Undergraduate tuition at Rockhurst for the 2017-2018 school year was \$17,900. Undergraduate tuition was \$4,881.77 at UMKC.

42

# Small Group Discussion Questions

## Starter Post-Tour Questions

1. What struck you most about the tour? What surprised you about the tour?
2. What brought you to the tour?
3. Does it matter that Kansas City is segregated?
4. How does the city being segregated affect you? Does it matter to you?
5. What would you like KC to look like when you are an adult?
6. Do opportunities vary based on where a person lives or where a person is from?
7. Has this tour caused you to look at your own neighborhood differently? How has it caused you to look at Kansas City differently?

## In-Depth Post-Tour Questions

1. Do you think something in the city needs to change or is it just a given that like groups will live together? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of that?
2. Do you think bussing is a solution to segregation? Could it work in Kansas City? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean for a school or a community to be diverse? Can a community or school be diverse without being integrated? When do you detect the presence or absence of diversity and/or integration in your own school or neighborhood?
4. Some people think that focusing on race is divisive. Do you agree or disagree? Is the concept of colorblindness preferable to discussing race?
5. One of the hardest things about having conversations about race and inequality is figuring out how to involve those who don't want to have those conversations. How can those who are uninterested or do not want to be included be brought into the conversation?
6. How do structural changes begin? If you had the power to change anything about your school or your community, what would you change and why?

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