2014 Heritage Tourism Improvement Grant Awards
Project Summary

All projects were recommended by the Historic Tourism Committee and approved by the Transient Guest Tax Committee on April 11, 2014.

Recipient: Shawnee County Historical Society
Amount Awarded: $22,726
Approved Work Program: 1) Construction of an exit ramp onto the east face of the John Ritchie House that wraps around the north façade, and returns west to the front façade. 2) Installation of ground-based lights to illuminate the John Ritchie House at night, thus adding security to the building, and enhancing its visibility to drive-by tourists.
Current Status: Completed construction of the exit ramp. Partially completed installation of exterior lighting.

Recipient: Topeka High School Historical Society
Amount Awarded: $32,972
Approved Work Program: Repairs of water damage to the, floors, walls, and ceiling of the Topeka High School Historical Society Museum.
Current Status: Improvements approved by USD 501; Ceiling repairs completed.

Recipient: Friends of the Free State Capitol
Amount Awarded: $131,600
Approved Work Program: Strengthening floor joists; strengthening roof joists; construction of external staircase.
Current Status: Project design completed and preliminary bids on the first phases are in review; strengthening roof joists in progress.
Recipient: Central Congregational Church
Amount Awarded: $34,572
Approved Work Program: Replacement of exterior protective covering over the Sanctuary’s stained glass windows; minor restoration of windows, as necessary.
Current Status: Project Complete.

2014 Heritage Tourism Planning & Marketing Grant Awards
Project Summary
All projects were recommended by the Historic Tourism Committee and approved by the Transient Guest Tax Committee on April 11, 2014.

Recipient: City of Topeka Planning Department
Amount Awarded: $5,000
External Award Leverage: $20,000
Approved Work Program: Two Downtown Topeka National Historic District Nominations
Current Status: Two public meetings held to discuss the scope of the project; Nomination has been completed and submitted to the Kansas State Historical Society for review and comment prior to its submission to the Kansas State Historic Sites Board of Review; Consideration by the KSHSBR is anticipated in May, 2015.

Recipient: City of Topeka Planning Department
Amount Awarded: $7,500
External Award Leverage: $12,000
Approved Work Program: Intensive Level Historic Resources Survey of portions of the College Hill Neighborhood.
Current Status: Field survey complete; Property research ongoing; Project completion anticipated in February, 2015.