

**PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release**

**Friday - June 30, 2017**

**RE: NEW CORE EXHIBITS OPENING:**

**“Of the People, by the People, for the People”** an exhibit about civics and government & **“Wichita’s Mayor’s Office of 1892”** a recreation of Mayor John Carey’s 1892 office in its original room in old city hall (which has served as home to the Historical Museum since 1980).

**EXHIBIT OPENING EVENT: Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

Remarks Scheduled at 1:15 pm by The Museum Staff and Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Dave Unruh. This is a special free admission day.

**The New Exhibits**

The role of government is the focus of new exhibits at the Historical Museum.

Using the original City Hall building construction date of 1890 as a springboard, the Civics & Government Exhibit examines our government at federal, state, county, and local levels. The theme of self-governance with a focus on local issues features artifacts ranging from a Waco Township ballot box of the 1880s to a dashiki shirt worn by civil rights leader Chester I. Lewis in the late 1960s. This exhibit was funded with a special grant by the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners.

Adjoining is the immersive exhibit of the City Hall’s first Mayor’s Office in its original room. The space is interpreted as it appeared when first occupied in 1892 by John Carey, the ninth individual to serve as Mayor of Wichita. The exhibit includes recreated window signage visible from Main Street. An exhaustive effort researching newspapers, photographs, reports, and other records was made to accurately portray the space. This exhibit was made possible through the generosity of private donors.

**The Museum:** Located in the heart of downtown Wichita in the old City Hall topped with a 170-foot tall clock tower, this exceptional AAM-accredited museum features dozens of exhibits on 4 floors examining Wichita and Sedgwick County’s rich history and cultural heritage. The Museum, established in 1939, maintains a collection of 90,000 artifacts. Exhibits include a Wichita-built 1916 Jones Six automobile in an early garage setting, a full-scale Victorian home interior and the original 1890s Mayor’s Office. Core exhibits explore a vibrant history from settlement in 1865 to the era of aviation and electric guitars.

**Submitted by Eric Cale, Museum Director,** contact: [ecale@wichitahistory.org](mailto:ecale@wichitahistory.org)

**Venue:** Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202 ,

**Contact:** 316-265-9314, [wichitahistory.org](http://wichitahistory.org)

**Museum Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

**Regular Admission Charge:** Adults \$ 5.00, Children under 12 years \$ 2.00; under 6 free

Operation of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is supported in part by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners.