

French Painting Catalog Timeline

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Kansas City Events

Nelson-Atkins Events

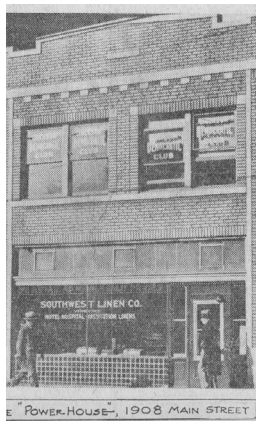
Infamous “Boss Tom” inherits power from his brother.



Thomas J. Pendergast (1872–1945) was a political boss who controlled Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri from 1911 to 1939.

Thomas J. Pendergast, ca. 1935, photograph, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Photograph Collection P1116 (014792)

Jackson County Democratic Club Building and Tom Pendergast's Headquarters at 1908 Main, Kansas City, 1932, photograph, published in Kansas City Star, February 28, 1932, page C. Jackson County Historical Society, William T. Kemper Sr. Scrapbooks: S7.11B, Page 161



1911

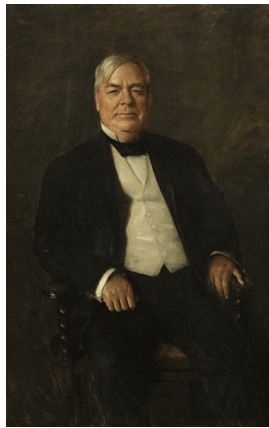
Mary Atkins dies, leaving funds to build an art museum in Kansas City.



Her trustees are A. W. Childs and Herbert V. Jones. They realize her funds are not enough to realize her wishes. Mary McAfee Atkins was born in 1836 in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.

NAMA Archives.

1915



William Rockhill Nelson dies, leaving the majority of his estate for the purchase of art for Kansas City.

He does not leave funds for a building. His wife and daughter are his trustees.

William Merritt Chase (American, 1849–1916), *William Rockhill Nelson*, 1907, oil on canvas, 60 x 50 1/8 in. (152.4 x 127.32 cm), Gift of William Rockhill Nelson, 34-316

1921

Ida Nelson dies, having made provisions in her will to build a museum.



Ida Houston Nelson (1853–1921) was William Rockhill Nelson's wife. She left approximately \$850,000 (the residue of her estate) to be used for an art gallery.

NAMA Archives, DR2-Poo805



The family lawyer, Frank F. Rozzelle (b. 1857), dies in 1923, and he also leaves money for the upkeep of a museum.

NAMA Archives, MSS 21

Kansas City Monarchs win the inaugural Colored World Series.



J.E. Mille[r], *The Monarchs and Hilldale Athletic Club line up at Muehlebach Park, Kansas City, MO, for the first Colored World Series*, October 11, 1924, photograph, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

1924

1926

Laura Nelson Kirkwood dies, leaving \$1.2 million to establish an art gallery.



William Rockhill Nelson makes his daughter Laura Nelson Kirkwood and his wife Ida Houston Nelson his trustees. His will stipulated that after their deaths, his trust be maintained by three trustees appointed by the area's three universities.

NAMA Archives, DR2-Poo8o6

A year later, her husband Irwin Kirkwood also dies, leaving the family's mansion, Oak Hall, and \$250,000 for the use of the gallery.

Archives, RG7o



Nelson-Kirkwood Trustees are formed.



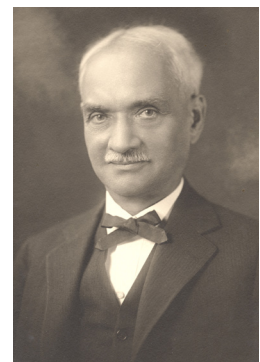
Herbert V. Jones was trustee for both Mary Atkins's trust and William Rockhill Nelson's trust, and he facilitated the joining of the two for the purpose of one museum.

NAMA Archives RG7o_B1, Ephemera Collection



Photograph of J. C. Nichols.

NAMA Archives, RG 7o, Ephemera Collection



Photograph of William Volker.

NAMA Archives RG7o-B2, Ephemera Collection

American art dealer Edith Gregor Halpert remembers meeting the trustees in 1933: "Then one day this little character [Harold Woodbury Parsons] came in with three of the biggest men I ever saw [the three trustees]. They all wore big hats like cowboys, ten gallon hats, big burly guys, very impatient, saying, 'All right! Let's see your art!'"

(Oral history interview with Edith Gregor Halpert, 1962–1963. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.)

Count Basie develops “Kansas City stomp” style of jazz.

1929



Count Basie signs with Bennie Moten’s Kansas City Orchestra in 1929.

James Kriegsmann, *Portrait of Count Basie*, 1944, photograph, published in an advertisement, *Billboard 1944 Music Yearbook*, Source [Wikimedia](#). Public Domain

1930

Ground is broken for building the museum.



The construction crew on February 3, 1931.

NAMA Archives, RG 70, Ephemera Collection.



In 1928, Nelson’s former home, Oak Hall, is razed (according to Laura Nelson Kirkwood’s wishes) to make way for the museum.

NAMA Archives, ARV20120088



Complete steel frame of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, January 6, 1931.

NAMA Archives, RG 70, Ephemera Collection

1930

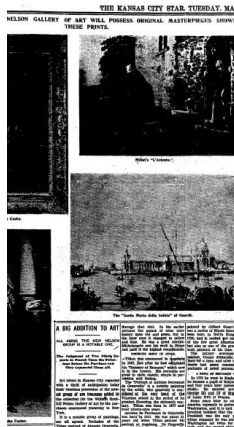
First French painting purchases.



Jean-François Millet, *Waiting*, ca. 1853-1861, purchased in May 1930.



Théodore Rousseau, *Cows Descending the Hills at Sunset*, ca. 1837-1840, purchased April 24, 1930.



Jean-François Millet's *Waiting* is at upper right.

"A Big Addition to Art: All Agree The New Nelson Group is a Notable One." *Kansas City Star*, May 20, 1930, 17.

The painting by Théodore Rousseau, *Cows Descending the Hills at Sunset*, is at lower center.

"The Beginning of the Collection of Old Masters in These Ten Paintings Bought for William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art." *Kansas City Star*, April 20, 1930, 1E.



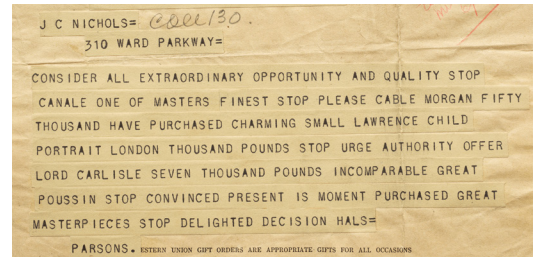
1931

During the Depression, the Nelson-Atkins purchases ten French paintings at a low cost.



Harold Woodbury Parsons (1882-1967) worked as the art advisor to the museum's trustees from 1930 to 1952, securing purchases such as Nicolas Poussin's *The Triumph of Bacchus*.

NAMA Archives, RG70, IIB1



Telegram from Parsons to the Nelson-Atkins urging the Trustees to buy the Poussin.

NAMA Archives, RG80-05, B04



Parsons called it a kingpin of the museum's growing collection.

Nicolas Poussin, *The Triumph of Bacchus*, 1635-1636.

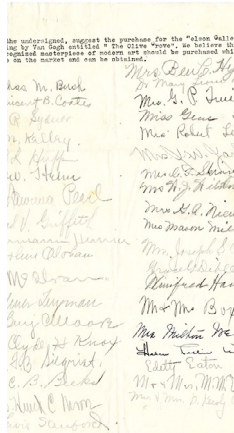
1932

First modern French painting purchased.



A clause in Nelson's will prevented the Trustees from purchasing works from any artist not dead for at least thirty years. Because van Gogh died in 1890, this painting was one of the few modern works available for acquisition by purchase.

Vincent van Gogh, *Olive Trees*, June/September 1889.



The painting was sent on approval to the museum in 1931, but local dealer Effie Seachrest (1869–1952) had to convince the Trustees to purchase it by collecting 130+ signatures on a petition.

"Petition to purchase Van Gogh Olive Orchards," ca. April 21, 1931, NAMA Archives, William Rockhill Nelson Trust Office Records (RG 80/05).



Daniel MacMorris, *Portrait of Effie Seachrest*, 1942. Reproduced in Daniel MacMorris and Jeanne R. Simpson, *60 Years: MacMorris (Mission, KS: Jeanne R. Simpson Gallery of Fine Art, 1974)*, 37

The University of Missouri-Kansas City opens.



The Nelson-Atkins opens in the same year.

S. J. Ray, *Building for the Future*, cartoon. Published in *Kansas City Star*, November 29, 1933, page C



Kansas City "Massacre" in front of Union Station results in the death of four law enforcement officers and a fugitive from Leavenworth Penitentiary. The event captures national attention and changes the FBI's approach to manhunts.

Union Station Massacre, June 17, 1933, Kansas City Public Library, P2, Box 4, Folder 13, Number 16

1933

Opening of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.



"Gallery and Museum Comprise a Temple of Art Revealing Treasures of 50 Centuries," *Kansas City Star*, December 10, 1933, C1. NAMA Archives, Scrapbook Collection, RG 72, v. 2



Nearly 11,000 people yesterday visited the museum. The picture was taken about 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon, when the waiting line extended almost to Fifth street in the park of the museum. The door was closed upon lunch in the afternoon.

Queuing for art. *Kansas City Times*, December 17, 1933. NAMA Archives, RG72, vol. 2, p. 126

Jackson County courthouse is finished.



The Courthouse is designed in an Art Deco style by Wight and Wight Architects.

Jackson County Courthouse (opened 1934), Southwestern Telephone Company Building (opened 1920) and Kansas City City Hall (opened 1937), photograph, ca. 1939, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Photograph Collection, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Photographs, Po280-1

1934



Presiding judge Harry Truman of Independence, MO, supervised the construction of the courthouse. He begins representing the state as a Senator in 1935.

Blackstone Studios, Portrait of Senator Harry S. Truman, ca. 1941, photograph, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Truman Photograph Collection, Po189

Kansas City Municipal Auditorium opens.

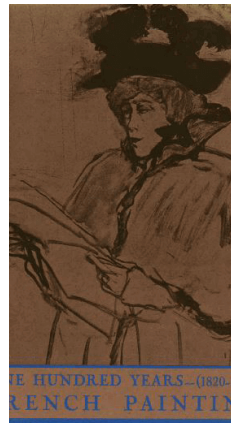


The Auditorium is part of the “Ten-Year Plan” to improve the city’s appearance.

Max Bernstein, 64 Municipal Auditorium by Night, Kansas City, Mo., C. T. Art-Colortone postcard printed by Curteich-Chicago in 1938.

1935

First exhibition of French art at The Nelson-Atkins.



The exhibition One Hundred Years of French Painting, 1820–1920 features the Toulouse-Lautrec painting, which would be purchased by Henry and Marion Bloch more than 40 years later. In 1935, Jane Avril Looking at a Proof by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was lent by Wildenstein & Co., New York.

Kansas City native Charlie Parker develops Bebop style of jazz.



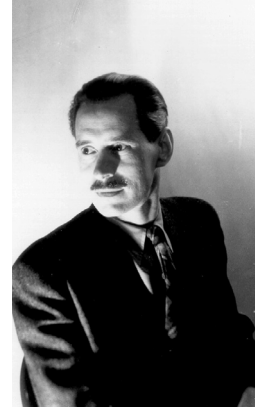
Parker perfected Bebop in jam sessions around Kansas City from 1936 to 1939.

William P. Gottlieb, Portrait of Charlie Parker in the Three Deuces of New York; Next to him is Miles Davis, August 1947, photograph, Source: [Wikimedia], Public Domain

1936

1938

James Roth becomes first conservator.



James Roth (1910–1990) began work at the museum in 1933 as a security guard, but he also assisted the museum's contract restorer, Marcel Jules Rougeron (French, 1875–1954) for several years. After studying at the Fogg Art Museum's Department of Conservation and Technical Research at Harvard University in the summer of 1938, he returned to the museum to establish the conservation department. He retired in 1973.

Portrait of James Roth. NAMA Archives, MS 001, Series IV, Box 15

James Roth, 1957, photograph. NAMA Archives, RG 70, B01, Ephemera Collection

Acquisition of two Post-Impressionist paintings.



Installation photo of *The Collection of Josef Stransky* at the Worcester Art Museum, ca. 1932–1933. Paul Gauguin's *Faaturuma (Melancholic)*, 1891, is pictured in the middle. NAMA purchased the painting from the Stransky estate through Wildenstein & Co., New York, in 1938.



Paul Cezanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire Seen from Les Lauves*, ca. 1904–1905. Purchased from Wildenstein & Co., New York, by The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1938

Tom Pendergast imprisoned for fifteen months for tax evasion; end of the “Pendergast Machine” years.

1939



Mugshots of Thomas J. Pendergast, Inmate #55295, May 29, 1939, photograph, Notorious Offenders Files, 1919–1975; Records of the Bureau of Prisons, 1870–2009, Record Group 129; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD

Lucile H. Bluford wins her anti-segregation case, and Kansas City quintuples in size.

1940

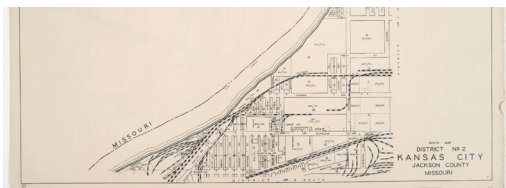


Miss Bluford at a Civil Rights March at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC, ca. 1958. Image from The Kansas City Call

In 1940, Bluford was already an established journalist for Black local paper *The Kansas City Call*. Seeing an opportunity to challenge segregation, she applied and was accepted to the all-white University of Missouri (MU) graduate program in journalism. However, the school rescinded her acceptance upon discovering her race.

Her suit against the university reached the Missouri Supreme court, which ruled in 1940 that MU had until February 1941 to establish a comparable journalism school at historically Black Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, or MU would have to admit her. For various reasons, Bluford ultimately did not attend either school.

It would be fourteen more years before the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously against segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1989, Bluford received an honorary doctorate from MU.



Also in 1940, Mayor John B. Gage and City Manager L. P. Cookingham annex land, and Kansas City quintuples in size, beginning a shift of population from city to suburbs.

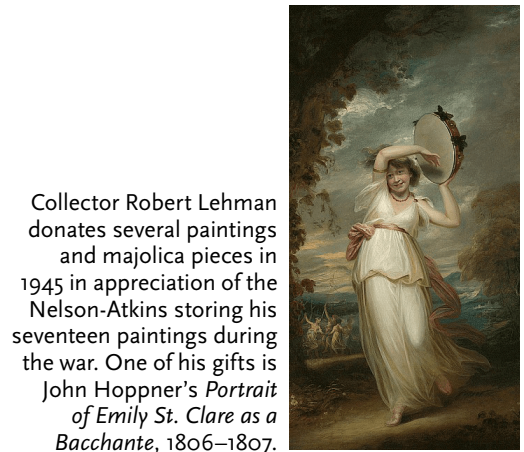
Jackson County Tax Assessor's Office, *District No. 2 North Map, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri*, 1940, Kansas City 1940 Tax Assessment Photographs, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library

The Nelson-Atkins is a safe haven during World War II.

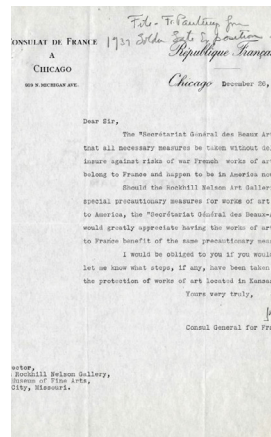


From 1940 to 1945, private collectors and museums send more than 150 works of art to the Nelson-Atkins for safekeeping during World War II.

“Evacuee Art Finds a War Haven Here,” *Kansas City Star*, September 15, 1940, 1D



Collector Robert Lehman donates several paintings and majolica pieces in 1945 in appreciation of the Nelson-Atkins storing his seventeen paintings during the war. One of his gifts is John Hoppner's *Portrait of Emily St. Clare as a Bacchante*, 1806–1807.



Letter dated December 26, 1941, from the French Consulate to NAMA after the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco, 1939-1940.

1942



Women run the museum while their male colleagues fight in World War II.

Ethlyne Jackson (1906–1993) becomes Acting Director when director Paul Gardner goes to World War II. Jackson had been Gardner’s executive secretary since the museum’s opening and also served as curator of the decorative arts collection. She initiated a series of Wednesday evening lectures on nineteenth- and twentieth-century French painting.

Mary Louise Clifton Womer Papers, MSS 008, NAMA Archives.



Ethlyne Jackson, seated in center, surrounded by museum staff, including Lindsay Hughes (directly behind Jackson), who served as Acting Curator of Oriental Art.

Standing left to right: Harold Woodbury Parsons, Lindsay Hughes, Frances Webb (Assistant in Junior Education department); (seated left to right): Mary Louise Clifton (head of Junior Education), Ethlyne Jackson, Louise Lebrecht (Assistant to Jackson), November 1944. Mary Louise Clifton Womer Papers, MSS 008, NAMA Archives

1944

Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust dispersal of goods, including painting by Camille Pissarro.



William Rockhill Nelson died in 1915, leaving most of his estate to Kansas City to purchase works of art. Nelson’s wife, Ida Nelson, died in 1921 and his daughter Laura died in 1926, but her residuary trust was not dispersed for eighteen more years.

NAMA Archives RG70.



One of three Impressionist paintings owned by William Rockhill Nelson and given by the Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust to the Nelson-Atkins: Camille Pissarro, *Poplars, Sunset at Eragny*, 1894.

Jackie Robinson joins the Kansas City Monarchs, and Harry S. Truman becomes President of the United States.

1945



Jackie Robinson signs with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League for \$400 per month. Two years later he will break the “color barrier” and sign with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Jackie Robinson, Kansas City Monarchs, 1945, photograph. Source: [Kansas City Star]



April 12, 1945: Missourian Harry Truman becomes President of the United States following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt; he steers the country through the end of World War II and serves until 1953. Harry Truman’s home at 219 North Delaware Street, Independence, MO, where he lived from 1919 until his death in 1972.

Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri, 2006, photograph, Source: [Wikipedia] [Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic license] [Creative Commons].

Desegregation of Swope Park Pool.

1951



Sixteen years before becoming the first Black Supreme Court Justice of the United States, then-chief attorney for the NAACP Thurgood Marshall represented three Black Kansas Citians in a case to desegregate the Swope Park Pool. Judge Ridge ruled in favor of Marshall’s three plaintiffs: Esther Williams, Lena Rivers, and Joseph Moore.

Swope Park Swimming Pool (detail), postcard, Mrs. Sam Ray Postcard Collection (SC58), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO.

Abilene, Kansas, native Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President of the United States

1953



Eisenhower serves until 1961.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower speaking at Municipal Auditorium, photograph, Richard Corliss Photograph Collection (P32), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

1954

First curator of European Art is hired.



Patrick Kelleher served as curator from 1954 to 1959.

NAMA Archives, RG 43/02, Friends of Art Records

The Philadelphia Athletics franchise is moved to Kansas City.

1955



The Kansas City Athletics bring 1,393,054 spectators to Municipal Stadium in 1955. In 1967, the franchise moves to Oakland, California, its current home.

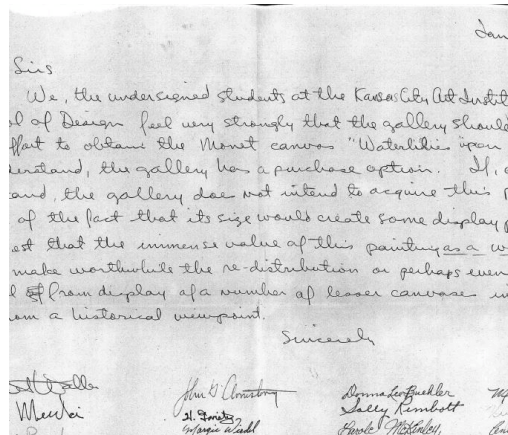
Kansas City Athletics Play Their First Game at Municipal Stadium in Kansas City, April 12, 1955, photograph, [\[Wikipedia\]](#), Creative Commons.

1957

Acquisition by petition of Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*.



Claude Monet, *Water Lilies*, ca. 1915-1926



Students of the Kansas City Arts Institute petitioned for the purchase of *Water Lilies*, despite its large size.

NAMA Archives

The painting was reunited with the other two panels in the exhibition *Monet's Water Lilies Triptych*, photographed at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, April 6–June 15, 1979.



In 2011, the triptych was once again reunited.

Photo of the exhibition *Monet's Water Lilies* at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, April 9–August 7, 2011.

1959



Ralph T. Coe hired as Curator of Paintings and Sculpture.

In 1977, the European curatorial department was broken up into three sections, with Coe serving as curator of nineteenth-century painting. He also became director of the museum but maintained his curatorial role until he left in 1982.

NAMA Archives.

1960

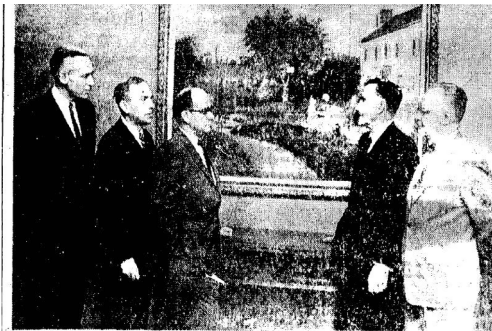
Acquisition of Camille Pissarro's *Garden of Les Mathurins*.



Camille Pissarro, *The Garden of Les Mathurins at Pontoise*, 1876. Purchased from Rosenberg and Stiebel, New York, by The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, May 6, 1960



J. Alaterre, *Garden of Les Mathurins at Pontoise*, 1962, composite photograph, NAMA Archives, Department of European Art, RG 03, Box 03, Pissarro Article folder



PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS OF UNIVERSITIES attending an annual meeting with trustees of the Nelson Gallery of Art yesterday paused to discuss the gallery's newest acquisition, a landscape by Camille Pissarro, 19th-century impressionist. At left are the past, present and future chancellors of the University of Kansas. They are (left to right) Deane W. Malott, formerly of K. U. and now president of Cornell university; Dr. Franklin D. Murphy, chancellor of K. U., and Dr. W. Clarke Wescoe, who will succeed Dr. Murphy. At right are (left to right) Dr. George Lynn

Camille Pissarro, *Garden of Les Mathurins at Pontoise*, at its debut at the Nelson-Atkins in 1960.

Reproduced in "Nelson Gallery Benefits from Donors' Generosity," *Kansas City Star*, May 8, 1960

Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.



The Kansas City Chiefs play in their first Super Bowl, where they lost to the Green Bay Packers (to be redeemed in 2020!).

Kansas City Chiefs vs Green Bay Packers, Super Bowl 1967, Source: [History.com](https://www.history.com)

1967

Student protestors commemorate the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Crowd Outside City Hall, with Police Wearing Gas Masks; Father Ed Warner and Father Fly at Center,

April 9, 1968, photograph, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Library, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Special Collections

1968

Journalist and Civil Rights Advocate, Lena Rivers Smith, Walking in Front of Police Line

April 9, 1968, photograph, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Library, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Special Collections



Violence erupts when protestors are tear-gassed by police.

Police Beat Father Ed Warner During a Peaceful Protest.

April 9, 1968, photograph, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Library, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Special Collections

Founding of the Kansas City Royals Major League Baseball team.

The name is a nod to the American Royal livestock and BBQ show.

Kansas City Royals team portrait, 1969, ulstoothpick.com



KANSAS CITY ROYALS 1969 BASEBALL CLUB
Back Row: Billy James, Jerry Adair, Ed Kirkpatrick, Moe Drabowsky, Lou Piniella, Wally Bunker, Roger Nelson, Pat Kelly, Mike Hedlund, Juan Rizo, Al Zach.
 Center Row: Gino Siglich, Chuck Harrison, George Springer, Bob "Hawk" Taylor, Bill Butler, Jim Campagna, Dave Wickensham, Dick Drago, Dave Morehead.
 Front Row: Elton Riedinger, Jack Hanrahan, Edward Sautter.
 First Row: Tom Burgmeier, Bob Olier, Steve Jones, Mel Harder, Jack White, Joe Gordon, Harry Dunning, Owen Friend, Joe Keough, Joe Foy.

1969

1970

Monetary support from “Aunt” Helen Foresman-Spencer throughout the 1970s.



Director Laurence Sickman, fund-donor Helen Foresman-Spencer, and curator Ted Coe with Claude Monet's *Boulevard des Capucines* in 1972.

Coe was nephew-in-law to Foresman-Spencer.

NAMA Archives, RG70_Boz



Fund-donor Helen Foresman-Spencer and Director Laurence Sickman with Odilon Redon's *Vase of Flowers*, at the opening of the Spencer Impressionist Gallery, February 22, 1976.

She also helped purchase Edgar Degas's *Rehearsal of the Ballet* in 1973.

NAMA Archives, RG45, B01

Arrowhead Stadium and Kansas City International Airport completed.

1972



Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs, was designed by architectural firm of Kivett and Myers and architect Charles Deaton.

Arrowhead Stadium, undated, postcard, Source: KCLibrary.org

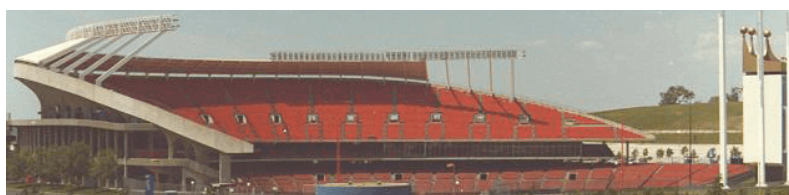


Local firm Kivett and Myers also designed the Kansas City International Airport, which was finished the same year.

Interior View of One of the Airline Terminals in Kansas City International Airport, ca. 1970s, Kansas City (Mo.) Aviation Department Photograph Collection (P30), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

Completion of Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals.

1973

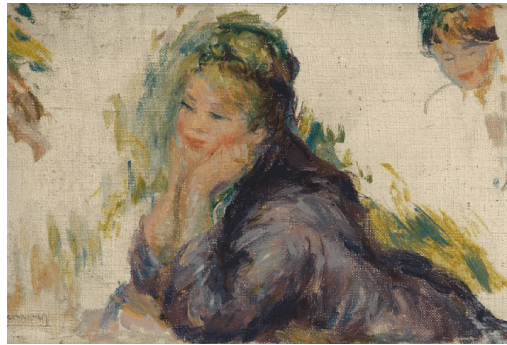


Kauffman Stadium was built adjacent to Arrowhead so that both stadiums could share a sliding roof. So far, the roof has never been built. Although the colors of the team are royal blue, gold, powder blue, and white, the red seats in the stadium were not replaced with blue ones until 2000.

Kauffman Stadium, May 14, 1981, photograph, Source: [Public Domain](#)

1976

Henry and Marion Bloch purchase their first Impressionist painting.



The Blochs' purchase would launch what would become one of the last great collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting to be held in private hands in the United States.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Study for "Young Girls Playing Volant", ca. 1887.



"Many, many years ago, my wife and I built a house, and we thought we should have some art in it. . . . I saw a little Renoir. I said, 'That's very pretty!' And we bought it." — Henry Bloch, on *In Situ: Impressions from the Bloch Galleries*, aired on KCPT on June 7, 2017.

Portrait of Henry and Marion Bloch, November 2006, in Kansas City, MO. Photo by Mark McDonald.

The Kansas City Mafia sets off explosions in the River Quay entertainment district.

1977



Marion A. Trezelle outside cafe in River Quay section of Kansas City, Mo. The downtown office towers are visible at rear.

Violence Destroys a Boom In Kansas City's Old Section

By PAUL DELANEY

After a Las Vegas skimming operation goes sour, the Kansas City Mafia bombs the River Quay, which was a major event in the Mafia war over control of the area. The Martin Scorsese film *Casino* (1995) draws upon this period of gangland violence.

"Violence Destroys A Boom in Kansas City's Old Section," *New York Times*, April 19, 1977

1979

Purchase of first artwork by a French female artist.



Although the Nelson-Atkins was given its first painting by a French female artist in 1934 (Marie Laurencin's *The Boat*, 1930), it later deaccessioned this work. It was not until 1979 that the Museum purchased its first work by another French female artist, Berthe Morisot's *Daydreaming* (1877).

1979



Acquisition of Jean Siméon Chardin's *Still Life with Cat and Fish*, 1728

After a "Chardin" purchased in 1932 turned out to be a copy of another painting, the museum found a beautiful painting firmly attributed to the artist: *Still Life with Cat and Fish*.

The Kansas City Royals play in World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies.



The Royals lost 2-4 against the Phillies. In 1985, the Royals returned to the World Series and won against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Designated Hitter Hal McRae, 1980, Kansas City Royals via tradingcarddb.com, Public Domain

1980

Pulitzer Prize awarded to the staff of *The Kansas City Star*.



The Kansas City Star staff is honored with the Pulitzer Prize for Local General or Spot News Reporting for their coverage of the Hyatt Regency walkway collapse (July 17, 1981).

Dr. Lee Lowery Jr., P.E., View of The Lobby Floor, During the First Day of the Investigation of the Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse, after July 18, 1981, photograph, Source: [Public Domain](#)

1982

1984

Acquisition of a pendant pair by Claude Joseph Vernet.



Installation in the European painting gallery showing Claude Joseph Vernet's *Coastal Harbor with a Pyramid: Evening* on the far right and *Seaport with Antique Ruins: Morning* on the left of the large portrait by Hyacinthe Rigaud, spring 1994.

NAMA Archives.

1985

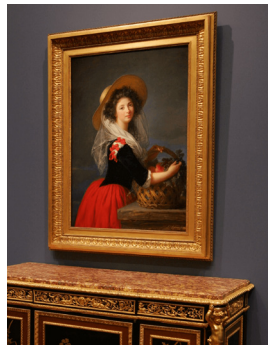
Gift of painting attributed to Sébastien Bourdon, *The Adoration of the Magi*, from Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bloch.



Attributed to Sébastien Bourdon, *The Adoration of the Magi*, ca. 1639

1986

Purchase of important painting by Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun and other works.



Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun's *Portrait of Marie Gabrielle de Gramont, Comtesse de Caderousse*, 1784, is considered one of the artist's masterpieces.

Photo of the painting in NAMA galleries, April 1, 2006, by Bruce Matthews

Kansas City Star reporter Donald Hoffman wrote: "The portrait represents the first time the Nelson Gallery has chosen to buy an Old Master painting by a woman."

Donald Hoffmann, "A New Old Master at the Nelson: Portrait Artist Made her Mark in French Court," *Kansas City Star*, November 16, 1986



Roger Ward was curator of European Painting and Sculpture from 1982 to 2001. He inventoried the collection, identified works that could be sold, and used the funds to acquire pieces previously unrepresented. He is pictured here with the pendant pair by Jean-Baptiste Pater that he acquired in 1982.

NAMA Archives, Visual Resources Slide Collection, Ro1

1989

Gustave Caillebotte painting enters collection.



Most of Gustave Caillebotte's paintings were in private hands for many years. In 1989, it was still rare for a museum to buy his work.

Gustave Caillebotte, *Portrait of Richard Gallo*, 1881

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is founded in the Historic 18th and Vine neighborhood.

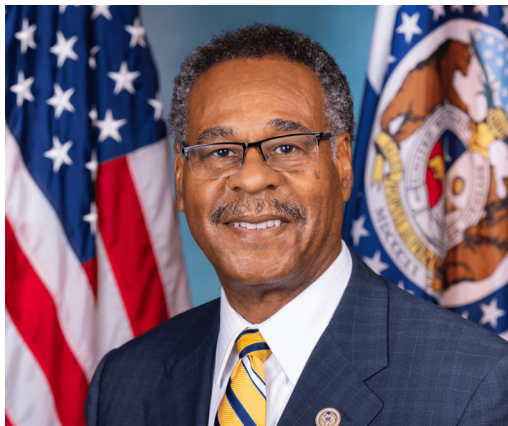


The current building opened in 1994. The American Jazz Museum opened three years later.

Richard, *Negro League Baseball Museum and American Jazz Museum*, 2005, photograph, [Creative Commons][Attribution 2.0 Generic] license

1990

Emanuel Cleaver II becomes Kansas City's first Black mayor.



Cleaver is currently the Congressman for the 5th district of Missouri.

US House Office of Photography, *Emanuel Cleaver II*, 2018, photograph, Source: [Public Domain]

1991

1994

Painting by Adélaïde Labille-Guiard enters the collection.



Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, *Portrait of Joachim Lebreton*, 1795, is an example from an important female neoclassical painter.



The Met's painting illustrates Labille-Guiard at work in her studio.

Self-Portrait of the artist with Two Pupils, 1785, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Julia A. Benwind, 1953



Election of first female mayor, Kay Barnes, and reopening of Union Station.

1999

Kansas City elects its first female mayor, Kay Waldo Barnes.

Ebergrud, *Kay Barnes*, 2013, photograph, [[Creative Commons](#)] [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International]

After fourteen years of closure, Union Station (built 1914) reopens with attractions like Science City.

John LeCoque, *Kansas City Union Station*, 2007, photograph, Source: [[Public Domain](#)]



Construction begins on the Power and Light District.

2005

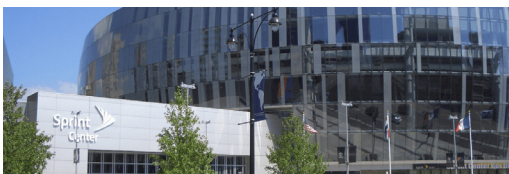


Between 2000 and 2017, the downtown population grows from almost four thousand residents to nearly thirty thousand, spurred on by the redevelopment of Power and Light District.

Dana Welsch, *Power @ Light District in Kansas City, MO*, 2012, photograph, [[Creative Commons](#)] [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International] license

The Sprint Center opens in the Power and Light District.

2007



Home to multiple collegiate basketball tournaments, including events for both men's and women's Big 12 basketball, the Sprint Center seats 18,500.

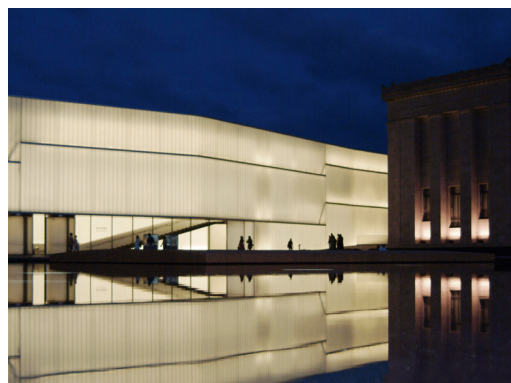
Charvex, *Sprint Center (arena and entrance)*, Kansas City, Missouri, 2008, photograph, Source: [[Public Domain](#)]

The Bloch Building opens with the inaugural exhibition *Manet to Matisse*.



Manet to Matisse features the Blochs' collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art.

The Bloch family attending *An Asymmetrical Evening*, June 2, 2007 at NAMA. Photo by Mark McDonald.



Public Opening of the Bloch Building, June 10, 2007 at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Photo by Mark Delich

2008

Research begins for the catalogue *French Paintings and Pastels*.



The project began in 2008 under the direction of Simon Kelly (center), associate curator of European Paintings and Sculpture (2005–2010), with conservator Mary Schafer (left) as a key partner. Nicole Myers (right) directed the project as associate curator from 2010 to 2016.

Photo by Mark McDonald.



Aimee Marcereau DeGalan became Senior Curator and director of the project in 2016.

Photo by Mark McDonald.



The first project assistant for the catalogue, Meghan Gray, began work in 2008. In 2016, she became the manager of the project.

Photo by Tiffany Matson.

The Kansas City Wizards become Sporting Kansas City, the town's Major League Soccer franchise.

2010



Lawrence Jackson, *President Barack Obama Welcomes Sporting Kansas City to the White House to Honor the Team and Their Victory in the 2013 MLS Cup Championship*, 2014, photograph, Source: [\[Public Domain\]](#)

Opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, home of the Kansas City Orchestra and Ballet.

2011



Oblivion Yohen, *Kauffman Center for Performing Arts*, 2019, photograph, [\[Creative Commons\]](#) [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International] license

2014

Gift of pastel by Léon-Augustin Lhermitte.

Léon-Augustin Lhermitte, *Potato Planting in Spring*, 1888 is a gift from James W. Sicht and Dr. Heidi Harman in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nelson-Atkins.



Kansas City Royals win the World Series over the New York Mets.

2015

Major gift of art from Marion and Henry Bloch.



Eight hundred thousand Kansas City Royals fans gathered to celebrate the team's World Series championship.

Kansas City Royals World Series Rally, 2015, photograph, Photo by *Kansas City Star*. [\[Source\]](#)



Henry Bloch, left, presents his collection of twenty-nine Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings for accessioning to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, June 2015. Photo by Matt Pearson.

Voters approve transportation improvements.



Voters approve an extension of the KC streetcar from Union Station to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Volker Campus, and the construction of a new airport terminal (to open in 2021).

Jason Doss, *KC Streetcar System Leaving the Line's Union Station Terminus on the Second Day of Service*, 2016, photograph, [[Creative Commons](#)] [Attribution 2.0 Generic] license

2017



The Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation also gave \$12 million to renovate a portion of the European galleries in the original Nelson-Atkins building to accommodate their gift of art. Robert L. Bloch, Henry Bloch, and Thomas Bloch tour the construction zone for the new Bloch Galleries.

Nelson-Atkins, 2015.

The Bloch Galleries open at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.



Henry Bloch (seated, center) with his family at the opening of the Bloch Galleries, February 23, 2017. Photo by Mark McDonald.



A ballerina with Edgar Degas's pastel, *Dancer Making Points* at the opening of the Bloch Galleries, February 25, 2017. Photo by Mark McDonald.



The opening of the Bloch Galleries for Friends of Art and Society of Fellows, February 25, 2017. Photo by Mark McDonald.

2017



Purchase of Emile Bernard's painting of his grandmother.

Emile Bernard, *The Artist's Grandmother*, 1887



Queer Eye begins filming in Kansas City.

Netflix's *Queer Eye* reboot spends two seasons in Kansas City, highlighting the city's rich diversity.

Queer Eye Cast at No Other Pub in Kansas City, MO, 2018, photograph, [\[Source\]](#)

2018

Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl over the San Francisco 49ers.

Despite temperatures in the 20s, fans celebrated the Chiefs' first Super Bowl win in fifty years.

Charlie Riedel, *Chiefs Fans Gather for a Rally Outside Union Station*, February 5, 2020, photograph, [\[Source\]](#)



2020

2021

First installment of *The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: French Paintings and Pastels, 1600–1945*.

