



KEEPERS OF THE COLUMNS

Every successful nonprofit has a dedicated community of individuals who understand and value its mission. Their investments of time and treasure help ensure that the organization's programs make a difference in the city where we live. The Wornall/Majors Museums has such a community: Keepers of the Columns.

By making an annual tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 or more, "Keepers" provide reliable support for the Museums' programs and services. Their gifts fund what is needed most. Your contribution might enable an inner-city child to attend a weeklong summer camp for the first time. It could help underwrite a class of fourth graders learning about the Civil War and Kansas City's place in it. It might fund supplies or travel for a school field trip. Or it could support hiring a professional educator or performer who introduces kids to history in a personal and life-enriching way.



We invite you to review this synopsis of The Wornall/Majors House Museums- the story of who we are and what we do. And we ask you to consider joining us as a Keeper of the Columns.

What is the Historical Importance of the John Wornall and Alexander Majors Houses?

The Wornall/Majors House Museums is the nonprofit that oversees two of the most historically significant buildings in Kansas City: the John Wornall House and the Alexander Majors House. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, these Houses are central to the development of the city and country we know today. The Wornall/Majors House Museums are local and national historic treasures. Keepers of the Columns help ensure they stay strong and vibrant.



The **John Wornall House**, 6115 Wornall Road, is a majestic 1858 Greek revival building in the Brookside neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri. More than a beautiful structure, the Wornall House stood strong during the Civil War, having the rare distinction of serving as a field hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Battle of Westport. In post-Emancipation America, the House continued to be home to the prominent Wornall family and was the first "classroom" for what is today known as The Pembroke Hill School. It became Kansas City's first house museum in 1972. The Wornall House is an example of the American experience: our resilience, perseverance and forward-looking orientation.



The **Alexander Majors House**, 8201 State Line Road, is a large and impressive antebellum farmhouse, an example of what a wealthy Kansas City entrepreneur might build in 1856. And it is a place where big and bold ideas were born and came to life. In that house, Alexander Majors helped create the Pony Express, the nation's first experiment with rapid mail delivery. He also explored business opportunities and trading routes through Arizona and the Dakotas, helping lead to America's westward expansion and the vast growth in commerce and population that followed. The Majors House exemplifies American ingenuity, entrepreneurship and courage.

How Do the House Museums Serve Today's Kids and Families?

By design, the House Museums are more than part of our city and country's past. With a mission to "bring history to life through innovative, hands-on programs and experiences," the Houses live and breathe as two of the region's most unique and dynamic learning environments:



Youth Development and Education:

Several thousand children visit the Houses annually on school field trips and after-school activities sponsored by Scouts, Boys & Girls' Clubs and LINC. Summer and holiday camps provide weeklong experiences. Trained, energetic interpreters show kids history, helping them to learn by doing with hands-on activities such as candle dipping, ink making, quilling, butter churning, blacksmithing demonstrations and open-hearth cooking. Kids have fun while learning teamwork and boosting individual achievement. Children also learn to appreciate local history and develop a deeper understanding of the American Civil War.



Exhibits and Adult Learning:

Several thousand adults participate in activities at the House Museums annually, including battle reenactments, Civil War-era gardening and cooking demonstrations, readings and presentations, book signings and more. Special exhibits and programs delivered in partnership with, for example, the Kansas City Public Library, inform and engage participants from across our region. Farmstead to Field Hospital (October 4-November 2, 2014), was the Museums' latest special exhibit. Featuring fact-based demonstrations of Civil War-era medicine and the development of modern medicine, it attracted hundreds of visitors.

Are the Wornall/Majors House Museums a Good Investment for My Charitable Dollars?

Yes! Since the merger of the John Wornall and Alexander Majors Houses in January 2011, the Museums have achieved an average annual operating budget of \$250,000. Importantly, the board and staff have worked to generate a balance of developed and earned revenue to avoid overdependence on any one source. But we need your help to continue our momentum. Keepers of the Columns members can be confident about their donations:

- **Capital Revenue:** We successfully conducted a \$350,000 campaign in 2013 to rebuild the foundation and front façade of the John Wornall House, badly damaged during the droughts of 2011 and 2012.
- **Earned Income:** We make our assets work to support our mission. A barn on the grounds of the Alexander Majors house is rented for corporate meetings, nonprofit events and weddings to generate an average of \$60,000 annually. Special event revenue is also increasing; it will be \$45,000 in 2014.
- **Individual and Foundation Support:** Annual memberships and individual donations are expected to reach \$60,000 in 2014. The Museums are also earning the support of a growing number of foundations and new individual donors, with gifts ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Our 2013-2014 funder roster includes the William T. Kemper Foundation, Bank of America, the Kearny Wornall Foundation (UMB, Trustee), Sunderland Foundation, H&R Block Foundation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Junior League of Kansas City, Harvey Family Foundation, Barton and Mary Cohen Foundation, RA Long Foundation, James B. Nutter, Ford and Christine Maurer and others. Keeper of the Columns members will be in good company as supporters of the Wornall/Majors House Museums.

How Will My Gift Be Used?

As a Keeper of the Columns, your gift will have a real-time, real-world impact on the Museums' programs and the people we serve. In addition to providing general support for our programs and historic preservation priorities, it can help support a variety of exciting funding and matching opportunities:

- **William T. Kemper Grant Match:** After contributing \$150,000 toward our capital campaign, the Foundation has generously awarded a three-year, \$75,000 grant (\$25,000 in 2014, 2015 and 2016) to upgrade program staff and increase programs. Your gift could help match this annual requirement, triggering the release of \$25,000 in pledges for both 2015 and 2016.
- **Learning Landscape:** With gifts of \$5,000 from the from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$15,000 from Bank of America, we will develop a learning landscape on the grounds of the Wornall House complete with historically appropriate plants, an exposed cistern, hands-on activities and program guides, and improved lighting and signage. Your pledge could help finalize this as a learning destination for students and the entire community.
- **Learning by Doing: A Summer Camp and Field Trip Initiative:** When fully funded, this new collaborative venture with the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department and LINC will allow us to provide intensive programs and follow-up opportunities for 850 new underserved inner-city children and youth. It builds on successful pilots from 2013 and 2014. At \$30,000 annually, it is extremely cost-effective, averaging just \$35 per child.

How will my gift be recognized?

Gifts are fully tax deductible, and donors will receive prompt acknowledgement of their pledge payments. Donors will be recognized, with our sincere gratitude, on the organization's website and in regular newsletters and reports.

Sign Me Up as a Keeper of the Columns!

Your pledge makes a difference. And it will be used wisely. Please use the enclosed form to choose your giving level and return it to us in the envelope provided. Please also feel free to log on to wornallmajors.org and use your credit card or PayPal to make your pledge.

Please contact Kerrie Nichols, executive director, at director@wornallmajors.org or 816-444-1858 with any questions.

THANK YOU!





Alexander Majors House Museum

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