



# PRESENCE

FALL/WINTER  
2020

*Wornall/Majors House Museums: The Past is Present.*



## Calendar of Events

Fridays November 6-  
December 18

Drop-in Fridays  
Supplement learning  
plans with educational  
drop-in activities for  
grades 3-7!

December 4

Virtual Boots & Pearls  
Our popular fundraiser  
is now online! (See page  
4 for details.)

## Here for you

Providing the community with safe educational opportunities

Like all institutions, Wornall/Majors House Museums has made significant adjustments to the services and programs we can offer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our commitment, as always, is to provide the community with high-quality programs and events that help citizens make connections between the past and present.

Our expansive outdoor spaces have allowed us to continue some in-person programs with safety adjustments, including our popular Ghost Tours. Historically, Ghost Tours have allowed families and individuals to enjoy an educational but still festive outing during the Halloween season, and we wanted to continue that experience. By moving half of our event outdoors, reducing capacity, and enforcing social distancing, we've been able to continue a Kansas City tradition safely.



*Courtesy of Katie Mabry van Dieren/  
Strawberry Swing*



We've also hosted the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, and Strawberry Swing Indie Craft Fair on our grounds. Our summer camp program pivoted to small group drop-in sessions for children ages 5-12.

As current events evolve, we will too - and will continue to create innovative solutions for you and your family and friends.

-WMHM Staff

wornallmajors.org  
(816)444-1858

THE JOHN WORNALL HOUSE 6115 Wornall Rd. Kansas City, MO 64113  
THE ALEXANDER MAJORS HOUSE & BARN 8201 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114

# *A New Outdoor Experience:*

The Learning Landscape at the Wornall House creates a safe and beautiful learning environment for all to enjoy

The Learning Landscape is our ambitious plan to bring educational programming outside of our walls and into the historic landscape. Work began in late 2019, with final plantings completed this fall by the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City. While our plans for spring and summer programming in the landscape were thwarted by uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased that the Learning Landscape has evolved into something even greater - a crucial community resource and beautiful getaway for those seeking social distancing.

The grounds have been increasingly used by dog walkers, local tourists, small school/youth groups, and those seeking meeting spaces. The new landscaping has provided the perfect way to enjoy togetherness and learn about historic topics while remaining safe.

The grounds have also been the site of Saturdays with the Strawberry Swing, alternating with the lawn of the Alexander Majors House. The Strawberry Swing is Kansas City's premier indie craft fair, featuring local makers. These events provide the opportunity for local artisans, florists, food trucks, and others to sell their goods at a time that has been very difficult for many small businesses. Visitors are assured of safety as well, with strict mask requirements and careful spacing of vendors, allowing them to spend their dollars locally while enjoying a fun afternoon out.

The new grounds have also allowed us to continue to safely host our popular Ghost Tours - with a new hybrid model of an indoor/outdoor experience. We are looking forward to a return to normal programming to explore even more innovative uses of our new grounds. But in the meantime, we welcome the community to continue to use the Wornall House Learning Landscape as a place to stroll, learn, or sit for a bit!



*Careful grading of the property has made the Wornall House more visible from Wornall Road, while also creating an inviting entry point for pedestrians.*



*Strawberry Swing visitors [top left], students from the City of Fountains School [bottom left], and Graham King, age 3 [above], enjoy the grounds of the Wornall House.*

## *You Make the Difference*

Help us achieve our matching goal!

We are honored to have received a grant from the William T. Kemper Foundation for Emergency COVID Funding Relief. Thanks to their generosity, we have the opportunity to match new donations to Wornall/Majors to unlock the full funding potential of this recent grant - if we can raise \$18,500 in new gifts, the Foundation will match those donations dollar for dollar.



*Supporters Joe Huber and Clara Van Draska at the 2019 Boots & Pearls Barn Dance*

This generous opportunity will take us dramatically forward in our efforts to sustain two of Kansas City's most historic landmarks, support our staff, and continue to provide safe opportunities for the public to interact with us during this unprecedented pandemic.

If you've been looking for the perfect opportunity to donate to Wornall/Majors House Museums - now is the time, as your gift will go twice as far! As of print date, we've raised 58% of those funds - help us meet our goal by making a tax-deductible end of year donation.

Donating is easy and can be made at [wornallmajors.org/donate](http://wornallmajors.org/donate) or by mailing contributions to Wornall/Majors House Museums; 6115 Wornall Rd.; Kansas City, MO 64113. Wornall/Majors House Museums is a 501c3, tax ID 43-1834180.

## *Keeping museums open -*

Why your gifts are critical

According to a study by the American Alliance of Museums, a third of American museum directors reported that there was either a "significant risk" of closing permanently or they didn't know if their institutions would survive due to COVID-related pressures.

In addition to providing crucial educational opportunities for their communities, museums draw more than 850 million visitors a year, support 726,000 direct and indirect jobs and contribute \$50 billion each year to the economy in the United States.

## *Grateful*

for our  
Summer/Fall 2020  
supporters.

*Donors who have given  
\$250 or more between  
May 1, 2020 and print date.*

Kearney Wornall  
Foundation  
UMB, trustee

Missouri Humanities  
Council

William T. Kemper  
Foundation  
Commerce Bank,  
trustee

John & Kay Callison  
Patricia Cleary Miller  
Ann & Bob Closser  
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Jody Ladd Craig & Bill Craig  
Alice & Willie Ergovich  
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Elizabeth Hatting  
Kathleen & Mike Horner  
Hibberd Kline III  
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Mark & Kandi McCasland  
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Virginia McCoy  
Tinka McCray  
Steve & Marianne Noll  
Nick & Mary Ann Powell  
Charles & Lisa Schellhorn  
UMB Bank  
Don & Jean Wagner  
Robert & Sally West  
James F. Wornall  
Wornall Homestead  
Homes Association

# (Virtual) Boots and Pearls

*December 5, 2020 - Online*

Like many organizations, our annual fundraiser will look a little different this year. Our Boots & Pearls Barn Dance is going virtual! Participation is free, with funds being raised through our silent auction and raffle. Raffle tickets are \$25 - prizes include fine pearl jewelry from The Polished Edge, boots from Nigro's Western Store, and a bundle of fine wine.

Silent auction items will include everything from gift certificates to exclusive experiences, and will be announced on our website on a rolling basis, with the auction opening on November 20. Bids will be accepted until the evening of December 5.

An online presentation via Zoom will be held at 7:00 PM CST. We'll give you an update on our activities for the year and announce silent auction and raffle winners. You don't have to be "present" to win - we will additionally contact winners within 24 hours. We may even have some special guests and surprises - login to join us for all the fun!

Virtual attendance is free, but we ask that you RSVP so we can send you updates about the event. Raffle tickets are \$25, and sponsorships are just \$500. Learn more at [www.wornallmajors.org/virtual-boots-pearls](http://www.wornallmajors.org/virtual-boots-pearls).



## Black Lives Matter

*Our commitment to diversity and inclusion*

The Wornall/Majors House Museums is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals, both for visitors and as part of our internal organizational structure.

In response to current events and as an acknowledgement of ongoing work to be done, the WMHM Board of Directors approved a Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equitable Implementation Plan in August of 2020 to ensure that we continue to move forward in providing access to and representation in content and programming at the Museums.

If you have feedback or are interested in helping us in our work, email Kerrie Nichols at [director@wornallmajors.org](mailto:director@wornallmajors.org).

*Visit us!*

### John Wornall House

6115 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64113

Open for tours Wednesday-Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed noon to 1:00 PM for cleaning) and Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Self-guided tours \$5/person

### Alexander Majors House

8201 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114

Closed for the winter season.

### COVID-19 Precautions:

Capacity is limited to 15 individuals in the museum.

Masks required.

Frequent cleaning observed.

Guided tours temporarily suspended.

Touchables have been removed from display.