



# NEWS RELEASE

Karen Seaberg, Chairman  
Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission  
(913) 367-0007  
karen@travelcenterofatchison.com  
www.lewisandclarkinkansas.com

## **State Commission Receives Grant Funding For Lewis and Clark Information Kiosks**

Atchison, Kans., March 10, 2003 – The Travel & Tourism Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOCH) recently announced that the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission is one of 14 recipients to receive one of the department's annual attraction development grants.

The commission will receive a \$91,000 grant to construct outdoor, open-air pavilions in Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison and White Cloud. The structures, located in parks along the Missouri River, will house interpretive information on the Lewis and Clark Trail in Kansas.

As part of preparations for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in 2004, the Lewis & Clark commission will construct the interpretive pavilions to help draw travelers and educate them about the Lewis and Clark experience in the territory that later became Kansas. Construction should begin in the spring with completion expected by autumn.

Karen Seaberg, chairman of the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, said the pavilions will provide much-needed infrastructure along the historic trail in Kansas. "Kansas probably provides the least amount of interpretation of any state along the entire length of the Lewis and Clark Trail," Seaberg said. "These pavilions finally will allow our communities to share their Lewis and Clark heritage." The trail is approximately 123 miles of the Missouri River between Kansas City and White Cloud.

"This project truly is a lasting legacy for northeast Kansas," Seaberg said. "We are grateful to receive this grant." About \$250,000 in funding is still needed to complete the project.

Because of their unique design and attractive appearance, each of the pavilions will enhance and become a focal point for the communities' riverfronts. Three of the pavilions will be an open-air, circular structure with a concrete base that is protected by a soaring tensile fabric roof that



# NEWS RELEASE

Karen Seaberg, Chairman  
Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission  
(913) 367-0007  
karen@travelcenterofatchison.com  
www.lewisandclarkinkansas.com

mimics the sails of a boat. Five cast stone columns support the roof. A plaza area will provide a public gathering spot where the Missouri River becomes an inspiring backdrop.

The uniquely-designed pavilions will implement touch screen digital technology and contain static, informational panels. The design of the structures and equipment was provided by HNTB Engineers, Kansas City, Mo.

Inside each pavilion will be an interactive computer touch screen and audio system that provide visitors with virtual tours of Lewis and Clark sites in Kansas. The touch screen is flanked by four static interpretive panels.

Visitors to the pavilions will receive information about Lewis and Clark sites in Kansas, other historical sites, the ecology of the Missouri River basin; Indians tribes in Kansas; and have access to a guest registry.

In Kansas City, the pavilion has been incorporated into development plans for the Lewis and Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point, which is the confluence of the Missouri and Kaw rivers. It was near this point of land where the Lewis and Clark expedition bivouacked on June 26-29, 1804.

"I am very pleased the state commission has received this funding," said Shari Wilson, chairman of the Wyandotte County Lewis and Clark Task Force. "The pavilion is a cornerstone of the efforts to restore the Kaw Point encampment as a historical park and springboard to redevelopment of the Kansas City, Kansas riverfront."

The Leavenworth pavilion will be located within the Bridge Tender's building in Leavenworth Landing Park, which was built as a tribute to early transportation modes and westward trails that helped grow Leavenworth. The Landing is one of the premiere river access points in the greater Kansas City area.

"Leavenworth is excited about this new addition to our riverfront parks," said John Krueger, Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Leavenworth. "This is one area of the river that has not been altered by navigation channeling. It is one of the few points where people can experience an exact location where Lewis & Clark once stood. Most of the campsites are in the middle of secretion lands today."

In the Atchison area, which the Lewis and Clark expedition explored on July 4, 1804, the pavilion will be situated on the riverfront at the foot of Commercial Street. It is part of a \$4.5 million project to develop the city's riverfront to promote increased recreational use.

"We are pleased to have the help and support of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing," said Bob Adrian, chairman of the Riverfront Development Council of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce. "The pavilion is one of the primary structures of our riverfront development and will be a lasting tribute to Lewis and Clark as well as active informational site not only detailing the Lewis and Clark expedition, but also highlighting Atchison's unique historical significance to Kansas and the country's westward movement."

In White Cloud, the pavilion will be placed on the riverfront at the foot of Main Street. Lewis and Clark passed through this area in mid-July 1804.

"The community of White Cloud and Doniphan County is proud of its Lewis and Clark heritage and we are excited about the opportunities these pavilions present in attracting more visitors to our corner of the state," said Galen Weiland, director of the Doniphan County Economic Development Commission.

The Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission was established in March, 2000, by Governor Bill Graves. The governor appointed 11 volunteer members to the commission and designated Karen Seaberg, Atchison, as chairman. Seaberg appointed four additional members. Commissioners are working with representatives from state and federal agencies, organizations and local communities on many projects that address trail development, Native cultures, educational programming, marketing and fundraising in preparation for the bicentennial.

For more information about the Lewis and Clark bicentennial in Kansas, please call (913) 367-8412 or send email to: [kslewisandclark@charter.net](mailto:kslewisandclark@charter.net).