

Kansas City / Moving Forward



Mayor Sly James
May 2, 2011 - July 31, 2019






There's a well-known African proverb that says "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together." I can't think of a better way to explain what's happening in Kansas City, and what makes us so special.

We've made incredible progress together, and we're experiencing an exciting momentum. This didn't happen by accident—Kansas City is moving forward and gaining national prominence thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people who share a commitment to making our city better.

This collection highlights a selection of key projects and initiatives that make Kansas City a better place and move us forward to a bright future. Most importantly, it shows how much we accomplish when we believe in our city and work together.



Mayor Sly James

Turn the Page KC

Turn the Page KC is a collective impact organization that focuses on the critical indicator of third grade reading proficiency by focusing on kindergarten readiness, summer reading, school attendance and access to books. Up until third grade, a child is learning to read, and after that, they are reading to learn. If they are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade, 75 percent will never catch up. Since Turn the Page KC began its work in 2011, third grade reading proficiency in Kansas City is getting closer to the state average, closing that gap by a third since 2011. Turn the Page enlists organizations and volunteers from the public and private sectors to support programs and events, including the annual Summer Splash that welcomes thousands of students to the Sprint Center for lunch, musical performances, special readings from Mayor James, and a selection of new books to take home.



THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

“They put a stake in the ground around third-grade reading and made some big bets to improve the odds for early school success.”

KC Star: Kansas City named ‘All-American City’ for its Turn the Page reading crusade (KC Star)

“The stakes in this are big. They are bigger than any test score, single district, piece of legislation or court case. We’re talking about lives. I am a father and a grandfather, and I know how precious young lives are and the opportunity that each represents.”

- Mayor Sly James

<https://www.livingcities.org/blog/1078-mayors-and-schools-kansas-city-charisma>

“Kansas City third graders have been improving their proficiency rate in reading at a faster pace than the statewide average since the Turn the Page KC campaign launched in 2011. The gap has narrowed overall and also among subgroups of low-income, black and Hispanic students.”

KC Star: Turn the Page KC succeeds in mobilizing crusade for reading, but thornier tasks remain





KC Streetcar

Kansas City is home to the most successful streetcar line in the country. Connecting neighborhoods and businesses along a 2.2 mile route from Union Station to the River Market, the KC Streetcar made its inaugural run in May 2016. By its third anniversary in May 2019, it logged more than 6 million rides.

The KC Streetcar exemplifies what Mayor James refers to as a “systems thinking approach,” which focuses on coordinated solutions to multiple challenges. The KC streetcar didn’t just improve public transportation, it helped



revitalize downtown and midtown business districts. The city used its construction as an opportunity to allow for installation of fiber cable and wifi access points to enable innovative technology and data collection, improving services and expanding digital inclusion for residents.

Voters in the Transportation Development District (TDD) voted overwhelmingly in April 2018 to extend the streetcar’s original spine south along Main St to UMKC.

2.2
mile route

6M
rides by
March 2019

\$2.2B
(and counting) of
development along
and adjacent to
the line since 2012

The New York Times

“Streetcars — once almost ubiquitous, later almost extinct — are having a moment: In the past five years, lines have also started operating in Salt Lake City, Tucson, Dallas, Cincinnati and Detroit...Some have been more successful and transformative than others, but few seem to have had the

impact of Kansas City’s. It’s the only one that’s free to ride, but what really makes it distinct is the palpable sense that is more than just a way of moving people around: It’s a movement — one that, judging by the crowds riding on weekends, transcends age and ethnicity.”

NYTimes: The Perfect Way to Explore Modern Kansas City? A Streetcar, Believe It or Not



2024
Projected completion
of extension to UMKC

76%

of Kansas City voters chose to move forward with the construction of a new single terminal airport



New Single Terminal KCI

Mayor James appointed community members to the Airport Terminal Advisory Group in 2013, who then listened to residents' concerns at town halls and studied all aspects of the existing KCI airport and its relationship to city government. After a year-long process, the advisory group recommended that the city build a new single terminal airport.

Stakeholders from the private and public sectors joined Mayor James in working to educate residents on the transformative benefits of a new airport terminal. In November 2017, 76 percent of Kansas City voters chose to move forward with the

construction of a new single terminal airport. The landslide vote was a pivotal moment in the six years of discussion and analysis, as well as a protracted procurement process designed in large part by the independent counsel selected by the city council.

The new single terminal KCI will be the city's largest economic development project in 50 years, and is scheduled to be completed in 2023.



scheduled to be completed in

2023



“When we get it right, there’s nothing we can’t do as a city,”

— Mayor Sly James





Hire KC

Mayor James started Hire KC as his signature summer youth employment initiative to give teenagers and young adults access to internships within city government to expose them to career options and professional environments. In 2017, Hire KC was expanded into a citywide program managed by the KC Social Innovation Center, in partnership with the Full Employment Council.

Hire KC works directly with high schools, community colleges, youth organizations, universities and workforce partners to help young people discover and explore the abundance of professional opportunities available in the region. Hire KC doubled its 2017 roster of interns, and in the summer of 2018 connected 256 young people to internship opportunities at 191 worksites throughout the Kansas City metro area.



Mayor James chats with Chris P., a 2018 Hire KC intern from Rockhurst High School.



Mayor's Office summer 2018 interns pose in front of City Hall



Mayor James greets high school students attending the annual Hire KC job fair in spring 2018



Interns from City Communications interview Mayor James



In Summer 2018, Hire KC connected

256 Internships

256 Internships

191 Employers Partners

191 Employers Partners

95% Would hire intern again

95% Would hire intern again



“Hire KC preparing hundreds of young people for the workforce”

Mayor's Nights & Rock the Block

Mayor James reached out to the Parks and Recreation Department to help coordinate safe, supervised weekend evening activities for students during the summer. Mayor's Nights and Club KC sponsor fun, free activities such as basketball tournaments, movie nights, arts activities and mixers where kids can have fun in safe environments. Mayor's Nights also include an enrichment component, offering help with test preparation, job training and life skills.

Each August, Mayor James and Kansas City's Parks and Recreation Department hosted "Sly's Rock the Block," a free outdoor festival to celebrate the end of summer programming and the beginning of a new school year. "Rock the Block" features music performances, games, entertainers, free food and a safe, fun environment for families to enjoy at no cost.



*"We get together
and just have a
good time."
— mother of Mayor's Nights
basketball player*

KC No Violence Alliance and Teens in Transition



The Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) is a collaboration of law enforcement, community leaders and others working to reduce violence in Kansas City. The effort began in 2013, and uses law enforcement intelligence to identify persons at risk of being victims or suspects of violence, and offers them a chance to choose a path out of violent crime by participating in a program that includes job training, counseling and conflict resolution, assistance with housing and health care, and life skills--all with the goal of building a new life that does not include violent crime.

Teens in Transition is a partnership between KC NoVA, KCPD and local artists. The program is headquartered at ArtsTech, and brings around 40 at-risk teens together every summer to learn conflict resolution skills through art therapy, while also participating in career and life skills training. Kansas City Police Department school resource officers work with teens in the program to build relationships and trust. Graduates of the program have significantly fewer negative contacts with police than they did before entering the program.



“The relationship that we made with the cops that were there, we don’t look at them like we did when we first came,” Greer says. He says he and the other teenagers learned the importance of “being smart about life and not trying to go to jail and end up dead, and just take life serious — how to make it better for yourself and your family.”

KCUR: Kansas City Teens Use Lyric Opera Mural Project To Fact-Check ‘West Side Story’

*KC NoVA
Since 2014, group-related homicides dropped from 64% to 37% of all homicides citywide.*

*TEENS IN TRANSITION
From 2015 to 2019, 153 participants completed the program. Two-thirds of those program graduates have had no negative contact with police.*





47

available kiosks
from the airport to
UMKC Campus

54

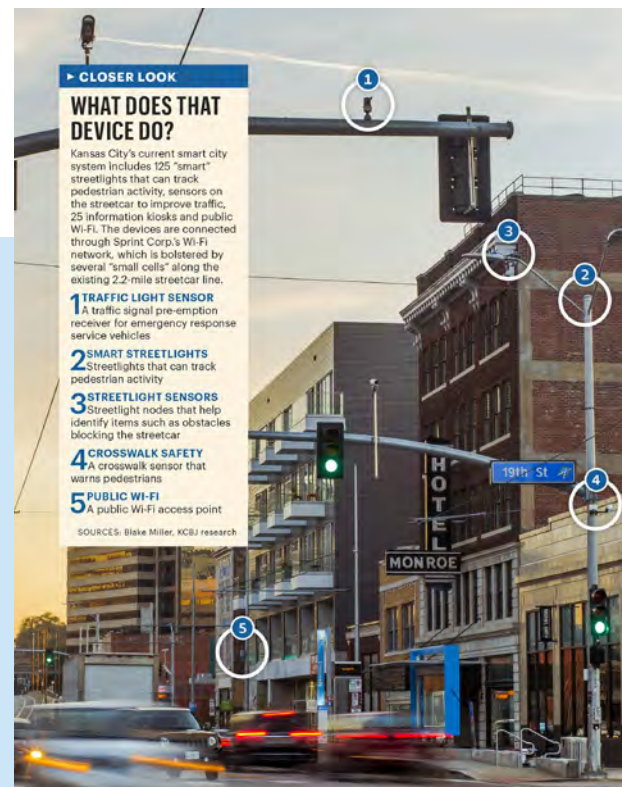
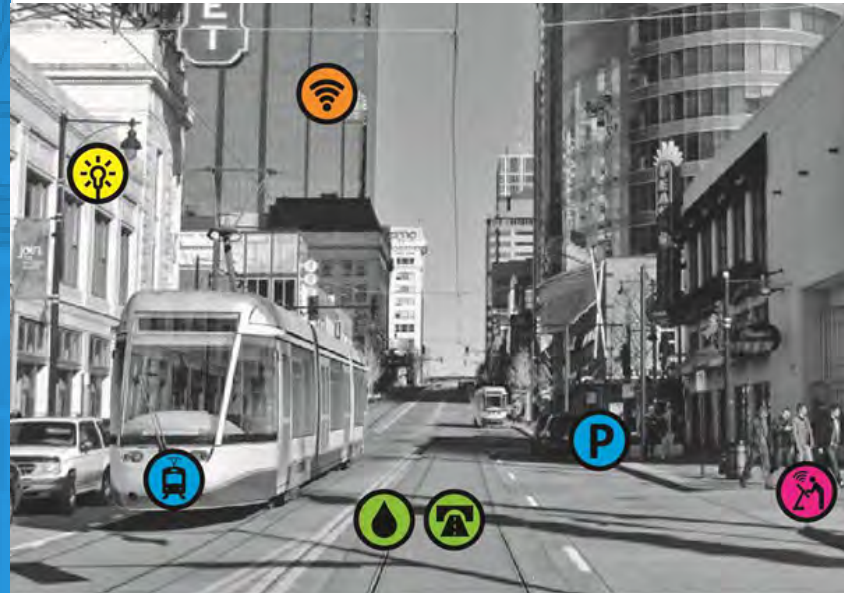
square blocks
of public WiFi

180

more scheduled
to be installed
along Prospect,
Troost and Main

125

smart street lights



Smart City Initiative

Kansas City launched its Smart City Initiative in 2016 in collaboration with Cisco, Sprint and Think Big Partners. The public-private partnership has made Kansas City's Smart City corridor a leading technology, innovation and entrepreneurial community thanks to the presence of Google Fiber and 54 square blocks of public WiFi, smart kiosks and sensors throughout downtown that connect residents and visitors, as well as collect and analyze data to improve the efficiency of city services. The city's office of innovation coordinates smart city projects with the assistance of public and

private partnerships to address challenges all cities face including traffic management, population density and movement analysis, air quality assessment, and public safety.

Between 2017 and 2019, the city's smart kiosk deployment expanded from 25 machines to 47, available from the airport to the UMKC campus, with 180 more scheduled to be installed along Prospect, Troost and Main, in support of the city's Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan.

The New York Times

"Kansas City has become an unexpected destination for technology companies looking for a place to test ideas. The city's goal: To be what it calls a living lab."

NY Times: In High-Tech Cities, No More Potholes, but What About Privacy?

"Kansas City's quest is to become nothing less than the 'world's most connected city.' Thanks to a \$15 million public-private partnership, the city has added free public Wi-Fi, streetcars, interactive information kiosks and smart streetlights."

MoneyWise: Meet North America's 10 'Smartest' Cities

KC Stat



In his first year in office, Mayor James elevated the importance of data reporting by launching KC Stat as a data-driven, public-facing initiative focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of city services. KC Stat focuses on the areas concerning residents the most, determined by citizen satisfaction survey data and complaints to 311: Street Maintenance, Water Line Maintenance, Water Billing/Customer Service, Code Enforcement and Animal Control.

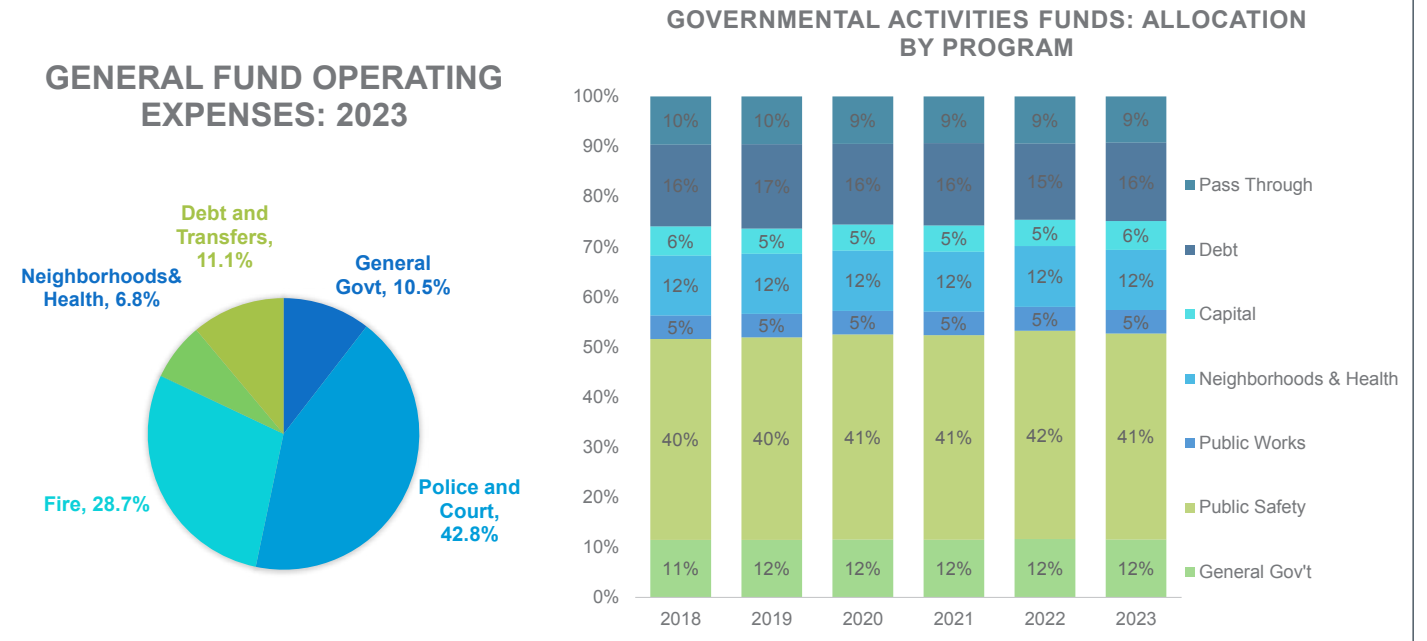


KC Stat also monitors progress toward the city council's Strategic Priorities, which are included in the Citywide Business Plan. Monthly KC Stat sessions are open to the public, streamed online and live-tweeted. Kansas City's data-driven approach has been supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and their partner organizations through the What Works Cities Program.

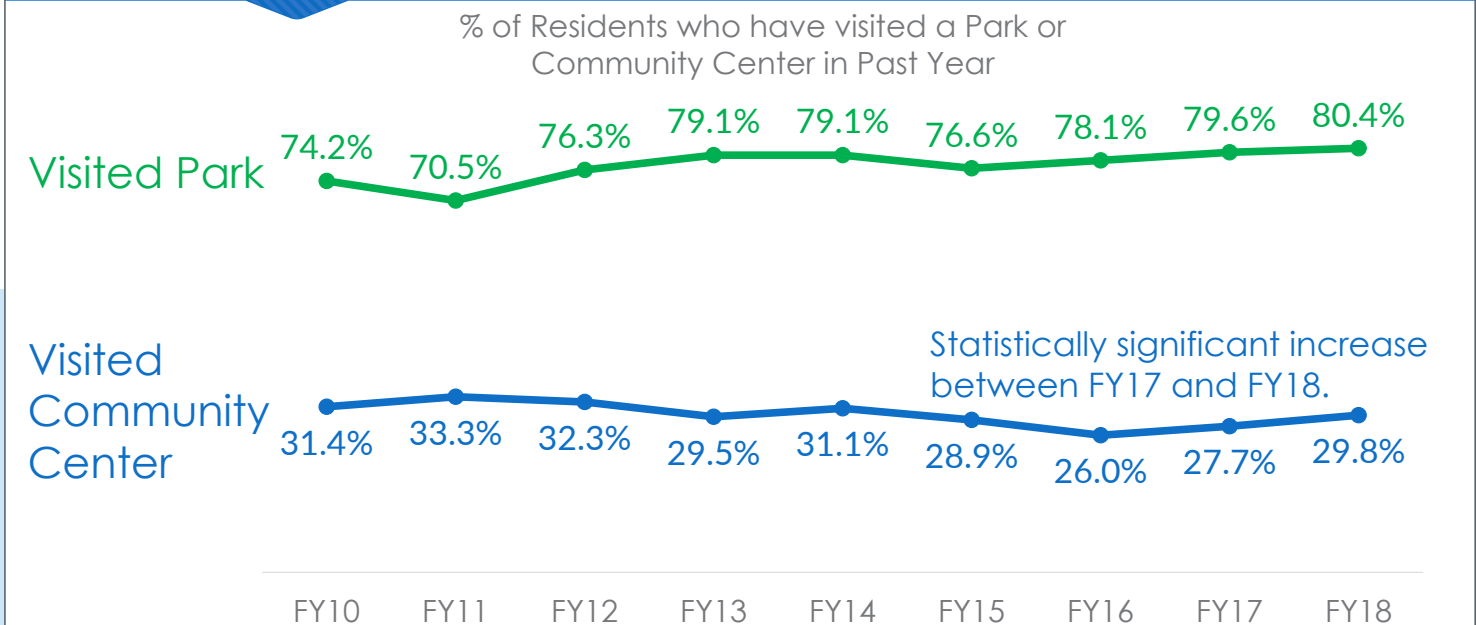
“Kansas City passed an ordinance that codifies its commitment to data-driven governance and ensures the longevity of the City’s robust culture around transparency.”

What Works Cities: Kansas City, Louisville, and Washington, DC, Level Up

Five-Year Financial Plan – Portfolio of Services



Use Of Parks and Community Centers is Increasing



WE BLUEPRINT

WE
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
MAKING CITY GOVERNMENT
WORK FOR WOMEN

GOAL 1:
AN INCLUSIVE,
DIVERSE ORGANIZATION

GOAL 2:
ENTREPRENEURIAL,
WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS
PROCESSES

STRATEGIES

1) SUPPORT EMPLOYEES IN EXPANDING AND PERFECTING THEIR SKILLS SO THAT THEY ARE COMPETITIVE AND ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER POSITIONS WITHIN CITY GOVERNMENT

2) FOSTER AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT NURTURES DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

3) ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

STRATEGIES

1) INNOVATE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION PROCESS TO ENHANCE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

2) INCREASE OUTREACH TO TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESS GROUPS

THE WOMEN FOUNDATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY | CENTRAL EXCHANGE | UMKC Women's Center

Women's Empowerment Initiative



The Women's Empowerment Initiative, the first of its kind in the nation, is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, Central Exchange, Women's Foundation, and UMKC's Women's Center. Its overall goals are to ensure the City of Kansas City is an inclusive, diverse organization that supports women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, and also encourages city employees and women to be civically engaged.

Project has significantly increased the number of women serving on city boards and commissions, and the city has also partnered with the American Association of University Women to close the gender pay gap by offering AAUW Work Smart salary and benefits negotiation workshops. As part of the initiative, the City of Kansas City became one of the first cities in the country to offer paid family leave to its employees.

The Initiative supports women through an inclusive approach: The Appointments

The Washington Post

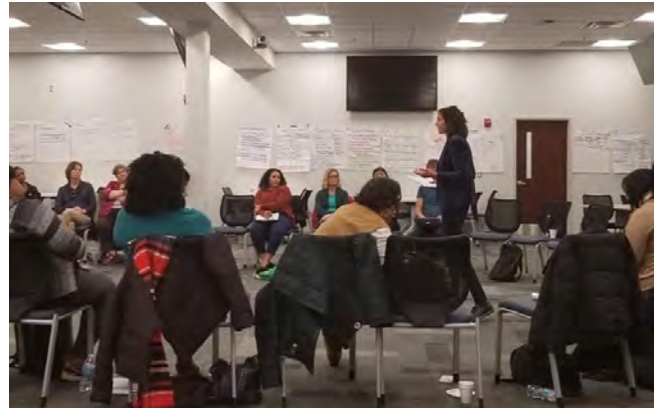
"The city of Paris may have just elected its first woman mayor, but Kansas City mayor Sly James has come up with a blueprint to empower women that he believes is the first of its kind in the country and will provide a guide for other cities to follow."

Washington Post: Kansas City mayor promotes Women's Empowerment initiative

"If we want government to work for everyone, especially women, we have to ensure that they have a seat at the table."

— Mayor Sly James





KC Race & Equity Initiative

Mayor James hosted a series of community-wide conversations addressing racial inequity and its pervasive effects throughout Kansas City's past and present. The Mayor's Office collaborated with the City Manager's Office and local consultants to create a safe and supportive space to begin learning about

systemic and institutional barriers that prevent the city and its residents from moving forward together. As part of the initiative, the city will include additional race and equity training to its employee orientation, and offer additional training for employees.



“We’re not just building the city for us for the next few years. We’re building it for my grandchildren and your grandchildren,”

— Mayor Sly James

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



Mayor Sly James opening up series of conversations on race, equity in Kansas City

“...a planned series of public conversations about race, intended to drain away some of the fear and vitriol while focusing on how local government and other institutions perpetuate inequality.”

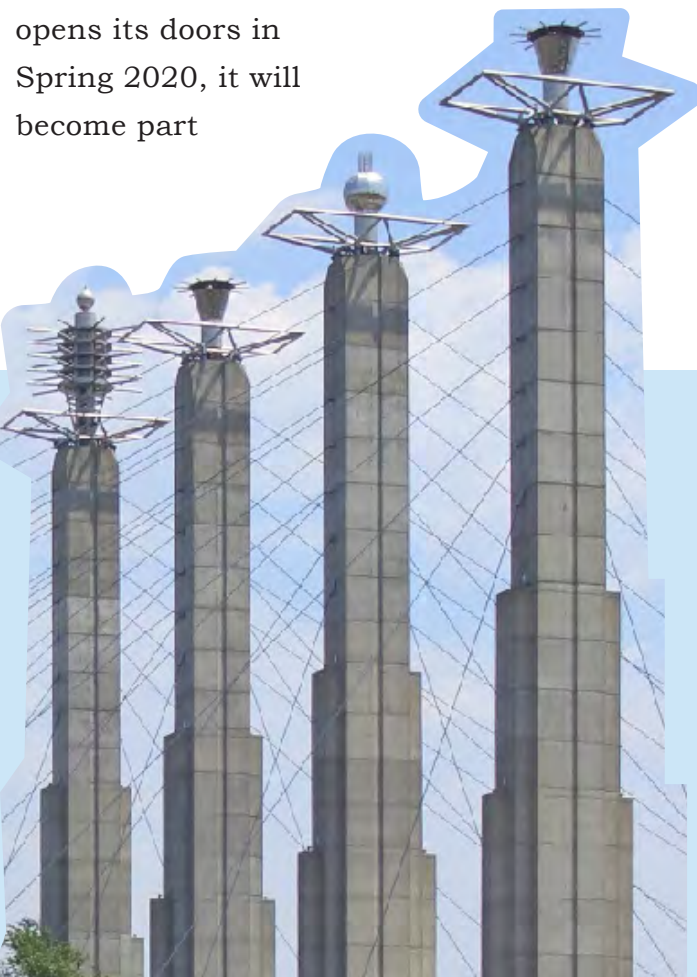
Kansas City Star, August 30, 2018

As part of the Initiative, the City of Kansas City partnered with Kansas City Public Schools and the Kauffman Foundation to sponsor Race and Equity Institute (REI) workshops for 500 key employees from the public and private sectors.

Loews Convention Center Hotel

Nearly seven years in the making, the Loews Kansas City Convention Center Hotel broke ground in March 2018. When the \$300 million, 800-room hotel opens its doors in Spring 2020, it will become part

of Kansas City history as the first new convention hotel built since 1985. With bookings and inquiries well in advance of its opening date, the convention hotel is widely expected to spark an increase in convention business and economic development throughout the region.



“We want this building to be part of the vibrant community you’ve spent generations creating in Kansas City,” said Jonathan Tisch, CEO and chairman of Loews. “The history of this project is legendary--so many men and women spent years to make sure this would happen.”

KCUR: Kansas City Leaders Celebrate Construction Of Long-Sought Downtown Convention Hotel



“This isn’t just about a new hotel, this is about Loews and Kansas City partnering together in a way that has stimulated the market and set the stage for long term success.”
— Mayor Sly James



800
Rooms

24
Floors

Opening in Spring
2020

60,000
sq ft of meeting
and event space
connecting directly
to the Convention
Center via a new
connector bridge

22
Meeting Rooms

Lipari Brothers
Sun Fresh

\$17M
city investment

80-100
jobs



Kansas City Urban
Youth Academy

\$21M
state-of-the-art
indoor and
outdoor facility

40,000
square feet

Since 2011, more than \$2 billion in major developments ranging from housing and commercial real estate to infrastructure and capital improvements have been approved, broken ground or completed east of Troost, south of the river, and north of 63rd St. Two of the most notable projects — the \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant and the \$14 million Urban Youth Baseball Academy — are already helping to transform the community thanks to public and private sector collaboration, strong neighborhood support and visionary planning.

In 2015, the city purchased the Linwood Shopping Center when no other buyer would step forward to redevelop the busy corner that sat semi-vacant after losing a popular grocery store tenant in 2007. Thanks to the city's unprecedented investment, a new grocery store opened in June 2018, providing an anchor for new retail development and investment in the surrounding neighborhood.

East Side Investment



“This will be the most important thing we do in Kansas City, including winning a World Series.”

— Dayton Moore, Kansas City Royals General Manager

The Athletic: ‘Baseball can change my life’: The story of Kansas City’s MLB Urban Youth Academy

“The city invested about \$17 million in public funds, including land acquisition and the cost to build the new store, to renovate the end wings of the retail center and to rebuild the parking lot. It’s unusual for the city to take the lead in a development like this, but city officials said it was worth it to jump start a struggling shopping center in a neglected part of town and to boost a major commercial corridor on the East Side.”

Kansas City Star, June 16, 2018

“East Kansas City residents now have something they haven’t had for over a decade, a clean, healthy place to get groceries. It’s being described as an oasis in a food desert.”

KCTV5: Sun Fresh Market opens as oasis in east Kansas City food desert

W Gregory Blvd
Wormall R
Gregory Blvd



\$600M

for streets,
bridges & sidewalks

\$150M

for flood prevention
& control

W 85th St

\$50M

for public buildings,
ADA compliance,
new animal shelter

Burns & McDonnell

Delivers projects
prioritized by
residents in citizen
satisfaction surveys

Indian
Gree



GO Bonds

In April 2017, Kansas City voters approved the largest General Obligation bond package in the city's history to fund \$800 million in infrastructure repairs and improvements for the next 20 years. Voters overwhelmingly approved all three questions, allowing the city to move forward with its list of infrastructure repairs based in part on responses from quarterly citizen satisfaction surveys. To ensure transparency, residents can monitor progress



through online access to the updated plan and list of projects on the city's website. The City also issues an annual "report card" to show its progress, and the projects selected for the upcoming year.

"The basic infrastructure of our city is something we inherit, and must improve, to hand down to our kids and grandkids. We make our living because of it. We explore and enjoy our city because of it. And we make our city a better place to live when we value and invest in it." — Mayor James

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

"For years, Kansas City residents have pleaded for better roads, bridges, sidewalks and flood control. On Tuesday, voters put those community priorities ahead of individual pocketbook concerns and approved a massive, \$800 million infrastructure package and the property tax increases to help pay for it."

KC Star: KC voters approve \$800M bond package for streets, sidewalks, flood control, shelter



