



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2007

REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA TO KICK OFF WICHITA LATINO HISTORY COLLECTION PROJECT

WICHITA – State Representative Delia Garcia will present several items from her personal belongings at a community event from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, December 1 at the Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall, 2700 N. Woodland, Suite D. The donation will be the first made to *Nuestra Historia* (“Our Story”), a project sponsored by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum and the Kansas Historical Society.

The community-wide collection event is part of the Kansas Collects project, whose goal is to document the history and heritage of Wichita Latino community through an object-collecting project. Among the items Garcia plans to donate are a suit, photos, and campaign materials. After Representative Garcia makes her presentation, the public is invited to bring forth their own personal items to donate to the project.

Nuestra Historia sponsors are looking for items that relate to the lives of its past and current residents and tell a story of the Latino residents of the community. For example, items of interest would be photographs, letters, or immigration documents.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal organization that creates strong libraries and museums and connects people to information and ideas, made this community-collecting history and heritage project possible. IMLS funded Kansas Collects, an ongoing project of the Kansas Historical Society. The three-year initiative seeks to actively collect the material culture of Kansas. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is one of six regional partners.

“We are so excited to participate in this important collecting event,” said Jami Frazier Tracy, a curator of collections at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. “We are committed to preserving and presenting the heritage of our community, but we cannot do it alone. We depend on citizens to share their stories & objects with our museum, and contributions to this project will strengthen & expand our collections and exhibits.”

--MORE--

Individuals and families are asked to share items even though they may seem ordinary, unusual, or perhaps common. The items collected that day will be donated to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum's permanent collection and should relate to these themes: memories of immigration, school activities, recreational activities, old photographs, or family history. Once the project is complete, items may be available for community use, including research projects or exhibitions. In addition, future generations will be able locate and access the history that has been properly preserved and safeguarded.

For more information contact Jami Frazier Tracy, Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 316-265-9314, or Donna Rae Pearson, Kansas Historical Society, 785-272-8681, ext. 452, donate@kshs.org. The Historical Society is headquartered at 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka 66615; 785-272-8681; TTY 785-272-8683; kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.