

Welcome Gordon Hibbard

Gordon Hibbard, a long-time Manhattan area resident, joined the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation Board of Directors in June. He was raised on a livestock operation in Greenwood County, which included land that was settled by his great grandparents in 1869.

After graduating from K-State, most of his career had been in communications and management with Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas 4-H Foundation. In 2014, Gordon and his wife Karen purchased the Kansas Heartland franchise for Dale Carnegie, a global organizational training and persona development network.



“The Flint Hills Discovery Center is very special to Karen and me,” Gordon said. “The cultural, historical, and ecological stories of this special region need to be preserved and told, allowing visitors to fully appreciate Manhattan, and its unique setting in the Kansas Flint Hills.”

Please help us welcome Gordon to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation!

Stepping Into the Prairie – A Digital Diorama



In fall 2022, the Flint Hills Discovery Center was awarded a \$200,000 tourism grant by the State of Kansas. The FHDC Foundation pledged a 1:1 match to support this \$400,000 project to help fund the design and construction of a new immersive exhibit called *Stepping into the Prairie*. This exhibit will enhance the Discovery Center’s visitor experience,

improve regional quality of life, and positively impact Manhattan and the State.

Over the past several months the Discovery Center team alongside their design partners, Trivium Interactive LLC out of Boston, MA, have been hard at work to make this new exhibit become a reality.

The exhibit just entered phase two, meaning the designers are digitally illustrating and animating a lineup of flora and fauna. The list is extensive and includes species chosen for their critical ecosystem roles as well as their beauty and charm. This includes ornate box turtles and chorus frogs, butterfly milkweed and black eyed susans, bobcats and bumblebees. Part of the charm of each species is its custom animation. A team of digital artists and animators is committed to recreating the movements



and actions of each iconic species. The work is tedious but critically important to allow this exhibit to serve as a “digital field guide” for our guests.

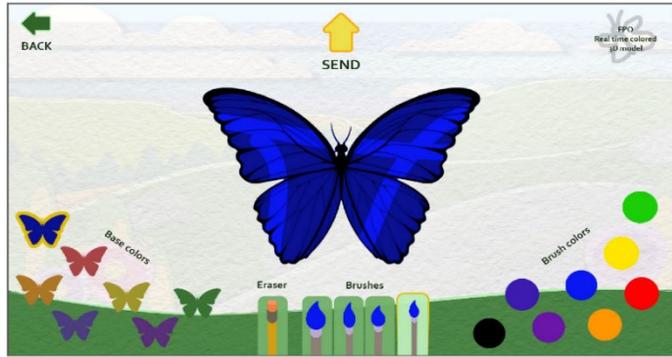
Scan this QR code to see a conceptual “animatic” that takes you through the guest experience. Visitors will experience the Flint Hills in all four seasons, as well as day and night, over the course of



25 minutes. It is the perfect teaching tool for this truly dynamic ecosystem.

Paint the Prairie

Part of the *Stepping into the Prairie* exhibit is a smaller art-focused interactive called “Paint the Prairie”. Guests can digitally paint their own animal or wildflower on a touchscreen before sending it into a projected scene. Each piece of digital art will again be 3D-animated as it traverses its digital landscape.



This exhibit gives Discovery Center guests an amazing outlet for their creativity not found in the larger immersive exhibit. Imagine a swarm of butterflies and grasshoppers, each one a different shade and color, flying and jumping across the wall. Guests can endlessly create and recreate these animals with whatever color and design they choose. The only limit is their imagination!

I would like to contribute the following amount to support the development of *Stepping into the Prairie*. Every additional dollar will only enhance this state-of-art exhibit and is matched 1:1 by the Discovery Center’s TASK Grant.

___ \$5,000 ___ \$2,500 ___ \$1,500 ___ \$1,000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100

Please detach this portion and mail to:

FHDC Foundation | 315 South 3rd Street, Suite 303 | Manhattan, KS 66502

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.

Thank you for your contribution!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation
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(785) 748-1275 | fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com

VISTAS is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center