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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KHF funding to support Historic Dunbar Theatre redevelopment

WICHITA, Kan. – The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) is contributing \$20,000 to the Historic Dunbar Theatre redevelopment project to inform and further engage the community in the revitalization effort. This project is coordinated by Wichita nonprofit, People Organized Working for Economic Recovery Community Development Corporation (P.O.W.E.R. CDC).

P.O.W.E.R. CDC focuses on the economic revitalization of Wichita’s Central-Northeast neighborhood by providing social services and developing homes for low-to-moderate income residents. Currently, it’s working in the McAdams neighborhood, which is home to a large African American population that has a longstanding relationship to the theatre.

The organization is working with residents to restore, reimagine and revitalize the Historic Dunbar Theatre located in the McAdams neighborhood and business district. The project’s vision is to present various art programs and services that uplift African American heritage and provide creative resources for the McAdams arts and business district in addition to adding a Dunbar Community Center.

In the 1940’s, Wichita’s Historic Dunbar Theatre, located at 9th and Cleveland, was a vibrant part of the McAdams Neighborhood. Unfortunately, the theatre closed 20 years later, and has since fallen into disrepair. P.O.W.E.R. CDC is working to bring vibrancy back to this community to help the Historic Dunbar Theatre and surrounding area once again serve as an anchor for the African American community.

“What made us excited about this work was the opportunity to re-engage residents in the revitalization of their community, helping to restore an area where they are proud to live, work and play,” said Teresa Miller, KHF president and CEO.

KHF funding will assist P.O.W.E.R. CDC with community engagement efforts to bring awareness to what’s happening with the Historic Dunbar Theatre and community event

center, with a goal to once again bring life back to this neighborhood and fulfil the McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and [feasibility study](#).

“POWER CDC believes that this funding support from the Kansas Health Foundation is an essential component towards strengthening the McAdams neighborhood,” said James W. Arbertha, P.O.W.E.R. CDC executive director. “The importance of this funding indicates that KHF is a committed community partner in shaping the lives of Wichita’s Northeast residents to improve the availability of resources that foster civic engagement while serving as a catalyst to strengthen their community.”

To learn more about P.O.W.E.R. CDC’s work, visit its website.
<http://historicdunbartheatre.com/>

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ABOUT KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Kansas Health Foundation is based in Wichita, but statewide in its focus. With a mission to improve the health of all Kansans, KHF envisions a culture in which every Kansan can make healthy choices where they live, work and play. During the past 35 years, KHF has provided more than \$600 million in grants to improve health in Kansas communities.

ABOUT P.O.W.E.R. CDC

P.O.W.E.R. CDC is a not -for- profit community development corporation with the dedicated mission to community economic and redevelopment in central northeast Wichita, including the historic McAdams neighborhood. P.O.W.E.R. CDC has a proven track record of neighborhood and community building. Over the past 10 years, P.O.W.E.R. CDC has constructed approximately 100 new homes for low-to-moderate income families in Central Northeast Wichita, including 13 homes in the McAdams Neighborhood. As part of a community-based initiative, P.O.W.E.R. CDC is taking the lead role with the acquisition and redevelopment of the Historic Dunbar Theatre. This concept is designed to spark economic development in the McAdams community and is a multi-phase project that will open as a neighborhood community center in the first quarter of 2022. The final phase of the project will eventually become a state-of-the-art green designed performing arts theatre.