



# GATEWAY PLAZA

welcome to columbia

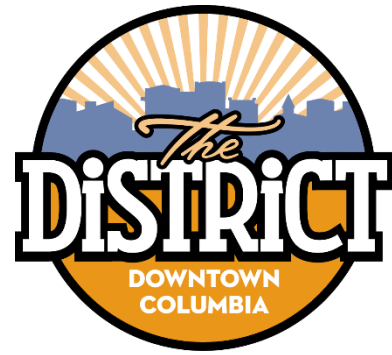
Broadway and Providence  
Dedicated November 4, 2021



Gateway Plaza is part of The District's masterplan  
to bring public art downtown.

## The Downtown Community

**Improvement District**—The District—is an independent organization dedicated to keeping Columbia’s downtown vital. The District is a live/work/play neighborhood that sparks the creative, the eclectic and the local. We’re a constantly adapting community, blending tradition harmoniously with high tech and the latest trends in fashion, food and the arts.



The Gateways Project began in 2014 with an extensive eight-month long community visioning process that resulted in a master plan for public art in downtown Columbia. Gateway Plaza is the leading component of the Gateways Master Plan.

Gateway Plaza continues the District’s commitment to art installations and heralds one’s arrival downtown. It is one of the largest and most enduring commemorations of the city’s bicentennial, which has been celebrated throughout 2021.

The project reflects the skills of a dedicated group of design and construction professionals:

- **Arcturis**, St. Louis. Gateways Master Plan, Final Design of Gateway Plaza and the COLUMBIA sculpture.
- **Crockett Engineering**, Columbia. engineering, and construction project oversight.
- **Grove Construction** and **Russellbilt**, Columbia. Fabrication and installation of the COLUMBIA sculpture.
- **Professional Contractors & Engineers (PCE)**, Columbia. Plaza site improvements and landscaping.
- **Brooke Omar, Vangel**, Columbia. Graphic design, including permanent sponsor recognition plaque.
- **Eric Staley, Missionmapping LLC**, Columbia. Strategic planning and resource development.

## Gateway Committee Members

Deb Sheals - Chair, Building Preservation LLC  
Tootie Burns - Orr Street Studios  
Aric Jarvis - The Broadway Hotel  
Christina Kelley - Makes Scents  
Heather McGee - On The Rocks  
Tom Mendenhall - The Lofts at 308 Ninth

John Ott - Alley A Realty  
Mike Snyder - Parks and Rec  
Marti Waigandt - Cherry Street Lofts  
Nickie Davis - Downtown CID  
Kathy Becker - Downtown CID  
Hannah Bilau - Downtown CID

The COLUMBIA sculpture features an assortment of words Columbians use to describe their hometown, as well as information about milestones of Columbia history.



## The Globe

### **Columbia was founded in April 1821.**

Columbia was established by members of the Smithton Land Company, who had formed the settlement of Smithton nearby in 1818. After numerous failed

attempts to establish viable wells in Smithton, the Smithton Company moved the settlement to the east side of Flat Branch and renamed it Columbia. The first plat of Columbia was created for the Smithton Land Company in April 1821. That same month, Columbia was named the seat of the Boone County, which was established in November 1820. Lots in the town of Columbia were first offered for sale in May 1821.<sup>1</sup>

**The loway, Sac and Fox nations ceded the land on which Columbia is located to the U.S. in a treaty signed in Washington D.C. in 1824.** The Osages ceded the same land to the U.S. in an 1808 treaty. The treaties were the result of an aggressive federal program to gain control of lands that had been occupied by indigenous societies for thousands of years.<sup>2</sup>

**Stephens College has roots in the Columbia Female Academy, which was established in 1833.** The Columbia Female Academy was established in August 1833. The school was chartered by the state legislature in 1837 and again in 1851. It was succeeded by the Baptist Female College in 1856, which in 1870 was renamed Stephens College. It was named after Columbia merchant and philanthropist James L. Stephens.<sup>3</sup>

**Ann Hawkins Gentry became Columbia Postmaster and one of the first female postmasters in the country in 1838.** She was officially appointed after her husband

<sup>1</sup> John C. Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County* (Columbia, MO: Computer Color-Graphics, Inc., 1987), 4-7; *Missouri Intelligencer*, April 16, 1821; Alan Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City: Columbia, An Illustrated History* (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications Inc., 1984), 9.

<sup>2</sup> Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, vol. 2 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904): 95, 207-208; Ron Soodalter, "The Tribes of Missouri, Parts 1-3," *Missouri Review*, 2018, <https://missourilife.com/the-tribes-of-missouri-part-1-when-the-osage-missouria-reigned/>; Carl and Elanor Chapman, *Indians and Archeology of Missouri* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1983) 15-16.

<sup>3</sup> John C. Crighton, *Stephens: A Story of Educational Innovation* (Columbia, Missouri: The American Press, 1970), 10-11, 17-20, 51-52; Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 45; Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 58-59.

Richard Gentry's death in late 1838, but she had been performing many of the duties since he had become postmaster in 1830. The appointment was secured with the help of state senator Thomas Hart Benton, who helped overcome President Martin Van Buren's reservations about appointing a woman to the position. Gentry conducted the post office in a corner of the front room of her tavern, which was located on Broadway near Ninth Street from 1838 to 1865.<sup>4</sup>

**Columbia was chosen to be the home of the University of Missouri in 1839.** In January 1839, six Missouri counties were given the opportunity to make a bid for the state university – Boone County won. In 1840, the University curators approved construction of Academic Hall, the first building on the university campus. Academic Hall was destroyed by fire in 1892, leaving only six stone columns. The columns continue to serve as the iconic centerpiece of the school's Francis Quadrangle.<sup>5</sup>

**Christian College, now Columbia College, was chartered in 1851.** It was one of the first chartered women's colleges west of the Mississippi River. By the time classes began in the fall of 1851, the school had purchased thirty acres of land north of downtown that are still part of the college campus. In 1897, Luella Wilcox St. Clair (later St. Clair-Moss) became president of the school. Known as the "steam engine in petticoats," she served as president and co-president of Christian Female College for most of the next 28 years. In 1970, the school transitioned from all-female to coeducational and was renamed Columbia College.<sup>6</sup>



**Sanborn Field established on the University of Missouri campus in 1888, for the purpose of agricultural research.** It was one of the first research plots in the United States used to measure erosion and run-off for differing and agricultural practices, and it has been in continuous use for well over a century. The only National Historic Landmark in Columbia, Sanborn Field is linked to the 1940s development of Aureomycin, a first-generation antibiotic.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> "Women Postmasters," *U.S. Postal Service*, <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/women-postmasters.pdf>; Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 67-68; Lawrence Christianson et. al., *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1999), 332.

<sup>5</sup> William Switzler, *History of Boone County, Missouri* (St. Louis: Western Historical Company, 1882), 69-70; Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 72-73; Perry McCandless, *A History of Missouri Vol. II*, (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1972), 200-202.

<sup>6</sup> Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 85-87; Switzler, *History of Boone County, Missouri*, 809-811; "Luella Wilcox St. Clair-Moss," *Columbia Missouri Bicentennial*, <https://www.como200.com/history/luella-wilcox-st-clair-moss/>.

<sup>7</sup> "Sanborn Field and Erosion Plots," National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1967); G. E. Smith, *Sanborn Field: Fifty Years of Field Experiments* (Columbia, MO: University of

**The first journalism school in the United States was established at the University of Missouri in 1908.** It was the first degree-granting school of journalism in the world. The first dean of the University School of Journalism was Walter Williams, a University curator and member of the Missouri Press Association, which was an early advocate for the professional training of journalists.<sup>8</sup>

**The tradition of Homecoming was initiated by the University of Missouri in 1911, when University Director of Athletics Chester L. Brewer urged alumni to "come home" for a football game against Kansas.** Brewer's celebration, which included a parade, parties and a pep rally, drew more than 10,000 people, and helped establish a national tradition. Columbia is widely recognized as the birthplace of Homecoming.<sup>9</sup>

**Columbia's first city-owned park was established in 1938.** The first city acquisition of land for a public park took place in 1938, when the City of Columbia purchased land adjacent to Douglass School (built in 1917) and developed it into Douglass Park. An additional major park milestone came in 1982, when the first section of the MKT Fitness Trail was placed in service along former right-of-way of the MKT Railroad. By 2020, Columbia had 73 parks and more than 58 miles of recreational trails.<sup>10</sup>

**Columbia Public Schools began the process of desegregation in 1954.** The Columbia Board of education voted to desegregate Columbia schools a short time after the Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* ended the legality of segregation. The last all-Black class at Douglass High School graduated in 1960, but Douglass continued to hold classes for junior high and elementary students until 1967. The school board also made it a policy that no African American teachers would lose jobs due to desegregation and transferred all interested teachers to other schools in the district. Among those transferred were Elliot and Muriel Battle, who enjoyed long careers with Columbia Public Schools.<sup>11</sup>

---

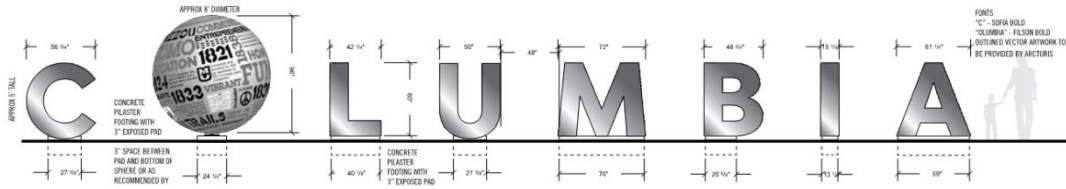
Missouri, 1942); "Where Giants Walk: Sanborn Field marks 130 years of breakthroughs," *Columbia Missourian*, July 25, 2018.

<sup>8</sup> Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 58; "École supérieure de journalisme de Paris," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole\\_sup%C3%A9rieure\\_de\\_journalisme\\_de\\_Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_sup%C3%A9rieure_de_journalisme_de_Paris); "Walter Williams," *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*, 807.

<sup>9</sup> "The History of Homecoming," *Active*, <https://www.active.com/football/articles/the-history-of-homecoming-871285>; Stephanie Detillier, "History of Homecoming," *Mizzou Alumni Association*, <https://www.mizzou.com/s/1002/alumni/19/interior.aspx?pgid=569>; Vicki Russell et. al., *Columbia, Missouri: Images of Our Lives Since 1901*, (Columbia, MO: Columbia Daily Tribune, 2001), 22.

<sup>10</sup> "Park and Facility Inventory," City of Columbia (Missouri), <https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/parks-trails-facilities/park-facility-inventory-2/#summary>; correspondence with Mike Griggs, Director, Columbia Parks and Recreation, Sept. 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Anna Boiko-Weyrauch, "Douglass Classmates' Lives Are Intertwined with Columbia's History," *Columbia Missourian*, March 7, 2013; Roger E. Gafke, *A History of Public School Education in Columbia*,



## The Letters

### C. Boone County Courthouse Square

The first Boone County Courthouse occupied Courthouse Square from 1824 to 1847. When the second courthouse was demolished to make way for a new courthouse in 1909, the columns of the 1847 building were left standing at the edge of Courthouse Square. The 1847 columns align with those located on Francis Quadrangle at the south end of Eighth Street. The 1909 courthouse and the freestanding 1847 columns were still part of the Boone County Courthouse Square in 2020.<sup>12</sup>

### L. Public Schools

The first building constructed to serve as a public school in Columbia was Goose Creek School; it opened in the 1830s. Schools in Columbia were available only to white students until 1866, when the Cummings Academy was established for Black students. In 2020, Columbia had 38 public schools, serving more than 18,000 students of diverse backgrounds.<sup>13</sup>

### U. Higher Education for Women

Columbia has offered higher education for women since the Columbia Female Academy, predecessor of Stephens College, was established in 1833. In 1851, Christian College, now Columbia College, became one of the first chartered women’s colleges west of the Mississippi River. The University of Missouri first admitted female students in 1867. In 2020, colleges in Columbia had a total undergraduate enrollment of just over 25,000 students; approximately 54% of those students were women.<sup>14</sup>

---

(Columbia, MO: The Board of Education of the Columbia Public School District, 1978); Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 51-55.

<sup>12</sup> Warren Dalton Jr. and David James, *Historic Downtown Columbia* (St. Louis, MO: Mira Digital Publishing, 2010), 7; Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 128; David A. James, *A Bird’s-Eye View of Columbia, MO – Circa 1869* (Columbia, MO: Show Me Cards, 2018), 16.

<sup>13</sup> Crighton, *History of Columbia and Boone County*, 56, 235; Havig, *Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 128; James *Bird’s-Eye View of Columbia*, 10-11; “Official Tells Kiwanis Schools Have ‘Responsibility’ To Provide Old-Time Virtues,” *Columbia Missourian*, August, 20, 1969.

<sup>14</sup> Crighton, *History of Columbia and Boone County*, 58-59; Havig, *From Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 45; John C. Crighton, *Stephens: A Story of Educational Innovation*, 10-11, 17-20, 51-52; “Significant Dates in the History of the University of Missouri,” University of Missouri Archives, 2019, <https://muarchives.missouri.edu/sigdates.html>.

## **M. Healthcare**

Columbia's position as a regional center of medical care began in 1901, when Parker Memorial Hospital opened on the campus of the University of Missouri. The influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 spurred establishment of Boone County Hospital, a publicly funded facility that opened in 1921. By 2020, Columbia had seven hospitals and more than 1,200 hospital beds.<sup>15</sup>

## **B. Transportation**

In the 1820s, Columbia was served by a branch of the Boone's Lick Trail, a cross-state route established by the sons of Daniel Boone. Railroad service first arrived in 1867, and in the 1920s, the first transcontinental highway in the nation, U. S. Highway 40, was routed through Columbia. The first commercial airport was established in 1926; it became the municipal airport in 1938. In 2020, Columbia was served by two interstate highways, one railroad and a regional airport.<sup>16</sup>

## **I. Groundbreakers**

In 1946, two veterans of WWII became the first Black men to serve as police officers in Columbia. The first female city council member in Columbia took office in 1971 and a year later, she was joined by the first Black city council member. In 1973, the first female police officer was hired, and in 1989, Columbians elected the first female mayor. As of 2020, the city had yet to see a person of color serve as mayor.<sup>17</sup>

## **A. Creative Community**

In 2007, Columbia was named the first Creative Community in Missouri by the Missouri Arts Council. The designation recognized community-wide use of arts to promote economic development, business cultivation, resident attraction, and civic growth. In 2020, the city enjoyed a robust local art scene with museums, galleries, festivals, and performing arts venues.<sup>18</sup>

The milestones were selected by the CoMO200 Park Work Group, in consultation with numerous local history experts. Milestone research and text by Deb Sheals, 2020.

---

<sup>15</sup> Vicki Russell et. al., *Images of Our Lives Since 1901*, 15; Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 448; Havig, *Southern Village to Midwestern City*, 128; "Parker Hall – 1900 Original Construction," <https://muarchives.missouri.edu/historic/buildings/Parker/1900.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Switzler, *History of Boone County, MO*, 25; Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County*, 10-11, 262, 370-372, 447; Ronald R. Mann, "Allton Traces History of Municipal Airport," *Columbia Missourian*, February 27, 1970.

<sup>17</sup> Bill Clark, "Change was slow for black police officers", *Columbia Daily Tribune* March 2, 2012; "Columbia Expands Police Department," *Sedalia Democrat*, April 10, 1946, 1; Jean Shultz, "Policewoman enjoys her job, has serious side," *Columbia Missourian*, Nov. 22, 1979; M. Whitehead, "Groundbreaking Women Who Paved the Way in Columbia," *COMO Magazine*, January 30, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Missouri Arts Council, "Creative Communities In Missouri," <https://www.missouriartscouncil.org/graphics/assets/documents/e54a73533f00.pdf>.

The Downtown CID began saving for the Gateway Plaza over eight years ago. While the CID funded more than 75% of the project, it has always been important that the community be involved. The following local businesses, community leaders, and historic institutions helped make this civic art piece a reality.



## **Globe Sponsors**

**Columbia College** - Changing lives through quality education since 1851. We are CC!

**Stephens College** - Preparing graduates to succeed since 1833. Learn. Grow. Lead.

**University of Missouri** - Respect, Responsibility, Discovery & Excellence: Mizzou is committed to world-class research, teaching and statewide outreach as Missouri's flagship university.

## **Letter Sponsors**

**C. Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club** – Contributing to community well-being through donations and service, with emphasis on efforts to find a cure for diabetes.

**L. Dan Rader / My House Nightclub & Sports Bar** - In recognition of the wonderful education I received from Columbia Public Schools.

**U.** Sponsorship available.

**M. Debbie and Bill Sheals** - In recognition of science and the health professionals that brought us through the pandemic of 2020.

**B.** Sponsorship available.

**I. Moberly Area Community College - Columbia** – In honor of the community's support, which creates pathways to affordable educational opportunities in Boone County.

**A. Tootie and Richard Burns and Kenny Greene** - In appreciation of artists, arts supporters, and our creative Columbia community.

Additional support provided by Commerce Bank, The Roof/Broadway Hotel, and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.