

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Honorary Cornerstone to be Placed at Flint Hills Discovery Center**

MANHATTAN, Kan., October 6, 2011 — The Flint Hills Discovery Center will host a Cornerstone Dedication Ceremony and tour at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 7 on site, located at 315 S. Third Street, Manhattan, Kan.

Celebrating its near completion, the Grand Lodge of Kansas Masons will parade to the site for placement of the cornerstone on the building. The ceremony will include comments from Manhattan Mayor James E. Sherow and Wildlife, Parks and Tourism State Secretary Robin Jennison. The Northview Elementary singers will also perform “Home on the Range,” and a procession will follow the event.

The new Kansas landmark museum will showcase and inspire people to explore and care for the Flint Hills, a historic band of hills in eastern Kansas created approximately 250 million years ago. The \$18.5 million construction project began July 2010 and will open to the public April 2012.

Located in Manhattan’s new South End Downtown Redevelopment, the 34,900 square-foot center includes a lobby, museum store, core exhibit areas, flexible temporary exhibit areas, an immersive theater, community rooms, exhibit support areas and an outdoor park.

The building is designed to reflect the over-arching idea that the people and the land shape each other. The undulating roof forms reflect the prairie landscape and create an exciting space for special events and environmental education opportunities. Seeking LEED Gold certification, the center includes a number of environmentally-friendly components.

“This dynamic facility is another successful stride towards the redevelopment of downtown Manhattan,” said Ramin Cherfat, Vice President for McCownGordon Construction. “We are proud to continue the successful partnership we have established with the City and the Flint Hills Discovery Center, helping to offer the community and regional visitors an iconic museum celebrating history.”

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