

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Wilson Czech Opera House Project

Grant Program: SPRINT

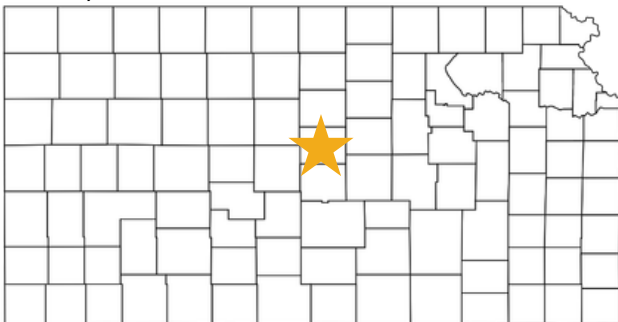
Project Date: July 2024 - February 2025

Project Summary

The Wilson Czech Opera House received SPRINT funds to support labor and materials costs for steel bracing needed to stabilize the surviving limestone walls and preserve the structural integrity of the historic site. The original 1901 opera house was destroyed by fire in 2009, and a capital campaign was conducted to repurpose the structure into an open-air amphitheater and support long-term redevelopment of the venue as a regional destination for arts, tourism and community events tied to Wilson's Czech heritage.

Location

Wilson, KS



Grantee Information

The Wilson Czech Opera House Corporation is a nonprofit organization that formed in June 1986 to purchase, preserve, and operate the historic Wilson Opera House. The organization leads fundraising, restoration, and programming efforts for the historic opera house site.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Support future development of the open-air theater and adjoining Czech cultural park.

Objective: Install steel bracing to stabilize the surviving limestone walls damaged by the 2009 fire.

Budget Overview

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$100,000.00

Expense Categories:

- Labor and Materials: \$100,000.00

Target Population

The primary target population for the Wilson Czech Opera House project in Wilson includes local residents, regional tourists, arts and culture patrons, and visitors traveling through central Kansas for recreation and heritage tourism.

Sustainability

The project is sustainable because, once fully redeveloped, the low-maintenance open-air structure paired with an event-based revenue model that generates income from recurring concerts, festivals, markets, and community programming. Long-term viability is further supported by strong regional tourism demand, partnerships with local organizations, and established annual cultural events that ensure consistent use and visitor traffic.

Outcomes

The grand reopening of the Wilson Czech Opera house was held on August 30, 2025, with continued site improvements and phased enhancements ongoing as additional funds are raised for the project.

Activities and Timeline

2023 Q4: Tuckpointing and demolition work completed.

2024 Q1-2: Steel fabrication in process for structural support.*

2024 Q3: Steel beams delivered to the site.*

2025 Q2: Steel beam installation completed.*

*grant-funded activity

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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