



BUTTONWOOD ART SPACE  
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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ART PURCHASES HELP SAVE THE VANISHING PRAIRIE

**KANSAS CITY, MO, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023:** Buttonwood Art Space and Friends of Konza Prairie are again partnering for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual **Visions of the Flint Hills Art Show and Benefit**. The exhibition opening will be held on First Friday, October 6, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Buttonwood Art Space, 3013 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. This exhibition features 164 original works of art by 106 different artists from throughout the United States, all inspired by the beauty of the Flint Hills region. The Visions of the Flint Hills Benefit and Sale will run from October 2 through December 13, 2023.

Covering over 6.3 million acres, the Flint Hills holds the largest expanse of intact tallgrass prairie in the nation and offers the best opportunity to study, preserve and celebrate this unique ecosystem. Characterized by limestone and flint, this ninety-mile-wide strip stretching 150 miles through eastern Kansas to Oklahoma, is the priceless remnant of 170 million acres of prairie that once covered the United States.

The exhibit is held in conjunction with KC Crossroads October 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday Art Walk. Over \$1,000 will be awarded to artists in categories including: Painting, Photography, 3D, and Other. Kim Casebeer, an artist whose works emphasize the Flint Hills, juried and judged the exhibition. Live music will be performed by Alice Boyle's band, Kaw Creek.

Purchases of art during this exhibit will further the research, education, and preservation of the vast prairie. Half (50%) of sale prices compensate artists for their beautiful artwork with the remainder (50%) going to Friends of Konza Prairie to benefit their efforts to support the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP).

During First Friday, patrons will have the chance to immerse themselves in the Flint Hills through the artwork, but also with a new educational feature: seed sorting. Native Lands Restoration Collaborative will attend with seed heads from the prairie and will be cleaning seeds that people can touch, smell, and even taste!

Located in the Flint Hills of northeastern Kansas, approximately six miles south of the City of Manhattan, the Konza Prairie Biological Station is an 8,600-acre native tallgrass prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Kansas State University (KSU). Operated as a field research station by the K-State Division of Biology, Konza Prairie is dedicated to a three-fold mission of long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. Jill Haukos, Director of the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP), explains, "The artists turn their laser-like focus on all things Flint Hills, sweeping vistas of grass and sky, farmers and ranchers, hidden valleys with waterfalls, tiny juniper hairstreak butterflies, and collared lizards doing push-ups. Opening night brings together researchers, ranchers, educators, environmentalists, conservationists, poets, and musicians, all who have a vision for a thriving Flint Hills. Come join us to learn more about this unique ecosystem."

Meet participating artists, enjoy beverages and live music at the Opening Reception on Friday, October 6, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Buttonwood Art Space, 3013 Main, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment, 816-285-9040.

**Sponsors of the show include:** Zahner, Burnett Automotive, Volland Foundation, The Trust Company, Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers, Dianne Shumaker & Bob Southard, Native Lands Restoration Collaborative, WTC, Karen Hummel (in honor of Nancy Goulden), and Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.

Zahner, Flint Hills Discovery Center, WTC, The Trust Company, Burnett Auto, and Buttonwood Financial Group, LLC.

**Background Information:**

**Friends of the Konza Prairie (FOKP)** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Konza Prairie. FOKP supports the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP), which provides important environmental science education to thousands of Kansas school children each year. FOKP is committed to bringing school children out to the tallgrass prairie and assists in the financial support of KEEP. For more

information on the Friends of the Konza Prairie, please contact Jill Haukos, Director of Education, Konza Prairie Biological Station, (785) 587-0381 or visit <http://keep.konza.ksu.edu/about>.

**Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP)** works to bring children to the tallgrass prairie to increase their understanding of this remarkable ecosystem and to instill a sense of place and pride in their environment. KEEP allows students to participate in hands-on ecological research to increase their knowledge of the scientific process and the significance of research. Projects include: Docent/Volunteer Program, Teachers' Workshops and Schoolyard Long-term Ecological Research. KEEP is committed to providing Kansas communities with quality environmental education opportunities centered on prairie ecology and long-term ecological research.

**Buttonwood Art Space** was founded by Jon and Wendy McGraw in support of the arts in Kansas City. The McGraw's purchased the 1860's Buttonwood building in 2005, and expansion in 2013 doubled the size of the gallery to 7,500 sq. ft. A portion of all sales go to support local and regional charities as the gallery is designated as a place for artists to exhibit and sell their works, and for non-profit groups to raise funds and awareness. For more information please visit [www.buttonwoodartspace.com/about.php](http://www.buttonwoodartspace.com/about.php)

Buttonwood Art Space is underwritten by **Buttonwood Financial Group**, an independent wealth management firm based in Kansas City, Missouri. Buttonwood works closely with individuals and families to simplify the complexity that comes with wealth. See [www.ButtonwoodFG.com](http://www.ButtonwoodFG.com)

Buttonwood Art Space (BAS) is financially supported and underwritten by Buttonwood Financial Group (BFG). In a traditional Art gallery setting a percentage of sales goes to the artist and a percentage of sales is retained by the gallery. At Buttonwood, operating costs of Art Space are paid by Financial Group so the portion of sales that would traditionally go to a gallery go back instead to the non-profit organizations for each show. As the non-profits invite their supporters (who attend and purchase art), our email / social media list grows allowing for greater community-focused attendance at future Buttonwood art shows. Goal: A win for artists (sales), a win for non-profits (\$ / awareness), a win for community (buy art & get a tax deduction as well), and a win for us (awareness). For additional information please contact Macy Vulgamore, Buttonwood Art Space, at 816-285-9040 or [Macy@ButtonwoodArtSpace.com](mailto:Macy@ButtonwoodArtSpace.com).

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