



SAVE THE SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION



BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW - SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION



OVERVIEW

The Shawnee Indian Mission is an essential national landmark that has recorded some of the most significant moments in Kansas history and is a monument to the perseverance of all Indigenous peoples affected by this place.

Due to inadequate funding and mismanagement over the years, this public treasure has fallen into deep physical distress. Absent urgent repair and maintenance, the Shawnee Indian Mission will decline rapidly and be lost to posterity. Moreover, the site is understaffed and underutilized, leaving most of its rich history hidden from public view.

The Shawnee Tribe has a deep connection with the Mission, originally built upon Shawnee land by Shawnee hands and funded by the Shawnee Tribe. Many Shawnee children attended the school along with children from at least 20 other tribes. As such, the Shawnee Tribe has designated the Mission as a sacred site and is committed to ensuring the site is properly preserved and protected.

To that end, the Tribe contracted a nationally renowned historic architecture firm to perform a site condition assessment and develop a plan to restore the Shawnee Indian Mission.

The multi-year plan consists of three phases with a total estimated cost that could reach \$14 million.

The Shawnee Business Council has committed to funding the total costs of restoration and management of this site upon conveyance of ownership to the Tribe.

SHAWNEE TRIBE EXPERTISE

The Shawnee Tribe has extensive experience and meaningful partnerships in historic preservation, exhibition development, interpretation, and site management. The Tribe operates a fully staffed cultural center and maintains a roster of qualified experts, including archeologists, language experts, museum experts, and a Historic Preservation Office.

Museums, universities, national parks, and other national sites often request the Shawnee Tribe to consult or provide expertise on exhibitions and historical interpretation. Tribal leadership and staff have experience working with many federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies on consultation and joint cultural and historical projects.

All restoration and maintenance will be performed in partnership with the Architectural Resources Group, which has extensive experience restoring significant landmarks across the nation. The Tribe plans full consultation with key stakeholders, including all federally recognized tribes with a connection to this school, the State Historic Preservation Office, and members of the Fairway community.

Restoration and operations at the Shawnee Indian Mission will be overseen by Stacey Halfmoon, Executive Director of the Shawnee Cultural & Historic Preservation Department. Stacey is a council member of the American Association for State and Local History and serves as Chair of the American Alliance of Museums - Indigenous Peoples Museum Network.

SITE OPERATIONS

The Shawnee Tribe is committed to keeping the Shawnee Indian Mission open to the public and operational exclusively as a historic site.

The Tribe will replace the current one-person staff with a Kansas-based team and provide adequate resources so that the site can offer rich programs and activities, all while managing the grounds & facilities and ensuring the site is restored correctly.

Current management has not implemented a proper site management plan. The Tribe has already begun working to remedy this by developing Shawnee Tribal Principles for Site Management. The principles in this document lay the groundwork for creating an entire Site Management Plan and a Master Plan, which will cover every element of site management, including working with local and tribal communities with shared interests in the site.

The Shawnee Tribe understands the importance of consultation. It is committed to developing meaningful cooperative relationships that ensure this site is an asset to the City of Fairway, the State of Kansas, and all Native-American stakeholders.

PHASED RESTORATION PLAN: SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION - FAIRWAY, KS



PHASE 1: CONVEYANCE, HISTORICAL STRUCTURE REPORT & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT | Years 1 & 2

Conveyance: The Shawnee Tribe Business Council is prepared to pledge at least \$15 million to carry out this restoration and revitalization plan, which is contingent on the conveyance of the site back to the Tribe, who are committed to preserving and restoring this Shawnee Sacred Site to its period of significance as a federally mandated Indian Boarding School (1839-1862).

Historic Structure Report (HSR): Industry standards for stewardship of historic buildings begin with preparing an authoritative HSR documenting the history and physical characteristics of the site and its various historical uses. The HSR is clearly beneficial to Shawnee Tribe citizens as one key audience group, given the School's importance to their history, but it is also beneficial to the greater State of Kansas community, including museum-goers, other communities affected by this site's legacy and those interested in understanding the past treatment of Indigenous people in the US.

Cultural Landscape Report (CLR): The Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School sits on a 12-acre parcel of land, which is likely also a character-defining feature of the site. The site warrants careful consideration of the full range of archaeological remains—including architectural remnants, agricultural features, and the potential for burials of Indigenous children and enslaved people/workers—that may be present within the National Landmark property.

PHASE 2: SITE STABILIZATION | Year 2 (Phase 2 activities may overlap with Phase 1 by up to several months.)

The ARG Conditions Assessment Report recorded a range of deteriorating conditions at the site for which repair and treatment actions were developed, calling out "high," "medium" and "low priority" repair and maintenance treatments. "High priority" recommendations indicate that deterioration is active, and treatment within 1-2 years is needed to prevent or slow the rate of deterioration and material loss. The large-scale exterior maintenance projects classified as "high priority" for the site and will be undertaken in Phase 2.

PHASE 3: MASTER PLAN, INTERPRETIVE PLAN, NEW INTERPRETIVE INSTALLATION & CONTINUED SITE STABILIZATION | Years 3-7 (Phase 3 activities will likely overlap with Phases 1 and 2 by several months.)

Master Plan: Where the previously prepared HSR and CLR will provide guidance for ensuring that modifications to the site in the interest of public programming or accessibility will not impact the historical significance of the existing structure, the master plan study would outline the goals for the use of the cultural resource based on the input of the various stakeholders, then define an overall spatial layout of plans for the site.

Interpretive Plan: The next step is developing an Interpretive Plan for the site and buildings—an updated, accurate interpretation of the site that highlights its relevance to the history of the Shawnee people, its prominent legacy as one of the earliest federally mandated Native American boarding schools, and the importance of the buildings from an architectural history perspective, as much of the historic fabric remains unaltered. The potential for reimagining this historic site to portray its entire history accurately could substantially increase the number of visitors.

New Interpretive Installation: The square footage of interior spaces to be used for the new interpretive installation will directly impact the scale of exhibits and associated construction costs. It is very difficult to project adequate space needs at this early stage, but the Tribe anticipates reimagining approximately 14,000 square feet for the new installation, including two floors in the North and East buildings and the ground floor in the West. However, this will be scaled back if warranted.

Continued Site Stabilization: Repair and maintenance treatments deemed "medium-" and "low priority" will be addressed in this Phase, along with the implementation of regular Maintenance and Inspection protocols. "Medium priority" recommendations indicate minor material deterioration that should be addressed within 3-5 years to prevent more serious conditions from occurring. "Low priority" recommendations indicate deterioration is not currently active, but the item should be treated within 5-7 years to avoid future deterioration.

PHASED RESTORATION PLAN: SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION - FAIRWAY, KS



ESTIMATED COSTS

PHASE 1

	Low end	High end
Historic Structure Report	\$75,000.00	\$95,000.00
Cultural Landscape Report	\$50,000.00	\$75,000.00
	\$125,000.00	\$170,000.00

PHASE 2

"High priority" site stabilization		
East Building	\$601,033.00	\$1,329,451.53
West Building	\$570,357.00	\$2,045,688.19
North Building	\$460,583.00	\$1,154,335.78
	\$1,631,973.00	\$4,529,475.50

PHASE 3

Master Plan	\$150,000.00	\$200,000.00
Interpretive Plan	\$85,000.00	\$95,000.00
Interpretive Installation	\$2,500,000.00	\$8,000,000.00
Continued Site Stabilization	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
	\$4,735,000.00	\$10,295,000.00

Estimate Total	\$6,491,973.00	\$14,994,475.50
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Notes:

1. This phased plan and its associated costs are based in part on recommendations Listed in the Shawnee Tribe-funded Conditions Assessment Report on the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor Boarding School prepared by the Architectural Resources Group (ARG) in December 2021.

2. A portion of the expenses associated with preparing the Historic Structure Report in Phase 1 will be covered by a \$25,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Places in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

3. Cost estimates for Continued Site Stabilization activities in Phase 3 have not been formally assessed, as prices of construction materials and labor will likely be significantly different once Phase 3 begins.

4. All estimates are subject to change based on market conditions.