

City of Wichita Overview

Wichita is located in southcentral Kansas along the Arkansas River, and is the largest city in the state, with approximately 390,000 residents and a metropolitan area of about 630,000. A five-time All-America City award winner, Wichita is a dynamic community that offers big city amenities with a small town, friendly atmosphere.

Wichita offers short and easy commutes, a low cost of living, exceptional educational opportunities, a broad range of arts and cultural attractions, and numerous entertainment options. Residents and visitors can enjoy a convention and arts center that houses professional opera, symphony, ballet, and music companies, and hosts a variety of performances, including Broadway musical tours. Wichita's arts community also includes numerous cinematic and performance theaters that offer independent, classic, and new films and plays.

Wichita is also home to three universities, three minor league sports teams, thirteen golf courses, more than 4,300 acres of parks and greenways, and several annual festivals. Independent local musicians and artists entertain and inspire on a monthly basis during the First Friday music and art gallery crawl through the downtown area. Downtown Intrust Bank Arena draws in a wide range of big-name musical acts and family-friendly performances, and the inaugural season of Wichita's new Minor League Baseball team, the Wichita Wind Surge, kicks off in April 2020.

For the past several years, the City has been involved in revitalizing the downtown area, resulting in a reinvigorated big city hotspot. Downtown revitalization centers around Old Town, Wichita's premiere entertainment district with nightclubs, local breweries, distinctive restaurants, live concerts, unique specialty shops, and a Saturday farmer's market.

Management Fellow Work Plan

The City of Wichita Management Fellowship Program is a 12-month program that has been training future municipal leaders for more than 30 years. The Management Fellowship provides recent graduates an unparalleled experience, allowing them the opportunity to work closely with the City Manager, oversee their own projects and, in the process, assist in the administration of one of the nation's 50 largest cities.

Established in the early 1980s to attract and develop talented employees for the organization, the Management Fellowship Program exposes participants to the challenges confronted by local governments, as well as the innovative approaches used to address these challenges. Although based in the City Manager's Office, Fellows work on projects throughout the organization. Assignments are matched to the particular Fellow's interests and skill set but the duties typically include:

- Reviewing policies and procedures and implementing improvements based on best practices
- Assisting with City Council and District Advisory Board meetings
- Serving as the Manager's Office representative for the Board of Bids and Screening Selection Committee
- Coordinating the Mayor's Youth Council
- Participating in the development of the City Budget and Capital Improvement Program

- Attending national and regional professional development meetings and conferences including: The ICMA Annual Conference; National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition; League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference; and Annual Kansas City & County Management Conference.

Fellowship Goals

1. To become familiar with the City Manager's Office and the larger organization's operational processes, strategic direction and core values
2. To work with both ongoing processes and specific projects from a wide range of departments
3. To produce work that both assists the City of Wichita and its citizens, and allows the Fellow to gain valuable skills in municipal management

Supervision and Mentorship

An Assistant City Manager serves as the immediate supervisor to the Fellows and will provide mentorship and support. Fellows also have the opportunity to meet with the Manager and Assistant City Manager on a weekly basis to discuss assignments, receive feedback on their performance, or simply ask questions. Fellows will also produce monthly progress reports and receive feedback from the Manager. Additionally, Fellows have access to various ICMA sponsored learning opportunities as a result of the City of Wichita's partnership with the Local Government Management Fellowship.

Previous Fellow Projects

Fellows are continuously tasked with challenging, high-level projects and even have the opportunity to identify their own projects. The following are examples of just some of the projects previous Fellows have completed.

- Staffed a stakeholder-driven process to create a first-of-its-kind combined city-county code inspection and enforcement agency
- Managed a stakeholder-driven process to improve the City's solid waste and recycling program
- Assisted with restructuring the Recreation Division resulting in improved service delivery while reducing expenses by \$1 million
- Led a parking meter modernization pilot project at a downtown parking facility
- Assisted with the merger of the Public Works and Water City's Utilities Departments
- Created an inventory of over \$3 billion worth of City assets and worked on a team to develop an innovative City/County comprehensive plan
- Led the successful effort to revise the City's existing taxi ordinances, fees, and regulations
- Assisted the Aquatics Division with development of a Comprehensive Master Plan to guide the future of Wichita's aquatics facilities
- Assisted with the design and launch of an online engagement tool to solicit community input on the annual budget

- Assisted the Transit Department with a Downtown Parking Plan for the new baseball stadium
- Assisted the Water Division in revising and updating the emergency water provision plan for the EPA
- Provided guidelines for incorporating restorative justice practices into the school resource officer program
- Facilitated community engagement for the multi-organizational Master Food System Plan

Program Contact Information

For additional information regarding the City's Fellowship program please contact:

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