

"We Have Tomorrow – Bright Before Us, Like A Flame." *Langston Hughes*



Artworks for the 2026 Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition are currently on display throughout Lawrence for the community to enjoy.

This year's exhibition celebrates the spirit of the World Cup through six unique artworks, each offering a different creative perspective on public art and the world's favorite game. *Gestura* by Nathaniel Pierce pictured above.

Artworks are featured in the Otocast app for self-guided tours around downtown Lawrence.

You can download the Otocast app from both the Apple App and Google Play stores. More information about the Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition is on the City website: lawrenceks.gov/prc/upae.

OUR MISSION

We create a
community where
all enjoy life and
feel at home.

City information is available at lawrenceks.gov and on cable Channel 25.

The Flame is published by the City of Lawrence, 785-832-3000



After the Final Whistle: The Bond Between Lawrence and Algeria



As we look back on our World Cup summer, it's hard to ignore the feeling of connection we're left with. We welcomed the Algerian national team in June and almost immediately Lawrence showed the world what kind of fans we can be. But it went beyond fandom. We created community, cultural exchange, and joy around football.

We didn't build a World Cup experience from scratch. We used what we already had: our people, our partnerships, our creativity, and a community that shows up for each other. The events you saw this summer weren't invented for the occasion. They were Lawrence, just turned up a little louder.

Some of our biggest moments were also our simplest. Neighbors lined the streets to welcome the Algerian team back to their hotel after games and practices, and turned out again to send them off.

Score Lawrence became the vital hub where our community partners pulled together: Explore Lawrence, the Lawrence Chamber, Douglas County, and the University of Kansas all worked side by side to create a culture of unmistakable hospitality. They organized watch parties all over town that became the heartbeat of the whole experience. Strangers became friends over shared chants and colors. The KU pep band learned Algeria's national anthem. You didn't have to be a soccer expert, or an expert in Algerian culture, to feel like part of something. You just had to show up.

And then there was Stan Herd's earthwork,

a massive Algerian flag carved into the land, the largest in the world. People came from all over to see it, and it became a symbol of the whole summer: something built here, by hand, out of genuine respect.

Around town, the details told the story too. Downtown trees lit in red, green, and white. Algerian flags on porches and storefronts. Fennec fox crochet classes at the Yarn Barn. Fox masks made by kids at the Boys and Girls Club. Greeting videos from Johnny's Tavern, Lawrence High School, the Lawrence Chamber, and more. Small things, all pointing the same direction: you're always welcome here.

None of this worked just because of fandom. It worked because Algerian fans have a passionate, close-knit community, and we followed their lead. The best ideas came from neighbors, artists, business owners, and volunteers who saw an opportunity to do what Lawrence already does best.

We never tried to build a version of Lawrence for visitors. We introduced them to the real one, and the warmth we offered came right back to us.

The infrastructure for all of this was already here. It was never physical. It was social, built out of watch parties and street corners and people willing to show up for folks they'd never met. We prepared to welcome the world, and when the world showed up, Lawrence did what Lawrence does.

That's the story we'll carry forward.

What's ahead in 2026...

MID-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PREVIEW

Lawrence is building for what's next.

As we move through the second half of 2026, the City is continuing important infrastructure work across the community. These projects support safer streets, better access, stronger stormwater systems, improved bike and pedestrian connections, and more reliable City services.

Some projects will be highly visible. Others will happen underground or behind the scenes. Together, they help maintain and improve the systems that keep Lawrence moving.

Here's a preview of what's coming up:

Bob Billings Parkway Improvements

We're reconstructing Bob Billings Pkwy. between Monterey Way and Kasold Drive. We're rehabilitating pavement out to Wakarusa Drive to enhance safety, accessibility, drainage, and pavement life on this key east-west route.

Construction continues through December 2026. Learn more at lawrenceks.gov/mso/bb-improvements.

Iowa Street from 6th Street to Harvard Road

We're completing street maintenance on Iowa Street from 6th Street to south of Harvard Road, including mill and overlay, curb and gutter work, and ADA improvements as part of the KDOT City Connecting Link Improvement Program.

Construction will begin in early July 2026 and end in September 2026. Learn more at lawrenceks.gov/mso/iowa-6th-to-harvard.

Mass. Street Multimodal Project

We're redesigning Massachusetts Street from 14th Street to 23rd Street to add protected bike lanes, improve sidewalks and crossings, and make the corridor safer for people walking, biking, riding transit, and driving.

Construction will begin in Fall 2026. Mass. Street will have lane reductions and turning restrictions during construction.

Learn more at lawrenceks.gov/mso/mass-street-14th-to-23rd.

Jayhawk Watershed Project

We're upgrading stormwater infrastructure on 9th Street to improve drainage and reduce flooding risks, while also installing wider bike lanes, adding a new crosswalk beacon, and updating sidewalks to meet ADA standards.

Construction continues through early 2027, with 9th Street being fully reopened in September 2026. Learn more at lawrenceks.gov/jayhawk-watershed.

Want to stay ahead of the cones?

Check out lawrenceks.gov/construction to view our interactive construction map and sign up for our Weekly Traffic Update – a Friday email with traffic impacts for the week ahead.

Funding Opportunity: Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Through September 4, we're accepting applications for funding from our Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

1. Affordable homeownership land acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction.
2. Affordable rental new construction.
3. Housing Stabilization programs, including housing vouchers and emergency rental assistance.
4. Home Repair & Accessibility Modification programs.
5. Affordable Housing Community Engagement and Education programs.

Find eligibility criteria, timeline, and additional details about the application process at lawrenceks.gov/pds/affordable-housing/trust-fund/

Supporting affordable housing development and access is a vital part of the City's commitment to the A Place for Everyone plan to reach functional zero with homelessness.

In our continuing efforts to provide all people in Lawrence with access to housing choice with affordability, the City of Lawrence has a strong commitment to expanding affordable housing across all Lawrence neighborhoods as well as a commitment to furthering fair housing, sustainable building practices, and housing that remains affordable in perpetuity.

LAWRENCE TRANSIT ROUTE CHANGES

Annual changes go into effect August 1

A few improvements are coming with the latest round of annual route changes from Lawrence Transit.

These include better connections between routes, improved access to grocery shopping, and more nighttime service for KU students.

You can view the new Transit Guide online at lawrencetransit.org/routes. A report on the feedback received and how it affected route changes is also available on our website: lawrencetransit.org/.

Printed copies of the Transit Guide are available at grocery stores, City Hall, Lawrence Public Library, several locations across the KU campus and on all buses.

Transit app is the primary tool recommended for trip planning and real-time bus arrival information.

Find links to download the app at lawrencetransit.org/mobile-tools/

Following is a summary of the route changes that will begin on Saturday, August 1.

- Route 4: Route will now come downtown at the top of the hour on Saturdays to provide better transfers.
- Route 9: Connects riders directly from South Iowa to Central Station and provides access to the new Dillons grocery store on west campus.
- Route 38: The alignment for Route 38 was adjusted to serve the new Dillons grocery store on west campus.
- Route 41: Route 41 and 42 are being split back into two routes, to provide a more direct connection from -

Park & Ride to Jayhawk Boulevard.

- Route 42: Shorted route alignment will also connect Route 42 more directly to Jayhawk Boulevard.
- Route 53: (SafeBus) New route alignment will serve downtown.
- SafeRide: Service returns.

To get help planning a trip on the bus or for more information, visit www.lawrencetransit.org or call (785) 864-4644.

