

SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS

2017 Annual Report

For more than 150 years, BNSF has connected Kansas communities to the world. As a company that is proud of its legacy and confident in its future, BNSF is proud to help Symphony in the Flint Hills celebrate the railroad's past and enhance appreciation for the rare beauty and unique culture of the Kansas Flint Hills.

Zak Andersen, BNSF, Major Presenting Sponsor



Our Successes in FY 2017

At our Signature Event, we commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Education sessions like 'Minority Drivers' and 'Women on the Trail' drew record crowds.

We continued to expand our year-round and region-wide programming through a travelling exhibit commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. By the end of 2018, the traveling exhibit will have taken our mission to eleven communities throughout the state.

In July, we partnered with internationally known opera instructors to host the first-ever Opera Workshop in the Flint Hills. The project helped us connect with rising opera stars and culminated in two sold-out public opera performances in our Cottonwood Falls gallery.

At our Fall Event, WoodFest, hundreds of kids and families enjoyed "free range music and fun" with artists and instructors, including LA-based contemporary composer Jherik Bischoff who conducted participants in a prairie-inspired ukulele performance.

Mission

Heighten appreciation and knowledge of the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie.

Vision

We envision a future where our efforts inspire people to strengthen the Flint Hills by sustaining the region's unique culture and landscape.

Core Values

- We create awe-inspiring experiences.
- We respect the culture and traditions of the Flint Hills.
- We advance ecological understanding and stewardship of the grasslands.
- We strive for excellence and authenticity in everything we do.
- We value environmental responsibility.
- We champion efforts to strengthen Flint Hills communities.
- We celebrate the beauty of the tallgrass prairie.

Thank you for your support in 2017!

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