

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the year, KHP directly served more than **3,500 participants** through **75 educational in-person and online programs**. KHP reaches thousands more through recorded programs and published stories online. We continue to provide talks and guidebooks for Leadership Knoxville and numerous community groups.

We continue to support local tourism through special projects for Visit Knoxville and remain a dependable source of local history information for local TV and radio stations who call on us almost weekly for help interpreting stories.

The **Birth of a National Park in the Smokies Symposium** served more than 500 participants through talks, tours, and film screenings over three days. Attendees received an engaging booklet highlighting the Knoxville leaders and outdoor enthusiasts who created a lasting grassroots initiative to establish what is now the most visited national park in the nation.

KHP created the first phase of a **Knoxville Historic House Registry**, available to the City of Knoxville, property owners, and developers, documenting houses and buildings that should be better known as cultural landmarks and where possible preserved. Available on request.

Three new episodes for **Knoxville Chronicles Season Three** podcast were produced.

KHP far exceeded its fundraising goal for its **Eighth Annual Luncheon**, which honored art and architecture historian **William Ross “Sandy” McNabb**.

Front cover: Unidentified guitarist on Gay Street, 1936. (Roger H. Howell Photograph Collection, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.)

ONGOING CORE PROGRAMS

TALKS AND TOURS

KHP serves Knoxville residents and visitors through engaging educational programs, both in-person and online. Our programs illuminate the city's past, incorporating new research and previously untold stories covering a broad range of subjects, presented by KHP staff and guest presenters.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

KHP works with individuals, developers, property owners, government departments, and community-based organizations to research and produce new narratives expanding awareness and a better understanding of the city's complex past.

“THE SCRUFFY CITIZEN”

Freshly researched articles highlight a diverse variety of relevant but little-known stories from Knoxville's past, shared with KHP supporters and then posted online.

KNOXVILLE HISTORY ONLINE

KHP's website offers a comprehensive online resource, including stories, historic sites, image galleries, videos, podcasts, maps, and our online store.

KNOXVILLE SHOEBOX

We encourage community members to share photographs, brochures, and illustrations to be permanently archived for historical use. Selected images are highlighted in monthly articles in *West Knoxville Lifestyle* magazine.

LIBRARY READERSHIP

To serve the general public, we produce hardback versions of KHP story collections for readers in the Knox County Public Library system.



OUR VISION & MISSION

KHP's vision is to ensure Knoxville's history is widely known; connecting the past, present, and future.

Our mission is to research, preserve, and promote the history and culture of Knoxville, Tennessee.

KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT

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KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2025 PRIORITIES



2025 PRIORITIES



1. Crazy Tennesseans 2. Ida Cox 3. Howard Armstrong, 4. Everly Brothers 5. Dolly Parton



KNOXVILLE: A WALKING MUSIC GUIDE

The Knoxville History Project will publish a new educational booklet that will increase awareness and appreciation for the city's rich musical heritage by emphasizing sites associated with songwriters, composers and musicians well-known enough to be recognizable by the American music-listening public. The free guide, a companion to our popular **Literary Guide** (now in its second printing), will also introduce the Knoxville-based work of these writers and musicians.

Artists will include the street musicians who sang ballads of tragedy for nickels like **George Reneau**; the **Brunswick Record Co. sessions of 1929 and 1930** at the **St. James Hotel**, featuring the **Tennessee Ramblers**, **Tennessee Chocolate Drops**, and **Leola Manning**; songwriter **Arthur Q. Smith** who signed away the rights to many of

his best works to performers such as **Hank Williams**, **Ernest Tubb**, and **Bill Monroe**; brash young fiddler **Roy Acuff**, on his way to popularizing country music nationally; and teenage singer **Dolly Parton**, already writing songs when she was singing on local radio in the 1950s.

HISTORIC SOUTH KNOXVILLE

Several years in the making, KHP will publish a new full-color community history book on South Knoxville. We'll be covering the early pioneers and ferrymen who began to settle and earn a living along the south shore of the Tennessee River helping develop the district that became known as "**South America**." We'll tell the story of the bridges that connected the south shore with downtown proper – bridges that were often prone to destruction by floods and tornados – and the years when there were no bridges for farmers and pedestrians to cross at all.

We'll highlight early neighborhoods and sites along Sevierville Pike, including the **South Knoxville Baptist Church**, **D.M. Rose Lumber Mill**, **African American Cal Johnson's Racetrack**, and the **South Knoxville Grammar School**; and feature **Colonial Village**, **Island Home Park**, **Lindbergh Forest**, **Little Switzerland**, **South Haven**, **Vestal**, and other neighborhoods that emerged throughout the decades.

We'll also explore the Civil War sites: **Fort Dickerson**, **Fort Stanley**, and **Fort Higley** (now part of the impressive **High Ground Park**), as well as restored sites such as **Loghaven**, which began as a bohemian community created by the remarkable Myssie Thompson in the 1930s, and the **Candoro Marble building**.

ALSO TO BE COMPLETED IN 2025

KHP will launch a new educational series at the historic **Eugenia Williams House** on Lyons View Pike after the Aslan Foundation opens it in May. Programs will tell Ms. Williams' story and emphasize Bearden history, river history, architecture, and much more.

In partnership with the historic **Bijou Theatre**, KHP will begin research for a new book that tells a comprehensive history of the historic venue, including the 1817 Lamar House and the performing arts auditorium that opened in 1909.

KHP will also produce a short booklet on the 60-year history of **Knoxville/Knox County's Community Action Committee** for that wide-ranging local public agency.

Among other programmatic endeavors, KHP will resume the **Knoxville Lives** story compilation series with volume six, featuring stories by Jack Neely, Paul James, and guest writers and guest writers, including Paul Brown, Eric Dawson, and Janine Winfree.

NICOLE STAHL, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
JACK NEELY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAUL JAMES, DIRECTOR PUBLISHING & DEVELOPMENT

