

# Flint Hills Discovery Center

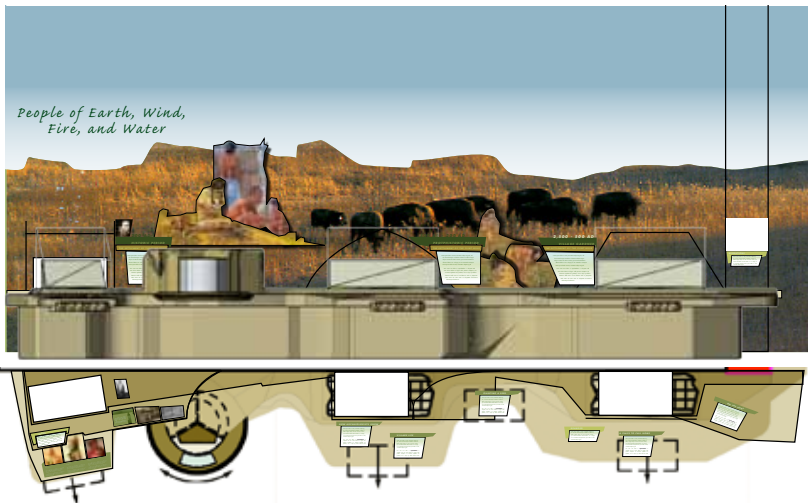
Manhattan, Kansas

VernerJohnson developed a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Flint Hills Discovery Center that will inspire people to celebrate, explore, and care for the Flint Hills Prairie of Kansas. Our consultant team worked with the Steering Committee, Advisory Group, and members of the public to provide clear programmatic and financial guidelines that ensure that the new Discovery Center is sustainable and meets the needs of the community. The Architectural and Interpretive Concepts provided the City of Manhattan with a platform from which they could garner support and funding for the project.

Since that initial planning phase, VernerJohnson and exhibit designers, Hilferty and Associates were hired to implement the building, site, and exhibit design for this powerful and enthralling destination. Inspired by the Museum's mission and its location, we designed a building sculpted from the natural landscape itself - a series of landscaped terraces transition effortlessly into a limestone and glass museum that emerges organically from the park. For the exterior of the building, we chose various types of limestone for their color and texture to create unique patterns on the surface of the building, while the undulating walls echo the natural shapes of the prairie and helps the building to further meld with its natural surroundings. Currently in the construction phase, this project will feature interactive science and history exhibits, an immersion theater and other educational components as a part of a fully integrated visitor experience.

**Reference:** Bob Workman, Director, 785.587.2726





*"Based on the process to date, I would rate VJI with the highest marks for creativity married with practicality. They listen to ideas and suggestions, then respond professionally with solid, useful solutions."*  
- Bob Workman, Flint Hills Discovery Center