

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Good neighbor

### Artist Robert Castillo brings creativity to Kansas City

By Sarah Waggoner

Robert Castillo is a man of many talents. While he has received most of his recognition from playing his upright bass in his band The Sextet, he has recently ventured into visual public art. Originally from North Kansas City, Robert moved around the country before returning to the area, this time calling Rosedale home. I had the chance to interview him and get a glimpse into his creative life.

**Sarah:** What brought you to Rosedale?

**Robert:** I didn't really start playing jazz music until I went away for college, and the more I explored this style, the more I wanted to return to Kansas City and reconnect. The Kansas City jazz scene is so tight-knit and welcoming and is actually drawing more artists from other big markets — L.A. and New York — who want to get involved in the unique culture here. Rosedale is in the perfect location for anything you'd want to do in the metro area.

**When did you start composing music?**

After college, I served with

AmeriCorps as a music teacher in a school in Fossil, Oregon. It is a really remote, rural town, and I didn't have cell phone service and was pretty isolated. This actually helped me to develop a lot of skills; I learned to slow down, dug deep into meditation, and be still. From that I gained more interest in creating my own art and music.

**Has that mindset helped you continue to create during the pandemic?**

Yes! One idea that I always come back to is that one has to overcome the paralysis of the "first draft". We fear creating something bad, or imperfect. Ideas are like babies; we have to nurture and guide them to grow. When babies first learn to walk, we expect them to fall down and make mistakes, and the same is true for your first attempt at a creative venture.

**One of your recent installations, Hold, has received a lot of recognition, as it is a timely visual with the recent resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Can you tell me more about this?**



Robert Castillo plays the upright bass in concert.

*Hold* is my first piece of public art, and I designed it to be a visual promotion of unity in diversity, which is what community is all about. I had created it a while back, but the timing of the installation on one of the KC street car stops lined

up perfectly with the political scene of today.

*To check out all of Robert Castillo's creative endeavors, visit his website at robertcastillo.art/*



# THE ROSEDALIAN

R O S E D A L E   D E V E L O P M E N T   A S S O C I A T I O N   N E W S L E T T E R



By Robyn Hart and Deb Scott  
co-chairs, voter registration LWV

The 2020 General Election is Tuesday November 3. Are you ready? If not, it is time to get prepared. The first step is to check your registration on **ksvotes.org**, a website made just for Kansans where you can register to vote, change your address or name, and request a mail (advance) ballot. Additionally, there is a drive-through Voter Registration Event here in Rosedale on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 12-3 p.m. at Whitmore Playground (1412 Southwest Blvd.). We can help you register to vote, apply to receive a mail-in-ballot, and answer other questions you have about voting. Once you submit your registration, you will receive a certificate card in the mail with your polling place listed.

The next step is to learn what is on your ballot at **vote411.org**, a non-partisan site that will allow you to check your registration, see what is on your ballot, and find your polling place. All the candidates for office are asked to submit information to this site, although some do not respond.

Once you've researched the ballot, you are ready to vote! You have three options in Wyandotte County: **1)** advance mail ballot, **2)** advance voting in person, and **3)** voting at the polls on election day. To receive an advance mail ballot, you have to apply; you can mail in the application or go to **ksvotes.org** and request an advance ballot. Do this as soon as possible to ensure you receive your ballot in the mail! When it arrives, fill it out and mail it to or drop it off at

the Wyandotte County Election Office at 850 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101 by election day, November 3.

You may also vote early in person at the Wyandotte County Election office, Eisenhower Recreation Center or Joe Amayo/Argentine Community Center. Call 913-572-8500 for dates and times. You do need to show a photo ID to vote in Kansas. If you prefer to

vote in person on election day, go to your assigned polling place where you will check in by stating your name and address and show your photo ID. The poll workers will give you a paper ballot or you may ask to use a touchscreen. Deposit your ballot in the ballot box.

**Congratulations—you did it! You participated in our democracy and made your voice heard!**



**ksvotes.org**  
(Click this QR code.)



**vote411.org**  
(Click this QR code.)

## Acts of Service for RDA

By Je T'aime Taylor

From garden volunteers that help grow food for neighbors in need to coaches that help provide a safe environment for youth, Rosedale Development Association is able to do so much in this community because of generous volunteers giving their time and skills.

Currently there are two opportunities to serve at RDA. First, we are looking for new persons to join our board of directors. To be a board member, you have to live, work or play in Rosedale, advocate on behalf of Rosedalian, and attend all board meetings. You will be an active part of governing the growth and responsibilities of RDA.

The other opportunity is a member of our AmeriCorps team. AmeriCorps members survey the community, care for our gardens and orchards,

provide activities centered around health and wellness to our elders and youth, and keep the neighborhood clean. To become an AmeriCorps member you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, or U.S. national or permanent resident, have some verifiable college or relevant work experience, and commit to serve (October 2020-August 2021). Members will receive a monthly living allowance of \$500 and a Segal Education Award of \$3,172.50 at the completion of 900 hours served.

*If you are wanting to volunteer in the Rosedale community, reach out to Erin Stryka (erin@rosedale.org) for board member information and Je T'aime Taylor (jetaime@rosedale.org) for AmeriCorps information.*



New Shade Trees Coming to Rosedale

By: Erin Stryka

Fall is coming and so are trees! The Heartland Tree Alliance planted 68 shade trees outside KCK homes in 2019. Now, in Rosedale, volunteers will plant 32 Sugar Maples, Serviceberries, Royal Raindrop crabapples, and Tree Lilacs on October 16. Rosedalians who are willing to water a tree for two years and who would like a tree planted in front of their homes can sign up at bridgingthegap.org/heartland-tree-alliance/treesforkck/.

In partnership with the United Government of Kansas City, Kansas and the Kansas Forest Service, trees will be planted in the public right-of-way, typically 10-15 feet from the street or the tree well between the sidewalk and the curb. There is no cost to you. The Heartland Tree Alliance will provide the tree, mulch, watering bag, and will even plant the tree. The only ask of you is to water the tree weekly for the first two years in its new home.

Rosedalian Devon Teran

has been advocating for more trees in his neighborhood. “Healthy tree cover makes for healthier neighborhoods,” says Teran. “They slow down traffic, save energy, and just make everything feel better. It is important for us to plant trees in our neighborhood now, because for so many of our older homes, the original trees are no longer there, and they have not been replaced. Now is the best time to plant the trees and develop our neighborhood in the ways that will keep it beautiful for the next 50 years.”

The mission of the Heartland Tree Alliance is to engage people of the Greater Kansas City region to take action and advocate for a healthy community forest. Together we can make Rosedale a champion of the urban canopy. You can take the pledge and sign up for a tree, or as a volunteer to help plant the trees, at bridgingthegap.org/heartland-tree-alliance/treesforkck/.

Elizabeth Johnston serves RDA

By Samantha Burton-Bosket

When Elizabeth Johnston, graphic designer and illustrator extraordinaire, moved to Rosedale, one of the first people she met was an RDA staff member. The rest was fate; Since then, she has gone on to design this newsletter, the RDA logo, and much more. While she has been volunteering with

RDA for 15 years, her total volunteer experiences span 45 years of connecting and bettering the communities in which she has lived. Elizabeth uses her knowledge in design to help RDA maintain consistent, harmonious, and professional marketing and branding, with quality being a priority in everything she does.



Rosedale children safely walk to school on the sidewalk.

Unified Government considers Complete Streets ordinance

By Erin Stryka

Back in 2011, in response to advocacy from Rosedalians and many other Wyandotte Countians, the Unified Government adopted a Complete Streets resolution. The resolution states that when the UG makes significant changes or repairs to our streets, they should do so with the needs of all street users in mind: drivers, bus riders, bikers, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

The Complete Streets resolution contributed to many positive changes for our community; improved sidewalks, safer pedestrian crossings and new bike lanes on Southwest Blvd., and new sidewalks around each Rosedale elementary school. Anyone walking around Rosedale, however, can see that we have a long way to go.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the UG Planning Department has proposed several emergency changes to the way we use public and outdoor spaces, including allowing businesses and res-

taurants to conduct sales on sidewalks and changing the regulations governing mobile food sales. These changes support local businesses and help residents stay safe and healthy while still enjoying their neighborhoods.

Now the Planning Department is considering a Complete Streets ordinance as a next step. An ordinance differs from a resolution in a couple of key ways. First, a resolution declares the UG’s intent to use Complete Streets principles to guide street construction, while an ordinance requires that those principles be followed. Second, an ordinance includes specific design guidelines that increase street safety. In this case, those guidelines would be selected to maximize safety during the pandemic.

To learn more about the possibility of a Complete Streets ordinance in Wyandotte County, contact erin@rosedale.org

Helpful Resources

**FOOD:**  
**Cross-lines Community Outreach**  
Sack breakfasts and lunches, food pantry

736 Shawnee Ave, KCK  
913-281-3388

**Bridges of Hope**  
Food pantry  
933 Argentine Blvd, KCK  
913-602-0660

**Our Saviour**  
Food pantry  
4153 Rainbow Blvd, KCK  
913-236-6228

**Franklin Center**  
Mobile food distribution  
1403 Metropolitan Ave, KCK  
913-213-3250

**Catholic Charities Hope Distribution Center**  
1708 Steele Rd, KCK 66106  
913-432-3141

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE:**  
**Rosedale Development Association**  
Funds for electricity, water, and gas bills  
913-677-5097

**Salvation Army**  
Funds for electricity bills  
816-756-1455

**Economic Opportunity Foundation**  
Funds for electricity, water, and gas bills  
913-371-0848

**LIEAP Applications Open**  
Assistance for Electric Bills  
1-800-432-0043

Rosedale Development Association

**Our mission is** to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

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online at [rosedale.org](http://rosedale.org)

**Facebook.com/**  
**RosedaleDevelopment**  
**Twitter.com/RosedaleDA**  
**Rosedale.org**

Rainbow Summer Program readers carry on tradition

By Alissa Workman

Walking into the Fellowship Hall of Rainbow Mennonite Church at 8 a.m. on a summer morning, I’m greeted with 100 students who have endless energy while I’m wishing I would have had time to grab that second cup of coffee. “Good morning . . . Gooooood morning . . . GOOOOOD morning! GOOOOOD MORNING!!!!,” the scholars sing and cheer before we sit to read a colorful story about how it’s okay to be different. They then teach me some favorite cheers; there’s cool cats, brown cows, reading is cool, wiggly burritos, and some friendly banter between the grade levels about who’s the best. No matter how you felt when you walked in, you leave with a smile on your face and the encouragement of 100 “you’re specials” and “you got this!”

For 15 years, the Rainbow Summer Program (and its predecessor, Rainbow Freedom School) has been a staple in the Rosedale community, providing much-needed out-of-school programming in a welcoming environment for six weeks every summer. At the same time, it provides community members the opportunity to spend a morning with the youth, sharing their stories and experiences while maybe learning a few things from the



Representative Sharice Davids reads to the Rainbow Summer Program scholars.

students in exchange. Each summer, neighborhood elders and volunteers, Rainbow Church members, local elected officials, and even some celebrities such as Katie Sowers and Gary Lezak visited to share stories and cheers with Rainbow students.

Fast forward to Summer 2020, and the Fellowship Hall is much quieter and filled with boxes of books and activity supplies instead of energetic youth. While the format of the 2020 Rainbow Summer Program looked much different this year, with lessons taking place in a virtual format instead

of in-person, one constant remained: a steady stream of volunteer readers who wanted to share their time and experiences with the students. Despite the changes, a diverse set of readers still showed up to support the program: Rainbow Church members, community volunteers, RDA board members, and local officials such as Mayor David Alvey and Representative Sharice Davids. RDA is grateful for each reader for giving their time (and, working through the hiccups) to ensure at least one constant during an otherwise unsteady time for Rosedale youth.

Let’s be rock solid together!  
**Please accept my donation in support of RDA.**

Name of business or name of household

Address

City/State/ZIP code

Contact person

Preferred phone

Email address

**Please mail or bring this form along with your gift to:**  
Rosedale Development Association, 1403 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103  
OR contribute online at [rosedale.org/archclub](http://rosedale.org/archclub).

