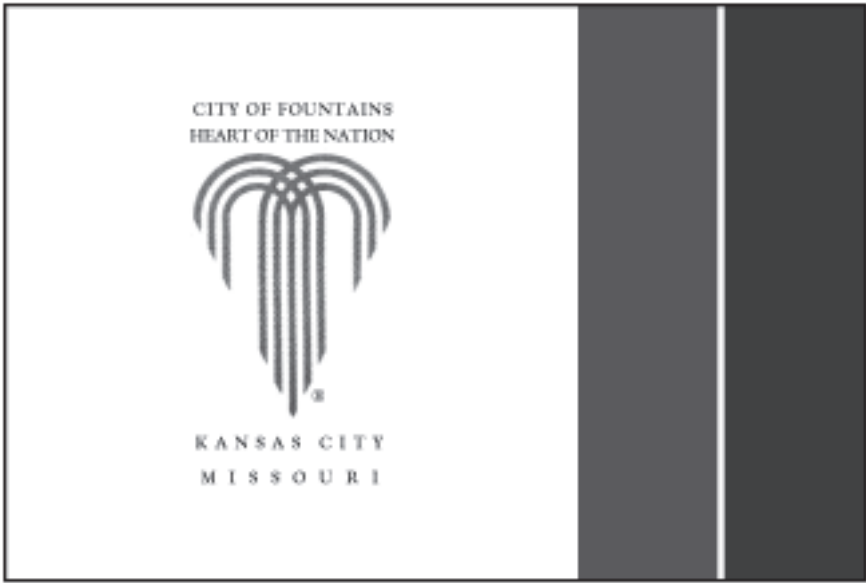
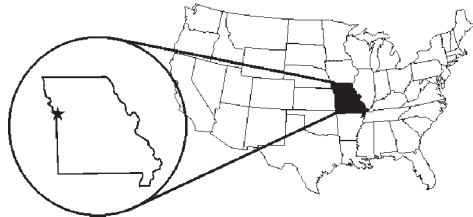


KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



Population Rank: U.S. # 36
Missouri # 1

Proportions: 2:3 (official)



Adopted: 9 December 1992 (official); amended 25 May 1995

DESIGN: In the flag of Kansas City, the field is divided vertically so that the hoist two-thirds is white, and the remaining third consists of a red bar and a blue bar with a fimbriation of white between them. Centered on the white field is the city seal, composed of a fountain-like symbol whose outline suggests a heart. The symbol is red at the top, gradually fading through a pale purple to blue at the base, each of the colors occupying about one-third of the symbol horizontally.

According to the ordinance of adoption: *The official corporate flag is 135 units in width and 90 units in height with the official corporate seal 60 units in height centered on a white field 90 units square adjacent to the staff. There are vertical red and blue stripes 22 units each in width, with*

the red stripe located adjacent to the white field and the blue stripe located adjacent to the red stripe. A vertical white stripe one unit in width separates the red and blue vertical stripes.

The official corporate seal is further described:

*The official corporate seal of the city consists of the corporate symbol — surrounded with a two-line legend above reading **CITY OF FOUNTAINS** and **HEART OF THE NATION**, and a two-line legend below reading **KANSAS CITY** and **MISSOURI** in goudy old style capital letters, such legend being in black if a white field is used and in white if a black field is used. The seal is rectangular*

The “corporate symbol” alluded to above is described in some detail:

The official corporate symbol of the city is formed within an implied rectangular space proportionately six units wide by eight units high. An imaginary base line drawn horizontally two units below the upper boundary divides the figure into vertical elements below, curved above. Imaginary lines drawn from the two ends of the base line to the center of the lower boundary serve as a cut line for vertical elements in the figure. The figure or symbol itself consists of five vertical lines separated by four vertical spaces, the line and space widths being equal and totaling two units in width, beginning at and centered from the lower border to the center point of the horizontal base line. From a point two units from the left boundary as center of arc, the center and two vertical lines in the right of center are extended in a 180-degree arc to the left, and then in a straight line to the cut line. From a point two units from the right boundary as center of arc, the center (used for both) and two vertical lines to the left of center are extended in a 180-degree arc to the left, and then in a straight line to the cut line. From a point two units from the right boundary as center of arc, the center (used for both) and two vertical lines to the left of center are extended in a 180-degree arc to the right, and then in a straight line to the cut line. The full color version displays the shape formed by the outline described in this subsection with color graduating uniformly from blue at the lowest point or tip of the symbol to red at the uppermost quadrant points of the arcs. Where used, the field is either white or black. When viewed in full color, the symbol appears as a fountain with the graduated color implying upward movement. The overall shape of the symbol reads transparently as a heart, symbolizing ‘Heart of the Nation’.

SYMBOLISM: The city seal reflects the city's two nicknames: "City of Fountains" and "Heart of the Nation". The colors are found in the United States and Missouri flags as well.

HOW SELECTED: By Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Despite the flag's detailed specifications, the city apparently uses a flag that does not follow them. A sketch received from city hall shows a vertical tribar of equal blue, white, and red stripes. The city seal is on the center bar. Nothing more is known about this version.



FORMER FLAGS: Kansas City has had four previous flags. The one in use from 7 January 1972 to 9 December 1992 was identical in form and proportions to the current flag, except that the seal was different, and is described:

*The official corporate symbol of Kansas City shall be four double-lined interlocking hearts, forming a single shape with the four extremities congruent to a square, the colors of said symbol being red, white and blue. The official corporate seal of Kansas City shall consist of the aforesaid corporate symbol surrounded by a legend of **City of Kansas City, Missouri**, in sans serif capital letters, said legend being black.*

The "interlocking hearts" symbol might be described as two paper clips in the shape of an "X", forming a diamond-shaped square in their center. The stroke of the "X" from hoist to fly as blue with red eyelets at its top and bottom, and the other stroke of the "X" from fly to hoist as red with blue eyelets, and a blue square in the center, and one has an approximation of the image that does, indeed, form hearts outlined half in blue and red, or red and blue, sequentially clockwise. The legend, in black letters, is circular in form. **CITY OF KANSAS CITY** is

arched over the upper two-thirds of the circle; **MISSOURI** is curved and centered below. The “A”s in “**KANSAS**” lack the cross-stroke, so they appear as inverted “V”s. The entire symbol is on a white field.



The city's previous flag (its third) had been adopted on 26 December 1944, apparently as a result of Mayor Gage's request to the municipal art commission to design a new flag. The commission's members were Mrs. R. J. DeLano, Jo Zach Miller III (at that time in the U.S. Army), Alfred L. Benjamin, Harry L. Wagner, Keith Martin, and

Mrs. Russell C. Comer. The flag has a blue field with a white horizontal stripe in the center; the top and bottom blue portions are 2.25 units wide and the white stripe is 1.5 units wide. Superimposed and centered on the flag is a large seal-like device (but not the city's seal of the period) with a white field and the diameter of 4.25 units.

In the circle's center is a large red heart, 2.5 units high and wide. A silhouette of a Native American on horseback, in blue, overlays most of the heart. The horse is 2 units from tail to nose; the distance from the top of the rider's head (omitting the feather) to the base of the image is 2 units. The horse and rider face the fly; the rider carries a bow and quiver, shading his eyes with one hand. The right front leg of the horse is raised slightly.

Surrounding the heart and silhouette is a blue ring; its width is 0.375 units and its overall diameter 3.25 units. Surrounding this blue ring is a white ring of a half unit in width, and an overall diameter of 4 units. Curved and centered over the top of the white ring is **KANSAS CITY**, and curved below, **MISSOURI**, all in blue in an Arial-like font. One blue star centered on each side of the ring separates the wording. The whole is enclosed in another blue ring identical to the first one, except that its diameter of 4.25 units forms the outer edge of the device. A very narrow fimbriation of white surrounds the entire circular device on the blue field. The colors (red and blue) and the proportions of the flag (10:19) were officially stated as those of the United States flag. The flag was in use until 7 January 1972.



Details of the second city flag's history are very sketchy. The flag was rediscovered in 1942 when Mayor Gage undertook his campaign for a new city flag. Evidently it had been displayed in 1936 at the dedication of the city's new municipal auditorium, and was used from time to time thereafter at that building.

In 1942 when the mayor learned of the flag, nobody knew its official status, but he sent it to the municipal art commission for its consideration (The flag apparently did not meet with the members' approval, since the commission came up with a different flag two years later). The 1936 flag is a horizontal tribar of equal blue, white, and blue stripes, and overall proportions of 2:3. The city's then-current seal appears in the center in blue.

On the hoist side of the seal is **KANSAS**, on the fly side, **CITY**, all in blue. The seal has a white ring bordered in blue around its outside. On the ring, curving from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock, is **SEAL OF KANSAS CITY**, and centered below, counterclockwise, is **MISSOURI**, all in blue. The center of the seal shows a stylized American shield, with its lower sides curved outwards and a narrow white border fimbriated on both edges in blue. The upper part is blue with 11 five-pointed white stars, 5 over 6. The rest of the field is white. Arched across the center of the field in small blue letters is **INCORPORATED**. Centered immediately below in small blue figures is **1850**. Arched immediately above the shield in the crest position is **JACKSON**, and below the shield, curved to match the curve of the seal, is **COUNTY**, all in small blue letters.



The city's first flag was officially adopted on 17 June 1913, as "the outward manifestation of civic pride due to the building of its new Union Station". The flag has a blue pen-

nant-shaped field, with proportions of 7:18. At the hoist, the city seal in blue on white occupies the entire width of the flag. On the fly side of the seal, **KANSAS CITY** appears white capitals that grow progressively smaller as they approach the pennant's point. The seal is an earlier

version than on the 1936 flag. In the white ring fimbriated in blue around the outside is **A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE** arched over the top half, in blue. In the corresponding space below is a pair of laurel branches joined at the center, in white outlined in blue. The American shield in the center of the seal has five white stars on the blue upper section above **INCORPORATED 1850**, displayed in the same fashion as the seal on the 1936 flag. However, in place of the county's name on that later seal, this one has **KANSAS** arched above and **CITY** centered below. During Mayor Gage's 1942 effort to develop a new city flag, the city clerk unearthed this flag, which had also been stored away and forgotten. When it was shown to the mayor, he declared the flag "a college boy's pennant", and rejected it out of hand. JP 