

History of the Broadview Hotel

Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview Wichita

400 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67202

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A Wichita tradition since 1922!



Construction of the historic Broadview Hotel began on September 1st, 1921. The Grand Opening took place eight months later. Built along the banks of the Arkansas River the Broadview Hotel soon became known as the premier hotel in the Midwest, and a favorite stop along the Chisholm Trail. The horse and buggy station, once located on the northwest side of the building, was the only means of public transportation to western Kansas. This enabled the Broadview to host many Wichita visitors; a tradition we still enjoy today!

In the early 1920s, the Broadview merged with the Arkansas Valley Interurban Railway Company. This merger gave the passengers of the railroad added convenience while traveling. The stone arch on the east side of the hotel is still engraved with the public notice "Freight Station." The grandeur of the Broadview's lobby is breathtaking at first glance. The unique shape, beautiful moldings, and ornamental design of the lobby immensely add to the beauty of the hotel. The ceiling, large lobby chandeliers, stairwells, and checkered floors are a few of the original relics that give the room its grand appeal.

During 1920s prohibition the basement was Wichita's only speakeasy. The speakeasy featured drinking, gambling, and a restaurant large enough to seat 600 comfortably. It has been said there were tunnels from the speakeasy under the Arkansas River where alcohol was smuggled by Delano's shoe shine boy.

In 1929 the north wing was added and in 1948 the large ground floor Crystal Ballroom was an addition to the side of the hotel. The ballroom is renowned for exquisite mosaic designed by the famous American Indian Artist – Blackbear Bosin. The theme of the mosaic is "The Advance of Civilization in Kansas" which depicts early Kansas settlers, Native Americans, wildlife and the railroad. Totalling approximately 1,500 square feet, it is the largest continual mural in Kansas and took 12 years to complete. Blackbear Bosin hired local college art students to help him complete. In 2007, the son and daughter of Blackbear Bosin visited the Broadview Hotel to see their father's masterpiece for the first time!

The promenade rooftop offered an all-around view of the city while dining and dancing into the late hours of the evening. George Siedhoff was the original owner/builder of The Broadview Hotel. After debating the possible names of "The Wichita" and "The Waco," Mrs. Siedhoff eventually decided on "The Broadview." She felt the name fitting as the hotel offered a "broad view" of the city and a continual reminder of broadness of vision her builders had for the future of Wichita.

Drury Hotels renovated the Broadview Hotel in 2011, preserving the mosaic mural in the ballroom and original elements of the lobby. The design included environmentally-friendly, sustainable enhancements that earned LEED® Green certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. During the renovation, Drury Hotels expanded the green space around the property creating a beautiful riverfront park that hosts festivals and community events in the spring and summer months.