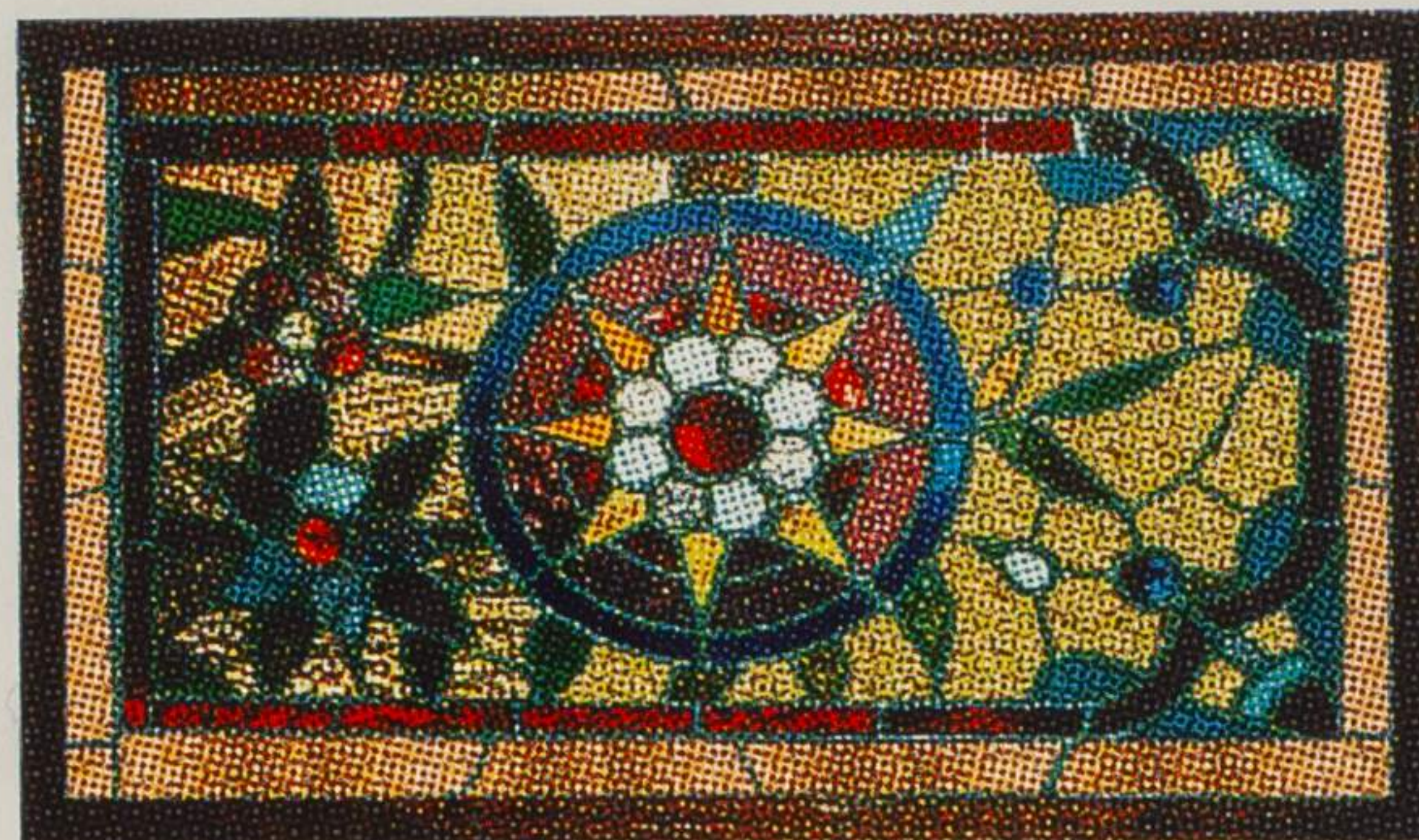


The Strawberry Hill Ethnic Cultural Society was formed in 1988 to promote, sponsor and preserve the ethnic heritage prevalent in Kansas City, Kansas. The Cultural Center is housed in the Strawberry Hill Museum.

Educational activities at the Center include classes in cooking, languages, crafts, folklore, music, dance and genealogy as well as seasonal events.

In years to come, in addition to sponsoring displays of many cultures, the Center will provide space for a Baltic -Slavic cultural and historic research center for the entire community and bring other special events and traditional ethnic programs to Strawberry Hill.



Around the turn of the century, immigrants from Eastern Europe's oldest cultures settled in areas now contained in the city of Kansas City, Kansas. More followed as the earlier immigrants, having established themselves, sponsored others so they too might gain entry to America.

First attracted by the area's agricultural life-style and the proximity of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers which join the city's edge, these immigrants relied on each other due to common customs, languages and their traditional family units. One after another small tightly-knit communities, each with a distinct ethnic influence, grew together in the area.

This heritage forms the community spirit so recognizable in Kansas City, Kansas today. The history of the city is symbolized in diverse ethnic neighborhoods' architecture and social events which contribute to the ethnic uniqueness of the city.

The Strawberry Hill area of Kansas City, Kansas is a living ethnic community. One of the most identifiable landmarks in the metropolitan area, Strawberry Hill is primarily a Croatian community, yet represents the cultural diversity of all the people who have come to, grown up in, and raised families here.



The Museum Gift Shop is open during normal museum hours and offers a variety of unique items, many of them original works of art and craftsmanship from the Baltic -Slavic countries of Europe and the Kansas City, Kansas community.

Educational programs are offered during the year at the Strawberry Hill Ethnic Cultural Center: in March there is the costumed-doll show; April is Quilt Show month; May is Artists of Strawberry Hill month; June is Arts and Crafts month; July is Special Event month; ethnic costumes are on display during August; September is Croatian Heritage month; October is Polish-American month; and during December, "Ethnic Holiday Celebration at Christmas."