


# Lawrence museums welcome World Cup visitors with art, artifacts from competing nations

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LAWRENCE, Kan. (KCTV) - Lawrence is preparing to welcome the world as the Algerian soccer team makes the city its home base during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and KU museums are marking the occasion with displays drawn from their collections.

The Spencer Museum of Art opened “Welcoming the World to Lawrence” on Tuesday, an installation featuring work from eight countries whose teams will play matches and stay in the Kansas City area.

“We’re just so excited for the opportunity that the World Cup is presenting to introduce ourselves to a whole new group of people who would maybe never visit the region otherwise,” said Ryan Waggoner, director of creative services at the Spencer Museum of Art.



The Spencer Museum of Art opened "Welcoming the World to Lawrence" on Tuesday, showcasing artwork from eight countries competing in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

## Museums highlight Algeria, other competing nations

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The exhibit includes about 30 pieces, with some spotlighting Algeria.

"We have next to me three Algerian photographs from the 1960s. These are recent acquisitions, so these just became a part of the museum's collection and we were really excited to put these on view for the first time," Waggoner said.

The Natural History Museum, located near the Spencer, opened a World Cup display built around specimens from countries competing in the tournament. Some items are being shown to the public for the first time.

"We have over 11 million and 2 million cultural artifacts within our collections and so this was just a great opportunity to showcase those specimens," said Christy Imel, assistant director of development at the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum.

## Join the Conversation

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The Natural History Museum at KU displays specimens from countries competing in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The museum's collections span more than 220 countries.

“We really wanted to show people that even though you're far from home, you can come here and see a piece of your homeland,” Imel said.

The Natural History Museum display is on view until July 26. The Spencer's exhibit runs through July 12.

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