



“Only in Lindsborg!” - It’s a phrase often uttered about Little Sweden USA. Founded by Swedish immigrants in 1868, Lindsborg emerged from an unusual blend of cultural heritage, education, visual arts, agriculture, music, theater and more than its share of independent thinkers.

It’s fitting that Lindsborg is home to the nation’s only herd of wild Dala horses. What is a Dala horse? It is perhaps Sweden’s best known icon, a bluntly rounded, tail-free horse. It is thought that the Dala were first whittled out of wood by the fire during long cold Scandinavian nights. Lindsborg adopted the Swedish folk craft Dala as a symbol of identity and welcome. You’ll see traditional Dala horses on front porches, on coffee mugs, and in the city seal.

In 2000, the first traditional Dala shape was cast in a large fiberglass form – an idea patterned after Chicago’s cows on Michigan Avenue. Each wild Dala, sponsored by local people and folks with Lindsborg connections, is unconventionally decorated by the town’s local artists. Each new horse is celebrated and welcomed to the herd with flair and style.



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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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*Hunt  
for the  
Wild Dala*



***Lindsborg,  
Kansas***

A herd roams freely  
throughout  
the town!

### Dala Räv - 505 N SECOND

This wild Dala celebrates Kansas’ four distinct seasons, each with its own beauty. A playful, curious fox (*räv* in Swedish) guides onlookers through nature’s gifts. Created by artist Deb McGaughey. Outdoors 24/7

### Dalalujah! - 421 N FIRST

Dalalujah is a note of appreciation for the musically gifted volunteers participating in the Messiah Festival making Lindsborg’s tradition of Handel’s *Messiah* the longest continual performance in North America.

### Blue Colla Dala - 215 HARRISON

This wild Dala is a workhorse. Dedicated to Smoky Valley’s working people, it stands ready to meet needs with integrity and innovation. Three rural Lindsborg residents had a hand in this: Robert and Mary Ann Johnson as sponsors and Shelly Carlson as artist. Outdoors 24/7

### O’Lucky Dala - COLE & LINCOLN

Lindsborg is fortunate; the luck of the Irish came to Lindsborg in wild Dala form. O’Lucky Dala was created by artist Shirley Malm in honor of the O’Brien family. Outdoors 24/7

### Hans Oliver - IN VIKING VALLEY AT SWENSSON PARK

Named and designed by local children, Hans Oliver features the traced outlines of children's hands and a refreshing splash of primary colors. Artist Jennifer Hopp helped the children and carried out this Dala's finishing touches. Sponsored by Lindsborg Arts Council. Outdoors 24/7

### The Old Gray Dala Mare - 116 S MAIN

The Lindsborg Senior Center wants you to know that active, interested, and good natured seniors round out this town’s herd. Artist Jennifer Hopp. Outdoors 24/7

### Spirit of Generosity - 321 N CHESTNUT

The long history and traditions of Bethany Home are on display with this wild Dala, who roams the halls of the home on a wheeled platform. Artist Shirley Malm bestowed Spirit with photographs old and new, as well as enduring symbols of the Bethany Home’s special sense of place and purpose. Sponsored in honor of Eunice Smith and her extended family.

### Kronor the Dollar Horse - 109 S MAIN

Kronor is named for the Swedish money unit, but it has the green-tinged features of a one-dollar bill. Thanks to artist Shirley Malm, a horse never looked so rich. Sponsored by Farmers State Bank. Outdoors 24/7

### The Good Knight - 106 S MAIN

This pop art Dala celebrates the rich history of chess and the presence of the International School of Chess of the Midwest in Lindsborg. Painted by artist Matthew Richter. Outdoors 24/7

### King Oscar - 134 N MAIN

Let’s all toast the social traditions of many Swedes and Swedish - Americans with a cup (or three) of coffee. Artist Shirley Malm’s design honors Lindsborg’s own brand of coffee, King Oscar. Outdoors 24/7.

### Dalamation - 201 N MAIN

Sven, a character in Scandinavian humor, rides to the rescue on a Dalmatian-spotted wild Dala horse in this piece by Ken Sjögren and Ken Swisher. What would a firefighter - or a dog - be without a hydrant? Outdoors 24/7

### Holi - Dala - 201 N MAIN

Artist and sponsor Shirley Malm treasures the holiday traditions of Lindsborg, so she created a wild Dala to celebrate community customs. From concerts to the spirit of gentle giving, the holidays in Lindsborg embody both community and Scandinavian traditions.

### Rörmokarens Vän/Plumber’s Friend - 135 N MAIN

Sponsored by grandchildren of Carl and Esther Anderson, this classically decorated Dala celebrates two traditional Swedes: Carl Anderson, a Lindsborg plumber who avoided personal timepieces but was prompt for every appointment, and Esther Anderson who whipped up treats from the kitchen with no recipe. Their grandchildren say that Mormor and Morfar Anderson "just knew." Outdoors 24/7

### Gyllene Dala - 202 N MAIN

Gyllene (Golden) Dala’s coat depicts the Bank of Tescott’s 125-plus years of rootedness in Kansas, its people, and its recognition of the value of rural places. Golden Dala reminds us of the rich Kansas landscape upon which we all call for meaning and support. Sponsored by Bank of Tescott. Outdoors 24/7

### Dancer Dala - 128 N MAIN

Lindsborg’s love of folk dancing takes center stage in this design by Shirley Malm. The Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancers (Smoky Valley High School dance troupe) tour widely, as do Lindsborg Folkdanslag (adult Swedish folk dance troupe). Sponsored by Ron and Marsha Rolander of Lindsborg. Outdoors 24/7

### Hammering Immigrants - 201 N MAIN

In honor of the Palmquist brothers and their construction company which built a number of Lindsborg’s early landmark buildings; both on Bethany College campus and around Lindsborg. Buildings featured on the horse included Old Main, Ling Auditorium, the Bethany Church altar, and the homes of the Palmquist brothers. Outdoors 24/7

### Hello, Dala! - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN

Lindsborg’s outdoor theater troupe, Broadway RFD, celebrates more than five decades of productions. This Dala honors the many people who helped found and nurture this tradition. Hello Dala! is sponsored by Friends of RFD and painted by Gretchen Elliott of Lindsborg. Outdoors 24/7

### Herd It Through the Grapevine - 114 S MAIN

For the Lindsborg News-Record, where ears are always open, Shirley Malm wound grapes and vines around this wild Dala. Miss Anna C., named for a former editor, sports a classy touch of gold ribbon. Sponsored by Montgomery Communications. Outdoors 24/7

### Yankee Doodle Dala - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN

Both U.S. and Swedish flags fly high as this wild Dala horse sponsored by Duane & Kally Tuttle marches onto the scene. The design by Dan Gottneid makes you want to salute. Outdoors 24/7

### Blossom - 103 N MAIN

Artist Jennifer Hopp richly bestowed Blossom with flowers, a traditional symbol of Midsummer’s Day. Flowers are fashioned into crowns called blomkrans, both in Lindsborg and Sweden. Sponsored by the Lindsborg Arts Council. Outdoors 24/7

### Fala the Dala Brick Road - NEAR MAIN & LINCOLN

This wild Dala horse recognizes Lindsborg’s brick streets, first hand-laid almost a century ago and saved from asphaltting in 1967. Created by artist Kathy Peterson and sponsored by the City of Lindsborg, Fala proudly bears street utility covers. Outdoors 24/7

### Dalahippus Lindsborgensis - 121 W LINCOLN

Said to be unearthed from the foot of Coronado Heights north of Lindsborg, the Dalahippus is proof that Dala horses are native to the Kansas plains, not Sweden. Thanks to artist Lee Becker, Tyrannosaurus Rex has nothing on Lindsborg’s most famous fossil. Outdoors 24/7

### The Freemount Filly - 113 N MAIN

Native Americans peered in the windows during the first service conducted at Freemount Lutheran Church in Fremont, just a few miles southwest of Lindsborg. Sponsors Verne and Nancy Lundquist commissioned this wild Dala by artist Eldon Swensson in honor of the Lundquist’s pioneer family. Outdoors 24/7

### Ambasadala - 111 S MAIN

As word spread of Lindsborg’s unusual herd, the town sponsored Ambasadala, a roaming horse to carry greetings regionally and nationally. Artist Shirley Malm even gave Ambasadala an official medallion to certify his ambassadorial status. Inside the Lindsborg Community Library.

### Uppsala Dala Airways - 111 S MAIN

It’s the perfect way to fly: Uppsala Dala goes anywhere your imagination takes you! Thanks to some friends of designer Gene Holdsworth, Lindsborg has its own memorable air service. Inside the Lindsborg Community Library.

### Millie Gram - 216 N HARRISON

Sponsored by AuBurn Pharmacy, and painted a deep blue with traditional Swedish floral designs, this Dala sports a name with an intentional pun on “milligram,” a common term in pharmacy work. Outdoors 24/7

### Tryggare the Dala Häst Päst - MAIN & OLSSON

The Carlson Family released this wild Dala to celebrate the lives of all Augustana-trained Lutheran ministers, particularly those of the late bothers Rev. Elmore Carlson and Rev. Perry Carlson. Artist Lee Becker created the image of an old-fashioned minister. Outdoors 24/7

### Rani Dala - 446 N HARRISON

Celebrating strong women like Rani of Jhansi, who helped lead the people of India to independence. Sponsored by the Bhakta family in memory of Shivany Bhakta. Artist Riley Ahlstedt.

### Salvador Dala - 126 S MAIN

The Painting and Design Class of Smoky Valley High School created this clever send up of surrealist artist Salvador Dali. Love those flying cows! Sponsored by the Hodges Family in memory of former school board member Dr. Melissa Ann Hodges. Outdoors 24/7

### Queen Katarina Ditto - 201 S MAIN

Queen Katarina is the mother of all Lindsborg’s wild Dala horses. Carved in solid wood and decorated by craftsmen at the Hemslöjd, the Queen helped create the mold for other wild Dalas. Inside Peoples Bank & Trust 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Thursday / 8:30am-5:00pm, Friday / 8:30am –12pm, Saturday.

### The Methodist Mare - 224 S MAIN

Methodism’s founder, Rev. John Wesley, rode 250,000 miles on a horse as a circuit-riding minister. His brother Charles composed many Christian hymns. Local artist Maleta Forsberg acknowledged both men in sponsoring and decorating a horse for Trinity United Methodist Church. Outdoors 24/7

### Bethania Blanka - 320 N MAIN

Painted by Rose Marie Wallen, Bethania Blanka represents Bethany’s historic congregation symbolized by images of the 1869 pioneer church and the present church. Outdoors 24/7

### Hingst Ledare (Stallion Leader) - 118 N MAIN

Painted by artist Shirley Malm, Hingst Ledare features stylized paintings that pictorially tell the history of the First Bank Kansas building and the farming heritage of the first settlers of the Smoky Valley. Sponsored by First Bank Kansas. Outdoors 24/7

### Legacy - 102 N MAIN

Researched and painted by well-regarded Swedish kurbit painter Carla J Griffith’s Wilson, Legacy commemorates just a few of the many significant people and places of Lindsborg's first 150 years. Emulating the Americana crazy quilt pattern, one side of Legacy features community representations from 1869 - 1944 and the other side covers the years 1945 - 2019. (Pro-tip: Be sure to thoroughly search Legacy for a Sven and Ole joke.) Outdoors 24/7

### Lullaby - 112 W Lincoln

In April, baby Lullaby joined the herd. In the care of Dröm Sött Inn, she rests close to home at 112 W Lincoln Street. "Trained" by Ken Sjogren and "groomed" by Angeline Collier, you'll love this sweet new addition to the herd.

### Sol Foal, a Midsummers Dala - Roving Location

Nick-named “Sol Foal,” with a nod to the summer solstice, this Dala was painted with the colors of the rainbow, two thumbprints at a time, on June 15, 2019 at Lindsborg’s Midsummer’s Festival.

### Rockar Stockar - 335 E SWENSSON

Located on the lower level of Pihlblad Student Union on the Bethany College campus. Painted by Ken Sjogren. Sponsored by Bethany Senior Class.