

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

November 9, 2005
Room 519-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Deena Horst, Chairperson
Senator Peggy Palmer, Vice Chairperson
Senator Marci Francisco
Senator Jean Schodorf
Representative Delia Garcia
Representative Lana Gordon
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff
Representative Candy Ruff

Staff Present

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office

Conferees

Chris Howell, Kansas Arts Commission
Dr. Mikhail Korenman, Director of the Karpov International School for Chess
Ellen Morgan, Executive Director of the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas
Don Steele, Director, The Depot Theater Company, Dodge City, Kansas
Marion Cott, Executive Director, Kansas Humanities Council
Peter Jasso, Director, Kansas Film Commission
Joyce Huser, Fine Arts Consultant, State Department of Education
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
Becky Blake, Director, Travel and Tourism
Richard Smalley, Marketing Director, Travel and Tourism

Chairperson Horst opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members. *She asked for approval of Committee minutes for October 4-5, 2005. The Committee approved the minutes.* Chairperson Horst called on Chris Howell, Acting Interim Director of the Kansas Arts Commission (KAC).

Chris Howell, Kansas Arts Commission, reviewed for the Committee the following: staff changes; grant guideline changes and strategic planning issues; the agency budget; comparative national statistics; and new national arts programs (Attachment 1). With regard to staff changes, the Acting Interim Director said that during the fall of 2005, the Executive Director and Publications Writer

both resigned. He said that the position of the Executive Director was expected to be filled by May 2006 and the position of Publications Writer was being reviewed. On another issue, the Acting Interim Director said that the KAC has implemented changes to grant guidelines. He also said that the agency's current long-range plan was extended from December 2005 to December 2006.

With regard to budget issues, Acting Interim Director Howell said the FY 2006 revised budget estimate totaled \$2,215,925. He stated that for FY 2007, the budget request was \$2,216,390. This included two enhancement requests of \$143,314 from the State General Fund.

Mr. Howell also updated the Committee on federal funding. He noted that:

- The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funds awarded to the KAC was anticipated to remain level at \$548,000 in FY 2006 and FY 2007;
- The additional \$134,870 NEA funds available to KAC for grant programs expenses in FY 2005 would be carried forward to FY 2006;
- KAC did not anticipate any federal funds to be available for carryover from FY 2006 to FY 2007;
- The Division of the Budget had issued a Reduced Resource Target for the KAC of \$76,248 and if implemented in FY 2007, it would represent a 5 percent cut from the FY 2006 State General Fund appropriations; and
- The agency had requested an enhancement totaling \$129,314 from the State General Fund to augment grant programs to make up for federal funds that will not be available to be carried forward from FY 2006 to FY 2007.

On related matters, the Acting Interim Director said that the KAC would like to conduct an economic impact study of the arts. He said that the study would cost \$14,000 from the State General Fund.

Chairperson Horst next called on the Director of the Karpov International School for Chess, Dr. Mikhail Korenman ([Attachment 2](#)). Dr. Korenman explained that this program is held in Lindsborg, Kansas, and its purpose is to establish long-term relationships between young people around the globe by using chess to promote mutual understanding of shared problems. He said that during the summer of 2005, organizers arranged for students 14 years old and older to play other students around the world through the Internet. He said the events will conclude with an international Chess for Peace Festival in June 2006.

The next conferee was Ellen Morgan, Executive Director of the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas ([Attachment 3](#)). Ms. Morgan appeared before the Committee to provide information about this organization. She said the organization has:

- Conducted 45 one-on-one visits with arts organizations across the state;
- Responded to approximately 1,500 telephone and e-mail requests for technical assistance;
- Facilitated board retreats and consulted on projects with ten Kansas arts organizations;

- Conducted ten workshops on a variety of topics, including grant writing, exhibition development, and website and other technical assistance matters;
- Produced two issues of *The Grapevine* newsletter for about 3,000 recipients; and
- Produced 12 editions of *Update*, a technical newsletter.

Ms. Morgan was followed by Don Steele, Director, The Depot Theater Company, Dodge City, Kansas (Attachment 4). Director Steele noted that the Theater recently completed an \$11 million renovation of the Santa Fe Depot. He said the Company has received operating support from the Kansas Arts Commission of about \$8,000 annually, or about 2 percent of its budget. In addition, it received two technical support grants to complete the project. He said that a thriving arts community makes it more attractive to professionals and their families. He also said that arts are becoming a form of economic development in rural areas. The Director concluded by saying that many rural schools continue to experience dwindling arts programs and, as a result, local arts agencies continue to pick up the slack.

The next conferee was Marion Cott, Executive Director, Kansas Humanities Council (Attachment 5). Among other things, she explained that the Council's FY 2007 funding request was for \$81,830. Of this amount, \$16,830 went to the Heritage Program grants to provide help to local historical societies, museums, and similar cultural organizations. The other amount of \$65,000 went to the Humanities Resource Center, to the Chautauqua, and to the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit. The Executive Director also stated that the Council requested \$70,000 from the State General Fund for enhancement funds to be used for community history grants.

The Chairperson next called on Peter Jasso, Director, Kansas Film Commission (Attachment 6). He briefed the Committee on the agency's activities. Specifically, he noted that:

- The Kansas Film Commission is funded entirely by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund and funds two full-time positions;
- The FY 2006 budget was \$217,539;
- During FY 2005, film production dollars spent in Kansas totaled an estimated \$12.6 million;
- On March 19, 2005, the Commission hosted the first Annual Kansas Film Industry Summit; and
- The Governor has created a Task Force to assess the ideas of the Summit and to formulate a strategic plan to coordinate the concerns of the industry.

The next conferee was Joyce Huser, Fine Arts Consultant, State Department of Education (Attachment 7). Ms. Huser addressed the following issues: new state standards relating to the fine arts; the No Child Left Behind law and its effects on arts education; the emphasis and time given to math and science at the expense of the arts; and the importance of the arts in the schools.

With regard to recent developments in the arts, Ms. Huser said that Kansas now has standards for each of the four fine arts disciplines. She said that in January 2004, the State Board of Education approved standards developed for dance and theater. On the No Child Left Behind law, Ms. Huser noted that it had adversely impacted the fine arts in the schools by placing more emphasis

on reading and math. She also cited problems in finding art teachers. Ms. Huser said some school administrators informed her that they cannot find art teachers. Arts programs also are threatened by lack of funding in most, if not all, school districts. She said that for some districts this means additional teachers cannot be hired. Ms. Huser noted that the new graduation requirements have caused some districts to move elementary or middle school art teachers to teach grades 7-12 or 9-12.

Ms. Huser also stressed the importance of a well rounded education. She cited research that indicates students who are involved in the arts attend school more regularly and are less likely to drop out or commit criminal acts. Ms. Huser further stated that these students also score higher on standardized tests. She also informed the Committee about the "Sentenced to the Arts" project in Kansas City, Missouri. This program provides innovative art education and expressive therapy to adjudicated youths. According to Ms. Huser, the program has resulted in a dramatic drop in court referrals. Ms. Huser further indicated that involvement in the fine arts is a positive factor for business students. She concluded by stating that at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the arts have helped students to think more creatively and approach problems in a more flexible manner.

The next presenter of the day was Jennie Chinn, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society ([Attachment 8](#)). Ms. Chinn provided background information about the agency and its activities. She also discussed budget issues and plans for the future. She said, among other things, that the agency has published a middle school Kansas history textbook. The Society also continues to collect important documents and artifacts that reflect the state's diverse history. It also has worked with communities to list 53 additional properties in the *National Register of Historic Places*; rehabilitated the William Allen White State Historic Site at Emporia; and coordinated the state's Territorial Sesquicentennial celebration.

On budget and funding matters, Ms. Chinn said that the Society:

- Is funded through the State General Fund;
- Has instituted user fees for some programs;
- Has entered into partnerships with four of the state's historic sites;
- Has worked to raise non-state funds to address program needs;
- Was informed that 10.0 percent of its federal funds for historic preservation will be held back in anticipation of across-the-board federal cuts to pay for the recovery efforts associated with hurricane Katrina;
- Has been forced to set the thermostats at 68 degrees in its buildings; and
- Has been forced to postpone maintenance and repairs on all its buildings.

As to the agency's future, Ms. Chinn said that in 2006, the East Building of Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site will reopen to the public with new exhibits. In addition, the Grinter Place Historic Site in Kansas City will be rehabilitated; the new exhibit, "Blazing Guns & Rugged Heroes: Kansans in the Westerns," will open at the museum; the agency will complete and distribute additional curriculum material to schools on Kansas history; the agency will assist in completing a large number of oral histories of World War II veterans through a grant funded by the 2005 Legislature; and the Society hopes to celebrate the placing of 1,000 Kansas historic properties in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Following the presentation of Ms. Chinn, Chairperson Horst called on Becky Blake, Director, Travel and Tourism, and Richard Smalley, Marketing Director, Travel and Tourism (Attachment 9).

These conferees were asked to appear before the Committee to present information on the agency's website. The information provided included data on users; the task of a website developer; highlights of the new website; customer relationship management responsibilities; and other enhancements to the website and database. Among the website enhancements the conferees noted were: interactive maps, highway maps, a mileage finder, road conditions, weather information, search in the geographic vicinity, travel tips, family/kids content, things to do, places to stay, pet-friendly destinations, and site search.

Following the testimony of conferees, the Chairperson asked for recommendations for the Committee report. The Committee agreed to:

- Provide legislative incentives to the film industry;
- Support grant programs legislation regarding the preservation of experiences of former Kansas legislators through an oral history program;
- Consider the impact of federal funds reduction of the National Endowment for the Arts on local arts programs;
- Support the necessary funds to the Kansas State Historical Society so it can maintain its building;
- Support and encourage the task force created by the Governor to promote the Kansas film industry;
- Urge the creation of a Department of Tourism;
- Urge all agencies that have a role in the arts, humanities, culture, and tourism to join and use websites to promote the state; and
- Urge state agencies to work closely with local communities to ensure that their websites and other promotional information are kept current.

The Committee agreed that the report would be sent to members for any suggested changes. The Committee would have a certain number of days to review the report and if no changes were suggested, the report would be considered approved. The Chairperson then adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by Hank Avila

Approved by Committee on:

April 12, 2006

(date)