

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

November 18-19, 2004  
Emporia and Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

#### Members Present

Senator Jean Schodorf, Chairperson  
Senator Les Donovan (first day a.m.)  
Senator Chris Steineger  
Representative Ruby Gilbert  
Representative Lana Gordon  
Representative Deena Horst  
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff

#### Members Absent

Senator Jay Emler  
Senator Henry Helgeson  
Representative Candy Ruff

#### November 18

#### Meeting at Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention Visitors Bureau, 719 Commercial Street, Emporia

The meeting of the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources began at 10:00 a.m. on November 18 at the Emporia Chamber of Commerce. The Committee was welcomed by the Emporia Arts Council (EAC) Board Secretary, Blaise Plummer, and the EAC Executive Director, Catherine Rickbone. Ms. Rickbone referred the Committee to the day's itinerary and introduced the EAC Business/Marketing Manager, Jaime McCoy.

Afterwards, Chairperson Schodorf asked Committee members and staff to introduce themselves. Following the introductions, the Chairperson asked for approval of the August 9, 2004 minutes. *Representative Deena Horst moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Les Donovan. The motion to approve the minutes passed.*

The Committee turned its attention to recommendations for the Committee report. It agreed to include in the report the Kansas Arts Commission's (KAC) response to concerns expressed by the Senate Ways and Means subcommittee during the 2004 Session about the KAC's grant process. In a letter dated March 8, 2004, the subcommittee asked the KAC to review its grant award process in order to ensure that grants were not being awarded to the same recipients year after year. At the

August meeting, Dave Wilson, Executive Director of the KAC, presented testimony that indicated that the agency's grants were distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The Committee also agreed to express its support for the programs and funding of various arts and humanities groups.

Following Committee business, Catherine Rickbone introduced Elaine Henry, Chair, Emporia State University (ESU), Department of Art. Professor Henry discussed the growth of the Art Department at ESU, noting among other things that since 1996 the number of art majors has increased by 100 percent ([Attachment 1](#)). She also said that in 2004, ESU achieved accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. This accreditation, however, is contingent upon improvement and enlargement of the University's facilities. Professor Henry stated that ESU has responded by creating a "Department of Art Facilities Enhancement Fund." She told the Committee that the Department could not continue to grow and flourish without the addition of at least two full-time tenure track positions.

Professor Henry next turned her attention to the relationship between the Department of Art at ESU and the Kansas community college system. She told the Committee that the preparedness of transfer students from most community colleges continues to pose a problem, because community colleges offer upper division courses that are not transferable to a four-year institution. She added that if these student transfers continue, issues of quality and course levels must be addressed.

Finally, Professor Henry addressed the sweeping of funds from ESU Department of Art restricted accounts. During the 2004 Session, the Governor had recommended that revenue be swept from the accounts of universities in Kansas to the State General Fund. The Legislature, however, left it to universities to decide which accounts would be swept. Professor Henry explained that in the fall of 2004, the Art Department of ESU lost \$2,732.15 from donor-restricted accounts. She further explained that these funds were collected from students to provide them with the needed clay, glass, wood, metal, and other supplies to fulfill the required assignments. She said that one faculty member spends his Saturdays in the fall making glass items for sale in order to bring in artists and purchase equipment for the Department. It was noted that the Department does not have the means to compensate for this loss of funding.

The next conferee was Dr. Bryan Grove, an ESU Art Education Professor ([Attachment 2](#)). Professor Grove discussed the issues of expected retirement of public teachers in Kansas. He explained that the Kansas State Board of Education announced that an estimated 35.0 percent of the Kansas teaching work force would retire within five years. He indicated that to ensure that strong arts education programs are part of the core academic subjects, Kansas schools must build upon the strong support the arts have in the Kansas Legislature, the Board of Education, and Department of Education. He also urged an adequate funding of public education.

On the issue of the No Child Left Behind Act, Professor Grove said that the challenge facing Kansas' school districts will be how to assess their schools' performances to meet the Act's requirements. Dr. Grove expressed concern that emphasis on English and math will mean less emphasis on art, music, and history. He urged assessment of student achievement that measures the whole range of human intelligence.

The next conferee of the morning was Nancy Slater, an ESU Art Therapy Professor ([Attachment 3](#)). Dr. Slater distributed information about Art Therapy which described the profession and the requirements for a Masters Degree in Art Therapy. She noted, among other things, that art therapy combines tools and theories in fine art and theories of creativity with tools and theories in psychology. She also said that art therapy differs from art as play and fine art in that the emphasis is more on the process of art making than on the final product. Accordingly, to Dr. Slater, art therapy combines skills in counseling and psychotherapy with skills in visual art for the intent of facilitating psychological, emotional, and behavioral change and spiritual growth.

The next conferee was Cecil McKenzie, an Emporia Arts Council Board member and glass artist ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. McKenzie discussed the affordability of health insurance as it pertains to artists. He said that he and his wife have tried to stay informed about health insurance offerings but that plan deductibles are cost prohibitive. He cited various examples of increases in health insurance plans and noted that these trends continue while their income continues to drop. He also said that his appointments with the doctor scheduled towards the end of the year are often postponed until the next year's insurance deductibles.

The final conferees of the morning session were Mary Helmer, Executive Director, Emporia Main Street, and Liz Martell, Director, Emporia Convention & Visitors Bureau ([Attachment 5](#)). Ms. Helmer provided the Committee with information about the benefits of a Cultural Arts Resource District created in Eureka, California. According to the information she provided, the City of Eureka concluded that the arts and cultural tourism represent real potentials for economic growth. Eureka has continued to consolidate the arts with various projects ([Attachment 6](#)). The other conferee, Liz Martell, provided the Committee with statistics associated with the arts. Among other things, the information stated that the arts generate a significant number of full-time jobs, increase household incomes, and add to local, state, and federal revenues.

Following this testimony, the Committee broke for lunch.

### **Afternoon Session**

The Committee reconvened at the Granada Theatre, 805 Commercial Street. At this venue, the Committee was greeted by Dr. Duane Henrikson, Chairman of the Campaign Leadership Committee. He informed the Committee that the theatre was constructed in 1929 at a cost of \$350,000. The theatre served as a social gathering point for seven decades before it was closed in the early 1980s. According to Dr. Henrikson, the Emporia Granada Theatre Alliance acquired the building and, in the first four years, completed more than \$550,000 in exterior renovations. It was noted that more than 1,100 donors gave more than \$2.8 million to make renovation possible.

The next tour site for the Committee was Emporia High School, where the Committee was greeted by the high school principal. They were entertained by the high school band and choir. Following these presentations, the Committee visited the school's art department. The department includes a glass blowing class with the facilities to create various glass works of art. The Committee also discussed the importance of the arts with local arts teachers and other school personnel. The Committee then departed for the Emporia Arts Center where they watched a power point presentation on the activities of the Emporia Arts Council. Among the programs of the Council is project QUEST. This program is a federally funded program that helps provide opportunities for students in grades one through eight. The project addresses the needs of students at risk of educational failure and provides them with appropriate activities to assist them in becoming responsible community members. This is the final year of federal funding for the program.

Following the presentation, the Committee visited the Euphoria Art Gallery, where it viewed the works of various artists. The Committee then traveled for a dinner at Cottonwood Falls.

**November 19, 2004**

## Cottonwood Falls

The Committee began its tour at the Flint Hills Gallery, where they were greeted by the proprietors, Kenneth and Judith Mackey. The Committee viewed various art works and discussed the works with local artists. The Committee then walked to the Chase County Courthouse, where it was given a guided tour. The Courthouse holds the distinction of being the oldest operating courthouse in the state. According to the tour guide, the Courthouse was left open until 1959 when someone walked in and stole some property. The structure also holds an old jail cell, which is no longer in use.

The next venue of the Committee tour was the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TPNP) located about two miles north of Strong City, Kansas, on Highway 177. At this site, a park ranger guided the Committee through the local barns and chicken coop. The members and staff were then escorted by the Park Ranger on a bus tour of the Preserve. Along the way, the Ranger explained the different types of grasses and habitat. The Preserve is being preserved as a critical resource for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Once the hunting grounds of the Kansa and Osage Indians, the hills and prairie streams are home to a variety of wildlife. It was noted that over 400 species of plants, 150 kinds of birds, 30 types of reptiles and amphibians, and 31 species of mammals can be found on the Preserve. The Committee concluded its 2004 tour with a tour of the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch. The home was built with hand-cut native limestone in the early 1880s by Stephen F. Jones. In February 1997, the ranch was designated a National Historic Landmark.

After the tour of the ranch, the Committee adjourned.

Prepared by Hank Avila  
Edited by Michele Alishahi

Approved by Committee on:

December 10, 2004  
(date)