



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION BUDGET  
March 8, 2012  
Sarah Fizell, Kansas Citizens for the Arts**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of H.B. 2766. I am Sarah Fizell, and I represent the Kansas Citizens for the Arts, an advocacy organization reaching more than 7,000 Kansans who support public funding for the arts in Kansas. I will not rehash the sentiments of other conferees this morning, as they have made the significant impact of the arts in our communities abundantly clear. A functional state arts agency along with adequate arts funding is required to maintain this level of success in Kansas. We understand that you face many difficult tasks this session. We hope that you will see this as an opportunity to support economic development and jobs in all of our communities – to bolster the economy and the quality of life across this great state.

Kansas Citizens for the Arts supports H.B. 2766 under three conditions:

- 1) Appropriate funding must be provided for the new state arts agency;
- 2) The board of the new agency must reflect the interests of all Kansans; and
- 3) The agency must have qualified, professional staff.

**PREVIOUS STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION TO THE KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION**

Below you will find the state general fund appropriation to the Kansas Arts Commission. These numbers do not include available federal matching dollars or other dollars.

FY 2012	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
\$0*	\$781,290	\$1,137,624	\$1,468,764	\$1,658,614	\$1,548,312	\$1,496,802	\$1,481,857

\*A FY12 SGF appropriation of \$689,00 was approved by the legislature and subsequently vetoed by the Governor.

**FEDERAL MATCHING FUND ELIGIBILITY**

I understand that the discussion today is not about funding, but we feel that the funding discussion is one that the following table will help you to understand what funds will and will not be considered to be eligible for federal matching dollars. We hope that this guidance is helpful to you as the budget debate begins.

TYPE OF FUNDING	ELIGIBLE FOR MATCH	<u>MAY</u> BE ELIGIBLE FOR MATCH	<u>NOT ELIGIBLE</u> FOR MATCH
State General Fund Dollars	X		
Economic Development Initiative Fund (EDIF) Dollars	X		
Distinctive License Plate Revenue		X	
Tax Checkoff Revenue		X	
Private Donations			X

In closing, I want to draw your attention to the written testimony of those who could not be here today. The National Academy of State Arts Agencies has submitted testimony that delineates how other states have handled a similar situation. Testimony from the Americans for the Arts discusses the statewide and national economic impact of the arts. The testimony offered by John Cinka on behalf of the Junction City Arts Council is an example of how the impact of the arts can be proven time and time again. The information presented by Emily Hunter of the Symphony in the Flint Hills reflects an astounding economic impact of arts – and the power of public funding for those efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. I will stand for questions.

***Please contact the Kansas Citizens for the Arts at any time if you have questions about arts funding, the history of the Kansas Arts Commission, matching dollars or any other arts-related issue. We would be happy to provide you with any information we can. Thank you for your time and service to the great state of Kansas!***

***Kansas Citizens for the Arts***  
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