

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

November 26, 2001
Room 519-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff, Chairperson
Senator Les Donovan
Senator Paul Feleciano, Jr.
Senator Sandy Praeger
Senator Chris Steineger
Representative Lana Gordon
Representative Deena Horst
Representative Candy Ruff

Members Absent

Senator Jean Schodorf, Vice Chairperson
Representative Ruby Gilbert

Staff Present

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office

Chairperson Pottorff called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. She called for approval of the July 16, and September 4-5, 2001 Committee minutes. *Senator Steineger moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Representative Ruff, the minutes were approved.* Chairperson Pottorff indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to review agency budget and funding requests, receive testimony on the activities of the Kansas Film Commission, discuss the Kansas Legislative History Project, and make recommendations for the Committee report.

Chairperson Pottorff called on Dave Wilson, Executive Director, Kansas Arts Commission (KAC), to discuss funding issues of the agency. Mr. Wilson passed out three documents (Attachments 1, 2, and 3). The document entitled "Investing in Our Cultural Life"

is a statewide plan to enhance the arts and humanities in Kansas, while the second document outlines KAC budget requests for FY 2003. Mr. Wilson also passed out a copy of a proposed bill which would provide funding from the Gaming Revenues Fund to the KAC and the Kansas Humanities Council (KHC). Mr. Wilson expressed concern that the Budget Division recommended a 4 percent cut or \$66,000 from KAC's grant program. He also indicated that these cuts would affect private matching money. Mr. Wilson's FY 2003 funding requests include \$385,725 for KAC's arts and cultural programs; \$45,000 on behalf of the Lewis and Clark Commission; and a proposed bill which would transfer money from the Gaming Revenues Fund to the KAC and KHC. The bill would provide the KAC with \$1 million on July 1, 2002, \$2 million on July 1, 2003, and \$3 million on July 1, 2004 and each July 1 thereafter. He also said the bill would provide the KHC with \$300,000 on July 1, 2002, \$600,000 on July 1, 2003, and \$1 million on July 1, 2004 and each July 1 thereafter. Mr. Wilson indicated that these funding sources would move Kansas from 40th to 13th among the states in terms of per capita spending for the arts.

Marion Cott, Executive Director, Kansas Humanities Council, was the next conferee. She discussed the Kansas Chautauqua "Bleeding Kansas, Where the Civil War Began," a festival created by the KHC to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Territory (Attachments 4 and 5). The event is planned for June 2004 and will occur in Junction City, Colby, Fort Scott, and Lawrence. Ms. Cott said the anniversary deserves support because its goals are compatible with the state's desire to encourage tourism and promote a positive image of the state. Ms. Cott also requested \$100,000 for FY 2003 for public humanities programs and expressed support for the bill proposed by the KAC (Attachments 6).

The Chairperson called on Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS). The first issue Dr. Powers discussed was the Lewis and Clark Commission. He explained that the Commission was established on March 28, 2001 to review the travels of the Lewis and Clark expedition through Kansas and the role the expedition played in expanding the nation. He added that the Commission will make recommendations to the Governor on ways the state can participate in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration. On the matter of funding, Dr. Powers stated that because the order did not create an agency to receive funds the KAC and the KSHS will request funds on behalf of the Commission.

Dr. Powers next discussed the mural of the First Colored Infantry Regiment which is to be placed in the Capitol. He suggested that the decision on its location be delayed until restoration and improvements to the Capitol are completed (Attachment 7). He also discussed the legislation which authorized the KSHS to receive and restore the William Allen White house in Emporia, Kansas. Dr. Powers expressed concern about a provision in the new law which prohibits KSHS from spending State General Funds on the property and asked the Committee to support an amendment to remove this provision. He indicated that the amendment is needed to allow KSHS to make needed repairs on the property and to safeguard the agency against liability issues.

Dr. Powers also addressed concerns relating to the Free State Capitol noting that there is no absolute certainty of the actual location of the building. He said a 1987 study concluded that the location was actually next to the existing site. It was also noted that a need exists to get these kind of buildings on the register for preservation purposes. In terms of KSHS's budget requests, Dr. Powers is asking for a supplemental appropriation of

\$100,000 for FY 2001 to meet projected shortfalls in salaries of the agency. He also requested \$100,000 for FY 2003 for the same purpose (Attachment 8).

On other matters Dr. Powers said that:

- If materials and programs to teach Kansas history in the schools are not funded by the State Board of Education, KSHS will develop the material;
- There exists a need to conduct an economic impact study of KSHS and the Department of Wildlife and Parks;
- KSHS historical programs and facilities are static or in a declining state;
- KSHS is considering using marketing strategies to upgrade programs and facilities;
- In 2000, KSHS experienced a 50 percent increase in visitors; and
- Internet use of the KSHS web site went up by 44 percent over the past year.

The Chair recognized Representative Candy Ruff to explain the proposed Kansas Legislative History Project. Representative Ruff explained that the project will bring together information about the Kansas Legislature and make it available on-line and in an interactive computer program easily accessed by visitors to the newly restored Captiol. She also indicated that oral histories will be compiled of present and former legislators and key legislative staff, and that legislators will be encouraged to donate their relevant papers to either their local libraries or the KSHS. Representative Ruff indicated that this material will be gathered to provide a record of the Kansas Legislature for future historic and research purposes (Attachment 9).

The Chairperson next called on Deb Anderson, Director, Kansas Film Commission, who was invited by the Committee to discuss the importance of the film industry in Kansas (Attachment 10). Ms. Anderson specifically noted that:

- Film making is a labor intensive industry with high paying jobs;
- Television production and independent feature production are primary groups that choose Kansas as a filming location;
- Over the last 15 years, more than \$84 million was spent in Kansas by out-of-state film companies;
- Local film companies have grown from a \$1 million industry in 1987 to \$11 million in 2000, and \$8.9 million in 2001;
- Every state has a film commission and there are 135 United States city film commissions and 61 foreign film commissions;

- In recent years more states have been initiating tax incentives to lure film makers to their states; and
- Over the past years, the United States has experienced an increase in runaway production to Canada.

Ms. Anderson also cited several factors which strengthen the film infrastructure. They include:

- Providing educational opportunities for Kansas students to learn about film production, marketing, and distribution;
- Encouraging statewide partnerships with agencies and organizations;
- Increasing promotion, support, and visibility of emerging and established Kansas film makers;
- Offering financial and business incentives to attract film makers to Kansas; and
- Promoting film education to legislators, state agencies, and the general public.

Following Ms. Anderson's testimony, Chairperson Pottorff opened the meeting to discussion of recommendations for the Committee report. The Committee recommended the following:

Kansas Legislative History Project. The Committee recommends a bill to establish the Joint Committee on the Kansas Legislative History Project. The Committee would be comprised of five Senators and five Representatives and would study enhancements to the Kansas legislators web directory, including a feasibility study to determine the need for and cost to implement and maintain the directory. The Committee also would study ways to document the work of the Kansas Legislature, including the development of an oral legislative history project and identify, preserve, and make available records of the Kansas Legislature and individual legislators. Committee related expenses would be paid from appropriations for legislative expenses and vouchers of Legislative Administrative Services and approved by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Legislative Coordinating Council. The bill would sunset on July 1, 2007.

Commemorative Coin Design Act. The Committee recommends that the next Governor address the selection process in matters relating to the design of the coin and recommends that the role of the United States' Mint in this matter be further explored.

Budget and Funding Recommendations. The Committee concurs with the budget and funding recommendations of the KAC, the KHC, and KSHS.

William Allen White Restoration Project. The Committee makes no recommendation on the KSHS request to spend State General Fund moneys on the William Allen White house project.

First Colored Infantry Regiment Mural. The Committee recommends that the decision on the placement of the mural honoring the First Colored Infantry Regiment be delayed until the restoration of the Capitol is completed. It also proposes a bill to transfer the implementation authority of the mural from KSHS and the Department of Administration to the Capitol Restoration Commission.

Kansas Film Commission. The Committee strongly supports the Kansas Film Commissions works and acknowledges the substantial economy contribution of the film industry in Kansas.

Committee Tour. The Committee highly praises the sites it toured in Independence and Coffeyville. It also commends the Fredonia Arts Council for bringing arts and cultural activities to the citizens and students in the Fredonia area.

Following these recommendations, the Committee thanked Dr. Powers for his leadership of the KSHS for the last 14 years. The Committee wishes him the best in the future.

The Committee then adjourned.

Prepared by Audrey Nogle
Edited by Hank Avila

Approved by Committee on:

December 28, 2001