

EXCHANGE

Kansas Museums Association

Preserving & Promoting History - Art - Science for Kansas Communities

eNewsletter

February 18, 2011

Greetings!

The Kansas Museums Association Board of Directors endorsed support for the preservation of the Kansas Arts Commission as a state agency, receiving state funding. The following letter was sent to Governor Brownback.

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Brownback:

I am writing this letter, as the president of Kansas Museums Association, to encourage you to reconsider your position to eliminate the Kansas Arts Commission as a state agency.

Kansas Museums Association represents art museums in the largest to the smallest communities, many of them bringing arts programming to underserved areas and populations. The funding for much of this programming comes through the Kansas Arts Commission.

Any projected savings will be more than offset by the loss of funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-America Arts Alliance. The proposed savings of \$574,000 will lose over \$1,000,000 in funding from organizations upstream. Receiving nearly \$2.00 for every dollar spent is a good return rate financially to keep many of the nearly 4,000 full-time equivalent arts related jobs now existing in Kansas and to continue to provide a quality of life experience to draw new businesses to Kansas.

The role of art in society is crucial to understanding where we have come from, where we are and where we are going. ["All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom."](#) Please heed this quote from Albert Einstein, and recognize the importance of art in our Kansas communities, while reconsidering the fate of the Kansas Arts Commission.

Sincerely,
Katie Herrick, President
Kansas Museums Association



Katie Herrick visits another museum

KMA Annual Conference October 26-28 - Olathe

To the Stars....Through Art, Culture, History and Science

Kansas Museums Association Annual Conference
October 26-28, 2011
Olathe, Kansas

Join museum professionals in celebrating the Kansas 150 Anniversary! Prepare for the next 150 years! Explore new perspectives in museum practices, participate in relevant educational sessions, visit area museums and exchange best practices with museum professionals.

Host Museums:

- The Mahaffie Stage Coach Museum and Farm Historic Site
- Deaf Cultural Center/William J. Marra Museum
- The Johnson County History Museum
- Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn - Olathe Regional Medical Center
101 West 151st Street, Olathe

Call for Session Proposals

[Download Proposal](#)

Deadline March 31, 2011

The Kansas Museums Association invites you to submit session proposals that explore the successes, challenges and opportunities available to Kansas museums. We are seeking sessions related to collaboration, marketing and public relations, collections care, exhibits, education, volunteer management and any other topic related to the diverse and dynamic work of museums.

For more information contact Shannon Hsu at 913-248-2360 or shsu@cityofshawnee.org.

The Proposal Form is located on the website at ksmuseums.org or download now.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IMPACT MUSEUMS

by: George Laughead, KMA Legislative Liaison

On Feb. 7, 2011, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed Executive Reorganization Order #39 to abolish the Kansas Arts Commission and transfer the state agency's responsibilities to the Kansas Historical Society.

According to news reports, Governor Sam Brownback said: "Change is never easy, but our plan allows for a steady transition period. This recommendation for the council to become a private, non-profit organization is similar to the transition made by the Kansas Humanities

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Web Page



The KMA Web page is evolving and wants to feature photos and news articles from your museum. Send information to director@ksmuseums.org

Important 2011 Dates

March 3

[Arts Day at the Capital](#)

March 31

[Deadline for Annual Conference Session Proposals](#)

May 22-25

[American Association of Museums Conference - Houston, Texas](#)

July 19

KMA Director's Forum

October 17-21

[MPMA Conference - Helena, Montana](#)

October 26-28

[KMA Conference - Olathe](#)

Council which still receives both state funding through the Kansas Historical Society and federal funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities."

Unfortunately, that statement is not true -- the Kansas Humanities Council has never been a state agency. Also note that the Kansas State Historical Society has had their budget cut each of the last few years. They are down to the minimum number of employees necessary to protect the archives, the sites, and the museum.

The news report goes on: "The [new] Kansas Arts Foundation's Board of Directors are: Bruce Breckenridge, Leawood; Paula Downing, Wichita; Kerry Livgren, Berryton; Virginia Crossland-Macha, Iola; Priscilla O'Shaughnessy, Wichita; Bob Swain, Topeka; Sue Schlapp, Wichita; Linda Browning Weis, Manhattan; Chris Burger, Lawrence, Legal Counsel." "Under the leadership of its board of directors, I am confident that the Kansas Arts Foundation will flourish as a private entity and it will continue to promote the beauty that is Kansas and created by Kansans," Brownback said.

The new non-profit organization seems focused on safe Kansas-related art, political appointees, and religious based art. Please contact your Kansas state representatives if you want to see this change stopped. There is no savings in money. Kansas will be the only state without a state arts agency.

For more information: Kansas Arts Commission

Arts Day at the Capitol Thursday, March 3, 2011

KMA Members will meet as a group at the Dillion House to advocate for Kansas museums and galleries. Contact Lisa Dodson at 316-765-9197 or 316-304-4639 (cell) or E-mail director@ksmuseums.org

[Kansas Citizens for the Arts](#) invites you to **Speak up for the Arts!** at Arts Day at the Capitol on **Thursday, March 3, 2011!**

Rally and Meeting 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Dillon House, 4040 SW 9th Street (across the street from the Capitol Building)

- Participate in the annual Kansas Citizens for the Arts business meeting
- Review current legislative initiatives and the Governor's budget
- Receive a toolkit for successful arts advocacy
- Interact with members of the House and Senate and listen to them speak in support of the arts

Legislator Visits 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm (throughout the Capitol Building)

- Meet face to face with your [legislators](#) (make an appointment for you go)
- Distribute literature about the important of the arts in Kansas

Check out these tips on [Meeting With Your Elected Officials](#). For more information, visit [Kansas Citizens for the Arts](#).

Employment Listings

[Tourist Counselor First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site Fort Riley, Kansas](#)

[High Plains Museum Director- Goodland](#)

Send employment listings to director@ksmuseums.org

Scholarship

KMA Professional Development Scholarships

Applications are available for professional development education to enhance skills of museum personnel are available for up to \$300.

[Scholarship Application](#)

Exchange Submissions

Newsletter Submissions are due the first of the month.

Newsletter is published monthly around the 15th of each month.

Send information to director@ksmuseums.org

Facebook



Click on icon above to find the Kansas Museums Association on Facebook

KMA Links

www.ksmuseums.org

[Board of Directors](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Email

director@ksmuseums.org



The Future of Kansas Museums 2010 KMA Conference

Keynote Presentation by Bob Workman

The Future of Kansas Museums, presented by Bob Workman, Director, Flint Hills Discovery Museum, at the 2010 Kansas Museums Association conference, explores Bob's reflections on 34 years of working in

the museum field. This article is a journey via art and architecture which reviews major trends in the museum profession and offers tools for addressing the future needs of museum professionals.

[The Future of Kansas Museums](#)

Flint Hills Discovery Center

Construction Continues on Schedule

by: Bob Workman, Director, Flint Hills Discovery Center



Manhattan - The winter weather caused a slight delay for a planned "topping out" ceremony of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan until warmer weather arrived on Valentine's Day. The last I-beam was hoisted into place, adorned with the American flag and the traditional pine tree to ward off evil spirits.

Prior to the placing of the beam, city officials, supporters and the public "made their mark" on the sixteen foot long white beam; their signatures, doodles and expressions of hope for the future of the institution now made a permanent part of the 35,000 s.f. facility. Construction continues through the summer, with the Discovery Center opening in spring 2012. For an audio tour of the project, just call 785-370-0638 and follow the prompts.

KMA Executive Director to Serve on Advisory Panel for Mid-America Arts Alliance HELP-Advance Project



Lisa Dodson, KMA Executive Director, will serve on the Mid-America Arts Alliance Advisory Panel for the Hands-on Experiential Learning Project (HELP), developed to address the specific needs of small and mid-size museums' staff, volunteers, and trustees.

This project will run from April 2011 to March 2013, and will feature three learning modules: strategic planning, resource management, and community engagement. Responsibilities of the Advisory Panelists include:

- Review the list of participant organizations for HELP Advance

that M-AAA proposes to accept into the project. ○ Provide guidance on other training and opportunities in the state in which HELP Advance organizations can take part.

"I am honored to participate in an advisory capacity for this important training opportunity for Kansas Museums" said Dodson. "The KMA Association will benefit from conference presentations provided by participating Kansas Museums, who will share the knowledge and expertise gained from this excellent training initiative."

Contact Information

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316-765-9197
Email director@ksmuseums.org

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