2012 Annual Report
A Retrospective of 2012
with Lisa Dodson, Executive Director

This past year was an extensive planning year for KMA, beginning with a strategic planning retreat in January. It has been a rewarding opportunity to work with the dedicated leadership of KMA as we grappled with governance, membership, finance, communications and programming needs of the association. While this process is not finished, we can report some tangible benefits in 2012 including:

- 143 institutional members, up 13% from 2011;
- 79 individual members, up 6% from 2011;
- 6 business members, up 100% from 2011;
- 158 conference participants, up 30% from 2011;
- Launch of new online conference registration and payment services;
- New online membership enrollment;
- Creation of annual giving program (Hi-5/1-Up campaign).

This year also marked a year of partnerships. KMA was pleased to join with the Kansas Humanities Council and the Kansas Leadership Center to offer a successful director’s forum in July. This forum has generated new ideas for collaboration. I anticipate members will see more workshops and shared initiatives in the near future. In addition, KMA and the City of Wichita are opening a dialogue with the Mountain-Plains Museums Association about hosting a MPMA conference in Wichita at a future date.

There are many exciting opportunities to learn, serve and grow with KMA! I am honored to continue to serve as your director and look forward to 2013.
It has been my pleasure to serve as your KMA president for the previous two years—in fact, I liked the job so much that these last two years were a return engagement! Two terms, separated by a few years, has given me an appreciation for how much KMA has continued to grow.

One thing that has never changed is the board’s commitment to serving the membership. The annual conference is one of the finest opportunities in our regional area for training and networking with our peers. The last two conferences, especially, have had quality sessions that appealed to museum practitioners at every level of their career. Keynote speakers, including AAM’S Ford Bell, would have been a draw for any regional conference. Your conference evaluations reassure the conference committee that we are traveling in the right direction with conferences.

I will be the first to agree that workshop opportunities have been hit-and-miss, but an effort has always been made to reach out to all corners of the state. KMA instituted a training initiative a few years ago that, we later realized, needed tweaked. Other programs, such as AASLH’s StEPs, have come along to augment this and new methods of delivering content have caused us to take a second look at the program, however our goal has always been to help our membership with professional growth.

In order to clarify KMA’s vision and to ensure continued growth to serve the membership, the board took the (somewhat) scary step of strategic planning. I say somewhat scary, because it was a large financial commitment for an organization that runs on a very tight budget to engage a professional facilitator and it required an intensive time commitment from board members to see the project through. The planning process required introspections and serious discussion about what we could and couldn’t do as an organization. I am very proud of the board that I worked with and their willingness to work together. Fisticuffs never happened, but there were tense moments occasionally as we had to examine the realities in front of us.

Strategic planning is not yet complete. Some of the first results were introduced at the 2012 annual conference—one of the most immediate was the way that our representatives were configured and selected. Other changes will come as board members work together to “put feet” to the plan.

President Shannon Hsu and the returning and new board members, along with our tireless executive director, Lisa Dodson, are faced with both an enormous task and a huge opportunity as KMA moves forward under the direction outlined by the strategic plan. I am pleased to say that they are definitely up to the task and you couldn’t find a better, more dedicated group of individuals as your representatives to lead KMA.

To my board members for the last two years and to Lisa Dodson, I say thank you for making my term as president enjoyable. Thank you for your dedication. To WenDee LaPlant, now also a board member, thank you many years ago for encouraging (?) me to jump in with both feet to get involved in KMA. It was one the best decisions I ever made. KMA has given to me far more than I have given to it. I look forward to many more years of being a part of and learning from the wonderful group of people that make up the Kansas Museums Association. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president.
Highlights from the Annual Conference
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Photos from the 2012 Director’s Forum
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Upcoming 2013 Dates

CONFERENCE DATES

Tourism Industry Association of Kansas Legislature Day (TIAK on the Hill): February 13, Topeka, KS

Oral History/Collections Digitization Workshop: April 11, Forsyth Library, Hays, KS

Director’s Forum: July 15, Location TBA

Kansas Museums Association Conference: October 16-18, Lawrence, KS

NATIONAL DATES

Museum Advocacy Day: February 25-26, Washington, DC

American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting & Expo, May 19-22, Baltimore, MD

American Association of State and Local History Annual Meeting, September 18-21, Birmingham, AL

Mountain Plains Museum Association Conference: September 29-October 3, Lincoln, NE

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