

Approved: 03/30/12

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(Date)

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lana Gordon at 3:30 on Thursday, March 8, 2012 in the Old Supreme Court Room, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present but Brenda Landwehr

Committee staff present:

Shirley Murrow-KLRD  
Daniel Yoza-Revisor  
Edw. Balda- Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Proponents:

Representative Lana Gordon  
Megan Keller- student, Miss Wichita Outstanding Teen, Wichita Northwest H.S.  
Sarah Fizell-Kansas Citizens for the Arts  
Linda Browning Weis-Chairman of the Kansas Arts Commission  
Peter Jasso-Kansas Film Commission  
John Cinca-Junction City Arts Council  
Sarah Fizell-Kansas Citizens for the Arts  
Vicki Buening-Kansas Citizens for the Arts  
Emily Hunter-Director of the Symphony in the Flint Hills  
Henry Schwaller-past Chair, Kansas Arts Commission

Neutral:

Mary Kennedy McCabe-Dir. Mid-America Arts Alliance

Written:

Jonathan Katz-Chief Exec. Officer, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies  
Robert Lynch-President & CEO Americans for the Arts

Opponents:

None

Others in attendance: see attached list

### **HB 2766—Creating the creative arts industries commission; abolishing the arts commission and the film commission**

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET Committee at 3:30 on Thursday March 8, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

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Chairman Gordon greeted the members and audience. Representative Winn addressed the members and audience. She reminded them about the upcoming national competition for artists to design and create a mural for the wall outside the Old Supreme Court Room near 346-S. The theme will pertain to the Brown versus Topeka Board of Education of 1954. Interested parties should follow the guide listed on the Kansas website-Resource page. Those interested also may contact Cindy Morrison at the Mulvane Art Gallery on the campus of Washburn University. Qualifications must be submitted by May 1, 2012.

The Committee meeting was then directed by Representative Aurand in order for Chairman Gordon present her testimony. The Chair addressed the members ([Attachment 1](#)) and spoke in strong favor of this new Arts Industries bill. Representative O'Brien asked for explanation of the bill. Daniel Yoza reviewed the bill ([Attachment 2](#)), there were no questions.

Megan Kellar of Wichita presented her supporting testimony ([Attachment 3](#)) to the Committee as well as stating that she was very proud to be a Kansan. There were no questions.

Linda Weis, proponent, addressed the Committee with her testimony ([Attachment 4](#)). She also reminded listeners of the new Distinctive License Plate Fund. There were no questions.

Sarah Fizell presented testimony of support ([Attachment 5](#)) as well as thanking the committee for moving the session to the larger Supreme Court room. She reviewed her budget requests as well as information on the Board of Directors. Representative Feuerborn inquired as to the make up of the Board as compared to boards of the past.

Peter Jasso of the Department of Commerce addressed the members with his testimony ([Attachment 6](#)) in support of **HB 2766**. He reviewed the state's film production and its benefits to the Kansas economy. There were no questions.

John Cinka presented his testimony ([Attachment 7](#)), spoke of Walt Disney and the similarities to the blossoming Kansas Film Industry. His focus was on the economic impact of the creative arts in Junction City. He reviewed many financial figures. There were no questions from the members.

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Vickie Buening gave supportive testimony ([Attachment 8](#)) and gave examples of the buying power that twenty five cents from her annual property taxes, provides for the arts. She spoke favorably of the successful Lego Event at the Mulvane Art Center in Topeka, both publicly and financially. There were nearly sixty thousand visitors to that event. There were no questions. Emily Hunter reviewed the history of Symphony in the Flint Hills event and presented her testimony ([Attachment 9](#)). Representative Cassidy praised the speaker on her presentation as well as several other presenters. There were no further questions.

Henry Schwaller presented testimony ([Attachment 10](#)) to the Committee, and there were no questions.

Mary Kennedy McCabe presented neutral testimony ([Attachment 11](#)) and asked that the bill be amended to also include appropriate staffing. Representative Winn challenged the need for that change.

Chairman Gordon asked the audience if there was anyone else present that would like to address the members. John Levine, a past chairman of the Kansas Arts Commission, addressed the Committee in support of the Bill. Stated that we really need to show the rest of the country that Kansas is a great place for creative people to entrepreneurs and that Kansas is a place where things can be made to happen. There were no questions.

Henry Swaller spoke again and gave information about a similar bill that was enacted in Colorado about ten years ago. He said that their agency was operated by a staff of five employees. Representative Feuerborn inquired to Swaller about the funding from the state of Colorado.

Linda Weis addressed the members for further clarification and comments on the staffing and accounting. Representative Feuerborn asked more questions about staffing here at the state house. It was asked if these positions could qualify for NEA dollars.

Mary Kennedy McCabe again spoke to the members and clarified information on NEA grants.

Written testimony was addressed by the following:

Jeanine McKenna ([Attachment 12](#))

Robert Lynch ([Attachment 13](#))

Jonathan Katz ([Attachment 14](#))

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The Chair spoke in regards to the Governor giving two hundred thousand dollars to the Arts Commission and to give one hundred thousand dollars to the film commission. But there might be discrepancy about the exact figures; noting the need for further research. Representative Winn asks for a clarification about an issue on page 1. Mary Kennedy McCabe gave her response. Chairman Gordon announced that this bill will be continued next week as well as other bills. The hearing was adjourned at approximately 4:40.

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