



Kansas Humanities Council

Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources
September 25, 2012
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FY13 State Funding: \$60,886

FY14 Request: \$60,886

FY14 with 10% cut: \$54,797

This is a 33% cut since FY08.

TESTIMONY

Chair, Committee members, on behalf of the Kansas Humanities Council, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

Who We Are: The Kansas Humanities Council is a 501c3 non-profit organization and our goal is to provide support for, and access to, high-quality, engaging, cultural programs – humanities programs - programs that encourage all of us to make connections between history, literature, ethics and the daily decisions we make on the job, at home, and in our civic life. We believe, like the National Endowment for the Humanities does, that democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.

How KHC is Funded: Primary support for KHC comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities with money from private fundraising and the state providing matching funds for federal dollars.

Our History: In the mid-1960s, President Johnson signed into law the existence of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The objective for NEH was simple – create an agency whose job it was to study, save, and share the stories of America – our people, history, language, folklore, traditions, religion, views of the world, influences and ideas from the world around us, and so on. By the early 1970s, Congress created a network of state councils that were to carry out this mission.

Outreach: Using federal, state, and private funds in 2011, KHC supported 618 humanities activities with participation by 264,270 Kansans. This outreach is possible because of federal, private, and state dollars working together. *KHC's annual report is online.*

How State Funding to KHC is Used to Support Kansas:

- State funds do not support staff salaries, rent, utilities, or other overhead expenses.
- All KHC awards are matched at the local level with cost share and /or in-kind services.
- Funding from the State supports two categories:
 1. Heritage Grants. These grants provide funding for projects that support preserving and interpreting local community history, like oral history projects, research, and training for local staff and volunteers in caring for artifacts, documents, photographs.

Example: In July, KHC grant reviewers awarded a Heritage Grant to the Kinsley Public Library in Edwards County for "Tractorcade to DC: Edwards County Farmers and the American Agriculture Movement." This is an oral history project exploring the experience of Edwards County farmers who drove their tractors to the National Mall in Washington DC in

1978 as part of a national protest against the unpopular 1977 Farm Bill. Farmers argued that the bill encouraged large scale production, but did not guarantee high enough prices to keep small farms in business. For this project, the Kinsley Library was awarded \$1,984 in Heritage grant funds. They are matching this award with \$7,473 in local cost share/in kind services.

2. Humanities Outreach Support Grants. These grants provide funding for local organizations to bring in special speakers in history, book discussions, film discussions, reader's theater discussions, traveling museum exhibitions and public programs, and civic engagement and educational activities. Today, you could attend a KHC outreach event in Hutchinson, Council Grove, El Dorado, Topeka, and Manhattan.

Impact of the 10% Cut: A 10% reduction is a loss of \$6,089.00 and reduces the KHC FY14 request to \$54,797. A reduction in state funding is a reduction in outreach services to Kansans because KHC does not use state funds for salaries, rent, or other overhead expenses. Using data from KHC's speakers and book discussions, the two most widely-used outreach programs, the impact of additional cuts in funding will be felt statewide, with rural communities taking the hardest hit:

138 speakers bureau events occurring from August 1, 2011-July 31, 2012

- 45 participants at each speakers bureau event (on average)
- 54% of all events occurred in communities with populations fewer than 10,000.
- 63% of all events were held in communities outside of Northeast Kansas. Participants at these events (held outside of NE KS) made up 60% of the total of all Speakers Bureau audiences.

192 book discussion events occurring from August 1, 2011-July 31, 2012

- 41 participants for each book discussion series (on average)
- 47% of all discussions occurred in communities with populations fewer than 10,000.
- 59% of all discussions were held in communities outside of Northeast Kansas. Participants at these events (held outside of NE KS) made up 60% of the total of all KHC book discussion audiences.

Highlights in 2012

Just this month, KHC kicked off a humanities initiative examining a topic that is both timely and timeless: the way we work. Following Labor Day, the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition, "The Way We Worked" began its 9-month tour in Kansas sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. The national traveling exhibition opened at the Coronado Quivira Museum in Lyons and tells the remarkable stories of the American worker from the past 150 years. Last summer, 36 public libraries, museums, and others applied to host the exhibit. Six were selected while sixteen more joined as partner sites. Together they are telling the stories of the Kansas worker from the gas fields, the cornfields, the town square, inside the meat packing plants, on the floor of the airplane manufacturing plants, and from the deep underground mines of Central and Southeast Kansas. See brochure for map.

Those organizations hosting the Smithsonian are:

Coronado Quivira Museum in Lyons
Stevens County Library in Hugoton
High Plains Museum in Goodland

Nat'l Orphan Train Complex in Concordia
Lumberyard Arts Center in Baldwin City
Miners Hall Museum in Franklin

Partner Sites are:

Blue Rapids Historical Society & Museum
Burlingame Historical Preservation Society
Thomas County Historical Society in *Colby*
Morton County Historical Society in *Elkhart*
Eudora Area Historical Society
Greenwood Preservation Society in *Eureka*
Gordon Parks Museum in *Ft. Scott*
Glasco Community Foundation

Independence Historical Museum
Seward County Comm College in *Liberal*
Harvey County Hist. Museum in *Newton*
Franklin County Historical Society in *Ottawa*
Miami County Historical Museum in *Paola*
Mary Cotton Public Library in *Sabetha*
Trego County Hist. Museum in *WaKeeney*
Wichita-Sedgwick County Hist Society

More Kansas communities are getting involved by inviting speakers from our special work-themed speakers bureau to town for a discussion about work related topics. Next month:

Concordia: *How Rural Electrification Transformed Work in Kansas*

Parsons: *The Work Ethic of Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Newton: *African American Women Domestic: The Story of Two Kansans*

McPherson County: *Kansas Women, Work, and the Civil War*

Gridley: *Candy Makers and Candy Jobbers, 1870-2000*

Silver Lake: *Annie Diggs: A Voice for Working People*

A partnership with the State Library and the Center for the Book's annual "All Kansas Reads" program has resulted in the selection of a work-themed title (fiction) for discussion statewide. Grants from the Western Kansas Community Foundation, the Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation, Jostens, Douglas County Community Foundation, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, plus donations from the Friends of the Humanities helped us put together this great initiative.

Looking ahead to 2013

"The Way We Worked" will continue through July. KHC is currently working on a partnership with the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum and their Kansas Town Hall Program. Inspired by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's interest in the promotion of the ideals of our nation, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum's Kansas Town Hall program is dedicated to finding ways to encourage citizens to engage in and learn more about issues facing Americans today. "Citizenship," Eisenhower said in a speech on September 30, 1956, "is not a mere matter of expressing our pride in our traditions... citizenship is the carrying forward of the ideals on which nations based on freedom are maintained and sustained." Sounds somewhat like the intent of NEH, doesn't it? Together, we are hoping to provide an opportunity for more Kansans to engage with the life of our state and highlight the intersection between humanities and public policy. Currently KHC is working with Hays and Goodland for future Town Hall events.

Summary of the Kansas Humanities Council

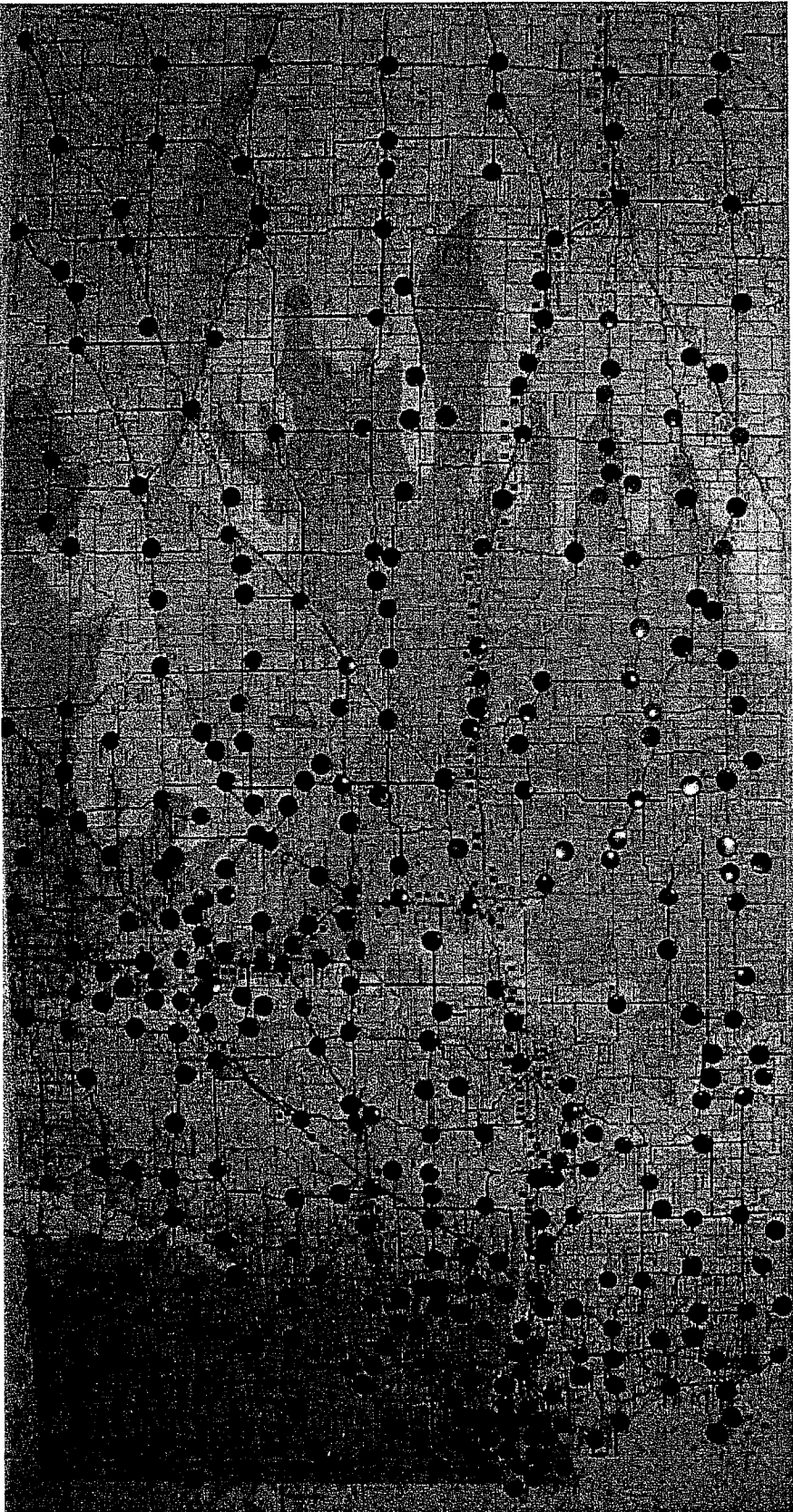
- KHC was formed in 1972 and is an independent 501c3 nonprofit.
- KHC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.
- KHC accesses state funding as a line item in the KHS budget.
- KHC received its first appropriation from the State in 1989 for \$65,000.
- KHC does not use any state money in support of salaries or overhead expenses.
- KHC is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Primary funding support comes from NEH with additional funding coming from fundraising.



Kansas Humanities Council Outreach 1990-2011

In 2011, KHC supported 618 events and grants in 125 communities.

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● Site of RESOURCE CENTER Event(s)

● Site of GRANT AWARD(s)
PLUS Resource Center Event(s)

● Site of GRANT-FUNDED Event(s)
PLUS Resource Center Event(s)

www.kansashumanities.org