

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

July 26, 2001
Room 526-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff, Chair
Senator Jean Schodorf, Vice Chair
Senator Les Donovan
Senator Paul Feleciano, Jr.
Senator Chris Steineger
Representative Ruby Gilbert
Representative Lana Gordon
Representative Deena Horst

Members Absent

Senator Sandy Praeger
Representative Candy Ruff

Staff Present

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Morning Session

Chairman Pottorff called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The first item on the agenda was Committee discussion of 2001 HB 2401 Kansas Commemorative Coin Design Act (Attachment 1).

The Chair called on House Minority Leader Representative Jim Garner, principal sponsor of the bill, to review its provisions. Representative Garner testified that the bill would establish a process for the design of the Kansas Commemorative Quarter as part of the U.S. Mint's 50 state quarters program. Under the bill the proposed Kansas Commemorative Coin Design Commission would solicit designs from Kansas artists and select four finalists. Representative Garner said the final choice would then be left to an election of high school students during the final week of January 2003, in conjunction with Kansas Day activities. This election would be conducted under rules established by the Secretary of State's Office and the State Board of Education (Attachment 2).

Representative Garner further noted that the bill embodies three ideals:

- It reflects Kansas populist values;
- It recognizes the role of artists in public displays of culture and historical events; and
- It allows students approaching the voting age to participate in an election process.

Staff distributed copies of a document entitled "Informational Issues for the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources for the 2001 Interim" (Attachment 3). This document contains information concerning the issues before the Committee.

Mark Ross, official liaison, Kansas Numismatic Association, appeared before the Committee to request the inclusion of the Kansas Numismatic Association on the proposed Kansas Commemorative Coin Design Commission (Attachment 4). He said the Association should be part of the Commission because its members have experience and expertise in these matters.

Dave Wilson, Executive Director, Kansas Arts Commission (KAC), submitted information on the 50 State Quarters Commemorative Coin Program Act passed by Congress in 1997. The information submitted by Mr. Wilson included a program background, design issues, coin specifications, procedures in the evaluation process, a description of the federal law (Public Law 105-124), and a description of the ten-year schedule of the 50 State Quarters Program. It was noted that the program is administered by the United States Mint with the objective of issuing quarters on a periodic basis commemorating each of the 50 states. It began in 1999 and concludes in 2008. Under the program, new commemorative quarters are issued at the rate of five new designs per year—each coin design honoring a particular state. The designs will be released in the order that each particular state ratified the *Constitution* and joined the nation (Attachment 5).

Jason Croucher, Osage City High School, discussed the history of the enabling federal legislation. He said the idea originated in Canada in 1992, when that country issued a series of 12 twenty-five-cent pieces to celebrate each of the 12 Canadian provinces and territories. The coins were released once a month and designed through open competitions. He reviewed other states' coin design competitions, noting the different approaches. Mr.

Croucher supports the bill because it would allow high school students to participate in the selection of the state's commemorative quarter. This level of participation by teens, he noted, will give young people pride in being Kansans ([Attachment 6](#).)

J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, coin collector, addressed procedures concerning the design of the coin. He suggested that the next elected Governor establish procedures in accord with federal law and announce a design contest and invite Kansas artists to submit coin sketches. He also said that the next Governor should appoint a committee to judge the contest and present the winning designs to the Governor for approval ([Attachment 7](#)).

Dave Harbert, high school student, testified in support of the bill, noting it would allow students to participate in a process not normally open to them. He said teen participation would generate teenager involvement in government ([Attachment 8](#)).

Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director, KSHS, explained that in a similar undertaking a special group of artists chose the design for the proposed statue to be placed on top of the Capitol dome.

The next subject discussed by the Committee was the matter of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial set for 2003–2006. Karen Seaberg, Chair of the Lewis and Clark Commission, testified she will request \$30,000–\$50,000 from the Legislature ([Attachment 9](#)). Ms. Seaberg prefers these funds be handled by the Lewis and Clark Commission to avoid the creation of a separate agency. She said this approach also would allow the Commission to leverage other funding sources. Ms. Seaberg urged the Committee to express support for this endeavor.

Dave Wilson presented the Committee with a document entitled, "Percent for the Arts and Humanities in Kansas, A Statewide Plan to Enhance the Arts and Humanities" ([Attachment 10](#)). Under this plan, KAC would receive 1 percent of state lottery funds the first year, 2 percent the second year, and 3 percent the third and following years. Mr. Wilson said General Fund moneys appropriated to KHC and KAC would continue. He also said only 10 percent of new funds could be used for operations by KAC and KHC.

Mory Sullivan appeared with Mr. Wilson and spoke on behalf of KHC. He favors the proposal and recommended it be introduced by the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources.

Following Mr. Sullivan's remarks, Chair Pottorff recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session

Chair Pottorff called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. She informed the Committee that the next meeting will be held September 4 and 5 for a tour of local arts and cultural programs in southeast Kansas. The fall meeting will be on November 26 and 27 in Topeka.

The next order of business was discussion of HB 2532—Establishment of the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission ([Attachment 11](#)). Under the legislation passed in 2001 the Commission was established to commemorate key events of the Kansas territorial era. The Chair called on Dr. Powers to review the bill. Dr. Powers requested that a Section (d) be added to page 1 under Purpose of the Commission, stating that “One of the most important pieces of legislation by the federal government in the history of the United States was the Kansas-Nebraska Act which led to the Civil War.” On funding matters, Dr. Powers prefers the Commission raise funds for the event. He also stressed the importance of appointing members this year so the Commission can begin preparing for the project.

The next conferee was Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State, who is also a member of the Commission. The Secretary urged the Committee to find ways to fund the Sesquicentennial celebration. He noted the event will more clearly define Kansas’ role during this important historical period.

Chair Pottorff called on Dr. Powers to discuss the Heritage Trust Fund Report. The fund was created in 1990 to assist communities in preserving properties of historical significance. Dr. Powers provided information that indicated, since 1990, the fund has provided more than \$6.6 million to preserve Kansas properties ([Attachment 12](#)). Dr. Powers then explained certain aspects of the program. He said that:

- These grants have been used to preserve courthouses, museums, public libraries, theaters, farms and ranch buildings, depots, bridges, streets, and cemeteries;
- A property must be listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or the *Register of Historic Kansas Places* to qualify for a grant;
- The maximum grant amount is \$90,000;
- The program is funded by \$.01 assessed for each \$100 of mortgage registered in a county;
- Applications are ranked by Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review members; and
- In a survey, recipients indicated that grants were very helpful in the preserving of historical property.

Dr. Powers continued with an update on the status and proposed schedule of the William Alan White House Historic Site in Emporia ([Attachment 13](#)). This project was authorized under SB 309, passed by the 2001 Legislature. Under the legislation, KSHS is authorized to accept conveyance of the property, but is not allowed to expend State General Fund moneys on the property. These limitations have caused Dr. Powers some concern. He explained, for instance, that while the house is managed by the local community, the state owns the property and bears liability for the site. Dr. Powers also expressed concern about the safety of the many valuable artifacts in the event of damage to the house, since State General Fund moneys cannot be used to pay for emergency repairs. He indicated that

the new law may have to be amended to allow the state to fund major repairs or respond to emergency situations.

Following Dr. Powers' remarks, Chair Pottorff adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by Nikki Feuerborn
Edited by Hank Avila

Approved by Committee on:

November 26, 2001