



March 3, 2015

The Honorable
Representative Steve Brunk
State of Kansas
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB 2368 – Cultural Arts Districts

Dear Representative Brunk,

On behalf of the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation, please accept this letter as support for HB 2368 which allows for the creation of Cultural Arts Districts in the State of Kansas.

The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC) voted unanimously, at its March Board meeting, to support this proposed legislation. The WDDC is a non-profit organization that works on the development of Downtown Wichita through a number of partnerships. In the Master Plan for Wichita, Project Downtown, it notes the importance of the Arts to the future of the city center.

The arts cultivate the uniqueness of a city. They provide distinctive qualities that greatly contribute to the retention and recruitment of talent. They provide a return that is often hard to measure, however, in their absence there is a visible void in the community.

As we work on the development of Downtown Wichita, the emerging Commerce Street Arts District is an important partner in the success that is underway. Through building renovations, the establishment of studios, venue space and activation of storefronts, a vibrant Arts District is taking shape. Adjacent to major epicenters of activity such as INTRUST Bank Arena, Old Town District and the recently initiated redevelopment of Union Station; the Commerce Arts District is greatly contributing to the connectivity of Downtown Wichita. This legislation provides a provision that will assist artists in remaining in these districts throughout Kansas.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Livingston". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and "L".

Bill Livingston
WDDC Chairman