

Connie Bonfy
430 S. Commerce St, Loft B
Wichita, KS 67202

February 27, 2015

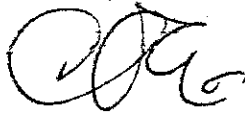
Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB2368: ESTABLISHING CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICTS. As an older adult, I have chosen to live in the Commerce Street Arts District of Wichita. Not only do I love living here (since 2010) but I love working and learning here. It is a completely inspiring environment of caring, inventive, creative people who welcome others who are curious about their creative products and are seeking a source of creative energy.

As a career grant writer in arts and higher education, I have seen countless people and communities blossom and grow through exposure to the arts. I wholeheartedly believe that the arts have intrinsic value on their own, but when combined in small communities with business development, economic development and placemaking strategies, the arts become economic game changers—this is the case with Commerce St.

I trust that you, our elected officials, also know this to be true and will find a path to support the artists who have paved the way for community revitalization by protecting their property investments over the long term so these cultural district continue to thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Connie Bonfy