**Comment Cards**

**Fort Scott Comments**

1. Small communities good for a visiting artist/exchange to other states
2. A study has been done and Iola tapped into it asking what young couples want as far as quality of life and the arts played a big role in the survey answers, which excited Iola because of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. The community college does “Arts in the Park” which is a theatrical production in Riverside Park. Iola’s after school program explores different art mediums such as sidewalk art drawings on the square, window paintings, murals,...etc. (brings in professionals to lead). Iola’s Municipal Band concerts and old-fashioned ice cream socials, Children’s Theatre at the Bowlus in the summer, and the Iola Community Theatre. These are things young families are looking for to move back to Kansas, so the survey said. Farm City Days in Iola used to have an art show every year that was funded partially by a state grant. Children through seniors entered art projects and they were judged and prizes given. That has been dropped because of lost grant funding.

**Lawrence Comments**

1. The organizations in Lawrence, which require funds in order to plan and produce artistic entities (concerts, theatre, workshops, creativity seminars, visual arts visiting artists etc.) Communicate with each other at our Lawrence Arts Roundtable. All of us have suffered loss of funds from KAC and matching national grants. Restore that mechanism-we lose funds to perform and we lose our donor base in the community and fail ability to exist. Winners: Tab creation in arts, improved grants.
2. It is humiliating to be a resident of a state that actively oppresses creativity. I say “actively” intentionally because state leadership used the arts for political gain, taking a stand against funding the arts even though financially, the gains were NEGLIGIBLE and the implications IRREPARABLE. I hope that KCAIC becomes more than a token response and creates MEANINGFUL growth in the arts.
3. Support ability to bring people together from across the state. Outreach/communication across the state is logistically and financially challenging.
4. Vote: Support job creation in KS. However, would like to see bulk of KCAI support for arts industry specifically. Would like to have faith in commission’s prioritization of the arts. Concern that broad definition of creative industries will divert funding from the arts. Programs, priorities, budget= arts industry
5. “Who sows little, harvest little.”
6. Think of “The Arts” in the same boat as other industry and help with tax breaks and other incentives to bring in business to Kansas/Kansas communities. The arts help with the quality of life not always a dollar amount
7. Job creation and sustainability in the field of the arts. Right now the arts industry tends to get used as a tool for recruitment and retention of employers for other industries. People want to come to vibrant and active arts communities, yet public funding remains elusive.
8. Job creation within the arts-economic development secondary. Keeping our doors open and keeping the jobs we have in the arts currently are crucial. We are hanging on by threads. Adding more jobs in the arts and growing programs-which then create a better quality of life and enhance economic development.
9. The grant process is nearly incomprehensible to the average small town governmental officials and arts organizations, which need the funds the most-Simplify the process, make the instructions understandable to anyone, make various levels of funding available and allow Kansas grants funds to leverage other grants and private funding-Restore state and NEA funding. Funding scarcity is crumbling the creative industry infrastructure-it will be hard to come back from, harder, the longer the funding remains unavailable. We cannot contribute the same access to resources that all businesses enjoy.
10. Restore funding to previous level (at least)

Facilitate access to state grants and matching federal grants.

Acknowledge unique contributions of the arts, including quality of life. Do not measure everything in money only.

1. Strengths creative arts industries
	1. University of Kansas and citizens
	2. Strong historical roots
	3. Cooperative nature
	4. Quality of artists
	5. Public Money into public art
	6. Infrastructure-interstates etc.
	7. Proximity
	8. Reasonably priced local arts
	9. Close to K.C. and Topeka

Please simplify the grant application process and try to get for the state of Kansas MATCHING FEDERAL MONEY. Thank you Clay County

**Dodge City Comments**

1. Sometimes we aren’t aware of what we don’t know…helping us know what’s out there is very helpful-LeaAnn Seiler Jetmore, KS
2. Help fund private music lessons for low-income kids in rural Kansas. Being a classical pianist, I would love to teach this segment of youth but can’t afford to do it for free. –Anne Breeden
3. Operational funding. Create matching funds for operational grants-so we can prove that we are working to support ourselves, but need some kind of help. –Summer Bates, Executive Director Carnegie

**Salina Comments**

1. Re: “innovation-based economy” The creative arts should not be the agent to change Kansas’ economy, but rather supported for its value to Kansans and our guests.
2. Why do you raise growing the economy over and over? It’s not all economy that’s the important goal “How sick.” The state must do its fair share for the arts for traditional funding as long as the Dept. of Commerce is handling oversight than the sensitivity to the arts will be absent. Must be flexible and responsive.
3. Meetings in a circle, please. Provide handouts of questions. Need R and D funding. Website visibility needed. Get a Facebook page for feedback. E-blast to notify artists and organizations. Recognize artists and organizations. Don’t limit the choices.
4. Please provide notes from those meetings on the website.

**Wichita Comments**

1. Thank you for giving us a voice. My message to you is that the arts are a big business in Kansas. They not only create real jobs, but they support the creation of jobs in more traditional sectors. Support the right brain with left-brain assistance and watch it grow. –Martha Slater Farrell, First Generation Video and Diamond with Wranglers
2. Interesting children in art. The “picture lady” or “picture person” program from the Dickens Art Museum getting school age kids interested in art. Promoting art through the existing 4-H
3. A database of Kansas artists for Kansas companies to use. If small business needs advertising design, creative design, or promotion, they should know local people that can achieve that for them locally.
4. Cultural Arts conference. Can serve a broad community and create synergy in numbers to bring cultural arts and businesses together. Include opportunities for educational workshops and training on any number of topics. Showcase opportunity for artists. Collaborate with local universities for space. Can be a revenue producer through registration fees. Created similar conference on local level in Fresno, CA. –Don Reinhold, Wichita Symphony

**Hays Comments**

1. When recruiting industry, they want to know:

 -Can you support my facility?

 -Will my executives want to live there? (Is there art?)

Shawnee Mission Comments

* Peter has one very difficult job – is he really the best person for the job? The stakes are high for arts in Kansas and I worry about his effectiveness.
* Marketing was described for individual artists, fairs… When it was proposed as marketing, it was meant for the commission to market also the value of the arts, how it makes a difference in communities, schools, economic development… It is important for the state to recognize publicly that they support the arts. The current status of this topic is that we are not supported in the arts, which affects artists and arts organizations support. We are known across the country as not supporting the arts.
* Suggestion that KCAIC review activities and priorities of the former arts commission – in order not to reinvent the wheel
* We need a centralized resource bank. Art Makers’ Place – studio art therapy program of Wyandotte Mental Health Center
* Not how arts can fit in economic development model but how economic development can take advantage of arts partnerships
* Trust the arts organizations. They are good stewards of support, whether it comes from the state, regional, or local entities. They make a difference in the lives of Kansans every day and provide meaning to life.