

Kansas Sesquicentennial Planning Meeting  
Kansas Historical Society, Museum Classrooms, Topeka  
August 21, 2009  
131 in attendance

Kansas Governor's Cultural Affairs Council

Jennie welcomed the nearly 150 participants at the meeting. Between January 29, 2011, and December 31, 2011, the state has opportunity to commemorate Kansas statehood. This is a chance to look not only to the past but also to the future. It is a time to incorporate the national commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

This is an opportunity to acknowledge that Kansas history did not begin on January 29, 1861. People lived on this land for thousands of years before Kansas became a state. The anniversary of statehood may not be a celebratory experience for everyone. For that reason it would be important to approach this anniversary as a commemoration, to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

Kansans can be proud of their state's role in our nation's history. William Allen White said "When anything is going to happen in this country, it happens first in Kansas."

The Kansas sesquicentennial provides an opportunity to create a grassroots movement to commemorate our state's history. The purpose today is to facilitate dialog about community-based commemorations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood.

Because of the current economic situation, our state government is not in a position to fund a statewide commemoration. At this time there is no specific state appropriation for this purpose. Out of necessity, we have the opportunity to create a grassroots movement, which has the chance to be more successful because it would be by the people and for the people. State government wants to be full participants in this commemoration. The Kansas Legislature created a resolution, the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., board of director's wants to be involved, and many of them are here today. The Governor's Cultural Affairs Council is here and will be presenting to you their plans for commemorating the sesquicentennial.

What can be done at the state level is to provide packaged programs, grants, and tool kits to help communities plan their own commemorations. We can provide statewide marketing of events including a sesquicentennial web site, the development of an event on January 29, 2011, to kick-off the commemoration, licensing agreements, and a logo.

Jennie Chinn, Kansas Historical Society, introduced representatives from the Kansas Governor's Cultural Affairs Council to explain the projects each agency has outlined for the sesquicentennial. Jennie's comments were followed by reports of the council members in attendance.

## **Mary Madden, Kansas Historical Society**

### **Kansas Historical Society Sesquicentennial Programs and Services**

#### **Programs**

- A special exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, “Kansas 150,” from January 29, 2011 through December 2011.
- Kansas Day event at the Kansas Museum of History on Friday, January 28 (for school children) and Saturday, January 29, for the general public.
  - A “Tool Kit” will be developed and available online to help schools and other organizations develop their own Kansas Day programs.
- Kansas Day event at all state historic sites on January 28 and 29, 2011.

#### **Services**

- New Traveling Resource Trunk on territorial Kansas developed for seventh and eight grade.
- New Traveling Resource Trunk on pioneer Kansas developed for second grade.
- New standards-based them tour for seventh grade, “From Border War to Civil War?”
- Special issue of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, a quarterly publication of the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
- New workbook developed for fourth grade, “150 Things about Kansas.”
- New Kansas Interpretive Traveling Exhibit Services (KITES) exhibit based on “Kansas 150” special exhibit at the Museum.

#### **Online Services**

- Kansas Memory ([www.kansasmemory.org](http://www.kansasmemory.org))
  - Adding more materials on all 105 counties
  - Creating “Then and Now,” 150 stories about Kansas
  - Reach at total of 150 “Cool Things”
  - Create 150 Real People trading cards (will be printed if funds available)
- Create short curriculum videos for the classroom on important events in Kansas history.
- Kansapedia: An online encyclopedia on Kansas history that allows creditable authors to add articles.

For more information on programs and services offered by the Society, visit the website [kshs.org](http://kshs.org) or contact Mary Madden, Director of Education and Outreach.

## **Julie Mulvihill, Kansas Humanities Council**

Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kansas Statehood in Your Community  
How the **Kansas Humanities Council** Can Help

Contact: Dan Carey-Whalen, Director of Programs,

[dan@kansashumanities.org](mailto:dan@kansashumanities.org) 785/357-0359  
www.kansashumanities.org

**USE READY-MADE PROGRAMS from the Kansas Humanities Council, like speaker presentations and book and film discussions, in your community.**

Kansas 150 Speakers Bureau features presentations about people, significant places, landscapes, historical events, important political decisions, Big Ideas, and other topics that provide opportunity for discussion. KHC provides the speakers and promotional materials. The local host provides the booking fee and the local arrangements. *Available for booking January 2010.*

The Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK) program features book series that spark discussions on traditions, heritage, and ideas. Series themes include *African-American Perspectives; Before the Civil War; The Immigrant Experience; Kansas Literary Heritage*; and more. KHC provides the books, brochures, and the discussion leaders. The local host provides the booking fee and the local arrangements. *Available for booking now; discussions held yearly during Fall & Spring.*

The Film Loves in Kansas (FLIKS) is a brand-new facilitated film and discussion program. FLIKS programs are *discussions* that use short films as the starting point for community conversations. KHC provides the short films, discussion leader, and promotional flyers. The local host provides the booking fee and the local arrangements. *Available for booking in 2010.*

**CREATE YOUR OWN commemoration events, like a new interpretive exhibition or heritage walking tour, through the Grants program.**

KHC grants support projects that *prepare* organizations for Kansas 150, use statehood as the motivation for planning for the future, or create projects that are part of Kansas 150 activities. Grants can be used to develop interpretive exhibitions and signage, walking tours, podcasts, fact vs. fiction local history research, oral history projects, short films, and more. *Available Fall 2009 through Fall 2011.*

**Who is the Kansas Humanities Council?** *The Kansas Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that provides Kansans with the resources needed to provide quality cultural programs at home. Why are speaker presentations, book and film discussions, and museum exhibitions important? These types of programs provide ways for community members to come together to discuss topics of interest. These conversations often use the past – shared traditions, common values, personal experiences and historical perspectives – as a way to invite ideas about our future. Find out more at [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).*

## **Becky Blake, Kansas Travel and Tourism**

### **Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division Sesquicentennial Programs and Services**

- Featured topic in 2011-2012 Visitors Guide
  - 800,000 distribution
- TravelKS.com promotion
  - Micro-site development
  - Branded attractions/events
- Incorporating the Kansas story into social networking mediums
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - others
- E-blast campaign to targeted consumers
- Highlighting event in print and broadcast ad campaigns
  - National and regional media
- Encouraging community support and development/promotion of special events
  - Attraction Development Grants
  - Marketing Grants
- Logo development (collaborative effort with KSHS)
  - Accomplished
- Promotion at state owned Travel Information Centers
  - Special events in collaboration with industry partners
  - Signage/displays
- Features in Kansas Magazine
- Special PR effort with travel journalists
  - Media events
  - Social media
  - Media releases/story tips
- Highlight of exhibit at in-state travel shows
- Release of and promotion of Kansas pictorial coffee table book
  - Kansas Day, 2011

## **Llewelyn Crain, Kansas Arts Commission**

During fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the Kansas Arts Commission intends to direct funds from its American masterpieces program to support marketing and promotional activities of Kansas arts and cultural organizations celebrating the work of Kansas artists.

The proposed plan will support those arts and cultural organizations whose public programs feature Kansas visual and performing artists, living or deceased.

The funds will assist organizations to utilize web-based services and technology and other marketing activities developed by the Governor's Cultural Affairs Council.

For more information about the Kansas Arts Commission's grant and professional development programs, please visit <http://arts.ks.gov> or call 866-433-0688.

The state agencies want to partner with communities. The rest of this meeting will be spent in discussion about communities around the state want to do. We will separate into group discussions by region. Richard Young is here to facilitate our discussions.

Richard provided an introduction to the discussion process and designated six areas in the room for the breakout session. He assisted the groups during the discussion process as they selected a group spokesperson and began to develop their commemoration priority lists.

## Regional Reports

### **Kansas 150 in Southeast Kansas**

Julie Lenger reported (jlenger@freedomfrontier.org)

Members: Virgil Dean, Kelley Collins, Betty Boyko, Julie Mulvihill, B. Ellen Smith, Julie Lenger

Presentation to group: No liaison has been designated. Many of the members are involved with Freedom's Frontier.

They chose three major themes:

1. Ethnic groups and diversity
2. Kansas progressive traditions, mining history
3. Ties to Civil War sesquicentennial, promotional, educational

They chose three projects:

1. Oral history on ethnic diversity, how individuals tell their story
2. Pass the torch
3. Marketing to bring attention to events and the area's history such as Gordon Parks

Brainstorm Project Ideas:

- Think about how to tell the story "the big picture" and "passing the torch."
- Gordon Parks – celebrate his life and career, across the state, beyond southeast Kansas, discuss racial issues
- Fort Scott Community College, Fort Scott hospital, Wichita State University, diversity celebration in October

- Stereotype busting
- Oral history with Pittsburg State University and community colleges, Lowell Millken Center
- Who needs to be involved? Tourism, historical societies, libraries, Bill Kurtis

### **Kansas 150 in Northeast Kansas**

(Lawrence, Atchison, Leavenworth, Topeka, Kansas City)

Olivia Simmons, Visit Topeka, reported for the group of 55 individuals.

Presentation to group: Many ideas came out of the discussion.

Identified several themes:

1. Bleeding Kansas/Freedom's Frontier, which shaped our state "Brown to Brown"
2. Old Glory, Smithsonian flag
3. Use of books, partnering with libraries
4. Kansas Sampler Festival will be in Leavenworth in 2011, showcase regional products
5. Assign a liaison for each

### Group Notes

1. Select a regional liaison – Each project will have an individual(s) liaison.
2. Brainstorm project ideas and identify partners and work group.
  - a. Create "Drive/Walk Tour of Freedom's Pathway". This would include all historic sites and buildings that were involved in leading up to Kansas becoming a "free-state" member of the Union and our part in the Civil War. (Judy Billings/Olivia Simmons) - Explore Grant through the Kansas Humanities Council and partnership with KDOT.
  - b. Identify all sites and people in NE Kansas that have major historical value to the evolution of the U.S. and shaping our nation – Charles Curtis, Potawatomi Tribe, *Brown v Board*, railroad history, Pony Express (which marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010), etc.
  - c. Kansas Sampler Festival – 2010/2011 to be held in Leavenworth, the oldest city in Kansas. Create tent with NE Kansas Communities. From historic characters to nationally, identifiable products that come from our area. (Alexis Woodall)
  - d. Mahaffie Stagecoach Wagon train – Set date for journey of wagon train from Lawrence to Tecumseh to Topeka. Ending with parade down Kansas Ave to Great Overland Station with a huge festival celebrating the Oregon

Trail and Pappan's Ferry. (Beth Fager/Bette Allen/Arleta Martin/Susan Mahoney/Olivia Simmons) Possible May date.

- e. Use of the "Old Glory" flag that is currently in the Smithsonian. Idea was to have it on display at the Capitol during 2011. (Could be part of Kansas Day on January 29) (Shirley Funk)
- f. Several smaller events throughout the year that tie into the Kansas Reads program working in conjunction with the state and local libraries. (Anita Wolgast)
- g. Use of "Oz" Hot Air Balloon at various state events during 2011. Include K-ST and KU games. (David Mills/Karl Fruendt)
- h. Lottery - \$150,000

### **Kansas 150 in Flint Hills**

Linda Craghead, Kansas Flint Hills Tourism Coalition, reported ([lindacraghead@fhrd.net](mailto:lindacraghead@fhrd.net)) There were 10 individuals in this group.

Presentation to group: The group formed from several different regions and provided these ideas.

1. Use tourism coalition to share information on the Flint Hills
2. Enhance what exists—Konza World, Kansas State Fair, Washungah Days, Ride Into History. Enhance the tool kit. Theme "History Comes Alive in Kansas."

### **Kansas 150 in North Central Kansas**

There were 10 individuals in this group.

Presentation to group: Looked at what makes region unique, going statewide. Would like to include social media to be relevant: Geocaching, Facebook, Chautauquas, colleges, Native American population. Had interesting conversations, painting on barns, scavenger hunts, text tours, work with public libraries, and apprenticeships. Still need liaison.

### **Kansas 150 Statewide**

There were 26 individuals in this group.

Presentation to group: Would like to see the logo painted on 150 barns across the state. Discussed diversity in Kansas through history and today.

Created subgroups:

- Educational – Peg Wickham
- Art – Sally Hacher
- Community – Anita Faddis

### Group Assignment:

1. Select a regional liaison
2. Brainstorm project ideas (identify top three)
3. Identify partners for specific projects
4. Create regional work group to follow-up on project ideas

### Brainstorm Project ideas

- Essay contest: high school, college, professional, fiction, nominal prize (Could be by blog)
- College seminar
- Encourage Kansans to ID 150 most popular Kansas books
- History of 150 imminent Kansas w/short bios and students vote for top 15 to 30 – require written reasons for their choices/involve kids (provide essay on how to evaluate candidates)
- Create 50 min law-related program (DVD) to as many of the 1,600 schools in Kansas as possible – presented by judges/lawyers: legal cases and issues including Brown v. Board video (which was already done in 2004) and very successful (they received 1 request for it from Australia)
- Children write their own book of stories of today in groups in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade – their own art works and books.
- Historic performance w/children through intergenerational relationships
- Promote painting the new logo sunflower on 150 barns to see the progression of agriculture across the state
- Kansas military history – Kansas Guard, Adjutant General's office already celebrates 150 birthday, is there a tie in with them?
- Logo on 80 foot hot air balloon to events across the state with removable banner
- Kansas State University – 2011 International year of the forest poster contest 5<sup>th</sup> grade class/list of champion trees
- Frank Thompson – Photo – Flickr.com, Kansas pool, 731 photographs, placing photo into the pool – Kansas 150<sup>th</sup> encourage others
- Community museums work w/KSHS to get word out
- Diversity network – showcase jobs in Kansas and Hispanics – what brought them to Kansas
- Kansas Day is January; half day open to all people at Kansas Wildlife and Parks, which already has free admission weekends – Shari will discuss with them.
- Steve from Kansas lottery, they will sell tickets with famous Kansans, etc and they extend hand to other state agencies for various promotions across Kansas.
- 34<sup>th</sup> star flag raising special event with schools
- Promote Charles Curtis and President Obama as having important KS connections
- Variation of essay contest most interesting would be true human stories
- Look to future: at community festivals have kids make or draw something – what do they see as the future today?

### Top 3 – Break down into areas of brainstorming

- Education
- Arts
- Promote Community Involvement

### Statewide Group Report

Anita Faddis, Community Involvement Group Liaison

- Diversity in Kansas history and today, promotions through community museums

Sally Hatcher, Art Group Liaison – Paint new logo on 150 barns across Kansas

Meg Wickham, Kansas Bar Association, Education Group Liaison (Joyce Thiessen help)

- So many ideas that they need to break education levels down
- Programs/essay in writing and/or in person

### **Kansas 150 in South Central Kansas**

Paula Langworthy, Wichita all Indian Center, reported  
There were 10 individuals in this group

Presentation to group: They had different events already in place. They would like to enhance those things year round. Examples—Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty, Kansas Kan play (2010-2011), pow wow to commemorate the sesquicentennial, a pictorial exhibit on native impact.

Mid-America All-Indian Center, Wichita

1. The Mid-America All-Indian Center holds an annual pow wow in late July/early August in Wichita. They were also considering holding a Sesquicentennial pow wow, possibly on January 29 and possibly a youth pow wow.
2. MAAIC was also planning a pictorial exhibit on Native American's impact on Kansas. This could be a traveling exhibit that would travel the state.
3. MAAIC was also planning something of Native American Heritage month in November of 2011.

Roger Ringer of The Bunkhouse B & B, Medicine Lodge

1. A feature television program that focuses on Kansas artists, that could ultimately be sold on DVD. Possibly with the Kansas Arts Commission.
2. An online auction of limited edition commemorative firearms for sale.
3. Trail rides on the Santa Fe and Chisholm Trails.
4. Bus tours
5. Also, Roger is the Vice President of the Western Music Association (cowboy and country music, in addition to cowboy poets).

#### Kauffman Museum, North Newton

1. Over the last 10 years they have held Kansas Day activities. 2011 theme could be immigration and migration.
2. Suggested other communities use KSHS's KITES program.
3. Kauffman has the "K is for Kansas" exhibit that might travel the state in 2011. This exhibit might be made into an online exhibit.
4. There was a concern raised that if everyone has an event on January 29, the groups will be competing for speakers/scholars.

#### Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Pageant, Medicine Lodge

1. Medicine Lodge moved the pageant to fall in 2011 and is currently scheduled for September 23 & 24 and September 30 & October 1.
2. Traditionally the pageant has focused on the history of the area from early European contact (Spanish) up to the 1867 Treaty. Although there were thoughts about limiting the time period to just the territorial and early statehood days, the group talked about how ALL Kansas history is part of the statehood initiative and that Medicine Lodge's story was unique and needed to be told.

#### Cowley County

1. Black Dog Festival- A Celebration of the Osage Black Dog Trail, a hunting and gathering trail that ran from Baxter Springs to Oxford, Kansas.
2. Dexter, Ks
  - a. Discovery of Helium
  - b. Last Dalton gang bank robbery occurred here
3. Treasure hunt, perhaps expand to cover region

#### Newton- Planning a Chisholm Trail Festival

Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Company presents Kansans Kan, an original musical that chronicles the evolution of Kansas from its earliest history, through the eyes and words of some of its more famous (and infamous) participants.

Go Wichita!- Focus on Wichita's Aviation History and the town's western Heritage.

#### Possible collaborators:

1. The Wichita River Festival
2. The Walnut Valley Festival

## **Kansas 150 in Southwest Kansas**

Llewellyn Crain, Kansas Arts Commission, presented  
There were 6 individuals in this group

Presentation to group: One concept – Santa Fe Trail. It brings together communities, organizations, schools, libraries, museums, historical societies, arts organizations.

Lee Ann Seller (Hodgeman)  
Dave Webb (Dodge City)  
Myrna Barnes (Morton County)  
Roy Bird (Kansas Center for the Book)  
Lisa Keys (KSHS)  
Llewellyn Crain (KAC)

Notes by Llewellyn Crain

### **Ideas:**

- Governor's ball in the restored bank in Ness City
- Work with the new casino opening in Dodge City
- Santa Fe Trail program
- Expand the Symphony on the Flint Hills idea to Symphony on the Prairie in other parts of Kansas or a "Party on the Prairie" event
- Kansas performers concert at the State Fair
- Regions have musical exchanges with other parts of the state
- Traveling exhibitions, collector cards, books or websites featuring Kansans from every county who put each community together
- Tie Kansas 150 into existing events (Dodge City Days, Beef Empire Days, Grassland heritage Festival, etc.)
- Read Kansas books events
- Incorporate Kansas 150 events into planned conferences and conventions (such as possible Western writers conference in Dodge City)
- Work with railroad companies such as Union Pacific and Santa Fe

Spoke of a need to leave a legacy, especially among kids learning about local history.

We focused the discussion on the Santa Fe Trail Project  
Historical trail ride with different communities participating, festivals, fairs, living history, symphonies, featuring famous people along the trail, programs with native people, etc.

### **Partners:**

- Museums
- Libraries

- CVBs, Chambers of Commerce, Economic development offices, extension offices
- Ranchers
- Newspapers, radio stations, other media
- Tyson Foods
- Retired teachers

The three representatives from southwest Kansas promise to work together to move the concept forward by the sesquicentennial commemoration.

### **Other ideas**

Steve from the Kansas Lottery—A Kansas Sesquicentennial lottery will offer \$150,000. Tickets will show up to four scenes of Kansas. Contact Ed Van Petten for more information.

Shari Wilson—reminder for communities to keep in mind the not-for-profits that work in each of the thematic areas. They would be good partners.

Lucinda Evans, Kansas Council for History Educators—planning a conference for teachers. Reminder to all groups to think how they can get their programs to teachers and the media. Make it a focus to get on the front page of the newspaper, which is a good way to reach teachers in the classroom.

Chris Taylor, Atchison—sponsoring the Kansa Film Festival. Share stories about Kansas characters to aspiring filmmakers. The festival will feature these films and they will be available to tour so that everyone can see them.

Alexis Woodall—Reminder to understand the audience and to network with partners and incorporate stories.

Vicky Buening—Will be updating Governor Parkinson on today's meeting and how much interest there is in the anniversary.

Karl Freundt—With Huff n' Puff. Would like to place the logo on a banner so that it can be displayed from hot air balloons and taken to different festivals around the state. Reminder to keep in mind the state's aviation and military history and find ways to involve military resources. Work with the Adjutant General's office.

Lisa Sandmeyer—This is a good opportunity to have a volunteer bureau where people could sign up to help with events or other needs.

### **Themes of the Day**

Jennie summarized the discussions:

- Using themes to create a focused message

- What makes us unique
- We want to bring attention to what we are doing, to enhance what we have
- Kansas people, Kansas products (aviation industry, etc.)
- To be relevant, fun and academic
- Meet people where they are (social media)
- Form partnerships

#### What's Next

- Will distribute copies of contact information (attached)
- Logo was added to KSHS web site (kshs.org) for non-profit uses
- Meeting with Kansas.gov to create a website format that brings us all together
- Bringing in other partners—state agencies, KDOT, Adjutant General, etc.
- Mary will be the liaison
- Keep working
- Confirm liaisons in each region
- Go away and tell five people, get interest bubbling

#### **Next meeting**

1 – 3 p.m., November 13, 2009, Kansas Historical Society, Museum Classrooms