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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 16, 2011

**SENATES PASSES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION**

Topeka, Kan. – Today, the Kansas Senate voted, 24 to 13, to pass Senate Resolution #1819 opposing Governor Sam Brownback’s Executive Reorganization Order #39 and the directive to eliminate the Kansas Arts Commission.

“On behalf of the Kansas Arts Commission, I thank the Kansas Senate for its support of SR1819,” said Henry Schwaller, chairman of the Kansas Arts Commission. “We are grateful for the dedication of Senator Roger Reitz, District #22, for proposing and championing the resolution.

“This could not have been possible without Kansas Citizens for the Arts, Kansas arts organizations, Kansas artists and other Kansas arts advocates and patrons,” he said. “Without their support, we would not have been successful.”

The next step is ensuring the Kansas Arts Commission is sufficiently funded for Fiscal Year 2012. The Commission encourages constituents to contact their legislators to support the Kansas Arts Commission in upcoming budget negotiations.

The ERO would have eliminated the Kansas Arts Commission effective July 1, 2011, and transitioned Kansas arts from a state agency into a private organization working through the Kansas Historical Society.

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The Kansas Arts Commission is a state agency, funded by the State of Kansas and the National Endowment for the Arts, dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts in Kansas. Its mission is to provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives. For more information on the Kansas Arts Commission, please visit the KAC website at <http://arts.ks.gov>.

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