

ARTS COUNCIL

Early History:

In 1971 and 1972 Sally Cullor was teaching Drama and Forensics at Fort Scott High School. During her trips to other schools with FSHS students she became acquainted with people who were very interested in the Arts. One of the people she met was involved with a community group called the Fredonia Arts Council. Sally was very interested in what they were doing and began to form the idea that something like what Fredonia was doing could also be established in Fort Scott.

Sally's education and passion was in the Arts especially Theatre (her major at the University of Kansas) and was excited about the prospect of finding other people in Fort Scott who would be interested in getting some type of arts program started. She and her husband, Gary, began gathering information about other arts programs and locating local people who would be interested. The lady in Fredonia was very helpful by meeting with them and in providing some guidance and also got them in touch with the Kansas Cultural Arts Commission. She would later help to kick start the first official year of the organization by bringing the Fredonia Players to Fort Scott in the summer of 1973 at no cost.

Several exploratory meetings were held around the Sally and Gary Cullor's kitchen table. The purpose of these meetings was to (1.) identify people who would share the interest and vision of creating a local arts organization and (2.) to work with the Kansas Cultural Arts Commission and other communities that had already established successful organizations.

This early exploratory period of finding interested people and groups and working with other state and other city organizations took over a year to accomplish. This recruited group of people provided the foundation for the informal Arts Council. It was then decided to form a legal entity to operate the Arts Council and this would also provide a vehicle to receive grants, etc. and provide stability for long term growth. Then on April 9, 1973, the Articles of Incorporation of the Bourbon County Arts Council, Inc. was signed. This formation document was signed by Gary Cullor (President), Sally Cullor (Secretary), Steve Buerge (Treasurer) and Fred Campbell. Joel Short, attorney, was the legal resident agent.

Bourbon County Arts Council, Inc.

On Thursday, May 10, 1973, at 7:00 P.M. the organizational and first annual meeting the newly formed Bourbon County Arts Council, Inc. was held in the city commission room at City Hall (Memorial Hall) in Fort Scott.

The legal formation of the Bourbon County Arts Council climaxed an effort begun by the Cullor's in 1971 and later was joined by several individuals and groups over the next few years. The main purpose of the organization was to:

- (1) Provide a central location for collecting and disseminating information regarding community activities.
- (2) Provide programming and funding assistance for other civic organizations.
- (3) Provide for the promotion of events in the performing and creative arts.

The agenda for the meeting included an explanation of the Articles of Incorporation, discussion of the proposed By-Laws, election of a board of directors, adoption of the By-Laws, explanation of state involvement, plus related subjects.

Membership dues were established. There were three classes of membership established: (1) Individual annual membership at \$5 (2) Family Membership at \$15 (3) Life Membership at \$150. Checks were to be made out to Bourbon County Arts Council and mailed to either Gary Cullor or Joel Short.