

August 1, 2016

To Whom it may concern:

As a citizen of Kansas, I would like to offer my informed opinion on the choice of the Brown vs. Board of Education mural for the Kansas Capital building.

I believe Kansan Wayne Wildcat's design would be the best choice for the following reasons:

- 1.) It is the most powerful image.
- 2.) It includes both Brown vs. the Board of Education imagery as well as images of its historical antecedents.
- 3.) Its historical content and clarity provides an extremely useful teaching tool for Kansas school children.
- 4.) Wildcat's draughtsman ship is superior to that of the other candidates.

We are drawn into the composition by the powerful image of Justice, at the top center, with her arms thrust out holding the revered scales. Rays of hopeful sunlight, on either side of her, rain down and add a sense of balance to the overall composition. The color red, of the school building on the left, and the red of the school entrance, on the right, provide a bright contrast to the otherwise muted palette. Wildcat includes well rendered vignettes of historical import which range from the Kansas Abolitionists of 1854 to the to the lawyers and Justices of the Brown case of 1954. His composition would be ideal on a large scale wall.

In contrast, Image 2 lacks overall detailed historical narrative. The figures appear cartoonish. Not something I'd want to see in our statehouse.

I was attracted to image 3 for its bright colors and collage format, but it lacked clarity. It was difficult to make out the individual narratives.

Image 4, with the ghostly figures, places all the emphasis on Brown vs the Board of Education. The Jim Crow figure is apparently there to symbolize all the strife of

Capitol Preservation Committee

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Attachment: 8 8-1

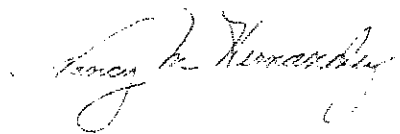
previous time periods, but that is hardly enough. An African American friend of mine found the Jim Crow figure offensive. I also had difficulty with the tornado, often a stereo-typical symbol for Kansas. If I never hear, "You're not in Kansas anymore" it won't be soon enough.

Wildcat's mural would be an ideal teaching tool for Kansas school children. At the Spencer Museum Of Art (University of Kansas), the docents help school children with their knowledge of Kansas history by using preliminary sketches made for the planning of the statehouse mural by John Steuart Curry. Wildcat's mural would also offer clear historical narrative for teachers to utilize in educating their students.

Wildcat's beautifully rendered mural would make any Kansan proud that it was in their state capital building.

I have my degree in Art History from the University of Kansas and have been a docent for the Spencer Museum of Art for the last 21 years. For the last 11 years, I have coordinated an art-based outreach program for senior citizens at the Spencer.

Thank you for your consideration,



Nancy M. Hernandez
2008 W 5th St
Lawrence, KS 66044
nancy@hfamily.net