

Rec'd 9/25/18

**COUNCIL GROVE AREA FOUNDATION  
APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

1. Organization Name: ***Voices of the Wind People* Historic Pageant, A standing committee of the Friends of Kaw Heritage**
2. Address: **Friends of Kaw Heritage, P.O. Box 174, Council Grove, Kansas 66846**
3. Organization's Officers: **Friends of Kaw Heritage – Jason Booker, President, Richard Stahl, Vice President, Sharon Haun, Secretary, Fay Laughridge, Treasurer**
4. Contact Person, Title, Phone: **Sharon Haun, Chairperson of the *Voices* committee, home phone, 620-767-6563, cell phone, 620-767-3022**
5. Is this a tax-exempt organization? **Yes. If so, date tax exempt status received: 1991**
6. Title of Project and Brief Description: **Voices of the Wind People pageant production. (Please see attached sheets for a description of this production since its inception in 1992.)**

**This request for funds will be use to purchase newspaper and radio advertising as well as other costs.**

7. Geographic Area to be served: **Council Grove and a 150 mile radius.**
8. What group will be benefited: **Residents within 150 miles of Council Grove who are interested in history; Council Grove, the Kaw Indian Tribe, and the Santa Fe Trail.**
9. Anticipated Project period: **The performances are September 14 and 15, 2018. These funds will be used for the actual expenses. The advertising is billed and will be paid by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**
10. Is this a request for Capital, Operating Support, or a Special Project? **This is for the production of two performances. In the case of inclimate weather, the performance will be moved into the auditorium. Since 1992, this has happened once.**
11. Total Project Cost: **\$14,920 Summary or expenses since 1992 and 2018 budget is attached.**
- 12: Amounted requested from Foundation. **\$2,000 - requests have been made to other local foundations.**
13. **Presently have \$2,921 in the bank account. Other applications have been made.**
14. **The other four foundations in Council Grove.**
15. What action has been taken on the other applications. **They have all been applied for at the same time.**
16. What is the purpose of this project; what specifically will it accomplish? **It will bring people to Council Grove, who, in turn purchase goods. It also gives people an opportunity to learn about our local history, which includes the Kaw Tribe and the Santa Fe Trail.**

17. What are the problems this project will attempt to solve? **Giving people a chance to have a greater understanding of Kansas and local history – and it is good for the economy of the community.**
18. How will this project be implemented. **Work has already started in the planning stage. By the time of the performance, it will involve over 100 people. The 2016 performance included 28 Kaw Indians from Kaw City, Oklahoma, in the cast, as well as 65 Council Grove residents. In addition, there is 10 to 12 people back stage and in the direction crew.**
19. What local support is there for this project? **A large number of CG people work to make this happen. And we are always encouraging all ages to participate.**
20. Who else in the community is working on this problem? **Again, many local residents help with this project. In addition to being in the cast, they help build the seating for the amphitheater, help construct the set, and all the other jobs that go along with the production of these performances.**
21. How will you coordinate with others working on this problem? **We have an active committee, and always invite others in the community to be a part of the event.**
22. If awarded, how will the grant you are requesting be used. **To pay the cost of advertising, the persons who bring the wagons, horses, stage coach, tepees, etc, for the event.**
23. Is there any additional information you would like to be considered in our determining whether to make this grant? **This is an important way to teach our residents and our children about Council Grove and Kansas history.**

Signature Shawn Ham - Date 4-30-18



## History of the Pageant, *Voices of the Wind People*

The idea for the pageant, *Voices of the Wind People*, began early in 1992 with a conversation between Ron Parks, Kaw Mission State Historic Site curator and Debbie Wiard, Council Grove Chamber of Commerce Manager. Wiard suggested a reenactment of the Signing of the Treaty at the Council Oak and asked Parks if he would be willing to author a script. After consideration, and making an outline of the possibilities, he realized this would be a much bigger event than just a part of the Washunga day activities.

Parks began researching and writing, and in several months, had a script which was submitted to the Kaw Nation and a number of interested people in the Council Grove area. After approval from the Kaw Nation and revisions the Chamber, in consultation with Parks, decided this was a real possibility. Discussions continued with the Kaw Nation, securing their agreement to participate in the production with singers and dancers. They also agreed to find performers for the narration and visual of the part of Chief Al-le-ga-wa-ho.

A committee was formed and the work began. After considerable work on a financial needs, which included the construction of a screen, set, and seating for the audience, letters and speakers were sent to all local clubs, organizations and foundations describing the project and asking for their support of funding and man/woman power. Some organizations sent representatives to the committee and many donated and promised funding. The committee raised \$6,100 from Council Grove groups. Given the uncertainty of ticket sales and the possibility of rain-outs, the committee determined it would be the policy of the committee to establish the budget needed and have those funds in hand before the performance.

Parks and Wiard headed the committee and Joe Glotzbach agreed to direct the production. Then the labor began. The committee worked all summer to construct the screen, build and paint the flats for the Council Grove town scenes. The old riverbed area, northwest of the main street bridge was chosen for the site of the production and the committee began to construct the pit area, cut steps into the hillside and construct seating of concrete blocks and planks. All the work was done by volunteers, donating their time, talent and tools to bring the dream to reality. There were 18 members in the committee.

In addition to the set pieces for the depiction of the town, five tepees were constructed on the right side of the stage, complete with a campfire. The production incorporated a pack train and five wagons with teams which drove across the stage portraying the Santa Fe Trail activity. The Kaw Nation provided drummers, singers and dancers who performed several times throughout the production.

### **1992 Performance, September 26**

The 1992 production was a resounding success with nearly 1,200 people in the audience. Luther Pepper, Kaw Nation, narrated the part of Chief Al-le-ga-wa-ho, Carl Ponca was the visual Chief Al-le-ga-wa-ho, David Clapsaddle of Larned played Seth Hays and Shirley McClintock played Eliza Huffaker. The cast, including the participants from the Kaw Nation, totaled 92. There were 10 people in the crew.

### **1993 Performance, September 25**

After the 1992 performance, the committee was so excited about the response, they decided to do a repeat performance in 1993. Parks and Merry Barker chaired the committee and Glotzbach again agreed to direct. Again, the group worked at fund-raisers to acquire the needed budget of \$5,500. T-shirts were again produced and sold, as they had for the 1992 production. During the summer of 1993, more work was done on the amphitheater area, adding railroad ties for steps and dealing with serious drainage problems which caused a small pond south of the stage area. The committee also had the responsibility of keeping the area free of weeds. This responsibility has continued through the early years of production. The City of Council Grove has now assumed the mowing responsibility.

An abundant amount of rain the week of the performance threatened the production, but “the show went on.” The skies did clear just prior to the performance. However, the threatening rain affected the attendance and a smaller attendance (786) was recorded.

Pepper narrated the part of Chief Al-le-ga-wa-ho, Ponca was the visual Al-le-ga-wa-ho, Ken McClintock portrayed Seth Hays and Sharon Haun portrayed Eliza Huffaker. The Kaw Nation participated with dancers and singers, five tepees occupied the right side of the set and the wagons and pack trains made their appearances. The cast totaled 102, crew of 10. Total expenses for the 1993 production were \$5,291, ticket sales were \$3,454. The group raised \$974 with fundraising events.

#### **1996 Performance, September 20 & 21**

The next performance was set to coincide with the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. The committee decided to expand the production to two nights, hoping that if rain threatened, it would not wipe out two consecutive performances. Barker and Glotzbach chaired the committee, Glotzbach directed. The budget was set at just over \$8,000. Fund-raising events included duck races on the river, chili feeds, t-shirt sales, and ice cream socials, raising \$5,064. The Kansas State Historical Society and Friends of Kaw Heritage contributed funds. Again, rain threatened, but the performance went on both evenings, total attendance, 1076, with cast and crew – 109. Pepper, Ponca, McClintock and Haun played the major parts. The Kaw Nation brought dancers and singers and the wagon and pack trains made their appearances. Total expenses were \$8,766 and ticket sales were \$5,056.

#### **1999 Performance, September 24 & 25**

The 1999 performance was set to coincide with the Santa Fe Trail Symposium scheduled to be in Council Grove at that time. Again, two performances were planned with Glotzbach directing. Glotzbach and Barker chaired the committee. The committee continued maintaining the amphitheater area and conducting many fundraising events. The main cast parts were performed by the same people as the 1996 performances. Attendance totaled 1,255 with cast and crew, 118. Expenses were \$10,320 and ticket sales were \$9,333. The script and production were the same as the past years. Fund-raising \$2,810.

#### **2001 Performance, Sept 21 & 22**

As the year 2001 was the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas Statehood, a production was scheduled for September of that year. Parks and Barker chaired the committee. Parks made many revisions and additions to the script, and after approval from the Kaw Nation, the committee proceeded to implement the changes. Kathleen Haun replaced Glotzbach as the main director. Cheryl Hayes and S. Haun shared co-directing responsibilities until K. Haun arrived from CA. two weeks prior to the performance.

One major change was the production of a video to portray the event of the hanging of the two Kaw braves. The Kaw Nation recruited horses and riders to reenact the Kaw participation in the event. David McFarland from Kansas State University agreed to do the filming and K. Haun agreed to direct the production and filming. They, with supporting crew of four members, made the trip to Kaw City during that summer to film. They also filmed the Council Grove town men during a separate day of filming at CG. Twenty-five Council Grove men were recruited to participate in the production of the video.

Other parts of the script were expanded adding speaking parts for the Kaws, more dramatic scenes of Council Grove events, and music. The lighting and sound took on additions and changes. And, as in the prior years, the committee spent many hours working on the amphitheater area. Each year the concrete blocks had to be reset to hold the planks for seating. The performance came on the heels of the 9/11 attack, which seemed to have an affect on the attendance, total 1,170. The cast and crew totaled 114. Major performers were the same. The Kaw Nation provided dancers and singers, the wagon and pack trains appeared again and a stage coach was added to the production. Total expenses were \$13,810 and ticket sales were \$9,350. Fund-raising and grants \$6,274.

The Kaw Nation generously returned their checks totaling \$4,000. With that generous action, plus a number of grants and fundraisers, the committee ended the 2001 production with nearly \$9,000 in the History of the Pageant, 1992 to 2018.doc

bank. Big sigh of relief as it indicated we could continue the production and be able to expand the promotions and other aspects of the performance.

#### **2004 Production, October 1 & 2**

2004 was selected for the next performance as that year was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Kansas Territory. Parks and Barker continued as co-chair the committee. K. Haun, CA, was selected to direct the performances. Hayes and S. Haun shared directing responsibilities until K. Haun arrived two weeks prior to the performance.

Again the Kaw Nation offered to take all the financial responsibility of their participation in the performance. Total expenses for the 2004 production was \$13,539 and ticket sales were \$8,963. Fund-raising and Grants \$2,215.

#### **2006 Production, September 15 & 16**

K Haun again directed, with S. Haun and Hayes assisting. S. Haun assumed the chairmanship of the committee. Major performers were the same.

The Kaw Nation took all the financial responsibility of their participation in the performance. Total expenses for the 2006 production was \$13,556 and ticket sales were \$5,333. Fund-raising and Grants \$735.

#### **2008 Production, September 12 & 13**

K. Haun directed, with S. Haun and Hayes assisting. The three major speaking parts were filled by new actors. Mark Brooks appeared as Seth Hays, Dawn Walters and Jeremiah Hershberger as Eliza and Thomas Huffaker.

The much feared “rain-out” began to be a probability - the rain was so prolonged, it became clear by Wednesday of the performance week that we would not be able to use the old riverbed. The director, K Haun suggested we moved the performance to the auditorium. Many thought it couldn’t be done, but we did it, to good reviews. Attendance was poor, as we had not advertised a rain alternative. Until we tried it, most believed the performance could not be moved inside. In the future, the rain location was part of the advertisement.

The Kaw Nation took all the financial responsibility of their participation in the performance. Total expenses for the 2008 production was \$11,923 and ticket sales were \$4,557. Fund-raising and Grants \$6,578.

#### **2010 Production, September 17 & 18**

K. Haun directed, with S. Haun and Hayes assisting. Mark Brooks appeared again as Seth Hays, Sarah Horning as Eliza and Dennis Wright as Thomas. Weather was clear, and we had two successful performances. Work continued to develop the set. As usual, we again set up the seating and set. Many of the original support crew (those who worked on all those fund-raisers) began to age and working all the fund-raising events became harder and harder. So the committee applied for and received foundation grants to help with the costs. Ticket sales were \$5,692, and expenses \$11,054.

#### **2012 Production, September 21 & 22**

The 2012 performances went off as hoped. The committee determined to invest the \$6,000 that has been raised several years before towards a permanent amphitheater in lighting equipment that would be suitable when a permanent facility is built. These lights are stored during the off-season, and when a permanent facility is constructed, they can be left in place for the season. The new lights greatly improved the audience’s ability to enjoy the performances. K. Haun directed the performances.

#### **2014 Production, September 19 & 20**

The committee’s worst fears happened – rain. K. Haun again was the director. Nearly 50 members from the Kaw Nation came to participate. Earlier in the week, the forecast was not especially threatening, so we did not rehearse the cast for a move to the auditorium. Then after the Wednesday rehearsal, a violent storm moved through, playing havoc with the electrical and set at the performance area, in particular, the lighting knocked out the new lighting equipment. The lightening strikes actually knocked out the computer settings and having not discovered that problem until just before Thursday’s dress rehearsal, we did not have the personal to correct it before the Friday performance, so we had to

resort back to the lighting used in previous years for the Friday performance. (The new lighting was actually not damaged, but we couldn't get it corrected before the performance.)

Saturday, as we stayed glued to the weather reports and radar, it appeared the storms were going around us. Then suddenly, about 5:00 p.m., a large storm popped up directly north of Council Grove. And instead of continuing on northeast, as most of our storms do, it appeared to be moving directly south. By 5:30, we were under a downpour, which continued for over an hour. There was a foot of water past the tepees and into the main stage area. The storm came so quickly, we did not have time to rescue stage props to move to the auditorium, and reorganize the move of the cast. Sadly, we had to cancel the performance.

Interestingly, as we surveyed the cast and the members of the Kaw Nation, the opinion was mixed about moving the performance inside. Some opinion was that it loses too much of its effect when performed inside. However, the decision of the committee and the Kaw Nation is we will, in the future, always have one rehearsal inside, so we can quickly move it we get caught by weather again.

Consequently, our ticket sales was only about \$2,325, and our bank balance dropped to an all-time low.

### **2016 Production, September 16 & 17**

We had two good performances this year. Luther Pepper, who had been the voice of Allegawaho since 1992 had to give up that role, due to declining health. Jim Pepper Henry filled the role. Other major roles stayed the same. In the case of rain, we will moved the performance into the auditorium. 28 Kaw Nations members and 65 towns people from Council Grove, plus a crew of 12, participated in this performance. Ticket income for the two nights was nearly \$5,000, attendance was nearly 600 total for the two nights.

### **Conclusion**

As can be seen by the amounts of expenses vs. ticket sales, the production of this pageant would not have continued without the continuous fund raising activities (wondering how many freezers of ice cream, pies and cakes were made and sold) and the generous grants and donations that were made over the years. In addition, the physical and financial support of the Kaw Nation has made this event possible.

Countless hours of volunteer labor has been contributed by many Council Grove residents. Each time the pageant was performed, they built and rebuilt the amphitheater and stage area, recruited cast and crew members, purchased and made the 1850's costumes, painted and re-painted the set, provided props, worked many hours on the promotion and advertising and completed all the many details to produce a performance of this magnitude. And, it was all done in the spirit and belief that this is an important story that needs to be told. It also brings visitors to Council Grove, contributing to the economy of the area.

The large expenses are the advertising, the sound equipment, and the contracts to bring in the tepees, wagons and stagecoach, with the supporting animals. All of these items are not available in our community.

There was serious discussion after the 2004 performances about the future of the event. After discussion with the Kaw Nation, the committee decided to continue and to set a regular bi-annual schedule for future productions. That commitment would be benefit the promotion of future performances. Financially, the committee has taken seriously the commitment to have, in hand, the funds needed to produce the event before the actual performances. Because weather is always a threat, obligating ticket sales to pay the expenses could leave the event in the red. For many years they conducted fundraising events to have the needed budget before the actual performance. Beginning in 2010, the committee began requesting grant assistance. Without the foundations' assistance, this event would not be able to continue.

The pageant performances have always brought people and money to our community, and additional Saturday events will increase that tourist interest in our community.

Updated, November 1, 201

History of the Pageant, 1992 to 2018.doc