

Department of Visual Art

October 13, 2021

Dear APP Committee,

This letter is intended to show support for continuing the program for Visual Art Education in the Department of Visual Art.

There are many good reasons to keep this program alive. Listed below, please see a few important reasons to continue/maintain the strong program in ART EDUCATION offered at KU:

- The art education program at KU is considered as a top program in the state.
- Students graduating from this program have a nearly 100% placement rate in K-12 schools and arts organizations regionally and beyond.
- As Art teachers and alumni of the KU program, the teachers promote the Art program and send well prepared students from high school from their communities to KU. Some of the students who decide to attend KU become general art majors, some decide to become art teachers, some become art minors, some major in other areas.
- The class sizes are not under enrolled as stated in the rationale to discontinue the program. However, the news of the closing program this year has decimated the applicant numbers who wished to start the program this Fall 21. It may take a bit of time to undo the damage, but is not an indication of lack of interest.
- Art Education students represent a significant percentage of Art majors who take classes in ALL of the department's studio areas. The discontinuation of the Art Education Program will have a serious negative effect on the enrollment in the department as a whole. The Art Education majors add strength to the Department of Visual Art as a whole.
- A visit to the Visual Art studio facilities and the Art Education class/classroom would help the committee and the upper administration to understand the function of the program within the Department of Visual Art. No visit has been requested.
- There will be negligible (zero?) savings by eliminating the Art Education program. There is likely only to be an overall decline in enrollment to the Department of Visual Art as we will no longer attract students interested in the Art Ed major or in the possibility of the major within the general Art program.

•Art teachers from KU have an excellent background studio practice as well as in liberal arts, general education, and Art Education specific experience. With the current shortage of teachers in the US, it is irresponsible to the community to eliminate a program of this caliber.

KU can and should be a leader promoting education and other careers in the arts in the state of Kansas and the US. As a proud university we can represent best practices for wholistic education that included art, and supports our community, state, region, and the US.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Anne Jordan". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Anne Jordan
Professor