



KANSAS
ORAL HISTORY
PROJECT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTIST MICHAEL YOUNG TO BE INTERVIEWED ABOUT BROWN V. BOARD MURAL

TOPEKA -- The Kansas Oral History Project Inc. will be conducting an oral history interview of Kansas artist Michael Young Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, about the mural he created. The mural depicts the 1964 landmark U.S. Supreme Court desegregation case, Brown v. Board of Education, which has roots in Topeka. The mural is located on the third floor of the Kansas State Capitol and was unveiled in 2018, the 64th year after the Supreme Court decision was handed down. Young's depiction was approved by the Capitol Preservation Committee in 2016. He was one of four finalists in a nationwide competition.

"Mr. Young's work inside the Kansas State Capitol is invaluable," **Governor Laura Kelly said.** "His mural portrays a pivotal moment in not only our state's but our country's history. This opportunity to share his story cements his legacy in Kansas."

Linda Jeffrey, former city attorney for Topeka and immediate past-president of the Kansas State Historical Society Foundation, will serve as the interviewer.

Introductory remarks by Senator Jeff Klemp, the legislative sponsor of this event, Senate President Ty Masterson, and Governor Laura Kelly will begin at 11:45 a.m. The interview itself will begin at noon and will last about an hour. Legislators, staff, and the public are invited to attend and meet Mr. Young, an acclaimed artist from Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties.

Mr. Young was born in Kansas City, Kansas in 1952 and grew up in Lansing, Kansas. He studied commercial art in Salina, Kansas, and worked as an illustrator in Kansas City before moving to New York City in 1978. There he studied with Bill Weltman, a world-famous anatomy instructor, to master the anatomical figure. He produced hundreds of lithographs and serigraphs, mainly in the Art Deco style, with shows at many fine galleries across the country. More information about Michael Young's work can be found at <https://michaelyoungfineart.com>.

The Kansas Oral History Project is a not-for-profit corporation created to interview former legislators and significant leaders in state government. It plays a vital role in preserving the voices that have profoundly shaped the history and character of our state. These personal accounts provide an invaluable connection to our shared past, offering insights into Kansans throughout history. By safeguarding these stories, the Kansas Oral History Project ensures that future generations can learn from and be inspired by them, fostering a deeper appreciation for our cultural heritage. Integrating these voices into our collective memory reinforces the democratic values that are essential for sustaining a thriving society. The interviews are accessible to researchers, educators, and the public through <https://ksoralhistory.org>. This interview will be part of its collection of Notable Kansans.

The videographer for the event will be David Heinemann, former Speaker Pro Tem of the Kansas House of Representatives.

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