Grace Brading Spurrell

Grace Brading Spurrell is remembered for her far-reaching contributions to music and art education in our schools, to the success of local artists and musicians, and to the promotion of public art throughout our community for the benefit of all. Grace served as the first Executive Director of the Johnson City Area Arts Council and as Chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission. She was a founding member of the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra and served as board Chair. She worked tirelessly as a member of the Johnson City Public Library board of directors to raise both money and enthusiasm to build the library, which is one of our city’s most beautiful and most visited public structures. As Chair of the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site board, she was a leader in the effort to renovate the site and to construct its state-of-the-art museum. Grace received numerous awards including the Daughters of the American Revolution Community Spirit Award by the Tennessee Society of the DAR and a Proclamation of Recognition for her extraordinary efforts in her community by the Tennessee Senate.

Grace launched The Arts In Education Conference in 1986, which continues to this day to bring relevant and significant learning opportunities for educators. Memories of Grace are filled with gratitude for her foresight, commitment, and generous spirit.