

Kentuckians for the Arts NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Kentuckians for the Arts (KFTA) is an arts centered organization formed for the purpose of providing advocacy for all arts endeavors across Kentucky. Our vision is to advance a creative Commonwealth and our mission is to promote the value of the arts and arts education for all throughout Kentucky.

KFTA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions such as annual dues and donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

To join just click on the link and follow the instructions.

[Join Us Now!](#)



Celebrate Arts in Education Week September 12-18

People of all ages—from preschoolers to college students to retirees—benefit from artistic learning, innovative thinking, and creativity. Since 2010, National Arts in Education Week has served as an annual celebration of the transformative power of the arts in education. This year's celebration is September 12-28, a perfect time to:

- Advocate for arts education in your school district and community and at the state level. Let your local administrators and elected officials know you value the arts and the benefits of arts education.
- Thank an arts teacher who has made or is making a difference in your life or the life of someone you care about.
- Share your arts story and voice support for arts education on the [KFTA Facebook Group page](#) or via your social media account.
- Build your knowledge of the benefits of arts education. Resources to get you started include: The Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education statement "[Why the Arts Are Essential](#)" at the KFTA website; "[How Arts Education Decisions Are Made in Kentucky](#)" at the KFTA website; and a recent *Public School Review* article "[How the Arts Benefit Your Children Academically and Behaviorally](#)." Find out what's going in Kentucky (along with extensive additional resources) at the websites of the [Kentucky Music Educators Association](#), the [Kentucky Art Education Association](#), the [Kentucky Theatre Association](#), and [KySHAPE/KAHPERD](#).

A major national event taking place during Arts in Education Week is the **Arts Education Partnership (AEP) 2021 Virtual Gathering**, Sept. 14-15. This event features numerous sessions and presentations by arts education leaders from across the country. Registration is free; visit the [AEP website](#) to register and for additional arts education information and resources.



A special thank you to our Foundational members:

Ms. Margaret & Mr. Jeffery Jamner

Gretchen & Aldy Milliken

Curator Level Donors
\$1000 gift to
Kentuckians for the Arts

To become a Foundational member of KFTA visit [our website](#).

So you can SAY...
“I support Kentucky Arts”

(YOUR NAME HERE)

Now's a Good Time to Contact Kentucky's Federal Delegation

With numerous funding proposals on the table—and Congress poised to return soon from its August recess—this is a great time to reach out to Kentucky's congressional delegation to let them know that you appreciate the support shown for the arts by Congress and that you are in favor of continuing support. Points to consider:

- Thank them for their support of the arts over the past year, and specifically, for recognizing the need to support artists and venues during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Urge them to support funding the National Endowment for the Arts at \$201 million for FY2022 and reinforce the tremendous success of the federal-state partnership that directs 40% of the Endowment's grant funding to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.
- Use the opportunity to update their staff about recent developments at your organization and how an increase of this size would positively impact communities in Kentucky.

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) has created an excellent Summer 2021 Legislative Update graphic summarizing the legislative status of the bills and policies that AFTA and advocates across the country have been advocating throughout the year. A portion of this graphic is shown below. See the [entire update](#) at the Americans for the Arts website.



Summer 2021 Legislative Update



As Congress reaches its mid-year summer recess, below is a summary of the current legislative status of the bills and policies that Americans for the Arts and advocates across the country have been advocating throughout the year. The issue briefs for this legislative portfolio is online [here](#).

These advances in arts policy have been made possible by an active and bipartisan Congressional Arts Caucus and Senate Cultural Caucus, a dedicated coalition of pro-arts organizations, and motivated grassroots advocacy leaders in every state.



National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Following the Biden administration's budget proposal, the House voted to provide \$201 mil. to NEA for FY 2022 — a \$33.5 mil. increase above FY 2021 levels. The House also provided \$201 mil. to NEH, matching funding levels with NEA.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The House voted to provide \$282 mil. to IMLS — a \$25 mil. increase above FY 2021 levels and \$17 mil. above the President's budget request.



Arts Education for All Bill

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) will introduce this bill later this year.

Support for the Arts through U.S. Dept. of Education Funding

The House Appropriations Committee recommended \$33 mil. for Arts in Education — \$2.5 mil. more than the FY 2021 level and the FY 2022 budget request. This program provides competitive grants to support professional development and the development of instructional materials and programming that integrate the arts into the curricula.



Saving Transit Arts Resources (STAR) Act

Reintroduced by Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) in April 2021, the STAR Act passed the House as a provision within the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act in July 2021. The Senate infrastructure and transportation bill did not include the provision.

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[Facebook Bulletin Board](#)
(Events)

Kentucky ARPA Funding Update

The KFTA and Fund for the Arts coalition to urge legislators to devote some of Kentucky's American Rescue Plan Act funds to arts organizations is continuing. At this time, it seems most likely that the decision will be made during the regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly beginning in January 2021. So stay tuned: It will be important to gear up advocacy efforts later this fall as the session approaches.

SVOG Support to Ky. Organizations Grows

Over \$66,982,388 in the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOG) program has been awarded to more than 104 Kentucky arts organizations. View [awards through August 23](#) and [grant summary info](#) at the Small Business Administration (SBA) website. Visit the [SBA website](#) for current information about the grants and instructions on how to apply.

KAC-ARP Grant Applications Due Sept. 1

If your organization plans to apply for the American Rescue Plan grants administered through the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) make sure your application is received by KAC by 11:59 p.m. ET September 1. Grants are available in flat amounts of \$1,000; \$5,000; \$10,000; and \$15,000 to help Kentucky arts organizations of all sizes. Grant guidelines can be found at the [KAC website](#).

Arts Education Updates

- The U.S. Department of Education has approved the Ky. Department of Education's (KDE's) American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (APR ESSER) plan. Some districts plan to use a portion of their funding to support arts education. Read an [overview of the Kentucky plan](#) at the U.S. Department of Education website.
- In July the Kentucky Department of Education took input from arts educators regarding a possible high school diploma seal to recognize a student's achievement in the visual and performing arts. Read how a similar seal is used in Arizona at the [Arizona Department of Education website](#).
- As recognition of the connection between health and wellness continues to grow, social and emotional learning (SEL) is becoming a topic of great interest in Kentucky schools. The Ky. Department of Education has added [a collection of useful resources on SEL](#) to its website. Also, Kentucky Educational Television has created "Social and Emotional Learning: The Arts for Every Classroom," a collection of arts-focused videos and activities. The collection is available at [PBS LearningMedia](#).

