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!

### NEA Rescue Plan Grant Applications for Arts Organizations Due in August

The National Endowment for the Arts will award direct grants to arts organizations using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The grants are intended to help arts organizations recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Non-profit organizations can apply for one-time grants of $50,000, $100,000 or $150,000.

Unlike other Arts Endowment funding programs that offer project-based support, Rescue Plan funds are intended to support specific operating costs only. Cost share/matching funds are not required. The funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including salaries, artist stipends, facilities costs, health and safety supplies, and marketing and promotion.

There is a multi-step application process. The first part of the application process, a short organization information form, is due August 12 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Because the NEA anticipates a large number of applications, deadlines for the second part of the application vary by name of organization. Organizations whose names start with A-L are due August 19-25, and organizations whose names begin with M-Z are due August 27-September 11.

This is an historic funding opportunity, so if your organization would like to apply, now is the time to study the guidelines and get your application information together. Information is available at the [NEA website](https://www.nea.gov/). 

### Shuttered Venue Operators Grants Helping Kentucky Organizations; Still Time to Apply

Did you know that over $52,300,000 in Shuttered Venue Operators Grants have already been awarded to Kentucky arts organizations? More than 90 organizations have received funding. View awards through July 26 and [grant summary info](https://www.sba.gov/). Visit the [SBA website](https://www.sba.gov/) for current information about the grants and instructions on how to apply.
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)

Kentucky ARPA Funding Update

Have you contacted your state legislators yet to make them aware of Kentucky’s arts organizations’ need for support to recover from the impact of the pandemic?

The KFTA and Fund for the Arts coalition to urge legislators to devote a portion of Kentucky’s American Rescue Plan Act funds to arts organizations is continuing. Here’s the latest:

• The coalition is working with McCarthy Strategic Solutions to identify key arts, business and community leaders in each of legislative leadership districts to hold in-person meetings.
• ARPA state funds are coming in two payments. While funds in the first payment have already been designated, our goal is to successfully advocate for a portion of the money in the second payment to be designated for the arts.
• There won’t be a special session to discuss the allocation of the state ARPA funds; the decision will be made during the regular session beginning in January 2021.
• Look for a short survey from the coalition for arts organizations to complete to help us gather data to help make the case for the need for relief funding for the arts.

So please take a few moments to contact your legislators! Find more info at the KFTA website, including Coalition Info and an overview of ARPA funding sources for the arts.

Also, Kentucky counties and cities are receiving a total of $1.48 billion in ARPA funds, so talk to your local officials as well about using local ARPA funds to help with arts relief. View your estimated local funding.

Want to see how other states are using their funds? The National Conference of State Legislatures has a state ARP tracker with an Arts, Culture, and Tourism filter, and Americans for the Arts has an ARP State and Local Arts Tracker.

New Study Focuses on Art and Technology

A study recently published by the National Endowment for the Arts focuses on artists and arts organizations who work with digital technology. “Tech as Art: Supporting Artists Who Use Technology as a Creative Medium” examines the creative infrastructure supporting tech-focused artistic practices and provides insight into the existing challenges and opportunities faced by artists and organizations working at the intersection of arts and technology. You’ll find the study at the NEA website.
Arts Education Update

• New musical instruments, arts supplies, private lessons to make up for lost learning... these are just a few of the ways in which Kentucky school districts are using federal ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds to support arts education. All districts are scheduled to have their ESSER spending plans published to their websites and sent to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) by July 31, so check to see if your district is using any funding for arts education. You can check out the state ESSER plan that was submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Education and see other approved and under-review state plans at the U.S. Dept. of Education website. Find more info about ESSER funding at the KFTA website.

• 2021 Ky. Teacher of the Year Donnie Piercey has started the “Teachers Passing Notes Project,” which records video interviews with teachers who are using innovative methods to teach. Two arts teachers are among those already featured: Sara Baird, who teaches visual art at Sandersville Elementary in Fayette County, and Kyri Demby, music teacher at Jacob Elementary in Jefferson County. Watch their interviews—and nominate a great art teacher you know—at the Teachers Passing Notes website.

BRAVO! KDE Posts Arts Consultant Position

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is advertising for a qualified person to serve as the Visual and Performing Arts Consultant for the Department.

The consultant’s duties will include providing expertise for KDE concerning curriculum development, including high quality instruction, units of study and attention to academic content standards for Visual and Performing Arts; providing consultative services and technical assistance to districts and teachers across the state; facilitating professional learning opportunities to support highly effective teaching and learning; and serving as a liaison to various professional arts organizations, colleges and universities, and other agencies and partners.

KDE’s past arts consultants positions have provided a strong and important voice for arts education, and Kentuckians for the Arts fully supports this effort to add an arts leader at KDE!

Here’s a link to more information about the position and how to apply.