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!

NEW KFTA BOARD OFFICERS

In addition to adding new board members, KFTA has elected two new board officers. Brad Downall will serve as KFTA Treasurer and Teresa Day will serve as Board Vice Chair.

KFTA Welcomes New Board Members

Kentuckians for the Arts has elected eight new board members — artists, arts administrators, and educators who bring to KFTA a wealth of diverse experience and knowledge.

Matthew Albritton is Director of Northern Kentucky University’s School of the Arts. He began teaching photography at NKU in 2001. His own photography interests include community engagement through documentary photography and a project photographing the birthplaces of all the U.S. presidents.

Musician and arts educator Lindy Casebier has extensive experience with both government and nonprofit arts agencies. He has served as Executive Director of Louisville Visual Art and Deputy Secretary of the Ky. Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, as well as being a former Kentucky legislator.

Tammy Clemons is a media artist and community scholar. As a media teacher she has mentored and assisted with more than 100 digital storytelling projects by young people in the Appalachian region. She is a teaching artist with the Kentucky Arts Council and Berea College Partners for Education.

Jessica Greene is Administrative Dean at Lexington’s new K-8 Girls STEM Academy. She is Associate Artistic Director of Distilled Theatre Company and Artistic Director of the EKU vocal ensemble EKos. She has directed choral programs at two high schools and was Jessamine County district arts coordinator,
New KFTA Board Members (continued)

As Director of the Ky. Small Business Development Center in Berea, Vallorie Henderson helps creative entrepreneurs develop their businesses. Her extensive marketing experience includes 10 years as Business Director at the Ky. Arts Council and marketing her own textile art nationally and internationally.

In his 20-year-plus career at Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA), Jeffrey Jamner directed such innovative programs as the teacher Arts Academies, World Rhythms, and Arts in Healing residencies. Recently retired as Director of KPA’s ArtRise, he is now focusing on piano performance and arts consulting.

Storyteller and community scholar Octavia Sexton has shared Appalachian tales with audiences of all ages for several decades. She is a teaching artist with KAC, Arts for All Ky., and Berea College Partners for Education. In 2020 she received a South Arts Folk & Traditional Arts Master Artist Fellowship.

In her work as a Multimedia Education Consultant for KET Cynthia Warner teaches media arts skills to students and teachers across the state and helps develop teaching resources used nationally. She has also been a school district arts consultant and drama and English teacher.

Now’s the Time to Urge Your Local District to Support Arts Education with ESSER Funding

School districts across Kentucky are creating their plans and budgets for spending the third round of ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) dollars. The funds can be used in a wide range of ways—from equipment and supplies to facility needs and wages.

Districts must publish their plans and budgets to their websites by July 31, so NOW is the time for educators and arts advocates to speak out and request funding. Districts are required to show “meaningful consultation with stakeholders” regarding the use of the funding. Some districts may be actively soliciting input. For example, Jefferson County Public Schools has a published information and a survey at its website.

So think about your arts learning losses and rebuilding needs. And think big—there’s $2 billion in ARP third round funding for Kentucky schools.

Extensive information can be found at the Kentucky Department of Education website.

You’ll find additional information and ideas at the KFTA website.
NEA Announces Guidelines for ARP Grants

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has released guidelines and begun taking applications for the competitive direct grants it will make to support jobs and keep doors open in the arts and culture sector nationwide. The grants represent 60 percent of the $135 million the NEA received through the American Rescue Plan Act. Two funding opportunities are available—one for arts and culture organizations, and one for local arts agencies to subgrant. Find more information at the NEA website.

Two July events are coming up to help potential applicants:
• On July 6 at 3 p.m., Americans for the Arts will host a live webinar. More info at the AFTA website.
• On July 13 at 3 p.m. South Arts will host a workshop. More info at the SouthArts website.

How Will Kentucky and Your Community Spend the American Rescue Act Funding?

The State of Kentucky is preparing to distribute over $4 billion of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, including $1.48 billion for municipalities and counties. The goal of ARP is to restore economic health to communities and states through investing in a spectrum of sectors vital to a healthy economy. This isn't a grant program, but this is an opportunity where you have to make your case to your municipal and state leadership that there will be no economic recovery without investing in the arts and culture sector.

A state coalition led by KFTA and Fund for the Arts is working to reach out to legislators regarding the state funding. You’re encouraged to contact your representatives in Frankfort and urge support for the arts. More info at the KFTA website Resources page.

As for local funding, now is the time to contact your mayor, county judge, city council, and other municipal leadership. Every municipality is getting some funding—and 18 Kentucky counties are estimated to receive more than $10 million each, with another 26 counties receiving at least $5 million each. Imagine what even 1 or 2 percent of those funds could do to help the arts in your community!

Have you and your arts organization made your ask?

Find out your local estimated allocation.