

Kentuckians for the Arts

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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!](#)



President Biden Proposes Budget Increase For NEA In FY25 And Approves \$207 Million in FY24

The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities were each allocated \$207 million for FY24 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) on March 9 when President Biden signed a partial budget package following its passage by Congress. While the allocation is the same as last year, the approved \$207 million is a win following proposed funding.

The approved appropriation bill also included \$10 million in new funding for community arts engagement programs within the Department of Defense.

For more information about key arts and culture funding in FY24, click [here](#).

Additionally, President Joe Biden has released his budget proposal for fiscal year 2025, which includes \$210.1 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. If enacted, this would be a \$3.1 million increase from the previous enacted budget.

According to the NEA's statement on the proposed budget, the increase would allow them to bolster the Grants for the Arts Project, grow their state and regional partnership programs, and fund an initiative focused on healing through the arts.

To read more about the NEA's proposed uses for the budget increase, [visit their website](#).

A special thank you
to our Foundational members:
Ms. Margaret & Mr. Jeffery
Jamner

Gretchen & Aldy Milliken
Kentucky Performing Arts

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into your Kroger account, then
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Arts by name or use the
number MR920.

Six New Writers Inducted Into The Kentucky Writers Hall Of Fame

Kentuckians for the Arts would like to congratulate the 2024 KY
Writers Hall of Fame inductees:

- ❖ George C. Wolfe, Tony-award winning director
- ❖ Fenton Johnson, author of *Geography of the Heart*
- ❖ Mary Ann Taylor-Hall, author of *Come and Go, Molly Snow*
- ❖ Mary Lee Settle (posthumous), National Book Award-winning novelist
- ❖ Paul Brett Johnson (posthumous), children's book author and illustrator
- ❖ Billy C. Clark (posthumous), author of *A Long Row to Hoe* and ten other books about his rural Appalachian upbringing

Celebrate Kentucky's writers in Frankfort on April 24 during
Kentucky Writers' Day! For more information about how to
celebrate, visit [the Kentucky Arts Council website](http://theKentuckyArtsCouncil.org).

USPS Now Offering Bluegrass Music Stamp

A stamp celebrating the history of bluegrass
music is now available for purchase. This 68c
stamp features four traditional bluegrass
instruments: the fiddle, the 5-string banjo, the
guitar, and the mandolin. The new stamp was
dedicated in March at the Bluegrass Hall of Fame
in Owensboro, KY. You can purchase the stamp on the [USPS
website](https://www.usps.com).



KFTA Welcomes New Board Members

Kentuckians for the Arts welcomes two new board members,
Nieta Wigginton and Kim Soule.

Nieta Wigginton is an alumna of Harvard and Howard, published
writer, public speaker, and development officer for the Kentucky
Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Kim Soule is an artist and retired art teacher. Her projects have
included collaborative paintings, clay murals, barn quilts, and
more. She is a teaching artist at Arts for All Kentucky and
previously served as the President of the Kentucky Art Education
Association.

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Events



Funding provided in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Kentuckians for the Arts with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

KY State Poetry Out Loud Winner Announced

Congratulations to all of the students across the Commonwealth who participated in the state Poetry Out Loud competition on March 14. Lexie Wilson, a student at Williamstown High School, is the 2024 Kentucky Poetry Out Loud state champion, and will represent Kentucky at the national competition in Washington, DC, April 30 - May 2. You can watch an interview with her on the Kentucky Arts Council's [YouTube channel](#).

High School Art Teacher Wins Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award

This year, 22 K-12 educators were honored with the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award. Kimberly McClellan White was the only art teacher to receive the award this year.

White has been teaching art and design at Muhlenberg County High School for two decades. In 2019, she received a 1st place National American Heritage Award for craft from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She has also received two Teacher Gold Medals from Scholastic Art and Writing. She is a member of the Muhlenberg County Education Association, the National Education Association, Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators, the Disney Alumni Association, and the Elizabeth Campbell Russell Chapter of Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution.

You can read more about the 2024 Teacher Achievement Award winners [here](#).

NEA Challenge America Grant Deadline Is April 30

Challenge America grants support small arts organizations working to extend the reach of the arts to underserved groups/communities. Grants are set at \$10,000 and require a cost share/match of \$10,000. Applications for the grant are due April 30, 2024. For more information, check out the [National Endowment for the Arts website](#).