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

Legislature Approves $75 Million in COVID Relief Funding to Kentucky Nonprofits

Lobbying efforts by the Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN) to secure American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for eligible Kentucky nonprofits were successful and $75 million was included in the 2-year state budget that becomes effective July 1, 2022.

And while a lot of the details are still not known, it is KNN's understanding that nonprofit arts organizations are included in this funding opportunity.

Here are other details:

- Grants will be administered by the Public Protection Cabinet.
- Grants of up to $100,000 per organization will be available, with the grant amount not to exceed the net negative revenue difference between the organization’s calendar year 2020 and calendar year 2021 financial statements.
- Grants will be reviewed in the order received and granted until the funds are exhausted.
- While nonprofits that had not received direct relief funding from prior programs will be given preference, organizations that have received previous funding are still eligible. An early version of the bill had excluded those organizations that had received any prior relief funding or loans.
- No word on when funding might begin to be available, but since the budget doesn’t go into effect until July 1, it could be summer or even fall.

KNN CEO Danielle Clore said KNN will continue to advocate to the Public Protection Cabinet to secure clarification on the funding (including how “nonprofit arts organization” will be defined and what “net negative revenue difference” means) and guidance on how to apply. The

KNN will encourage the Public Protection Cabinet to make the funds available as quickly and easily as possible. “This is an incredible victory for our sector. Kentucky is only one of a handful of states so far who’ve successfully established a state grant program for nonprofits with ARPA funds,” Clore said.

KFTA is a member of KNN’s Advocacy Council and will stay in close contact to gain and share more information as it is available. So stay tuned about this exciting opportunity!
Register Now for Free KFTA Webinar on Local Kentucky ARPA Funding

In the coming months, counties and cities across Kentucky will be making decisions on how to allot millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and arts organizations are eligible for this funding.

Join KFTA on May 10 at 3 p.m. ET for a free webinar, “Tapping into Local ARPA Funds for Your Arts Organization.” Pam Thomas of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy will explain the funding with a specific focus on the arts and creative sector.

Participation is limited to 100 participants. You can register at the KFTA website Events page.

Arts Education Updates

- **Kentucky Arts Council Deadlines:** May 2 is the deadline for two Kentucky Arts Council programs. Artists may apply to become part of the Teaching Artists Directory, which provides paid career and professional development opportunities. K-12 schools can apply for TranspARTation Grants, which cover transportation costs for students to participate in arts experiences. More info at the KAC website.

- **Poetry Out Loud:** The National Semifinals will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2022, and will be broadcast through a one-time-only webcast at https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/poetry-out-loud. The event begins at noon ET; the portion in which Kentucky winner Lupita Diaz will compete begins at 3 pm ET. Lupita is a freshman at Beechwood High School in Ft. Mitchell, KY.

- **Lewis Prize for Music:** Applications are now open for the Accelerator Awards, given to organizations that empower youth through music in after-school and out-of-school settings. Awards will range from $15,000 to $50,000. Applications close on June 3. Find out more at the Lewis Prize website.

- **All-State Art Competition:** You can check out the winners of the 2022 Kentucky Art Education Association (KAEA) High School All-State Art Competition at the KAEA website.

Welcome New KFTA Member

Fund for the Arts (organizational member)

**Did you know? When you join or donate to KFTA, you support advocacy work for arts and arts education across Kentucky. More info at the KFTA website.**
KFTA organized virtual meetings with members of Kentucky’s Washington delegation in early April. Pictured above is 3rd District Congressman John Yarmuth. At top, left to right, are KFTA Board Chair Lori Meadows, KFTA Executive Director Phil Shepherd, KFTA Board member Lindy Casebier, Rep. Yarmuth, Yarmuth staffer Gil Reyes, and Louisville Visual Art Executive Director Kristian Anderson.

South Arts Offering Individual Artist and Community Project Grants

Deadlines are in May for several opportunities from South Arts that are open to Kentucky artists and organizations:

- Artists can apply by May 14 for Individual Artist Career Opportunity Grants. Grants of up to $2,000 will support activities such as participating in a major festival, invitational exhibit, invitational/juried showcase; participating in a residency to research/create a body of work and build network connections; and travel associated with a career-building activity. [More info](#).

- The Traditional Arts Touring Grants deadline is May 15. These grants of $1,000 to $5,000 support projects engaging a traditional artist/ensemble for multi-day residencies in Southern communities. [More info](#).

- The deadline is May 16 for In These Mountains Project Grants. This program offers grants of $10,000 for projects that promote sharing, teaching, learning, preserving, and documenting folk arts and traditional culture of Central Appalachia. Grants are available to a wide variety of organizations, including community cultural organizations, schools/colleges/universities, libraries, museums, performing arts presenters, community festival organizations, and faith-based organizations. [More info](#).