

Kentuckians for the Arts
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

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 Education in September

National Arts Education Week, coming up Sept. 10-16, is a good time to find out about arts education in Kentucky and to let elected officials and others know how the arts contribute to student success.

While arts programs may vary by school, a comparison of data for nine Southern states from the Education Commission of the States showed Kentucky, along with Florida and North Carolina, as relatively stronger arts ed states. Kentucky's strengths, according to the summary, included having instructional requirements for K-12th grade, an arts-specific graduation requirement, some licensure requirements for arts teachers, multiple programs for arts integration in schools, and an academic standards review process by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Kentucky, however, removed the arts from school accountability scores. State mandated assessments including the arts were replaced with Program Reviews in 2009. The Program Reviews of the arts were removed from the state accountability requirements in 2016.

State arts ed data for all states can be found at the [Commission of the States website](#)

BENEFITS OF ARTS EDUCATION

- Dance education not only sharpens motor skills, but supports young children's acquisition of language and literacy skills.
- Music education bolsters student engagement and achievement in other academic areas, from math and science to reading and second languages.
- Visual arts education strengthens critical thinking skills and fosters creativity.
- Theatre education improves peer relations and empathy for others.

And that's just a few of the benefits. Check out the [Arts Count Series](#) at the Education Commission of the States website and read about numerous ways in which arts education has been shown to help students succeed in school and in life.

A special thank you to our Foundational members:

Ms. Margaret & Mr. Jeffery Jamner

Gretchen & Aldy Milliken
Kentucky Performing Arts

SUPPORT KFTA THROUGH KROGER

Kentuckians for the Arts is part of the Kroger donation program. Through this program, Kroger donates a portion of purchases to nonprofit organizations. If you're a Kroger shopper, please register to support KFTA.

Visit www.kroger.com and log into your Kroger account, then search for Kentuckians for the Arts by name or use the number MR920.

National Update: Time to Support Arts Funding

With Congress concluding its summer recess after Labor Day, now is the time to advocate for arts funding on upcoming appropriations legislation impacting the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), arts education, and many other key federally funded cultural programs.

Some House Freedom Caucus members have been proposing deep budget cuts and inserting social and cultural amendments to various pieces of legislation that threaten free expression, choice, identity, and efforts to promote diversity and equity.

Please take a moment to urge Kentucky's Senators and your Representative to support the President's FY 2024 budget request of \$211 million each for NEA and NEH funding. Also urge them to vote no on any weakening amendments that lower funding levels or limit artistic expression.

More information and an easy way to send them a message can be found at the Americans for the Arts [Arts Action Fund website](#).

South Arts Grants Deadlines Coming Up

The deadline to apply for the **South Arts Southern Prize and State Fellowships for Literary Arts** has been extended to September 8, 2023. The genre this year is fiction. A national jury will select one winner per state in the nine states served by South Arts (including Kentucky), based on artistic excellence that reflects the diversity of artistic expression of the region. Each fellow will receive a \$5,000 award, and the nine awarded State Fellows will compete for the \$25,000 Southern Prize for Literary Arts. Application information is available at the [South Arts web site](#).

The application deadline for **Jazz Road Tour** grants is September 19. The program provides grants of \$5,000 to \$15,000 to support three- to six-site tours at an array of venue types, often in rural communities and other areas traditionally underserved by the genre. Tours funded in this grant cycle must take place between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024. A new grant cycle for tours between April 1, 2024 and October 1, 2024 will open October 17.

More information about the grants can be found at the [South Arts website](#). On September 7, South Arts will present a webinar from 2:30-3:30 p.m. ET (also on Instagram Live at @southartsorg from 6:30-7:30 p.m. ET). Register for the webinar at the [South Arts website](#).

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the Arts

BRAVO! Accomplishments and Recognitions

St. James Court Named Top Arts Fair in Nation

The St. James court Art Show was recently named the #1 "Best Fine Art and Design Show" by Sunshine Artist magazine. This prestigious national ranking lists the 200 most profitable art shows in the country based on artists' reported 2022 sales. Held in Louisville's historic St. James Court neighborhood, the fair annually hosts more than 600 artists and attaches around 250,000 attendees. The 67th annual show is coming up October 6-8.

Quilt Museum Wins Travel Award

The National Quilt Museum in Paducah was recently named a 2023 Travelers' Choice Award winner by Tripadvisor. The award celebrates organizations that have consistently received great traveler reviews on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months, placing these winners among the 10% of all listings on Tripadvisor globally.

Two Kentucky Sites Part of South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers

Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and the Living Arts & Science Center in Lexington are among the 20 Screening Partner venues for the 2023-24 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. This South Arts program connects U.S.-based documentary filmmakers with communities throughout the South for screenings and conversations around important stories and the art of filmmaking. Find out more about the program, the films, and the schedule at the [South Arts website](#).

Applications Open for Youth Poet Laureate

The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning is continuing its Youth Poet Laureate chapter in Lexington. This program, in partnership with Urban Word NYC and the Kentucky Arts Council, is designed to honor young writers and leaders in Kentucky between the ages of 13-18, who are committed to making a civic impact using the power of their written and spoken words. Lexington Youth Poet Laureate applications will be taken through October 31, 2023, with the Lexington Youth Poet Laureate named in December 2023. More info at the [Carnegie Center website](#).

***Thank you for your support of the arts in
Kentucky. Please share this newsletter with your
friends and colleagues!***