

Kentuckians for the Arts
NEWSLETTER

December 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!](#)



Attend Kentucky Arts Day: Wednesday, January 10 at the Kentucky State Capitol

Kentucky's legislative session begins January 2, and as lawmakers return to Frankfort to create a budget for the next two years and consider other legislation, KFTA invites you to join in a show of support for Kentucky arts.

Artists and art supporters from across the state will gather in Frankfort on Wednesday January 10 for Kentucky Arts Day, a celebration and advocacy event for the arts.

Here's the day's schedule:

8:00 am - 4:30 pm **Team Kentucky Art Exhibit**, 1st floor

8:30 am - 1:30 pm **Constituent Meetings with Legislators**. Let them know the arts are important to you and urge increased funding and policy support. Legislative funding for the Kentucky Arts Council is critical in order to support arts organizations and artists across the state. *See [funding information for the Kentucky Arts Council on page 2 of this newsletter](#).*

11:30 am - 2 pm **Kentucky Arts Day Headquarters Open**. Capitol Annex, Room 125. Meet fellow advocates and pick up materials for your meetings with legislators.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **Kentucky Arts Day Program**. Capitol Rotunda. Announcement of NEW Kentucky Arts Special License Plate and Overview of State of the Arts in Kentucky.

1:30 - 2:00 pm **Kentucky Arts Day Reception**. Capitol Mezzanine. Music provided by Bryan Station High School student string quartet.

Kentucky Arts Day tools:

- [How to set up a meeting with your legislator](#)
- [Directions to KY State capitol](#)
- [Maps of Kentucky State capitol and annex](#)
- [Let Kentuckians for the Arts know your legislative appointment schedule](#)

If you have questions or would like information about the impact of the arts in your community contact Kentuckians for the Arts at Kentucky4thearts@gmail.com

Hope to see you in Frankfort!

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.

Kentucky Arts Council Funding Information

Like other states, Kentucky has had a state-supported arts agency since the mid-1960s. The Kentucky Arts Council was established by the legislature to ensure that Kentuckians receive the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits of the arts.

From providing operating support for organizations to helping develop artist-owned businesses to providing assistance in times of crises such as the recent Western Kentucky tornadoes and Eastern Kentucky floods, Kentucky Arts Council programs benefit Kentuckians of all ages across the state.

State funding is critical to its operation and capacity to serve. But annual state funding for the Arts Council hit its peak in 2001 at \$4.5 million and has never reached that level since. By 2018 funding was \$2.6 million and for the 2019 budget that amount was cut by \$932,000 – more than a third– to \$1.7 million.

Current state funding of \$1.8 million is actually lower than it was in **1987**, when it was \$1,983,300. And that's in real dollars, not even considering inflation.

Kentucky's current per capita state funding for the Arts Council is 40 cents per person. That ranks Kentucky at 45th in the nation in per capita funding for its state arts agency. Kentucky's per capita funding ranking has been falling since 2008, when Kentucky ranked 19th in the nation.

Within the Southern region, only Georgia has lower per capita funding:

Florida	\$2.71	S. Carolina	\$ 2.16	Mississippi	\$2.01
Tennessee	\$1.47	Alabama	\$1.28	W. Virginia	\$0.54
N. Carolina	\$0.84	Virginia	\$0.53	Louisiana	\$0.47
Arkansas	\$0.45	Kentucky	\$0.40		
Georgia	\$0.14				

Kentucky's per capita funding is also lower than any state bordering Kentucky:

Ohio	\$1.71	Tennessee	\$1.47	Missouri	\$1.08
Illinois	\$0.85	W. Virginia	\$0.54	Virginia	\$0.53
Indiana	\$0.53	Kentucky	\$.040		

Kentucky's trend is reverse of what's happening nationally, with many states significantly increasing state arts agency support in recent years.

Source: [State Arts Agency Revenues](#), Fiscal year 2023, Pg. 17, National Association of State Arts Agencies

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[Facebook Page](#) (Advocacy)

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(Events)



Funding provided in part
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The Kentucky Arts Council,
the state arts agency,
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the Arts with state tax
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Endowment for the Arts.

GSA Application Deadline Is Jan. 14

Current Kentucky high school sophomores and juniors interested in attending one of the 2024 Governor's School for the Arts Summer Program sessions need to apply by 11:59 pm ET Sunday January 14, 2024.

The sessions provide two-week intensive study in nine arts areas: Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film + Photography, Instrumental Music, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music.

Apply [online](#) at the Governor's School for the Arts website. GSA is a program of Kentucky Performing Arts.

Big Read Intent Deadline Is Jan. 10

The Big Read, a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) partnership with Arts Midwest, supports community reading programs designed around a single NEA Big Read book. The goal of this program is to inspire meaningful conversations, celebrate local creativity, elevate a wide variety of voices and perspectives, and build stronger connections in each community. Matching grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Community programming during this cycle will focus on the theme "Where We Live." Applicants will host book discussions, writing workshops, and creative activities that celebrate unique aspects of their community, using as inspiration one of 50 available NEA Big Read books. These 50 titles are drawn from the NEA Big Read archive and showcase a wide range of genres.

The Intent to Apply deadline is Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Guidelines and how to apply can be found at the [Arts Midwest website](#).

NEA Offering Grant Webinars and Q & A Sessions In January

If you're interested in applying for an FY25 National Endowment for the Arts grant, January 2024 is the time to get more information. The NEA is offering webinars or Q & A sessions in January relating to 12 grant areas: Arts Projects, Media Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Music, Theatre and Musical Theatre, Opera, the Song Share Musical Theatre Songwriting Challenge for High School, Arts Education, Dance, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal and Native-Serving Organizations.

Check out the schedule at the [NEA website](#).