Southern Arts Advocates Meet in Atlanta

Kentuckians for the Arts gathered in Atlanta in late July with other arts advocacy organizations and state arts agencies to discuss advocacy for the arts and current trends in arts policy. The convening was hosted by regional organization South Arts, continuing their work supporting and facilitating arts advocacy in the South.

The meeting covered a range of topics including the challenges and constraints faced by organizations and individuals involved in advocacy work, the importance of understanding and collaboration in building effective partnerships, and the need for infrastructure and resources to manage them effectively.

Kelly Barsdate of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and facilitator Margie Johnson Reese spoke on the challenges of arts advocacy and the importance of understanding the issue areas of arts policy in order to effectively advocate for the arts.

Participants also shared tools and methods for using the arts as nonpartisan solutions for policy trends that might result in community conflict. They also discussed the importance of grassroots engagement and civic conversation in the arts, and the need for state arts advocacy organizations and state arts organizations to work together to identify opportunities for partnership and engagement, set benchmarks for advocacy efforts, and define success.

Board Chair Lori Meadow, (back row, second from left), represented KFTA at a meeting of Southern arts advocates in Atlanta in July.
Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellowships Launched

The National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS), Mid America Arts, and South Arts are co-sponsoring Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowships to honor, celebrate, and support Black storytellers representing the Appalachian counties (as designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission) of Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The goals of the fellowship program are to preserve and advance the understanding of Black Appalachian storytelling that embodies the history, heritage, and culture of African Americans, and to build bridges through intergenerational opportunities.

The Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowships will provide six $5,000 awards to support experienced practitioners and culture bearers with opportunities to examine, research, develop, perform, and/or document the Black Appalachian storytelling tradition. One fellowship will be awarded in each of the six eligible states.

Applications for the fellowships are due August 20, 2023. More info and application form at the NABS website.

Literary Fellowships Deadline Extended to Sept. 8

Fiction writers in Kentucky and other Southern states have until Sept. 8 to apply for the South Arts 2024 Southern Prize and Literary Arts Fellowship program. The following categories of fiction are included: science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, thriller, realistic fiction, romance, horror, and fantasy. A national jury will select one winner per state, for a group of nine State Fellows based on artistic excellence that reflects the diversity of the region, each of whom will receive a $5,000 award. The State Fellows will compete for the Southern Prize for Literary Arts. The $25,000 Southern Prize will be awarded to the literary artist whose work demonstrates the highest artistic excellence, and a finalist will be awarded a $10,000 Prize. Additionally, both Southern Prize awardees will receive a two-week residency at The Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences. More info at the South Arts website.

Kentucky Crafted Deadline August 15

Kentucky visual artists should apply by August 15 for acceptance into the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Crafted program. The program provides business development and marketing support, including the opportunity to participate in the annual Kentucky Crafted Market. More info at the Kentucky Arts Council website.
Fall 2023 Team Kentucky Exhibit Features Artists from Across the Commonwealth

A new exhibit of artworks by Kentuckians is now on display at the Kentucky Capitol. The exhibit includes 36 works in a wide variety of media -- from paintings to metalwork and even a portrait created from Legos! The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 31, 2023.

Congratulations to the participating artists:

Dennis Albetski, Lexington        Norma Anderson, Albany
Stephanie Batts, Lexington        Rich Brimer, Springfield
Nancy Bruner, Henderson           Paul Burns, Richmond
Karen Callahan, Louisville         Tom Cannady, Louisville
Katelyn Chanslor, Cynthia         Jeff Chapman-Crane, Eolia
Tonya Creasman, Lexington          Jaime Curry, Nicholasville
Allison Elkin, Olive Hill           Renee Golway, Prospect
Macel Hamilton, Liberty            Wayne Hensley, Williamsburg
Margaret Howard, Louisville         Brooke Harris, Lexington
Duane Keaton, Georgetown           Chris Kellogg, Midway
John Logan, Frankfort              Alison Lyne, Adairville
Phyllis Miller, Brownsville        Anastasia Murray, Frankfort
Ann Peoples, Crestwood             Kim Perry, Louisville
Marilyn Peters, Springfield         Fran Redmon, Frankfort
Brittney Rice, Brandenburg         Billy Tackett, Alexandria
Erica Thompson, Louisville          Kristy Townes, Pikeville
Andy Shoemaker, Owensboro          Sarah Spradlin, Paris
Lindsey Staszak, Mt. Sterling      Angela Stephens, Berea

NEA Offers Online Toolkit of Resources on Arts Careers for People with Disabilities

In conjunction with the 33rd anniversary of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and its partner, Art Beyond Sight (ABS), have developed a Toolkit on Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities. Developed for individuals seeking careers in the arts, as well as employers, educators, and grant makers, the toolkit provides extensive information, and guidance to improve employment outcomes in the arts for people with disabilities. This online resource can be accessed at the NEA website.

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