

Kentuckians for the Arts  
**NEWSLETTER**

June/July 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!](#)



## **KFTA Welcomes New Board Members**

Three new board members bring extensive experience to the Kentuckians for the Arts Board of Directors.

**Paul Fourshee** of Cadiz, in Trigg County, has a long history of involvement in both business management and the arts. He was appointed to the Kentucky Arts Council Board of Directors four times, serving 16 years, completing his most recent term in 2023. He has directed and performed with numerous community and theater groups in western Kentucky and Tennessee for more than 25 years and has designed and constructed sets for various community organization productions. He was co-founder of the Janice Mason Art Museum in Cadiz, now celebrating its 25th year and has served on the Pennyroyal Arts Council board. Paul is the author of *On This Date*, a history of Trigg County. He is also partner and general manager of Fourshee Building Supply, a Cadiz-based commercial and residential contract and supply firm and is vice-chair of the Cadiz Renaissance Program executive board.

**Mary Hammond** is the Executive Director of the Paducah Convention and Visitor's Bureau in McCracken County. She has been with the Bureau since 1986, first as sales director and has served as executive director since 2001. She is a strong arts supporter and speaks to the tie between the arts and tourism. She was instrumental in Paducah applying for and receiving a UNESCO Creative City designation in the area of Crafts and Folk Art.

The third "new" member is a familiar face. **Phil Shepherd** has ended his service as volunteer executive director of KFTA but has agreed to continue to serve KFTA as a board member. His experience includes many years as a school band director and he also is a former Arts and Humanities consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education. Phil was instrumental in the founding of KFTA.

Welcome to these strong arts participants and advocates!

KFTA would also like to thank Greg Drake, Matt Albritton, Octavia Sexton, and Jeffrey Jamner for their service on the board. These board members are departing the KFTA board.

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](http://www.kroger.com) and log into your Kroger account, then search for Kentuckians for the Arts by name or use the number MR920.

## Charitable Act Update

Total charitable giving from individuals, foundations, businesses, and bequests dropped by 3.4% in current dollars and 10.5% relative to inflation last year, according to the annual Giving USA report released last week. Donations from individuals fell even deeper, by 6.4 percent (a decline of 13.4 percent when adjusted for inflation). This news is especially troubling in light of the challenges nonprofits face that include workforce shortages and increasing demand for their services.

The report highlights the critical importance of Congress passing the [The Charitable Act](#). (S. 566/H.R. 3435), which would help offset the reductions in individual philanthropy by encouraging more people to give more generously to the work of charitable nonprofits. The act allows individual taxpayers who do not otherwise itemize their tax deductions to take a charitable donation deduction in taxable years beginning in 2023 or 2024.

Congressman Andy Barr has already signed on a co-sponsor — only five more are needed in the House! Please reach out to your Congressman as well Ky. [Sen. Mitch McConnell](#) and [Sen. Rand Paul](#) and urge support of this important bill.

## Kentucky Crafted Application Deadline Is August 15

The Kentucky Crafted Program supports marketing and business development for artists and craftspeople. Accepted artists can participate in the annual Kentucky Crafted Market and add the “Kentucky Crafted” logo to their work.

The program is open to Kentucky artists age 8 and older who work in any medium. The application deadline is August 15. More info at the [Kentucky Arts Council website](#).

## KAC Emergency Preparedness Series Continues

The Kentucky Arts council’s webinar series Emergencies, Disasters and the Arts continues in July with a session on “Disaster Declared: Resources for Arts and Cultural Institutions after Large-Scale Disaster Events.” The live webinar will be held at 11 a.m. ET on July 26. Speakers will include Lori Foley, Heritage Emergency National Task Force director, who will share information about FEMA resources, and perspectives on why arts and cultural institutions should advocate for the arts sector to ensure federal support available is federal support received. Elaina Gregg, emergency programs manager for the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, will also present.

Register at the [Kentucky Arts Council website](#). Or contact KAC Executive Staff Advisor Emily B. Moses at [emilyb.moses@ky.gov](mailto:emilyb.moses@ky.gov)

## Contact Us:

Kentuckians for the Arts  
(KFTA)  
1890 Starshoot Parkway  
Suite 170  
P.O. Box 230  
Lexington, KY 40509

[kentucky4thearts@gmail.com](mailto:kentucky4thearts@gmail.com)  
[kfta.wildpricot.org](http://kfta.wildpricot.org)

Facebook Page

[Facebook Group Page](#)

[Facebook Bulletin Board](#)  
(Events)



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

## BRAVO! Awards and Achievements

**Another Big Read in Hopkinsville:** Congratulations to the Pennyroyal Arts Council, which for the ninth time has received a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant for the Big Read program. The Arts Council is one of 62 organizations nationwide (and the only Kentucky organization) selected to receive a Big Read grant for 2023-24. The \$20,000 grant will support a variety of programs and events centered around the award-winning poetry book *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* by Ross Gay. The book highlights the earth's abundance, such as fruit, blooms, meals, insects, waters, conversations, trees, embraces, and helping hands. Arts Council Executive Director Margaret Prim said that this year's program will engage the community in over 30 activities and programs.

**Citizens Institute on Rural Design:** The Gateway Regional Arts Center in Mount Sterling and the Sharpsburg Design Studio in Sharpsburg have been chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts to be among the 25 towns and tribal communities taking part in this year's Citizens' Institute on Rural Design™ (CIRD).

Working with communities with populations of 50,000 or less, this national initiative has two primary components: local design workshops and a design learning cohort.

As a workshop community, Mt. Sterling is looking to revitalize a part of its historic downtown with public art, community gathering spaces, and recreational activities.

As a member of the learning cohort, the Sharpsburg Design Studio will spend the next 14 months connecting with other rural communities across the country and will receive one-on-one coaching and assistance with funding opportunities.

## KFTA Adds Facebook Page

Kentuckians for the Arts has added a new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KentuckiansForTheArtsInc/>

If you're on Facebook please "Like" our new page. Our [Group page](#) and [Bulletin Board events page](#) will also continue to operate.

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