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

Join KFTA in Urging Kentucky’s U.S. Senators and Representatives to Support Creative Sector Legislation

There is now more pro-creative economy legislation being considered by Congress than at any other point in U.S. history. In the last several months arts advocates have been working with members of Congress to introduce an historic lineup of pro-arts legislation.

If all seven bills were to pass into law, they would open billions of dollars in investment opportunity for creative businesses and entrepreneurs, expanding opportunity for current and future workers, and boosting the U.S. economy.

That makes now a critical time to urge Kentucky Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul and our state’s six U.S. Representatives to support this important legislation.

April 5-7, KFTA Board Chair Lori Meadows, KFTA Executive Director Phil Shepherd and representatives of arts organizations across the state will hold virtual meetings with Kentucky’s Washington delegation and/or their staff members to encourage them to support federal funding for the arts that will benefit Kentucky’s artists and creative economy.

Your voice is important! Find out more about the bills in this 4-page explainer. Americans for the Arts has a form enabling arts organizations to make a single endorsement to all seven acts, as well as a mechanism for individuals to voice support.
A special thank you to our Foundational members:
Ms. Margaret & Mr. Jeffery Jamner
Gretchen & Aldy Milliken

Curator Level Donors
$1000 gift to Kentuckians for the Arts

To become a Foundational member of KFTA visit our website.

So you can SAY…
“I support Kentucky Arts”

SUPPORT KFTA THROUGH KROGER AND AMAZON
Kentuckians for the Arts is now part of the Amazon Smile program and the Kroger donation program. The programs donate a portion of purchases to non-profit organizations. If you’re a customer of these businesses, please support KFTA.

KFTA’s unique Smile link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1557982

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

More National Funding Updates
Ongoing federal funding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is also critical to Kentucky’s arts organizations. Congress recently reached a compromise on the federal government’s annual budget for FY 2022, which is more than five months late. With all 13 appropriation bills pulled into one large Omnibus bill totaling $1.3 trillion, this all-encompassing bill includes everything from Ukraine relief aid and military spending to agriculture, roads, health, and arts appropriations.

The good news is that over $300 million was directed towards arts and culture-related projects, including:

- $180 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
- $268 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- $525 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting
- $36.5 million for Assistance for Arts Education
- $1.28 billion for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

However, there was no new additional COVID economic relief funding for the Small Business Administration. The Save Our Stages Extension bill was also not included in the Omnibus. An SVÖG deadline extension that would allow the use of federal grant funds to pay for expenses incurred until March 2023, now seems unlikely. A determined group of bipartisan Senators and House members still wants to pass a stand-alone COVID relief bill to provide funds to support live venues, specifically restaurants and gyms, that never received SBA funds last year. While this is another possible bill that the SOS Extension Act could be attached to, according to Americans for the Arts, it’s very hard to imagine this bill passing through both chambers of Congress before June 30, 2022.

Hurry! Deadlines Approaching for KAC Funding Opportunities
Applications for several Kentucky Arts Council funding opportunities are due by the end of March.

March 30 is the deadline for the Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowships in Visual Arts and for the Emerging Artist Awards in Visual Arts.

March 31 is the deadline to apply for a Performing Artists Directory Touring Grant.

More info can be found at the KAC website.
**Free Webinar on Local ARPA Funds**

Did you know that 60% of Kentucky counties will receive more in American Rescue Plan Act funds than their annual budgets? Millions of dollars in ARPA funds will be distributed at the local level in Kentucky, and arts organizations and projects are eligible to receive them.

On May 10 at 3 p.m. ET, KFTA and the Kentucky Small Business Development Center in Berea will sponsor a free virtual webinar to help arts organizations seek this funding. Pam Thomas of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy will explain the funding with a specific focus on the arts and creative sector.

Watch the KFTA Facebook Group page and website for info on how to attend.

**Kentucky Writers’ Day Set for April 26**

An event to celebrate Kentucky Writers’ Day will be held at the Kentucky Capitol rotunda in Frankfort at 10 a.m. ET Tuesday April 26. Kentucky Poet Laureate Crystal Wilkinson, former poets laureate, writers from across the commonwealth and other guests will be featured. Videos of Kentucky writers reading from their works will be featured on social media. Find out more at the Kentucky Arts Council website.

The Kentucky General Assembly established Kentucky Writers' Day in 1990 to honor Kentucky's strong literary tradition and to celebrate the anniversary of the birth on April 24 of Kentucky native Robert Penn Warren, the first poet laureate of the United States and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes.

**Studies Explore Pandemic Impact and Benefit of Arts to Teenagers**

- Teenagers who take part in arts activities are less likely to engage in antisocial and criminalized behavior, according to a new study from University of Florida EpiArts Lab and University College London. [More info](#).
- Between 2019 and 2020, the U.S. arts economy shrank at nearly twice the rate of the economy as a whole. This and other data on the impact of the pandemic is relayed in a [new report](#) from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

*When you join or donate to KFTA, you support advocacy work for arts and arts education across Kentucky. More info at the [KFTA website](#).*