

# Kentuckians for the Arts NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Kentuckians for the Arts (KFTA) is a statewide 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, nonpartisan organization.

Contributions and annual membership dues are tax deductible as permitted by law.

To join click on the link and follow the instructions.

[Join Us Now!](#)



## Governor's Awards Nominations Still Open

If you know of an organization, business, or individual that is making outstanding contributions to the arts, there's still time for you to nominate them for a Governor's Award in the Arts. These annual awards are administered by the Kentucky Arts Council. There are nine award categories:

- **Milner Award:** Outstanding philanthropic, artistic or other contributions to the arts.
- **Artist Award:** Lifetime achievement in the arts.
- **Business Award:** Outstanding interest in and support of the arts.
- **Community Arts Award:** Positive impact in the community through the arts.
- **Education Award:** Significant contribution to arts in education.
- **Folk Heritage Award:** Outstanding effort to perpetuate and promote Kentucky's unique artistic traditions.
- **Government Award:** Significant support for the arts through government action.
- **Media Award:** Commitment to bringing the arts to the attention of the public.
- **National Award:** Achievement of national prominence in the arts.

Nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. ET April 7, 2023. For more information visit the [Kentucky Arts Council website](#) or contact Tom Musgrave at [tomr.musgrave@ky.gov](mailto:tomr.musgrave@ky.gov) or 502-892-3122. Nominations can be made by individuals, businesses or organizations. Recipients must be living and not have received a Governor's Award in the Arts in the past.

## Follow KFTA Youth Council on Instagram

KFTA's new Youth Arts Council has launched an Instagram page to share news and ideas from youth artists and to promote awareness of the arts and arts education. Follow the Council at [kentucky\\_youth\\_arts\\_council](#).

## Welcome New KFTA Members!

Carol Baughman  
LexArts  
Heather Lyons  
RiverPark Center  
Jim Stites

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.



## 2023 Kentucky General Assembly Update

- Kentuckians for the Arts participated in several events during the 2023 Kentucky legislative session, including joining the Kentucky Nonprofit Network as a co-sponsor of Kentucky Nonprofit Day at the Capitol on March 8. The primary purpose of the day was to thank legislators for allocating \$75 million to the Team Kentucky Nonprofit Relief Fund in the 2022 session. One hundred eleven arts nonprofits across the state received support from the fund, using the funding for everything from staff salaries to programming for veterans. Shown above are representatives of some of the arts nonprofits that participated in the day, including KFTA, RiverPark Center, LexArts, Kentucky Opera, Fund for the Arts, and Art Center of the Bluegrass.
- In January, KFTA launched a weekly newsletter for legislators. “State of the Arts” provides information on arts achievements and news for legislators to share with their constituents.
- Responding to concerns by theater groups across the state, KFTA partnered with the Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education Steering Committee and the Kentucky Presenters Network to express opposition to Senate Bill 115. As originally written the bill would have prevented performances in which people performed as characters of the opposite sex. The bill did not pass.

## South Arts Info and Listening Sessions Set for April

South Arts is the regional arts organization serving the southeastern United States. Its Vice President of Strategy Charles Phaneuf will be in Louisville and Lexington in April for information and listening sessions and invites artists and arts organizations to attend to discuss funding opportunities and challenges. Sessions will be from 9-10:30 a.m. April 18 at Kentucky Performing Arts in Louisville and from noon to 1 p.m. April 19 at ArtsPlace in Lexington. Attendance is free; no registration is required. More info at the [KFTA website](http://www.kfta.org).

## CONTACT US:

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[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 Accomplishments

### Strong Showing at Kentucky Crafted Market

The 40th anniversary of the Kentucky Crafted Market, March 10-12 at the Kentucky Horse Park, was a huge success. The market attracted more than 9,600 visitors (the highest attendance since 2013); collected cash donations of \$4,600 for the Team Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Fund; and included a special event in which Kentucky Crafted artist Dan Neil Barnes presented a glass sculpture to Appalshop to replace a similar piece of his that was lost in the July 2022 flood.

### Champion Fiddlers Named in Owensboro

The Kentucky Fiddle Championship March 18 and 19 at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum attracted a record 138+ competitors from 12 states. Several top winners were Kentucky musicians, including Championship Fiddle-Off Winner Joel Whittinghill of Bowling Green, Jr. Fiddle Champion David Lin of Lexington; and Bluegrass Banjo Champion Noah Goebel of Elkton.

### Kentuckians Sweep the Appys

Kentuckians took home 36 of the 53 Appalachian Arts and Entertainment Awards presented at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg March 18 and 19. Appys are given in areas of education, writing, visual arts, performance, music genres, and arts industry professions. Nominees must be from one of the 13 states in the Appalachian region. Nominations are made each fall, and popular vote determines three finalists in each category, with winners chosen by a panel of industry professionals. This year there were entries from 11 of the 13 states, and more than 250,000 individual popular votes were cast. See a full list of winners at the [Appys Facebook page](#).

### Save the Date: Ky. Writers Day Is April 24

Kentucky will install its 2023-24 Poet Laureate and honor the state's literary tradition on April 24 in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Throughout April the Kentucky Arts Council will feature videos contributed by Kentucky writers on its [Facebook page](#).