Kentuckians for the Arts

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

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!

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the easiest and fastest ways to contact Kentucky legislators is via Kentucky’s Toll-Free Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181

Not sure who your legislators are? Visit the Legislative Research Commission website.

ARPA Funding Coalition Effort Continues: What Can You Do?

Last month, Kentuckians for the Arts and Fund for the Arts launched a statewide coalition to advocate for including the arts in Kentucky’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. With assistance from McCarthy Strategic Solutions, the coalition has been working to stay on top of the funding situation and to build advocacy efforts among arts organizations and individuals.

Here’s the latest:

- $2.183 billion in ARPA funds are going directly to KY state government. $1.1 billion of these funds remain undedicated, with the purpose of helping with recovery from negative impacts of the pandemic.

- It’s uncertain if there will be a special legislative session. If there’s not a special session the funding decision will be made during the general legislative session that begins in January 2022.

- Based on ARPA guidelines, the arts ARE eligible to receive these funds. However, some legislative leaders have noted that they are NOT hearing from the arts community.

Lawmakers need to hear as many voices as possible to keep the arts front of mind. It’s critical to contact your legislators and Kentucky legislative leadership to share the story of Kentucky arts organizations’ challenges and losses due to COVID and the urgent need to help the arts sector recover and rebuild.

- Visit the KFTA website for Kentucky Arts Key Facts and a sample advocacy script and share this information with your organization’s board and members. Then encourage all of them to reach out to their lawmakers.

- Let the coalition know who you have contacted (email Lori Meadows at lori.meadows5076@gmail.com or Rebecca Brady at rebecca@rabrady.com). The goal is to contact all Kentucky legislators.

- Have questions? Need help informing your board and members? KFTA can help with information and a possible Zoom presentation to your board. Email KFTA Executive Director Phil Shepherd or KFTA Board Chair Lori Meadows.
Get the Big Picture on ARPA Arts Funding

While current coalition efforts are focused on Kentucky’s state funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, it’s important to understand this is just one possible source of ARPA arts funding.

Kentucky counties and cities are also receiving ARPA funding for COVID recovery. The allocation of these funds will be made at the local government level.

The National Endowment for the Arts also received ARPA funds and has allocated approximately $800,000 to the Kentucky Arts Council to be distributed to Kentucky arts organizations. The NEA will also be making direct grants to organizations. And Shuttered Venue Operators Grants are being administered through the Small Business Administration.

KFTA has created a guide to tapping into these various funding sources, available at the KFTA website.

A new grant opportunity just announced in late May is the Community Navigator Pilot Program to help hard-hit small businesses. More info at the Small Business Administration website.

Urge Your Chamber of Commerce to Support Creative Industry Recovery Legislation

110 Chambers of Commerce across the United States, including Greater Louisville Inc., have signed a letter to U.S. House and Senate leadership urging them to allocate $18 million in funding for creative industry economic recovery through future infrastructure bills. Get more info, see the letter, and find out how your local Chamber can sign on at the Americans for the Arts website.

Arts Education Updates

- Here’s another positive impact to add to the lengthy list of arts education benefits: improved attendance. An edvestors.org study “The Arts Advantage” that looked at Boston Public Schools found that participation in arts classes translated to nine additional days of instruction for a class of 25 students in a standard school year. Read about the study at the District Administration website.

- Huge arts funding opportunities exist for Kentucky K-12 schools in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund. Kentucky must distribute a minimum of $1,876,295,841 to schools. Find out more at the Kentucky Music Educators website.
Dive into Data with KFTA and KPN at Free Virtual Workshop June 24

It has been said that “without data you are just another person with an opinion.” Data collection and use can be intimidating, but are important tools for success for every arts organization.

If you'd like to know more about why data is important to your organization and how to use data, be sure to register for the June 24 workshop “Diving into Data without Drowning.”

This 60-minute virtual workshop is sponsored by Kentuckians for the Arts and the Kentucky Presenters Network and will be facilitated by TRG Arts, an international consulting firm specializing in arts analytics. The workshop is open to all Kentucky arts and cultural organizations regardless of size or budget. Each participant will also have the opportunity to follow up with a free one-on-one consulting session with TRG.

The workshop begins at noon ET, 11 a.m. CT. Find out more at the KFTA website. The workshop is free but registration is required. Register here.

Governor’s Awards in the Arts Nominations Accepted Through June 15

The Governor’s Awards in the Arts are Kentucky’s highest artistic honor, designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made extraordinary and significant contributions to the arts in Kentucky. And now’s the time to make nominations for this year’s awards.

The Kentucky Arts Council, which oversees the awards process, is accepting nominations through 4:30 p.m. ET Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

Eligibility is specific to each of the nine award categories: Milner, Artist, Business, Community Arts, Education, Folk Heritage, Government, Media and National. Depending on the category, eligible nominees must be residents of Kentucky, organizations located in Kentucky or have close ties to Kentucky. Past recipients and posthumous nominees are not eligible.

Guidelines and a nomination form are available at the Kentucky Arts Council website.