

Kentuckians for the Arts
NEWSLETTER

November, 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.

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AEP6 Study Shows Strong Economic Impact of the Arts – Nationally and in Kentucky

What generated \$151.7 billion of economic activity in 2022?

The answer is: America's nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

That's one of the findings in the recently released Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study. This comprehensive study, based on data gathered in communities of all sizes across the United States -- including Kentucky -- is conducted by Americans for the Arts approximately every five years to track the economic and social impact of the nation's arts nonprofits.

Three Kentucky communities -- Paducah, Louisville, and Lexington -- participated in the study, contributing local data gathered by study partners the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau, Louisville's Fund for the Arts, and LexArts.

In those three communities, economic impact generated by nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences totaled \$591.1 million. The breakout is impressive:

Louisville:

\$517.2 million in economic activity (\$240.4 million in direct spending by organizations and an additional \$276.8 million by their audiences). This activity generated \$17.6 million in state tax revenue, \$9.3 million in local tax revenue, and \$59.7 million in federal tax revenue.

Lexington:

\$37.8 million in economic activity (\$16.9 million in spending by organizations and an additional \$21 million in event-related spending by their audiences). This activity generated \$1.9 million in state tax revenue, \$1 million in local tax revenue, and in \$5.2 million federal tax revenue.

Paducah:

\$36.1 million in economic activity (\$21.3 in spending by organizations and \$14.1 in event-related spending by their audiences). This activity generated \$1.3 million in state tax revenue, \$399,779 in local tax revenue, and \$3.2 million in federal tax revenue.

The AEP6 study looked at numerous other areas of impact and we'll be sharing more in future issues. You can read the entire study at <https://aep6.americansforthearts.org>.

A special thank you to our Foundational members:

Ms. Margaret & Mr. Jeffery Jamner

Gretchen & Aldy Milliken
Kentucky Performing Arts

SUPPORT KFTA THROUGH KROGER

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CLOSEUP: Governor's School for the Arts

This article was written by Julia Kinsman and Maggie Bowman, members of the KFTA Youth Arts Council.

The Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) is a three-week, fully funded, visual and performing arts summer program for rising juniors and seniors in the state of Kentucky. Each spring thousands of students audition for the program, which is composed of two sessions, both currently held at the University of Kentucky, with approximately 250 students per each session. Providing artistic instruction for students of every art form, the Governor's School for the Arts offers hands-on arts opportunities for the state's talented students who are dancers, actors, instrumental and vocal musicians, creative writers, future architects, or visual artists.

Several members of the Kentuckians for the Arts Youth Arts Council are alumni of GSA and the Governor's School for the Arts and had incredible experiences at the program. Maggie Bowman, a senior from Lincoln County High School, attended GSA in 2023 for Drama. "I truly believe that GSA was a life-changing experience! I met some of the most creative and kind artists ever! I was able to learn more about my discipline as well as explore other art forms. I absolutely loved GSA." Another Youth Arts Council member, Abigayle Stokes, is a current high school senior at SCAPA at Lafayette High School. She attended GSA in 2022 for Drama. "I had an absolute blast! Each day was a new task and adventure. I especially loved the crossover between art forms."

Potential and attitude are as important in the GSA audition/review process as is talent. The most talented student will not succeed at GSA if they are not interested in becoming better than they already are. GSA is not just an award – it is an opportunity to learn and grow. GSA adjudicators look at these young artists holistically, not just their products/performances.

Applications for the 2024 GSA sessions are now open and are due January 14, 2024. Kentuckians for the Arts wishes the absolute best for these applicants and is excited to see the impact they will have on the future of the arts in Kentucky.



A dramatic moment from GSA 2023.

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BRAVO! Awards and Recognitions

GRAMMY Nominations: The Bluegrass State is well-represented in the recently announced GRAMMY nominations:

Lawrence County native **Tyler Childers** got five nominations, including Best Country Album, Best Americana Performance, Best Country Solo Performance, Best Country Song and Best Music Video for his "In Your Love." Kentucky poet laureate **Silas House** is nominated as a producer on that video.

Chris Stapleton, of Staffordsville, is nominated for three awards: Best Country Solo Performance, Best Country Duo/Group Performance and Best Country Song. He shares the nomination for Best Duo/Group Performance with **Carly Pearce**, born in Taylor Mill, KY.

Louisville Orchestra Music Director **Teddy Abrams** is nominated for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for his work on the Yuja Wang album *The American Project*.

Miki Abraham, a Paducah native and Northern Kentucky University graduate, is in the cast of *Shucked*, a nominee for Musical of the Year.

KAC Literary Fellowships and Awards: Eight Kentucky writers were recognized with 2024 Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artist Awards from the Kentucky Arts Council. The \$7,500 fellowships and \$1,000 awards recognize excellence and creativity in writing.

Individual Artist Fellowship Recipients are **Austyn Gaffney**, creative nonfiction, Louisville; **Sage Martin**, playwriting, Louisville; **Megan Pillow**, fiction, Louisville; and **Lisa Briana Williams**, poetry, Danville.

Emerging Artist Award Recipients are **Haley Crigger**, Park Hills; **Emily Borst**, playwriting, Crescent Springs; **Jeremy Smith**, creative nonfiction, Lexington; and **Joanna Englert**, poetry, Louisville.

