

Kentuckians for the Arts  
**NEWSLETTER**

May 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!](#)



## Kentucky Arts Council Supports Disaster Recovery for Arts Organizations

In the tornados and floods that impacted Kentucky in 2021 and 2022, arts organizations, schools, and artists lost facilities, equipment, and income. To assist in recovery from these disasters, the Arts Council has awarded 50 grants totaling more than \$170,000.

Three types of grants were offered, Arts Education Grants, Individual Artist Grants, and Nonprofit Arts Organization Grants. To date, the arts council has awarded:

Arts Education Grants - 13 grants totaling \$12,388

Individual Artist Grants - 20 grants, \$4,000 each, totaling \$80,000

Nonprofit Arts Organization Grants - 17 grants, varying dollar amounts, totaling \$74,922

A list of recipients is available at the [Kentucky Arts Council website](#).

Funding for the grants was a combination of federal, regional, and state funding. The arts council received \$115,000 in funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and \$26,000 from regional partner South Arts. The council allocated \$35,000 from its own budget.

The Arts Council is also assisting arts organizations and artists in planning to be ready for future emergencies with an online series of webinars, "Emergencies, Disasters and the Arts." The six-part series began in April and continues through September, exploring topics ranging from preparedness resources to funding. The next session, "The 4-1-1: Making a Case for Disaster Funding in the Arts" will be June 21. Previous sessions can be watched online. Find more info about the series at the [Kentucky Arts Council website](#).

As arts supporters look ahead to the upcoming 2024 legislative budget session, this is a good reminder of the critical services the Arts Council provides, both in "normal times" and when disaster strikes, and the need to adequately fund the council.

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.

## Additional Emergency Preparedness Resources

**Festival and Events Preparedness Audits:** The Performing Arts Readiness project is offering free emergency preparedness audits for festivals and outdoor events that include performing arts. The audits cover a wide range of topics, including crowd management, safety, and legal concerns. Info at the [Performing Arts Readiness website](#).

**Institutional Emergency Preparedness Grants:** Performing Arts Readiness will award up to 24 organization grants for the creation of institutional emergency preparedness or continuity of operations plans. The deadline is Sept. 1, 2023 for planning projects beginning between Oct. 1 and Nov. 15, 2023, with a second round of grants due Jan. 15, 2024 for projects beginning in 2024. Info at the [Performing Arts Readiness website](#).

## National Legislation Update

**Portable Benefits Act:** Senator Mark Warner will soon introduce the "Portable Benefits for Independent Workers Pilot Program Act," which would provide federal grants to states to develop their own portable benefits programs. These programs would allow contract workers (including artists) to access benefits like health insurance and paid leave without being tied to one single employer. Grantmakers in the Arts articulated the need for portable benefits in this blog post: [It Is Time for Portable Benefits for Gig Workers, Including Artists](#)

**The Charitable Act:** Grantmakers in the Arts encourages arts supporters to ask their senators to co-sponsor and support [The Charitable Act](#). 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. The deduction is limited to one-third of the standard deduction allowed to such taxpayers. This type of charitable support from moderate-income individuals is essential to support organizations in moderate-income communities and creates more equity and balance in our tax system. Contact Ky. [Sen. Mitch McConnell](#) and [Sen. Rand Paul](#).

## Team Kentucky Exhibit Deadline June 2

Kentucky visual artists should apply by Friday, June 2 for the opportunity for one of their works to be included in the Fall 2023 Team Kentucky Gallery Exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display at the Kentucky State Capitol from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2023. Application info at the [Team Kentucky Gallery web page](#).

## Contact Us:

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[Facebook Page](#) (Advocacy)

[Facebook Bulletin Board](#)  
(Events)



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the Arts

## In Harmony Tour Tickets

The Louisville Orchestra's In Harmony Tour that was funded by the 2022 General Assembly launched in May with concerts in Prestonsburg, Pikeville, and Harlan. The next concerts are in July in Ashland, Newport, Glasgow, Somerset, and Bardstown. Tickets are free but the concerts are filling fast. (Somerset is already filled.) Request tickets at the [Louisville Orchestra website](#).

## South Arts Adds Literary Arts Prize and Fellowship Program

The regional arts organization South Arts has added a new program awarding a Southern Prize and State Fellowships for Literary Arts. Kentucky fiction writers are eligible to apply. This new South Arts program will award nine State \$5,000 fellowships, along with the Southern Prize winner and finalist receiving an additional \$25,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Applications are due August 4, 2023.

Info at the [South Arts website](#).

## Rachel Moser Named Ky. Fellow for Visual Arts

Rachel Moser, an interdisciplinary artist and Professor of Digital Art at Eastern Kentucky University, has been named the South Arts 2023 Kentucky Fellow for Visual Arts. Her works feature an array of natural and manufactured materials presented through sculpture, video, installation, and sound and have been shown throughout Kentucky as well as nationally. Moser says her influences come from years of immersion in movement practice and performing as a ballet dancer prior to moving into the field of visual arts. She received her MFA in Studio Art from the University of Kentucky.

The South Arts Fellow program recognizes an artist in each of nine Southeastern states. Selected artists receive a \$5,000 fellowship and an opportunity to receive the annual Southern Prize for Visual Arts. Check out Moser's work at her website [rjwmoser.com](http://rjwmoser.com).

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