

Kentuckians for the Arts NEWSLETTER

November 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](#)



Will You Help KFTA Advocate for Ky. Arts?

The devastating impact of the pandemic makes advocating for the arts more important than ever. As a member of KFTA you support and join activities that raise awareness of the importance of the arts as well as advocacy for state and national funding to support Kentucky arts organization.

In the past year KFTA:

- Partnered with Fund for the Arts to lead a statewide coalition to advocate for support for arts organizations from Kentucky's American Rescue Plan Act funds. This effort will intensify as the Kentucky General Assembly meets beginning in January 2022 to make funding decisions;
- Partnered with the Kentucky Arts Council to provide a free Arts Advocacy Training session as part of Arts Week;
- Partnered with the Kentucky Presenters Network to provide a free Diving into Data webinar for Kentucky arts organizations;
- Organized and led virtual arts constituency meetings with Kentucky's Washington delegation and their staffs;
- Contacted mayors and county judges across Kentucky to urge them to issue Arts & Humanities Month proclamations;
- Expanded information on the KFTA website to include an Advocacy Toolkit and a guide to arts funding opportunities;
- Published monthly newsletters, a monthly calendar and Action Alerts to keep members up-to-date on national and state legislative activities, funding opportunities and other critical information relating to arts and arts education;
- Joined the Creative States Coalition, a coalition of state-level professional advocacy leaders whose work initiates, strengthens, and advocates for greater public support of arts sector growth at the state and local level;
- Began Strategic Planning to expand future activities, including surveying arts educators (see story on next page).

2022 will be a critical year for arts recovery and a large and unified voice can make a difference! Join the effort by becoming a KFTA member or renewing your membership at the [KFTA website](#). KFTA membership dues and donations are tax-deductible.

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”

(YOUR NAME HERE)

LOOKING FOR ARTS FUNDING?

Check out the new [Funding Opportunities resource](#) at the KFTA website.

KFTA Education Survey Initial Results

Kentuckians for the Arts THANKS our K-12 arts educators for participating in the recent Kentucky K-12 Arts Education Survey! We received over 200 responses from elementary, middle, and high schools from around the Commonwealth. Here are some of the initial findings:

- Music and Visual Arts are more often taught by specialists than drama/theatre or dance at both the elementary and middle and high school levels. The largest gap indicated was at the middle and high school level, where dance is not offered in 82.4% of responding schools, compared with music and visual arts, which are both not offered in 4.4% of responding schools.
- Among elementary respondents Drama/Theatre is taught by a theatre specialist in 7.6% of the responding schools and Dance is taught by a dance specialist in 6.3% of responding schools.
- Media Arts is being taught in 57 of the responding elementary schools and in 62 of the responding middle and high schools. Middle and high schools are more likely to have certified media arts teachers.

Kentucky students benefit from having highly qualified visual and performing arts teachers who are well versed in teaching a standards-based curriculum. KFTA is continuing to analyze the survey data and the results of this data will be used in future arts education advocacy efforts.

National Legislation Update

- The Save Our Stages Extension bill was introduced on September 29, 2021 in the U.S. Senate by Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). The bill would extend the project period for Shuttered Venue Operator Grantees to use their funds to pay for allowable expenditures incurred from March 1, 2020 through March 11, 2023. A companion bill was also introduced in the U.S. House. by Unless this deadline is extended, venues could have to return billions of their grant dollars to the SBA. You can use this form at the [Americans for the Arts website](#) to ask Kentucky’s legislators to support this bill.
- You can find out about the status of other national legislation relating to the Creative Economy at the AFTA Arts Action Center [tracking page](#). national arts assessments.
- The National Arts Action Summit 2022 will be focused specifically on appropriations items and the creative economy bills that have been introduced. This year’s summit will be virtual and will be held in March. For the first time, there will be no fee for individuals and organizations to attend. Find more info at the [AFTA website](#).

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[Facebook Bulletin Board](#)
(Events)



Funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, provides American Rescue Plan funds to Kentuckians for the Arts with federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

BRAVO and Congratulations!

- In November, Gov. Beshear honored **Dr. Everett McCorvey** as a Team Kentucky All-Star and appointed him as chair of the Kentucky Arts Council. Dr. McCorvey is a professor at the University of Kentucky's College of Fine Arts, in the School of Music, who teaches music performance and voice and also serves as the chair of opera studies. "Thank you, Gov. Beshear for this wonderful honor, McCorvey said. "It was the arts that got me up every day to go to school as a child in Alabama, so that I could participate in the band. When I came to Kentucky, I realized this state has a very rich history in the arts. With all of the economic development, with people coming into the commonwealth, they're going to want to have a place to go and visit the arts, to see all the wonderful places in Kentucky where the arts are happening. I am looking forward to serving on Team Kentucky."
- Kentucky native **Amanda Matthews**, artist and chief executive officer of Lexington-based Prometheus Foundry, was chosen to create the permanent Team Kentucky COVID-19 Memorial, which will be located in Monument Park on the Kentucky State Capitol grounds. An advisory panel that included health care heroes, family members, and loved ones of lost and COVID-19 survivors selected the final design for the memorial. The artwork, titled "United We Stand. Divided We Fall," will feature ADA accessibility design, including visual, audible and tactile as well as symbolic images on bronze discs. It will be encircled by lights that will glow green when the sun sets, to symbolize empathy and compassion for the Kentuckians lost in the pandemic.

KFTA Receives South Arts Grant

KFTA has been awarded a South Arts Sustainability Grant in the amount of \$7,500 to support operations in 2022. We're excited to receive this support to help expand KFTA's work in the coming year.

Promote Your Organization's Events at the KFTA Facebook Bulletin Board Page

What's going on in your arts organization? Are you holding an upcoming event? Do you have a job opening? Let KFTA help you get the word out by joining the free [KFTA Bulletin Board Group Page](#) and posting your news.