

Kentuckians for the Arts
NEWSLETTER

Sept./Oct. 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!](#)



October Is Arts & Humanities Month!

National Arts & Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of arts and creativity in America. This month-long recognition was established in 1993.

In Kentucky the arts and creative industries are an important part of state tradition -- and everyday life. Whether you sing in your church choir, enjoy attending a play or local arts fair, dance to stay healthy, or make your living in a creative endeavor, if you're a Kentuckian, the arts touch and improve your life. Creative industries are an important part of the state economy as well. In 2020, arts industries contributed more \$5.6 billion to the Kentucky economy and employed more than 96,000 people.

One of the best ways to celebrate is to get out and experience some of the many wonderful arts events going on across the state. With that in mind, KFTA has created "31 Ways to Celebrate," a guide to just a few of the many events scheduled. Check out an interactive version at the KFTA website kfta.wildapricot.org.

October is also a good time to contact your state legislators to let them know that the arts are important to you and your community. Legislative support is critical to the arts in Kentucky. The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, provides operating support for arts organizations of all sizes across Kentucky and numerous support services such as school grants, marketing opportunities for arts entrepreneurs, and emergency help for disaster-stricken communities. When the legislature convenes January 2024 they'll be creating the state budget for the next two years -- and need to know that funding the Arts Council is important to their constituents. Find out who your legislators are and how to contact them at the [Legislative Research Commission website](#).



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 and log into your Kroger account, then search for Kentuckians for the Arts by name or use the number MR920.

CSC Convening Explores Arts Policy Issues

Kentuckians for the Arts (KFTA) joined other state and national arts and creative industry advocates in September for the Creative States Coalition (CSC) member convening in Chicago. The meeting focused on active engagement in the political process and creating positive change through public policy.

A discussion on the need for support and training for artists and creative workers brought up important questions CSC members are attempting to address: Why do so many creative workers not realize that's what they are? What does a high quality job mean for an artist, and how does it differ within the industry? What is the workforce development pathway for artists, particularly when participation in an education program doesn't prepare them for the workforce? Will the advance of AI eliminate creative jobs?

A visit to the Sweet Water Foundation on Chicago's South Side illustrated how art and creativity can transform a community. Using the interdisciplinary practice of Regenerative Neighborhood Development, Sweet Water has integrated art, culture, design, urban agriculture and education to transform six blocks of what was once a blighted neighborhood. Foreclosed homes are now public art galleries and workshop space, vacant lots are public parks, a community farm fills an entire city block, and the Thought Barn is in constant use for community events and performances. (More information at: <https://www.sweetwaterfoundation.com/>)

There has been exponential growth in state arts advocacy organizations since 2017. CSC was organized in 2021 as a coalition of state-level arts and creative industry advocacy leaders, and initiates, supports, strengthens, and elevates action for arts sector growth at the state and local level through collaboration, education, capacity building, and public policy development. Membership is composed of creative professionals whose work includes advocating for greater public support of creativity at the state level.



The "Think-Do House," a foreclosed Chicago house that stood vacant from its construction in 2007, was transformed into a community hub that hosts educational collaborations, community meetings, workshops, and cooking demos.

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(Events)



Funding provided 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,
supports Kentuckians for
the Arts with state tax
dollars and federal funding
from the National
Endowment for the Arts.

BRAVO! Awards and Recognitions

Governor's Awards in the Arts to Be Presented Oct. 13

The 2023 Kentucky Governor's Awards in the Arts will be presented Friday, October 13 at the Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center, 300 E. Third St. in Lexington, The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. The nine 2023 recipients are:

Milner Award: Todd Lowe, Shelby County

Artist Award: Dan Neil Barnes, Scott County

Business Award: Gnomon Press, Franklin County

Community Arts Award: Yeiser Art Center, McCracken County

Education Award: Tom Stites, Daviess County

Folk Heritage Award: Tee Dee Young, Fayette County

Government Award: Michael Buchanon, Warren County

Media Award: Walter Tunis, Fayette County

National Award: Ada Limón, Fayette County

Ada Limon Receives "Genius" Award

U.S. Poet Laureate and Kentuckian Ada Limón has been named a Fellow from the MacArthur Foundation for 2023. The MacArthur Fellowships are commonly referred to as "genius grants" and come with a stipend of \$800,000, paid out over five years. The criteria for selection of Fellows are exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishments, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.

Andres Bastin Receives Appalachian Storyteller Fellowship

Andres Bastin, professor emeritus at Berea College, has received a 2023 Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellowship. The fellowships are produced in partnership between South Arts, the National Association of Black Storytellers, and Mid Atlantic Arts. Fellows receive a \$5,000 cash award. The fellowships honor, celebrate, and support black storytellers living in the Appalachian region. The goal of the program is to promote and perpetuate the art of Black storytelling. The stipends are intended to provide opportunities to research, develop, perform and/or document the Black Appalachian storytelling tradition.

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Kentucky! Please share this newsletter with your
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