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!

Join the United Effort to Recover and Rebuild the Arts in Kentucky!

In coming months, Kentucky officials will decide how to allocate funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), providing a huge opportunity to help Kentucky’s arts organizations overcome the economic devastation of the pandemic.

Toward that goal Kentuckians for the Arts and Fund for the Arts are leading a statewide coalition to advocate for including the arts in Kentucky’s ARPA funding. With assistance from McCarthy Strategic Solutions, the coalition will work to provide a unified and concentrated message about the importance of the arts to our communities and the essential role the arts can play in rebuilding Kentucky’s economy.

A volume of voices counts! We hope all Kentucky arts organizations and businesses will join this important effort.

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

The coalition will meet via Zoom on May 7 at 2 pm ET. To join, use the link https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88986556340?pwd=T3Q5M3d5eGxudzNZbS8zRDlaUG5aUT09#success (Meeting ID 88986556340, Passcode 182584).

If you have questions or would like more information about the coalition effort, email KFTA Executive Director Phil Shepherd or KFTA Board Chair Lori Meadows.

Arts Education Updates

• The Kentucky Department of Education’s Virtual Listening Tour continues May 4, 6, 11, and 13. The May 13 date will be in Spanish. Register at the KDE website. KDE is also accepting applications to its Teachers Advisory Council, which provides direct input to Kentucky’s Commissioner of Education about issues in Kentucky schools. More information here.

• May 17 is the application deadline for the 2021 Musical Theatre Songwriting Challenge, sponsored by the NEA and the American Theatre Wing. It’s open to students in grades 9-12. More info here.
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)


KFTA Goes to Washington (Virtually)

In April, in conjunction with the National Arts Action Summit (NAAS), KFTA led virtual meetings with members of Kentucky’s Washington delegation. Board Chair Lori Meadows, Executive Director Phil Shepherd, and representatives of arts organizations across Kentucky talked with Congressmen Brett Guthrie and John Yarmuth and with staff members of Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul and Congressmen James Comer, Hal Rogers, and Thomas Massie.

Discussions reflected specific needs and interests in each district, and included tax policy, arts education, the NEA, arts and health, arts and the military, the inclusion of creative fields in vocational apprenticeships, and boosting the creative economy.

“We feel we had good listeners,” said Shepherd. The virtual format provided new opportunities for statewide involvement, he noted. “In past years you only conducted face to face visits with only those who showed up at the NAAS Summit, and that made it impossible to get all the district constituencies represented. The virtual meetings allowed us to focus on getting representatives from each congressional district in the meetings with our legislators.”
BRAVO! Tiny Art Show Is Big on Creativity

By Karine Maynard, President Anderson County Arts Council

Held in Danville, the Tiny Art Show is normally an annual in-person exhibition and art sale benefiting Art Center of the Bluegrass. This one-night-only arts extravaganza typically features over 500 works of small art created by artists throughout Central Kentucky. All pieces are sold for $20 each during an in-person buying frenzy. The Art Center had over 400 people show up to buy in 2019, and in 2020 there were even more works of art and attendees, leaving the room and walls packed!

That was before the pandemic....

Over this past year I have been consistently surprised by the different ways people are hosting venues for art and artists. Our local Arts Council enjoyed our first Virtual Art Trail (we used a website platform called Eventeny). We started placing artwork at our local hardware store, when it was one of the only venues open! We got together to jury business windows painted by students. I find myself in awe of the creative ways others have been making art work.

Also adapting to the times, the 2021 Tiny Art sale in Danville went virtual. The Art Center uploaded images of the works to the sales platform on its website. A preview gallery was sent out to generate interest in the sale, and all pieces went “live” at a designated time. The person who got their virtual check out first claimed the item.

Always part of the fun is that the show’s artworks are made in any medium by either professional or enthusiastic amateur artists, and all are only limited by the size of the canvas and their creativity. As in other years, you weren’t told the identity of the artist until after you completed your purchase. The mystery has always been another big chunk of the fun of this unique event, so I am glad they kept that aspect.

Due to the logistical challenges of uploading the artwork to the online sales platform, the Art Center limited how many pieces could be submitted. In the 2021 sale, 68 pieces were displayed online, and all were claimed!

As we progress into 2021, we will have to continue to adapt how we present art to the public, and how it will be viewed. But when you’re talking about the creative economy, I have no doubt the innovations will continue.