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!

Advocacy Webinar and Arts Education Conversation Available Online

As we look ahead to 2021, it’s apparent that strong advocacy will be needed to preserve and support arts organizations, artists, and arts education. Two events sponsored by KFTA this fall provided updated information and ideas. If you weren’t able to join them live, or would like to watch again, you can access them online.

Advocate for the Arts? You Can Do It!, a webinar co-sponsored by KFTA and the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC), offers a wealth of information about the status of the arts sector in Kentucky and effective ways to ask for support for the arts in your community and across the state. It’s on the KAC YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKq-5js1o-Q

Arts Education: Essential for All Kentucky Students, co-sponsored by KFTA and the Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education, brought together a panel of outstanding arts educators from across the Commonwealth, to discuss current challenges in arts education and how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect arts education in the future. Watch it on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eHsi3oLOMk

KFTA is grateful to be able to work with partners such as the Arts Council and the Coalition for Arts Education, and we look forward to offering additional timely events in 2021.

Keep Up with KFTA Advocacy and Bulletin Board Groups on Facebook

Are you one of the 5,000+ members of the KFTA Facebook Advocacy group? If not, join us—and tell your friends to join as well. This is where you’ll find links to upcoming KFTA events and Action Alerts suggesting how you can work to support the arts.

Be sure to also join the KFTA Facebook Bulletin Board group. This group is for artists and arts organizations to use to share information about upcoming events, performances, projects and news. So let us help you get the word out about your organization!
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)

COVID-19 Updates

- Can the Arts Survive the Pandemic?
  According to survey information from Americans for the Arts, 1 in 10 nonprofit arts organizations doubt their ability to survive the pandemic. Find out more about the economic impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector of the economy and possible rebuilding power of the arts in the article “By Every Measure, COVID-19 Continues Its Devastation of the Arts” at the Americans for the Arts Artsblog.

- How About an Arts New Deal?
  In an excellent opinion piece that ran in the Dec. 8 edition of USA Today, Tony-award winning actress Ellen Burstyn (co-president of The Actors Studio) and Charles Segar, CEO of Ovation TV and founder of Stand for the Arts, make a case for the need for the U.S. government to step in to save the arts.

- NEA Updates COVID-19 Resources
  The National Endowment for the Arts has updated its list of COVID-19 resources for artists and arts organizations: https://www.arts.gov/about/nea-on-covid-19/resources-for-artists-and-arts-organizations

- PPP Forgiveness Options Webinar
  On December 18 the Americans for the Arts' Arts Action Fund presented a free webinar on PPP Forgiveness Options & Income Tax Implications of receiving CARES Act grants, loans, or unemployment compensation. Watch it at www.Facebook.com/ArtsActionFund.

- An International Perspective
  UNESCO’s new report, Culture in Crisis: Policy Guide for a Resilient Creative Sector, offers best practices on how policymakers and funders can advocate for the inclusion of the creative sector in recovery plans and contribute to a more resilient cultural sector. The report is based on open-format virtual debates conducted in 65 countries with more than 1,000 artists and cultural professionals.
Arts Education Updates

• KMEA Conference Goes Virtual for 2021
The Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference will take place the week of February 14, including a virtual exhibit hall that will be available on demand for later viewing. Get more info at the KMEA website.

• And Speaking of Music…
Check out the recent NPR story “Examining the Link Between Music and Scores for Math, Reading,” about a music professor who set out to prove that music education didn’t improve math and reading scores, but found differently after a 10-year study.

• Bravo! Congratulations to KTA Award Winners
The Kentucky Theatre Association’s 2020 Kathi Ellis Award winners are Larry and Vivian Snipes, recognized for their longtime work at Lexington Children’s Theatre. KTA’s Roots of Bluegrass Playwriting Festival winners are: For 10-minute scripts: Michael Radford (winner), Bill McCann and Derek Trumbo (finalists). For full-length scripts, Jacob York (winner), Ed Clark and Matt Rifenburg (finalists).

Looking Ahead to 2021...

What a year 2020 has been! With your support KFTA has continued to work to advocate for and support the arts in this time of unprecedented challenges. Our 2020 activities included surveying Kentucky legislative candidates about their support for the arts; contacting Kentucky mayors to encourage Arts & Humanities Month proclamations; promoting the month with suggested activities; participating in the Americans for the Arts ArtsVote campaign; co-sponsoring a live Arts Education panel discussion; co-sponsoring an Arts Advocacy webinar; and instituting an Arts Action Alert campaign via our Facebook group.

With the Kentucky legislature convening to adopt a budget and Kentucky artists facing the continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we anticipate that 2021 will be a year of even greater need for arts advocacy and action.

Please join us in our efforts by renewing your tax-deductible KFTA membership:
https://kfta.wildapricot.org/join-us