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!

Register Now for Arts Week in Ky. Events!

Arts Week in Kentucky, Feb. 22-26, will offer a wide variety of opportunities to celebrate creativity across Kentucky and to find out what’s going on at the state, regional, and national levels.

Free virtual webinars, workshops, and performances focus on a specific theme each day:

- **Mon., Feb. 22 - Arts Education:** A panel discussion on the future of arts education (10 a.m.); a session on the Teaching Artists Guild (11 a.m.); Teaching Artists Showcase (noon); Trauma-Informed Care for Educators (1 p.m.)

- **Tues., Feb. 23 - Folk and Traditional Arts:** Interviews with Ky. “culture bearers” (10 a.m.); a performance by Mitch Barrett (11:30 a.m.); Farming and Folk Arts (noon)

- **Wed., Feb. 24 - Arts Advocacy:** A session on new national research (10 a.m.); a session by KFTA chair Lori Meadows on effective advocacy (11 a.m.); Performing Artists Showcase (noon); and the national Artists Thrive initiative (1 p.m.)

- **Thurs., Feb. 25 - Non-Profit Arts Organizations:** A session on Marketing in the Pandemic (10 a.m.); a panel discussion on how to survive and thrive in the pandemic (11 a.m.); and video presentations by organizations across the state (noon)

- **Fri., Feb. 26 - Individual Artists:** A session on e-commerce for artists (10 a.m.); a session on branding (11 a.m.); and demonstrations by Kentucky Crafted Artists (12:30 p.m.)

Find more information and register for sessions at the Kentucky Arts Council website. You can also listen to a podcast about Arts Week. KFTA is proud to be a co-sponsor of this exciting week of arts programming.
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

- Updated Info on Federal Resources
  An updated resource chart from the Arts Action Fund shows federal resources for artists and arts organizations including those resulting from the passage of the Dec. 27, 2020 economic aid package. It’s at the Americans for the Arts website.

- Artists Report Devastating Economic Losses

Arts Education Update

- KDE Listening Tour Opportunity to Voice Support for Arts Ed
  To gather input on long-term aspirations for the state’s education system, the Ky. Dept. of Education and Ky. Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner Jason E. Glass will conduct a virtual listening tour April 6 - May 6. Nine evening sessions will be held across the state. Pre-registration is now available for the sessions. You can register for any of the dates convenient for you. Find more info and the tour schedule at the KDE website.

Now’s the Time to Urge Ky. Legislators to Provide Arts Businesses and Organizations COVID Relief

Kentucky's General Assembly members are discussing allocation of relief funds due to COVID-19. However, as of publication time of this newsletter, the proposed legislation (House Bill 191) did not specifically include arts businesses and arts non-profits.

To help you let your legislators know about the critical needs of Kentucky's arts and cultural sector, KFTA has drafted a sample letter for you to personalize and send to your state Representative and state Senator. The letter is available in the News section of the KFTA website, along with a data sheet including more information about the impact and importance of Kentucky’s arts and cultural industry.

Please send your letter as soon as possible to ensure that state legislators are aware of the value and needs of Kentucky's creative economy!

Find your senator.
Find your representative.
The Appalachian Center for the Arts in Pikeville (The App, for short) has a space on our second floor which had always been intended to be an art gallery, but had never really been used prior to The App becoming the tenant of our beautiful facility. Since we were not allowed to have audiences in the building during the height of the pandemic (and rightly so!), we used the time to invest the “sweat equity” and create the Gallery Upstairs at The App. When the Kentucky Arts Council offered us the opportunity to host the “Native Reflections: Visual Art by American Indians of Kentucky” exhibit, we leaped at the chance. What a perfect way to launch the Gallery!

The App thinks of the arts as a public trust, and we take that trust seriously. We thought it was important to provide a socially distanced way for the public to enjoy the arts that was still a communal experience. The exhibit allowed us to do this while controlling the number of people allowed in at any one time. It worked exactly as planned and was a wonderful success. With the later easing of attendance restrictions, we wanted to use the exhibit to greater serve the community in this crazy time of isolation so we reached out to The Warriors of AniKituhwa — ambassadors of the Cherokee culture — and invited them to do a performance at The App.

The App worked hand-in-glove with the Pike County Dept. of Health to devise a seating arrangement to maximize attendance while maintaining social distancing, mandatory masking, increased ventilation, upgrading our filters from Merv-8 to the thicker Merv-13 to improve filtration, disinfecting all surfaces, opening doors to increase ventilation, and educating ourselves on how to do the event safely and effectively.

The performance by the Warriors went off without a hitch. We had a maximum capacity and wildly enthusiastic audience. In fact, the experience gave us a template for safely holding events during the pandemic moving forward. And creating the Gallery Upstairs at The App has been a tremendous success. The space is booked for most of the year with two Smithsonian Institution exhibits and “The World of Jesus: Art and Artifacts of the Holy Land.” The old adage holds true: if you build it (safely and smartly), they will come...and then you all get to share art. Together.