KFTA Board Chair Looks to Challenges, Opportunities in 2021

At its January meeting the Kentuckians for the Arts Board of Directors elected Lori Meadows to a three-year term as Board Chair. Meadows, a former Executive Director of the Kentucky Arts Council, was Interim Board Chair for the past six months.

“As we reach the one-year mark for COVID changing our world it's more important than ever to demonstrate the value our creative workers and the arts and culture sector bring to our lives,” Meadows said. “KFTA looks forward to forming new partnerships and expanding our role as Kentucky’s arts advocacy organization. We hope you'll join us as we work to increase public awareness of the importance of the arts and ensure that the arts are an ongoing part of the public dialogue.”

Legislative Update

The Kentucky legislative session resumes Feb. 2, with work including the adoption of a one-year budget and consideration of COVID relief support to businesses and non-profits (House Bill 191).

Let your legislators know why the arts are important to you and your community. You can find out who your legislators are and how to contact them at the Legislative Research Commission website.

If they’re not already a member of the Kentucky Nonprofit Caucus, encourage them to join. This bipartisan group formed in January 2020 to support Kentucky’s nonprofit sector through legislative action and education. Find out more about the caucus and its members at the Kentucky Nonprofit Network website.
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

• Find Out About New Federal Aid Opportunities
  In December, the $900 billion “Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act” was signed into law. Congress also passed the $740 billion National Defense Authorization Act, which takes the unprecedented step of supporting the use of creative arts therapies to treat service members with traumatic brain injuries and psychological conditions. A free two-part Arts Action Fund webinar series explains aid opportunities in these bills. View the first webinar at the Arts Action Fund Facebook page. The second webinar will be scheduled after the release of Shuttered Venues grants guidelines. Find more info at the ArtsU webpage.

• New Research: Arts Can Ignite Economic Recovery
  Two studies commissioned by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies use rigorous quantitative data and case studies to show how the arts can accelerate economic growth following periods of acute economic distress. Read them at the NASAA website.

• New Blog Series Explores COVID Impact on Artists
  Over the next few months, a new Americans for the Arts blog series, “The Impact of COVID-19 on Intentionally Marginalized Artists and Creative Workers,” will share stories of impact and resilience collected from over 20,000 artists across the United States. Read the first entry.

Arts Education Updates

• KDE Resources on Teaching Arts During COVID-19
  The Ky. Dept. of Education’s Gifted and Talented Resources page has a presentation on Visual and Performing Arts Resources by Fayette County educators Lauren Case and Carla Pleasant. Included is information on using Flipgrid and other ideas for identifying and serving students.

• Arts Advocacy Session at KMEA Conference
  KFTA Executive Director Phil Shepherd and board members Jane Dewey and John Stroube, along with music educator Tanya Bromley, will present an arts advocacy session at this year’s Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference. The session, at 5:30 p.m. February 16, will provide information about arts advocacy on the national, state, and local levels and techniques for helping to make teachers advocacy efforts more targeted and intentional. The KMEA conference is virtual this year and runs February 15-18 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. each day. Non-KMEA members can also register. Find more information at the KMEA website.

DID YOU KNOW?
According to research by Americans for the Arts, 95 percent of artists and creative workers have lost income as a result of the pandemic and more than 60 percent are unemployed.
BRAVO! “Rejoicing” in Madisonville

The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts in Madisonville, Kentucky, is finishing up a major renovation that includes new seating, lighting and sound improvements, a new orchestra shell, and fresh paint and new flooring throughout the building. The icing on the cake is the donation of a sculpture in honor of the center’s first Director, Barbie Hunt, by her husband, Dr. Rush Hunt. Barbie served as Director from 1990 to 1999.

The bronze sculpture, entitled “Rejoicing,” is by Karl Jensen, who is extremely popular in the western U.S. for his joyful and dramatic works. He likes using children as subjects because of their innocence.

Despite the pandemic, the arts go on! KFTA would love to share photos and stories showing the resilience of the arts in your organization and community. Email them to kentuckiansforthearts@gmail.com. KFTA can also help you promote your events and programs. Post them to the KFTA Facebook Bulletin Board Group page.