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!

How Will Ky. Arts Organizations and Artists Benefit from the American Rescue Plan?

On March 11, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law. The act provides a variety of funding that can potentially benefit Kentucky’s arts organization and artists—and your advocacy for the arts can make a difference at the state and your community level.

Some of the Act’s funding is specifically earmarked to support the arts. For example, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will receive $135 million, 40% of which will be distributed through regional arts organizations and state arts agencies. The remaining 60% will be awarded directly by the NEA, which plans to release guidelines for application for the funding by late April. (More info at the NEA website.) The Act also added $1.25 billion to the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant Program, the Small Business Administration’s push to provide funding to entertainment venues (the portal for applicants opens April 8), and expanded eligibility to the Paycheck Protection Program.

The Act includes significant funding directly to state, counties and municipalities. Kentucky is expected to receive $4.2 billion from the act, of which $2.4 billion will go to the state. In addition, every Kentucky county will receive some funding, with an estimated $866.5 million in total going to Kentucky counties. (You can see each county’s estimated funding at the Kentucky Association of Counties website. Kentucky metro areas and municipalities will share in an estimated $752 million. Each county and city will determine how its funds are spent.

Many details remain to be worked out in terms of how this funding will be distributed. But now is a good time to be proactive in advocating. Contact your local and state elected officials and tell them why your local arts organizations and artists are important to you on a personal level and to the economy and urge them to make sure that Kentucky’s arts organizations and artists are included in the aid provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Watch the KFTA Facebook group and bulletin board pages for more information about these opportunities in coming weeks.
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)

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2020, Kentucky’s creative economy sector lost $742 million in revenue? Find more info about the impact of the creative industry nationally and in Kentucky in a new fact sheet at the Americans for the Arts website.

Free Registration for the Arts Action Summit!
Free unlimited registration is now available for the National Arts Action Summit to be held April 5-9, 2021. The Summit provides crucial advocacy training from experts in the field. You can learn the latest in arts policy through issue-specific briefings, advocacy trainings, and networking opportunities. Over these five days, you’ll gain a depth of knowledge from policy experts at Americans for the Arts and its partners. Session topics address arts and culture agency funding, arts education, tax policy, COVID-19 relief and recovery, the creative economy, and many other topics. You can register for the full event or specific sessions at https://www.americansforthearts.org/events/national-arts-action-summit.

Voice Your Support for Arts Ed at KDE Listening Tour
To gather input on long-term aspirations for the state’s education system, the Ky. Dept. of Education (KDE) and Ky. Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner Jason E. Glass will conduct a virtual listening tour April 6 - May 6. This is an excellent opportunity to help raise the profile of arts education in Kentucky and let KDE know that you support:

- Ensuring that every Kentucky student receives high quality, standards-based visual and performing arts instruction from certified arts education teaching specialists so that all students have access to the benefits of strong and consistent arts education.
- Re-establishing an arts consultant position within the KDE staff (this position has been missing for several years) to provide for high quality arts education for all Kentucky students.
- Re-establishing an Arts Advisory Council consisting of representatives from arts education and arts organizations to consult with the KDE to continue strengthening arts education and creative industry in Kentucky.

Nine evening sessions will be held across the state. Pre-registration is now available. You can register for any of the dates and locations convenient for you. Find more info and the tour schedule at the KDE website.

New NEA Report Provides Guide to Reopening
Plugging into community needs, working with public health officials, and documenting the journey…those are a few of the recommendations in “The Art of Reopening: A Guide to Current Practices Among Arts Organizations During COVID-19,” a new report produced by the National Endowment for the Arts. The report use specific examples from organizations across the U.S., including the Cincinnati Ballet. It’s online at the NEA website.
HOSTED BY KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

BRAVO! Pulaski Countians Come Together to Support Arts Education

Can speaking out in support of the arts really make a difference? As Pulaski Countians demonstrated recently, the answer is a resounding “yes”!

In January, Southern Middle School announced that band and choir would be moved to after school as opposed to being offered during the school day to allow more time for other classes and for learning opportunities lost due to COVID-19. The reaction from the community was swift and strong, as students and parents pointed out the many benefits of music education and the potential impact on students. Key to the effort was a petition that Southwestern High School Junior Audrey Stewart posted on change.org. “Save Southern Middle School’s music program” gained more than 3,000 signatures. And the arts community’s arguments convinced Somerset’s Commonwealth Journal to publish an editorial opposing the change.

Within a week, the school’s administrators and Site-Based Council reversed the decision. In a second editorial praising this as both good listening and leadership, the paper noted the importance of the arts community speaking out. “Coming together as one, band and chorus parents, students, and even arts supporters totally unconnected to the programs voiced their concerns about the plan … They made their voice heard as one, like a fine choir does, and reached the ears they needed to reach.”

Read more in the Journal article and its first and second editorials.

Celebrating Kentucky Writers and a New Poet Laureate!

Friday April 23 is Kentucky Writers’ Day, and the celebration will include the induction of Crystal Wilkinson as 2021/22 Kentucky Poet Laureate. You’ll hear her and seven previous poet laureates read at a virtual event at 10 a.m. that day at the Kentucky Arts Council Facebook page. Read more about Wilkinson and Kentucky Writers’ Day at the KAC website.