

# ANNUAL REPORT // 2014



KENTUCKY  
*Arts*  
COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT //2014

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The arts have had significant importance in shaping our Commonwealth since our earliest days. I am proud to proclaim Arts Day in Kentucky in recognition of the contributions by artists, educators, arts organizations and all others who create vibrant communities through the arts in our state.

”

-Gov. Steve Beshear, on Arts Day 2014

# DEAR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ARTS



The fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014, was one full of accomplishments in the arts across Kentucky. The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, continues to be an integral and important component of Kentucky's vibrant arts landscape.

The arts council spent much of the fiscal year contemplating and planning for the future of the arts in the Commonwealth. Many new challenges are on our horizon. It is important for us to take the time necessary to plan for meeting those challenges head on.

The collective picture of the arts, across the nation and in Kentucky, is changing due to many factors. An aging population has caused many arts organizations to take a look at how they will attract new and younger audiences. The economic downturn of 2008 caused many arts organizations and businesses to close their doors. Many

communities are beginning to take an assessment of what is left, what is new, and what potential exists to develop vibrant communities through the arts.

There are many other contributing factors that have changed the arts landscape — too many to list. However, one thing is certain. As the Kentucky Arts Council started the process of creating our next six-year strategic plan that will act as a roadmap for our future, we knew it was time to take other assessments as well.

That's why we commissioned a Kentucky creative industry study, which will take a look at Kentucky's unique artistic and cultural assets. The result of the study will present a quantifiable assessment of the Commonwealth's creative industry. It will also present best practices and provide guidance for policymakers to use the creative industry as a community development, tourism, social and economic tool. Many Kentucky communities are looking for new outlets for expanding and creating new economic and community development. If part of the conversation doesn't include talking about cultivating the state's artistic assets, valuable resources are being overlooked.

The arts council's Creative Industry Study aims to help communities develop their own blueprints to discovering the wealth of resources waiting to be uncovered and put to use in a way that produces results. It will also showcase the value of the arts in ways many people are just beginning to discover.

This is also the reason the Kentucky Arts Council Board voted to update the agency's mission statement in order to broaden our responsibilities to the people of Kentucky. As the state arts agency, we "foster environments" for people to find value in the arts, participate in the arts and benefit from the arts through programs, grants and services. This means the arts council and its staff is committed to using our available resources to help Kentucky communities grow through the arts.

Every day more Kentuckians—individuals, community leaders, elected officials, businesses, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and others—are realizing the potential the arts have in community, tourism and economic development. The Kentucky Arts Council is proud to be the state's resource for facilitating connections among arts stakeholders to create a better Commonwealth for all.

## ARTS COUNCIL STAFF \*as of June 30, 2014

Lori Meadows  
*Executive Director*

Mark Brown  
*Folk and Traditional Arts Director*

Chris Cathers  
*Program Branch Manager*

Deborah Catlett  
*Database Manager*

Tamara Coffey  
*Individual Artist Program Director*

Sandy Etherington  
*Fiscal Officer*

Beau Haddock  
*Media and Public Relations Director*

Rebecca Hanly  
*Grants Manager*

Ed Lawrence  
*Arts Marketing Director*

Sandie Lawrence  
*Information Technology Manager*

Katie Lewis  
*Graphic Designer*

Emily B. Moses  
*Communications Director*

Marl Renfro  
*Communications and Technology Branch Manager*

Jean St. John  
*Arts Education Director*

Sarah Schmitt  
*Arts Access Director*

Kate Sprengnether  
*Public Art and Design Director*

Dan Strauss  
*Senior Program Analyst*

Tammie Williams  
*Administrative Associate*

## ARTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Louisville*

Everett D. McCorvey, Vice Chairman  
*Lexington*

Wilma Brown  
*Danville*

Paul Fourshee  
*Cadiz*

John S. Hockensmith  
*Georgetown*

Ronald Edward Johnson  
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Todd P. Lowe  
*Louisville*

Darlene Mazzone  
*Murray*

Helen Mountjoy  
*Utica*

Josephine Richardson  
*Whitesburg*

Andrea D. Rudloff  
*Bowling Green*

Kathleen T. Setterman  
*Ashland*

Randall C. Vaughn  
*Lexington*

Roanne Victor  
*Louisville*

Jayne Moore Waldrop  
*Lexington*



## AL SMITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Kentucky Arts Council celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship program with a new exhibit, "Uncommon Wealth," which opened Oct. 8 at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington. The exhibit featured work by 62 visual and craft artists whose careers have been recognized with a fellowship from the arts council.

Since 1983, the Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship Program has supported Kentucky artists engaged in creating high quality artwork and recognized creative excellence in practicing, professional Kentucky artists. The \$7,500 fellowships are given annually on a rotating basis by discipline. Fellowship recipients are selected by panels of out-of-state, discipline-based arts professionals. The program is named after Smith, a Kentucky journalist who served as chair of the arts council board of directors from 1977-79 and 1981-84, and helped establish the program.

## FEATURED ARTIST

The Featured Artist Program offers participants in the Kentucky Arts Council's juried programs an opportunity to showcase an image of their work on the home page of the arts council's website for one month. In addition, they receive a page with their biography and contact information, a statewide press announcement and a short video produced to highlight their work.

- Bianca Spriggs, poet
- Mary Rezny, visual artist
- Mary Kinney, mixed media
- Amanda Clark, purse maker
- Michael Terra, potter
- Amelia Stamps, potter
- Stephanie Brown, textiles
- Christopher Krauskopf, woodworker
- Jeremy Beck, composer
- Melissa Oesch, hand bound books
- Jerry Hollon, woodworker
- Ed Newell, photographer



## AL SMITH INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship program supports Kentucky artists engaged in creating work of high quality and recognizes creative excellence in practicing, professional Kentucky artists. Fellowships are considered a benchmark of excellence in the careers of Kentucky artists.

- Hui Chi Lee, Fayette County, drawing
- Felicia Szorad, Fayette County, metal
- Jenny Zeller, Jefferson County, photography
- Dominic Guarnaschelli, Jefferson County, experimental
- Robert Salyer, Letcher County, video
- Brandon Smith, Madison County, painting/acrylic
- Seth Green, Rowan County, ceramics
- David Marquez, Warren County, sculpture



## POET LAUREATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Kentucky Poet Laureate Frank X Walker was nominated for, and won, an NAACP Image Award, in the category of Outstanding Literary Work – Poetry, for his latest book, “Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers.”

It was absolutely my intention to help impact Evers’ legacy with the publishing of “Turn Me Loose.” To receive the image award from the NAACP, given their history of social activism, was very meaningful.

To stand on the national stage on television and have the world hear me say Kentucky into the microphone was also a proud moment that I had a chance to share with all my friends, family and literary community back at home.

The NAACP Image Awards highlight achievements in art, entertainment, politics and culture. The nominees and winners of the Image Awards are selected by a group of NAACP members.

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I’ve learned that the citizens of the state are very proud of their poet laureate.

– Frank X Walker ”



“Kentucky is unique among states of our size due to a wide geographic distribution of arts organizations across our counties. This shows us that Kentuckians value the arts and have dedicated themselves to creating a home for the arts to prosper in their own communities.” – **Lori Meadows, arts council executive director**

### **KENTUCKY ARTS PARTNERSHIP**

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded more than \$1.8 million in operational support funding to 102 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations for fiscal year 2014 through the Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) grant.

The KAP grant provides support to nonprofit organizations offering year-round arts services and programs directly for the benefit of the public. The competitive grant process funds applicants based on operating revenues, a panel review of applications, and funds available for the program. KAP organizations vary in size and are located in rural,

suburban and urban communities. In fiscal year 2013, the arts council provided 104 organizations with KAP funding. Kentucky Arts Partnership organizations are required to have at least a dollar-for-dollar match for grants received from arts council grants.

Calculations show every dollar granted through the KAP program is, in effect, matched by \$27.70. In addition, KAP organizations collectively employed 568 full-time workers and 829 part-time workers. The organizations together provided more than 5.8 million arts experiences at events that occurred during the previous fiscal year.

# NEA FUNDING

The Kentucky Arts Council's operating budget is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Each year, the arts council receives funding from the NEA through the federal agency's state partnership agreement grants. Partnership funding is awarded to state-level arts agencies nationwide, and the arts council is the only agency in Kentucky designated to receive state partnership funding from the NEA.

In addition to the funding made available to state arts agencies, the NEA makes available millions of dollars in competitive grant funds for communities, organizations, individuals and projects through numerous grant programs. In the 2014 fiscal year, many Kentucky communities and organizations were awarded funding through these various programs.

Two Kentucky arts organizations were among 59 nationwide to receive funding for creative placemaking projects through the NEA's Our Town grant. Through Our Town, the NEA supports creative placemaking projects that help transform communities into lively and sustainable places with the arts at their core. All Our Town grant awards are made to partnerships that consist of at least one nonprofit organization and a local government entity.

Covington Arts, in Covington, received \$50,000 for a community design project. Appalshop, working with the city of Jenkins, received \$150,000 to support a multi-pronged community arts project.

The NEA awarded 12 grants in the Commonwealth through its funding opportunities, including the Challenge America Fast-Track and Art Works programs. Art Works supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Challenge America grants support projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations.

The Kentucky grant recipients were:

- City of Berea, \$10,000
- Western Kentucky University Research Foundation, Bowling Green, \$10,000
- Downtown Frankfort, \$10,000
- Hazard Community and Technical College, \$10,000
- Lexington Philharmonic Society Inc., Lexington \$16,500
- Actors Theatre Of Louisville, \$40,000
- Asia Institute, Louisville, \$10,000
- Kentucky Dance Council, Louisville, \$15,000
- Kentucky Opera Association, Louisville, \$12,500
- Sarabande Books, Louisville, \$20,000
- Morehead State University, Morehead, \$30,000
- Appalshop, Whitesburg, \$135,000 (total of three grants)
- University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Lexington \$20,000
- Pioneer School of Drama, Pioneer Playhouse, Danville, \$10,000



## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS

The Kentucky Arts Council sponsors public forums each year on topics related to challenges faced by those who work in the arts. As there is no limit to the intersections between the arts and other fields, these forums usually investigate the importance of the arts and integrating the arts in fields such as education, business, health care, community development, the nonprofit sector and more. Following are descriptions of events the arts council sponsored during the fiscal year to shed light on current topics important in the realm of the arts in the Commonwealth.

# CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Some of the state's most influential leaders in business and education met Sept. 11, 2013, to discuss the role arts education plays in preparing Kentucky's young people for the workforce. The forum at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History was sponsored by the arts council in recognition of National Arts Education Week, celebrated the week of Sept. 8-14, 2013.

A group of nearly 60 arts educators, teaching artists, school representatives, business people and representatives from arts organizations gathered for the event.

Since Kentucky businesses need employees who are adept at critical thinking, analysis, problem solving and navigating a complex world. Research shows a solid education that includes the arts can significantly help children develop these skills.

A panel addressed the importance of creativity and innovation in the workplace with business representatives who understand the connection between arts education and the development of critical thinking.

The program included a presentation by Tom Shelton, superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools. Shelton detailed how the arts have informed the work his district has undertaken to integrate arts in all aspects of the education process. Shelton said studies have proven the arts have a tremendous impact on brain development and can be used as a tool by teachers.

Fayette County Public Schools provides \$1,000 to each school to host visiting artists in their classrooms. Shelton said the total sum – \$66,000 – is relatively small, but the school district receives an enormous return on academic investment.

He emphasized the importance of providing all students access to the arts at school to give them a complete education, to address achievement gaps, and to develop skills students can use to be college and career-ready.

Shelton's presentation was followed by a panel discussion with:

- Kris Kimel, president of Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation and founder of IdeaFestival.
- Susan Brewer, human resources director, Gray Construction.
- Rick Hesterberg, manager of external affairs, Toyota Motor Manufacturing.
- Erika Strecker, creative design manager, Big Ass Fans.

The panelists discussed what skills their businesses look for in employees and how large a role creativity and innovation play in their daily operations.

# SOAR

## KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL OFFERS ASSISTANCE IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

The arts council sponsored a conference Dec. 10, 2013, in Pikeville to provide resources, funding information and best-practice strategies for creating and sustaining community-based arts and cultural projects that could lead to tourism and economic development opportunities. "Leveraging Community: Putting Arts and Cultural Development to Work" followed the Dec. 9 "Shaping our Appalachian Region" summit in Pikeville, a joint effort of Gov. Steve Beshear and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers. The arts council's conference provided participants with information to plan and execute local arts and cultural projects. It brought together national and state arts and culture experts to share innovative approaches for creating and sustaining community-based arts and cultural projects that exemplify sense of place while helping to stimulate growth, and community and economic development.

The event featured a keynote address from John Davis, executive director of the Lanesboro Arts Center in Lanesboro, Minn. A town of 754 people, Lanesboro was awarded more than \$300,000 in grant funding in 2013 from Artplace America to assist in its plans to turn the entire town into an arts campus. In addition, representatives from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Agriculture discussed federal funding opportunities. Two panel sessions opened up for discussion on how to start an arts and cultural development project, taking a cultural assets inventory, building community buy-in, and generating ideas to promote arts and culture in the community; and information on Kentucky programs and resources to assist in project development.



## KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL RECEIVES FUNDING TO CONTINUE WORK IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

To assist in the continuation of work that began in Pikeville following the SOAR Summit, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design awarded funding to the Kentucky Arts Council to conduct workshops in the eastern region of the Commonwealth to provide arts-related tools, resources and ideas that can initiate economic growth and development. The arts council conducted two public forums to share information with communities, artists and others interested in harvesting arts and cultural resources in the region for tourism, business growth and economic development purposes.

"Vibrant Communities: Putting arts and cultural development to work" was held May 9 in Morehead attracting 70 participants from the region. The conference provided information for citizens interested in developing projects to help build stronger communities and stimulate economic growth through arts and cultural engagement.

The second forum, "Artists as Entrepreneurs: Putting arts and cultural development to work," was May 13 in Hindman and drew a crowd of 45 participants. The event provided information for individual artists, small artist groups and artist entrepreneurs interested in developing, managing and expanding their businesses. Additionally, the arts council convened organizations and communities already engaged in arts and cultural projects as a way for participants to share ideas, challenges and successes.

# CONTINUING OUR WORK WITH ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Kentucky Arts Council received \$6,000 from the National Arts and Disability Center (NADC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to continue the work started in 2012 to address careers in the arts for people with disabilities.

The grant facilitated a traveling exhibit titled "identity" featuring work created exclusively by artists with disabilities, a first of its kind exhibit for the arts council.

The adjudicated exhibit included work by 30 artists, some who had never exhibited professionally before. All participating artists had to be willing to self-identify as a person with a disability and share their perspective about how having a disability does or does not shape their personal experiences and artwork. In addition, the arts council sought submissions from artists with disabilities to be used as the agency's accessibility programs and services brand. One piece of artwork by an artist with a disability was chosen and purchased to be included in the arts council's collection.

First place in the competition was awarded to Louisville artist Lori Montgomery for her painting titled "Sleep." Two runners up were awarded monetary prizes to assist with the purchase of art supplies and marketing tools to continue their work. Those artists, both Louisville residents, are Julie Baldyga and Melody Bock-Freeman.



## KENTUCKY CRAFTED: THE MARKET

Kentucky Crafted: The Market, the longest running state-sponsored event of its kind in the country, opened its doors to the public for its 32nd showing March 8-9 at the Lexington Convention Center. The arts council's annual wholesale-retail marketplace of contemporary and traditional fine art and craft, music, literature and regional food products attracted more than 8,000 visitors in its third year back in Lexington.

The Market remains the No. 1 state-sponsored wholesale-retail opportunity for Kentucky artists who are adjudicated participants in the arts council's arts marketing assistance program, Kentucky Crafted.

The Market's public days are accompanied by two full days of live performances from some of the state's best-loved musicians who perform on the Kentucky Stage. More than 30 performers, representing 17 professional music acts from all corners of the Commonwealth, performed at the 2014 event.

Market visitors saw firsthand the passing of the state's important musical traditions from one generation to the next as master musicians and their apprentices joined for truly unique performances on the Kentucky Stage. These musicians were previously awarded Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants from the arts council to conserve, and in some cases establish, certain musical styles that have become significant in Kentucky's musical landscape.

# CREATIVE INDUSTRY STUDY

The Kentucky Arts Council publicly announced its commission of a Kentucky creative industry research study on Jan. 28 during Arts Day in Kentucky.

The study is being conducted by Mt. Auburn Associates, an economic development analysis and strategy firm in Somerville, Mass., which has worked at the forefront of the creative economic development field for the past 10 years and has conducted similar studies for other states, municipalities and organizations.

The final report, which will be available from the arts council in October 2014, includes a baseline assessment of the Commonwealth's creative industry and serves as a critical tool for future planning and policy development.

The study includes:

- Research and analysis of Kentucky's creative and cultural assets.
- Convening key stakeholders to evaluate the broad spectrum of the arts in Kentucky.
- Examining relationships between creative industries and other clusters in the state's economy.
- Presenting case studies to illustrate the diversity, value and impact of creative industries in particular communities and analyzing the possibility of replication.

The creative industry study also provides information for policymakers to use the creative industry as a community development, tourism, social and economic tool.

As part of its effort to collect information about artists in Kentucky, artists, arts groups, arts supporters and the general public were asked to participate in online surveys. Input from artists and the general public is vital to assisting the state arts agency with planning for the future of the arts in the Commonwealth.

The creative industry survey sought input from Kentuckians who work within the realm of the arts and earn part or all of their income through creative work. "The arts" was defined broadly for the purposes of the survey and includes creative work such as visual art and craft, graphic design, film and media, folk arts, writing, advertising, music, theater, web design, product design, dance, architecture, interior design and other employment in the arts spectrum.

Results from the survey will be made available in the Kentucky creative industry final report.

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Professional artists and arts organizations are operating in every region of Kentucky, creating work and generating opportunities for Kentucky residents and visitors to participate in the arts in significant ways. These are the people and organizations that make up the state's creative industry. The arts council is undertaking this effort to quantify the activities of Kentucky's creative industry and its interactions and effects on other sectors of Kentucky's economy.

– **Lori Meadows, arts council executive director**

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# AWARDS PER PROGRAM

PROGRAM	AMOUNT	AWARDS	COUNTIES
Administrative Grant	\$2,000	1	1
Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship	\$60,000	8	6
Emerging Artist Award	\$5,000	5	4
Folk Arts Apprenticeship	\$17,981	6	6
Interim Grant	\$16,000	8	4
Kentucky Arts Partnership	\$1,893,741	101	37
Kentucky Peer Advisory Network	\$9,400	24	8
Partnership Grant	\$105,000	2	Jefferson, Out-of-state
Poetry Out Loud	\$10,400	16	13
Specialists with Arts Tactics	\$1,600	4	3
Teaching Art Together	\$19,800	23	15
TranspARTation	\$11,870	30	21
Uncommon Wealth Grant Program	\$5,700	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,158,492</b>	<b>233</b>	



KENTUCKY  
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COUNCIL

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