



ABOUT US

The Kentucky Arts Council is the state government agency responsible for developing and promoting support for the arts in Kentucky. As the state's arts agency, we create opportunities for people to find value in the arts, participate in the arts and benefit from the arts through programs, grants and services.

The Kentucky Arts Council also works in partnership with the Kentucky Historical Society to administer and support the Kentucky Folklife Program.

Strategically placed in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Arts Council is publicly funded by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent agency of the federal government. The Kentucky Arts Council invests these resources statewide in those who create, perform, teach and present the arts.

The Kentucky Arts Council is governed by a citizen board of 16 volunteer directors appointed by the Governor to serve four-year, rotating terms. The Kentucky Arts Council operates with a staff of 19 full-time employees.



State Capitol interior

Lynn Dunbar, *View from the Cabin*

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Kentucky Arts Council
 Creating opportunities through the ARTS



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Kentucky Arts Council

FOR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Kentucky Arts Council creates opportunities for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations to offer year-round arts activities across Kentucky. Through partnership grants, the arts council provides funds to help nearly 100 organizations operate on a daily basis. This public investment in museums, galleries, guilds, performing arts venues, performing groups, local arts councils, and community groups provides access to a wide variety of art forms. Kentuckians can enjoy the performing arts, visual arts, film and literature. Organizations also support the arts that recognize our cultural heritage — such as bluegrass and old-time music, storytelling, folk art and traditional craft — and engage people in the arts in their community.

The Kentucky Arts Council proudly supports these organizations that lay the foundation for building community, provide arts education experiences and sustain artists in their work.

FOR COMMUNITIES

The Kentucky Arts Council creates opportunities to develop vibrant communities through the arts. Projects funded by the arts council in both urban and rural communities build pride in the community, bridge cultural gaps and provide a way for neighbors to connect to one another. The arts council's investment in the arts and community cultural amenities is crucial to attracting new businesses, bringing in tourists and creating desirable places to live and work. By supporting and nurturing the diverse range of arts across the commonwealth, the arts council serves as a catalyst to help build private and local support for the arts and keep the arts on stage and in view.

The Kentucky Arts Council also invests in the planning of arts and cultural districts, which can transform blighted urban neighborhoods and declining business districts into revitalized communities that everyone can enjoy.

FOR ARTS EDUCATION

The Kentucky Arts Council creates opportunities for lifelong learning in the arts and through the arts. With overwhelming evidence that learning experiences in the arts contribute to academic skills, including reading and language development and mathematics, the arts council is an active advocate at the national and state levels for including the arts in education.

The Kentucky Arts Council provides professional development to teachers wanting to incorporate the arts across the curriculum, as well as training for professional artists to work as teaching artists in an educational environment. These artists go into schools to share their art forms, give students hands-on arts experiences and provide teachers with guidance to keep arts programs going after their residencies are completed. This investment by the arts council often results in positive, life-changing experiences for individual students.

Support for arts and cultural organizations in Kentucky also provides educational programming in the arts for school field trips as well as traveling performances and exhibitions that go to schools in all 120 counties of Kentucky.



Linda Blumer, Gladie Barn



Linda Fifield, Fire on the Mountain



Brook Forrest White, Jr., Noble Series Bowl



FOR ARTISTS

The Kentucky Arts Council creates opportunities for artists to live and work in a supportive environment. To achieve a positive economic impact for the state, Kentucky artists receive technical assistance in business development, up-to-date technology use and marketing strategies. The arts council also sponsors special promotional events that help artists gain access to regional, national and international markets and gives special recognition to professional artists to validate and strengthen their careers.

As a state arts agency that actively supports artists, the Kentucky Arts Council serves as a national model for developing successful state-sponsored artist programs.



FOR OUR COMMON WEALTH

When the arts thrive we all benefit in our everyday lives. As careful stewards of public dollars, the Kentucky Arts Council strategically invests these resources in providing statewide delivery of arts programs and services, ensuring that artists live and work in a supportive environment and encouraging lifelong education in the arts.

Through public policy that supports the arts, Kentuckians shape a positive image of our Commonwealth as a home for the contemporary arts, literature, theater, craft heritage and musical traditions that make us unique in the world.

Success is measured by the thousands of dances, songs, symphonies, sculptures, paintings, readings, festivals and plays that are created and enjoyed by millions of Kentuckians and our visitors each year.



I think of the old vernacular language as poetry, as a treasure to enjoy and to be proud of.

Gurney Norman
Poet Laureate of Kentucky, 2009–2010