

2023 Kentucky Arts Council Annual Report



Letter from the Executive Director

Christopher Cathers

Executive Director
Kentucky Arts Council



I am constantly reminded that our people are our greatest asset. Every day, we see examples of Kentuckians doing extraordinary things and creating art that both amazes and inspires us – even amid great challenges. The word “resilience” became a motto we used to describe the character of Kentucky’s arts and cultural community in 2023. In the aftermath of historic flooding in eastern Kentucky and destructive tornadoes in the western side of the state, our agency continued to aid in recovery efforts of the commonwealth’s arts infrastructure even after initial humanitarian aid subsided. We put disaster relief grants in the hands of arts and cultural institutions and arts small businesses and developed a five-part disaster readiness, response and recovery series to help better prepare our arts partners, culminating in a national dialog with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). Throughout the year, we endeavored to support continuing needs, share our experiences and best practices with other states, and ultimately move forward more prepared.

Resilience is more than overcoming adversity. It also means celebrating and sharing ways that the commonwealth is so much more than its darkest days. Kentucky is made up of diverse populations with incredible artistic traditions working in vibrant artistic communities, and the Kentucky Arts Council is committed to serving them. The traveling exhibit, “Continent to Commonwealth” reflects the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) culture that exists in the Bluegrass State. It featured the works of 31 artists who live in Kentucky and identify as AAPI individuals. Asia Institute-Crane House and the Kentucky Chinese American Association partnered with our agency to bring this important exhibit to Kentuckians and to highlight the cultures and artists who have contributed their work.

Speaking of important exhibits, the Governor's Derby Exhibit featured the theme of "Resilience" this year, and we were overwhelmed with more than 40 works offered for display in the Capitol Rotunda. People from all over the state submitted artwork that exemplified the resilient nature of our people and the talent that lies within our commonwealth.

In other triumphs, we had the honor of introducing Silas House as our state Poet Laureate during the Kentucky Writers' Day ceremony. Silas hit the ground running, elevating the literary arts of our state with his unique style and grace. House has connected his craft with positive memories of trips to Kentucky State Parks by offering onsite writing workshops and retreats. The powerful words from his poem entitled "Those Who Carry Us," spoken at the Governor's inauguration, will carry Kentuckians for years to come.

We also had the privilege of honoring nine new artists and organizations with the state's highest arts accolade, the Governor's Award in the Arts, at the historic Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center in Lexington. Our United States Poet Laureate Ada Limón, winner of the national award, was among the recipients of a commissioned framed mosaic work by Kentucky Crafted artist Sebastian Duverge.

The Kentucky Arts Council looks forward to serving the commonwealth's artists and art organizations in coming years and spinning this time of "resilience" into future threads of strength and prosperity.

Sincerely,



Chris Cathers
Executive Director



Table of Contents

Staff and Board	2
Governor's Awards in the Arts	3
Poetry Out Loud	5
Kentucky Crafted Market	6
Kentucky Crafted Artists	7
Poet Laureate Induction and Kentucky Writers' Day	9
Exhibits	11
Creative Industry Summit Series	15
Disaster Relief and Recovery Grants	17

Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships **20**

Kentucky Arts Partnerships **21**

Individual Artist Fellowships
and Emerging Artists Awards **26**

TranspARTation **27**

Teaching Arts Together **28**

Kentucky Peer Advisory Network Consultancies **29**

Kentucky Peer Advisory Network
Cultural Equity Consultancies **30**

FY23 Grants Summary **31**

Kentucky Arts Council 10-year funding history **32**



“Balance” by Julie Christmann



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Marcheta Sparrow

FRANKFORT

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LOUISVILLE

Janice Turpen

SOMERSET

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LEXINGTON



2022 Governor's Awards in the Arts

For the first time since 2019, the Governor's Awards in the Arts ceremony was held in-person in the Capitol Rotunda on Jan. 10, 2023. The commonwealth's highest artistic honors, the Governor's Awards in the Arts recognize individuals and organizations who have made extraordinary and significant contributions to the arts in Kentucky. Nine honorees celebrated outstanding achievement, either as artists or supporters of the arts. There was enthusiasm among the audience and deep gratitude from the recipients who received their awards and acknowledgements directly from Gov. Andy Beshear. The highlight of the event was a beautiful demonstration of the red cedar flute handcrafted by award artist Fred Nez-Keams. Although born and raised in a border town between Arizona and New Mexico on the Navajo Nation, Nez-Keams is pleased to have called Kentucky home for the past 17 years. Ranging from bright and dreamy, to haunting and sad, the sound of the storyteller flute filled the rotunda and brought a reverent tone to the celebration.

MILNER AWARD

Kaye Savage Browning
Mason

EDUCATION AWARD

Nan Moore
Jefferson

ARTIST AWARD

Amanda Matthews
Fayette

FOLK HERITAGE AWARD

Maxine Ray
Warren

BUSINESS AWARD

Independence Bank
Graves

GOVERNMENT AWARD

**Kentucky Native American
Heritage Commission**
Franklin

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD

Murray Art Guild
Calloway

MEDIA AWARD

Morgan Cook Atkinson
Jefferson

NATIONAL AWARD

Bobby Osborne
Leslie County native

2023 Governor's Awards in the Arts

It's only fitting that the Governor's Awards in the Arts should be bestowed within the year awarded. Although it meant administering two nomination cycles and producing two ceremonies in one year, the arts council met its goal and obligation of correcting the award cycle and presented the 2023 Governor's Awards on Oct. 13.

We were pleased to host the event at Lexington's historic Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center. The house was packed, including several school groups from the neighborhood.

"It gives me great pride to honor these talented artists who show such dedication to sharing the arts with Kentuckians across our commonwealth," said Gov. Beshear. "This year's honorees have made integral contributions to Kentucky's thriving arts industry. I want to thank all of these artists for bringing the stories of Kentuckians to life, and ensuring those stories live on for generations to come."

MILNER AWARD

Todd Lowe
Shelby

ARTIST AWARD

Dan Neil Barnes
Scott

BUSINESS AWARD

Gnomon Press
Franklin

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD

Yeiser Art Center
McCracken

EDUCATION AWARD

Tom Stites
Daviness

FOLK HERITAGE AWARD

Tee Dee Young
Fayette

GOVERNMENT AWARD

Michael Buchanon
Warren

MEDIA AWARD

Walter Tunis
Fayette

NATIONAL AWARD

Ada Limón
Fayette





Poetry Out Loud

On March 1, 2023, the arts council hosted the Poetry Out Loud state championship at the Grand Theatre in Frankfort. It was the first time the high school poetry recitation competition was held in person since March of 2020.

Poetry Out Loud is sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Each participating school receives an artist residency and the opportunity for the school champion to attend the state competition with a chaperone and bus subsidies to travel as a class.

Each student, in the first and second rounds, was judged on the recitation of two poems. The three top scorers from the first two rounds advanced to the final round where they each recited a third poem. The students, along with their teachers, selected the poems from a preapproved anthology of works.

Sarah Gamble of Allen County-Scottsville High school emerged as state champion with recitations of "The Albatross" by Kate Bass and "A Hymn to God the Father" by John Donne in the first and second rounds, respectively. In the third round, she recited "Candles" by Carl Dennis.

Gamble received \$200, and Allen County-Scottsville High School received a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. Additionally, she represented Kentucky in the Poetry Out Loud National Semifinals in May 2023.

2023 Kentucky Poetry Out Loud School Champions:

Molly Crimmins
BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Kenton

Lillian Florence
GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
HIGH SCHOOL
Clark

Katie Shirts
ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Hardin

Chase Hubbuch
SAINT XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL
Jefferson

Sarah Gamble
ALLEN COUNTY-SCOTTSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
Allen

Milan Mack
KENTUCKY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Jefferson

The Kentucky Crafted Market

After being off two years due to the pandemic and rolling out a smaller version of the show in 2022, the Kentucky Crafted Market returned in full swing to the Kentucky Horse Park Alltech Arena on March 10 through 12, 2023. In its 40th anniversary year, the Kentucky Crafted Market was restored with all the features visitors have come to expect – great visual art and craft, live music, hands-on activities and other rich artistic elements that come together to make this an annual event not to miss.

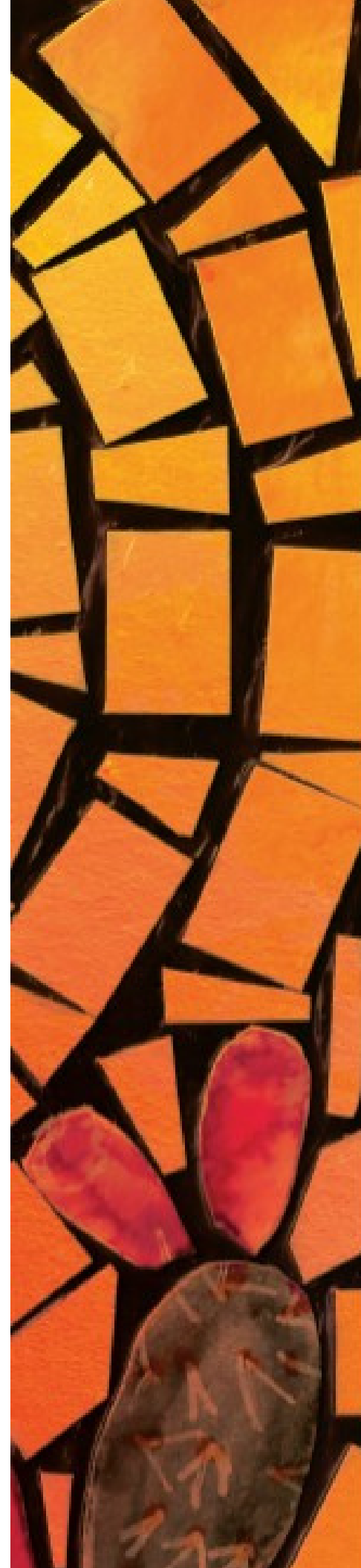
In addition to outstanding Kentucky-made visual art and craft, visitors enjoyed live music from The Market Stage, featuring performers from the arts council's Performing Artists Directory, a hands-on activities area for kids of all ages, a folk art demonstration area highlighting the mentor-apprentice relationship among contemporary Kentucky folk artists, and several Kentucky Proud food vendors.

More than 118 adjudicated members of the Kentucky Crafted program exhibited and sold their work at The Market, including 20 recently juried artists. The Market experienced its highest overall attendance since 2013, with more than 9,600 visitors, and one record single-business wholesale day with orders totaling approximately \$18,000.

In lieu of an admission fee, the Kentucky Arts Council asked visitors to donate to the Team Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Fund. In that same spirit of healing and resilience, Kentucky Crafted artist Dan Neil Barnes surprised Appalshop with a replica of the Sun Quilt, a glass sculpture that was lost during the floods in 2022.



2023 Market Awards from left: Best Booth Design, Making Good Scenz; Excellence in Accessibility, Pottery by Thomas; Best of Show, Michelle Hayden Fine Art.





Kentucky Crafted Artists

Kentucky Crafted is an adjudicated program that assists Kentucky visual and craft artists through marketing and promotional opportunities and arts business training. Artists juried into this program are included in the Kentucky Crafted online directory and are eligible to exhibit at The Kentucky Crafted Market.

The Kentucky Crafted roster grew by 28 artists this year. Among them were Gail and Tim Lass of Waynesburg. The married couple work in different artforms, wood and glass respectively. They said they are honored to be among the best makers of art and craft in Kentucky.

“It means I’ve been accepted into a very elite group of people who do outstanding art,” Gail Lass said. “It makes me feel that my artistic ability is worth selling. I have a product of good quality and being accepted into Kentucky Crafted reinforces that.”

Tim Lass said the distinction makes him feel validated as an artist who veers away from convention: “I’ve never done anything very traditional. I’ve always been a little different than anyone else. Having my work accepted by the jury and a peer group as being high enough quality to become part of Kentucky Crafted is a tremendous boon to my ego. I’m honored to be part of Kentucky Crafted.”

GLORIA ARTEAGA ART
Gloria Arteaga-Hinton
Fayette

SOAP MADE SIMPLY
Danielle Black
Knox

THREE LICK POTTERY
Hanna Bebe Baker
Washington

FREEFORM MOSAICS BY JULIE CHRISTMANN
Julie Christmann
Campbell

STEPHANIE SAYS
Stephanie Batts
Fayette

KNOTART BY PARK
Park Crain
Jefferson

AMENDED ELEMENTS
Katherine Bennett
Jefferson

PRINCE DINGER

Mary Prince Dinger

Jessamine

MARTA E. DORTON ARTWORKS

Marta E. Dorton

Fayette

ART BY M. DRAKE

Michelle Dana Drake

Spencer

VIVIAN TICS

Adrienne Gilley

Fayette

WANDERSTRUCK STUDIO

Kristin Grenier

Harrison

STEVE'S WOOD CRAFTERS

Steven Harris

Jefferson

EARL C. JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

Earl James

Fayette

STUDIO MLJ

Mark Lenn Johnson

Fayette

YOLANDA KENNISON FINE ART

Yolanda Kennison

Fayette

SAWDUST 'N SOLDER

Gail Lass

Lincoln

SAWDUST 'N SOLDER

Timothy Lass

Lincoln

BRADLEY MCLEAN ART

Brad McLean

Hardin

MILLION STITCHES

Karen Million

Jessamine

JOLENE LORRAINE ART

Jolene Olivastro

Fayette

DE SELBY DESIGNS

De Selby

Jessamine

CREATIVE EYEDIAS

Teresa Sierra

Oldham

WOOD CREEK DESIGNS

Aleta Stone

Laurel

PAM STURM POTTERY

Pam Sturm

Shelby

LA SOUCIQUE STUDIO

METALSMITHING

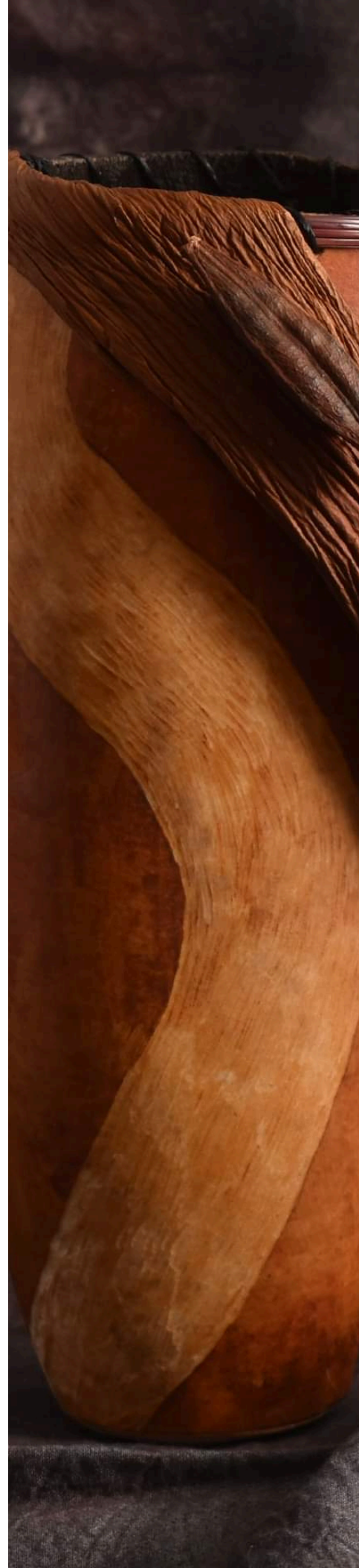
Kimberly Wallis

Franklin

NICK WALTERS ART

Nick Walters

Fayette



“Ebb and Flow” by Dana Drake



Kentucky Poet Laureate Induction and Kentucky Writers' Day

Gov. Andy Beshear appointed Laurel County native and award-winning author Silas House as Kentucky Poet Laureate for 2023 through 2024. "I've always felt that it's great to be part of Kentucky's literary tradition. I'm proud of that," House said of the honor. "Some of my favorite writers have been poets laureate, so that makes my appointment to the position extra special to me. I'm especially proud to serve under a governor I admire and respect so much," he added.

House is the nationally bestselling author of the novels "Clay's Quilt," "A Parchment of Leaves," "The Coal Tattoo" and "Eli the Good." In 2012 he coauthored "Same Sun Here" with Neela Vaswani. House's most recent novel, "Lark Ascending," was published in 2022.

As an openly gay man, House said he is proud to represent the LGBTQ community as poet laureate, but added that there are many facets to his life with which he hopes others will connect.

"When you go in and say, 'I'm these things,' there are a bunch of young people out there who have not seen themselves represented in public," House said. He added that he is proud of his working class Appalachian background and hopes others who share the various intersections of the communities he represents will be inspired.

"When you see yourself represented, especially in a positive way, that really matters. I'm a working class, rural, Appalachian, gay person of faith," he said. "But more and more I see people reducing someone's identity to an absolute. One thing I'll always talk about is that we have to stop thinking in absolutes and start thinking of people as more complex.

"You can't have true empathy if you reduce people to either saints or monsters."

Kentucky Poet Laureate Induction and Kentucky Writers' Day

House was inducted as poet laureate in a ceremony on Kentucky Writers' Day, April 24, in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Kentucky Writers' Day is celebrated annually on or around April 24, the birthday of Guthrie, Kentucky, native Robert Penn Warren, the first United States Poet Laureate. In odd numbered years, the governor appoints a poet laureate to a two-year term. That person acts as Kentucky's literary ambassador, leading the commonwealth in a variety of literary activities and events throughout their tenure.

The 2023 Writers' Day celebration featured readings and remarks by House and outgoing Kentucky Poet Laureate for 2021-22 Crystal Wilkinson. That afternoon, Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort featured additional activities with readings by House, Wilkinson and former poets laureate Richard Taylor, Joe Survant, Sena Jeter Naslund, Maureen Morehead, Frank X Walker, George Ella Lyon and Jeff Worley.





Governor's Derby Exhibit

*When the winds calm and the waters recede,
the roots and the rocks will prove their resiliency.*

The Governor's Derby Exhibit adorned the Capitol Rotunda from May 5 through May 18. With the theme of "Resilience," pieces in the exhibit illustrated scenes, stories or themes that reflect the capacity to withstand, recover or overcome. The exhibit showcased the work of 48 artists from across the commonwealth.

Exhibit Artists

Gretchen Bainum
FLEMING

Darryl Halbrooks
MADISON

Bradley McLean
HARDIN

Elizabeth Bizianes
JEFFERSON

Kate He
CALLOWAY

Kasandra McNeil
PULASKI

Debbie Blair
FAYETTE

Caleb He
BOONE

David Neace
JESSAMINE

Judith Egerton
JEFFERSON

Steven A. Hoffman
BOYLE

Linda Nelson
ANDERSON

Obiora Embry
FAYETTE

Frederica Huff
DAVISS

Ly Nguyen
JEFFERSON

Shuling Fister
FAYETTE

Yolanda Kennison
FAYETTE

Adeline Osborne
BOYLE

Enrique Gonzalez
FAYETTE

Lindsey Kiser
BOONE

Kevin Osbourn
CLARK

Kris Grenier
HARRISON

Deyanira Esmeralda
Martin
FAYETTE

Ken Page
KENTON

Elizabeth Haigh
JEFFERSON

Clay Mata
JEFFERSON

Sherry Pearl
JEFFERSON

Marie Waddell Pearson
FAYETTE

Jennifer Stanley
MADISON

Sid Webb
FAYETTE

Linda Pierce
CHRISTIAN

Paula Stone-Buckner
MONTGOMERY

Angela Wells
JEFFERSON

Salina Ramsay
FAYETTE

Carol Summers
FAYETTE

Katherine Updegraff White
LINCOLN

Fran Redmon
FRANKLIN

Beverley Sweeney-Sheppard
JEFFERSON

Addison Williams
LETCHER

Meryl R.B. Shapiro
WOODFORD

Tammy Tsunoda
GARRARD

Stephen Winter
JESSAMINE

Larry Smith
TRIMBLE

Crystal Viray
BOYLE

Ruthe Wyman
BOONE

Linda Stahl
LAUREL

Amanda Wangler
CLARK

Laura Zecchin
BOYLE

"We Love You, Kaden" by Tammy Tsunoda





Continent to Commonwealth

The Kentucky Arts Council, in partnership with Asia Institute-Crane House and the Kentucky Chinese American Association, invited Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Kentuckians to share their visual art. Dozens of artists answered the call, with ethnic identities including Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Indian, Vietnamese and Karen, an ethnic group connected with the land now known as Myanmar, formerly Burma. A panel of Asian and Asian American cultural specialists selected artworks to include in this exhibit, which they named Continent to Commonwealth.

The exhibit debuted during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, May 2023, and is scheduled to travel statewide through mid-2024. The purpose is to share AAPI experiences in the commonwealth today, and recognize the artistic expressions that Asian individuals, families and communities contribute to Kentucky's cultural landscape.

Exhibit Locations

May 19-June 15, 2023
**Kentucky State Capitol
Rotunda**

June 16-July 31, 2023
**Kenton County Public
Library Erlanger Branch**

August 2023
**Russell County Public
Library**

September 2023
**The Kentucky Museum
Western Kentucky University**

October 2023
Glema Mahr Center

November 2023
**Pence-Chowning Art Gallery
Campbellsville University**

December 2023
Laurel County Public Library

Exhibit Artists

Alexander Trainor
JEFFERSON

Julie Chen
FAYETTE

Nhan Phan
JEFFERSON

Betsy Patel
WARREN

Kate He
CALLOWAY

Pe Heh
JEFFERSON

Christopher Vaughn
JEFFERSON

Keiko Akiyama
OLDHAM

Rebecca Yu
JEFFERSON

Eriko Whittaker
JEFFERSON

Lily Hubbard
HENDERSON

Rianna Peng
CALLOWAY

Haiping Ran
FAYETTE

Ly Nguyen
JEFFERSON

Shuling Fister
FAYETTE

Jacob Wachal
FAYETTE

BMahalia Xiaoqi
JEFFERSON

Sixia Pulsifer
FAYETTE

Julie Chen
FAYETTE

Michael Litzau
MADISON

Suyun Son
JEFFERSON

Kate He
CALLOWAY

Michael Chou
JEFFERSON

Yanya Yang
FAYETTE

Keiko Akiyama
OLDHAM

Michelle Wu
JESSAMINE

Yaxin Lin
JEFFERSON

Lakshmi Sriraman
FAYETTE

Ming Xuan
JEFFERSON

Ying Kit Chan
JEFFERSON

Lily Hubbard
HENDERSON

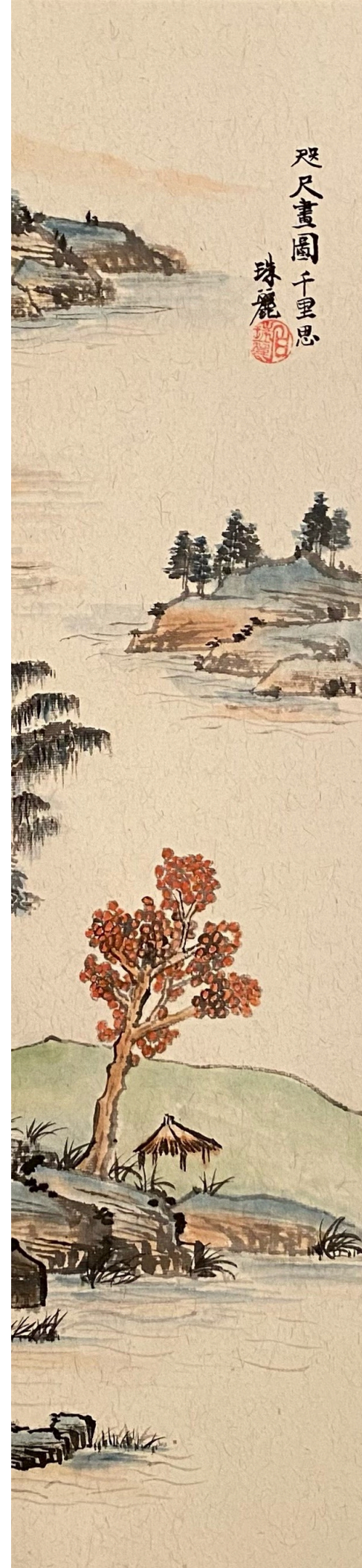
Monica Lakhwani
JEFFERSON

Yoko Nogami
LETCHER

Ly Nguyen
JEFFERSON

Moonhe Baik
JEFFERSON

Zach Jett
JEFFERSON



咫尺畫圖千里思
珠麗



Creative Industry Summit Series

The Kentucky Arts Council regularly offers online learning experiences designed for artists, arts organizations and anyone working or aspiring to work in the creative industry. In 2023, webinars and online panels revolved around the themes of diverse artistic communities in the commonwealth, disaster relief and preparedness, and celebrating National Arts and Humanities Month. All the offerings of the series were recorded and are available on the arts council's YouTube channel.

Celebrating the Art and Culture of Kentucky Wednesdays in May

The Kentucky Arts Council presented its second iteration of Celebrating the Art and Culture of Kentucky, an online series which highlights the lives of artists from culturally diverse backgrounds who contribute daily to the state's artistic heritage and legacy.

In May of 2023, we invited artists who have participated in Kentucky Arts Council programs and traveling exhibits to share their lives and art practices. Hosts for this year's series were Cintia Segovia, assistant professor of art and design at Murray State University, and Joel Buno, executive director of Asia Institute-Crane House.

MAY 3

Appalachian Plus Latin: A conversation with members of the Kentucky music group Appalatin

MAY 10

Our Kentucky Home: A conversation with Hispanic/Latin American artists of Kentucky

MAY 17

Native Reflections: A conversation with Native American/American Indian Artists of Kentucky

MAY 24

Continent to Commonwealth: A conversation with Asian/Asian American Artists of Kentucky

Emergencies, Disasters and the Arts

Disasters and emergencies are increasingly among the largest threats to the careers of artists and the livelihood of arts organizations. And with devastating weather-related events becoming more common, the Kentucky Arts Council strived to help artists and organizations develop plans for readiness, response and recovery. Throughout 2023, and with the assistance of state, local and national partners, the KAC offered interactive panels with presentations and question-and-answer sessions on topics in disaster preparedness, relief and recovery. Registration was free and open to artists and organizations across the country in a call to increase safe and secure conditions for the nation's arts community.

APRIL 18

Meet the Field: Resources You Need in Times of Crisis

MAY 23

Craft Emergency Relief Fund: A Support System for Artists

JUNE 21

The 4-1-1: Making a Case for Disaster Funding in the Arts

JULY 26

Disaster Declared: Resources for Arts and Cultural Institutions

AUG. 11

Two Disasters: A Kentucky Tale

National Arts and Humanities Month

Every October the Kentucky Arts Council hosts a series of workshops on various topics in the arts for National Arts and Humanities Month. In 2023 we chose to help visual artists prepare their artwork for travel and exhibition, highlight the literary artists who recently received Individual Artists Fellowship and Emerging Artist Awards, and how to build advocacy into an arts organization's busy calendar.

OCT. 19

Hang in There! Preparing Your Artwork for Exhibit

OCT. 25

A Literary Morning With 2023 Individual Artist Fellowship Recipients

OCT. 31

Make Advocacy Part of Your Organization's Culture



Disaster Relief and Recovery Grants

Seven months separated two of the worst weather-related disasters in Kentucky history, both resulting in significant devastation and loss for the arts community. On Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, a violent, long-tracked EF4 tornado moved across western Kentucky, damaging several towns, decimating others, effectively wiping them off the map. Later the following summer, a 1000-year flood submerged eastern Kentucky and central Appalachia.

Precious and exceptional examples of quintessential Kentucky artworks and art forms were lost or damaged. In Mayfield, a mural by nationally renowned folk artist Helen LaFrance was among what little remained of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Icehouse, home of the Mayfield Graves County Art Guild was demolished. In eastern Kentucky, world-famous Appalachian media and cultural institution, Appalshop, was underwater along with its irreplaceable archives, while in Hindman, mountain dulcimers floated down a dangerously over-brimming Troublesome Creek.

In each instance, the Kentucky Arts Council made calls to artists and arts organizations, documenting loss, visiting sites, assembling federal resources, and most importantly, checking on our friends. We combined our own funding, some from the NEA, and some from our partners at South Arts to award disaster relief funds to organizations, schools and working artists. The KAC continues to emphasize the importance of disaster preparedness through education and convenings. Furthermore, we have been national leaders in advocating for the availability of monies for arts asset recovery and relief in the wake of disaster. The final chapter of these stories is not one of devastation, but one of resilience and Kentucky's determination to be prepared and persevere amid loss.

GRANT FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Disaster relief funding was made available to the following federally designated FEMA Public Assistance counties: Barren, Breathitt, Caldwell, Casey, Christian, Clay, Cumberland, Floyd, Fulton, Graves, Harlan, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Magoffin, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Taylor, Todd, Warren, Whitley, and Wolfe.

Emergency Partnership Grants*

Princeton Art Guild

CALDWELL

\$2,000

Dawson Springs Museum

HOPKINS

\$2,500

**awarded in calendar years 2022
and 2023 with FY22 funds*

Bowling Green African
American Museum

WARREN

\$5,000

Purchase Players

GRAVES

\$4,000

Mayfield Graves County
Arts Guild

GRAVES

\$5,000

St. James AME Church

GRAVES

\$3,500

Organization Relief and Disaster Recovery

The Organization Relief and Disaster Recovery (ORDR) grant program was designed to assist recovery following the devastating environmental, economic and cultural effects of the December 2021 tornadoes and July 2022 floods in Kentucky. Funds allocated represent a recognition of the value of the arts and culture sector to the commonwealth's economy and to livelihood and livability for the people in these areas. These funds, up to \$5,000, supported jobs in the arts sector, strengthened these organizations to fulfill their arts-based mission and assisted the field in its response to and recovery from disaster.

Appalachian Artisan
Center of Kentucky

KNOTT

\$5,000

Arts of Southern
Kentucky

WARREN

\$3,600

EpiCentre Arts

LETCHER

\$5,000

Mayfield Graves
County Art Guild

GRAVES

\$5,000

Appalshop

LETCHER

\$5,000

Cowan Community
Action Group

LETCHER

\$5,000

Hindman Settlement
School

KNOTT

\$5,000

Owsley County
Alliance for Recreation
and Entertainment

OWSLEY

\$4,700

Artists Collaborative
Theatre

PIKE

\$3,500

Create Princeton

CALDWELL

\$5,000

Horse Cave Cultural
District

HART

\$5,000

The Hart County
Historical Society

HART

\$3,100

Arts for All Kentucky

WARREN

\$5,000

Cumberland Mountain
Arts & Crafts Council

LETCHER

\$5,000

Marshall County Arts
Commission

MARSHALL

\$5,000

Wolfe County Public
Library Board

WOLFE

\$5,000

Arts Education Relief and Disaster Recovery

The Arts Education Relief and Disaster Recovery (AERDR) Grant provided Kentucky schools impacted by recent disasters expedited access to funding for arts education activities. Applicants were able to use funds for costs associated with any kind of arts education programming, including materials for creative projects, teaching artist residencies, performance assemblies, field trips to arts organizations or venues, etc.

Sedalia Elementary School GRAVES \$965	Central Elementary MARSHALL \$500	Graves County High School GRAVES \$573	Owsley County High School OWSLEY \$1,000
Hindman Elementary PERRY \$1,000	Caldwell Co. High School CALDWELL \$1,000	W.B. Muncy Elementary LESLIE \$2,400	South Hopkins Middle School HOPKINS \$1,000
Marshall County Board of Education MARSHALL \$500	Fancy Farm Elementary GRAVES \$300	Whitley County Middle School WHITLEY \$1,300	Northside Baptist Christian School GRAVES \$1,000
	Carr Elementary FULTON \$1,000		

Arts Relief and Disaster Recovery

The Kentucky Arts Council Artist Relief and Disaster Recovery (ARDR) grant program offered \$4,000 to practicing Kentucky professional artists. The grant supports a stipend for an individual artist to carry out a project or activity including presentations, training, research and/or creation of new art, exhibits and performances, other public art events and significant public art forums that create meaningful dialogues. The program encouraged partnerships between the artist and local organizations, agencies, businesses, etc.

Addison Williams LETCHER	Emily Smith Sleigh CHRISTIAN	Jennifer Lea Bowman CHRISTIAN	Josh A. Riley GRAVES	Malcolm J. Wilson LETCHER
Crystal Roberts ROCKCASTLE	Grace Ann Henderson KNOTT	Jesse Ray Sims BARREN	Justine Riley GRAVES	Mark William Kidd II LETCHER
Cynthia Houston WARREN	James Alan Riley PIKE	Jessica L. Jones PERRY	Lacy Hale LETCHER	Nancy Allen PERRY
Douglas Naselroad KNOTT	Jennifer Bruton Sims BARREN	Jill Robertson PERRY	Laura Elisabeth Fox-Ezell LOGAN	Tiffany Pyette LETCHER

Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded \$24,000 in grants — \$4,000 each — to six traditional and folk artist mentors who spent a year teaching skills and practices vital to the state's cultural heritage to apprentice artists working in the same art form.

The arts council's Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants facilitate and support the recognition and continuation of Kentucky cultural traditions. Funding allows apprentice artists to study face-to-face with mentors in their field to advance toward mastery within a specific folk-art community.

“Female Fiddlers & Beyond”

Blakeley Elizabeth Burger, **Jefferson**

Lisa Sandell, **Jefferson**

“Fiddle Traditions of Northeastern Kentucky Apprenticeship”

John Harrod, **Owen**

Nicholas Denham, **Mason**

“Quilting/Mixed Media Apprenticeship”

Mercedes Espinoza Harn, **Fayette**

Deyanira Esmeralda Martin, **Fayette**

“Project M.E.: Hip Hop Culture and Traditions”

Michael George, **Jefferson**

Elijah Eke, **Jefferson**

“Across the Great Divide: Fiddle Tunes That Unite Music Communities”

Ronald Pen, **Clark**

Lorinda Jones, **Hardin**

“Appalachian Women’s Music Apprenticeship”

Sue Massek, **Washington**

Larah Ballard, **Montgomery**



Kentucky Arts Partnerships

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded more than \$1.1 million in operating support to 100 arts organizations in 32 counties across the commonwealth through its Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) program.

The KAP program provides nonprofit arts organizations with unrestricted operating support to ensure that year-round participation in the arts is available to the people of Kentucky.

The competitive grant process funds applicants based on operating revenues, a panel review of applications, and funds available for the program. New to the 2023 grant cycle, Kentucky Arts Partnership grantees were required to provide a cultural equity plan detailing their strategies for assessing and implementing diversity, equity, access and inclusion into their organizations' policies, procedures, programming, and overall culture. KAC recognized that each organization may be at a different point in this process. Some organizations were just recognizing the need for a plan, while others were already evaluating a previously implemented plan. The aim of this requirement was to meet each arts organization where they currently stand by rewarding responsible processes in the initial plan and significant progress as described in the reporting intervals and subsequent KAP applications. Kentucky Peer Advisory Network consultancies were available to assist organizations in meeting this new requirement.

With 97 of the 100 organizations reporting, KAP organizations collectively employed 544 full-time workers, 557 part-time workers and 3,445 independent contractors in the 2023 fiscal year. The organizations together provided more than 3.7 million in-person arts experiences at events that occurred during the fiscal year, which includes individuals who had multiple experiences at one or more venues. These organizations collectively contributed \$1,308,623 in state, \$4,505,664 in federal and \$459,731 in city and county taxes and leveraged arts council funds to help generate more than \$83 million in revenue.



Actors Theatre of Louisville
JEFFERSON
\$48,872

Allegro Dance Project
FAYETTE
\$3,171

American Indian Heritage
Museum
WHITLEY
\$9,394

Appalachian Artisan Center
KNOTT
\$11,313

Art Center
of the Bluegrass
BOYLE
\$11,951

Artists Collaborative
Theatre
PIKE
\$1,397

Arts Association
of Oldham County
OLDHAM
\$5,217

Arts Commission of
Danville/Boyle County
BOYLE
\$2,043

Arts Connect
FAYETTE
\$2,445

Arts for All Kentucky
WARREN
\$5,899

Arts of Southern Kentucky
WARREN
\$28,773

Asia Institute - Crane House
JEFFERSON
\$11,220

Behringer-Crawford
Museum
KENTON
\$11,250

Bluegrass Music Hall of
Fame & Museum
DAVISS
\$23,909

Carnegie Center for Literacy
and Learning
FAYETTE
\$16,869

CAST
CAMPBELL
\$2,546

Central Kentucky Youth
Orchestra Society
FAYETTE
\$9,862

Central Music Academy
FAYETTE
\$7,503

Centre College's Norton
Center for the Arts
BOYLE
\$18,619

Commonwealth Theatre
Center
JEFFERSON
\$20,167

Cumberland Mountain Arts
& Crafts Council
LETCHER
\$1,000

Explorium of Lexington
FAYETTE
\$12,066

Falcon Theatre
CAMPBELL
\$2,560

Fund for the Arts
JEFFERSON
\$53,119

Gallery on the Square
SIMPSON
\$1,875

Garrard County Arts
GARRARD
\$1,000

Gateway Regional Arts
Center
MONTGOMERY
\$4,940

Grand Theatre of Frankfort
FRANKLIN
\$9,665

Hardin Co. Schools
Performing Arts Center
HARDIN
\$3,336

Headley-Whitney
Museum of Art
FAYETTE
\$6,079

Henderson Area Arts
Alliance
HENDERSON
\$7,071

Hindman Settlement
School
KNOTT
\$33,883

Institute 193 FAYETTE \$3,400	LexArts FAYETTE \$25,057	Louisville Chorus JEFFERSON \$1,611
Janice Mason Art Museum TRIGG \$1,530	Lexington Art League FAYETTE \$6,039	Louisville Folk School JEFFERSON \$3,788
Josephine Sculpture Park FRANKLIN \$10,043	Lexington Ballet Company FAYETTE \$10,213	Louisville Literary Arts JEFFERSON \$1,000
Kentucky Ballet Theatre FAYETTE \$8,746	Lexington Chamber Chorale FAYETTE \$1,087	Louisville Master Chorale JEFFERSON \$1,423
Kentucky Classic Arts at Centre Square MARION \$3,315	Lexington Children's Theatre FAYETTE \$18,704	Louisville Story Program JEFFERSON \$7,002
Kentucky Opera Association JEFFERSON \$32,651	LexPhil FAYETTE \$19,284	Louisville Visual Art JEFFERSON \$14,677
Kentucky Shakespeare JEFFERSON \$19,633	Living Arts and Science Center FAYETTE \$12,949	Louisville Youth Choir JEFFERSON \$3,586
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra CAMPBELL \$11,431	Looking for Lilith JEFFERSON \$3,509	Louisville Youth Orchestra JEFFERSON \$10,051
KMAC Museum JEFFERSON \$16,915	Louisville Academy of Music JEFFERSON \$13,347	Maiden Alley Cinema MCCRACKEN \$9,323
Lake Cumberland Performing Arts PULASKI \$2,339	Louisville Ballet JEFFERSON \$40,405	Market House Theatre MCCRACKEN \$19,726
Leeds Center for the Arts CLARK \$4,544	Louisville Chamber Choir JEFFERSON \$1,000	Mayfield Graves County Art Guild GRAVES \$1,592

Mountain Arts Center

FLOYD

\$11,627

Murray Art Guild

CALLOWAY

\$3,498

Ohio Valley Art League

HENDERSON

\$1,496

Olive Hill Center for Arts
and Heritage

CARTER

\$2,137

Owensboro Dance Theatre

DAVISS

\$8,722

Owensboro Museum
of Fine Art

DAVISS

\$13,862

Owensboro Symphony

DAVISS

\$12,072

Owsley County Alliance for
Recreation and
Entertainment

OWSLEY

\$1,000

Pandora Productions

JEFFERSON

\$6,032

Paramount Arts Center

BOYD

\$20,704

Pennyroyal Arts Council

CHRISTIAN

\$13,258

Pine Mountain
Settlement School

HARLAN

\$11,764

Pioneer Playhouse

BOYLE

\$13,719

Playhouse in the Park

CALLOWAY

\$5,340

Pones

CAMPBELL

\$3,062

Pride of Kentucky Chorus

JEFFERSON

\$1,466

Public Theatre of Kentucky

WARREN

\$3,238

Richmond Area Arts
Council

MADISON

\$4,128

RiverPark Center

DAVISS

\$30,349

Sarabande Books

JEFFERSON

\$13,997

Speed Art Museum

JEFFERSON

\$60,241

Squallis Puppeteers

JEFFERSON

\$3,489





StageOne Family Theatre

JEFFERSON

\$24,693

The Appalachian Center
for the Arts

PIKE

\$12,234

The Carnegie

KENTON

\$18,229

The Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$33,705

The Lexington Singers

FAYETTE

\$3,317

The Lexington Theatre
Company

FAYETTE

\$9,634

The Little Colonel Players

OLDHAM

\$1,208

The National Quilt Museum

MCCRACKEN

\$16,606

The Shine House

PULASKI

\$2,386

VOICES of Kentuckiana

JEFFERSON

\$3,977

Woodford Theatre

WOODFORD

\$13,599

Yeiser Art Center

MCCRACKEN

\$3,509

Young Authors Greenhouse

JEFFERSON

\$7,652

Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artist Awards

Individual Artist Fellowships are \$7,500 unrestricted awards given to Kentucky artists who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their discipline. The fellowship can only be awarded to any individual twice in their lifetime. In calendar year 2023, the arts council awarded fellowships in literary arts – fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and play/screenwriting.

Austyn Gaffney*

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Louisville

Sage Martin*

PLAYWRITING

Louisville

Megan Pillow*

FICTION

Louisville

Lisa Briana Williams**

POETRY

Danville

Fellowships award excellence, but also support artists in professional and artistic growth. Recipient Megan Pillow is currently working on a novel she is developing from a short story she wrote, titled “Long Live the Girl Detective,” that appeared in the publication Electric Literature. The Individual Artist Fellowship will allow her to make significant progress toward finishing it, she said.

“It’s huge for me, because writing is often not well paid, especially creative work, and it’s hard to get funding for creative work,” Pillow said. “I work full-time, I’m a single mom and I work my schedule around my kids’ schedule. This fellowship will allow me to dedicate funds to childcare so, in addition to my full-time job, I’ll have time to finish working on this novel.”

In addition to the Individual Artist Fellowships, the arts council awarded four Emerging Artist Awards, \$1,000 unrestricted grants to early-career, professional Kentucky artists who demonstrate excellence and creativity in their work.

Haley Crigger**

FICTION

Park Hills

Emily Borst*

PLAYWRITING

Crescent Springs

Jeremy Smith*

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Lexington

Joanna Englert**

POETRY

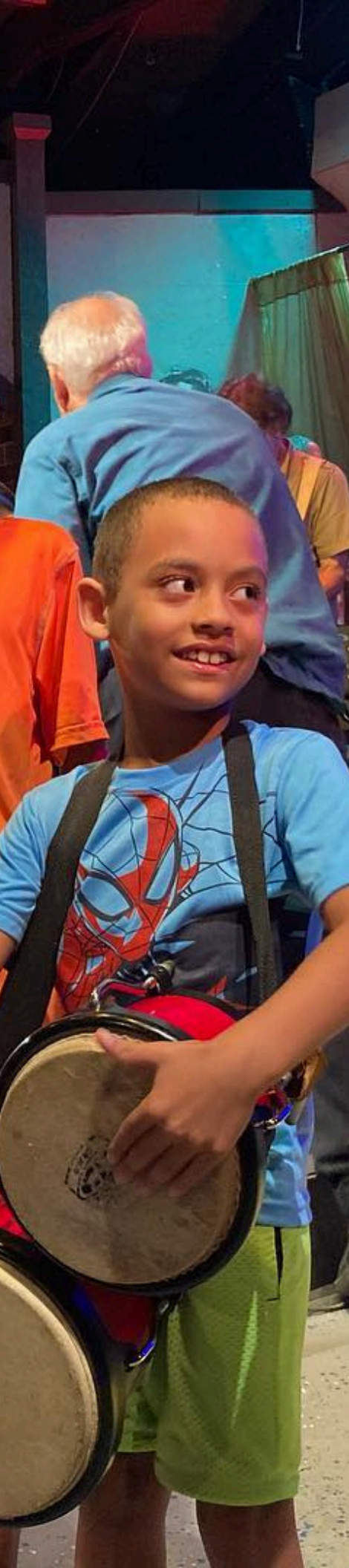
Louisville

Emerging Artist Award recipient Emily Borst of Crescent Springs has been a theater performer since their days at the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville. Borst went on to major in musical theater at Northern Kentucky University. Borst’s writing provides other people in the LGBTQ community with a reflection of themselves.

“Theater and the arts are a huge part of my life,” Borst said. “My writing career came from a want for LGBTQ stories I wanted to see: funny, strange, quirky and joyful. A story like my own life and the lives of my friends around me.”

**awarded with fiscal year 2024 funds*

***awarded with fiscal year 2023 funds*



TranspARTation

The TranspARTation Grant enables Kentucky teachers and schools to offer students high-quality arts experiences through transportation funding for field trips to arts and cultural organizations in the TranspARTation Directory.

Caldwell County High

CALDWELL

Market House Theater

MCCRACKEN

\$188

Lee County Middle High
School

LEE

Speed Art Museum

JEFFERSON

\$1,184

Caldwell County Middle

CALDWELL

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$564

Marion County Public
Schools Student
Ambassadors

MARION

Norton Center for the Arts

BOYLE

\$240

Caldwell County Elementary

CALDWELL

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$564

Lone Oak Intermediate

MCCRACKEN

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$168

Southwest Calloway
Elementary

CALLOWAY

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$336

Providence Elementary

WEBSTER

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$1,360

Graves County Middle

GRAVES

Carson Center
for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$728

Teaching Art Together

The Teaching Art Together Grant supports teachers collaborating with practicing, professional artists on the design and implementation of innovative one- to four-week residencies. Residencies provide teachers with the tools to continue to incorporate the arts into the curriculum after the residency is complete.

Residency artists are chosen from the arts council's Teaching Artists Directory, a roster of adjudicated Kentucky artists who produce high quality artistic work and have both the skills and competencies needed to collaborate with teachers and students in designing and implementing arts education programs. The directory serves as a resource for schools of all levels as well as a variety of organizations that may want to employ qualified teaching artists.

Iroquois High School

JEFFERSON

Yani Vozos

\$1,000

Tates Creek Elementary

FAYETTE

Nieta Wigginton

\$1,000

Model Laboratory Schools

WOODFORD

Jeri Katherine Howell

\$1,000

Tates Creek Middle School

FAYETTE

Abgail Miller

\$1,000

William Wells Brown
Elementary

FAYETTE

Bob Montgomery

\$1,000

Washington County School

WASHINGTON

Yani Vozos

\$1,000

Lee County Middle-High School

LEE

Pat Banks

\$1,000



Kentucky Peer Advisory Network Consultancies

The Kentucky Peer Advisory Network (KPAN) Directory has arts professionals available to provide six-hour consultancies to assist eligible organizations and individual artists with board development, grant writing, marketing and promotions, strategic planning, festival planning and other activities. Consultancy fees of \$500 are paid by the Kentucky Arts Council. Kentucky arts organizations, community groups incorporating arts programming, as well as individual artists participating in Kentucky Arts Council programs are eligible.

Appalachia-Science in the
Public Interest

ROCKCASTLE

Talleri McRae

Dancing Well: The Soldier
Project

JEFFERSON

Julia Youngblood

Prathiba Natesan Batley

JEFFERSON

Richard Young

First Friday Berea

MADISON

Richard Young

Mountain Arts Center

FLOYD

Heath Eric

Art Center
of the Bluegrass

BOYLE

Talleri McRae

Handmade Journals by Adrienne Gilley



Kentucky Peer Advisory Network Consultancies

In fiscal year 2023, the Kentucky Arts Council built on the success and popularity of the previous year's pilot program, and continued offering KPAN cultural equity consultancies to Kentucky Arts Partnership grant applicants. The advisor and arts organization met over several months to either create a new cultural equity plan or advance goals in an existing plan. Moving forward, the Kentucky Arts Council will continue to recruit KPAN consultants that specialize in the diversity, equity and inclusion, and offer cultural equity consultancies as a part of the classic KPAN program.

Arts Commission
of Danville-Boyle County
BOYLE
Robert Donnan

Arts of Southern Kentucky
WARREN
Robert Donnan

The Central Music Academy
FAYETTE
Julia Youngblood

Centre College's
Norton Center for the Arts
BOYLE
Nieta Wigginton

City of Pikeville Exposition
Center
PIKE
C. Mitzi Sinnott

Lexington Children's Museum
FAYETTE
Nieta Wigginton

The Little Colonel Players
OLDHAM
Talleri McRae

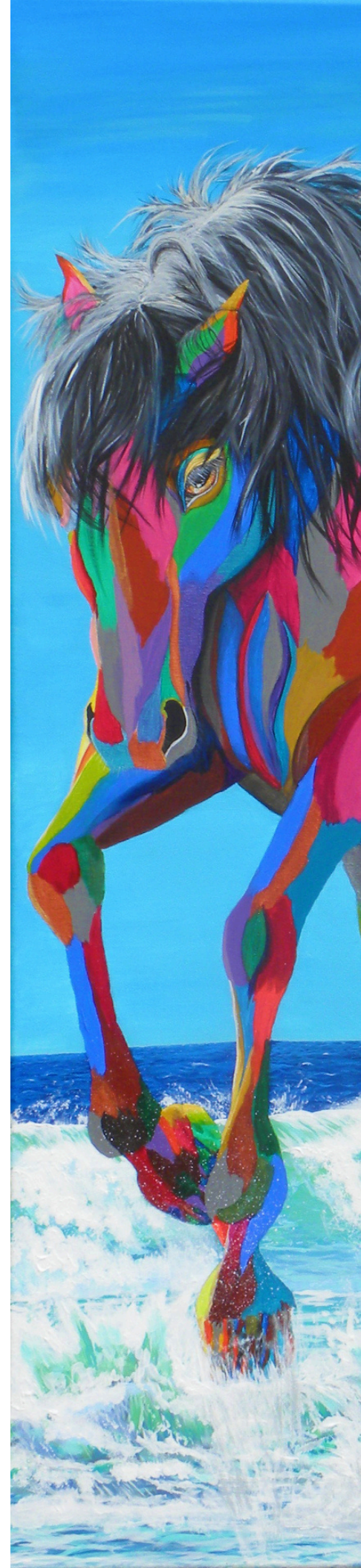
Living Arts and Science
Center
FAYETTE
C. Mitzi Sinnott

Louisville Academy of Music
JEFFERSON
Lakshmi Sriraman

Louisville Folk School
JEFFERSON
Julia Youngblood

Louisville Literary Arts
JEFFERSON
Julia Youngblood

Louisville Story Program
JEFFERSON
C. Mitzi Sinnott



"The Will of Freedom" by Gloria Arteaga-Hinton

Fiscal Year 2023 Grants	Number of Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Arts Education Relief and Disaster Recovery	13	\$12,538
Artist Relief and Disaster Recovery	20	\$80,000
Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artist Awards	12*	\$51,000
Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship	6	\$24,000
Kentucky Arts Partnership	100	\$1,124,884
Kentucky Peer Advisory Network	7	\$3,500
Kentucky Peer Advisory Network-Cultural Equity	17	\$8,500
Organization Disaster Relief and Recovery	16	\$74,900
Partnership Grants	12	\$7,000
Performing Artists Directory-Touring**	2	\$1,000
Poetry Out Loud	7	\$3,316
TranspARTation	9	\$5,332
Teaching Art Together	7	\$7,000
TOTALS	228	\$1,402,970

**Includes Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artists Awards given in calendar years 2022 and 2023.*

***Inaugural program. Fiscal year 2023 was the first year of the Performing Artist's Directory-Touring Grant. The program has since been renamed the Kentucky Touring Grant and will be a multi-fiscal year feature of the Kentucky Arts Council's 2024 annual report.*

Arts Council 10-year Funding History

Kentucky General Assembly

2013	\$2,774,600
2014	\$2,803,100
2015	\$3,017,300
2016	\$2,796,200
2017	\$2,600,261
2018	\$2,628,100
2019	\$1,721,700
2020	\$1,728,900
2021	\$1,537,900
2022	\$1,787,200
2023	\$1,797,100

National Endowment for the Arts

2013	\$788,600
2014	\$734,900
2015	\$681,900
2016	\$710,500
2017	\$746,500
2018	\$731,900
2019	\$705,945
2020	\$1,167,625*
2021	\$1,566,535**
2022	\$791,835
2023	\$966,470

* includes \$454,100 in CARES Act emergency funding

** includes \$807,200 in American Rescue Plan Act funding



About Us

The mission of the Kentucky Arts Council is to foster environments for the people of Kentucky to value, participate in, and benefit from the arts.

The Kentucky Arts Council is the state arts agency and is responsible for developing and promoting support for the arts in Kentucky. 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.



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kyartscast.ky.gov

Contact us to sign up for our monthly newsletter, Arts-E-News featuring announcements, events and opportunities in the arts.



About the Cover Artist

Nick Walters is a contemporary oil painter from Lexington, Ky., whose practice is based in realism while also having expressionistic tendencies. He seeks to have artistic precision without sacrificing the emotions in his pieces and causing them to feel sterile.

"I am constantly creating stories in my mind. Whether I am working on a painting or sitting on a bench watching people walk by, it is something that I have done since childhood.

My end goal is to have pieces that prompt the viewer to create their own narratives. While I title my work based on the storyline I've created, it is ultimately up to the viewer to decide what is occurring or has occurred."

"A Horse with a Name" by Nick Walters



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