

KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



From the executive director



At the Kentucky Arts Council, we believe that the arts thrive where communities do — and there is no better place to grow and create than right here in the commonwealth.

Our New Kentucky Home offers more than just scenic beauty and cultural richness, it offers opportunity. Our state is a place where business support is not just a promise — it's a practice. From small startups to major employers, Kentucky fosters an environment where entrepreneurs and creatives alike are encouraged to succeed.

The arts are especially vital in Kentucky, deeply rooted in our heritage and essential to our future. As public funding in other areas faces reduction, Gov. Andy Beshear has stated clearly: Kentucky will do what it can to help make up the difference. That commitment underscores the importance of protecting and expanding the role of the arts in every corner of our state.

The economic impact is clear. Tourism in the commonwealth is a \$14.3 billion industry, and our arts industry generates \$6.5 billion in economic impact and supports more than 50,000 jobs. From music festivals to gallery exhibits, community theaters to craft fairs, Kentucky's creative sector is a major economic driver with measurable returns.

We're proud to be part of a state that prioritizes workforce development, ensuring that both established professionals and the next generation have the tools and training they need to excel. Kentucky invests deeply in education and future opportunity, making sure our youth are not only prepared to participate in the economy, but to shape it.

No business or creative venture can flourish without a strong foundation, and Kentucky offers a remarkable quality of life. With affordable living, vibrant cities, and welcoming communities, the commonwealth provides a sense of place and purpose. Our arts, culture, and hospitality sectors play a pivotal role in travel and tourism, helping to draw visitors from around the world and spotlight what makes Kentucky so uniquely inspiring.

To that end, the Kentucky Arts Council delivers a wide range of programs, events, and grants designed to uplift artists, organizations, and communities. The Kentucky Crafted Program and the Kentucky Crafted Market support high-quality craft and visual artists through retail and wholesale opportunities. Through Poetry Out Loud, high school students across the state discover the power of poetry and performance. Kentucky Writers' Day celebrates the state's literary legacy, while curated exhibits in public spaces highlight artistic excellence from across the commonwealth. The Creative Industry Summit Series offers free professional development for artists, and the KYArtsCast podcast — relaunched in fall 2024 — expands our reach through digital storytelling. Significant growth across our social media platforms continues to increase awareness and visibility for Kentucky's creative sector.

Our grant programs — including the Kentucky Arts Partnership, Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships, and America250KY — provide essential funding that fuels nonprofit operations, public art projects, cultural preservation, and more. These investments help ensure the arts remain a visible, vital part of life in every region of the state.

The arts are also a bipartisan investment. In Kentucky, the arts strengthen education, tourism, workforce development, and small business growth. Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky General Assembly have demonstrated bold leadership by supporting the arts through significant state investment. But state dollars alone are not enough. Sustained federal support is essential to complement and reinforce these efforts across our communities.

Together, we are building a Kentucky where art, business and community intersect — and where every investment returns a lasting impact.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of creativity and community.

Sincerely,



CHRIS CATHERS

Executive Director

"J.A. 250 Digoweli (Books)" by Janette Parent, Caldwell

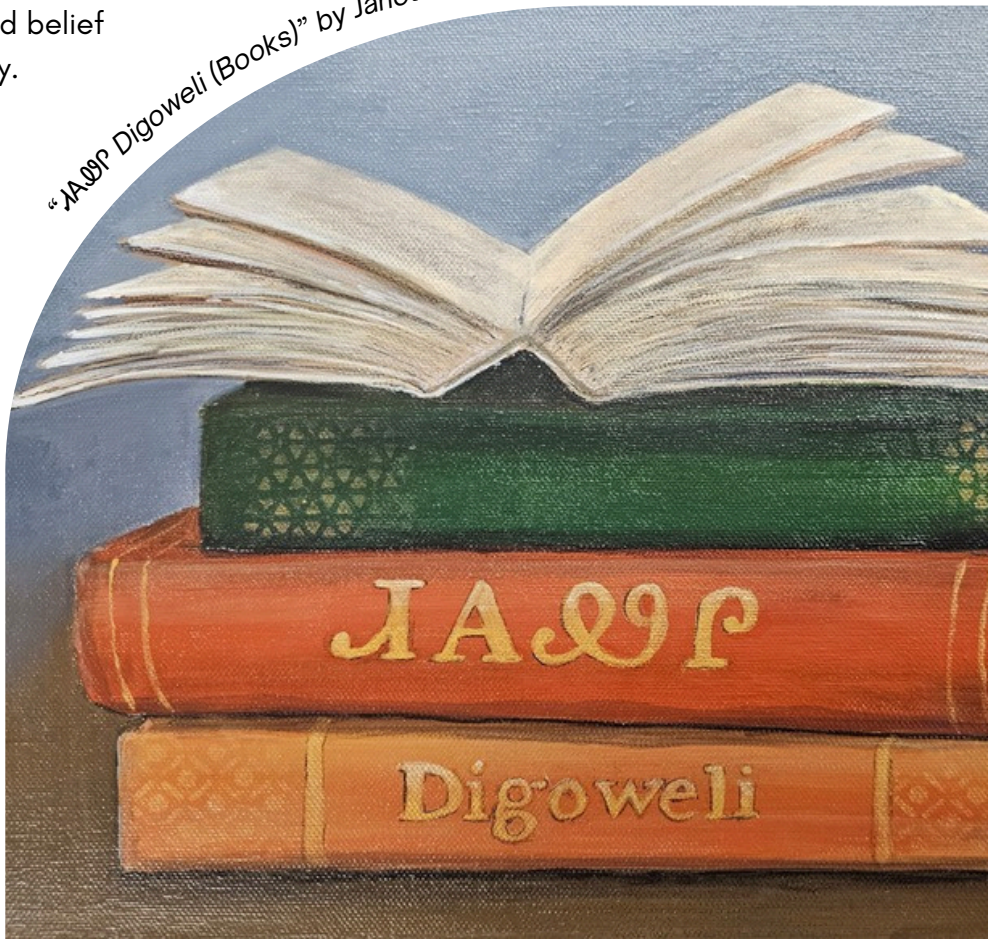


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LOUISVILLE

Janell Oliver

LOUISVILLE

Lynn Schrader

LEXINGTON

Marcheta Sparrow

FRANKFORT

Randall Vaughn

LEXINGTON

List reflects Kentucky Arts Council staff and board in December 2024.

Governor's Awards in the Arts

Each year, the Governor's Awards in the Arts honor the outstanding achievements of Kentuckians who elevate and enrich the cultural landscape of the commonwealth. The Kentucky Arts Council facilitates the nomination process and ceremony on behalf of the Governor. On November 21, 2024, Governor Andy Beshear joined leaders from the Kentucky Arts Council board and the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to recognize nine exceptional recipients representing a spectrum of artistic disciplines and community contributions.

"These awards are a celebration of Kentucky's creative spirit," said Gov. Beshear. "I am honored to recognize the remarkable achievements of this year's award recipients, whose passion for the arts continues to enrich the culture of our new Kentucky home."

The Governor's Awards in the Arts are the highest honor bestowed by the commonwealth in the arts, with categories recognizing artists, organizations, educators, community leaders, and media contributors. Each recipient embodies the vitality of Kentucky's artistic traditions, helping build a thriving arts ecosystem across the state and beyond.

MILNER AWARD

Mark Lenn Johnson
Fayette

EDUCATION AWARD

Louisville Academy of Music
Jefferson

NATIONAL AWARD

Tyler Childers
Lawrence County native

ARTIST AWARD

Gregory Turay
Fayette

MEDIA AWARD

Owensboro
Messenger-Inquirer
Daviness

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD ORGANIZATION

Yes Arts
Franklin

GOVERNMENT AWARD

Carl M. Brashear Radcliff
Veterans Center
Hardin

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD INDIVIDUAL

Jeffrey Reed
Warren

FOLK HERITAGE AWARD

Cheryl Pan
Fayette



Singer-songwriter **Tyler Childers**, recipient of the National Award, reflected on the honor with gratitude and a deep connection to his Appalachian roots: "Of the many titles I've picked up along the way, one of the titles I'm most proud of is 'Kentucky artist'."

Honorees highlighted the role of the arts in community transformation:

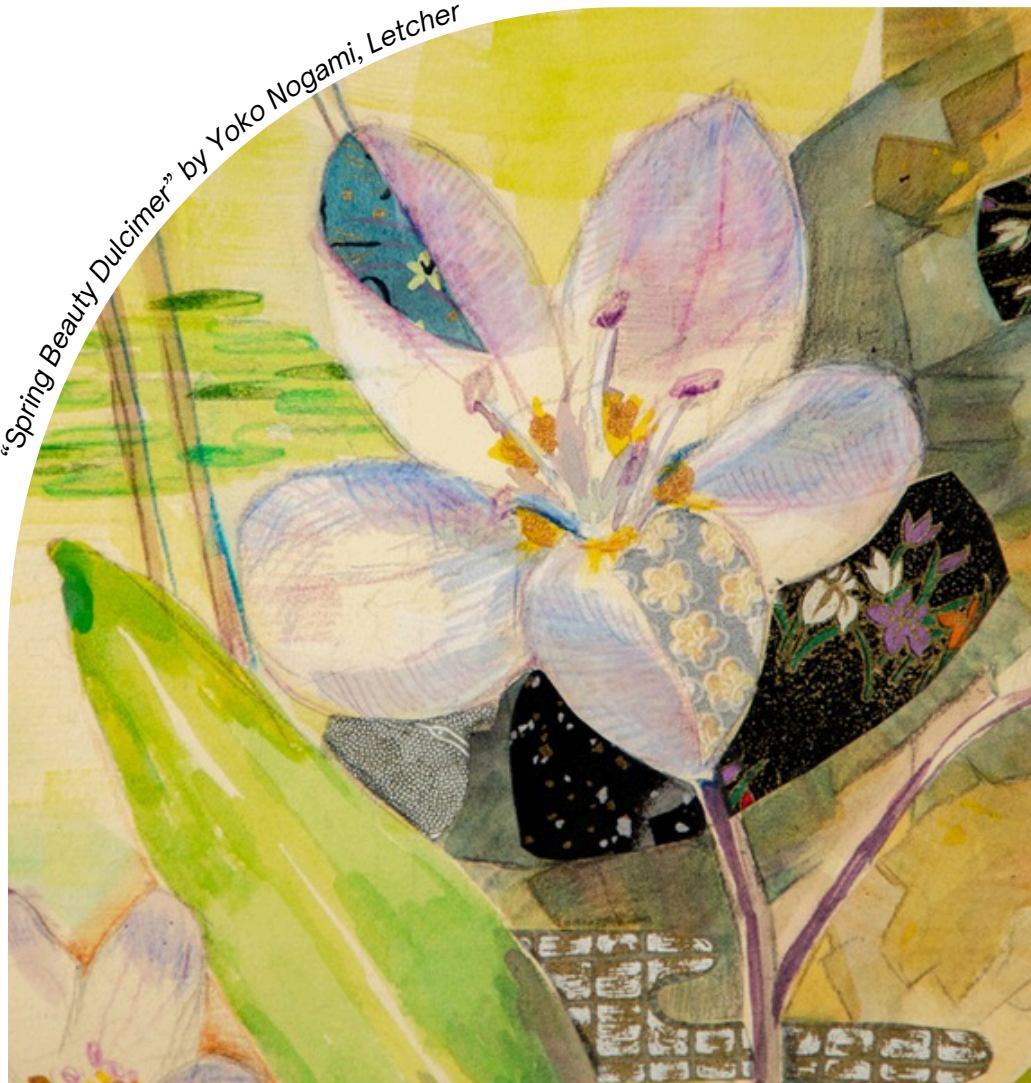
Gregory Turay, celebrated opera singer and executive director of ComposeArts, emphasized the importance of amplifying underrepresented voices: "Through programming, performances, and educational outreach, I am committed to creating platforms that celebrate the contributions of women artists and bring the arts into communities across the state."

Jeffrey Reed, founder of Orchestra Kentucky and recipient of the Community Arts Award, expressed gratitude for recognition of his 25-year journey in building Bowling Green's vibrant arts scene: "One of the reasons we started the orchestra was to help make our home a better place to live."

Carl M. Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center, recipient of the Government Award, was recognized for offering veterans creative opportunities in music, painting and songwriting — arts programs that support healing and community within the center.

"Spring Beauty Dulcimer" by Yoko Nogami, Letcher

Visual artist and educator **Yoko Nogami** of Letcher County was commissioned to create the custom artworks presented to awardees. Nogami's interdisciplinary practice and advocacy for arts education made her a fitting choice for this year's commemorative pieces.

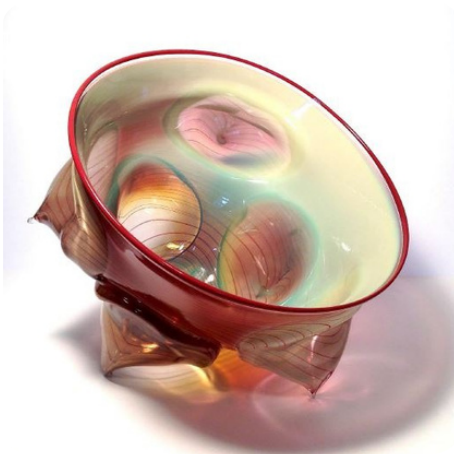


The Kentucky Crafted Market

In 2024, the Kentucky Crafted Market welcomed more than 10,120 visitors to the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena over the course of three days — marking the highest attendance in the past 15 years of recorded data and a major milestone for the state's signature art marketplace.

Now in its 41st year, the Market continues to be one of the premier venues in the region for purchasing fine art and craft, connecting Kentucky artists with both retail shoppers and wholesale buyers. This year, 123 artists participated in the show, including 20 first-time exhibitors, with a significant increase in vendor diversity. The 2024 Market welcomed two new Hispanic-owned businesses, four Black-owned businesses, and a marketplace in which half of all participating businesses were women-owned.

Artist feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many citing record-breaking sales and new business opportunities. One artist reported a \$50,000 wholesale order on opening day. Another noted the weekend's earnings surpassed those of multiple previous shows combined. Worker Bee Sewing Company — recipient of this year's "Best in Show" award — reported thousands in sales per hour on Saturday alone.



2024 Market Awards from left: Best Booth Design, Chad Balster Glass; Excellence in Accessibility, Sawdust n' Solder; Best in Show, Worker Bee Sewing Company.

The show drew 87 preregistered or onsite wholesale buyers, representing businesses from across Kentucky and states as far as California, Arizona, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Ohio. This broad interest demonstrates the ongoing national appeal of Kentucky-made products and reinforces the show's reputation as a significant platform for artists and entrepreneurs.

Special guests and initiatives added to the energy of the weekend:

- A Friday Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet agency head meeting brought cross-sector attention to the event.
- Kentuckians for the Arts (KFTA) hosted an information table at the entrance and encouraged attendees to get the new “arts change lives” license plate from their county clerk’s office.
- University of Kentucky Arts Administration students conducted live interviews with artists via Facebook, helping amplify the reach of the show across digital platforms.

The 2024 Market also continued to integrate accessibility and educational outreach, offering music and arts experiences throughout the venue — a return to full programming last seen before the pandemic.

The Kentucky Arts Council is proud to support the artists, buyers and partners who made the Kentucky Crafted Market 2024 the most successful and dynamic to date.

New exhibitor, ReynaBee Clay Co., at the 2024 market



Kentucky Crafted Artists

This year, the Kentucky Arts Council welcomed 24 new artists into Kentucky Crafted, the state's premier arts marketing assistance program. Members gain access to business training, networking, exhibition opportunities, and promotional support, including eligibility to exhibit at the annual Kentucky Crafted Market.

The 2024 artists represent 16 counties across Kentucky, spanning disciplines like painting, fiber, wood, jewelry, ceramics, and more.



"Garden of the Gods, Shawnee Hills, Illinois" by Sean Patrick Hill, Jefferson

DAVE BARKER

wood
JEFFERSON

RACHEL CARTER

jewelry
WOLFE

REYNA T. DAVIS

jewelry
LINCOLN

KIM LOREN DIXON

fiber
FAYETTE

RYAN J. DURBIN

ceramics
CAMPBELL

CORRIE R. DYER

graphics
LAUREL

DARRYL W. HALBROOKS

mixed media
MADISON

NANCY HALL

painting
FAYETTE

SEAN PATRICK HILL

photography
JEFFERSON

LORI LEA JANEVICIUS

painting
FAYETTE

BRANDON M. LONG

3D mixed media
GARRARD

BENJAMIN A. MADDOX

3D mixed media
FAYETTE

MARTIN MATISOFF

fiber
FRANKLIN

LAURA GREEN MCGEE

fiber
WARREN

DAVID LELAND NAPIER

wood
FAYETTE

KIRSTEN P. O'DANIEL

furniture
WASHINGTON

MARTY OSBOURN

painting
JEFFERSON

WESLEY PAGE

jewelry
BARREN

JANNETTE R. PARENT

painting
CALDWELL

CHARLOTTE ANN POLLOCK

painting
JEFFERSON

MICAH E. SIERP

leather
FAYETTE

NICHOLAS M. TUDOR

graphics and
mixed media
JESSAMINE

KATHERINE

UPDEGRAFF WHITE

painting
LINCOLN

BILLY YAROSH

photography
FAYETTE

"The Underground Railroad" by Kim Dixon, Fayette



Governor's Derby Exhibit

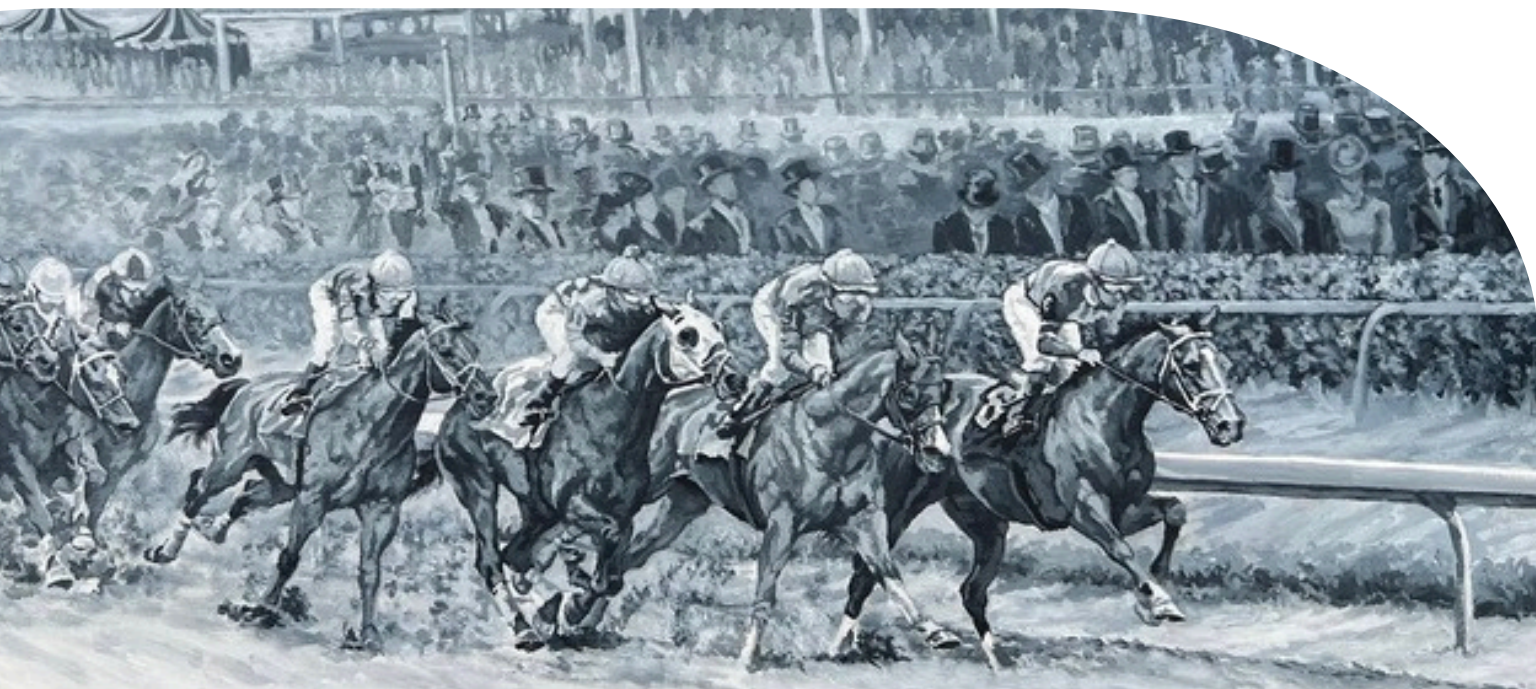
From the Appalachian Mountains in the east, to the Mighty Mississippi in the west, and the cavernous karst lands and gorgeous gorges in between, Kentucky is filled with beautiful and inspiring landscapes.

The Kentucky Arts Council invited artists to submit work that captures the many natural wonders spread across the Bluegrass State. The works of 43 artists from across the Commonwealth adorned the Capitol Rotunda from May 3 through July 1, 2024.

Exhibit Artists

Linda Nelson ANDERSON	Laura Zecchin BOYLE	Will Evans DAVISS	Yolanda Kennison FAYETTE
Steve Campbell BOONE	John Andrew Dixon BOYLE	Frederica Diane Huff DAVISS	James Southard FAYETTE
Steven A. Hoffman BOYLE	Nichole Hollon CAMPBELL	Rick Davis FAYETTE	Pamela McGLone FLEMING
Tony Richardson BOYLE	Linda Pierce CHRISTIAN	Linda Fugate-Blumer FAYETTE	Sallie Lanham FRANKLIN
Crystal Viray BOYLE	Kevin Osbourn CLARK	Franke Leake FAYETTE	Ed Lawrence FRANKLIN

“The County Fair” by Cassandra Russell-Dossett, Jefferson



Tammy Lair
GARRARD

Karen Roland
GREEN

Dyann Joyce
HARDIN

Katelyn Chanslor
HARRISON

Lisa Hurst
HARRISON

Debra Scott
HENDERSON

Ada Asenjo
JEFFERSON

Angela Wells
JEFFERSON

Cassandra
Russell-Dossett
JEFFERSON

Humberto
Lahera Gonzalez
JEFFERSON

Mark T. McFerron
JEFFERSON

Shane Nearman
JEFFERSON

Ken Page
KENTON

Margie Lakeberg
KENTON

Angela Stephens
MADISON

Darryl Halbrooks
MADISON

Drew Dilts
MADISON

Jon Gaddis
MADISON

Lisa
Riopell-Gonzalez
NICHOLAS

Lesia Aker
PULASKI

Linda Cundiff
TAYLOR

Justin Brown
WHITLEY

Meryl R.B.
Shapiro
WOODFORD

"Carrera Solitaria" by Humberto Lahera Gonzalez, Jefferson



Native Reflections

Native Reflections is a traveling exhibit highlighting the visual artwork of American Indians living in Kentucky. Curated through a partnership with the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission and the Kentucky Heritage Council, the exhibit features artists who identify as Native American — both enrolled and non-enrolled — through ancestry and culture.

The exhibit emphasizes personal storytelling, cultural heritage, and the evolving presence of Native American identity in Kentucky's arts community. Native Reflections opened in the Capitol Rotunda on Oct. 3, 2024, and visited seven venues across the commonwealth throughout 2025, creating space for public dialogue and connection through art.

Exhibit Locations

CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Oct. 3- Nov. 13, 2024
Frankfort

CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Dec. 4 - Jan. 2, 2025
Somerset

KENTON COUNTY

PUBLIC LIBRARY – ERLANGER

Jan. 8 - 29, 2025
Kenton

MURRAY TOURISM

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Feb. 5 - 21, 2025
Murray

BEREA ARTS COUNCIL

March 12 - April 4, 2025
Berea

CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE RESORT PARK

April 10 -29, 2025
Corbin

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK

May 2 - 29, 2025
Henderson



“Striding in Strength and Peace” by Linda Pierce, Christian

Native Reflections Exhibit Artists

DARLENE CAMPBELL

Native Inspired,
New River Band of the Catawba Nation
ADAIR

CHER DEVEREAUX

Native Inspired, Cherokee
FAYETTE

EUGENE KING

Native Inspired, Cherokee
POWELL

JANNETTE PARENT

Enrolled Member,
Four Winds Tribe Louisiana Cherokee
CALDWELL

TIFFANY PYETTE

Native Inspired, Cherokee
FAYETTE

BRIGIT TRUEX

Enrolled Member,
Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (Vermont)
FAYETTE

FRED NEZ KEAMS

Enrolled Member, Navajo
MERCER

LAWSON GLASERGREEN

Native Inspired, Cherokee
DAVISS

JACQUELYN CARRUTHERS

Native Inspired,
Choctaw and Cherokee
MCCRACKEN

LINDA PIERCE

Native Inspired
Chilluckittequaw and Cherokee
CHRISTIAN

AMANDA SAYLES

Enrolled Member
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
WARREN



“Sunlight” by Tiffany Pyette, Fayette

Creative Industry Summit Series

The Kentucky Arts Council's Creative Industry Summit Series continued with a compelling lineup of virtual events designed to support the professional development of Kentucky artists, arts administrators, and creatives. From design and photography to artist panels and cultural conversations, the series highlighted the wide range of expertise and creativity present in the commonwealth.

JAN 29

Look Sharp! The Key to Well-Produced Printed Material

Even in an increasingly digital world, high-quality printed materials are essential for artists and organizations promoting their work. Graphic designer Ashley Reaves led a 90-minute webinar on the basics of graphic design and print preparation. Participants learned how to present polished, professional pieces—from postcards to posters — by applying foundational design principles and ensuring files are ready for top-quality production.

FEB 29

Look Sharp! Taking and Choosing the Best Promotional Photos

Capturing the energy of performance or the nuance of the creative process can be challenging. This session explored essential photography concepts including lighting, composition, editing, and best practices for working with professionals. Marvin Young, a visual communications professional, drew on his background in photojournalism and public affairs to guide participants in selecting elevated brand imagery.

MARCH 27

Artists to Know: Celebrating Women's (Art)Work

In recognition of Women's History Month, the arts council convened a roundtable featuring six contemporary Kentucky women artists. Moderated by artist and educator Melissa Vandenberg, the conversation explored the motivations, challenges, and creative visions of each panelist. Participating artists included Kate He, Lori Larusso, Alisha Martin, Elizabeth Mesa-Gaido, Tiffany Pyette, and Lakshmi Sriraman.

MAY 22

Artist Talk: Ming Xuan Talley and Yanya Yang

Presented in conjunction with the traveling exhibit Continent to Commonwealth, this live conversation featured Louisville-based artist Ming Xuan Talley and Lexington's Yanya Yang. Both were also commissioned to create portraits for the Kentucky Women Remembered exhibit in the state Capitol. Facilitated by Joel Buno, director of the Asia Institute-Crane House, the talk offered insights into the artists' processes and perspectives as creatives shaping Kentucky's contemporary arts narrative.

The Kentucky Arts Council's podcast, "**KyArtsCast**," returned in October 2024 after a brief hiatus following the departure of longtime host Tom Musgrave. Under the new leadership of host Leeann Potter, "KyArtsCast" continues its mission of spotlighting arts council programs, showcasing Kentucky artists, and addressing issues vital to the commonwealth's creative community. The relaunch reaffirms the arts council's commitment to storytelling and public engagement across digital platforms.

The Kentucky Arts Council also saw significant growth in its social media reach and engagement during 2024. **Facebook** reach increased from 191,000 in the previous year to 4.2 million, with an 88.3% jump in content interactions and a 19.4% increase in published content. The highest-performing post garnered over 50,000 views and 284 interactions.

On **Instagram**, the council published nearly 48% more content than in 2023. Organic engagement remained strong despite a notable reach boost due to advertising around the Kentucky Crafted Market. In total, Instagram reach hit over 1.3 million users, with 31,389 views and 2,000 interactions — an increase of 100% year over year. These numbers reflect the arts council's growing ability to connect with audiences, promote its programs, and support Kentucky artists through compelling, consistent digital storytelling.

"Breach" by Brandon Long, Garrard



Poetry Out Loud



Poetry Out Loud State Champion Lexie Wilson

Eight schools competed in the Poetry Out Loud state competition on March 14, 2024, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort. Poetry Out Loud is an annual poetry recitation contest sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. In Kentucky, each participating school receives an artists residency and the opportunity for the champion to attend the state competition with a chaperone and classmates.

Each competitor, in the first and second rounds, is judged on the recitation of two poems. Finalists are judged on the recitation of a third poem. All poems are selected by the students and their teachers from a preapproved anthology of works.

Judges were folklorist, poet and educator Sarah McCartt-Jackson, musician and storyteller Mitch Barrett, and Affrilachian poet and NEA Writing Fellowship recipient Jude McPherson.

Lexie Wilson of Williamstown Independent High School was Kentucky's 2024 Poetry Out Loud Champion, and she went on to win runner up in the National 2024 Poetry Ourselves spoken poetry competition for her original poem "My Life is Measured in Shades of Green."

School Champions

Lexie Wilson

WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Grant

Aspen Nichols

BETSY LAYNE HIGH SCHOOL
Floyd

Grayson Merrick

SAINT XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL
Jefferson

Bella Slone

BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Kenton

Silas Coogle

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
HIGH SCHOOL
Clark

Shaelee Welch

ALLEN COUNTY-SCOTTSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
Allen

***Akash Sigdel**

KENTUCKY COUNTRY DAY
SCHOOL
Jefferson

Katie Shirts

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Hardin

Marlee Collins

SIMON KENTON HIGH SCHOOL
Kenton

**school champion unable to participate in state competition*

The Kentucky Writers' Day ceremony took place Wednesday, April 24, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort. Kentucky Poet Laureate Silas House was joined by former poets laureate Richard Taylor, Joe Survant, Maureen Morehead, Frank X Walker, George Ella Lyon and Crystal Wilkinson as well as the 2023 Kentucky Youth Poet Laureate Amy Roblero-Perez.

House provided an overview of the first year in his two-year term, characterized by literary engagement and educational outreach. One of House's signature initiatives is **Listen Now! An Oral History Project**, a free K-12 curriculum hosted on the Kentucky Arts Council's website. Inspired by his own upbringing surrounded by elders, House created the project to encourage students to connect with older generations through recorded interviews with family and community members. "The joys and sorrows of the older generations serve as examples for us to learn from, to emulate or, perhaps even more useful, to avoid," House wrote in his introduction to the curriculum.

Beyond the classroom, House has been active across the state and nation. He led a sold-out writing retreat at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park to help celebrate the Kentucky State Parks 100th Anniversary, along with workshops at other state parks. He also gained national attention with a Grammy nomination for his creative role in Tyler Childers' "In Your Love" video.

The celebration continued in the afternoon with a two-hour Kentucky Poets Laureate reading at the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort. All the poets who attended the Writers' Day event were there along with former poet laureate Jeff Worley. Our partnership with the Paul Sawyer Public Library makes it possible for writers and literature lovers to continue the celebration beyond the Writers' Day ceremony.



From left to right: Everett McCorvey, board chair (KAC); Dior Cotten, vice chair (KAC); Crystal Wilkinson; Maureen Morehead; Frank X Walker; George Ella Lyon; Silas House; Amy Roblero-Perez; Lindy Casebier, secretary (TAH); Richard Taylor; Joe Survant; Scott Alvey, executive director (KHS); Chris Cathers, executive director (KAC).

Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

The Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program honors traditional artists and encourages the continuation of Kentucky's living traditional arts by funding mentor artists to teach skills and practices to less experienced artists. The arts council supported five mentorship pairings, focusing on traditional music, dance and material culture reflecting Kentucky's rich and diverse heritage. The arts council is appreciative of continued support for apprenticeships from Appalachia from South Arts' "In These Mountains" initiative, which preserves and perpetuates the traditional arts and culture of Central Appalachian counties.

Bharatanatyam Indian Dance

Mentor: Lakshmi Sriraman, **Fayette**

Apprentice: Vibha Bhaskar, **Fayette**

Thumbpicking/Travis-style Guitar*

Mentor: David Austin Tackett, **Fleming**

Apprentice: Patrick McKnight, **Greenup**

Kentucky Old-time Women Fiddlers

Mentor: Blakeley Burger, **Jefferson**

Apprentice: Nadia Ramlagan, **Jefferson**

Appalachian Fiddle Making*

Mentor: John Ryster, **Rowan**

Apprentice: Izaac Daniels, **Greenup**

Woodcarving

Mentor: LaVon Van Williams, **Fayette**

Apprentice: Ed White, **Jefferson**



Ed White, left, and his woodcarving mentor LaVon Van Williams demonstrated their traditional art at Kentucky History Day, June 1, 2024.

Ed White said of the opportunity, "This apprenticeship was life changing, to work with a true artist who is living his mission. He's the fifth generation of woodcarvers in his family and he lives it. The greatest thing is, he's willing to share that with anyone who's willing to work. He has taught me a foundation. He told me, 'Ed, I know that you know what you want to do, and I'm going to show you how to get it out of this wood.'

"Oral tradition is not written down, and you have to go to the mentor to learn it. Once you get it, you have to use it, and my goal is to give it to someone else willing to learn it."

- Ed White, fellowship apprentice

**awarded with South Arts "In These Mountains" funds*

The Community Scholars Program offers training in documentation, interpretation, and dissemination of local cultural heritage. Participants attend sessions over several weeks and, upon certification, become eligible for collaborative projects, fieldwork, and exhibit development. The program strengthens local engagement with Kentucky's folk and traditional arts infrastructure. The training is coordinated by the Kentucky Folklife Program of the Western Kentucky University Department of Society, Culture, Crime and Justice Studies, in partnership with the Kentucky Arts Council.

Over 250 Kentuckians have completed Community Scholar training since 2001. In 2024, the Kentucky Folklife Program worked with advisors to make the training more inclusive and accessible. Results of this process include encouraging trainees to select readings and activities based on their interests and experiences, and presenting training sessions both in-person and online.

From April 13 through July 10, 2024, Southeast Kentucky African-American Museum and Cultural Center in Hazard hosted sessions with Delainey Bowers facilitating. Emily Hudson, director of the Southeast Kentucky African-American Museum and Cultural Center, said, "Community Scholar training was like a giant floodlight shining on the work we are doing. Now, we have a better understanding of folklore and oral history, how they are different, and how they work together like two sides of the same coin."



Dee Parker introduces himself during the first in-person Hazard session

Darryl "Dee"
Parker
PERRY

Amy Le Ann
Richardson
CARTER

Ashley
Homrich
PULASKI

Melanie
Turner
FLOYD

Brenda Bear
LEWIS

Emily Hudson
PERRY

William "Randy"
Shepherd
CLAY

Sandra Jones
PERRY



Amy Le Ann Richardson, Randy Shepherd, and Ashley Homrich learn the folklore of flag dancing from Scholar Kyra Higgins (photos by Camille Maria Acosta, Kentucky Folklife Program)

Performing Artists Directory

The Performing Artists Directory continues to be a key resource for connecting Kentucky's top traditional and contemporary performers with presenters and venues in Kentucky and beyond. The program also offers professional development opportunities to participating artists. While the Kentucky Arts Council does not serve as agent or manager, the directory helps artists grow visibility and access performance opportunities.

Larah Helayne
MONTGOMERY
Music

CornMaiz String Band
FAYETTE
Music

Julianna Waller-Martinez
and Carlos Martinez
WARREN
Music

Kentucky Shakespeare
JEFFERSON
Storytelling and Theatre

Cornbread & Tortillas
FAYETTE
Storytelling and Theatre

Fred Nez-Keams
ANDERSON
Music

Cornbread & Tortillas



Teaching Artists Directory

The Teaching Artists Directory is a curated roster of Kentucky artists who excel in both creative practice and educational engagement. Artists in the directory are eligible to lead residencies through programs like Teaching Art Together. Each receives a dedicated profile featuring sample residency plans, media, and contact details to support connections with schools and organizations statewide.

Daniela D'Ingiullo FAYETTE Music	Hannah Burt ROCKCASTLE Theatre	Jordan Campbell MONTGOMERY Theatre	Melanie Turner FLOYD Music	Elizabeth Haigh JEFFERSON Media Arts
Nile Jordan MADISON Music	Jannette Parent CALDWELL Visual Arts	Cutivetti Dye, Sr. WARREN Visual Arts	Brooke Harris FAYETTE Visual Arts	Jordan Jung KNOX Media Arts
				Donald Hammond KNOX Music

TranspARTation Directory

The TranspARTation Directory is a roster of venues that offer arts experiences to school audiences and connect content to the Kentucky Academic Standards. Organizations in the directory are eligible sites for the TranspARTation grant, which makes high-quality artistic field trips accessible by providing transportation funding for school fieldtrips.

Art Center of the Bluegrass
DANVILLE

Art Center of the Bluegrass

Boyle County Performing Arts Center
DANVILLE

Gateway Regional Arts Center
MT. STERLING

UK Art Museum
Singletary Center for the Arts
LEXINGTON

Yes Arts
FRANKFORT



Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded more than \$1.2 million in Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) funding to 106 nonprofit arts organizations across the commonwealth. These unrestricted operating support grants help ensure year-round participation in the arts for Kentuckians. Funding is determined through a formula that considers operating revenue, panelist assessments, and funds available.

Gov. Andy Beshear emphasized the importance of this investment: "By investing in the arts, we can help this industry grow and thrive."

KAP recipients provided approximately 3.7 million unique arts experiences in FY2024 and collectively leveraged over \$81 million in additional funding. Organizations ranged in size from grassroots collectives to major cultural institutions.

One of the newest grantees, the Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center in Lexington, used KAP funding to expand outreach: "Thanks to their support, we've been able to reach new communities that had never even heard of the Lyric," said Executive Director Christian Adair.

Pones



Paramount Arts Center BOYD \$33,824	Arts for All Kentucky CALLOWAY \$6,096
Art Center of the Bluegrass BOYLE \$13,640	Murray Art Guild CALLOWAY \$4,864
Arts Commission of Danville-Boyle County BOYLE \$1,448	Playhouse in the Park CALLOWAY \$5,228
Boyle County Schools Performing Arts Center BOYLE \$15,608	Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre CAMPBELL \$3,362
Centre College's Norton Center for the Arts BOYLE \$20,764	Kentucky Symphony Orchestra CAMPBELL \$12,352
Pioneer Playhouse BOYLE \$12,630	Pones CAMPBELL \$3,706

Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

Olive Hill Center
for Arts & Heritage
CARTER
\$2,300

Pennyroyal Arts Council
CHRISTIAN
\$17,508

Leeds Center for the Arts
CLARK
\$6,694

Burkesville Academy
of Fine Arts
CUMBERLAND
\$1,000

Bluegrass Music
Hall of Fame & Museum
DAVISS
\$27,060

Owensboro Dance Theatre
DAVISS
\$10,662

Owensboro Museum
of Fine Art
DAVISS
\$15,934

Owensboro Symphony
DAVISS
\$14,588

RiverPark Center
DAVISS
\$33,584

Allegro Dance Project
FAYETTE
\$3,894

Antagonist Productions
FAYETTE
\$1,000

Arts Connect
FAYETTE
\$3,048

Bluegrass Youth Ballet
FAYETTE
\$11,578

Carnegie Center for Literacy
and Learning
FAYETTE
\$19,426

Central Kentucky Youth
Orchestra Society
FAYETTE
\$12,906

Central Music Academy
FAYETTE
\$9,402

Headley-Whitney Museum
FAYETTE
\$7,066

Kentucky Ballet Theatre
FAYETTE
\$8,350

LexArts
FAYETTE
\$23,790

Lexington Art League
FAYETTE
\$6,746

Lexington Ballet Company
FAYETTE
\$8,758

Lexington Chamber
Chorale
FAYETTE
\$1,516

Lexington Children's
Museum
FAYETTE
\$12,192

Lexington Children's
Theatre
FAYETTE
\$19,114

The Lexington Singers
FAYETTE
\$2,894

The Lexington Theatre
Company
FAYETTE
\$10,300

Lexington Philharmonic
FAYETTE
\$17,920

Living Arts
and Science Center
FAYETTE
\$10,088

Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

Mountain Arts Center

FLOYD

\$15,826

Grand Theatre

FRANKLIN

\$10,868

Josephine Sculpture Park

FRANKLIN

\$13,078

Yes Arts

FRANKLIN

\$4,656

Garrard Arts

GARRARD

\$1,012

Mayfield Graves County
Art Guild

GRAVES

\$1,294

Hardin County Schools
Performing Arts Center

HARDIN

\$3,524

Pine Mountain Settlement
School

HARLAN

\$15,796

Boyd's Station

HARRISON

\$1,974

Henderson Area

Arts Alliance

HENDERSON

\$8,176

Ohio Valley Art League

HENDERSON

\$1,534

Actors Theatre of Louisville

JEFFERSON

\$46,648

Asia Institute

JEFFERSON

\$13,958

Commonwealth Theatre
Center

JEFFERSON

\$17,908

Fund for the Arts

JEFFERSON

\$51,200

Kentucky Opera

JEFFERSON

\$35,876

Kentucky Shakespeare

JEFFERSON

\$19,876

KMAC Museum

JEFFERSON

\$25,846

Looking for Lilith Theatre
Company

JEFFERSON

\$4,658

Little Loomhouse

JEFFERSON

\$3,748

Louisville Academy of Music

JEFFERSON

\$15,806

Louisville Ballet

JEFFERSON

\$44,258

Louisville Folk School

JEFFERSON

\$5,784

Louisville Leopard
Percussionists

JEFFERSON

\$6,960

Louisville Literary Arts

JEFFERSON

\$1,000

Louisville Master Chorale

JEFFERSON

\$1,010

Louisville Story Program

JEFFERSON

\$8,284

Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

Louisville Visual Art

JEFFERSON

\$16,244

Louisville Youth Choir

JEFFERSON

\$3,628

Louisville Youth Orchestra

JEFFERSON

\$10,880

Pandora Productions

JEFFERSON

\$7,180

Sarabande Books

JEFFERSON

\$14,278

Squallis Puppeteers

JEFFERSON

\$3,666

StageOne Family Theatre

JEFFERSON

\$22,890

VOICES of Kentuckiana

JEFFERSON

\$3,310

Young Authors Greenhouse

JEFFERSON

\$10,256

Behringer-Crawford
Museum

KENTON

\$14,318

The Carnegie

KENTON

\$18,346

Appalachian Artisan Center

KNOTT

\$15,760

Hindman

Settlement School

KNOTT

\$33,134

Appalshop

LETCHER

\$31,322

Cumberland Mountain

Arts & Crafts Council

LETCHER

\$1,000

EpiCentre Arts

LETCHER

\$1,000

Kentucky Guild of Artists
and Craftsmen

MADISON

\$1,776

Richmond Area
Arts Council

MADISON

\$3,258

Kentucky Classic Arts at
Centre Square

MARION

\$2,240

Marshall County Arts

Commission

MARSHALL

\$2,378

The Carson Center for the
Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

\$38,784

Maiden Alley Cinema

MCCRACKEN

\$5,476

Owensboro Symphony



Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

Market House Theatre

MCCRACKEN

\$20,370

The Little Colonel Players

OLDHAM

\$2,086

Gallery on the Square

SIMPSON

\$2,434

The National Quilt Museum

MCCRACKEN

\$17,970

Owsley County Alliance for
Recreation and
Entertainment

OWSLEY

\$1,000

Janice Mason Art
Museum

TRIGG

\$2,430

Paducah Symphony
Orchestra

MCCRACKEN

\$17,696

The Appalachian Center
for the Arts

PIKE

\$13,896

Arts of Southern
Kentucky

WARREN

\$42,022

Yeiser Art Center

MCCRACKEN

\$3,580

Artists Collaborative
Theatre

PIKE

\$1,280

Public Theatre of
Kentucky

WARREN

\$2,684

Gateway Regional Arts
Center

MONTGOMERY

\$5,438

Shelby Regional Arts
Council

SHELBY

\$1,060

South Central Kentucky
Kids on the Block

WARREN

\$12,746

Arts Association of Oldham
County

OLDHAM

\$5,006

Woodford Theatre

WOODFORD

\$13,898

Kentucky Peer Advisory Network

The Kentucky Peer Advisory Network (KPAN) provides six-hour consultancies to Kentucky artists and arts organizations in areas such as board development, marketing, fundraising, strategic planning, and festival organization. Consultancies are offered free of charge and may be scheduled for a single day or over multiple sessions.

George Halitzka

JEFFERSON

Business and Finance

Boyd's Station

HARRISON

Marketing and Promotion

RiverPark Center

DAVISS

Fundraising

The Carson Center for the Performing Arts

MCCRACKEN

Equity and Diversity

Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience

In the face of disaster, the Kentucky Arts Council focuses our resources, and leverages those of regional and national partners to provide funds for artists, organizations, and schools with the objectives of helping to restore the well-being of communities and supporting the mental health and sense of belonging for victims experiencing crisis of self, family, community, and place.

The Kentucky Arts Council took counsel from Performing Arts Readiness and the National Coalition of Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response and continued to support those arts and cultural organizations affected by the western Kentucky tornadoes in 2021 and the eastern Kentucky flooding in 2022. To address fatigue, feelings of abandonment, and long-term destabilization, the arts council awarded an additional \$5,000 each in general operating support to the Kentucky Arts Partner groups in the FEMA designated counties.

Artists Collaborative
Theatre
PIKE

Kentucky Classic
Arts at Centre Square
MARION

Public Theatre of
Kentucky
WARREN

Appalachian Artisan
Center
KNOTT

Arts for All Kentucky
CALLOWAY*

Marshall County Arts
Commission
MARSHALL

The Appalachian
Center for the Arts
PIKE

Pine Mountain
Settlement School
HARLAN

Burkesville Academy
of Fine Arts
CUMBERLAND

Mayfield Graves
County Art Guild
GRAVES

South Central
Kentucky Kids on the
Block
WARREN

Hindman Settlement
School
KNOTT

Cumberland
Mountain
Arts & Crafts Council
LETCHER

Owsley County
Alliance for
Recreation and
Entertainment
OWSLEY

Pennyroyal Arts
Council
CHRISTIAN

Arts of Southern
Kentucky
WARREN

EpiCentre Arts
LETCHER

Mountain Arts Center
FLOYD

Appalshop
LETCHER

**located in Warren Co. at the time of DR-4630-KY*

Ongoing Support

In addition to grant funding, the Kentucky Arts Council supported the creation of "Kentucky Arts in Disaster: An Impact Report," purchased dPlan subscriptions for arts organizations, and provided fee subsidies for organizations to attend a first-ever Arts Disaster & Crisis Preparedness Conference at the University of Kentucky. The KAC is a founding advisor to the new, dedicated response network, Kentucky Heritage Emergency Response Network, which assist arts and culture organizations and artists in crisis and in increasing preparedness.

Teaching Art Together

The Teaching Art Together Grant supports innovative artist residencies in Kentucky classrooms. This year's grant cycle saw strong feedback from peer state agencies, which praised the Kentucky Arts Council's artist residency model as an example worth replicating, and Kentucky teachers advised the KAC on how to better structure residencies to accommodate the needs of preK-12 public school classrooms.

Artists and teachers collaborate on one- to four-week residencies that integrate the arts into the school curriculum. In fiscal year 2024, **Washington County High School** was awarded a \$1,000 grant for teaching artist Yani Vozos to provide a beginning guitar residency.

Library Residency Pilot

The arts council continues to evolve our arts education programs, ensuring they remain responsive to the needs of Kentucky's students, educators, and communities. As federal and state legislation continues to shape the landscape of pre-K-12 education, the Kentucky Arts Council remains committed to offering flexible, meaningful support to schools, classroom teachers, and districts. At the same time, we are expanding our reach by intentionally investing in alternative educational and learning environments. In 2024, the Kentucky Arts Council launched a new artist residency pilot in partnership with public libraries — an initiative designed to test innovative models of community-based arts education.

Three **library systems in Appalachian counties — Casey, Madison, and Pike — were awarded \$5,000 each** to host KAC teaching artists for residencies held after school and during school breaks. These pilot programs not only support working families and local youth, but also reinforce libraries as vital cultural and educational hubs. Outcomes from these residencies will guide the development of a permanent education grant for launch in fiscal year 2026.



Lexington Children's Theatre

The TranspARTation Grant supports student access to arts field trips. In Fall 2024, the Kentucky Arts Council awarded \$3,762 to seven Kentucky schools to support transportation to high-quality arts venues.

A standout story came from Providence Elementary in Webster County, where a \$1,040 grant allowed K–6 students to attend a musical performance. "The joy on the faces of our students was priceless," said Instructional Coach Elizabeth Warren.

Fancy Farm Elementary

GRAVES

Carson Center for the Performing Arts
McCracken
\$116

Conkwright Elementary

CLARK

Lexington Children's Theatre
Fayette
\$1,118

Providence Elementary

WEBSTER

RiverPark Center
Daviess
\$1,040

Newton Parrish Elementary

DAVISS

Owensboro Dance Theatre
Daviess
\$80

Pulaski Elementary

PULASKI

Eastern Kentucky University
Center for the Arts
Madison
\$440

Catlettsburg Elementary

BOYD

Louisville Orchestra
Jefferson
\$752

Strode Station Elementary

CLARK

Living Arts and Science Center
Fayette
\$216

Living Arts and Science Center



Kentucky Touring Grant

Ten nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$21,800 in Kentucky Touring Grants, which provide matching funds to help communities book professional performing artists from the Kentucky Arts Council's Performing Artists Directory.

Events included a concert by Orchestra Kentucky at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, where audience members of all ages were deeply moved. Interim Director Brad Downall noted, "Many asked for more programming like this." Performances occurred in libraries, schools, senior centers, and other community spaces, highlighting the program's mission to eliminate barriers to arts access.

First Friday Berea

The Afrophysicists

MADISON

\$3,000

Friends of Lexington

Senior Center

Lexington Philharmonic
Chamber Orchestra

FAYETTE

\$3,000

Southland Jamboree

Association

Fenced In

JESSAMINE

\$1,000

Boyle County Schools Lexington Ballet Company

BOYLE

\$3,000

The Grand Theatre

Diana Dinicola

FRANKLIN

\$500

Arts Commission of Danville-Boyle County

Marcus Wilkerson,
Raison D'Etre & Tim Lake

BOYLE

\$1,500

Glema Mahr Center for the Arts

Orchestra Kentucky

HOPKINS

\$3,000

W.B. Muncy Elementary

Lexington Children's Theatre

LESLIE

\$1,300

Gateway Regional Arts Center

The Afrophysicists

MONTGOMERY

\$2,500

Lexington Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra



Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artist Awards

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded \$48,000 to nine recipients across three disciplines: media arts, musical composition, and songwriting.

Individual Artist Fellowships (\$7,500 each) recognize professional Kentucky artists who demonstrate exceptional skill and creativity. Award-winning composer Krzysztof Wolek of Louisville, who received his second fellowship this year, said: "This award reaffirms that the choices I made to follow my own artistic path were the right ones."

JEREMY BECK*

Musical Composition

JEFFERSON

BRANDON FARIS*

Media Arts – Video

KENTON

KRZYSZTOF WOLEK*

Musical Composition

JEFFERSON

AARON BIBELHAUSER**

Songwriting

JEFFERSON

JOHN BEN LACY*

Media Arts – Film

JEFFERSON

MARK W. KIDD*

Media Arts – Video

LETCHER

Emerging Artist Awards (\$1,000 each) support early-career artists with strong potential.

BRYN SILVERMAN*

Media Arts – Film

JEFFERSON

BOSTON ENDERLE*

Media Arts – Film

WARREN

DANNY BARRACCA**

Media Arts – Film

MADISON

*awarded with FY24 funds

**awarded with FY25 funds

Screenshot from "Of Metal," John Ben Lacy



Fiscal Year 2024 Grants	Number of Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Individual Artist Fellowships and Emerging Artist Awards	12*	\$64,000
Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship	7**	\$28,000
Kentucky Arts Partnership	106	\$1,260,118
Kentucky Peer Advisory Network	4	\$2,000
Organization Disaster Relief and Recovery	19	\$95,000
Kentucky Touring Grant	15**	\$33,375
Partnership Grants	12***	\$48,485
Poetry Out Loud	8	\$3,150
TranspARTation	7	\$3,762
Teaching Art Together	1	\$1,000
TOTALS	191	\$1,538,890

*Includes awards given in calendar years 2023 and 2024. Additional grantees in 2023 annual report.

**Includes awards given in calendar years 2024 and 2025. Additional grantees will be featured in the 2025 annual report.

***Includes \$15,000 in grants awarded for the library pilot program.

“Golden Viper” by Nick Tudor, Jessamine



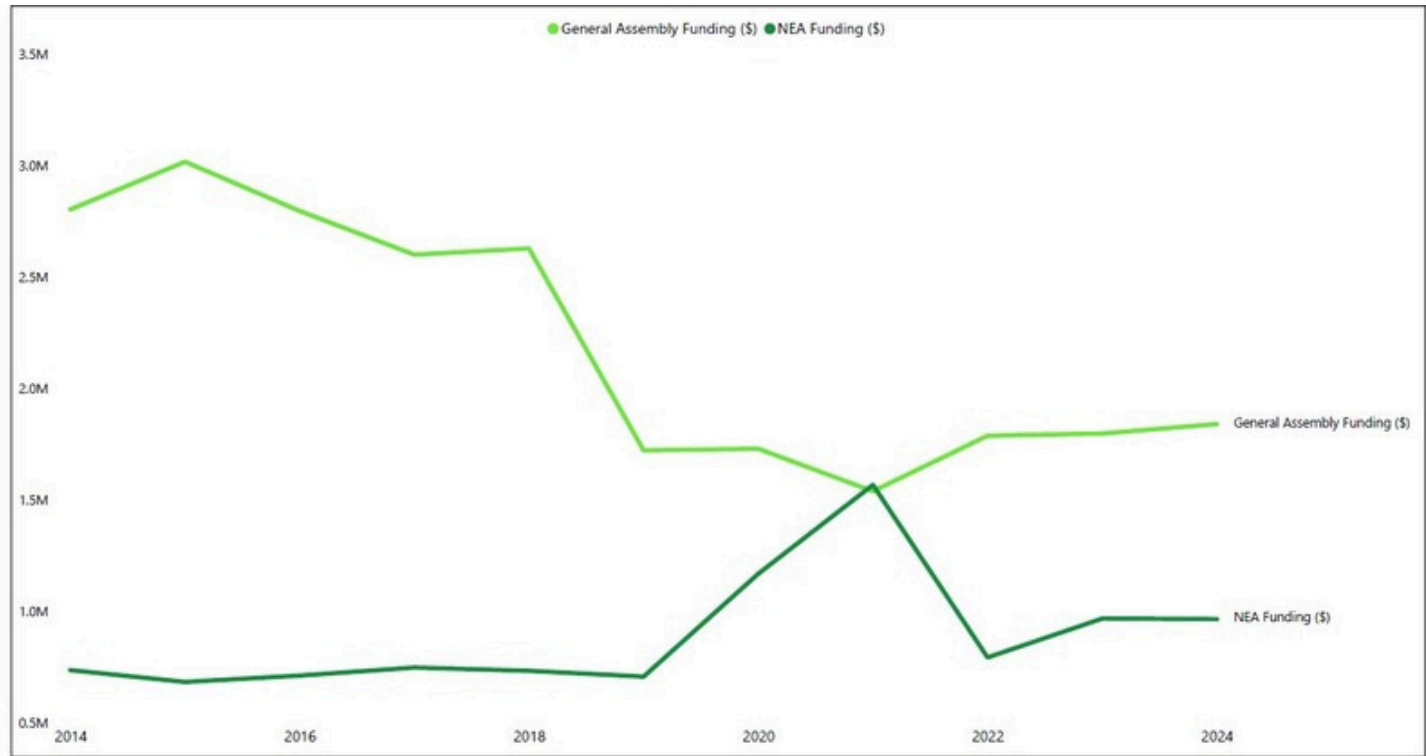
Arts Council 10-year Funding History

Kentucky General Assembly

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
2024	\$1,839,700

National Endowment for the Arts

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
2024	\$964,000



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

Hand carved spoon by David Napier



About the Cover Artist

"Together" by Moonhe Baik, Jefferson

Light permeates colorful stitched panes of vintage Korean silk to reveal many hands enclasped and reaching toward the sun.

Moonhe Baik retired from interior design education in 2021 to focus on her own artistic practice in creative fiber arts using recycled and sustainable materials. Her subject matter evolves from two different cultural backgrounds, Seoul, Korea, and Louisville, Ky., and ranges widely within functional art, such as interior furnishings and wearable items. Baik is one of the three founders of Korea Fiber Art Forum, which sheds light on Korea's creative endeavors using a wide range of fiber-based materials.

"Together" travelled with the "Continent to Commonwealth" exhibit, from May 2023 through May 2024.



TEAM
KENTUCKY.

TOURISM, ARTS AND
HERITAGE CABINET

New
Kentucky
Home

KENTUCKY
Arts
COUNCIL

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