

# KY ARTS COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025

Artwork by Sheila Fox





# From the executive director

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Art has always been one of the ways we understand who we are. It tells the stories of our families and communities, preserves the traditions that define us, and gives voice to experiences that might otherwise go unheard. It celebrates our shared history while encouraging us to imagine what comes next. Across our New Kentucky Home, artists help create places where people gather, learn, heal, and belong.

That belief is at the heart of everything the Kentucky Arts Council does.

Throughout the year, we continued our mission of providing leadership, funding, and support for the arts in every corner of the commonwealth. We celebrated artists whose work has shaped Kentucky's cultural identity, invested in organizations that bring arts experiences to their communities year-round, expanded opportunities for arts education, and helped preserve the folk and traditional arts that connect generations. The art experiences in the commonwealth directly contributed to the tourism industry's \$14.6 billion economic impact in 2025.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report belong to far more people than the Kentucky Arts Council alone. They reflect the work of dedicated artists, educators, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and public partners who believe that the arts are essential to vibrant communities. Together, they remind us that creativity is not a luxury; it is part of what makes Kentucky strong.

This year also reinforced something we have long known: the arts bring people together when we need one another most. Whether celebrating achievement, preserving heritage, supporting local economies, or helping communities recover from hardship, the arts create spaces for connection, understanding, and hope. Time and again, we witnessed artists responding with generosity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to their communities.



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As you read this report, I hope you see more than a collection of programs, grants, and events. I hope you see the people whose ideas, talent, and dedication continue to enrich life across the commonwealth. Every investment represented in these pages supports a larger vision: that every Kentuckian, regardless of where they live, should have the opportunity to experience, participate in, and benefit from the arts.

I am grateful to Governor Andy Beshear, the Kentucky General Assembly, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, our Board of Directors, our staff, and the many partners who make this work possible. Most importantly, thank you to Kentucky's artists and arts organizations. Your creativity inspires us, strengthens our communities, and reminds us why this work matters.

Thank you for your continued support of the arts in Kentucky. We look forward to building on this work together in the years ahead.



Chris Cathers

Executive Director  
Kentucky Arts Council





# Table of Contents

|                                                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Staff and Board</b>                                             | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Governor's Awards in the Arts</b>                               | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Governor's Derby Exhibit</b>                                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Kentucky Crafted Market</b>                                     | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Kentucky Crafted Artists</b>                                    | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Celebrating the Black Experience Touring Exhibit</b>            | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Creative Industry Summit Series</b>                             | <b>12</b> |
| <b>KyArtsCast</b>                                                  | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Poetry Out Loud</b>                                             | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Poet Laureate Induction &amp; Kentucky Writers' Day</b>         | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships</b>                   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Individual Artists Fellowships &amp; Emerging Artist Awards</b> | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Performing Artists Directory &amp; Kentucky Touring Grant</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Kentucky Peer Advisory Network</b>                              | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants</b>                            | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Education Grants</b>                                            | <b>24</b> |
| <b>America250KY</b>                                                | <b>26</b> |
| <b>Fiscal Year 2025 Grants</b>                                     | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Arts Council 10-year Funding History</b>                        | <b>29</b> |
| <b>About the Kentucky Arts Council</b>                             | <b>30</b> |
| <b>About the Cover Artist</b>                                      | <b>31</b> |



# Staff

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Chris Cathers  
**Executive Director**

Dave Blevins  
**Arts Marketing Director**

Mark Brown  
**Folk and Traditional Arts Director**

Tamara Coffey  
**Arts Program Branch Manager**

Nicole Griffin  
**Budget Specialist**

Macie Lowe  
**Grants Manager**

Leeann Potter  
**Communications Director**

Brett Ratliff  
**Arts Organization Director**

Sarah M. Schmitt  
**Executive Staff Advisor**

Cynthia Warner  
**Arts Education Director**

# Board

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Everett D. McCorvey, Chair  
**Lexington**

Dior Cotten, Vice Chair  
**Louisville**

Kenneth Burney  
**Lexington**

Wally Dant  
**New Haven**

Elizabeth Griffith Mudd  
**Owensboro**

Lennon Michalski  
**Lexington**

Nathan Mick  
**Lexington**

Brook Forrest White  
**Louisville**

Margaret Chewning Prim  
**Hopkinsville**

Stephanie Rae Renner  
**Louisville**

Janell Oliver  
**Louisville**

Lynn Schrader  
**Lexington**

Marcheta Sparrow  
**Frankfort**

Randall Vaughn  
**Lexington**

List reflects Kentucky Arts Council staff and board in December 2025.

# Governor's Awards in the Arts

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On Nov. 24, 2025, Gov. Andy Beshear was joined by arts and tourism leaders from across Kentucky to honor the recipients of the 2025 Governor's Awards in the Arts, the commonwealth's most prestigious arts honors. The awards recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions have elevated the profile of the arts on a national stage, aided other artists in their careers, continued the commonwealth's cultural heritage, contributed to the state's \$6.9 billion arts industry, and strengthened their communities. On receiving the Folk Heritage award, Lakshmi Sriraman, said:

"Every day, I see how art transforms people. It softens us. It helps us listen. It brings communities together that might never have crossed paths. Kentucky has a long tradition of storytelling and community spirit, and art draws us into that tradition. When we gather around art, we remember our shared humanity. In the world we live in today, we need those points of connection. We need spaces that hold our stories with care, curiosity, and compassion."

The Kentucky Arts Council solicits nominations and coordinates award presentations on behalf of the Governor of Kentucky. The Kentucky Arts Council Governor's Awards in the Arts nominations committee, which recommends honorees to the Governor, accepts award nominations annually.

The 2025 Governor's Awards in the Arts honorees:

Milner Award  
**Steve Wilson and  
Laura Lee Brown**  
Jefferson

Education Award  
**Wilma Bethel**  
Jefferson

National Award  
**Teddy Abrams**  
Jefferson

Artist Award  
**Sam McKinney**  
Letcher

Folk Heritage Award  
**Lakshmi Sriraman**  
Fayette

Community Arts Award  
**Owensboro Art Guild**  
Davies

## Award Artist

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Each year, the Arts Council commissions a Kentucky artist to create custom works of art to serve as the award for recipients. Contemporary wooden collage artist Aleta Stone was commissioned to create the 2025 Governor's Awards in the Arts. Each one contains pieces from the debris left behind by the tornado that struck London on May 16, 2025. Stone created each work as a lasting remembrance for all those whose lives have been lost or forever changed by the tornadoes and floods.



"Shake off the snow and ice. Leave behind those winter blues. The flowers are finally here, and the trees are in full bloom."

The 2025 Governor's Derby Exhibit opened April 30, 2025, in the Capitol Rotunda and was on display through May 29, featuring the work of 44 artists from 20 Kentucky counties. The exhibit, which carried the theme "Spring is Here," invited artists to submit work that captures the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of springtime in Kentucky.

Artwork by Brandon Hein

## Exhibit Artists

**Gretchen Bainum**  
Fleming

**Kate He**  
Calloway

**Kasandra McNeil**  
Pulaski

**Paula Stone-Buckner**  
Montgomery

**Pam Beck**  
Fayette

**Brandon Hein**  
Jefferson

**Barry Motes**  
Oldham

**Nzingha Beverley**  
**Sweeney-Sheppard**  
Jefferson

**Betty Beshoar**  
Franklin

**Steven A. Hoffman**  
Boyle

**David Neace**  
Jessamine

**Brigit Truex**  
Fayette

**Bill Burton**  
Daviess

**Frederica Diane Huff**  
Daviess

**Ken Page**  
Kenton

**Jennifer Vaughn**  
Anderson

**Steve Campbell**  
Boone

**Ed Johannemann**  
Oldham

**Manish Rajguru**  
Franklin

**Marie Waddell Pearson**  
Fayette

**Jeff Chapman-Crane**  
Letcher

**Bill Johnson**  
Madison

**Fran Redmon**  
Franklin

**Bill Warren**  
Madison

**Rick Davis**  
Fayette

**Lindsey Kiser**  
Boone

**Stephanie Say**  
Fayette

**Angela Wells**  
Jefferson

**Gary DuBois**  
Madison

**Kiana Mahjub**  
Madison

**Debra Scott**  
Henderson

**Steven Wilson**  
Oldham

**James Ellenberger**  
Madison

**Molly Marek**  
Lee

**Meryl R.B.**  
**Shapiro**  
Woodford

**Karen Winn**  
Fayette

**Veronica Feth**  
Fayette

**Esmeralda Martin**  
Fayette

**Larry Smith**  
Trimble

**Stephen Winter**  
Jessamine

**Ronna Fisher**  
Fayette

**Mark McFerron**  
Jefferson

**Summer Smith**  
Fayette

**Laura Zecchin**  
Boyle

# Kentucky Crafted Market

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The Kentucky Crafted Market returned to the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena in Lexington in March. This New Kentucky Home experience showcased the commonwealth's vibrant artistic community, featuring more than 100 of Kentucky's top visual and craft artists.

"The Kentucky Crafted Market not only highlights our talented artists but also supports local businesses that enrich the culture of our New Kentucky Home," said Gov. Andy Beshear. "From live music to artwork, local food vendors and crafts for kids, this family-friendly event has something for everyone."

On March 7, wholesale buyers had the opportunity to preview and purchase products. The event opened to the public Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9, offering live music, Kentucky Proud food producers, and art activities for children.

## 2025 Market Award Recipients

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Best Booth Design: Jack and Linda Fifield



Best in Show: BourbonWare, Micah Sierp





Team Kentucky accepted 28 new artists into its prestigious Kentucky Crafted program. This initiative supports visual and craft artists with business training, networking, exhibitions and promotional opportunities to help grow their creative enterprises.

Kentucky Crafted provides artists with access to workshops and professional development opportunities to enhance marketing and business skills. In addition, the program offers participants the chance to showcase their work at one of the state's most highly anticipated events: the Kentucky Crafted Market.

"Though the application process was challenging, it ultimately deepened my understanding of who I am as an artist," said Stan Marohn, a wood and glass artist from McCreary County. "For the first time, my wife, Darcy, and I can confidently embrace our identity as artists. With the support of the Kentucky Crafted program, we are excited to continue our artistic journey and seek out new markets for our work. We look forward to growing alongside our fellow artists and sharing our passion with a broader audience."

This year's new members include painters, photographers, woodworkers and ceramicists from 11 counties across the state. These new artists joined an accomplished group of creative Kentuckians who contribute to the state's vibrant arts community.

Artwork by James Ellenberger

|                                                       |                                                                 |                                                                |                                                      |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pat Buckley</b><br>painting<br>Madison             | <b>Sam Greenwell</b><br>sculpture<br>Fayette                    | <b>Frank Leake</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Fayette                | <b>Vini Moura</b><br>painting<br>Fayette             | <b>April Schweiss</b><br>painting<br>Whitley        |
| <b>Bill Cole</b><br>photography<br>Fayette            | <b>Kara Hill and<br/>Andrew<br/>McDonald</b><br>wood<br>Fayette | <b>Marti Luken</b><br>ceramics<br>Campbell                     | <b>Dana<br/>Muhammad</b><br>painting<br>Jefferson    | <b>Jennifer Smyth</b><br>natural/organic<br>Fayette |
| <b>John Cowgill</b><br>glass<br>Jefferson             | <b>Karen Hudson</b><br>painting<br>Fayette                      | <b>Christian<br/>Mansfield</b><br>photography<br>Laurel        | <b>Linda Raddatz</b><br>painting<br>Jefferson        | <b>Wendy Tallis</b><br>baskets<br>Marshall          |
| <b>James Ellenberger</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Madison | <b>Duane Keaton</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Scott                  | <b>Molly Marek</b><br>ceramics<br>Lee                          | <b>Lesley Rahner</b><br>jewelry<br>Jefferson         | <b>Lindsey Ward</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Boone      |
| <b>Sheila Fox</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Jefferson      | <b>David Larson</b><br>wood and<br>furniture<br>Fayette         | <b>Stan and Darcy<br/>Marohn</b><br>wood and glass<br>McCreary | <b>Kathy Reynolds</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Jefferson | <b>Laura Weis</b><br>photography<br>Jefferson       |
| <b>Jeanne Freibert</b><br>2D mixed media<br>Jefferson |                                                                 |                                                                |                                                      | <b>Mabel Zaglul</b><br>painting<br>Fayette          |



# Celebrating the Black Experience

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Through a partnership with the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, the Kentucky Arts Council launched the “Celebrating the Black Experience” touring art exhibit in July 2025.

This annual exhibit celebrates the contributions of people of African descent through the visual arts, the rich legacy of Black artists, and the transformative impact of Black art in the struggle against oppression and racism. For the first time, 20 participating artists allowed their works to travel from July to November 2025.

Artists were invited to submit works that reflect the diverse environments and traditions contributing to the fabric of the Black experience. Underrepresented imagery expressing joy, sorrow, love, creativity, and truth-telling was examined within Black aesthetics. The fourth annual exhibit included artists from all over Kentucky, and some from Indiana, Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois, Florida, and Zimbabwe. Media included fiber art, wood sculpture, textiles, copper, acrylic and oil paintings, drawings, and mixed-media work with innovative materials.

Kentuckians all over the commonwealth were invited to explore this outstanding collection, be inspired by it, and join in celebrating the Black experience.



The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage aims to enhance public knowledge about the history, heritage, and cultural contributions of African Americans in Kentucky and the African Diaspora. In addition to preserving the traditions and accomplishments of the past, the Center serves as a vital, contemporary institution that provides space for exhibitions and performances of all types.



# Celebrating the Black Experience Artists

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**Jessie Carter**  
Owensboro

**Kayla Morgan-Green**  
Jeffersonville, Ind.

**Nahla Joy Muhammad**  
Louisville

**Barbara Tyson Mosley**  
Louisville

**Kelly Johnson**  
North Chesterfield, Va.

**Nzingha Beverley  
Sweeney-Sheppard**  
Louisville

**Bradley Gilmore**  
Somerset

**Kudakwashe Kagudu**  
Zimbabwe

**Ronnita Nance**  
Louisville

**Chip Calloway**  
Louisville

**Laurissa Kabithe**  
Louisville

**Sharard Saddlers**  
Lakeland, Fla.

**Derek King Jr.**  
Lexington

**Lessie Dixon**  
Chicago, Ill.

**Kenneth Burney**  
Lexington

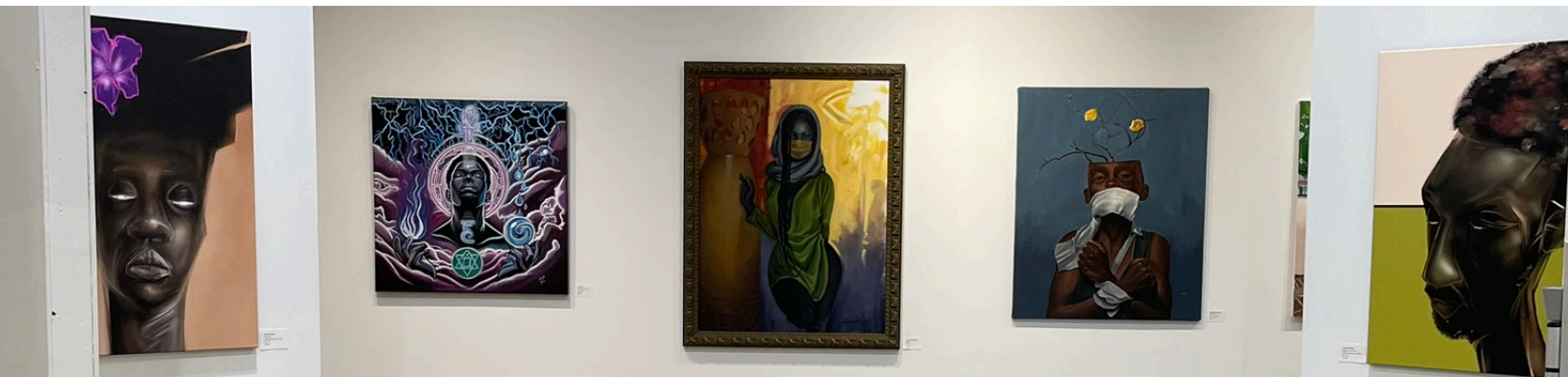
**Donyalle Jackson**  
Louisville

**LJ Bryant**  
Jeffersonville, Ind.

**Jes Allen**  
Louisville

**Ed White**  
Louisville

**Megan Jordan**  
Nashville, Tenn.



## Exhibit Locations

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**Gateway Regional Arts Center**  
July 3–Aug. 5, 2025  
Mt. Sterling

**Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center**  
Aug. 8–26, 2025  
Bowling Green

**Hazard Community and Technical College**  
Sep. 2–21, 2025  
Hazard

**Berea Arts Council**  
Sep. 24–Nov. 1, 2025  
Berea

**Butler County Arts Guild**  
Nov. 6–22, 2025  
Morgantown

# Creative Industry Summit Series

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The Kentucky Arts Council hosts webinars and online workshops featuring notable Kentucky artists, best practices for arts organizations, professional development for artists, and more. Sessions are recorded and available on the Kentucky Arts Council's YouTube Channel. In 2025, the Creative Industry Summit Series offered the following opportunities:

## **Wholesaling for Artists and Craftspeople**

Melissa Oesch, Kentucky Crafted artist

## **Creating Inclusive Arts Programming with the Universal Design for Learning 3.0**

Catie Bates Robertson, Arts for All Kentucky

## **Confidently Teaching Creativity**

Grace Henderson, Kentucky Arts Council teaching artist

## **The Homer Ledford Award**

Brent Bjorkman, Kentucky Folklife Program director; violin maker Tommy Case; and musician and folklorist Dr. Tom Adler

## **Growing an Inclusive Arts Workforce**

Dan Trabue, employment specialist at Edge Employment

## **The Business of Art, The Art of Business**

Mark Lenn Johnson, president of Art Inc, Kentucky

## **Arts Education and Accessibility**

Margo Wunder, arts education and access specialist

## **How to Get Ready for Anything! Easy Steps for Artists and Creatives**

Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER)

## **From Revision to Reality: Implementing the New Visual and Performing Arts Standards**

Jessica Greene, academic program consultant, Kentucky Department of Education

## **Taxes for Kentucky Artists & Creatives**

Dr. Elaine Grogan Luttrull, CPA-PFS, AFC, founder of Minerva Financial Arts

## **Creating a Marketing Plan for Your Art Business: A Step-by-Step Guide**

Dr. Rachel Shane, chair of the Department of Arts Administration, University of Kentucky

## **AI and Arts Administration: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bot**

Joshua Brown, arts administrator, Nebraska Arts Council

## **New Generations of Storytellers**

Traditional artists Hasan Davis, Malcolm Davis, Mitch Barrett and Maizie Gover-Barrett



KyArtsCast is the official monthly podcast of the Kentucky Arts Council. It highlights arts council programs, features interviews with creators from across the state, and explores important topics relevant to Kentucky's creative and cultural community. KyArtsCast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and the KyArtsCast official website.

December 2024/January 2025

**Episode 49: Introducing Organizations of the Governor's Awards in the Arts**

February 2025

**Episode 50: Supporting the Arts in Kentucky**  
Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet Secretary  
Lindy Casebier, Kentuckians for the Arts Chair  
Lori Meadows, and artist Melissa Oesch.

March 2025

**Episode 51: The Market arrives, and Kentuckians recover after flooding**  
Artist David Shadwick and Leah Hamilton and  
Melissa Bond, co-administrators of the  
Kentucky Heritage Emergency Response  
Network.

April 2025

**Episode 52: Silas House, Kentucky's 2023-24 Poet Laureate**

May 2025

**Episode 53: Kathleen Driskell, Kentucky's 2025-26 Poet Laureate**

June 2025

**Episode 54: New Generations of Storytellers**  
Appalachian storytellers Hasan Davis and Mitch  
Barrett.

June 2025

**Episode 55: America250KY**  
Sarah Schmitt, Kentucky Arts Council; Kiana  
Mahjub, Berea Arts Council; Reba Mariarty,  
Institute 193; fiber artist Dr. Jaleesa Wells; and  
filmmaker Mike Elsherif.

August 2025

**Episode 56: America250KY, Photography, Theatre, and Quilts**

Kentucky photographer Jon Cherry and Norton  
Center for the Arts Executive Director Steve  
Hoffman; Matt Wallace, producing artistic  
director for Kentucky Shakespeare; and National  
Quilt Museum Executive Director Bonnie Schrock  
and quilt appraiser Vickie Coleman.

September 2025

**Episode 57: America250KY, Music Murals, and Photograph**

Composer Rachel Grimes; Rosemarie Steele with  
Quilt City USA Murals, Paducah; and Murray State  
University professors Kate He and Cintia Segovia  
Figuerola.

October 2025

**Episode 58: Arts & Humanities Month**

Troy Quinn, Owensboro Symphony; Shannon  
Kirkpatrick-Daniels, Appalachian Center for the  
Arts; and Jay McCoy and Bill Goodman, Kentucky  
Humanities.

November 2025

**Episode 59: Making the Governor's Awards**  
Governor's Awards in the Arts award creator  
Aleta Stone, London, Ky.

December 2025

**Episode 60: The Winner's Circle**

Governor's Awards in the Arts recipients Lakshmi  
Sriraman, winner of the Folk Heritage Award, and  
Jim Barr and Selma Weisenberg, representing the  
Community Arts Award winner, Owensboro Arts  
Guild.

# Poetry Out Loud



Javontae Cranmo from Beechwood High School took home the championship title for the 2025 Poetry Out Loud state competition, performing “I Am the People, the Mob,” by Carl Sandburg. Cranmo then advanced to the Poetry Out Loud national finals in Washington, D.C., May 5–7, 2025, where he placed in the top nine nationally, reciting “We Wear the Mask,” by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Poetry Out Loud is a three-round poetry recitation competition sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Each student, in the first and second rounds, is judged on the recitation of two poems. Five finalists are then judged on the recitation of a third poem. All poems are selected by the students and their teachers from an anthology of classic and contemporary works.

This event celebrates poetry and growth — both personal and academic,” said Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman. “By preparing for this competition, students have developed skills that will serve them far beyond today’s event. Whether they’re engaging with colleagues, delivering a pitch, or advocating for a cause, the skills honed through Poetry Out Loud will position these students for success.”

The state championship was initially scheduled for February 20 but had to be postponed due to historic flooding across the state, followed by winter storms. Each school that participates in Kentucky’s Poetry Out Loud state championship receives an artist residency, travel compensation, and access to funding to purchase works by Kentucky literary artists.

## Participating Schools and Champions

|                                                                        |                                                                           |                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grayson Merrick</b><br><b>Saint Xavier High School</b><br>Jefferson | <b>Katelyn Fulks</b><br><b>George Rogers Clark High School</b><br>Clark   | <b>Ava Hegge</b><br><b>Williamstown High School</b><br>Grant         |
| <b>Javontae Cranmoe</b><br><b>Beechwood High School</b><br>Kenton      | <b>Jocelyn Trejo Zetina</b><br><b>Elizabethtown High School</b><br>Hardin | <b>Omar Syied</b><br><b>Kentucky Country Day School</b><br>Jefferson |
|                                                                        | <b>Aspen Nichols</b><br><b>Betsey Layne High School</b><br>Floyd          | <b>Gin Gregory</b><br><b>The Walden School</b><br>Jefferson          |



Kentucky Writers' Day 2025 took place on April 24 at the Capitol Rotunda and featured the induction of award-winning poet, essayist, and teacher Kathleen Driskell as the 2025–2026 Kentucky Poet Laureate. The celebration, hosted by the Kentucky Arts Council, included multiple free festivities across the city, including readings by Driskell, Poets Laureate Silas House, Crystal Wilkinson, Jeff Worley, George Ella Lyon, Frank X Walker, Maureen Morehead, Sena Jeter Naslund, Joe Survant and Richard Taylor, and the 2024 Kentucky Youth Poet Laureate, Maira Faisal.



On her appointment, Gov. Beshear said, “Team Kentucky is proud to announce that Kathleen will serve as our next Poet Laureate. She has made a real impact on the commonwealth’s rich literary community through her poetry and passion for teaching. Kentucky boasts a wealth of great literary talent, and we’re fortunate to have Kathleen as a guiding voice, encouraging future writers and supporting Kentuckians in pursuing their dreams right here in our new Kentucky home.”

Driskell, an Oldham County native, is the author of six poetry collections, most recently “Goat-Footed Gods,” published by Carnegie Mellon University Press. Her other collections include “Blue Etiquette: Poems,” a finalist for the Weatherford Award; “Next Door to the Dead,” a Kentucky Voices selection from the University Press of Kentucky and winner of the Judy Gaines Young Book Award; and “Seed Across Snow,” a Poetry Foundation national bestseller.

“Writing has given me a life I never could have imagined for myself as a kid growing up in rural Kentucky, but I’m a writer and poet, I’m sure, because of my early first teachers, who include the women storytellers who sat around my grandma’s kitchen table,” Driskell said. “Many say we’re made of stardust, but I’ve always thought we’re really made of stories. I’m honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve our abundant and diverse literary arts community as Kentucky Poet Laureate and to connect with, to encourage, to share and to continue learning from other storytellers and poets across the Bluegrass.”

The Kentucky Arts Council administers Kentucky Writers’ Day and the Kentucky Poet Laureate nomination process. The poet laureate induction is a part of the Kentucky Arts Council’s annual Kentucky Writers’ Day event, which is celebrated on or around April 24, honoring the birthday of Kentucky writer Robert Penn Warren, the first U.S. Poet Laureate. Established in 1990, Writers’ Day includes the induction of poets laureate in odd-numbered years, showcasing the commonwealth’s rich literary heritage.

# Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

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The Kentucky Arts Council saw a record number of Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship applicants in 2025. A total of 13 mentor/apprentice pairs received \$4,000 grants to support their work plan for the course of a year, dedicating their time toward developing the apprentice's skills toward the mentor's level, and sharing their living folk art form that is part of Kentucky's cultural landscape.

Listed by mentor, apprentice, art form, and location, participants were:

**Sue Massek and Heidi Hess-Bynum**  
**Appalachian music, banjo, and songwriting**  
Washington

**Barry Lanham and Erin Rouse**  
**clogging (dance)**  
Daviess

**Brenda Bear and Suzanne Pick**  
**mural painting**  
Lewis

**Scott Gilbert and Micah Wiles**  
**white oak basketry**  
Allen

**Daniel Graham and Jackson Albeni**  
**violin making**  
Scott

**Mary Reed and John Allen**  
**morel mushroom hunting and foodways**  
Estill

**Angelique Shah and Chaney Williams**  
**quilting**  
Bullitt

**Julia Purcell and Jodie Koch**  
**traditional banjo and guitar music**  
Jefferson

**Clay Beverly and Grayson Rogers**  
**bluegrass music**  
Henry

**Cynthia Main and Bethany Marker**  
**broom making**  
Madison

**Mitch Barrett and Maizie Gover-Barrett**  
**Appalachian storytelling**  
Madison

**Hasan Davis and Malcolm Davis**  
**Affrilachian storytelling**  
Madison

**Jim McGee and Todd Childers**  
**banjo music for traditional dance**  
Jefferson

Site visits and interviews with the participants resulted in valuable additions to our archives. South Arts' In These Mountains program funded four apprenticeships in Kentucky's Appalachian region.



## Individual Artist Fellowships

The Kentucky Arts Council awarded \$34,000 to eight exemplary artists.

The Individual Artist Fellowship is a highly competitive \$7,500 award for working professional Kentucky artists who have demonstrated a high level of excellence and creativity and significant achievement in their field. Fellowships are awarded based on the quality of work samples submitted. Awards may be used in any way to support the artist's career.

### **Sarah Hoskins**

photography  
Fayette

### **Lori Larusso**

painting  
Jefferson

### **Diane Kahlo**

mixed media  
Fayette

### **J. Daniel Graham**

wood  
Scott

Artwork by Diane Kahlo



## Emerging Artist Awards

The Emerging Artist Award is a competitive \$1,000 award for working professional Kentucky artists in the early years of their career who demonstrate excellence and creativity in their work. Awards are unrestricted and may be used in any way to support the artist's career.

### **Martin Matisoff**

fiber  
Franklin

### **Amanda Stoddard**

photography  
Fayette

### **Molly Marek**

clay  
Lee

### **Christine Kuhn**

painting  
Fayette

\*Calendar year 2025 recipients were awarded with FY26 funds.



# Performing Artists Directory

The Performing Artists Directory (PAD) is an arts marketing program that features a curated roster of professional performing artists from Kentucky. This directory serves as a valuable resource for in-state and out-of-state presenters, helping them identify artists for performance bookings and various projects. The PAD is open to both full-time and part-time professional performers, companies, and groups from Kentucky in the fields of dance, music, theater, and storytelling.

|                                                   |                                         |                                                    |                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>M'Power Rhythm</b><br>Fayette<br>Music         | <b>Brian Glover</b><br>Fayette<br>Music | <b>Nicholas Forrest Hill</b><br>Jefferson<br>Music | <b>Clear Creek Creative</b><br>Rockcastle<br>Theatre |
| <b>Jerry Tolson Quartet</b><br>Jefferson<br>Music | <b>Tony Wavy</b><br>Fayette<br>Music    | <b>The Laurelys</b><br>Campbell<br>Music           |                                                      |



## Kentucky Touring Grant

The Kentucky Touring Grant is a matching grant that helps make quality public performances available to the people of the commonwealth. This program provides presenters with support to book dance, music, theatre, and storytelling performers from the Kentucky Arts Council Performing Artists Directory.

|                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                              |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friends of Lexington Senior Center</b><br>\$2,650<br>Fayette | <b>*Kentucky Storytelling Association</b><br>\$1,926<br>Franklin | <b>*Casey County Public Library</b><br>\$375<br>Casey        | <b>*Gateway Regional Arts Center</b><br>\$5,000<br>Montgomery |
| <b>Southland Jamboree</b><br>\$1,000<br>Fayette                 | <b>*Save the Grand Theatre</b><br>\$500<br>Franklin              | <b>*Glema Mahr Center for the Arts</b><br>\$5,000<br>Hopkins | <b>*Awarded with FY24 funds</b>                               |

# Kentucky Peer Advisory Network

The Kentucky Peer Advisory Network (KPAN) serves as a vital resource for eligible arts organizations, community groups, and individual artists, connecting them with creative industry professionals who offer guidance, technical support, and program development assistance.

This initiative aims to enhance the capacity of nonprofit organizations that incorporate arts programming and professional artists in the Kentucky Arts Council programs by covering the costs of six-hour, \$500 consultancies.

The available advisory topics are diverse, with experts in the KPAN directory ready to assist with short-term projects, including grant writing and fundraising; strategic planning and board development; marketing, promotions, and product development; and emergency preparedness and accessibility. Additionally, they can provide guidance on festival and event planning, making KPAN a comprehensive support network for the Kentucky arts community.

Kentucky Peer Advisory Network Grants by artist or organization, county, advisor, and topic:

**Sean Patrick Hill**

Jefferson

**Vallorie Henderson**

business and finance

**Filson Historical Society**

Jefferson

**Talleri McRae**

accessibility

**Why We Write**

Clark

**Judy Sizemore**

grant writing

**Millstone Community  
Theatre Guild**

Laurel

**Jane Dewey**

program development

**Charlotte Ann Pollock**

Jefferson

**John Harris**

business and finance

**Louisville Artisans Guild**

Jefferson

**Rachel Shane**

business and finance

**Pandora Productions**

Jefferson

**Talleri McRae**

strategic planning

Artwork Charlotte Ann Pollock





# Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

The Kentucky Arts Council provided more than \$1.3 million in funding, which benefited 106 nonprofit arts organizations and their communities across the commonwealth, through the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) grant.

The KAP grant provides nonprofit arts organizations with support for programs and services to ensure that year-round access to and participation in the arts is available to the people of Kentucky. Funding for Kentucky Arts Partnership grants comes from the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

With the initial investment, those partner organizations provided approximately 1,400 jobs, 3.4 million unique arts experiences, and generated over \$73 million in revenue for communities across the commonwealth.

Support from grants like KAP is important to organizations like the Owensboro Symphony. "This funding is vital for our organization to continue its mission to create meaningful, imaginative performances and educational and community engagement programs that enrich lives and create memorable experiences," said Gwyn Payne, CEO, Owensboro Symphony.

|                                                                         |                                                                       |                                                                          |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Paramount Arts Center</b><br>Boyd<br>\$14,603                        | <b>Playhouse in the Park</b><br>Calloway<br>\$5,634                   | <b>Pennyroyal Arts Council</b><br>Christian<br>\$17,298                  | <b>RiverPark Center</b><br>Daviness<br>\$26,920                |
| <b>Boyle County Schools</b><br>Boyle<br>\$13,484                        | <b>Murray Art Guild</b><br>Calloway<br>\$4,566                        | <b>Leeds Center for the Arts</b><br>Clark<br>\$8,734                     | <b>Owensboro Dance Theatre</b><br>Daviness<br>\$11,150         |
| <b>Centre College's Norton Center for the Arts</b><br>Boyle<br>\$24,020 | <b>Arts for All Kentucky</b><br>Calloway<br>\$5,784                   | <b>Owensboro Museum of Fine Art</b><br>Daviness<br>\$16,824              | <b>Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra</b><br>Fayette<br>\$10,732 |
| <b>Pioneer School of Drama</b><br>Boyle<br>\$10,830                     | <b>Pones</b><br>Campbell<br>\$3,640                                   | <b>Owensboro Symphony Orchestra</b><br>Daviness<br>\$16,794              | <b>Lexington Philharmonic</b><br>Fayette<br>\$18,758           |
| <b>Arts Commission of Danville–Boyle County</b><br>Boyle<br>\$2,008     | <b>Kentucky Symphony Orchestra</b><br>Campbell<br>\$12,454            | <b>Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame &amp; Museum</b><br>Daviness<br>\$39,358 | <b>Kentucky Ballet Theatre</b><br>Fayette<br>\$7,592           |
| <b>Art Center of the Bluegrass</b><br>Boyle<br>\$11,330                 | <b>Olive Hill Center for Arts &amp; Heritage</b><br>Carter<br>\$2,652 |                                                                          | <b>Lexington Ballet Company</b><br>Fayette<br>\$11,674         |

# Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

## Bluegrass Youth Ballet

Fayette

\$12,954

## Lexington Chamber

### Chorale

Fayette

\$1,456

## Allegro Dance Project

Fayette

\$2,810

## Living Arts and Science

### Center

Fayette

\$11,348

## Headley-Whitney

### Museum

Fayette

\$5,588

## Harstad Fine Arts Series

Fayette

\$1,000

## Chamber Music

### Festival of Lexington

Fayette

\$2,844

## LexArts

Fayette

\$29,608

## Antagonist

### Productions Company

Fayette

\$1,000

## Arts Connect

Fayette

\$3,158

## Lexington Children's

### Museum

Fayette

\$11,200

## Central Music

### Academy

Fayette

\$8,022



## Institute 193

Fayette

\$3,548

## Lexington Art League

Fayette

\$5,638

## Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center

Fayette

\$9,714

## Lexington Children's Theatre

Fayette

\$21,528

## Lexington Singers

Fayette

\$3,726

## Lexington Theatre Company

Fayette

\$18,358

## Carnegie Literacy Center

Fayette

\$19,644

## Grand Theatre

Franklin

\$8,770



# Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

---

**Josephine Sculpture Park**  
Franklin  
\$14,176

**Bluegrass Writers Coalition**  
Franklin  
\$1,000

**Garrard Arts**  
Garrard  
\$1,000

**Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center**  
Hardin  
\$4,502

**Pine Mountain Settlement School**  
Harlan  
\$18,160

**Ohio Valley Art League**  
Henderson  
\$2,132

**Henderson Area Arts Alliance**  
Henderson  
\$5,064

**Louisville Master Chorale**  
Jefferson  
\$1,006

**Actors Theatre of Louisville**  
Jefferson  
\$54,204

**Kentucky Opera Association**  
Jefferson  
\$29,190

**Louisville Folk School**  
Jefferson  
\$5,950

**VOICES of Kentuckiana**  
Jefferson  
\$2,860

**Louisville Visual Art**  
Jefferson  
\$19,644

**Louisville Academy of Music**  
Jefferson  
\$10,906

**Louisville Ballet**  
Jefferson  
\$43,194

**Little Loomhouse**  
Jefferson  
\$3,822

**Louisville Leopard Percussionists**  
Jefferson  
\$7,332

**Louisville Youth Orchestra**  
Jefferson  
\$9,650

**StageOne Family Theatre**  
Jefferson  
\$22,506

**Louisville Youth Choir**  
Jefferson  
\$3,212

**Squallis Puppeteers**  
Jefferson  
\$2,850

**Fund for the Arts**  
Jefferson  
\$45,890

**KMAC Museum**  
Jefferson  
\$29,720

**Louisville Story Program**  
Jefferson  
\$9,484

**Speed Art Museum**  
Jefferson  
\$59,998

**Looking for Lilith**  
Jefferson  
\$4,930

**Kentucky Shakespeare**  
Jefferson  
\$22,758

**Sarabande Books**  
Jefferson  
\$10,646

**Asia Institute**  
Jefferson  
\$11,742

**Pandora Productions**  
Jefferson  
\$6,398

**Young Authors Greenhouse**  
Jefferson  
\$8,540

**Behringer–Crawford Museum**  
Kenton  
\$11,036

**Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center**  
Kenton  
\$21,344

**Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre**  
Kenton  
\$3,356

**Hindman Settlement School**  
Knott  
\$38,032

# Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

**Appalachian Artisan Center**  
Knott  
\$18,600

**Appalshop**  
Letcher  
\$36,140

**EpiCentre Arts**  
Letcher  
\$1,000

**Cumberland Mountain Arts & Crafts Council**  
Letcher  
\$1,000

**Kentucky Classic Arts at Centre Square**  
Marion  
\$9,454

**Market House Theatre**  
McCracken  
\$23,226

**Carson Center**  
McCracken  
\$47,538

**Paducah Symphony Orchestra**  
McCracken  
\$17,620

**Little Colonel Players**  
Oldham  
\$2,632

**Oldham County Arts Association**  
Oldham  
\$3,586

**Appalachian Arts Alliance**  
Perry  
\$6,878

**Appalachian Center for the Arts**  
Pike  
\$8,484

**Gallery on the Square**  
Simpson  
\$2,180

**Campbellsville University**  
Taylor  
\$3,926

**Janice Mason Art Museum**  
Trigg  
\$2,598

**Artworks**  
Warren  
\$1,000



**Richmond Area Arts Council**  
Madison  
\$3,754

**Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen**  
Madison  
\$1,000

**Berea Arts Council**  
Madison  
\$2,920

**National Quilt Museum**  
McCracken  
\$14,338

**Maiden Alley Cinema**  
McCracken  
\$3,232

**Montgomery County Council for the Arts**  
Montgomery  
\$7,088

**Flashback Theater**  
Pulaski  
\$6,152

**Lake Cumberland Performing Arts**  
Pulaski  
\$1,138

**Shelby Regional Arts Council**  
Shelby  
\$1,352

**Arts of Southern Kentucky**  
Warren  
\$40,142

**Public Theatre of Kentucky**  
Warren  
\$2,376

**Woodford Theatre**  
Woodford  
\$10,684



# Teaching Art Together

The Teaching Art Together Grant supports one- to 10-day artist residencies in pre-K–12th grade classrooms. This initiative enables educators to collaborate with juried professional artists to design innovative, cross-curricular lessons. For example, teachers can integrate dance into math or new media into science, enhancing the learning experience through creative approaches. Notably, there is no match requirement for the applicant's school, making the program more accessible to a wider range of educational institutions. Artists participating in the program are selected from the Kentucky Arts Council's adjudicated Teaching Artists Directory, ensuring a high standard of artistic excellence and professionalism.

Grant recipients by school name, county, teaching artist, and amount:

|                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dixie Magnet Elementary</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Mick Jeffries</b><br>\$1,600           | <b>Morton Middle School</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Abigail Miller Robitaille</b><br>\$1,360                | <b>Barren County Middle School</b><br>Barren<br><b>Jesse Sims</b><br>\$1,600 |
| <b>Saint Xavier High School</b><br>Jefferson<br><b>Shannon Woolley</b><br>\$480        | <b>Lexington Traditional Magnet School</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Abigail Miller Robitaille</b><br>\$3,200 | <b>Stonewall Elementary</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Brooke Harris</b><br>\$2,400    |
| <b>Lafayette High School</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Abigail Miller Robitaille</b><br>\$2,560 | <b>Dixie Magnet Elementary</b><br>Fayette<br><b>Mick Jeffries</b><br>\$1,600                         | <b>Hart County High School</b><br>Hart<br><b>Jesse Sims</b><br>\$3,200       |

## Teaching Artists Directory

The Kentucky Arts Council Teaching Artists Directory is a carefully reviewed roster of professional artists meeting the highest standards of artistic excellence while also possessing the skills needed to design and implement effective arts education programs and classroom residencies.

Schools and libraries that choose to hire artists from this directory gain access to additional funding opportunities through the Teaching Art Together Grant, and the Creative Chapters Library program, which funds sequential learning residencies for professional teaching artists in public libraries.

|                                                                           |                                                 |                                                        |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Daniel Paul Burkey</b><br>Kenton<br>media Arts, theatre, literary Arts | <b>Mike Elsherif</b><br>Jefferson<br>media arts | <b>Alexandra McIntosh</b><br>Campbell<br>literary arts | <b>Betsy A. Huggins</b><br>Jefferson<br>theatre, literary arts |
|                                                                           | <b>Duane Keaton</b><br>Scott<br>visual arts     | <b>Anne K. Beyer</b><br>Calloway<br>visual arts        | <b>Brooke E. Owens</b><br>Kenton<br>visual arts                |

# Arts Miles Program Grant

The Kentucky Arts Council's Arts Miles Program is a reimbursement grant designed to support transportation costs for Kentucky teachers and schools taking preschool through 12th-grade students on field trips to arts organizations included in the Arts Miles Directory.

Schools are eligible to receive financial assistance that covers roundtrip bus mileage and driver pay for up to two buses per field trip. Applications for the grant are accepted on a rolling basis from October through March.

Grant recipients by county, school name, and amount.:

|                                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                               |                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Barren</b><br><b>Eastern Elementary</b><br><b>School</b><br>\$304                                                                | <b>Caldwell</b><br><b>Caldwell County</b><br><b>Primary School</b><br>\$564 | <b>Fulton</b><br><b>Fulton Independent</b><br><b>School District</b><br>\$208 | <b>Webster</b><br><b>Providence</b><br><b>Elementary</b><br>\$1,094            |
| <b>Powell</b><br><b>Bowen Elementary</b><br>\$672; \$448                                                                            | <b>Pulaski</b><br><b>Pulaski Elementary</b><br><b>School</b><br>\$36        | <b>Russell</b><br><b>Jamestown</b><br><b>Elementary School</b><br>\$426       | <b>Lincoln</b><br><b>Lincoln County</b><br><b>Schools</b><br>\$264             |
| <b>Allen</b><br><b>James E. Bazzell Middle</b><br><b>School</b><br>\$532<br><b>Allen County Primary</b><br><b>Center</b><br>\$1,267 | <b>Shopville Elementary</b><br><b>School</b><br>\$96                        | <b>Fayette</b><br><b>Henry Clay High</b><br><b>School</b><br>\$330            | <b>Calloway</b><br><b>Calloway County</b><br><b>School District</b><br>\$1,440 |

## Arts Miles Directory

The Arts Miles Directory connects pre-K–12th grade schools with approved field trip destinations, providing high-quality artistic experiences. Schools must choose destinations from this directory when applying for the Arts Miles Program grant, which reimburses transportation costs for these trips.

|                                                          |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Little Loomhouse</b><br>Jefferson                     | <b>The Kentucky Center</b><br><b>for the Performing</b><br><b>Arts</b><br>Jefferson | <b>Kentucky Museum at</b><br><b>Western Kentucky</b><br><b>University</b><br>Warren | <b>Bluegrass Youth Ballet</b><br>Fayette                    |
| <b>Kentucky Gateway</b><br><b>Museum Center</b><br>Mason | <b>Alhambra Theatre</b><br><b>Pennyroyal Arts</b><br><b>Council</b><br>Christian    | <b>Bluegrass Music Hall of</b><br><b>Fame &amp; Museum</b><br>Daviess               | <b>The Brown Theatre</b><br>Jefferson                       |
| <b>Marshall County</b><br><b>Arts Center</b><br>Marshall |                                                                                     | <b>University of Kentucky Dept.</b><br><b>of Theatre and Dance</b><br>Fayette       | <b>Old Forester's</b><br><b>Paristown Hall</b><br>Jefferson |



# America250KY

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As the United States prepared to celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the Kentucky Arts Council invited artists and organization to explore the people, places, and events that have created our shared history. America250KY grants funded public art projects, artwork creation, and other initiatives, events, and programs that provide a long-lasting legacy to the people of the commonwealth, commemorating this anniversary and interpreting its themes through the arts.

**Kentucky Opera  
Association**

Jefferson  
\$10,000

**Visit Jessamine**

Jessamine  
\$10,000

**Kentucky  
Shakespeare**

Jefferson  
\$10,000

**Maiden Alley Cinema**

McCracken  
\$10,000

**Paducah Symphony  
Orchestra**

McCracken  
\$10,000

**The National Quilt  
Museum**

McCracken  
\$10,000

**La Casita Center**

Jefferson  
\$10,000

**Centre College's Norton  
Center for the Arts**

Boyle  
\$10,000

**Quilt City USA Murals**

McCracken  
\$10,000

**African American  
Forum**

Fayette  
\$10,000

**Kentucky to the  
World**

Jefferson  
\$10,000

**Union Commonwealth  
University**

Knox  
\$10,000

**Josephine Sculpture Park**

Franklin  
\$10,000

**Burkesville Academy  
of Fine Arts**

Cumberland  
\$9,000

**Institute 193**

Fayette  
\$10,000

**Berea Arts Council**

Madison  
\$10,000

**Montgomery County  
Council for the Arts**

Montgomery  
\$10,000

"Nautical Stars" quilt by Judy Mathieson





Artwork by Dr. Jaleesa Wells

These grants are part of a broader initiative administered by the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission to ensure Kentucky's diverse history is recognized and preserved for future generations. Funded projects included public art installations, new artwork creation, educational programming, cultural events, community celebrations, and initiatives that examine historical narratives through artistic practice.

"History can be interpreted through art of different time periods. Artists offer a different way of looking at history, by highlighting shared experiences, giving seemingly flat stories new dimensions and holding a mirror to the national identity we've created and fostered," Sarah M. Schmitt, KAC executive staff advisor and folklorist.

**Mike Elsherif**

Jefferson  
\$5,000

**Tristan Roy**

Russell  
\$5,000

**Ron Schildknecht**

Jefferson  
\$5,000

**Carla Gover**

Fayette  
\$5,000

**James Robert Southard**

Fayette  
\$2,000

**Peter Morphew**

Madison  
\$5,000

**Rachel Grimes**

Carroll  
\$5,000

**Dr. Jaleesa Wells**

Madison  
\$5,000

**Daniel Gilliam**

Jefferson  
\$5,000

**Cintia Segovia Figueroa  
and Kate He**

Calloway  
\$5,000





| <b>Fiscal Year 2025 Grants</b>                            | Number of Grants Awarded | Amount Awarded     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ameria250KY: Exploring 250 Years Through the Arts         | 27                       | \$211,000*         |
| Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship                  | 13                       | \$50,000           |
| Individual Artists Fellowship and Emerging Artist Award   | 2**                      | \$8,500            |
| Kentucky Arts Partnership                                 | 106                      | \$1,307,457        |
| Kentucky Peer Advisory Network                            | 7                        | \$3,500            |
| Kentucky Touring Grant                                    | 2***                     | \$4,576            |
| Partnership Grants (including disaster relief & recovery) | 11                       | \$53,242           |
| Poetry Out Loud                                           | 7                        | \$18,660           |
| Art Miles Program                                         | 14                       | \$7,681            |
| Teaching Art Together                                     | 9                        | \$18,000           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                             | <b>202</b>               | <b>\$1,682,616</b> |

\*\$200,000 provided by the Kentucky General Assembly through the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission.

\*\*Includes awards given in calendar year 2024. Fiscal year 2025 awards will be calculated in the 2026 annual report grants list.

\*\*\*Additional calendar year 2025 awards paid with fiscal year 2024 funds and calculated in the 2024 annual report grants list.

Artwork by Frank Leake





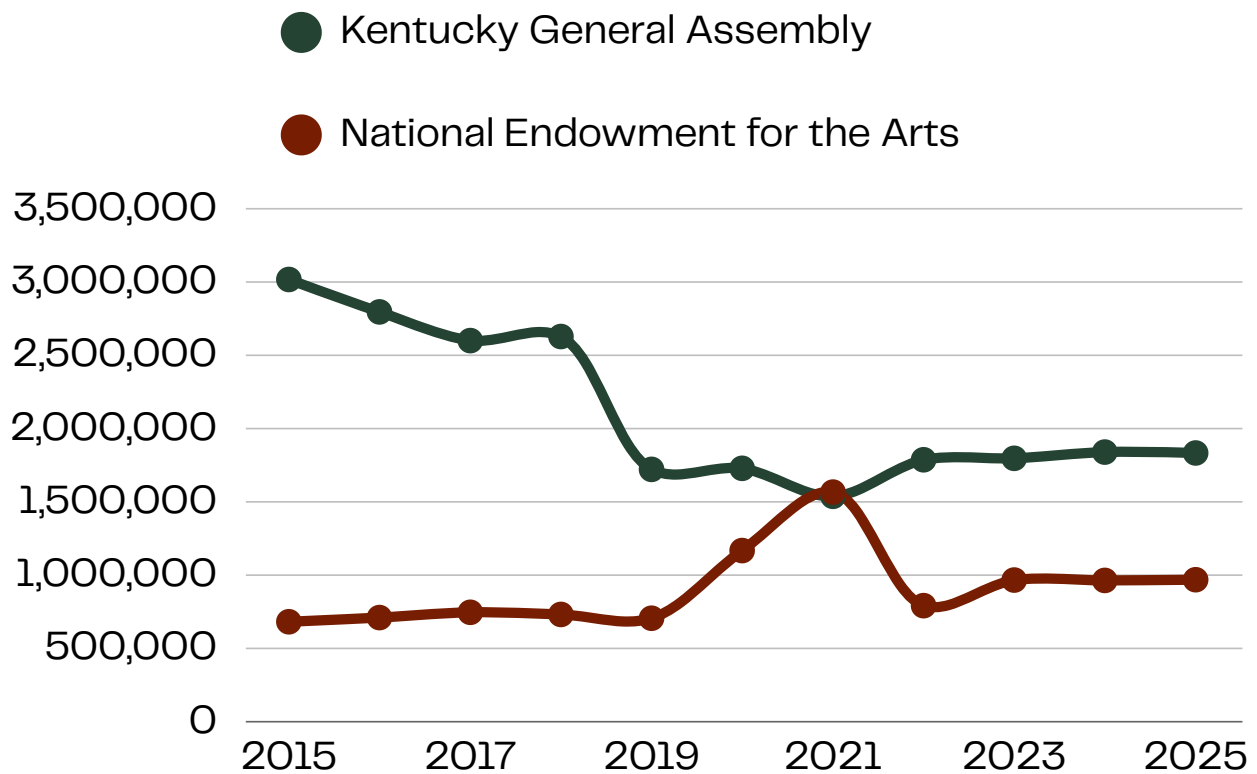
# Arts Council 10-year Funding History

## Kentucky General Assembly

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 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 |
| 2025 | \$1,833,500 |

## National Endowment for the Arts

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 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     |
| 2025 | \$968,725     |



\* 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**



Sign up for our monthly newsletter, Arts E-News featuring announcements, events and opportunities in the arts.



## About the Cover Artist

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Guided by elegance, grace, and timelessness, mixed-media artist Sheila Fox draws on over 25 years of sketching and drawing, alongside self-taught painting techniques, to create textured portraits that look beyond the surface. Her work is inspired by the evolving nature of fashion, hair, and identity, using bold patterns and natural forms to tell stories of resilience and self-expression. Uniquely blending materials like fabric, lace, resin, and wire mesh, Sheila's background in welding and fabrication allows her to craft a metalwork illusion on canvas with hot glue and acrylic paint, while incorporating stained-glass effects to bridge the past and present. Ultimately, her deeply personal art balances softness and strength, inviting viewers into moments of reflection where they can recognize their own layers, resilience, and inner elegance.

