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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Wednesday, September 23, 2015

ArtsKC Fund Fuels Creative Economy with 43 Percent More Support for the Arts

107 Artists and Arts Organizations Region Wide, including 14 First-Timers, Receive ArtsKC Grants

Kansas City, MO - A total of [107 artists and organizations](#) were awarded \$385,280 in grants from ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council to fund everything from operations to new projects and performances.

“Fourteen organizations will receive ArtsKC funding for the very first time, and more proposals than ever before will receive full funding for their requests,” says 2016 ArtsKC Fund Cabinet Chairman Steve McDowell. “The increase in funding this year means that ArtsKC can provide greater support for our pillars of excellence as well as innovative, new projects.”

Corporations, foundations, individuals, civic support and workplace giving campaigns help raise money for the funds granted by [ArtsKC](#). ArtsKC grants support a wide range of arts activities, programs and projects that include everything from the most prestigious and well known museums and performing arts groups to individual artists—in short, the entire breadth of the region’s creative community.

Grants from the ArtsKC Fund are made in three categories: Ovation, Catalyst and Inspiration. All grants in the Ovation and Catalyst grants go to not-for-profit organizations for arts programs, services and projects. Inspiration grants are made to individual artists and arts professionals. There were significant increases in the funds available for all three grant categories in 2015, so more grants were awarded and at higher levels of funding and 2015 was the most successful year for grants by ArtsKC since 2008.

All grant applications are vetted by panels of distinguished community volunteers and their recommendations for funding must be approved by the ArtsKC Board of Directors. “We strive to include experts, practitioners, patrons and enthusiasts representative of the region and our diverse arts genres on each grant panel,” shares Paul Tyler, ArtsKC Grants Director.

Niki Lee Donawa, one of two Catalyst Grants panel chairs and an ArtsKC Board Member, said “Each year we have the difficult task of funding the most impactful programs. What a pleasure it was this year to increase funding and support new agencies.” This year’s Catalyst funds total \$160,337, a 23% increase over last year, and will go to 69 not-for-profit organizations, 14 of them first time grant recipients.

ArtsKC has a goal of raising \$550,000 for the ArtsKC Fund in 2016, increasing the community’s collective investment in the vibrant arts ecology in the region.

“The arts spark creativity and innovation, improve academic performance, build community, drive tourism, and infuse \$275 million into the 5-county economy,” says ArtsKC Board Chair Becky Blades. “The arts deserve our investment.”

About ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council:

The mission of ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council is to unleash the power of the arts. Our work brings together people, resources, and ideas to build a community of great dreams and vigorous life, where everyone participates in and benefits from the arts. We are an advocate for the arts. We lead. We imagine. [ArtsKC.org](#)

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