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## ArtsKC Events

**ArtsKC First Fridays**  
**Friday April 3rd, 6pm to 9pm**

### ArtsKC Office

Join sponsors [Black & Veatch](#) in the Crossroads! The night will feature performances by ArtsKC Supported artist [Hermon Mehari](#) and an opening night reception for Now Showing artist Christopher Hartmann's newest exhibition at ArtsKC.

### [ArtsKC 360° Tour](#)

**Wednesday April 8th,**  
**12pm to 1:15pm**

Learn how you or your business can support the arts! Join us for a complimentary lunch and tour of ArtsKC's mission, work, and vision.

### [ArtsKC Aperitif:](#)

#### Immerse

**Saturday April 18, 5pm to 8pm**

IMMERSE yourself in world-class contemporary visual arts at the home of Bill and Christy Gautreaux with co-hosts Dale and Vickie Trott.

### [ArtsKC Aperitif:](#)

#### Delight

**Saturday April 25, 8pm to 11pm**

DELIGHT your senses at the

**Passion for Kansas City:**  
**A guest blog post on Middle of the Map**  
**Visit and share our blog online at [ArtsKC.org/blog](#).**



Passion's a weird thing. When you love something, you never know how things will end up. Half a decade ago, an idea was born from two people who really love Kansas City: Nathan Reusch and me, Chris Haghirian. This idea, called Middle of the Map Fest (MOTM), turned into an annual three-part event that takes place every April here in Kansas City. It's presented by Ink Magazine and curated by Nathan's local record label, The Record Machine.

Now in its fifth year, no one could've ever predicted what MOTM would become. It started in 2011 as a music fest in Westport, with the idea to bring in national acts that are on everyone's radar (think Daniel Johnston/Two Door Cinema Club) and have some of Kansas City's best bands open up for them. The goal: Get people to the venue early to see the bands they know and have them fall in love with the local Kansas City bands that follow. Since we're about to celebrate the fifth year of the music fest, I'd have to say the idea worked.

In 2012, we got lucky and booked a little emerging band named Fun. Their monster hit song "We Are Young" was the number one song in the U.S. the week of the festival and having them on the fest was great exposure. That year, people from 37 different states and three countries bought tickets to MOTM. THIRTY SEVEN!

Since then, the fest has grown even more, and The Forum was born. The Forum is a conference on art, tech and culture right here in Kansas City. We work with local leaders and innovators in those fields to organize panels and conversations that highlight the amazing things about this city that we all love.

home of Dan Nilsen with co-hosts Kathy Kelly and Bryan Folk for a night in the French Mediterranean.

**ArtsKC Fund Block Party**

**May 1, First Friday, 6pm to 9pm**

Join us for the first-ever, free, community ArtsKC Fund Block Party! Featuring booths from ArtsKC Supported artists and programs, this event will also include family-friendly activities, food, drinks, and a live DJ.

**ArtsKC Aperitif: Discover**

**Saturday May 2, 5pm to 8pm**

DISCOVER White Nights and contemporary Russian artists in the art deco home of Holly Nielsen with co-host Siobhan McLaughlin Lesley.

**ArtsKC Aperitif: Explore**

**Friday May 8, 5pm to 8pm**

EXPLORE the art of photography with hosts John and Cate DePrisco and co-hosts Malik and Jessica James.

This year, to help grow the scope of The Forum we've partnered with Rainy Day Books to bring in the astounding Malcolm Gladwell, author of *Blink*, *Tipping Point*, *Outliers*, *What The Dog Saw* and *David vs. Goliath*.

Lastly but not least, the third part of Ink's Middle of the Map Fest was added in 2013: The Film Fest. As movie enthusiasts, we didn't like seeing movie trailers for great films and then having that film skip this market. So the Film Fest was born and we started chasing those films and incorporating them into our Film Fest. Additionally, we feature the directors, actors and musicians from those films at the Fest.

It's been a crazy ride for everyone involved. From everyone at Ink, to The Record Machine and all of our amazing volunteers; from over 400 bands that have played the fest, to more than 100 people who have been panelists at The Forum and even to a few mayors who have been involved; from 10,000+ people who have come out to the fest, we all love and are passionate about the fest and the city it takes place in.

The passion of a few got us here, but the passion of so MANY good people like yourself who care about your city and think it's important to support local arts and local business is why Middle of the Map exists and is celebrating five amazing years. If you've never been to the fest, we'd love to have you. **THIS IS YOUR INVITATION!** If you've been before, **THANK YOU** for coming and we hope to see you again over the next weeks.

Here are the vitals:

**Middle of the Map Film Fest** - Wednesday, April 8 to Sunday, April 12. 25+ films. 5 days.

**Middle of the Map Fest - The Forum** - Wednesday, April 15 to Friday, April 17 featuring special guest and best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell and dozens of panels on arts/culture/tech.

**Middle of the Map Fest - Music Fest** - Wednesday, April 22 to Saturday, April 25 125+ bands. 5 days. only \$75. Featuring Iron & Wine, OK Go, Lord Huron, Leon Bridges and 120 other great bands.

All the info/schedule/bios/music and how to grab your tickets can be found here: [www.middleofthemapfest.com](http://www.middleofthemapfest.com).

Cheers,

Chris Haghirian



## Letter from the CEO : KC is a Happening Place

I love my work at ArtsKC because I have a front row seat to some of the most exciting news, developments, and trends occurring in the arts for our region. **I'm excited to share with you that Kansas City is becoming more and more "the place" to host a national conference in the arts.**

For the second year, The Folk Alliance International Conference was held here in February. This conference is the world's largest gathering of its kind, drawing over 3,000 artists and industry experts from around the world. In late March, the Theatre Communications Group convened 200 theatre, arts and cultural professionals to Kansas City for their Audience Revolution Conference. On April 22-25, Kansas City Young Audiences and Arts Partners Wichita will host their National Conference in Kansas City. More than 200 arts education professionals will meet in Kansas City to share information, skills, and best practices for Building Partnerships through Community Connections. Their keynote speaker will be **our very own Jane Chu, Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts.** The National Storytellers Network will host Pathways: National

Storytelling Conference July 30-August 2. The National Storytelling Conference brings together National Storytelling Network members, as well as individuals and organizations from the community, who are interested in the art of storytelling. And from March 16-19, 2016, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts will hold their 50th Anniversary Conference that will bring in over 5,000 attendees to Kansas City. **At ArtsKC, we love being a part of what is clearly becoming a "happening place!"**

Follow Harlan on [Twitter](#).

*Photo by Tom Styrkowicz, [53Tom.com](#)*

## Happening Now: Local Collectors Welcome Art Enthusiasts to Aperitif

On **Saturday April 25**, Dan Nilsen is excited to show off his newly completed home to art lovers of all genres at the 2nd Aperitif party along with friends and co-hosts Kathy Kelly and Bryan Folk. This party celebrates artists of all kinds throughout the Kansas City region and beyond. **Featuring local eclectic art, architecture, performances by Artist INC Fellow Cynthia von Roden, and**



**French cuisine by Lon Lane, guests will enjoy samplings of art for every taste.** Guests will be treated to an intimate viewing of Dan Nilsen's home, a collaboration four years in the making with close friends and KC designers Kurt Oetting, Terry Landeck, Doug Wells, and Patrick Kappelman. According to Nilsen, **"You'll see the house has some really unique characteristics that I think the attendees will enjoy so exploring will be fun."** You won't want to miss this unique and exciting event.

The following **Saturday, May 2**, guests are invited to the Old Mission Hills home of Holly Nielsen for an Aperitif party themed White Nights. Built in 1929, this art-deco home features many European architectural salvage pieces that add to the ambiance of the space. As for the art on display, **Holly is thrilled to showcase two decades worth of contemporary Russian art.** Her collection is diverse featuring photography, sculpture, and graphic art, as well as a large selection of antique Caucasian rugs. **Guests will also be treated to individual performances by ArtsKC Fund recipients Kari Johnson and Owen/Cox Dance Group.** Of course, **no Russian party is complete without vodka-infused drinks by Clear10 Vodka and Russian cuisine by Catering by Design.** Co-hosted by friend and ArtsKC Board Member Siobhan McLaughlin Lesley, this is a party that will be talked about long after the night ends.

To learn more or to purchase your tickets, visit [artskc.org/aperitif](http://artskc.org/aperitif).

## **Q + A: Our Partner, CommunityAmerica**

### **Why does CommunityAmerica support the arts in the KC region?**

Imagine a world with no paintings to admire, no music to inspire, no dance to cherish. At CommunityAmerica, we can't imagine a world without arts, and we're honored to work with ArtsKC to enrich and infuse Kansas City with local talent.

### **What do you hope to accomplish through your partnership with ArtsKC Encounter?**

At CommunityAmerica, we help Kansas Citians of all ages achieve financial freedom, which can open their worlds in refreshing, indescribable ways. While many people have the misconception that the arts are reserved for the wealthy, our hope is that the work we do with the Encounters program will help redirect that message and show that the arts can and should be experienced by all Kansas Citians - no matter your income level.

### **What other ways does CommunityAmerica engage with and support the arts?**

Last year, we began working with ArtsKC and the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts to inspire our organization. As one of the best places to work in Kansas City, we've leveraged these partnerships to benefit our employees - so they can see, feel and do more to experience the breadth of creative infusion that KC has to offer.

*Pictured Above: Thanks to sponsor CommunityAmerica, ArtsKC Encounter members took a tour of the Nerman Museum.*



## ArtsKC Supported: KCVLAA Shares Their Expertise so That Artists Can Focus on Theirs

Are you an emerging artist trying to navigate the world of copyright law or in need of a good accountant? Are you an arts related business considering non-profit status? These endeavors are often time-consuming and confusing. Thanks to the **Kansas City Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts**, qualifying artists and arts organizations have an ally to help them through many legal and accounting processes for little or no cost to the individual.

With the help of an ArtsKC Catalyst grant, [KCVLAA](#) offers [ArtSmarts](#), an ongoing series of workshops designed to educate artists, arts organizations, and creative businesses about legal and accounting issues. **Topics include "The Art of the Contract," "Business Formation for Artists" and "What Everyone Should Know About Copyrights."** KCVLAA also provides a quarterly event, **Ask the Experts**, where artists receive one-on-one advice from a volunteer attorney or accountant. As a result, participants are able to spend more time on their art with a better understanding of their legal rights and obligations. In addition, KCVLAA also provides a pro bono referral system to "help protect the rights of artists who might otherwise not be able to get proper representation."

Learn more about KCVLAA on [twitter](#), [facebook](#), or become a member [here!](#)

KANSAS CITY VOLUNTEER  
LAWYERS & ACCOUNTANTS



## Revisiting *Giselle*: A Give Art Story

Growing up, going to the ballet wasn't just a fun outing. It was a serious opportunity for study and a motivating force that drove me as a student dancer to work harder in the studio the next day, inspired by the world's best to reach my goal of dancing professionally.

While I ended up on a different career path, I've always maintained a deep love of dance, and was thrilled when my friend Tanya generously surprised me with tickets to [Kansas City Ballet's \*Giselle\*](#) for my birthday. Tanya, who recently moved to the United States from Russia, shares my love for ballet, which was the spark that sealed our friendship in our first conversation.

Each time I've seen *Giselle*, it's been with a different cast or company, in a different phase of my life and with a different perspective. Now recently engaged myself, *Giselle's* descent into madness after a broken engagement and undying love for her ex-fiancé in the afterlife might not have been entirely relatable (my wedding planning has been filled with joy rather than betrayal), but the tragedy was more compelling and even moved me to tears this time around. The few hours we spent in the theater went by so quickly that when we left, we were eager for more and began planning our return visit to see next year's performance of *Swan Lake*.



#GIVEART

**For me to reenter my beloved world of ballet, even for a few hours, was a moving experience that will stay with me for years to come, and I am incredibly grateful for this gift of art I received.**

*Story by Emily Gairns, Curator of Creativity at REACTOR Design Studio and ArtsKC Supporter*

ArtsKC would like to invite you to consider giving art the next time the opportunity to make a gift arises! Check out our gift ideas [online](#). And tell us your story! Email [Vogt@ArtsKC.org](mailto:Vogt@ArtsKC.org) or tweet at us using #giveart!



**Staff Picks: [Godfrey Riddle](#), Development Manager**

In my book, April marks the start of patio season. I immediately start envisioning happy hour and brunch with friends at one of the many restaurants that make [Kansas City the third best place for food snobs](#).

You better believe that I'll be one of many in line to enjoy lunch at the newly opened [Cleaver & Cork](#) in Power and Light or sipping a cold brew at the [Local Pig](#) in Westport - a personal favorite.

I'm also really excited to see what the KC Ballet's [BARRE](#) group will be bringing to the table. BARRE is a group for dance enthusiasts. Their aim is "to promote the artistry and athleticism of Kansas City Ballet to a diverse audience from the Greater Kansas City community."

I attended the inaugural BARRE event, which included a cocktail reception prior to KC Ballet's March 21st performance of Giselle and a behind-the-scenes tour and photo session with dancers from that evening's show. **Next on the docket is the ["Dances Daring" BARRE Open Rehearsal](#) beginning at 5p Friday, April 10.**

In between reveling in foodie heaven and checking out BARRE, you'll probably find me glued to a park bench people watching and flipping through [The Work by Wes Moore](#). Moore was recently interviewed on [The Daily Show with Jon Stewart](#). In this book, Moore shares his journey to a "life that matters" through personal anecdotes and encounters while a Rhodes Scholar, Wall Street banker, and completing active duty in Afghanistan following the terror attacks on September 11, 2001.

The book has been a great read so far and has reminded me why I fell in love with public service and the nonprofit arts sector. I want to help create a community where everyone has the opportunity to find fulfillment, inspiration, and joy through the arts.

*Photo by Tom Styrkowicz, [53Tom.com](http://53Tom.com).*

**ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council**

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