



Contact: Sara Vogt
Marketing and Communications Manager
816.509.7101 cell / 816.994.9220 office
Vogt@ArtsKC.org

For immediate release

\$500,000 ArtsKC Fund 2015 Campaign Goal Announced At ArtsKC Awards Luncheon *Campaign Chairman and ArtsKC Fund Advocate, Don Dagenais, launches annual fundraising initiative*

Kansas City Metro (January 30, 2015) — ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council announced today the annual kickoff of the ArtsKC Fund, Kansas City’s united arts fund, while honoring the eight individuals and businesses selected as 2015 ArtsKC Award recipients. In addition to launching this year’s campaign, ArtsKC Fund Chairman, Don Dagenais announced the \$500,000 fundraising goal.

The program included a speech by Dagenais, an attorney with Lathrop and Gage and ArtsKC Board Member, calling for a community commitment to the arts. “There are hundreds of companies and thousands of donors each year that invest in our diverse and growing arts community. It is with great pride that I announce our campaign goal of \$500,000 for the ArtsKC Fund 2015 campaign. This is a 20% increase, so we will need your help in getting there,” shared Dagenais.

Campaign fundraising totals already stand at \$100,000 at the time of the kick-off, due to leadership commitments by companies such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, Sprint, Black & Veatch, Kansas City Power and Light Company, Lathrop and Gage, McCown Gordon Construction, CommunityAmerica Credit Union, UMB Bank, and the Hunt Family Foundation. ArtsKC Fund campaign efforts will include the annual Workplace Giving initiative, #timetogive, a one-day online fundraiser, and the ArtsKC Fund Block Party, a first-time event to be held on May First Friday at ArtsKC’s home in the heart of the Crossroads Arts and Design District.

The ArtsKC Fund provides grants to artists, arts organizations, and arts programs throughout the five-county region. A donation to the ArtsKC Fund makes the arts more accessible, supports traditions of excellence as well as innovation and entrepreneurship in the arts, and ensures a vibrant and thriving arts community which increases tourism and attracts business, making the Kansas City region stronger. Over the past eight years, the ArtsKC Fund has provided 719 grants totaling \$3.1 million in funding. This year’s campaign will run from January 30th to June 15th. Donations can be made online at ArtsKC.org/CampaignSupport.

The 10th Annual ArtsKC Awards Luncheon and Campaign Kickoff was held at Starlight Theatre’s enclosed stage and featured performances by The StoneLion Puppet Theatre, Ensemble Ibérica, David Basse, and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and the work of featured visual artists, Mark Southerland and Linda Lighton.

Award Winners honored for their leadership in the arts in our civic and business sectors;

- Arts Advocate – Ed Peterson
- Corporate Leader in the Arts – Brad Nicholson
- Creative Industry – Dimensional Innovations
- Creative Workspace - HINT

- Impact Award – Mersoft
- Virtuoso Award – Mauricio Zuniga

Award Winners honored for their excellence in the ArtsKC Fund 2014 Campaign include;

- ArtsKC Fund Employee Commitment Award – Stinson Leonard Street
- ArtsKC Fund Corporate Leadership Award – Bank of America
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About the ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council:

The mission of ArtsKC is to unleash the power of the arts. Please visit our website ArtsKC.org for more information.

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