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ArtsKC Events

**ArtsKC First Fridays
Friday August 7, 6pm
to 9pm**

**ArtsKC Office
106 Southwest Blvd,
KCMO**

Join sponsor [EPR Properties](#) in the Heart of the Crossroads! Come in to see photographer Aaron Dougherty's show "Funnel Cake" on display through August 20th. View more of Aaron's work by visiting www.aarondougherty.com.

**ArtsKC 360° Lunch
Wednesday, August
12th or 26th**

**Noon to 1pm
ArtsKC Office
106 Southwest Blvd.,
KCMO**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Join us for a complimentary lunch and learn about ArtsKC's mission, work, and vision. Network with fellow arts enthusiasts, visit the Crossroads Arts District, and learn more about how you or your business can support the arts!

For more information, contact Heather Beffa at Beffa@ArtsKC.org or 816-221-1777.



This year the ArtsKC Fund celebrated at 43% increase! Your support helped us exceed our goal, raising more than half a million dollars to invest in the people, programs, and projects that make our creative community thrive. Thank you for your donations of time, treasure, and talent that made this phenomenal fundraising milestone possible!

Check out photos of the 2015 ArtsKC Fund Closing Celebration on our [Facebook page!](#)

Happening Now: EPR Properties Hosts Artists and Arts Organizations at First Friday for ArtsKC

First Fridays are a special time in the Crossroads Arts District. Art lovers from all walks of life, from every corner of the city, and from our surrounding region converge on the streets of the Crossroads neighborhood to celebrate Kansas City with a mix of food, fun, and, of course, art.



This Friday is no exception because host [EPR Properties](#), a real estate investment trust in Kansas City, is bringing you the musical stylings of the Diles Mavis Group, an interactive exhibit with Arts Asylum for Art in the Loop, and Now Showing artist Aaron Dougherty's exhibit "Funnel Cake."

Stop by the ArtsKC Office on Southwest Blvd between 6-9pm on Friday August 7th to hear the [Diles Mavis Group](#). The band skillfully mixes original songs with cover tunes for a high energy performance that pays homage to their blues and funk origins. While you're listening to the band, take a walk around the ArtsKC Gallery to view photographer [Aaron Dougherty's](#) exhibit "Funnel Cake" on display through August 20th. Before you leave, stop by [The Arts Asylum](#) table where you can paint your own tile to be displayed August 13th through Art in the Loop. To learn more about Arts Asylum and the Art in the Loop projects visit downtownkc.org/art-in-the-loop.

To learn how you can host a First Friday with ArtsKC visit ArtsKC.org/FirstFriday.

Q + A: Our Partner, Bank of Blue Valley

Bob Regnier, President, Chairman and CEO, founded the [Bank of Blue Valley](#) on the principles of building community, philanthropy, and relationships that allow entrepreneurs to thrive. Over 25 years later, the Bank of Blue Valley continues to lead by these principles, investing in local community organizations, non-profit causes, and, particularly important to us, the arts. The company was recognized just last week for their outstanding engagement in the annual ArtsKC Fund Workplace Giving Campaign, has made a leadership donation to the ArtsKC Fund since its inception in 2007, and has been integral in introducing ArtsKC's work to new partners.

Why does the Bank of Blue Valley support the arts in the KC region?

As a locally founded, locally owned, and locally responsible company, the Bank of Blue Valley is always interested in ways to make Kansas City a better place to live, work, and raise families. According to Bob Regnier, "I believe a healthy, vibrant arts environment is a critical element to achieve success and growth in the future. ArtsKC helps the Bank of Blue Valley contribute to expanding the arts landscape in our region."



Bank of Blue Valley employees have contributed more than \$100,000 to the ArtsKC Fund in their nine years of participation. In what other ways does the Bank of Blue Valley engage with and support the arts?

Each year, we try to make our employee giving campaign about more than just making a financial contribution. We encourage our team members to get involved in weekly raffles, painting parties, an annual Poker game, and to share their stories of individual artistic expression with each other. Daily we are spread between five branches, so any opportunity to get our employees together for fun, creative projects and support the greater KC community is considered a win-win!

ArtsKC Supported: Kansas City Artist Creates Love Letter to Family through *Forty Years Fallen*

It all began with a request from his mother. As natives of Vietnam, Vi Tran's family fled the tumultuous country in 1981 to escape the Communist regime. Ultimately the family settled in the meat packing town of Garden City, KS. "I knew that it was a potent story" said Vi who crafted the musical play *The Butcher's Son* one poem, song, and scene at a time. Vi's mother made this request when he was fifteen years old with the idea that the story would be a memoir in



book form. After putting a pin in her request for a few years, he realized that the best way to give a voice to his family's experience was to do it through performance. And when the show was co-

produced by the Westport Center for the Arts at Tran's performance venue, The Buffalo Room, Vi's mother was in attendance. Even though it was hard for her to watch some of the most traumatic moments of her life performed onstage, Vi noted "she was incredibly proud and touched."

After two successful productions in Kansas City, *The Butcher's Son* was ready to take the next step.

With help from an ArtsKC Inspiration Grant, Vi Tran's story of sacrifice and family will tour the meat packing towns in southwest Kansas that helped shape his family's story. Touring this show presented new challenges for the production when considering how to make their show high caliber without breaking the bank. The ArtsKC grant was able to provide Vi the resources to purchase a projector that will serve as a set as well as additional ambience for the show. He will also be able to rent lavalier mics because they are not readily available at all performances spaces. Finally this grant will help provide an honorarium for artists and archivists who will create lobby displays in remembrance of the fall of Saigon. The performance and exhibit will tour together as "The Forty Years Fallen Project." "I feel very, very privileged" said Tran about the opportunity to tell this story. "This story is about the bond we have as families; these themes are universal."

To learn how you can support artists like Vi and other arts organizations, visit ArtsKC.org.



Staff Picks: Erinn Faulconer, Programs Manager

As a Lawrence, Kansas native I cannot help but give props to the town that nurtured my artistic side growing up. With that, I recommend to you Final Fridays in Lawrence. Similar to First Fridays in KC, Final Fridays began in Lawrence August of 2010 through the cooperation of the [Lawrence Arts Center](#), Downtown Lawrence Inc., The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission and a wealth of artists, galleries, art collectives and local businesses that saw the benefits of a free arts festival in the community. As the name suggests, [Final Fridays](#) is the last Friday of every month (all year long!) from 5 until 9pm. Their next event is August 28th.

Another great way to get a dose of arts and culture on a Friday evening is to head to Kansas City's Historic Westside. From the beautiful variety of homes to the eclectic mix of local restaurants and shops, it is absolutely an area worth exploring! I suggest beginning the evening at [The Westside Storey](#). The Westside Storey is a locally owned premier urban design, gift, and antique store which currently hosts over 20 local Kansas City companies and artists including a dear friend of mine, [Joshua Dubois](#). After that, make dinner plans for [Novel KC](#). I finally had the chance to check this restaurant out a few weeks ago and I'm so glad that I did. Truly, the food is spectacular (I recommend the Duroc Porkchop & Cauliflower) and the ambience is perfect. If the

weather is nice, request a patio table. After dinner you can head a few blocks east to the Crossroads Arts District for a night cap and some authentic KC Jazz at [The Green Lady Lounge](#). From Lawrence to KC and all across the region, take time on a Friday to enjoy that arts and culture in your corner of the world.

ArtsKC.org

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