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Join ArtsKC For First Friday

ArtsKC First Fridays
July 3, 6pm to 9pm
ArtsKC Office
106 Southwest Blvd, KCMO

ArtsKC is pleased to welcome local photographer and [Now Showing](#) participant Aaron Dougherty as our featured gallery exhibit. Aaron's show "Funnel Cake" will be on display June 26th - August 20th including the July 3rd and August 7th First Fridays.

Aaron Dougherty is a photographer and architect who graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor's of Architecture and Bachelor's of Environmental Design. He studied sculpture at the Kansas City Art Institute and earned his certification in secondary education from Avila College. His works have been published in *El Croquis*, *Architect*, *Architectural Record*, *Architecture - Boston* and *Photo Review*. He has been exhibited at multiple venues in and around Kansas City including Now Showing companies Burns & McDonnell and Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

To learn more about Aaron and his work visit: www.aarondougherty.com

KC is a Living, Breathing Place

A guest [blog](#) post by artist JT Daniels

Recently, ArtsKC and [LiveKC](#), allowed me to share my gift of creativity with over 45 individuals. After opening up a bit and telling everyone about my background as an artist, what sort of influences have helped to cultivate my current artistic voice and what I'm currently doing to positively affect the city around me, we began to mingle and get started on the project. Initially, the group was split in twain, where one half would begin to work on a large 8ft x 8ft collaborative mural and the remaining individuals would work on a separate activity before switching projects.

I had a blast giving a brief explanation of what abstract art is and how, during the spray painting and stencil project, that everyone would initially be using the same stencils and colors, but ultimately would be leaving with individually created masterpieces of their own design. A few members of the group that morning had previously attended painting classes or B.Y.O.B art parties, where they notoriously drink and mingle as everyone paints the same image step by step. While this is something that's become a growing trend, I prefer teaching people the basics and then stepping aside as they begin experimenting with the new materials.

Removing the pre set "paint-by-numbers" mentality created a really rich, artistic, experimental environment. Everyone, after viewing my quick tutorial on how to use a spray can and how to create various designs using the same stencils, seemed to dive right into working. The whole purpose of the stencil/spray paint project was for them to be given the materials and to be shown ways in which they could be used, but to leave it to the individual to decide what would be used when, where, why and how during the project.

The mural itself was laid on the floor, allowing for the other group of people to crowd together and lay down as they worked with paint markers, brushes and tried interpreting my drawing. The initial design was applied in pencil and then printed copies of the concept were passed out for people to get a feel of what to put where. After everyone began to work, the design I created began to change as everyone added in their personal touches or stylistic changes bit by bit. Faces were added here. Star bursts there. Word bubbles, tattoos, eye patches, glowing letters, cross hatch marks and red x's turned up all over the work, changing it from something I created into something that was truly fashioned by a large art collective.

The KC design was created to reflect both the ArtsKC & LIVEKC logos, while also drawing attention to "Arts Unleashed", which aligns itself perfectly with the idea that our city is actually made up of all the visible and invisible characters in our city. KC is a living, breathing place...which is why KC is completely comprised of characters, faces, words, quotes, ideas and landmarks.





Letter from the CEO: Free in KC

Now that summer is here, you are probably looking for something fun to do with the kids or visiting relatives and friends that won't stretch your budget too far. I've always been amazed at the free art museums we have in Kansas City like the [Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art](#), the [Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art](#), and the [Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art](#). The art collections of these organizations are world class and there is nothing like the cool of an art museum when you need a break from the summer heat.

You might be surprised to learn that from June through August there are only 15 days in our metropolitan region where we don't have some kind of festival going on. There are so many choices that you are sure to find something family friendly to enjoy. In Merriam there are free Friday night concerts through mid-August at 6:30 pm in the Merriam Marketplace. If you have an interest in the culinary arts, check out [Chipotle's Cultivate Kansas City](#), July 18 from 11 am to 7 pm. This free festival at the Penn Valley Park celebrates chefs, local food artisans, and a number of local musicians.

If you want to get a bit out of town, there is the [Amelia Earhart Festival](#) July 15 – 18 in Atchison, Kansas complete with an outdoor concert and an aerobatic performance along the riverfront. To learn more about family friendly free events in our region go to [www.kcparent.com](#) and click on the "Going Places" tab.

Follow Harlan on [Twitter](#).

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

Happening Now: ArtsKC Features New Awards - Nominate Now

The ArtsKC Awards were created in 2004 to recognize outstanding business, individuals, and organizations in the region. Over the years, the awards given have evolved and this year is no exception. With a focus on our core priorities to support the arts, promote the arts and advocate for the arts, we have refined the award categories to mirror our vision and reinforce our work with the One ArtsKC Regional Cultural Plan. The 2016 awards will feature six categories and opportunities for recognition:

- [Virtuoso Award](#) - Recognizes an exceptional individual for their volunteerism in the arts.
- [Advocate Award](#) - Recognizes an elected or public official in the metropolitan area for their outstanding advocacy for the arts.
- [Education Award](#) - Recognizes a school or district that utilizes the arts as a tool for educational excellence in a K-12 setting.
- [Innovator Award](#) - Recognizes an arts organization that creates innovative partnerships.
- [Creative Impact Award](#) - Recognizes a business that fosters an environment of creativity and provides leadership in the arts.
- [ArtsKC Fund Excellence](#) - Recognizes a company that demonstrates distinction in promoting access, community, and excellence by raising funds and awareness for the ArtsKC Fund campaign.



NOMINATE AN AWARD WINNER

We need your help! If you know an individual, business or organization deserving of one of these awards, please nominate them at ArtsKC.org/ArtsKCAwards. Nominations are due August 7th.

The ArtsKC Awards Luncheon committee will review all applications based on criteria given on the website and completion of application materials. Three finalists will be chosen in each category and will be reviewed and approved by the ArtsKC Board of Directors. Finalists will receive recognition in ArtsKC promotional materials along with two tickets to the awards luncheon. One winner in each category will be announced at the ArtsKC Awards Luncheon on February 25th, 2016 at our new location at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom..

For more information on the ArtsKC Awards or to sponsor this event, please contact Andrea Robinson at Robinson@artskc.org and *unleash the power of the arts*.

2015 ArtsKC Award Winner Mauricio Zuniga with Niki Lee Donawa and Merrily Jackson, photo by Kyle Rivas.

ArtsKC Supported: Choreographer Shares Stories of Parkinsons Disease

In *A Tulip Unfolding: Life Story Dance Project*, choreographer Suzanne Ryanstrati tells the stories of five people living with Parkinsons Disease (a degenerative disease affecting nerves in the brain). Along with a company of dancers performing to interviews and an original music composition by John Currey, Suzanne doesn't tell the story of a disease. She tells the stories of those who live in spite of it. She focuses on their work, family, interests, and everything in between to capture life through their eyes. Through this creative process, Suzanne hopes to connect the greater community to those living with this disease and "increase the understanding of Parkinsons on a personal and artistic level."

With the help of an ArtsKC Inspiration Grant, this project will be filmed and made into a documentary. One of the goals of *A Tulip Unfolding* is to preserve the stories of the people interviewed and share them with a greater audience, allowing them to live on long after their bodies have gone. Suzanne also hopes to connect these local experiences to a global disease that is often not understood, increasing the sense of community and shared struggles. When asked why she applied for an ArtsKC Grant, Suzanne said "For me, this is a reinforcement of the community connecting through the arts with a humanitarian focus."

Performances of *A Tulip Unfolding* will be July 22nd and 23rd at the Frost Studio in the Bolender Center 500 W Pershing KCMO.





Staff Picks: Paul Tyler, Grants Director

July is one of my favorite months in the KC arts scene, because that means the return of the annual [Kansas City Fringe Festival](#)! I helped encourage Festival Director Cheryl Kimmi to launch the Fringe back in 2005, and over the past 10 years the results have been astounding and impressive. I can honestly say that some of my very favorite arts experiences in KC have been with the Fringe.

This year's Fringe experience runs 10 days, from July 16 – 26 at 20 different venues, and is bursting with original, sassy, bold and sometimes bizarre work. Featuring everything from the risky to the risqué, I love the sense of adventure I get from going to a Fringe event. The Fringe Festival includes theater, music, dance, spoken word, film, comedy, and burlesque, so if you can't find something that appeals to you, you haven't looked hard enough. If you want something safe and predictable, head to the nearest multiplex...but if you want the unexpected and unpredictable...there are 117 different ways to Fringe this summer!

My last recommendation for the month ahead is another festival, the [Kansas City Dance Festival](#) on July 24 and 25 at the Folly Theater downtown. This is the third year for this highly praised offering, which includes a remarkable mix of works ranging from classic Balanchine ballet to cutting-edge contemporary dance. Professional dancers from Kansas City and all over the world will be working together to bring you this rare summer treat that's a true delight for area dance lovers.

ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council
[ArtsKC.org](#)
106 Southwest Blvd., KCMO 64108
TheArtsCouncil@ArtsKC.org | 816.221.1777

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