



## ArtsKC Events

**ArtsKC First Fridays**  
**Friday June 5, 6pm to 9pm**  
**ArtsKC Office**  
**106 Southwest Blvd, KCMO**  
Join sponsor [Art of the Car Concours](#) in the Heart of the Crossroads! Get a sneak peek of the cars on display at this year's *Art of the Car Concours* as well as the debut of the City of Kansas City, Missouri's "Art of Data" exhibition.

**City Council Candidate Forum**  
**Thursday, June 18, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**ArtsKC Office**  
**106 Southwest Blvd., KCMO**

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**  
Join us as we embrace a public/private partnership for the arts by providing you an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and listen to our City Council candidates platforms.

**Commoners & Kings: ArtsKC Encounter**  
**Thursday, June 25, 5:00-10:00pm**

**[Get Your Tickets HERE.](#)**  
If you qualify for free tickets, email [Zacharias@ArtsKC.org](mailto:Zacharias@ArtsKC.org) to redeem your benefits! The first ArtsKC Encounter, presented by CommunityAmerica Credit Union, is fast approaching! We've forged alliances with **The**

## Leading the Way for OneArtsKC

A guest [blog](#) post by  
**Steering Committee Chair**  
**Allan Gray**



One cool fall morning over coffee, Harlan Brownlee and I were discussing the future of the arts in Kansas City when he cautiously asked, "Would you be willing to chair the Regional Cultural Plan initiative and make it a reality?"

There was a certain bit of irony in the request, given my long-time and enthusiastic interest in cultural planning and having championed the idea for years. Over a decade ago, I'd shared coffee with Robert Bush, CEO for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Arts & Science Council, where I was first introduced to the concept of cultural planning.

Robert shared how cities around the world were awakening to the idea of integrating arts and culture into the infrastructure of communities in the same ways they plan for economic development, education, urban development, roads, highways, sidewalks, and storm water. Communities were acknowledging and supporting the reality that the arts are as essential to a community as other services and bring a city to life!

My years of working in community development, the arts, and now as an elected official told me that this was the way of the future. Finally, here was a proven concept of how to **ensure that arts and culture were always embedded into the planning process...and budgets...of developing communities.**

And so it was, that following this enlightening conversation and seeing the results of cultural planning in his city; public art, thriving arts programs, construction of major arts and cultural institutions, and committed support from business, civic, and elected leadership. I began to drink the Kool-Aid and see, along with a rising wave of others, the wisdom and practicality of

**Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and Heart of America Shakespeare Festival** to bring you an uncommonly good evening. Cost is \$40 for Non-Members, \$20 for ArtsKC Encounter Members.

cultural planning.

[Read Allan's entire post now.](#)



## **Letter from the CEO: The Instagram #artisttakeover**

At ArtsKC, I have the opportunity to meet and work with artists in our community every single day. It's one of the greatest privileges of this job – hearing their stories, learning their creative process, and working with them to imagine a greater future for our region. It is their constant innovation that keeps me on my toes. Before I began my work in arts administration, I spent over twenty years as a professional dancer, and I can tell you, being a working artist is hard work. But what always amazed me was how different my life was than the perception. When you imagine a day in the life of a working artist, what do you see?

In reality, these are some of the hardest working people I know – but not everyone has the chance to know our local artists the same way we arts professionals like myself do – and that is the impetus behind the Instagram #artisttakeover. Last year, we started asking ourselves, how can we show KC's arts supporters the daily lives of the artists they are investing in? The answer, let them tell their story. By handing over our Instagram megaphone to new artists every week, the #artisttakeover has allowed our #artskcsupported artists to show you how they live. They share photos of their lives in the studio, their families, their struggles, and their moments to shine. I had the opportunity to watch Enrique Chi on tour, the development of a new dance piece by Jane Gotch, and postings of new jewelry art by Cheryl Eve Acosta.

If you don't already, I encourage you to follow [@ArtsKC on Instagram!](#) We'll be continuing the #artisttakeover throughout the year with an exciting line-up of #artskcsupported artists to come.

**Follow Harlan on [Twitter](#).**

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

## **Happening Now: Celebrate the *Art of the Car***

Now in its ninth year, the *Art of the Car Concours* is not your traditional car show. There are no formal judges and no classes of vehicles. Why, you ask? They do it to enhance the sense of community and eliminate competition. Of course prizes are given by sponsors and the public with trophies designed largely by Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) students, faculty, and alumni.

As the name suggests, this event is about the art and craftsmanship of making cars. Ranging from vintage to special interest, and pedal cars to motorcycles, **these automobiles are invited to the grounds of KCAI on June 28th to exhibit** with enthusiasts from roughly 15 states and 79 cities.

From the beginning, founder Marshall Miller wanted this event to be different than other concours events. He wanted to keep it simple, eclectic, and low cost. He also wanted it to benefit the community. That is why the sole beneficiary of this non-profit organization is the KCAI Scholarship Fund. The *Art of the Car Concours* is dedicated to helping students complete their professional education and becoming working artists in the community.

**This year you can catch a sneak peek of their main event at ArtsKC on First Friday.** Happening in the heart of the Crossroads, *Art of the Car Concours* is sponsoring tonight's First Friday at ArtsKC. Join them from 5-9pm to preview some of the cars on display at this year's concours and witness the unveiling of the City of Kansas City, Missouri's "Art of Data" exhibition, details below.

Stop by to learn how you can take part in one of Kansas City's great cultural treasures! Learn more about [Art of the Car Concours](#).



## **Q + A: Our Partner, Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation**

### **Tell us more about the foundation.**

The Foundation was created in 2004 by Estelle S. Ellis, and the decision was made to name it for her and her deceased husband, Robert A. Long Ellis. The Foundation is a Missouri corporation, and makes grants to area 501(c)(3) organizations. Estelle was particularly interested in arts organizations, and during her life had supported numerous arts organizations, particularly the Ballet.

Estelle Ellis is now deceased, and the Foundation is controlled by a Board of Directors. While the Board is not limited to the types of charitable organizations that the Foundation supports, it has primarily supported arts organizations.

### **Why did the foundation choose to support ArtsKC?**

We felt supporting ArtsKC would be good for the Greater Kansas City arts community. We felt the internship program would be a good way to expose college students to the arts community and



professionals, so we were pleased to help support with honorariums and the computers needed.

### **What has been the foundation's impact on KC?**

Since the Foundation was created and funded, it has made grants totaling approximately \$2,400,000 to 25 different organizations. The largest grants over the period have been to the Kansas City Ballet, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Spencer Museum of Art and the National World War I Museum.

*Above at right: ArtsKC Interns enjoying a lunchtime field trip.*



### **ArtsKC Fund within \$10,000 of Half-Million Dollar Goal!**

The annual fundraising campaign for the [ArtsKC Fund](#) has reached a milestone **\$491,000!** This is **just \$9,000 short of our overall goal of \$500,000** to invest in the exceptional artists, arts organizations, and arts programs that make our community vibrant.

100% of the funds raised through this annual campaign will be re-invested in the people, programs and projects that make the arts more accessible, sustain a vibrant and thriving arts community, and support traditions of excellence as well as innovation and entrepreneurship in the arts.

We are thrilled to be so close to achieving this goal for the arts community, and invite you to join us in supporting the 2015 ArtsKC Fund Campaign. **Please consider making a contribution to help us close this gap before June 30.**



Your investment today will make all the difference to the artists, organizations, and programs that call KC 'home.' You can make your pledge of support or direct donation online at [artskc.org/campaignsupport](http://artskc.org/campaignsupport).



**Staff Picks: Sara Vogt, Marketing + Communications Manager**

Kansas City never seems to surprise me with the innovative and exciting new adventures it has to offer. This month I wanted to pick two events that are both crazy good fun, but also are an investment in your local arts community.

On Saturday, join [BREAD! KC](#) before the team goes on an indefinite hiatus. *"BREAD! KC started its efforts with borrowed stockpots and high hopes to be a funding source for radical, new, and intriguing art projects. Never did they imagine a day that we would have generated over \$25,000 in micro-grants and selling out 100 + dinner events."* Join your fellow art supporters for their final BREAD! KC event on June 6th at 3 PM at the Drugstore in Midtown KC.

Mark your calendars for my second pick for this month – the [West 18th Street Fashion Show](#)! Featuring 28 garment and accessory designers, this one of kind Kansas City event highlights some of our less traditional fine artists – the artists who make art you can wear! Spectator tickets are still available but you do not need a ticket to attend!

**ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council**

[ArtsKC.org](http://ArtsKC.org)

106 Southwest Blvd., KCMO 64108

[TheArtsCouncil@ArtsKC.org](mailto:TheArtsCouncil@ArtsKC.org) | 816.221.1777