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ArtsKC Events

#timetogive

ArtsKC's Digital Day of Giving

Friday May 1st, 6am to 9pm

Help us raise \$30K in One Day! #timetogive, our digital day of giving is taking place today! [Make your gift](#) to support the artists, arts organizations, and arts programs that make this city great.

ArtsKC First Fridays

Friday May 1st, 6pm to 9pm

ArtsKC Office

Join sponsor [DEMDACO](#) in the Crossroads! The night will feature performances by [The Sexy Accident](#) and artwork by Christopher Hartmann.

ArtsKC Block Party

Presented by Spencer Fane
May 1, First Friday, 6pm to 9pm

Southwest Blvd and Baltimore Ave.

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 a 50/50 raffle, food, drinks, and a tunes by DJ Cache 22.

ArtsKC Aperitif: Discover Saturday May 2, 5pm to

I Love This City A guest [blog post](#) by Mayor Sly James

Last fall I wrote [An Open Letter to America](#) addressing the many assets Kansas City has to offer. It came on the heels of our Kansas City Royals Playoff run, but it wasn't about baseball. Instead, the letter was intended to draw attention to our elevated profile across the U.S. and to highlight all the ways in which Kansas City is winning.



The Kansas City Arts Community is a large part of our rising profile - and rightfully so. Our Arts are incredibly vibrant and we are being recognized as a leader in many disciplines including fashion, theater, jazz, song and dance - just to name a few! In fact, we are one of only a handful of cities across the country that have all four of the major arts - opera, repertory theater, symphony & ballet. **As we continue to build our reputation as a world-class city, the Arts are truly making us shine.**

This Friday our regional arts council, [ArtsKC](#), will launch their annual digital giving campaign - #timetogive. This important campaign is essential to the vibrancy and vitality of Kansas City's world-renowned arts scene. By contributing to the ArtsKC Fund, you are funding grants to artists, arts organizations, and arts programs from all over the region.

Accessibility to the arts should be open to everyone and ArtsKC does that by funding grants that support transportation and education programming in diverse and underserved communities, and by working with organizations to provide free events throughout our five-county region.

I love this City and I find more reasons to appreciate & celebrate

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.

it every day. As we continue to see our name landing on Top 10 lists, our Arts will continue to propel us straight to the top. I hope you'll consider making a contribution - consider it a significant investment in your City.

Please Donate Now.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sly James, Kansas City, Missouri



Letter from the CEO: #timetogive

Three years ago, ArtsKC began the #timetogive initiative to help raise awareness for Kansas City's ArtsKC Fund Campaign and engage more people to donate to our local arts scene. ArtsKC provides grants to artists, arts organizations, and arts programs throughout the five counties. I ask you all to consider making your gift to #timetogive today. **Your contribution will provide homeless children arts experiences, startup resources for an artist's new project, and give operations support to our world class arts organizations.** The diversity of culture and creativity benefiting from your donation is vast.

We all win when the arts in our community are thriving. They drive the economy, attract and retain talent, and make our city a place we can be proud of. Have you seen the **national attention** KC and the arts are getting these days? **Our thriving arts and creative sector makes me proud to call myself a Kansas Citian!**

But this arts sector needs our continued support. **When you support the ArtsKC Fund, you are helping to ensure that the momentum Kansas City is experiencing at this special time can continue for generations.** No matter the size of your gift, you are joining forces with your neighbors and friends in saying, "I believe in the arts in KC and I know we are all benefiting from a thriving and vibrant arts scene in the KC region."

Follow Harlan on [Twitter](#).

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

Happening Now: Kansas City couples team up to inspire a new generation of art lovers

John DePrisco met Jessica James while interning at a photography studio in Kansas. The studio was hired for a photo shoot with Applebee's where Jessica is an executive chef. **An instant friendship was made and the two stayed in touch over the course of their careers.** When Jessica and her husband Malik got

engaged, it was a no-brainer to ask John to photograph their wedding. Not only did they know and respect his work, they knew him. **A few years have passed, John and his wife Cate have grown their photography business, Jessica and Malik have grown their family and their careers, but their friendships have stayed constant.** So when the James' asked the DePrisco's to host an Aperitif party in support of the arts, it was another no-brainer. **The two couples share a love for the arts and for Kansas City and want to inspire other young professionals to get involved.**



When asked what excites them most about hosting this party, **the overwhelming response was the opportunity to support local businesses and celebrate the culture of Mexico in their River Market studio.** With Cinco de Mayo fresh in everyone's minds, the party will feature the Mexican-inspired painter Marina along with culinary artists [Port Fonda](#) and [Quay Coffee](#). Because John and Cate are professional photographers, they're excited to share their diverse collection of work as well. This includes photography from locations all over Europe and the United States as well as John's toy camera work. (He'll have his Holga camera and the diverse, unique photographs it can create.) **And if that's not enough, guests can hop into [The Photo Bus](#), a vintage VW van transformed by the DePrisco's into a photo booth for a fresh take on selfies, or play a game of life-sized Connect 4!** Add to that a performance by the [Diles Mavis Group](#) and there is something for everyone at the final Aperitif party of 2015.

To purchase tickets for Aperitif, visit artskc.org/aperitif. **Use coupon code ARTSKC50 for 50% discount!**

Thanks to all of our sponsors: [The Sly James Law Firm](#), [Ernst & Young](#), [Stepp & Rothwell](#), [Missouri Bank](#), [DEMDACO](#), [Clear10 Vodka](#), and [Ink Magazine](#).

Photo by Tom Styrkiewicz, 53Tom.com

Q + A: Our Partner, [KCP&L](#)

KCP&L has been a long-time supporter of ArtsKC. Their dedicated employees contribute to the [ArtsKC Fund](#), they are a frequent guest at our [ArtsKC Awards Luncheon](#), and this past year sponsored our first-ever [ArtsKC Live!](#), a celebration of the arts in Kansas City's Power and Light District (event pictured at right). Hear why they engage so deeply with our arts community in the Q+A below.



Why does KCP&L support the arts in the KC region?

The arts are a catalyst that engages employees, strengthens our communities and drives economic engines both locally and regionally.

What other ways does KCP&L engage with and support the arts?

As a local company headquartered in Kansas City, we believe a healthy company is dependent on a healthy community. That's why we're proud to support ArtsKC. It's an organization closely aligned with our founding values.



ArtsKC Supported: Photographer participates in Santa Fe Review with the help of Inspiration Grant

Networking is key; any artist will tell you that it is a great way to advance a career. Through a grant from ArtsKC, photographer [Adam J. Long](#) had the opportunity to do just that at [Review Santa Fe](#). Considered one of the premier juried portfolio review events, Review Santa Fe allowed Adam to meet with industry professionals to show and discuss his work. His primary purpose was to exhibit and promote his project "Kenwood Avenue." The collection of work had been gaining momentum with awards such as "Best in Show" at the Colorado Photographic Arts Center and Santa Fe was a great opportunity to shop around the collection.



While at the review, Long was able to have his work critiqued by several artists, curators, and gallery owners with international experience. Beyond that, he was able to meet and learn from other photographers worldwide at exhibitions throughout the event. He even had a reunion of sorts with fellow MFA students from The University of Hartford. As fate would have it, this cohort of photographers was selected by [Fraction Magazine](#), an online publication, for a feature in their August 2014 issue. When the editor realized that they shared the same alma mater, the feature led to a story within a story leading to greater exposure for the artists.

When asked what an ArtsKC grant meant to him, Adam noted that he has received two Inspiration grants in the five times he has applied and gained as much knowledge from times he didn't win as the times he did. The feedback he received about proposals that weren't funded helped him to improve future proposals submitted in addition to learning about other grant opportunities that were available to him. Through the application process, Long was able to network with new

organizations, creating lasting relationships with them as an artist and a person.

To learn how you can support grants like this, visit the [ArtsKC website](#).

A Shared Gift: A Give Art Story

Even as a small child, I was a creator and loved giving handmade presents. Our family breakfast table was frequently turned into my art studio as I fervently worked in the weeks leading up to any appropriate occasion. I was eager to share the gift of creativity, and when the time came for the recipient to open their present, I could barely contain myself. It took all of my self control not to rip off their wrapping paper for them.



#GIVEART

Now decades later, I have the privilege of making artwork that is often given as gifts, and though I am fortunate to be part of many happy occasions I don't often get to witness the unwrapping of the presents anymore. However, after viewing my artwork at the Plaza Art Fair, Therese decided to give her husband one of my photographs for their first wedding anniversary, but she was having trouble choosing which one. So she and I planned a surprise for her unwitting husband. I hung her top three choices on my gallery wall, chilled some champagne, and rallied the self control I had mastered as a child. The next weekend, Therese casually mentioned to her husband that she needed to make a brief stop on the way to their anniversary dinner. After Tim got over the bewilderment of arriving in my [art studio](#) rather than the French restaurant, the happy couple was able to select their new artwork together. In celebration, we three shared a toast, and I found my smile was as wide as Christmas morning. I am so honored that I was able to be an integral part of such a milestone in their lives, and we will always remember Tim and Therese's first anniversary.

Story by Christ Dahlquist, Kansas City Artist 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 or tweet at us using #giveart!



**Staff Picks: Andrea Robinson,
Development Director**

The Art of Parenting

As a parent, you rarely get an award, a pat on the back, or even the reassurance that you're doing a good job. **Let's be honest, as parents we all give our kids some good reasons to think we're nuts, or to seek therapy as adults.** Like the time late in my third trimester of pregnancy with offspring #3 that I threatened to take the dog back to the shelter if no one would take her for a walk. I went so far as to put the dog in the car with

her food, bowls, dog bed, toys and leash. Yes, that was a somewhat insane parenting moment. (But then again, no one complains about taking the dog for a walk now, do they?)

I think that our true rewards as parents come when we find that we've given our kids the tools to be independent, solve problems creatively, take initiative and adapt to changes and challenges. So this summer, I'm scheduling some time away from their normal school activities and sports where they can try their hand at new things, take some risks, and help plan some fun on their own.

First, we're doing a one week summer art camp at [Red Star Studios](#) where they will become forensic scientists at a clay studio. **Then I'm asking each kiddo to plan a "staycation field trip" for a day.** So far, offspring #1 wants to go to the [Nelson](#) and eat a fancy lunch. My kind of girl! She also wants to learn new genres in dance AND she wants to take a drama camp and choreography course. There is no "break" in summer break for us. Here are just a few of the summer arts-inspired camps around town: [Kansas City Clay Guild](#), [Kansas City Young Audiences](#), [KC Ballet](#), [Lyric Opera](#), [Coterie Theatre](#), [Heart of America Shakespeare Festival](#), and so many more.

As much as we think we'd like to do everything for our kids, like have each child in sports, music, theater, clubs, maintain positive friendships, eat healthy meals, get good grades, spend time with family, WALK THE DOG!, and get enough sleep, we can't do it all. I've accepted that I'm not a unicorn. I'm a mom who paints, gardens and dances (with my husband, the best 2-step partner in the world). **When we give our kids a creative foundation in their childhood, they are resourceful, resilient and independent.**

For example, my birthday is coming up and my kids immediately knew exactly what to do:

Offspring #1 is drawing something large to hang in my office because I've been asked to keep an entire wall open.

Offspring #2 is sculpting something made with Lincoln Logs, Model Magic, and green army guys.
Offspring #3 can't hold her head up yet.

They make me art. That's my parenting medal of honor.

ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council

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