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## ArtsKC Events

**ArtsKC First Fridays**  
**Friday September 4, 6pm to 9pm**

### ArtsKC Office

Join sponsor [BMO Harris Bank](#) to see featured artist [Rachelle Gardner-Roe](#) & her exhibit "Threads to Webs" & hear [Carswell & Hope](#) perform in our gallery space.

**Arts Night at the K**  
**Saturday September 5,**  
**4:30pm to 10pm**  
**Kauffman Stadium**

Join us at the Outfield Experience as the the Royals host booths from area arts & lifestyle organizations. [Victor & Penny](#) will perform & [KC Chalk and Walk Festival](#) will create a Royals-inspired mural! \$5 of every ticket purchased at [royals.com/arts](#) goes directly to the ArtsKC Fund.

**Cirque Under the Stars**  
**ArtsKC Encounter**  
**Thursday September 10,**  
**6pm to 10pm**  
**Starlight Theatre**

Presented by [CommunityAmerica Credit Union](#), we've partnered with [Starlight Theatre](#) & [Center Stage](#) to bring you a daring evening of circus acts & urban dance. Guests will enjoy a guided backstage tour, dinner at the Applause Club, & tickets

## Art & Baseball - A Winning Combination: A Guest Blog from Toby Cook, VP of Community Affairs & Publicity for the KC Royals



There's an art to winning, and I think it has everything to do with the hard work that goes into honing a craft well before you even sniff success. We at the Royals are proud to wear fancy rings that declare us defending American League Champions. And we'd like nothing better than to replace those with rings that read, "World Champions." But it was a long road to get back here. Like an artist taking the road from start to finish.

I'm particularly fond of the performing arts. So much of what happens at Kauffman Stadium to me feels like a performance.

Long about mid-afternoon, The K starts to take the shape of a symphony hall or theatre on show night. The players rehearse (stretching and batting practice), the grounds and stadium crew spiffy and the ushers take their place in sections and parking lots waiting for the audience to arrive. Then, curtain time (Play Ball!). Friends, we couldn't be happier to unite our two passions - baseball and the Kansas City arts community - for one special night.

This Saturday, when the Royals host the Chicago White Sox at Kauffman Stadium, we're teaming up with ArtsKC on a first-of-its-kind promotion at The K, celebrating the local arts. Before first pitch, fans can survey interactive booths from area arts and lifestyle organizations in our Outfield Experience. Together with live performances and art-making experiences, the pre-game fun will culminate in a performance of the National Anthem by the Youth Symphony of Kansas City.

to *Cirque Eloize* iD.

**ArtsKC 360° Lunch**  
**Thursday September 17,**  
**12pm to 1pm**  
**ArtsKC Office**  
**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**

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

For more information, contact Heather Beffa at [Beffa@ArtsKC.org](mailto:Beffa@ArtsKC.org) or 816-221-1777.

More importantly, a portion of every ticket that was purchased at [www.royals.com/arts](http://www.royals.com/arts) will go directly to the ArtsKC Fund to support artists, arts organizations and arts programs throughout the Kansas City region. Sounds like a great performance all around. We should all get rings.

## Letter from the CEO: Leveraging the Arts to Transform



Over the summer, Kansas City garnered two amazing top ten rankings. Travel and Leisure Magazine rated us the [#4 Most Cultured City](#) and The Huffington Post rated us the [#10 City for Creatives](#). And just outside the top ten ranking, Travel and Leisure rated us the [#12th Best City for Music](#). Our richly deserved reputation as a metropolitan area that values, supports and loves the arts is spreading!

However, as reported in The Huffington Post in August, the Kansas City Mo/Ks metropolitan area is the [9th most segregated community](#) in the United States.

Artists of all types (painter, choreographer, dramatist, sculptor etc.) have played a unique role in witnessing the impacts of injustice and societal inequities. But the arts can do more than witness, arts can help us transform. The arts have a unique ability to create conversations, explore shared experiences, and inspire us to reach beyond our own personal borders. Faced with so many divisions in our society, arts can be an important catalyst for community and personal change. It will take intentionality to achieve this change. It won't happen organically or by accident. We must, as individuals and as organizations, create conversations with others we don't usually talk with, explore shared experiences with those we don't know, unlock our own creativity by working (and playing) with those who do not look or think like us.

Fall is a great time for arts adventures---there is so much going on! Here are a few suggestions that you might consider as you look for new experiences that reach beyond your "normal" routine.

[Crossroads Music Fest](#) - September 12 (Between 17th-19th Street and Grand-Oak Street in KCMO)

[Fiesta Hispana](#) - September 11-13 (Barney Allis Plaza)

[Ailey II](#) - October 8-10 (Folly Theater)

[18th and Vine Jazz and Blues Festival](#) - October 10th (American Jazz Museum)  
[Urban Bush Women](#) - November 7th (Yardley Hall)  
Any of the upcoming performances with [Ensemble Ibérica](#)

## Q + A: Our Partner, American Century Investments

Since 1958 [American Century Investments](#) has focused on delivering superior investment performance and building long-term relationships with their clients. As a result, this organization has committed itself to investing in and helping build a strong Kansas City community. With headquarters in KC, American Century Investments is invested in making this community a world class destination. ArtsKC talked with Kristin Raven, Manager of Community Investments at American Century, about their investment to the arts in Kansas City.



### Why does American Century Investments support the arts in KC?

As a company based in Kansas City, we realize that the arts contribute to a thriving economy in addition to making our region a great place to live and work. Through our support of ArtsKC's Now Showing program we are able to liven up our workspace with professional artwork from local artists. This has been a great way for us to support artists and introduce our employees to new work. Kristin noted personally " I support ArtsKC because we need to continue to keep arts in front of all people in KC as well as begin to educate our children about the the importance of creativity in all aspects of their lives from a young age. It needs to be a regular and expected part of their personal and professional experience. "



### In what other ways does the American Century Investments support the arts?

Through the ACI Foundation, we were also proud to support ArtsKC's move to their new home in the Crossroads Arts District. American Century supports endeavors like this because we believe it makes Kansas City a more diverse and culturally rich community.

*Pictured Above: Now Showing artist Jeff Lyons' work is currently on display at American Century Investments.*

## ArtsKC Supported: Local Artist Gains Exposure & Fellowship through Artist Residency

Each year 30 artists from around the world travel to upstate New York for the Art Omi Artist Residency. Kansas City resident Cory Imig was among the privileged few selected for this year's event (and one of only four US residents). The residency is constructed to focus on three segments. First, Cory worked with master printers to create monotype prints in what she described as an "educational, fun experiment" as an artist. Then critics, curators, and collectors from New York City visited to meet with Cory and fellow residents to discuss their work and possible partnerships. Finally there was the Open Studio. Not only was this an opportunity for Cory to present her work, it was a celebration of community as Art Omi residents from years past returned to celebrate time spent there. Rachele Smith and Judith Levy, of Kansas City, were in attendance to support artists and revisit a top tier artist residency known worldwide.



"It was a great experience," noted Cory about her time there. "All of the staff support made it easy for me to be productive. They find ways to cut down on distractions." And then there were her fellow artists. The community cultivated by the residency went beyond borders and languages. Cory felt that she able to be an ambassador for the Kansas City community and Midwest artists.

With the help of Charlotte Street Foundation and an [Inspiration Grant](#) from ArtsKC, Cory was also able to create a portfolio book of her work. With that she was able to distribute her work to gallery curators, collectors, and critics who visited. Through her meetings at Art Omi, Cory was invited to exhibit her work in New York City in 2016. While the book was not required, it was truly appreciated by those who received it. It went one step beyond a calling card, allowing interested partners to take her work with them and foster future connections. As an ArtsKC supported artist, Cory said she was thankful for the opportunity share her work on an international level.

To see Cory's work, visit <http://www.coryimig.com/>. For more information about Art Omi Residencies, visit [www.artomi.org](http://www.artomi.org). To learn how you can support artists like Cory, visit our [website](#).



### **Staff Picks:** Heather Beffa, Administrative Assistant

September usually means back to school, at least for me. Most people are settling back into getting kids off to school, organizing schedules, and renewing commitments to dedicate themselves to projects and achieving goals.

With that in mind, I recommend seeing [In:Pursuit: 2015 Kansas City Art Institute Faculty Biennial](#). The artists in this group show are masters of their respective mediums. Their fabulous new works inspire me as a KCAI graduate, and are sure to influence the ambitions of this year's incoming freshman class. The exhibition is at the H&R Block Artspace from August 28 - October 3.

As a print lover, I'll also be attending [Print Week](#) at the Lawrence Arts Center. It's a regional print fair, with workshops, exhibitions, presentations and tours from September 14-19. Printmakers from Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka, St. Louis, and Lincoln, NE will be there, so it's a terrific way to experience works on paper from our greater region. I'm partial to letterpress and woodcut prints, myself, because they are crisp, colorful, and bold.

Whether you are a student, professional, or layman, this is only a sampling of opportunities to inspire your personal work in the new school year.

#### **ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council**

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

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