When we announced the $500,000 goal for the 2015 ArtsKC Fund Campaign, there were skeptics. But you proved them wrong! 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! This funding will be available to organizations and individuals who apply for ArtsKC Fund grants in the coming year to do things like start new collaborative performance groups, enhance programming for kids and families, and keep KC on the map as an exciting arts destination. For more information about ArtsKC Fund grantmaking, visit ArtsKC.org/GetFunding.

**NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2016**

This year’s success would not have been possible without all of you and some very dedicated individuals who served on the ArtsKC Fund Advisory Council, led Workplace Giving Campaigns, encouraged corporate contributions, and served on the ArtsKC Fund Campaign Cabinet. Don Dagenais led the 2015 ArtsKC Fund Campaign as Chair. Don will pass on his title next year to one of Kansas City’s most beloved business members – Steve McDowell, CEO and Design Director at BNIM Architects.

**WE DID IT!**

$519,000 FOR THE ARTS!
WE DID IT!

**Outstanding Workplace Giving Companies**

- Most Improved Campaign Overall: Kansas City Repertory Theatre
- Most Creatively-Executed Campaign Overall: Rees Masilionis Turley Architecture
- Outstanding Campaign Engagement: Bank of Blue Valley
- Most Money Raised, Nonprofit/Arts Organization: Starlight Theatre
- Most Money Raised, Small Company (<100 eligible employees): BNIM Architects
- Most Money Raised, Mid-size Company (100-500 eligible employees): Stinson Leonard Street
- Most Money Raised, Large Company (>500 eligible employees): Johnson County Government
Arts education for life-long learning and K-12
Creating places for people to gather to create, collaborate and participate in the arts
Support for and collaboration of arts organizations across counties
ArtsKC playing a role in connecting the counties

Now that ArtsKC has unveiled the plan, what happens next? ArtsKC is learning more about what people think of the plan, what gets them excited, what role they want to play, and how their communities would like to participate and actively support the plan. We have several teams of people who have been intensively involved in this process who are ready to listen and learn.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Read the plan. Become an advocate. Share it with others.
Talk with your children’s teachers, parents, and co-workers about the plan and its importance. Let us know what you think and how you want to help. Contact your county commissioners and legislators and let them know you support the plan and ways the plan can serve your community. Are there parts of the plan you like for your community and would you like to have a role in making it a reality?

This plan belongs to YOU! We have made the commitment to ensure our region is a place where the arts always have a place to flourish and be a part of our community. Let’s do this! To get more involved, contact Heather Beffa at beffa@artskc.org.

THE REGIONAL PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN INCLUDE:

- Arts education for life-long learning and K-12
- Communicating the unique arts and cultural offerings of all counties in the region
- Creating places for people to gather to create, collaborate and participate in the arts
- Support for and collaboration of arts organizations across counties
- ArtsKC playing a role in connecting the counties

ArtsKC will host its 6th annual ArtsKC Inspiration Breakfast on Thursday, October 22nd from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at Starlight Theatre’s Enclosed Stage. The 2015 Inspiration Breakfast will connect 600 guests to the impact of ArtsKC’s work during this free fundraiser.

Honorary Chairman Robert (Bobby) Epstein (center) and Event Co-Chairs Brad Douglas and Arzie Umali are leading this year’s bigger-than-ever event. Textile artist Debbie Barrett-Jones will be featured and will share her on-going journey utilizing art as healing.

Bobby Epstein brings a strong history of support for the arts and Kansas City to this year’s event. He and his late wife Jackie, a Kansas City Art Institute graduate and oil painter, both shared an interest in the arts in Kansas City and were the founders of the Epstein Gallery at Village Shalom. Co-Chair Brad Douglas is a Kansas City native. Douglas’ connection to the arts is highlighted by his bachelor’s degree in piano performance and communication from William Jewell College. He then went on to earn his law degree and is a dedicated member of the ArtsKC Board of Directors and currently serves as the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect.

The Regional Perspectives
A CEO’s perspective: Ryan Wilkinson, Haas & Wilkerson

Haas & Wilkerson Insurance experienced firsthand the dynamic creativity of ArtsKC when we became part of the Now Showing program. Now Showing provides a fresh quarterly rotation of local art which is showcased in our office building in Fairway, Kansas. The program gives artists the opportunity to display their work in places they might not have had the chance to before, earn a stipend for their work from ArtsKC, and receive 100 percent of any sale proceeds.

Now Showing helps companies like ours bring fresh, vibrant art into our workplaces. Belive me, the energy and inspiration this artwork brings into our work environment is invaluable. This program is just one example of the winning solutions ArtsKC develops which invite collaboration, communication, and creativity; the same qualities that Haas & Wilkerson was looking for when we modernized our workspace!