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For immediate release

ArtsKC Awards Luncheon in March to Honor Arts Leaders and Visionaries

Kansas City Metro (November 2, 2017) ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council announces its [15th Annual Awards Luncheon](#) to be held Thursday, March 8, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom.

The luncheon will recognize 15 finalists. One honoree from five award categories will be announced at the event. [Cheryl Eve Acosta](#) will be the event’s featured artist, and featured performers will include: [David Justin](#), choreographer; Park University’s [Kenny Broberg](#), who won The Cliburn silver medal; [Jeremy Bryan & Manual “Lukky” Harvey](#); and [Pablo Sanhueza and The KC Latin Jazz All-Stars](#).

“During our annual luncheon in March, we will recognize local leaders and visionaries who collaborate and foster innovative ideas that, when mingled together, create new perspectives,” said Dana Knapp, ArtsKC President and CEO. “This year’s theme *Fuse* speaks to the power of collaboration.”

Cheryl Eve Acosta, this year’s featured artist, is creating table centerpieces and awards that, from her perspective, represent ArtsKC as the epicenter of Kansas City’s creative and diverse spirit. Each award finalist will receive a glass copper vessel handcrafted by Cheryl. In a pre-event exhibition, her copper-fused fabric and enamel copper sculptures will be showcased, and models will be wearing her jewelry.

Cheryl is a two-time ArtsKC Inspiration Grant recipient whose sculptural jewelry is inspired by the “cycle of life,” specifically marine biology. During her MFA training at the Rhode Island School of Design, Cheryl created a unique way of fusing copper over fabric and glass to transform mundane materials into one-of-a-kind organic adornments. Cheryl’s fine art has been featured in international, national and regional exhibitions.

“My passion for the arts transcends beyond making fine sculptural objects,” Cheryl said. “I seek to bring awareness about our need to preserve marine life and our planet at large. I want to *fuse* in our collective mind the important role that we all play in nourishing creativity.”

Honorees in each Awards Category:

Virtuoso

Individuals who exemplify dedicated volunteerism, artistic contributions and/or work within the KC arts community.

Karen Holland
David Oliver
Mary Tearney

Advocate

Elected or public figures who represents outstanding advocacy for the arts.

Mayor Carl Gerlach
Councilman Scott Taylor
Senator Jason Holsman

Education

School or districts using the arts as a tool for achieving educational excellence in a K-12 setting.

Academy for Integrated Arts
Liberty Public School District

PASEO Academy of Fine and Performing Arts

Innovator

Nonprofits providing arts education opportunities to underserved communities and creating innovative partnerships to build unique programs.

InterUrban ArtHouse

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

Kansas City Artists Coalition

Creative Impact

Metropolitan-area businesses that foster innovation, support local artists or arts organizations and provide leadership in the arts community.

Bank of America

Buttonwood Financial Group

Spencer Fane

About ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council and the event:

ArtsKC is a regional nonprofit arts council that promotes, supports and advocates for the arts across a five-county region. We promote art in all its forms, including events, performances, exhibits, music, theater, visual art and literature. We support arts organizations, individual artists and arts programs of every size by awarding 100+ grants annually to help fund their missions and projects. We advocate for the arts by bringing together key constituents to lobby for increasing arts funding and by fighting for issues that advance the arts. The mission of ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council is to unleash the power of the arts. Please visit www.ArtsKC.org for more information. And, visit www.artskcgo.com, an ArtsKC initiative, for a local arts and cultural events calendar.

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