ArtsKC plays a vital role in bringing together regional elected officials, arts leaders, activists and patrons to lobby for increasing arts funding at all levels of government.

With the presidential and statewide elections just around the corner Nov. 8, you can help influence how the arts are funded by voting for candidates who support the arts.

To help keep activists informed leading up to the November elections, ArtsKC hosted a State of the Arts reception on behalf of Missouri Citizens for the Arts (MCA) this past September. Kansas City area arts leaders and Missouri Representatives S. Nick King (R) and Judy Morgan (D) attended. Speakers included MCA Board President Wally Bloss and Government Affairs Consultant Kyna Iman, along with Vice Chair of the Missouri Arts Council Cynthia Cartwright.

“One goal of the meeting was to let people know how to contact their legislators, especially during an election year,” said Iman, who lobbies for MCA. “Now is the time to let your representatives know how important it is to fund the arts.”

And in an effort to amplify advocacy efforts across the five-county region we serve, ArtsKC recently formed an Advocacy Committee led by former Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes.

“The Committee’s goal is to organize efforts to increase local, state and national arts funding,” said ArtsKC CEO Bruce Davis. “And that’s just a start — ArtsKC plans to launch a bistate VoterVoice software platform in 2017, which we’ll use to inform activists about pressing legislative issues and to share influential data related to the positive economic impact of the arts.”

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

**Support Arts Advocacy**

Visit the advocacy sections of these websites to stay up-to-date on arts-related issues.

**LOCAL**
- **ArtsKC**: artskc.org: Go to the Advocacy Alert Signup page and complete a form to receive alerts.

**STATE**
- **Missouri Citizens for the Arts**: mo4arts.org: Learn more about becoming a member, attending free advocacy workshops and completing online training.
- **Kansas Citizens for the Arts**: kansassarts.org: Find information on advocacy activities, talking points, arts organization contacts, and more.

**FEDERAL**
- **Americans for the Arts**: americansforthearts.org: Access tools, resources and training, plus find your legislators and track legislation.

Arts Action Fund: artsactionfund.org: Learn where presidential candidates stand on the arts and find out how your members of congress support the arts.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017**

11:00AM – 1:00PM

KANSAS CITY CONVENTION CENTER

GRAND BALLROOM

**ARTSKC AWARDS LUNCHEON**

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AND TABLES NOW!

ARTSKC.ORG/AWARDS

**FEATURED ARTIST**: RACHELLE GARDNER-ROE

***The Mission of ArtsKC is to Unleash the Power of the Arts***
A distinguished lineup of women leaders from the arts and business communities will electrify the 14th Annual ArtsKC Awards Luncheon to be held Feb. 23, 2017, at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom. ArtsKC expects 1,200 arts enthusiasts to attend.

Honorary Chair Julia Irene Kauffman and Event Co-Chairs, Maria Maffry with BNIM and Macaela Stephenson with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, will lead the event.

A pillar of artistic ingenuity and leadership, Ms. Kauffman (at right) brings tremendous vision to this growing event. “I am so pleased to see ArtsKC breaking records with the Awards Luncheon in 2017,” Ms. Kauffman said. “It is a remarkable event that recognizes the outstanding achievements of deserving individuals and organizations whose dedication to the arts and culture should not be overlooked.”

Stephenson described the event as more than your average business luncheon. “The event features live performances and recognizes 18 finalists in six award categories. The final honoree in each category will be announced at the event,” she said. “It is refreshing to highlight creative and innovative businesses and individuals in the city I call home.”

Maffry expressed that she has experienced how the arts can stimulate the community and support innovation in the workplace. “I am very excited about this year’s electricity theme and how our featured artist Rachelle Gardner-Roe has ‘unplugged’ that theme into her vision.”

For ticket, sponsorship and event details, visit ArtsKC.org/awards.

A artsKC will kick off its second Arts Leadership Series in January 2017 to cultivate diversity among arts boards, volunteers, staffs and audiences. The four-part series will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., culminating with a matchmaking finale event in May 2017. The discussions are designed to help attendees make the most of tools, knowledge and networking to become effective board or committee members with nonprofit arts organizations. Each session is $10, and you may attend all or any one of the sessions.

Planned topics: Unpacking Arts Administration; The Art of Nonprofit Board and Committee Service; Leveraging Identities for Positive Change; and Skills, Deals and Knowledge for Nonprofit Board Service.

For details on topics, registration and location, visit ArtsKC.org/leadership.

The law firm of Spencer Fane believes that the arts are an integral part of what makes Kansas City great. The firm has made a commitment, through its Charitable Giving Program, to provide significant support over a three-year period to selected nonprofit arts organizations in Kansas City. ArtsKC is one of those organizations, along with the Kansas City Art Institute and the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival.

Spencer Fane has put that support into action by serving as presenting sponsor of the annual ArtsKC Inspiration Breakfast in 2015 and 2016. The funds raised allow ArtsKC to promote, support and advocate for the arts including providing grants to individual artists, art programs and arts organizations.

“As a sponsor, we want to introduce arts supporters, both new and old, to the work that ArtsKC is doing in our region,” said Nate Orr, a partner at Spencer Fane. “Our goal in supporting arts-focused organizations like ArtsKC is to have a significant, positive impact on the community where we live, work and play.”

Spencer Fane also participates in the ArtsKC Now Showing program, showcasing artists’ work in their offices; sponsored the ArtsKC Block Party in 2015; and gave the lead corporate gift to support the ArtsKC Move to the Crossroads Campaign in 2016. ArtsKC thanks Spencer Fane for generously sharing its talent and treasure to give back to arts organizations that inspire our community.

For more information about Now Showing and to get your company involved, contact Paul Courtney at ArtsKC.org or visit ArtsKC.org/nowshowing.

While for many engineering looks like calculations on schematics, the heart of what we do is design. Creativity and finesse go into each drawing we produce and each building we help bring to life. We understand that science and art aren’t mutually exclusive. In fact, they are better together; and that’s why supporting local artists through the Now Showing program makes sense to us.

Supporting the arts is especially meaningful for our Crossroads Arts District office, which recently moved into the Lead Bank building on Main. We invited Mark Mohr, whose art was on display to our grand opening reception in June, and everyone appreciates meeting him. We enjoy meeting with artists, getting to know them and talking about their work. The Now Showing program is a wonderful addition to our offices, and we would encourage other area companies to consider participating.”

-Amanda Giles, Artist Coordinator & Marketing Assistant, Henderson Engineers, hei-eng.com

ArtsKC thanks Henderson Engineers for their long-time support of our organization and our local arts community. This past year, Henderson provided support through Now Showing and also invested in the ArtsKC Fund grant-making program through the Henderson Engineering Foundation.

Photos provided by Henderson Engineers, artwork by Maggie Stubbs.

To learn more about Henderson Engineers, visit hei-eng.com.