

ArtsKC Advocacy Agenda 2021

ArtsKC Board Approved 08/18/2020

ArtsKC is the voice for our arts community, advocating for policies that strengthen public and private support for the arts across the greater Kansas City region toward an equitable, vital, and healthy region.

Public Access to the Arts

ArtsKC supports equitable access to and investments in arts and culture that ensures a strong and vibrant arts community.

Public Access to the Arts at the Federal Level

- Supports increased funding for NEA, NEH, CPB, IMLS

Public Access to the Arts in the State of Missouri

- Supports an increase in funding for Missouri Arts Commission
- Supports full implementation of the A&E distribution formula for the five Cultural Partners (Public Broadcasting, Missouri Humanities Council, MO Library Network, and MO Historic Preservation)

Public Access to the Arts in the State of Kansas

- Supports increased funding for Kansas Creative Industries Commission in the Department of Commerce
- Supports use of the Department of Commerce resources to incorporate the arts as catalyst for economic development of local communities
- Supports increased funding for the arts in continuation of the last three years

Public Access to the Arts in the KC region

- Supports policy that encourages public investment in arts and culture (e.g. 1% for art)
- Supports the City of Kansas City, Municipal Arts Commission and the authority set forth in its charter
- Supports the reinstatement of an Office of Cultural and Creative Services or another office of equal jurisdiction and scope within the Kansas City municipal structure
- Supports the introduction and/or increase in dedicated funding for artists and arts organizations in city and county budgets throughout the 5-county region

Arts Education

ArtsKC supports equal access to quality arts education for all individuals to ensure improved academic achievement and programmatic outcomes in primary and secondary schools, healthcare (arts therapy), and social services.

Arts Education at the Federal Level

- Supports well-rounded arts provisions in the new education law (*Every Student Succeeds Act; PL 114-95*) are fully implemented
- Supports funding for the Assistance for Arts Education program of the U.S. Department of Education at \$30 million
- Supports full funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program at its authorized level of \$1.65 billion

Arts Education in the State of Missouri

- Supports full funding for the Missouri Fine Arts Academy
- Recommends the Missouri State Board of Education ensure comprehensive fine arts instruction (dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art) in elementary, middle, and high schools
- Supports the Missouri State Board of Education with the implementation of the Missouri Learning Standards, and recognizes the role of arts instruction as an integral part in the effective achievement of these standards
- Supports the continued employment of a full-time Fine Arts Director for DESE (Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education)

Arts Education in Kansas

- Supports the arts as core subjects in the Kansas' Basic Education Program, all students will benefit from skills and processes that are developed through the arts and that can be applied in a variety of disciplines and settings

Economic Development & the Creative Economy

ArtsKC supports investment in the creative economy that encourages advancement of entrepreneurial artists, arts organizations, and creative business.

Creative Economy at the Federal Level

- Supports the CREATE Act (Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy)

Creative Economy in the State of Missouri

- Supports the reinstatement of Missouri Film Tax Credit encouraging growth of the film industry

Creative Economy in the KC region

- Supports policy that encourages regional redevelopment by entrepreneurial artists and small creative business with provisions that avoid displacement due to escalating property values
- Supports the continued development of all regional arts districts, including local higher education institutions that wish to develop key educational facilities.

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Tax Policy

ArtsKC supports tax policy that incentivizes advancement of entrepreneurial artists, arts organization and creative business and encourages charitable giving that provides strong community access to arts organizations and arts programs

Tax Policy at a Federal Level

- Supports policy that ensures charitable contribution deductions for the nonprofits arts industry.
- Supports policy to regain fair deductions for artists and writers making gifts
- Supports expanding on new rules regarding standard and itemized deductions from the CARES Act

Tax Policy in the Kansas City Region

- Supports policy that encourages growth of the arts and creative sectors
- Supports tax policy that ensures long term affordable housing for the artistic and creative workforce

In Response to COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 devastated our region and our nation. All sectors have been impacted by the economic downturn as a result of the outbreak. The arts have taken an especially hard hit. We support legislation and policies that offer relief to the arts community and harness the catalytic power of the arts for community redevelopment.

COVID-19 at a National Level

- Supports increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts from the \$75 million in the CARES Act to \$100 million in future funding
- Supports a revision of the requirements for local agencies to receive funding from the NEA: eliminating the requirement of being a prior grantee and the requirement of being a government entity
- Supports a continuation and expansion of the standard deduction rules passed in the CARES Act

COVID-19 at the State Level

- Opposes any cuts or withholdings from the Athletes and Entertainers Tax funding for Missouri Citizens for the Arts
- Supports appropriate implementation of social distancing ordinances and capacity limitations for in-person gatherings

COVID-19 at the Local Level

- Supports the allocation of funding specifically for the arts community including individual artists, arts organizations, and arts programming.

Human Rights & Immigration

ArtsKC supports policy that advances mutual understanding, respect and builds positive and equitable relationships among diverse regional communities, as well as, between the U.S. and rest of the world.

At a National Level

- Oppose policies that limit the free exchange of art, artists, and ideas
- Supports congressional action to ensure the protection of people who work or plan to work in the creative and artistic industries
- Supports the enactment of the Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision, to improve visa processing for foreign guest artists preparing to perform in the United States.
- Opposes any attempt to erode the Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* which concluded that LGBT+ employees are protected from discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Supports equity for all minority groups at every level of government BIPOC and LGBTQIA
- Supports the Black Lives Matter movement, including police reform
- Supports full implementation of the Voting Rights Act (John Lewis Voting Rights Act), including the ability of all eligible participants to vote by mail and/or non-excuse absentee voting

In the State of Missouri

- Oppose the state's prohibition on higher education institutions from offering in-state tuition and scholarships to dreamers, or non-US citizens who live in Missouri

In the Kansas City Region

- Supports policy that ensures equitable treatment of all members of the Kansas City region regardless of nationality, faith, race, identity, sexual orientation, age, gender or ability