

ArtsKC Advocacy Agenda 2022

ArtsKC Board Approved June 15, 2021

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

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

Public Access to the Arts at the State Level

- Support an increase in funding for Missouri Arts Council
- Support 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)
- Support increased funding for Kansas Creative Industries Commission in the Department of Commerce
- Support use of the Department of Commerce resources to incorporate the arts as catalyst for economic development of local communities

Public Access to the Arts at the Local Level

- Support policy that encourages public investment in arts and culture (e.g. 1% for art)
- Support the City of Kansas City, Municipal Arts Commission and the authority set forth in its charter
- Support the reinstatement of an Office of Cultural and Creative Services or another office of equal jurisdiction and scope within the Kansas City municipal structure
- Support 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

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

Arts Education at the State Level

- Support full funding for the Missouri Fine Arts Academy
- Recommend the Missouri State Board of Education ensure comprehensive fine arts instruction (dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art) in elementary, middle, and high schools
- Support 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
- Support the continued employment of a full-time Fine Arts Director for DESE (Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education)
- Support 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

Arts Education at the Local Level

- Support funding for KCMO program ArtsTech.

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

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

Tax Policy in the Kansas City Region

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

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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

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

Creative Economy in the State of Missouri

- Support the reinstatement of Missouri Film Tax Credit encouraging growth of the film industry
- Oppose any cuts or withholdings from the Athletes and Entertainers Tax funding for Missouri Citizens for the Arts

Creative Economy in the KC region

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

Health & Wellbeing

ArtsKC promotes and helps implement public policy that considers the arts in discussions and decisions related to health and wellbeing.

Health & Wellness at the National Level

- Support the Dignity in Aging Act, H.R. 4334, a bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which passed the House, that prioritizes a focus on the arts and cultural experiences.
- Support the RISE from Trauma act, S.1770 and H.R.3180, bipartisan legislation to improve identification and support of children and families who experience trauma, including support for local and state arts agencies.
- Support research funding for creative and expressive arts therapies and arts-based programming within federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Preserve Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions that provide access to affordable healthcare coverage for artists and other creative occupations.

Health & Wellness at the State Level

- Support MO HB 1244, adding new language about medication that can cause suicidal ideation.
- Oppose Kansas HB 2210 and Missouri HB 33 that would criminalize certain elements of the medical treating of transgender youth.
- Support MO SB 65 that would lessen the degree of felony for exposing someone to HIV.

Health & Wellness at the Local Level

- Support increased funding to combat homelessness, mental health issues, and the office of tenant advocate.
- Support Johnson County Wellness & Tobacco incentives.

In Response to COVID-19

We support legislation and policies that offer relief to the arts community and harness its catalytic power for redevelopment.

COVID-19 at the National Level

- Support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts from the \$75 million in the CARES Act to \$100 million in future funding
- Support 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
- Support a continuation and expansion of the standard deduction rules passed in the CARES Act of 2020

COVID-19 at the State Level

- Support gathering restrictions/policies based on CDC guidance
- Support fair and equitable distribution and access to vaccinations

COVID-19 at the Local Level

- Support community guidelines and policies that make approval of events easier and more cost-effective—i.e., reduced permit fees, sidewalk café seating, outdoor event liquor licensing, etc.
- Support allocation of funding specifically for the arts community - individual artists, arts organizations, and arts programming

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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 the rest of the world.

Human Rights & Immigration at the National Level

- Oppose policies that limit the free exchange of art, artists, and ideas
- Support congressional action to ensure the protection of people who work or plan to work in the creative and artistic industries
- Support 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.
- Oppose 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
- Support equity for all minority groups at every level of government BIPOC and LGBTQIA
- Support the Black Lives Matter movement, including police reform
- Support 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
- Oppose any legislation restricting access for students or adults because of their sexual identity

Human Rights & Immigration at the State Level

- 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

Human Rights & Immigration at the Local Level

- Support 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