



ARTSKC POLICY AGENDA FISCAL YEAR 2025
Approved by ArtsKC Board of Directors August 27, 2024

ArtsKC serves as a voice for our arts and culture community, advocating for policies that strengthen public and private support for the arts across the greater Kansas City region toward an equitable, vibrant, and healthy region.

ACCESS TO THE ARTS

ArtsKC supports equitable access to and investments in arts and culture that ensure a strong, just, and vibrant arts community. ArtsKC is committed to growing relationships with elected officials at every level of government in our region, across our states, and our federal government.

Federal Policy

- Support increased funding for NEA, NEH, CPB, IMLS.
- Support the United States officially rejoining UNESCO as a member-state.

State Policy

- Support an increase in funding for the Missouri Arts Council.
- Support full implementation of the Non-Resident Athlete and Entertainers' Tax distribution formula for the five Cultural Partners (Public Broadcasting, Missouri Humanities Council, MO Library Network, and MO Historic Preservation) at the 60% level detailed in Missouri state policy.
- Support increased funding for the Kansas Arts Commission in the Department of Commerce.
- Support the use of the Department of Commerce resources to incorporate the arts as a catalyst for the economic development of local communities.

Local Policy

- Support policy that encourages public investment in arts and culture in all municipal projects (e.g. 1% for art).
- Support the inclusion of the arts and artist professionals in cross-sector civic planning efforts (ie: transportation, housing, safety, climate change, etc.).
- Support continued implementation and maintenance of the regional cultural plan from 2015.
- Support the reinstatement of a cultural/arts office 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.
- Support the newly-developed DotteArts arts council within the United Government of Wyandotte County.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

ArtsKC supports investment in the creative economy that encourages the advancement of entrepreneurial artists, arts organizations, and creative businesses. In 2024, ArtsKC announced findings from the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study, which shows that the nonprofit arts, culture, and heritage sector of our region produces over \$615 million in annual economic activity.

Federal Policy

- Support H.R. 385, Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy Workforce Act.
- Support H.R. 5019, Creative Economy Revitalization Act.
- Support H.R. 2380, Saving Transit Art Resources Act.
- Support H.R. 6381, “CREATE” Act.
- Support H.R. 3239, Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act.
- Support H.R. 3950, The Ticket Act.
- Support S. 3457, The Fans First Act.

Kansas Policy

- Support passage and signing of the Kansas film tax credit.
- Support increased funding for the Kansas Arts Commission.

Missouri Policy

- Support full funding and implementation of the Missouri film tax credit.
- Support full funding at 60% of the Non-resident Athletes and Entertainers Tax for Missouri Arts Council.

Local Policy

- Support promotion and sustainability of Kansas City, Missouri’s UNESCO Cities of Music status.
- Support policy that encourages regional redevelopment by entrepreneurial artists and small creative businesses 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.
- Support increased public funding for the arts, culture, and heritage sector to prepare for and benefit from the World Cup 2026 event.

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HUMAN RIGHTS & IMMIGRATION

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

Federal Policy

- 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.
- 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.

State Policy

- Oppose Kansas and Missouri's prohibition on higher education institutions offering in-state tuition and scholarships to dreamers or non-US citizens.
- Oppose efforts to eliminate or restrict funding for organizations with diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.
- Oppose efforts to ban, punish or withhold funding from entities that utilize diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.

Local Policy

- Support KC 2026 plans to mitigate human rights abuses during the World Cup 2026.
- Support the inclusion of the arts in efforts to support the unhoused, whether through therapy, healthcare, or esthetics.

TAX POLICY

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

Federal Policy

- Support policy that reinstates the pre-2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act individual charitable contribution deductions for the nonprofit arts industry.
- Support policy to regain pre-2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act fair deductions for artists and writers making gifts.
- Support S. 2872, Performing Artist Tax Parity Act, altering deductions for the expenses of performing artists (including commissions paid to managers or agents).

Local Policy

- Support full funding and authority for the KC Film Office.
- Support area arts district tax abatement implementation, such as PIEA, Englewood Arts, etc.

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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. Additionally, we support funding for workforce development initiatives to help the arts influence our workforce and economy.

Federal Policy

- 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.
- Support policy to increase equitable access to arts education as part of a national public school curriculum.

State Policy

- Support full funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy and 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 recognize 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 (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education).
- Support the arts as core subjects in the Kansas Basic Education Program.
- Oppose banning of literature or any other free exchange of ideas based on social or political reasoning.

Local Policy

- Support funding and policy that ensures access to quality arts education, integrated arts education making academic success achievable for all.
- Support Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund access for public and private school arts projects within the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

A Special Note About Health & Well-Being

Born from the NeuroArts Blueprint, the Kansas City Community NeuroArts Coalition is one of the first coalitions of its kind in the country, alongside West Palm Beach and New York City. By mobilizing an informed network of arts, civic, business, and health activists, this group will pave the way forward in implementing arts + health & well-being-centered solutions to address priorities and build capacity in our community to continue advocating for the arts.

Kansas City Community NeuroArts Coalition Priorities:

1. Asset Mapping: Who is already engaged in this work and what can we do to elevate it?
2. Research: How do we support the study and evaluation of exemplar activity and impact?
3. Funding: Establish steady and ample funding sources to support the research, ultimately supporting our purpose of "building a community that identifies, validates, and integrates the arts & health sectors".