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Arts and Education Council Announces 2016 PNC Project Grant Applications Open Now

St. Louis – The Arts and Education Council (A&E) announced today that applications for the 2016 PNC Project Grants are now open. PNC Project Grants, generously underwritten through a \$40,000 named fund from [the PNC Foundation](#), range from \$500 to \$5,000, and are awarded to arts and arts education organizations in the 16-county bi-state St. Louis region.

This unique collaboration between the Arts and Education Council and PNC provides support to a variety of nonprofit arts and arts education organizations. The [PNC grants](#) fund specific projects in local classrooms, community centers and neighborhoods as well as outreach programs for at-risk youth and populations with limited to no access to arts programs. To be eligible, organizations must meet specific criteria and have annual budgets under \$500,000. Grant awards are determined by a volunteer grant panel convened by the [Arts and Education](#) Council.

“PNC Bank believes the arts are a key driver of the economic vitality of our region,” said Michael Scully, PNC regional president. “When we support the arts, we strengthen the community, increasing the opportunity for success among individuals, organizations and businesses in the community.”

“For some organizations, a \$1,000 or \$2,500 grant can make an incredible impact,” said Cynthia A. Prost, president of the Arts and Education Council. “PNC Project Grants are often used to fund special projects or programs that may be new to an organization or in jeopardy of being cut due to budget constraints. We thank PNC for recognizing that these innovative arts programs contribute to making St. Louis a vibrant, thriving city.

PNC Grant applications are open now and will close on Monday, April 18. Grant applications can be made on-line at keeparthappening.org/apply. A&E anticipates announcing the 2016 grant awardees in early June. For more information on Arts and Education Council grant programs, contact Susan Rowe Jennings at 314.289.4004 or Susan-R@KeepArtHappening.org.

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Arts and Education Council: *One Gift. A Million Returns.* – The Arts and Education Council (A&E), is the St. Louis region's United Arts Fund providing financial, technical and educational support for arts organizations. A&E's mission is to build appreciation, participation and support for arts and arts education throughout the St. Louis community. A&E is the only privately funded arts umbrella organization that serves the 16-county, bi-state St. Louis

region. Since its inception in 1963, the Arts and Education Council has raised and distributed more than \$100 million in private funding for the arts – a significant contribution that directly impacts the quality of life in our region. With funds raised, the Arts and Education Council annually assists approximately 70 nonprofit arts and arts education organizations. Additionally, the Arts and Education Council provides office, rehearsal and performance space for 17 nonprofit arts organizations in the Centene Center for Arts and Education, a unique arts incubator located in the Grand Center Arts District. A&E meets all 20 Better Business Bureau Charity Standards and has earned the Wise Giving Seal of Approval, a three-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Guidestar Exchange Silver Participant rating.

How to find us – Website: KeepArtHappening.org Phone: 314.289.4000. Facebook: ArtsandEducation Twitter: @ArtEdSTL YouTube: ArtsandEducSTL Instagram: Arts_Education_Council

PNC – The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group (NYSE:PNC), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The Foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture.

For more information, visit pnbsites.com/pncfoundation or Twitter @PNCNews for breaking news, updates and announcements.