



KeepArtHappening.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CALL FOR RURAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING FUNDING

***Grants up to \$5,000 available from Arts and Education Council for arts organizations in rural Missouri and Illinois***

**ST. LOUIS – June 7, 2019** – The Arts and Education Council is seeking arts organizations in rural Missouri and Illinois counties interested in applying for grants up to \$5,000 through the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program.

Since the program's inception in 2007, the Arts and Education Council has provided more than \$200,000 in funding for arts programming in the rural communities surrounding the St. Louis metropolitan area. The program is underwritten by Bayer Fund, the philanthropic arm of Bayer.

Organizations seeking funding are invited to submit a letter of interest to the Arts and Education Council by June 18. To be considered, organizations must be located in and serving a county designated as rural by the U.S. Census. Eligible Missouri counties include: Callaway, Crawford, Gasconade, Lincoln, Montgomery, Perry, Phelps, Pike, Sainte Genevieve, Warren and Washington. Eligible Illinois counties include: Bond, Calhoun, Christian, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Union and Washington. Organizations invited to apply for funding will be notified by June 21. To submit a letter of interest and for more information, visit [KeepArtHappening.org/rural](http://KeepArtHappening.org/rural).

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**About the Arts and Education Council: *Keep Art Happening*.** – The Arts and Education Council builds appreciation, participation and support for the arts and arts education throughout the St. Louis region, shaping a more vibrant arts community for all. The Arts and Education Council ensures the 16-county, bi-state region is rich with arts and cultural experiences through programs and services that support more than 70 organizations each year, including: operating support grants; arts incubation at the Centene Center for the Arts; PNC Program Grants; the Creative Impact Fund with lead support from the Bayer Fund; the Maritz Arts and Education Fund for Teachers; Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts and Education grants; the Art Education Fund, underwritten by Wells Fargo Advisors; the Catalyst Innovation Lab; the Katherine Dunham Fellowship; Catalyst Conversations; the stARTup Creative Competition; Leadership Roundtables; Arts Marketers; the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association; the Keep Art Happening Scholarship; and the St. Louis Arts Awards.

The Arts and Education Council is entirely funded by individual donors, corporations and foundations in the St. Louis region. Since its inception in 1963 as the region's only privately-supported united arts fund, 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. The Arts and Education Council 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 Gold Participant rating.

Connect with us – **Website:** [KeepArtHappening.org](http://KeepArtHappening.org) **Phone:** 314.289.4000. **Facebook:** [ArtsandEducation](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsandEducation) **Twitter:** [@ArtEdSTL](https://twitter.com/ArtEdSTL) **Instagram:** [Arts Education Council](https://www.instagram.com/Arts_Education_Council)

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