



KeepArtHappening.org

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BAYER FUND AWARDS ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL \$25,000

Grant will renew support for rural community arts and arts education programs

ST. LOUIS –Feb. 20, 2020 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that the Bayer Fund has continued its support for the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program with a \$25,000 grant. Since establishing the partnership in 2007, the Arts and Education Council and Bayer Fund have provided more than \$225,000 in grants to organizations in rural communities surrounding the St. Louis metropolitan area for arts and arts education programming.

“We are grateful that our partners at Bayer Fund continue to support the Arts and Education Council’s goal of ensuring all people living in rural communities have access to rich arts and cultural experiences,” said Cynthia A. Prost, Arts and Education Council president and CEO. “Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program grant recipients have told us that the program plays an integral role in providing collaboration among artists, educators, businesses and community leaders.”

“Through its various programs and grants, the Arts and Education Council continues to meet the artistic needs of communities who would otherwise have limited or no access to the arts,” said Al Mitchell, Bayer’s Vice President of Corporate Engagement. “Thanks to their efforts, more adults and children are being exposed to new and exciting experiences that center around the arts.”

2019-2020 Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts and Education grantees will be announced in the summer of 2020. Current grantees are: Arts Rolla (Rolla, Mo.), the Clinton County Showcase (Breese, Ill.), Sainte Genevieve Art Guild (Ste. Genevieve, Mo.), the Steelville Arts Council (Steelville, Mo.) and the Warren County Fine Arts Council (Warren County, Mo.).

Bayer Fund’s renewed support for the rural community grants adds to its existing support for the Arts and Education Council through the Creative Impact Fund, a program established in 2017 to offer arts organizations grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for new projects with a demonstrated need in the community. Bayer, formerly Monsanto, is also a longtime sponsor of the Art Educator of the Year Award at the Arts and Education Council’s St. Louis Arts Awards. Earlier this month, the Arts and Education Council honored Dr. Nikki Spotts of the St. Louis Public School District as the 2020 Art Educator of the Year, sponsored by Bayer.

For more information about the Arts and Education Council’s grants and programs, visit KeepArtHappening.org.

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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 grants; arts incubation at the Centene Center for the Arts; PNC Program Grants; the Monsanto Creative Impact Fund; the Maritz Arts and Education Fund for Teachers; Monsanto 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 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 Silver Participant rating.

Connect with us – **Website:** 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)

About Bayer Fund- As a philanthropic arm of Bayer in the United States, Bayer Fund develops programs and makes strategic investments to qualified non-profit organizations tackling big challenges – combatting malnutrition and food insecurity; enhancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education; providing support services for patients and families managing cardiovascular disease and cancer. Bayer Fund also offers programs that encourage employees to engage in their communities via matching gifts. In 2019, Bayer Fund awarded **\$14 million** in grants to more than **3,200** charities and nonprofit organizations in both urban and rural communities. For more information visit the Bayer Fund at www.fund.bayer.us.