



KeepArtHappening.org

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

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

ST. LOUIS –Jan. 29, 2019 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that Monsanto Fund has continued its support for the nonprofit organization's Rural Community Arts and Education Fund with a \$25,000 grant. Since establishing the partnership in 2007, A&E and Monsanto Fund have provided more than \$200,000 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 Monsanto Fund continue to support the Arts and Education Council's goal of ensuring all people living in the St. Louis region have access to rich arts and cultural experiences," said Cynthia A. Prost, Arts and Education Council president and CEO. "The arts are a powerful component of any community, but recent research shows that in our rural communities, the arts attract more people, strengthen civic leadership, generate economic impact and foster innovation."

"Making the arts available to those with limited access provides unique cultural opportunities and experiences," said Michelle Insco, Monsanto Fund program officer. "We are proud to provide continued support to the Rural Community Arts and Education program."

2019-2020 Monsanto Fund Rural Community Arts and Education grantees will be announced in summer 2019. Current grantees are: Looking Glass Playhouse (Lebanon, Ill.), Our Common Ground (Greenville, Ill.), Raintree Arts Council (Clarksville, Mo.), Sullivan Area Arts Council (Sullivan, Mo.), and Warren County Fine Arts Council (Warren County, Mo.).

Monsanto 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 Amy Freet of the Ferguson-Florissant School District as the 2019 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.

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About Monsanto Fund - The Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org.