



KeepArtHappening.org

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ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL RECEIVES FUNDING FROM PNC FOUNDATION AND PNC BANK FOR ARTS ENTREPRENEURS, PROGRAMMING

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 12, 2019 – The Arts and Education Council today announced that the PNC Foundation has awarded the organization \$45,000 and PNC Bank has awarded \$5,000 to renew two partnerships – the groundbreaking stARTup Creative Competition for arts entrepreneurs and PNC Program Grants for arts and arts education initiatives.

"This renewed support from the PNC Foundation and PNC Bank will allow us to continue to offer St. Louis' entrepreneurs the resources to develop their innovative ideas and the funding that organizations need to provide a diverse array of arts and cultural programs across our region," said Cynthia A. Prost, A&E president and CEO.

Now in its third year, the Arts and Education Council's stARTup Creative Competition encourages the development of great ideas with art at their core that strengthen and enhance the St. Louis arts community. To compete, entrepreneurs submit their original ideas for ventures that promote the arts or have arts education at the foundation. Winners receive a cash prize, one year of free office space in A&E's Centene Center for the Arts incubator, free performance and meeting space, access to technology and Wi-Fi, mentoring, idea-sharing and professional development opportunities. The competition is one of only two of its kind in the country, along with MIT's Creative Arts Competition.

Submissions for the 2019 stARTup Creative Competition are due by March 1 at 11:59 p.m. CST. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of local arts and entrepreneurial experts, including: **Cynthia A. Prost**, Arts and Education Council; **Deborah Marshall**, PNC Bank; **Kathleen Bauer**, T-REX; **Sheila Burkett**, Spry Digital; **Antionette Carroll**, Creative Reaction Lab; **Chris Dornfeld**, Maritz; and **Matt Homann**, Filament. Finalists and winners will be announced in April.

Along with the stARTup Creative Competition, the PNC Foundation grant and PNC Bank sponsorship will also support the Arts and Education Council's PNC Program Grants for arts and arts education initiatives that address community needs in the bi-state region. Since 2012, A&E, PNC Bank and the PNC Foundation have provided funding to more than 175 organizations serving 41 Missouri communities and six Illinois communities, increasing access to the arts for hundreds of thousands of adults and children in the region.

"At PNC, we have a 160-year tradition of enriching our communities through philanthropic support of the arts, as we recognize the important role they play in the success, stability and growth of our local community," said Michael Scully, PNC regional president for St. Louis. "We are looking forward to seeing how this year's innovative thinking and new programming can inspire people of all ages to experience and interact with the arts."

Applications for PNC Program Grants are due March 8 by 5:00 p.m. CST. A volunteer grant panel convened by A&E reviews applications and determines grant awards. Grantees will be announced in April.

For more information about the stARTup Creative Competition or PNC Program Grants, visit KeepArtHappening.org/grantprograms.

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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 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 Silver Participant rating.

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About the PNC Foundation - The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group (www.pnc.com), 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. Through Grow Up Great, its signature cause that began in 2004, PNC has created a bilingual \$350 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life.

About PNC Bank - PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC). PNC is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, organized around its customers and communities for strong relationships and local delivery of retail and business banking including a full range of lending products; specialized services for corporations and government entities, including corporate banking, real estate finance and asset-based lending; wealth management and asset management. For information about PNC, visit www.pnc.com.

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