



KeepArtHappening.org

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PENNY PENNINGTON AND MIKE FIDLER TO CO-CHAIR ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL'S ST. LOUIS ARTS AWARDS

Andréa Purnell to emcee the Jan. 27 event

ST. LOUIS, April 1, 2019 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that Edward Jones Managing Partner **Penny Pennington** and her husband, **Mike Fidler**, will co-chair the St. Louis Arts Awards on Jan. 27, 2020. Actor **Andréa Purnell** will emcee the fundraiser. Now in its 29th year, the event honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the St. Louis region's arts community. Nominations for honorees are now open at KeepArtHappening.org.

"Penny, Mike and Andréa have each been incredible champions for the St. Louis region's vibrant arts community for many years and we are proud to have them lead this year's event," said Cynthia A. Prost, Arts and Education Council president and CEO.

Penny Pennington is the sixth managing partner of Edward Jones. An active member of the St. Louis community, Pennington serves on the boards of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis (an Arts and Education Council grantee), Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Saint Louis Fashion Fund (an Arts and Education Council grantee) and Whitaker Foundation, and actively champions Edward Jones's national presenting sponsorship with the Alzheimer's Association®.

Mike Fidler spent more than 26 years in corporate and investment banking. He was responsible for building and leading the corporate finance activity for Comerica Bank, which, at the time, was headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, before moving to Dallas, Texas. Fidler and his wife, Pennington, moved to St. Louis from Livonia, Michigan in 2006. An avid golfer, Fidler is an accomplished chef and enjoys learning about wine.

Andréa Purnell is an artist and arts administrator. She is an actress, writer, director and stage manager. Acting credits include theater, commercials, industrial films and movies. Among her writing credits is the play, "Depression, Whose Disease Is It Anyway," which she produced as part of a program she created to address mental health challenges.

Purnell serves on the Regional Arts Commission, Florissant's Disability Awareness Commission and the Fontbonne University Council of Regents. She has received the Grand Center Visionary Award, North County Incorporated 30 Leaders Award, ALIVE Magazine Buzz Listing and DELUX Magazine's Women Who Inspire Award.

Since 1992, the Arts and Education Council has recognized more than 180 honorees at the St. Louis Arts Awards. 2019 honorees were: **Ken Page**, Lifetime Achievement in the Arts; **Noémi and Michael Neidorff**, Excellence in Philanthropy; **Brent Benjamin**, Saint Louis Art Museum, Excellence in the Arts; **Sue Greenberg**, St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts and The Muni, Champion for the Arts; **Chris Hansen**, Kranzberg Arts Foundation, Arts Innovator; **Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis**, Arts Startup of the Year; and **Amy Freet**, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Art Educator of the Year.

The public is invited to submit nominations for the 29th annual St. Louis Arts Awards now through April 30. Nominations will be reviewed by a community panel and honorees will be announced in June. To submit a nomination and for more information about the St. Louis Arts Awards, visit KeepArtHappening.org.

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About the St. Louis Arts Awards - Since 1992, the Arts and Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards has honored more than 180 artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens and arts organizations that make the St. Louis region so vibrant. It is an elegant evening of cocktails and dinner, an awards presentation and awe-inspiring performances - all packed into just four hours. Proceeds benefit the Arts and Education Council, which offers programs and services that support more than 70 arts and arts education organizations impacting 1.6 million people throughout the 16-county, bi-state region. KeepArtHappening.org/ArtsAwards.

About Penny Pennington – Penny Pennington is the managing partner of Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 financial services firm. As managing partner, the sixth in the firm's 97-year history, she is responsible for the firm's strategic direction, working together with the more than 43,000 associates across the U.S. and Canada who make a meaningful difference in the lives of more than seven million clients by helping them financially achieve their most important goals.

An active member of the St. Louis community, Pennington serves on the boards of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis (an Arts and Education Council grantee), Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Saint Louis Fashion Fund (an Arts and Education Council grantee) and Whitaker Foundation, and actively champions Edward Jones's national presenting sponsorship with the Alzheimer's Association®.

About Mike Fidler – Mike Fidler spent more than 26 years in corporate and investment banking. He was responsible for building and leading the corporate finance activity for Comerica Bank, which, at the time, was headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, before moving to Dallas, Texas.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Fidler grew up in the Detroit area. He attended Eastern Michigan University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in finance. Fidler and his wife, Penny Pennington, the managing partner of Fortune 500 investment firm Edward Jones, moved to St. Louis from Livonia, Michigan in 2006.

Fidler and Pennington are the co-chairs for the Arts and Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards on Jan. 27, 2020. An avid golfer, Fidler is an accomplished chef and enjoys learning about wine.

About Andréa Purnell – Andréa Purnell is an artist and arts administrator. She is the audience development assistant at the Saint Louis Art Museum and an actress, writer, director and stage manager. Acting credits include theater, commercials, industrial films and movies. Among her writing credits is the play, "Depression, Whose Disease Is It Anyway," which she produced as part of a program she created to address mental health challenges.

Purnell serves on the Regional Arts Commission, Florissant's Disability Awareness Commission and the Fontbonne University Council of Regents. She has received the Grand Center Visionary Award, North County Incorporated 30 Leaders Award, ALIVE Magazine Buzz Listing and DELUX Magazine's Women Who Inspire Award. Purnell holds a bachelor's degree in communication studies from Fontbonne University and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in arts management and leadership from Webster University.

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 Arts and Education Council • 3547 Olive Street • St. Louis, MO 63103-1014

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 **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)

PHOTOS:

Penny Pennington and Mike Fidler. Photo courtesy Edward Jones.

Andréa Purnell. Photo by Dave Ulmer.