



KeepArtHappening.org

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ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL AWARDS \$25,000 IN GRANTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Grants supported through a partnership with Bayer Fund

ST. LOUIS – September 10, 2019 – The [Arts and Education Council](#) has awarded five organizations a combined total of \$25,000 through the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program.

Since 2007, the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program has invested more than \$225,000 in our region to provide access to the arts for people living in the rural communities surrounding St. Louis.

“The Arts and Education Council is grateful for our partnership with Bayer Fund that allows us to support arts and arts education programs that make our region more vibrant,” said Cynthia A. Prost, Arts and Education Council president and CEO. “These grants provide children and adults living in rural communities greater access to meaningful arts and culture activities.”

The organizations (in alphabetical order) that have been awarded Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program grants are:

- **Arts Rolla** (Rolla, Mo.) brings art and communities together by supporting and growing visual, literary and performing arts.
- **Clinton County Showcase** (Breese, Ill.) promotes the performing arts within the community of Clinton County and the surrounding area by providing educational experiences through performing arts projects, seminars and workshops.
- **Sainte Genevieve Art Guild** (Ste. Genevieve, Mo.) will soon open the Sainte Genevieve Art Center and Museum to create more art opportunities for residents and visitors.
- **Steelville Arts Council** (Steelville, Mo.) offers artists a place of natural beauty and inspiration for both visual and performing artists and promotes the arts in their community creating a connection between artists and audiences to enrich the quality of life for all.
- **Warren County Fine Arts Council** (Wright City, Mo.) helps support arts education programs in Warren County schools and funds community performances and a summer camp for kids.

“Whether it’s a community play, dance performance or instructional program, the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program is a conduit for ensuring those who reside in rural areas within the St. Louis metropolitan region have access to the arts,” said Michelle Insko, Senior Community Engagement Manager for Bayer Fund. “Bayer Fund is proud to be a longtime supporter of this impactful program.”

Grant applications were reviewed based on mission, community need, potential impact, artistic quality and fiscal responsibility by a volunteer panel of the Grant Committee from the Arts and Education Council's Board of Directors.

For more information about these organizations and the Arts and Education Council's grant 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 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)

About Bayer Fund-

Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.