



KeepArtHappening.org

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Arts and Education Council announces new board members

Two new members join roster of region's only privately-supported united arts fund

ST. LOUIS – Jan. 6, 2021 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that **Margaret McDonald** and **Mary McHugh** were each elected to a three-year term beginning January 1 on the Arts and Education Council's board of directors. Newly-elected Young Friends of the Arts President **Anita Hansen**, Commercial Relationship Team Administrator at Regions Bank, also joined the board as an ex officio member.

Caren Vredenburgh, former senior director creative services at Caleres, will serve as the nonprofit's board chair for the second year of her term. Officers have also been elected to the following positions: **Jeffrey Carter, M.D.**, Vice Chair; **Terrance Good**, Vice Chair; **Nicole Hudson**, Secretary; **Deanna Hohman**, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair; **Naretha Hopson**, Philanthropy Committee Chair; **Ken Haller, M.D.**, Grants and Program Committee Chair; **Curtis Cassel**, Governance Committee Chair; and **Debbie Marshall**, Planning and Evaluation Committee Chair.

Margaret McDonald is the marketing principal for HOK's St. Louis studio. She is responsible for developing new business, aligning the studio's people with opportunities for them to create and succeed and collaborating with HOK's leaders to serve clients across markets. In addition to her more than 20 years of experience as an interior designer, McDonald has served on numerous St. Louis nonprofit boards.

Mary McHugh, a public relations and strategic communications consultant, helps clients build awareness, consideration and content for their brands. She has developed, coordinated, executed media relations programs at the national, regional and local levels. Additionally, she has supported the community through volunteer and board service with organizations like MindsEye, the Regional Arts Commission and the Professional Theatre Awards Council.

"On behalf of the Arts and Education Council, I'm pleased to welcome Margaret and Mary to the Arts and Education Council's board of directors. I'm thrilled that they have chosen to lend their leadership, experience and enthusiasm for the arts to help us keep art happening. Together, we'll continue our work to create and sustain vibrant communities through the arts across the St. Louis region," said Board Chair Caren Vredenburgh.

For more information about the Arts and Education Council and a complete board listing, visit KeepArtHappening.org.

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About the Arts and Education Council: *Keep Art Happening*. – The Arts and Education Council ensures the 16-county, bi-state region is rich with arts and cultural experiences for all through programs and services that support more than 70 organizations each year, including: general operating grants; arts incubation at the Centene Center for the Arts; PNC Program Grants; the Creative Impact Fund, with lead support from Bayer Fund; the Arts and Education Fund for Teachers;

Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program grants; Arts and Healing Initiative, with lead funding from Missouri Foundation for Health and additional funding from the Crawford Taylor Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, Marillac Mission Fund, Graybar and Church on the Rock; the Art Education Fund, underwritten by Wells Fargo Advisors; the Catalyst Innovation Lab; the Katherine Dunham Fellowship; 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.

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