



KeepArtHappening.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Andie Murphy  
Marketing Manager, Arts and Education Council  
314.289.4008 or [Andie-M@KeepArtHappening.org](mailto:Andie-M@KeepArtHappening.org)

**Call for rural arts organizations seeking funding**

***Grants up to \$5,000 available from Arts and Education Council for arts organizations in rural Missouri and Illinois***

**ST. LOUIS, April 19, 2021** – The [Arts and Education Council](#) is seeking arts organizations in rural Missouri and Illinois counties interested in applying for grants up to \$5,000 through the Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program.

Since the program's inception in 2007, the Arts and Education Council has provided more than \$200,000 in funding for arts programming in the rural communities surrounding the St. Louis metropolitan area. The program is underwritten by Bayer Fund, the philanthropic arm of Bayer.

Organizations seeking funding are invited to submit a letter of interest to the Arts and Education Council by May 19. To be considered, organizations must be located in and serving a county designated as rural by the Census Bureau, which defines rural as any population, housing, or territory NOT in an urban area. Rural Missouri counties can be found [here](#). Rural Illinois counties can be found [here](#).

Organizations can submit their letter of interest through May 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CT. To submit a letter of interest and for more information, visit [KeepArtHappening.org/Rural](http://KeepArtHappening.org/Rural).

###

**About the Arts and Education Council: *Keep Art Happening*.** – The Arts and Education Council builds appreciation, participation and support for arts and arts education across our 16-county, bi-state region. As the oldest and only entirely privately supported arts funder serving the bi-state region, the Arts and Education Council provides an opportunity for St. Louisans to join together to create a tangible, lasting impact on the vibrant arts community we all call home.

By supporting a wide variety of art forms and providing strategic leadership for the arts in the broader community, the Arts and Education Council creates an environment where the growing impact of the arts is felt and celebrated by the entire community. This is accomplished through grants and programs that support more than 70 arts organizations and reach 1.7 million children and adults annually.

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 – 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](http://KeepArtHappening.org) **Phone:** 314.289.4000. **Facebook:** [ArtsandEducation](#) **Twitter:** [@ArtEdSTL](#) **Instagram:** [Arts\\_Education\\_Council](#)