



KeepArtHappening.org

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ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL AWARDS \$40,000 IN PNC PROGRAM GRANTS

Funding to support arts and arts education programs in 2021-2022

ST. LOUIS, June 28, 2021 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that 11 organizations have been awarded a total of \$40,000 in PNC Program Grant funding to help strengthen the region’s arts community. PNC Program Grants – underwritten by the PNC Foundation – provide funding for arts and arts education programs that address community needs.

“The Arts and Education Council, in collaboration with PNC, is proud to support these organizations that are creating impactful arts programming that meets the needs of our community in this moment,” said Jessireé Jenkins, Arts and Education Council manager of grants and programs. “We’re looking forward to seeing how these programs encourage dialogue and opportunities for collaboration in our community.”

Since 2012, the Arts and Education Council has awarded nearly 200 PNC Program Grants totaling more than \$380,000 for arts programs in the St. Louis bi-state region.

“As we embark on the tenth year of awarding PNC Program Grants, it is remarkable to see the continued creativity and care arts organizations demonstrate as they work to address needs throughout the community,” said Michael Scully, PNC regional president for St. Louis. “We are grateful to collaborate with the Arts and Education Council to help bring artistic visions and concepts to life in Greater St. Louis.”

The organizations and programs that have been awarded 2021-2022 PNC Program Grants are, in alphabetical order:

- **Bach Society of Saint Louis’** *Finding Your Voice Educational Video Series* will expand its educational reach by providing free content via an engaging series of videos that introduce children and youth to different singers’ stories and musical materials students might not otherwise be able to experience in an in-person classroom.
- **Bread and Roses Missouri’s** *Workers’ Theater Project* strives to make theater more accessible to workers and their families, broaden who partakes in artistic expression, and welcome working-class St Louisans into artistic spaces by using theater to examine and discuss the political and economic landscape of the region, getting to the roots of the poverty and inequity in St. Louis.
- **Circus Harmony’s** *Architecture and Acrobats* teaches young people to be creative artists as they choreograph and perform site-specific shows that bring the arts to neighborhoods. Throughout the process they’ll work with neighborhood organizations and those interested in the history of the region to ensure accurate storytelling and community engagement.
- **Creative Reaction Lab’s** *Artwork for Equity Advocacy Campaign*, which was launched in 2017 in recognition of the United Nations’ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, will address the decline in arts education among Black and Latinx youth by centering and uplifting these youth voices and promoting their artwork as a means of enacting social justice.
- **Midtown Community Services’** *ARTrepreneur and Midtown Radio Production Programs* leverage the arts to teach students entrepreneurship, brand development and media production. Students learn how to write, produce and perform their own music, ultimately learning how to create valuable media projects that can be used to inspire the community and serve as a tool to promote social justice in St. Louis.

- **Pianos for People's** *Free Summer Music Camps* cater to a broad range of skill levels, including age-specific camps that provide students with educationally appropriate material while also building a sense of community and belonging.
- **Prison Performing Arts' *Learning Through the Arts*** offers year-round performing arts classes to youth and young adults, ages 12-24, who are currently in prison or detention facilities — with the goal of creating opportunities to reveal their talents, intelligence and humanity to themselves, their families and the wider community.
- **Riverview West Florissant Development Corporation's *Imagination Creates Expression*** supports youth in the North Corridor of St. Louis City who are using their voices in the community in which they live through verbal and written expression.
- **The St. Louis Artists Guild** will present *It Was All Very Queer*, a national juried exhibition examining contemporary queer artists residing within the United States. The show will examine contemporary queer artists' work, which investigates identity, social norms, inclusivity and the celebration of being queer.
- **St. Louis Poetry Center's *Outside Literary Magazine*** empowers high school students as writers, artists, entrepreneurs and leaders through online and print publishing. Through the publication process, students build literacy, web and graphic design, marketing, printmaking, event planning and leadership skills.
- **Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis' 2021 Tennessee Williams Festival** highlights the works of the St. Louis native and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright through multidisciplinary arts events, including "The Glass Menagerie".

Applications were reviewed by a volunteer panel of the Arts and Education Council's Grants and Programs Committee and representatives from the PNC Foundation.

For more information about the Arts and Education Council PNC Program Grants, 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, the Arts and Education Fund for Teachers, Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program grants, Arts and Healing Initiative, the Art Education Fund, 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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Instagram: [Arts_Education_Council](https://www.instagram.com/Arts_Education_Council)

About 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.

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