



KeepArtHappening.org

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Contact: Andie Murphy
Marketing Manager, Arts and Education Council
314.289.4008 or Andie-M@KeepArtHappening.org

**Arts And Education Council now accepting 2021-2022
Arts and Education Fund for Teachers Grant applications**

Grants of \$500 to \$5,000 available for classroom-based arts education projects

ST. LOUIS, August 9, 2021 – The Arts and Education Council announced today that applications for the 2021-2022 academic year Arts and Education Fund for Teachers Grants are now open. Since 2009, the Arts and Education Council has distributed over a quarter of a million dollars to 80 schools for art education across the bi-state region. These grants, supported by the Arthur and Helen Baer Foundation and Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis with additional support provided by individual donors, promote classroom-based art projects and artistic opportunities that engage students in the creative process.

“The past school year held many challenges for educators and students alike. We’re thrilled to provide this critical support to educators in our community,” shared Arts and Education Council Manager of Grants and Programs Jessireé Jenkins. “Not only does arts education bring joy into classrooms, but it also contributes to increases in participation and understanding of core subjects and ultimately graduation rates.”

Teachers at schools in the Arts and Education Council’s 16-county bi-state region may apply directly for a grant to use during the 2021-2022 academic year. The arts have the power to transform education both by improving learning of core curriculum and by teaching skills like collaboration and critical thinking. These grants will provide meaningful arts education opportunities for youth at all grade levels. Arts organizations that work in local schools are encouraged to share this opportunity with teachers they work with. Grants can be used to fund arts activities that include partnership with local arts organizations, but the teacher must apply for the grant directly.

Applications for the Arts and Education Fund for Teachers are due September 9 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Teachers should demonstrate how the proposed project provides meaningful art education, inspires youth and engages minds. A volunteer grant panel made up of the Grants and Programs Committee of the Arts and Education Council’s Board of Directors and representatives from the Arthur and Helen Baer Foundation and the Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis determines grant awards. Awardees will be notified and announced in October. For specific criteria and application information, visit KeepArtHappening.org/arts-and-education-fund-for-teachers.

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

p 314.289.4000 • www.KeepArtHappening.org