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

## 2022 St. Louis Arts Awards honorees announced

### *Arts and Education Council to celebrate six honorees at 31<sup>st</sup> annual event*

**ST. LOUIS – September 30, 2021** – The [Arts and Education Council](#) has announced six honorees for the 2022 St. Louis Arts Awards. Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, the event honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the St. Louis region's arts community. Since 1992, the Arts and Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards has honored more than 190 artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens and arts organizations that make the St. Louis region a great place to live, work and play.

The 2022 honorees are: **Mark Bernstein**, Lifetime Achievement in the Arts; **The Black Rep**, Excellence in the Arts; **Anita Jackson**, Excellence in the Arts; **Classic 107.3**, Arts Collaborator; **PaintedBlack STL**, Arts Innovator; and **Rosalind Rogers**, Lincoln Middle School in East St. Louis, Art Educator of the Year.

"For the past 30 years, we've honored incredible individuals and organizations who make a profound difference in the bi-state region through the arts and 2022 will be no different. Each honoree has a unique, impactful story that contributes to an even broader narrative which demonstrates the critical need of the arts in our lives. We're looking forward to celebrating a vibrant arts community for all at the 2022 St. Louis Arts Awards," said Cynthia A. Prost, Arts and Education Council president and CEO.

The 2022 St. Louis Arts Awards will be held Monday, January 24, 2022, at the Chase Park Plaza, Royal Sonesta Hotel. Anesthesiologist **Jeffrey Carter, M.D.**, and HOK Senior Principal **Margaret McDonald** will co-chair and performer and educator **Keith Tyrone Williams** will emcee the fundraiser. Dr. Carter, McDonald and Williams are all Arts and Education Council board members.

Nominations for the awards were submitted by the public in July and honorees were selected by a volunteer committee of previous honorees, arts patrons, artists, arts administrators and community volunteers.

Proceeds benefit the Arts and Education Council, which offers programs and services that support more than 70 arts and arts education organizations impacting 1.6 million people throughout the 16-county, bi-state region.

Tickets for the 2022 St. Louis Arts Awards will be on sale later this fall. For more information about the honorees and sponsorship opportunities visit [KeepArtHappening.org/2022ArtsAwards](https://KeepArtHappening.org/2022ArtsAwards).

**About the Honorees – View and download photos [here](#).**

### **Lifetime Achievement in the Arts – Mark Bernstein**

Mark Bernstein is a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and has managed nonprofit professional theatres since 1982. As Managing Director, he has led The Rep from 1987 to 2019 in partnership with Steven Woolf, and from 2019 to the present in partnership with Hana Sharif. In addition to work at The Rep, he has taught in Webster University's Arts Management and Leadership MFA Program since 2013. He has been active in the leadership of the League of Resident Theatres for many years, having served as vice president, an executive committee member and as a member of numerous national negotiating committees. Before

coming to St. Louis, he spent six years at the Philadelphia Drama Guild and taught financial management for nonprofit arts institutions at Drexel University. Bernstein will retire as managing director of The Rep on Jan. 1, 2022.

### **Excellence in the Arts – The Black Rep**

Faced with a lack of opportunities for Black students in the theater and with the fact that Black plays were seldom performed, The Black Rep was founded in 1976 by Producing Director Ron Himes, while he was an undergraduate student at Washington University. Himes also recognized the healing power of theatre to expose misunderstandings and shatter myths, by exploring common themes that build bridges to foster a stronger community. The Black Rep's mission is to provide platforms for theatre, dance, and other creative expressions from the African American perspective that heighten the social and cultural awareness of its audiences. The founding vision for The Black Rep is no less relevant today: a more equitable distribution of opportunities and resources for Black students and professionals in the theatre; improved representation on and back-stage in the theatre industry; and a fostered community culture of support and mentorship for those who will follow us.

### **Excellence in the Arts – Anita Jackson**

Anita Jackson is a native of St. Louis, Missouri who returned home after living in New York City for twelve years. She is a graduate of the American Music and Dramatic Academy in New York and has performed extensively nationally and internationally in theater productions, concerts and workshops. She has recorded and performed as a background vocalist on Grammy Award winning songs and albums for artists such as Bette Midler, Whitney Houston and Cissy Houston. Her theatrical experience in St. Louis includes work with Tennessee Williams Festival in St. Louis and numerous plays with the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre under the direction of Ron Himes. She has appeared as a featured vocalist with several jazz, R&B, soul, blues and gospel music groups in and around St. Louis including at Jazz St. Louis, BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups, St. Louis Ethical Society, the Heman Park Starlight Concert Series and the Sheldon Concert Hall – as a soloist and collaborative artist with many of St. Louis' finest musicians.

### **Arts Collaborator – Classic 107.3**

Classic 107.3 was created by people who believe a vibrant arts and cultural scene is essential for our community to thrive. Since 2013, the station has been a home for the St. Louis fine arts and performing arts to come together, to share ideas and to flourish. Listeners tune in to hear diverse sounds, log on to learn about the local arts scene, wind down with podcasts about favorite music and take Classic 107.3 with them throughout their day and around the globe. It is a one-of-a-kind radio station with a commitment to providing outstanding programming in support of the arts for the benefit of the St. Louis community. Organized as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) entity, the station offers a broad and invigorating format on both analog radio at 107.3 and in hybrid digital at 96.3 HD2. Content is also streamed online, on Audacy and via the station's mobile app. As a community-owned station, Classic 107.3 showcases the best the St. Louis region has to offer in the arts, collaborating with artists, arts organizations and other community partners to keep the arts accessible to the community through radio.

### **Arts Innovator – PaintedBlack STL**

PaintedBlack STL was founded in Summer 2020 by Jayvn Solomon and Tyson Baker. It began as an initiative to bolster local black artists by connecting them to businesses that were boarded up due to property destruction and creating paid mural opportunities. In 2020, they later collaborated with St. Louis Shakespeare Festival on two public art experiences. From there, PaintedBlack STL has been focused on working with primarily local Black artists and businesses to create paid, public facing creative opportunities. In 2021, they were selected to represent the region in a campaign from Commerce Bank entitled "What Matters Most". PaintedBlack STL continues to empower local Black artists by connecting and collaborating with community organizations.

### **Art Educator of the Year – Rosalind Rogers**

Rosalind Rogers, a Kansas City, Kansas native, is a mother, musician, educator, founder and Executive Director of The Inner Ear Foundation, an urban youth orchestra committed to providing at-risk youth with quality music education based out of East St. Louis, Illinois. In 2017, Rosalind accepted her job as Music Teacher at East St. Louis' Lincoln Middle School. There she pioneered their first school orchestra program in over 40 years, as well as created and facilitated an after-school music program teaching the violin, viola and cello. Since her arrival, she has secured several community partnerships aiding in her mission to provide at-risk youth with quality string education experiences. She hopes to take away the taboo of the classical arts by using music education to unify and build up her community.

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

p 314.289.4000 • [www.KeepArtsHappening.org](http://www.KeepArtsHappening.org)

**About the St. Louis Arts Awards** - Since 1992, the Arts and Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards has honored more than 190 artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens and arts organizations that make the St. Louis region so vibrant. It is an elegant evening of cocktails and dinner, an awards presentation and awe-inspiring performances – all packed into just four hours. Proceeds benefit the Arts and Education Council, which offers programs and services that support more than 70 arts and arts education organizations impacting 1.6 million people throughout the 16-county, bi-state region. [KeepArtHappening.org/ArtsAwards](http://KeepArtHappening.org/ArtsAwards).

**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.

Connect with us – **Website:** [KeepArtHappening.org](http://KeepArtHappening.org) **Phone:** 314.289.4000. **Facebook:** [ArtsandEducation](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsandEducation) **Twitter:** [@ArtEdSTL](https://twitter.com/ArtEdSTL)  
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