



KeepArtHappening.org

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

Applications for the Arts and Education Council's Operating Support Grants are now open

ST. LOUIS – April 6, 2022 – The [Arts and Education Council](#) announced today that applications for Operating Support Grants are now open. The Arts and Education Council's Operating Support Grant Program provides ongoing, unrestricted support to arts organizations whose programming supports the goal of the Arts and Education Council to drive community impact.

Made possible by contributions from thousands of individuals, corporate and foundation donors to the Arts and Education Council's annual fund, these grants provide unrestricted funding to help strengthen infrastructure, build sustainability and grow outreach programs.

"We're excited to open this grant application to a larger pool of arts organizations in our region than ever before. This year, arts nonprofits within our 16-county bi-state region with annual operating budgets of \$250,000 or more are eligible to apply," shared Arts and Education Council Manager of Grants and Programs Jessireé Jenkins. "Emerging from a two-year pandemic, arts organizations of all sizes need unrestricted funds to grow and thrive, creating a vibrant arts community. We're grateful to our donors who make this support possible."

To be eligible for an Operating Support Grant organizations must have a primary mission to provide programs or activities in areas directly concerned with arts, arts education or cultural heritage for the public with active programming for most of the year, operate within the Arts and Education Council's 16-county bi-state region, have a 501(c)(3) tax status for three or more years and operate under board-approved annual budgets of \$250,000 or more. Additionally, organizations should meet all other criteria and requirements as outlined in the Operating Support Guidelines.

Applications for Operating Support Grants are due May 5, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. A volunteer grant panel comprised of the Grants and Programs Committee of the Arts and Education Council's Board of Directors determines grant awards. Awardees will be notified and announced in June.

For specific criteria and application information, visit KeepArtHappening.org/OperatingSupport. For additional information contact Jessireé Jenkins, Manager of Grants and Programs at Jessiree-J@KeepArtHappening.org or 314.289.4015, or Eli Wennstrom, Grants and Programs Specialist at Eli-W@KeepArtHappening.org or 314.289.4012.

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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 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, Leadership Roundtables, Arts Marketers, 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 **Phone:** 314.289.4000. **Facebook:** [ArtsandEducation](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsandEducation) **Twitter:** [@ArtEdSTL](https://twitter.com/ArtEdSTL) **Instagram:** [Arts Education Council](https://www.instagram.com/Arts_Education_Council)

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

p 314.289.4000 • www.KeepArtHappening.org