



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WELLS FARGO ADVISORS DONATES \$50,000 TO THE ARTS AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Missouri. Wells Fargo Advisors and the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis (A&E) announced a continued partnership in the areas of arts and culture. Wells Fargo Advisors' unrestricted investment of \$50,000 in one of the nation's oldest united arts funds expands access to creativity, encourages collaboration between diverse cultural genres and helps build capacity among local arts organizations in the bi-state, metropolitan region.

“From Wells Fargo Advisor’s first year in the St. Louis market, the company has generously supported and partnered with the Arts and Education Council to realize our mission to create a vibrant community for all,” says A&E President and CEO, Cynthia Prost. “Wells Fargo Advisors has fully embraced St. Louis’s extraordinary philanthropic climate, particularly where the arts are concerned.”

The Arts and Education Council has provided critical financial support for established and emerging St. Louis arts organizations since 1963. Today, nearly 70 institutions supported by A&E through grants, professional development services, and accelerator space at the Centene Center for the Arts engage, educate and entertain over 1.7 million adults and children throughout 16 counties. Cumulatively, the region’s arts and culture sector generates more than \$582 million in economic impact, supports nearly 30,000 jobs and draws over 11 million visitors and residents to performances, exhibits, classes and workshops each year.

“The arts are a catalyst for promoting exposure, understanding, awareness and unity, said Vanessa Cooksey, senior vice president of community affairs. Art brings people together in a meaningful way and it is with this in mind that Wells Fargo Advisors proudly supports the Arts & Education Council. We view investment in the arts as critical to maximizing human potential and igniting community conversations that will move our region forward. This investment with the Arts and Education Council helps Wells Fargo Advisors meet several of its charitable priorities and makes a significant, immediate impact in our community.”

Wells Fargo Advisors’ contribution will support A&E’s Annual Campaign which, to date, has provided more than \$104 million in arts and arts education grants over A&E’s 53 year lifespan.

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About Wells Fargo Advisors

With \$1.5 trillion in client assets as of June 30, 2016, Wells Fargo Advisors provides investment advice and guidance to clients through 15,042 full-service financial advisors and 3,900 licensed bankers. This vast network of advisors, one of the nation's largest, serves investors through locations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Wells Fargo Advisors is the trade name used by two separate registered broker-dealers and non-bank affiliates of Wells Fargo & Company: Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC and Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (members SIPC). Statistics include other broker-dealers of Wells Fargo & Company. www.wellsfargoadvisors.com

About the Arts and Education Council: *When the Arts Thrive, Our City Thrives.* – The Arts and Education Council (A&E), is the St. Louis region's United Arts Fund providing financial, technical and educational support for arts organizations. A&E's mission is to build appreciation, participation and support for arts and arts education throughout the St. Louis community. A&E is the only privately funded arts umbrella organization that serves the 16-county, bi-state St. Louis region. Since its inception in 1963, 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. With funds raised, the Arts and Education Council annually assists approximately 70 nonprofit arts and arts education organizations. Additionally, the Arts and Education Council provides office, rehearsal and performance space for 17 nonprofit arts organizations in the Centene Center for Arts and Education, a unique arts incubator located in the Grand Center Arts District. A&E 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 Silver Participant rating.

How to find us – **Website:** KeepArtHappening.org **Phone:** 314.289.4000. **Facebook:** ArtsandEducation **Twitter:** @ArtEdSTL
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