

**FEBRUARY 2-6, 2026 | FEBRUARY 2-6, 2026 | FEBRUARY 2-6, 2026**

**MISSOURI**



**ARTS**

**ADVOCACY**

**WEEK**

**2026 MCA ARTS  
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT**

MCA is requesting an appropriation of \$24 million from the Non-Resident Athlete and Entertainer Tax to the Missouri Cultural Trust.

**JOIN US AS WE TAKE OUR  
MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS**

# MISSOURI ARTS ADVOCACY WEEK



Missouri Citizens for the Arts is a non-partisan, statewide, grass roots organization that advocates to secure stable financial support for the arts to benefit Missouri and its citizens.

Since 1980, Missouri Citizens for the Arts has provided a presence for Missouri's arts industry at the State Capitol. We are dedicated to amplifying the collective voice of Missouri's arts industry.

During Missouri Arts Advocacy Week 2026, arts advocates from across the state will take our message directly to legislators via in-person and virtual meetings at the capitol and in-district.

## ARTS ADVOCACY WEEK EVENTS

Your region may be having an advocacy training too! Check out our Eventbrite or Facebook page for events in your area.

### JANUARY 22

- MCA Statewide Virtual Arts Advocacy Training at 2:00pm
- Hear from MCA lobbyist Kyna Iman, statewide arts leaders, and more!
- [Register here](#)

### FEBRUARY 4

- Join us at the Capitol as we advocate in person!
- 10-11:30 am- MCA Briefing in Truman State Office Building Rm 490
- 11:30 am- Regional lunches in Capitol
- Meetings with legislators
- 2 pm- Missouri Arts Council Awards in Capitol Rotunda
- [Register here](#)

### FEBRUARY 2-6

- Meet with legislators virtually or in district If unable to meet on Feb 4th.

# ARTS ADVOCACY TIPS

## **KNOW THE FACTS. MAKE THE ASK.**

Make sure your communication is clear, concise, and consistent. Reference the specific legislation by proper title and have a specific “ask” – be a closer!

## **BE TIMELY**

Respond to action alerts and deadlines quickly. Advocacy is most effective when legislators hear from you at key moments in the legislative process.

## **KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING**

Acknowledge legislators’ support for arts funding, then bring the message home by sharing district-specific arts programs and the people they serve.

## **CONNECT THROUGH WHAT MATTERS**

Get to know your legislator before you connect. Explore their website and social media to learn about their committees, sponsored bills, and accomplishments. Then tie your message back to arts programs and revenue in your district to make the conversation relevant and impactful.

## **SPEAK UP**

Your voice carries weight! Share how the arts impact you personally. Legislators value hearing directly from their constituents—especially those who live and vote in their district.

## **LEAVE BEHIND MCA MATERIALS**

Make sure to leave our legislator packet and contact information to reinforce our message.



# MCA BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF



## Executive Committee

Leslie Forrester, President, Springfield  
Evie Craig, Vice President, Kansas City  
Scott Pearson, Secretary, Kansas City  
Wally Bloss, Treasurer, Joplin  
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Kyna Iman, Legislative Consultant  
Kaetlin Davis, MCA Administrator and  
Advocacy Day Coordinator

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Jessie Youngblood, St. Louis  
Roger Williams, Lee's Summit  
Barbara Mustoe, Jefferson City  
Ben Nordstrom, St. Louis  
Linda Treasure, Kirksville  
Erin Prange, St. Louis  
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## Ex-Officio Members

Michael Donovan, Executive Director of  
Missouri Arts Council  
Phyllis Pasley, Executive Director of  
Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

## ARTS ADVOCACY WEEK SPONSORS

**THANK YOU to these  
organizations and individuals  
who helped sponsor  
MCA's Advocacy Week**

**ArtsKC**

**Connect2Culture**

**Hallmark**

**Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies**

**Missouri Alliance for Arts Education**

**Springfield Regional Arts Council**

**Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis**

**Alison Schieber**

**Evie Craig**

**Marie Nau Hunter**





# MISSOURI CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS ADVOCACY AGENDA

## FY27

Through creativity and shared experiences, the arts help Missourians build understanding, communication, and resilience — the foundations of strong, connected communities.

### NONRESIDENT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE AND ENTERTAINERS' TAX

Required by statute (Section 143.183 RSMo), 60% of the Non-Resident Athletes and Entertainers Tax (A&E Tax) should be allocated to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund.

**FY25 Collections: \$40.9M**

**FY25 Allocation to the Missouri Arts Council: only \$10.1M (25%)**

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**60% required by statute is \$24.5M**

### MISSOURI NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS GENERATE:

- ◆ \$1.725 billion in direct and associated economic activity
- ◆ 13,356 jobs

### IN FY27, MISSOURI CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS REQUESTS:

- ◆ \$24 million to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund.
- ◆ 10% of the A&E tax to four cultural partners:
  - Missouri State Library Networking Fund,
  - Missouri Humanities Council Trust Fund
  - Missouri Public Broadcasting Corporation Special Fund
  - Missouri Historic Preservation Revolving Fund
- ◆ \$1 million to support the 2027 Missouri Fine Arts & Scholars Academy
- ◆ 100% funding in House and Senate districts



# **MCA ADVOCACY AGENDA**

## **FY27**

The arts make Missouri a better place to live, learn, work, visit, and do business. Arts and cultural organizations are economic drivers that support good paying jobs, attract tourists, and grow the state's tax base.

### **MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL**

Missouri Citizens for the Arts (MCA) requests that the Governor and Legislature invest in the arts by allocating \$24 million to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund. This would be a \$13.9 million increase to fund new and existing programs at the Missouri Arts Council. The Missouri Arts Council supports hundreds of quality arts programs throughout the state of Missouri. Additional funds are needed to sustain current programming, target underserved districts, and support new initiatives.

### **A&E TAX CULTURAL PARTNERS**

MCA supports the current cultural partners distribution formula, which calls for each of the partners - Missouri State Library Networking Fund, Missouri Humanities Council Trust Fund, Missouri Public Broadcasting Corporation Special Fund, and the Missouri Historic Preservation Revolving Fund - to receive 10% of the A&E tax, as required by the statute.

### **ARTS EDUCATION IN MISSOURI SCHOOLS**

Missouri Citizens for the Arts and the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education believe that Missouri's PK-12 students deserve access to quality education in the fine arts - music, visual-arts, theatre, media arts, and dance. In addition to its intrinsic value, arts education stimulates compassion and empathy, develops problem-solving and critical thinking skills, and improves academic performance in other disciplines.

- MCA and the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education support fully funding the school foundation formula and transportation fund.
- MCA and the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education recommend that legislation supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) be expanded to include the Arts (STEAM).

### **MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY**

Missouri Citizens for the Arts is requesting \$1 million to support the 2027 Missouri Fine Arts Academy (MFAA), a two-week summer residential program at Missouri State University for highly motivated high school students who study visual arts, theatre, dance, creative writing, and music. The funding will ensure that students of limited financial means can participate.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS**

MCA supports state funding for capital improvement projects for arts and cultural facilities in Missouri.



# MCA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



**THANK YOU to the following organizations that are helping us to keep the arts alive in Missouri through their current membership with MCA!**

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph	Heritage Philharmonic, Lee's Summit
Allied Arts Council of St Joseph, St. Joseph	Historic Bethel German Colony, Inc., Bethel
The Arts Asylum, Kansas City	Joplin Arts District, Joplin
Arts Festival Association, St. Charles	Joplin Little Theatre, Joplin
ArtsKC Regional Arts Council, Kansas City	Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City
Arts Rolla, Rolla	Kansas City Blues Society, Kansas City
Best of Missouri Hands, Columbia	Kansas City Young Audiences, Kansas City
Boone County Historical Society, Columbia	Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City
Bread and Roses Missouri, St. Louis	Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City
Caldwell County Arts, Hamilton	Kirksville Arts Association, Kirksville
Caruthersville Area Arts Council, Caruthersville	Kirkwood Performing Arts Center, Kirkwood
Chamber Music Society of St. Louis, St. Louis	Lake Arts Council, Osage Beach
CIBC Westend Academy, St. Louis	Latinx Arts Network, St. Louis
City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs, Columbia	Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis
City of St. Peters Cultural Arts Centre, St. Peters	Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra, Lee's Summit
Connect2Culture, Joplin	Manchester Arts, Manchester
Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis	Manchester Parks, Recreation, & Arts, Manchester
Craft Alliance, St. Louis	Margaret Harwell Art Museum, Poplar Bluff
Creative Arts Productions, St. Joseph	Marshfield Performing Arts Society, Marshfield
Crossroads Arts Council, Wentzville	Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers, Harrisburg
Dances of India, St. Louis	Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City
Disapora Connections Unlimited, St. Louis	MidCity Excellence Community Learning Center,
Folly Theater/Performing Arts Foundation of Kansas City	St. Joseph
Gateway Festival Orchestra of St. Louis	Mineral Area Council on the Arts, Park Hills
George A. Spiva Center for the Arts, Joplin	Missouri Alliance for Arts Education,
Grand Center Inc, St. Louis	Maryland Heights
Hallmark Cards, Kansas City	Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies,
Hannibal Arts Council, Hannibal	Hannibal
Hannibal Concert Association, Hannibal	Missouri Symphony Society, Columbia
Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex, Joplin	Mosaics - Fine Art Festival, St. Charles
HEARding Cats Collective, Inc., St. Louis	Neosho Arts Council, Neosho



# MCA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



**THANK YOU to the following organizations that are helping us to keep the arts alive in Missouri through their current membership with MCA!**

New Music Circle, St. Louis	St. Louis Cathedral Concerts, St. Louis
North St. Louis Arts Council, St. Louis	St. Louis Civic Orchestra, St. Louis
Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Columbia	St. Louis Chamber Chorus, St. Louis
Owen/Cox Dance Group, Kansas City	St. Louis Children's Choirs, St. Louis
Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph	St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis
Post Art Library, Joplin	St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts, St. Louis
Presser Arts Center, Mexico	STAGES St. Louis, St. Louis
Pro Musica, Joplin	Starlight Theatre Association of Kansas City, Kansas City
RAC- Regional Arts Council of St. Louis, St. Louis	Stray Dog Theatre, St. Louis
Raintree Arts Council, Clarksville	Sugar Creek Festival Board, Sugar Creek
Robidoux Resident Theatre, St. Joseph	The Muny, St. Louis
Rolla Choral Arts Society, Rolla	The Sheldon Arts Foundation, St. Louis
Royal Arts Council, Versailles	Warrensburg Arts Commission, Warrensburg
Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education, Chesterfield	We Always Swing Inc., Columbia
Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis	Westport Center for the Arts, Kansas City
Springfield Ballet, Springfield	
Springfield Contemporary Theatre, Inc., Springfield	
Springfield Little Theatre, Springfield	
Springfield Regional Arts Council, Springfield	
St. Joseph Symphony Society, St. Joseph	
St. Louis Artists' Guild, St. Louis	

## JOIN MCA

### DO YOU SUPPORT OUR MISSION?

If so, you should join us as a member!

MCA relies on our members to have a consistent voice in the State Capitol to advocate for Missouri Arts.

**You can learn more and join us today  
at [mo4arts.org](http://mo4arts.org)!**