

**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



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Leslie Forrester, President, Springfield  
Evie Craig, Vice President, Kansas City  
Scott Pearson, Secretary, Kansas City  
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## Staff

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

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New Music Circle, St. Louis  
North St. Louis Arts Council, St. Louis  
Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Columbia  
Owen/Cox Dance Group, Kansas City  
Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph  
Post Art Library, Joplin  
Presser Arts Center, Mexico  
Pro Musica, Joplin  
RAC- Regional Arts Council of St. Louis, St. Louis  
Raintree Arts Council, Clarksville  
Robidoux Resident Theatre, St. Joseph  
Rolla Choral Arts Society, Rolla  
Royal Arts Council, Versailles  
Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education, Chesterfield  
Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis  
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

St. Louis Cathedral Concerts, St. Louis  
St. Louis Civic Orchestra, St. Louis  
St. Louis Chamber Chorus, St. Louis  
St. Louis Children's Choirs, St. Louis  
St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis  
St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts, St. Louis  
STAGES St. Louis, St. Louis  
Starlight Theatre Association of Kansas City, Kansas City  
Stray Dog Theatre, St. Louis  
Sugar Creek Festival Board, Sugar Creek  
The Muny, St. Louis  
The Sheldon Arts Foundation, St. Louis  
Warrensburg Arts Commission, Warrensburg  
We Always Swing Inc., Columbia  
Westport Center for the Arts, Kansas City

## 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)!**