



## For Immediate Release

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### Kresge Foundation Partners with the Arts and Education Council and the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation to Provide \$200,000 for Arts and Community Grants in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO – The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, is piloting a new community arts and engagement project, in St. Louis, Baltimore and Detroit that encourages residents to use art and culture as a tool to address issues in their communities. Kresge has enlisted the Arts and Education Council, in partnership with the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, to administer the St. Louis program titled *Kresge Arts in St. Louis*. The Foundation is investing \$200,000 over two years in each city. Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

“We believe a thriving arts and cultural community – one that is well supported and well recognized – enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors and, in doing so, inspires new thinking, spurs innovation and accelerates the creative vitality of the region,” said Kresge Foundation President Rip Rapson. “Art and culture can inspire citizens to transform neighborhoods and encourage civic dialogue around challenging issues. In times of uncertainty, we need creative outlets to feed the human spirit. We believe that when we make consistent and purposeful investments of our time and talents, great things can happen.”

*Kresge Arts in St. Louis* is intended to support the creative ideas that percolate from within the selected communities. The goal is that projects will engage underserved and new audiences as well as children, teens and families; promote cross-cultural understanding; increase exposure to art and culture; and provide experiences in non-traditional spaces such as low-income housing developments, juvenile detention centers, battered women’s shelters and after-school program centers.

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## Add One/Kresge Arts in St. Louis

“The Kresge Foundation is providing St. Louis with a unique opportunity for the arts and local communities to collaborate and create new projects that will enrich the lives of so many people,” said Council President Cynthia A. Prost. “In these difficult times, arts and culture provide us with a place of refuge – a place where our mind and spirit can soar. I look forward to the innovation that will grow out of the collaboration between arts and community groups.”

“In challenging economic times it is critical that we leverage limited dollars, especially in the charitable sector,” said David R. Luckes, president and CEO of the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation. “A&E and Kresge’s partnership is an exceptional example of how grant dollars can be leveraged to engage the arts more deeply in community-based projects that address immediate needs straining the economic, social and cultural fabric of St. Louis.”

Pilot cities were selected based on a criterion that included median household income and the readiness of existing local partners to help launch the project. Twelve of the nation’s most distressed cities were considered for participation.

Applicants in the three pilot cities – St. Louis, Baltimore and Detroit – may request two-year grants for planning and implementation. Projects do not have to be new but existing projects will not receive priority funding. Complete information on *Kresge Arts in St. Louis*, the grant process, and applications can be found at [www.KeepArtsHappening.org](http://www.KeepArtsHappening.org). The deadline for submission is July 10, 2009. Grantees will be announced in August 2009 with funding beginning thereafter.

The project is designed to test Kresge’s belief that grassroots arts and cultural projects can be an effective tool to unite communities, address pressing social issues, and uplift spirits in difficult times. Individuals and groups will be encouraged to apply, including local artists and historians, neighborhood and homeowner associations, teens with parental consent, service agencies, municipal governments, community development corporations, and arts and cultural organizations, among others.

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## Add Two/Kresge Arts in St. Louis

### Kresge Arts in St. Louis Partners

**Kresge Foundation** - The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, is a \$3.1 billion private, national foundation that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in six fields: health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development. In partnership with grantees, Kresge seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, improving the health of low-income people, supporting artistic expression, assisting in the revitalization of Detroit, and advancing methods for dealing with global climate change. In 2008, the foundation approved 342 grants totaling \$181 million. In St. Louis, the Kresge Foundation has supported many organizations including the Magic House, Touhill Performing Arts Center, Urban Strategies, YMCA of Greater St. Louis and St. Louis Children's Hospital. Visit [www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org) for more information.

**Arts and Education Council** - Since 1963, the Arts and Education Council has raised nearly \$100 million in private funding for the arts – an important task that directly affects the quality of life of the St. Louis region. With those funds, the Council annually assists approximately 80 non-profit arts and arts education organizations. Additionally, the Council provides office space, state-of-the-art technology, rehearsal and performance space for 15 nonprofit organizations in the Centene Center for Arts and Education, a unique arts incubator located in Grand Center. Visit [www.KeepArtsHappening.org](http://www.KeepArtsHappening.org) or call 314.289.4000 for more information.

**Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation** - The Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, established in 1915, has been helping St. Louisans put charitable dollars to work addressing the issues most important to them in the communities they care most about. The Foundation is composed of more than 400 charitable funds, each representing a unique charitable-giving partnership with an individual, family, or business. In total, these funds distribute nearly \$15 million annually to some 1,300 nonprofits in areas aligned with the interests of our donors. These areas are generally defined as the arts, community development, education, environment, health, human services, and religion. Visit [www.gstlcf.org](http://www.gstlcf.org) for more information.

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