



## Recent Accomplishments of the Arts and Education Council

Since 1963, the Arts and Education Council has raised and distributed more than \$100 million to arts and arts education organizations in the 16-county, bi-state metropolitan St. Louis region, solely through private donations. The Arts and Education Council is the third oldest United Arts Fund in the country and continues to be ranked among the top United Arts Funds by the Americans for the Arts, the nation's nonprofit organization for advancing the arts, from a field of 53 similar organizations in the United States.

### 2012

A&E began 2012 by announcing more than 70 grants to local arts and arts education organizations whose outreach serves children and families living in urban, suburban and rural areas. This funding, made possible by the contributions of individuals, institutions, and businesses throughout the region, enables millions of children and adults to experience music, theater, dance, film, literary arts, and visual arts and participate in outreach programs.

A&E hosted its annual Kickoff Breakfast in January for Workplace Giving Coordinators from corporations, professional firms, schools and government offices. This year's campaign theme is "PARTICIPATE – Keep Art Happening." Workplace Giving Campaigns account for one-third of the donations A&E receives each year and have a tremendous impact on A&E's ability to support the arts.

The annual St. Louis Arts Awards celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary on January 23, 2012, at the Chase Park Plaza. Honorees include: *Excellence in the Arts* – Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis; *Lifetime Achievement in the Arts* – Linda Kennedy, The Black Rep; *Excellence in the Arts* – Peter Martin, jazz pianist; *Excellence in Philanthropy* – The Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation; *Corporate Support of the Arts* – Novus International, Inc.; *Art Educator of the Year* – Jason Brown (Riverview Gardens School District); and *Arts Innovator* – Joan Lipkin, That Uppity Theatre Company. Over 600 arts patrons are expected to attend the event. Presented since 1992, the St. Louis Arts Awards is the preeminent award ceremony honoring individuals who achieve a legacy of artistic excellence, and organizations and businesses that enrich St. Louis' arts and cultural community. The event will be televised by The Nine Network of Public Media.

### 2011

Associates and partners at Edward Jones donated a record \$625,000 to A&E through its 2011 Workplace Giving Campaign. Sixty-eight percent of associates participated in this, the largest campaign in A&E's history. The 2011 total surpassed the previous year's effort by nearly \$50,000. An additional campaign among the firm's St. Louis-area branches netted nearly \$22,000 for A&E.

The Boeing Company donated \$125,000 to A&E to benefit its annual campaign. A portion of the donation funds the fourth year of the Boeing/Arts and Education Council Collaborative Grant program, an innovative funding opportunity for arts organizations to create and promote a more sustainable arts and cultural environment that engages people to become lifelong arts participants, patrons and practitioners. Since 2008 The Boeing Company has invested \$200,000 in 32 grants through this program, administered by A&E.

Employees of Ameren Corporation donated more than \$112,000 to A&E through its 2011 Workplace Giving Campaign. More than 1,100 employees made financial commitments through outright gifts and payroll deduction. Ameren's commitment to A&E continued throughout the year as the company's president and CEO Tom Voss and his wife, Carol, serve as co-chairs of the 2012 St. Louis Arts Awards.

Employees of Laclede Gas Company donated \$59,000 through its A&E-sponsored Workplace Giving Campaign. In 2011, \$32,000 was directed to A&E and \$27,000 to the St. Louis Symphony. The St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Associated relocated its offices to the Centene Center for Arts and Education in 2011.

A&E received a \$30,000 donation from the PNC Foundation to help underwrite the PNC Project Grant program in 2012. Grants will range from \$500 to \$5,000 and will help fund specific projects in classrooms, community centers,

and neighborhoods throughout the St. Louis region and provide community outreach opportunities to at-risk youth and underserved populations.

Maritz and the Arts and Education Council once again partnered to offer the *Maritz Arts and Education Fund for Teachers*. The unique funding opportunity provided \$20,000 in grants ranging from \$150 – \$5,000 each to 10 arts education projects that encourage creativity in the classroom. In December, the Gateway Center for Giving announced Maritz is its “Giving is On Time” award winner for the Maritz Arts and Education Fund for Teachers program. This award recognizes grantmakers who provide funding to meet the immediate needs of nonprofits and clients in the community, or worked closely with a nonprofit to help them realign their programs and strategies to better meet the needs of their clients and the community during these difficult economic times.

Local employees of architecture/design firm HOK conducted a robust Workplace Giving Campaign for A&E, raising nearly \$9,000 to support St. Louis-area arts and arts education organizations.

A&E was awarded the 2011 GiftLegacy Best 3.0 Website Award at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Practical Planned Giving Conference in San Diego, California, sponsored by Crescendo, the nation’s largest provider of planned giving solutions to nonprofit organizations.

The second annual *American Arts Experience – St. Louis* kicked off its fall festival with a benefit concert for A&E featuring “David Halen & Friends” at the Sheldon Concert Hall. The event was broadcast live on HEC-TV.

A&E, in collaboration with other community partners and arts organizations, presented an Interfaith Memorial to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2011 at the Sheldon Concert Hall. Media sponsors included KMOX Radio – The Charlie Brennan Show, *St. Louis American*, *St. Louis Beacon*, *St. Louis Business Journal*, *St. Louis Jewish Light*, *St. Louis Public Radio*, and the *St. Louis Review*. The Nine Network of Public Media televised the event.

In June 2011, A&E hosted two special events. Major donors enjoyed a *Night at the Opera* in collaboration with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. The evening included a festive outdoor supper and a performance of *Pelléas and Mélisande*. A&E also hosted its annual appreciation event for Workplace Giving Coordinators featuring a Shakespeare Festival St. Louis performance of “Taming of the Shrew” in Forest Park.

During the spring, A&E launched a new giving portal on its website, [www.KeepArtHappening.org](http://www.KeepArtHappening.org), in conjunction with Network for Good, an online donation processing service for nonprofits.

The Monsanto Fund, in collaboration with A&E, awarded \$16,000 in grants to eight arts and arts education programs dedicated to bringing top-quality artists and entertainers into the classrooms and performance venues of the region’s rural communities.

Council President Cynthia A. Prost was elected to the Private Sector Council of Americans for the Arts, a segment of the professional members of Americans for the Arts. The Private Sector Council helps develop and implement private sector advocacy programs and serves as leaders to other local arts agencies seeking to connect with the private sector.

A&E continues to manage an innovative arts incubator known as the Centene Center for Arts and Education in the Grand Center cultural district, which now houses 18 nonprofit arts groups. Arts collectives around the country are looking at how to replicate this unique model, which encourages shared resources and collaboration.

The Arts and Education Council has earned the Wise Giving Seal of Approval from the Better Business Bureau, assuring our donors that A&E maintains the highest standard of fiscal responsibility.