



Fact Sheet – Arts and Education Council (A&E)

- The Arts and Education Council enriches the vibrancy of the St. Louis community by investing in arts and arts education organizations and growing the base of local arts supporters.
- Founded in 1963, A&E is the only privately funded arts umbrella organization that serves the 16-county, bi-state metropolitan St. Louis region. This area is comprised of St. Louis City; the Missouri counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren and Washington; and the Illinois counties of Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair.
- Throughout its 49-year history A&E has raised and distributed over \$100 million in support of the arts and arts education in the St. Louis metropolitan area – a significant contribution that directly affects the quality of life in our region. Each year, the arts provide more than \$700 million to the St. Louis economy and impact over 13,000 jobs.
- With the funds raised through community partnerships, A&E annually assists over 70 nonprofit arts and arts education organizations. These organizations are then able to provide millions of experiences in music, theater, dance, film, literary arts, visual arts and outreach programs for both children and adults in our region.
- Fulfilling the mission of the Arts and Education Council is vital to attracting and retaining a vibrant, talented workforce. A thriving arts climate boosts our local economy and strengthens the creativity, innovation and diversity necessary for a healthy, growing community where people love to live, work, play and raise families.
- The annual St. Louis Arts Awards, celebrating its 21st anniversary in 2012, 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.
- A&E also manages the Centene Center for Arts and Education, an innovative arts incubator located in the Grand Center cultural district that 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 does not receive any funds through taxing districts or from local, county or state government.
- 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.

