



Spark^{10/14/20}
the Arts
in YOUNG HEARTS

• *a virtual luncheon* •

Benefitting KANSAS CITY YOUNG AUDIENCES

Dear Friends,

I support the Arts, because I value the Arts. Art stimulates creativity, fires up imagination, fosters inspiration, gives comfort in times of need, calms the soul, provides a release valve for anger, develops strength, and offers ways to change lives.

When I was younger, I supported the Arts for my own selfish pleasure. Now I support the Arts for my grandchildren and for the children of my friends. I fell in love with Young Audiences (YA) a few years ago, when I attended a student dance recital. There were children of all ages and body types, of different races and economic backgrounds. The emphasis was on style and technique. Students were taught to work together and to perform to their best ability. YA is training young people to create art and to become the future consumers of art experiences. YA is building audiences.

**The Arts are powerful.
The Arts are resilient.
But occasionally, the
Arts need our help.**
Thank you for supporting
the work of Kansas City
Young Audiences today.

Michael Fields
Honorary Chair



Honorary Chairman



Michael Fields

MICHAEL FIELDS

Michael Fields first engaged with philanthropy during his long tenure at Commerce Bank. In 1989 he worked to establish the William T. Kemper Foundation and the Office of Charitable Trusts and Foundations at the bank. After the death of Richard Stern, he was instrumental in establishing the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, and he still continues to serve on the contributions committee. Michael retired from Commerce Bank in 2018, but volunteers extensively, providing guidance and philanthropic support on a national scale. Michael currently has the privilege of serving on the boards of the Kansas City Symphony, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City Foundation. He is co-trustee of the Mary Atkins Trust for the Nelson-Atkins Museum, and serves on the Heart of America Council of Boy Scouts and on the advisory board of the Harriman-Jewell Arts Series. Michael is a member of the International Council for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and is a former member of the Advisory Board of the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas.



Lighton Prize for Teaching Artist Excellence



Paige Ahlenius

In memory of Gertrude W. Lighton, this award is presented for teaching artist excellence. Lighton Prize winners consistently exhibit high artistic quality and their programs have strong ties to school curriculum and inspire student engagement.

PAIGE AHLENIUS

KCYA Teaching Artist / Visual Art

Paige Ahlenius holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Scene Design from the University of Virginia and has been investing in the Kansas City arts community since 1999. A KCYA Teaching Artist since 2008, Paige has developed various process-based art, social studies, and science programs for children ages 3 through 12. Paige goes into schools to teach her science-based workshops, including Construction Physics, The Science of Flight, Properties of Matter, and Simple Machines, and to help students make and remember curricular connections. In addition she teaches mural-painting. Paige is always in demand in the afterschool space teaching her STEM + Arts Integration workshops. Paige teaches Art Studio classes and camps through the Community School of the Arts where she also designs and constructs the sets for the winter and summer theatre performances.

Distinguished Educator Award



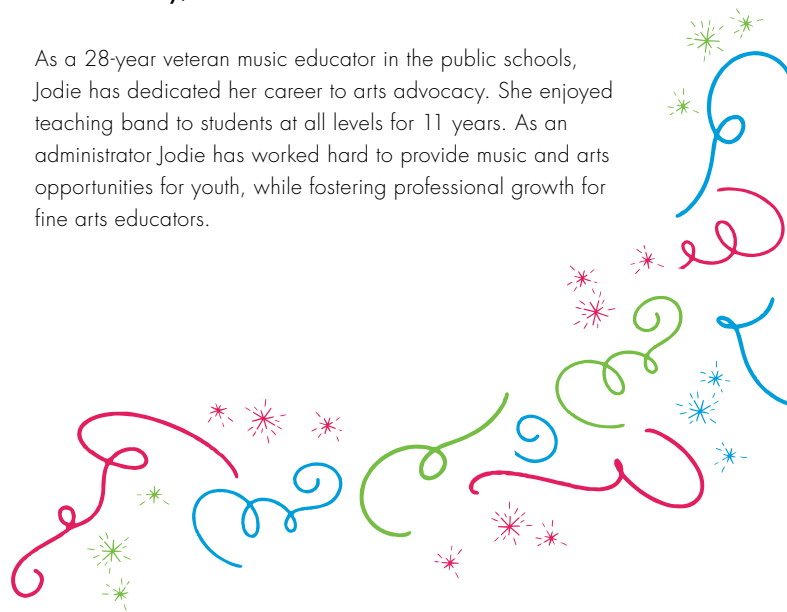
Jodie Lin

This award honors an educator in the community who understands the importance and value of integrating the arts into classroom curriculum and recognizes the correlation between high academic achievement and arts education.

JODIE LIN

Fine Arts Coordinator
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

As a 28-year veteran music educator in the public schools, Jodie has dedicated her career to arts advocacy. She enjoyed teaching band to students at all levels for 11 years. As an administrator Jodie has worked hard to provide music and arts opportunities for youth, while fostering professional growth for fine arts educators.



Trudy Award



Joan Horan

The Trudy Award honors the memory of Gertrude “Trudy” Ziegler, a very special friend of KCYA. Trudy was a longtime KCYA board member, former board president, community arts advocate and volunteer who worked tirelessly for the arts and arts education.


JOAN HORAN

Joan started with DST in 1971 eventually serving as Vice President of Human Resources and the contact for much of DST’s annual corporate funding in the community, including the arts organizations. Joan retired from DST in 2010, just shy of 40 years of service. Connecting with the arts organizations through her corporate philanthropy role at DST introduced her to the people in those organizations, and led to her being invited to serve on various boards and committees. Joan has provided untold volunteer hours to the arts community, including: The Kansas City Symphony, The Folly Theater, The Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City Young Audiences, Kansas City Ballet, Starlight Theatre, and most recently the Friends of the Conservatory at UMKC, the Arts Engagement Fund of Kansas City, The Epstein Gallery, Mid-America-Arts Alliance, and the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. Her time with KCYA and the Youth Symphony of Kansas City are notable in that they reflect her passion for arts education.

“The Arts unite, educate, and connect us to one another. The sooner young people can connect to these ideas the more awareness, caring, and good can come from these connections. That is why I support Kansas City Young Audiences and many other arts organizations in our community.”

KCYA programs

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

 116,762 STUDENTS SERVED	SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	KANSAS CITY ARTS PARTNERS
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School & Community Programs (SCP)

Through our roster for nearly 150 professional teaching artists, we provide schools, libraries, and community centers with classroom workshops, artist residencies, and school performance assemblies. These programs use the arts to engage students and enhance the learning of numerous academic subjects. New in 2020, we are now offering a selection of programs virtually, including several programs designed to address the Social and Emotional well-being of children.



Arts Partners (AP)

KCYA expanded opportunities for students with this innovative program to provide access to Kansas City’s rich cultural resources, including 14 of it’s finest arts organizations. The program allows partner school districts to implement arts education programs across the entire district. Beginning in the 2020 school year, many of the partner organizations have developed virtual programs to reach students wherever they are learning.



PROGRAMS AT OUR LOCATION

 1,964 ENROLLMENTS	COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
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Community School of the Arts (CSA)

KCYA offers direct arts instruction through camps and classes in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Through our professional teaching artists, CSA students are encouraged to explore and develop their own creative talents and abilities. Currently, the CSA offers both virtual and a limited number of in-person (with safety protocols) classes.



KCYA Mission

To engage all youth in the arts, promote creativity, and inspire success in education.

Video Appearances

- Jim Cosgrove**, Teaching Artist and Luncheon Emcee
- Michael Fields**, Luncheon Honorary Chair
- Jill Warren**, KCYA Board Member and Luncheon Chair
- Paige Ahlenius**, Teaching Artist and Lighton Prize Honoree
- Jodie Lin**, Fine Arts Coordinator, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools and Distinguished Educator Honoree
- Joan Horan**, Trudy Award Honoree
- Kristin Raven**, KCYA Board Chair
- Martin English**, KCYA Executive Director
- Kim Shope**, Teaching Artist
- Jaisson Taylor**, Teaching Artist
- Austin Meyer**, Teaching Artist
- Chris Hudson**, Teaching Artist
- Harlan Brownlee**, Teaching Artist
- Marlisa Collins**, LINC Site Coordinator
- LaToya Jones**, CSA Parent
- Frankie Nelson**, CSA Student
- Alice Nelson**, CSA Parent
- Ryder Talamantez**, CSA Student
- Franci Talamantez Witte**, Teaching Artist and Parent
- Samuel Eddy**, CSA Student
- Marsha Eddy**, CSA Parent

Special thanks to **SpaceMob** for video production!



Your gifts help

Generous donors LIKE YOU make it possible for Kansas City Young Audiences to:

- underwrite in-school programs that serve more than **84,000 students in Title I Schools.**
- offer more than **300 scholarships** that allow kids with financial need to participate in camps, classes, and performances at the Community School of the Arts.



Especially this year!

Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, our mission continues to inspire us. We are determined to find innovative ways to connect children with quality arts experiences.



In a dedicated effort to reach children where they are, KCYA has invested time, energy, and dollars to upgrade infrastructure and utilize new technology.



With computer hardware and software upgrades for staff working from home, new web cams for meetings, large monitors for teaching artist use in Zoom classes, health and safety protocols and equipment, adapting our organization for this new virtual world has been expensive.

Your support is vital to our success. We can't thank you enough!

[KCYA.org/DONATE](https://www.kcya.org/DONATE)

Many thanks to our generous sponsors:

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Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts,
Commerce Bank, Trustee
in honor of Michael Fields

Joan Horan
in honor of Michael Fields

MASTER ARTIST

MURIEL MCBRIEN
KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION



Bill and Peggy Lyons
in honor of Michael Fields, and in memory of Bob and Mary Lyons

Edward P. Milbank
in honor of Michael Fields, and in memory of Bob and Mary Lyons

LEAD ARTIST



Michael D. Fields
The McDonnell Foundation
Julie and Mike Kirk
John and Chrissy Vaughn
in honor of Joan Horan

TEACHING ARTIST



Jennifer and John Isenberg
Amber and Chris Mounts
Steve and Linda Taylor
in honor of Michael Fields and Joan Horan

We apologize to anyone who may have been omitted due to print deadlines

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in honor of Michael Fields
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in honor of Michael Fields, Joan Horan, and Bill Lyons
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