



Arts Council of  
Southeast Missouri

# 2023 Annual Report

Prepared By :  
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# A Word from Director Kelly Downes

In issuing this Annual Report, and by reaching out to current and past supporters alike, it is our sincere hope that you see the impact that your support has on our organization. Whether you are a private member, a corporate sponsor, or a volunteer, your interest in our mission helps to ignite enthusiasm in the visual, literary, performing, culinary, and healing arts across the SEMO region. One needn't be a scholar to understand the impact of the arts on local economies, nor does one need to be a psychologist to understand the impact of aesthetics on our mental and emotional well-being. Beauty helps us believe that there is good in the world, and helps us to feel connected to one another through the creative process. Every time you commit to supporting our organization, you are making a commitment to making our region a better place to live. And we are truly grateful that you show up and do the work.



The staff and board of The Arts Council are committed to creating opportunities for students, families, professional artists, and community members to explore, experience, and share in the diversity and excitement of the arts. We believe that everyone holds within themselves the creative potential to live richer, more meaningful, and more connected lives. It is simply a matter of choosing what speaks to you. As informed choice requires a measure of experimentation, we want to create numerous outlets to explore the creative process. This is where the mission of The Arts Council is cemented into action. We believe that by creating multidisciplinary and collaborative experiences in the arts, that residents will come to understand, at a deeper level, the profound enrichment that the arts provide in our lives. We can all think back to a moment when a song, a line of poetry, a delicious meal, or a work of art changed the way that we saw ourselves, and the world around us. It is our firm purpose of amendment that every human being has a right to share in being a witness and a vehicle.

We are so grateful to share the gallery space with the dynamic creatives in the Visual Arts Cooperative, a body of local, practicing artists. For anyone on an artistic path, the support and motivation you receive from this multifaceted, talented group of artists will be a continued source of inspiration to stay productive. VAC artists receive the most competitive sales percentages in the area, and are invited to display their work on a monthly and bi-monthly basis, according to the individual artist's needs. If you are interested in becoming a Visual Arts Cooperative member, please contact The Arts Council, and we will be happy to assist you.

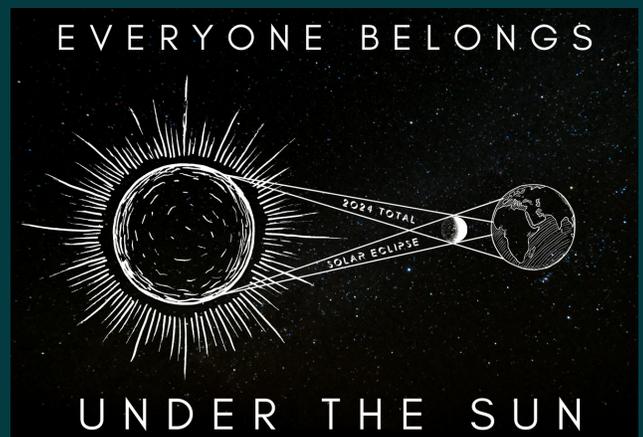
Current members and former members, we ask that you consider your membership carefully. Your support helps us to improve the quality and scope of the arts programming we are able to provide across the region. Details on some of the perks of membership are available in other parts of this report, on our website, or by contacting Lauren or Kelly at the Arts Council.

Art is Love in Action. And we hope you will continue to support us in spreading art and love across the SEMO region.

## What Next?

Get ready for cosmic forces to align in 2024! With Cape Girardeau "on the path" of totality for the April 8, 2024 Eclipse, we have big things planned...including the curation of a sculptural installation by Professor Henry Dean of the Savannah College of Art and Design with our collaborative partners at South Side Farms. This project is the first piece of a much larger vision...where everyone belongs under the sun. Get your tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime experience:

<https://www.capearts.org/eclipse>



# Our Mission

The mission of the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri is to provide a forum for residents of the SEMO region to explore, experience, and share in the excitement and diversity of the arts.



# Our Vision

1

To use comprehensive arts education aligned with state and national standards to increase literacy in the visual, literary, and performing arts.

2

To collaborate with strategic partnerships to advance participation in multidisciplinary arts experiences across the region.

3

To honor and advance the cultural heritage of the region by direct investment in the cultural assets of Southeast Missouri.

# Our Staff & Executive Committee



**Kelly Downes**  
Director



**Lauren Bishop**  
Gallery Manager



**Joshua Newth**  
Board Chair



**Leslie Phillips**  
Vice Chair



**Ash Durrance**  
Interim  
Secretary



**Joni Hand**  
Past Chair  
Treasurer

## Our Board



**Helen  
Towner**



**Jonathon  
Briley**



**Missy  
Phegley**



**Rayme  
Keenan**



**Denise  
McAllister**



**Carol  
Horst**



**Neal  
Joiner**

# Sponsors and Donors



## Corporate Sponsors

EDEN HEALTH SPA & SALON      CENTURY CASINO      R.A.D. STUDIOS      JAKE TROPF OF SHIVELBINES  
SIMON'S FOUNDATION NYC      MONTGOMERY BANK      RIVERSIDE POTTERY      REAL ROCK 99.3  
BLUE SKY COMMUNITY SERVICES      ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE      CAPE RADIOLOGY      THE CRISP MUSEUM  
BON BONS OF CAPE      YOGA EAST HEALING ARTS STUDIO      PANERA      ORGANIC REMEDIES MO  
THE ROOM. HAIR DESIGN STUDIO      FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH      PAINTED WREN ART GALLERY  
DISCOVERY PLAYHOUSE      DSW SIGNS      UNIVERSITY AUTISM CENTER      SPECTRUM RECORD LOUNGE  
CITY OF CAPE      CREPE GIRARDEAU      FINGERPRINT URBAN DANCE      SEMO MUSIC ACADEMY

## Private Patrons and Sponsors

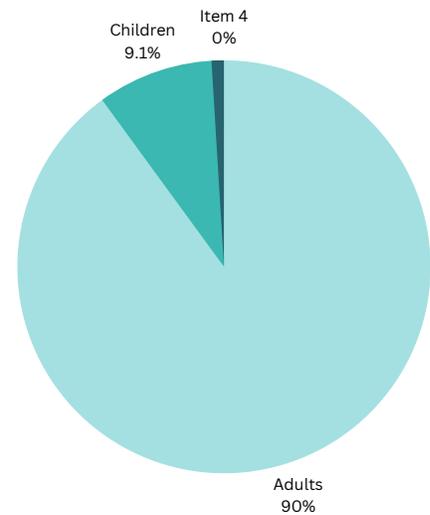
ALEDA PHILLIPS      BILL AND MARY KIEFER      DR. JONI HAND      BRI DEWITT  
FRANK AND LORI ANN KINDER      JEANETTE BEATTIE      JIM AND BARBARA MORGAN  
THE KELLERMAN FOUNDATION      MARY MIMS      ALICE BREEZE      NANCY BROWNE  
NONA NAN CHAPMAN      WADE AND DIANE DOWDY      DAN COTNER      WILL WISSMILLER

## Government Support

MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL

# Programming: Year in Review

**10,081 Adults Engaged**  
**1,016 Children Engaged**  
**108 Volunteers**



Each year, the Missouri Arts Council provides the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri with a sizable grant which allows us to provide dynamic arts programming for residents of the SEMO region. Our strategic plan over the next 5 years, is to reach a point where 50% of our programming is directly connected to art education for all ages and ability levels.

In February of 2023, The Arts Council hosted the 23rd Annual Children's Arts Festival. This year saw contributions from over 20 regional art teachers and over 220 students. For the first time since COVID, we were able to send work to the State Capitol for Fine Arts Education Day. For the next year, award-winning student work will hang in the offices of Senators Holly Rehder and Jason Bean, in City Hall, and will be displayed at multiple local businesses.

The Arts Council is continuing to expand our outreach through strategic collaborations with partners like South Side Farms, The Missouri Arts Council, Riverside Pottery, Here. Lit Magazine by Rust Media, DSW Signs, and Cottonwood Residential Facility. Stay tuned to our social media pages to learn more about the incredible community-wide and regional arts education initiatives we are working on.

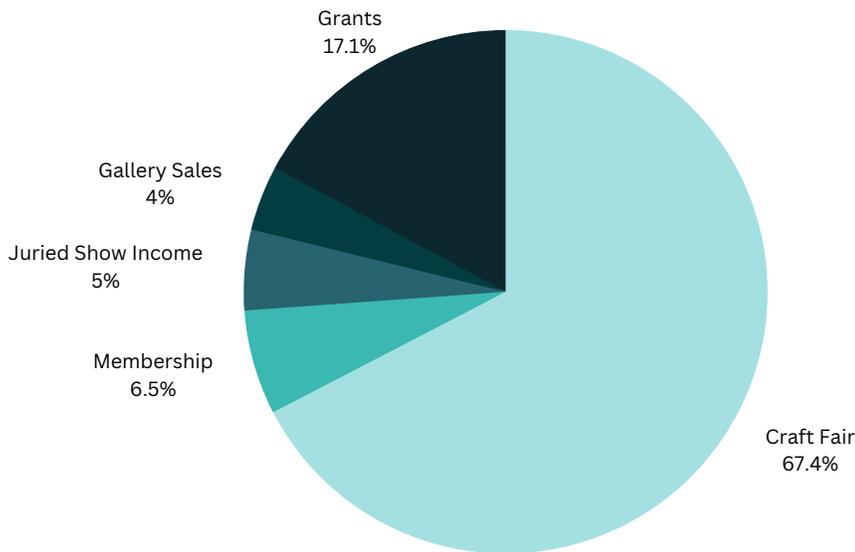
Our programming aimed at increasing artistic literacy for artists of all ages has expanded in 2023, as we are now offering monthly classes and lectures. We are now providing free K-12 programming in the Collab Lab on the 3rd Saturday of each month for our *Stay Craftinated!* series, which allows parents to have coffee while students explore the artistic process. Our lecture series, *Learning Things is Cool*, takes place on the last Tuesday of each month and provides a look into the inner worlds of local creatives.

In addition to visual arts programming for K-12 learners, we also offer workshops for aspiring and practicing artists, such as Sound & Color and our recent Picasso workshop, all of which were taught by SEMO Professor of Foundations, Joshua Newth. Each of these workshops also features a live performing artist to get participants in the creative spirit!

# Financials: Year in Review

## Total Revenue: \$179,969.70

## Expenses: \$151,831.08



Revenue FY 2023

Our largest revenue-generator continues to be our Annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair and Extravaganza. While all of our booths at both venues sold out last year, attendance at the show was down, which had a huge impact on our bottom line.

We are grateful for the continued increase in support for the arts at the state level, which has seen a 50% increase in funding in the last year alone. These revenue streams are crucial to keeping our doors open.

As always, membership is instrumental to total revenue.

# Become a Member



- Invitations to *Members Only* events
  - Early access to special events
  - Discounted entry to juried exhibitions
  - Free entry to annual Members Exhibition
  - Arts Council membership decal
  - 10% discount in AC SEMO Shop
  - 100% tax-deductible membership
- AND**
- Friendships and connections with fellow artists that last a lifetime!

# Volunteer



## Why should I volunteer?

We believe in our mission, and we couldn't succeed without the tireless work of volunteers. Volunteering comes with a host of benefits to not only your community but to your health and happiness as well! Studies show that people who volunteer encounter less stress! Also who could resist dipping your fingers in some paint and helping your community at the same time?

## What could I do as a volunteer?

- Assist with special events such as the Arts & Crafts Extravaganza
- Mentor children in the artKIDtech program
- Lead or assist with community workshops
- Help with the installation of mixed media art exhibitions



Phone Number

573-334-9233



Email Address

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Website

[www.capearts.org](http://www.capearts.org)



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