

Contact:
Bess Wallerstein Huff
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
(816) 994-7229 | bwh@kauffmancenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2015

FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL TO SHOWCASE 600 YOUTH PERFORMING ARTISTS AT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*Free community event celebrates diversity in the arts at the Kauffman Center,
connecting young people to the arts, the festival creates opportunities for youth to perform
on stages from 11am-4pm on June 26th*

Kansas City, MO – The second summer of **Future Stages Festival at the Kauffman Center** is promising to be bigger and more interactive than the inaugural event last June. The free festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 11am – 4pm. All are invited to experience a diverse range of performance and interactive arts activities that will provide fun for the whole family.

The festival will feature **29 community performing groups from the greater Kansas City region** who will perform throughout the day in Muriel Kauffman Theatre, Helzberg Hall and on an Outdoor Stage.

"We are pleased to offer this free event as the Kauffman Center is committed to providing opportunities for youth performance artists and provide family-friendly programming. Supporting the growth of future artists, the festival allows us to give back to our community by showcasing many talented young artists from across the region. I'm personally excited to see more than 600 young performers have the opportunity to be showcased on our stages," stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Greater Kansas City and the surrounding region has thousands of talented youth artists. Each has a dream to perform in a world-renowned venue and be recognized by professionals and peers. Future Stages Festival provides youth from all disciplines and styles of performance art the opportunity to perform and be recognized.

Future Stages Festival is part of Open Doors Spotlight on Youth, an access program designed to share the Kauffman Center's stages with a wide range of local artists and performers, from young people to smaller arts groups, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to perform at the Kauffman Center.

More than 600 artists from the Greater Kansas City community are expected to perform on Kauffman Center stages as part of Future Stages Festival. These artists represent 29 performing arts organizations that were selected to perform after a community request for performance group nominations resulted in more than 160 submissions. In addition, the Kauffman Center's resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Kansas City Symphony will take part in the event. Families and young people attending the event are invited to participate in interactive arts activities throughout the day.

Future Stages Festival is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to register for free at kauffmancenter.org/futurestages or by phone at (816) 994-7222 to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities. Registration is optional. No tickets will be issued. Once registered, attendees will

automatically qualify for a drawing to win two tickets to an upcoming performance at the Kauffman Center. All ages are welcome and programming is suggested as most suitable for families with youth ages 4 - 15.

Future Stages Festival Features Performances by:

5 Star Jazz Band
AileyCamp the Group
Allegro Choirs of Kansas City
Culture House Academy of Performing Arts
Defy Dance Project
DNC – United Dance Trio
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival – Team Shakespeare
Heart of America Youth Ballet
Dr. Jan Kraybill
Kansas City Ballet’s ROAD Program Interactive Dance Class with Sean Duus & Ken Lovern
The Kansas City Boys Choir and The Kansas City Girls Choir
Kansas City Symphony
Kansas City Young Audiences Community School of the Arts Dance Students
Legacy School of the Arts Ballet and Jazz Companies
Lyric Opera of Kansas City – Kids in Opera
Metropolitan Strings Academy’s “Advanced Chamber Strings Orchestra”
Nevada Crimson Sound Symphonic Band
O’Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance
Ottawa Suzuki Strings
The School of Rock – Parkville, MO
Silk Road Dance Academy and Zhang Li Dance Academy
Sinag-Tala Performing Arts Troupe of the Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City
Starlight STARS of Tomorrow
TMS African Dance Youth Ensemble
The Trouble Clefs: “KC’s Kings of Swing”
Voices of Change
Youth Symphony of Kansas City Summer String Program

Interactive Arts Activities and More by:

American Institute of Architects Kansas City
Kansas City Chalk & Walk
Kansas City Chiefs
Kansas City Kite Club
Kansas City Symphony
Lyric Opera of Kansas City
Mattie Rhodes Center
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Pianos on Parade by 4/4Kids and KCMTA
Quixotic School of Performing Arts

Theater League

UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance

ABOUT THE OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

The Kauffman Center Open Doors program connects young people to the arts through three major components:

- The Open Doors *Spotlight on Youth* program inspires and nurtures the next generation of artists by giving young performers the opportunity to perform on the stages of the Kauffman Center.
- The Open Doors *Community Ticket Fund* offers access to programming at the Kauffman Center for youth and families through reduced price or free tickets.
- The Open Doors *Transportation Fund* offers funding to schools in the metropolitan area so that bringing students to the Kauffman Center for school matinee performances is more affordable.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World’s 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world’s most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

Funding for Future Stages Festival has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, JE Dunn and Sprint.

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



#kauffmancenter