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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2016

KAUFFMAN CENTER NOW ACCEPTING PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS FOR 4TH ANNUAL FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL

Free Community Event Connects Youth and Families to Arts Experiences at the Kauffman Center, Creates Opportunities for Young People, School and Non-profit Arts Groups to Participate.

Kansas City, MO - Kauffman Center is excited to announce the tradition of celebrating youth and the arts in Kansas City with the fourth annual Future Stages Festival on June 25, 2017, presented by premier partner Saint Luke's Health System.

The third annual Future Stages Festival last June brought together nearly 800 youth artists to perform in Muriel Kauffman Theatre, Helzberg Hall, and an additional outdoor stage. The Kauffman Center welcomed 28 community performance groups and more than 5,000 attendees at this free annual event. To see images highlighting the 2016 festival, click [here](#).

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 11am – 4pm. This one-day festival showcases Kansas City's diversity, bringing together visitors from all over the metro area to enjoy interactive arts activities and performances featuring young artists. As an extension of the Kauffman Center's Open Doors *Spotlight on Youth* program, the festival gives youth and community arts organizations the opportunity to perform and celebrate the arts at the Kauffman Center.

"The Kauffman Center is committed to shining a spotlight on the talented youth in our community. We look forward to celebrating and sharing with the community the diverse array of performing arts experiences available to both participants and audiences," stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PERFORMERS

Applications are now being accepted for young performers and youth performance groups to be a part of the upcoming Future Stages Festival. Community arts organizations and school programs are encouraged to apply. Performance groups should be comprised primarily of youth performers between the ages of 5 – 18, and must have a minimum of 5 performers. Strong consideration will be given to larger groups (25+).

For more information or to apply to perform at Future Stages Festival, click [here](#).
The deadline for performer applications is March 20, 2017.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Future Stages Festival is FREE and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to register for more information 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.

In addition to Saint Luke's Health System, funding is provided by the Missouri Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Festival support is being provided by Cumulus Media.

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.

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



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