

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2014

KAUFFMAN CENTER ANNOUNCES FREE FESTIVAL AND OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH TO PERFORM ON STAGE

*Free community event connects youth and families with Kauffman Center arts experiences,
creates opportunities for youth and non-profit arts groups to perform on stages*

Kansas City, MO – Since opening in September of 2011, more than one million visitors have experienced an event at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. To celebrate this milestone, Kauffman Center for the Performing is hosting a new, free community event: **Future Stages Festival**.

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 12 pm – 5pm. The festival invites youth and families to experience a diverse range of performance and interactive arts activities. The one-day festival, an extension of the Kauffman Center's Open Doors Spotlight on Youth program, will also provide opportunities for youth and community arts organizations to perform on stage at Kauffman Center.

"We are committed to encouraging students and young artists to participate in creative endeavors. As an extension of this commitment, the Future Stages Festival will provide opportunities for future artists to take center stage at the Kauffman Center," stated Jane Chu, President & CEO of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Kauffman Center's resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera of Kansas City will take part in the event. In addition, the nomination process is now open for any community arts organizations and school programs to be considered for a coveted onstage performance at the Kauffman Center in Future Stages Festival.

For more information or to nominate a local school or community arts group, visit kauffmancenter.org/futurestages. The nomination deadline is April 30, 2014.

The event is open to the public and attendees are encouraged to register for free at kauffmancenter.org/futurestages to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities.

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.