

## Kansas City Arts and Culture Background Information

Serving as a cultural catalyst for Kansas City's downtown, the [Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts](#) shines a spotlight on the region's performing arts community. The Kauffman Center bridges three of Kansas City's most vibrant neighborhoods – the high-rise urban core of downtown to the north and east; the [Crossroads Arts District](#), a neighborhood of warehouses that has become a mecca of galleries, small businesses and shops, to the south; and the [Power & Light District](#), an entertainment center and home to the Sprint Center, to the northeast. With three of the region's leading performing arts organizations in residence – [Kansas City Ballet](#), [Kansas City Symphony](#), and [Lyric Opera of Kansas City](#) – the Kauffman Center serves as an additional cultural cornerstone in the city's already vibrant arts community.

### Performing Arts

Kansas City is home to more than 65 performing arts organizations, including [Kansas City Repertory Theatre](#), the city's premier professional company; the [Unicorn Theatre](#), which offers contemporary off-Broadway-style productions; and [Crown Center](#)'s two stages: [Coterie Theater](#), which *Time* magazine called one of the top five children's theaters in the nation and Off-Center Theatre, which showcases innovative productions. The [Kansas City Broadway Series](#), presented by Theater League, puts on Broadway musicals in the Kauffman Center's Muriel Kauffman Theatre and at the [Music Hall](#). Nearby, the [Quality Hill Playhouse](#) presents musicals and cabaret revues in an intimate downtown location. Summer brings outdoor theater to Southmoreland Park with the annual [Heart of America Shakespeare Festival](#), and Broadway musicals are performed under the stars on [Starlight Theatre](#)'s outdoor stage in Swope Park.

Kansas City showcases some of the world's finest chamber musicians during the [Friends of Chamber Music](#) performances. The [Harriman-Jewell Series](#) presents acclaimed performers from the world of music, dance, and theater, with several concerts in the Kauffman Center's Helzberg Hall. The [UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance](#), academic home to Zhou Long, the 2011 Pulitzer prize winner in composition, has been the source of more than 10,000 concerts, recitals, and master classes in Kansas City. Echoing the history of jazz legends such as Charlie Parker, the [Blue Room](#) and the renovated [Gem Theater](#) in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District offer an array of local and national jazz talent.

### Visual Arts

The [Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art](#) houses a collection of more than 33,500 works of art, from antiquity to the present day. The [Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art](#), which is located on the campus of the Kansas City Art Institute, and the [Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art](#), on the campus of Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, serve as interdisciplinary resources for students and teachers while further enriching the cultural fabric of the city.

Kansas City ranks fourth in the nation for its concentration of visual artists, thanks in part to Hallmark being headquartered there. It also boasts one of the most concentrated gallery districts in the country with more than 60 art galleries in the [Crossroads Arts District](#). Vacant warehouses have been replaced with artist studios, trendy shops, and innovative restaurants, and a First Friday gallery program attracts thousands of visitors every month.

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