



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2026 FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL

Kauffman Center Announces 13th Annual Future Stages Festival: A Celebration of Youth, Diversity and the Performing Arts

The Kauffman Center's annual free community event
will take place on June 14, 2026.

YOUTH PERFORMANCE GROUP APPLICATIONS DUE MONDAY, MARCH 2

Kansas City, Mo. (Jan. 20, 2026) – Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce that the 13th annual Future Stages Festival will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2026, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The free community event brings together young, diverse artists from across the Kansas City area to showcase their talents and celebrate the vibrancy of our local performing arts scene. Open to the public, the festival is a unique opportunity for audiences to connect with the next generation of performers and experience the richness of Kansas City's cultural landscape.



Over the past 12 years, Future Stages has spotlighted more than 7,500 young performers, ranging from ages five to 18. The festival has welcomed over 47,000 guests and featured more than 100 community arts performance groups, creating a powerful platform for emerging talent.

Future Stages Festival proudly supports and uplifts youth artists from all backgrounds, representing the full spectrum of performing arts including music, dance, acrobatics, theater and more. The festival's mission is to inspire and support the next generation of creators and ensure that the Kansas City community sees themselves reflected on stage.

Young artists will be featured on stages in Helzberg Hall and Muriel Kauffman Theatre as well as on the Saint Luke's Outdoor Stage and outdoor small ensemble stage. Additional festival activities take place throughout Brandmeyer Great Hall, the plaza lobby and the south lawn.

Join us in celebrating youth, diversity and artistic expression at this one-of-a-kind event.

[View images from the 2025 Future Stages Festival.](#)

CALL FOR YOUTH PERFORMANCE GROUP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now open for local youth arts groups to be a part of Future Stages Festival. Community arts organizations and school programs are encouraged to apply. Performance groups can be large or small acts and should primarily consist of youth performers between the ages of five and 18. The deadline for youth performance group applications is March 2, 2026. Apply at kauffmancenter.org/futurestages.

COST

The festival is FREE and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP kauffmancenter.org/futurestages to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities. Registration is optional but encouraged and appreciated, and no

tickets will be issued. Parking will be available in the city-owned Arts District Garage for \$2 per hour with a maximum of \$13 per day.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Kauffman Center's promise to bring artists and audiences together is reflected in many ways, including removing barriers and providing access to our performing arts experiences for all patrons. You can learn more by visiting kauffmancenter.org/accessibility. To request services or receive additional information that would make your visit more enjoyable, please contact our ticket office at 816.994.7222 or accessibility@kauffmancenter.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Receive updates by following Kauffman Center's Facebook page at facebook.com/kauffmancenter, Instagram page at instagram.com/kauffmancenter and Threads page at threads.net/@kauffmancenter. Watch videos at youtube.com/kauffmancenter and follow our blog at kauffmancenter.org/news.

MEDIA

Visit the Kauffman Center's online media center for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: kauffmancenter.org/media-center.

SPONSORS

Future Stages Festival is presented by Premier Partner



This event is also supported by Everygy, Missouri Arts Council, and Louis and Frances Swinken Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

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](#) initiative offers year-round programs and engagement opportunities that connect young people with the Kauffman Center.
- The Open Doors [Community Tickets](#) program offers free and reduced price performance tickets to underserved audiences through local social service agencies and schools.
- The Open Doors [Transportation Fund](#) helps schools offer high quality performing arts experiences to students by eliminating or defraying the costs of bus transportation.

More information is available about Open Doors programs at kauffmancenter.org/open-doors.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Opening in 2011, the Kauffman Center serves as a cultural cornerstone for extraordinary and diverse music, opera, theater and dance performances for Kansas City and the region. Designed by internationally recognized architect Moshe Safdie, the Kauffman Center has been honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, which attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers. The 285,000-square-foot Center includes two performance halls: the 1,800-seat Muriel Kauffman Theatre that hosts dance performances, operas, plays and musicals and the 1,600-seat Helzberg Hall, a venue for a wide range of musical performances, from chamber music to full orchestral concerts, jazz and pop, lectures and recitals.

The Kauffman Center is the performance home for three of the region's leading performing arts organizations – Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Kansas City Symphony. In addition, the Kauffman Center Presents series brings in performing artists at the top of their classes as well as Trailblazing Talks, a live speaker series. Since opening, the Kauffman Center has offered over 3,100 performances and welcomed more than 4.5 million visitors.

By engaging the community and creating access to arts experiences, more than 415,000 students attended over 366 matinees offered by the Kauffman Center, its resident companies and other arts organizations. More information about the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts can be found at kauffmancenter.org.