

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

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FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL TO SHOWCASE OVER 800 YOUTH PERFORMING ARTISTS AT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*Free community event at Kauffman Center creates opportunities for youth
to perform on three stages from 11am to 4pm June 26th*

Kansas City, MO – The third **Future Stages Festival at the Kauffman Center** is promising to be bigger and more interactive than ever before with more young performers and art activities planned throughout the building and outdoor spaces. The free festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 11 am – 4 pm. All ages are invited to experience a diverse range of performances and interactive arts activities for the whole family.

The festival will feature **27 community performing groups from the greater Kansas City region** performing throughout the day in Muriel Kauffman Theatre, Helzberg Hall and the Future Stages outdoor stage.

"We are pleased to offer this free event to the community as part of our commitment to providing opportunities for young artists and audiences to connect through memorable performances. Supporting the growth of future artists, the festival allows us to give back to our community by shining a spotlight on more than 800 talented young artists from across the region. I'm excited to welcome the more than 6,000 anticipated attendees - this event is expected to be the biggest one yet," stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Greater Kansas City and the surrounding region is home to thousands of talented youth artists, each with dreams of performing on the "big stage". Sharing the stage and spotlight with national and international performers, the Kauffman Center is committed to supporting young aspiring performers by recognizing their talents. . Future Stages Festival provides youth from all disciplines and styles of the performing arts with the chance to perform at Kansas City's most recognized performing arts venue.

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, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to perform at the Kauffman Center.

More than 800 artists, representing 27 performing arts organizations from the KC metro and beyond, are expected to perform on Kauffman Center stages as part of Future Stages Festival. In addition, the Kauffman Center's resident companies, the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City will take part in the event through performances and interactive activities. Families and young people attending the event are invited to participate in a variety of activities throughout the day.

Important Information:

- 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
 Baldwin Academy of Dance and Voice Choir
 Heart of America Shakespeare Festival —Team Shakespeare
 Heart of America Youth Ballet
 Ice Studios School of Dance Youth Group
 Jody Phillips Dance Company
 Kansas City Ballet
 Kansas City Young Audiences Community School of the Arts Dance Students
 Kansas City Boys Choir & Kansas City Girls Choir
 Lawrence Ballet Theatre
 Lily Zhang Li Taylor Dance Academy
 Lyric Opera of Kansas City: Kids in Opera
 Metropolitan Strings Academy Orchestra
 Miller Marley Entertainers
 Mudra Dance Academy
 Music Theatre Kansas City SunRaise
 Ottawa Suzuki Strings
 Paseo Academy SoundPlay
 School of Rock Kansas City Dean’s List
 Soundz of Africa Youth Ensemble
 Starlight STARS of Tomorrow
 The KC Wordshop Spoken Word Artists
 Traditional Chinese Music Group
 Wyandotte High School Concert Band
 Youth Symphony of Kansas City Summer Orchestra Program

Interactive Arts Activities and More by:

American Institute of Architects Kansas City - Design YOUR KC Skyline
 Heart of America Shakespeare Festival – En Garde Bard
 Kansas City Chalk and Walk
 Kansas City Chiefs
 Kansas City Symphony – Instrument Petting Zoo (open 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
 Kansas City Zoo – Animal Adventure Puppet Show

KC Kite Club – Demonstration and Make Your Own Kites
Lyric Opera of Kansas City - Decorate Hansel and Gretel’s “Incredible Edible Set”
Mattie Rhodes Center – Create Mexican Paper Flowers
Movies2U
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art – Sculpture Building
Quixotic School of Performing Arts
StoneLion Puppet Theatre
Theater League
The Last Carnival Circus School
UMKC Conservatory 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.

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



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