

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

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**GREATER KC METRO YOUTH PERFORMERS DRAW REGIONAL AUDIENCE
AT 3RD ANNUAL FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL**

*More than 800 young artists performed on three stages as part of free
community event at Kauffman Center*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center’s Third Annual Future Stages Festival showcased more than 800 youth artists performing in Muriel Kauffman Theatre, Helzberg Hall and an additional outdoor stage. Twenty-eight community groups headlined the free event that welcomed the entire community.

“Kauffman Center is proud to provide diverse and excellent programming to everyone in our community,” said President and CEO Paul J. Schofer. “Future Stages Festival not only connects young people to the performing arts, the event also attracts families and visitors from the greater Kansas City Metro to experience the extraordinary talent of our community’s youth while experiencing a diverse range of free arts activities.”

Future Stages Festival is part of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors Spotlight on Youth access program designed to share the Kauffman Center’s stages (and spotlight) with a wide range of local artists and performers, from youth to small arts groups, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to perform at the Kauffman Center.

The Open Doors program, which provides transportation subsidies for schools to attend matinee programs and free community tickets for non-profit agencies, as well as opportunities for youth to perform on stage, is vital to the Kauffman Center’s effort to promote and invest in arts advocacy for future generations.

“In addition to our diverse programming throughout the year, Kauffman Center strives to create a supportive environment that will allow Kansas City and the region to nurture and celebrate its own future artists. Placing the arts at the center of our vibrant community fosters creativity and vitality for generations to come,” explained Schofer.

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 young people from all performing art disciplines and styles the opportunity to perform at Kansas City’s most recognized performing arts venue.

Future Stages Festival Featured 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
Great American Kites & Events – Demonstration and Make Your Own Kites
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival – En Garde Bard (11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm)
Kansas City Broadway Series
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 – Biofacts and Animal Conservation Activity
Lyric Opera of Kansas City – Decorate Hansel & Gretel's "Incredible Edible Set"
Mattie Rhodes Center – Create Mexican Paper Flowers
Movies2U
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art – Sculpture Building
StoneLion Puppet Theatre
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.

Funding for 2016 Future Stages Festival has been provided by the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Courtney S. Turner Charitable Trust, John H. Mize Jr. and Bank of America, N.A. Trustees, National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Arts Council, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, City of Kansas City, Missouri, JE Dunn, NuWinCare, and Sprint.

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



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