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## **DIVERSE AND OUTSTANDING YOUTH ARTISTS DRAW RECORD-SETTING REGIONAL AUDIENCE AT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FUTURE STAGES FESTIVAL AT KAUFFMAN CENTER**

*600 youth artists performed on Kauffman Center stages as part of free community event  
in front of more than 6,000 total visitors*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center’s Second Annual Future Stages Festival showcased 600 youth artists who performed in Muriel Kauffman Theatre, Helzberg Hall and additional outdoor stages. Twenty-nine community groups headlined the free event that welcomed the entire community and exceeded attendance of its inaugural event by at least 10% based on initial estimates.

“Kauffman Center is proud to provide diverse and excellent programming to everyone in our community,” said President and CEO Paul J. Schofer. “Programs like Future Stages Festival not only allow us to connect individuals and families throughout our entire community to the arts, but to also build relationships with our community that we hope will last for years to come.”

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.

### **ABOUT THE OPEN DOORS PROGRAM**

The Kauffman Center Open Doors program connects young people to the arts through three programs:

- 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](http://kauffmancenter.org).

*Funding for Future Stages Festival has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, JE Dunn 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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