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## **KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS TO RECEIVE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT**

*The NEA awards more than \$27.6 million across nation including \$10,000 awarded to Kauffman Center to support the Center's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Future Stages Festival on June 26<sup>th</sup>*

Kansas City, MO – In its first 50 years, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded more than \$5 billion in grants to recipients in every state and U.S. jurisdiction, the only arts funder in the nation to do so. Last week, the NEA announced awards totaling more than \$27.6 million in its first funding round of fiscal year 2016, including an Art Works award of \$10,000 to Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in support of Future Stages Festival to be held on Sunday, June 26th, 2016.

The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, “The arts are part of our everyday lives – no matter who you are or where you live – they have the power to transform individuals, spark economic vibrancy in communities, and transcend the boundaries across diverse sectors of society. Supporting projects like the one from Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

“We deeply appreciate this NEA grant, which provides a stamp of approval for the Kauffman Center’s work in our community. The National Endowment for the Arts’ support for Future Stages Festival is especially welcome, as it helps us to offer a free community-wide event at the Center, puts 600 youth on our stages and attracts 6,000 (mostly new) audience members to see the performances. It’s a true celebration of the performing arts,” stated Paul Schofer, President & CEO of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Future Stages Festival will be held at the Kauffman Center on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 11 am – 4 pm. The free one-day festival invites youth and families to experience a diverse range of performances and interactive arts activities. Future Stages Festival, an extension of the Kauffman Center’s Open Doors Spotlight on Youth program, also provides opportunities for youth and community arts organizations to perform on stage at Kauffman Center.

Future Stages Festival is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to register at [kauffmancenter.org/futurestages](http://kauffmancenter.org/futurestages) to receive the latest event updates and schedule for performances and activities.

### **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](http://kauffmancenter.org).

**To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use #NEAFall15.** For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

*The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City, and extend special thanks to Sprint for its generous support of our 2015-2016 season.*

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



**#kauffmancenter**