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KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES NEW ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VARIETY KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY, MO (Sept. 23) – Today, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts President and CEO Paul Schofer announced a 10-year sponsorship with Variety Children’s Charity of Kansas City. The partnership will expand accessibility resources that the Kauffman Center can use to serve its guests and enhance the lives of people in Kansas City.

The support of Variety KC will help to connect and engage more visitors with the Kauffman Center through new inclusive resources such as dedicated Serenity Rooms, sensory kits and universal changing tables that meet the needs of patrons from infant to adult. The partnership supports the Kauffman Center’s commitment to provide a welcoming and accessible environment for all patrons.

“The Kauffman Center currently exceeds ADA standards, but we know that we can always do a better job for patrons who need extra assistance. We are thrilled that Variety Children’s Charity of Kansas City has stepped forward to help us offer new resources that remove barriers for some audience members and provide opportunities for others,” said President and CEO Paul Schofer. “Variety KC has an impeccable reputation for providing adaptive resources for families that help them to achieve independence and participate more readily in community activities. The organization’s goals align perfectly with the level of commitment and service the Kauffman Center works to provide.”

Deborah Wiebrecht, Executive Director of Variety KC, stated, “The Kauffman Center for the Performing is leading the way for inclusion in the arts and Variety KC is thrilled to partner in their efforts. This project is so much more than removing barriers and providing access, it’s about encouraging dreams and fostering talent. Thank you Kauffman Center, you are making sure all kids have a chance to Be Active, Be Social and Belong in the arts!”

New accessibility resources provided by Variety KC will be available starting October 1 and include:

Variety KC Supported Serenity Rooms

Patrons who don’t want to miss a performance they came to enjoy but would benefit from the use of a private, relaxing environment are invited to step into one of the Kauffman Center’s two Variety KC Supported Serenity Rooms. These spaces offer comfortable seating and a monitor to view the live performance, plus sensory items and an electrical wall outlet. To use a Serenity Room, patrons may call the box office in advance or speak with a staff member during a performance.

Variety KC Supported Infant to Adult Changing Tables

Guests who need a private place to take medications, deal with a wardrobe change or handle a health care issue can now use new features in our family restrooms and First Aid Office, thanks to Variety KC. All family restrooms have infant changing tables, and the Mezzanine level family restroom features a changing table for children or adults. Patrons needing an additional space to tend to medical needs may ask a volunteer or staff member to be directed to a private place that is outfitted to meet their needs.

Variety KC Supported Sensory Kits

The Kauffman Center and Variety KC are pleased to offer complimentary resources that can provide ease, comfort or improve focus for patrons of any age. Each sensory kit includes noise-muffling headphones, a weighted lap pad and a handheld sensory item. Sensory kits are available for use through Coat Check on the Plaza Lobby Level.

These resources expand current accessibility offerings that are available for all patrons at the Kauffman Center. To learn more about all the accessibility resources, visit kauffmancenter.org/accessibility.

[Kauffman Center's accessibility reference](#)

[Kauffman Center media photos](#)

[Photos of Paul Schofer, President and CEO of the Kauffman Center](#)

To request any services that would make a visit more enjoyable, patrons should contact the box office in advance of a performance at (816) 994-7222 or contact@kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY OF KANSAS CITY

Variety is a volunteer-driven organization with 53 active chapters worldwide, committed to bettering the quality of life for special needs children. Funds raised by Variety KC benefit children right here in Kansas City. The Variety mobility program responds to individual requests from families of children needing special assistance. Help has included wheelchairs, mobility equipment and communication devices, inclusion and more. For more information, please visit www.varietyk.org.

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. Recently 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 education 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 www.kauffmancenter.org.

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



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