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**DURING A PROLONGED INTERMISSION, THE KAUFFMAN CENTER
REMAINS CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY**

*Marking one year since the venue closed due to Covid-19,
Kauffman Center continues to serve the community in a variety of ways.*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts marks one year since it closed its doors to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This was on the heels of what was likely to be another record-setting year programmatically, operationally and financially for the organization. Although the pandemic set back the momentum of performing arts organizations nationally, the Kauffman Center has continued to serve the community in new ways. Through the Kauffman Center website and digital platforms, this past year has resulted in creation and sharing of more than 120 videos with audiences. These videos reached more than 270,000 users and garnered more than 127,000 video views. With 479,000 impressions on this digital content, the Kauffman Center remained engaged with the community through virtual programs.

While the Kauffman Center stages have been quiet during the past year, excitement is building for the day when performances can again be enjoyed by audiences.

“Our team has done an extraordinary job of creating new, unique and innovative ways for the Kauffman Center to stay closely connected with our community,” President and CEO Paul Schofer said. “Although we continue to face uncertainties as to when we can yet again be together in person for performances, when the time is right, we will be ready to welcome our community with open arms. I’m certain the best is yet to come.”

Over the past year, the Kauffman Center launched several programs and initiatives to connect with various segments of the community and continues to create new and inventive ways to keep the organization engaged with patrons, students, donors and artists.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

As schools moved to online learning classrooms, the Kauffman Center provided new FREE virtual resources to keep students and teachers connected to the performing arts. While more than 30,000 students normally visit the Kauffman Center annually for student matinee programs, student-centric virtual content garnered more than 24,000 views. Some of this content was sent directly to teachers to share with their classrooms. These students and teachers have had the opportunity to engage with additional virtual content from the Kauffman Center – making our programs remotely accessible to young audiences. Virtual content included:

- Strings duo and *Kauffman Center Presents* series artists **Black Violin** presented a virtual concert and Q&A session that reached an estimated 20,774 viewers in February of 2021.
- ***National Geographic Live*** photographers Anand Varma and Prasenjeet Yadav presented a virtual student matinee program that featured in-depth conversations about our natural world that was shared with nearly 5,000 educators.
- Kauffman Center launched a new virtual [Backstage Intensive](#) program that connects technical theater students to the many facets of behind the curtain operations. Complete with videos and classroom activities, students get hands-on education on theater lighting, sound and more. This program is made possible by a grant from Cerner Charitable Foundation.
- Our first ever [virtual Future Stages Festival](#) showcased hundreds of Kansas City's talented young performing artists. Community partners and Kauffman Center staff provided an abundance of fun and educational family-friendly at-home activities. 79 videos and 39 activity pages created by 36 youth performance groups, 23 community partners and 14 Kauffman Center staff members reached over 6,680 views.
- A newly created *Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875 Classroom Guide* was created and distributed to schools. The guide included organ facts, discussion questions and vocabulary practice for teachers to use and share with students. The guide accompanied a six-part video performance series featuring Organ Conservator Jan Kraybill.

STAYING CONNECTED VIRTUALLY

The Kauffman Center looked to build community relationships with a host of virtual initiatives to provide fun, entertaining and interactive content through the organization's digital channels. A few highlights include:

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- *Fun Fact Friday* – Sharing interesting facts about our building, programs and history.
- *Kansas City Strong* – Paying tribute to the first responders and essential workers on the front lines of the pandemic.
- *Trivia Tuesday* – Engaging the community with trivia about the Kauffman Center.
- *Talented KC* – Turning our social media channels into a virtual stage for the community to share their talents online.
- *#KCFavePhoto* – Providing an opportunity for our community to share their favorite pictures of the Kauffman Center through social media. More than [200 pictures of the Kauffman Center](#) have now been submitted.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Developing partnerships with area organizations and artists, the Kauffman Center shared its virtual stage by developing new interactive videos and activities that provide FREE entertainment for the whole family. Examples include:

- [Halloween videos](#) developed in partnership with the **Mesner Puppet Theater** shed a little (ghost) light on several well-known theater superstitions with a virtual four-part series of spooky family-friendly stories told by puppet, Scary Mary Bumbershoot from inside the Kauffman Center.
- A “wildly” clever video featuring several [lovable critters visiting the Kauffman Center](#), created in partnership with the **Kansas City Zoo**.
- A *Behind the Curtain* video series highlighting some of the unique inner workings of the Kauffman Center’s operations, including [Stringing Holiday Lights](#), which provides a glimpse of how the rope lights are added to the building’s cables to add to the merriment and joy of the holiday season; and [Washing the Building](#), which shows how our building’s beautiful exterior stays pristine with the help of washers that safely do their work up to 151 feet in the air.
- Local painter and muralist **Vania Soto** brought her talents to the Kauffman Center with a video of her creating a [Day of the Dead painting](#) in Brandmeyer Great Hall while explaining the traditions of this Mexican holiday and what it means to her; and a [Kauffman Center watercolor painting tutorial](#) video producing a recognizable painting of the Kauffman Center.
- [A three-part DIY craft series](#) inspired by the Kauffman Center, developed in partnership with **ScrapsKC**, a local non-profit creative reuse center.
- FREE [Virtual Trivia Nights](#), in which participants compete against fellow trivia lovers to puzzle out questions about the Kauffman Center, its history, the performing arts and Kansas City.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Providing quality performing arts experiences online took center stage as the Kauffman Center shared virtual concerts with at-home audiences.

- The Kauffman Center rang in New Year's Eve with **Pink Martini's** "Good Riddance 2020" concert featuring fan favorites and holiday classics streamed to at-home audiences.
- The Kauffman Center's own Grammy-nominated Organ Conservator, **Jan Kraybill**, performed a six-part online [organ concert series](#). These videos were shared with educators along with a newly created *Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant Organ, Opus 3875 Classroom Guide* complete with organ facts and vocabulary which was part of our education outreach initiatives.
- The Kauffman Center, in partnership with **PNC Bank, ArtsKC** and the **Power & Light District**, celebrated National Arts & Humanities Month in November by providing virtual performances from several artists (shown in this [teaser](#)) previously featured in the PNC Pop-Up series at the Kauffman Center, including **Calvin Arsenia, Hermon Mehari, Beau Bledsoe, Kelly Hunt, Jake Wells, Eboni Fondren, Barnaby Bright and Eems**.
- To stay connected to the Kauffman Center's loyal season and single ticket holders, a virtual four-part *National Geographic Live* series was launched in February. Speaker events were offered for a one-time viewing experience to ticket holders. Livestream events were also shared with social service agencies through the Kauffman Center's *Community Ticket* program.
- To stay connected to our Spotlight Members, a holiday performance was livestreamed from the stage of Muriel Kauffman Theatre in December featuring local talent **Casi Joy**.
- Nine Kauffman-Center-inspired [Spotify playlists](#) highlighted the music of numerous artists that have performed on the Muriel Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall stages over the years, ranging from **Aretha Franklin** and **Tony Bennett** to the Best of the Symphony, Opera and Ballet.

TAKING THE KAUFFMAN CENTER HOME

This past year included the launch of several new ways for the community to enjoy the Kauffman Center at home.

- Since October 2020, the Kauffman Center has offered the [Dining Experience: At Home](#) with special, seasonal three-course menu offerings. The Dining Experience: At Home features award-winning Executive Chef Laura Comer's delectable culinary creations.
- [Charlie Hustle and Kauffman Center teamed up to debut a new line](#) of shirts and a commemorative pin. As part of the Charlie Hustle's Communi-Tees program, a portion of the proceeds from every Charlie Hustle Kauffman Center shirt or pin helps support the

Kauffman Center’s mission of bringing extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences to all.

- A new [online gift shop](#) brings the great items that were formally only available at the Kauffman Center to you. Items include apparel, a jigsaw puzzle, mugs and more.

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.

Visit the Kauffman Center’s online press room for media resources, multimedia library, press release archive and more: kauffmancenter.org/about/press-room/

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



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