Vision
The Francis Family Foundation envisions current and future generations of well-rounded individuals who are creative, lifelong learners, striving to achieve their fullest potential within their communities.

Since 1913, when Parker Browne Francis II first launched the Oxygen Gas Company in Kansas City, Missouri, the Francis family has continued to be an inspirational and influential force in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In 1951, as the company grew and developed into a major national manufacturer and supplier of industrial and medical gases, Parker B. Francis II established a foundation bearing his name to help promote education and research in the fields of anesthesiology and related pulmonary sciences. Parker B. Francis III also established a foundation to fund his interests in education, and arts and culture.

Since the two foundations merged in 1989 to become the Francis Family Foundation, the pattern of grantmaking made today still reflects the interests of the founding donors. For more information about the history of the Foundation, please visit www.francisfoundation.org.

Today, thanks to the vision of Parker B. Francis and his son John B. Francis, the Francis Family Foundation celebrates 63 years of philanthropy, including the funding of the Parker B. Francis Pulmonary Fellowship Program and support of educational and arts programs located within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

It is in the context of this history that the 2014 Annual Report honors the accomplishments of more than 280 grants representing a social investment of $6.2 million. While John B. Francis and his wife Mary Harris Francis are both deceased, stewardship of the Foundation was passed to their children – Ann F. Barhoum, David V. Francis, J. Scott Francis and Susan Neves – and six non-family Board members – Gregory Glore, Mary Lou Jaramillo, David Oliver, Charles Schellhorn, Susan Stanton and Katie Wendel. Susan Neves has since retired from the Board.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2014, the Foundation continued its use of the Strategic Framework for 2013-2017, which serves as a path to making this vision a reality. It is built upon strategies that target talented individuals and organizations that strive to provide excellent programs and services within their communities. Specifically, the Foundation focuses its strategies in the areas of pulmonary research, lifelong learning with a particular emphasis on early childhood development, and arts and culture. By focusing support in these areas, the Foundation is committed to making a difference in improving the quality of life through our grant making. The following stories from our grantees illustrate some of our grantmaking successes.
Arts & Culture

Francis Family Foundation funding promotes the principle that arts and culture are fundamentally important for all people.

Desired Results: An excellent ecology of the arts grows and is sustained regionally; well rounded children, youth and adults who can thrive in the 21st Century.

Measurement:

β arts and culture organizations and artists using effective and innovative strategies for audience development

β schools with meaningful Arts in Education experiences integrated in school curricula and aligned with the common core standards

β Establish local public funding streams in the region to support arts and culture organizations and artists

Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2014: Support and advocate for development of the greater Kansas City area as a creative regional hub for excellence in arts and culture, rich with expression of diverse cultures and affording access to all levels of creative participation.

The Foundation continues to support the many arts and culture institutions that “anchor” a strong and vibrant quality of life in Kansas City. At the same time, through our small arts grants program, the Foundation seeds both new and emerging organizations, and expands access for children and underserved populations throughout the community.

**ALBRECHT-KEMPER MUSEUM OF ART**

general operating support

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art’s (AKMA) story is one of success; outreach into the community with programs and services has given us a broader audience that understands the importance of the arts. We have partnered with businesses to bring art into the workplace. We have taken arts education to those that cannot come to us, while giving those less fortunate a chance to come to the museum so that they can learn from the experience. We have seen artists come together to form a cultural environment that brings life to a community because of the arts.

The variety of classes held both at the museum and at other institutions have served artists of all ages, some with very diverse needs. The AKMA has continued to reach out to UCP (United Cerebral Palsy) with art classes for the integrated pre-school classes held there, developing a relationship that the museum truly values. Painting classes for senior citizens that cannot get to the art museum on a regular basis are held at nursing homes and assisted living facilities around town. At Carriage Square residents with dementia are given an opportunity to create and convey stories through their paintings. Classes are held in a comfortable setting that allows them to escape their disability for a short time.
We have established a “working” classroom that extends beyond the museum doors. School-aged children attend weekly “Media Mix-Up” classes to create a new project with every visit. Adults interested in learning about different mediums explored to find their favorite and visitors who had not held a paintbrush in their hand since grade school were creating masterpieces with their best friends.

The culmination of all of this comes together in an exhibition held in the Spring, the “Annual Ages & Stages Art Exhibition.” We always look forward to this event because it showcases the variety of talent and perspectives across the wide age span of the students who participate in the AKMA onsite and outreach classes. The excitement and pride seen in the faces of the participating artists and their families is seen the minute they walk in the door. To hear a four-year-old girl walk into the gallery and exclaim, “Oh, it’s just beautiful!” is priceless. To then view an 86 year old woman walk up to her painting with her daughter who drove from Iowa for the exhibition is even better.

AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM

**general operating support**

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

Sophia H. is about to be a sophomore in high school where she plays tenor sax in the jazz band and participates in the extracurricular Metropolitan Jazz Workshop. She moved to Kansas City with her family who considered the opportunities that she would have to develop as a jazz musician here when they decided to accept a job offer that would move them from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Sophia shared these experiences about the past year at the Jazz Museum:

“My favorite experiences at the American Jazz Museum have been at the many clinics and workshops the museum offers. Just in the past year, I've attended the Charlie Parker Bootcamp and a Master Class by Tenor Sax player Tivon Pennicott. In February, I attended the Jay’s Riffs clinic. As we learned the jazz techniques that Jay McShann was known for, I was amazed at how something so simple could be so difficult. The professionals make riffing look completely natural when really it takes a lot of thought and practice with harmonizing and making a musical response to support the soloist.

“I've also enjoyed opportunities to play at the Museum. At Kansas City’s 18th & Vine Jazz and Blues Festival last October, I was part of the Metropolitan Jazz Workshop honors combo that opened the Festival main stage. I've played in many different venues, including the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, but no place has been like that stage. It was an exciting experience hearing the huge sound of our combo in the open air. It was amazing to open the stage for the famous musicians who headlined that afternoon and evening. And it was a lot of fun!

“Without the American Jazz Museum, I’d be living a very different life. Fort Wayne’s jazz scene just can’t measure up to the finesse of what Kansas City has to offer. The wonderful musicians I've had access to through clinics at the museum have made me a better musician. My experiences here have opened a lot of doors for me.”

ARTS IN PRISON

**general operating support**

$10,000

“You can’t imagine what it feels like to receive a standing ovation when you have been told your whole life that you are worthless.” These words from an inmate member of the East Hill Singers choir sum up
the impact that Arts in Prison’s programs have on its participants. By using the arts to inspire positive change in the incarcerated Arts in Prison makes a difference in their lives, the lives of their families and the overall safety of the prison community.

Ninety-eight percent of those currently incarcerated will return to their communities one day. Arts experiences help individuals to connect to their best selves, to look at things from a different angle and to open up to new experiences. Men and women in Arts in Prison programs try things they never expected to – performing choral music, acting in a Shakespearian production (men in dresses – in prison performances!) and publishing poetry. As they interact with the community, inmate artists develop courage and find hope. The recidivism rate for East Hill Singers is 18%, compared to Kansas’ rate of 32%. In the arts, offenders develop skills, practice empathy, develop hope and begin to believe that a successful future is possible.

ARTSKC - REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

general operating support

$50,000

ArtsKC serves as the voice for the Kansas City region’s arts community. During 2015, the Arts Advocacy initiative shared four action alerts. One alert called attention to allocations that are intended for the Missouri Arts Council, but have been swept into general revenue to make up for budget shortfalls for a number of years. Unfortunately this practice by the legislature continues, but we will continue to advocate that the statute be honored as written. Another alert asked advocates to thank their representatives for their support in fostering a creative work force and an improved quality of life.

ARTS TECH

general operating support

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

Our work is our youth. — Felix M.

Felix started with ArtsTech through our digital connectors program sponsored by COMBAT. We hired him to work in our computer repair program. Felix eventually applied to be a MyARTS artist and excelled at the highest level. Felix graduated from Paseo High School last May and is attending the Kansas City Art Institute. He has been offered $90,000+ in scholarships over the next four years. Felix participated in the KCMO "Streetcar" art selection committee as well as the "Art for Potholes" project. Felix is an established “Splash Mob” artist for ArtsTech and is considered a leader by both his peers and adults.

CALVARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH NETWORK

HYPER

$9,000

Our work with urban youth is a passionate endeavor. We see this as an opportunity to make special connections with disadvantaged youth. As we were preparing for our upcoming event the events in Ferguson, MO began to unfold. Our youth were so impacted they decided to use this opportunity on stage to encourage their peers. The messages conveyed by our performers were life saving. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to continue our program efforts.
CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION (CSF)

**general operating support**

$30,000

CSF’s support of just one artist often reverberates throughout the broader community in many ways. Multiply that effect by hundreds of artists, and through the efforts of one organization, a broad and diverse community is reached, enriched, and potentially changed. For example, 2014 CSF Visual Arts Awardee Sean Starowitz was first supported by CSF with a Studio Residency. He later received a 2012 Rocket Grant (from Charlotte Street/Spencer Museum of Art/Warhol Foundation) to create “Byproduct: The Laundromat,” a series that brought artists to a neighborhood laundromat for performances, talks, and visual art showings during “the wash and dry cycles.” He created “Speakeasy,” a project granted from a competitive open call for proposals in la Esquina that engaged hundreds of visitors for a range of programming.

In between and during CSF support, Starowitz has been part of creating an artists’ studio space at an old drug store in mid-town KC; and established The Talk Shop, a vehicle for dialogue by hosting public events at which people gather to discuss topics that matter in Kansas City, like education, transit or food issues. During the past two years he participated in the development of “Lots of Love,” a LISC-sponsored program to activate empty KC lots with a range of artist-created programming. Bread!KC, another Starowitz-initiated project, is a micro-granting initiative to support KC area artists. “As an artist who works predominately outside the gallery model, CSF support has allowed me to pursue projects that impact the community in and outside of the arts,” says Starowitz. While CSF was not a part of these subsequent projects, the funds, experience gained, professional development, networking, and opportunities for public engagement offered through CSF’s initiatives contributed to the success of the many initiatives led by this one individual. This occurs with many, if not most, of the artists CSF supports on a yearly basis.

DELA SSE L EDUCATION CENTER

**DeLaSalle’s Arts and Culture Program**

$9,000

The Arts and Culture Program at DeLaSalle Education Center has served as an exciting and innovative vehicle to expose students to various opportunities and careers in the arts, while also allowing them to apply their creativity and talents in specific areas of interest. Both our art and drama teachers have encouraged their students to pursue their interests and stretch their skills in class assignments and in communitywide programs.

For instance, two DeLaSalle students, Jessica and Rashaud, were recognized for their entries on large multipurpose paper with watercolor in the 2015 Senate Art Exhibit. Their artwork was on display in the
Missouri State Capitol and published in the book "Art of the Missouri State Capitol.” Each winning school received one of the books to use as a classroom resource.

Another art student, Christian, won the hat art contest for the Just Off Broadway Theater production of “Truth Stands!” He was presented with tickets to the play and was introduced to the play’s director.

**FISHTANK PERFORMANCE STUDIO (FRACTURED ATLAS)**

*Expenses to support the Fishtank Performance Studio*

$10,000

The Fishtank Performance Studio, founded in 2009, has expanded from one room and one window space to four studio spaces, and an artist micro-residency to host traveling artists. The Fishtank is a place to create, edit and debut ideas. The newly acquired Aquarium is a rehearsal studio devoted to theatre-making, research, training, experimentation, discovery and play.

**FOLLY THEATER**

*general operating support*

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

Each year, the Folly encourages students who attend Folly Kids’ Series performances to write about their experience at the theater. Last year, we received the following two letters from a third grade teacher and one of his students:

“One of the many joys of teaching is seeing students’ faces when they experience something new for the first time. Many of my students had never been downtown before, and they were amazed by the buildings and the beauty of the Folly Theater. The play literally kept the kids on the edges of their seats. Many of the kids here come from low income families and have a very inconsistent home life. Getting to see the play has inspired my students to want to be actors and authors. Many of the students have never even been to a play before, much less one in a beautiful theater. Thank you for giving our students an opportunity and experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives.” — Nathan Stewart, Crestview Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher

“Thank you so much for bringing us to the Folly Theater. One of the reasons I like it was because it was a little cooler than the real movie. Another thing I liked about the Folly Theater is we sat pretty close to the stage and I bet it took a while to do the play without the words. But the Folly Theater is really one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever seen before. Hopefully we can come back soon.” — 3rd Grade Student, Crestview Elementary School
Shyree came to Genesis four years ago and tested several grade levels behind in math and reading. She lacked social skills and confidence, and was not interested in learning. Today, she has graduated the 8th grade, completed the first year of high school algebra, and was accepted to University Academy. She is a wonderful young lady and is considered a leader among her peers. This was not an easy road. It took reading and math specialists, tutoring, summer school, social workers, and other interventions to change her life course. We are confident she has a bright future ahead.

The Harriman-Jewell Series continues to carve out an enviable legacy as a performing arts presenter of international importance. Many know that the Series presented tenor Luciano Pavarotti in his professional recital debut in 1973, but the story of discovery neither begins nor ends here. Few Kansas Citians had seen New York City Ballet’s Patricia McBride and Edward Villella before they danced in the Series’ first performance in 1965. Nor had the community heard violinist Itzhak Perlman play, unless one counts Ed Sullivan Show appearances that preceded his first local recital in 1971.

Discovery, along with the co-tenets quality and variety, run the full length of the Series’ existence. These principles set by the Series’ late founder and artistic director Richard Harriman will continue to guide its service to the community. More than 900 performances have come to Kansas City by way of the Harriman-Jewell Series, including 23 American recital debuts by prominent artists. With the addition of its free educational events that allow interaction with musicians and dancers, and its free discovery concerts that eliminate the barrier of cost, the Harriman-Jewell Series offers even more life-enriching opportunities for its community’s youth and life-long learners.

Heartland Men’s Chorus (HMC) produced a musical documentary called "Modern Families" in late March, 2015. This production explored the definition of "family" in the context of modern society. As part of the documentary style, we projected giant photographic portraits filling the entire proscenium of four different families while performing songs that were reflective of their individual stories. As is our custom, the stories were told by narrators who have interesting family dynamics as well. One narrator,
Brian, is a gay Presbyterian minister married to an assistant dean at university. The other narrator, Gillian, is a transgender woman, married to her wife and with two daughters.

The show was performed on the last Saturday and Sunday of the month, with the preceding Thursday and Friday used for tech and dress rehearsals. As our former Artistic Director Dr. Joe Nadeau would always tell the singers before a concert, “you never know whose life you will change with your music.” In the case of “Modern Families,” one of the lives changed was that of our narrator Gillian. The following is a letter she sent to the Chorus after the concert.

“A Gift Beyond Compare”

I send this letter to explain the profundity of the gift I received from HMC in affording me the honor and opportunity of co-narrating the Modern Families concert of 2015.

Transgender transition is a grueling undertaking and journey on all levels, but one taken with joy and excitement to finally live authentically — to live in the first person. One of the most practical challenges is alteration of one’s voice to sound more feminine (should one desire that). In my case I consider it integral to my professional success.

I have been blessed with a therapist who also provides me with voice coaching and that has helped me immensely. Changing the way one speaks alters the very vibrational nature of our beings and is a profound journey of connecting to and bringing forth the soul into the voice and into manifest creation. However, public speaking has not yet been an area where I felt I was doing well.

At the Thursday night rehearsal I was intimidated beyond belief. Both to stand in front of a world-class choir and to use my voice in a theater with a microphone, to boot. On Friday evening with the help of Brian and Cliff we did a practice run in my dressing room. During the practice I quite literally stepped into my true voice and along with that my full truth and power. This was a result of being welcomed with open arms into this miraculous family of love that is HMC.

It just got better. Friday night was joyous and grace-filled and the performances the culmination. Through your gift of love and your profound strength I know that I have arrived at a critical threshold in my own journey. I came out publically a year ago on March 12, but this weekend felt like my senior prom.

My own heart is bursting with joy for the grace that you bestowed on me by inviting me into your family. Thank you for believing in me. I will pay it forward a thousand fold. What you have at HMC is a gift to the world.
HEART OF AMERICA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

general operating support
$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

This story is provided by Rev. Dr. Paul Edmondson of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and is included on the documentary website Shakespeareontheroad.com. This story came from his experience in Southmoreland Park on Saturday, July 6, 2014, seeing The Winter’s Tale.

Waiting on the Rain

They care enough to be here ...

Whilst sitting in a plastic lawn chair in Southmoreland Park, five rows from the front, I begin to sense a tension in the air. Within moments bolts of lightning rush across the sky and thunder rolls through the park. On stage, the King of Sicily, his mind clouded with jealous rage, wrongfully accuses his wife of adultery.

The rain beads on Hermione’s costume as she is brought before the court. Her voice reverberates around the park, mingling with the rumbling clouds, as she declares to her accusers that she is not guilty. The King stares on impassively. Rainfall mingles with tears on Hermione’s cheeks as she is sentenced to life in prison.

When we first arrived, there were over a thousand viewers packed into the park, perched on the edge of their blankets. By this point, though, as the distraught Hermione is escorted from court, at least a hundred have left, wary of the building weather.

At the intermission, the stage crew are restless, their eyes flitting between the bulbous clouds above and the weather app on their iPhones. They are all desperate for the storm to pass, so that the summer’s penultimate production of The Winter’s Tale can go on. The artistic director, Sidonie, is under pressure, and has to make a call within ten minutes -- her permit to use the park and the street expires at 11pm.

Meanwhile, eighty percent of the attendees remain planted at the edges of their blankets, umbrellas waving bravely in the breeze, praying for the show to continue. A local mechanic, attending his first ever Shakespeare play, tells us it’s the actor’s commitment to the cause that keeps him here: “It’s the passion; they care enough to be here. You can feel it.” Another woman actually has a strange appreciation for the rain: “It makes us all feel connected”” she says.

“This is why we do it” says Rusty, the lighting designer, looking out at the viewers. “This is why we wait so long ... we want to do it. We’re here now. We want to share this story with as many people as possible.” He checks his weather app again, for the second time in thirty seconds. “The joy of outdoor theatre!” he quips.
Nine minutes later, the rain stops. The tarpaulin is whipped from the stage. Stage manager Jinni, her crew, and anyone else with a spare towel get down on hands and knees to dry the stage. Seeing this, the crowd erupts in applause.

The show will go on.

THE KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS IN EDUCATION (KSAAE)
General operating support
$10,000

We have worked in partnership with the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission on an exciting pilot project designed to support schools that want to increase student success through use of the arts in quality, research-supported learning. KSAAE seeks to work with schools that will serve as models for education that embraces creativity to be an integral component of an active learning curriculum.

This partnership recognizes that integrating the arts into all areas of education and workforce development can increase student success and their ability to compete in today’s global economy. Several such national programs were reviewed and the A+ Schools program was selected for the Kansas pilot program. This choice was made due to it being a successful, researched based model. There are currently more than 130 A+ Schools in the National A+ Consortium Network that includes Oklahoma, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Louisiana. The A+ program promotes arts-integration which involves infusing art (visual art, music, performing, etc.) into every classroom and traditional subjects such as math, science, and history.

Two schools in Kansas have been selected to participate in a pilot program during the 2015-2016 school year with the goal of sustaining the program at the two schools and extending the program to additional schools based on an evaluation of the program and available resources.

KANSAS CITY ARTISTS COALITION
General operating support
$10,000

PATRICK SCHMIDT — Exhibition, Mallin Gallery

The residency is a real gem. I had the great pleasure of meeting and having long conversations with Turkish artist Hülya Küpçuoğlu as well as Detroit artist Derek Coté. One of the greatest pleasures of showing my work is the people I get to meet. I have met wonderful people from around the world and do keep in touch as many of them. The residency will begin with an artist from around the world and in return will enrich the Kansas City art scene in ways unimaginable. The residency also gives the artist showing at KCAC place to be quiet place to reflect meet other arts and complete their show without the stress and disturbance of the outside world. For the artist coming to the residency it allows them the time and space to develop an idea in a safe, supportive environment.

Kansas City like many Midwestern cities has re-invented itself and is a well kept secret. I cannot say enough positive things about the city and tell everyone to visit. It is impressive the amount of art spaces,
galleries, and museums to check out. It would take several days to see it all. And the food... well, you have great restaurants. All in all I had a fabulous experience showing at KCAC and spending time in your wonderful city.

PATRICIA VILLALOBOS ECHEVERRÍA — Artist-in-Residence; Exhibition, Mallin Gallery

I would like to relay the importance of the residency that I attended at Kansas City Artists Coalition and in particular to having the artists be in residence altogether. Our project was based on collaboration and without the support our project would not have been as successful. We have continued to collaborate since I was in residence in 2012 and it has further developed my work in ways that I would not have imagined. That experience was unique in that it marked a new avenue in my work and led me to do research in more participatory art projects that involve the public. The seed for that was planted in Kansas City due to the many conversations we had as a group about art and art interaction.

In addition, the exhibition that I had along with the other members of the collaborative group was an important exhibition that lent credibility to the project and the work that we made collaboratively. That work has been further exhibited in Buenos Aires and in Bellingham, Washington.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be a resident artist at your excellent residency and for investing in artists like me.

KANSAS CITY BALLET

*general operating support*

$15,000

In early 2015 Kansas City Ballet School embarked on an initiative to engage young children with developmental delay and disabilities in creative-movement classes. The Adaptive Dance Program fosters a love of dance, music and creative expression. In doing so, it builds coordination, fitness, focus and self-esteem. It is a partnership with the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City, Brain Balance and the nonprofit Children’s Therapy Group, Inc. It focuses on children ages 3-7, though plans do include expanding it older children as well as those with physical disabilities.

The Adaptive Dance Program’s activities maintain an open environment in which all children can participate. Rhythmic activities guided by a dance educator and an occupational therapist will stimulate fine/gross motor and speech/language development, as well as sensory, visual and auditory processing skills.

We rolled out the program in a measured way, first with on-site workshops, followed by weekly classes. The goal of this program is to provide students with special needs an opportunity to explore dance and to facilitate their potential integration into our Academy Children’s Program.

KANSAS CITY BOYS CHOIR

*General operating support*

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

It is never easy for a single mother to raise a child. It is even more difficult when the child has the odds stacked against him.
At an early age, Joshua was diagnosed with Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). The prognosis wasn't good. Although there was medication that could be taken for ADHD, doctors said that little could be done for the problems associated with ODD. Most of the children with this disorder I was told would end up in trouble. Fewer would ever finish school.

Mr. Ah'Lee Robinson, Executive Director of the Kansas City Boys Choir (KCBC) refused to let Joshua be defined by what others were saying. He recognized that if he were going to reach Joshua and make a difference he couldn’t wait until age nine when boys could be admitted to the choir. So he along with the KCBC Board of Directors established the KCBC Trainee choir. Joshua was in the inaugural class.

By the time he was nine, Joshua had already learned how to remain focused. He was taught to see music as more than just entertainment. Through the Kansas City Boys Choir, Joshua experienced and learned to embrace diversity through music. But most of all, the Kansas City Boys Choir played an important role in building Joshua's character, teaching him honesty, dignity and respect himself and others.

So as I watched with pride as my son received his high school diploma this year, I was actually witnessing so much more. I was seeing a mind and a life that had been transformed through the Kansas City Boys Choir and the arts. This has had an impact not only in Joshua's life, but in the lives of others. The same child I was told would not graduate has become a tutor for others with mental and/or behavioral issues and he vows to continue one of the Choir's concepts of “Each One, Reach One.”

KANSAS CITY CHORALE
General operating support
$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

Our recently recorded album, Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil was released in March, and in its first week reached number one in classical sales on Billboard, iTunes and Amazon. International reviews have been all favorable, and we hope to once again represent the caliber of the Kansas City arts community at the Grammy awards next February. A brief quote from Classics Magazine:

“Anyone familiar with this repertoire, so intimately associated with Russian culture and religious tradition, who happened to be looking for an exemplary recording, might understandably assume that the ideal performance would be owned by a Russian church or concert choir; after all, these groups, theoretically at least, possess both the singular vocal quality and practiced technique, along with the inherent interpretive understanding, to set the standard for all others. This new recording from Charles Bruffy and his combined Phoenix and Kansas City Chorales not only destroys any such notion, but stands both as the All-night Vigil's reference — a stunning rendition a world apart from any other recording of the work — and as a major achievement in the history of choral recordings.”
KANSAS CITY KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KCKCC Community Arts Outreach Plan

$9,000

Jazz by the Lake expanded from a 6-concert series to 8-concerts, increasing community attendance; it also added master classes with regional artists for nearly 1,000 students. College Career Day doubled its interest-based tracks, all infused with experiences in the arts and humanities. This event is designed to help high school students understand the connections between having a talent, acquiring mastery, and developing a career from it. Dinner & Shows provide not only additional performing experiences for KCKCC students but also offer some of the highest quality post secondary entertainment in Wyandotte County. Students participating in our arts programs typically receive favorable consideration for scholarship monies upon transfer, which would be less likely without these clear pathways. Many thanks for helping KCKCC to fulfill its slogan, “Making Life Better” to our students and all the residents of Wyandotte County.

KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF ALVIN AILEY

KCFAA Education Programs

$20,000

KCFAA has programs that are diverse in many ways; from our arts education with at-risk youth to presenting artists and companies. One student exemplifies our mission to make dance accessible to all people and teach young people critical life skills through dance.

Arionna A. began her nine year journey with KCFAA as a middle school AileyCamper and has performed with The Group at many Kansas City public performances. She graduated high school with an ACT score of 31 and is planning to attend Lincoln University.

Her story, in her own words: The most valuable lesson I have learned through KCFAA is to never give up on yourself. You will always have trials and tribulation but that doesn’t give you an excuse to stop trying. Keep a positive attitude ... which allows good to come back to you. Being a part of The Group has impacted my life by giving me an outlet to express myself, learn as a person, and create new opportunities. Over the years I’ve grown in dance but I’ve also grown in knowing how much I am capable of learning new things and being confident in myself. Before I joined Ailey, I was a girl in a box with six brothers at home. KCFAA got me out of my shell and comfortable with being different. Having positive influences like Michael, Tyrone, and Paul in my life, Ailey became my comfort zone and second home. I’m grateful for KCFAA programs being an option. It shaped me into the young lady I am becoming today. I will continue to encourage others to join and use the values I’ve I earned during my time.
**KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA (KCJO)**

*Kansas City Jazz Orchestra: FY15 JAZZ EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM(S)*

$4,000

We’re very pleased to say that The KCJO averaged 82% capacity per concert this past year. Here’s a very good example of how getting young audiences to our concerts is benefitting KCJO. 192 students attended our April 17th, 2015 “A Tribute to the Stan Kenton Orchestra.” It must have been a resounding 'hit' with them because our Facebook Page 'reach' went from 63 the week before, to 2,366 the week after - a jump of 3,655%!

**KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE**

*general operating support*

$20,000

KC Rep’s 2014-15 Student Matinee series served students from over 100 schools in urban, suburban, and rural school districts in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area. Written materials provided by the Rep’s Education Department and post-performance discussions which accompany Student Matinees provide a deeper understanding of the plays’ artistic significance and cultural and historical relevance. The impact upon our community is highlighted in this feedback from David Hastings, a Theatre teacher at Olathe South High School, who brought his students to KC Rep’s productions of Our Town and An Iliad this year: “Seeing shows at your theatre connects us to great literature, performance, production, and theatre professionals. I am bringing kids because you are the best example of great theatre in Kansas City. I know there are others doing great work, but you all have the most resources and the coolest space. I will be bringing kids as long as you make it an option.”

**KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY**

*2014-2015 Youth Education and Community Engagement Programs*

$25,000

“Music matters because it is an essential part of what human beings need in their daily experience in life. It transforms the way we see the world.”

Michael Stern, Music Director
Kansas City Symphony

EDUCATOR COMMENTS ABOUT KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

This was the greatest field trip experience of my career. The organization of busses and students was amazing! The program kept my students engaged for the entire time, and they were sad when it was over. Thank you so much for providing this wonderful opportunity for my kids to hear the Kansas City Symphony. I appreciate all your hard work that made the event a success!

Liberty Public Schools, Liberty, MO
Developmentally appropriate; well-adapted; well-organized; friendly volunteers and staff - tops! A+

Academie Lafayette - Cherry Campus, Kansas City, MO

Today was wonderful! My students really enjoyed the music and could not stop talking about our trip. Thank you for providing a quality music experience for such an affordable price!

Claude Huyck Elementary, Kansas City, KS

As always, this was an amazing experience for my 3rd graders! I am so thankful for a professional music organization with such talent, class, and consideration for our children! Thank you for making this an accessible event for our students!

Riverview Elementary, De Soto, KS

We love, love the opportunity to experience the Symphony. The cross-curricular aspect is great but the music and musicians are the stars. Economically it is not an option to attend your regular concert series, and we inhale each moment through every sense we have. And re-live those moments often when we leave. Thank you, thank you! Did I say thank you?!

Jessup Academy, Lee’s Summit, MO

KANSAS CITY YOUNG AUDIENCES, INC.
general operating support
$30,000

KCYA is the largest arts organization in the Metropolitan Kansas City Region with the sole focus of arts education. KCYA has an especially broad reach and seeks to engage the most at-risk populations in the area. KCYA has provided arts programming to 85,425 students in Title I schools. KCYA serves several metro school districts that have more than 70% of their students categorized as Title I — those who qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program. Each district has experienced a significant increase in the percentage of Title I students since 2010 and without community support thousands of these underserved students would not have the opportunity to participate in arts education programs.

Through the evaluation process KCYA receives feedback from educators for in-school programs, and from parents for programming at the Community School of the Arts. The following is a small representation of comments received concerning the quality and impact of programming in FY2015:

“High interest and engaging! Students always seem to be inspired by these artists. These artists have great rapport with students and seem to bring out the best of their creative abilities.” Teacher, Grandview School District (Dramatic Art and Rhythm with Recipe Guild)

“Wish we would have had this review before our MAP test.” Teacher, Kansas City, KS School
District (Sum of our Favorite Numbers with Jay & Leslie’s Laughing Matters)

“As a parent, I find the super competitive environment of our present day challenging. I believe there should be more opportunities for kids of all ages to experience and grow with activities without the expectations of a demanding schedule, complete commitment, and expectation. Basically I think the best thing we can do for our kids is to let them try and experience activities so they can see what they like before requiring them to choose. I certainly appreciate the KCYA organization doing just that - letting kids be kids: curious, excited, and not afraid to try. My twelve year old daughter and several of her classmates not only danced in the recent Circus Dance performance, but were actually allowed to choreograph several routines. I cannot tell you how empowered my daughter felt; especially considering the written credit in the program and the fact that Miss Shope recognized them at the end of the performance. That to me is worth more than anything else.” Parent of CSA dance student

**KEMPER MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

*general support of education programs*

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

Rhiannon, a nine-year-old budding artist from Kansas City, Missouri, attended the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art’s ArtReach program. ArtReach was established by the Museum more than ten years ago to provide children — with and without developmental disabilities — opportunities for self-expression and communication through the visual arts. Rhiannon suffers from severe anxiety issues and was extremely shy and reserved when beginning the program. During the course of the session, the class learned to work with different media, were introduced to artists' works of art within the Museum’s galleries, and created their own original art with the skills they’d learned. By the end of the session, Rhiannon stood in front of the class and shared her artwork in the group critique. After experiencing Rhiannon’s transformation during the course of the workshop, her mother shared with Devin Rumley, the Kemper Museum’s school and family educator, “I cannot believe how you were able to bring Rhiannon out of her shell. She feels like an artist!”

**LATINO WRITERS COLLECTIVE**

*General operating support*

$7,000

This year we were able to bring in an author, Sarah Chavez, to help with our annual migrant youth writing workshop held in Lawrence. Sarah was enthralled by the youth and their willingness to share their stories. The workshop has been one of our most cherished events because the students open up in ways that touches them deeply. There is never a dry eye in the house when we are done. It is that powerful. Sarah experienced it firsthand.
**Mattie Rhodes Center**

_Latino Cultural Arts_

$20,000

A child in our After School Art Program was so excited to be a part of our Annual Children’s Art Exhibit and equally excited that his parents were coming to see his work. One of his pieces was chosen to be professionally framed for this year’s exhibit and was for sale. When his parents came to the opening reception, they wanted to buy his artwork but were not able to afford it. A teacher from his school who also attended to support her students in our program purchased his artwork to give to his family. When the student found out he was so excited and his father was so grateful.

**Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre**

_general operating support_

$15,000

This past July, early in the morning more than two feet of water collected on the roof of our building above the offices, costume storage and green room at Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre at 36th and Main. The roof has been leaking badly for years and we had warned our landlord that the situation was really bad, but no one was prepared for what happened next. ... significant portions of the ceiling gave way and collapsed, flooding three rooms in the front, bathrooms in the back, and into the green room and dressings rooms. It came in with such force that it burst through ceiling tiles, flipped furniture, hurled art from the walls. Water continued coming in like open faucets.

This is when I arrived that morning. My first call was to our landlord who never came. Luckily, no one had been in the building when the collapse occurred. However, this event substantially changed the course of the immediate day as our staff and board arrived and frantically tried to save files, hard drives, computers, phones, financial records, move furniture, assess damage and clean what they could. (Ironically, I had been writing my versions of grants and reports the previous day. The ruined versions, now soaked, were on my desk that morning.) The damage was too great and the space no longer safe for occupancy. I sent everyone one home.

The only course of action was to vacate this section of the building, rebuild offices in our lobby, to postpone the opening of the season for a week and adjust the remaining calendar accordingly. We have been playing catch up ever since.
The situation this year has been extremely volatile — not in the sense that it was angry — but in that it has changed constantly. I am so thankful for the excellent advice and guidance from Mr. Sam Bennett at Commerce Bank in helping me work through this time in our company. There were moments that were so dark that I thought we might fail as we moved through this year. One longtime employee suggested we speak frankly to our season ticket holders and tell them what had happened to our building and why our calendar was in flux. The support we received was incredible. Our subscribers became volunteers. Our board pulled together and articulated a goal: a new home. We announced our plan at our gala March 14. The situation has stabilized and is tremendously positive. We are concluding our season here at 36th and Main, and after a year of searching, are working to move to a new (dry, safe, stable) home, with great parking.

**MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE (M-AAA)**

*Kansas City Programming and Audience Development*

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

A strong Kansas City arts ecosystem requires catalytic programs and services that increase audience participation through engaging arts experiences, develop exceptional leadership and networking opportunities, and provide access to expertise for artists and arts leaders. M-AAA responds to these needs in a way that no other Kansas City-based organization can: by delivering a broad range of enriching multidisciplinary opportunities to Kansas City through a compelling array of local, regional, national, and international experiences. These unique programs and resources add to the diversity and vibrancy of locally developed arts programming, artists, and arts organizations.

One recent example is Songwriting With Soldiers (SWS), a program underwritten by an M-AAA Artistic Innovations grant. SWS pairs active duty military and recently returned veterans with internationally acclaimed songwriters to put their stories of war and healing to music. Led by Austin-based recording artist, Darden Smith, grant-supported SWS retreats were held in 2013.

In June 2014, M-AAA premiered the first live performance of the resulting songs at our LIVE! in the Crossroads event. SWS provided us the opportunity to collaborate with the Combat Paper Project and other veteran artists to develop and deliver a new exhibition, “Citizen-Soldier-Artist,” which features the visual artwork of post-9/11 veterans, in the Culture Lab. “Citizen-Soldier-Artist” is being considered for touring through M-AAA’s ExhibitsUSA program. Additionally, we hosted a public discussion and paper-making project on June 8, “Record, React, Rehabilitate, Remember -- Veterans and Contemporary Art.”
This public discussion highlighted the intersection of the arts and military service, and how the arts are a powerful medium for assisting veterans. It featured artists who are veterans of war and arts professionals who work with artists to promote art-making.

**MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

*MAAE Arts Education Support, Promotion, and Advocacy Program*

$30,000

Fine Arts Education Day is always a special treat for members of MAAE. Hundreds of students and their teachers and parents gather in the state capitol in Jefferson City to celebrate the accomplishments of students in the arts and to advocate for the continued central role of the arts in education. This year was especially poignant as the award for Creativity and Innovation in Teaching was given to Sara Given from Mexico, Missouri. Sara’s *Jellybean Speech Olympics* was a creation with a variety of sources. She made the leap from realizing that if special needs students could participate in athletic events they would be able to do the same for many of the events at a speech contest. Several schools from northern Missouri participated in this wonderful event.

Things came together for the presentation, with the Commissioner of Education, Margie Vandeven, excited to be the presenter, a delegation of teachers, parents, and administrators attended and the finishing touch, a performance by one of her Jellybeans of a Shel Silverstein poem. The audience was moved by what they had seen and heard: a dedicated teacher giving opportunities to students she cared for deeply. The students — all of them — had taken on the challenge and created a moment those in attendance would not forget.

**NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL**

*National World War I Museum Arts Programming*

$20,000

Every great city has a strong arts and cultural life, but only one has the National World War I Museum and Memorial. The National World War I Museum and Memorial is the country’s only museum dedicated to remembering, interpreting, and understanding the Great War (1914-1918) and its enduring impact on the global community.

The Museum has established new arts partnerships and has continued to cultivate collaborations that began years ago. The depth and breadth of our arts programming is a testament to the success of these friendships.

In February, the Museum hosted In Conversation with Silent Night Pulitzer Prize Winners, Celebrated Author, and KC Cultural Leaders, featuring composer Kevin Puts, librettist Mark Campbell, author Stanley Weintraub, General Director and CEO of the Lyric Opera, Deborah Sandler, along with the Museum’s President and CEO, Matthew Naylor. In fact, the Museum’s partnership with the Lyric Opera
was awarded a “Project of Special Merit Award” at the Opera Volunteers International Conference in Washington DC.

The Museum also partnered with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and was integral in their exhibition WWI and the Rise of Modernism.

Furthermore, the Museum is currently displaying A Centenary of Australian War Art through December 2015. The exhibition features the most comprehensive collection of Australian war art ever seen outside of Australia, consisting of artworks from the Australian War Memorial depicting Australian military experience from the First World War to Afghanistan.

The Museum is dedicated to integrating arts experiences into the lessons of World War I, creating a bridge to the social history museum experience. Claude Monet began painting his famous Water Lillies in 1915. Auguste Rodin began his last work, Bust of Etienne Clementel, in 1916, before donating all of his works to the French nation. Only when one knows the historical context of these great works of art can one fully comprehend their impact and inspiration.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial’s work is to interpret, understand, and remember and the Great War. Our arts exhibitions and programming allow us to expand the narrative and mediums of our storytelling to provide a holistic understanding of the state that the world was in one hundred years ago; to bring divergent voices together to explore the enduring impact of war and the struggles of a sustained peace. We want to enrich the life of the city, and assert Kansas City as a vibrant cultural center of the Midwest.

Incorporating arts and cultural experiences into the social history museum contributes to the Museum’s mission by showing how people use arts as a lens for communicating how to understand war and traumatic experiences. The arts create a bridge to understanding history. They offer the opportunity for those who have been in conflict, for both military and civilian personnel, to respond to their experiences and process them to create meaningful understanding. The Museum acts as a place of
engagement where art can be felt and reflected upon and believes that the arts are an essential component in understanding World War I. The arts can move people in ways that history texts never can.

**OZANAM**

*Enhancements for Ozanam's Expressive Arts Program*

$1,800

Over the years, Ozanam has always found ways to take children on off-campus outings. We have periodically had musical groups and choirs volunteer their time to come and perform for the children who live and go to school here. This has always been on a sporadic basis.

Over the past two years, our music and art therapist have worked with our Family Engagement Committee and our Cultural Competency Committee to generate support for and ideas about how to bring the arts more alive for our children such as our *Music Has Power! Concert Series*. The ideas continue to evolve and we are excited about what this next year will bring. Thank you for helping to make this happen for the kids!

**PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**

*AT JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE*

*general operating support*

$40,000 over 4 years; $10,000 in 2014

We discovered that a “few hits” of training in arts integration did not provide a foundation for teachers to retain the information, or transfer the information. It became apparent that many teachers did not have the training to reach a variety of learners. In 2013, the PAS Arts Education program and the Shawnee Mission Fine Arts Coordinator were accepted into the John F. Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program. In 2014 – 2015, seven Professional Development sessions were offered, with five by Kennedy Center teaching artists. Teachers were excited, engaged and could not wait to bring the lessons into their classrooms. With this model, we had success.

JCCC Arts Education will continue to offer these well-developed and creative arts integrated lesson plans. We have learned that a quality artist teaching an arts integrated lesson to students and teachers is worlds apart from a highly qualified teaching artist whose goal is to train teachers to develop their own arts integrated lesson with their chosen art form in their content area. We will continue training teachers to assimilate, retain, transfer and deliver creative lesson plans that excite them and reach a variety of learners. From here, we plan to offer focused training for teachers who can then train other teachers. This model is at the core of sustaining arts integration.

Feedback:

... What a dynamic experience! I haven’t stopped raving about the workshop I attended yesterday. It inspired and energized creative thinking in everyone who attended, producing a wellspring of exuberance. What better learning environment could there be? Truly, I appreciate all the effort and time you spent in planning, organizing, and executing this valuable event. And, for that matter, all the
seminar/workshops you have made available to my students and me. Your remarkable commitment and
diligence to arts education is clearly evidenced in all you do. Consequently, a plethora of artists and
educators, their students and our entire community benefit. Thank you for your ongoing advocacy to
elevate awareness of and promote a genuine appreciation for the Arts while providing such a rich
reservoir of resources to enhance education for all of us.

... As you know, evening workshops can be trying, both for presenters and participants. Even for the
most enthusiastic teachers, their grueling schedules typically leave them drained of energy by the end of
a school day. But the "Social Studies and the Arts Workshop-Drum Safari and Spirit of the Mask"
workshop captivated and inspired my students and me. You and your fabulous team hooked everyone.
We listened and observed. Collaborated and created. Communicated through dance, music, and art.
Played with meaning and crafted innovative ideas to express individual perspectives. What’s more, the
process generated genuine laughter and spurred animation, which fueled authentic learning. Thank you
for sharing this wonderful event with my students and me.

RESTART, INC.
Arts at reStart
$5,000

Arts at reStart continues to be a successful avenue to connect youth and adults experiencing
homelessness with opportunities for artistic exposure and healing and creative self-expression. reStart
staff strive to continually provide residents access to arts opportunities that take place around Kansas
City. Equally important, staff also pay deliberate attention to providing experience with inclusion and
diversity in the arts, such as themed opportunities aligned with Back History Month, the Chinese New
Year, Women’s History Month, Cinco de Mayo, and LGBT Month (among others).

THE STORYTELLERS INC. (ARTSTECH)
Interactive Arts Education for At-Risk Youth
$9,500

Based on an evaluation conducted by UMKC, the Kansas City Crime Commission indicated that during
the time that the Teens in Transition program was in effect last year, the crime rate went down 30%. As
a result of that finding, Mayor Sly James, in his 2015 State of the City address, committed additional
monies to this program in order to increase the number of young people involved, stating “The data
from Teens in Transition is clear — it's working and deserves to be scaled up.” He also attached a full-
time evaluator from UMKC to the program.

This year in our Teens in Transition program, we were given an even greater challenge. In light of
national issues between police departments and people of color, we were assigned four School
Resource Officers to work with our youth, with the charge of creating understanding between those two
groups. Early in the project, we asked the youth what it would look like if the police were working with
the community and the community was working with the police. Most of the youth could not even
conceive of such a thing, and came up with things like “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot!” One of our returning
youth came to me privately, saying he had an idea but didn’t want to share it himself. His concept was
The hands of a police officer and an African American youth are reaching out toward one another. Their backgrounds are visible to each other. Between the hands is a word — he didn’t know what word. One of the girls came up with “Step Forward.” This became the concept for our major art piece for the Denim project.

The youth and officers have been working together now for eight weeks, and are getting along very well. Each has become more human to the other. The officers have even been helping the youth fill out job applications and doing practice job interviews with them, using their personal connections to help them get jobs.

**Swope Corridor Renaissance / Upper Room, Inc.**

*Eddie Baker School of Music*

$9,000

Out of 150 students from jazz programs across the city, 12 students were selected to be a part of the “All Star” group, which performed at the end of the seminars at the Charlie Parker Festival, held at the Jazz Museum in August. Of the 12 finalists in the “All-Star” group, seven were from the Eddie Baker School of Music. From that single performance, the Eddie Baker students were asked to come back and perform at the 18th & Vine Jazz Festival in October.

We couldn’t be more proud of our student abilities and hard work they put forward. We now get regular requests for our students to play at events around the city.

**Synergy Services, Inc.**

*YRC (Youth Resiliency Center) Arts Program*

$5,000

The “work” supported by the Foundation could best be illustrated in the self-expression that materializes as original artwork produced by the homeless, runaway, street youth we serve. Additionally the direct responses we have received from evaluations are testimony to the work done through the YRC Arts Program.

Tia, age 18 – “I’ve only been coming to the YRC for a few weeks but I really like the open art studios and classes. The artists and art therapist allow me to do the kind of art that I want to do and it changes from day to day. I don’t feel rushed or have people telling me what to make. It makes me feel good to be able to express my feelings and reflect back on my day.”

Heather, age 20 – “I’ve been coming to the YRC art center since it opened. One reason I attend is because I don’t have money to attend art classes or workshops that are offered around the city. I can use the center’s art supplies and I use the art workshops to help cope with my problems. When I don’t have a chance to express myself and be creative everything seems depressing and it’s
tough to make it through certain nights. Participating in the art studio makes me feel better and lifts my mood for the day.”

Trenton, age 16 – “I like the dancing workshops because we get to learn how to do hip-hop or learn how to dance to African drumming. I get to meet new people and have made new friends that are interested in the same thing that don’t go to my school. I would like to learn how to do other types of dance.”

**UMKC CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

*Musical Bridges*

$20,000

The faculty and staff are very excited to have our first Musical Bridges student enter as a freshman this fall. Courtney will be a music education major and plays the tuba and euphonium. She graduated from Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and Brielan Andersen was her Musical Bridges instructor. She will be a great addition to the Conservatory!

**UMKC INNOVATION CENTER**

*Artist INC*

$9,000

The most recent illustration of the power and impact of Artist INC on the lives and careers of local artists can best be summarized by these quotes from graduates of Artist INC Live 2015: Having graduated from an Art College, I am completely blown away that something like this was not a REQUIRED part of the curriculum. ... I learned more about my self and how I feel about art and my professional practice in eight classes then I learned in four years at the Art Institute. ... It's without a doubt the best arts experience I had so far in my 15+ of practice. ... My question to myself is, 'why did you wait so long?' ... This experience was so incredibly valuable and I am so very grateful to have participated. I have lots to do and now I know better how to do it!

**VAN GO, INC**

*JAMS: Jobs in the Arts Make Sense*

$4,900

One of our JAMS participants started with us when he was first eligible to apply following his 14th birthday. In May he completed a challenging journey to his high school graduation. He worked in each JAMS session during the four years in between.

When he started, he did not communicate at all with his peers and had difficulty communicating with adults.
Our staff coordinated job training, social work, and healthy living skill-building work with other professionals at school and in the community mental health settings. Over time, his social and job skills built gradually, his mental health stabilized, he lost weight through healthier food choices and exercise.

We didn’t always see the extent of his remarkable progress because it happened gradually with his own hard work and the help of the personal interventions of caring adults on a day-to-day basis. But when we step back and look where he started and where he is now, it’s pretty amazing.

He feels the most proud of his increase in self-confidence and decrease in anxiety and depression. He was one of our featured speakers for our Spring JAMS mural unveiling and spoke wisely and humbly about his journey and how proud he is of himself and his progress, and how he owes much of this to his time at Van Go.

Next fall we will continue to be involved with him as he completes a year in a transitional program sponsored by the local school district, and he is working toward his goal of attending junior college to work toward a career in a helping profession, and also working toward getting his own apartment.

Our continuous, in-depth contact with this participant, along with the collaboration with the school and other professionals involved in his life were big factors in helping him progress successfully.

THE WHOLE PERSON INC
*Expressions: A First Friday Art Show*
$2,700

- A young and recently relocated artist with a disability stopped by the preview show, and with encouragement from Expressions committee members she has submitted her work for consideration for Expressions in October.

- A veteran with disabilities spent nearly 20 minutes sharing her personal story and interest in the show and the work of The Whole Person. TWP’s Volunteer Manager felt strongly that she would be an excellent candidate for the peer mentoring program. The veteran provided her contact information and expressed her interest in participating in this volunteer program.

- A couple passing by the gallery window recognized the work of one of the Expressions preview artists, who is the son of family friends. They said they would plan to attend the October show and bring more people with them.

YOUTH SYMPHONY OF KANSAS CITY, INC.
*General operating support*
$10,000

Youth Symphony of Kansas City provides a high-quality, music making experience for some of the community’s most talented musicians in grades 5-12. Participants rehearse weekly with some of the region’s most qualified conductors and music educators receiving ensemble, sectional and one-on-one instruction.
YSKC ensembles perform at least ten concerts per season which are free and open to the public. Last season an estimated audience of 18,000 enjoyed live, classical music performed by Kansas City’s youth.

**KCPT - PUBLIC TELEVISION 19, INC.**  
**Arts & Culture Programming on KCPT**  
$50,000

Kansas City Public Television is uniquely positioned to engage the community and promote quality arts and cultural programming. The KCPT brand is a trusted feature on the local media landscape and PBS is the most trusted media source 12 years running according to annual surveys. The KCPT “stage” connects hundreds of thousands of people across our region with the local arts scene and with the world’s finest performing artists, awaking new and often unexpected passions that then transfer to enjoyment of and support for our local performers and venues. This only happens on public television and only through the generosity of our community whose support we rely on.

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**Lifelong Learning**

Francis Family Foundation funding encourages lifelong learning for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds through innovative, diverse, creative and research-proven ways of learning.

**Desired Results:** Well-rounded children and youth who are creative, flexible, globally competitive, adaptive to a culture of innovation and diversity, passionate about learning, and able to problem solve, in groups and individually, so they can thrive in the 21st Century.

**Measurement:**

- $\textit{children entering kindergarten school ready}$
- $\textit{children prepared to read on grade level in third grade}$
- $\textit{children and youth actively engaged in achieving high academic standards}$

**Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2014:** Invest in innovative organizations and attract, develop and retain the best teachers, leaders, staff and other people who provide and advocate for a continuum of (1) quality during a child’s earliest learning experiences; (2) access to excellence in K-12th grade, especially in the urban core of Kansas City; and, (3) the family’s role as first teachers in early literacy.
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**general operating support**

$90,000

On the last day of session, Missouri made education history by passing pre-Kindergarten bill to provide pre-Kindergarten state funding to districts and charters for children ages 3 and 4 eligible for free/reduced lunch.

Another bill in Missouri requires the Department of Social Services work with statewide stakeholders, such as parents and child care providers, to establish a transparent system of quality indicators that will provide parents with a way to differentiate between child care providers. This renders Missouri eligible to pursue federal dollars for high-quality early childhood programs to continue to pursue a balanced agenda of expanding access and increasing quality for all of Missouri’s youngest citizens.

THE FAMILY CONSERVANCY (TFC)

**general operating support**

$50,000

One of TFC’s CLASS coaching projects involves coaching teachers to implement strategies from the Toddler CLASS using the My Teaching Partner (MTP) system. Developmentally, we know the toddler period is critical for helping children to develop their language skills. A toddler teacher needs to feel comfortable talking with young children of this age so that the children have the opportunity to interact with a teacher who is a strong role model for using language. Two of the strategies from the Toddler CLASS tool is for a teacher to talk with children about what the children are doing (parallel talk) as well as what the teacher is doing (self talk). A teacher also needs to do a lot of labeling of objects for children so that the children begin to connect the object to the spoken word. Essentially, the parallel talk and self talk strategies involve a teacher implementing a play-by-play of his/her own actions and that of the children in a natural way as they work together in the classroom.

During our post observations of one of the Toddler classrooms, one of our coaches witnessed the following interactions between a teacher and a young toddler (15 months to 18 months of age). At the beginning of the project, this teacher was very uncomfortable using the parallel and self talk strategies.

The teacher was working at the table with a small group of young toddlers when one of them stood up from the table and walked away. The teacher used her parallel talk and said to the child, “You are walking away. You are going somewhere else. Do you need something?” The child walked to a small yellow chair in another area of the classroom, picked it up, and began to walk back to the table with it. Using the self talk strategy with the child the teacher said, “Oh, I see you want the yellow chair. You are picking up the yellow chair and carrying it over here? Do you want to sit at the table in the yellow chair?” The child put the chair to the table and became engaged in the activity with the teacher and the other children. The teacher responded by saying, “Now you are sitting at the table in the yellow chair.” During clean up from the table activity the yellow chair was returned to its original spot in the classroom. Later during the observation it was time for snack. As the teacher was gathering the children...
together for snack the same child from the above scenario walked over to the yellow chair, picked it up, and carried it to the table, looked at the teacher and said, “Yellow chair.” The teacher responded by smiling and saying to the child, “Yes, I see you have the yellow chair.”

This is a good example of how a child picks up language use and understanding by being with a teacher who knows the importance of using self talk, parallel talk, and labeling of objects as he/she works with young toddlers.

According to the Missouri Early Childhood State Plan (2011): “Early childhood is the life period of most intensive development where both positive and negative factors have the greatest impact.”

**Kansas Action for Children, Inc.**

*general operating support (including Kansas Coalition for School Readiness)*

$50,000

Resolving the fiscal crisis our state is facing won't be child's play. State legislators have their work cut out for them. And, unfortunately, for today's Kansas children there will be no do-overs if policymakers don't make choices that put their needs first.

According to Gov. Brownback, "It requires the courage to face our challenges head-on and find solutions that work for Kansans." I couldn't agree more, and I hope that policymakers will have the courage to acknowledge that the "great experiment" hasn't produced the desired results and reverse course before it is too late for an entire generation of Kansas children. Today’s young children cannot afford for the state to have inadequate revenue to ensure high-quality educational experiences beginning in the early years, access to health care and access to other economic supports for our low-income working families.

The governor also acknowledged, "Kansans are sensible, decent, compassionate, thoughtful people." I am a native Kansan and his words resonated with me. I simply don’t believe that Kansans want tax policies that short-circuit investments in the next generation. Compassion for our state’s children — particularly our youngest children and our children growing up in poor families — means policymakers will have to take a hard look at what the "march to zero" is really costing us.

Near the end of his address, the governor said, "So let us be wise and loving in how we serve the people particularly those in the greatest need at the time of their greatest need." There is no time of greater need than childhood. It is a once in a lifetime window of opportunity. Kansas children get one opportunity to put the building blocks in place that will allow them to maximize their potential and their contribution to our state.

Let's not just hope that legislators do the right thing for our children. Together, let's call on Kansas policymakers to demonstrate their courage, compassion and wisdom in the choices they make this legislative session.

Blog post by KAC President & CEO Shannon Cotsoradis.
KANSAS CITY AREA PARENTS AS TEACHERS CONSORTIUM (USD 233 OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

**general operating support (FFF funds targeted to SCPV program)**

$20,000

We have planted a new seed in KCPS and seeded the Consortium’s work with the Spanish speaking community. The Francis Provider Educator has been mentoring the Spanish Speaking Provider Educator to work with family child care providers. Through this work new funders have been identified, providers have been recruited, and the Kansas Health Department training has been translated into Spanish.

Another aspect of this project has been to offer the Francis Institute program Developing Your Child Care Business to Spanish speaking providers through the Consortium. The Francis Institute has offered the 50 hour class in Olathe for the past two years. The Provider Educator was trained as a trainer for the Business Class and conducted the class with a trainer from the Francis Institute.

KCPT - PUBLIC TELEVISION 19, INC.

**KCPT Kids Programming and Education Services**

$15,000

KCPT recently received an email from a Mother whose son has been ill. We believe she expressed the sentiment of many parents who encourage their children to watch KCPT Kids/PBS programs. Here is what she wrote:

Hi! I just wanted to tell you that I am so thankful for your TV channel. My son was recently burned badly and has spent many days resting on the couch. The TV shows you play have kept him entertained everyday. We are so thankful that even lying on the couch in pain he can learn with Sesame Street and have many laughs with Odd Squad and Curious George. Thanks for all you do!

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ON EARLY LEARNING

**general operating support**

$150,000

Since 2012, MCEL has worked with community partner agencies to implement the Classroom Assessment Scoring System My Teaching Partner (CLASS MTP) model in preschool classrooms in area community based early learning programs. CLASS MTP is a combination of onsite and online coaching. Preschool teachers video record themselves for one half hour every two to three weeks. A certified coach then edits these videos into three, one minute clips connecting the teacher’s practice back to the appropriate dimensions. Video clips are uploaded to a secure website for the teacher to view and respond to the coach’s comments. Then, coach and teacher meet face to face to review the clips and discuss goals and teacher action plans for the next cycle.

Recently two teachers who participated in the project, Natasha and Angie, received national recognition from the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children’s TYLENOL® National Child Care Teacher Awards. Both teachers
used their participation in the CLASS project as part of their applications. Only 54 National Child Care Teacher Award recipients were awarded for 2014. Applications were scored by a team of national early childhood educators and experts. Both teachers will now be finalists for the Helene Marks Award and the top honor of becoming the 2014 National Child Care Teacher of the Year.

**PREP-KC**

*general operating support*

$150,000

Math Benchmarking has allowed us to move beyond having pockets of excellence in schools to giving the possibility of increased achievement to students at scale, across the district. We’ve always had people doing a good job in individual classrooms, but benchmarking itself builds consistency in targets and expectations and that enables you to go from having one or two stars, to consistent stars across the district. I’ve seen very few strategies that help to get us to scale with increases in achievement. The benchmarking framework does that.

PREP-KC is also working with three charter schools in the Kansas City School District on the implementation of Literacy Benchmarking. Students are meeting with professionals and participating in hands-on experiences at area businesses that are truly inspiring our students to prepare for their futures! We see profound growth in our students because of the invaluable exposure to real world experiences.

![Image of students working on math problems](image-url)
In July at the Swope Central Clinic, volunteer readers were moving from the pediatric clinic to the Women’s, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic which had a busier waiting room filled with children. To accommodate the move, a volunteer reader, Ann, asked a four-year-old boy, Elijah, to help move a small table. With the table in place, they began reading together right away and before they left Ann gave Elijah a book to take home. Several weeks later, our reader was working at a local shelter where she also volunteered when she heard a little voice call out, “Ann!” She looked down to find Elijah, who recognized her and immediately gave her a big hug. His mother quickly followed. She and her son were staying at the shelter. The mother smiled warmly at Ann and thanked her for the book and time she had spent with her son, then went on to share that now, ever since they met, Elijah asks her to read to him every day.

Medical professionals and staff also attest to how our program is making a positive impact on the families and children they serve. At Operation Breakthrough, a staff member, Brittany, recalls that before Reach Out and Read Kansas City stocked their waiting room with book-filled shelves and volunteer readers, children would pass the time watching television or playing on their parents’ phones. “Now children rush into the clinic and beg their parents to read to them before seeing the doctor,” observes Brittany. She mentions that children become excited when they find out the book they were enjoying reading in the waiting room is theirs to take home for free.

At the Health Partnership Clinic, staff comment on the benefits of offering gently used books for older siblings who no longer receive new books given at well-child visits to children ages 0-5. Receptionist, Maria, reports seeing an 8 year old girl who often accompanied her mother for her younger siblings' appointments. Maria noticed that while her family members were in with the doctor, the young girl always remained in the waiting room. One day she spoke to her, sympathizing about her waiting all alone. The young girl’s response both pleased and surprised Maria when she happily replied, “That’s okay, I don’t mind at all. I love coming here! It’s noisy at home and I’ve read all of the books there. When I come here I can read in peace and quiet, and get a book to take home with me!”

The Reach Out and Read program is a nationally recognized, research and evidence-based model proven to help children develop the language skills and rich vocabulary they will need to learn to read and enter school prepared to succeed.
Pulmonary Research

Francis Family Foundation funding enables breakthrough solutions in pulmonary medicine leading to the development of enhanced treatments and cures for pulmonary diseases.

**Desired Results:** New scientists who serve patients with lung diseases through innovative research are supported at a key transition point in their career.

**Measurement:** Increase number of researchers entering and remaining in the pulmonary research field.

**Overall Grantmaking Strategy 2014:** Attract, develop and retain the best researchers in the field of pulmonary research through the Parker B. Francis (PBF) Pulmonary Research Fellows Program. The Foundation created the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program, a national postdoctoral study in pulmonary research, in 1975. Since then, the Foundation has contributed $64 million in support of more than 840 Fellows. For more information, visit [www.francisfellowships.org](http://www.francisfellowships.org).

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

*Uncovering mechanisms of lung injury in CF using iPSC-derived neutrophils*

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease characterized by recurrent pneumonias and progressive lung injury, usually resulting in death by young adulthood. Kristin M. Hudock, M.D. and G. Scott Worthen, M.D. postulate that neutrophils, key immune cells that protect people from bacteria, are dysfunctional in CF and contribute to the development of CF lung disease. They use novel stem cell technologies to determine how CF neutrophils differ from neutrophils of healthy subjects, which could lead to the development of new drugs to treat this incurable disease.

**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**

*KRASG12D induced tumorigenesis*

Despite many years of investigations no effective treatment exists to date for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) and remarkably in spite of incremental advances in lung cancer therapy the 5-year survival rate has remained essentially unchanged over the past 3 decades. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop novel therapies based on newer understanding of the molecular mechanisms and pathways that participate in lung carcinogenesis for better and improved treatment of patients diagnosed with NSCLC. Completion of this research from Adrianus (jos) van der Velden, Ph.D. and Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D. could provide an exciting new molecular mechanism and lead to a new therapeutic approach with an existing drug (TLK199) for patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science

In 2012, we lost a great researcher, mentor and friend. Dr. Jo Rae Wright was a creative and tireless educator who was a role model for researchers, educators, and women in science. She will be greatly missed. To honor her spirit, the Foundation established the Jo Rae Wright Award for Excellence in Science given to the top graduating fellow who best exemplifies the values of Dr. Jo Rae Wright. The award celebrates excellence in science and is given to the research home of the fellow for lab supplies to further support their research.

Dr. John Alcorn at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is studying the disease mechanisms of pneumonia are unclear. He is identifying roles for immune regulators to define the pathways involved in pneumonia. His research addresses the role of helper T cells and their downstream signaling pathways involved in host defense. The goal is to define therapeutic targets in the lung and promote our understanding of pneumonia.
**Arts & Culture**

**ACCESSIBLE ARTS, INC.**
*(ACCESSIBLE ARTS VSA KANSAS INC)*

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

**ALBRECHT-KEMPER MUSEUM OF ART**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

**AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

**THE ARTS ASYLUM**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

**ARTS IN PRISON**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

**ARTS TECH**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Establishing local public funding streams

**ARTSKC - REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**
*(METROPOLITAN ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY)*

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $50,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Establishing local public funding streams

**CALVARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH NETWORK**

**HYPE**
HYPE utilizes the performing arts to establish ongoing relationships with urban youth while creating upbeat performances designed to educate their peers.
Grant amount: $9,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

**CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $30,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Establishing local public funding streams

**COMMUNITY HOUSING OF WyANDOTTE COUNTY (CHWC INC.)**

**EPIC Arts Outreach**

Recognizing that the arts are more accessible when located within venues where people live and work, the Francis Family Foundation created the Small Arts Grant Fund. A wide range of grassroots programs are supported throughout the region.

**COTERIE THEATRE**

**General operating support**
Grant amount: $20,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences

**CROSSROADS ACADEMY**

**Crossroads Academy Fine Arts Program**
Supports the academic, creative and physical development of our scholars and is an integral aspect of the holistic program offered at the school.
Grant amount: $9,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program
DELA SALLE EDUCATION CENTER

DeLaSalle's Arts and Culture Program
In-School Art Classes and After-School Drama and Film Clubs that allow more than 130 students, or about 50% of the entire student population, an opportunity to express themselves in an creative and nurturing environment.
Grant amount: $9,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

FISHTANK PERFORMANCE STUDIO
(FRACTURED ATLAS PRODUCTIONS, INC.)

Operating expenses to support the Fishtank Performance Studio
Provides a low-risk, low cost environment for new play development, acquires key personnel for program operations and maintains a consistent pricing structure.
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Program support for small arts and culture organizations

FOLLY THEATER
(PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION OF KANSAS CITY)

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Concert Underwriting
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

GENESIS SCHOOL

African Centered Music Program for the Students at Genesis School
A centuries-old method of teaching African-centered music and dance incorporates several key concepts and components which enable children and young adults to learn very valuable tools and skills necessary in their academic, social, and personal empowerment.
Grant amount: $2,500
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

HARRIMAN-JEWELL SERIES AT WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

HEART OF AMERICA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

HEARTLAND MEN’S CHORUS

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

HERITAGE PHILHARMONIC (INDEPENDENCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA)

General operating support
Grant amount: $5,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

Just as the Foundation supports advocacy organizations and the crucial role they play in raising public awareness, the Foundation seeks out opportunities to invest in capacity building organizations. The unsung heroes of the nonprofit community are often the capacity building intermediaries who strengthen organizations’ impact and enhance program outcomes by increasing skills such as governance, finance, or evaluation. Strong nonprofit organizations lead to strong programs and ultimately, greater impact in the community.
**General operating support**

- **KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE**
  - Grant amount: $25,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences

- **KANSAS CITY ARTISTS COALITION**
  - Grant amount: $10,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

- **KANSAS CITY BALLET ASSOCIATION**
  - Grant amount: $15,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **KANSAS CITY BOYS CHOIR**
  - Grant amount: $10,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

- **KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF YOUNG AUDIENCES INC**
  - Grant amount: $30,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **KANSAS CITY CHORALE**
  - Grant amount: $10,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

- **KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF ALVIN AILEY**
  - **KCFAA Education Programs**
    - Grant amount: $20,000
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA**
  - **JAZZ EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS**
    - KCJO’s JAZZ EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS are designed to inspire and educate young musicians through special music performances and classroom experiences.
    - Grant amount: $4,000
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Program support for small arts and culture organizations

- **KANSAS CITY KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
  - **Community Arts Outreach Plan**
    - Provides funding for key arts and humanities enrichment opportunities providing music, theater, and other visual arts enhancement for the college community and greater Wyandotte County area community that has limited exposure to the arts.
    - Grant amount: $9,000
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

- **KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY**
  - **2014-2015 Youth Education and Community Engagement Programs**
    - Grant amount: $25,000
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **KCPT - PUBLIC TELEVISION 19, INC.**
  - **Arts and Culture Programming on KCPT**
    - Grant amount: $50,000
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **KEMPER MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**
  - **General support of education programs**
    - Grant amount: $10,000
    - Total award: $40,000 in 2013
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

- **LATINO WRITERS COLLECTIVE**
  - Grant amount: $7,000
  - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

- **LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY**
  - **Education Program**
    - Grant amount: $10,000
    - Total award: $40,000 in 2013
    - Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences
MATTIE RHODES CENTER

Latino Cultural Arts
Grant amount: $20,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

METROPOLITAN ENSEMBLE THEATRE

General operating support
Grant amount: $15,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences

MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE

Kansas City Programming and Audience Development
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

MAAE Arts Education Support, Promotion, and Advocacy Program
Grant amount: $30,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences

NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL (LIBERTY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION)

National World War I Museum Arts Programming
Grant amount: $20,000

OZANAM

Enhancements for Ozanam's Expressive Arts Program
Supports the Music Has Power! Concert Series and provides access to the arts for underprivileged youth.
Grant amount: $1,800
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

PAUL MESNER PUPPETS

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES AT JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $40,000 in 2013
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Using innovative strategies for audience development

REEL IMAGES FILM AND VIDEO GROUP

Reconciling With The Elders
Reconciling With The Elders is a documentary film that examines the deteriorating relationship between the youngest of African American men and older generations of African American men, confronting the often, hostile attitudes the two groups harbor toward each other, while seeking to illuminate the reasons for this disregard for each other that impacts the collective well being of the community.
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Program support for small arts and culture organizations

RESTART, INC.

Arts at reStart
Engages homeless children, youth and adults with professional artists and arts organizations — not only to provide education and experience in various artistic disciplines, but also to encourage creative expression as a step toward independent living.
Grant amount: $5,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

STÖRLING DANCE THEATER (THE CULTURE HOUSE, INC.)

UNDERGROUND: Inspire Freedom Celebration Weekend
Acknowledged as one of the top examples of the arts and education working together by the American Educational Research Association, Störling Dance Theater, performs for thousands of students and audience with a historic production of Americans uniting to overcome evil in their day.
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Program support for small arts and culture organizations

STORYTELLERS INC. (THEARTSTECH)

Interactive Arts Education for At-Risk Youth
The Storytellers, Inc. provides interactive arts education for at-risk youth in programs including The Media Project, Sentenced to the Arts, The Health Careers Pathway Program Summer Science and Math Residential Academy program, Creative Connections, Club KC Carnivale and Teens in Transition/Nova to help the youth learn to use creative skills to change and enhance their approach to life and problem solving.

Grant amount: $9,500
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Program support for small arts and culture organizations

Swope Corridor Renaissance / Upper Room, Inc.

Eddie Baker School of Music
Provides free one-on-one music lessons & practice instruments to students who would not be exposed to the fine art otherwise.

Grant amount: $9,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

Synergy Services, Inc.

YRC (Youth Resiliency Center) Arts Program
Provides more than 200 high quality, free arts classes, workshops and performances (in partnerships with Kansas City Young Audiences and independent artists) annually benefitting more than 1,000 homeless, runaway, street and neighborhood youth (ages 12 - 21) in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Grant amount: $5,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

Theatre for Young America

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance

Musical Bridges
Grant amount: $20,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Integrating meaningful arts in education experiences

UMKC Innovation Center (Curators of the University of Missouri)

Artist INC
Supports a multi-pronged approach to meet the identified needs of the community of artists residing in the Kansas City metropolitan area that includes multi-session seminars, in-depth one-on-one services, one-time workshops and online services.

Grant amount: $9,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

Westport Center for the Arts

General operating support
Grant amount: $10,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Operating support for small arts and culture organizations

The Whole Person Inc.

Expressions: A First Friday Art Show
Expressions is a visual arts exhibition that allows people with disabilities to exhibit their art which is hosted by The Whole Person and held during the First Friday art walk each May.

Grant amount: $2,700
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Supporting non-arts organizations for an arts program

While supporting nonprofits that provide direct services is important, the Foundation believes it is critical to further policy development that impacts the entire field of early education, both to increase effectiveness of programs and to reach the greatest number of children possible. To that end, the Foundation invests in local and state advocacy organizations that provide critical research and education to leaders in communities throughout Missouri and Kansas.
Capital & Endowment Campaigns

Friends of the Zoo
Make Your Mark
To support renovation in the capital campaign and help fund the endowment.
Grant amount: $100,000
Total award: $1,000,000 in 2007

Friends of the Zoo
Make Your Mark
To support renovation in the capital campaign and help fund the endowment.
Grant amount: $100,000
Total award: $1,000,000 in 2007

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Metropolitan Kansas City Performing Arts Center, Capital Campaign Endowment
To help support a world-class performing arts center, which will enrich and enhance the experience for the artist, the audience, and provide the myriad of services necessary where great performances can happen.
Grant amount: $200,000
Total award: $1,000,000 in 2005

Lifelong Learning

Alliance for Childhood Education
Advocacy
General operating support
Grant amount: $90,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Achieving high academic standards

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
30th Anniversary Capital Campaign
To help support the 30th Anniversary Capital Campaign.
Grant amount: $420,000
Total award: $1,000,000 in 2013

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
Endowment for Toy & Miniature Museum in honor of Mary Harris Francis
Grant amount: $750,000
Total award: $3,000,000 in 2011

Early Education Funders Collaborative (Greater Kansas City Community Foundation)
Kansas City Pre-K Collaborative Fund
Grant amount: $25,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

The Family Conservancy
Professional Development
General operating support
Grant amount: $50,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development (Foundation of the Metropolitan Colleges)
Professional Development
Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development (Francis Resource Center and FICYD Director)
Grant amount: $250,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

Kansas Action for Children, Inc.
Advocacy
General operating support (including Kansas Coalition for School Readiness)
Grant amount: $50,000
Fit in the Foundation’s strategic plan: Reading at grade level in third grade
KANSAS CITY AREA PARENTS AS TEACHERS CONSORTIUM (USD 233 OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

Direct Service

General support for SCPV programs
Grant amount: $20,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Reading at grade level in third grade

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING (KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

Direct Service

General support to complete the Reorganization Plan and support for Pre-K summer enrichment and early literacy effort.
Grant amount: $150,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

KCPT - PUBLIC TELEVISION 19, INC. (KANSAS CITY PUBLIC TELEVISION)

Direct Service

KCPT Kids Programming and Education Services
Grant amount: $15,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ON EARLY LEARNING (MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION)

Professional Development

General operating support
Grant amount: $150,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH

Direct Service

General operating support
Grant amount: $65,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Reading at grade level in third grade

PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION - KANSAS CITY (PREP-KC)

Professional Development

General operating support
Grant amount: $150,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Reading at grade level in third grade

REACH OUT AND READ KANSAS CITY (KANSAS UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION)

Direct Service

General operating support
Grant amount: $30,000
Fit in the Foundation's strategic plan: Entering kindergarten school ready

Pulmonary Research

AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY

General Operating Support
Grant amount: $10,000
Total award: $50,000 in 2009

THOMAS L. PETTY ASPEN LUNG CONFERENCE

To continue the Parker B. Francis Lectureship
To support the Parker B. Francis Lectureship, where lectures are delivered by established, world renowned leaders in the chosen topic related to lung disease, while the abstract presenters usually are young investigators in training.
Grant amount: $3,500
Total award: $10,500 in 2011

BRIGHTON AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Dr. Edwin K. Silverman, Mentor
Dr. Emily S. Wan, Fellow

PROJECT: Integrative Genomic Analysis of Acute Exacerbations in COPD
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
Professional Development
Dr. Scott T. Weiss, Mentor
Dr. Michael J. McGeachie, Fellow
PROJECT: Predictive Genetics of Abnormal Lung Function
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
Professional Development
Dr. William Hardie, Mentor
Dr. Satish K. Madala, Fellow
PROJECT: Molecular mechanisms of TGF alpha-driven pulmonary fibrosis
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Professional Development
Dr. Damien Turner, Fellow
Dr. Donna Farber, Mentor
PROJECT: Resident and recruited memory CD4 T cells in respiratory immunity and pathology
Grant amount: $54,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2012

DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL
THE TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Professional Development
Dr. Andrea Corcoran, Fellow
Dr. Eugene Nattie, Mentor
PROJECT: Chymotrypsin Like Elastase-1 Links Alveolar and Microvascular Growth
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

EMORY UNIVERSITY
Professional Development
Dr. Douglas Eaton, Mentor
Dr. Charles Downs, Fellow
PROJECT: RAGE-mediated regulation of ENaC and pulmonary function
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

HARVARD COLLEGE
THE TRUSTEES OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Professional Development
Dr. Jeffrey Fredberg, Mentor
Dr. Jin-Ah Park, Fellow
PROJECT: Bronchial Epithelial Cells as a Source of Angiogenic Factors
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Professional Development
Dr. Marsha Wills-Karp, Mentor
Dr. Stephane Lajoie, Fellow
PROJECT: Innate immune regulators of IL-23/Th17 inflammation drive corticosteroid-refractory asthma
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
Professional Development
Dr. Megan B. Murray, Mentor
Dr. Maha R. Farhat, Fellow
PROJECT: Genetic Determinants of Drug Resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER
Professional Development
Dr. Richard Oeckler, Fellow
Dr. Rolf Hubmayr, Mentor
PROJECT: Hypercapnic modulation of plasma membrane repair in the ventilator-injured lung
Grant amount: $27,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2012

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Allen G. Harmsen, Mentor**  
**Dr. Anieszka Rynda-Apple, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Utilizing VLPs to understand predisposition to secondary bacterial pneumonia.  
Grant amount: $50,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Adrianne G. Huxtable, Fellow**  
**Dr. Andrew Lovering, Mentor**  
PROJECT: Inflammation impairs spinal respiratory plasticity  
Grant amount: $26,000  
Total award: $80,000 in 2013

NATIONAL JEWISH MEDICAL AND RESEARCH CENTER  
Professional Development  
**Dr. David W.H. Riches, Mentor**  
**Dr. Elizabeth F. Redente, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Therapeutic targeting of macrophage DUSP1 in fibroproliferative lung disease  
Grant amount: $50,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Jacob I. Sznajder, Mentor**  
**Dr. Kathryn A. Radigan, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Influenza infection leads to ubiquitin-mediated muscle degradation  
Grant amount: $52,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

STANFORD UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
**Dr. Mark R. Nicolls, Mentor**  
**Dr. Joe L. Hsu, Fellow**  
PROJECT: The role of HIF-1 in limiting Aspergillus invasion in airway transplants  
Grant amount: $50,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Shaf Keshavjee, Mentor**  
**Dr. Tereza Martinu, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Role of dendritic cells in pulmonary graft-versus-host disease  
Grant amount: $54,000

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Victor J. Thannickal, Mentor**  
**Dr. Megan N. Ballinger, Fellow**  
PROJECT: The role of IRAK-M in regulating hyperoxic lung injury  
Grant amount: $54,000

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Professional Development  
**Joe G.N. Garcia, Mentor**  
**Ting Wang, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Mechanisms of Particulate Matter-Induced Cardiac arrhythmias  
Grant amount: $54,000  
Total award: $80,000 in 2013

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Tillie-Louise Hackett, Fellow**  
**Dr. James Hogg, Mentor**  
PROJECT: Hypoxia Inducible Factor in ventilatory responses to chronic sustained hypoxia  
Grant amount: $50,000

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Professional Development  
**Dr. William K. Milsom, Mentor**  
**Dr. Matthew E. Pamenter, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Angiotensin II-mediated TGFβ1 signaling in the pathogenesis of COPD  
Grant amount: $54,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2012

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Professional Development  
**Dr. John Cristman, Mentor**  
**Dr. Jessy S. Deshane, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Differentiation of Regulatory Myeloid-derived Cells by Reactive Oxygen Species  
Grant amount: $52,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Professional Development  
**Dr. Shaf Keshavjee, Mentor**  
**Dr. Tereza Martinu, Fellow**  
PROJECT: Role of dendritic cells in pulmonary graft-versus-host disease  
Grant amount: $54,000  
Total award: $156,000 in 2014
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO (REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA) Professional Development
Dr. Peter Wagner, Mentor
Dr. Tatum Simonson, Fellow
PROJECT: Integrating genetic and physiological adaptations in high-altitude Tibetans
Grant amount: $46,006
Total award: $107,373 in 2013

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOUNDATION INC) Professional Development
Dr. Mai ElMallah, Fellow
Dr. David Fuller, Mentor
PROJECT: Upper airway gene therapy in a mouse model of Pompe disease
Grant amount: $27,000
Total award: $129,000 in 2012

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO Professional Development
Dr. Asrar B. Malik, Mentor
Dr. Glenn Marsboom, Fellow
PROJECT: Fibroblast and Vascular Cell Interactions in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL Professional Development
Dr. Mai K. Elmallah, Fellow
Dr. Terrence Flotte, Mentor
PROJECT: Upper airway gene therapy in a mouse model of Pompe disease
Grant amount: $27,000

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Professional Development
Parker B. Francis Research Opportunity to support the work of Dr. Melissa Kovach in recognition of excellence in pulmonary research
PROJECT: Role Of The IL-36 Family In Innate Immune Responses To Gram-Negative Pneumonia
Grant amount: $5,000

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA) Professional Development
Dr. George Scott Worthen, Mentor
Dr. Kristin M. Hudock, Fellow
PROJECT: Uncovering Mechanisms of Lung Injury in CF using iPSC-Derived Neutrophils
Grant amount: $25,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH Professional Development
Parker B. Francis Research Opportunity to support the work of Dr. Enrico Novelli in recognition of excellence in pulmonary research
PROJECT: Novel mechanism that regulates oxidative stress in sickle cell disease-related PAH
Grant amount: $5,000

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH Professional Development
Dr. Jay K. Kolls, Mentor
Dr. Keven Robinson, Fellow
PROJECT: Role of IL-1β in Influenza and Staphylococcus aureus Co-infection
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER Professional Development
Dr. Patricia J. Sime, Mentor
Dr. R. Matthew Kottmann, Fellow
PROJECT: Lactate Dehydrogenase, Lactic Acid and Pulmonary Fibrosis
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA Professional Development
Dr. Sarah Sayner, Fellow
Dr. Troy Stevens, Mentor
PROJECT: Bicarbonate transporters are required for AC10-induced endothelial barrier disruption
Grant amount: $54,000
**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**
(UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE)
Professional Development
**Dr. Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Mentor**
**Dr. Vikas Anathy, Fellow**
PROJECT: Influenza virus hijacks host cells' unfolded protein response
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**
Professional Development
**Dr. Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Mentor**
**Dr. Adrianus van der Velden, Fellow**
PROJECT: GSTP-CATALYZED S-GLUTATHIONYLATION IN KRAS\(^{G12D}\) INDUCED TUMORIGENESIS
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**
Professional Development
**Dr. Mark M. Wurfel, Mentor**
**Dr. Carmen R. Mikacenic, Fellow**
PROJECT: Influence of TLR Polymorphisms on Regulatory T Cell Function in ALI
Grant amount: $52,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2013

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**
Professional Development
**Dr. Thomas R. Hawn, Mentor**
**Dr. Monica Campo-Patino, Fellow**
PROJECT: CD43 and TB Immunopathogenesis
Grant amount: $50,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2014

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT MADISON**
(REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM AT MADISON)
Professional Development
**Dr. Gordon S. Mitchell, Mentor**
**Dr. Adrianne G. Huxtable, Fellow**
PROJECT: Inflammation impairs spinal respiratory plasticity
Grant amount: $26,000
Total award: $76,000 in 2013

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**
(VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER)
Professional Development
**Dr. James D. West, Mentor**
**Dr. Joshua P. Fessel, Fellow**
PROJECT: Metabolic Reprogramming in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
Grant amount: $27,545
Total award: $104,359 in 2013

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**
Professional Development
**Dr. Daniel Files, Fellow**
**Dr. Osvaldo Delbono, Mentor**
PROJECT: The Role of MuRF1 in Acute Lung Injury-Induced Skeletal Muscle Wasting
Grant amount: $54,000
Total award: $156,000 in 2012
2014 Grants

280 grants

$6.2 million

187 organizations

Largest grant (non-capital)
Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development, up to $250,000 in matching funds to assist the Institute to become a financially sustainable organization.

Smallest grant
Ozanam — $1,800 for enhancements to their Expressive Arts program to provide access to the arts for underprivileged youth.
**Mission**
The Francis Family Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families and communities with particular commitment to the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

By modeling and reflecting our family’s vision, history, interests and values, we will accomplish this mission through effective and innovative grant making in Health Research, Lifelong Learning and Arts & Culture, by:

- implementing the best research and best practices;
- focusing on community-based initiatives and collaborations;
- supporting programs that address unmet community needs; and
- focused, proactive grant making.

**VALUES**

**Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusiveness**
All members of our communities should have the opportunity to participate fully in educational, cultural and social activities. We should seek ways to improve access to these activities to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, ethnicities, financial abilities and physical and mental abilities. We believe in the rich diversity of the greater Kansas City area, and promote inclusiveness in the way we work and in our grant making activities. We seek to celebrate our common experiences and concerns through our grants.

**Collaboration**
We encourage and model collaboration among funders and community organizations.

**Community**
We embrace and promote a strong sense of community and seek opportunities with great potential for strengthening community life and the urban fabric.

**Excellence**
We are committed to standards of excellence in the results of our grant making.

**Innovation & Creativity**
We value the creative process among people of all ages and backgrounds, and we encourage excellence and innovation in our grant making activities.

**Integrity & Sustainability**
We maintain and promote fiscal and program integrity in our operations and grant making activities to ensure the sustainability of organizations that enrich community life.

**Passion for Learning**
We promote a lifelong passion for learning as a key factor in developing active, well-rounded and contributing individuals in our communities.

**Planning & Evaluation**
We believe in planning and evaluation as critical methods to assess the effectiveness of our grant making so we can make a difference.