



**2015 United States Urban Arts Federation Summer Meeting  
Chicago, IL  
June 11, 2015**

**CITY REPORTS**

**Arts & Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**

Charlotte NC

Prepared by **Robert Bush**

Tweet version: Frm #CulturalLifeTaskForce & #CulturalVisionPlan 2 helping #CLT orgs rethink equity @ASCCharlotte is focused on arts access. #aftacon #usuaf

- ASC has completed a new Strategic Plan that aligns with the new Cultural Vision Plan and Cultural Life Task Force recommended changes to the public/private funding framework. The plan will be available here <http://www.artsandscience.org/about-asc/cultural-data-a-publications> later in June.
- Our Board has approved major changes to our governance structure which will reduce the size of our board from 41 to 25 members, re-shape our committee structure and establish 5 advisory councils representing public and private funding partners as well as the cultural community. We will be transitioning to the new board over the next 6 months.
- ASC launches a pilot program Catalyst for Cultural Equity for teams from local cultural organizations in September to increase their capacity to build a more dynamic, accessible, inclusive, equitable and sustainable cultural community. The 10 month program's goals are to: Engage Leaders in building cultural equity and realizing our Cultural Vision Plan's goals; Build stronger, authentic relationships between organizations, individuals and diverse communities; Increase awareness of access, inclusion and equity in the cultural sector; Strengthen organizational capacity and commitment to serving and engaging our diverse community, Changing organizational culture and how cultural resources are leveraged and Provide deeper personal awareness and development for cultural leaders.
- ASC's arts education/social justice documentary Spiral Bound was accepted to the 2015 Newport Beach Film Festival, a top 20 film festival and was screened at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. Full details available here - <http://www.spiralboundmovie.com/>
- ASC's 2015 Annual Fund Drive kicked off in January with a private sector goal of \$6.1 million, as of May 8th we are at 87% or \$5.3 million. We continue to advance requests for increased in

local government funding for the year beginning July 1st and are seeing stable or increased funding recommendations -- final government budgets will be approved in June.

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## **Cuyahoga Arts & Culture**

Cleveland, Ohio

Prepared by **Karen Gahl-Mills**

Tweet version: Read @cuyarts' annual report for stories of #arts orgs making a difference for @CuyahogaCounty.#usuaf #aftacon <http://bit.ly/1cOMb1U>

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture will make \$16 million in grants to 196 organizations in 2015. Our most recent annual report, available at [www.cacgrants.org/report](http://www.cacgrants.org/report), provides solid data and stories of the impact of our dedicated public funding resource, which will likely be on the ballot for renewal in November 2015. Concurrently, our agency is beginning the assessment phase of its first ever strategic plan, so that we will be able to craft a roadmap to guide the next 10 years of our work. And we are preparing for the RNC2016 gathering in Cleveland, so advice from cities who have hosted political conventions is welcome!

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## **Seattle Office of Arts & Culture**

Seattle, WA

Prepared by **Randy Engstrom**

Tweet version: @SeaOfficeofArts focuses on #equity, invests in #artsed, & launches Spacefinder ([ow.ly/NaeL3](http://ow.ly/NaeL3)) & #publicart bootcamp #aftacon #usuaf

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture is making progress on a number of initiatives. An important focus of 2015 is on equity work; we just launched the first Racial Equity Learning Cohort, which will offer arts and cultural organizations tools to turn their commitments to building racial equity into actions for tangible change. Featuring intensive training on skills to address perceived and actual barriers to racial equity within arts and cultural organizations and the sector as a whole, the cohort was immediately filled with 12 organizations ranging in size from small groups to our largest cultural institutions, and based on interest we're planning our second and third cohorts for later this year. In the area of cultural space and placemaking, we unveiled a new tool for connecting artists to venues and spaces to create and present their work called SpaceFinder, which has over 200 spaces listed on it to date. We are also close to announcing a new cultural space certification program (B.A.S.E. or Build ArtSpacE), analogous to LEED environmental certification, but designed to reward projects that include cultural space. Following the results of our first year of investment in Seattle's city-wide K-12 arts plan, The Creative Advantage, which showed that with just one year of dedicated funding, we were able to close the access gap for

students who were not receiving adequate access to the arts, we are preparing to launch the program in a new neighborhood this fall. Our public art program presented a two-day Public Art Bootcamp with 30 artists expanding into the field. Presentations came from practicing artists and administrators and the focus was on bringing artists of color into the field. We will issue an invitation for small temporary projects to these artists in the coming months to continue to encourage their growth.

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## **City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy**

Philadelphia, PA

Prepared by **Helen Haynes**

Tweet version: @CreativePHL renewed its mission to support & promote #PHLArts and the creative economy across the city's communities in FY15 #aftacon #usuaf

In FY 2015, the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE) allocated over \$2.86 million to 309 grantees in partnership with the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and strengthened its program offerings. The launch of citywide poetry program conceived by Poet Laureate Frank Sherlock Write Your Block included in-person workshops, community toolkit and online submissions. In April, the City celebrated Philadelphia Jazz Appreciation Month including: a kick-off event honoring Jazz icon and native Philadelphian McCoy Tyner; a comprehensive marketing campaign including online, outdoor and radio; Philadelphia Jazz Appreciation Month Guide featuring over 40 events and a Philadelphia Jazz History Timeline poster; Art in City Hall All That's Jazz exhibition; and accompanying Jazz in the Gallery lunchtime performances. In its first year, Performances in Public Spaces 24 artists and organizations will present 27 free outdoor performances in the city's dynamic parks and plazas. The OACCE manages \$1.5 million to preserve and commission public art, including over 9 pieces in FY15 and anticipating seven new Percent for Art Commissions in FY16. InStore, our forgivable loan program in partnership with the City's Commerce Department awarded \$50,000 to its first creative business applicant to improve its multi-tenant building enhance its street-level presence in Philadelphia's Chinatown North neighborhood. Our Research & Policy program continues to center on CultureBlocks, Philadelphia's free cultural asset mapping database. The tool informs our strategies for federally designated West Philadelphia Promise Zone and North Philadelphia Choice Neighborhood; prioritizing cultural activity as fundamental for community development. In addition to our programs, we have sponsored over 6 events to promote and support Philadelphia's cultural sector. In FY16, we will examine the role of community-based legacy cultural organizations, develop and test a cultural equity program for these legacy institutions, and continue to partner with and sponsor events strengthening Philadelphia's cultural community.

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## **Office of Raleigh Arts**

Raleigh, NC

Prepared by **Jerry Bolas**

Tweet version: Raleigh Arts Plan encourages all residents and visitors to experience and express creativity through the arts. #aftacon #usuf

Last year the Office of Raleigh Arts -- a unit of the city's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department -- launched a "Raleigh Arts Plan" process, facilitated by the Cultural Planning Group, to develop a ten-year strategic plan to strengthen the arts for the benefit all residents of the city. Critical issues for the Raleigh Arts Plan include how to extend the arts from downtown to everywhere, attain geographic and demographic breadth of participation, and encourage the private development of publicly accessible arts. In 2011 the City Council, to the surprise of most, declared the aspirational goal for Raleigh to become "The Southern Capital of Arts and Culture." The planning process is an opportunity to explore with whom this goal resonates and what its accomplishment might look like. Further, the planning process invites examination of what residents and visitors consider uniquely authentic about the arts and culture of Raleigh.

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## **Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture**

Phoenix, AZ

Prepared by **Gail Browne**

Tweet version: Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture celebrates its 30th anniversary and begins work on major public art projects at Phoenix airport. #aftacon #usuf

The Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture continues its 30th anniversary celebrations this year with a Festival of Arts and Culture to be held at the Convention Center and Herberger Theatre on October 3, 2015. All of the cultural organizations in the City of Phoenix have been invited to participate through performance or demonstration. The event will also have a significant public art component. We were awarded a \$30,000 NEA Art Works grant to expand ArtsBuild, our new STEAM-based arts learning/public art program. The next ArtsBuild project takes place at the Pueblo Grande Museum, the only National Historic Landmark in the City of Phoenix, where we are creating a grand, new public entrance. This cycle we received no cut to our \$680,000 grants program budget (General Fund) for next fiscal year, but we anticipate a difficult budget year in FY2017. We'll be preparing a white paper for the Mayor and City Manager on funding sources for community grants programs utilized by our peer cities. We're gearing up to take over tenant relations for the cultural facilities currently managed by the Public Works Department on July 1. On the public art side, work has begun on the modernization of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's Terminal 3, which will feature signature public art works by Christian Moeller, James Carpenter, and Patrick Marold.

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## **Arts Council of Indianapolis**

## Indianapolis, IN

Prepared by **Dave Lawrence**

Tweet version: Earlier this year, @artscouncilindy launched the Transformational Impact Fellowship to empower artists and create new art #aftacon #usuaaf

The Arts Council of Indianapolis recently awarded 30 new fellowships through the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship program bringing the total number of fellowships award to 400 totaling \$3.4 million since 1999. ACI created and launched a new fellowship program, the Transformational Impact Fellowship program, which will provide \$100,000 to two artists or artist teams for community impact projects in the arts. This pilot initiative seeks to empower artists to serve as project leaders, develop and create new community relationships, and realize new art projects for the benefit of central Indiana. Both fellowship programs are funded by the Lilly Endowment. The arts community and, indeed, all of Indianapolis was deeply affected by the passage of Indiana's divisive and discriminatory Religious Freedom Restoration Act in March and the subsequent "fix" passed a short time later. The Arts Council and many other corporate, civic, and community organizations came together to create a program and campaign to assure residents and visitors alike that Indy Welcomes All. Other new upcoming art initiatives include planning and programming development for the state's bicentennial and the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 in 2016. The Arts Council will unveil a new strategic plan later this year. 2015 is an important campaign year in Indianapolis as we will elect a new mayor this fall.

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## City of Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN

Prepared by **Gulgun Kayim**

The Arts, Culture and Creative Economy (ACCE) in the City of Minneapolis is leading implementation of the City's arts and culture planning process. The process has been driven by an interest in racial equity, grass roots community building and artist led data gathering in underserved, under represented communities. We are now mid-way through and learning about the role of social justice in cultural planning processes. The final document to the approved by council November 2015, find out more at [www.creativeminneapolis.org](http://www.creativeminneapolis.org). Planning work done by ACCE will be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive planning process in 2016. Now in its 4th year, the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, has two new staff members: a policy and data analyst and a program manager. These positions have been added to deal with the increased volume of work and demand around existing program areas. Our work has increased in tracking and reporting on the creative sector, this year we will be issuing:

- Creative Minnesota Cities report, the impact and health of the nonprofit arts and culture sector based on Cultural Data Project and Arts and Economic Impacts studies done by Americans for the Arts.
- 2015 Minneapolis Creative Index report using CVI data;

We are also ramping up the implementation of our Creative City Making program in partnership with Intermedia Arts. Creative City Making, an arts based innovation initiative funded by Kresge and the NEA, pairs City Departments with experienced community artists to advance the City's One Minneapolis goal: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper. We are currently working with five city departments: Long Range Planning, Neighborhood and Community Relations, the Office of the City Clerk, Information Technology and Regulatory Services.

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## City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs

San Jose CA

Prepared by **Kerry Adams Hapner**

Tweet version: #SanJose Creates & Connects thru #Arts. Building a strong #creativeeconomy & #creative place = #BuildingCommunity #aftacon #usuaf

The City of San Jose is on the rise. We have new charismatic, smart and arts-friendly civic leadership - Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Manager Norberto Duenas. Our General Fund budget has stabilized and our economy is booming again. The Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), the primary source of our arts budget, is performing extraordinarily well. For next fiscal year, the OCA will manage a budget of approximately \$18 million comprised of cultural facility funds, percent for art funds, and TOT. Our Cultural Funding Portfolio is increasing by 22%. After years of reduced staffing, we are recruiting for two new positions. Significant accomplishments over the past year include the workout of the San Jose Rep's bankruptcy announced last June. The City-owned iconic 54,000 sq foot theater was abandoned. In addition to sorting out a barrage of details related to assets, liabilities and inventory, we led a public process to identify a new facility use. On June 9th, we are recommending to the Council that the City enter into a 3 year interim agreement with San Jose State University to co-create a new model that enables quality programming and builds the next gen of arts leadership and audiences. Another significant project is Phase 1 of the national initiative called Building Public Will for the Arts, an important partnership with the California Arts Council, Arts Midwest and the Metropolitan Group (San Jose represents the stage of CA during this pilot phase). The project aims to connect the arts to existing, closely held values with the goal of making the arts an expected part of everyday life. Qualitative and quantitative research reveals that people value creative self expression and opportunities to connect with themselves, family and friends, and community. Phase 2 will include a neighborhood placemaking initiative called San Jose Creates & Connects with participatory activities to promote creative self expression, as well technical assistance and implementation grants to a cohort of art organizations. This past year we launched the DeVos institute in San Jose, and are getting positive feedback from the cohort of participating art organizations. In partnership with the Levitt Foundation and the community, we are in the predevelopment phase for a Levitt Pavilion in downtown San Jose. On the public art front, we are completing the Illuminating Downtown Project, a multi-project effort aimed at lighting up downtown San Jose. We are also cultivating an innovative partnership with the Environmental Services Department aimed at promoting environmental stewardship through environmental art projects, many

of which are embedded in social practice. This coming year, we plan to conduct a creative economy study as well as update our Creative Entrepreneur Report that includes a needs assessment for our artist community. One of the needs we plan to survey is artist housing, a critical issue in expensive Silicon Valley, in preparation for a partnership with our Housing Department to provide affordable artist housing in our downtown.

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## **The Arts Commission**

Toledo, Ohio

Prepared by **Marc D. Folk**

Tweet version: @TheArtsCommissionofGreaterToledo is #celebratingcreativecommunities, wrking 2 #tranformlocalidentity #demonstratecreativeeconomicimpact & #increaseaccesstothearts #aftacon #usuaaf

2015 started with the unexpected passing of our Mayor. This has caused multiple changes in political leadership that will continue until the special election for the completion of his term scheduled for November of this year. In late April, we launched an exhaustive, sixty-eight page strategic plan for arts and culture titled, "Celebrating Creative Communities." Our goal is to have the plan formally adopted by the city as an addendum of their master plan, which is currently underway. In tandem with the plan, we released an update to the economic impact of the creative economies on the 27 county region of Northwest Ohio. Both reports are available at [theartscommission.org](http://theartscommission.org) Programmatically, we have just completed Artomatic 419 animating 40,000 square feet of vacant building space with more than 500 artists. We have also just launched a year-round 3rd Thursday Loop, expanding our art walks in to inner-city neighborhoods and providing bus transportation. We are in the process of hiring 45, 14-18 year olds for our Young Artist at Work program. We are in final design or completion of three major public art projects by Haddad Drugan, Molly Dilworth and Mark Lere. We continue to advocate for funding of the arts at all levels.

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## **Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events**

Chicago, IL

Prepared by **Michelle T. Boone**

Tweet version: @ChicagoDCASE welcomes #AFTACON to Chicago. Just in time for the Chicago Blues Festival! #chicagoblues #aftacon #usuaaf

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is frantically working to host the 2015 Americans for the Arts national conference! We are all excited to welcome you all to our wonderful city and are eager to share with you a variety of cultural experiences. This kicks off our

summer festival season. And your in luck as the AFTA conference coincides with the Chicago Blues Festival! It opens on Friday and runs through Sunday, and includes a concert by Chicago's own Buddy Guy on Saturday! All events are free to the public. The team is working to develop a new set of priorities as we move into the second term for Mayor Emanuel. Much was accomplished during the first term and we are working with our Cultural Advisory Council as well as other members of the cultural community to identify some key goals for 2015 - 2019.

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## **Regional Arts & Culture Council**

Portland OR

Prepared by **Eloise Damrosch**

This is a big anniversary year at RACC. Our Percent for Art program is 35 years old. Our giant hammered copper "Portlandia" on Michael Graves' Portland Building celebrates her big "3-0". RACC transitioned to non-profit status 20 years ago, and our Work For Art program hopes to raise \$1million for its tenth anniversary. Arts tax revenues are growing and are being distributed to 45 organizations. The City has \$50 million in new funds but our Mayor funded not a dime of our \$250k add packages. This is NOT the Mayor who helped pass the arts tax and is running again - please give us another candidate! We are about to open a beautiful new bridge across the river for everyone but cars!

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## **Tucson Pima Arts Council**

Tucson, AZ

Prepared by **Roberto Bedoya**

A lot has transpired since last year. At that time the Tucson City Manger had recommend a 75% cut to the arts council. Our community pushed back - nevertheless we came out of that battle with a 12% cut. So we have been doing a lot of pruning. We had to reduce staff, loss some staff to other gigs and hired new ones for reconfigured TPAC jobs positions. Talk about adaptable leadership !!! Highlights: As we enter FY15-16 TPAC's funding from the city and county are stable. The PLACE Initiative our creative engagement/placemaking/placekeeping platform has received a NEA grant, which will support another round of grantmaking this fall. The PLACE report on the first 5 rounds of the initiative has been very well received, resulting in presentation about the initiative in numerous cities across the county. A highlight of the report is information about our development of social impact indicators, associated with engagement practices: <http://www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/PLACEREport-FINAL-web.pdf> We successfully facilitated the selection of the design team to develop the January 8th Memorial for downtown Tucson. The memorial will remember the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on that date in 2011.

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## **Greater Columbus Arts Council**

Columbus OH

Prepared by **Tom Katzenmeyer**

Tweet version: @GCAC\_Cbus just launched a citywide collaborative arts marketing campaign. #ArtMakesCbus Check out <http://ow.ly/Ncev6> #aftacon #usuaf

At the Greater Columbus Arts Council (Arts Council), we have four major priorities in 2015. We are implementing a scoring module for our Operating Support grants program. We currently fund 28 organizations, our largest grant program with a budget of nearly \$3 million. The application deadline was March 2 and for the first time since the re-launch in 2010, scores will affect the amount of the grant awarded. We are launching a major sector marketing campaign in June. It is called "Art Makes Columbus/Columbus Makes Art." We have raised financial support for it from four corporations, one foundation, the Arts Council, and the leadership of the arts organizations in Columbus. The campaign is designed to raise the overall visibility of arts and culture in Columbus, improve earned revenue for organizations, and will feature stories of individual artists who are living and working here. Our goal is to sustain the campaign, with funding, for five years. Third, we are actively working on expanding the scope and size of Greater Columbus Arts Festival (June 12-14, 2015). Currently a three-day event that draws 500,000 people, we have added a national entertainer for Friday night, a jazz stage, acoustic lounge, coffee house/poetry stage, and a theater stage. These new features will continue to position the Festival as a regional and national destination event. Fourth, a significant advocacy effort is currently under way for a new public funding source to support arts and culture (we are currently funded by hotel/motel bed tax dollars). It is also a year of significant political transition in Columbus. Mayor Michael B. Coleman, who has served for 16 years, announced recently that he will not run for re-election. In addition, five of seven city council seats will be on the ballot.

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## **Mayors Office of Arts and Culture**

Boston MA

Prepared by **Julie Burros**

Tweet version: #BostonCreates is launched! First cultural plan @ArtsinBoston @MartyWalsh off to a great start w/doubled grant \$s #aftacon #usuaf

As of June 2015 Boston has embarked on a Cultural Plan process called "Boston Creates." We named a steering committee in fall of 2014, solicited nominations for a Leadership Council who were named in mid-May 2015, and formed 16 community based teams to carry out a four month long engagement process that was formally kicked off with a city-wide town hall meeting on June 2nd. The public dialogue will explore issues, priorities and solutions to support the growth of the cultural sector and foster access to the arts in every community. The plan will enter and analysis phase in the fall; issue

a draft for public comment in late January of 2016; and a final plan will be released in June of 2016 when Boston hosts AFTA. We recently engaged a team of artists to be part of the Boston Creates plan process to connect the community teams to each other and help us to create a Portrait of Creative Boston. Concurrent with the cultural plan process we are piloting an intergovernmental collaboration to explore the role of artists in government work. This will recruit a cohort of city hall cultural “liaisons” who commit to a series of trainings alongside a cohort of civic and social practice artists. Concurrent with the cultural plan there are a number of other planning processes now underway that can incorporate ideas and implementation of the Cultural Plan: Imagine 2030 a comprehensive plan for the city, Resilient Cities initiative, Go Boston 2030 a regional transportation plan, a redesign of the public high school curriculum, a capital plan for the public schools, capital plan for branch libraries, et al. The last item to note is the ongoing leadership transitions in several of the city's major cultural organizations such as the Museum of Fine Art, the Boston Athenaeum, the Boston Ballet, the Harvard Art Museums, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Children's Chorus.

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## ArtsMemphis

Memphis, TN

Prepared by **Elizabeth Rouse**

[Tweet version](#): The Arts in Memphis: Transforming Lives. Organizations. Communities. @artsmemphis #USUAF #AFTACON #community #socialchange #aftacon #usuaf

ArtsMemphis continues to play the role of mentor, connector and convener in addition to providing financial support to arts organizations and artists. \$3.3M was distributed in 14 grant categories through 175 grants to 56 arts organizations and 6 visual artists last year. Things are on track to reach a June 30 fundraising goal of nearly \$3MM with allocations levels similar to 2014. The organization's focus for FY16 will be an evaluation of vision, mission and strategic priorities. ArtsMemphis is in year two of a ground breaking strategy centered on the arts and social change, focusing on the following:

- Civic Engagement grantmaking that is population based
  - Place based grantmaking and support via:
    - Fellows Initiative - a curriculum designed to build capacity of arts leaders to use the arts as an instrument for neighborhood change, mobilization and revitalization.
    - Engagement Transforms Communities Grants - a grant program designed to support pilot projects centered initially in two underserved neighborhoods
    - Exploration Grants - a grant program developed to support exploratory arts-based social change and community engagement in underserved neighborhoods.
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## ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council

Kansas City, MO

Prepared by **Lydia Zacharias**

Tweet version: This past year, @ArtsKC completed the #oneartskc regional cultural plan and inspired #KC invested more in the #arts through the ArtsKC Fund #aftacon #usuaf

In the last two years, the ArtsKC Fund granted \$600,558 to artists, arts programs, and arts organizations working throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. 168 total grants were awarded. The 2015 ArtsKC Fund Campaign will close on June 30. The City of Kansas City, Missouri increased their commitment to the ArtsKC Fund from \$75,000 in 2014 to \$125,000, with \$50,000 allocated specifically to grants for individual artists. The goal for the 2015 ArtsKC Fund campaign is \$500,000 and we are currently on pace to reach this goal with \$420,000 raised to-date. ArtsKC Live took place on November 1, in partnership with the Kansas City Power & Light District to provide exposure for ArtsKC Fund grant recipients and introduce Kansas Citians to the art happening in their community. The free six-hour performance showcase and street festival featured Fund grant recipients on three stages and 26 artist, arts organization, and arts industry promotional/interactive booths. The first-time event netted more than \$6,000, actively engaged grant recipients, and connected ArtsKC with a new corporate partner. The first ArtsKC Block Party took place on May 1 in KC's Crossroads Arts District and featured a live DJ, art-making opportunities, food and drinks, and booths from ArtsKC Supported artists and organizations. More than 3,000 attendees stopped by. ArtsKC conducted a 50/50 raffle and gained hundreds of new followers via social media and e-newsletter sign-ups. ArtsKC Encounters were created last year to connect donors to the art they support. Donors at the \$120 and above level received behind-the-scenes access to four pre-planned, artistic outings at ArtsKC Fund supported organizations. Each event included food, drinks, and two unique cultural experiences. ArtsKC completed the first comprehensive survey of the arts assets and needs in the five-county Kansas City Region. Our OneArtsKC Regional Cultural Plan will be launched later this summer.

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## **City of Wichita, Division of Arts & Cultural Services**

Wichita, KS

Prepared by **John D'Angelo**

The Division of Arts and Cultural Services just completed their arts and cultural grant review for Fiscal Year 2016. The projected equivalent of one mill levy is expected to be \$3,202,733. \$2,801,983 is allocated to the City's Cultural Institutions. The remaining \$400,750 was allocated to 23 organizations for operational support, 3 organizations for technical development and 5 individual artists for professional development. Grant amounts range from \$61,543 to \$441 in operational support, \$2,500 to \$1,000 for technical development support and \$1,000 to \$500 for artist professional development. In 2015, the Division of Arts and Cultural Services will complete a performing arts facility assessment and take their recommendations public with a strategic PR and marketing campaign garnering support for the arts. The Division continues to provide direction and support for local arts initiatives including the

development of arts district legislation, economic development through the arts , public art in public places, and integrated art and aesthetics in the built environment.

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## **Regional Arts Commission**

Saint Louis

Prepared by **Dan Tierney**

Regional Arts Commission (RAC), the largest funder of the arts in St. Louis. From operating, program and technical assistance support to grants for neighborhood organizations, artists, fairs and festivals and supporting art education and public art, we foster initiatives of all shapes and sizes in St. Louis City and County. This past year we awarded 318 grants totaling more than \$4.2 million:

- 185 Annual Grants (\$3.38 million) in operating and program support to nonprofit arts organizations and nonprofit groups engaged in arts programming;
- 5 Innovation and Entrepreneurial Grants (\$393,720)
- 6 Special Projects Grants (\$110,000)
- 28 Opportunity Grants (\$34,215) in program support for small arts organizations
- 56 Artists Support Grants (\$102,571)
- 10 Artists Fellowships (\$200,000)
- 28 Social Impact Grants (\$56,200)

Since its inception in 1985, RAC has provided funding to local arts and culture organizations which has created many opportunities to expand access to arts programming. In keeping with our tradition of supporting the arts in our community and in response to the heightened dialogue about the need for change within our community, RAC created the Community Social Impact Fund, awarding grants to 28 organizations and individual artists who provided arts-based community programming. In addition, RAC launched its cultural events calendar via a free mobile app, allowing constituents and citizens to upload arts and cultural events which provide easy access and information about arts and culture in the region. For 30 years, the Regional Arts Commission has championed the arts and we have watched St. Louis become a well-respected center for culture in our nation. The breadth and depth of arts that are available to our citizens every day is exhilarating.

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## **Metro Nashville Arts Commission**

Nashville, TN

Prepared by **Jen Cole**

Tweet version: @MetroArts1 driving vibrant and equitable community through the arts #CreativeCity #artsforall #aftacon #usaf

Metro Arts facilitated 2 million dollars of grants and microfund investments in 70 arts agencies and 68 artist collectives. We completed two years of work on the city general plan, NashvilleNext including sweeping cultural policy goals and then integrated into our 5 year strategic agency plan, "Crafting a Creative Community." This includes work on cultural equity, increased cultural funding and placemaking. We just celebrated a 2900% growth in the public art program and are initiating a public art public art master plan. We are focused a great deal on artist/place/affordability and are working both on legislation for Artisan Manufacturing Zoning and on a collaborative loan fund through our CDFI to lend to artists for purchase/rehab of production and studio spaces. We are most concerned by new mayoral election (August) an 80% turnover in our city council in the fall.

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## **Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts**

Baltimore, MD

Prepared by **Bill Gilmore**

Tweet version: The Baltimore arts community responded to the unrest and used the arts as a balm to begin the healing. The work continues. #aftacon #usuaf

Baltimore experienced episodes of civil unrest in April, brought on by the death of a young black man in police custody. The cultural community responded swiftly with performances, workshops, street festivals, and pop-up events in the Baltimore communities most affected. The day after the riots, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra held an impromptu concert on the street in front of the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Center Stage performed music from its current production, Marley, at the intersection that was the epicenter of the unrest. Small organizations and individual artists stepped up to share their skills and concerns with communities across Baltimore. In response to the events in April, the Maryland State Arts Council established a fund, administered by our office and the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, to help support the work of the arts community in Baltimore. We are providing grants up to \$500 to artists and small arts organizations offering programs in neighborhoods affected by the recent unrest. We were able to continue our Creative Baltimore grant program with a city appropriation of \$250,000. Grants went to 34 cultural organizations and 5 individual artists. The PNC Transformative Art Prizes this year went to 5 communities with art projects including a massive quilt recognizing rape survivors, a sculptural bus bench, a community created mosaic and two urban festivals. Grants ranged from \$10,000 to \$30,000. This is our fourth year of this program which has paired artists with community organizations to bring large-scale projects to 15 neighborhoods. Our work on our newest festival, Light City Baltimore, has taken a giant leap with the release of the Call for Entry for artists, musicians and performing artists (<http://lightcity.org/call-for-entry/>). A steering committee of involved community members is on board and we are conducting a series of community meetings and tours of the site for artists.

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## **Houston Arts Alliance**

Houston, TX

Prepared by **Jonathon Glus**

Tweet version: This past year, @HAA launched #business to board, #artists & engineers, and #Transported & Renewed, a 10-week celebration of transit in Houston. #aftacon #usuaf

For winter/spring, HAA has seen a tremendous increase in public art planning and spending, with expansions at 2 airports and the convention center. Available grant \$ continue to increase, with bed tax revenues up. Also launching a new grant category with a foundation grant to encourage taking artistic risk. The ABC has launched board development and an artists and engineers series. We will launch the findings of the second creative economy study in June, and partnering with Kinder Institute, the agency will produce a series of talks about achieving systemic diversity inside arts organizations to reflect the demographics of our city. The city's cultural planning process continues, with recommendations planned for late summer. Perceived inequity in funding among organizations is among the priorities. The Mayoral campaign season has begun, with the first forum being an arts debate on 3 June. Finally, Texans for the Arts has won an additional \$10 M for to be directed to cultural districts via the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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## **Mesa Department of Arts and Culture**

Mesa, AZ

Prepared by **Cindy Ornstein**

Tweet version: Light rail coming to #downtownMesa creates collabs & growth of placemaking & arts engagement @MesaArtsCenter & throughout Mesa #aftacon #usuaf

In 2014-15, we've had exciting developments both within the Arts and Culture Department venues/programs and in our arts community. Our three venues, Mesa Arts Center, i.d.e.a. Museum and the AZ Museum of Natural History, served over 600,000 visits and exceeded our joint revenue budget for the year. In the first year since rebranding, the i.d.e.a. Museum (Imagination, Design, Experience, Art) had a 60% increase in participation. Public events and community arts engagement at our venues and in downtown Mesa are expanding rapidly, in part in preparation for the arrival of the first Phoenix Light Rail extension, which will bring light rail directly to our arts district. Many national and regional artists have been involved in developing new programs and community outreach/engagement initiatives. We are very involved as a community in creative placemaking and building an environment that is welcoming and engaging for artists, including being in the predevelopment stage for an Artspace live/work project within two blocks of Mesa Arts Center. Mesa Arts Center is also in the final stages of an ArtPlace project, and will install a new interactive work by Daily Tous les Jours of Montreal this fall. Partners such as Downtown Mesa Association, NEDCO (Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.)

Mesa Urban Garden, and RAILMesa (Retail, Arts, Innovation, Livability) are joining forces with us to activate downtown and engage community members through the arts. Our department helped organize the second annual Southwest Maker Fest, which had excellent attendance and participation. And while we have not had a funded grants budget since the recession, we have continued to provide rental reduction grants for use of our art spaces, which has enabled many new organizations to provide programs and services in our community.

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## **Department for Culture and Creative Development**

San Antonio, TX

Prepared by **Felix Padron**

Tweet version: #aftacon #usuaf

Partnering with Centro San Antonio to develop a downtown cultural plan. Centro is a non-profit organization dedicated to envisioning and fostering a vibrant downtown. DCCD is sharing the costs and resource of the plan. The services of the Cultural Planning Group have been secured to develop the plan. DCCD is also partnering with Centro to develop and secure state Cultural District designation for the historic Market Square area west of downtown. This would be San Antonio second cultural district if granted. Completed the Art Master plan for Hemisfair park which currently the larger urban mix-use land re-development in downtown. Dubbed "A New Confluence" will serve as the plan for connecting, acquiring, implementing and cultivating permanent and temporary art projects in the park. In May, DCCD was successful in merging the Public Art Board and the Cultural Arts Board to create the San Antonio Arts Commission. Yay! We moved into our new digs. The revitalization of the historic Plaza de Armas building is wonderful. The building is comprised of a new gallery space, two public access TV studios, health food retail space and the entire team is now in one location on second floor. Cool! The re-development of La Villita artist village downtown is blowing and going. A new art-centric retail mix is on its way, new branding and marketing plan being developed and infrastructure/way finding improvements underway. Happy that DCCD's Public Art Manager, James Leflore is now chair of the PAN council. Budget looks good with 600k increase for next fiscal. Thank you hot tax.

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## **City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department**

El Paso, Texas

Prepared by **Ben Fyffe**

Tweet version: City of El Paso MCAD = new Dir, new Master Plan 4 #publicart & planning 4 mult. bond-funded cultural facilities joining existing 3 museums #aftacon #usuaf

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department has new leadership and also created a deputy position. Tracey Jerome, who most recently managed commercial galleries in London was appointed Director in February 2015. Ben Fyffe was appointed Assistant Director in April 2015. A new master plan for the public art program was unanimously adopted by City Council in March. The plan will guide the next decade of growth, in which the program will integrate work into \$473 million worth of municipal capital projects. The department's grantmaking program was finally moved to an online application process for the first time in May 2015. The department-run El Paso Museum of History launched an immersive exterior TouchCity Digital Wall in February 2015. The Wall, which allows user's own photos and historic ephemera to create a virtual cityscape is the first of its kind in the U.S. and only the second in the world, with an interface with the other Wall in Copenhagen. The department now oversees a newly formed Council-appointed committee developing recommendations for a new bond-funded Hispanic Cultural Center being planned.

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## **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council**

Pittsburgh, PA

Prepared by **Mitch Swain**

[Tweet version](#): #aftacon #usuaaf

Pittsburgh and the surrounding region are experiencing the benefits of a turnaround with the new business growth, redevelopment of downtown and continued emergence of a creative sector. The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council is embarking upon a revision of our strategic plan for the next three years. We've been focused on visibility and promotion of arts and culture, research and advocacy, providing services to the field with increased focus on individual artists, accessibility, and issues of diversity and inclusion. Our arts community will benefit from community wide discussions about our shared future. We're working with Project Audience and CRG to deliver ArtsBurgh.org, an arts events website/calendar, to our community this fall. Financial support from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) continues to grow as a function of an additional 1% sales tax collected in Allegheny County, 50% of which is distributed by RAD. RAD distributed over \$93 million in 2015 with approximately 11% going to arts and culture. Newly elected Governor Tom Wolf has proposed a 23% increase in arts funding.

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