

Arts Advocacy

Advocacy is at the heart of the Allied Arts Council's mission. We work to ensure everyone has access to the arts because the arts make St. Joseph a better place to live, learn, work, visit, and do business.

The arts drive tourism, strengthen education, provide creative opportunities, attract businesses, and generate a **\$21.1 million economic impact** in our community. They help create vibrant neighborhoods, inspire young minds, and give artists a voice.

Arts Education

Arts education is essential to building a creative, confident, and connected community. The Allied Arts Council works to ensure **students have access to meaningful arts** experiences that inspire curiosity, encourage self-expression, and support learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Through partnerships with schools, educators, artists, and arts organizations, we provide opportunities that enrich student learning, strengthen creativity, and help young people develop skills that extend far beyond the arts.



Public Art

Public art transforms everyday spaces into opportunities for connection, creativity, and discovery.

The Allied Arts Council works to bring art into the public realm through initiatives like the **Sculpture Walk** and **Traffic Box Art Program**, making art accessible to residents and visitors throughout our community.



118 S. 8th Street
St. Joseph, MO 64506



www.stjoearts.org



816-233-0231

35TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S AWARDS 2026



TOGETHER WE CREATE

Evening Program

Welcome.....Liby Waltemath

Dinner provided by Gina's Catering

Introduction.....Jessica Agnew

Board President.....Liby Waltemath

Incoming President.....Tona Williams

"Out There".....Shaun Agnew and Wyatt Wuerfele

Mayoral Remarks.....Mayor Larry Miller

Celebration of Nominees

"Someday".....Jackson Connors and Elena Leonard

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks.....Liby Waltemath



Since
1963

Allied Arts Council Mission

Allied Arts Council connects people, organizations, and ideas to strengthen the role of the arts in Northwest Missouri. Through partnerships, advocacy, and community-driven leadership, we support a thriving creative culture— one that is visible, valued, and vital to the identity of our region.

Collaboration

We believe in shared success. We create space where artists, leaders, and communities build together.

Leadership

We take initiative with clarity and courage. We champion big ideas that position the arts as a public good.

Stewardship

We care for what we've inherited and invest in what's next. Our decisions are grounded in responsibility.



Mayor's Awards Nominees

Artist of the Year

Eric Fuson

Arts Educator of the Year

Andrea Aeschliman

Carol Myers

Molly Ring

Youth Artist

William Calderwood

Macormick Carlson

Hayden Cooperider

Organizational Achievement in the Arts

Commerce Bank

Veritas Systems Construction

Individual Leadership

Nancy Schmidt-Brunson

Outstanding Volunteer

Jeremy Glenn & Christina Hazelwood

Tona Williams

A special thanks to our 2025–2026 Mayor's Awards Jurors

- **Michael Gaines**, Outreach Coordinator, Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies
- **Leslie Forrester**, Executive Director, Springfield Regional Arts Council
- **Jennifer Wampler**, Chief Development Officer, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

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