

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

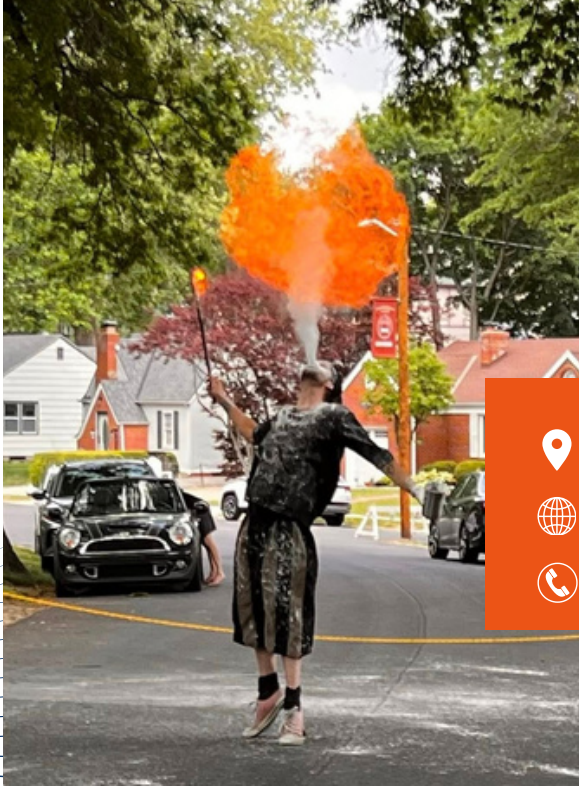
Public art transforms everyday spaces into opportunities for connection, creativity, and discovery. The Allied Arts Council works to bring art into the public realm through initiatives like the **Sculpture Walk and Traffic Box Art Program**, making art accessible to residents and visitors throughout our community.

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.



118 S. 8th Street
St. Joseph, MO 64506
www.stjoearts.org
816-233-0231



Annual Report

20
26

ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL

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.



From the Director, Jessica Agnew

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 year, I am filled with gratitude for the creativity, dedication, and passion of our arts community. This year reminded us that the arts are more than performances, exhibitions, and events—they are the **connections that inspire us, bring us together, and help shape our community.**

This year marked an exciting new chapter for Allied Arts Council as we introduced our new brand and tagline: **Together, We Create.** This reflects our commitment to serving as a connector, advocate, and champion for the arts throughout Northwest Missouri.

Every day, we see the impact of the arts—in the experiences that bring families together, the opportunities that inspire students, and **the partnerships that create something greater than any one organization could accomplish alone.**

While challenges remain, our community's commitment to the arts continues to inspire us. Thank you to our board, partner agencies, artists, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and **supporters who make this work possible.**

Together, we are creating a community where the arts are celebrated, accessible, and woven into everyday life. **Together, We Create.**



Why Art?



Arts Education

Artists in the Schools

- 6 Teaching Artists
- 38 Classroom Sessions in 11 schools
- 1,312 Students Reached
- 105 Adults Engaged

ArtVentures

- 4 Art Disciplines (Visual Arts • Theater • Choreography • Music)
- 20 sessions in 5 schools (3 elementary • 2 middle)
- 225 Students Reached
- 84 Adults Engaged



Public Art

- 12 temporary sculptures by 8 artists
- 17 permanent sculptures by 14 artists
- 90+ participants joined the First Walk in June on 3 guided tours, meeting artists, exploring the collection, and connecting with public art.
- 4 guided group tours throughout the year
- 400+ SJSD students attended Young at Art event including guided Sculpture Walk tours



Arts Advocacy

- Represented the interests of the St. Joseph arts community at Missouri Arts Advocacy Day in Jefferson City
- Met one-on-one with Missouri legislators, the Lieutenant Governor, and with city and county officials
- Shared advocacy materials with several additional elected officials, including the Governor
- Facilitated Arts Forum with Mayoral and City Council candidates, one of the largest forums held prior to the election, with over 100 attendees



2025-26 Staff and Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President - Liby Waltemath

1st Vice President - Michelle Norman

2nd Vice President - Valeri Jones

Treasurer - Mary Meyer

Secretary - Kristi Brumback

Elected Board

Brittany Beaver

Janell Becerra

Annie Corrington

Jan Costanzo

Devon Kariker

Mary Kottenstette

Sara Markt

Madison McKinley

Harrison Meers

Jon Mark Mikkelsen

Dan Ramming

Holly Rubalcava

Ex-Officio Member

Nicholas Robb, David H. Morton Memorial Fund for the Arts

Agency Representatives

AAC, Liby Waltemath

AKMA, Marcy George

AGO, Tom Smith

CAP, Regina Calderwood

JL, Andrea Cole

PAA, Paul Storiato

RS, Diana Smith

RRT, David Rich

RC, Melody Smith

SJCC, Laura Barger

SJHS, Annie Hartley

SJM, Drew Brown

SJS, Nancy Schmidt-

Brunson

SJYC, Karen Heyde-

Lipanovich

Staff

Executive Director,

Jessica Agnew

Director of Finance and Operations,

Jenyl Hart

Director of Strategic Communications,

Brooke McBride



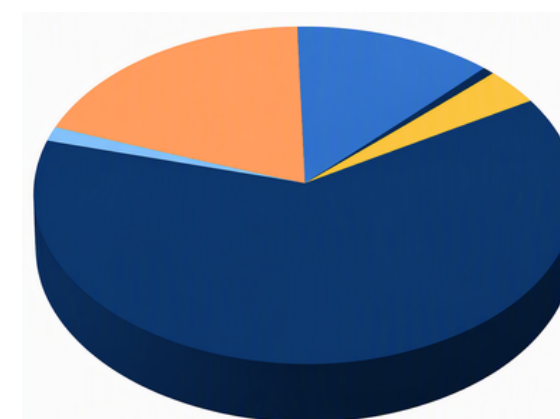
2026

Arts Fund Pacesetters Plus (\$5,000 & above)

Buchanan County Commission
City of St. Joseph, Missouri
St. Joe Petroleum-Fastgas Convenience Stores
St. Joseph News-Press

Arts Fund Pacesetters (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

Commerce Bank of St. Joseph
Nodaway Valley Bank
St. Joseph School District Employees



- Individuals (excluding workplace giving) 64.9%
- Local (City/County) Government Contributions 19.5%
- Corporations and Corporate Foundations 11.3%
- Workplace Giving Contributions 2.7%
- Campaign Fundraising Events 1.3%
- Corporations Matching Gifts of Employee Contributions 0.4%