

# 33rd Annual Mayor's Awards for the Arts

## Nominees

### Artist of the Year

**Heather Nelson** has made amazing contributions to St. Joseph this past year through her artistic talents. She works for the St. Joseph Museums and has created a number of murals and illustrations for the book on Jeffery Deroine and also graphics for the Walk on Water live theatrical play. Her work is featured in the newly renovated exhibit wing and helps bring St. Joseph's history to life through the Jeffery Deroine book and the Walk on Water play.

**Wanda Taylor** is an award-winning colored pencil artist who loves teaching color pencil techniques to others. For nearly 20 years, she has taught classes at many local venues including the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, Missouri Western State University community arts, and Allied Arts Council's Artscape summer camp. Her work is currently displayed at Northland Artists Gallery in Weston, MO, the AKMA, and Mosaic Life Care Art Experience Galleries.

### Arts Educator

**Annie Bramlage** just finished her 25th year of teaching and is currently the Central High School Theater teacher where students flock to be in her classes and performances. Her recent production of "Mean Girls the Musical" earned top awards including Outstanding Overall Production and Outstanding Technical Crew. Annie goes above and beyond to see that our children get nothing but the best arts education experience and shows students the value of teamwork and cooperation.

**Jackson Connors** has shown

perseverance and steadfast leadership by growing his Bode Middle School choir from three students to close to thirty within his first two years of teaching and plans to introduce theatre curriculum into his classroom. He also currently serves as the assistant director of the St. Joseph Youth Chorale and as vice president of the Choir Boosters at Central High School.

**Daniel Ramming** is an art teacher at Central High School who demonstrates an exceptional ability to inspire and educate through art. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that each student feels valued, understood and motivated to reach their full potential. His passion for teaching and his students' success is evident in every endeavor he undertakes, and his contributions to Central High School and the broader community are invaluable.

### Outstanding Volunteer

**Lori Boyer** has been an outstanding volunteer for the Saint Joseph Symphony for many years, including running the will call desk at concerts, serving as the Symphony house captain at the Beer Walk for the Arts, leading the finance committee, and serving on the board of directors. She also serves as the treasurer of the David H. Morton Memorial Fund for the Arts Trustee Committee and leads that Committee's Derby Fundraiser.

**Robbie Morton** has repeatedly shared his passion for the arts by volunteering for the Allied Arts Council's Beer Walk for the Arts, STEAM festival, and Trails West!®. He works independently on physically demanding tasks and is the first on site and the last to leave. Without him in charge of logistics, these events

would not have gone as smoothly as they did. He has also served on the Allied Arts Council's Visual Arts Committee and board of directors.

### Youth Artist

**Macormick (Mac) Carlson** has grown from a captivating kid on stage to a talented young man. He has been in many leading and supporting roles on the stages of the Missouri Theater and RRT's Ruby Theatre. As a Central High School student, he shares his talents in featured roles in the school's productions as well, and this summer he'll share his talents within Kansas City in the teen ensemble in Starlight Theatre's production of West Side Story.

**Brett Carter** is a talented percussionist who has taken his love for music to many areas of our district and community. He was named Central High School's Drumline Captain his senior year and lived up to the responsibility. He led the drumline by establishing a culture of responsibility and high expectations, while remaining humble and enjoying seeing the younger players flourish.

**Ashlyn Ford** is an actress, singer and musician who has invested her time and talents into the St. Joseph area arts community for the past 11 years. She graduated from Central High School with Magna Cum Laude honors, National Honor Society honors, and Thespian honors, and was a member of the Student Government Leadership her senior year. She was named Female Thespian of the Year, and was also a member of the New Generation Singers.

**Jude Kimmel** at age eleven has been very active in numerous projects and activities in the community through Creative Arts Productions, Robidoux Resident Theatre, and the Dance Arts Center. His contribution is significant and he is continuously obtaining skills to be well rounded – acting, dancing and singing. He is a great example to other children, showing them if they work hard, they will go far.

### Individual Leadership

**Janell Becerra** serves as the Curriculum Advisor overseeing fine arts for the St. Joseph School District. She is active in the St. Joseph arts community, serving on the Allied Arts Council Board, Arts Fund Committee, Saint Joseph Symphony Education committee and as a frequent music director for Robidoux Resident Theatre. She demonstrates exceptional dedication, creativity and leadership, and her passion for the arts, coupled with her unwavering support for students and colleagues, makes her an exemplary leader.

**Sandy Burg** has served as Executive Director of Robidoux Resident Theatre for over 10 years, and her efforts have led to steady growth in the organization, enabling RRT to produce stage productions for performers of all ages, from theater camps for kids, to engaging plays at RRT’s own Ruby Theatre, to musical productions at the Missouri Theater, and to dedicated theater opportunities for the 50+ community. She stands out as a hardworking and invested leader.

### Organizational Achievement in the Arts

**St. Joseph Community Chorus** for the past two seasons has had extensive outreach and high-quality performances which highlight its dedication to fostering a love for choral music in the community. The collaborations with professional

artists, local musicians and regional bands, along with its robust performance schedule and outreach programs, underscore its impact and success.

**Martial Thevenot/Team Perka** was the Performing Arts Association Season Sponsor for the 23-24 season which helped the organization bring a variety of events representing the best of performing arts. It’s hard to separate the man from the business because Martial is Team Perka and carries that with him wherever he goes and whatever he does. His goal is to make PAA a strong team to inspire, comfort and uplift the St. Joseph arts community.

### Extraordinary Lifetime Achievement Award

Teresa Fankhauser’s path to a life in the arts started at the age of 3 when she first appeared on the Missouri Theater stage. Her passion only grew from there once she found and was involved with Robidoux Resident Theatre (RRT). From there she took on roles at the Allied Arts Council (AAC), from volunteering, serving on the AAC board as the president of RRT, chaired the Trails West!® Chautauqua and Hillside Reenactment Stages and taught at Artscape and Art for Life. Prior to joining the Allied Arts Council, she served as managing director of the Performing Arts Association from 2002-2005 and co-owned the Ice House Theatre with husband Erich Uhlhorn. In 2005, Teresa became the Executive Director of the Allied Arts Council, and held this position until her retirement this past spring. During her 19 years as Executive Director, Teresa brought to the St. Joseph community the downtown Sculpture Walk, Beer Walk for the Arts as a fundraiser for the Arts Fund, and helped with the creation of the Traffic Box Art. As she continued the mission of bringing arts and people together, she served as president of the Missouri Association

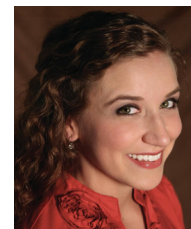
of Community Art Agencies and president of the Missouri Citizens for the Arts. Teresa emerged as a statewide leader in the non-profit arts sector and has brought about growth in all her arts endeavors.



Teresa Fankhauser



## Staff



**Jessica Agnew**  
Executive Director  
2 months



**Kathy Reno**  
Marketing Coordinator  
3 years



**Maya Rounph**  
Graphic Designer  
1 years

**The Allied Arts Council staff thanks you for your continued support of the AAC.**