MORE 
ART 
FOR MORE 
PEOPLE
A Word From Ed Clifford

I am pleased to step into my first year as chairman of the board of directors, and on behalf of my colleagues and all of us at Mid-America Arts Alliance, I thank my predecessor Ken Fergeson for his thoughtful stewardship over the past three years.

From serving impressive numbers of people to watching the effects of the arts in small rural communities, M-AAA continues to serve its region with tremendous vigor, talent, and skill. And what a region it is. Our work with the six states served in this past year—Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas—reminds our Board and staff every day that strong arts ecosystems make for better opportunities for all our citizens. As an Arkansan and former chairman of the Arkansas Arts Council, I have personally seen the power of the arts to transform communities and to motivate families to add creative endeavors to their lives. I am thrilled to support the work that M-AAA does to foster artists, organizations, and creative culture not just in Arkansas, but also across our region and beyond.

I am also pleased to wish CEO Mary Kennedy well as she pursues an exciting new opportunity, and to thank her for her years of service at M-AAA. In a seamless resignation process, Todd Stein has stepped in as interim chief executive officer while the Board makes decisions about staffing opportunities going forward. As we embark on the next chapter of M-AAA, we look toward continued strength and stability, and are excited for the growth and changes ahead.
The new maaa.org launched in June 2016.
NEA—Marking Fifty Years of Impact

In celebration of the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) fifty-year anniversary, Mid-America Arts Alliance—the nation’s first regional arts organization—created a video to highlight the importance and impact of the NEA on our region. We worked with four artists from across the region to illustrate the importance and legacy of the NEA. We look forward to fifty more years of partnering with them to serve, foster, and inspire the artists and creative culture of our region.

View the video on our website at: maaa.org/about/50yearvideo.

Three New Websites

For many, a website presents the first impression of an organization. Mid-America Arts Alliance found itself with three sites that were hard to navigate and couldn’t be used on mobile devices. After a region-wide search to contract the best developers we could find, we began work with Insight Creative Group (ICG) of Oklahoma City to completely redesign and rebuild websites for M-AAA, ExhibitsUSA, and NEH on the Road. After over seven months of work, we launched three new websites at the close of FY16. They’re mobile-friendly, responsive, and full of clear, user-centric design. With these new sites, M-AAA is ready to continue growing and changing as we cultivate the best tools to bring more art to more people.

We also have upgraded security in a number of capacities, allowing for safe online donations and consistent messaging. Pageviews on maaa.org have gone up by 2,890%, and a decrease in bounce rate means people are staying longer on the site.

Visit maaa.org, eusa.org, and nehontheroad.org.
Students work on murals for Watie White’s Artistic Innovations project in Omaha, NE, October 2015
As a Regional Arts Organization, Mid-America Arts Alliance is in the advantageous position to make grants directly to artists and arts organizations throughout its six states. M-AAA creates opportunities and strengthens the vitality of the arts in communities large and small.

In FY16, M-AAA made grants primarily through Artistic Innovations and the Regional Touring Program. Artistic Innovations grants support the creation of new work throughout our states, and the Regional Touring Program subsidizes organizations to bring out-of-state artists to communities for performances, exhibitions, educational programming, and more.

Regional Touring Program
In FY16, $66,922 was awarded to twenty communities across M-AAA’s region.

College of St. Mary
With a Regional Touring Program grant, the College of St. Mary (CSM), Omaha, Nebraska, brought Owen Cox Dance Company (Kansas City, Missouri) in collaboration with NAVO (Kansas City, Missouri), a new musical collective, to perform A Soldier’s Tale, a musical, dance, and theater experience. The visiting artists also held a string master class on the college’s campus and a musical appreciation event at Castelar Elementary School, an Omaha school that serves a population with limited access to the arts. A majority of students at Castelar attend remedial English and reading courses that occur concurrently with fine arts classes, and as a result, do not receive fine arts instruction or exposure on a regular basis.

“I can’t thank you enough for bringing the group of musicians to Castelar today. Many of these kids rarely if ever get to even see these instruments, so to see them played so beautifully was an incredibly special treat. Plus…i get to see what they are actually retaining!! I was pleasantly surprised with some of their answers! Thanks again…words can’t describe how thankful we really are. My class is sitting here and it’s all they want to talk about! I’m definitely looking forward to more opportunities like this!”

—Martha Bosworth, vocal music teacher, March 2016
Artistic Innovations

In FY16, $140,295 was awarded to twelve Artistic Innovations recipients, from individual artistic support for a new concert to the production of a new play.

Northwest Arkansas Prison Story Project

The Northwest Arkansas (NWA) Prison Story Project uses the power of storytelling to create a reformed sense of self and transform inmates’ lives. Inmates employ story to connect to audiences, to one another, and to themselves. NWA Prison Story Project founder Kathy McGregor launched *You Are Not Alone* in November 2014 with a one-day storytelling and intensive writing workshop, and a staged reading, for the male inmates of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Without necessary funds, the *You Are Not Alone* project was put on hold until receiving an Artistic Innovations grant in FY16. “None of this would have been possible without the grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance,” reported McGregor.

Armed with this support, McGregor and her team returned to Pine Bluff in November 2015, and over the course of the grant period, executed two more staged readings and two additional two-day storytelling and writing workshops. With each additional reading and workshop, this arts therapy reached a new group of inmates. As more inmates participated, they reported an empowerment and connection afforded by their experiences with the program. “I’m more talented than I thought I was,” wrote one inmate.

The grant also allowed NWA Prison Story Project to present the original works of the Pine Bluff male inmates, *You Are Not Alone I*, in September 2015 to female inmates in Fayetteville, opening a dialogue between the incarcerated men and women. “We are more alike than I ever would have thought,” reported one inmate at Pine Bluff after his participation in the NWA Prison Story Project. McGregor sites improved communication skills of inmates, especially upon release, to be a primary goal of the program. Altogether, the group served 480 inmates in the state of Arkansas during FY16. McGregor plans to continue expanding the work, making partnerships with the warden of death row prisoners at Varner Super Max Prison in Grady, Arkansas, and also with the University of Arkansas as part of an upcoming One Book, One Community project in Northwest Arkansas.

“People keep asking me how I can be smiling at a time like this. I am going to let you in on a secret. Come closer. I don’t want those that believe [sic] in the death penalty to hear. The State can not execute the same man that was convicted. I executed him years ago. The only thing the State can do is take me out of this cage. Now there’s something to smile about.”

—From an inmate who has spent twenty-six years on Death Row
“I learned to express myself in ways I never knew I could without the help of Prison Stories.”
Young visitors at ExhibitsUSA’s Grand Ole Opry exhibition at Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Duncan, OK, August 2015
Traveling Exhibitions

In FY16, exhibitions traveled to twenty-eight states through two flagship programs: ExhibitsUSA and NEH on the Road. ExhibitsUSA is dedicated to bringing arts experiences to cities big and small at a discounted rate, and NEH on the Road works in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities to adapt large humanities exhibitions for touring to venues throughout the country, accessible both in scale and expense.

With traveling exhibitions, we can bring traditional Bedouin camel saddles to Melbourne, Florida; photographs by indigenous artists to Duncan, Oklahoma; and Ruby Bridges’ first grade classroom to Greenwood, Mississippi. One-of-a-kind experiences, available around the country at nonprofit rates: ExhibitsUSA and NEH on the Road reach hundreds of thousands of people every year. Serving not only audiences, M-AAA’s traveling exhibitions provide venues with every detail—handmade shipping crates, museum-quality presentation, and step-by-step instructions for hanging, promoting, and caring for exhibitions.

Last year, ExhibitsUSA launched the tours of six exhibitions—Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo; Celebrating Picasso: Photographs by David Douglas Duncan; Second Time Around: The Hubcap as Art; Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844–2012; Traditional Arts of the Bedouin; and WAR-TOYS: Israel, West Bank, and Gaza Strip. ExhibitsUSA also announced the development of several exhibitions; including Once Upon a Playground, based on a new publication by photographer Brenda Biondo; Work, Fight, Give: American Relief Posters of WWII, drawn from a private collection; and Beyond Words: Visual Narratives from the Block Book to the Graphic Novel, culled from the Rare Book Collection and the Comic Art Collection in the Division of Special Collections, Archives, and Rare Books at the University of Missouri Libraries.

NEH on the Road’s exhibition Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil embarked on its tour in FY16, and Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, adapted from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s celebrated flagship exhibition, was placed into production.

ExhibitsUSA

Inciteful Clay
In April 2016, ExhibitsUSA’s *Inciteful Clay* traveled to Stillwater, Oklahoma, for exhibition at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Museum of Art. *Inciteful Clay* highlights the innovation and social commentary pervasive in contemporary ceramics, turning the medium on its head. The exhibition is organized around five themes: war and politics, the social and human condition, gender issues, environmental concerns, and popular and material culture.

OSU Museum of Art’s curator of education and public programming, Carrie Kim, wrote in a letter to exhibition curator Judith Schwartz, “Our visitors can’t stop raving about the show; we’re enjoying wonderful discourse about the work from audiences of all ages. It’s been a privilege and an honor to share your exhibition with this community. It’s, hands down, been the most engaging, thought-provoking exhibition we’ve had to date.”

Kim also shared the feedback of some important audiences: junior high art students.

“*I felt a little uncomfortable at times, but I think that’s a good thing. This exhibit really pushed me out of my comfort zone and exposed me to themes that I don’t usually see in art. I found it really interesting how the artists decided to express their themes through certain images and titles. Overall, this exhibit opened my eyes a little and I’m glad that I was able to visit. Thank you so much for the amazing field trip!!!*”

NEH On The Road

Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil

*Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil* opened at the Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art in Fayette, Missouri, in January 2016. This NEH on the Road exhibition, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and organized by Con/Vida—Popular Arts of the Americas in association with Detroit’s Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, explores how the ancient cultures of Africa blended with indigenous and colonial Portuguese traditions to form the vibrant and complex cultural mosaic of modern Brazil.

Ashby-Hodge’s curator Denise Gebhart reported enthusiastically on the community feedback and high attendance when the exhibition visited Fayette, a town of about 2,700 people. The gallery, located on the campus of Central Methodist University, exhibits three to five shows each year, and Gebhart booked *Bandits & Heroes* to bring a broader view of art to the community.

“*On a Sunday afternoon a young woman from Brazil, currently living in Columbia, Missouri, visited the gallery. She was with her host family and they stayed for several hours looking at and reading the panels in the exhibit. This young woman was most excited to have the opportunity to view scenes of places that were familiar to her. She happily shared her stories with any visitors to the gallery interested in hearing about the places depicted on the panels. This was her home! Her community!*” reported Gebhart.
“The most engaging, thought-provoking exhibition we’ve had to date.”
National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu visits an Artist INC training at M-AAA headquarters in Kansas City, MO, April 2016.
Support for artists comes in many forms. For successful communities, we need healthy artists and robust arts and cultural organizations. Artist INC and ENGAGE are programs designed specifically to help the arts thrive in business practice.

**Artist INC**

Artist INC is M-AAA’s fastest growing program. In partnership with the University of Missouri–Kansas City Innovation Center, we served 118 people in Austin, Lawrence, Kansas City, Omaha, and Tulsa in FY16. Through Artist INC, individual artists learn communication skills, money management, basic legal issues facing artists, and more. Using local artist facilitators, embedded and respected in their individual communities, a peer-to-peer learning model fosters trust and support among participants.

In addition to expanding into Tulsa, Oklahoma, Artist INC launched in Lawrence, Kansas, in April 2016. With enthusiastic peer trainers and a lively group of artists, the program was a great success. Artists who participated in the inaugural Artist INC Live training in Lawrence remain an active community, sharing opportunities and asking one another for input and guidance. On an anonymous survey completed at the close of training, an artist reported:

“**Artist INC changed my life. It empowered me in a way I was absolutely ready for. It was as if I had been asking the universe for these tools for years and then Artist INC comes along and says ‘Here you go!’ I love that I have a book and workbook to refer to forever. I love that if something pops up in my life that I’m unsure about, I have resources and a network now that I can utilize.”**

**ENGAGE**

ENGAGE strengthens existing arts organizations, amplifying an arts network that supports the wider community and focuses on best practices in governance, fundraising and financial management, and community engagement capacities.

ENGAGE Houston kicked off for a second time in April 2016. Participants met with ENGAGE coaches and have begun the deep-dive process of working toward best practices and long-term sustainability as vibrant cultural organizations. Through a $1.165 million grant, the Houston Endowment has generously supported all of this work, allowing Houston ENGAGE to continue through 2018. Elizabeth Love, senior program officer with the Houston Endowment, said that “ENGAGE is strongly aligned with the foundation’s mission to enhance the vibrancy of greater Houston, and we appreciate the program’s focus on promoting sustainability, seeding innovation, and cultivating broad audiences among a critical segment of the local arts and culture ecosystem.”

With the success demonstrated in Houston, M-AAA conducted a needs assessment for Kansas City in FY16. Through meetings and conversations with fifty-seven small to midsize arts organizations, service providers, and funders, M-AAA was able to determine the unique capabilities and challenges of the city’s arts and culture sector, and made recommendations to move forward in developing ENGAGE Kansas City in 2017.
RE Source, an Artistic Innovations dance performance of Forklift Danceworks in collaboration with Goodwill of Central Texas, Austin, TX, February 2016
Creativity Connects

With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, *Creativity Connects: National Demonstration Projects*, a special initiative undertaken by the US Regional Arts Organizations (RAOs), launched in May 2016. This initiative, part of the NEA’s fiftieth anniversary celebration, investigates the ways in which the arts can connect with other sectors, including education, healthcare, and social justice, that want and utilize creativity. The grantees, selected from each of the six RAOs—Arts Midwest, M-AAA, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, South Arts, and Western States Art Federation—promote excellence and demonstrate best practices in the field of cross-sector collaboration.

Stated Ella Baff, senior program officer for arts and cultural heritage at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: “This national project is emblematic of how the arts and creativity are—and should be—incorporated generously into all aspects of our work, our communities and our daily lives. Creativity is not a luxury that exists on the outskirts of society; it is at the center of all great achievement, and essential to the quality of our individual and collective experience.”

M-AAA awarded $435,365 in June 2016 to Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Fusebox Austin, Austin, Texas; The Center for Urban Pedagogy, Brooklyn, New York; Judy Dworin Performance Project, Hartford, Connecticut; Deep Center, Savannah, Georgia; and the City of Mesa/Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, Arizona. On November 18, the grant recipients will present at the NEA’s national convening, *In Pursuit of the Creative Life: The Future of Arts and Creativity in America* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

Windgate Charitable Foundation

Mid-America Arts Alliance received a $400,000 grant from the Windgate Charitable Foundation in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The two-year grant will strengthen and grow M-AAA’s two artist-support programs—Artist INC and Artistic Innovations. “We believe in fostering creativity and encouraging artists,” said John Brown of the Windgate Foundation. “Like Mid-America Arts Alliance, we understand that artists need support for the creation of new work, as well as capacity building for their business skills. We hope this grant will improve the work of the many talented artists in our region and lead them on a path to success.”

The grant will expand the footprint of Artist INC to new communities in M-AAA’s region, eventually serving more than 2,000 artists by 2020. In FY17, Artist INC will reach artists in three new communities: Houston, Texas, and Springdale, Arkansas, and includes beta testing of Artist INC Express in Wichita Falls, Texas, to reach artists in smaller and rural communities. This grant also increases the number of dollars for the Artistic Innovations program, which means more grants for more artists and organizations, and more chances to support artists and innovative projects throughout the region.
Regional Touring Program grantee CORE Performance Company performing Gaman, Conway, AR, November 2015

GEOGRAPHIC REACH

FY16 Programming Map
(Turn page for a full list of participants)

Our Region

- 10+ M-AAA Programs or Projects
- 5–9 M-AAA Programs or Projects
- 3–4 M-AAA Programs or Projects
- 1–2 M-AAA Programs or Projects
- Not Served in FY16
Our FY16 Impact:

- **105** Communities Served
- **232** Programs and Projects
- **444** Artists Served
- **390,291** Children and Adults Participating
- **$1,144,908** Grants and Exhibition Subsidies
- **$2,239,774** Other Programs and Services
- **$4,159,186** Total Value Impact

Sources of Funding:

- **$3,654,481** Revenue
- **$3,641,259** Expense
- **$13,222** Change in Net Assets

- Federal Grants: **$1,211,400**
- Contracted Services and Earned Income: **$1,130,296**
- Contributions: **$1,020,658**
- Other: **$292,127**
M-AAA
Partner State Participants

Arkansas
Argenta Branch Library, North Little Rock
Arkansas Arts Council, Little Rock
Arkansas River Valley Arts Center, Russellville
Arkansas State University, State University
The Artist’s Laboratory Theatre, Fayetteville
Bradbury Art Museum, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro
Visit Hot Springs, Hot Springs National Park
Clinton Presidential Library, Little Rock
Delta Cultural Center, Helena
Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute, Hot Springs
Marshall Mitchell, Springdale
North Central Arkansas Foundation for Arts and Education, Fairfield Bay
Northwest Arkansas Prison Story Project, Fayetteville
University of Arkansas Little Rock, Little Rock
University of Central Arkansas, Conway
Wildwood Park for the Arts, Inc., Little Rock
Erika Wilhite, Fayetteville
William F. Laman Public Library, North Little Rock

Missouri
Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette
The Box Gallery, Kansas City
Trilla Ray Carter, Kansas City
Cottey College, Nevada
Eminence Area Arts Council, Eminence
Foundry Art Centre, Saint Charles
Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City
Whitney Manney, Kansas City
Missouri Arts Council, Saint Louis
Garry Noland, Independence
Rachel Reynolds Luster, Thayer
Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, Saint Joseph
Sheldon Art Galleries, Saint Louis
Sheldon Arts Foundation, Saint Louis
Emily Evans Sloan, Kansas City
Sons of Brasil, Kansas City
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg
Gallery 210 at University of Missouri–Saint Louis, Saint Louis

Oklahoma
Jennifer Alden, Broken Arrow
Marjorie Atwood, Tulsa
Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Duncan
Claire Collins, Tulsa
Glenn Davis, Tulsa
Kyle Dillingham, Oklahoma City
Edmond Historical Society and Museum, Edmond
Grace Grothaus Grimm, Tulsa
Living Arts of Tulsa, Tulsa
Mandy Messina, Oklahoma City
Molly O’Connor, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Arts Council, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma City Community College Foundation, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Family Center for Autism, Edmond
Oklahoma State University Museum, Stillwater
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition, Oklahoma City
Price Tower Arts Center, Bartlesville
Barron Ryan, Tulsa
Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, Tulsa
University of Tulsa, Tulsa

Nebraska
Bennett Martin Public Library, Lincoln
Kait Berreckman, Omaha
College of Saint Mary, Omaha
First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln
Lied Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln
Friends of Music, Columbus
Friends of the Midwest Theater, Scottsbluff

Texas
Admiral Nimitz Foundation, Fredericksburg
Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum, Houston
Apollo Chamber Players, Houston
Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington
Ars Lyrica Houston, Houston
Bayou City Performing Arts, Houston
Bell County Museum, Belton
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, Bryan
Catastrophic Theatre, Houston
City of Austin, Austin
Culture of Health—Advancing Together, Houston
Yvonne De La Rosa, Seguin
El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso
El Paso Museum of History, El Paso
Forklift Dance, Austin
Glasstire, Houston
Houston Boy’s Choir, Houston
Houston Chamber Choir, Houston
Houston Early Music, Houston
Houston Maritime Museum, Houston
Houston Palestine Film Festival, Houston
John E. Conner Museum, Kingsville
Living History, Houston
Lone Star Ballet Inc., Amarillo
Lutcher Theater Inc., Orange
Main Street Theater, Houston
Mildred’s Umbrella Theater Company, Houston
Musiq, Houston
Anuradha Naimpally, Austin
National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg
Next Iteration Theater Company, Houston
Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, Houston
Project Row Houses, Houston
Philip Rogers, Austin
Salvage Vanguard Theater, Austin
Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Dallas
Southwestern Adventist University, Keene
Spacetaker, Houston
Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum, Temple
Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council, Texarkana
Texas Boys Choir, Fort Worth
Texas Commission on the Arts, Austin
Wayland Baptist University, Plainview
Meghan Wells, Austin
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, League City
WindSync, Houston

**National Participants**

### Arizona
Museum of Art, University of Arizona, Tucson

### California
California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson
Museum of History and Art Ontario, Ontario
Temecula Valley Museum, Temecula

### Connecticut
Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London

### District of Columbia
American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington

### Florida
Appleton Museum of Art, College of Central Florida, Ocala
Collier County Museums, Naples
Creadle School of Art, Winter Park
Webber Gallery at College of Central Florida, Ocala
West Florida Historic Preservation Inc., Pensacola

### Georgia
Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center, Buford

### Iowa
Charles H. MacNider Art Museum, Mason City
Living History Farms, Urbandale
Sioux City Public Museum, Sioux City
Bart Vargas, Council Bluffs

### Kentucky
Laurel County Public Library, London

### Louisiana
Historical City Hall Arts & Cultural Center, City of Lake Charles, Lake Charles
Meadows Museum of Art, Shreveport
Ouachita Parish Public Library Main Branch, Monroe
Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, University of Louisiana–Lafayette, Lafayette
West Baton Rouge Museum, Port Allen

### Maryland
Roland Park Country School, Baltimore

### Michigan
Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen
Ypsilanti District Library, Ypsilanti

### Minnesota
Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead

### Mississippi
Museum of the Mississippi Delta, Greenwood

### North Carolina
Cape Fear Museum of History and Science, Wilmington

### New Jersey
Hudson County Community College, Jersey City
Kean University, Union

### Ohio
National Afro-American Museum, Wilberforce

### Pennsylvania
Sardoni Art Gallery, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre

### South Carolina
Upcountry History Museum, Greenville

### South Dakota
Northern State University, Aberdeen

### Tennessee
Customs House Museum & Cultural Center, Clarksville

### Utah
Brigham City Museum Gallery, Brigham City
Park City Museum, Park City
Saint George Art Museum, Saint George

### West Virginia
Marion County Public Library System, Fairmont

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**Above:** Students visit *Our Lives, Our Stories: The Greatest Generation* at Marion County Public Library in Fairmont, WV, September 2015; M-AAA Director Kathy Dowell visited a Cherokee artist’s studio in Tahlequah, OK, December 2015

**Left:** Artist Garry Noland installs his work *Civilians* at M-AAA headquarters in Kansas City, MO, February 2016
FY16 Donors

$100,000+
The Houston Endowment, Inc.
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Windgate Charitable Foundation, Inc.

$50,000–$99,999
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Charley Young and Elizabeth Wheeler
Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA), to me, is a “best kept” secret in the region it serves. M-AAA partners with federal, regional, and state organizations to enable arts, humanities, and individual artist activities to be enhanced and shared throughout Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. This collaborative approach makes arts more accessible to more people and broadens the scope of what our region can offer to its varied audiences, whether in urban or rural communities. Being a Giving Society member enables the donor to assist M-AAA in sustaining these programs across a variety of venues and at the same time exposes more people to performance and visual arts experiences. I am an enthusiastic supporter and encourage others to join the Giving Society.

– Rich Vierk, Nebraska Board member and M-AAA Secretary
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Melissa Thoma, Principal, Thoma Thoma, Little Rock, Arkansas

Art Thompson, President, Cooper Foundation, Lincoln, Nebraska

Kym Koch Thompson, Principal, Koch Communications, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Frank D. Uryasz, President, The National Center for Drug-Free Sport, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri

Richard J. Vierk, Managing Partner, Vierk & Associates, LLC, Lincoln, Nebraska/M-AAA Secretary

Suzanne Wise, Executive Director, Nebraska Arts Council, Omaha, Nebraska

Mildred Knape Witte, Civic Leader, Tyler, Texas

**Emeritus Directors***

Marian Andersen, Civic Leader, Omaha, Nebraska

John Paul Batiste, Civic Leader, Dallas, Texas

Carolyn Dillon, Civic Leader/Clay Artist, Hutchinson, Kansas

Ann Garvey, Civic Leader, Wichita, Kansas

Kay Goebel, Ph.D., Psychologist/Civic Leader, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Donald A. Johnston, Executive (ret.) INTRUST Bank/Civic Leader

Lawrence, Kansas

Dorothy Morris, President, Morris Foundation, Inc., Hot Springs, Arkansas

Don Munro, Chairman/CEO, Munro and Company, Inc., Hot Springs, Arkansas

Thomas D. Pawley, III, Professor Emeritus, Lincoln University,

Jefferson City, Missouri

Betty Price, Civic Leader/Artist, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Wallace Richardson, Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson & Endacott (ret.), Lincoln, Nebraska

*nonvoting director

**Opposite page:** The Board of Directors meets at M-AAA headquarters in November 2015

**Right, top to bottom:** Gregory Perrin and Dorothy Morris, Lincoln, NE, June 2016; Ken Fergeson and Ed Clifford, Kansas City, MO, November 2015; Judge Jan Gradwohl, Robert Duncan, and Marian Andersen, Lincoln, NE, June 2016
FY16 Staff

Christine Dotterweich Bial, Program Specialist
Tim Brown, Curatorial Assistant
Karen Campbell, Director of Development
Steve Crays, Marketing and Constituent Services Coordinator
Kathy Dowell, Director of Arts and Humanities Programming
Madison Dugan, Development Associate
Jorge Garcia, Preparator
Linda Gramse, Executive Assistant
Angelette Hart, Operations Manager and Accessibility Coordinator
Jessica Heikes, Assistant to Preparation and Registration
Margaret A. Keough, Director of Marketing and Communications
Mary Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer
Ivan Lundberg, Senior Accounting Manager
Beth Maggard, Communications Manager
Betty Maltbia, Program Administrator
Dottie Martin, Database Specialist
Art McSweeney, Fabrication and Preparation Manager
Edana McSweeney, Director of Professional Development
Kristy Eddy Peterson, Education Curator
Maggie Price, Graphic Design Coordinator
Jennifer Roe, Grant Writer
Regina Schneider, Facilities and Office Manager
Sarah Sonner, Ph.D., Humanities Curator
Todd Stein, Chief Operating Officer
Amanda Wiltse, Marketing and Constituent Services Manager
Michelle Wolfe, Registrar
Charley Young, Accountant

Clockwise from top: M-AAA staff attend a Royals baseball game, Kansas City, MO, July 2016; Madison Dugan, Steve Crays, and Amanda Wiltse at a Giving Society preview event, Kansas City, MO, April 2016; Kristy Peterson, Mary LaRoche, Kathy Dowell, and Sarah Sonner during a visit to an exhibition in Washington, DC, June 2016
WE ARE PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS

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On the front cover, clockwise from top: M-AAA headquarters in Kansas City, MO, September 2016; Participants in artist Watie White’s Artistic Innovations project in Omaha, NE, October 2015; First Friday at M-AAA headquarters in Kansas City, MO, August 2015; Outdoor festivities for First Friday at M-AAA headquarters in Kansas City, MO, September 2015; Artist Tunde Odunlade visits Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints in Kansas City, MO, April 2016

This page, clockwise from top: M-AAA exterior during performance by the Artist’s Laboratory Theatre of Arkansas, Kansas City, MO, February 2016; Curator and artists of Inciteful Clay at the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference in Kansas City, MO, March 2016; Nebraska artist Kait Berreckman performs for First Friday, Kansas City, MO, March 2016; Students work on Only in Death, an Artistic Innovations project of Autism Oklahoma in Edmond, OK, July 2015; Printmakers from Tom Huck’s Evil Prints (a former Artistic Innovations grantee) visited Kansas City, MO, for First Friday, June 2016