

January 7th, 2015

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Susan Tate,  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mayor Amyx, City Commissioners, and City Staff:

I am enclosing a draft of the Lawrence Arts Center's National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant application, including:

- A draft of the proposal narrative,
- A draft of the project budget,
- A completed organizational financials worksheet,
- A list of programmatic activities,
- National Environmental Protection Act/National Historic Preservation Act Documentation, and
- Support Letters, including an unsigned letter draft to be edited and signed by Mayor Amyx.

A few things of note: The proposal narrative will eventually be pasted into a web form provided through NEA-GO, the National Endowment for the Arts' online grant application submission portal. We cannot have an absolutely final draft of the proposal until we begin to enter the application online because the online portal sometimes counts characters slightly differently than Microsoft word or other word processing programs. That said, the character counts included with each question give us a fairly precise idea of how close we are to being near character limit.

In regards to the project budget: At the recommendation of the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, we have included \$120,000 of pending city funds in our two-year project budget. City funds are not required as part of our 1:1 match because the maximum \$200,000 "Our Town" grant award is not only matched but exceeded by the corporate sponsorships, private donations, and in-kind services already included in the project budget. However, the Lawrence Arts Center, in partnership with the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau, will request \$60,000 from the City of Lawrence to support the Free State Festival in 2015, and we can predict that we will request similar amounts of funding for the Free State Festivals in 2016 and 2017.



For the sake of transparency, the Lawrence Arts Center is including these amounts as pending in the Free State Festival project budget at this time, but by listing them as “pending,” we stake no claim on the city’s ultimate decision as to whether or not to provide city funding for the Free State Festival at this or any level in the years to come.

Our proposal will include up to 250 MB of work samples. These will include two 2-minute film clips about the 2014 Free State Festival, which are still in production; a link to the new Free State Festival website, which is in development; a PDF of the Free State Festival brochure (attached); and a link to Nina Katchadourian’s website, which you can see here: [ninakatchadourian.com](http://ninakatchadourian.com). All work samples will be ready for upload by January 15<sup>th</sup>, the proposal due date.

In closing, the Free State Festival is a city-wide festival that aims to bring artists, community members, business leaders, and tourists together to celebrate and explore Lawrence’s historic, cultural, and artistic heritage. The Free State Festival Steering Committee is led by Lawrence Arts Center staff, including artists Ben Ahlvers and Marlo Angell, as well as community representatives, including Mike Logan from Downtown Lawrence, Inc. and the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board, Dr. Tim Caboni from the University of Kansas, Kristin Soper from the Lawrence Public Library, Joshua Falleaf from Haskell Indian Nations University, Katherine Harrison (KH) from the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, Lydia Diebolt from Centro Hispano, and Lawrence’s City Director of Arts and Culture. As you can see, the Free State Festival Steering Committee represents diverse communities from the Lawrence area, and we are confident that its members can lead the City in the design and organization of a Festival that is in the best interest of all Lawrence citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Susan Tate  
Chief Executive Officer



**Our Town Grant Application:**

**Applicant Legal Name:** Lawrence Arts Center, Inc.

**Applicant Popular Name:** The Lawrence Arts Center

**Date Organization Was Incorporated:** 1975

**Applicant Organization Status:** Nonprofit Organization

**Mission/Purpose of Organization (920/1500 character limit):** The mission of the Lawrence Arts Center is to enrich individuals and the community by nurturing a love of the arts through exhibitions, performance, and arts education. The Lawrence Arts Center promotes individual growth, and supports social, cultural, and economic vitality. The vision guiding the Arts Center’s visual and performing arts education programs is to create an environment in which students of all ages work with artists and art educators to develop creativity, innovation, critical thinking, initiative, productivity, and cultural social skills while engaged in creative practice. These skills critically affect long-term achievement and are essential aspects of a vibrant community. The visual arts, performing arts, and arts education programming provided by the Lawrence Arts Center helps to lay the foundation for a successful future for both individual residents and the City of Lawrence as a whole.

**Organization Budget:** (Attached)

**Organization Discipline:** Local Arts Agency

**Organization Description:** Arts Center

**Primary Partner Legal Name:** The City of Lawrence

**Primary Partner Popular Name:** Lawrence

**Primary Partner’s Tax ID Number:** 48-6033520

**Date organization was incorporated:** 1854

**Primary Partner Organization Status:** Municipal government.

**Mission/Purpose of Partner Organization. Briefly summarize the mission and purpose of your organization. For non-arts organizations (e.g., universities, human service agencies), summarize your mission as it pertains to creative placemaking activities. (1,491/1500 character limit):** The City of Lawrence is committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community. Creative placemaking is part of the City’s portfolio of strategies to increase livability for Lawrence residents. In 2013, Lawrence established a Lawrence Cultural District, .78 square miles encompassing some of the City’s most treasured historical and cultural sites, arts-based businesses, and arts organizations, as well as a Cultural District Taskforce, comprised of business leaders and community representatives, to help envision how Lawrence could leverage its creative resources for the benefit of all. In 2014, Lawrence received the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission’s largest creative placemaking grant to support a City Director of Arts and Culture position, the responsibilities of which will include spearheading the City’s first cultural plan and leading creative placemaking projects in partnership with community arts organizations. Lawrence is beginning to see the positive results of creative placemaking, which necessitates the cross-sector collaboration of businesses, municipalities,

artists, and arts organizations, and the City is putting policies in place that help these partnerships function smoothly. Investment in Lawrence by the NEA will confirm the City's creative placemaking efforts and ensure that partners from all sectors recognize the vital resources, energy, and excitement that creative placemaking can bring.

**Primary Partner Proposed Role (1,266/1500 character limit):** The Lawrence Arts Center will facilitate the planning, funding, curating, and implementation of Festival events in 2016 and 2017, just as it did in 2014 and will do in 2015. The City of Lawrence's Cultural Arts Commission has been instrumental in overseeing the development of the Lawrence Arts Center's "Our Town" grant application, ensuring that it represents the ideas and best interests of the Lawrence community as a whole. The new City Director of Arts and Culture will sit on the steering committee for the Free State Festival, connecting the City to the Lawrence Arts Center and local businesses, organizations, artists, and residents who are interested in participating in the Free State Festival by creating artwork, collaborating with artists and arts organizations, hosting festival events, providing in-kind goods and services, and/or contributing funds. Lawrence's Public Works Department will continue to assist with the logistics of the Festival, working with Lawrence Arts Center staff to obtain event permissions, reroute traffic, designate parking for festival-goers, and provide electrical power and other logistical support for the digital projections throughout the Cultural District during the Festival.

**Primary Partner Organization Discipline:** None of the above.

**Primary Partner Organization Description:** None of the Above.

**Project Title:** Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World

**Project Description:** In 2016 and 2017, the Lawrence Arts Center will transform the NEA-funded Free State Festival from a largely regional festival to an international one that makes full use of the technological and artistic infrastructure to be built along the 9th Street Corridor as a result of the City and ArtPlace-funded Free State Boulevard Project currently in the planning stage. By integrating the Festival into this cultural district streetscape, the Lawrence Arts Center will ensure that the Free State Festival highlights the people and places, history and culture, that make Lawrence attractive to businesses, tourists, and residents, introducing local artists and other neighbors to filmmakers, musicians, artists, and scholars from around the globe. This opportunity to spotlight the historical iconoclasm of Lawrence, Kansas in the context of 21st century art and ideas will not only increase livability by bringing local and international communities together but will also draw new cultural, social, and economic resources to the area.

**Project Type:** Festivals or Performances

**Project Activity Type--Primary:** Fair/Festival, **Secondary:** Artwork Creation, Building International Understanding

**Major Project Activities (2,969/3,000 character limit):** Discuss the project activities that will take place during the requested period of support. Be as specific as possible about actual activities and describe them in full. Where relevant, include information on any educational component or outreach activities of the project. Discuss your action plan and the creative placemaking strategies that will be implemented, including the approach to civic development. If available, provide evidence of community demand for the project. Include information on the locations of the proposed activity and

**any special resources that will be used. If your project will involve physical objects, spaces, or facilities, provide information about how they will be managed and maintained during the project's development and after the project is complete. Where appropriate, discuss the project's alignment with other federal programs. If this project is a follow up to a previous Our Town grant, provide the grant number and a brief status report on the project to date.**

In 2016 and 2017, the Lawrence Arts Center (LAC) will partner with the City of Lawrence to initiate a new phase of the Free State Festival. The LAC received an "Our Town" grant (Grant#: 13-946287) in 2013 to transform the Free State Film Festival, a local film festival with less than 500 audience members annually, into the Free State Festival, a multidisciplinary festival designed to bring independent filmmakers, musicians, artists, and scholars to Lawrence for a week-long celebration of Lawrence art, history, and culture. In 2014, the newly expanded Free State Festival premiered, welcoming over 12,000 audience members into the City's Cultural District. Now, the LAC and the City are committed to expanding the Festival once again to include a new emphasis on creative collaborations between international and local artists who will create artworks and activities that make use of the new City and ArtPlace-funded physical and artistic infrastructure along Lawrence's 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

The Free State Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will:

- 1.) Feature programming that redefines and reimagines freedom from diverse perspectives. Even before Kansas joined the Union as a free state in the months prior to the Civil War, Lawrence had developed a reputation as a place in which cultural iconoclasts were lionized and the real meaning of freedom was open to debate. The LAC's festival curators—Director of Exhibitions, Ben Ahlvers; Director of New Media, Marlo Angell; and Guest Curator, Nina Katchadourian--will continue this historical conversation by inviting up to eight nationally and internationally recognized filmmakers, musicians, and/or visual artists to the Festival each year to explore how people of different nationalities, races, genders, classes, and cultures define freedom.
- 2.) Engage featured international and local artists in collaboratively creating artwork and cultural activities that make use of the new infrastructure along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. Katchadourian will oversee the selection of two featured international artists each year to be paired with local Lawrence artists through an open application process. Together, these intensely local yet global teams will create outdoor, temporary public artworks along 9<sup>th</sup> Street that will debut during the Free State Festivals.
- 3.) Showcase films produced by bilingual middle school students at filmmaking workshops provided by the LAC in collaboration with Centro Hispano, Lawrence's social service agency for Latino families. At these workshops, students will create silent film shorts that explore film as a universal language and work together to make a longer film that uses English and Spanish to consider how different languages change the way individuals see and experience the world. The finished films will be screened at venues along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor during the 2016 and 2017 Festivals and as part of the "Best of the Fest" roadshow, which takes Festival films to rural Kansas.

**Schedule of Key Project Dates (1,500/1,500 character limit): Costs incurred prior to the earliest allowable start date (October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015) cannot be included in the project budget. If you include activities that occur before that start date, make sure you note that those activities and costs are not included on the Project Budget Form.**

Oct 2015: Grant kick-off meeting. Marlo Angell works with Centro Hispano staff to prepare first student filmmaking workshop for the spring of 2016. Angell and Ben Ahlvers work with Nina Katchadourian to select and recruit featured international artists for the 2016 Festival.

Nov-Dec 2015: Call for local featured artists publicized. Call for visiting artists working on projects related to the theme of freedom publicized.

Jan-May 2016: First film production workshop is piloted with Centro Hispano. Two featured international/local artist teams and eight visiting artists are selected and announced. Artists prepare temporary public artworks to showcase along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor—digital projections, performances, art installations, etc. June 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2016: The Free State Festival takes place.

July-August, 2016: Second film production workshop with Centro Hispano takes place.

Aug-Dec, 2016: Third film production workshop with Centro Hispano takes place. Two featured international artists for 2017 Festival are selected. Call for local featured artists publicized. Call for visiting artists working on projects related to the theme of freedom publicized.

Jan-May 2017: Fourth film production workshop with Centro Hispano takes place. Two featured international/local artist teams and eight visiting artists are selected and announced. Artists prepare temporary public artworks to showcase along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

June 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017: The Free State Festival takes place.

**Promotion & Publicity (985/1,000 character limit): Briefly describe your plans for promoting and/or publicizing the project.**

The marketing campaign for the expanded Free State Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will include press releases, local radio announcements, television interviews, television and newspaper advertisements, advertisements in other film festival brochures and programs from around the nation, promotional trailers screened at area theaters, and a social media advertising campaign via Facebook and Twitter. The Free State Festival website will be optimized for mobile-users and will include a GPS map of the Lawrence Cultural District as well as a scrolling calendar of Festival event times and venues. All calls for artists (filmmakers, musicians, etc.) will be circulated through regional, national, and international artist-based networks, including the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Kansas City Film Commission, Artists Deadline, The Chronicle of Higher Education, the ArtPlace America Foundation, Creative Capital, and Withoutabox.com.

**Accessibility (318/1,000 character limit): Explain how you will make your project accessible to individuals with disabilities in compliance with federal law and regulation through access accommodations for both facilities and programs, such as audio description, sign-language interpretation, closed or open captioning, large print brochures/labeling. See the Nondiscrimination Statutes in “Assurance of Compliance” for more information.**

The Lawrence Arts Center’s facilities are compliant with the ADA of 1990, and every effort will be made to guarantee that all venues are also compliant. All accommodations, including audio description, sign-language interpretation, closed or open captioning, and large-print materials will be available upon request.

**Project Activity/Venue Locations. Provide the city, state, and zip code in which project activities are expected to occur. You may submit individual locations using the webform. To upload multiple locations at once, consider using the multiple location spreadsheet upload option.**

Lawrence, Kansas 66044

**Outcome Narrative (981/1,000 character limit):** Briefly discuss how your project directly addresses the NEA outcome of Livability: Strengthening Communities through the Arts. Also discuss the anticipated impact on the community's livability, and, if possible, how the project can serve as a model for other communities. If this is a continuing project, include evidence of the impact achieved for the community. Include any social, cultural, and/or economic impact data so far collected and analyzed.

The Free State Festival directly addresses the NEA outcome of "Livability," and will be a robust model for other festivals that aim to leverage the distinctiveness of a place for the betterment of the local community. The Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will encourage local residents and artists to collaborate with visiting artists from around the world to re-envision Lawrence by revisiting the City's history, culture, and contributions to statewide conversations about freedom and social justice with new eyes. Encouraging residents to appreciate their neighbors and neighborhoods anew, the Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will harness the power of art, artists, and the creative community to boost the local economy. By creating a city Festival with a truly international reputation, the Free State Festival will galvanize productive relationships between both local and global artists and arts organizations and attract new tourists, businesses, and residents to the Lawrence area.

**Performance Measurement (987/1,000 character limit):** Briefly describe the performance measurements you will use to provide evidence that the Livability outcome was achieved, including plans for documenting and disseminating the project results, as appropriate. If applicable, include the metrics or indicators that you will use to identify and evaluate the project's short-term and long-term impact on your community's livability.

The Lawrence Arts Center will measure the outcomes of the Free State Festival through surveys disseminated electronically to 15,000 area residents prior to and after each Festival. Like the 2014 and 2015 Festival surveys, the surveys for the 2016 and 2017 Festivals will continue to focus on discerning the Festivals' impact on how connected residents feel to Lawrence cultural events and arts organizations, but they will also ask how residents perceive the livability, level of civic engagement, and artistic reputation of Lawrence. A paper survey will be disseminated during the Festival to determine: the percentage of attendees from out of town; the means by which attendees learned about the Festival; and how much money attendees are spending at small businesses, studios, and shops in Downtown and East Lawrence during the Festival period. The Arts Center will also monitor bed tax, sales revenue, and traffic data provided by the City surrounding the periods of both Festivals.

**Intended Beneficiaries (Audience/Participants/Community) (976/1,000 character limit):** Briefly describe the target community to whom the project is directed. In your response, address the expected benefit.

The intended beneficiaries of the 2016 and 2017 Festivals include Lawrence-based artists and arts organizations, bilingual students at Centro Hispano, Downtown and East Lawrence business and residential communities, and residents of Douglas County and the larger state of Kansas. The Festival will: bring new opportunities for local artists and arts organizations to be paid for their work and to engage with national and international artists; enable Centro Hispano students to attend digital filmmaking workshops at the LAC and screens their films at the Free State Festival; provide Downtown

and East Lawrence businesses with an influx of sales traffic; and encourage residents from Lawrence and across the State to participate in arts activities that help build a sense of local camaraderie and state pride. The “Best of the Fest” road show will ensure that selected hospitals, correctional facilities, and public schools in rural Kansas have access to Festival films.

**Have the intended beneficiaries been consulted in the development of this project?** Yes.

**Briefly describe substantive and meaningful engagement with the target community (e.g., residents and other stakeholders) in the development of the shared vision for your project and its implementation (989/1,000 character limit): Discuss the process used to engage the target community. For example, describe what community leaders you will work with, community meeting formats, and outreach techniques (digital and in person, translation, etc.). Be sure to address, if appropriate, how you will engage communities traditionally marginalized from such processes, while accommodating limited English speakers, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.**

The LAC’s Free State Festival steering committee includes representatives from the City of Lawrence, Centro Hispano, Haskell Indian Nations University, Downtown Lawrence, Inc., East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, University of Kansas, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence Public Library, and the community at large. The committee meets on a no less than monthly basis to develop Festival content, flesh out Festival logistics, and coordinate Festival events with other area organizations. The LAC held a community brainstorming session on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to engage Lawrence residents and business owners in imagining new ways to engage in the Festival’s arts and culture events. The LAC will hold similar community engagement meetings every quarter in 2015, 2016, and 2017 so that participants can share political, social, and artistic ideas about our community’s identity. All community engagement meetings will be ADA compliant, and translators can be made available upon request.

**Has your organization worked with these beneficiaries in the past?** Yes.

**Briefly describe your previous work with these beneficiaries or relevant work your organization has done that will help you reach these beneficiaries (951/1,000 character limit):**

The LAC has engaged with the aforementioned targeted communities and beneficiaries in ongoing creative placemaking projects, including the 2013 National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” grant, which the Arts Center received to fund the 2014 and 2015 Free State Festivals, and the 2014 ArtPlace America grant, which the LAC received to support the renovation and creative development of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. Creative placemaking projects challenge communities to bring large numbers of people with diverse ideas and opinions together to work towards a common goal. The City of Lawrence and the LAC have worked diligently to engage local residents, business owners, artists, and arts organization leaders, and are fully prepared to embark on another creative placemaking project of the highest caliber that will benefit these citizens to the fullest possible extent. The LAC will continue to work with partners on increasing community engagement.

**Is this project intended to reach a population historically underserved by arts programming and/or does the project target a specific audience based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, or age?** Yes

**From the options below select all descriptors that best describe the intended audience and/or other beneficiaries to whom the project is directed. P.9**

**Origin:** Latino; All of the above.

**Age Ranges:** All of the above.

**Underserved:** Youth at Risk

**Describe how the project will benefit the underserved community (999/1,000 characters):**

With the number of Hispanic students in Lawrence's Public Schools having increased 51% since 1991, it is essential that Lawrence's growing community of Hispanic youth have access to the technology, training, and communication skills they need to tell their own stories in an increasingly visual and digital world. As part of the Free State Festival project, the LAC's Director of New Media will work with Centro Hispano staff and a bilingual teaching assistant to create and provide digital film production workshops for these students that will culminate in the screening of both silent and bilingual student films along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. In addition, the LAC will contract with Latin American musicians to create original scores to accompany student work. Bringing Hispanic students' stories into the heart of Downtown Lawrence, the Free State Festival will demonstrate how film can cross language barriers and cultural divides to help bring all members of a community closer together.

**Population for your community/town/city (30 character limit):** 90,811 (2013 census estimate)

**Selection of Key Individuals: Briefly describe the process and criteria for the selection of key staff, consultants, advisors, artists, designers—anyone who will be a key contributor to the success of your proposed project, regardless of their organizational affiliation—that will be involved in this project. Where relevant, describe their Selection of Key Individuals: Briefly describe the process and criteria for the selection of key staff, consultants, advisors, artists, designers—anyone who will be a key contributor to the success of your proposed project, regardless of their organizational affiliation—that will be involved in this project. Involvement in the development of the project to date. Where they remain to be selected, describe the procedures that you plan to follow and the qualifications that you seek (993/1,000 characters):**

The Free State Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will be curated by the Lawrence Arts Center's Director of Exhibitions, Ben Ahlvers, and Director of New Media, Marlo Angell. Ahlvers and Angell have selected multidisciplinary artist Nina Katchadourian as the guest curator for the 2016 and 2017 Festivals based on her knowledge of multiple artistic disciplines, her international reputation and connections with other internationally recognized artists, and the high caliber of her work. Katchadourian will be responsible for curating the featured international and local artist teams as well as the visiting artists for the 2016 and 2017 Festivals. She will work with Ahlvers and Angell to invite two featured international artists to participate in the Festival each year, and she will work with Ahlvers and Angell to develop and disseminate a call for featured local artists as well as a call for visiting artists who are interested in doing work that relates to the Festivals' theme of freedom.

**Bios of Key Individuals: Include brief, current biographies of the key individuals—First Name, Last Name, Title, Project Role, Proposed or committed? Bio (500 character limit):**

***Susan Tate, Chief Executive Officer (committed)***

Tate has been the CEO of the Lawrence Arts Center since 2009 and was a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Creative Placemaking and the Lawrence Cultural District. She will oversee the Free State Festival Steering Committee and take ultimate responsibility for the success of the Festival. Tate has a

Master's degree in English Literature and a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Kansas.

***Stacy Galloway Haywood, Chief Operating Officer (committed)***

Haywood has been the Chief Operating Officer at the Lawrence Arts Center since 2012. Previously, she worked as Controller and Chief Compliance Officer at Halbert Hargrove Global Advisors. She will oversee all financial operations for the Free State Festival, and serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee. Haywood has a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's degree in business-accounting from California State University Fullerton.

***Margaret Weisbrod Morris, Chief Programs Officer (committed)***

Morris came to the LAC in 2011, after working at the Kansas Arts Commission where she was the program manager for Arts in Education. Morris will oversee all educational components for the Free State Festival, and serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee. Morris holds a B.F.A. in painting and printmaking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. degree in art therapy from New York University.

***Ben Ahlvers, Exhibitions Director (committed)***

Ahlvers began his role as Exhibitions Director at the LAC in the fall of 2009. Ahlvers has curated exhibitions and coordinated symposia that have been featured in international publications, and is an active artist in his own right. He is one of two co-curators of the Free State Festival, and he serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee. He received his MFA from Ohio University, in 2004, preceded by a BFA from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

***Marlo Angell, Director of New Media (committed)***

Angell has a B.A. in Cinematic Arts from the University of Southern California. Her short film, *Cigar By Car*, was screened in festivals across the country, including the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival. She wrote and directed the feature film *Waiting For The Son*, and produced and edited the documentaries *Mariachi Estrella* and *From Football to Futbol*. Angell teaches film and screenwriting at the LAC, co-curates the Free State Festival, and serves on the Festival Steering Committee.

***Nina Katchadourian (committed)***

Katchadourian works in a wide variety of media including photography, sculpture, video and sound, and exhibits domestically and internationally at places such as PS1/MoMA, the Serpentine Gallery, Saatchi Gallery, Turner Contemporary, Artists Space, and the Palais de Tokyo. Katchadourian is on the faculty at NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study, and she is represented by Catharine Clark gallery in San Francisco. She will be the guest curator for the 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals.

***Lydia Diebolt, LMSW (committed)***

Diebolt is the Executive Director of Centro Hispano. She has a B.A. in Spanish and a Master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Kansas. In 2016 and 2017, she will be coordinating the Free State Festival film production workshops for bilingual middle school students with the LAC, and she serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee.

***Mike Logan (committed)***

Mike Logan owns performance venues in Downtown Lawrence, and is the President of Downtown Lawrence, Inc., as well as the Chair of the Lawrence Convention and Visitors' Bureau Advisory Board. He

served on the cultural district task force, and has been integral to the city's efforts to move forward with creative placemaking initiatives. He is coordinating music performers and venues for the 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals, and he serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee.

***Joshua Falleaf (committed)***

Falleaf is the Acting Dean of Humanities and Arts and a professor of creative writing at Haskell Indian Nations University. Falleaf coordinates University faculty and student involvement in the Free State Festival, and serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee. He holds a B.A. in English from Washburn University and Master's degrees in English and creative writing from McNeese State University.

***Tim Caboni, Ed.D. (committed)***

Caboni is the Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs at the University of Kansas. He coordinates University faculty and student involvement in the Free State Festival, and serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee. Caboni holds a doctorate in higher education leadership and policy from Vanderbilt University, a master's degree in corporate and organizational communication from Western Kentucky University, and a bachelor's degree in communication and rhetoric from Louisiana State University.

**Other Organization Partners: An organization partner is an outside entity that will provide resources (other than money) to support the project. Because all NEA project require matching resources from other non-NEA sources, organizations that only provide money are not considered partners. Funders are not excluded from being partners, but they must also supply human resources or information capital, or actively participate in another way. If applicable, briefly describe the process and criteria for the selection of key organizations that will be involved in the project. Where relevant, describe their involvement in the development of the project to date. Where they remain to be selected, describe the selection procedures that you plan to follow and the qualifications that you seek (1,000 character limit):**

Key organizational partners in the Free State Festival include but are not limited to the City of Lawrence, Centro Hispano, the University of Kansas and the KU Center for Global and International Studies, Haskell Indian Nations University, Downtown Lawrence, Inc., the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau, Prairie Fire Entertainment, the Lawrence Public Library, St. Luke AME Church, and Lawrence Magazine. These organizations have provided assistance with proposal development, contributed ideas for programming content, and/or committed funds, in-kind services, and creative support to the project. All Lawrence arts and cultural organizations are encouraged to participate in the Free State Festival by providing programming related to Festival themes during the Festival dates; advising on Festival content; hosting Festival related events at their venues; and/or contributing in-kind goods and services.

**Description of other Organizational Partners: Include brief, current descriptions of the key organizational partners. You may include up to 10:**

**Organization Name, Proposed or committed? Organization Type. Description of Organization Role in Proposed Project (500 character limit):**

***Centro Hispano (Committed)***

Centro Hispano serves families of Latin American heritage who are fluent in Spanish but not yet fluent in

English. Centro Hispano is committed to working with the LAC to provide four film production workshops for bilingual middle school students over the course of the grant period and to ensuring that Lawrence's Hispanic community feels fully engaged in the Free State Festivals of 2016 and 2017. Lydia Diebolt, Centro Hispano's Director, serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee.

***The University of Kansas and the Center for Global and International Studies (Committed)***

In addition to financial support, the University of Kansas provides administrators, scholars, artists, and researchers to develop and lead programming for the Free State Festival. In the 2016 and 2017 Festivals, KU's Center for Global and International Studies will take center stage working with the Lawrence Arts Center to find speakers and panelists to complement the lineup of international and visiting artists. Vice Chancellor Caboni serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee.

***Haskell Indian Nations University (Committed)***

Haskell Indian Nations University is the premiere tribal university in the United States, offering quality education to approximately 1,000 Native American students each semester. Haskell is committed to encouraging and coordinating student and faculty participation in the Free State Festivals in 2016 and 2017, and Acting Deans of Humanities and Arts, Joshua Falleaf, serves on the Free State Festival Steering Committee.

***Downtown Lawrence, Inc. (Committed)***

Downtown Lawrence, Inc. (DLI) is a not-for-profit membership organization that promotes the interests of the Lawrence Downtown business district. DLI has over 140 members including individually-owned specialty stores, national retail chains, restaurants, bars, hair salons, and professional businesses. DLI promotes the Free State Festival to local organizations, and assists with making connections between the LAC and local businesses that can provide in-kind and financial support for the Festival.

***Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (Committed)***

The mission of The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas is: facilitate strategic partnerships for the benefit of the community; advocate for local and regional economic vitality; and promote civic leadership and community engagement. This aligns with the Free State Festival's goals of bringing the community together to advance local livability and economic vitality. The Chamber will promote the Festival, help find additional sponsors, and track the impact that the Festival has on the economic wellbeing of Lawrence.

***Convention & Visitors Bureau (Committed)***

The Convention & Visitors Bureau promotes the Free State Festival as a cultural event that makes Lawrence unique. The Convention & Visitors Bureau also works with the Lawrence Arts Center to coordinate Festival events with other citywide activities, including the Tour of Lawrence bike race which occurs during the same week each June.

***Prairie Fire Entertainment (Committed)***

Prairie Fire Entertainment is an independent film financing, production, and content company based in Lawrence, Kansas. Prairie Fire assists the Lawrence Arts Center in finding local filmmakers, learning about ongoing area film projects, and provides funding support.

***The Lawrence Public Library (Committed)***

The Lawrence Public Library creates reading lists to complement Free State Festival themes, hosts Free

State Festival panel presentations and community discussions, and works with the Lawrence Arts Center to develop programming and select featured artists, authors, and speakers.

***St. Luke AME Church (Committed)***

St. Luke AME Church provided venue space for the Free State Festival in 2014 and is looking forward to doing so again for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Festivals.

***Lawrence Magazine (Committed)***

Lawrence Magazine is committed to providing coverage of the Free State Festival as well as programming, such as pop-up zine competitions, speakers, and panelists that complement Free State Festival themes in 2016 and 2017.

**Selection and Description of Key Works of Art: Briefly describe any key works of art (e.g., public art, festivals and performances, and notable public spaces) that will be involved in the project. Indicate the process and criteria for the selection of these works of art and, where relevant, describe the role these works of art played in the development of the project to date. Where key works of art remain to be selected, describe the selection procedures that you plan to follow and the qualifications that you seek (637/1,000 character limit):**

The 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals will result in outdoor temporary public artworks along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, including two public artworks each year created by collaborative teams of featured international and local artists as well as up to eight films, musical performance, or public artworks created by visiting artists from the regional, national, and/or international artistic community each year. The Free State Festivals of 2016 and 2017 will also result in Hispanic student films with original scores, created by Latin American composers. These films will be screened at venues along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

## Revenue

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### *Contributed:*

Eye Doctors	\$20,000
Prairie Fire Entertainment	\$20,000
Dan and Sally Hare Schriener	\$20,000
The Lawrence Arts Center	\$80,381
The University of Kansas	\$20,000
The Sprint Foundation (pending)	\$100,000
The City of Lawrence (pending)	\$120,000

### *In-Kind:*

Mike Logan (in-kind)	\$10,000
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### *Grant Funds:*

National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" Grant	\$200,000
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### *Earned:*

Ticket Sales	\$40,000
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$630,381</b>
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## Expenses

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### Salaries and Wages:

20% of Director of Exhibitions Salary/year x 2 years	\$30,000
20% of Director of New Media's Salary/year x 2 years	\$25,000
20% of Administrative Assistants Salary/year x 2 years	\$15,000

### Travel:

International Travel for Guest Artists (\$4,000/artist x 2 artists/year x 2 years)	\$16,000
Travel for Visiting Artists (\$3,000/artist x 8 artists/year x 2 years)	\$48,000
Travel for Guest Curator	\$6,000
Travel for Best of the Fest	\$7,000
Transportation for Centro Hispano students (\$100/bus x 10 weeks x 4 semesters)	\$4,000

### Other Direct Costs:

#### Consultant and Artist Fees:

Stipend for Guest Curator (\$13,000/year)	\$26,000
Stipends for Featured International Artists (\$15,000/artist x 2 artists/year x 2 years)	\$60,000
Stipends for Featured Local Artists (\$10,000/artists x 2 artists/year x 2 years)	\$40,000
Stipends for Other Visiting and Local Artists (\$5,000/artist x 8 artists/year x 2 years)	\$80,000
Stipends for Score Composition and Recording (\$1,000/composer x 2 composers x 2 years)	\$4,000

Fees for Tech Staff	\$20,000
Contractual Services:	
Festival Tech Director (\$15,000/year x 2 years)	\$30,000
Bilingual Teaching Assistant (\$25/hr x 30 hrs/semester x 4 semesters)	\$3,000
Cobra Crane Camera Extension	\$381
Festival Production Equipment Rental (projectors, lights, amps, microphones, etc.)	\$80,000
Venue Rental	\$25,000
Film Screening Rights (22 films x \$250/film x 2 years)	\$11,000
Promotions (newspaper ads, online ads, television ads, trailer screening fees, publications)	\$100,000
Scholarships for Centro Hispano Students (10 students/semester x \$150/student x 4 semesters)	\$6,000
<hr/>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$630,381</b>

The Lawrence Arts Center--Programmatic Activities List

Year	Title/Creator	Key Artists/Participants	Location	Dates/# of perfs.	Attendance	Fees
2012	Free State Film Festival	*Festival Director: Marlo Angell *Filmmakers: Patrick Rea, Kevin McKinney, Poull Brien, Craig Zobel, Jacob Krupnick, and Diane Glancy	The Lawrence Arts Center	5/11/2012-5/13/2012	400	\$6,500
2012	940 Live Concert Series	*Music Curator: Ben Ahlvers *Bands: Truckstop Honeymoon, Tyler Gregory, Heartscape Landbreak, Hospital Ships, Drakkar Sauna, Chuck Mead and his Grassy Knoll Boys, Y[our] Fri[end]	The Lawrence Arts Center	Various.	50-100 per performance	4 concerts/year @ \$1,500 per performance
2013	Cultural District Taskforce	*Bob Schumm, City Commissioner *Cindy Maude, At-large Representative *Susan Tate, Lawrence Arts Center *Mike Logan, Downtown Lawrence *KT Walsh, East Lawrence Neighborhood *Jacki Becker, East Lawrence Neighborhood *Brenda Nunez, East Lawrence Neighborhood *Grade Peterson, Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission *Mandy Enfield, Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission	The City of Lawrence	N/A	N/A	N/A

2013	Free State Film Festival	*Festival Director: Marlo Angell *Filmmakers: Dave Grohl, Jyllian Gunther, Chad Hartigan, Andrew Bujalski, Mark Covino, Jeff Howlette, Katie Dellamaggiore, Patrick Sumner, Jonas Akerlund	The Lawrence Arts Center	4/26/2013-4/28/2013	500	\$9,700
2013	940 Live Concert Series	*Music Curator: Ben Ahlvers *Bands: 40 Watt Dreams, Wells the Traveler, Cowboy Indian Bear, Spirit is the Spirit, Mount Eerie, Hungry Cloud Darkening	The Lawrence Arts Center	Various.	100-150 per performance	\$13,600
2014	Free State Festival	*Film Curator: Marlo Angell *Music and Art Curator: Ben Ahlvers *Guest Curator: Luke DuBois *Filmmakers: Tom Carmody, Kevin Willmott, Greg Olliver, Arnaud Desplechin, Blake Robbins, Brett Palmer, Ryan Bruce, Linsey Stewart, Dane Clark, Iain Forsyth, and Jane Pollard *Bands: Johnny Winter, Samantha Fish, Grant Hart, James Ilgenfritz, and Hearts of Darkness *Artists: Ali Momeni, Luke DuBois, Nina Katchadourian, Postcommodity	The Lawrence Arts Center and the Lawrence Cultural District	6/25/2014-6/29/2014	12,000	\$200,000
2014	940 Live Concert Series	*Music Curator: Ben Ahlvers *Bands: Tyler Gregory, Nicholas St. James, John Cale, Drakkar Sauna, Matt Pryor with Obi and Ghosty, Phantom of the Paradise with live music aftershow	The Lawrence Arts Center	Various.	100-300	4 concerts/year @ \$1,500 per performance

2014	"Our Town" Community Engagement Meeting	N/A	The Lawrence Arts Center	12/15/2014	20	N/A
2014-2015	9th Street Corridor Project	El Dorado Architects, Sans Falcon, Luke Dubois, Kelly Kindcher, Dennis Domer, Bartlett & West, Coen & Partners (pending)	Lawrence's 9th Street, from Massachusetts to Delaware	Various.	N/A	\$3.5 million (\$3 million from the City of Lawrence; \$500,000 from ArtPlace America

# NEA Application Financial Information

Read the  
instructions for  
this form before  
you start.

OMB No. 3135-0112  
Expires 11/30/2013

If you are a parent organization, this information should refer to the component on whose behalf you are applying.

**Applicant** (official IRS name):

OPERATING BUDGET	MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED FISCAL YEAR		CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (ESTIMATED)		NEXT FISCAL YEAR (PROJECTED)	
	( / / -- / / )	( / / -- / / )	( / / -- / / )	( / / -- / / )	( / / -- / / )	( / / -- / / )
	START DATE	END DATE	START DATE	END DATE	START DATE	END DATE
<b>Income:</b>						
Earned	\$		\$		\$	
Contributed	\$		\$		\$	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Artistic salaries and fees	\$		\$		\$	
Production/exhibition/ service expenses	\$		\$		\$	
Administrative expenses	\$		\$		\$	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>	
Operating surplus/(deficit)	\$		\$		\$	

In the space below, discuss the fiscal health of your organization. You must explain 1) any changes of 15% or more in either your income or expenses from one year to the next, and 2) plans for reducing any deficit (include the factors that contributed to the deficit and its amount):

**The Lawrence Arts Center—Free State Film Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Idea from Around the World**

***National Environmental Policy Act and/or the National Historic Preservation Act Documentation***

- 1.) Provide a short assessment of whether your project has the potential to have an effect on environmental or historic resources and whether that effect is an adverse effect. Please note, if your project will never physically alter a building, site, landscape, or historic district, or you're not working on a plan or design for a building, site, landscape, or historic district, please state this as your reason why your project does not have the potential to have an adverse effect on environmental or historic resources.**

“Free State Film Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World” does not have the potential to have an adverse effect on environmental or historic resources. It will never physically alter a building, site, landscape, or historic district, and it does not involve a plan or design for a building, site, landscape, or historic district. The 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Project, funded by ArtPlace, will result in a renovated street and streetscape in the public right of way along 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Massachusetts to Delaware, but this design and construction work will be separate from the work of organizing and implementing the Free State Festival.

- 2.) Does your project any of the following activities? If so, please explain in as much specificity as possible:**

- a) Does your project involve in-kind replacements or repairs to a facility that is 50 years or older or to a National Register Historic Property (NRHP) site?**

No, this project does not involve in-kind replacements or repairs to a facility that is 50 years or older or to NRHP site.

- b) Does your project involve a festival/public event of limited size or duration. If so, will there be any permanent effects on buildings 50 years or older or to any structures/installations erected or installed (temporary or permanent) on buildings 50 years or older?**

This project involves a festival of limited size (15,000 attendees) and duration (one week). There will be no permanent effects on buildings 50 years or older nor to any structures/installations erected or installed on building 50 years or older.

- c) Does your project involve outdoor murals or other art on a building 50 years or older, adjacent to a building 50 years or older or a NRHP site?**

This project does not involve outdoor murals or any other type of permanent public art work.

- d) Does your project involve temporary public art on a building 50 years or older (e.g., sculpture, statuary, banners, mixed media, painting)? If so, does the project necessitate**

***the installation of hardware on a building 50 years or older or a NRHP site?***

This project does involve temporary public art that may be projected from or onto a building of 50 years or older, but the project will not necessitate the installation of permanent or in any way destructive hardware on a building 50 years or older or a NRHP site.

***e) Does your project involve erecting or placing permanent wayfinding signs (e.g., artistic directional sign) adjacent to a building 50 years or older, or a NRHP site?***

This project does not involve erecting or placing permanent wayfinding signs of any kind.

***f) Does your project involve installing small structures (e.g., benches, bus shelters, produce stands) attached to or dependent on a building 50 years or older or a NRHP site? If so, please describe the ground disturbance necessary for such an installation.***

This project does not involve installing small structures attached to or dependent on a building 50 years or older or a NRHP site.

***g) Does your project involve landscape maintenance and rehabilitation (e.g., community garden, urban park)? If so, where?***

This project does not involve landscape maintenance or rehabilitation.

***h) Does your project involve conceptual planning/design/research (e.g., feasibility and planning studies, early design development work/conceptual drawing and renderings, asset mapping, design charrettes)?***

The Free State Film Project will not involve conceptual planning/design/research for any historic buildings, sites, landscapes, or historic districts. However, conceptual planning for the Free State Festival may inform the vision for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor renovation project underwritten by ArtPlace America. Any permanent changes to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, proposed as part of the ArtPlace America project, will be reviewed by the City Historic Preservation Commission.

***i) Does your project involve information gathering/data analysis/information dissemination (e.g., historic and cultural demonstrations, public affairs actions, studies, reports, document mailings, data analysis)?***

This project will involve information gathering from the surrounding community—Downtown and East Lawrence—as well as dissemination of information to residents in these areas. Information gathering and data analysis will be done in order to evaluate the impact of the Free State Festival on the cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of Lawrence.

***3.) If you are proposing a public art project, temporary or permanent, or you are designing or planning a building, site, landscape, or historic district, you must provide us with the following detailed information:***

- a) Provide a very clear description of the building, site, landscape, or historic district in which you will be working, even if it is just planning or design activities. Include the address(es).**

“Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World” will take place in the Lawrence Cultural District, .78 square miles between Vermont and Delaware, 15<sup>th</sup> Street and the River, and will focus activity on seven blocks of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, running from Massachusetts Street to Delaware. The City of Lawrence designated this Cultural District on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at a regular City Commission meeting.

- b) If any element of the building, site, landscape, or district (or adjacent properties) is historic (50 years or older), describe that element in detail. For example, if you are working on a historic building or district (or there is one adjacent), describe the age (give year built if available), whether or not it's on the National Register of Historic Places, and the type of work being planned or designed.**

A number of the buildings along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor are 50 years or older.

- c) Provide a detailed description of any project activities that might now or someday have an effect on the environment so that we may review the actions under the National Environmental Policy Act. Be very specific. For example, if you will be doing a cleanup of a site, describe exactly what needs to be cleaned. Is it litter on the site or toxic waste that needs to be cleaned up? If you will be installing public art, describe the previous use of the property and why you think the land is not likely to be contaminated.**

No project activities will now or ever have an effect on the environment.

- d) If you have any correspondence from your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or other authorities who monitor historic assets, please attach the letters.**

The Lawrence Arts Center does not have any correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office because this project will not be making any permanent alterations to buildings, sites, landscapes, or districts as part of the “Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World” Project.

- e) If you have conducted a review according to your state's environmental quality laws or soil testing on your own, please attach an executive summary of that review.**

The Lawrence Arts Center has not conducted a review according to Kansas's environmental quality laws or soil testing because we will not be impacting the environment as part of the “Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World” Project.

- f) If local authorities have issued any permits for your project, describe them.**

The Lawrence Arts Center will work with local authorities to secure right-of-way and public gathering permits for the duration of the Festival.

***g) If you don't have documentation, but you have talked to state or local authorities regarding historic or environmental concerns, describe your efforts.***

As previously mentioned this project does not entail any permanent alterations to buildings, sites, landscapes, or districts, but the Lawrence Arts Center will enlist the Lawrence Preservation Alliance as an advisor on the project to ensure that all historic and environmental resources are protected to the fullest possible extent.

***4.) If an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization may attach religious and/or cultural significance to historic properties touched by your project, please describe.***

Some Indian tribes may attach religious and/or cultural significance to historic properties with Lawrence's Cultural District and/or along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, but these properties will not be permanently altered in any way by the Free State Festival.

December 15th, 2014

Dear NEA Our Town Panelists:

As the highest ranking official in the City of Lawrence, Kansas, I am writing to express the City's support for the Lawrence Arts Center's grant application "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World"—the only "Our Town" grant application that is being submitted in partnership with the City of Lawrence.

The City of Lawrence partnered with the Lawrence Arts Center in 2012 to apply for an NEA "Our Town" grant to expand the Free State Film Festival, a small, local film festival started in 2011, into the Free State Festival, which would include not only the very best in independent film but also exciting musical acts, outdoor digital art installations, and a series of scholar-led community discussions about important contemporary issues. In the summer of 2013, we were awarded an "Our Town" grant of \$150,000, and in 2014, the multidisciplinary Free State Festival premiered to regional audiences, attracting approximately 12,000 audience members to the Lawrence Cultural District. Working closely with the City's Public Works Department, the Lawrence Arts Center enabled artists and musicians to take art work that usually lives inside galleries and concert halls out to the city streets so that the entire Lawrence community could participate in the Festival experience. Plans for the 2015 Free State Festival are underway, and we can't wait to see what new films, musical acts, digital projections, and provocative conversations are going to illuminate Lawrence this summer.

"Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World" is the next logical step in the creation of a community festival that will have both national and international recognition as well as a powerful impact on the local community. To truly be a driver of the city's economic, cultural, and artistic success, it is essential that the Free State Festival in 2016 and 2017 meaningfully engage artists from around the world with the Lawrence community and bring discussions about cross-cultural connections and conflicts to the Festival's forefront. By bringing talented artists from the international community to the intensely local site of the ArtPlace-funded 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Project, the Lawrence Arts Center will ensure that the surrounding Downtown and East Lawrence neighborhoods, both of which are home to robust artistic and entrepreneurial communities, have the opportunity to collaborate with artists from around the world and to showcase what is unique about Kansas arts and culture.

The City of Lawrence is excited to work with the Lawrence Arts Center to initiate a distinctly new phase of the Free State Festival—a phase that will both integrate the Festival into a local streetscape and expand its reach to the international community. "Our Town" and ArtPlace have initiated discussions about art, culture, and community fears and aspirations. Creative placemaking requires collaborations between public and private entities that move at different paces and sometimes have different agendas. We are having conversations about control, class, and neighborhood agendas that only these projects could force. Thank you for continuing to support a community serious about its identity and committed to the value that art brings to a city's quality of life and economic development. We are learning.

Sincerely,

Mike Amyx, Mayor

Phone:

Email:

# Centro Hispano Resource Center

204 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street • Lawrence, KS 66044 • Phone 785-843-2039

Website: [www.centrohispanolawrence.org](http://www.centrohispanolawrence.org) • Email: [centrohispanovolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:centrohispanovolunteer@gmail.com)

## Advisory Board

**Andrea Witczak**

Director  
Center for Service Learning  
University of Kansas

**Bill Cory**

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Lawrence Police Dept.

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Coordinator  
Success By 6 Coalition

**Peter C Haney, Ph.D.**

Assistant Director  
Center for Latin American  
Studies  
University of Kansas

**Aida Ramos Viera**

Ph.D. Student, Geography  
University of Kansas

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear NEA "Our Town" Review Committee:

As the Director of Centro Hispano, I am writing to express my support for the Lawrence Arts Center's "Our Town" grant application: "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

Centro Hispano serves families of Latin American heritage who primarily speak Spanish and are not yet fluent in English. We focus on social services and practical concerns of Mexican and other Latin American immigrant families. But, with the knowledge that the number of Hispanic students in Lawrence Public Schools has increased 51% since 1999, we are working on providing more educational services for children and adolescents. This spring, we are partnering with the Lawrence Arts Center to offer a print and poetry workshop for bilingual middle school children. After writing poems about their cross-cultural experiences in both Spanish and English, students will create woodblock and linoleum print illustrations to accompany them. Student poetry and artwork will be compiled as a book, and submitted for publication to a children's press.

Our partnership with the Lawrence Arts Center for the 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals will continue to enable Spanish-speaking middle school students to access the equipment and the training they need to tell their stories in their own voices and from their own perspectives. The Lawrence Arts Center's Director of New Media, Marlo Angell, will provide courses in digital film production to ten Centro Hispano students each semester. Students will explore film as a universal language that overcomes language barriers by creating silent film shorts to be screened at the Free State Festivals in 2016 and 2017. In addition, students will work together to create a bilingual film that explores how different languages can change the ways in which we see the world, enabling us to discover new possibilities and to make new connections. I am so excited to see our students' final films premiere at the 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals. I know this will be an unforgettable moment for them, and if their films manage to successfully express something new about the Latin American immigrant experience, I think this moment will be just as memorable for the larger Lawrence community. Our partnership with the Lawrence Arts Center will help Centro Hispano students continue to share their stories with the larger Lawrence community, engaging them more deeply in civic life. Thank you for your support.



Lydia Diebolt, LSCSW  
Centro Hispano Resource Center  
[ldiebolt@centrohispanolawrence.org](mailto:ldiebolt@centrohispanolawrence.org)  
785-843-2039



December 23, 2014

Dear NEA "Our Town" Review Committee:

As the CEO of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express the Chamber's support for the Lawrence Arts Center's grant application "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is focused on regional economic growth and job creation through business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts, and we believe that a new era of community development activism is necessary to jumpstart the local economy. We are maintaining and growing our business base in Lawrence and Douglas County by providing the tools our existing business community needs to spark economic growth and by broadening our recruitment efforts to attract business to the area.

According to the Lawrence Arts Center's survey conducted as part of their 2013 National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant, 86% of people surveyed agreed that the presence of an active cultural community was a factor in where they decided to live. In order to attract the most profitable businesses and the best employees to our city, it is essential that Lawrence invest in arts and cultural events that engage the entire community and show our town to be a vibrant, livable, and exciting place where businesses want to relocate and workers and their families want to live. The Free State Festival is just this kind of community event; it brings out the very best of what Lawrence has to offer. With films screening in unexpected places, local galleries and museums opening their doors to the public, buskers and bands playing in the street, and gorgeous light projections illuminating building facades, the Free State Festival proves that Lawrence is not only a tourist destination but also a fantastic place to live, work, and grow your family. This kind and caliber of community arts and culture event is exactly what draws news businesses to an area and ensures that they are there to stay for a very, very long time.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is proud to support the Free State Festival, and we look forward to working with the Lawrence Arts Center to imagine how the Festival can both attract and support business development along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, in the Cultural District, and throughout all of Lawrence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry K. McElwain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" being the most prominent.

Larry K. McElwain, CEO  
785-865-4422

[lmcelwain@lawrencechamber.com](mailto:lmcelwain@lawrencechamber.com)

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" Review Committee:

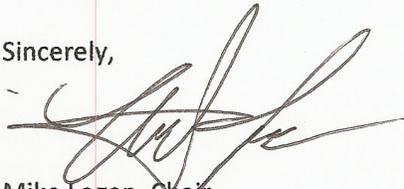
On behalf of the Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau, I want to express my support for the Lawrence Arts Center's 2015 grant application, "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

The Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau seeks to promote Lawrence's abundance of cultural and historic resources in order to attract tourists, conventions, and other destination events to the Lawrence area. Visitors not only bring new business to Lawrence—they also bring new ideas and fresh perspectives. The Free State Festival—a major attraction in Lawrence, bringing visitors from across the state and the region to our City to experience films, performances, and digital art projections—is directly in line with the goals of the Convention & Visitors Bureau. It leverages Lawrence's resources to bring both fresh capital and fresh ideas into our City for the benefit of all.

As a business owner as well as the Chair of the Convention & Visitors Bureau's Advisory Board, I have been volunteering on the Free State Festival steering committee. I own two venue spaces in Lawrence, and I have enjoyed working with Lawrence Arts Center staff and other community representatives to recruit the best and most exciting films, musicians, and artists possible to participate in the Festival. I appreciate the respect and attention that the Lawrence Arts Center's Festival curators, Ben Ahlvers and Marlo Angell, have paid to my input and to those of other business owners, community organization leaders, and institutional representatives. They have worked hard to engage the community in an authentic way, and I think their efforts resulted in a 2014 Festival that made Lawrence residents feel proud of their City and of themselves.

I look forward to continuing to sit on the Free State Festival steering committee in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and I am excited to bring in even more visiting artists to participate in the Festival in the coming years. By bringing in nationally and internationally recognized artists, we will attract even more tourists to the area, giving more people the chance to discover what a rich and often unexpected cultural resource Lawrence really is. I firmly believe the Free State Festival makes an unbeatable first impression!

Sincerely,



Mike Logan, Chair  
Advisory Board

Phone: 785.550.5693

Email: [mike@thegrnada.com](mailto:mike@thegrnada.com)

Nina Katchadourian  
181 Wyckoff Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” Review Committee:

As an artist who came to Lawrence for the first time in 2014 to take part in the first “Our Town”-supported Free State Festival, I support the Lawrence Arts Center’s 2015 grant application, “Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World.”

I had the pleasure of visiting the Lawrence Arts Center to work with Exhibitions Director Ben Ahlvers to gather images for my “Sorted Books” project—in this instance, photographs of carefully selected book spines by Beat Generation writer William S. Burroughs, who lived in Lawrence—projected onto the side of the Lawrence Public Library during the Festival.

The Lawrence Arts Center supports artists on a daily basis, and for special events, they immediately and fully integrate visiting artists into their work. The entire festival was a wonderful experience, and I am so glad I had the opportunity to participate. The technical support was unmatched; the opportunity to network with local and visiting artists was invaluable; and the featured films, musicians, artworks, and speakers were of the highest caliber.

I look forward to working with Ben and the Arts Center’s Director of New Media, Marlo Angell, to curate the Free State Festival in 2016 and 2017. My experiences exhibiting my work in France, Finland, and New Zealand, as well as New York, have enabled me to make contacts with artists in multiple disciplines from around the world, and I look forward to selecting international artists to be featured at the 2016 and 2017 Festivals. In addition, I look forward to reviewing the proposals from Lawrence artists to ensure that strong international/local teams are formed and that beautifully provocative artwork is their result. Opportunities for this kind of cross-cultural interaction are rare, and I am dedicated to making sure that they are successful.

The Free State Festival is a unique event, not only in the Midwest, but in the nation, because of the way in which it combines the intensely local with the global, encourages interactions between visitors and residents, and creatively leverages the historical to better understand the contemporary. I look forward to guest curating, and I hope you give this project your full support.

Sincerely,



Nina Katchadourian, Artist  
Phone: 917 957 8509  
Email: Nina@immaterial.net



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” Review Board:

As the Executive Director of Downtown Lawrence, Inc., I wanted to let you know how excited small business, restaurants, and shops in Downtown Lawrence are about the expansion of the Free State Festival in 2016 and 2017.

The 2014 Free State Festival brought thousands of residents and visitors out into the streets of Downtown and East Lawrence to explore the numerous musical and dance performances, digital art projections, and film screenings that were taking place. As a result, Downtown business owners reported a sharp increase in sales during the week of the Festival—people popped into restaurants after seeing films, stopped to buy drinks while enjoying musical performances, or shopped at local boutiques while taking in the array of digital art projections illuminating the streetscape. Shortly after the 2014 Free State Festival concluded in late June, *The Lawrence Journal-World* reported that taxable sales in Lawrence hit a new high, totaling just over \$130 million during the mid-June to mid-July reporting period. During this same reporting period, Lawrence saw a 7% increase in consumer spending compared to the identical reporting period in 2013. We believe the Free State Festival was the major contributor to this unprecedented sales boom.

By purposefully attracting artists of an international caliber to the Free State Festival, the Lawrence Arts Center will broaden the perspective of local residents and business owners and show visitors what a vibrant tourist destination Lawrence really is. At the same time, by integrating the Festival into the new infrastructure along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, the Lawrence Arts Center will showcase a street that runs from Downtown to the new Warehouse Arts District, highlighting a pathway that will encourage people to explore not only Downtown but the sometimes overlooked shops, small businesses, and artist studios to the East.

Downtown Lawrence, Inc. has been working with the Lawrence Arts Center to ensure that as many business and community members are engaged in the planning of the 2014 and 2015 Festivals as possible, and we look forward to doing the same in 2016 and 2017. Our restaurants will host events as will other venues throughout downtown, and we will share marketing strategies. Thank you for your support of this medium-sized Kansas town just beginning to understand the value of creative placemaking.

Sincerely,

Sally Zogry  
Executive Director  
785-842-3883  
director@downtownlawrence.com

DOWNTOWN LAWRENCE, INC.  
833 ½ MASSACHUSETTS ST. LAWRENCE, KS 66044 (TEL) 785-842-3883  
director@downtownlawrence.com DOWNTOWNLAWRENCE.COM



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear NEA "Our Town" Review Committee:

As the Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs at the University of Kansas, I am writing to lend the University's support to the Lawrence Arts Center's grant application "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

Since its founding, the University of Kansas has embodied the aspirations and determination of the abolitionists who settled on the curve of the Kaw River in August 1854. Their first goal was to ensure that the new Kansas Territory entered the union as a free state. Another was to establish a university. Nearly 150 years later, KU has become a major public research and teaching institution of 28,000 students and 2,600 faculty on five campuses (Lawrence, Kansas City, Overland Park, Wichita, and Salina). Its diverse elements are united by their mission to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world.

The Free State Festival is the perfect opportunity for University of Kansas faculty to venture off campus to share their knowledge and research with the larger Lawrence community, and to commemorate Lawrence's rich and complex history. In 2015, University of Kansas scholars will be working with the Lawrence Arts Center to develop the Free State Festival's ideas programming, including an interactive science fair, a scholar and artist speed-dating event, a reverse pitch contest in partnership with entrepreneurial incubator Lawrence creates, a series of humanities panels on contemporary and historical issues of surveillance, and presentations from scholars and community members that illuminate little known stories from Lawrence's past.

In 2016 and 2017, we will draw on the University's area studies centers and departments, including the Center for Global and International Studies, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Department of African Area Studies, in order to create ideas programming that complements the slate of international filmmakers, musicians, and artists that the Free State Festival brings in. Our ideas for engaging the Lawrence community intellectually on these issues run the gamut from international food fairs and basic foreign language lessons to panel presentations on contemporary issues in Russia and China and scholar-led discussions about what it means to be an artist in an increasingly global world.

The University of Kansas supports the Free State Festival because it supports our mission, first and foremost, to build healthy communities, but I think it also contributes to our efforts to educate future leaders and to help community members make discoveries that change how they see themselves and their city as well as the larger world. We are proud to work with the Lawrence Arts Center to continue to make the Free State Festival great.

Sincerely,

Timothy Caboni, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs  
Phone: 785-864-7100  
Email: caboni@ku.edu



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY  
155 Indian Avenue  
Lawrence, Kansas 66046-4800



Reply to:  
The College of Humanities and Arts  
155 Indian Avenue #5009  
Lawrence, KS 66046  
Telephone (785) 749-8428  
Fax (785) 832-6672

January 5, 2015

Dear NEA "Our Town" Review Committee:

As Acting Dean of the College of Humanities and Arts at Haskell Indian Nations University, I am writing to express support for the Lawrence Arts Center's grant application "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

Each year, Haskell Indian Nations University is home to students from over 130 federally recognized tribes throughout the United States. Because our students represent such a diverse array of Indian Nations, Haskell is truly a place where transnational conversations occur every day and cross-cultural creativity is commonplace. After several years of the University's arts program struggling due to budget cuts and limited resources, we are just beginning to rejuvenate our students' artistic engagement with the larger Lawrence community in meaningful ways.

I am proud to have a seat on the Free State Festival steering committee and to be working with the Lawrence Arts Center to help coordinate Haskell student, faculty, and staff participation in the 2016 and 2017 Free State Festivals. The Lawrence Arts Center has agreed to waive film submission fees for all Haskell student filmmakers who wish to participate. In addition, the Lawrence Arts Center has asked me to invite student dance troupes, student performing arts groups, and student artists from Haskell to participate in the 2016 and 2017 Festivals. I look forward to working closely with Festival curators Ben Ahlvers and Marlo Angell to showcase Haskell students' international cultural contributions and artworks to encourage and motivate the Haskell community's engagement in Festival events.

The mission of Haskell Indian Nations University is to build the leadership capacity of our students by serving as the leading institution of academic excellence, cultural and intellectual prominence, and holistic education to address the needs of Indigenous communities. The Free State Festival gives our students the opportunity to share their cultural and artistic heritage with the larger Lawrence community and to demonstrate their creative leadership skills outside the classroom. We look forward to participating, and we thank you for your support of the project.

Sincerely,

Joshua Falleaf, Acting Dean  
College of Humanities and Arts  
Phone: 785-832-6678  
Email: [jfalleaf@haskell.edu](mailto:jfalleaf@haskell.edu)



St. Luke A.M.E. Church

900 New York Street ~ Lawrence, Kansas ~ 66044 (785) 841-0847

Rev. Verdell Taylor, Jr. ~ Pastor

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" Review Board:

As the pastor of the St. Luke AME Church located on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and New York Street here in the Cultural District of Lawrence, Kansas, I support the Lawrence Arts Center's "Our Town" grant project, "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas from Around the World."

The Free State Festival encourages Lawrence residents to explore parts of the city they may not have visited before. In this way, it thoughtfully and intentionally starts to erode barriers within the Lawrence community that are not only geographic, but racial, cultural, and class-based as well. In 2014, I was thrilled to invite Festival-goers to come into St. Luke AME Church for an evening of gospel, jazz and projected ink drawings by New York cartoonist and illustrator Michael Arthur. It was a special opportunity for St. Luke AME to share its talented gospel choir with the larger community and to collaborate with nearby cultural organizations, including the Lawrence Arts Center and the Lied Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Kansas, to create a memorable evening of art and music. The church community opened its doors to Lawrence, and the Lawrence public accepted the invitation, truly engaging with us in a way that I had not fully expected. It was a delightful surprise.

I am looking forward to working with the Lawrence Arts Center to see how we can continue to integrate the Festival along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor. I envision the Arts Center developing creative connections with New York Elementary School, next door to St. Luke AME Church; Lawrence Creates, an entrepreneurial incubator located just across the street; and the Warehouse Arts District several blocks to the East. I look forward to seeing children, families, and seniors working on art projects and participating in cultural events; I look forward to seeing musicians, filmmakers, and multi-media artists from around the globe working side by side with local artists; and I look forward to seeing what this community can do to continue to bring Lawrencians together in new spaces, new conversations, and new friendships.

I hope you will give this project your full support, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rev. Verdell Taylor, Pastor

Phone: 785-865-1589

Email: [pastort77@aol.com](mailto:pastort77@aol.com)

# PRAIRIE FIRE ENTERTAINMENT

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear NEA "Our Town" Review Committee:

On behalf of Prairie Fire Entertainment LLC and director/producer Kevin Willmott, we are writing to express our support for the Lawrence Arts Center and the City of Lawrence's "Our Town" grant application, "Free State Festival: Film, Music, Art, and Ideas."

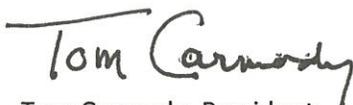
Prairie Fire Entertainment is an independent film financing, production, and content company based in Lawrence, Kansas. Films we participate in frequently take Kansas history and culture as their subjects. Films like *The Battle for Bunker Hill* (2008), *The Only Good Indian* (2009), *Jayhawkers* (2014), (all directed by Mr. Willmott) and *Johnny Pigskin* (In development) creatively reflect on Kansas's past to tell stories that resonate with contemporary issues here in the Midwest, including race, class, and social justice.

The Free State Festival is a chance for small, independent film companies like ours to screen films to large audiences with a real interest in our subject matter. At the 2014 Free State Festival, we screened *The Only Good Indian* which explores the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century practice of compelling Indian American children to attend boarding schools where they were forced to relinquish tribal customs and adopt white cultural practices. After the screening, audiences were able to engage in an important conversation with Mr. Willmott about the role that the American Indian community plays in Lawrence and to discuss in depth the ways in which the pressures to conform and adhere to mainstream culture continue to persist in the present day.

Sparking these kinds of community dialogues is the reason we at Prairie Fire Entertainment make films, and we are grateful that the City of Lawrence has supported the Free State Festival, which gives us the opportunity to share our work with the community in meaningful ways. Of course, the Festival is also an invaluable networking opportunity for filmmakers, making it possible for us to connect with local, regional, national, and international filmmakers that we might never have known of otherwise. In this way, the Festival advances local creative industry and helps make Lawrence a hub for filmmakers in the Midwest.

Thank you for considering the Lawrence Arts Center's application. We can't wait for June of 2016 and 2017!

Sincerely,



Tom Carmody, President  
785-550-1365  
tcarmody@sunflower.com



Kevin Willmott, Director  
785-550-2699  
willmott@ku.edu



# FREE STATE FESTIVAL

Film

Music

Art

Ideas



Lawrence, KS  
[www.freestatefestival.org](http://www.freestatefestival.org)

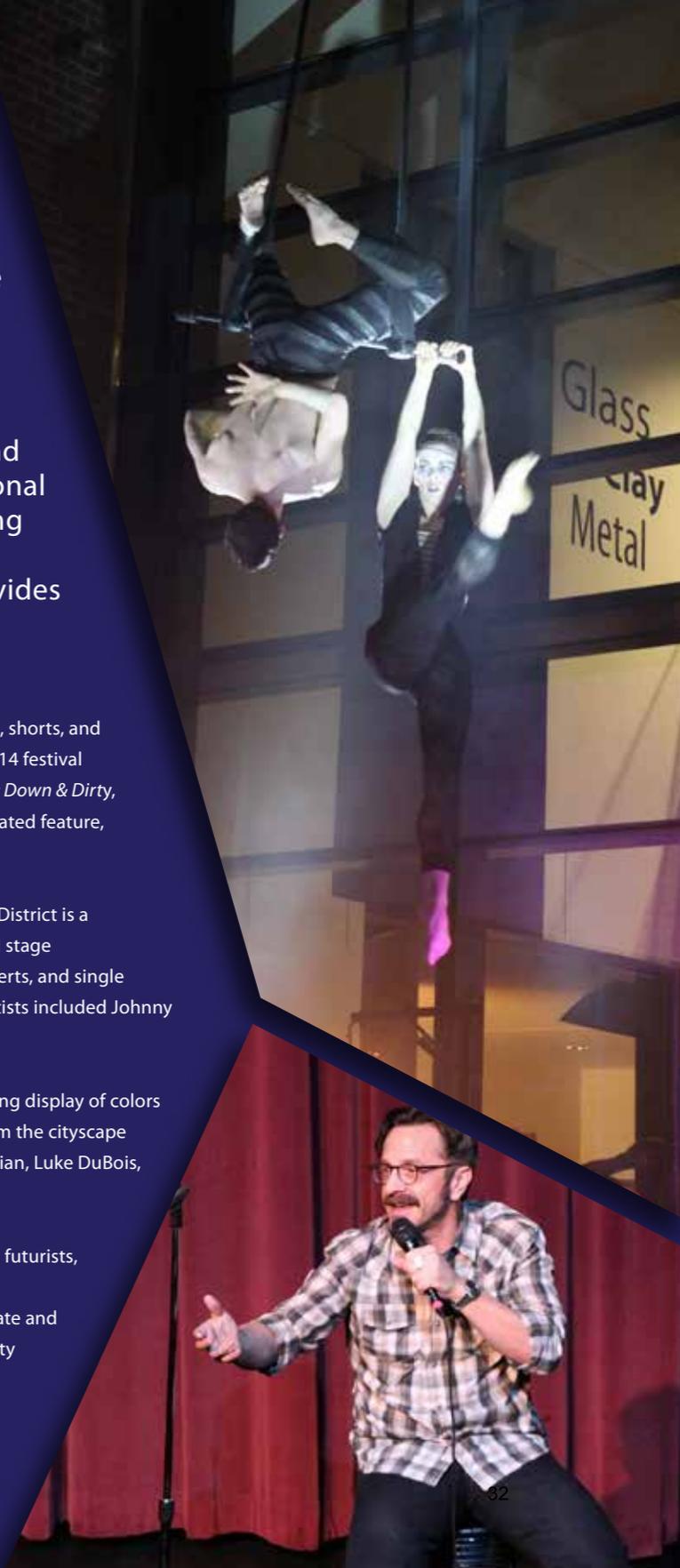
The Lawrence Arts Center's Free State Festival is a week-long celebration of film, music, art, and ideas in the heart of Lawrence's Cultural District. In five years, the Free State Festival has become an interdisciplinary festival featuring an international slate of more than 10 feature films, 40 shorts, outdoor concerts, stage performances, digital media installations, and panel discussions. Funded in part by a National Endowment for the Arts creative placemaking grant, the Free State Festival enhances the socioeconomic wellbeing of the region, provides opportunities to artists, and celebrates the distinctive qualities of this place.

**FILM:** The Free State Festival features an exciting collection of features, shorts, and documentaries by independent filmmakers from around the world. 2014 festival highlights included: Greg Olliver's music documentary, *Johnny Winter: Down & Dirty*, Blake Robbins' locally made film, *The Sublime & Beautiful*; and the animated feature, *Ernest & Celestine*.

**MUSIC:** Live music performed at venues across the Lawrence Cultural District is a mainstay of the Free State Festival. 2014's Festival showcased full band stage performances to accompany film screenings, large scale outdoor concerts, and single instrument experimental performances in intimate venues. Musical artists included Johnny Winter, Hüsker Dü's Grant Hart, and Kliph Scurlock.

**ART:** Talented visual artists illuminate the Cultural District with a dazzling display of colors and movement. Innovative outdoor digital media projections transform the cityscape and delight passersby. 2014 featured artists included Nina Katchadourian, Luke DuBois, and Ali Momeni.

**IDEAS:** Hear insights from artists, writers, comics, scholars, filmmakers, futurists, journalists, scientists, and more. Panel discussions, presentations, and community forums give audience members plenty of ways to participate and engage. 2014's lineup included comedian Marc Maron, radio personality Kevin Kling, and television writer Corrine Brinkerhoff (*The Good Wife*, *Boston Legal*).



**OUTREACH:** The Free State Festival is for everyone. Through year-round educational outreach to Boys & Girls Club and Van Go Mobile Arts, the Lawrence Arts Center teaches teens and children how to tell stories through film and digital media. With a traveling "Best of the Fest" roadshow that visits both urban and rural areas throughout the state, the Lawrence Arts Center ensures that all Kansans have a chance to experience a taste of Free State.

**FREE STATE FESTIVAL 2014 VENUES INCLUDED:**

- Abe & Jake's Landing
- The Granada
- Ingredient
- Pachamamas
- Laugh Out Loud Family Zone
- The Olivia Collection: The Eldridge, The Oread, and The Eldridge: Extended
- The Cider Gallery of Fine Arts
- St. Luke AME Church



***"I spent a wonderful week in Lawrence working on a new project which could never have been realized without the Center's help, financial support, and facilitation. During the week I was there, I also attended a lecture, heard live music, saw exhibitions, observed workshops-in-progress and saw evidence of the constant stream of activities that go on at the Center. Communities that nourish, support, and energize hubs like the Lawrence Arts Center get that nourishment, support, and energy back ten times over. The Free State Festival supports artists from Lawrence and around the country."***

–Nina Katchadourian, artist

**SUPPORT FREE STATE FESTIVAL 2015**

The Free State Festival offers a multitude of opportunities to promote your brand to an audience of film lovers, music aficionados, art patrons, trendsetters, and influencers. The 7-day festival reaches a wide audience through TV, print, radio, and online press (200,000+ impressions). Media outlets, such as the Kansas City Star, Lawrence Journal-World, the Pitch, local and regional radio stations, Fox 4 Kansas City, and Channel 41 (NBC-Kansas City) have featured the programs and events of past Festivals.

Companies across an array of industries have supported the Free State Festival in order to align their brands with the visionary talent and excitement associated with the unique opportunity to provide the best in film, art, ideas, and music in the Lawrence Cultural Arts District. By combining access, exposure, hospitality, social media and experiential marketing, the Lawrence Arts Center offers each sponsor a customized package of features and benefits to ensure its promotional, relationship, and business development goals are met.

FREE STATE FESTIVAL TITLE SPONSORS (\$10,000 AND ABOVE)

MUSIC AND FILM SIGNATURE SPONSORS (\$5,000 AND ABOVE)

FEATURE FILM SPONSORS (\$1,000 - \$5,000)

IDEAS SPONSORS (\$1,000 - \$5,000)

OUTDOOR DIGITAL ART SPONSORS (\$1,000 - \$5,000)

PROMOTIONAL SPONSORS (In-kind marketing support)

EVENT SPONSORS (In-kind space and hospitality)

For additional information on sponsorship, contact Heather Hoy at 785.843.2787 / heather@lawrenceartscenter.org

The Lawrence Arts Center is proud to acknowledge the support and partnership of the sponsors of the 2014 Free State Festival. These visionary supporters are committed to building audiences for filmmakers, musicians, and artists with an original voice. Thank you for your leadership in helping the Lawrence Arts Center present a world-class festival in the city of Lawrence, Kansas.



**PARTNERSHIPS:** The Lawrence Arts Center's partnerships with sponsors, community organizations, music venues, and food vendors infuse the festival with vibrancy, community spirit, and local color. Support for the festival is provided in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support has been provided by the Lawrence Journal-World, the University of Kansas, Sprint, and the City of Lawrence.

**VENUES:** The Free State Festival headquarters are located at:  
Lawrence Arts Center  
940 New Hampshire St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785.843.2787

The Lawrence Arts Center hosts many of the festival's film screenings, discussions, installations, receptions, and performances in its beautiful 300 seat theater, unique gallery spaces, intimate Black Box Theater, and outdoor environs.

Partnering organizations in the Lawrence Cultural Arts District provide venue space for networking happy hours, outdoor projections, family activities, and music and film events.

**PASSES & TICKETS:** Get the most out of your festival experience with all-inclusive Festival Passes:

- VIP passes include admission to all festival events and networking receptions
- FILM passes provide an economical way to attend all film screenings and Q&A's
- Tickets- Individual tickets are available for individual screenings and performances and many of our events are FREE!

Tickets and passes for the 2015 Free State Festival go on sale March 1.

**SUBMISSIONS:** The Free State Festival accepts feature films, short films, documentaries, experimental films and films made by youth for its competitive film festival. This year's festival is slated for June 22-28, 2015, and entries will be accepted November 1, 2014 thru March 1, 2015. For film submission questions, please email [info@freestatefilmfest.com](mailto:info@freestatefilmfest.com).

***"It was great to have St. Luke AME Church as a site for Free State Festival live performances. Situated on the 9th Street corridor in the Lawrence Cultural District, our Church has been part of the life of Lawrence for over 150 years. The Free State Festival brought our gospel choir together with jazz musicians and a visual artist for packed performances. We look forward to being part of the Free State Festival every year."***

– Pastor Verdell Taylor, St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church

