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## **ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS TO GOVERNING AND ADVISORY BOARDS**

OVERLAND PARK, KS – At the annual meeting on Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC) announced the election of the following new officers to ACJC's Governing Board and Advisory Board:

### ACJC Governing Board Officers:

Brian Williams President  
Maury Thompson, Treasurer

Chioma Ugochukwu, Vice President  
Kate Allen, Secretary

### ACJC Advisory Board: CJ Charbonneau, Chair

The ACJC works as Johnson County's voice for Arts advocacy, helping the public, elected officials and businesses understand how the Arts contribute to the quality of life in Johnson County. ACJC works closely with other Arts advocacy organizations that serve the greater Kansas City metro area.

"The Arts Council of Johnson County continues to play a pivotal and strategic role in advancing the importance of the Arts in the quality of life of Johnson County. Our organization also is centrally involved in many Arts collaborations, both inside Johnson County and with larger Arts initiatives across the greater Kansas City area," said Brian Williams, ACJC newly elected board president. "I look forward to my role in leading the ACJC board, as exciting projects continue to emerge and expand, especially now with the new Arts & Heritage Center open – a wonderful facility that already is attracting many patrons to see live performances, to visit the museum and to participate in arts classes."

In June, the ACJC moved into a new office home in the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center at 87<sup>th</sup> & Metcalf. This move facilitates much more collaboration between ACJC and the other arts organizations and Johnson County staff that also have offices inside this new facility. As an arts advocacy organization, the following brief snapshot of numbers details the impact made by the ACJC during 2017.

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**362,000 people** – the estimated audience number of people in Johnson County that attended arts performances and other cultural experiences, taking art classes, or enrolling their children in art classes, in the metro area during 2017. (Source: Study by Americans for the Arts)

**18,866** people were directly impacted by Arts Council 2017 programs and services.

**17,341** people were reached in 2017 by ACJC's social media channels, including direct hits on our website at artsjoco.org; followers on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and email blasts.

**875** – a conservative and approximate number of full-time jobs held by Johnson County residents in **creative industries** on both sides of the state line (Source: Americans for the Arts).

**45** people attended the Nov 9 Smart Exchange program about health, wellness and the arts

**14** people serve on ACJC advisory and governance boards.

**2** people serve on the staff for the Arts Council of Johnson County.

#### Shooting Stars Scholarship and Recognition Program:

**\$250,000** – the amount of money given by ACJC in student scholarships since the inception of the Shooting Stars program in 1996.

**1,050** people who attended this year's Shooting Stars Gala to recognize 104 Johnson County high school students in the arts and their arts educators.

**104** students from 25 Johnson County high schools were finalists for Shooting Stars Scholarships; 18 high school seniors received scholarships; the top two in nine arts categories

**65** volunteers were involved to manage annual Shooting Stars Program and Gala event, this includes volunteers that help with audition and judging day, hosting the Gala itself, and various planning committees leading up to the big event every spring.

**44** speakers, participants and guests attended the 2017 college and career student workshop.

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#### **About the Arts Council of Johnson County:**

ACJC is dedicated to the enrichment of the community through the Arts. By focusing on the Arts as an effective economic development tool to foster a strong regional identity, ACJC advocates for policies that strengthen the Arts in Johnson County and the metropolitan area; champions Arts learning opportunities for all ages; amplifies Johnson County's voice in the broader metropolitan area Arts discussions; and contributes to the growth of the Arts within the 21 municipalities of Johnson County. The ACJC works to build a creative culture, transforming the region into a vibrant, thriving area desirable to residents, new businesses, visitors and tourists. Learn more at [artsjoco.org](http://artsjoco.org).

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