MISSION

CHARLOTTE STREET FOUNDATION IDENTIFIES THE NEEDS AND FUELS THE EVOLUTION OF AN EVER-CHANGING MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTS ECOSYSTEM, ACTING AS ITS PRIMARY PROVOCATEUR.

WE CULTIVATE THE CONTEMPORARY, THE EXCEPTIONAL, AND THE UNEXPECTED IN THE PRACTICE OF ARTISTS WORKING IN AND ENGAGING WITH THE KANSAS CITY ART COMMUNITY.
The Charlotte Street campus at 3333 Wyoming is inspired by a vision that empowers artists to connect with their community and take risks with their work. The building is intended to be a platform that inspires artists and makers to create beauty, drive innovation, build community, and spark the vibrancy of Kansas City’s cultural ecosystem. This project expands upon the bold vision of Charlotte Street Foundation’s founder David Hughes, Jr., who saw endless opportunity for Kansas City to flourish if it could embrace the cultural capital present in the vibrant community of artists and creatives who call the city home.

We envision Kansas City as a dynamic home for artists to thrive and to serve as energetic catalysts for an exciting, innovative, and culturally rich city. A new campus allows Charlotte Street Foundation to co-locate our studio residency, exhibitions, performances, office, and collaborative spaces. This high-profile project will lift the organization into greater stability and prominence, and more importantly, elevate our ability to support openness, collaboration, risk-taking, and excellence among Kansas City’s community of artists while building new audiences and enriching our city’s attractiveness and national reputation.
**HISTORY + STATISTICS**

Artist-centric community building has been the heart of Charlotte Street Foundation’s mission for the past 24 years. CSF was inspired by an artist named John Puscheck, who lived on Charlotte Street and used the small amount of funds he generated in art sales to provide community and sustenance to his fellow artists in the form of backyard barbeques.

Established in 1997 by advocate David Hughes, Jr. as an award to honor visual artists, Charlotte Street has become a nationally recognized leader in the field of contemporary, experimental art practices. In the Kansas City region, CSF plays a unique role, providing direct support to artists of all disciplines and career stages through programs and platforms that help artists connect with one another, build supportive audiences, and gain access to further resources and networks. No other Kansas City arts organization provides this comprehensive combination of programs designed to help contemporary artists build sustainable careers.

Formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 2003, CSF now serves as a primary resource for the arts community by providing direct financial support in the form of grants, awards, commissions, free studios and performance and exhibition spaces to theater, dance, music, film/video, and visual artists in the greater Kansas City area. CSF also facilitates artistic collaboration and exchange, and engages national philanthropic and cultural leaders with Kansas City artists and the arts community.

Key Charlotte Street statistics to note include:

- An estimated 81% of artists supported by CSF fall below the low-income threshold as defined by HUD, with household income less than 80% of the US Median standard income. This figure is based on self-reporting by 158 artists collected through applications prior to the pandemic.
- In a typical year, CSF awards approximately $160,000 directly to artists in awards and stipends. This is the largest amount of funds distributed directly to individual artists by any local organization.
- In an average year, CSF grants approximately 15,000 square feet of free space to a combination of individual studio artists and artist-run organizations.
- In 2021, the current demographic split of awards and stipends is 35% white, 24% Black/African American, 9% Latinx, 7% Biracial/Multiracial, 5% Asian, 4% Native/Indigenous, 2% Middle Eastern, 2% North African, 5% other, and 5% prefer not to answer.

As Charlotte Street continues to respond directly to Kansas City’s evolving multidisciplinary arts ecosystem, we recognize the importance of remaining agile and responsive to the needs of individual artists – caring for them as whole people – to build a support system that truly creates a community where artists of various disciplines and career stages can thrive.
“Hall Family Foundation is pleased to have been a part of the Charlotte Street Foundation’s headquarters project. Charlotte Street transformed a bare bones building into an oasis for working artists. Artist collaborations and new performing arts projects will literally come alive in the new building, which is not only architecturally striking but flexible and practical for all the artistic work that will be done there. We thank all the project donors, the architects and contractors, consulting artists and the Charlotte Street team and board for coming together to build something that will quickly become a community and neighborhood asset.”

- Angela Smart, Former Vice President of Hall Family Foundation

This exciting new facility at 3333 Wyoming has been made possible through the generous financial support of private donors and foundations within and beyond Kansas City. In the fall of 2018, Charlotte Street Foundation initiated a $10 million capital campaign, propelled by a momentous $5 million challenge grant issued by an anonymous benefactor with longstanding ties to the organization.

By summer of 2021, over $9.8 million has been raised toward this goal. Significant lead gifts from Kansas City’s philanthropic community set the pace, including the Hall Family Foundation, the Sunderland Foundation, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, Kemper Family Foundations, Louetta M. Cowden Foundation, Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, and others. Adding to Charlotte Street’s strong base of regional support, financial support from national foundations including New York-based Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Hearst Foundations, based in San Francisco and New York, have been instrumental to the success of the campaign.

In addition to funding the creation of a new headquarters and campus, Charlotte Street Foundation’s $10 million capital campaign goes beyond capital improvements by ensuring the organization’s long-term sustainability with the creation of a $2 million endowment.

Contact information for capital campaign funders may be provided upon request.
Charlotte Street’s new campus is a multidisciplinary, multifaceted facility that sets a new national standard for collaborative artist incubators. Located in a repurposed industrial factory, the renovated space embraces the building’s raw and resilient texture as a backdrop for the creation of innovative work. The facility includes a black box theatre, visual art gallery, dance rehearsal studio, recording and mixing studio, artist-in-residence studios, equipment workshop, library and archive room, and gathering spaces.

The new White Box Gallery is a 1,625 sq ft gallery space, perfect for large, public viewings. The space is equipped with two 14 ft moveable walls, multiple floor and ceiling outlets, two projectors, and track lighting. A garage door allows for load-in of large work directly from the north parking lot. An additional media space connected to the gallery allows for more intimate and personal viewings of screenings or private shows.

The campus also includes a 1,750 sq ft, high-ceilinged, blackbox style, flexible performance space. The theater comes with a mezzanine-level tech booth for producers, a green room with private changing facilities and communication channels, and adaptable seating to accommodate any vision an artist brings into the space. A garage door from the courtyard allows for direct load-in of large sets, outdoor possibilities, and more.

On the second and third floors of the building, ample space is provided to 30+ visual artists, performers and writers for a free two-year residency. On the second floor, a dance studio, performing rehearsal space and soundproof studios are provided to dancers, musicians and theatrical performers in their residency. On the third floor, 20 individual studio spaces of various sizes are provided to visual artists and writers. Studio residents will also have access to a community lounge and kitchen, elevator access to move large projects, and an outdoor patio. Additional features of the building include a courtyard that can also be used for programming; a central library and archive room that doubles as a place to host dialogues, lectures, and jury selections; a recording/photo documentation room, and a workshop that will be equipped with shared tools for artists to use for fabrication of work.

Designed by Hufft and constructed by Newkirk Novak, the contemporary 20,000 sq. ft. campus is located at 3333 Wyoming Street in midtown Kansas City, Missouri, near Roanoke Park.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Charlotte Street’s transition into the new headquarters, public programming within the facility was delayed until the summer of 2021. Charlotte Street has continued to support artists directly during the pandemic via increased grantmaking, remote/socially distant offsite programs, and the artist residency program. As the organization processes ongoing updates regarding COVID-19, staff and board at Charlotte Street reiterate that the health and safety of local artists, arts patrons, and staff is our highest priority.

In response to the pandemic and economic recession’s severe impact on Kansas City’s local artist community, Charlotte Street Foundation and the Spencer Museum of Art, with underwriting from the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts and other funding partners, collaborated in 2020 to provide emergency relief grants titled Rocket Relief. Over the three cycles of Rocket Relief from May 2020 – April 2021 $325,000 was distributed to artists across disciplines in the Kansas City area. Artists received $1,000 stipends and were selected from the applicant pool using a weighted lottery system, based on risk factors. In recognition of the disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color (BIPOC) from COVID-19, during the second cycle the Rocket Relief team communicated that demographic information provided by artists would be used to ensure at least 60% of awardees are artists who identify as BIPOC. This emergency aid program allowed us to assist the growing number of individual artists in the Kansas City metro experiencing hardships ranging from job loss to homelessness.
CONTACTS

AMY KLIGMAN (she/her)
Executive/Artistic Director
amy@charlottestreet.org

Amy Kligman has been the Executive/Artistic Director at Charlotte Street Foundation since 2015. Kligman’s career and experience as an exhibiting artist and grassroots curator and the arts administrator spans 20 years of studio & exhibition work, independent curating and organizing, and artist-run projects. In 2011 Kligman was one of a team of 5 artist-curators who established Plug Projects, an artist-run project space in Kansas City’s West Bottoms that hosted a robust & nationally recognized calendar of exhibitions and artist-centered programming. She also worked in creative leadership in the greeting card industry, across departments emphasizing innovation, strategy, and social awareness, having built a 15-year career across 2 of the industry’s most influential brands before leaving that work for the nonprofit sector. Amy serves on the boards of the Latino Arts Foundation and Nonprofit Connect. She is an alumnus of the Centurions leadership program facilitated by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

PAT ALEXANDER

Programming + Studio Residency Manager
pat@charlottestreet.org

Patrick is a multidisciplinary artist, DJ/Solid-Fi Sound promoter, and longtime arts administrator; Pat has developed a deep understanding and appreciation for Kansas City’s arts community. He was previously an arts administrator for the YWCA of Greater Kansas City, located in downtown Kansas City, KS, where he presented more than 100 exhibitions and live performances at the 6th Street Art Gallery and Black Box Theatre. Additionally, he has exhibited his own artwork widely, both locally and nationally, including participating in several exhibitions at CharlotteStreet venues prior to joining staff. For capital campaign project, Pat oversees a lot of the new building’s infrastructure and program-specific areas.

AMANDA MIDDAUGH (she/her)
Development + Marketing Director
amanda@charlottestreet.org

HOPE-LIAN VINSON (they/them)
Marketing + Outreach Manager
hope@charlottestreet.org

PROJECT PARTNERS

Hufft - architecture
Scott Miller (smiller@hufft.com)

Benson Method - owners rep
Michelle Kaiser (mkaiser@bensonmethod.com)

Newkirk Novak - construction
Brandon Stanley (brandon.stanley@newkirknovak.com)
IN THE MEDIA

An Infusion of Curatorial Energy for KC
KC Studio, January 20, 2021

The Art of Adaption
KC Studio, July 16, 2020

Pollack-Krasner Foundation Awards Nearly $3 Million in Grants to Artists and Nonprofits
Art Forum, May 21, 2020

Arts Organizations Provide Financial Help to Artists Navigating the “Crazy Storm” of COVID-19
KC Studio, May 14, 2020

Arts News: Charlotte Street Renews Commitment to Cutting-Edge Choreography
KC Studio, May 11, 2020

Emergency Relief Fund Set Up to Assist Kansas City Artists
KCUR 89.3 FM, April 17, 2020

How Small Arts Nonprofits in the US Are Responding to the Existential Threat of COVID-19
Hyperallergic, April 13, 2020

Kansas City Artists Open Storefronts in Neighborhoods So More People Can ‘Sit Down and Create’
KCUR 89.3 FM, March 1, 2020

A Room of Their Own
KC Studio, January 2, 2020

New Players Expand KC Theater Scene
KC Studio, November 5, 2019
Three folders provide images from local artist Beeh Becvar, Kansas City design firm Design Ranch, and Kansas City architecture firm Hufft.

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