



**ST LOUIS
ARTS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Partnering for a Re-Imagined St. Louis

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year was one that clarified our mission more than ever. When we come alongside neighborhood residents and hear their concerns and their dreams, we hear a plea for re-creating the vibrant communities that once made up St. Louis and are on the rise again.

We networked with dozens of organizations and partnered with many of those we met. Our role in each of these partnerships is that of bringing the arts and culture into community development projects happening across St. Louis. Read on to learn more.

The sea change in federal grants affected us, just like it did so many nonprofits across the nation. As we worked to diversify our revenue streams, we started at the beginning and partnered with talented volunteers to create a new, wider visibility for the St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

As Rip Rapson of The Kresge Foundation reminds us, "Engaging places through the arts draws us into intimate relationships, creates an emotional bond across a community and re-sets the boundaries of collective aspiration." We invite you to move into 2026 by being part of our collective aspiration!

Sandy Brooks EdD PPT PCS AFC
Executive Director





ST LOUIS ARTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our Mission

At the St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce, our mission is to revitalize St. Louis neighborhoods by integrating arts and culture to enhance the quality of life, empowering residents through creative, collaborative development.

That's why the St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce, through our community-focused initiative, Gateway Creative Placemakers, is dedicated to weaving the arts into the economic and social fabric of our city. Art is essential for a vibrant community. We envision a city where the skillful use of creativity addresses neighborhood needs and supports our rich cultural tapestry.

Our Values

Respect for diverse points of view with emphasis upon resident perspectives.

Courage to tackle tough issues.

Commitment to sustainable projects that benefit communities long-term.

Accountability to residents, funders, and the creative community.

Integration of artistic expression into societal and economic development.

Our Vision

Our vision is to support the cultural artistic fabric of our community by working with residents to address neighborhood needs through the creative use of skill and skillful use of creativity.

Highlights of 2025

Tax Credits Available

Nearly \$250,000 in NAP tax credits to grant when businesses support the renovation of Dutchtown Common, previously named VAL Park.



AmeriCorps VISTA Grant

We received a capacity-building grant through AmeriCorps, allowing for curriculum development, park design, and development of marketing and fundraising plans.

Thank You!



Ojasi Kirtikar

Jane Robinson

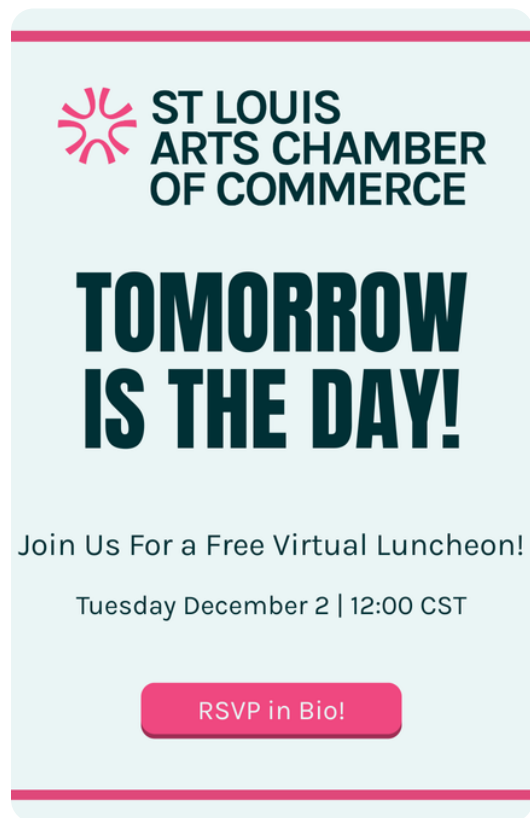
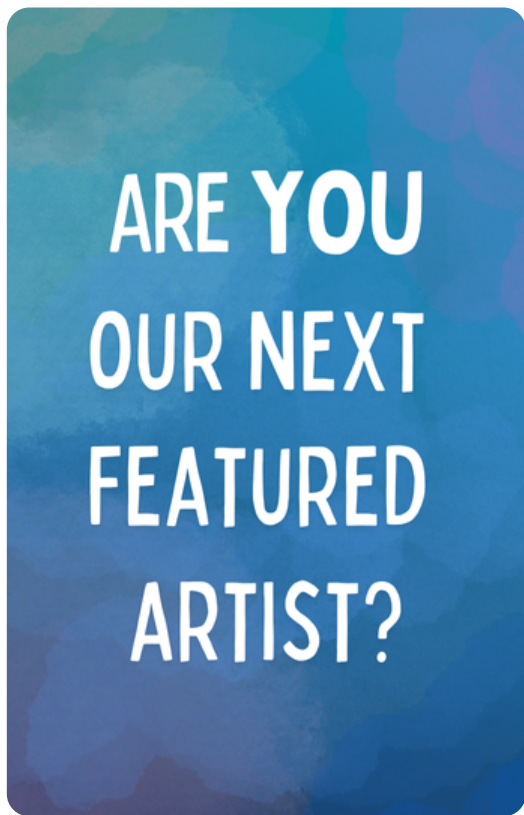
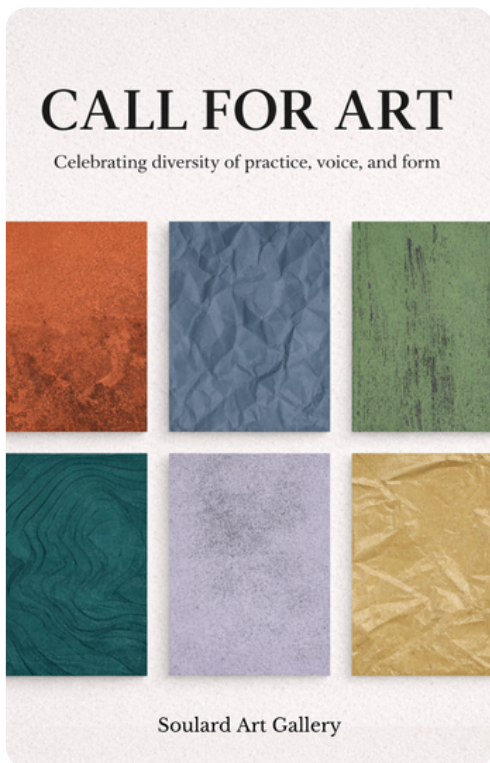


Thank You!



Nia Duke

Raising Visibility in 2025



Social Media

- Increased our number of followers by 264%
- Shared more than 40 calls for art and grant opportunities for artists
- Featured 7 artists
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (St.LouisArts, and LinkedIn

New Website in Process

Together with volunteers who gave from their area of expertise, we clarified our messaging, updated our look, and are creating new web pages so future partners and website visitors get to know us and understand our mission. Check it out at stlartschamberofcommerce.org.





GATEWAY CREATIVE PLACEMAKERS

Creative Placemaking

We heard confusion from funders and partners alike: “Why is the Arts Chamber of Commerce talking about creative placemaking?”

The board voted that creative placemaking initiatives will be accomplished as the Gateway Creative Placemakers, and in Fall 2025, we introduced the name.

2025 Impact

2025 found us partnering with planning teams, bringing the arts and culture into community development plans and planning grant writing for those arts and culture areas for PlanSTL’s Plan Area 3 (Baden and North Pointe) and Plan Area 4 (Hamilton Heights, Wells-Goodfellow, Kingsway West, Ofallon, Penrose, College Hill, and Fairground).

We continue to value our partnership with the neighborhoods making up the Historic Gravois-Jefferson Neighborhood Improvement Plan Area (Benton Park West, Gravois Park, Dutchtown, and Mount Pleasant). This year we submitted several grants to accomplish considerable parts of their plan.

The Long-Term Outcome

The ultimate impact the St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce seeks to achieve is a thriving cultural fabric for everyone in St. Louis. In this context, “cultural fabric” is describing the experience of the people living in each of the St. Louis neighborhoods. We look at four areas where we need change to happen in order to establish a thriving cultural fabric:

- Environment (enhancing sustainability and climate resilience)
- Beautification (improving visual and aesthetic appeal)
- Art (celebrating and reflecting historical and cultural identity)
- Infrastructure (upgrading essential physical structures and public facilities)

We envision a thriving cultural fabric as one where we’ve incorporated beauty and facilitated community among the residents while addressing their concerns about vacancy, crime, safety, health, literacy, and cultural identity.

2025 Accomplishments



Project along Delmar

We completed our Community Connectors \$200,000 grant with a site assessment and beginning site plan for Delmar from Vandeventer to Union and then sent it to City Planning and Urban Development. We also completed a detailed community assessment matrix to gather baseline data as well as results of interventions in the neighborhoods. We created a video of Delmar from street view in order to demonstrate improvements. However, the May 16 tornado changed the face of Delmar afterward.



City of St. Louis

We are part of the national team that won the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG - DR grant) for planning for the City flood abatement subsequent to the 2022 flood.



Fiscal Sponsorship

We completed the fiscal sponsorship of the Bloomberg Sustainable Cities grant with Dutchtown Mainstreets.



SLACC EXHIBITS & PERFORMANCES

Mill Creek Valley

Our Mill Creek Valley exhibit, completed by local artist Cbabi Bayoc, debuted in 2024 and continued to tell the story of the Mill Creek Valley neighborhood visually throughout 2025.

In November 2025, the Missouri History Museum opened an exhibit titled “Mill Creek: Black Metropolis,” which will run until July 2026. We hope you’ll take it in and learn about this once-thriving area, described by Julia Clark of the Missouri History Museum as “a cultural epicenter of the city of St. Louis.”

Archer Alexander Memorial

We continued our partnership with historian Dorris Keeven-Franke in publicizing the new Archer Alexander Memorial designed by local artist Abraham Mohler and listed by the National Parks Service on the National Underground Railroad Network for Freedom.

We participated in an informational event held in Mr. Mohler’s studio in late March, hearing Archer’s story as it might have been told by his wife after the fact. Publicity continues with a December 2025 article in the *Washington Post*.

Join the Friends and Family of Archer Alexander

When you donate \$25 or more to the Archer Alexander Memorial, Dorris Keeven-Franke will send you an exclusive monthly newsletter featuring more stories about Archer Alexander, as well as invitations to private events, updates on other news, and upcoming events. This newsletter will be a feature exclusive to donors.



Donate Now



SLACC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Artist Support in 2025

Thanks to our increased visibility, we were able to talk through the intricacies of product development with a couple of local writers and artists and make some helpful connections for them. We also have more and more organizations contacting us to share their calls for art with the artists in our sphere.

Local artists welcomed our new Featured Artist program on social media with open arms. We appreciated the warm response and all the applications they sent in. Our followers enjoyed the introduction to these Featured Artists. Be sure to look them up!

Featured in 2025

- Alison Bozarth
- Rachel Helden
- Stephanie Gobby
- CB Adams
- Brenda Gilliam
- Adrienne Outlaw
- Elena Nunez

Membership in 2026!

The Arts Chamber started as a membership organization in 2019, but COVID disrupted the plans for that membership. We continue in our commitment to artists in the St. Louis area and are looking forward to bringing back a vibrant, beneficial membership for them in 2026. Our Membership Advisory Committee, made up of artists, is helping us to make the membership the best it can be. We're hoping to have it available by the end of March 2026.

Our goal is to strengthen the arts and culture economy in St. Louis, with a result of more artists involved in showing and selling their own art and participating in creating public art. We look to a future where more arts organizations are working together in partnership, and we are working toward an increased understanding of and participation in creative placemaking across St. Louis. We believe creative placemaking brings sustainable positive change and artists play a crucial role in making it happen.

What Membership Brings

For artists and art students in the St. Louis region who are looking for business skills and knowledge, as well as more opportunities to show their work to potential buyers, we are developing a reasonably priced, high-value Arts Chamber of Commerce membership that's packed with benefits. Membership puts artists in the know when it comes to calls for art, gives them the chance to participate in local arts events, and equips them to start or strengthen an arts business. Sign up for email on our website (stlouisartschamberofcommerce.org) to receive updates and information.

Statement of Activity

ST LOUISARTSCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE
January-December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Income	
43300 Direct Public Grants	
43310 Corporate and Business Grants	2,134.54
43330 Foundation and Trust Grants	2,916.00
43340 Nonprofit Organization Grants	40,833.93
Total for 43300 Direct Public Grants	\$45,884.47
43400 Direct Public Support	\$750.29
43440 Gifts in Kind - Goods	350.00
43445 Gifts in Kind-Services	82,200.00
43450 Individ, Business Contributions	25,994.59
Total for 43400 Direct Public Support	\$109,294.88
Total for Income	\$155,179.35
Gross Profit	
Expenses	
60000 Advertising and Promotion	4,826.88
60200 Automobile Expense	2.00
60400 Bank Service Charges	57.46
60900 Business Expenses	
60920 Business Registration Fees	17.84
Total for 60900 Business Expenses	\$17.84
62100 Contract Services	
62150 Outside Contract Services	422.00
Total for 62100 Contract Services	\$422.00
62800 Facilities and Equipment	
62890 Rent, Parking, Utilities	11.00
Total for 62800 Facilities and Equipment	\$11.00
63400 Interest Expense	-2.40
64300 Meals and Entertainment	158.24

Statement of Activity

ST LOUISARTSCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE

January-December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
65000 Operations	
65010 Books, Subscriptions, Reference	1,737.75
65020 Postage, Mailing Service	14.09
65040 Supplies	595.79
65050 Telephone, Computer, Internet	1,183.42
Total for 65000 Operations	\$3,531.05
65100 Other Types of Expenses	
65170 Staff Development	239.91
Total for 65100 Other Types of Expenses	\$239.91

Statement of Activity

ST LOUISARTSCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE
January-December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
66000 Payroll Expenses	13,965.00
67000 Program Specific Expenses	
67020 Cost of Labor	\$14,375.00
67021 Contractors	79,199.43
67022 Payroll	33,180.22
67023 Awards and Contracts	11,091.50
Total for 67020 Cost of Labor	\$137,846.15
	339.41
67030 Dues & subscriptions	464.49
67060 Office/General Administrative Expenditures	574.99
67070 Other Business Expenses	1,035.85
67080 Supplies & Materials	\$140,260.89
Total for 67000 Program Specific Expenses	\$198.88
68300 Travel and Meetings	18.83
68310 Conference, Convention, Meeting	\$217.71
Total for 68300 Travel and Meetings	\$163,707.58
Total for Expenses	-\$8,528.23
Net Operating Income	
Other Expenses	
80000 Ask My Accountant	2,785.71
Total for Other Expenses	\$2,785.71
Net Other Income	-\$2,785.71
Net Income	-\$11,313.94

Statement of Financial Position

ST LOUIS ARTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Asof December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
100 St Louis Arts Chamber of Commer	662.95
In Kind Clearing	82,000.00
PayPal Bank	159.90
Total for Bank Accounts	\$82,822.85
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
13500 Supplies Inventory	6.56
Inventory Asset	0.00
Uncategorized Asset	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$6.56
Total for Current Assets	\$82,829.41
Other Assets	
18600 Other Assets	0.00
Total for Other Assets	\$0.00
Total for Assets	\$82,829.41
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	-6,000.00
Total for Accounts Payable	-\$6,000.00
Credit Cards	

Statement of Financial Position

ST LOUIS ARTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Asof December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
PNC CORE Credit card (3897)	0.00
US Bank Credit Card	-310.00
Total for Credit Cards	-\$310.00
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 Payroll Liabilities	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	-\$6,310.00

Statement of Financial Position

ST LOUIS ARTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Asof December 31, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Long-term Liabilities	
27000 EIDL Loan	5,900.52
Total for Long-term Liabilities	\$5,900.52
Total for Liabilities	-\$409.48
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	423.00
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	94,129.83
Net Income	-11,313.94
Total for Equity	\$83,238.89
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$82,829.41

Thank You to Our 2024 Board of Directors!

- Elliot Archer
- Jesika Barnes
- Beth Clauss
- Deanna Cotton
- Ricardo Flores Diaz
- Ros Robinson
- James Spell
- Mark Spykerman
- Jason Vasser-Elong
- Christian Wargo



Phone: 314.275.0888

stlouisartschamberofcommerce.org

Instagram: @st.louisarts

Facebook & LinkedIn: St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce