



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COCA Raises \$898,000 at April Fundraiser**

### **Funds Raised Benefit COCA’s Arts Education Programs and Scholarships**

(ST. LOUIS, MO) COCAcabana 2016: *A Grand Bazaar*, Center of Creative Arts’ annual spring fundraising event, raised \$898,000 on April 29. COCA, the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country, relies upon this yearly event to sustain its programming in University City and throughout the St. Louis community. With a core value of accessibility, COCA annually provides nearly \$1 million in arts education programming at no cost to thousands of students in low-income schools and communities around St. Louis, plus more than 400 scholarships and support services for students to participate in programs on-site at COCA.

“We were so pleased to have hosted more than 650 people at COCAcabana this year,” said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director, “and to have had the support of our Presenting Sponsor, Anheuser-Busch, for the seventh year in a row. We are grateful to our generous supporters who value COCA’s role in this community. Funds raised through COCAcabana help students who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend classes here, and bring arts programs to area schools that would otherwise not have these opportunities.”

**PHOTOS:** Event photos available at [https://www.facebook.com/COCAsTl/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10154190117442028](https://www.facebook.com/COCAsTl/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10154190117442028)

**LEADERSHIP:** Event Chairs: Vanessa & Antonio Cooksey; Rob & Melissa Merlin; Lynne & Brooks Parriott  
Honorary Chairs: Barbara and Steve Archer

**SPONSORS:** Presenting: Anheuser-Busch; Lead Scholarship: Centene Charitable Foundation, McCormack Baron Salazar; Live Auction: Jim Butler Auto Group; Red Carpet: Macy’s; Lounge: CI Select; Performance: Wells Fargo Advisors; Band: Edward Jones; VIP Wine: Dierberg Estate Vineyard; Food Truck: PNC Bank; Valet: Pattering Paws, Rent-A-Relative; Silent Auction: U.S. Bank; Appetizer: LHM; Dinner: Boeing; Dessert: Stifel; Cocktail: J.P. Morgan; Travel: Smartflyer St. Louis; Kickoff Party: Husch Blackwell; Creative & Design: Cannonball Advertising and Promotion; Print Partner: Town & Style; Production: Touchwood Creative.

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**ABOUT ANHEUSER-BUSCH**

For more than 100 years, Anheuser-Busch and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation have reached out to groups in need, contributing to community organizations across the country and touching countless individual lives. For more information, visit [www.anheuser-busch.com](http://www.anheuser-busch.com).

**ABOUT COCA**

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals — all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. To ensure diversity and inclusion in all of our programs we are committed to eliminating economic and social barriers to participation in the arts.