



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Boeing Announces \$100,000 Grant to COCA for STEAM Programming** *Contribution Will Allow COCA to Expand Program*

**ST. LOUIS, Nov. 19, 2018** -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) recently announced a grant award of \$100,000 to COCA-Center of Creative Arts. The grant will fund the *Engineering Creativity, Empowering Curiosity* program, a comprehensive STEAM curriculum designed to meet core learning objectives in engineering, science, writing, technology and art. STEAM programming adds the arts to science, technology, engineering and math.

Boeing has worked with COCA for many years to champion the importance of providing children with new ways of learning and opportunities to acquire skills that will ensure their success in the 21st century workforce. With support from Boeing, in 2013 COCA's COCAedu division piloted STEAM residencies in a handful of schools. With consistent support from Boeing, the program has grown over the years, and during the 2017-2018 school year, COCA was able to deliver 44 STEAM residencies in writing, inquiry and design-thinking, across three grade levels to eight schools in four St. Louis school districts.

This most recent grant will allow COCAedu to increase its commitment to schools across the region and deliver 60 STEAM collaborative residencies (1,040 contact hours) to 1,500 students at nine schools in five districts. It will also provide resources to help 40 classroom teachers and 10 teaching artists.

Along with financial grants, Boeing has supported COCA by recruiting its engineers to volunteer in classrooms, as an enhancement to the curriculum and in order to expose students to new career options. The Boeing-COCA partnership also provides professional development to teachers, helping them reinvent their own lesson plans by using the arts as a teaching tool for STEM subjects.

"COCA is grateful to Boeing for our dynamic partnership and its commitment to provide a better education for students across the region," said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director. "By encouraging creative exploration, we hope to motivate students to develop long-term engagement in STEAM-related areas of study and careers."

Underscoring the strong partnership, COCA recently awarded Boeing with its Art Is Education Award to honor Boeing's advocacy and leadership within the STEAM education space.

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### **About The Boeing Company:**

Through purposeful investments, employee engagement and thoughtful advocacy efforts, Boeing and its employees support innovative partnerships and programs that align with the company's strategic objectives, create value and help build better communities worldwide. Boeing's efforts are focused on improving access to globally competitive learning, contributing to workforce and skills development, and supporting our military and veteran communities.

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### **ABOUT COCA**

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country, one of only 16 schools in the nation accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS), 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. Visit [www.cocastl.org](http://www.cocastl.org) to learn more.