



## 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. 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.

## VISION

Use the power of the arts and education to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive.

## MISSION

Enriching lives and building community through the arts.

## WE VALUE...

- The creative potential of everyone and the transformative power of the arts to change lives.
- Both the artistic process and the artistic product.
- Diversity and serve as a bridge to connect people.
- Inclusiveness and remove barriers to make the arts accessible.
- Collaboration.
- Innovation and deliver thought-provoking, relevant programs and experiences to the communities we serve.
- The people who work and volunteer to support our mission.
- Our unique St. Louis home and the community that is created when people learn together through the arts.

## CORE PROGRAMS

*Arts Education* COCA offers 1,300+ classes, camps and workshops in dance, theatre, vocal music, and art & design for students of all ages and skill levels.

*Pre-Professional Division* serves more than 400 career-oriented, high-potential young artists annually. These students receive rigorous training and public performance opportunities, as well as career counseling, faculty evaluations, master classes, dancewear, transportation, ACT tutoring, audition assistance and scholarships.

- *Discovery Young Artist Program (DYA)* makes participation at COCA possible for anyone with the talent and drive, regardless of family income. Students in the 4th-8th grade who show an interest and talent in their art form at COCA as well as financial need may audition.
- *Student Companies* (Allegro, Ballet Eclectica, COCA Theatre Company, COCAdance and the Hip-Hop Crew), provide talented students with opportunities to develop individual accountability in preparation for performances and training with professional guest artists.

*COCA Presents*, presents shows created and produced by COCA, as well as the best touring productions from around the world.

*Millstone Gallery*, presents innovative exhibitions and educational programs featuring the work of regional, national and international visual artists.

*COCAbiz*, has offered courses, workshops and conferences combining authentic arts teaching with business-focused facilitation to teach real business skills in creative and effective ways to business leaders since its inception in 2009.

*COCAedu*, COCAedu is a nationally recognized model of excellence for arts education. Since 1992, the program has provided arts programming to thousands of students and dedicated educators throughout the St. Louis region, breaking through economic and transportation barriers.

## SCHOLARSHIP & ACCESS

Central to COCA's values is the belief that everyone, regardless of financial means, should have access to the arts. To accomplish this, COCA provides nearly \$1 million annually in scholarships, support services and art programs in both its own studios and in school classrooms to students in need across St. Louis. One measure of success: 100 percent of students in the Pre-Professional Division graduate high school and attend post-secondary school or professional arts training.

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

COCA has gained national recognition for its programs through prestigious grants from the Hearst Foundation, the Ford Foundation (one of nine nationally), the Wallace Foundation (one of 22), the Doris Duke Foundation (one of four) and the Kresge Foundation (one of nine), as well as a 2003 *Coming Up Taller Award* from the White House for the Pre-Professional Dance Program. In 2014, COCA was invited to speak to the National Council on the Arts at their biannual meeting, and in 2016, the Chairman of the NEA, Jane Chu, along with United States Senator Claire McCaskill, visited COCA on a limited tour of select St. Louis arts organizations. COCA was featured as one of 19 case study sites in *Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education* (2009), conducted by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education on the characteristics of high-quality arts learning and teaching, and as a model organization in the Kresge Foundation's Non-Profit Finance Fund's 2015 publication of *Building a Culture of Capitalization in Your Organization*.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION, 2017-2018

Total Operating Budget: \$6.7 million  
Earned Income: \$2.4 million  
Contributed Income: \$14.3 million\*  
Endowment Value: \$4.3 million

\*includes \$11 million in Create Our Future Campaign Contributions

## STAFF, FACULTY & BOARD, 2017-2018

Full-Time Staff: 34  
Part-Time Staff: 43  
Teaching Artists/Faculty: 202  
Board Members: 40  
Associate Board Members: 28  
Advisory Board Members: 28  
Committee Members: 286  
Volunteers: 480

## CREATE OUR FUTURE: A CAMPAIGN FOR COCA

In January 2017, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, COCA's Board of Directors announced the *Create Our Future* campaign – a \$45 million, multi-year effort to fund the capital renovation and expansion of COCA's historic building in University City and to fund its endowment and reserves. The ambitious project positions COCA to meet evolving community needs and serve its growing student base, while also sustaining its long-term commitment to ensuring access.

This much-needed expansion will transform and enhance the physical space - allowing COCA to serve more students in multidisciplinary classrooms and studios and deliver state-of-the-art performances - while ensuring COCA will be able to serve the St. Louis community for years to come.

Launched quietly in early 2015, COCA's campaign is spearheaded by a Steering Committee chaired by Cheryl Holman, with Honorary Chairs Alison and John Ferring. Lead gifts include \$5 million from Alison & John Ferring (which launched the campaign,) Berges Family Foundation, and Kim Kuehner; \$3 million gift from Centene Charitable Foundation; \$2 million gifts from Cheryl Holman, David Joyner & Bill Lawton, and Carol & Michael Staenberg; \$1.5 million from Bayer Fund; and \$1 million gifts from The Bellwether Foundation, Jennifer & Tom Hillman, Jane & Dave Peacock, and Edward Jones.

