



NEWS RELEASE

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COCA AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BY ACCPAS

Innovative and high-quality arts instruction at COCA backed by national recognition

(ST. LOUIS, MO) – [COCA-Center of Creative Arts](#), one of the largest multidisciplinary community arts schools in the nation, announced today that it is accredited by the [Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools \(ACCPAS\)](#).

This makes COCA the only accredited school in Missouri for non-degree instruction in the arts and one of only 17 institutions accredited nationally. Other accredited organizations include Interlochen Arts Academy, Music Institute of Chicago, and the Old Town School of Folk Music.

ACCPAS accreditation represents the excellence of COCA's arts instruction and dedication by the institution to provide innovative programming that nurtures the artistic and creative potential of its students. COCA's accredited programs include dance (ballet, hip-hop, jazz, modern, tap) theatre, and voice for all ages, as well as the early childhood program designed specifically to introduce two- to six-year old children to the arts.

"Accreditation by ACCPAS is a testament to the high-quality and progressive arts training we provide our students," said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director. "Our programs and practices in arts instruction are now backed by ACCPAS's national standards of excellence, and this is a major achievement for our organization as we plan for our future."

Established by the Council of Arts Accrediting Associations (CAAA), ACCPAS reviews and accredits schools and programs that offer non-degree arts instruction to children, youth and adults. CAAA provides accreditation for more than 1,000 institutions and programs in the arts, including colleges, universities and independent schools.

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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.