



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COCA WELCOMES FIRST NATIONAL HONORARY BOARD

Honorary Board Members Include Nationally Recognized Artists, Thought Leaders, and Changemakers Committed to COCA and Arts Education

ST. LOUIS — [COCA \(Center of Creative Arts\)](#), the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the U.S. and a leader in innovative arts education, is pleased to announce the appointment of 10 members to serve on its first National Honorary Board. Members of the Honorary Board are distinguished individuals in the fields of dance, theatre, music, literature, visual arts, culinary, design, education, creativity, innovation, media, and business who have engaged with COCA through its programs and events and have attained prominence in their respective professional careers.

COCA's inaugural Honorary Board members are:

- **Kevin/KC Carroll**, Founder + Katalyst and Author
- **Nick Cave**, Visual Artist
- **Rose Eichenbaum**, Photographer, Author, and Educator
- **Kathryn Finney**, Author, Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneur, Managing Partner of Genius Guild, and Founder and past CEO of digitalundivided
- **Heather Gilbert**, Tony-nominated Lighting Designer
- **Alicia Graf Mack**, Dean and Director of the Dance Division at The Juilliard School, Dancer, and Co-Founder of D(n)A Arts Collective
- **Darrell Grand Moultrie**, Choreographer and Master Teacher
- **Taylor Louderman**, Actress (Tami, *Kenan* on NBC), Singer, and Director
- **Carl Richards**, Certified Financial Planner™ and creator of the Sketch Guy column
- **Jer Thorp**, Artist, Writer, Teacher, Speaker

The Honorary Board will provide input, guidance, and strategy to advance COCA's mission, vision, and programs; help connect COCA to other organizations, local and national leaders, and artists; and serve as ambassadors for COCA and advocates for arts education.

"COCA is elated to introduce our very first National Honorary Board. Our Honorary Board members are committed to COCA, our community, and arts education, and we look forward to the guidance and insights they can provide as we continue to advance our work," said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director.

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ABOUT COCA

COCA's mission is to *enrich lives and build community through the arts*. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves more than 50,000 students, audience members, artists and families from more than 200 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of over 200 artists at the heart of its work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.