



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jessica Cabot, Interim Director of Marketing
jcabot@cocastl.org

COCA ANNOUNCES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS & NAMES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ST. LOUIS (September 30, 2024)—[COCA](https://www.cocastl.org), the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the U.S. and a leader in innovative arts education, appointed three new members to its Board of Directors and announced its Executive Committee for the 2024–2025 year.

The new members of the Board of Directors are:

- **Leslie Burrows**, Vice President, Portfolio Management, McCormack Baron Management. Burrows’s background includes leadership and management of a variety of affordable housing and fee-managed assets.
- **Kristin Pollak, CPA**, Corporate Controller, CareVet. Pollak has over 18 years of experience in auditing, financial reporting, project management, forecasting, and financial modeling. Pollak also serves as President of the COCA Associate Board.
- **Ann VonAllmen**, Community Volunteer. VonAllmen’s background includes management, communications, marketing, community building, fundraising, and connecting people to support stronger communities.

“COCA is excited to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors and announce our Executive Committee. Their expertise, leadership, and dedication will be instrumental in advancing COCA’s mission to enhance access and opportunities for our community to engage with the arts,” said Indigo K. Sams, COCA President & CEO.

2024–2025 Executive Committee

Kristin Johnson, Chief Transformation Officer, Edward Jones
Hope Abramov, Partner, Thompson Coburn, LLP
Bill Bradley, Senior Marketing & Communications Executive
Erica Glanz, Sr. Counsel-Employment & Sr. Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Bunzl Distribution
Lisa Guirl, Community Volunteer
Suzanne Johnson, Community Volunteer
Tyler Meyr, Executive Director, Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Ricky Nix, Jr., President, Butler’s Pantry
Brian Thomas, Independent Educational Consultant, 3 Robins Group & School First LLC
Sherri Tichenor, Head, Acct. BP CS, Global Seeds & US, Bayer U.S. – Crop Science
Susan Werner, Designer, Whimsy Rose

2024–2025 Board Members

Lael Bagnall, Community Volunteer
Nancy Barnes-Ault, VP & Community Relations Officer, Regions Bank
Ann Beatty, Founder/CEO, Beatty Leadership
Hunter Brown, Partner, Moneta Group
Christy Buchanan, Independent Agent
Leslie Burrows, Vice President, Portfolio Management, McCormack Baron Management*
Gina Eanes, Financial Advisor, Prudential Advisors

Donna LaVoie, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Saint Louis University
Steve Mackin, President and CEO, Mercy
Melissa Merlin, Community Volunteer
Daffney Moore, Senior Director of Economic Development, Beyond Housing
Kanika Pandey, Performing Artist, Indian Classical Vocalist
Kristin Pollak, Corporate Controller, CareVet*
Riisa Rawlins, CEO, St. Louis Regional Health Commission
David Reynolds, Market Leader/Senior Vice President at PNC Private Bank
Meg Schneithorst, President, St. Louis Region, Enterprise Bank & Trust
Rachel Seward, SVP, Corporate Communications & CSR, MiTek
Anna Tegethoff, Director of Philanthropy, Tegethoff Development
Ann VonAllmen, Community Volunteer*

**New Board Member for 2024–2025*

For the fiscal year 2024, COCA's operating income was \$8 million dollars, a 40 percent increase from the prior fiscal year. COCA continues to diversify its funding sources, focusing on grants for social and emotional programming and workforce developments as the organization continues to strengthen arts programming in the region.

###

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 60,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 250 zip codes every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and onsite at its campus in University City.