

September 2023–August 2024



Impact Report

COCA Announces Alumni Association at 2024 Alumni Reunion



COCA launched the COCA Alumni Association, a brand-new program for alumni, at the Alumni Reunion on July 19. The program aims to connect alumni, build their networks, find new ways for alumni to engage with COCA and the community, and help COCA remain a lifelong home for artists. More than 120 COCA alumni and guests attended the reunion.

COCA also announced the creation of the Lee Nolting Student Fund, in honor of beloved Lee Nolting, COCA Teaching Artist and founding Artistic Director of COCAdance. The scholarship in Lee’s name will make it possible for kids to come to COCA and provide support as they move to the next phase of their creative journey.

Alumni Reunion Sponsors
Butler’s Pantry
Amy Drummond & Bill Carson
Earth Candy
John & Alison Ferring
Gregory Glore
Kristin Johnson
Mestiza New York
Glenda Seldin
Greg Sullivan
Richard Tao
Susan & Peter Tuteur

Cover: COCA’s adaptation of *The Color Purple*, directed by Duane Foster, celebrated 20 years of COCA summer musicals. Alumni from past summer musicals joined current students for the production.

Dear Friends,

It is with profound gratitude that I share with you the enduring impact that is made through the power of generosity. Every act of kindness, whether large or small, initiates a powerful ripple effect that touches the lives of those we serve. These contributions spark positive change, extending throughout our community and enhancing their experiences as they engage in the arts.

Highlights from the 2023–2024 year included:

- The rollout of new curriculum for our voice and theatre programs
- The launch of an 8-week satellite location for summer arts camps
- Sold out performances of a collaborative youth musical with Variety STL
- The celebration of our 20th anniversary of COCA Summer Musicals
- COCA’s first Alumni Reunion and the announcement of our Alumni Association
- A record-breaking COCAcabana, raising more than \$1 million for our arts education programs and scholarships

These accomplishments, among others, reflect the dynamic and growing community we’ve established at COCA. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

Sincerely,
Indigo K. Sams
Indigo K. Sams
President & CEO

2023–2024 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
President	Kristin Johnson	Brian Thomas	Erica Glanz
		Sherri Tichenor	Lisa Guirl
		Susan Werner	Donna LaVoie
		BOARD MEMBERS	Steve Mackin
Hope Abramov	Lael Bagnall	Daffney Moore	Melissa Merlin
Elizabeth Mannen Berges	Nancy Barnes-Ault	John K. Nickel	Riisa Rawlins-Easley
Bill Bradley	Ann Beatty	Kanika Pandey	Rachel Seward
Hunter Brown	Claudia Brodie	Shuntae Shields-Ryan	Anna Tegethoff
Suzanne Johnson	Christy Buchanan		
Pauline Kim	Sheila Burkett		
Tyler Meyr	Kelly Doria		
Ricky Nix, Jr.	Gina Eanes		
Meg Schneithorst			

**PAST PRESIDENTS/
LIFE MEMBERS**
Barbara Archer
Richard D. Baron
Bill Carson
Tom Hillman
Steven Hochberg
Cheryl Holman
Jesse Hunter
Cynthia J. Kohlbray
Kory Mathews
Karey Witty

Introduction to COCA

Founded in 1986, COCA (Center of Creative Arts) is a leading, multidisciplinary community arts organization committed to enriching lives and building community through the arts. As an innovative model for arts education and nationally accredited for artistic and educational excellence, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds and skill levels.

COCA celebrates creativity in all forms, from various perspectives, backgrounds, artistic disciplines, and experiences, and believes everyone should have access to experience the arts. It has grown to become one of the most celebrated cultural institutions in St. Louis, a position bolstered by a commitment to increasing access to the arts.

Vision

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

Mission

To enrich lives and build community through the arts



Core Programs



Arts classes, camps, and workshops



Innovative gallery exhibitions and educational programs



Advanced arts training and performance opportunities



Arts-based professional development



Thought-provoking COCApresents performance season



Arts programming in local schools



COCA Expands Sliding Scale Tuition Program

Students of all ages and skill levels discover their creative potential in COCA classes. Our goal is to inspire students to develop not only skills in the arts but also gain access to the artistic process and new ways of thinking.

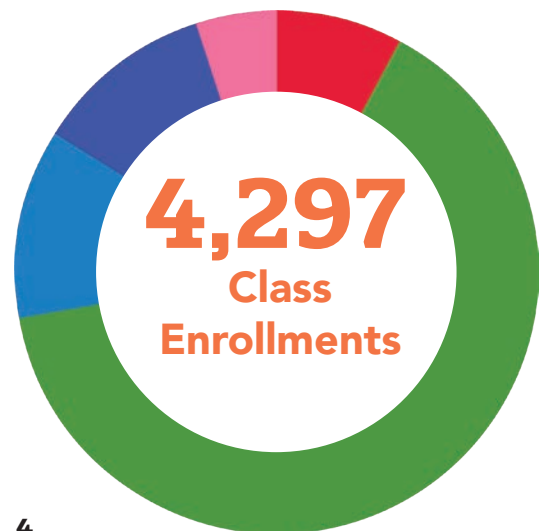
To provide more opportunities for students to engage in COCA's meaningful arts programs, COCA updated its Sliding Scale Tuition program to allow qualifying students to apply their tuition rate to up to three classes per semester. The prior policy only covered one class per semester. Sliding Scale Tuition is offered as a program for qualifying students based on need. COCA approved 433 Sliding Scale Tuition applications, representing 11% of enrolled students.



Class Sponsors

Bayer Fund
Dula-Kobusch Charitable Trust
Hauck Charitable Foundation
John Allen Love Charitable Foundation
Missouri Arts Council

Missouri Department of Economic Development - Youth Opportunities Program
PNC Foundation
Regional Arts Commission
St. Louis Community Foundation
The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation
The Millstone Foundation
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Class Participation
8% **Art & Design**
65% **Dance**
12% **Early Childhood**
11% **Theatre**
5% **Voice**

94% of students and families surveyed found their class to be engaging and spark their imagination

Janet Jackson Visits COCA Master Class

On June 20, COCA hosted a master class featuring professional dancers and choreographers Gil Duldulao, Denzel Chisolm, and Guero Charles, who were on tour with Janet Jackson. Dancers received a surprise when the iconic Janet Jackson visited COCA to watch the master class—it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Many thanks to COCA Alum and professional dancer Laura-Bethany Strong for bringing Janet to see the class!



ACCPAS

ACCREDITING
COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY & PRECOLLEGIATE
ARTS SCHOOLS

COCA is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools.

Students of all backgrounds look to COCA's Pre-Professional Division (PPD) for the training and inspiration they need to pursue their passion for the arts. Dance, Theatre, and Voice Program young artists are provided a nurturing path based on their own aspirations, ideas, and perspectives.

Artistic Directors

Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Dance

Shawna Flanigan
Theatre

Dr. Philip A. Woodmore
Voice

Company Directors

Tre'von Griffith
Allegro Junior Vocal
Company

Dr. Philip A. Woodmore
Allegro Senior Vocal
Company

Antonio Douthit-Boyd
Ballet Eclectica

Kirven Douthit-Boyd
COCAdance

Cameron Tyler
COCAwrites

Ed Reggi
Improv Troupe

COCA hosted its second annual COCA Prom for Pre-Professional Division students to celebrate the end of a successful year.



Sponsors

Bayer Fund
Burmeister Design
Missouri Department of Economic Development
Youth Opportunities Program
Missouri Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts
Regional Arts Commission (RAC)
The Hauck Foundation
The John A. Love Charitable Foundation

COCA's Pre-Professional Division Dance Program offers training within two main areas of study: Classical & Contemporary Ballet and Modern & Contemporary Dance.

Ballet Eclectica pulls from the best of classical and contemporary ballet to build a repertoire fit for our most talented ballet students.

COCAdance is an advanced student dance company comprised of COCA's most versatile young artists.



Ballet Eclectica participated in the Regional Dance America (RDA) National Festival in Daytona Beach in April. During the Festival, 19 COCA high school students attended classes led by renowned faculty in the field and performed Kirven Douthit-Boyd's choreographed piece, *Allegro*. COCA students received accolades for their professionalism and representation of the organization.

COCA Senior JiaLi Deck received recognition as an Outstanding Soloist and was selected as one of 20 dancers to perform her classical variation, *La Esmeralda*, for peers, faculty, members, directors, donors, and recruiters from across the country.

Ballet Eclectica and COCAdance performed their season-culminating repertoire at *Triumphant*, presenting 12 choreographic works by distinguished guest artists. *Triumphant* highlighted new works from Justin Conte, Freelance Educator, Director, and Choreographer working in commercial dance; Tom Gold, Former Soloist with New York City Ballet and Founder and Artistic Director of Tom Gold Dance; My'Kal Stromile, Member of Boston Ballet and Freelance Choreographer; and Omari Wiles, Founder and Artistic Director of Les Ballet Afrik.



The Pre-Professional Division Theatre Program is designed for students who want rigorous training to prepare them for a professional career in theatre through conservatory training. Students participate in sequential acting & production classes in addition to electives in script analysis, audition technique, playwriting, and directing.



Improv Troupe
students practice long-form and short-form improvisation, sketch comedy, and activities that involve audience participation.



COCA writes
students workshop new plays and musicals written by professional playwrights as well as write and perform their own plays and musicals.

COCA rolled out a new Theatre curriculum in Fall 2023 that redefined production expectations with the creation of a set of production guidelines to align COCA's production work with teaching work. It clarified that theatre is about more than just acting, emphasizing the importance of students taking classes in both production and acting.

For the Spring production of *The Kid at the Edge of Everything*, an imaginative adventure about friendship, COCA's young artists worked alongside professionals in the field, demonstrating COCA's commitment to offering well-rounded theatre education for its students. The talented Creative Team and two professional actors in the cast provided opportunities for students to further develop their skills as actors, directors, costume and set designers, and dramaturgs.

The Pre-Professional Division Voice Program is designed for voice students to enhance vocal training with substantial music theory development to prepare them to be life-long musicians and performers who are equipped for the next phase of musical training and performance. Students participate in specific tracks to achieve the highest level of music theory within the program.



Allegro Vocal Company
students expand their vocal technique and repertoire, and dive deep into acting for musical theatre.



Since his return to COCA as the new Artistic Director of Voice last summer, Dr. Philip A. Woodmore has been reshaping COCA's Voice Program. He developed a new Voice curriculum that will provide vocal students with a strategic class structure and additional engaging course offerings. He also rebuilt Allegro Vocal Company, comprised of Senior and Junior Company vocal students.

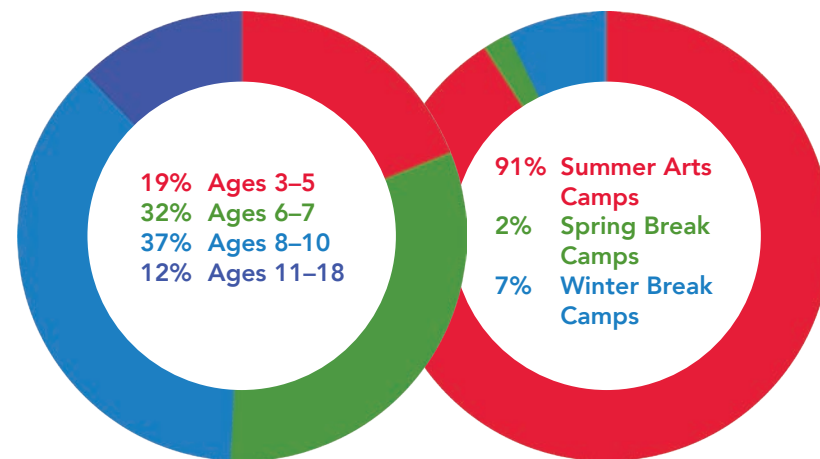
On February 12 & 13, COCA vocal students and Phil Woodmore Singers performed "All My Life" with Lil Durk at the Drake and J. Cole concerts at Enterprise Center. They performed for an audience of thousands near the main stage for this incredible opportunity.

Allegro Vocal Company highlighted COCA's top voices and featured a range of musical styles spanning the past century in *Harmonious*. This end-of-season performance celebrated the music of Stephen Sondheim and some of Dr. Woodmore's favorite pop songs, such as Toto's "Africa."



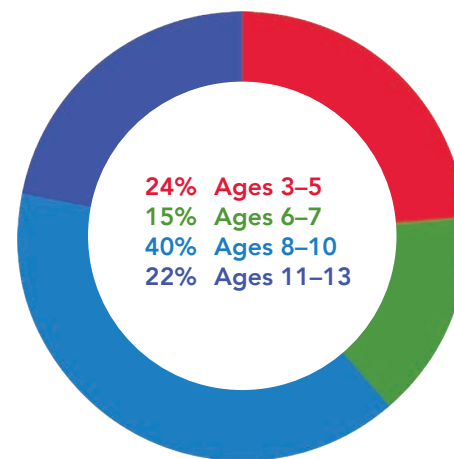
COCA offers hundreds of arts camps for kids and teens to ignite their creativity. COCA's summer arts camps, spring break camps, and winter break camps provide campers with the opportunity to learn and experience new things and enjoy art and the art-making process. Camps are taught by teaching artists who also work professionally as exhibiting artists or performers.

U. City Camp Participation



COCA launched an 8-week satellite location for its popular summer arts camps at University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (UHSP), formerly known as St. Louis College of Pharmacy, in the Central West End. Camps at UHSP expanded COCA's reach and provided additional opportunities for the community to engage in the arts. 57 camps were offered in singing, dancing, acting, visual art, filmmaking, fashion, and more for ages 3-13.

UHSP Camp Participation



COCA partnered with KHAOS Inc. to provide enhanced support to COCA campers and teaching artists for summer arts camps at University City. KHAOS Inc. specializes in mental health and wellness programs and worked with COCA to establish a nurturing environment where campers can build resilience and thrive through creativity and emotional support.

5,500
Total Camp
Participants

87% of families who
responded to COCA's camp
survey indicated that they
were very satisfied with their
camper's experience

Campers in *Comic Books & Graphic Novels* created original comic characters and designed the first issue to their own comic books. From scriptwriting and storyboarding to penciling and inking, campers worked on the technical skills of drawing comic panels.



In *Jungle Jammin'*, campers made musical instruments inspired by jungle stories. They made two types of drums and shakers. The campers enjoyed dancing like jungle animals like lions, gorillas, and birds.

Camp Sponsors

Ameren Missouri
Dierbergs Markets, Inc.
Mercy
Missouri Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts



COCA summer intensives provide advanced arts training in dance, theatre, and voice. Participants, ages 9–20, work with professional teaching artists to build and refine their skills.

Young artists, ages 14–18, honed their personal songwriting style in COCA's Songwriting Intensive. Students worked with NYC actor, singer, and Broadway vocal coach Michael Beatty to share personal ideas and stories through music. The young songwriters created and rehearsed their songs and then recorded them at Clayton Studios.



"Working with Michael Beatty was eye-opening, as he gave me so many useful pointers for composing that I still use to this day. Sharing your work can be a very vulnerable thing, so it was awesome to have so much support from my teacher and peers."
—Songwriting Intensive Participant

16 dancers participated in COCA's Ballet Studio Jr. Intensive, a 3-week training program that included instruction in ballet, modern, and character technique. Led by American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum Certified Instructors Norma Gabriel and Carrie Fernandez, Ballet Studio Jr. focused on technical elements as well as musicality and character development.



COCA's Millstone Gallery presents timely, relevant exhibitions from emerging and established artists. Exhibitions welcome visitors to examine the artistic process and engage in meaningful dialogue.

2023–2024 Exhibitions

Animated
by Rockette Fox, Sam Gaitsch, Jodi Kolpakov, & Amy Travis
September 8–October 8, 2023

Eternal Jungle
by Jasmine Raskas
October 27–December 10, 2023

Loose Threads
by Douglas Dale
January 26–April 7, 2024

COCA YouthVision: University City High School Students
May 10–19, 2024



Animated redefined the insistence in framing. The stories of four women artists reclaimed values and identities that not only escape frames but sometimes don't need them at all. *Animated* was a celebration of drawings outside stereotypes and the diversity of the St. Louis illustration scene.

An immersive installation including sculpture, painting, light, sound, and touch, *Eternal Jungle* explored sentience and questioned relationships to non-animal forms of life (both real and imagined). This exhibit investigated feelings of awe, wonder, and ethereal delight.



With their distinctive use of yarn glued to wood, Douglas Dale brought domestic and imagined landscapes made by carefully contouring surfaces line by line to the Millstone Gallery in their exhibition, *Loose Threads*.

Sponsors

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
Missouri Arts Council (MAC)
Regional Arts Commission (RAC)
The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation
The Gertrude & William A. Bernoudy Foundation
The Millstone Foundation

118
Summer
Intensive
Enrollments

cocApresents, COCA's signature performance season, features thought-provoking programming for multigenerational audiences with traditional audience favorites and new work from local, national, and student artists.

2023–2024 COCApresents Productions

The Carp Who Would Not Quit
October 29, 2023

COCA New Works Festival
November 10, 2023

COCA Improv Troupe: COCA Ignites!
November 19, 2023 & May 19, 2024

MOTHeR
December 8–10, 2023 & May 12, 2024

Joyful
December 16, 2023

The Kid at the Edge of Everything
April 19–20, 2024

Triumphant
May 9–11, 2024

Harmonious
May 17–18, 2024

The Color Purple
July 19–21, 2024

Over the past two decades, COCA Summer Musicals have been a source of inspiration, talent, and community. From the first read-through to the final bow, these productions have showcased the immense creativity and dedication of our students, staff, and alumni. To commemorate the milestone, COCA's 2024 Summer Musical production of *The Color Purple* featured 14 professional and apprentice alumni and 21 current students performing on stage together.

"This was hands down the best production of *The Color Purple* I've ever seen. NO ONE WAS LEFT AS A VILLAIN as in the movie and Broadway version. Love is redeeming and that shined through. Kudos to the director and the creative team for capturing the human aspect of this story." –*The Color Purple* Audience Member

Performed by a cast of 18 students in COCADance and one professional artist, *MOTHeR*, Kirven Douthit-Boyd's original new work, told the story of five mothers and their influence on their families and celebrated the power of motherhood. *MOTHeR* was presented on stage December 8–10, 2023, and returned for a special Mother's Day performance on May 12, 2024, providing another opportunity to share the piece with the community.



4,330
COCApresents
Attendees

6% *The Carp Who Would Not Quit*
3% *COCA New Works Festival*
3% *COCA Improv Troupe: COCA Ignites!*
25% *MOTHeR*
5% *Joyful*
8% *The Kid at the Edge of Everything*
16% *Triumphant*
4% *Harmonious*
30% *The Color Purple*

100%
of patrons who attended *The Color Purple* and responded to the survey indicated they would attend another COCA production

COCA's Improv Troupe students impressed audiences with interactive improv performances in the fall and spring. Performers honed their skills in long-form and short-form improvisation and sketch comedy. Audiences were encouraged to participate, helping create the characters, settings, and stories that drove the performances.

Sponsors

Mary Strauss,
Presenting Sponsor

Anonymous
Carrollton Bank
Alison & John Ferring
Gateway Foundation
Mercy
Missouri Arts Council
Regional Arts Commission
Regions Bank
St. Louis Union Station
Hotel
The Cheshire



Since 1992, COCAedu has been a nationally recognized model of excellence for arts education, providing arts programming to thousands of students and dedicated educators. COCAedu offered arts integration residency programs as well as after-school arts classes and school day residencies for partners throughout the St. Louis region.

32 Schools & Community Organizations Served

93 Educators Impacted

4,954 Students Impacted

"We have thoroughly enjoyed our second school year with COCA added into our program. Our students are engaged and our teachers are able to take ideas shared by COCA instructors and bring them to their classroom." — Meri Davis, Interim Executive Director, Clayton Early Childhood Center



During The Leadership School's Black History Month celebration, students unveiled collaborative quilt designs, created with teaching artist Susan Kopp, celebrating their exploration of the work of Faith Ringgold.



COCAedu established a new partnership with Danforth Elementary School in which every student experienced a 6-week circus class and a 6-week dance exploration class during their school day.

During their exploration of verbal and nonverbal communication, 4th graders from Flynn Park Elementary rewrote *The Lion and the Mouse* with Teaching Artist Janet Brown and performed it for their classmates.

The students from Pride 13 at Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center wrote *The Ever-Changing Story* with Teaching Artist Alicia Like and recorded the voice over for the final movie version of the piece.

Sponsors

Bayer Fund
Blues for Kids
Hauck Charitable Foundation
Missouri Arts Council
Regions Bank
The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Saigh Foundation
United Way of Greater St. Louis
US Bank

Schools & Community Organizations Served

Barbara C. Jordan Elementary
Barnwell
Buder Library
Carpenter Library
Central Institute for the Deaf
Central Library
Clayton Early Childhood Center
Danforth Elementary
Dream Path Teen Center
Flance Early Learning Center
Flynn Park Elementary
Hazelwood Southeast Middle School
Highland Elementary
Jackson Park Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Julia Davis Library
Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center
Larimore Elementary
Machacek Library
Mason Elementary
MICDS
New City School
Pershing Elementary
Ritenour Gifted Center
Rossman School
Schlafly Library
St. Louis Language Immersion School
Sumner High School
The Leadership School
The Wilson School
University City High School
Wydown Middle School



COCAbiz, the business training division of COCA, provides immersive arts-based training, programming, and consulting for professionals. The COCAbiz mission is to build a more creative, engaged, and effective workforce by delivering innovative workshops and events that employ authentic arts teaching and achieve business results.



COCAbiz led a strategic planning session for COCA's annual Board Retreat. Teaching Artist Maria Ojascastrro opened the meeting with a Rube Goldberg session for team building and developing the skills to solve a complex problem followed by a strategic planning activity to align organizational priorities.

Sponsors
Edward Jones

2023–2024 Partners
World Wide Technology
Opera Theatre of St. Louis
Chaifetz School at SLU
Pulitzer Arts Foundation
Commerce Bank
Big Rush Marketing
SIUE
Invest STL
Royal Canin



549
Total Professional
Development
Participants

11
Total
Programs

COCAbiz teaching artists provided Creative Collaboration and Acting with Awareness workshops for 150 staff members from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Enrollment Management teams. With the goal of improving communication, teamwork, and empathy across these teams, small groups tackled a creative challenge: build the most complicated, "Rube Goldberg"-inspired machine to perform a simple task with a set of ever-changing constraints. Participants experienced experimentation, creative problem solving, strategic thinking, embracing risk, and consensus building.

COCAcabana 2024

KALEIDOSCOPE

COCAcabana 2024: Kaleidoscope was COCA's most impactful fundraising event to date. The sold-out event welcomed more than 600 guests to celebrate the arts and raise critical funds to support COCA's mission. The event featured student performances and a live auction in the Catherine B. Berges Theatre, a silent auction, dinner, music by FatPocket, a late-night party with entertainment and food trucks, and more. COCAcabana surpassed \$1 million in revenue for the first time since the event began in 1988.



1. Laurie & Sean Lock, Aisling & Dr. David Leonard, Bahja Johnson, Indigo Sams, Daffney Moore, Melissa & Rob Merlin, Karen & Mark Grudzien



2. Lisa Warticovschi, Rachel Sokolich, Melissa Merlin, Matt Marglous, Ray Marglous, Sawyer Merlin, Rob Merlin, Mattison Murphy
3. COCA student performers
4. Russell Hornsby, Virginia Howell, Kristina Tavira (Cybr.Grl), Sherry Hornsby
5. Evette Nichols, Lydia Huston, Katina Shannon-Crawford, Michael Thompson, DeAna Carter, Indigo Sams, Phenicia Brown, Sonja Lemmie, Tiffanie Toles, Diamond Spence
6. Anna Tegethoff, Megan Smith, Ajla Tang



Event Chairs

Aisling & David Leonard
Daffney Moore
Melissa & Rob Merlin
Laurie & Sean Lock
Karen & Mark Grudzien

Alumni Chair

Bahja Johnson

Presenting Sponsor



Contributed Support

Contributions-operating	\$2,297,268	46%
Contributions-Create Our Future campaign	\$285,120	6%
Contributions-capital	\$525,000	10%
Youth Opportunites Program	\$39,929	1%
Bequest	\$732,260	15%
Special events	\$1,142,387	23%

\$5,021,964

Youth Opportunites Program 1%

Bequest 15%

Special events 23%

Contributions-Capital 10%

Contributions-Operating 46%

Contributions-Create Our Future campaign 6%

Productions & Exhibits 9%

COCAbiz 3%

COCAedu 13%

Education 44%

Camps 32%

Program Revenue

Education	\$1,106,841	44%
Camps	\$816,410	32%
COCAedu	\$335,027	13%
Productions & Exhibits	\$215,972	9%
COCAbiz	\$64,144	3%

\$2,538,394

Expenses

Programs	\$6,173,691	66%
Management & general	\$2,122,609	23%
Development & special events	\$1,046,499	11%

\$9,342,799

Management & General 23%

Development & Special Events 11%

Programs 66%

Sources of Operating Income

Unrestricted Contributions	\$3,029,528
Restricted Contributions	\$850,049
Special events Program	\$1,142,387
Investment Income	\$2,538,394
Miscellaneous	\$1,031,791
	\$206,183

TOTALS
Assets
\$59,565,306

TOTALS
Liabilites
\$27,687,855

TOTALS
Net Assets
\$31,877,451

COCA Launches Parent Committee

After parent volunteers helped fundraise for COCAcabana by staffing tables at COCA to promote the event and help sell tickets, they founded COCA's first Parent Committee. This group of 25 volunteers was eager to get involved and support COCA's ongoing fundraising efforts. The Parent Committee's goals are to advocate, volunteer, and fundraise on behalf of COCA. They strive to increase parent engagement and increase ticket sales for COCApresents performances. The Parent Committee's contributions were recognized at COCA events this season, including Nutcracker Tea, Ballet Ball, COCAcabana, the Pre-Professional Division's COCA Prom, and tabling for memberships and COCApresents.

Parent Committee Members

Tina Austin	Amanda Johnson	Daniela Radu
Nannette Bell	Shannon Lay	Rebecca Roam
Kim Bentley	Petra Levin	Sarah-Kate Sullivan
Joi Bolden	Christina Meyer	Anna Tegethoff
Abby Crawford	Allison Overmyer	Fiona Vaughn
Kametria Davis	Richelle Page	Bessie Williams
Joanna Dinsmore	Sarah Perez	Pertonia Williams
Demetrius Easley	April Powell	
Leslie Gill	Rachel Presti	



COCA Advisory Board

Carlton Adams	Kit Heffern	Richard Tao
Tanya Agee Harris	Audrey Jones	Debbie Tarlow
Briston Ashe	Steve Knight	Peter Tuteur
Christy Beckmann	Amy Lefton	Catherine Wermert
Joan Berkman	Sheila Little-Forrest	Janice Wells-White
Pamela Dern	Sandra Moore	Cathey Williamson
Susan Gilbert	Glenda Seldin	Nancy Yawitz
Gregory Glore	Greg Sullivan	
Stacey Goldman	Caryl Sunshine	

COCA Associate Board

Maggie Barton	Webster Heffern	Adrian Rice
Michael Bauer	Sally Hendin	Lindsay Schuessler
Erica Bouchard	Abby Hillman	Lori Lea Shelley
Chris Cardinal	Brittin Lamar	Justavian Tillman
Nick Clark	Lakesha Mathis	Maria Vella
Rasheen Coleman	Shabnam Nourai	Julia Wilkins Kohrmann
Jessica Davenport	Tamyka Perine	Adam Wilson
Preston Davis	Kristin Pollak	
John Gaskin	Elise Pursley	



Individual, Corporate & Foundation Members 2023-2024

Hope & Kirill Abramov	Kelly & Steve Mackin
Anonymous	Anne & Kevin McCormack
Lael & Andy Bagnall	Melissa & Rob Merlin
Nancy Barnes-Ault & Ken Ault	Terese Messman
Ann Beatty	Monica & Tyler Meyr
Renee & Andrew Bell	Daffney Moore
Nannette & Josh Bell	Isabel Moore
Elizabeth Mannen Berges & James Berges	Anne Morgan
Marion Black	Peggy & Andrew Newman
Tiffany & Bill Bradley	Christy & John Nickel
Claudia Brodie & Kevin Twellman	Elizabeth & Richard Nix, Jr.
Chrissy & Lee Broughton	Kanika Pandey & Shrikant Ramachandran
Betsey & Hunter Brown	Lynne & Brooks Parriott
Sheila Burkett	Jane & Dave Peacock
Barbara & Stephen Burrows	Penny Pennington & Mike Fidler
Jonathan Cagle	Allie & Mike Rapini
Lisa & Tom Carnahan	Rissa Rawlings-Easley
Amy Drummond & Bill Carson	Ray B. Marglous Family Foundation
Martinna & Charles Dill	Joseph & Susan Rechter
Kelly Doria	Stephanie Riven
Gina & Raullo Eanes	Indigo Sams
Debbie & Art Fitzgerald	Meg & Chris Schneithorst
Nancy & Steven Fox	Stephanie & Mark Schnuck
Abby & Bob Frohne	Mary & Steve Schoolman
Erica & Edward Glanz	Glenda & James Seldin
Gregory Glore	Rachel & Jermal Seward
Green Family Foundation	Simmons Charitable Foundation
Jennifer & Cap Grossman	Carol Staenberg
Lisa & Dan Guirl	Caryl Sunshine
Jennifer & Tom Hillman	Tarlow Family Foundation
The Hornsby Family	Anna & Jeff Tegethoff
Angie & David Hagee	Brian Thomas
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable Foundation	Sherri & Jim Tichenor
Linda & Jesse Hunter	Sarah H. Trulaske
Heather & Tyler Johns	Steve Tschudy
Suzanne & Jim Johnson	Jane Tschudy
Kristin & PK Johnson	Ellen & John Wallace
Sally Johnston	Susan & Joe Werner
Dr. Larry & Audrey Jones	Linda & Peter Werner
Karen & Ray Kalinowski	Stephanie & Sage Wightman
Beverly & Steve Knight	Risa Zwerling & Mark Wrighton
Janet Knight	
Kim Kuehner	
Donna Lavoie & Tracey Richmond	
Sally Lemkemeier	
Karen & Mont Levy	
Sheila Little-Forrest and Jeff Forrest	



SIX: Teen Edition

COCA introduced the region to *SIX: Teen Edition*. COCA's talented cast of 22 teens worked with *SIX: Teen Edition* Director Will Bonfiglio and COCA Teaching Artists Jailyn Genyse, Tre'von Griffith, and Ryan Douglass. Collectively with an incredible team of designers, COCA produced a spectacular pop concert that told an important story of agency and empowerment. *SIX: Teen Edition* was attended by 954 audience members.

Richard Baron Leadership Circle

Individual Annual Fund Contributors 2023–2024

COCA extends sincere thanks to the following individuals for their generous support through gifts that underwrite performances, exhibitions, arts education programs, scholarship & outreach programs, special projects & operating expenses, not including fundraising events.

Keenan Adams	Ann & Ronald Krone
Anonymous	Dorothy & Steven LaBounty
Barbara & Steve Archer	Kamal Lado
Ellen Schapiro & Gerald Axelbaum	Denise & Bob LaRossa
Sarah Bakewell	Catherine LeClair
Michael Bauer	Ruth Lederman
JL Biagi	Deanna Lee
Nicole Blumner & Warren Rosenblum	Karen Lewis
Erica & Ryan Bouchard	Sheila Little-Forrest & Jeff Forrest
Robin Boyce	Alison Long
Brandy Boyd	Peggy & Andrew Newman
Gail & Arnold Budin	Christy & John Nickel
Steve Cade	F. Shabnam Nouraie
Lewis & Jean Chase	Tamyka Perine
Riley Chevalier	Shevare' Perry
Patricia Christen	Bryan Pierce
Rasheen Coleman	Kristin Pollak
Joanna Das	Cory Reuwee
Jessica & Daniel Davenport	Adrian Rice
Preston Davis	Lisa Richter
Susan & Jeffrey Dee	Stephanie Riven
Carmen Dence	Amy Rosenblum
Linda & Paul Devereaux	Lindsay Schuessler & Brian Williams
Arnold & Hazel Donald	Deborah & Andrew Schwartz
Frank Dvorak	Adi Shamir & Richard Baron
Crystle Ellis	Lori Lea Shelley
Laurie Garland & Michael Weisman	Lisa Sims
Sophia & Quincy Garner	Laura & Jen Sparks-Boyce
Lynn & Jaspere Giardina	Michael Staenberg
Edes Gilbert	Sarah Thomasson
Karen & Michael Green	Justavian Tillman
Karen & Mark Grudzien	Vanguard Charitable
David Hasebrock	Maria Vella
Webster Heffern	Jade Venditte
Melissa Holman	Ranie & Doug Verby
Sarah Holt	Enid Weisberg-Frank & Bruce Frank
Margaret Horn	Catherine Wermert
Monica Huddleston	Julia Wilkins Kohrmann & Rob Kohrmann
Greta Johnson	Roxann Williams
Peggy & Lee Kaplan	Dan Woods

Corporate, Foundation, & Public Fund Contributors 2023–2024

COCA extends sincere thanks to the following corporations, foundations & organizations for their generous support through gifts that underwrite performances, exhibitions, arts education programs, scholarship & outreach programs, special projects & operating expenses, not including fundraising events.

Bernoudy Foundation	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Buckingham Wealth Strategies	The Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation
Cardinals Care	The Saigh Foundation
Central Trust Foundation	The Tarlow Family Foundation
Commercial Van Interiors	United Way
Donnelly Charitable Trust	William S. Kallaos Family Foundation
Double Good	
Dula-Kobusch Charitable Trust	AmazonSmile
Greater St. Louis Inc.	AT&T Foundation
Hauck Charitable Foundation	Institute of Museum and Library Services
Lathrop GPM LLP	Missouri Arts Council (MAC)
MHS Trust DTD	Missouri Department of Economic Development - Youth Opportunities Program
Oceano Bistro	National Endowment for the Arts
PNC Foundation	Regional Arts Commission (RAC)
Potthoff Family Foundation	United Way of Greater St. Louis
Regional Arts Commission	
Regions Bank	
Staenberg Family Foundation	



The Munny's T3 Program Builds Set for *The Kid at the Edge of Everything*

COCA was thrilled to partner with The Munny's Technical Theatre Training (T3) program for the set design for *The Kid at the Edge of Everything*, April 19–20. High school students in the T3 program worked under the guidance of The Munny's production manager and technical director and in collaboration with COCA's creative team to build and paint the set for the production. The T3 program provides mentorship and establishes relationships for students in technical theatre to help create a path for professional success after high school.

Tributes & Memorials

COCA wishes to thank the following individuals for their Tribute & Memorial gifts:

In Honor of Joye Forrest	Monica & Howlette Huddleston
In Honor of Karen & Mark Grudzien	Lynn & Benjamin Rassieur
In Honor of Molly Pereles	Gail & Arnold Budin
In Honor of Stephanie Riven	Sarah & Josh Goldman
In Memory of Alan Sunshine	Sarah Bakewell
In Memory of Marilyn Fox	Stephanie Riven
In Memory of Mrs. Tompras	Laurie & Michael Weisman
In Memory of Rosalyn Rosenthal	Stephanie Riven
In Memory of Sarah & Russell Witte	Susan & Alan Witte

Kelly Pollock Transformational Leadership Fund

Rhonda & Carlton Adams
Anonymous

Peter J. Witte Memorial Scholarship Fund

Judith & Mark Fitterman & family
Sherri & Richard Goldman
Susan & Neal Kalishman
Bonnie & Steve Rosen
Roz Levy Weintraub
Susan & Alan Witte
Lori & Dean Witte
Hazel Witte & Franklin Zweig

Youth Opportunities Program 2023–2024

Betsey & Hunter Brown
John Davis
Alison & John Ferring
David Joyner
Laurie & Sean Lock
Penny Pennington & Michael Fidler
Stephanie Riven
Ann VonAllmen



COCA received an unexpected planned gift from the Donnelly Family Trust for the Pre-Professional Division. The gift was made in honor of their granddaughters Kylie and Fiona Martin who were members of the dance programs at COCA.

Contact Virginia Howell at vhowell@cocastl.org to learn more about how you can make a lasting legacy with a planned gift to sustain COCA's future.

Membership Donors 2023–2024

Olumide Adewumi	Michael Green	Kristin Pollak
Amanda Albert	Brandy Greiner	April Powell
Ben Allen	Karen Grudzien	Omri Praiss
Amy & Brett Alsop	Kristy Guffey	Murray Pritzel
Alexis Ambrose	Adam Hartmann	Elise Pursley
Lisa Andres	Webster Heffern	Sara Raj
Catherine Anello	Kayla Heller	Erin Rakey
Jessica Arnold	Daron Hendrix	Tara Ramachandra
James Ashkar	Cynthia Herrick	Cory Reuwee
Catherine Augustin	Clare Higgins Siegel	Adrian Rice
Ellen & Gerald Axelbaum	Jenny Hill	Laura Richter
April Baker	Abigail Hillman	Amy Riek
Kathryn Banks	Sandeep Hindupur	Clare Rogoyska
Beverly & Philip Barron	Naomi Hoffman	Emily Roth
Maggie Barton	Ryan Hoffman	Gloria Ruben
Michael Bauer	Maggie Horn	Jannette Rusch
Katie Beim-Esche	Helen Human	Meleah Rush
Nannette Bell	Amanda Izzo	Emilie Russler-Germain
Bradley Beube	Sarah James	Kent Sanders
June Bierman	Ellen Jayaprabhu	Gail Sanders
Laura Billadello	William Kaufman	Sharon Schmidtke
Chantal Block	Jason Keen	Lindsay Schuessler
Erica Bouchard	Jennifer & Brandon Kern	Maureen Schulte
Fouad Boulos	Alicia & Brandon Konstantinovich	Jordan Scott
Maria Bradford	Rachel Korenblat	Richard Seibel
Katharine Bree	Alexxai Kravitz	Natalie Self Clay
Mary Ann Brengle	Hrishikesh Kulkarni	Neem Serra
Sherin Bruning	Barbara Kunkel	Maggie Sheehan
Marvetta Butler	Mary Kunnath	Lori Lea Shelley
Genevieve Caffrey	Brittin LaMar	Brandy Simpson
Gwendolyn Carroll	Peggy Langford	Kristin Smith
Rebecca Chibnall	Denise LaRossa	Olivia Smith
Adrienne Childers	Gayle Lazaroff	Lara Snyders
Mary Choquette	Jacqueline Levey	Paul Sorenson
Erin Christenson	Abby Lewis	Danielle Stewart
Allison Cohn	Yiing Lin	Bridget Stieven
Rasheen Coleman	Kim Liss	Lindsay Stowe
Kathy Conley-Jones	Amy Lombardo	Emily Thornton
Mandy Conroy	John Lowell	Lauren Tierney
Katherine Conti	Brendan Lucey	Justavian Tillman
Vanessa & Antonio Cooksey	Cristina Malone	Kelsey Tinkum
Abby Crawford	Cathy & Mike Maskus	Allison Travers
Kaitlyn Crosby	Valerie & Mike Mason	Michelle Valente
Shirine Dada	Lakesha Mathis	Renee Van Stavern
Jessica Davenport	Agnella & Stephen Matic	Maria Vella
Anne Davidson	Ebony McCain	Tina Villalobos
Preston Davis	Jennifer McCarthy	Pat Vogelsang
Rachel de Guzman	Erin McGaughey	Andrea Waller
Jane De Wolff	Carrie Medelman	Joseph Walter
Mark Deany	Brittany Mendicelli	Kristen Wann
Anna Dibble	Gina Merys-Mahaffey	Cara Weber
Heather Dorr	Laura & John Meyer	Liza Weiss
Rachel D'Souza	John S. Meyer	Lucricia West
Jess Dugan	Laura & Paul Miller	Julia Wilkins Kohrmann
Kel Durbin	Nicole Miller-Struttman	Adam Wilson
Emilie Fan	Katrina & Duane Moore	Heather & Matthew Wohl
Sarah Felumb	David Moquin	Janice Wolters
Sarah & Keith Fischer	Lindsay Mullenger	Philip Woodmore
Erin Fisher	Kelly Murrie	Katherine Wroth
Ann Fisher-Jackson	Mary Jane Musca	Kara Wurtz
Brooke Foster	Amelia Neely	Joanna Yang
Julie Francois	Jennifer Noderer	Timothy Zenthoefer
Tyler Fraum	F. Shabnam Nouraie	
Nicholas Frey	Margaret Nusbickel	
Nikki Freyman	Caitlin O'Connell	
Kelsey Gardner	Kimberley Odom	
Leslie & Roderick Garvin	Anne Offner	
Melody Gee	Jennifer O'Neal	
Malia Gehan	Elizabeth Parker	
Jennifer Gerdes-Drone	Tamyka Perine	
Eric Giambattista	Aaron Phillips	
Ruth & Jesse Gilliam	Laura Pignotti	
Rachel Glass	Sarah Pion	
Natalie Gnade	David Piston	
Beth Goldfinger	Ronald Platt	
Lucy Gossett	Lisa Pollack	
Rhonda Graack		

Alumni Association Members 2023–2024

Rodney Hamilton	Corey Reuwee	JD Aubrey Smith
Kamal Lado	Amy Rosenblum	

COCAcabana 2024

Event Chairs

Aisling & David Leonard
Daffney Moore
Melissa & Rob Merlin
Laurie & Sean Lock
Karen & Mark Grudzien

Alumni Chair

Bahja Johnson

Presenting Sponsor

Kwame Building Group

Bar Sponsor

Anheuser-Busch

Cocktail Sponsor

Stifel

Performance Sponsor

Edward Jones

Friend of the Arts

Switch

Auction Sponsor

Bayer

VIP Reception Sponsor

U.S. Bancorp Impact Finance

Lead SAY Yes Sponsors

The Hornsby Family
McCormack Baron Salazar
Tegethoff Development

Fashion Sponsor

Neiman Marcus

Food Truck Sponsor

Benjamin F. Edwards
Valet Sponsor
Clayco & Lamar Johnson
Collaborative

Green Carpet Sponsor

Regions Bank
Art Direction & Design
Cannonball Advertising and
Promotion

Game Room Sponsor

Enterprise Bank & Trust
Take It Home Sponsor
Schnucks

Travel Sponsors

SmartFlyer
Melissa & Robert Merlin

Band Sponsor

Thompson Coburn, LLP

Kickoff Sponsor & Table One Sponsor

Ash Leonard Design
Diamond Raffle Sponsor
Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers

Media Partner

Town & Style

Catering Sponsor

Butler’s Pantry
Wine Sponsor
Cooper’s Hawk Winery &
Restaurants

Dessert Sponsor

Hawthorne Capital – Laurie
Garland &
Michael Weisman

Community Engagement Sponsor

MiTek Industries

Late Night Sponsor

WerQfest

Kaleidoscope Sponsor

Jim Butler Auto Group

Spirits Sponsor

Breakthru Beverage Group

Late Night Bar Sponsor

STL Barkeep

Gold Sponsors

Pauline & John Cella
Centene Charitable Foundation
Planthaven Farms

Silver Sponsors

Betsey Brown Travel
Faces STL
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Kelly & Steve Mackin
Mercy
PNC Bank
Saint Louis University
Gibbons Workman LLC –
Tricia Workman & Jon Wolters

Bronze Sponsors

Ameren Missouri
Christner Architects
Chrissy & Lee Broughton
Plancorp
Purina
Jane & Ted Simmons
SmartFlyer
St. Louis Development
Corporation
Washington University

Special Thanks

Ampcus Inc.
Drybar St. Louis
Fat Pocket
First Bank
Hacienda Mexican Restaurant
IT Solutions, Inc
Lathrop GPM LLP
Lion’s Choice
Lodging Hospitality
Management
Ogletree Deakons
Paritta Group
Pure Entertainment Services
Raising Canes
Rung for Women
S.M. Wilson & Co.
Saint Louis Business Journal
The Scout Guide Saint Louis

First-Ever Juilliard Dance Experience—On Tour Comes to COCA

COCA partnered with Juilliard to bring their first-ever Juilliard Dance Experience—On Tour event to COCA on March 3. This partnership provided an opportunity for nearly 100 young dancers from the St. Louis region to participate in a celebratory day of dance with Juilliard Dance, and COCA was selected as the only location outside of New York City to host this transformative event. This one-day in-person workshop gave intermediate and advanced dancers ages 10–18 the chance to experience Juilliard’s dance program and take technique classes with Dance Division faculty, alumni, and students. Classes included ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, and improvisation.



Scholarship Donors

Hope Abramov & Kirill Abramov
Stephanie Aiello
Hilda Andres
Lael & Andy Bagnall
Monica & Eric Bailey
Nancy Barnes-Ault & Ken Ault
Mary Ann & Michael Beatty
Caroline Behan
Nannette & Josh Bell
Gretchen & Adam Birenbaum
Ingrid Boyd
Emily Boyd
Tiffany & Bill Bradley
Amanda & Dan Brill
Claudia Brodie & Philip Lee
Joya Brooks
Betsey & Hunter Brown
Christy Buchanan
Sheila Burkett
Leslie Burrows & Arnold Britt
Bernie Burtch
Elizabeth & Tyler Cain
Rochelle Calhoun
Pauline & John Cella
TJ Chulick
Catherine Codispoti & Austin Werner
Grace Conner
Abby & Matt Crawford
Terry Crow
Lauren & Brice Dal Farra
Mark Darrell
Alex Deluka
Danielle Diehl
Michael Donovan & Timothy Scott Isbell
Kelly Doria
Amy Drummond & Bill Carson
The Dula-Kobusch Foundation
Jenny & Troy Duncan
Gina & Raullo Eanes
Catherine & Benjamin Edwards
Rob Eggmann
Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers
Petra Levin & Andrew Erdmann
Elizabeth Feldmeir
Katie & William Feuerbacher
Carolyn Ford
Sophia & Quincy Garner
Kelly & Gus Gast
Liz Gibbons
Roger Giller
Erica & Edward Glanz
Karen & Mark Grudzien

Kelsey Guinn
Lisa & Dan Guirl
Maggie Hanson
Ryan Hawkins
Alesha Henley
Gail & Steven Hochberg
Alison Holland
Melissa Holman
The Hornsby Family
Jack Howell
Linda & Jesse Hunter
Lydia Huston
Bahja Johnson
Lea Johnson
Rosalind Johnson
Suzanne & James Johnson
Kristin & P.K. Johnson
John Kennedy
Pauline Kim & Philip Lee
Beverly & Steve Knight
Susan Kopp
Daniel Kramer
Mia Kweskin
Amy Kweskin
Katie & George Lappas
Grace & Scott Lause
Donna LaVoie & Tracey Richmond
Missy & Harry Leggat
Lisa Litvag
Laurie & Sean Lock
Lindsey & Matt Lottes
Kelly & Steve Mackin
Pamela & John Mandelker
Margo Martinez
Stephen Matic
Courtney McAllister
Tim McDuffey
Melissa & Rob Merlin
Douglas Meyer
Monica & Tyler Meyr
Alyssa Mizell
Daffney Moore
Will Moorehead
Arianna & Alex Muckerman
Rosemary Nazaruk
Grace Neary
Lisa Neider
Elizabeth & Ricky Nix, Jr.
Julie Notario
Allison Ogden
David O’Hara
Rachel & Jack Oliver
Peter Palermo

Kanika Pandey
Priyal Patel
Jane & Dave Peacock
David Pearson
Julie & John Peters
Cheryl Pettus
Kristin Pollak
Terry Purtty
Vanessa Randazzo
Riisa Rawlins
David Reynolds
Chris Roach
McCormick Baron Salazar
Wanda & Darryl Sams
Katie & Sandy Schenck
Meg & Chris Schneithorst
Stephanie & Mark Schnuck
JoAnna Schooler
Susan & Michael Scully
Brooke Sehy
Rachel & Jermal Seward
Ted & Jane Simmons
Amber Simpson
Megan Smith
Rachael Sokolich
Michael Stagg
Amy Stiteler
Tarlow Family Foundation
Michelle & Troy Taylor
Donya Taylor
Anna & Jeff Tegethoff
Brian Thomas
Michael Thompson
Dave Thompson
Sherri & James Tichenor
Kate Totterdale
Susan & Peter Tuteur
Katherine Van Allen
Fiona & Brandin Vaughn
Ann VonAllmen
Rick Walsh
Lizi Watt
Sara & Todd Weaver
Susan & Joe Werner
Tedd Wight
Christian Williams
Alison & Keith Williams
Cathey Williamson
Madeline & Matt Wright
Mary & Walter Wroughton
Nancy Yawitz
Nicole Young



COCA’s annual Regional Summer Intensive Auditions (RSIA) is a collaborative audition opportunity for dancers to audition for summer intensive programs from leading programs across the country. The 2024 auditions and sample classes were attended by 234 students, a 47% increase from 2023’s event, representing 23 different states. RSIA had 26 programs in attendance.

COCA & Variety the Children's Charity Teamed Up for Youth Musical Production of *Disney's Finding Nemo, JR.*



Presenting Sponsor
Mercy

Supporting Sponsors
Ameren
Central Trust Foundation

Dierbergs
Missouri Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts

Terry & Sally Schnuck
United Way
William S. Kallaos Family Foundation



Become a Member

COCA members get more all year long—more behind-the-scenes access, more special perks, more advanced access, and more insider engagements. From early Summer Arts Camps registration to special receptions with guest artists, maximize your experience by becoming a member!

Your support as a member ensures that the arts are accessible to everyone in St. Louis.