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For Immediate Release

New Inspiration for Eight Kansas City Artists ***ArtsKC Fund Grants fund special projects for local artists***

Kansas City Metro (January 5, 2011) -- The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City Board of Directors has approved \$7,266 in new funding for eight local artists. The ArtsKC Fund's Inspiration Grant program funds special projects and professional development for individual artists. In its first five years, Inspiration Grants funded 110 artists and art projects in the region, including such celebrated artists as Peregrine Honig, Enrique Chi and Peggy Noland.

Artists in the latest round come from diverse backgrounds and disciplines and include a singer-songwriter, a ceramicist, a sketch artist, a visual artist working with specialty printers, a percussionist playing in the pan tradition and three multi-disciplinary artists.

These eight Inspiration winners received grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 for projects that will help them to grow their art businesses. "Artists are amazing in their ability to leverage small amounts of money to create something remarkable," said Paul Tyler, Arts Council Grants Director.

"Now, I will be able to start producing the ideas that have been waiting in a sketch book. I will be able to accept collaboration offers without hesitation, since now that I know that my equipment will not create problems halfway through," says Nihan Yesil, Inspiration Grant recipient, "These are all very exciting prospects, and all will help me advance my career as an artist tremendously, and that is all thanks to that 'little bit of funding' I received."

"These artists are entrepreneurs and the grants they receive are an investment in the economic growth of our community," says Harlan Brownlee, "These grants ultimately help them in contributing to the community at large."

Artists applying for Inspirations grants go through a two part process which includes review by a panel of community members. Artists interested in applying should visit the Artist Services section of our website at www.ArtsKC.org/ArtistServices.aspx. The next deadline for applications is March 1, 2012. For more information about the ArtsKC Fund or to make a contribution, please visit www.ArtsKC.org/TheArtsKCFund.aspx.

About the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City:

The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City advances and supports the arts for the benefit of the Kansas City region.

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