

## Arts of Southern Kentucky Receives Funding to Expand Rehearsal and Administrative Space

### Commonwealth of Kentucky Awards \$8.5 million for SKyPAC addition

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BOWLING GREEN, KY – Today, Arts of Southern Kentucky announced that it has received funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to significantly expand the physical space required to support its growing public performance schedule and educational programs. The \$8.5 million appropriation will be used to create a two-story addition to the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) that will house a set workshop for the Ramsey Theatre Company and add rehearsal spaces, storage, and administrative offices.

To further its mission, over the last two years Arts of Southern Kentucky has increased the number of public performances, expanded educational programs, and created a Broadway theatre company. The need for more space has become urgent, according to Arts of Southern Kentucky President & CEO, Jeffrey Reed. “We are currently using every square inch of space when we prepare for a Ramsey Theatre Company or BG OnStage production – and there are now six of these each season,” said Reed. “We estimate we are losing at least \$750,000 in potential rental revenue because space isn’t available to the public. We have also had to rent space off campus to support our growth.”

The Commonwealth of Kentucky’s support will be transformative, said Arts of Southern Kentucky Board Chair Gary Ransdell. “We are so fortunate in our community to enjoy a beautiful arts center, a professional orchestra, an emerging theatre company, and a dynamic youth program. This new building will allow all of those programs to flourish.”

Reed said that many people are responsible for obtaining the appropriation: Sen. Mike Wilson, Sen. David Givens, and Sen. Max Wise sponsored the bill in the Senate. Rep. Michael Meredith, Rep. Kevin Jackson, Rep. Robert Duvall, and Rep. Shawn McPherson supported its passage in the House. Richie Sanders served as ASK’s representative in Frankfort. Locally, former Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon, ASK board member and former House Speaker Jody Richards, and ASK chair Gary Ransdell headed the effort on behalf of Arts of Southern Kentucky. Judge-Executive Doug Gorman agreed to allow the expansion of the building, which will be built on County-owned land adjacent to SKyPAC. “This was a group effort,” said Reed. “South central Kentucky is fortunate to have so many people who believe in the power of the arts to change lives and transform communities. Words are inadequate to express my gratitude for what they’ve done.”

ABOUT ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY - In 2020, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon, Orchestra Kentucky assumed management of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The new organization, which also includes BG OnStage and the Ramsey Theatre Company, is titled Arts of Southern Kentucky, and is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center is a premier performing arts venue located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. The facility includes the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, a 1,700-seat state-of-the-art auditorium; the Goodwin Gallery, the primary art exhibition space; the Renshaw Education Center which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; and the Denny and Carol Wedge Children's Art Gallery.

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