



2023 ART IN THE LOOP PROJECT: CELEBRATE





Jade Osborne | Performing Arts Director

The Art in the Loop Project grants us all the opportunity to witness Kansas City Metropolitan Area artists interact with and activate public spaces, while creating rare conversations with Kansas City audiences. I am honored to have served as the 2023 Art in the Loop Performing Arts Director and to be a part of a project that transforms urban spaces into intimate gatherings, providing artists a platform for public discourse. Our artists are our culture bearers and this project amplifies and uplifts all voices, while providing audiences the opportunity to engage with the arts on their own terms. Projects like Art in the Loop are vital in bringing arts to the people, and this year's selected artists not only provided multi-sensory experiences, but also demonstrated camaraderie, provided each other with community support, and above all, reflected the creativity of the Kansas City Arts community. I CELEBRATE each of you...Kansas City Artists, Community, Supporters, Colleagues and the many people who make Art in the Loop possible. Congratulations to us all!

Marissa Starke | Visual Arts Director

At the core of Art in the Loop is a determination to allow free and unlimited access to art for any individual that is visiting the downtown corridor. The gift of happening upon art for the first time in an unexpected space is something that has resonated with me for decades as an arts appreciator, as an arts administrator and as a staunch supporter of free and accessible art. It has been an honor to work with the Art in the Loop team, board of directors and artists this year to bring eight visual artworks to the Kansas City community. I have deeply enjoyed the opportunity to see the hard work from proposal to installation to presentation that each of this year's artists have put into bringing their art to the city. The quick thinking, problem solving and imagination of the artists has been remarkable to witness. The joy and curiosity that downtown residents, employees and guests of the city have shared with us has been invigorating. I am deeply touched by my experience as the Visual Arts Director for the 2023 Art in the Loop project. It has been a true joy to watch each of the visual artists bring their concepts and big ideas to fruition. I am grateful for this experience and continue to believe in the importance of public art and its profound effect on the daily lives of the individuals that experience it within our city. Thank you to everyone that has participated, connected and shared their experience with this year's visual and performing arts and I hope your support and enjoyment continues for many years to come.



About Art In The Loop

2023 is the tenth year anniversary of the Art in the Loop Project, a curated outdoor exhibition of temporary artworks and performances presented in partnership with the KC Streetcar Authority. Artists responded to the 2023 theme of "Celebrate" and addressed questions about how and what we celebrate in our lives is reflected in the artwork, the art practice, our community, and our city.

Ann Holliday Art In The Loop Director

In 2023 we celebrated 10 years of producing the Art in the Loop Project, our annual art exhibition and performance series held on the KC Streetcar route and other Downtown locations featuring local artists! During this time, we have distributed 215 artist stipends, held 162 performances and installed 98 artworks! New in 2023 was a serial live painting project by Bubble Gum Kurt, free yoga classes at the Union Station Streetcar Stop organized by Kyneesha Edwards in support of her artwork "Black Boy Joy" and the community installation of a Flower Garden by Madeline Marak at the River Market West Stop. We had engaging performances including contemporary dance, aerial performers, and music styles across the board! I am proud of the diversity of the programming and our reach; but most importantly, I treasure the opportunity to work with each of the individual artists - their creativity never fails to blow me away! I am also grateful for the leadership of our two artistic directors, Jade Osborne and Marissa Starke, our partnership with KC Streetcar and Donna Mandelbaum as well as the entire Art in the Loop Board of directors.



Board of Directors

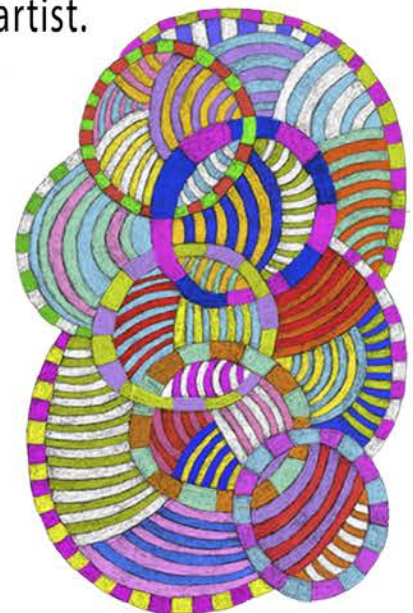
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Fred Trease | *Disco Cloud* | KC STREETCAR #804

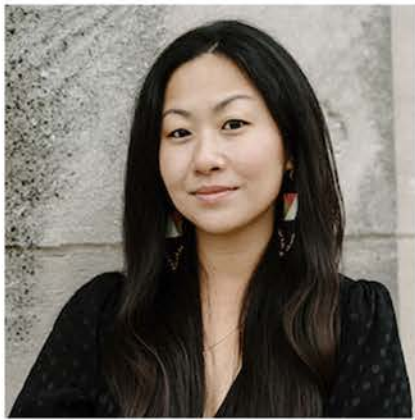
"My career has benefited greatly by my participation in Art in the Loop. The impact on my practice as an artist is immense. It has pushed me to think differently and meet unexpected challenges. The streetcar have given me an incredible way to present my work to the public unlike anything I've experienced before. To have my art moving through space and surprising people with a sudden appearance is a fantastic experience. I think it is possible that more people may have interacted with my work through Art in the Loop than in my nearly 20 year career as an artist.

The response on social media and in daily life has been highly rewarding and given me validation that artists seldom receive. The positive feedback from the community has been very nurturing. It has given me concrete acknowledgment as a member of the Kansas City art community. As I have come to art by a non-traditional route this is particularly meaningful. Because of the streetcar I have made connections with people whom I might not have ever met and I see this resulting in future collaborations."





Arin Yoon | *here, with you* | River Market North



"The location of *here, with you* is meaningful to me because my parents used to be weekend vendors at City Market in the 80s. Having my work displayed at a stop overlooking the market felt like a full-circle moment. When I saw the piece for the first time, I was emotional. I imagined them in this space, but now with their descendants watching over them from the future.

The act of making this work and having it be a collaborative process with my children is what is at the core of this image.



When this image was installed at River Market North, the meaning of the work changed. Witnessing people interacting with this now life-sized image of me and my daughter created new layers of meaning.

I show my work in gallery spaces but I've always preferred having it displayed in public places. It's important for art to be accessible to all communities and for the art to reflect the experiences of members of those communities."





Madeline Marak *Flower Garden* | River Market West

"Flower Garden is a playful, layered installation of colorful acrylic flowers that celebrates creativity and community collaboration. The shapes of the flowers are derived from digital scans of kids' drawings created at a community art studio in Kansas City. The piece evolved and grew as time went on starting with the base leaf layer, then the reflective shapes, and finally the bright flowers. The public was invited to install the flowers during a lively public event. It was a great experience interacting with the public and hearing their reactions to the creative process. The best part was seeing all the different ways people approached creativity.

My goal was to create a piece that celebrated and shared the joy I get from being an artist. I hope the piece reminds someone of a time they were creative and inspires them to be creative. This experience has enriched my art practice immensely. Watching the piece take on a life of its own as it spins in the wind or is lit up by streetlights exemplifies the magic of placing art outside for all to see. People have told me the piece is part of their morning commute, others have said they made a family outing specifically to see my art while eating ice cream. I love that I could be a part of a small moment in someone's life."





Kaitlyn B. Jones

How to Build an Altar for the Living **Library South Bound**

"My artistic and professional growth has improved greatly since becoming a selected artist for Art in the Loop. I moved to Kansas City from Houston in July of 2022.



I am very appreciative for the opportunity to be immersed in the arts scene through Art in the Loop. I have been able to network with incredible artists in the community, learned how to digitally enhance my work for future use, and received multiple opportunities to practice my artistic "elevator speech" through Art in the Loop's public programming and receptions.

My experience as a new Kansas Citian has been enhanced by my participation in Art in the Loop. Kansas City is bursting with artistic talent and I am grateful to have been among the selected artists to be featured in this year's series."



ART IN THE LOOP 2023



Isaiah Lee

Demonstration 3 | Metro Center North

"This has been a substantial opportunity as an artist and as a person. Through this program, I have met so many amazing people who create such beautiful work. This entire experience made Kansas City's art community feel so much more tight-knit and I really enjoyed being a part of that. I think the biggest thing I drew from all of this was how to write up a solid proposal and how to create something meant for public consumption. This was my first time creating a public artwork."





Adrienne Clayton

***Little Princess* | Artwall at 13th & Grand**

"Participating with Art in the Loop is always a pleasant experience and a great opportunity. The exposure alone has provided possibilities for commission work and partnerships with other organizations. I have since painted a mural for Port KC/ Spray KC, asked to reinstate a mural and invited to multiple art fairs. Having my work in a public setting allows me to share my experience, my process and encourage art as a career with my students."



ART IN THE LOOP 2023



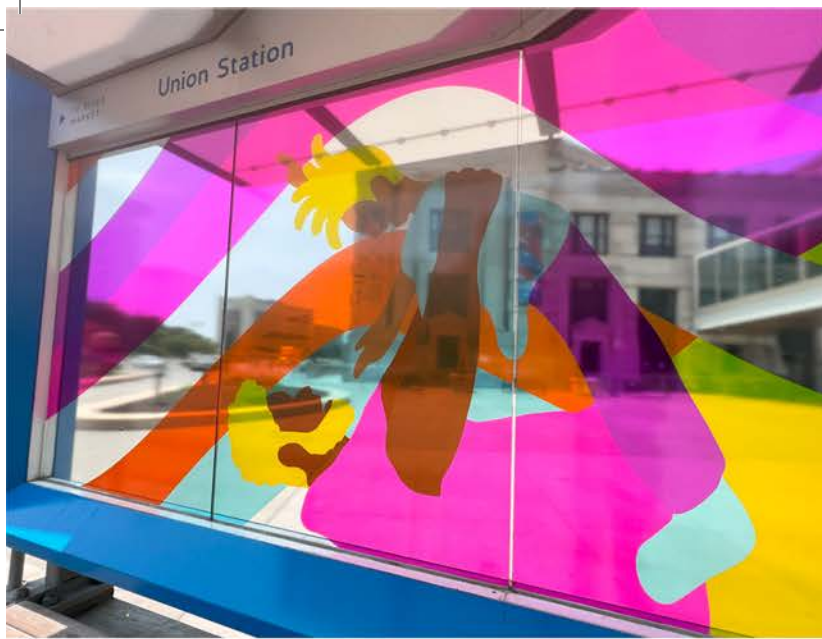
Bubblemum Kurt

Party Balloon | Crossroads North

My time working with Art in the Loop has been a wonderful experience. Creating a public mural has brought eyes to me as a professional artist while also challenging my work and pushing me out of my normal creative process.



My piece was unusual from other applicants, so having it approved, then collaborating with members of Art in the Loop to bring my hand painted directly to a street car shelter has been a meaningful step in my career as a creative. I have grown confident in my capabilities because for this project I researched, planned, and tested, only to encounter issues with my materials on the day of the first painting session. My preparation, plus my skills I had built up as an artist helped me complete a beautiful, unique, and colorful piece of art to be celebrated and one that I am proud of.



Khyneesha Edwards

Black Boy Joy | Union Station

"I felt it was important to respond to the prompt of celebration with something that would shed light on the Black experience and uplift my culture. As a result, I realized the power that art has to build community, and that as a creative, I have the ability to tap into that power through my work."

Black Boy Joy started as a celebration of Black men and boys claiming joy in ways that feel authentic to them. It grew into a community movement complete with a 4-part yoga series, additional philanthropic donations, and an array of merchandise to keep the celebration going. As the project gained more coverage and admiration from the community, I was blessed with opportunities to share my mission and vision with local organizations, journalists and various community members. This project reminded me that I have important things to say through my work. I remembered that it's my responsibility to continue using my art as a vehicle to bring awareness to issues that deserve to have an increased following. I'm thankful for Art in the Loop for providing the vehicle to be able to do so."





Kick Off Events | June 21, 2023



Encode | Art Car Reveal | Union Station

"I spent the last 9 years performing in a two-person project. And while that was an incredibly rewarding experience, this performance with Art in the Loop has given me the opportunity to put myself out there all on my own. Using my history in production, writing, and performance as a foundation, I'm excited to expand my repertoire and add solo performer to my varied musical resume."



Tristian Griffin Dance Company | Central Library

"I greatly appreciate what Ann Holliday, Donna Mandelbaum, and the rest of the Art in the Loop team have created. Art in the Loop is such a great resource for networking opportunities with other artists and exposure to the Streetcar community. Having art not just exist in theaters or galleries but on KC streets, on streetcar stops, on billboards, and in libraries is what propels art forward."



Michael Toombs | Keynote Speaker | Central Library

PAINTER | MURALIST | MENTOR | CEO STORYTELLERS INC.

"Celebrate. This city has a lot to celebrate in its artists. It was not that long ago that our downtown was quiet and very still. Developers reached out to the artists to assist in efforts to demonstrate and celebrate what is the spirit of our town and invite its citizenry back to a developing city core.

And with a little assistance, we helped bring the creative spirit of the city to the forefront. It happened on every front...the galleries and murals, music and theaters, performers and poets, and now even filmmakers and photographers. The creative nature of our city is even resonating in our sports, as well as in our social and economic development. And now through projects like Art in the Loop, it's becoming part of a highly visible landscape, that reminds us of who we are, as well as inspires us in who we are yet to become. So celebrate these accomplishments, and this organization that's contributed so much, and remember to support the arts, and your artists who've helped make it all possible, and who are continuing to contribute to this ongoing and continuously evolving narrative."



The Swallowtails | Central Library

"As musical artists that typically play in traditional rock venues, playing in a non-traditional space like the library allowed us to express our music in a different way. The acoustics in the space brought out the orchestral sound of the cello and bassoon. It was a unique experience to perform with other artforms other than music.

We were able to connect and share our music with people who may not typically be exposed to classical instruments in such a unique style. We were excited to have an audience that was attentive and captivated by our work. One of our goals as a band is to bring our music to audiences outside of our normal setting, and Art in the Loop helped provide that."



Oppenstein Park | July 12, 2023

Kansas City Dance Collective

"As a new company in Kansas City, KCDC is incredibly appreciative of having been selected to perform at an Art in the Loop event! Opportunities to get your name out to the community are very exciting. We not only were able to be in a public setting where we could reach new audiences, but we were also able to meet other very talented local artists! Thank you Art in the Loop for working so hard to support the arts in Kansas City. We love opportunities to perform and share our love of dance with our community."



Mimi Nichole

"Wow! First off let me say thank you to Art In The Loop for selecting me as one of this year's performing artists! Performing at Oppenstein Park was a wonderful experience and gave me so much room to grow professionally. When I arrived I was glad to see a beautiful sound system set up by an amazing band "The True Lions" I was super pumped!

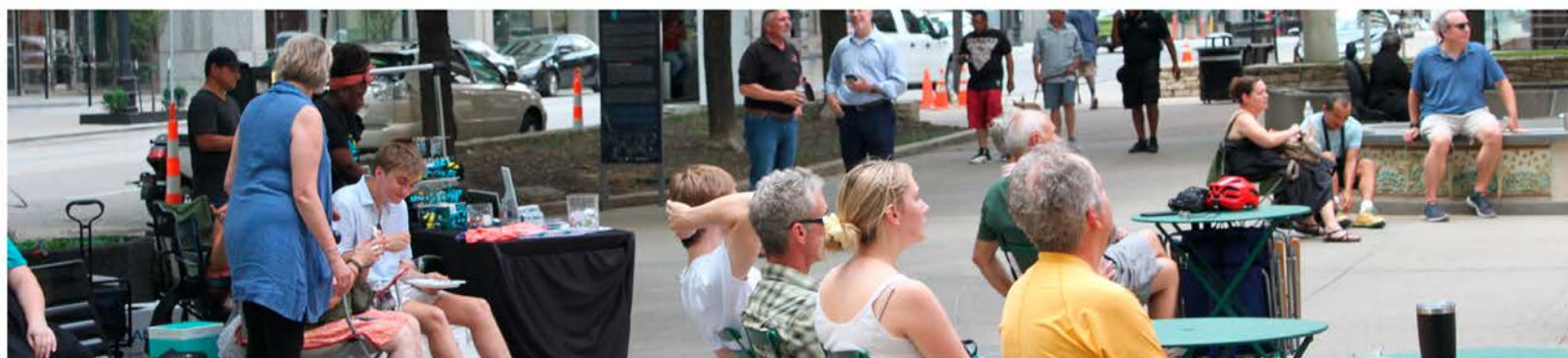
I had brought my own sound system but the fact they were so kind to have set up for fellow artists was such an act of kindness, as well as professionalism. I shared the stories behind my songs, spoke words of encouragement, and even shared an affirmation that God gave to me. This created a more intimate setting for myself as well as the crowd, it was like we were getting to know one another. After my set, I was so excited to see "The Kansas City Dance Collective" as well as the "True Lions". Everyone did such an amazing job & and I look forward to continuing to support Art In The Loop."





True Lions

"Our True Lions performance at Oppenstein Park on July 12 was an excellent opportunity for our growth as professional musicians. Sharing a diverse bill helped us connect with local artists we've previously never met (Mimi Nichole and the KC Dance Collective!). Art in the Loop provided a totally new sonic space for us to create our music among tall, echoey skyscrapers and for folks who've never heard us before. The income from this opportunity helped us acquire a quality soundboard that we were able to use at the event. We're grateful for Art in the Loop, and we had a wonderful time!"





816 Day at City Market | August 16, 2023



Circus Scorpius

"Most of our performances are either for a larger stage production or for corporate gigs, which means that the artists in the company rarely have the opportunity to create pieces that are purely for themselves. Being able to do a showcase for Art in the Loop allowed our artists to not only choreograph acts that they are excited about but also perform them for an audience, which would otherwise be unlikely to happen. Aside from the artistic opportunities, all of us performers enjoy connecting with the KC community through our art. We are fortunate to have the ability to through Art in the Loop."





Underground Homies

"Underground Homies features artists Steddy P (born and raised in KC) and GIPSON (a 5-year transplant) who focus on being "Made in KC" as people. It will occur at the City Market 816 Day celebration. Having artists from both sides of the KC experiences, audiences will engage with two stories that share a similar vein- thankfulness for the city and the shaping it has brought. These two artists also have different styles of music which will help create a narrative that highlights the diaspora of sound and culture the city has."



Traditional Music Society Soundz of Samba

"Take a musical excursion that will engulf you in the biggest parade in the entire world – Carnival of Rio de Janeiro! Bass drums, bells, shakers, snares, and whistles all recreate the national rhythm and dance of Brazil—Samba. Soundz of Samba truly depicts the color and pageantry of this four-day-long event in which marching bands come from all over Brazil to express their culture and the beginning of spring."



Performing Artists



Zee Underscore | Art Walk September 13, 2023 | City Market

"I went into this performance with a new set of my original music arranged in chronological order to showcase and celebrate the growth I've undergone as an artist. Weeks leading up to the show I had to coordinate rehearsals with my band, which proved to be a trying experience at times, but nonetheless allowed me to grow in the area of managing my team. Having this opportunity to pull people together to bring my vision to life was such a blessing. It has allowed me to learn how to be self sufficient when things don't go according to plan, while also using the utmost discernment with the people I choose to work on my art with."

Alber | Flower Garden Installation July 22, 2023 | River Market West

"I absolutely love performing for Art In The Loop events. Having a walkable city is something that I really care about, and I enjoy participating in a cause aimed at helping transportation in the beautiful Kansas City downtown. Playing out in the open in the city center is a great opportunity to be heard and seen, and ultimately get inspired by the beautiful scenery of our city."





Kirstie Lynn and Galen Clark | Closing Reception November 8, 2023 | Central Library



"When we heard about the Art in the Loop Performance opportunity, we were so excited to apply! Music is such an incredible unifier, and to have the chance to reach and connect with new audiences right in the heart of Kansas City is a dream that many artists who call this place home have. We have always felt like the Kansas City music community has been a warm and welcoming one, and to see that sentiment reflected in this series has made us even prouder to be a part of it all. This performance has been a highly anticipated one for us for a while now, and we can't wait to share our music with everyone at the closing ceremony!"





The mission of the Art in the Loop Foundation (AILF) is to contribute to the visual identity, enrichment, and revitalization of Downtown Kansas City, create new opportunities for artistic development, and expand public interaction with new art of excellence. AILF is 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging artists in the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Kansas City.

AILF seeks to play a proactive role in bringing further attention to Kansas City as a place where exciting and accomplished contemporary art is not just happening but is, in fact, helping to define the city's identity. AILF values an equitable, diverse, and inclusive art community. AILF is a unique partnership of the Downtown Council of Kansas City.

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