

2018 REPORT

OPENSACESKC.COM

OPEN SPACES



MORE THAN A FESTIVAL

SUMMARY

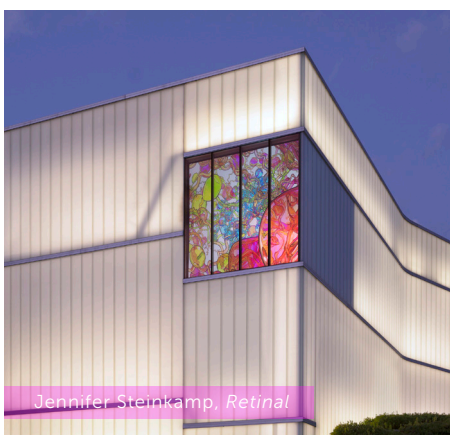
Open Spaces 2018: A Kansas City Experience was a nine-week, citywide celebration of contemporary visual and performing art that took place from August 25 through October 28, on a scale previously unseen in the City, and with a multi-discipline focus unseen in the country. In addition to highlighting Kansas City's rich history and cultural heritage, creativity and innovation, array of artists and artistic practices, *Open Spaces* sparked new ideas and initiatives that transformed and connected the City and public spaces through the arts.

HISTORY

Open Spaces 2018 was a collaboration between the City of Kansas City, Missouri and a private arts initiative led by Kansas City philanthropist Scott Francis, to create an event that highlights Kansas City, Missouri's arts, culture and creativity, one of ten goals included in the City's Arts Convergence Plan, endorsed by Mayor Sly James and City Council in 2013. Initially announced as a three-day weekend festival, the public-private partnership expanded the scope, scale and footprint of the festival. KC Creates was contracted to provide overall coordination of the project and oversee fiscal management.



Martin Call,
Phoebe's Grace et al



Jennifer Steinkamp, *Retinal*



Sarah Nguyen,
Break Into Blossom



Carlie Trosclair, *Fractured Horizons*

TOP 3 SUCCESSES

- 01** Attracted cultural tourism and shined a national spotlight on Kansas City;
- 02** Expanded audience access to local, national and international artists;
- 03** Introduced residents to new public and private spaces and how they can be used for multiple art disciplines and programs.

TOP 3 CHALLENGES

- 01** More planning time to allow for fundraising, artist recruitment and selection;
- 02** More resources for community engagement and promotion of Open Spaces to additional neighborhoods, especially ones with little or no access to art programming;
- 03** Expanded staff needed to oversee fabrication and installation of the Exhibition and stage management of multiple citywide performances.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE

- 01** Work with an organization for a private initiative for the project.
- 02** Expand national funding sources and opportunities for artists, audiences, curators and communities with whom to connect and engage.
- 03** Begin planning process at least two years before the next edition of Open Spaces is staged, with continued public communications about plans for the next edition.



Anila Quayyum Agha,
This is Not a Refuge



Ebony Patterson, *Called up*



Michael Rees, *Pneumatopia*



Nick Cave, *Hy-Dyve*

“ For many of our Kansas Citians it was the first time that they were seeing this complex format, discovering different parts of the city and connecting through the art.”

JULIÁN ZUGAZAGOITIA, DIRECTOR AND CEO, THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

“ Open Spaces provided a national platform for my work with Fishtank Theatre. We presented an intimate play in an intimate venue that challenged the way theatre meets its audience. Open Spaces provided administrative and fiscal support so we could do what we do best - put on a show.”

HEIDI VAN, FOUNDER AND CURATOR, FISHTANK THEATRE

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Over 1.4 million impressions on Open Spaces outlets
- Over 91,000 page views on VisitKC's blog and events section

NATIONAL MEDIA

- *Wall Street Journal*
- *Broadway World*
- *Art in America*
- *Art News*
- *Artforum*
- *Condé Nast Traveler*