



*National Arts & Letters Award  
Criteria*

*2014 - 2015*

*Essie M. Jeffries Chair  
Edna Lee Moffitt Co-Chair  
Dayna Fleming, Sub-Committee Chair,  
National Arts and Letters Award*

# *Criteria for the National Arts and Letters Award*

*Incorporation of the following recommendations from the National Arts and Letters Commission Initiatives and Programs:*

- *The method in which the chapter has incorporated cultural awareness, community outreach, and an overall access to arts enrichment.*
- *Direct linkage between program goals and objectives and the needs of the participants/community.*
- *Demonstrate how the programs/activities have impacted the lives of the community it serves. (Quantitative demonstration of the outcomes achieved through the program).*

*Programs should:*

- *Represent a variety of diverse genres to include print, visual arts, music, dance and theatre.*
- *Provide exposure to a variety of cultural venues within the community and beyond.*
- *Emphasize strong community and chapter involvement.*
- *Include an introduction of some facet of the arts to the Chapter's Delta Academy, GEMs and EMBODI participants.*

*Chapters should complete the attached application form; and provide a written statement regarding their programs. Photos, video, and media clippings (from local papers, newsletters, TV stations etc.) should be attached. Please include the place, time and number of participants (including members of the sorority and guests) for each of the items if applicable. The written summary should not exceed two pages.*

*Applications and all materials should be sent via email to E. Missy Daniels at [emdaniels@deltasigmatheta.org](mailto:emdaniels@deltasigmatheta.org). The deadline for submissions is **May 15, 2015**. The submission will become the property of the National Arts and Letters Commission.*

*Questions regarding the application process or materials should be sent to [artsandletters@deltasigmatheta.org](mailto:artsandletters@deltasigmatheta.org).*

## Application Form

Please Check:  Alumnae  Collegiate

Region Central Region

Chapter Name Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter (349)

Chapter President Jacqueline A. Dillard (president@dstkcmo.org)

Arts and Letters Chair: Gwendolyn Burke and Katherine Miller

Chapter Address: P.O. Box 5272 Kansas City, MO 64112

Chair of Arts and Letters E-Mail Address:

artsandletters@dstkcmo.org

Phone/Day 816-513-6242

Phone/Evening 816-668-7539

*Please provide a brief description of your Chapter's Arts and Letters Program. The information may be provided here or in your written statement*

Description provided in the written statement attached.

*Please list the Arts and Letters Activities that the Chapter has held. The information may be provided here or in your written statement*

Description provided in the written statement attached.

*What activity(s) conducted merit special recognition?*

We believe the "Arts in the Schools" initiative merits special recognition.

*How does your Chapter's Arts and Letters program fulfill the objectives of the National Arts and Letters Commission?*

The objectives of the National Arts and Letters Commission has always been transparent and impactful, which is to advance the black experience through arts and letters. The goal for our local "Arts in the School" initiative is to expose our urban youths to things unseen, at times unreachable, or unavailable. We hope to expose our youth to the introduction of the creative arts, in all its shapes and forms.



*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*  
**National Arts and Letters Award**

**Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter - 349**  
“On Fire to Inspire” Submission

The Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter respectfully submits our On Fire to Inspire- *“Arts in the Schools”* initiative for recognition at the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention.

The Arts in the School initiative is designed to enhance arts program deficits in the public school system. The target groups are schools serving students from urban areas within the Kansas City, Missouri School District. The age range began with our elementary school students, with the intentional purpose of reaching this age group while their minds are still curious and open to learn new art forms. Additional participants will be the school administrators and teachers from the classes selected.

The vision behind the Art in the Schools initiative was created from the awareness of the budget reductions in the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools art programs. What we know now is students are less likely to have opportunities to participate in outside activities that focus on the performing, visual, and spoken arts. The district is comprised of 52.3% African American, the median household incomes is \$33,892, and 26% of households with children under the age of 5 live below the poverty level (2009 American Community Survey). Considering these factors, students from these families have fewer opportunities to be exposed to the arts outside of school.

The Arts in the Schools initiative is designed to expose students from one school in the Kansas City urban area to a wide range of local professional artists, during the school day with a culminating performance outside of the school prior to the end of the 2015-16 school years.

To launch our pilot program, a selected group of students at Hartman Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri were entertained by a harpist by the name of Emily Yeager, during one of our programs. Ms. Yeager educated those in attendance on the facts of her instrument, and her art form; she played many songs as she educated through her playing. For example, we learned there are two types of harps, and a harp could cost about the same as a compact car. One student was overheard saying to another student “she’s just a kid”. Ms. Yeager was a recent high school graduate taking classes at the local community college. Because her art form is so rare, she uses Skype to learn from other Harpists from around the country on how to play many of the songs she played during her performance. The youth were captivated and they enthusiastically raised their hands to ask questions following the performance. This is just a few examples of the impact the Arts in the Schools initiative has had on our youth today.

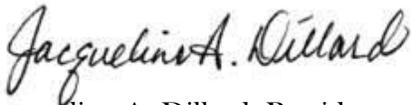
The Arts in the Schools initiative was launched in September 2013. Throughout these past two (2) years, our program has expose over 100 elementary school students to the opportunities of creative arts in all shapes and forms. As we continue this program, the project objective is to expose more students to a diverse range of performing artists and creative art throughout the school year. With this exposure, the goal is to have each student explore their own personal artistic strengths and to activate interests in artistic areas not previously conscious of. The artists varied with the intent of exposing students to different genres of art each month. Performances included the fine arts, poetry, creative writing, jazz/symphonic music, and a group of performing actors.

Given the reduction in budget and allocation for the arts, this initiative sought to support the classroom curriculum by tying in their Art in the Schools Experience with their English/Writing curriculum. Each student was provided a journal in which they were able to write about their experience and what they learned from the presenter. These journals allowed students to strengthen their comprehension and writing skills. Our goal is to continue the program throughout the 2015-2016 sorority years.

Members of the Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter will continue to participate by attending performances, supporting fundraisers, and providing their creative arts as needed. The Arts and Letters Committee hopes in the 2015-2016 sorority years we secure more performers and offer broader exposure outside of the schools.

We invite you to click the link [“Arts in the Schools”](#) to view the slideshow presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline A. Dillard, President

