I. Executive Summary

The City of Kansas City, Missouri joined the UCCN as the first and only City of Music in the United States in 2017. Over the past four years, Kansas City has been a dynamic participant in the work of the UNESCO UCCN Global Program, a contributing partner to the UCCN Cities of Music, and the leader of the transversal UCCN project The Voyage of the Drum.

Announced on stage at the UCCN Annual Conference in Fabriano, Italy (2019), The Voyage of the Drum was adapted to an online format to address the challenges of the COVID-19 health pandemic, and to promote the broad participation of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Kansas City has actively promoted international partnerships with UCCN Cities including San Cristobal de las Casas (Crafts and Folk Art 2018), Hannover, Germany (Music 2019), Nassau, Bahamas (Crafts and Folk Art 2019), and Frutillar, Chile (Music 2021-2023). Kansas City has worked with several poets and musicians to strengthen the connections between literature and music for sustainable development – including Tyehimba Jess and Yusef Komunyakaa.

Locally, Kansas City has leveraged its membership in the UCCN to create new partnerships and to promote the 2015 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Creative City KC launched the American Music Apprenticeship Program (AMAP) in 2018, the Kansas City Museum Sessions in 2019, and the Voyage of the Drum in 2021. These efforts demonstrate the City’s strong commitment to advancing the UNESCO Creative Cities Network mission to center music and creativity as a driving force for sustainable urban development.
II. General Information

2.1-2.2: Kansas City, Missouri * United States of America

2.3-2.4: City of Music * Designated 31 October 2017

2.5: Date of Report: November 30, 2021

2.6: Submitted by Creative City KC Inc. (Focal Point)

2.7: first report since joining the UCCN Network in 2017

2.8 Focal Points of Contact:

Daily management: Anita Dixon-Brown, Executive Director, Creative City KC creativecitykc@gmail.com and Dr. Jacob A. Wagner, co-coordinator, wagnerjaco@umkc.edu (focal point). This report was produced by J. Wagner and A. Dixon-Brown and presented to the Kansas City Missouri Mayor and City Council on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

KCMO City Liaison: Councilman Lee Barnes / KCMO Contact: Keema McCoy

2.9 Communication Officer: Maggie Green
III. Contribution to the Program’s Global Management:


3.2 Hosting the UCCN Annual Conference: Not Applicable (NA)

3.3 Hosting of UCNN sub-network meeting(s): Kansas City did not have the opportunity to host a meeting of the UCCN Music Cluster. We would like to host a UCCN Music Cities meeting in the next four-year period (2022-25).

Kansas City participated regularly in the UCCN Music Cities meetings, including Manheim (2019), Frutillar (2020) and Veszprém (2021). We also participated in the 2020 meeting of the Spanish Cities of UCCN in Burgos, Spain (Gastronomy). Kansas City attended every meeting of the United States member cities of UCCN from 2017 to 2021.


On June 21, 2021, Kansas City hosted the global project entitled The Voyage of the Drum with the support of Music Export Poland. 19 UCCN Cities participated.

The Voyage of the Drum is a UCCN project initiated by Kansas City to celebrate the African Diaspora and the historic and contemporary influences of Black American Music on the world. The project was presented onstage at the 2019 UCCN Annual Conference in Fabriano, Italy. In June 2021, The Voyage of the Drum was launched in an online format with the support of Music Export Poland and deputy coordinator Tamara Kaminska. 19 UCCN Cities participated in the first phase of the project. More than 11,949 people viewed the project around the world.
III. Contribution to the Program’s Global Management:

3.5 In-kind support to UNESCO: Kansas City has worked to promote UNESCO Creative City Network and the SDGs through the following activities, estimated at $5,000 (in-kind) annually.

2019: University students in the UMKC Urban Planning and Design Program in Kansas City participated in the national conference of the American Planning Association (APA) and won an award for their work featuring the UCCN Cities and the SDGs [pictured].

2020: Kansas City participated as a guest of honor in the meeting of the Spanish UCCN Cities in Burgos, Spain and presented the UCCN project, *The Voyage of the Drum*.

April 2021: the Kansas City team supported planning for the *Global Conference on the Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI+ Youth*. Mayor Quinton Lucas prepared a video welcome for the Global Conference in partnership with UNESCO, the delegations of Austria, Canada, France and the Netherlands to UNESCO, and the City of Paris.

3.6 Cluster Coordination (music): Kansas City has not had the opportunity to serve as a cluster coordinator or deputy coordinator. This position has not changed in the past four years.

3.7 Number of applications evaluated: 26 (2019-2021)
Membership Monitoring Reports: 4
IV. Major Initiatives Implemented at the Local Level:

4.1 Promotion of UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level through the following activities:

- Promotion of UNESCO Creative Cities - locally and nationally in the United States, including presentations to Mayor and City Council, the Environmental Management Commission, and numerous community organizations, to explain the UNESCO mission, the UCCN Network, and local connection with the SDGs.

- The Kansas City Museum Sessions, with the Kansas City Museum, promoting Kansas City's music and cultural heritage “one song at a time.” Promoting racial justice and gender equality (Goal 5) through Music: https://youtu.be/Yd_1MEyjBx8

- American Music Apprenticeship Program, promoted by Creative City KC to build a nationally and internationally recognized music apprenticeship program through the United States Department of Labor, based in Kansas City.

- Annual participation in the International Day of Jazz. https://youtu.be/Yd_1MEyjBx8 [pictured]

- Make Music Day / Fete de la Musique, 2020 and 2021, with Heart of the City Neighborhood Association.
IV. Major Initiatives Implemented at the Local Level:

4.1 Promotion of UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level through the following activities:


- Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Charlie Parker, Jr. Kansas City jazz innovator – through a variety of local and international events combining music, literature, and design, with participants from UNESCO Creative Cities.

Glenn North with Tyehimba Jess, Pulitzer Prize, Author of OLIO
February 2019

With the KC Public Library, Bruce R Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, KC Museum, UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, UMKC English Department and New Letters on the Air

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

A Literary Tribute to Charlie Parker, Jr.

Featuring Yusef Komunyaka
with Sascha Feinstein and Glenn North

A Bruce R Watkins Cultural Heritage Center Production (Virtual)

Friday August 28
7:00 pm

event will stream on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BRWCHC/

A Jazz Poetry event hosted by Glenn North, Director - on the occasion of 100 years since the birth of Charlie "Bird" Parker, Jr.

Featuring Yusef Komunyaka with Sascha Feinstein and Glenn North

Sponsored by the African American Artist Collective, Bruce R Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, UNESCO Creative City Network, and UMKC Center for Neighborhoods. Produced by Miles Brown.

Mr. Yusef Komunyaka is the foremost Jazz Poet writing today. His words give voice to the music of Charlie Parker, Jr. and the influence of jazz on the American imagination.

Mr. Sascha Feinstein is a well-known poet, author and critic. He has published two definitive works on jazz and poetry, including Jazz Poetry: From the 1920s to the Present and A Bibliographic Guide to Jazz Poetry.

Mr. Glenn North is the 18th and Vine Jazz District Poet Laureate and a Cave Canem Fellow. Mr. North is Director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center. https://www.facebook.com/BRWCHC/

More about the AAAC: https://www.facebook.com/aaacollective/
IV. Major Initiatives Implemented at the Local Level:

4.1 Promotion of UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level through the following activities:

October 2021: Joshua Nelson “Kosher Gospel” - celebration of Jewish and African American musical cultures through three performances to promote the exhibition at Union Station of the “Not Long Ago, Not Far Away” Auschwitz traveling memorial exhibition, 2021. With the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, the Jewish Community Fund, Union Station, and numerous local partners.

November 2021: Participation in the UNESCO Future Literacies Lab with Heidelberg, Germany, Nottingham, England, and Montevideo, Uruguay. Focused on The future of safe public spaces for LGBTI+ Youth // L'avenir des espaces publics sûrs pour les jeunes LGBTI+
V. Major Initiatives Implemented through Inter-City and International Cooperation:

2018: Project with San Cristobal de las Casas Mexico (UCCN Craft and Folk Art) during the annual Día de los Muertos festival, to promote cross-cultural understanding through music and awareness of the African roots of the marimba.


V. Major Initiatives Implemented through Inter-City and International Cooperation:

2019: International Jazz Exchange with Hannover, Germany (October 2019), and the support for the Goethe Institut Pop-Up in Kansas City, Wunderbar Together, year of German-American friendship.

Pictured: Lothar Krist Band of Hannover Germany with Greg Carroll at the Paseo High School of the Arts, Kansas City Missouri, 2019.
V. Major Initiatives Implemented through Inter-City and International Cooperation:

2019: Hurricane Relief Effort for Nassau and the Bahamas (Crafts and Folk Art). Archives and Information project with Fred Ferguson, Creative City KC and the Kansas City Museum.

Pictured: Fred Ferguson of the Bahamas, with UCCN Focal Point & Executive Director Anita J. Dixon. Photo by Miles Brown, 2019.
V. Major Initiatives Implemented through Inter-City and International Cooperation:

2020: Kansas City was invited to attend the February 2020 meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Spanish Cities, hosted by Burgos, Spain (Gastronomy). The Voyage of the Drum was presented to highlight the opportunity for the celebration of drumming as a universal form of communication around the world and local connections with gastronomy in Burgos, Spain.
V. Major Initiatives Implemented through Inter-City and International Cooperation:


The project was supported by the UNESCO Cities of Music, the International Traditional Knowledge Institute, and implemented by Music Export Poland. The project held a world premiere on 21 June 2021 Fete de la Musique. This project supports the UCCN Cities of Music goal to achieve Gender Equality in music and to use music to address racial justice. More than 11,949 people viewed the project online via social media platforms.
The Voyage of the Drum

participating UCCN cities:

(Year the City joined UNESCO UCCN)

5. Daegu, South Korea (2017)
6. Frutillar, Chile (2017)
8. Hamamatsu City, Japan (2014)
10. Kansas City, Missouri, USA (2017)
14. Leiria, Portugal (2019) with special guests from Guinea-Bissau
15. Llíria, Spain (2019)
16. Nassau, Bahamas (Crafts and Folk Art 2014)

Videos available online:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVQpDHG35IfD1B-rmgjcnspY0ea1wee50

Images of Kansas City drummer Jo Jones. Courtesy of the UMKC Marr Sound Archives.
VI. Proposed Action Plan for the next four-year period, 2022-2025

The four-part harmony of Kansas City’s UCCN programs include Education, Preservation, Tourism and Entertainment (6.1 and 6.2):

A. **Education**: Promote and grow the American Music Apprenticeship Program to sustain music employment opportunities for professionals and young musicians in the Kansas City region (6.1). Partnerships with UCCN Cities through master classes and other opportunities to share KC music (6.2). **Promote The Voyage of the Drum to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and continue to build the impact of the UCCN Music Cities Cluster (6.2)**

B. **Preservation**: Work to develop and animate local cultural heritage sites including the African American Heritage Trail, historic neighborhoods, and cultural sites associated with music and creativity through partnerships with parks, local neighborhoods, museums, tourism and educational institutions (6.1)

C. **Tourism**: Work to support the development of cultural heritage tourism as a sustainable and equitable strategy for neighborhood business development in Kansas City (6.1) **Host the UCCN Music Cities Cluster Meeting in 2024 (6.2)**

D. **Entertainment**: Promote an *Economic Music Strategy* to support the growth of the local music scene and creative industries as part of a sustainable urban development strategy for Kansas City, Missouri. (6.1, 6.2)

6.3 **Estimated Budget for Action Plan**: $149,000 annually (50% personnel, 25% travel/marketing, 25% tech/equip/facilities)

6.4 **Communication Plan**: Develop UCCN Creative City KC website and enhance online presence through local and international partnerships. Continue to promote Kansas City musicians via social media, online platforms and through partnerships with the UCCN Music Cities, the Kansas City Museum, Music Export Poland, and other key organizations.
VII. Initiatives undertaken in Response to and for the Recovery from COVID-19

**Restore KC 2020-2021**: in partnership with the Kansas City Museum – to address both the fragmentation caused by social distancing measures for COVID-19 public health, and the racial reckoning following the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

**We.R.Culture 2020**: a response by the UCCN Cities of Music to the shut-down of the live music scene in cities around the world, the impact on musicians, and efforts to engage music as a strategy for recovery from COVID19.

**On Higher Ground: A UNESCO Arts Recovery Strategy**: Webinar held with participation from UCCN Creative Cities to demonstrate the importance of the creative economy in the recovery process from COVID-19 and the impact of public health measures.

**Make Music Day Fete de la Musique, 2020 and 2021**: Online and in-person music festivals in partnership with the Heart of the City Neighborhood Association, and Parks and Recreation Department, Kansas City Missouri, USA.
Thank you to our partners, friends and supporters!

Mayor Quinton Lucas and KCMO City Council
Mayor Sly James (former) / Chief of Staff Joni Wickham (former)
City Manager Troy Schulte (former)
KCMO Parks Department

Councilman Lee Barnes
City Manager Brian Platt
Parks Commissioner Scott Wagner (former Mayor Pro Tem)

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Mayor Sly James (former) / Chief of Staff Joni Wickham (former)
City Manager Troy Schulte (former)
Anna Marie Tutera and Kansas City Museum
Dina Newman and the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods
UMKC Department of Architecture, Urban Planning + Design
Kathryn Persley, Heart of the City NA
Keema McCoy, City of Kansas City, Missouri
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Denise Bax, UNESCO UCCN and staff
Giuseppe Biagnini, ITKI Foundation
Rainer Kern, City of Mannheim, Germany
Tamara Kamińska, Music Export Poland
Pamela Burnside, City of Nassau, Bahamas
San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico
Sandeep Mahal, Nottingham City of Literature
Culturación Cultural Semanas Musicales de Frutillar
Lothar Krist, Alice Moser, Hannover, Germany
The Black Community Fund of Kansas City

Creative City KC Board, family, friends and volunteers

Sergio Moore / Kimberly Randolph, City of KCMO
Len Brown's Innovations
N-tensity, So-Cal Athletics
Miles Brown and Kyle Crouse
Odell Talley, Lee Langston, Bryan Alford Jr. and Bukeka Blakemore
Bird Ellington Fleming & Traditional Music Society, Soundz of Africa
Marcus Lewis and Future Jazz / the James Ward Band / Trio Aztlan
Aryana Nemati Trio / Making Movies
Poets Glenn North, Tyehimba Jess, Yusef Komunyaka & Sascha Feinstein
Bill Summers
Joshua Nelson and Band
Pastor Dr. Faith Allen, Jamison Temple CME
B'Nai Jehudah Temple, Jewish Community Foundation, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education
David Sosland and Alan Edelman
Union Station / Unity Temple on the Plaza
Mattie Rhodes Center
The African American Artists Collective
Oralee McKinzy / Quez Presents!
KC Jazz Alive / Sister City Assn. of KC.
Dr. Christina Ballico, PhD

UNESCO Cities of Music