HTML

Arts Bureau Edge

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Louisville area’s multi-media arts-journalism publication by young people gives them a voice and provides the public with an inspiring resource about abundant creative forces in our metropolitan area and in our own backyards. Follow the stories and read stories about the arts published in high school media.

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(more button – which is mission)

For aspiring reporters: connect with AB Edge.

Form

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

School:

What story (book, film, television show, comic book, etc.) or work of art inspires you?

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Mission

Arts Bureau Edge convenes, trains and provides a platform to high school reporters who produce a multi-media arts-journalism with the goal of giving them a voice in the metro area and help them become a public resource on the arts for the Louisville region.

This project comes in March 2018 when the young people are yearning to be heard in the culture and as the practice of arts journalism faces its own obstacles with many media organization making cutbacks to resources for arts coverage.

“Arts journalism is fighting for its life,” warned American Theatre magazine in April 2017, only three months after a Columbia Journalism Review headline read, “Curtains fall on arts critics at newspapers.”

This project – run by media professionals working with educators – creates opportunities for young people to cover the arts throughout the Louisville metropolitan area and also publishes the arts-related content of existing high school publications.

Opportunities for participants include weighing in on touring Broadway productions and other theater, music and dance performances as well as art exhibits; profiling artists and arts groups; examining issues related to art and interrelated issues such as public issues such as health, safety, education, the economy and history. But the opportunities also include digging out and producing often hidden stories — those about creative people or events reporters find in their own neighborhoods or even in their own families or historical events long forgotten.

The founders believe by applying this approach to arts journalism — giving young people the chance to report on the arts and have the community see the world, our daily life and the arts through their eyes — this publication will spark many conversations about art, ideas, issues and the world around us. Furthermore, Arts Bureau Edge aims to allow us to see and include young people more broadly in conversations about art and all the issues that art examines.

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Who started this?

Project founders Elizabeth Kramer and Frances Ward-Simmons have a long history of coving the arts in Louisville.

Kramer, a multi-media journalist, has worked for newspapers and public radio stations in Louisville as well as New York, Ohio and Indiana. As the fine arts reporter Louisville’s Courier Journal from 2010 to 2017 she was the city’s leading voice on the arts covering dance, theater, music and visual arts and complicated issues including the Louisville Orchestra’s bankruptcy and the labor negotiations from 2010 to 2013.

At public radio stations in Ohio and Kentucky her coverage encompassed diverse facets of arts including economic and social impact of the arts. Her work has aired on National Public Radio and she was a Fellow at the 2016 National Critics Institute at Eugene O’Neill Theater Center. She has taught at Bellarmine University and Spalding University in Louisville.

Ward-Simmons, a classically trained artist, founded and published Pure Uncut Candy, a monthly magazine focused on visual art for nearly four years staring in late 2009. It covered a vast scope of Louisville’s visual art scene including interviews of artists by fellow artists and regular articles about public art along with a detailed calendar of events and call to artists entries detailing opportunities for submit art for exhibits, festivals and fairs.

For more than 15 years, Ward-Simmons has worked in graphic design at advertising and public relations firms in the region and is now the art director at Mightily.

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