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6th Annual ArtsKC Inspiration Breakfast Honorary Chairman Robert Epsten and Presenting Sponsor Spencer Fane Announced

7:30 – 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at Starlight Theatre to Benefit ArtsKC

Kansas City, MO (July 13, 2015) – Harlan Brownlee, President and CEO of ArtsKC, today announced that Robert (Bobby) Epsten, noted longtime Kansas City community leader and arts advocate, will serve as the Honorary Chairman and the law firm of Spencer Fane will be the presenting sponsor for the 2015 Inspiration Breakfast on Thursday, Oct. 22. The 6th annual Inspiration Breakfast is an opportunity to **learn how ArtsKC’s mission and programs unleash the power of the arts for the benefit of the Kansas City region.** An estimated 550 guests will hear from individuals impacted by ArtsKC’s programming, whose work is vital to the region’s economic prosperity because the most innovative entrepreneurs and businesses are choosing where to locate based not only on the economic climate and workforce readiness, but also the quality and availability of cultural assets. Brad Douglas and Arzie Umali are Event Chairpersons for this event to be held on the enclosed stage at Starlight Theatre.

Bobby Epsten stated, “The arts are alive and vibrant in Kansas City and it’s important that ArtsKC plays a significant role in sustaining that. My hope is that this is an opportunity to be inspired about the work being done in our region. I hope attendees will reflect upon their ongoing commitment to the arts in our community.”

“Spencer Fane is proud to support ArtsKC and its continued efforts to provide programs that advance the arts community in Kansas City,” stated Pat Whalen, Spencer Fane Chairman. “Our sponsorship of the ArtsKC Inspiration Breakfast is an investment in making our community a great

place to work, live and play. The event brings tremendous energy for the arts, and Spencer Fane is honored to be part of it,” shared Mr. Whalen.

This event is a fundraiser for ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council. Sponsorship information can be found at [ArtsKC.org/InspirationBreakfast/](https://www.ArtsKC.org/InspirationBreakfast/). Reservations are requested for this free event by calling 816-221-1777 or emailing Robinson@ArtsKC.org.

About Bobby Epstein

Robert Epstein, better known as Bobby, was born in St. Joseph but has spent his entire adult life in Kansas City. After graduating from University of Missouri and attending graduate school at MU, he came to Kansas City in 1952. He went into the family business and in 1961 became CEO of the company which was to become Major Brands of Missouri, a wholesaler of liquor, wine, and beer. Along with his late wife Jackee, an Art Institute graduate and an oil painting artist, both have been interested in the arts and continued supporters of the arts in Kansas City and the area. Bobby served on the Missouri Arts Council for seven years and he and Jackee were the founders of the Epstein Gallery at Village Shalom.

About Spencer Fane

Spencer Fane is a full-service business law firm focused on providing results that move clients and their businesses forward. With direct access to firm leadership and a different approach to client engagement, its attorneys instill confidence and certainty that the clients’ interests are the firm’s priority. The firm has offices in Colorado Springs and Denver, Colo.; Overland Park, Kan.; Jefferson City, Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis, Mo.; and Omaha, Neb. For more information, visit [SpencerFane.com](https://www.SpencerFane.com) or follow @spencerfane on Twitter.

About the Chairs

Brad Douglas

A Kansas City native, Brad Douglas is the Vice President for Business Development at Alliance Benefit Group, a national employee benefits firm he joined in 2007. In addition to his responsibilities as a retirement plan consultant, Douglas is responsible for overseeing national sales, marketing and business development for the company. He is also the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board for Community America Credit Union, a \$2 billion financial institution, and is the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect for ArtsKC, Kansas City’s regional arts council. Douglas earned his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and is a member of the Missouri Bar and District

of Columbia Bar. He earned a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Communication from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri.

Arzie Umali

Arzie Umali was born in Manila, Philippines and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting from the University of Kansas and a Master of Public Administration degree in Organizational Behavior from the Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). As a visual artist, Umali has exhibited her work in galleries around Kansas City including the Mattie Rhodes Art Center, the Event Space at Java Port, the Leedy-Voukos Art Center, La Esquina, and the Faso Gallery of Contemporary Art. Professionally, she is the Assistant Director at the UMKC Women's Center where she directs the development of programs and services to advance women's equity on campus and in the community. She also serves as program director for the *Her Art Project*, a campus and community-wide initiative that she founded in 2010 to address gender equity in the arts and to celebrate the artistic and creative achievements of women. In 2012, Umali was named one of the area's Creative Placemakers.

About ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council:

The mission of ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council is to unleash the power of the arts. Please visit www.ArtsKC.org for more information.