



Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) Tax Credits Help Support COCA's Arts Education Outreach

COCA strives to eliminate barriers, both economic and social, to arts participation, and devotes much of its deep artistic and instructional resources in service to the community, especially for children who might not otherwise have access to arts education. Research has shown that learning through the arts is indispensable in helping students develop the four C's needed for success in the 21st century: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication. **COCAedu Arts Education Outreach** consists of:

- **After-School and In-School Arts instruction** to low-income students within the St. Louis Public School District.
- **School Time Performances** with complimentary tickets to COCA Presents series for students in St. Louis area public schools serving lower-income youth, with transportation provided by COCA; supported by 8-10 week artist residencies to help teachers and students connect their theatre experience with their daily studies.
- **The Pre-Professional Dance Division**, offering advanced training with individualized and comprehensive support services (faculty mentoring, academic tutoring, dancewear/equipment, and even transportation to COCA) for talented low-income youth in **The Talent Identified Program (TIP)** for students ages 9-11 and **Honors Dance Program** for students ages 11-18. 100% of TIP students receive full tuition, dancewear and transportation. 65% of Honors students receive financial assistance and access to free dancewear, tutoring and college preparation.

Contributions of \$5,000 or more to COCA's arts education outreach program (made between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017) are eligible for Youth opportunities Program (YOP) tax credits, allowing the donor to significantly reduce the after-tax cost of his/her contribution.

What is the YOP Tax Credit Program?

The Youth Opportunities Program, administered by the Missouri department of Economic Development, offers tax credits in exchange for donations to approved programs. **The tax credits, equal to 50% of the value of the contribution, are used to offset the contributor's income tax liability.** Eligible contributors include: Individuals, Corporations, S-Corps, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietorships.

Examples of How a Tax Credit Contribution to the Youth Opportunities Program Can Benefit You:

	Assumes Federal Tax Rate 35%		Assumes Federal Tax Rate 35%	
	Assumes State tax rate 6% With tax credits	Without tax credits	Assumes State tax rate 6% With tax credits	Without tax credits
Contribution	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Missouri State Income Tax 50% Credit	(2,500.00)		(5,000.00)	
Federal Income Tax Charitable Deduction	(1,750.00)	(1,750.00)	(3,500.00)	(3,500.00)
Federal Income State Income Tax Deduction	875.00		1,750.00	
Missouri State Income Tax Charitable Deduction	(300.00)	(300.00)	(600.00)	(600.00)
Net Cost of Gift	1,325.00	3,300.00	2,650.00	5,900.00

Note: Making your gift with appreciated securities allows you to avoid the taxation of the capital gain while receiving the fair market value of the charitable deduction. Consult your financial planner for details.

If you are interested in making a donation to COCA's arts education outreach program or learning more about YOP tax credits, please contact Gina Wake in COCA's Development Office at 314-561-4873 or gwake@cocastl.org.

Please check with your own professional financial advisor or accountant to understand how the use of tax credits affects your personal tax circumstances.