



Kathleen Timmons Setterman
Kentucky Arts Council Board
Ashland, Ky.

Kathleen Timmons Setterman has served as the executive director of the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland for over 25 years. During her tenure, she has led the center through several restorations and a major expansion-renovation, paving the way for the 1931 art deco movie house to become one of the state's leading multi-faceted arts centers.

Kathy began her career in 1978 as a volunteer after moving to Kentucky from her hometown of New Orleans. She quickly aligned herself with her new community by serving on various committees and on the board of numerous local charities. However, it was her strong belief in the arts and her dedication to historic preservation that led her to become involved with the Paramount Woman's Association (PWA), whose mission was and is to support the Paramount Arts Center, promote the establishment of arts education programs and retain the historic significance of the art deco theatre as it evolved from a movie house into a performance space. As PWA president, she co-chaired the restoration of the theatre's commedia dell'arte character murals and its lobbies, which earned the PWA Kentucky Heritage Council's Ida Lee Willis Memorial Preservation Project Award in 1985. Later, she founded the Festival of Trees, which remains a major fundraiser and tourist attraction in northeastern Kentucky.

In 1989, after being named executive director of the Paramount Arts Center, Kathy began to help establish supporting cultural organizations, including the Ashland Youth Ballet, Backstage Players (a community theater troupe) and Boyd County Arts Council. With the Paramount firmly established as an incubator for community arts and the anchor for downtown revitalization, she turned her attention to a broader objective prompting the development of a community cultural plan and serving on the area's original Main Street board of directors. Kathy is a founding member of the Kentucky Arts Presenters and the Hwy. 23 Cultural Heritage Network. She was an early member of the Kentucky Citizens for the Arts and serves on the Fine Arts Extension Agencies for both Boyd and Greenup counties. She is also a past-president of Ashland's Rotary Club and is past Kentucky State Representative for the League of Historic American Theatres.

Kathy graduated summa cum laude from Ohio University and has been recognized throughout her career for outstanding leadership, contributions to arts and education, and her efforts to preserve the Appalachian culture while advancing arts and culture in eastern Kentucky.