

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

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January 26, 2015

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Oklahoma Arts Council

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

Mission, Entity who adopted and date adopted:

To lead, cultivate, and support a thriving arts environment, which is essential to quality of life, education, and economic vitality for all Oklahomans. Revision adopted by the Oklahoma Arts Council at the March 17, 2009 meeting.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Amber Sharples, Executive Director  
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GOVERNANCE:

Brief description of governance structure:

Appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, the 15 members of the Oklahoma Arts Council are responsible for oversight of agency activities. The Council is responsible for hiring of the Executive Director. The recruitment is conducted nationwide to assure expertise in management and field of knowledge.

Current Members:

Holbrook Lawson, Chair, Tulsa  
Nancy Leonard, Vice-Chair, Oklahoma City  
Lona Barrick, Secretary, Ada  
Susan Coles, Oklahoma City  
Tricia Everest, Oklahoma City  
Ann Hargis, Stillwater  
Cassandra Gaines, Muskogee  
Jane Jayroe Gamble, Oklahoma City  
Desmond Mason, Oklahoma City  
James A. Pickel, Oklahoma City  
Nancy Pilkington, Tulsa  
J.P. Richard, Lawton  
Hannah Robson, Tulsa  
Lee Allan Smith, Oklahoma City  
Phyllis Stough, Oklahoma City

Currently the Council has two standing sub-committees: Oklahoma State Art Collection Committee and the Governor's Arts Awards Committee. Additional ad-hoc committees are determined on an as needed basis.

The Oklahoma State Art Collection Committee is devoted to augmenting and strengthening the Collection in all accepted mediums. Founded with the Collection's establishment in 1971, the committee is comprised of 7 to 10 (Council and non-Council) leading art authorities from various regions of the state.

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These members share a commitment to the Collection's mission, which involves acquiring and preserving a Collection that reflects the most important aesthetic achievements of the visual arts by artists who have a connection to our state.

The committee meets to review proposed donations to the Collection and provides recommendations to the Council for possible inclusion in the Collection.

### Current Members:

Holbrook Lawson, Chair (Council Member)  
Phyllis Stough, Vice-Chair (Council Member)  
Lona Barrick, Chickasaw Nation (Council Member)  
Victoria Book-Lupia, Art Conservator  
Heather Ahtone, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art  
Nancy Phelps Anderson, Leslie Powell Gallery  
Steve Liggett, Living Arts of Tulsa

### The Governor's Arts Award Committee

The Governor's Arts Awards is an annual event recognizing individuals and organizations whose efforts have impacted the arts in their communities or throughout the state. First awarded in 1975, the awards are presented by the Governor during a special ceremony at the State Capitol. Each year the Oklahoma Arts Council solicits nominations for the Governor's Arts Awards. Nominations are generally accepted beginning in June of each year with a deadline for submissions in early August. Members of the Governor's Arts Awards Selection Committee select recipients. The committee is comprised of members of the agency's Governor-appointed Council. Nominees must be current residents of the State of Oklahoma and living in Oklahoma full time. Organizations and businesses must exhibit outstanding support of the arts in Oklahoma.

### Current Members:

Susan Coles  
Cassandra Gaines  
Nancy Pilkington  
J.P. Richard

### GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Copies of minutes: attached in pdf format

Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed?

There is no formal attendance policy, however, a quorum of at least 8 members must be present in order to accomplish business and there have not been any issues.

### MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

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Modernization efforts were undertaken well before mandates. Regarding IT, the Council has had a strong working relationship with OMES for over 10 years. OMES provides all agency IT support including data storage and maintenance and PC maintenance.

In recent years, the Council took it upon itself to initiate several efforts to create efficiencies and provide enhanced public services. Specifics are provided in our response to the next question.

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

In 2009, our agency developed in-house our online e-Grant system utilizing a cross platform database. This has streamlined our grant application process and allows us to save time as well as expenses associated with paper and storage. Online services include grant application, final report submission, and panel review system. In addition, the bulk of all publications are produced electronically to keep print and mailing costs at a minimum and adapt to a changing media environment. Other steps to eliminate or reduce costs include:

- IT services (data storage, email and PC maintenance, etc.) provided by OMES
- Installation of LED lighting for Capitol artwork to save energy costs and protect priceless artwork
- Use of teleconferencing for grant application panel review to reduce travel costs for panelists
- Limited use of print publications. Focus on leveraging digital communications for cost effectiveness. Most printing is done in-house.
- Ongoing review of publishing, marketing, and other communication processes to identify redundancies and determine modular approaches for efficiency
- Distribution of administrative services such as payroll, human resources, training enrollment and accounting services among existing staff, keeping administrative costs to an average 7-8% of total agency budget

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission?

We are not required to provide any services that are outside of our core mission.

Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency?

The Oklahoma Arts Council is the only state agency supporting Oklahoma's thriving arts and cultural industry through grant programs; developing a robust cultural infrastructure through our professional development and training services; educating Oklahoma's creative workforce through grant programs and partnerships; and, preserving Oklahoma's cultural heritage by actively pursuing conservation and preservation of the Capitol art collections.

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*Supporting Oklahoma's Thriving Arts and Cultural Industry*

- **Grants** - Provided 515 grants to 268 organizations and schools in 92 communities across the state. Funded programs are matched by private dollars and are vetted through a rigorous review process that includes participation by the 15-member Governor-appointed Council.

*Developing a Robust Cultural Infrastructure*

- **Oklahoma Arts Conference** – Convened over 400 individuals in Norman, Oklahoma, and provided professional training for community developers, local government officials, arts managers, and artists. Attendees represented 57 communities in Oklahoma including: Altus, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Blackwell, Chickasha, Cromwell, Davis, Duncan, Durant, Enid, Eufaula, Guymon, Hopeton, Hugo, Idabel, Lawton, Locust Grove, McAlester, Miami, Muskogee, Noble, Oklahoma City, Paoli, Rush Springs, Sapulpa, Shawnee, Spencer, Stillwater, Sulphur, Tahlequah, Tonkawa, Tulsa, Washington, Watonga, Waurika, and Yukon, among others. Sessions included: The first-ever “Statewide Forum on Arts Education,” “With the Help of Strangers and Friends: Public Funding for the Arts in Norman,” “The Artist’s Role in Creative Placemaking; Program Evaluation and Outcome Measurement Based on Best Practices,” and, “Our Town, Revitalized: The Oklahoma Cultural District Initiative.”
- **Leadership Arts** - Provided in-depth workshops and curriculum for 30 individuals from communities across the state for a total of 210 graduates since 2008. Participants learn strategies to use the arts in their local community to strengthen the local economy, enrich quality of life, and improve education. The 2014 Leadership Arts class represented: Ardmore, Bartlesville, Guthrie, Lawton, Locust Grove, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Tahlequah, and Tulsa, among others.
- **Cultural District Development Program** - This program initiates, supports, and develops cultural districts statewide. Through grants, professional consultation, and Council oversight, communities learn to identify and leverage local arts and cultural assets for economic development. During FY2015, the Council has worked with the communities of Ada, Alva, Guthrie, Jenks, Oklahoma City, Tahlequah, and Woodward.

*Educate Oklahoma's Creative Workforce*

- **Arts in Alternative Education Program** - The Council was the recipient of a \$140,000 competitive grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Education to reinstate the Arts in Alternative Education grant program. Due to budget reductions, the Council had eliminated the alternative education program since FY2010. The program will support arts education programming in more than 25 alternative education school sites statewide.
- **State Policy Pilot Program in Arts Education** - The State of Oklahoma was selected as one of only ten states in the nation to participate in Americans for the Arts’ State Policy Pilot Program in Arts Education. The Oklahoma Arts Council will lead a three-year initiative to develop state-initiated and state-appropriate recommendations for arts education policy. The Council will receive \$10,000 each year for three years to facilitate the program.
- **School-based** - Served 625 school sites across the state through school-based grants and programs. Provided 1,697 teachers with arts education and arts integration instruction.
- **Community-based** - Served 148,216 participants statewide through after-school programs, summer arts camps, adult art programs, senior adult programs, and programs for individuals with special needs.

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- **Agra School District** - A district without any visual arts instruction received matching funds for an arts education specialist. Agra has a population of 338 (2010 Census). This program was developed in compliance with legislation passed in 2008.
- **Newspapers in Education** - As part of the year-long, statewide celebration titled *Celebrating Allan Houser*, the Council developed and coordinated educational content with all statewide museum and partners for the Allan Houser celebration. *Newspapers in Education* is a product of *The Oklahoman* that reaches 30,400 students, 915 teachers, and 586 schools in 73 counties throughout the state with free educational resources.

*Preserving Oklahoma's History and Culture*

- **Allan Houser Centennial Celebration** - As part of the year-long, statewide celebration organized by the Oklahoma Museums Association titled *Celebrating Allan Houser*, the Council coordinated a special exhibition of five bronze sculptures by the artist Allan Houser on the State Capitol grounds. The exhibition provided opportunities for collaboration such as the joint reception and guided tour with the Oklahoma History Center and Allan Houser, Inc. and the production of a cell phone tour in partnership with the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA). The exhibition was made possible through the financial support of Friends of the Capitol and The Kerr Foundation.
- **Capitol Art Collection New Acquisitions, Signage, Preservation and Efficiency** - Facilitated the commissioning and addition of six works of art to the collection: the portrait of author Ralph Ellison and the five small bronze sculptures. Completed the first phase of placing ADA compliant zinc wall labels for the collection. Through the private financial support of Edmond Questers International, the Council oversaw required conservation treatment for various works of art. The Council also partnered with the Department of Capital Assets Management to replace harmful lighting on large murals in the Capitol Rotunda with energy-efficient LED light bulbs.
- **Capitol Galleries** - Organized and curated 18 rotating gallery exhibitions in the Capitol that provided access to exceptional Oklahoma artists at no cost to the public. The Oklahoma artists in the 2014 exhibition schedule represented: Ardmore, Bartlesville, Claremore, Edmond, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Sulphur, Tulsa, and Yukon, among others.
- **Betty Price Gallery** - Curated and maintained the State Art Collection of over 200 works of art, rotating selected pieces into the gallery. Added four works of art to this collection at no cost to the public. The Council also facilitated loans from the collection to museums across the state to ensure access to the collection by all citizens.
- **Collections Manager** - Council staff serves as collections manager for the more than 300 works of art in the public areas of the Capitol and works with the State Capitol Preservation Commission in the commissioning and management of loaned and permanent works on the Capitol grounds and first floor of the Governor's Mansion.

*Partnering for Greater Impact*

- **Office of the Governor**: The Council partnered with the Office of the Governor and other organizations to present the annual Septemberfest at the Governor's Mansion. Featuring performing artists and visual arts activities, thousands of Oklahomans attend the free community event celebrating Oklahoma's heritage. The Council also presented performing arts groups for hundreds of students, parents, and educators who attend the Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the Capitol.

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- **Capitol Enhancements:** The Council partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Management and Enterprise Services and Friends of the Capitol to coordinate and secure the financial support for new fabric in the Capitol Galleries.
- **Facilities Management and State Capitol Preservation Commission:** Continued efforts to plan for the protection of the Capitol artwork during the building renovation.
- **Poetry Out Loud:** The Oklahoma Arts Council partnered with the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa to ensure the national Poetry Out Loud program is available to Oklahoma schools statewide.
- **Arts and Health:** The Council was invited to participate in year two of the national initiative called ENGAGE. ENGAGE is a first-of-its-kind initiative to support state arts agencies in developing infrastructure and programming in arts, health, and aging in their individual states and as regional and national collaborators. Participating states will be part of a contingent preparing recommendations for the White House Conference on Aging in 2015. These recommendations will also be a resource for the Oklahoma Health and Mental Health Industry.
- **Arts and the Military:** The Council is working with state leaders in military and veterans affairs to launch an Arts and the Military Initiative. The initiative will include pilot programs for veterans as part of their reintegration and clinical rehabilitation, as well as arts learning experiences for active duty members, their family members, and caregivers. This initiative will also aid community arts organizations in providing expanded arts focused programs to those who have courageously served our country.

Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere? N/A

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma?

No. Constituent organizations rely on our grants as seed funding for their programs. Our rigorous review process, "seal of approval" and matching grants gives organizations needed leverage to raise matching funds from earned income, foundations, corporations, or private individuals. In particular we are one of the only sources of funding for many rural organizations. Additionally, no other organization provides statewide leadership training, professional development, and economic and community development for the arts and cultural industry.

In other states?

No

Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

No