



Arts
OKLAHOMA
ARTS
COUNCIL

Oklahoma Arts Council FY2023 Impact Report



Foreward

Amber Sharples, Executive Director

At some point in the near future, when we look back on fiscal year 2023, I believe we will see it as a defining year for not just the arts, but our entire state. As the fiscal year began, with our sector continuing to grapple with the devastating effects of the pandemic, efforts were underway by our agency and its strategic partners to pursue critical state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that could rebuild and transform our industry, which has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic through canceled events, restricted fundraising opportunities, and more. Following a few setbacks, our efforts prevailed, as state leaders recognized the opportunity to invest in all that the arts can do for Oklahoma, overwhelmingly approving a measure to set us on the path to even greater importance in our communities. The seeds of what we can achieve as a sector on behalf of our communities have been planted, and in reviewing fiscal year 2023, one can begin to see how they are taking shape.



In the following report, covering July 2022 through June 2023, you will see examples of ways we are placing the arts at the center of **workforce development strategies** being devised by business and state government leaders. You will also learn how our agency answered the call to **bolster education** at a critical time for Oklahoma students as schools surmount learning disruptions caused by the pandemic. In addition to highlighting our investments in programs benefiting the **health and well-being** of our people, this report showcases our expanding efforts to meet needs in **rural Oklahoma**, where the arts offer unique advantages in economic development. Finally, you will see our astounding progress in turning the Oklahoma State Capitol in to the state's **largest public art museum**.

As you review our accomplishments in fiscal year 2023, I invite you to mark them as part of a significant turning point for the arts and for Oklahoma.

About the Oklahoma Arts Council ---

History

Established in 1965 by Governor Henry Bellmon and the Oklahoma State Legislature, the Oklahoma Arts Council was created as part of a national movement to bring the arts to communities across America. For more than half a century, the Oklahoma Arts Council has carried out its mission through various innovative programs created to meet the evolving needs of Oklahomans. Reflected in this impact report are programs and activities through which accomplishments of the agency were achieved in its most recent fiscal year.

How We Make an Impact

Oklahoma Arts Council programs and activities are designed around one or more functions of the agency. This report highlights our work under the following functions:



Supporting

Supporting Oklahoma's thriving arts and cultural sector through grants

Oklahoma Arts Council grant funding makes arts and cultural programs possible in communities and schools across the state. A rigorous panel review process using national industry standards ensures funded programs meet agency guidelines and are accountable to taxpayers. In FY23, we invested:

509 grants in
336 schools and organizations
across **122** Oklahoma communities

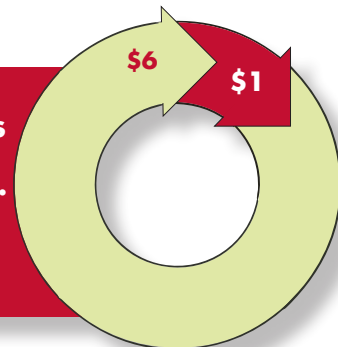
Return on Investment

The Oklahoma Arts Council leads in the support and development of a sector that produces excellent return-on-investment. According to a report released in 2017, Oklahoma Arts Council grantees and their audiences:

- Had a \$241 million impact*
- Generated \$22.9 million in state and local tax revenues*
- Supported more than 8,100 full-time equivalent jobs*

\$1 in Oklahoma Arts Council funding helps generate \$6 in state and local tax revenue.

* From *The Economic Impact of the Oklahoma Arts Council's Grantees and Their Audiences*





OKLAHOMA Arts Sector ARPA Grants



Historic \$10 Investment in the Arts

In FY23, an effort spearheaded by the Oklahoma Arts Council in partnership with Allied Arts OKC and Arts Alliance Tulsa led to the approval of a historic \$10 million investment of state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the arts and cultural sector. Made possible by the transformational funding, Oklahoma Arts Sector ARPA Grants **will boost the rebuilding of the sector** across all 77 counties while catapulting it forward as an asset for developing creative workforce and strengthening the economy.



Through our **Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants**, BLAC, Inc. partnered with Paseo Avenues to offer painting workshops led by professional teaching artists to veterans and military-connected individuals served by the organizations.



In FY23, we created new ways for arts organizations to make a difference in Oklahoma. **Arts in Alternative Education Community Partnership Grants** empowered arts nonprofits like bART Center for Music to leverage their expertise and resources to serve the unique needs of students at alternative education sites.

Developing

Developing robust rural and community infrastructure through programs

The Oklahoma Arts Council is the backbone organization for creative infrastructure development. The agency's programs generate and equip leadership, provide expertise and technical assistance to the field, and broker valuable resources and relationships for the sector.



Our **Leadership Arts** program brought together a class of over 30 Oklahomans for a series of in-depth spring sessions in four different communities. From Ada and Alva to Wewoka and Woodward, areas across Oklahoma were represented in our 12th iteration of this popular program. Class members delve in to the latest research to learn methodologies for leveraging the arts in creative placemaking, workforce and economic development, education, quality of life, and more.



In our efforts toward elevating Oklahoma’s **folk and traditional arts**, we welcomed a visit by Cliff Murphy of the National Endowment for the Arts in October, who joined us on a tour of eastern Oklahoma and participated in our folk and traditional arts task force meeting.



Health, aging, and social service organizations came together with artists and arts nonprofits during our day-long statewide **Creative Aging Exchange** event in August. Participants got equipped to serve the needs of older Oklahomans.



Okemah was one of many communities visited by our staff in FY23. Staff met with local leaders interested in leveraging **Okemah’s rural arts and cultural assets** for community and economic development. Oklahoma Arts Council expertise is often sought in areas such as public art, community arts programming, and cultural district development.



With the arts recognized for their potential value in **reviving Oklahoma’s historic all-Black towns**, relationships with local leaders are being cultivated by Oklahoma Arts Council rural and creative community development staff.

Educating

Educating Oklahomans of all ages and abilities to build a creative workforce

Through programs of the Oklahoma Arts Council, resources are made available to meet the educational needs of individuals of all ages and abilities. Research confirms the strong connection between arts education and improved academic outcomes in schools. Studies also show the benefits of community arts learning programs in the health and well-being of adults.



In FY23, with federal funds designed to help schools address disruptions in learning caused by the pandemic, the Oklahoma Arts Council launched several **new grant programs serving the needs of students in alternative education**. Through the programs, alternative education students had more opportunities to work with teaching artists, experience the inspiration of live performing arts, and benefit from school partnerships with nonprofit arts organizations. A part of our agency's **workforce development strategy**, students are able to attain the Fine Arts credits needed to succeed in high school and beyond.



In January, the Oklahoma Arts Council launched the first-ever docent training program at the State Capitol. Through the program, more than **2,500 Oklahoma students received a museum-quality guided tour** of history, art, and government at the Capitol in FY23.



In April, we partnered with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education to present the 33rd annual **Oklahoma Education Awards for Arts Excellence**, recognizing achievements of talented students, educators, and administrators from across the state.



Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples helped present the first-place award to AdyLynn Anderson of Lawton High School at the 2022-23 **Oklahoma Poetry Out Loud** competition in March. Administered by Oklahoma A+ Schools in collaboration with our agency, the state competition is part a national program made possible through our partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Preserving

Preserving the history and heritage of the people of our state

The Oklahoma Arts Council is a steward of the history and culture of the people of Oklahoma. The agency manages the collections of artwork at the Oklahoma State Capitol, administers the state's public art program, and commemorates Oklahomans who have influenced and shaped our state.



Conceived by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the **Hall of Heroes** was dedicated in May with members of the Legislature and state and military leaders. The newly designated space at the Capitol features artworks displaying acts of bravery, individuals of distinction, and moments of reflection.



In March, the Oklahoma Arts Council resurrected a popular event at the State Capitol commemorating one of our state’s musical icons. After nearly a decade on hiatus due to the Capitol restoration, we brought back **Bob Wills Day**, partnering with the Oklahoma Historical Society, featuring an afternoon of live Western swing music performances. Wills’ imprint on popular music can still be heard today.



Throughout FY23, our visual and public art staff revived the full grandeur of the Oklahoma State Capitol, reinstalling hundreds of artworks that had been in storage for years during the building’s renovation. We also brought to fruition numerous new commissions of artwork that help portray the sweeping story of our state. The People’s House offers a captivating experience for visitors from around the world, shining bright as the **largest public art museum in Oklahoma**.



In February, we installed **“Making Her Mark”** by Sara Scribner above the Capitol’s second-floor Hall of Governors. The lunette mural embodies the legacies of Dr. Shannon Lucid, Opaline Deveraux Wadkins, Chief Wilma Mankiller, and Senator Maxine Horner—four Oklahoma women of consequence in science, medicine, government, and education.



Oklahoma’s role in history as a seedbed of the Civil Rights Movement is reflected in the new bronze bust of **Clara Luper**, created by LaQuincey Reed. In FY23, our team placed the new work in its permanent location on the Capitol’s first floor.



Yatika Fields’ (Osage Nation/Muscogee Nation/Cherokee Nation) **“Spiro: Serpent River, Shelled Stories, Sun-Touched Engravings”** was installed in FY23. The mural conveys the energy of what was Oklahoma’s thriving center of commerce and a nexus of cultural exchange.

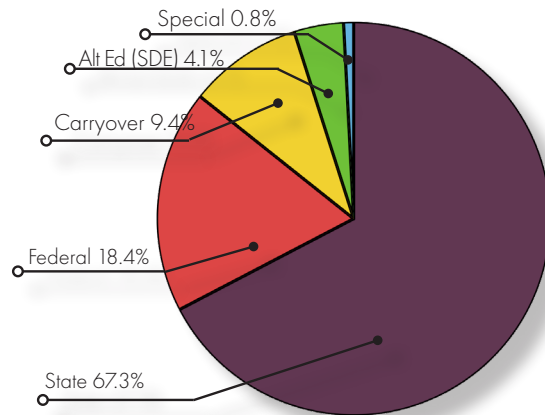


Dr. Jessica Moore Harjo (Otoe-Missouria/Osage Nation/Pawnee/Sac & Fox) stands beneath her newly installed bronze ceiling installation, **“People of the Great Sky, Constellations of the Land”** in the Capitol’s southeast entrance. The expansive concept includes more than 300 individual brass pieces in geometric design and abstracted floral motifs that are often represented in regalia or other tribal items of significance.

Oklahoma Arts Council FY23 Grants and Programs

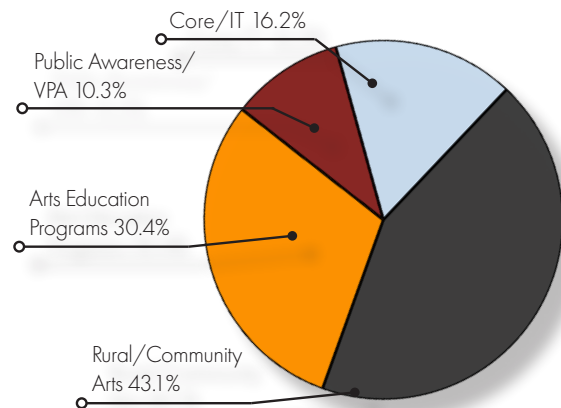
FY23 Funding Sources

State Appropriations	\$3,243,030
Federal - NEA	883,900
FY22 Carryover	452,357
Arts in Alternative Education (SDE)	196,463
Special Initiatives (Revolving)	39,753
Total	\$4,815,503



FY23 Expenditures by Program

Rural/Community Arts	\$2,075,487
Arts Education Programs	1,462,315
Public Awareness/Visual & Public Art	496,345
Core Operations/IT	781,356
Total	\$4,815,503



State Appropriations

Appropriated funds from the Oklahoma State Legislature.

Federal NEA

State partnership grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Only available to the Oklahoma Arts Council as the official state arts agency.

FY23 Carryover

Provides funding for grants, travel expenses, professional fees, professional development and contingency funds for agency relocation.

Arts in Alternative Education (SDE)

Grant programs, partnerships, and services to provide vulnerable youth with high quality arts education experiences that increase classroom engagement and improve high school graduation rates.

Special Initiatives (Revolving)

Provides funding for the Arts and the Military Summit, Creative Aging program, and Visual and Public Art commissions.

Arts Education Programs (AES/ALC)

Administration of grants and programs for arts instruction in PreK-12 schools and programs for arts instruction in community settings, serving Oklahomans of all ages and abilities.

Community Arts (CAP)

Administration of grants for audience-based programs; administration of rural and community development grants and programs.

Public Awareness/Capitol Art

Administration of communications (digital and print publications, marketing activities, media relations, events). Administration of activities related to managing and preserving artwork at State Capitol.

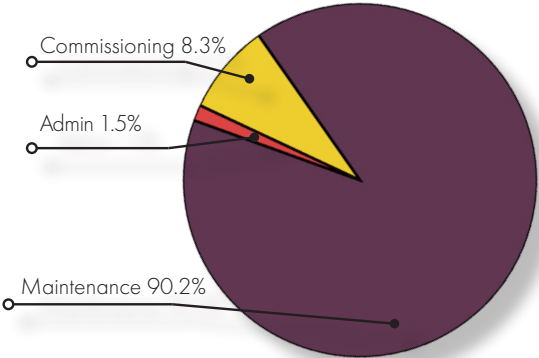
Core Operations/IT

Administration of agency mission, including oversight and evaluation of programs, fiscal management, compliance, implementation of staff work plans.

Oklahoma Arts Council FY23 Art in Public Places

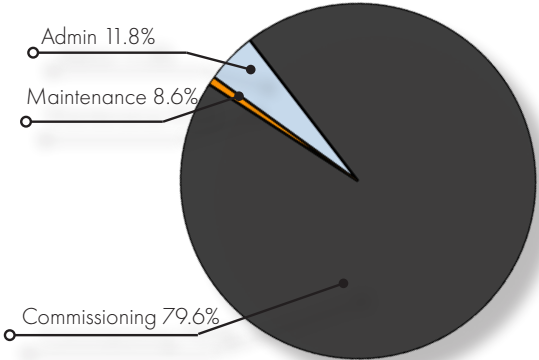
FY23 Art in Public Places Revenue

Administrative	\$4,100
Maintenance	254,100
Commissioning	23,414
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Projected Balance	\$281,614
FY23 Fund Balances	3,482,119
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Total	\$3,763,733



FY23 Art in Public Places Expenditures

Administrative	\$13,091
Maintenance	9,533
Commissioning	88,285
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Projected Total	\$110,909



Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) Commissioning

Commissioning funds are utilized for the preservation of existing work on site and/or the creation of new artwork for the participating capital expenditure project.

AIPP Administrative

Funds dedicated to the administration of the Art in Public Places program support the creation of educational materials and dedication events for completed artwork. Funds are also applied to workforce expenditures to administer the program.

AIPP Maintenance

The program reserves funds from each Art in Public Places assessment for ongoing maintenance needs of the Oklahoma Public Art Collection, a strategic investment for the long-term preservation of the artwork.

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