



# **Oklahoma Arts Council Proposal**

## **FY2024 Budget Priorities**

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# **FY2024 Budget Priorities**

## **State of the Arts: Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry**

While the arts were at the forefront of innovating and adopting technology in their efforts to ensure Oklahomans with arts education and arts experiences during the pandemic, the inherent nature of the arts to bring people together forced organizations to be among the first to close their doors, and it dictates that they were among the last to fully reopen and rebound.

Oklahoma's creative sector, which relies heavily on in-person fundraising and event-generated earned income was financially devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, gleaned new ways of engagement and is committed to reconstructing programs, reinstating lost jobs, reengaging artist contracts, and reestablishing arts programs.

## **Oklahoma Arts Council: FY2024 Budget Priorities**

The Oklahoma Arts Council is proud to have supported the arts and cultural sector this past year with strategic investments in rural and underserved communities and anticipates even greater needs as communities and nonprofit organizations continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Oklahomans are eager to engage in arts and cultural programming more than ever, and an investment in the core operations of our agency ensures our ability to have a continued strategic and long-term impact. As such, we request funds to support Oklahoma Arts Council administration and operations as well as strategic programs in FY2024.

Building on the momentum of our Rural Arts Opportunity Grants and other support to rural communities across the state, we aim to increase grants, programs, and other services that ensure arts access to all Oklahomans. This includes the biennial Oklahoma Arts Conference, Cultural District Initiative, and other programs that enhance education, quality of life, cultural preservation and heritage, and economic development through the arts in communities across the state.

Additional priorities of the agency include supporting positions and programs to leverage the artwork at the Oklahoma State Capitol as an educational tool and an enhancement to the visitor experience. Our request expands the Capitol field trip grant program, providing funds to Oklahoma schools to bring students to the Capitol for curriculum development and onsite hands-on learning in Oklahoma history and art. Programs that address learning loss and enhance arts education in schools and lifelong learning in communities, the Oklahoma Arts and the Military Initiative, Creative Aging, workforce development for teaching artists, and the creation of an Arts and Incarceration initiative round out the priorities requested for FY2024.

## **Preparing for Jim Thorpe Building Renovation Pre- and Post-Planning**

Currently, the agency occupies just over 4,500 square feet of space in the Jim Thorpe Building. This location has been critical to agency operations, as the Council provides ongoing collections management and care to hundreds of artworks at the State Capitol. The renovation of the Jim Thorpe Building will displace our staff and disrupt our operations during a three-year minimum period; however, we see this opportunity as a chance to re-imagine our workspace and invest in our long-term service. It will be necessary to relocate during these years, and we seek to have approximately 5,700 square feet to accommodate our offices and staff at an interim location. This will require costs for moving, storage, and temporary space modifications.

Post-renovation, the location of the Oklahoma Arts Council necessitates our agency being close to the Capitol, as staff are often moving carts of artworks between buildings and must be on site to respond quickly to collections management and care. Future space requirements are estimated to be approximately 8,000 square feet for offices, meeting rooms, and storage, including the need for onsite climate-controlled collections storage.

At the same time, we recognize the impact of inflation on our overall expenditures. The cost of business has increased by more than 8% and is anticipated to climb. For FY2024, we are planning for an increase of up to 15% for operational costs, including supplies, printing, travel, professional services, etc. Additionally, we recognize the impact of inflation on our small but dedicated team of staff. Oklahoma Arts Council employees work tirelessly to carry out the many programs and services of the agency and are valued in their role as public servants. A market-based salary increase adjusted for inflation will be vital this coming year to retain our highly qualified staff.

The Oklahoma Arts Council governing body has directed agency staff to request investment in the amount of up to \$5.1 million. This investment in the arts for FY2024 is outlined as follows:

**FY2024 Budget Request: Summary**

Agency Program	FY2023 Budgeted	FY2024 Proposed	Increase/ Decrease
<p><b>1. Administration:</b> Workforce retention; inflation adjustment; agency’s temporary relocation expenditures</p>	\$2,011,850	\$2,432,631	\$420,781
<p><b>2. Grants and Rural Arts Infrastructure:</b> Post-pandemic services and ensuring arts access to all Oklahomans</p>	\$1,653,051	\$2,291,366	\$638,315
<p><b>3. Visual and Public Art:</b> Leveraging The People’s House and The People’s Art through educational programs</p>	\$65,920	\$211,260	\$145,340
<p><b>4. Arts Education/Arts Learning:</b> Addressing learning loss through arts education in schools and lifelong learning in the arts</p>	\$1,194,813	\$1,847,347	\$652,534
<b>Total Increase of Investment</b>			<b>\$1,856,970</b>

**Administration:**  
**Post-Pandemic Inflation and Agency’s Temporary Move**

<b>Agency Program</b>	<b>FY2023 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2024 Proposed</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
<b>1. Agency’s Temporary Relocation:</b> Agency temporarily relocating due to renovations at the Jim Thorpe Building	\$39,802	\$201,000	\$161,198
<b>2. Salary Increase:</b> Market-based salaries and benefits adjusted for inflation	\$1,510,545	\$1,615,903	\$105,358
<b>3. Additional Staff:</b> Adding a part-time finance support position to streamline the financial operations and remove agency dependency on ABS	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
<b>4. Inflation:</b> Increasing operational expenses by up to 15% due to inflation	\$461,503	\$530,728	\$69,225
<b>5. Grants and Program Management System:</b> Digital modernization from an aging system utilized by constituents and agency staff to manage 650+ grants, public art, and other projects	\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000
<b>Total Increase of Investment</b>			<b>\$420,781</b>

**Grants and Rural Arts Infrastructure:  
Post-Pandemic Services and Ensuring Arts Access to all Oklahomans**

<b>Agency Program</b>	<b>FY23 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY24 Proposed</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
<b>1. Rural Arts Infrastructure:</b> Targeted rural arts infrastructure and creative workforce development and grant programs for underserved rural counties	\$40,000	\$200,000	\$160,000
<b>2. Creative Placemaking:</b> Build robust arts and cultural infrastructure by encouraging the creation of community development plans, supporting innovative projects that activate local spaces, and generating new economic opportunities through arts events and cultural tourism	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>3. Additional Staff:</b> Adding a FTE position to lead rural infrastructure and creative placemaking initiatives, department budget, equipment, etc.	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>4. Community Arts and Partnership Grants:</b> Sustaining festivals, rural, community development post-pandemic programs	\$1,605,551	\$1,711,366	\$105,815
<b>5. Folk/Traditional Arts Initiative:</b> Programs supporting rural, artisans, and makers	\$7,500	\$30,000	\$22,500
<b>6. Oklahoma Arts Conference:</b> Professional development for the arts and cultural sector, held every other year	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Total Increase for Grants and Rural Arts Infrastructure</b>			<b>\$638,315</b>

**Visual and Public Art:**

**Leveraging The People’s House and The People’s Art through Educational Programs**

<b>Agency Program</b>	<b>FY2023 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2024 Proposed</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
1. Curator of Education and Engagement & Director of Collections Management: Positions and budgets currently covered by the Capitol AIPP project at 50% (.5 FTE).	\$50,920	\$171,460	\$120,540
2. Capitol Art Field Trips Expansion: Includes mileage reimbursement, substitute teacher, onsite educational activities, other expenses to/from the Capitol for schools	\$15,000	\$39,800	\$24,800
<b>Total Increase for Visual and Public Art</b>			<b>\$145,340</b>

**Arts Education/Arts Learning/Workforce Development:  
Addressing Learning Loss through Arts Education in Schools and Lifelong Learning in the Arts**

<b>Special Initiatives</b>	<b>FY2023 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2024 Proposed</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
1. Arts and the Military Initiative and Grant Program	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$40,000
2. Creative Aging Initiative and Pilot Program Development	\$15,400	\$50,000	\$34,600
3. Arts and Incarceration Initiative: Criminal Justice Reform Pilot Program	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
4. Workforce Development and Skills Training for Artists	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Agency Program</b>	<b>FY2023 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY2024 Proposed</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
1. Grants for Arts Education in Schools: Includes artist-in-residencies in schools, Arts in Alternative Education Grants, and Classroom Supply Grants for Schools	\$529,921	\$819,037	\$289,116
2. Community-Based Arts Education Grants: Programs for youth and adults in schools and communities, with emphasis on rural and vulnerable populations, mental health	\$589,492	\$808,310	\$218,818
<b>Total Increase for Arts Education</b>			<b>\$652,534</b>

**Summary of Oklahoma Arts Council’s FY2024 Budget Investment Request**

FY2023 State Appropriation/Agency Investment: \$3,243,030  
 Total Increase of Investment: \$1,856,970

**Proposed FY2024 Appropriation Investment: \$5,100,000**



**OKLAHOMA**