

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

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December 9, 2015

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Oklahoma Arts Council

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

Mission, Entity who adopted and date adopted:

To lead in the advancement of Oklahoma's thriving arts industry.

Revision adopted by the Oklahoma Arts Council at the October 21, 2015 meeting as part of the agency's 2016-2020 strategic plan approval.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Amber Sharples, Executive Director

Oklahoma Arts Council

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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

J.P. Richard, Secretary, Lawton

Lona Barrick, Ada

Susan Coles, Oklahoma City

Tricia Everest, Oklahoma City

Ann Hargis, Stillwater

Cassandra Gaines, Muskogee

Jane Jayroe Gamble, Oklahoma City

Nancy Pilkington, Tulsa

Chandra Rickey, Broken Bow

Hannah Robson, Tulsa

Lee Allan Smith, Oklahoma City

Phyllis Stough, Oklahoma City

Regina Turrentine, Ardmore

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

**Oklahoma State Art Collection Committee**

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.

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:

Holbrook Lawson  
Nancy Leonard  
Lona Barrick  
Phyllis Stough

### 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.

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.

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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 of 8% of total agency budget
- Termination of OMES contract for agency business services. Identified payment to OMES for tasks that could be performed in-house by staff with expertise, reducing annual costs of more than \$17,000/fiscal year.

#### 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.

### *Supporting Oklahoma's Thriving Arts and Cultural Industry*

- **Grants** – Provided 495 grants to 264 organizations and schools in 89 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 470 individuals in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and provided professional training for community developers, local government officials, arts managers, and artists. Attendees represented by more than 60 communities in Oklahoma including: Ada, Altus, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Bethany, Blackwell, Broken Arrow, Broken Bow, Catoosa, Chandler, Checotah, Claremore, Cleveland, Duncan, Edmond, El Reno, Elgin, Enid, Eucha, Freedom, Guthrie, Guymon, Hugo, Hulbert, Idabel, Jenks, Lawton, Locust Grove, Miami, Muskogee, Midwest City, Norman, Oklahoma City, Owasso, Paoli, Pawhuska, Ponca City, Pryor, Red Oak, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Shawnee, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Texhoma, Tishomingo, Tonkawa, Tulsa, Weatherford, Welch, Wewoka, Woodward and Yukon, among others. Sessions included: “Placekeeping: How to Preserve the Culture in District Development,” “STEM^Arts,” “Arts and the Military: Enlisting the Arts and Humanities to Serve Those Who Serve,” and “Weathering the Storm: Emergency Preparedness for Arts and Cultural Organizations,” among others.
- **Leadership Arts** - Provided in-depth workshops and curriculum for 30 individuals from communities across the state for a total of more than 240 graduates from 80 communities 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 2015 Leadership Arts class represented: Ada, Apache, Ardmore, Blackwell, Checotah, Edmond, Elgin, Enid, Guymon, Hulbert, Miami, Mustang, Norman, Oklahoma City, Overbrook, Perkins, Pryor, Rush Springs, Salina, Shawnee, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Texoma, Tulsa, Welch, Woodward and Yukon.
- **Cultural District Initiative** - 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. Communities that have been part of the Cultural District Development Program include: Alva, Ada, Eufaula, Jenks, Muskogee, Guthrie, Tahlequah, Woodward, and the Paseo in Oklahoma City. In 2015, the Council expanded the initiative to include the certification of mixed-use areas of communities as certified cultural districts. Certified cultural districts statewide include: Brady Arts District (Tulsa), Enid, Guthrie, Norman, Kendall Whittier (Tulsa), and the Plaza District (Oklahoma City).

### *Educate Oklahoma's Creative Workforce*

- **Arts in Alternative Education Program** - The Council was the recipient of a \$103,500 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 is in the second year of a three-year initiative to develop state initiated and state appropriate recommendations for arts education policy. The Council receives \$10,000 each year for three years to facilitate the program.
- **School based** - Served 760 school sites across the state through school-based grants and programs. Provided 1,970 teachers with arts education and arts integration instruction.

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- **Community based** - Served nearly 200,000 participants statewide through after school programs, summer arts camps, adult art programs, senior adult programs, and programs for individuals with special needs.

#### *Preserving Oklahoma's History and Culture*

- **Allan Houser Centennial Celebration** -As part of the yearlong, 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 entirely 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 2015 exhibition schedule represented: Elk City, Duncan, Edmond, Frederick, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Sulphur, and Tulsa, 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 and organized the annual Governor's Arts Awards with the Office of the Governor.
- **Facilities Management and State Capitol Preservation Commission:** Continued efforts to plan for the protection of the Capitol artwork during the building renovation. The Council has worked closely with the Capitol renovation team to provide expertise and planning for the care of the artwork at the Capitol as part of the building renovation project.

- **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 participated in part of a contingent preparing recommendations for the White House Conference on Aging. The recommendations will be a resource for the Oklahoma Health and Mental Health Industry.
- **Arts and the Military:** The Council kicked off its new Arts and the Military Initiative in February 2015 when it deployed a survey to assess the existing connections between the state's arts and military communities as well as to determine what it can do to multiply and strengthen them. The survey identified that there is a pronounced need for greater arts engagement with the military. Of the 400 respondents representing 86 cities and 51 counties, 85% indicated being unaware of arts based programming reaching service members or their families. In response, the Council is now partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a pilot program to enrich the arts programming of the Norman Veterans Center. The Council anticipates that the pilot—which aims to bolster the center's arts instruction, exhibitions and events—not only will help train teaching artists but also will demonstrate how public agencies, nonprofit organizations and community groups can best serve veterans, active-duty service men and women, including guardsmen and reservists, and their families through the arts.

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 non-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency? No.