

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2015-16 Performance Report

Oklahoma School for the Visual and Performing Arts

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

OKLAHOMA'S SCHOOL FOR THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (OKArts) is a publicly funded, two-year, residential Arts high school. At full enrollment, OKArts will be home to 200 of the state's most creative, gifted and promising high school juniors and seniors. OKArts students will receive a deep immersion in their respective arts discipline (including all visual arts, expressive, music, vocal and dance), along with a comprehensive arts-infused academic education with Oklahoma State University as our academic partner. Modeled after the highly successful Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics, students will earn admission through a highly competitive audition process. In addition, students will enjoy the enormous benefits unique to an immersion-learning environment. Students also will gain from the small classrooms, accomplished creative faculty, professional staff and the constant, close proximity and encouragement of fellow students who are similarly talented and motivated.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

David Downing, *Co-Chairman, OSVPA*
1336 East 15th Street
Tulsa, OK 74120
918.938.7914 or 918.625.5142
DavidDowning@AcrobatAnt.com

Or...

John Brock, *Co-Chairman, OSVPA*
2021 S. Lewis Avenue, Suite 415
Tulsa, OK 74104
918.582.1320 or 918.694.0118

GOVERNANCE:

The bill that created OKArts (HB1737 in 2009) calls for a specific Board of Trustees including: four ex officio non-voting members; 11 members appointed by the Governor with varying terms of two, four and six years; four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each serving terms that coincide with their appointing authority.

Board member selection was/is to be approved by the Governor's Appointment Secretary. As legislative funding of OKArts has yet to be appropriated, Board membership has been extended to many qualified individuals, but no Board meetings have ever occurred, nor Board members ever confirmed by the Governor's office.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

See Governance above.

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MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

As OKArts has yet to formally begin operations, this section is not applicable.

CORE MISSION:

We are not aware of any services required to provide which are outside our core mission of arts education.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Arts education is offered statewide by both public and private schools. And arts education is also provided by the private sector, and available to those Oklahoman students whose families can afford it. No school in Oklahoma, neither public nor private, will offer the level and depth of arts intensive education as will OKArts.

This same model – a publicly funded, statewide arts high school for those who are very gifted – is also available in Alabama and North Carolina.

We have not been approached by any foundation, or other organization, with efforts to privatize any of our functions.