



# Oklahoma Arts Council FY2022 Impact Report





## Foreward

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**Amber Sharples, Executive Director**

Fiscal year 2022 was a watershed year for the Oklahoma Arts Council in many ways. The fiscal year began with staff returning to our physical office space at the Jim Thorpe Building across from the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City in summer 2022, following more than 15 months in telework status due to the pandemic. Our team had spent months working to meet emergent needs of the sector arising from sudden closures, unprecedented financial challenges, and more. Our return symbolized the start of a phase to lead the rebuilding of the sector.



On the topic of rebuilding, in fiscal year 2022 the Legislature approved a bond measure financing the renovation of the Jim Thorpe Building—a century-old building in which our agency is housed. Work is scheduled to begin in March 2023, so our staff is already in the process of relocating to a space in a nearby state office building. Despite this disruption to our routine, we will strive to maintain our high standard of service to the arts and cultural sector. We have adapted in the past, and we will adapt now to meet the needs of Oklahomans.

The following report, covering July 2021 through June 2022, looks back on many of the moments that defined this landmark year—the creation and dedication of public art murals, the return of the Oklahoma Arts Conference and Governor’s Arts Awards, the launch of new initiatives and grant programs, the reinstallation of art throughout the Capitol, and more. In looking ahead, while recognizing ongoing challenges, we hope one sees reason for optimism in our FY2022 accomplishments as we began setting the stage for helping the sector rise out of the depths of the pandemic to become stronger and more relevant than ever to the future of our state.

## About the Oklahoma Arts Council

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### 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 FY22, we invested:

**581** grants in  
**309** schools and organizations  
across **113** Oklahoma communities

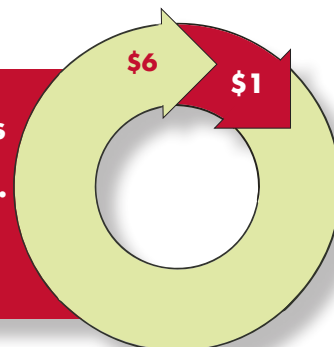
#### Return on Investment

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*



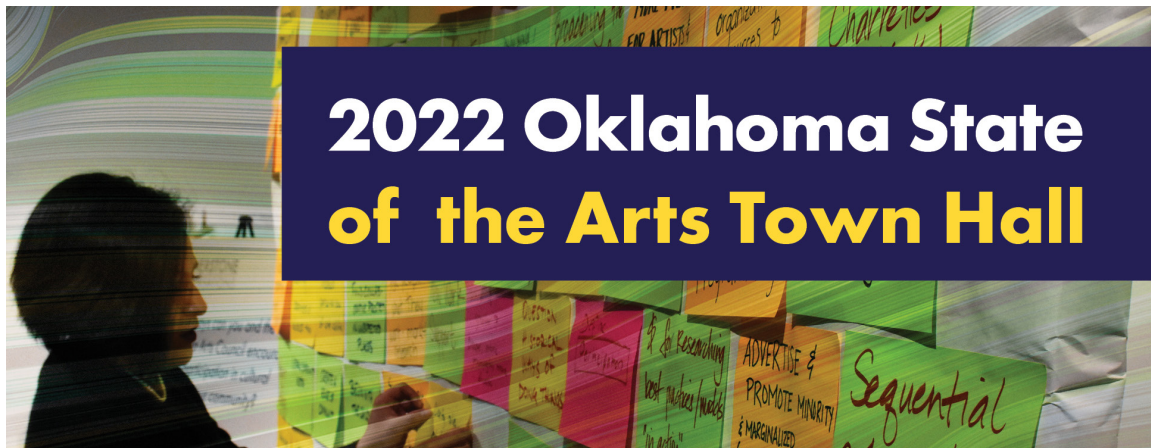




New in FY22, **Rural Arts Opportunity Grants** were introduced as a strategic investment to leverage our resources to serve geographically isolated areas of the state with limited access to arts and cultural activities.



In FY22, our **Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants** served the needs of military-connected Oklahomans. Among the programs supported was a guitar program for veterans offered by The bART Center for Music in Tulsa (pictured).



The Oklahoma Arts Council convened a virtual town hall in FY22 to learn about the challenges being experienced by organizations from the pandemic and to provide updates on the **possibility of state ARPA funding** for the nonprofit arts and cultural sector.

## Developing

### Developing robust rural and community infrastructure through programs

The Oklahoma Arts Council is the backbone organization for cultural 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.



In October 2021, we brought together more than 400 Oklahomans in the arts and cultural sector for the **Oklahoma Arts Conference** in Muskogee. Mayor Marlon Coleman (pictured) welcomed people from across the state and invited them to experience the area's vibrant arts and cultural assets.





Prior to the Oklahoma Arts Conference in Muskogee, we helped create space and opportunity for a convening of Oklahoma **Black arts leaders**.



In FY22, our second year of the **Oklahoma Creative Aging Initiative** featured multi-day training sessions for teaching artists and community organizations.



**Leadership Arts** is our flagship biennial development program that equips 30 Oklahomans from across the state with the knowledge and networks to grow and strengthen their communities using local arts and cultural assets. Members of Leadership Arts XI graduated in FY22. They represented 18 different communities across the state.



In FY22, five **Oklahoma Public Art Network** online convenings allowed our public art staff to bring together emerging and experienced artists, public art administrators, and others to share best practices and resources as we look to advance the field of public art.



## 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 FY22, federal pandemic relief funding awarded to us by the Oklahoma State Department of Education allowed us to increase investment and services to **Alternative Education** sites. Students in alternative education significantly benefit from fine arts courses.



In FY22, we launched the **Oklahoma Arts Education Dashboard** with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oklahomans for the Arts, and Kirkpatrick Family Foundation. This robust tool empowers parents and others to view fine arts courses offered in schools across the state.



**Classroom Supply Grants** were offered in FY22 to help schools sustain their fine arts programs. We received 101 applications from 61 communities in 35 counties—36 schools were located in rural Oklahoma. The funding benefited 17,749 students.



In April 2022, we recognized **National Poetry Month** with the Oklahoma State Legislature, honoring Joe Kreger (pictured) of Tonkawa as Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, and Amanda Sears of Bethany as winner of the Oklahoma Poetry Out Loud competition.



## Preserving

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### 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.



In FY22, we brought in a professional sculpture-cleaning service to perform maintenance on the **veterans monument** on the grounds of the Oklahoma Judicial Center.





In spring 2022, we dedicated “Imagine Hope,” a mural by Yukon artist Carlos Barboza commissioned through our **Oklahoma Art in Public Places** program in partnership with Oklahoma Human Services. The goal of the project was to foster a warm, inviting environment for people served at the new Hope Community Center in Oklahoma City.



A second **Oklahoma Art in Public Places** airport mural greeting thousands of annual visitors to Oklahoma was completed in FY22. The Will Rogers World Airport mural (OKC) was created through a partnership with the Office of Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and Oklahoma City Airport Trust.



We honored 15 individuals and three organizations from around the state at the 44th Oklahoma **Governor’s Arts Awards**. Emmy and Tony-winning performer Kristin Chenoweth was designated as the seventh Oklahoma Cultural Ambassador, and U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo of Tulsa was designated as the 14th Oklahoma Cultural Treasure.



A special **exhibition** of artwork at the Capitol by noted Mexican sculptor José Sacal was organized by the Oklahoma Arts Council in FY22. As a means of cultural diplomacy, the exhibition and a special ceremony led to an announcement that a Mexican consulate will open in Oklahoma City.



New private gifts of art managed by the Oklahoma Arts Council included **"Seminole Oil Boom,"** commissioned by former Representative Weldon Watston and his wife Cheryle for the Oklahoma Capitol Art Collection.



In spring 2022, we launched **"Being Oklahoma,"** featuring videos and programs in partnership with Metropolitan Library System, to preserve the stories of Oklahoma folk and traditional artists.





Managed by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the **reinstallation of hundreds of artworks** throughout the Oklahoma State Capitol began in FY22, following six years of restoration efforts on the historic building. The agency's visual and public art team spent years creating a reinstallation plan that included the commissioning of 21 new works of art, development of a museum-quality docent program, launch of a school field trip grant, and more.

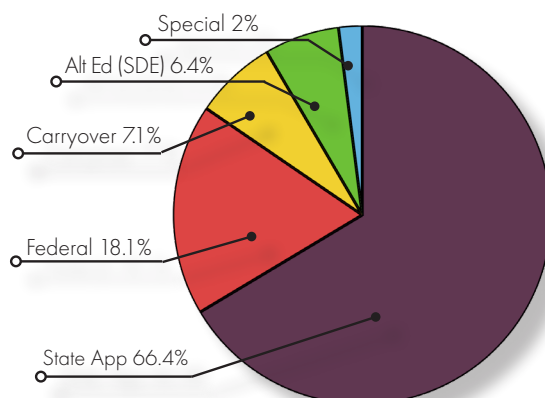




# Oklahoma Arts Council FY23 Grants and Programs

## FY23 Funding Sources

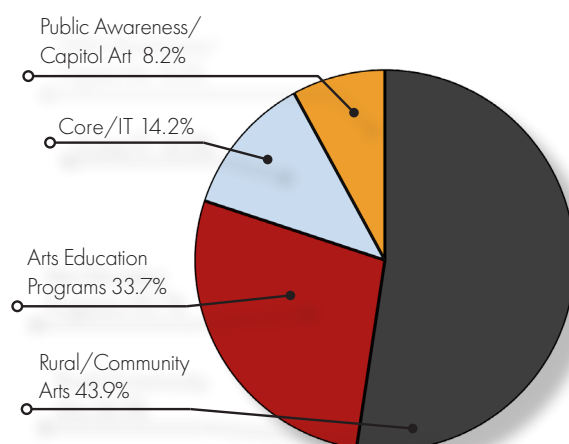
State Appropriations	\$3,243,030
Federal NEA	883,900
FY22 Carryover	343,214
Arts in Alternative Education (SDE)	313,800
Special Initiatives (Revolving)	98,574
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,882,518</b>



## FY23 Expenditures by Program

Rural/Community Arts	\$2,141,010
Arts Education Programs	1,648,150
Public Awareness/Capitol Art	399,852
Core Operations/IT	693,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,882,518</b>

FY22 Carryover in the amount of \$343,214 scheduled for grant programs and Council approved expenditures



### 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.

### FY22 Carryover

Provides increased funding for grants, additional IT/AV equipment, travel expenses, professional fees, 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 from the Oklahoma Arts Council's Leadership Arts Program, Creative Aging Grant, and arts education online curriculum.

### Arts Education Programs (AES/ALC)

Administration of grants and programs for hands-on arts instruction in PreK-12 schools and programs for hands-on 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.



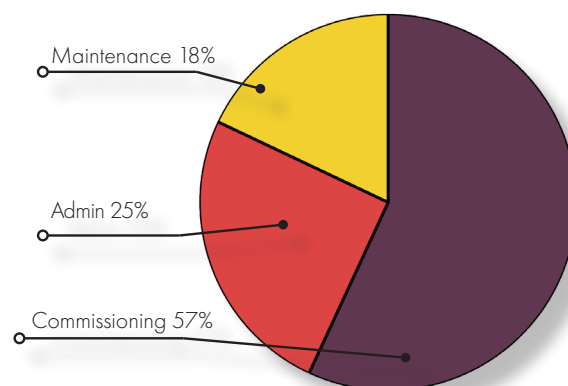




# Oklahoma Arts Council FY23 Art in Public Places

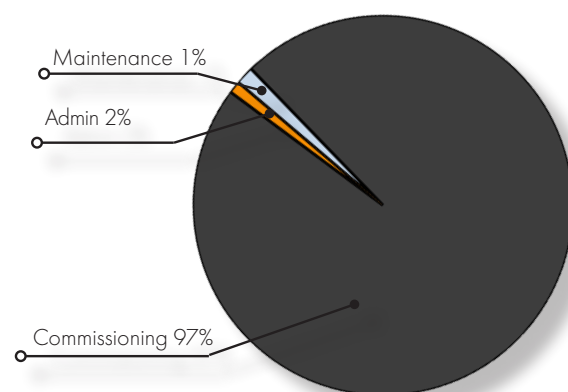
## FY23 Art in Public Places Revenue

Projected Commissioning	\$1,306,988
Projected Administrative	577,750
Projected Maintenance	412,475
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Projected Total	2,297,213
FY22 Fund Balance	3,648,535
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Total	\$5,945,748



## FY23 Art in Public Places Expenditures

Projected Commissioning	\$3,502,819
Projected Administrative	374,368
Projected Maintenance	55,950
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Projected Total	\$3,933,137



### 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.

## Oklahoma Arts Council Members

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Charles N. Moore Sr.  
Chair  
Muskogee

Tracie Chapman  
Vice-Chair  
Mannsville

Kristie Buerger  
Secretary  
Oklahoma City

Melinda Adwon  
Tulsa

Barbara Braught  
Duncan

Deanne Brodie-Mends  
Moore

Deanna Cardenas  
Oklahoma City

Sangita Chatterjee  
Broken Arrow

Lauren Corbut  
Tulsa

Becky J. Frank  
Tulsa

Luz Fusselman  
Oklahoma City

Stephania Grober  
Tulsa

Darlene Parman  
Oklahoma City

Vicente Ruiz  
Sperry

Jake Yunker  
Oklahoma City

## Oklahoma Arts Council Staff

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Executive Director  
Amber Sharples

Deputy Director  
Chandra Boyd

Assistant Director  
Molly O'Connor

Director of Arts Education  
Jennifer Allen-Barron

Visual and Public Art Preparator  
Alan Atkinson

Web/Publications Director  
Scott Cowan

Director of Marketing and Communications  
Joel Gavin

Cultural Development Director  
Eyakem Gulilat

Curator of Education and Engagement  
Amanda Harmer

Director of Art in Public Places  
Sterling Hayes

Arts Education Assistant  
Samantha Haynes

Executive Assistant  
Calen Kinnaman

Art in Public Places Program Assistant  
Sarah Pugh

Curator of Capitol Exhibitions  
Marissa Raglin

Grants and Programs Associate  
Martyna Sandoval

Finance Director  
April Tarver

Grants Director  
Thomas Tran

Director of Visual and Public Art  
Jarica Walsh

Arts Learning in Communities Director  
Erika Wilhite







**OKLAHOMA**