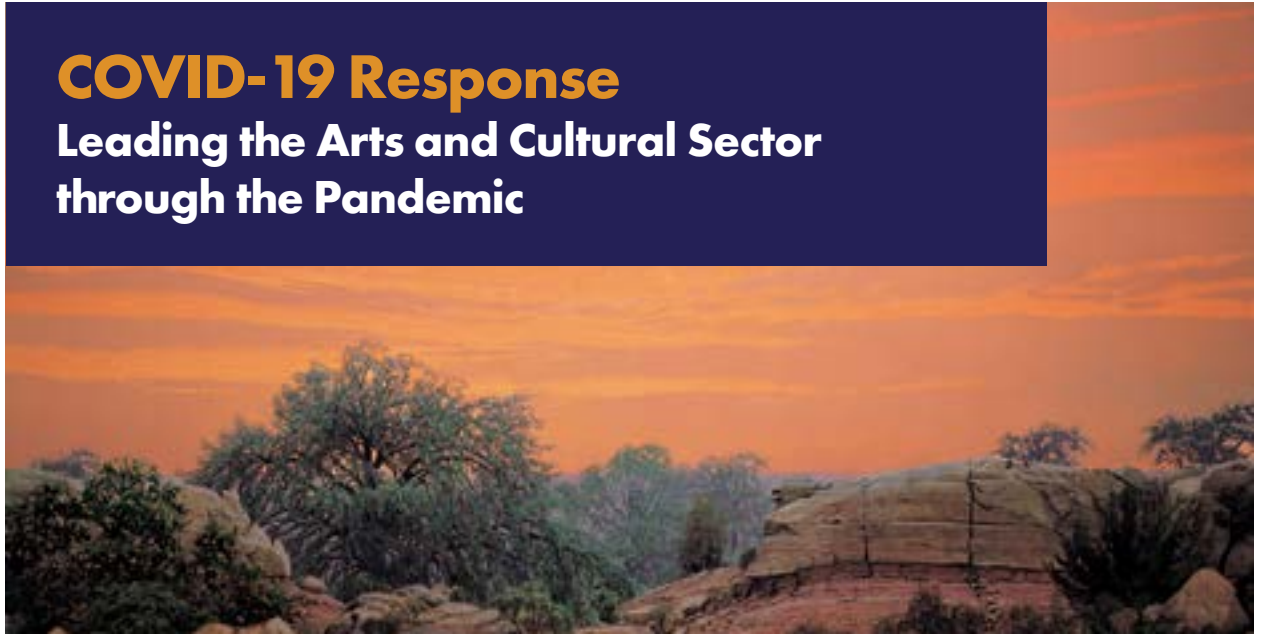


COVID-19 Response

Leading the Arts and Cultural Sector through the Pandemic



The Oklahoma Arts Council's role as the official state government agency for the arts and its leadership position in service to thousands of Oklahomans in the arts and cultural sector statewide was critical during COVID-19. The Governor-appointed Oklahoma Arts Council board and the agency's staff were responsible for administering vital federal aid made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act through the National Endowment for the Arts and Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt. As a result of the more than \$3.4 million in CARES Act funding administered by the Oklahoma Arts Council, hundreds of arts and cultural organizations in every part of the state received urgently needed financial support. The support was essential to bolstering a sector that will help the state recover from the pandemic. Due to the inherent nature of the arts in bringing people together, when the pandemic began in March 2020, arts and cultural programs were among the first events canceled, resulting in significant losses in revenue. Arts and cultural programs will be among the last to safely resume in full. Financial support provided to the sector saved untold jobs and stabilized countless organizations.

Throughout the pandemic, the Oklahoma Arts Council fulfilled through a variety of actions its leadership obligations on behalf of the State of Oklahoma. Actions included:

- Administered through the Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grant (FY21) program \$3 million in CARES Act funding allocated to the arts and cultural sector by Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt. [See page 3](#)
- Administered through the Oklahoma CARES Grant (FY20) program more than \$400,000 in CARES Act funding for nonprofit arts organizations made available by the National Endowment for the Arts. [See page 8](#)
- Convened leaders in the state's arts and cultural sector on Zoom on a bi-weekly basis to address evolving pandemic-related issues.
- Convened communication staff in the state's arts and cultural sector on Zoom on a bi-weekly basis to ensure effective facilitation of essential information.

- Convened staff members from the hundreds of Oklahoma Arts Council-supported organizations on Zoom multiple times to facilitate communication and to assess constituent needs.
- Created the Oklahoma Arts Emergency Resource Page as a clearinghouse of nearly 70 national, regional, and local COVID-19 related grants and resources available to artists and arts organizations.
- Employed the agency's newsletter, social media, and other communication channels to deliver timely information to the sector about available COVID-19 related grants and resources.
- Authored and published *Operating During COVID-19: Considerations for Oklahoma Nonprofit Arts Organizations*.
- Authored and published *Virtual Content, Digital Engagement, and Distance Learning Considerations*.
- Created Oklahoma Online Fine Arts Curriculum in partnership with local teaching artists to make standards-based arts education curriculum available for the distance learning needs of students, parents, and teachers.
- Served on COVID-19 related committees including the Oklahoma Entertainment Communications Task Force and a committee for the Oklahoma Museum's Association Wellbeing Resources.
- Adapted agency grant criteria to reflect the evolving environment in which organizations were compelled to operate during COVID-19. Criteria was revised to allow for support of virtual programming. Match requirements were reduced, deadlines were extended, and the number of grants for which organizations were eligible in certain categories was increased.

Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grants (FY21)

Made possible through a \$3 million allocation of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the state’s arts and cultural sector by Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grants were one-time grants available to organizations that provide arts and cultural programming and have incurred expenses as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, museums, historical societies, colleges and universities, tribal nations, public libraries, and departments of city and county government were eligible. Organizations were required to have a minimum annual operating budget of \$10,000.

Arts-based organizations were eligible for funding based on their full operating budget (not counting capital expenditures and grants or other financial assistance to organizations or individuals). Non-arts organizations were eligible for funding based on the portion of their budget dedicated to arts programming (including arts-related operations and administration). Grant amounts were awarded by the Governor-appointed Oklahoma Arts Council board in December 2020. Nearly 170 organizations in 48 communities statewide received grant awards.

Eligible expenses for Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grants were aligned with Governor Stitt’s guidelines for use of CARES Act funding allocated by his office. Eligible expenses included pandemic-related payroll expenses, business interruption, virtual programming delivery, personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfectant and sanitization costs, public safety measures, and other expenses required to safely open facilities to the public. Funds could not be used for expenses paid for using other CARES Act or federal funds. Organizations that received Oklahoma Business Relief Program (OBRP) funding from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce had the amount of their OBRP grant subtracted from their Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grant.

Oklahoma Arts and Cultural Industry Relief Grants Awards

Organization	City	Award
Gilcrease Museum Management Trust	Tulsa	\$100,000
Philbrook Museum of Art	Tulsa	\$100,000
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center	Oklahoma City	\$85,750
Tulsa Ballet	Tulsa	\$85,750
First Americans Museum (FAM)	Oklahoma City	\$75,000
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum	Oklahoma City	\$75,000
Oklahoma City Museum of Art	Oklahoma City	\$75,000
Oklahoma City Philharmonic Society	Oklahoma City	\$75,000
Allied Arts of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$50,000
Foundation for the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts	Stillwater	\$50,000
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$50,000

Oklahoma City Ballet	Oklahoma City	\$50,000
Tulsa Oktoberfest	Tulsa	\$50,000
Tulsa Opera	Tulsa	\$50,000
Northeastern State University	Tahlequah	\$37,500
The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma	Norman	\$37,500
University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)	Edmond	\$37,500
Arts Council Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	\$35,750
Tulsa Symphony Orchestra	Tulsa	\$35,750
American Banjo Museum	Oklahoma City	\$25,000
Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa (ahha)	Tulsa	\$25,000
Oklahoma International Dance Festival	Norman	\$25,000
Barthelmes Conservatory (The bART)	Tulsa	\$25,000
Bartlesville Community Center	Bartlesville	\$25,000
Choregus Productions	Tulsa	\$25,000
deadCENTER Film Festival	Oklahoma City	\$25,000
Enid Symphony Association	Enid	\$25,000
Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art	Shawnee	\$25,000
Muskogee Little Theatre	Muskogee	\$25,000
Oklahoma Arts Institute	Oklahoma City	\$25,000
Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$25,000
Oklahoma Music Educators Association	Muskogee	\$25,000
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition	Oklahoma City	\$25,000
Ponca Theatre Company	Ponca City	\$25,000
Price Tower Arts Center	Bartlesville	\$25,000
Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art	Tulsa	\$25,000
Osage Nation	Pawhuska	\$21,292
Norman Philharmonic	Norman	\$20,000
American Theatre Company	Tulsa	\$20,000
Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra	Bartlesville	\$20,000
Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville	Bartlesville	\$20,000
Chisholm Trail Arts Council	Duncan	\$20,000
Cimarron Circuit Opera Company	Norman	\$20,000
Gaslight Theatre	Enid	\$20,000
Fab Lab Tulsa	Tulsa	\$20,000
Grand Lake Festivals	Grove	\$20,000
Greatest Stories Never Told	Broken Arrow	\$20,000
Greenwood Cultural Center	Tulsa	\$20,000
Horton Records LTD	Broken Arrow	\$20,000
Jazz In June	Norman	\$20,000
KidsAlive!	Oklahoma City	\$20,000
Lawton Community Theatre	Lawton	\$20,000
Lawton Philharmonic Society	Lawton	\$20,000
Miami Downtown Redevelopment Authority	Miami	\$20,000
Oklahoma Museums Association	Oklahoma City	\$20,000
Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival	Durant	\$20,000
Painted Sky Opera	Edmond	\$20,000

Prairie Dance Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$20,000
Red Dirt Relief Fund	Tulsa	\$20,000
River Parks Foundation	Tulsa	\$20,000
Scissortail Park Foundation	Oklahoma City	\$20,000
Standing Bear Native American Foundation	Ponca City	\$20,000
Tulsa Area Youth Symphony Association	Tulsa	\$20,000
Tulsa Chorale	Tulsa	\$20,000
Untitled Artspace	Oklahoma City	\$20,000
Will Rogers Memorial Foundation	Claremore	\$20,000
Woodward Arts Council	Woodward	\$20,000
City of Lawton	Lawton	\$18,750
Oklahoma City Community College	Oklahoma City	\$18,750
Oklahoma State University	Stillwater	\$18,750
Rogers State University	Claremore	\$18,750
Tulsa Community College	Tulsa	\$18,750
Kiowa Tribe- Tribal Museum	Carnegie	\$17,043
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Wyandotte	\$17,042
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma- Cultural Resource Division	Pawnee	\$17,042
Norman Music Alliance	Norman	\$15,500
Black Liberated Arts Center	Oklahoma City	\$15,000
City of Sallisaw	Sallisaw	\$15,000
City of Stillwater	Stillwater	\$15,000
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College	Miami	\$15,000
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Association	Duncan	\$14,408
Carpenter Square Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$13,720
The Depot	Norman	\$13,109
Murray State College	Tishomingo	\$13,000
Oklahoma History Center	Oklahoma City	\$13,000
Theatre Tulsa	Tulsa	\$12,184
108 Contemporary	Tulsa	\$10,750
Chamber Music Tulsa	Tulsa	\$10,750
Charles B. Goddard Center for Visual and Performing Arts	Ardmore	\$10,750
OK Mozart	Bartlesville	\$10,750
Oklahoma Children's Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$10,750
Pollard Theatre Company	Guthrie	\$10,750
3rd Act Theatre Company	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Aalim Dance Academy	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Bring Back the Music	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Duncan Little Theatre	Duncan	\$10,000
Freedom West Community Development Corporation	Alva	\$10,000
Harmony Project Tulsa	Tulsa	\$10,000
Healthy Living & Fitness	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Metropolitan School of Dance	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Muskogee Community Band Association	Muskogee	\$10,000
Poetic Justice	Tulsa	\$10,000
Ponca City Art Association	Ponca City	\$10,000

Race Dance Co.	Edmond	\$10,000
Western Trail Historical Society	Altus	\$10,000
Red Earth	Oklahoma City	\$8,242
Dance Maker	Skiatook	\$7,500
Broken Arrow Community Playhouse	Broken Arrow	\$7,500
Chickasha Community Theatre	Chickasha	\$7,500
Children's Arts Network	Norman	\$7,500
City of Guymon	Guymon	\$7,500
Friends of Rentiesville Blues	Rentiesville	\$7,500
Muskogee Art Guild	Muskogee	\$7,500
Oklahoma City Girls Art School	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Oklahoma Community Theatre Association	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Capitol Hill Main Street	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Ponca Playhouse	Ponca City	\$7,500
Scissortail Productions	Norman	\$7,500
Woody Guthrie Coalition	Okemah	\$7,500
Oklahomans for the Arts	Oklahoma City	\$7,161
Artist Incubation	Guymon	\$7,046
Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden	Tulsa	\$6,500
Opry Heritage Foundation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$6,350
Seminole Nation Historical Society	Wewoka	\$6,000
Oklahoma Israel Exchange (OKIE)	Nichols Hills	\$5,800
Clark Youth Theatre	Tulsa	\$5,750
Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park	Oklahoma City	\$5,750
Paseo Arts Association	Oklahoma City	\$5,750
Rodeo Cinema Foundation	Oklahoma City	\$5,750
Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust	Tulsa	\$5,750
Ardmore Little Theatre	Ardmore	\$5,000
Asian District Cultural Association	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Central Oklahoma Dance Company	Norman	\$5,000
Friends of Pawnee Bill Ranch Association	Pawnee	\$5,000
Greenwood Community Development Corporation	Tulsa	\$5,000
Modella Art Gallery	Stillwater	\$5,000
LIFE Senior Services	Tulsa	\$5,000
NAMRON Players Theatre	Norman	\$5,000
OK City Chorus, Sweet Adelines International	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Oklahoma Writers' Federation Inc.	Heavener	\$5,000
Perpetual Motion-Modern Dance Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council	Altus	\$5,000
Special Care	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Red Carpet Community Theatre	Elk City	\$5,000
Theatre North	Tulsa	\$5,000
Windsong Association	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Norman Cultural Connection	Norman	\$4,875
Claremore Museum of History	Claremore	\$3,966
Tulsa Air and Space Museum	Tulsa	\$3,738

Historical Soc of the US Dist Court for the W. Dist of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$3,250
Afrikanation Artists Organization	Edmond	\$2,500
Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society	Arcadia	\$2,500
Cotton County Art Council	Walters	\$2,500
Eufaula Area Arts Council	Eufaula	\$2,500
Grove Community Playmakers	Grove	\$2,500
Holdenville Society of Painters And Sculptors	Holdenville	\$2,500
Indian Women’s Pocahontas Club	Claremore	\$2,500
Norman Community Choral Society	Norman	\$2,500
Oscar Jacobson Foundation	Norman	\$2,500
Stillwater Museum Association	Stillwater	\$2,500
Ada Public Library	Ada	\$1,875
Southern Prairie Library System	Altus	\$1,875
Friends of the Murrell Home	Park Hill	\$1,625
Mustang Public Library	Mustang	\$1,625
Bristow Historical Society	Bristow	\$1,325
Plaza District Association	Oklahoma City	\$532
Locust Grove Public Library	Locust Grove	\$500
Talihina Development Initiative	Talihina	\$375
	Total	\$3,000,000

Oklahoma CARES Grants (FY20)

Made possible by federal funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, distributed through the National Endowment for the Arts to the Oklahoma Arts Council as the state partner, Oklahoma CARES Grants were one-time grants available to nonprofit organizations with arts-based missions, designed to support the retention of jobs and stabilization of organizations in response to COVID-19. Oklahoma CARES Grants totaling more than \$400,000 were awarded by the Governor-appointed Oklahoma Arts Council board in June 2020. Awards were prioritized based on an organization’s arts programming record and its service to rural and/or vulnerable populations. More than 100 organizations in 24 communities statewide received grant awards.

Eligible expenses for Oklahoma CARES Grants included salaries, benefits, and contracts for artistic and administrative personnel, and facility and operational costs. In order to be eligible, organizations had to have an annual operating budget of at least \$10,000, and at least 50 percent of an organization’s programming had to be dedicated to artistic disciplines and/or service.

Oklahoma CARES Grants Awards

Organization	City	Award
Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa (ahha)	Tulsa	\$10,000
Arts Council Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma Arts Institute	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma Children’s Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma City Ballet	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma City Museum of Art	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma City Philharmonic Society	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center	Oklahoma City	\$10,000
Philbrook Museum of Art	Tulsa	\$10,000
Tulsa Ballet	Tulsa	\$10,000
Tulsa Opera	Tulsa	\$10,000
Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra	Bartlesville	\$7,500
Canterbury Voices	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Chamber Music Tulsa	Tulsa	\$7,500
Fine Arts Institute of Edmond	Edmond	\$7,500
Lawton Community Theatre	Lawton	\$7,500
Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art	Shawnee	\$7,500
Norman Arts Council	Norman	\$7,500
Norman Firehouse Art Center	Norman	\$7,500
Oklahoma Museums Association	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Pollard Theatre Company	Guthrie	\$7,500
Red Earth	Oklahoma City	\$7,500
Ardmore Little Theatre	Ardmore	\$5,000
Black Liberated Arts Center	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
Carpenter Square Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$5,000

Chisholm Trail Arts Council	Duncan	\$5,000
Cimarron Circuit Opera Company	Norman	\$5,000
Gaslight Theatre	Enid	\$5,000
Enid Symphony Association	Enid	\$5,000
Jazz In June	Norman	\$5,000
Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park	Oklahoma City	\$5,000
American Theatre Company	Tulsa	\$2,500
Dance Maker	Skiatook	\$2,500
Barthelmes Conservatory (The bART)	Tulsa	\$2,500
Bartlesville Civic Ballet	Bartlesville	\$2,500
Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Broken Arrow Community Playhouse	Broken Arrow	\$2,500
Charles B. Goddard Center for Visual and Performing Arts	Ardmore	\$2,500
Cherokee National Historical Society	Tahlequah	\$2,500
Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville	Bartlesville	\$2,500
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Association	Duncan	\$2,500
Choregus Productions	Tulsa	\$2,500
Circle Cinema Foundation	Tulsa	\$2,500
Duncan Little Theatre	Duncan	\$2,500
Leonardo's Children's Museum	Enid	\$2,500
Friends of Rentiesville Blues	Rentiesville	\$2,500
Friends of Starlight Concerts	Tulsa	\$2,500
Grand Lake Festivals	Grove	\$2,500
Harmony Project Tulsa	Tulsa	\$2,500
KidsAlive!	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Lawton Philharmonic Society	Lawton	\$2,500
Lincoln County On-Stage	Chandler	\$2,500
Living Arts of Tulsa	Tulsa	\$2,500
Metropolitan School of Dance	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Muskogee Little Theatre	Muskogee	\$2,500
OK Mozart	Bartlesville	\$2,500
Oklahoma City Girls Art School	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Oklahoma Community Theatre Association	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival	Durant	\$2,500
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival	Guthrie	\$2,500
Opry Heritage Foundation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
The Depot	Norman	\$2,500
Perpetual Motion-Modern Dance Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Ponca Playhouse	Ponca City	\$2,500
Prairie Dance Theatre	Oklahoma City	\$2,500
Price Tower Arts Center	Bartlesville	\$2,500
Race Dance Co.	Edmond	\$2,500
Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council	Altus	\$2,500
Sooner Theatre of Norman	Norman	\$2,500

Theatre North	Tulsa	\$2,500
Theatre Tulsa	Tulsa	\$2,500
Tulsa Chorale	Tulsa	\$2,500
Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust	Tulsa	\$2,500
Tulsa Project Theatre	Tulsa	\$2,500
Tulsa Symphony Orchestra	Tulsa	\$2,500
Woodward Arts Council	Woodward	\$2,500
Woody Guthrie Coalition	Okemah	\$2,500
Bring Back the Music	Oklahoma City	\$2,250
deadCENTER Film Festival	Oklahoma City	\$2,000
Grove Community Playmakers	Grove	\$2,000
Heller Theatre Company	Tulsa	\$2,000
Woody Guthrie Center	Tulsa	\$2,000
Norman Philharmonic	Norman	\$1,500
108 Contemporary	Tulsa	\$1,500
Children’s Arts Network	Norman	\$1,500
Paseo Arts Association	Oklahoma City	\$1,500
Oklahomans for the Arts	Oklahoma City	\$1,350
3rd Act Theatre Company	Oklahoma City	\$1,000
Aalim Dance Academy	Oklahoma City	\$1,000
American Banjo Museum	Oklahoma City	\$1,000
Muskogee Community Band Association	Muskogee	\$1,000
NAMRON Players Theatre	Norman	\$1,000
Norman Music Alliance	Norman	\$1,000
Scissortail Productions	Norman	\$1,000
Red Carpet Community Theatre	Elk City	\$1,000
Windsong Association	Oklahoma City	\$1,000
Oklahoma Performing Arts	Tulsa	\$900
	Total	\$402,500