

The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically and provides leadership and voice for the arts to transform people and communities.

The OAC works through four strategic focal points – investment, engagement, innovation, and leadership – to benefit all Ohioans.

The Arts: A Sound, Innovative Investment

- **Ohio's arts infrastructure generates economic benefits.** The arts are a proven economic driver and one of our state's greatest selling points. They attract new business and a talented workforce, support tourism, create and retain jobs, and produce tax revenue.
 - Recent research shows that **Ohio's creative industries support nearly 231,000 jobs, contribute almost \$32 billion to the state's economy, and generate approximately \$3.4 billion in annual tax revenues** (federal, state, and local combined).
- **The arts sector plays a central role in economic development and job creation in Ohio.** In addition to giving communities unique cultural identities, the arts and cultural industries:
 - are **fast-growing, dynamic** clusters of economic activity that aid the growth of other businesses
 - aid in the **retention and development of an innovative and skilled workforce** and the transformation of local economies into **innovation centers**
 - spur **strong public-private partnerships that catalyze community revitalization** in urban and rural areas alike
 - produce **resilient, entrepreneurial jobs** suited to making mature industries more competitive
 - are **competitive export industries** closely connected to tourism
- **The arts strengthen education.** The arts aid success inside and outside the classroom, preparing students to succeed in an economy driven by innovation and creativity. Ongoing research confirms a **positive relationship between arts education and improved academics**—from improved math and reading skills, to higher standardized test scores and graduation rates. An education that includes the arts helps to **train our workforce and produce creative, critical thinkers and problem-solvers that are attractive to employers.**
- **Ohio Arts Council grants are an investment in creative capital that flows throughout Ohio's communities.** Artistic professionals come in all stripes—architects, graphic designers, craftsmen and craftswomen, and marketing and branding teams. **Artists themselves are entrepreneurs and run businesses and galleries.** They buy from local businesses and make communities better places to live, work, play, and raise families.
- **Ohioans know their tax dollars are invested in the arts—and strongly support their continued investment.** According to a recent OAC statewide public survey:
 - **91% of Ohioans believe public funds should be invested in the arts and 83% know that public funds support the arts in Ohio.**
- **The arts are crucial to a community's vitality, bridging divides and bringing people together.** Engagement in the arts creates an authentic and lasting shared identity, fostering a sense of place and state and local pride. Incorporating the arts into sustainability initiatives—like housing, transportation, health, parks and open spaces, and schools—improves the impact of other state policies and services. Sharing creative experiences **connects people across socioeconomic, cultural, and geographic lines.**

State Appropriations

- **For the first time in history, the OAC granted funds in all 88 counties** over the course of the current biennium. The agency appreciates past support for arts funding from Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly, which made this vision a reality, and the OAC is proud to have kept its promise to fund every county.
 - Other agency initiatives include promoting of semester- or year-long teaching artist residencies in schools through the OAC’s TeachArtsOhio program, and expanding the reach of the arts to older Ohioans through the Creative Aging Ohio initiative.
- The Governor has recommended flat GRF appropriations of \$29.6 million for FY 2018-2019, and the OAC is grateful for the Governor’s continued support. At this level, the OAC's budget constitutes only 0.04% of the state's total GRF appropriations.
 - Through public investment, **the OAC leverages a high match ratio** from its grantees. **\$56 in local and private funding matches every one OAC dollar**—a tremendous return on investment.
 - Grant requests traditionally exceed the OAC’s available resources. In the last grant cycle, the OAC met 65% of the need demonstrated by the state’s creative industries.
- In addition to the OAC’s primary role of investing in Ohio’s arts and cultural sector, during the next biennium **the OAC will continue to expand its capacity to offer resources beyond grants**. Through its focus on innovation, the OAC will engage and connect arts organizations throughout Ohio, ensuring the arts sector shares best practices, while remaining a prudent and efficient steward of state dollars.

Federal Appropriations

- **For seven years running, the OAC has earned the second-largest federal grant** from the NEA for state arts agencies in the nation, exceeded only by California due to its larger population. NEA grants typically total around \$2 million biennially, and **100% of the agency's federal funding is invested in individuals and organizations via grants**. **No federal dollars are used for administration of the agency**.

OAC Administration and Cost Savings

- The OAC has aggressively implemented **cost-saving measures** that will continue through the next biennium. For example, the agency has:
 - reduced its staff by more than half since FY 2008, now employing an efficient team of 16 professionals, even as grant application numbers increase
 - lengthened its grant cycles, upgraded its online grant platform, and streamlined procedures, reducing administrative burdens on both grantees and the agency
 - developed strategic partnerships in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to save state dollars on program, administrative, and technology costs
 - operated efficiently on a modest administrative budget and, over the last two biennia, **reduced by 4% the portion of its budget allocated to payroll** while remaining within state contract obligations

| FY | GRF GRANTS | GRF ADMINISTRATION | GRF TOTAL |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>2019</i> | <i>\$12,950,000</i> | <i>\$1,848,129</i> | <i>\$14,798,129</i> |
| <i>2018</i> | <i>\$12,950,000</i> | <i>\$1,848,129</i> | <i>\$14,798,129</i> |
| 2017 | \$12,950,000 | \$1,848,129 | \$14,798,129 |
| 2016 | \$12,450,000 | \$1,800,350 | \$14,250,350 |