

# Ohio Arts Council GUIDELINES 2007/2008

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## Introduction

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Since the last edition of OAC's *Guidelines*, we have seen advancements in technology and information sharing, new national and statewide arts education partnerships, and the beginning of the OAC's Appalachian Arts program, an important program for the cultural vitality of our state. We have also witnessed state budget shortfalls across the country, resulting in sometimes dramatic decreases in state arts council budgets. For 2003–2004, the Ohio Arts Council received a 21% reduction in its state appropriation.

Through planning, perseverance and foresight, the OAC has survived this challenge. We are supported in our efforts to help our constituents through the strong advocacy of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts. We are also streamlining OAC programs and processes. With input from constituents around the state, we reduced program funding areas from 24 to the seven detailed here. This was necessary both for creation of our OnLine Grant Applications (OLGA) and to better align program areas with the focus on public value.

One of the most important components of our planning over the past three years has been receipt of a significant grant from the Wallace Foundation (formerly the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund) in 2001. The Ohio Arts Council was awarded \$1.1 million over four years to invest in arts participation and recognition of the public value of the arts in communities around Ohio. As we enter the last year of the grant, we see new doors that demand to be opened. We have traveled the state, participated in numerous retreats and meetings, and surveyed the field to help us make sure we truly understand the challenges and opportunities our constituents face. It's time to carry this work forward.

At the Ohio Arts Council, we have always maintained a basic philosophy of support and accessibility for all, responding to opportunities and challenges with strategies for inclusion and participation. We have added persistence, boundless energy, a willingness to embrace change and a profound belief in the ability of the arts and artists to create healthy communities. These principles will carry us into the future and enable us to infuse communities throughout Ohio with the message of the public value of the arts.

Each community—through its citizens, businesses and organizations—defines its own public value. As we enter a new era for the arts, the OAC's goal is to help constituents seek out and define the public value within their own work and their own communities.

Susan R. Sofia, Chair, Ohio Arts Council Board

Wayne P. Lawson, Executive Director, Ohio Arts Council

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## **Public Purposes of the Arts**

1. The arts help define what it is to be an American—by building a sense of the nation’s identity, by reinforcing the reality of American pluralism, by advancing democratic values at home and by advancing democratic values and peace abroad.
2. The arts contribute to quality of life and economic growth—by making American communities more livable and more prosperous and by increasing the nation’s prosperity at home and abroad.
3. The arts help form an educated and aware citizenry—by promoting understanding in our diverse society, by developing competence in school and at work and by advancing freedom of inquiry and the open exchange of ideas and values.
4. The arts enhance individual life—by encouraging individual creativity, spirit and potential and by providing release, relaxation and entertainment.

## **Goals of the Ohio Arts Council’s Strategic Plan**

1. Provide support for the arts.
2. Cultivate learning and artistic development.
3. Recognize and support the fundamental contributions of Ohio artists.
4. Build communities through the arts.
5. Strengthen the public information network.
6. Expand information systems and technology.
7. Broaden partnerships and opportunities regionally, nationally and internationally.

## **About the Ohio Arts Council**

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency established in 1965 to foster and encourage the development of the arts and preservation of Ohio’s cultural heritage. Our mission is to support quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. With funds from the Ohio Legislature and the

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National Endowment for the Arts, we provide financial assistance to artists, arts organizations and nonprofit organizations that provide arts programming for their communities.

## **Our Board**

The Ohio Arts Council Board is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the Governor and four nonvoting legislative members. The Council Board is responsible for overseeing and implementing agency policy. The Council Board is responsible for final approval or disapproval of funding support requests. The Council Board invites the public to attend its policy meetings in the fall and spring and grant recommendation review meetings in June or July. All panel meetings and other scheduled meetings held to carry on the business of agency programs are open to the public.

## **Regional Representatives**

The regional representatives provide information about the Ohio Arts Council and regional programs and are available to visit organizations or provide telephone consultation. The regional representatives work with organizations in Northeastern and Southern Ohio and can provide information about Arts Midwest and National Endowment for the Arts programs. Contact OAC northern regional representative Sally Winter at 440/759-8130, [sallywinter@yahoo.com](mailto:sallywinter@yahoo.com), or southern regional representative Donna Sue Groves at 937/549-2131, [dsgroves@bright.net](mailto:dsgroves@bright.net).

## **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

The National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965, uses federal tax funds to support the visual, literary and performing arts to benefit all Americans. The NEA awards grants to nonprofit arts organizations to help support outstanding performances, exhibitions and programs.

The NEA provides fellowships to American artists of exceptional talent in literature, folk arts and jazz and funds projects to educate children and adults in the arts. It also disburses program funds to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations to promote the arts across America.

For information about programs and grants, contact the National Endowment for the Arts, Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506-0001, phone 202/682-5400 or 202/682-5496 TDD, <http://arts.endow.gov>.

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## **About Arts Midwest**

Arts Midwest, a nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, enables individuals and families throughout America's heartland to share in and enjoy the arts and cultures of its region and the world. Arts Midwest provides funding, programs and services for artists and arts organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

For information about funding, contact Arts Midwest, 2908 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55408-1954, 612/341-0755 or 612/822-2956 TDD, [www.artsmidwest.org](http://www.artsmidwest.org).

## **About Ohio Citizens for the Arts**

Ohio Citizens for the Arts, established in 1976 as the Ohio Citizens Committee for the Arts, is a statewide membership advocacy organization that works to increase public support for the arts in Ohio. Through the efforts of hundreds of individuals and arts and education organizations, Ohio Citizens for the Arts advocates on behalf of the Ohio Arts Council and the arts throughout the state.

Ohio Citizens for the Arts monitors and speaks out on public policy issues that affect the arts and education in Ohio and has a year-round presence at the Statehouse through a professional lobbyist and a network of volunteer arts advocates. It provides information to Ohio citizens, members of the legislature and state administration about issues that are important to the arts at the local and state levels. Ohio Citizens for the Arts provides a unified voice for citizens, artists and arts, and education organizations throughout the state and strengthens communication among local communities and all levels of government.

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation, formed in 1990 as a companion organization to Ohio Citizens for the Arts, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax deductible. The foundation provides education about the arts in Ohio and educates citizens about ways to participate effectively in their government.

For more information, contact Ohio Citizens for the Arts, Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 South High Street, Second Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108, 614/221-4064, fax 614/241-5329, [www.ohiocitizensforthearts.org](http://www.ohiocitizensforthearts.org).