

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 actions – invest, engage, innovate, and lead – to benefit all Ohioans.

The Arts: A Strong, 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 from Bowling Green State University shows that, prior to COVID-19, **Ohio's creative industries support nearly 290,000 jobs, contribute almost \$41 billion to the state's economy, and generate approximately \$4.6 billion in annual tax revenues** (federal, state, and local combined). With continued investment and support, these jobs and economic indicators will rebound and grow.
- **COVID-19 has had a vast, negative impact on Ohio's arts sector, among the worst affected in terms of economic loss and unemployment. Businesses in Ohio's creative economy have lost \$3.3 billion, and Ohio's creative workers have lost \$1.8 billion,** according to Americans for the Arts.
- **But the arts are resilient. Early reinvestment will be central and powerful to sparking a strong, broad, shared economic recovery in Ohio.** Even so, the OAC has taken action proactively. Our agency has distributed \$20 million in one-time CARES Act relief and worked to help obtain and invest an additional \$1 million in special regional and federal aid for the arts. In addition, the OAC regularly provides information and resources about external grant opportunities to help get organizations and artists back to work.
- **The agency's FY 2022-2023 appropriations are forward-looking.** While one-time relief efforts in FY 2021 were critical to the arts sector's survival, the FY 2022-2023 budget looks to the future—toward the return of in-person arts programming, toward expanded digital experiences, toward arts education resuming safely in classrooms, toward the restoration of jobs and calling back laid-off or furloughed arts professionals.
- **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 better 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 local 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

- Thanks to increased appropriations, the OAC granted funds in all 88 counties over the course of the last three biennia. The agency appreciates support for arts funding from Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly, enabling the OAC to keep its promise to fund every county.
- The Governor recommended GRF appropriations of \$32.9 million for FY 2022-2023, holding the agency budget flat at its FY 2021 funding level. The House recommended an extra \$1 million each year in grants, totaling \$34.9 million in GRF. In turn, the Senate added \$2.57 million in grants, recommending an even \$40 million in total GRF to the OAC. This would be a historic high. The OAC is grateful for this support from the Governor and state legislators.
- Through public investment, the OAC leverages a high match ratio from its grantees. \$44 in local and private funding matches every one OAC dollar in match-based grant programs — a big return on investment.
- Grant requests traditionally exceed the OAC’s available resources. In the last grant cycle with available data, the OAC met between 54-71% of the stated need among its applicants (for all categories except the Sustainability grant program).
- In addition to the OAC’s primary role of investing in Ohio’s arts and cultural sector, and in line with the Governor’s focus on children’s education and well-being, the OAC will continue its focus on arts education through its teaching artist residency program, TeachArtsOhio. TeachArtsOhio is active in school districts across Ohio, where K-12 students directly learn from artists working in conjunction with teachers, administrators, and Ohio’s academic content standards.

Federal Appropriations

- For 12 years running, the OAC has earned one of the top three largest federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for state arts agencies in the nation, exceeded only by California and Texas due to their larger populations. NEA grants typically total around \$2 million biennially, and 100% of the agency's federal funding is regranted. 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. For example, the OAC has:
 - nearly halved its staff since FY 2004, now employing an efficient team of 18 professionals, even as grant application numbers have increased and remain steady (at this high level) despite the pandemic
 - lengthened its grant cycles, upgraded its online grant platform and website, 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 four biennia, reduced by 3% the portion of its budget allocated to payroll while remaining within state contract obligations

FY	GRF GRANTS	GRF ADMIN.	GRF TOTAL	BIENNIAL TOTAL
2023 (Senate)	\$18,038,300	\$1,961,700	\$20,000,000	\$40,000,000
2022 (Senate)	\$18,038,300	\$1,961,700	\$20,000,000	
2023 (House)	\$15,469,213	\$1,961,700	\$17,430,913	\$34,861,826
2022 (House)	\$15,469,213	\$1,961,700	\$17,430,913	
2023 (Governor)	\$14,469,213	\$1,961,700	\$16,430,913	\$32,861,826
2022 (Governor)	\$14,469,213	\$1,961,700	\$16,430,913	
2021 (baseline)	\$14,469,213	\$1,961,700	\$16,430,913	\$33,578,893
2020	\$18,186,886	\$1,961,094	\$20,147,980	

Sources: FY 20 Actuals, FY 21 Estimated Appropriations, FY 22-23 Appropriations as Recommended by the Governor, House, and Senate sub. bill