



Ohio Arts Council FY2014/2015 Budget Talking Points February 2013

Mission

To fund and support quality arts experiences in order to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically

Ohio Arts Council Budget

- ❖ The **FY2012/2013 biennial budget** of \$17,211,408 for the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) **represents just 0.031 percent (less than one twentieth of one percent) of the entire state of Ohio budget.**
- ❖ The OAC sustained significant budget reductions from the original FY2008/2009 appropriation (\$24,976,322) through FY2010/2011 (\$13,188,580) totaling 47 percent over that period.
- ❖ The FY2012/2013 biennial budget (\$17,211,408) was a **30.5 percent increase** over the FY2010/2011 budget of \$13,188,580; however, the budget is still \$7,764,914 less than it was in the FY2008/2009 budget.
- ❖ Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the union and currently **ranks 18th in per capita spending (\$0.83) on the arts** among the 50 states and six territories.
- ❖ In FY2012, the OAC received **950 applications requesting over \$12.2 million in funding.** Of those applications, **531 were funded for a total of \$6.7 million.**
- ❖ Every **\$1** in OAC grant funds is matched by another **\$67** in local and private sources.

National Endowment for the Arts Funding

- ❖ For three years in a row, the OAC has received the second-largest grant for state arts agencies in the nation, exceeded only by California. NEA grants to state arts agencies are calculated on 1) a formula based on population; and 2) a competitive award based on merit in arts education, folk arts and underserved communities programs.

- ❖ The OAC's FY2012 NEA award was \$1,018,100 and the FY2013 award was \$980,000. In both years, all federal funding was used on grants.

Ohio Arts Council Administration

- ❖ The OAC is a well-run, transparent and efficient steward of public dollars.
- ❖ In the last five years, the OAC has transformed itself in the face of significant reductions in its staff—a 52 percent reduction since FY2008. Aggressive cost-saving measures and efficiency standards have been implemented—most significantly, a major relocation to the Rhodes Tower in November of 2010 and a revision to grant application cycles that have reduced the administrative workload of processing applications every year.
- ❖ The OAC continues to operate very efficiently on a modest administrative budget. Currently, **only 13.7 percent of the agency's total budget goes to payroll expenses for a staff of 16**. Another four percent of the total budget is used for remaining agency operational expenses.
- ❖ Among its peers, **the OAC is viewed as a leading state arts agency**. During the OAC's most recent adjudications by the NEA review panel, the OAC was described as **“a national leader among the state arts agencies”** and **an agency “that works consistently at a high level and is known for its excellence.”** The NEA panel further commended the OAC on its strategic planning process, its arts education programs and its overall work.
- ❖ The OAC staff and board work to maintain fairness and transparency in the conduct of the agency's business and in the allocation of grants funded by state and federal tax dollars.

Benefits to Ohioans

- ❖ **The arts bring vibrancy to Ohio communities.** Communities that offer robust arts and cultural sectors are viewed as more desirable places to live, work and visit. Additionally, Ohioans place a high priority on access to arts and cultural events in their communities, as well as access to arts education, which is viewed as essential to developing the creativity and problem-solving skills students need to join an ever more competitive workforce.
- ❖ **The arts generate economic benefits.** The arts are a critical economic driver in this state—they attract new business, support tourism, create and retain jobs and produce tax revenue. A growing body of research shows

that thriving arts communities are crucial for the financial health and vitality of their regions. Recent reports show that the creative industries in Ohio **support nearly 200,000 jobs, contribute \$24 billion to Ohio's economy and generate nearly \$2.4 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues annually.***

- ❖ **The arts strengthen education.** The arts foster imaginations and facilitate success inside and outside the classroom. Ongoing research confirms a positive relationship between arts education and improved academics for all students. An education that includes the arts helps produce critical, innovative thinkers who are prepared to take their place in a rapidly-paced, constantly changing work environment.
- ❖ **The arts are accessible to all.** In FY2012, OAC grants and services reached 63 Ohio counties and their environs, bringing more than **21 million arts experiences** to citizens all over the state.
- ❖ **The arts are a sound investment.** Support for the arts is a **sound investment of public dollars** that provides significant returns for Ohio including **job creation and strong public/private partnerships** that have **initiated downtown revitalization efforts, invigorated community development projects, supported arts education in our schools, and ensured a vibrant quality of life in Ohio.**

*Center for Regional Development, Bowling Green State University, 2013