

Ohio Arts Council

2010-2013 Accomplishments

Winter 2013

After an unprecedented two-year planning process that involved thousands of Ohioans, the Ohio Arts Council released [*A New View: A Strategic Plan to Strengthen Ohio Through the Arts*](#). The plan outlines goals and strategies that have guided the agency's work through the end of 2013—and provides continual inspiration through stories of creative communities, organizations and schools across Ohio.

The accomplishments of Ohio's artists and arts organizations, its schools and communities, its state and local leaders, and its citizens since 2010 show that the arts *are* helping to build a stronger Ohio. The OAC is pleased to list some of those accomplishments, organized according to the goals and strategies in the OAC strategic plan.

Goal One: Protect Ohio's Quality of Life

Ohio's arts and cultural sector helps citizens and communities make the most of their creative assets.

Invest in Ohio's rich arts and cultural resources

After a series of reductions to the OAC budget, totaling 47 percent, the agency's budget for FY2012/2013 was \$17,211,408—a 30.5 percent increase over its FY2010/2011 legislative allocation. That investment in artistic and cultural resources yielded excellent returns.

- The OAC is regarded as one of the nation's leading state arts agencies. In the past cycles, the OAC has received the second-largest National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Partnership Grant in the U.S.—\$1,023,600 (FY2010), \$1,141,600 (FY2011) and \$980,000 (FY2012). According to the NEA review panel, the OAC “is to be commended for using a modest amount of state funds wisely with big returns across the state.”
- The OAC awarded a total of \$16.8 million in grants to Ohio artists, schools and organizations for arts programming. Those programs provided more than 57.1 million arts experiences to Ohioans of all ages, including more than 13.2 million children and young people.
- Annually, more than 917,000 Ohioans participate in fairs and festivals funded by the OAC.

Preserve Ohio's cultural heritage

The OAC's support of folk and traditional art forms helps preserve and share the state's rich, unique story.

- The OAC partners with Cityfolk, ThinkTV and the Ohio Humanities Council to increase public awareness of folk and traditional forms. This partnership sponsors the *Ohio Traditions* website (www.ohiofolkarts.org) to spotlight traditional artists and folk arts activities across the state. The OAC's NEA grant enabled the funding of website development and maintenance.
- The *Ohio Traditions* website features the results of field research the OAC conducted to better understand the changing demographic profile of Ohio's arts community, specifically the impact of Ohio's growing Latino and African-immigrant populations.
- The OAC works with ThinkTV to produce video profiles of the Ohio Heritage Fellows and special features on OAC master artists and apprentices. The video profiles appear on the *Our Ohio* weekly magazine program produced by ThinkTV, *Our Ohio* is aired by all Ohio PBS stations and reaches an estimated statewide audience of over 55,000 households per week. The OAC and its partners continued to extend the reach of those video profiles in 2012 and 2013 through streaming distribution on the *Ohio Traditions* website and postings on the ThinkTV and CET YouTube Channels.
- The FY2012/2013 budget enabled an increase of approximately 15 percent in the funding allocated for Traditional Arts Apprenticeships and Ohio Heritage Fellowships. Moreover, funds allocated to folk and traditional arts organizations—those receiving operating support through the OAC Sustainability and Arts Access grant categories—increased by approximately 35 percent.

Promote job creation and economic development through creative economy initiatives

The OAC's strategic plan has sharpened the agency's focus on the vital role the arts play in economic growth and community revitalization.

- The OAC's new [Creative Economy](#) grants are helping to create jobs and income, revitalize communities and downtowns, draw cultural tourists and strengthen livability. As a few examples from across the state show, the impact of these grants is growing.
 - In **Cleveland**, the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture (CPAC) introduced its Artists in Residence program. An outgrowth of CPAC's *Rust Belt to Artist Belt* conferences, the program is helping to fill vacant spaces with artistic enterprises and spark creative solutions to economic problems in the Collinwood community. CPAC found that 84.7 percent of Collinwood residents believe the Artists in Residence program is making their community better and 84.6 percent wish to see even more artist-led revitalization efforts. In addition to the OAC's investment, CPAC and its partners have raised close to \$1.1 million in dedicated funding for future projects.

- In **Columbus**, the SID Public Services Association partnered with Columbus Public Art in sponsoring a yearlong public art program as part of the city’s bicentennial celebration. This unique partnership among the City of Columbus, educational and cultural organizations and business interests demonstrates how culture and commerce work together. More than 50 artists participated in 13 projects that transformed the heart of Columbus—the seven-block area around the Statehouse and along the riverfront—into a vibrant, engaging new reason to visit the city. For the first time in 22 years, the Franklin County Engineer allowed public art on Broad Street pedestals. The property owners who hosted works and interacted with artists expressed enthusiasm and the desire to participate in the future.
- In **Marietta**, a wide range of community organizations, including the City of Marietta, ReStore Marietta, the Marietta-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Marietta College and the Lafayette Hotel, are working together to transform vacant buildings in their arts and entertainment district. One of those is the historic Colony Theatre, a landmark since 1911. A comparative analysis by Ohio University’s Voinovich Center projects that the Colony Theatre will attract around 50,000 new visitors to the city each year and will increase the amount spent in Marietta’s downtown entertainment district from the current levels of just under \$700,000 annually to over \$2 million annually.
- In **Toledo**, a highlight of 2012 was a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Harvey Littleton-Dominick Labino workshops, which started in Toledo and provided the impetus for the American Studio Glass Movement. The Toledo International Glass Arts Society Conference, part of the celebration, attracted participants from 25 countries, including 2,000 glass artists. The conference had a significant economic impact in Toledo—over the four-day period, the city’s estimated revenue for hotels, restaurants and retailers was more than \$1.5 million.
- The OAC’s Percent for Art program continues to impact communities large and small across the state. It was established in 1990 through legislation requiring that one percent of any appropriation for a public building that exceeds \$4 million be used to acquire, commission or install works of art. From 2010-2013, the OAC assisted with 33 projects, totaling \$5,515,077.

A number of Percent for Art projects have led public colleges and universities and other entities to develop public art master plans, participate more extensively in larger civic planning efforts and design outreach strategies for drawing community members and visitors to their areas. For example, Kent State University has not only developed a master plan for its Sculpture Walk, but also has been working closely with the city to add more art to the walk as part of Kent’s larger downtown development project.

Leverage the Ohio Arts Council's resources for greater effectiveness and efficiency

The OAC has demonstrated strong commitment to measuring results, streamlining operations and keeping expenditures as low as possible.

- The OAC's operating expenses continue to be very modest. Currently, only 14 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.
- Every aspect of the agency's work has been scrutinized to exact greater cost savings. The agency has simplified its grant processes and eliminated any duplicative tasks, has met all state government cost-efficiency standards and developed strategic partnerships that help expand agency expertise and improve outreach across the state.
- The new strategic plan places greater emphasis on outcome evaluation in all grant programs. To date, three Arts Learning programs have had third-party evaluations. An evaluation of the Artists with Disabilities Access program is under way.

Goal Two: Connect Ohioans to Arts and Culture

Ohio's rich artistic and cultural opportunities belong to all of its citizens. Everyone can join the conversation, share the rewards and make a contribution.

Cultivate strategic partnerships to promote arts and culture

The OAC collaborates with a diverse array of partners to make the arts a vital part of public life, broaden access to the arts, and keep Ohio citizens informed about opportunities for engaging with the arts in their communities and throughout the state.

- OAC funding helps support local arts partnerships across Ohio. A feature on the OAC website—[The Arts: Part of the Solution](#)—spotlights how some of those partnerships are strengthening local economies and energizing Ohio schools, organizations and communities.
- The OAC's [Ohio Arts Festivals & Competitions Directory](#), sized to fit in a car's glove box, contains information on hundreds of arts and crafts festivals and competitions. Each year, the OAC distributes 45,000 directories through partnerships with the Ohio Arts & Crafts Guild, Ohio Designer Craftsmen, AAA Ohio Auto Club, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Development's Tourism Division.
- [ArtsinOhio.com](#), Ohio's online guide to arts and cultural events, re-launched with a new, vibrant design and a more user-friendly interface. Discovering the arts across the state is now even easier.
- A variety of partnerships ensure that Ohio's diverse cultural resources add to the state's ultimate fair experience—the Ohio State Fair. The OAC has supported the fair's Fine Arts

Exhibition since 1998. Moreover, the agency partnered with Cityfolk in 2010 to launch the annual Ohio Heritage Showcase to feature performances by recipients of Ohio Heritage Fellowships and other master artists. As the following examples demonstrate, the showcase highlights not only outstanding performers but also outstanding partners.

- In 2011, [Tony Ellis](#), an internationally renowned bluegrass musician and banjo player and recipient of the first Ohio Heritage Fellowship in 2003, performed in the Ohio State Fair’s Natural Resources Amphitheater. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources was a vital showcase partner.
- In 2012, renowned banjo player and Ohio Heritage Fellow [Kenny Sidle](#) was the featured showcase artist. The National Endowment for the Arts recognized Mr. Sidle for his contributions to “the country’s national cultural mosaic” with the prestigious National Heritage Fellowship in 1988. His performance at the fair included a set with Frosty Morning Bluegrass and Adam Jackson, who was Sidle’s former apprentice through the OAC’s Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program.
- The OAC is facilitating the public art process for the Holocaust Memorial, which will be located on the grounds of the Ohio Statehouse. Private dollars are funding the creation and installation of the piece, while public dollars are funding only the preliminary site preparation. The Holocaust Memorial Artist Selection committee—comprised of survivors, World War II veterans, community leaders, philanthropists and public officials—has selected Jaume Plensa, Ann Hamilton and Daniel Libeskind as semi-finalists. These three internationally known artists will develop site-specific proposals for the selection committee to consider.
- The OAC’s strategic partnerships have continued to expand artist services in Ohio.
 - The OAC’s annual partnership with the Arts & Media Division of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Friends of the Library creates arts opportunities for artists and the general public by presenting a juried exhibition at the Columbus Metropolitan Library’s Main Library. The juried show is open to all living Ohio artists who are 18 years of age or older and are registered in the [Ohio Online Visual Artist Registry](#) (OOVAR).
 - The OAC, in partnership with VSA Ohio, increased support for its [Artists with Disabilities Access Program](#) (ADAP), which helps artists with disabilities develop artistically and professionally and take advantage of opportunities for achieving long-term success. From FY2012 to FY2013, funding for ADAP-funded activities doubled.
- The OAC continued its International Music and Performing Arts in Communities Tour (IMPACT), bringing international artists to counties throughout the state (49 to date). Those counties include many underserved areas of the state. Two IMPACT tours featuring French-Canadian folk band [Mauvais Sort](#) and Japanese taiko group [On Ensemble](#) extended across nine Ohio communities: Celina, Hillsboro, New Concord, Akron, Medina, Archbold, Cincinnati, McConnelville and Urbana. The tours included free

concerts and outreach activities in nursing homes and senior centers, public libraries, elementary schools, community colleges, cultural centers and other community venues.

Engage citizens in ongoing dialogue about the arts and the work of the Ohio Arts Council

The OAC uses a variety of media and events to keep citizens informed and deepen their arts involvement.

- The Ohio Arts Council’s social media efforts continue to provide a forum for sharing research and resources and a virtual convening of perspectives on arts and culture. The OAC has received more than 4,600 likes on [Facebook](#).
- A series of informational presentations, led by OAC Executive Director Julie Henahan beginning in 2011, have forged stronger relationships with media outlets across the state. Ms. Henahan visited outlets in Bowling Green, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo. Planning is underway for additional presentations in other areas of the state.
- The OAC took another step forward in expanding public access to agency panel meetings. For the first time, the OAC streamed [online](#) the public portions of its panel meetings for organizational grant programs in 2011.
- In 2012, OAC board meetings were streamed [online](#) for the first time.
- The OAC's [Riffe Gallery](#) is a staple in the central Ohio arts community. It is the only free gallery in Columbus to showcase the work of Ohio artists and the collections of the state's museums and galleries. Between January 2010 and January 2013, the Riffe Gallery presented twelve main gallery exhibitions and eight lobby exhibitions, some of which toured nationally and around the state. These exhibitions, listed below, attracted nearly 34,200 visitors:
 - *Sawdust and Spectacle: Under the Big Top in Small Town America*
 - *Collective Ink*
 - *The I of the TEXT*
 - *VSA Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010*
 - *Deep Space: Ohio Photographers*
 - *Westbridge Camera Club Juried Exhibition*
 - *Against the Grain: Modernism in the Midwest*
 - *Here's Looking at You: Portraits in Ohio*
 - *Heralding Spring*
 - *Happiness: Quilted Expressions*
 - *VSA Accessible Expressions Ohio 2011*

- *Natural Light: Paintings by Ohio Plein Air Society*
- *Artful Teaching: Work by College and University Painting Faculty*
- *100 Years of Art: Celebrating Columbus' Legacy*
- *VSA Accessible Expressions Ohio 2012*
- *Let's Get Digital*
- *Outside in Ohio: A Century of Unexpected Genius*
- *Columbus Plein Air Lobby Exhibition*
- *Watercolor Ohio 2012*
- *Roy G. BIV Bicentennial Tile Project*

Raise public awareness of the value of the arts in every Ohio community

The OAC recognizes all those who help make Ohio a rich environment for the arts.

- Each biennium, the OAC publishes a report of grants awarded in the previous two fiscal years. The [2010-2011 Ohio Arts Council Biennial Report](#) offers a detailed breakdown of biennium highlights and lists the grant awards given to Ohio artists, arts and cultural organizations, and schools.
- Each spring the OAC hosts the [Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio & Arts Day Luncheon](#). This 800-person event attracts arts advocates from across the state to a luncheon honoring the Ohio General Assembly and those who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in Ohio. At the 2011 awards, the OAC was pleased to honor former OAC Executive Director Wayne Lawson with the Irma Lazarus Award, recognizing his lifetime achievement in the arts.
- Annually the OAC shares general information about the agency, as well as district-specific information about OAC-funded projects, with members of the General Assembly.
- OAC Executive Director Julie Henahan and the OAC board members regularly meet with the members of the General Assembly to discuss agency work and to review OAC-funded activities in their local districts.

Goal Three: Help Citizens of All Ages Learn and Thrive Through the Arts

Learning in the arts opens minds and hearts to new possibilities. It nurtures the imagination, heightens perception and enriches the expression of ideas. It engages, connects and unifies.

Cultivate creativity and imagination in pre-K-12 learning

The OAC's arts learning programs highlight the power of creativity in all aspects of life and show students and teachers the far-reaching value of arts learning.

- The OAC awarded a total of \$996,639 in Arts Learning grants to Ohio schools and organizations to fund artist residencies and arts education programming and projects. Those activities and events provided more than 515,000 arts experiences to Ohioans of all ages, including nearly 329,000 children and young people.
- The new strategic plan placed greater emphasis on outcome evaluation in all grant programs. In response to this objective, the OAC contracted with Craig Dreeszen & Associates to evaluate all three of the OAC's Arts Learning grant programs—Artist Express, Artist in Residence and Arts Partnership. These rigorous evaluations found that the programs are working as intended to positively impact lifelong learning in the arts. The evaluations also determined that the programs could be strengthened through greater emphasis on program evaluation and learner assessment. The OAC has developed a three-year plan to ensure that arts learning grantees receive the capacity-building experiences they need to strengthen their approaches to program evaluation with a focus on measuring learning outcomes and implementing the state's *2012 Revised Arts Standards*.
- The Arts Learning office expanded its professional development offerings for program evaluation. In 2012, the OAC offered its first program evaluation webinars. The program was developed by organizational development consultant and evaluator Dr. Craig Dreeszen and OAC Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf.
 - The first two webinars (winter), based on prior workshops led by Dr. Dreeszen and Ms. Campbell-Zopf, focused on demystifying the language of evaluation, carrying out an evaluation plan and developing logic models and indicators. The webinars included hands-on lessons to help participants utilize these concepts in their own work. Those who are interested in the webinars can download a two-part PowerPoint: ([download part one](#)) ([download part two](#)), or they can listen to a live training session conducted with practitioners from around the state: ([listen to part one](#)) ([listen to part two](#)).
 - The second two webinars (summer) focused on how to conduct focus groups and survey research. The intended outcomes included gaining understanding of key concepts in assessing student learning; discerning when interviews and focus groups make sense; designing and conducting effective focus groups; writing effective survey questions; understanding survey distribution options; and interpreting and reporting on survey findings. The webinars are available as two-part PowerPoints: [download Focus Group PowerPoint](#), [download Survey Design PowerPoint](#), or as live training sessions conducted with practitioners from around the state: [listen to Focus Group session](#), [listen to Survey Design session](#).
- In order to create a greater awareness of the creative economy and the importance of imagination as a skill in work and life, the OAC partnered with the Ohio Department of

Education and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education to sponsor a series of *Imagination Conversations* around Ohio. Ohio's conversations were part of a larger national discussion sponsored by the Lincoln Center Institute. In the fall of 2010, Ohio's *Imagination Conversations* culminated at the Columbus Museum of Art, where leaders from the entertainment, business, science, medicine, education and art sectors came together to discuss the ways they experience imagination in their work.

- Ohio's participation in [*Poetry Out Loud*](#)—a contest that encourages our nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation—grew to over 9,500 high school students from across the state, including the contest's first virtual school in 2012-13. Ohio champions for 2010, 2011 and 2012 were Lynsay Strahorn (Chaminade Julianne High School, Dayton), Caira Lee (Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights) and Makala White (Toledo Early High School, Toledo) respectively.
- In 2012, the OAC Arts Learning office, working in partnership with VSA Ohio, created its Arts and Autism Initiative. With more than 50,000 individuals in Ohio affected by autism, the agency is mapping out an ambitious plan to better serve people with autism spectrum disorders and their families, as well as professionals who support those individuals. During the project's study phase, the OAC and VSA Ohio will conduct a series of roundtable discussions in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Youngstown to learn more about the artistic needs and aspirations of this population.

Ensure arts learning opportunities for citizens of all ages

Through its Artist-in-Residence program and grants to organizations serving all ages and segments of society, the OAC expands possibilities for lifelong learning throughout the state.

- The OAC Arts Learning program continues to support lifelong learning in the arts through Arts Learning program grants that have benefited 35,443 older adults/seniors.
- The American Society on Aging invited Melissa Godoy, one of the artists on the OAC Arts Learning roster, to be a presenter at the *2013 Aging in America Conference* in Chicago, March 12-16, 2013. Ms. Godoy's presentation will highlight how she and her team used improvisation and filmmaking with Alzheimer's patients. Among the project's goals were efforts to offer socialization and artistic expression while exploring the richness of human experience through story. This film project demonstrated that persons with dementia could create and add value to the world.

Pursue policy initiatives to strengthen arts education in schools

The OAC's arts learning policies and programs are aligned with Ohio's education reform priorities, and the agency is committed to Ohio's broader vision for educational excellence.

- The OAC partnered with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) to conduct the fifth in a series of surveys of the status of arts education in Ohio’s schools, under a contract with Quadrant Research. For the first time in its history, the survey enabled the study of data from individual schools combined with classroom information collected from every school in the state by ODE.
- The OAC supports the Ohio Department of Education’s *2012 Revised Arts Standards*. The new standards emphasize the connection between the arts and 21st century learning skills. The OAC requires all grantees working in schools to align their work with these standards.

Goal Four: Establish Arts and Culture as a Partner in Community, Regional and State Development

Supportive policies and plans strengthen the impact of Ohio’s investments in the arts.

Contribute to the development of local, state and regional cultural policies

The OAC is disseminating knowledge and ideas to support more extensive and effective cultural planning.

- The agency [Facebook page](#) has featured hundreds of posts about culture-based economic development strategies.
- In 2013, the OAC created an internship program for graduate students who are interested in arts and culture policy and how it influences local and regional planning efforts across Ohio.

Encourage local communities to engage in community cultural planning

The OAC provides tools, information and leadership to help arts organizations and communities effectively align their cultural and economic development strategies.

- In early 2010, the OAC implemented the Ohio Cultural Data Project (CDP) as a significant public/private partnership with a statewide coalition of major foundations, nonprofit organizations and advocacy agencies. CDP is a unique online management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations by allowing them to produce a variety of reports designed to help increase management capacity, identify strengths and challenges, and inform decision-making.
- The agency’s bi-monthly newsletter, [ArtsOhio](#), included 12 features about OAC-funded projects that have boosted local economies and saved jobs. At least one or two posts about successful culture-based development are added to the agency’s Facebook page each week.

- Kelly Barsdate, chief program and planning officer of the National Assembly for State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in Washington, D.C., presented a national overview of policy trends affecting state arts agencies to the OAC board in January 2013. Included in this presentation was a briefing on the latest federal budget developments, as well as a review of special state-level policy innovations that state arts agencies are pursuing. The presentation was a kick-off to a series of policy discussions the OAC board will hold about Ohio’s creative economy and how to support and promote it over the next two years.

Goal Five: Develop Leadership for Arts and Culture

Emerging arts leaders across Ohio and Ohio’s preeminent role in national arts initiatives are helping to build upon the state’s extraordinary artistic and cultural legacy.

Develop new and emerging leaders in Ohio’s arts and cultural sector

The OAC is reaching out to arts and cultural leaders who are under 35 years of age or have less than five years of experience in the arts field.

- The OAC enabled five emerging arts and cultural leaders to attend the pre-conference sessions of the 2012 Americans for the Arts’ *Emerging Leaders Conference* in San Antonio, Texas. Conference sessions addressed career planning, visioning and leadership development. The following emerging leaders participated:
 - Megan Cooper, Dayton, executive director of FilmDayton
 - Tracy Graziani, Mansfield, former executive director of the Mansfield Arts Center
 - Geoffrey Martin, Columbus, assistant arts administrator at the Cultural Arts Center
 - Julie Roth, Columbus, communications and special events manager for Promusica Chamber Orchestra
- Starting in 2012, all OAC grant review panels but one included at least one emerging leader.
- In 2012, the OAC promoted the Americans for the Arts’ *Creative Conversations* effort as part of local Arts and Humanities Month activities. Two conversations took place—one at the Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield and one at the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati.

Support organizational capacity building and constituent professional development

The OAC leadership team is committed to equipping the state’s arts organizations and advocates with vital knowledge and to working with other states on the initiatives that will shape the future of the nation’s arts and arts education programs.

- Ohio possesses a wealth of arts supporters who are eager to share their success stories in the arts. To assist these advocates, the OAC created the Arts Ambassadors program and

invited more than 100 constituents to participate. The hope is that inviting constituents to speak on behalf of the arts and arming them with useful reference materials will encourage them to take advantage of opportunities for building awareness of the OAC's work and the crucial role the agency plays in the state's infrastructure.

- The OAC supported three Ohio artists to attend the *2012 Alliance of Artists Communities Conference* in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference included sessions about local public funding models for residency sites; sustainability of artist communities; art galleries and residency programs; trends in public philanthropy; use of assessment to address the needs of artists; and artists' roles in creative placemaking.

Participating Ohio artists were:

- Liz Maugans, Bay Village, representing Zygote Press in Cleveland
 - Kimberly Adams, Toledo, beginning a new residency center for Toledo area
 - Shayna McConville, Kettering, representing Rosewood Arts Centre in Kettering.
- Members of the OAC leadership team have received national recognition for significant contributions to the arts sector in Ohio and across the nation. For example:
 - In 2010, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) elected OAC Executive Director Julie Henahan to its board of directors for a three-year term beginning in 2010.
 - In 2011, Ohio Designer Craftsmen presented Outstanding Achievement Awards to Ms. Henahan and Ken Emerick, Director of the OAC's Individual Artists and Percent for Art programs.
 - In 2012, NASAA invited Ms. Henahan to continue her service on its board of directors and also invited Deputy Director Mary Campbell-Zopf to join the NASAA Arts Education Advisory Committee.
 - Through involvement in Arts Midwest, the OAC partners with other state arts agencies to nurture a thriving regional arts ecosystem. A major focus for these collaborative efforts is developing the core leadership skills and management capabilities of small, visionary arts organizations in urban and rural communities.
 - In 2011, the executive directors from the OAC, the Indiana Arts Commission and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs partnered to present a free capacity-building workshop for arts organizations in their states. Held in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 14 and 15, the workshop focused on strategic thinking and community engagement. ArtsLab, a program of Arts Midwest, led the workshop.

ArtsLab works with small arts organizations in urban and rural communities to help them strengthen their presence, enhance community vitality and engagement through the arts, and expand the leadership pool for tomorrow's arts sector.

- On April 18-19, 2013, the OAC, IAC and MCACA are sponsoring a joint colloquium—*Embracing Community Change Through the Arts*— at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center of Notre Dame. The two-day colloquium will explore best practices on the first day and practical planning tools to advance diversity on the second. Targeted attendees are community teams that might include leadership from arts or community development organizations, community foundations, educational organizations, government, etc. Presenters include representatives from Arts Midwest, National Center for Creative Aging, Chicago Sinfonietta and Honeywell Center (Wabash). Registration opens in late February. Later in 2013, 20-hour consultancy will be available for interested and qualified colloquium participants.