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## HIGHLIGHTS OF OHIO ARTS COUNCIL PROGRAMS

The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) was created in 1965 to “foster and encourage the development of the arts and assist the preservation of Ohio’s cultural heritage.” The OAC accomplishes this through two primary methods: first, through the various grant programs the agency operates to support organizations, artists and schools and to make arts activities available to a broad segment of Ohio’s public; and secondly, by providing services that help strengthen the arts. There are a variety of grant and service programs operated by the OAC. These programs are detailed below.

### GRANT PROGRAMS

#### Arts Access

The Arts Access program provides two-year support for new and emerging organizations and for organizations with annual budgets under \$30,000. Arts Access grants are available to both arts organizations and non-arts organizations with an arts component. Arts Access applicants may request up to \$5,000 in annual support. Organizations must show a 1:1 match. Arts Access funding supports Ohio’s arts providers as they make artistic experiences readily available to their communities. This in turn makes Ohio a vibrant place to live, learn, work and visit. Arts Access applications can address a wide variety of expenses in the general operation of an organization, including artistic or administrative expenses, program planning, education and evaluation.

#### Arts Learning

The development of the creative mind is essential for each of us to reach our full human potential. All individuals deserve to experience and learn about the arts, test their imaginations and tap their creative spirit throughout life. Cultivating creativity for all ages through the arts has important implications, including increased literacy and academic success, an inventive and skilled workforce, improved health and well-being, enhanced social and cognitive development, and increased cultural understanding. All program grant categories—Artist in Residence, Arts Partnership and Artist Express—support passionate and disciplined engagement in the arts for learners of all ages throughout their lives.

The Artist in Residence program places accomplished professional artists in a variety of educational and community settings. Applicant organizations must have nonprofit status. Artists engage participants of varying ages, cultures, experiences and ability levels in making art within a mutually supportive and creative learning environment. Grants awarded to the residency sponsor will cover two-thirds of the artist’s fee, or \$800 per week. The sponsor is responsible for the remaining \$400 per week. Residencies may be planned for a minimum of two weeks to a maximum of eight weeks in length.

The Arts Partnership program provides one- or two-year grants to support activities that enhance the quality of and access to learning in the arts for learners of all ages, backgrounds, experience levels and abilities. Applicants may request up to \$20,000 per year. The Arts Partnership program requires a 1:1 cash match.

The Artist Express program was created to provide an opportunity for schools or community organizations to collaborate with an artist for one or two days in order to explore an arts discipline or to see what it might be like to host an artist for the first time. Applicants should exhibit an interest in the

work of a particular artist from the Arts Learning Artist Directory that supports collaborative learning and also have a basic level of readiness for the artist's visit. The current fee for an artist in the Artist Express program is \$300 per day. Grants will be awarded for either \$250 (one day), \$500 (two days) or \$750 (three days). The sponsor is responsible for the remaining \$50, \$100 or \$150 per day.

### **Building Cultural Diversity**

Ohio's communities are enriched by people who represent many different cultures and ethnicities. The OAC is committed to ensuring that Ohio citizens have broad access and opportunities to participate in diverse arts experiences. The OAC believes that public investment in culturally diverse arts and community organizations and emerging arts professionals ensures that Ohio citizens can experience a rich, diverse and vibrant cultural life. Encouraging the artistic expression of multiple perspectives can be a catalyst for building community dialogue and understanding.

The Building Cultural Diversity (BCD) program provides support to arts and community organizations whose mission, programs, staff and board are rooted in culturally specific communities and that offer Ohio citizens the opportunity to experience a full and vibrant cultural life. BCD applicants may request up to \$3,000; however, actual grant award amounts are recommended by a panel of OAC staff members and will vary from year to year according to the availability of OAC funds. All BCD grants require a 50 percent match, half of which may be from appropriate in-kind donations.

### **Individual Artist Grant Programs and Services**

The OAC offers grants to individual artists in two program areas: Individual Excellence Awards and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships.

The Individual Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by artists in a variety of disciplines. Individual Excellence Awards give the artists who receive them the time and resources to experiment, explore and reflect as they develop their skills and advance their art form. The Individual Excellence Awards also provide affirmation and acknowledgment of the excellent work of Ohio artists. Individual Excellence Awards are \$5,000. Grant awards are recommended by discipline review panels. This program is highly competitive; less than 10 percent of applicants receive funding.

The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program provides awards that allow dedicated apprentices to work with master artists in a time-honored method to acquire an understanding of and proficiency in valued art forms. The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program offers grants of up to \$4,000. A traditional master artist and an apprentice artist apply together for a year-long apprenticeship.

### **Project Support**

The Project Support program provides flexible funding to help organizations complete short-term projects addressing a wide variety of goals and objectives through two types of project grants—General Project and Creative Economy Project. General Project grants support a broad range of activities including the routine programming of first-time applicants, one-time special events or initiatives, agency-wide capacity building endeavors and unforeseen opportunities for new work over and above organizations' regular programming. More ambitious projects may be funded through a Creative Economy Project grant at either the planning or implementation stage. These highly competitive grants support projects that create jobs and income, revitalize communities or downtowns, and draw cultural tourists. Creative Economy Project grants must leverage the assets of the creative sector—artists, arts and cultural organizations and arts-related businesses—that are intrinsic to Ohio communities to improve a community's economic conditions and quality of life. General Project applicants may request up to \$5,000. Creative Economy Project applicants may request up to \$5,000 for planning grants and up to \$20,000 for implementation grants. All Project Support grants require a 1:1 match.

## **Sustainability**

The Sustainability program provides general operating support to arts and cultural organizations that make an important contribution to the health and vitality of Ohio communities. Sustainability grants ensure that public support of the arts continues to play an integral role in sustaining the rich past and vibrant future of Ohio through flexible and reliable funding for annual arts programming. A rigorous application and review process assures citizens and legislators that Sustainability grantees will use public funds resourcefully and responsibly.

The Sustainability program provides four-year grants for organizational operating support. This program supports Ohio organizations that plan and conduct ongoing arts programs for either a full year of programming or recurring activities. Grants in the Sustainability program are determined by a formula that takes into account the panel score and the organization's budget. Sustainability applicants must have a last fiscal year income of at least \$30,000 and have received at least two OAC grants in the last four fiscal years. All Sustainability grants require at least a 1:1 cash match. In the off-years of the funding cycle, grantees are required to provide annual programming and financial updates before the next fiscal year's grant agreement is issued.

## **OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

### **Artists with Disabilities Access Program**

The OAC is committed to making the arts accessible to all Ohioans. Accessible buildings or spaces, programs and creative opportunities enrich the artistic experiences of all and enhance a community's cultural climate. The Artists with Disabilities Access Program is designed to help artists with disabilities move to a higher level of artistic development. To ensure that Ohio remains a leader in cultural access, the OAC provides funding for artistic development for artists with disabilities. Applicants may request up to \$500. A match is not required.

### **International Music and Performing Arts in Communities Tour (IMPACT)**

Formerly called the Faith-Based Institutions project, IMPACT has been bringing international artists to Ohio for a statewide tour since 1998 with special attention paid to bringing the tour to underserved areas of the state. The OAC and the Ohio Arts Presenters Network (OAPN) began their unique partnership with the presentation of *Barroco Andino*, a Chilean music ensemble. Since then, the OAC has partnered with OAPN and most recently the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education to present a wide range of artists from around the world. These free concerts introduce new audiences to art forms from around the world.

Previous and current tours:

- 2012—On Ensemble
- 2011—Mauvais Sort
- 2010—Mauvais Sort
- 2009—Sones de Mexico Ensemble
- 2008—Mamadou Diabate Ensemble
- 2007—Andes Manta and Barynya Russian Dance & Music Ensemble (summer)
- 2006—Ragamala Music and Dance Theater and Spoken Hand Percussion Orchestra (summer)
- 2005—America Indigena
- 2004—El Arranque Tango Orchestra and Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre (summer)
- 2003—Eblen Macari Trio, World Music
- 2002—Real Tango, Authentic Argentine Tango Music
- 2001—Cuerdas de Fuego, Music of South America
- 2000—Viva Quetzal, Traditional and Modern Latin American Music
- 1999—Ragamala Music and Dance Theatre, Indian Dance, Sitar and Tabala Music

The OAC initiated summer IMPACT performances at festivals and performing arts series throughout the state with the presentation of *Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre* (2004); *America Indigena* (2005); *Spoken Hand Percussion Orchestra* (2006); *Barynya Russian Dance & Music Ensemble* (2007) and *Mamadou Diabate Ensemble* (2008).

The *Ohio Traditions* website features profiles about Ohio Heritage Fellowship recipients and serves as a repository of information about traditional artists and communities across the state.

### **Ohio Heritage Fellowship**

Each year, the OAC awards one Ohio Heritage Fellowship to an individual or group whose work in the folk and traditional arts has a significant impact on the people and communities of the state. The folk and traditional arts grow out of particular cultures and are recognized as the artistic expressions of ethnic, linguistic, occupational or regional groups. The \$5,000 award is given in one of three categories: Performing Arts, Material Culture (e.g., folk art, folk crafts or folk architecture) or Community Leadership.

### **Ohio River Border Initiative**

The Ohio River Border Initiative (ORBI) is a joint project of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the OAC to support the arts community in the Ohio River Valley. ORBI's programs are open to artists, school groups, arts groups and community arts programs in all Ohio and West Virginia counties that touch the Ohio River. These counties are Wayne, Cabell, Mason, Jackson, Wood, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzell, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock in West Virginia, and Lawrence, Gallia, Meigs, Athens, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson and Columbiana in Ohio. ORBI offers three funding opportunities—its annual grant program; the Artist Fast Track program; and the Accessibility Mini-Grant program.

### **Percent for Art Program**

Ohio's Percent for Art legislation, in effect since July 1, 1990, provides funds for the acquisition, commissioning and installation of works of art for new or renovated public buildings that receive state appropriations of more than \$4 million per biennium. For these projects, the law stipulates that 1 percent of the total state appropriation be allocated for the acquisition, commissioning and installation of art in public spaces. A searchable database of projects is available at:

[www.oac.ohio.gov/search/Percent/SearchPercent.asp](http://www.oac.ohio.gov/search/Percent/SearchPercent.asp)

### **Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest**

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation partner with the OAC to present Ohio's annual Poetry Out Loud recitation contest, which encourages Ohio high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. Ohio high school student Jackson Hille won the inaugural National Finals on May 16, 2006.

Poetry Out Loud has expanded from seven central Ohio schools and fewer than 200 participants in 2006 to more than 50 schools from across the state and more than 9,500 participants in 2013. The Ohioana Library Association and Thurber House are statewide partners for the event and several small presses contribute poetry books and other prizes for contestants. The OAC works with a Poetry Out Loud coordinator to teach workshops, conduct outreach and direct program activities.

### **Riffe Gallery**

Since 1989, the OAC has operated the Riffe Gallery, a 4,000 square-foot gallery in downtown Columbus. Through exhibitions and educational activities, the Riffe Gallery increases the general public's knowledge of state, national and international artists, the collections of various museums and galleries regionally and

internationally, and all media. Riffe Gallery exhibitions are specifically developed by staff and contracted curators, or selected from other museums or galleries, with diverse audiences in mind.

Media sponsors include CD102.5, CityScene, Ohio Magazine, Time Warner Cable and WCBE. The Riffe Gallery works in partnership with other arts organizations to present a wide range of exhibitions. Partners have included Arts Midwest; Columbus Museum of Art; Wexner Center for the Arts; Keny Galleries; Greater Columbus Arts Council; Massillon Museum; Westin Gallery; Spaces; Southern Ohio Museum; Toledo Museum of Art; Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum; National Museum of Women in the Arts; the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile; and the Museum of Modern Art in Saitama, Japan.

The Riffe Gallery presents four main gallery exhibitions and three to four lobby exhibitions per year. Exhibitions run an average of eight to nine weeks. In July 2012, the Riffe Gallery was voted Best Gallery in *CityScene* magazine's first annual "Best of the 'Bus'" survey. Admission is free.

### **OAC DATABASES**

The following resources can be accessed under the "Search Databases" tab on the OAC website at [www.oac.ohio.gov](http://www.oac.ohio.gov).

#### **Appalachian Artist Directory**

The Ohio Appalachian Artist Directory is an online, searchable listing of more than 800 artists that live and work in or near Ohio's Appalachian region. The directory is managed by the OAC and is free and open to the public for browsing and searching. The purpose of the directory is to increase access to and communication among Ohio's many Appalachian artists and arts organizations, and to help strengthen the role the arts play in the communities of Appalachian Ohio.

#### **Arts Learning Artist Directory**

Currently, the Arts Learning Artist Directory presents 96 teaching artists in a clear, accessible format. The directory informs Ohio's schools and communities of the wide variety of artists available for residencies, teacher training, artist-teacher collaborations, workshops and other statewide arts education programming. Artists included in this directory have gone through a rigorous screening and interview process to qualify for participation in OAC Arts Learning programs. They are excellent representatives of their artistic disciplines and outstanding communicators who enjoy sharing their ideas, vision and expertise about the creative process.

#### **Arts Learning Resource Database**

This database contains more than 200 national, state and regional organizational resources that users can search by name, discipline or function.

#### **ArtsinOhio.com**

ArtsinOhio.com is a comprehensive, online cultural calendar of events maintained and managed by the OAC in collaboration with the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo convention and visitors bureaus. With this free, easy-to-use online guide, Ohio residents and visitors can search for events by city, date, organization, accessibility, price, special discounts and more. ArtsinOhio.com contains nearly 2,000 unique events at any time and receives more than 740,000 visitors annually. The site reaches an additional 9,000 citizens through a monthly e-newsletter highlighting cultural events around the state. To list an event, users must register at [www.OhioEventFinder.com](http://www.OhioEventFinder.com).

#### **Art\$Work**

Art\$Work is an online, searchable database of employment opportunities in the arts and cultural sector in Ohio. It is a free and efficient way for job seekers and a wide range of Ohio's arts and cultural employers to connect with each other. The database can be accessed at [www.artsworkohio.org](http://www.artsworkohio.org).

### **Capacity Building Consultants Database**

The Capacity Building directory contains consultants who have participated in a training session about organizational capacity building and are prepared to assist arts and cultural organizations with their capacity building processes. The consultants in the directory can be searched by name, specialization, county or city.

### ***Focusing the Light: The Art and Practice of Planning***

*Focusing the Light: The Art and Practice of Planning*, a seven-volume series, provides those who work in the arts and nonprofits with strategies, tips, and techniques for successful project planning, advocacy and evaluation. *Focusing the light* was developed by the OAC to illustrate what is needed to create significant works for communities, secure funding for these initiatives, and evaluate the results.

### **Festivals & Competitions Directory**

The Festivals & Competitions Directory is the only online directory also printed by OAC. It contains detailed information (e.g., dates, activities, and fees) on nearly 600 arts and crafts festivals and competitions in Ohio. The directory is distributed through partnerships with the Ohio Arts and Crafts Guild and Ohio Designer Craftsmen. Approximately 45,000 printed copies are distributed each year.

### **Individual Artist Opportunities Database**

This online database provides a searchable listing of local, statewide, national and international opportunities for artists. It is maintained by the Individual Artist Grant Programs and Services office as an additional support tool for Ohio artists.

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### **Ohio Artists on Tour Directory**

The Ohio Artists on Tour Directory is designed to introduce presenters to the wealth of Ohio artists who are available for touring. Individual performing artists and groups are selected for inclusion in the directory by the OAC's Artist Review Panel. The directory includes approximately 85 artists and companies and is searchable by genre. Digital audio clips are available from many artists. Planning, negotiating and contracting for artists in the Ohio Artists on Tour Directory are the same as those for any engagement. Artists interested in being listed in the directory should apply using the application on the OAC's website.

### **Ohio Creative Writers Directory**

The OAC's Ohio Creative Writers Directory, updated annually, includes information on approximately 500 fiction and nonfiction writers, playwrights and poets who live or work in Ohio. There are no eligibility requirements for inclusion in the directory. The directory serves writers who wish to network and learn more about literary activities in the state; authors who wish to promote their books; presenters looking for writers; and libraries. The directory is searchable by name, county, city and primary discipline.

### **Ohio Online Visual Artist Registry**

In partnership with the Humanities, Fine Arts and Recreation Division of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, the OAC created an online registry of information on the work of nearly 1,100 artists from Ohio and around the world, representing all kinds of art. There are 7,000 images in the database, as well as contact and biographical information for each artist. Partnering with the library boosts accessibility to the registry and increases promotion opportunities for both organizations. The wide range of art represented in the registry is a substantial tool for the Ohio Percent for Art Advisory Selection committees, collectors, designers, architects, curators, journalists, juries, gallery owners and others who are interested in visual arts. In 2006, the first annual Ohio Online Visual Artist Registry Exhibition was held at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The exhibition's success has brought recognition to registered artists and is eagerly awaited each year. The registry is available online at [www.ohioonlinearts.org](http://www.ohioonlinearts.org).