



# FAST FACTS

## MISSION

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

## VISION

Providing leadership and voice for the arts to transform people and communities.

## HISTORY

The Ohio Arts Council was created in 1965 to foster and encourage the development of the arts and assist the preservation of Ohio's cultural heritage. With funds from the Ohio Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the OAC provides financial assistance to artists and arts organizations. The Council accomplishes this charge in two primary methods -- first, through the various grant funding programs that the Council operates to provide support to artists and to make arts activities available to a broad segment of Ohio's public; and second, by providing services that help to enhance the growth of the arts.

## STATE ARTS PLAN

The *State Arts Plan 2015-2017* was created in response to the needs of everyday Ohioans. Informed by focus groups, one-on-one interviews, site visits to organizations and communities, and a statewide survey of all 88 counties--the *State Arts Plan* serves as the foundation for the agency's future.

Four actions areas: INVEST, ENGAGE, INNOVATE and LEAD underpin the plan, guiding program prioritization and resource deployment.

Plan highlights include:

- Making bold, smart investments in Ohio arts and culture – including funding in all 88 Ohio counties
- Revamping arts education programs to be accessible to schools and impactful for students
- Creating and retaining creative sector jobs
- Supporting Ohio artists and creative entrepreneurs
- Modernizing and streamlining the grantmaking experience
- Engaging with creative sector professionals in new and authentic ways
- Meeting regularly with Ohio artists, administrators, educators, and other leaders in their communities
- Sharing and learning from the successes of grant recipients
- Building new relationships with partners at the state, regional, and national levels
- Leading the state's arts and cultural sector with sound policy development, clear vision, and dynamic communication

## ABOUT OUR BOARD

The OAC Board is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the governor, and four non-voting members--two each from the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. The Board is responsible for final approval of funding requests. It meets four times annually, and all meetings are open to the public. Notification of the time and place of the regularly scheduled meetings is made available to the general public at least seven days prior to the meeting through announcements in [OAC News](#).

## APPROPRIATIONS

**State Appropriations:** Ohio's arts infrastructure generates economic benefits. The arts are a proven economic driver. They attract new business, support tourism, and create and retain jobs. In recognition of this, the governor and state legislature have granted significant increases in state funding to the OAC over the past few biennia.

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Percent Increase
FY 2016-2017	\$28,944,100	+27.52%
FY 2014-2015	\$22,698,408	+31.88%
FY 2012-2013	\$17,211,408	+30.50%

Recent research shows that Ohio's creative industries support more than 231,000 jobs, contribute more than \$25 billion to the state's economy, and generate more than \$2.8 billion in annual tax revenues (federal, state, and local combined).

The OAC leverages a high match ratio from its grantees. \$53 in local and private funding matches every one OAC dollar.

**Federal Appropriations:** For six years running, the OAC has earned the second-largest federal grant from the NEA for state arts agencies in the nation, exceeded only by California due to its larger population. NEA grants typically total around \$2 million biennially, and 100% of the agency's federal funding is invested in individuals and organizations via grants.

## ALL OHIOANS BENEFIT

**The arts play a central role in economic development and job creation in Ohio.**

In addition to anchoring communities, the arts and cultural industries:

- are fast-growing, dynamic clusters of economic activity that aid the growth of businesses
- are internationally competitive export industries closely connected to tourism
- produce resilient, entrepreneurial jobs that are well-suited to making mature industries become more competitive
- aid in the retention and development of an innovative and skilled workforce and the transformation of local economies into innovation centers
- spur strong public-private partnerships that catalyze community revitalization in urban and rural areas alike

**The arts strengthen education.** The arts foster imaginations and aid success both inside and outside the classroom. The arts prepare students to succeed in an economy driven by innovation and creativity. Ongoing research confirms a positive relationship between arts education and improved academics for all students. An education that includes the arts helps to train our workforce and produce creative, critical thinkers and problem-solvers that are attractive to employers.

**The arts are an investment in creative capital that ripples throughout Ohio's communities.** Innovative enterprises employ accountants, engineers, and laborers in addition to performers, curators, artists, and others. They buy from local businesses and make communities better places to live, work, play, and raise families.

**The arts are a magnet for talent and one of Ohio's greatest selling points.** They attract businesses that want to offer their employees a creative environment and a vibrant, livable community.

**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 82.8% know that public funds support the arts in Ohio.

**The arts are at the center of a community's vitality.** Engagement in the arts creates an authentic and lasting shared identity, while demonstrating public pride stokes both ownership and investment in today as well as vision for the future.