

Oklahoma Historical Society FY 2025 Budget Presentation

Collect. Preserve. Share.



Oklahoma
Historical
Society

The OHS at a Glance

- Founded in **1893** by the Oklahoma Territorial Press Association.
- Governed by our board of directors: **13** voted in by OHS membership and **12** appointed by the governor. Board members serve 3-year terms.
- Annual operating budget of **\$22 million**.
- Own **26** museums and historic sites throughout the state.
- **135** fulltime staff and **60** temporary staff.
- History Center Museum is only state museum in the world affiliated with both the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
- **2 million** images digitized from the **12 million** in the OHS photo archive collection.
- Over **180,000** artifacts in its collection.
- Shepherded the nominations of over **1,400** properties to the National Register of Historic Places.



Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City



Civil War demonstrations at Honey Springs Battlefield near Rentiesville



OHS staff at the Sod House Museum near Aline

Vision, Mission, and Values



Living history demonstrations at Hunter's Home in Park Hill

- **Vision:** Set the highest standards of the historical community in efficient, creative, and responsible ways
- **Mission:** Collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the State of Oklahoma and its people
- **Core values:** Innovation, education, collaboration, creativity, adaptability, and inclusion

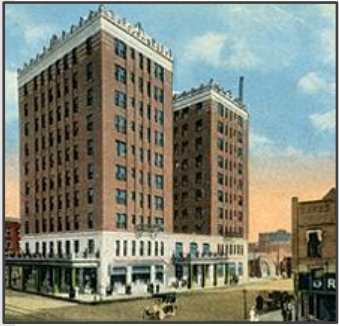
What We Do

- Manage 26 sites across the state including historic forts, battlefields, museums, historic homes, research facilities, and one archaeological site.
- We house more than 12 million photographs, more than 1 million pages of historical documents and manuscripts, 3,000 oral histories, historic film and video collections, and more than 4,400 titles of newspapers available digitally and on microfilm.
- Publications include *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, and newsletters for OHS members.



Chad Williams, Director of Research

What We Do



The Gateway to Oklahoma History

Home Tour About Explore

You Are Here: Home / Search / Results

Available Filters

Partners	3
Collections	257
Serial/Series Titles	704
Resource Types	7
World Regions	3
Countries	3
U.S. States	18
Counties	105
Decades	14
Years	136
Months	12

123,274 Matching Results

Your Search Terms: Edmond

Look In: Full Text Search

Results: 1 - 24 of 123,274 next

Sort Options

Edmond, IT

Photograph of the Edmond, IT depot before the Land Run of April 22, 1889. April 1889.

DATE: April 1889

ITEM TYPE: Photograph

PARTNER: Oklahoma Historical Society

- Partner with the U.S. Department of the Interior and National Park Service to implement historic preservation programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and historic tax credits through our State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Manage the Gateway to Oklahoma History, an online repository of Oklahoma history. Visitors can search and view thousands of historic newspapers, photographs, maps, and documents.

OHS | Museums and Sites

What do Wild West Shows, Victorian mansions, sod houses, forts, battlefields, and prehistoric archaeological sites have in common? They are all right here in Oklahoma, where the diverse and exciting past unfolds across the state.

We've got your number for...

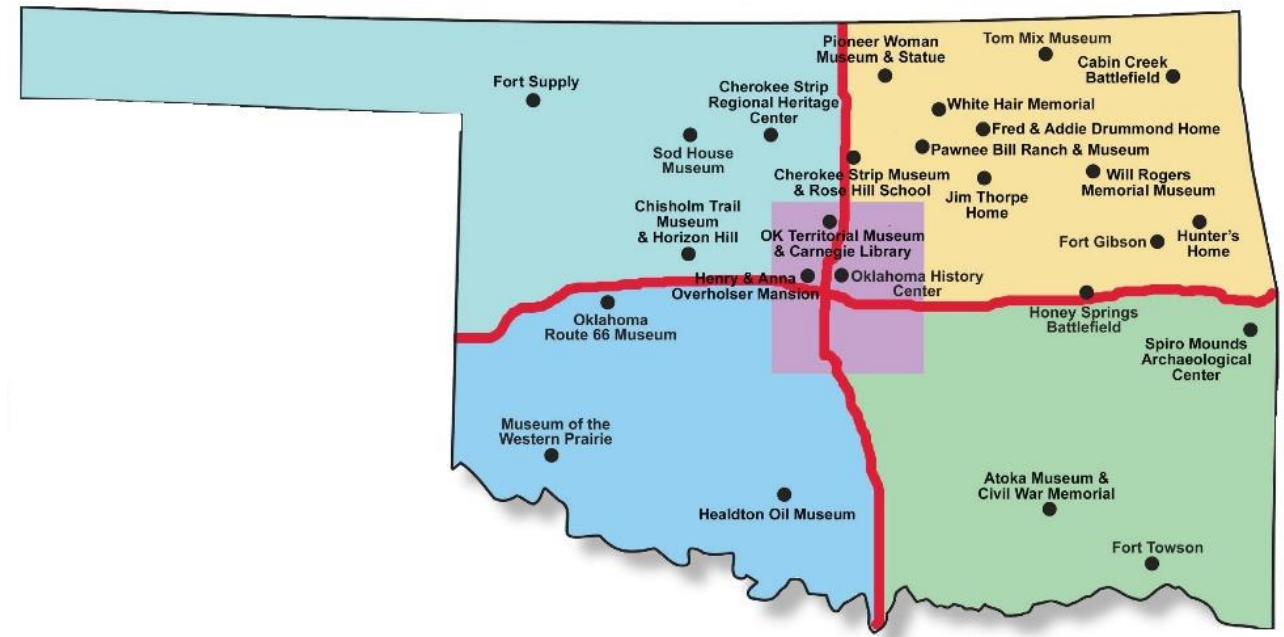
Things to see and do in Oklahoma!

14 MUSEUMS

5 MILITARY SITES

7 HISTORIC HOMES

Oklahoma Historical Society
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405-522-5230
www.okhistory.org



A Very OK Podcast

- Explore the interesting stories and fascinating personalities that make up Oklahoma's unique history
- Hosted by Trait Thompson and Dr. Bob Blackburn
- New episodes 3rd Tuesday of every month
- Over 37,000 all-time downloads



Top Accomplishments in FY 23

- Opened the new visitor center at Honey Springs Battlefield.
- Premiered the new OHS documentary film, *The People's House: The Story of the Oklahoma State Capitol*.
- Awarded \$577,200 in grants to 39 historical non-profit organizations across the state.
- Opened a new major exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center Museum, *Taking Flight: Oklahomans Explore the Skies*.
- Added Blake Shelton as the honorary chairman of the fundraising campaign for the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa



OKPOP Foundation team with Blake Shelton, March 2023



Ribbon cutting at Honey Springs Battlefield visitor center

Top Challenges for OHS

- Staff salaries for most positions are low compared to similar positions in the region. This makes it difficult to recruit and retain top-level talent.
- Rising costs of materials and equipment, as well as supplier delays, continue to put a strain on our ability to address regular and deferred maintenance
- Necessary costs, such as property insurance premiums and employer paid payroll taxes, continue to increase with no additional funds to help cover those costs. These, plus unfunded mandates, have eaten into our operational budget and prevented the agency from pursuing other projects.
- Need for high amounts of digital storage to achieve our statutory mission has, and will continue to, require additional funds to pay for the digital storage.
- OMES (next slide)

OMES

- Lack of timely work and responses
 - Purchase orders not being created or approved in a timely manner
 - Invoices not being paid in a timely manner
 - App C for IT costs not being presented until over 2 months into the fiscal year
 - Email inboxes appear to be unmonitored with messages receiving no response
- IT costs are difficult to discern, and new charges added without explanation
- General lack of communication from OMES to outside agencies
- Lack of communication within and between OMES divisions

Savings and Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

- Technology:
 - Moving to cloud-based software for collections management and membership/development.
 - Upgrading and removing legacy leases from our App C
 - Equipping staff with a mobile Point of Sale device to increase sales at events
- Sale of OHS properties:
 - Completed sale of Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch
 - Nuyaka Mission site is currently up for auction through OMES
 - Finalizing sale of Jim Thorpe Home in Yale to Jim Thorpe Foundation
 - Working on sale of Chief Lookout gravesite to Osage Nation
- LCF Projects
 - Utilizing the CM at Risk construction method to streamline the process and not have to hire additional staff members to manage the projects



Nuyaka Mission site near Okemah

Upcoming Projects for FY 24 - 25

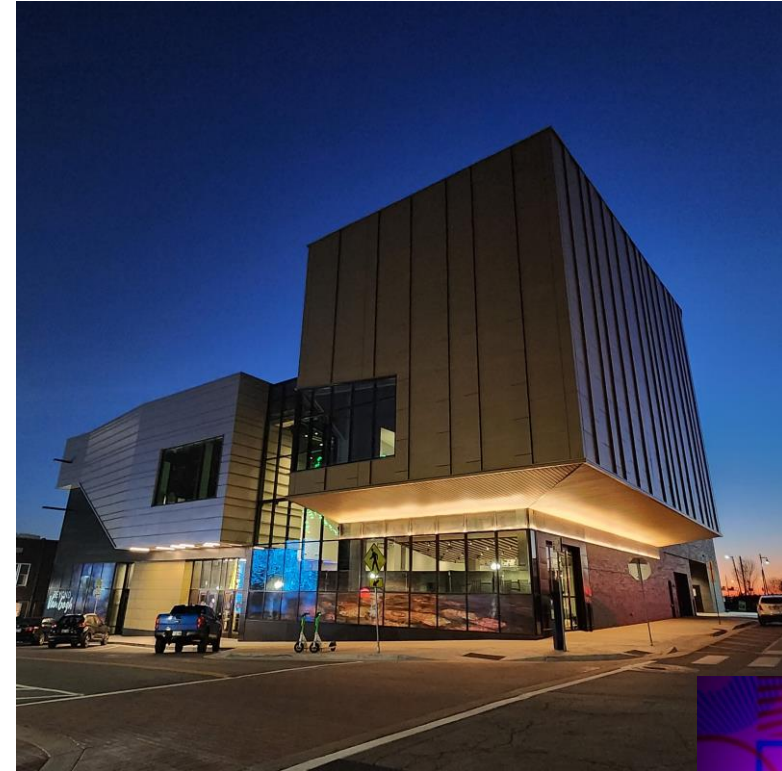


Conceptual rendering of Route 66 Neon Sign Park at the Oklahoma History Center

- \$46 million in Legacy Capital Fund projects to complete over the next 5-7 years.
- \$18 million fundraising campaign to complete the OKPOP Museum.
- Transition to a new collection management software that will integrate collections at all sites (over 180,000 objects) into the same system.
- Creation of a new 3-year strategic plan for the agency.
- Raise funds for a new neon sign park on the grounds of the Oklahoma History Center. Completion goal is 2026 in time for the 100th anniversary of Route 66.

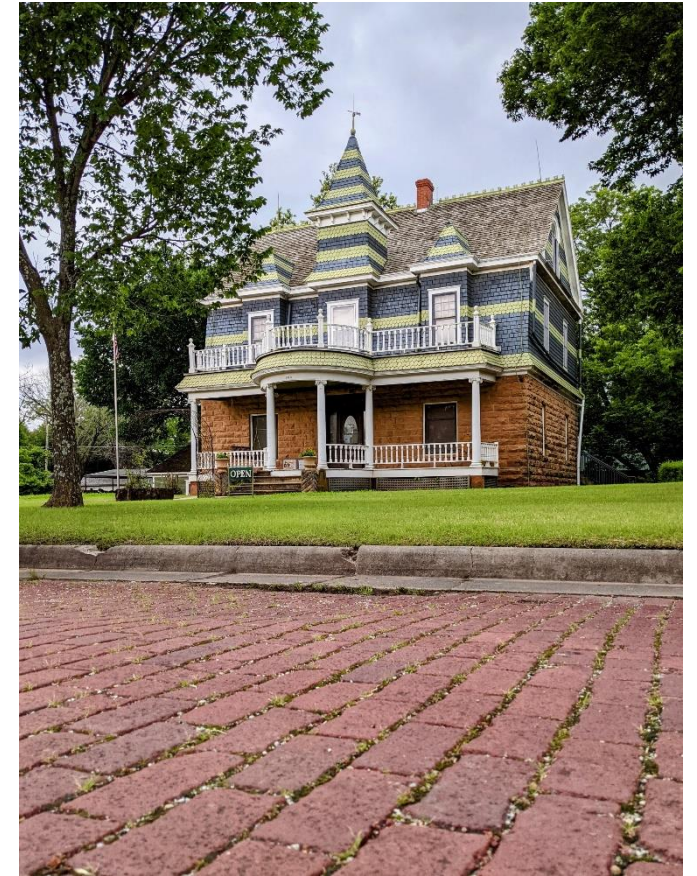
OKPOP Museum

- Legislature appropriated \$18 million in one-time funds last year
- OHS raising matching funds
- Private funding pledged since July 2023: \$7,850,000
- Remaining goal is \$10,150,000 by Nov. 2024
- New director, Jake Krumwiede, appointed Sept. 2023



FY 2025 OHS Budget Request

- \$1,250,000 in additional funding for staff salary increases. Raises will be focused on employees making \$45,000/year or less and those who are significantly off the regional median
- \$530,000 for increased operational costs such as property insurance, IT, utilities, etc.
- New statutory language to remove the cap on revenue from the sales and use tax fund to allow more funding for deferred maintenance and capital projects



Frederick and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy





Oklahoma Historical Society

Trait Thompson

Executive Director

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