

**FY 2027 Budget Performance Review**  
**055 Oklahoma Arts Council**

Version Original  
**Lead Administrator:** Amber Sharples, Executive Director

Date submitted 10/1/2025  
**Lead Financial Officer:** April Kowandy, Finance Director

**Agency Mission**

The Oklahoma Arts Council leads, cultivates, and amplifies the transformative power of the arts for all Oklahomans and their communities.

**Division and Program Descriptions**

*Note: Please define any acronyms used in program descriptions.*

**1000850 Arts Education in Schools**

The Oklahoma Arts Council is committed to strengthening education in Oklahoma by providing grants and services that help students reach their full creative potential. By supporting arts education programs in schools, the Council empowers students to develop creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills—key competencies for success in today's global and innovation-driven workforce. In addition to funding, the Council offers tailored support such as grant writing assistance and program development services to meet the unique needs of individual school sites. Other resources include a roster of professional teaching artists, curriculum support materials, and program guides. Through strategic partnerships, the Oklahoma Arts Council amplifies its impact, expanding access to quality arts education for students across the state.

**1000950 Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts**

Arts Learning in Communities grants and programs support projects that offer hands-on arts instruction, classes, and workshops for individuals of all ages and abilities. From children and older adults to individuals with disabilities, these community-based programs provide meaningful arts learning opportunities that enrich lives across Oklahoma. This focus area also includes initiatives such as the Oklahoma Arts and the Military Initiative, which harnesses the power of the arts to serve veterans and active-duty service members. These programs not only honor those who have courageously served our state and nation but also address critical needs such as rehabilitation, community reintegration, and overall well-being—demonstrating the arts' role in improving lives and strengthening communities.

**2000250 Rural and Community Arts Programs**

The Oklahoma Arts Council supports communities by providing services, grants, and programs that nurture and strengthen Oklahoma's arts and cultural industries, which contribute \$872.8 million annually to the state's economy. Arts programs—including festivals, exhibits, and performances—play a vital role in enriching Oklahoma's culture and quality of life. Through Community Arts grants, the Council empowers eligible organizations to deliver meaningful programs that positively impact their local communities.

**2000500 Visual Arts and Public Awareness**

Enhance public awareness of the agency's programs and services to expand opportunities for Oklahomans to create, perform, and engage with the arts in schools and communities across the state. This focus area also encompasses our visual arts and curatorial efforts, which support the preservation and educational outreach of the Oklahoma State Capitol Art Collection, state-owned collections at the Capitol (including those of the House, Senate, and others), the Oklahoma State Art Collection, special galleries, and various projects, including the recent transformation of the Capitol into the largest public art museum in the state.

**2000750 Art in Public Places**

Enacted in 2004, the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Act mandates that eligible state capital improvement projects allocate 1.5% of their budgets to public art that reflects the state's history and values. This program supports Oklahoma's economic development goals while enriching public spaces for communities statewide. Currently, 27 states and territories manage similar percent-for-art programs, with over 350 public art initiatives operating across the United States.

**8800020 Information Technology**

Information Technology Services manage and maintain critical systems and equipment—including network infrastructure, computers, software, and security protocols—in collaboration with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) ISD. These services ensure the reliable operation of digital tools and platforms that support the Council's programs and initiatives. Additionally, the IT team serves as the liaison for AI-related projects, providing guidance on integration, implementation, and compliance with state policies, while facilitating AI-driven solutions to enhance creativity, outreach, and administrative efficiency throughout the Arts Council.

**FY'26 Budgeted Department Funding By Source**

Dept. #	Department Name	Appropriations	Federal	Revolving	Local <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total
1000850	<b>Arts Education</b>						
	Arts Education in Schools	\$741,412	\$184,488	\$700			\$926,600
1000950	Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts	\$594,293	\$218,660	\$253,000			\$1,065,953
	<b>Arts Education Totals</b>						<b>\$1,992,553</b>
2000250	<b>Rural and Community Arts Programs</b>	\$1,421,679	\$4,731,016	\$9,263			\$6,161,958
2000500	<b>Visual Arts and Public Awareness</b>	\$802,588		\$4,050			\$806,638
2000750	<b>Art in Public Places</b>	\$131,987				\$3,764,500	\$3,896,487
2000100	<b>Core Operations/Administration</b>	\$489,883	\$182,634	\$10,000			\$682,517
8800020	<b>Information Technology</b>	ISD DP - Community Prog	\$126,338				\$126,338
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,308,180</b>	<b>\$5,316,798</b>	<b>\$277,013</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,764,500</b>	<b>\$13,666,491</b>

Note: 2000250 Community Arts Programs includes \$4,093,411 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal Funds

1. Please describe source of Local funding not included in other categories:

2. Please describe source(s) and % of total of "Other" funding if applicable for each department: \$712,900 for 205 administrative/maintenance fund and \$3,051,600 for 210 commissioning fund. These funds are for projects that fall under the Art in Public Places Act.

**Balances of Appropriated Funds from Prior Fiscal Years**

3-digit Class Fund #	Class Fund Name	GA Bill # and Section #	Fiscal Year of Original Appropriation	Original Appropriation Amount (\$)	Total Expended Amount as of 8/31/2025 (\$)	Balance as of 8/31/2025 (\$)
194	FY24 Appropriations		2024	\$3,730,030	\$3,492,276	\$237,754
195	FY25 Appropriations		2025	\$3,952,325	\$3,298,676	\$653,649
<i>Total remaining prior year appropriation balance:</i>						<b>\$891,403</b>

Note: We are in the process of journal voucherizing FY24 carryover funds towards grants. Due to uncertainty of federal funding, we were cautious to expend FY25 funds unless critical to agency operations and obligated grant awards.

*Report appropriations that have existing balances from all prior fiscal years at the 3-digit class fund number (i.e. 194, 195). Do not report carryover class funds separately. Include appropriations located in disbursing funds. Report PREP, but not ARPA/SRF, appropriations.*

**FY 2027 Budget Performance Review**  
**055 Oklahoma Arts Council**

Version Original  
 Lead Administrator: **Amber Sharples, Executive Director**

Date submitted 10/1/2025  
 Lead Financial Officer: **April Kowandy, Finance Director**

**What changes did the agency make between FY'25 and FY'26?**

**1.) Are there any services no longer provided because of budget cuts?**

Due to the uncertainty in state and federal arts funding, the Oklahoma Arts Council suspended the 2025 Oklahoma Arts Conference, a biennial gathering of hundreds of professionals, students, and volunteers working in the state's creative industries. The Conference was scheduled to occur in October 2025 in Enid, Oklahoma. Additionally, we suspended rotating exhibitions in the Oklahoma State Capitol, canceling 18-20 annual exhibitions and opportunities to showcase the work of Oklahoma artists.

**2.) What services are provided at a higher cost to the user?**

N/A

**3.) What services are still provided but with a slower response rate?**

Due to the hiring freeze for the positions of Curator of Capitol Exhibitions and Curator of Education and Engagement, the number of Capitol tours available to student/youth groups and adults is limited. Docent guides are provided minimum training, and the grow of educational experiences at the Oklahoma State Capitol has slowed.

**4.) Did the agency provide any pay raises that were not legislatively/statutorily received?**

The Governor-appointed Council approved a salary increase of 6% for the Executive Director on September 9, 2025.

**Appropriation Increase Review**

Appropriation Increase Purpose	Appropriation Increases (Additional to Agency Base Appropriation)			Expenditures	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total Amount Received FY 2024-2025	Total Expenditure of Increase as of 6/30/2025	If funds have not been spent, please explain why.
\$50,000 allocated to the Medal of Honor plaque in the Hall of Heroes at the Capitol, \$420,000 admin and operations, and \$17,000 for Grants and Rural Arts infrastructure programs	\$487,000		\$487,000	\$487,000	
\$300,000 one-time funding annually for FY25-FY27 for Arts in Alternative Education and arts education programs and costs and \$50,000 one-time funding for the Betty Price Gallery, with the removal of the two one-time funding received in FY24 of \$470,000		\$222,295	\$222,295	\$222,295	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$487,000</b>	<b>\$222,295</b>	<b>\$709,295</b>	<b>\$709,295</b>	

*List appropriation increases that the agency has received in the prior two years. List amounts received in each year. Include PREP, but not ARPA/SRF, appropriations.*

**FY'27 Requested Funding By Department and Source**

Dept. #	Department Name	Appropriations	Federal	Revolving	Other <sup>1</sup>	Total	% Change
1000850	Arts Education in Schools	\$880,504	\$184,488	\$700	\$0	\$1,065,692	15.01%
1000950	Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts	\$749,396	\$218,660	\$253,000	\$0	\$1,221,056	14.55%
2000100	Core Operations/Administration	\$1,014,019	\$182,634	\$10,000	\$0	\$1,206,653	76.79%
2000250	Rural and Community Arts Programs	\$1,978,305	\$4,731,016	\$9,263	\$0	\$6,718,584	9.03%
2000500	Visual Arts and Public Awareness	\$422,447	\$0	\$4,050	\$0	\$426,497	-47.13%
2000750	Art in Public Places	\$153,416	\$0	\$0	\$3,778,136	\$3,931,552	0.90%
8800020	ISD DP - Community Prog	\$126,338	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,338	#DIV/0!
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,324,425</b>	<b>\$5,316,798</b>	<b>\$277,013</b>	<b>\$3,778,136</b>	<b>\$14,696,372</b>	<b>7.54%</b>

1. Please describe source(s) and % of total of "Other" funding if applicable for each department: \$712,900 for 205 fund and \$3,051,600 for 210 fund. These funds are for projects that fall under the Art in Public Places Act.

**FY'27 Top Five Incremental Appropriated Funding Increase Requests**

Request by Priority	Request Description	Is this a Supplemental Request? (Yes/No)	Timeframe (One-Time or Recurring)	Appropriation Request Increase Amount (\$)
Request 1:	Annual NEA State Partnership Grant	No	One-Time	\$1,002,100
Request 2:	Office Rent at Jim Thorpe Building	No	Recurring	\$170,000
Request 3:	Furnishings and Additional Costs Related to Return to Jim Thorpe Building	No	One-Time	\$100,000
Request 4:	Market-based Salary Adjustments for Staff	No	Recurring	\$150,000
Request 5:			<b>Top Five Request Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,422,100</b>
<b>Total Increase above FY-26 Budget (including all requests)</b>				<b>\$1,422,100</b>
Difference between Top Five requests and total requests:				\$0
<i>* Capital requests in the table above should be listed in the next table.</i>				

**What are the agency's top 2-3 capital or technology (one-time) requests, if applicable?**

Description of requested increase in order of priority	Total Project Cost (\$)	Needed State Funding for Project (\$)	Submitted to LRCPC? (Yes/No)
Priority 1 N/A			
Priority 2			
Priority 3			

**FY 2027 Budget Performance Review**  
**055 Oklahoma Arts Council**

Version Original  
 Lead Administrator: Amber Sharples, Executive Director

Date submitted 10/1/2025  
 Lead Financial Officer: April Kowandy, Finance Director

**Does the agency has any costs associated with the Pathfinder retirement system and federal employees? If so, please describe the impact.**

N/A

\* Include the total number of federally funded FTE in the Pathfinder system.

**How would the agency be affected by receiving the same appropriation for FY '27 as was received in FY '26? (Flat / 0% change)**

A flat appropriation for FY2027 would hinder our ability to sustain the Arts in Alternative Education grant program and would require suspending the Arts and Military Initiative. Both programs align closely with the state's priorities, including criminal justice reform, intervention strategies, and creative workforce development. Additionally, the Arts and Military Initiative supports the long-term health, reintegration, and community engagement of military-connected service members, veterans, and their families. These initiatives have received national recognition and highlight Oklahoma's leadership in these critical areas. Under a flat funding scenario, other Oklahoma Arts Council programs would also face evaluation for potential reductions or adjustments.

**How would the agency handle a 2% appropriation reduction in FY '27?**

A 2% reduction from our FY2026 state appropriation—totaling \$86,164—would bring our funding down to \$4,222,016, marking nearly a 22% decrease since FY2009, when the appropriation was nearly \$5.2 million. The two agency priority programs most at risk of elimination are: 1) the Arts in Alternative Education grant category, and 2) the Oklahoma Arts and the Military Initiative, whose growth would be severely jeopardized. Operationally, an additional reduction of over \$55,000 would place significant strain on our dedicated staff, who have been working tirelessly to support the field's pandemic response. Cuts would also reduce the reach and accessibility of all grant programs, impacting organizations that have already suffered catastrophic revenue losses due to event cancellations and capacity limits. Most broadly, these reductions would affect approximately 432 schools and organizations statewide—especially those in rural communities—that receive about 40% of our grant awards. These communities rely on our grant funding as seed money to secure required private matching funds for their educational, economic development, and quality-of-life programs. Our grants serve as vital leverage for these communities to sustain and grow their arts initiatives. In addition, the cost of expenditures continue to rise and the additional rent expense that is being introduced as early as FY2025 is impacting our retention of our staff and our ability to serve the arts sector.

**Is the agency seeking any fee increases for FY '27?**

Description of requested increase in order of priority				Fee Increase Request (\$)	Statutory change required? (Yes/No)
Increase 1 N/A					
Increase 2					
Increase 3					

**Federal Funds**

CFDA	Federal Program Name	Agency Dept. #	FY 26 budget (\$)	FY 25 actuals (\$)	FY 24 actuals (\$)	FY 23 actuals (\$)	FY 25 budgeted FTE (#)
45.025	440: Arts Education in Schools	1000850	184,489	62,860	118,257	107,500	0.88
45.025	440: Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts	1000950	218,660	99,909	203,917	245,000	0.94
45.025	440: Core/Administration	2000100	182,634				0.94
45.025	440: Rural and Community Arts	2000250	533,156	333,112	658,959	521,400	1.53
45.025	497: American Rescue Plan Act Funds	2000250	4,197,860	7,572,403	20,308	-	0.5

**Federal Government Impact**

**1.) How much federal money received by the agency is tied to a mandate by the Federal Government?**

Federal funding is received through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and is not tied to a federal mandate.

**2.) Are any of those funds inadequate to pay for the federal mandate?**

N/A

**3.) What would the consequences be of ending all of the federal funded programs for your agency?**

Ending all of the federal funded programs for the agency would result in the cancellation of grants to organizations that serve 2,810,184 individuals. This would also impact the 200 individuals served by Folk and Traditional Arts programming; 1,350 individuals reached through America250 special initiatives; and 13,900 individuals impacted by the Oklahoma Arts and Health Conference.

**4.) How will your agency be affected by federal budget cuts in the coming fiscal year?**

In addition to a reduction in grant funding awarded to schools and nonprofit organizations across the state, the loss of federal funds would impact Oklahoma Arts Council administrative and personnel costs of \$536,289, directly affecting resources to sustain key employees and agency initiatives such as arts education, lifelong learning, and rural and community arts programs that include creative workforce development.

**5.) Has the agency requested any additional federal earmarks or increases?**

N/A

**FY 2026 Budgeted FTE**

Division #	Division Name	Supervisors	Non-Supervisors	\$0 - \$35 K	\$35 K - \$70 K	\$70 K - \$100K	\$100K+
1000850	Arts Education in Schools	1	1.5	0.5	1	1	
1000950	Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts		1.5	0.5	1		
2000100	Core Operations/Adminstration	2	1.5	0.5	1	1	
2000250	Rural and Community Arts Programs	2	2.5	0.5	3	1	
2000500	Visual Arts and Public Awareness		3		1	2	
2000750	Art in Public Places	1	1.5	0.5	1	1	
8800020	ISD DP - Community Prog						
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

**FY 2027 Budget Performance Review**  
**055 Oklahoma Arts Council**

Version Original  
 Lead Administrator: Amber Sharples, Executive Director

Date submitted 10/1/2025  
 Lead Financial Officer: April Kowandy, Finance Director

FTE History by Fiscal Year							
Division #	Division Name	FY 2026 Budgeted	FY 2026 YTD	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2017
1000850	Arts Education in Schools	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.5	2.0
1000950	Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
2000100	Core Operations/Adminstration	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0
2000250	Rural and Community Arts Programs	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
2000500	Visual Arts and Public Awareness	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.0	3.0
2000750	Art in Public Places	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.0
8800020	ISD DP - Community Prog	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>

Performance Measure Review						
	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	
<b>Art Education in Schools</b>						
<b>Measure I</b>						
Number of individual school sites receiving OAC support for arts education	872	1,016	827	664	618	
<b>Measure II</b>						
Number of students receiving instruction from OAC grant support for arts education programs	279,890	228,398	300,045	291,306	468,406	
<b>Measure III</b>						
Number of alternative education sites receiving OAC grant support for arts education programs	38	30	8	7	9	
<b>Measure IV</b>						
Number of teachers receiving training and resources in arts education	904	867	1,443	1,401	209	
<b>Arts Learning in Communities/Lifelong Learning in the Arts</b>						
<b>Measure V</b>						
Number of Oklahoma communities receiving support for Arts Learning in Communities	33	30	28	31	24	
<b>Masure VI</b>						
Number of sites served through the Arts Learning in Communities program	390	417	398	504	471	
<b>Measure VII</b>						
Number of individuals receiving arts instruction through Arts Learning in Communities	196,520	156,538	192,112	186,516	100,679	
<b>Core Operations/Administration</b>						
<b>Measure VIII</b>						
The percentage of administrative costs to total budget	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
<b>Measure IX</b>						
Percentage of agency reports filed by due date	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
<b>Rural and Community Arts Programs</b>						
<b>Measure X</b>						
Dollar amount of Community Arts Programs funded	\$1,794,630	\$1,759,912	\$1,865,439	\$1,594,304	\$1,371,201	
<b>Measure XI</b>						
Oklahoma counties served through OAC grants	75	61	60	62	50	
<b>Measure XII</b>						
Oklahoma communities served through OAC grants	112	110	151	127	84	
<b>Measure XIII</b>						
Number of attendees at networking opportunities	1,807	1,755	689	669	621	
<b>Visual Arts and Public Awareness</b>						
<b>Measure XIV</b>						
Number of nonprofit organizations and schools receiving funding through OAC grants	327	340	336	277	247	
<b>Measure XV</b>						
Number of communications distributed through print or electronically via email, e-newsletter, etc.	221,445	255,862	229,473	222,789	118,470	

Revolving Funds (200 Series Funds)				
	FY'23-25 Avg. Revenues	FY'23-25 Avg. Expenditures	June 2025 Balance	
<b>Revolving Fund I: 210</b>			\$3,502,180	
Art in Public Places - Art Commissioning Fund (program transferred from Oklahoma Historical Society to Oklahoma Arts Council effective July 1, 2015). Balances reflect multi-year projects that are encumbered and restricted for particular public art projects.	\$937,757		\$755,557	
<b>Revolving Fund II: 205</b>			\$930,844	
Art in Public Places - Administration & Long-term Maintenance (program transferred from Oklahoma Historical Society to Oklahoma Arts Council effective July 1, 2015). Balance of funds are obligated to the long-term maintenance and care of public art collection objects.	\$318,327		\$183,541	
<b>Revolving Fund III: 200</b>			\$121,663	
Core: This fund includes rebates from use of agency p-card, refunds to agency for travel, specific grant funds for projects such as Creative Aging, etc.	\$1,263		\$3,065	
<b>Revolving Fund IV: 200</b>			\$2,266	
VPA: Stillwater Airport Mural (Not Mandatory AIPP)	\$3,333		\$2,578	
<b>Revolving Fund V: 200</b>			\$10,961	
Captiol Centennial Artwork: Unused funds from Friends of the Capitol to the agency for future expenditures related to preservation and maintenance of Capitol artwork with priority to the exterior sculptures on the South Plaza	\$1,200		\$2,953	
<b>Revolving Fund VI: 200</b>			\$14,177	
Leadership Arts Program: Biennial program that equips approximately 30 individuals from throughout the state to become leaders and advocates for the arts in their communities. Agency receives tuition funds and utilizes revolving fund dollars toward program expenditures.	\$9,974		\$5,892	

## FY 2027 Budget Performance Review 055 Oklahoma Arts Council

Version Original  
Lead Administrator: Amber Sharples, Executive Director

Date submitted 10/1/2025  
Lead Financial Officer: April Kowandy, Finance Director

FY 2026 Current Employee Telework Summary

*List each agency physical location (not division), then report the number of employees associated with that location in the teleworking categories indicated. Use "No specified location" to account for remote employees not associated with a site. Use actual current employees (headcount), not budgeted or actual FTE.*