

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-2014 Performance Report

Oklahoma Historical Society

Agency Mission Statement:

The Oklahoma Historical Society is a state agency/private membership organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of Oklahoma and its people.

This mission statement was adopted by the OHS Board of Directors in 1989 and is reviewed each year as part of the planning process.

Lead Administrator:

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn is the executive director and the appointing authority for the OHS. Dr. Blackburn was named deputy director for operations in 1989 and executive director in 1999.

Governance:

As authorized in Title 53 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the OHS Board of Directors consists of 25 members. Thirteen of those members are elected by OHS members; twelve are appointed by the Governor. The three-year terms are staggered and apportioned by districts to ensure geographical balance.

The current elected members are: Jack Baker, OKC; Billie Fogarty, OKC; Bill Corbett, Tahlequah; Betty Crow, Altus; Deena Fisher, Woodward; Patricia Loughlin, Stillwater; Samonia Meredith, OKC; Betty Price, OKC; Emmy Stidham, Checotah; Lewis Stiles, Broken Bow; and Barbara Thompson, OKC; Donna Sharpe, Checotah.

The current appointed members are: Denzil Garrison, Bartlesville; Karen Keith, Tulsa; Robert Klemme, Enid; Daniel Lawrence, Norman; Leonard Logan, Vinita; Guy Logsdon, Tulsa; John Mabrey, Tulsa; Shirley Nero, Clearview; Ken Rainbolt, Durant; Roger Rinehart, El Reno; James Waldo, OKC; Martha Lippert, Edmond; and Sherry Beasley, OKC.

The president of the board appoints members to the following advisory committees: Museums and Sites; State Museum; Research; Collections; American Indian History; Historic Preservation; Executive; Annual Meeting; and Nominating. The full board meets quarterly.

Governance Accountability:

Attached are the minutes of the OHS Quarterly Board Meetings since July 1, 2010. The OHS Constitution and Bylaws stipulate that three consecutive absences will result in removal from the board of directors.

#### Modernization Efforts:

As part of the long range strategy to develop public/private partnerships, the OHS added several new enhancements during FY-13. There is great potential in a partnership with Ancestry.com to post Oklahoma genealogical materials on-line that generate a stream of revenue and enhance the brand of the OHS as a center for Indian research collections. A partnership with several oil companies, OIPA and OERB, resulted in a new museum exhibit and educational program. Other partnerships include a membership campaign with AARP, educational programming with Sonic: America's drive-in, and an archives project with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

#### Core Mission:

The OHS planning process throughout the year, offers recurring opportunities to evaluate adherence to the core mission of "collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma history." If a project does not meet the simple test of accomplishing at least one of those goals, it is eliminated at any stage of the planning process. If a project meets all three criteria, it moves up in terms of priority.

#### Private Alternatives:

The OHS works in a field that has little or no profit potential. The fees collected, either for research materials, admission to museums, or sales of books, typically cover only the costs of the materials for those services or products. The best alternatives to total state subsidies include management contracts with local non-profit groups who operate museums and sites and fund raising efforts to "collect, preserve, and share" where individuals, corporations, or foundations offer their support.