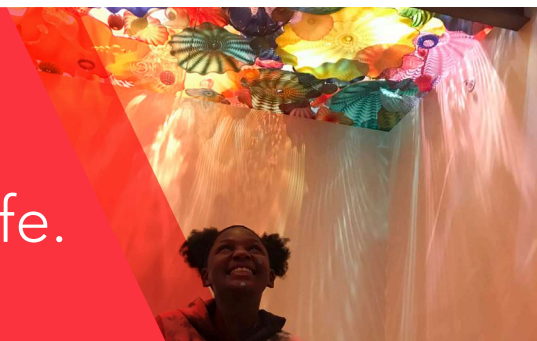


art matters

With **you** art can change a life.

Allied Arts Quarterly Newsletter Volume 17, Issue 4, Summer 2025



ALLIED ARTS 2025 CAMPAIGN RAISES MORE THAN \$3.8 MILLION

With the close of its fiscal year on June 30, the Allied Arts 2025 campaign raised \$3,881,700 — the most in its 54-year history.

Chaired by **Sally and Jeff Starling**, this year's record-breaking campaign received support from thousands of generous individual donors, corporate and foundation partners, and the community at large. Allied Arts Visionary donors, contributing \$100,000 or more to the campaign, include: the **Chickasaw Nation**, the **Kirkpatrick Family Fund**, **Devon Energy**, **OG&E**, and **Glenna and Dick Tanenbaum**.

Employee giving also played an important part in campaign success with local businesses encouraging their employees to donate collectively in support of the arts. The 2025 top workplaces include: **Continental Resources**, **OG&E**, **City of Oklahoma City Employees**, **Devon Energy**, **American Fidelity**, **Robinson Park**, **Duncan Oil**, **BancFirst**, **Employees of the State of Oklahoma**, and **Bank of Oklahoma**.

Sally
& Jeff
Starling,
2025
Campaign
Chairs



"The Allied Arts annual campaign means more than just reaching a financial goal. It is a testament to how deeply Oklahomans value creativity, expression and access to artistic experiences," said the Starlings. "Every dollar raised is a private donation, not public dollars, by individuals and businesses committed to the communities in which we live, work and play. And the donations make a difference, a difference allowing our neighbors to gain access to free and low-cost arts programs and experiences; a difference to students receiving vital arts education in their classrooms and afterschool sites; and a difference to communities supporting artistic excellence for all to enjoy."

At the Campaign Progress Celebration event on June 3 at the **Oklahoma City Ballet**, the Starlings thanked **Christian Keese** and **Larry Keigwin** for serving as Honorary Chairs and recognized volunteers on the Campaign Cabinet for their commitment and tireless dedication to strengthening our local arts nonprofit sector.

Although the campaign has ended, Allied Arts accepts donations year-round. For more information about the work and impact of Allied Arts, visit www.AlliedArtsOKC.com.

YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION

With your generous support, Allied Arts distributed \$3.2 million in its last fiscal year to 47 arts nonprofits based in central Oklahoma, with many having a statewide reach. Supported projects include workforce development via film industry workshops, in-school and afterschool arts experiences for low-income students, and healing arts programming for veterans, elderly populations and hospitalized youth.

The application window for the Fall 2025 Allied Arts Educational Outreach and Capacity-Building grant programs is currently open. The deadline to submit is **August 13**. For more information, visit alliedartsokc.com/grants or email Jennifer.Bryan@alliedartsokc.com.



Yihan Zhang, student pianist, wows the Campaign Celebration crowd.

GRANT DEFEHR RECOGNIZED WITH THE ZACH D. TAYLOR AWARD

At the last board meeting of the 2025 fiscal year, Allied Arts presented **Grant DeFehr, Cavalier Development**, with this year's Zach D. Taylor Award. DeFehr has served on the Allied Arts board for more than a decade, working on the annual fundraising campaign, leading the allocations finance process and serving as a grants review panelist. In addition, this year DeFehr sat on the executive committee as treasurer and participated in a benchmarking assessment project.

Named after one of Allied Arts' most tireless volunteers, leaders and advocates, the Zach D. Taylor Volunteer Award was created in 2009 after his untimely passing. The award is given on an annual basis to a volunteer who exhibits the qualities that made Zach a treasured member of the Allied Arts family including accountability, accessibility, inclusiveness, preparedness and receptiveness.

Alison Taylor presents the 2025 Zach D. Taylor Award to Grant DeFehr.



HONORING CHRISTIAN KEESEE AND LARRY KEIGWIN



(from left) Aimee Harlow, Christian Keesee, Glenna Tanenbaum, Larry Keigwin, Sally and Jeff Starling, Sunny Cearley

As part of the annual campaign, Allied Arts recognizes the philanthropic legacy of an exceptional local arts patron. In 2025, **Christian Keesee** and **Larry Keigwin** served as the campaign Honorary Chairs for their leadership, vision and philanthropy on behalf of arts education and access, public art and creative spaces.

On April 15, more than 200 Allied Arts supporters came together at **Oklahoma Contemporary** to celebrate their immeasurable impact on the arts. The event program featured a few of Keesee and Keigwin's "favorite things" including a mariachi welcome for guests, a spotlight on tap dance by **Metropolitan School of Dance** and a flamenco performance by **Spark! Creative Lab**!

FRANCES PITTS RECEIVES THE DEBORAH MCAULIFFE SENNER ARTS IN EDUCATION AWARD

As part of the Campaign Progress Celebration Event, Allied Arts presented the 2025 Deborah McAuliffe Senner Arts in Education Award to arts educator, advocate and leader **Frances Pitts**.

Named after the former Allied Arts president & CEO who served the organization for two decades, the award recognizes a staff member or volunteer from a nonprofit arts agency who has shown a commitment to enhancing access to quality arts education. Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, **Metropolitan School of Dance**, led by Pitts, trains more than 4,000 students annually through in-school workshops, studio classes and camps, and senior center visits.

As executive director, Pitts ensures that Metropolitan students have a safe place to express their creativity, dream big and use dance as a springboard for life skills training and mentorship.



Frances Pitts receives the 2025 Deborah McAuliffe Senner Arts in Education Award.

ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING ARTINI EVENT

On May 17, Allied Arts reimagined the **Oklahoma City Convention Center** into Old Havana, bursting with the energy, charm and vibrancy of the Cuban capitol. Chaired by **Kendra Alexander** and **Leah Roper** with the support of a dedicated committee, ARTini Havana Nights raised \$151,000 for the arts through event sponsorships, auction revenue and event ticket sales – the most successful ARTini to date!

More than 900 donors, volunteers and artists attended ARTini 2025, sampling custom martinis, viewing 168 pieces of art on exhibit and joining Latin dance demonstrations.



(clockwise from top)
Guests enjoy sampling
ARTinis and the art
auction; Event Co-Chairs
Kendra Alexander and
Leah Roper present
Deem Laow with Best
Artini; Shiny Mathew
and Brandon Graves

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

Deem Laow – *Best ARTini*
Flint
The Jones Assembly
The National
O Bar
OKC Convention Center – *Best Décor*
Paseo Grill
Taco Empire – *Best Food*
Tiny Bubbles Wine Bar
The Winston – *People's Choice*

PREMIER
ENTERTAINMENT
SPONSOR



PRESENTING
BAR SPONSOR



SAVE THE DATE FOR OPUS

Mark your calendar for **November 8** as OPUS XIII Club Cabaret: A New York Night will bring bold lights, Broadway flair and Big Apple attitude to the **Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club**.

Chaired by **Dominique & Travis C. Mason** and **Katie & Taylor Shinn**, this year's OPUS promises an electric spin on the event's storied tradition, blending artistic elegance with that unmistakable NYC edge. The show-stopping event includes a dazzling variety show, New York-inspired cocktails and cuisine, exclusive auction packages, and undeniable energy drawing from the heartbeat and soul of the City That Never Sleeps.

The last OPUS sold out quickly, so don't wait to confirm your sponsorship or buy your tickets. For more information, email Sarah.Wickersham@alliedartsokc.com or visit opusokc.com.





ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH
ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS

1015 N. Broadway, Ste. 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

www.AlliedArtsOKC.com

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City
Permit #581

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2025 Campaign Wrap-Up
- Your Investment in Action
- Allied Arts Awards
- Honorary Chair Event
- Record-Breaking ARTini
- Save the Date: OPUS XIII



@ALLIEDARTSOKC



Summer is in full swing, and the season is packed with vibrant arts, culinary and shopping experiences you can enjoy with your OKCityCard! Whether you're looking to stay cool indoors or soak up the sunshine, we've rounded up some of the best ways to support the arts and local businesses this summer season with the OKCityCard.

Catch a live, family-friendly musical performance on Saturday nights in Bricktown! With different hosts each week, talented local performers and the incomparable **Oklahoma Opry** band, the show has been proclaimed "Oklahoma's Official Country Music Show." Use your OKCityCard for **2-for-1 or 50% off admission**.

Make it a night out and have dinner before the show in Bricktown! Enjoy a **complimentary appetizer with the purchase of two entrées** at **Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse**, or get **15% off** your food order at **Pearl's Crabtown**.

School may be out, but the learning doesn't have to stop! Keep creative and curious minds engaged with your OKCityCard. Redeem **10% off classes and camps** for kids of all ages at **Edmond Fine Arts Institute**, **2-for-1 or 50% off admission** at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, and **buy 1, get 1 admission** at the **Oklahoma City Zoo and Science Museum Oklahoma**.

The **Oklahoma State Fair** will be here before we know it! Redeem **2-for-1 adult outside gate admission at regular price** with your OKCityCard. Tickets must be purchased at the OKC Fairgrounds Box Office between August 1 and September 10; two ticket limit per cardholder.

VISIT OKCITYCARD.COM TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF PARTNERS AND DISCOUNTS.