

art matters

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

Allied Arts Quarterly Newsletter Volume 18, Issue 1, Fall 2025



ALLIED ARTS WELCOMES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP & MEMBERS

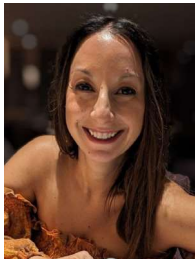
Allied Arts is thrilled to introduce the newest members to our Board of Directors, who bring fresh energy, enthusiasm and expertise on behalf of the cultural nonprofit sector. We are excited to share that long-standing board member Ashley Gockstetter has stepped into an Executive Committee role, helping to guide grantmaking processes and strengthen key partnerships with our member agencies and grantees.

These new additions paired with the steady leadership of Board Chair **Aimee Harlow**, Vice Chair **Max Myers**, Treasurer **Grant DeFehr** and Secretary **Taylor Shinn** positions Allied Arts for another banner year in championing the arts in central Oklahoma.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Shannon Foster
Newmark
Robinson Park



Ilana Keeling
Robben Law



Christopher Lloyd
Flight



Dr. Bob Remondino
Oklahoma Spine
Hospital



Fawn Sachleban
Regent Bank



Shelley Shelby
Continental
Resources



Tyler Smith
BancFirst

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER



Ashley Gockstetter
Love's Travel Stops

BOARD MEMBER BUS TOUR

As part of our annual board member orientation, Allied Arts visited three member agencies to experience their mission and work first-hand.

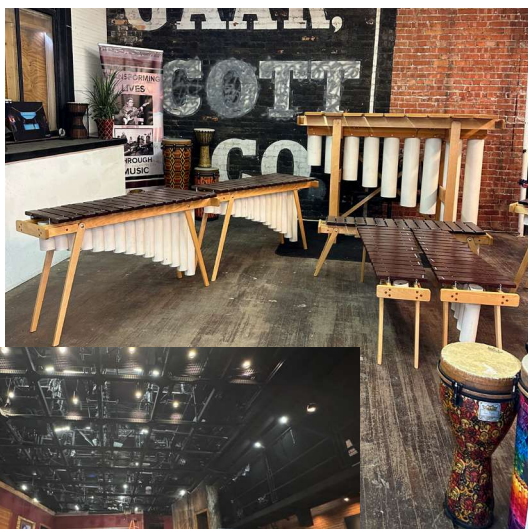
The first stop was a tour of **Oklahoma Opry's** new space in the heart of Bricktown. Every Saturday night, the Opry band performs with new weekly hosts and local entertainers representing a wide range of genres. Beyond the stage, the Opry is committed to making music accessible through its Granville



Oklahoma
Shakespeare
acting lessons

(continued)

BOARD MEMBER BUS TOUR (CON'T)



Community Music School which provides quality instruction for just 50-cents per class for low-income students and guitar lessons for veterans paired with VA-supported therapy through its Strings of Valor program.

The bus traveled from Bricktown to the Paseo Arts District for a stop at **Oklahoma Shakespeare**. In addition to touring their intimate Black Box indoor theatre and outdoor Oklahoma Shakespeare Gardens, board members received an interactive lesson on acting out the Bard's historic yet still relevant words. Complementing its year-round theatrical offerings, Oklahoma Shakespeare programs include artists in residence to bring Shakespeare's works to life for young students and a summer theatre camp.



(From top) Oklahoma Opry marimbas and drums; Lyric Theatre at the Plaza

The tour ended in the Plaza District at **Lyric Theatre**, the award-winning State Theatre of Oklahoma. Board members toured Lyric's prop shop and costume departments, witnessing the behind-the-scenes artistry to bring productions to the stage. Lyric's Musical Interactive program brings live theatre to elementary and middle schools statewide, reaching every Oklahoma county last year and offered at no cost.

YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION

Allied Arts will distribute more than \$2.9 million in grants this fiscal year to central Oklahoma arts and culture nonprofits. Of that amount, \$2.45 million has been allocated to the Allied Arts 25 member agencies as unrestricted awards, using the funds where they are most needed to advance their missions. Allocations grants are directed toward the advancement of organizational health and sustainability, youth and family outreach, and ensuring access and inclusion with the arts.

The remaining funds are awarded through the Allied Arts Educational Outreach and Capacity-Building grant programs. In the first grantmaking cycle of the fiscal year, Allied Arts is distributing \$144,975 for youth arts and community outreach projects, and \$67,229 in support of infrastructure growth and strengthening efforts.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AWARD RECIPIENTS

A to Z Productions /	Oklahoma Children's Theatre
Norman Philharmonic	Oklahoma City Ballet
Arts Council Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City Museum of Art
Aspiring Attitudes	Oklahoma City Philharmonic
Black Liberated Arts Center, Inc.	Oklahoma Contemporary
Canterbury Voices	Oklahoma Opry
Cimarron Opera	Oklahoma Shakespeare
deadCenter Film	Oklahoma Youth Orchestras
Edmond Fine Arts	Paseo Arts Association
El Sistema Oklahoma	Perpetual Motion Dance
Jazz in June	Prairie Dance Theatre
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma	RACE Dance Collective
Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art	Red Earth Inc
Metropolitan School of Dance	The Sooner Theatre
Norman Arts Council	SPARK! Creative Lab
Norman Firehouse Art Center	
OK City Chorus	

CAPACITY-BUILDING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Arts Council Oklahoma City
Cimarron Opera
deadCenter Film
Edmond Historical Society (Edmond History Museum)
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
Metropolitan School of Dance
Oklahoma Children's Theatre
Oklahoma City Ballet
Oklahoma City Repertory Theater (OKC Rep)
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center
Oklahoma Mural Syndicate
Oklahoma Museums Association
Oklahoma Opry
Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park
Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
Paseo Arts Association
Perpetual Motion Dance
Prairie Dance Theatre
The Uncommon Ground Sculpture Park

CIRCLE CLUB CONNECTS WITH OKC BALLET UNDER THE STARS AT SCISSORTAIL PARK

Prior to the **OKC Ballet's** annual Ballet Under the Stars, Allied Arts hosted Ballet & Bites for our Circle Club members, a prelude to the community performance at **Scissortail Park**. The family-friendly event was enjoyed by Circle Club donors and their children, grandchildren and pets! Circle Club members donate \$1,000 or more to the Allied Arts annual campaign. For more information on Circle Club and the next membership event, please email Jennifer.Bowman@alliedartsokc.com.

Janelle Archer and Leah Roper enjoy the event at Ballet Under the Stars.



OPUS SOLD OUT

Tables are sold out for the Allied Arts OPUS Club Cabaret: A New York Night. Chaired by **Dominique C. & Travis C. Mason** and **Katie & Taylor Shinn**, this year's fundraising gala will transform the **Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club** into the Big Apple with New York-inspired food, drink and entertainment. Openings are not guaranteed, but please email Sarah.Frank@alliedartsokc.com to be put on a waiting list for tickets.



SAVE THE DATE: ARTINI 2026

Mark your calendar for the Allied Arts annual martini tasting and art auction! ARTini will take place on May 2 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center.

Follow @alliedartsokc on Instagram to get the latest ARTini updates, including the 2026 theme announcement!

EMPLOYEE GIVING UPDATE

Allied Arts is proud to participate again in this year's **Heart of the City and State Charitable Campaigns**. Together, employees at the City of Oklahoma City and State of Oklahoma raised more than \$85,000 for Allied Arts last year!

If you are an employee of the City of Oklahoma City or State of Oklahoma, please consider designating your gift to Allied Arts using #9100 or to one of the agencies under the Allied Arts federation.



Allied Arts Heart of the City table

UNVEILING THE 2026 STEP-UP ARTIST & ARTWORK

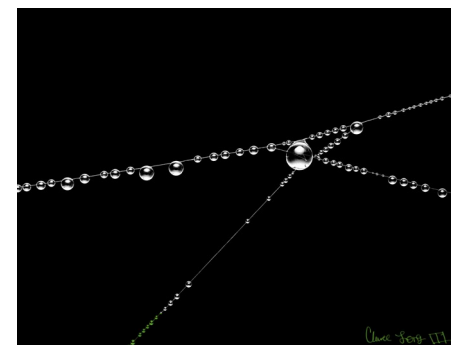
Employee giving is a cornerstone of Allied Arts fundraising efforts, accounting for 22% of the total raised in our 2025 campaign. As a thank you for stepping up for the arts, workplace giving donors who contribute \$200 or more can opt to receive an original piece of art by an Oklahoma artist.

Allied Arts is thrilled to announce that Clarence Long III has been named the 2026 Step-Up Artist. Wispy Junction, an 8" x 10" print capturing dew drops gently balancing on a tightly wound spider web in the Myriad Gardens, showcases his mastery of macro photography.

Long's work ranges from extreme close-ups of plants and insects to dramatically zoomed-in shots of colorful items and objects that form images resembling abstract expressionist paintings.

An alum of the inaugural Artist Entrepreneur Program through Allied Arts member agency Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition, Long will also receive the Emerging Artist Award from the Paseo Arts Association this year. Explore more of Long's artwork at clarencelongphoto.com.

If your company is interested in hosting an Allied Arts employee giving campaign, please email Courtney.Lavender@alliedartsokc.com.



Wispy Junction by Clarence Long III



ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH
ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS

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www.AlliedArtsOKC.com

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IN THIS ISSUE:

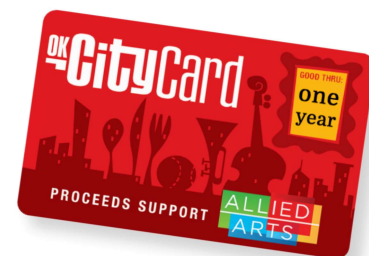
- New Board and Executive Committee
- Your Investment in Action
- Circle Club, OPUS and ARTini Events
- Employee Giving Update and 2026 Step-Up Artwork



@ALLIEDARTSOKC

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH!

What better way to celebrate our rich and vibrant cultural landscape than watching a performance, viewing an exhibit or enrolling in a class! With your OKCityCard, you can save while exploring our arts scene and surrounding businesses also partnering with Allied Arts on the entertainment discount card.



On Halloween Eve, **Canterbury Voices** presents Dies Irae: Songs of the Shadows which will feature spine-tingling music including the thunderous drama of Orff's O Fortuna to the ghostly echoes of Mozart's Dies Irae and the dark delights of Sondheim's Sweeney Todd. Get **2-for-1 tickets** in the Civic Center Music Hall mezzanine and grand tier with your OKCityCard. Make it a date night with dinner and a show at **Flint** which offers **10% off** when presenting your OKCityCard.

As the second show of its 42nd season, **Carpenter Square Theatre** presents Beer for Breakfast, a play about four middle-aged buddies who reunite for a guys' weekend. The reminiscing is full of fun, music and laughs – until the wife of an absent friend

appears unexpectedly. The performance runs from October 17 to November 12. Before the show, get into the spirit at **Anthem Brewing** which offers **10% taproom purchases**.

Oklahoma Contemporary's galleries, Sculpture Garden and Campbell Art Park are always free and open to the public. The latest exhibition, ArtNow 2025: Materials and Boundaries, is an exploration of Oklahoman identity showcasing work created by contemporary artists utilizing the themes of place and self with experimental materials and new practices. After touring the galleries, present your OKCityCard at **Shop Contemporary** for **10% of your purchase**, and grab coffee and fresh food offerings at **Café Contemporary** for **10% off your order**.

VISIT OKCITYCARD.COM TO SEE ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN EXPERIENCE
THE ARTS THIS NATIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH AND BEYOND.