

# ART MATTERS

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

ALLIED ARTS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2026



## KICKING OFF THE 2026 CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS



Clarence Long III, 2026 Step-Up Artist with Susan Davis Jordan and Farooq Karim, 2026 Campaign Co-Chairs

Allied Arts officially launched its 2026 fundraising campaign on February 3 at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art with more than 200 supporters in attendance. At the Campaign Kickoff event, co-chairs **Susan Davis Jordan**, Bank of Oklahoma, and **Farooq Karim**, REES, announced that more than \$1 million had been raised toward the \$3.85 million goal.

The Allied Arts annual campaign supports more than 40 local arts nonprofits which provide world-class programming in our backyard while also expanding access to the arts for rural and underserved Oklahomans throughout the state. Allied Arts funding reaches more than one million people each year including youth, families, veterans and people living with disabilities through in-school teaching artists, touring productions, and healing music, visual art and dance programs.

In 2026, Allied Arts marks more than five decades of serving as central Oklahoma's leading advocate, funder and champion for the nonprofit cultural sector. "Allied Arts has been strengthening central Oklahoma's cultural landscape for 55 years, and this anniversary gives us a meaningful opportunity to build on that legacy," said Jordan.

Throughout the Kickoff event, guests enjoyed performances by Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, Oklahoma Opry and Perpetual Motion Dance, organizations supported by Allied Arts. During the program, Jordan and Karim premiered the 2026 campaign video, which features three powerful stories of the arts changing lives. Produced by Griffin Media, the video is shown during the campaign at local businesses participating in the Allied Arts employee giving program, which generates nearly one-quarter of all funds raised.

Joining Jordan and Karim as part of this year's campaign leadership, Allied Arts will recognize **Leslie and Cliff Hudson** as Honorary Chairs, celebrating their long-standing service and leadership in public health, education and the arts.



Oklahoma Opry during the Kickoff Event program



Scan to support the 2026 campaign today.



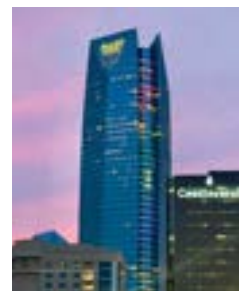
Leslie and Cliff Hudson, 2026 Honorary Chairs

"I have been fortunate to work with many of our local arts organizations, and I have seen the impact they have when the community invests in them. The Allied Arts campaign is a chance to come together and ensure that the arts remain accessible, vibrant and transformative for all of us," said Karim.

Since the Kickoff event, Allied Arts has raised a total of \$2 million. To join the effort to support creativity, arts education and cultural outreach programs in our community, scan the QR code and make your gift today.

## CELEBRATING ALLIED ARTS MONTH

In addition to serving as the official launch of the campaign, February is celebrated as Allied Arts Month. On February 10, **Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt** proclaimed the month during a City Council meeting. The downtown Oklahoma City skyline marked the occasion as well with the Devon Tower projecting the Allied Arts logo on its building, and Bank of Oklahoma and BancFirst illuminating their buildings green in honor of the Allied Arts 55th anniversary.



## YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION

At its January board meeting, the Allied Arts board of directors voted to approve the distribution of \$206,188 in grants to 35 arts and culture 501c3 nonprofit organizations. This marks the second grantmaking cycle of this fiscal year, supporting youth education and community outreach projects as well as organizational capacity-building efforts.

Allied Arts will distribute more than \$2.9 million in grants this fiscal year to central Oklahoma arts and culture nonprofits through two cycles of Educational Outreach and Capacity-Building grants and via Allocations grants to its 25 member agencies.

For more information, visit [alliedartsokc.com/grants](http://alliedartsokc.com/grants).

### Capacity-Building Recipients

Organization	Project Name	Award
<b>Black Liberated Arts Center (BLAC), Inc.</b>	Kennedy Center Partners in Education Annual Meeting	\$5,000
<b>Carpenter Square Theatre</b>	Audience Development	\$3,000
<b>Cimarron Opera</b>	Cimarron Opera Bylaws & Board Development	\$3,150
<b>Co.llective Arts Theater Co.</b>	2026 Brand and Marketing Strategy	\$5,000
<b>The Jewel Theater Foundation NOW Inc.</b>	FY26 Technical Capacity Building	\$5,000
<b>Metropolitan School of Dance, Incorporated</b>	Project Higher Standards	\$5,000
<b>Norman Firehouse Art Center</b>	Staff Professional Development	\$5,000
<b>Norman Music Alliance</b>	Festival Pro Premium Subscription	\$3,588
<b>Oklahoma Arts Institute</b>	Celebrating 50 Years: Digital Merchandising Expansion	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma City Philharmonic</b>	League of American Orchestras National Conference	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Youth Orchestras</b>	League of American Orchestras National Conference	\$4,450
<b>Oklahomans for the Arts</b>	Oklahoma Arts Advocate Expansion	\$5,000
<b>Perpetual Motion Dance</b>	Taking Flight Toward Home	\$5,000
<b>Red Earth</b>	Printer Service	\$5,000
<b>Sooner Theatre</b>	Audience Seating	\$5,000
<b>Southern Plains Productions</b>	Development of a Cohesive Visual Branding System	\$5,000
<b>SPARK! Creative Lab</b>	Marketing & Administrative Capacity	\$2,500

### Educational Outreach Recipients

Organization	Project Name	Award
<b>Arts Council Oklahoma City</b>	Arts in Schools: Music Education at Western Gateway	\$5,000
<b>Aspiring Attitudes Inc.</b>	Scholarship Fund	\$5,000
<b>Canterbury Voices</b>	Canterbury Youth Voices Tenor-Bass Choir Launch	\$5,000
<b>Carpenter Square Theatre</b>	"Ken Ludwig's Moriarty" Performance and Workshops	\$2,300
<b>Cimarron Opera</b>	Growth of Opera Club and Opera Chorus at the AWE	\$5,000
<b>Creative Music Academy</b>	Arts & Innovation Youth Collective	\$2,500
<b>deadCenter Film</b>	deadCenter University Initiatives for High School Students	\$5,000
<b>Edmond Fine Arts</b>	Creative Beginnings	\$5,000
<b>Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma</b>	Lyric's Musical Interactive Touring Program	\$5,000
<b>Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art</b>	Break the Frame	\$5,000
<b>Metro Youth Theatre of Oklahoma Inc.</b>	MYT Presents Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	\$2,500
<b>Metropolitan School of Dance, Incorporated</b>	African Moves-Not thru Words	\$5,000
<b>Norman Arts Council</b>	Arts Education Scholarships	\$5,000
<b>Norman Firehouse Art Center</b>	Children's Summer Art Program (CSAP)	\$5,000
<b>Norman Music Alliance</b>	Norman Music Alliance's 2026 Kids Fest	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Arts Institute</b>	The 50th Annual Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute - Scholarships for Oklahoma City Students	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma City Ballet</b>	Dance Discovery BRIDGE Scholarships	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma City Museum of Art</b>	OKCMOA Healing Arts Outreach	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center</b>	Camp Contemporary Scholarships	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Opry</b>	Strings of Valor Guitar Package Project	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park</b>	NeverYounger Spring 2026	\$5,000
<b>Oklahoma Youth Orchestras</b>	Special Scholarship Program	\$5,000
<b>Perpetual Motion Dance</b>	A Woman's Work	\$5,000
<b>RACE Dance Collective</b>	RACE Academy	\$5,000
<b>Red Earth</b>	Red Earth Podcast	\$5,000
<b>Science Museum Oklahoma</b>	Fossil Day 2026	\$2,200
<b>Sooner Theatre</b>	Scholarships for Students	\$5,000
<b>Southern Plains Productions</b>	StoryPop: School Outreach	\$5,000

## ALLIED ARTS WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL ARTIST MAX ZORN

Allied Arts welcomed internationally renowned Dutch-German artist **Max Zorn** to Oklahoma City on January 15 for an exclusive evening at the Vault in the First National Center. With underwriting support from UBS, Allied Arts major supporters and volunteer leadership experienced a talk and live demonstration from Zorn, offering a rare, behind-the-scenes opportunity to experience a contemporary artist's creative process come to life.

Zorn is known worldwide for creating luminous artworks exclusively from ordinary packing tape, meticulously cutting and layering the material onto acrylic glass. When backlit,

the tape transforms into glowing, sepia-toned imagery reminiscent of cinematic scenes, a technique that has earned Zorn international acclaim and consistently sold-out exhibitions.

"The event highlights Allied Arts' role in connecting our community to innovative, contemporary art experiences while continuing to build Oklahoma City's reputation as a destination for world-class arts engagement," said **Sunny Cearley**, President and CEO of Allied Arts. "Experiences like this bring people closer to the arts and elevate the cultural vitality of our community."



Max Zorn Artwork



Zorn demonstrates for guests

## CELEBRATING LESLIE & CLIFF HUDSON

As part of the annual campaign, Allied Arts recognizes the philanthropic legacy of an exceptional local arts patron. In 2026, **Leslie and Cliff Hudson** serve as the campaign Honorary Chairs for their leadership, vision and philanthropy on behalf of education, social and economic quality, public health and the arts.

On March 30, more than 150 Allied Arts supporters came together at Oklahoma Contemporary to celebrate their immeasurable impact on the arts. The event showcased many of the arts organizations with which the Hudsons participate, including a joyous welcome from Canterbury Voices singing Broadway hits, grab-and-go art activity sets from Oklahoma City Museum of Art and remarks by Emily Comisar, executive director of Oklahoma City Repertory Theater. Additionally, guests heard from Dr. Patrick McGough from the Oklahoma City County Health Department where Leslie has lent her expertise on behalf of public health.



Valerie Naifeh, Debbie Harper, Annie Bohanon, Jane Thompson



Farooq Karim, Cliff and Leslie Hudson, Susan Davis Jordan

## ARTINI: SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

Tickets are now on sale for the fundraising event of the year - **ARTini: Shaken Not Stirred!** Chairs **Maison Archer Mardt** and **Kenton Shaw** invite you to join them on May 2 at the Oklahoma Convention Center for a stylish evening of intrigue, fashion, art and, of course, martinis.

The metro's favorite lounges will put their creative twist on the classic Bond cocktail - each competing for your vote to be named People's Choice winner. Artwork from more than 100 local

artists will also be on exhibit and available for auction, making it an unforgettable night to support the arts while mixing, mingling and discovering your new favorite artist.

To purchase your tickets and for more information, visit [ARTiniokc.com](http://ARTiniokc.com). Interested in a VIP experience? Sponsorships are still available.

Email [sarah.frank@alliedartsokc.com](mailto:sarah.frank@alliedartsokc.com) to learn more.



## OKCityCard

Spring brings plenty of opportunities to get out and explore our vibrant community. From one of the top 25 arts festivals in the country, garden planning and unique shopping finds, your OKCityCard can help you enjoy the season while supporting our local arts nonprofits.

Below are a few of the seasonal offers to inspire your next outing.

Festival of the Arts, Oklahoma City's annual rite of spring and Arts Council Oklahoma City's signature event, kicks off on April 23. Your OKCityCard unlocks 25% off Festival merchandise. There is no better way to commemorate your attendance with a piece of art, delish noshes and some Fest merch!

Turn your outdoor space into a spring oasis with the OKCityCard. TLC Garden Centers provides 10% off on non-discounted items and Trochta's Flower & Garden Center discounts plants at 20% for OKCityCard holders.

Refresh your style this spring with the OKCityCard. Urbane Home & Lifestyle offers 10% off storewide - perfect for finding seasonal accents that brighten your home and wardrobe.

Visit [okcitycard.com](http://okcitycard.com) to see the full list of partners and discounts.

