

Ohio Arts Council

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- The enacted funding level will allow just under \$9 million in Ohio Arts Council grants in FY 2006 and 2007
- OLGA, a web-based grants management system is now operational, shortening the application process and saving an estimated \$58,000 per year

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) was established in 1965 to foster and encourage the development of the arts across Ohio and the preservation of the state's cultural heritage. With funds from the state of Ohio, the federal National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the U.S. Department of Education, the agency administers grant programs that provide financial assistance to artists, to arts organizations, and to communities; the agency also provides services that enhance the growth of the arts.

The agency's activities can be separated into two program series: Arts Programming and Percent for Arts. The Arts Programming program series consists of three programs: Arts Programs (subsidies), Art Services, and the Riffe Gallery. The Percent for Arts program series is a legislatively mandated activity administered by the Ohio Arts Council.

Agency in Brief

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Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
32	\$13,261,727	\$13,261,727	\$11,238,161	\$11,238,161	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Ohio Arts Council in August 2005. Two staff positions were unfilled at the time of the report.

The Arts Council consists of 19 members, with 2 each appointed by the House and Senate and 15 appointed by the Governor. The agency's executive director is appointed by, and reports to, the Council. The agency's executive director currently oversees an administrative, clerical, and program staff of 32 employees, though 2 additional employees were recently lost to attrition. The Arts Council is replacing those positions to maintain a staff of 34 through the FY 2006-2007 biennium.

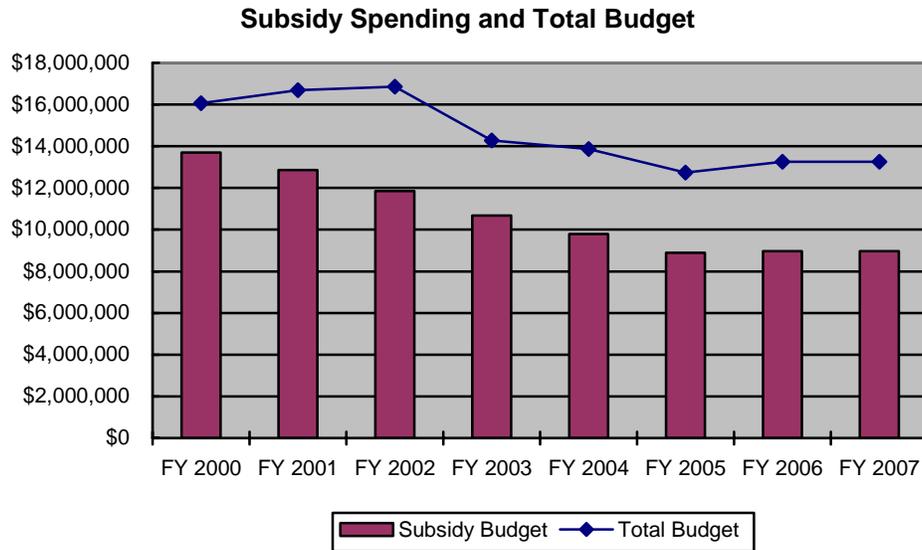
Vetoed Provisions

There are no vetoed provisions for the Ohio Arts Council.

Budget Issues

The OAC's total budget, as enacted by Am. Sub. H.B. 66, increases by 4.14%. The larger total budget reflects increases in the appropriation for the Percent for Arts program based on the state's expected capital spending and the possible receipt of federal grant moneys. Program subsidies funding remains at FY 2005 levels, the first time the subsidies budget has not decreased in several biennia.

Funding for staff, however, has decreased by 5.0%. Budget cuts in the last two biennia have reduced the Arts Council staff from a high of 40 in FY 2002 to 32 in FY 2005. Supplementing GRF funds with federal grant moneys, the Arts Council staff hopes to replace two currently unfilled positions and sustain a staffing level of 34 FTEs in the upcoming biennium.



ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

Program Series 1

Arts Programming

Purpose: Governs the majority of the Ohio Arts Council functions, including its grants making activities and the management of the Riffe Gallery.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Arts Programming program series, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	370-100	Personal Services	\$1,798,235	\$1,798,235
GRF	370-200	Maintenance	\$459,746	\$459,746
GRF	370-300	Equipment	\$4,700	\$4,700
GRF	370-502	Program Subsidies	\$8,975,480	\$8,975,480
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$11,238,161	\$11,238,161
General Services Fund				
460	370-602	Gifts and Donations	\$400,000	\$400,000
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$400,000	\$400,000
Federal Special Revenue Fund				
314	370-601	Federal Programs	\$1,537,200	\$1,537,200
Federal Special Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$1,537,200	\$1,537,200
Total Funding: Arts Programming			\$13,175,361	\$13,175,361

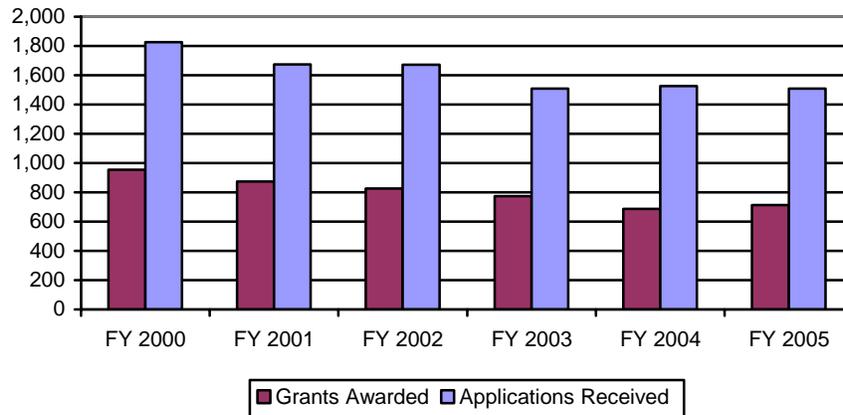
Arts Programs

Program Description: This program supports the Ohio Arts Council grants opportunities, funded through GRF appropriation item 370-502, Program Subsidies.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted budget results in a slight (<0.1%) increase in grants funding in FYs 2006 and 2007 over FY 2005. The number and size of arts grant awards will be similar to that seen in the last biennium though much reduced from previous years. General operating support for the larger arts organizations across the state has declined and access to the arts for smaller organizations, rural communities, educational programs for children and adults, and community development has been curtailed. Ohio Arts Council support of all major institutions has declined 6.9% between FY 2004 and FY 2006. The decline of support in the largest four institutions is even more marked: Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (-17.4%), the Cleveland Museum of Art (-15.7%), the Musical Arts Association/Cleveland Orchestra (-17.6%), and the Playhouse Square Foundation (-17.5%).

As seen in recent years, as the total amount available for grant awards declines, the number of applications received is also affected, as shown by the chart below. The Council expects that potential applicants will continue to be dissuaded from applying with the knowledge that their application is less likely to be approved and that the possible funding amounts are diminished.

Ohio Arts Council Grant History



Arts Services

Program Description: The Arts Services program provides support to public, individual, and organizational efforts that encourage the growth of the arts and arts education in the state.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: Over the past two biennia, the Ohio Arts Council has reduced services and staff supporting initiatives of this program. Reductions of 5% in both the Personal Services and Maintenance appropriation items in FY 2006, as enacted, will continue to hinder the level of services provided through the Arts Services program.

Notwithstanding the reduction of 5% in appropriation item 370-100, Personal Services, the Council anticipates maintaining a full staff of 34 FTEs. Once again, the Council will utilize Basic State Plan moneys from the federal Partnership Grant to supplement personnel expenditures in the face of declining state funding. Programming will continue to operate at a reduced level. In the past biennium, the agency placed some programs on hiatus and publications have been reduced or made available strictly as on-line publications. Fortunately, the introduction of the On-line Grant Applications (OLGA) program has eliminated the printing of thousands of documents, saving the Council an estimated \$58,000 per year, to some extent mitigating the impact of the 5.0% cut in appropriation item 370-200, Maintenance.

Riffe Gallery

Program Description: This program provides for the management of the Riffe Gallery in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, owned by the Ohio Building Authority. This gallery is free to the public and offers four to five visual arts exhibitions each year.

Implication of the Enacted Budget: With previous budget cuts, the Riffe Gallery is now closed on Mondays and the agency has not filled a Riffe Gallery Education Coordinator position. The enacted funding level will permit the Riffe Gallery to remain open, but it will continue to have reduced hours of operation.

Program Series 2**Percent for Arts**

Purpose: Administers the Percent for Arts program.

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the Percent for Arts program series, as well as the enacted funding level.

Percent for Art Administration

Program Description: The program satisfies R.C. 3379.10, which requires that 1% of the appropriation for new or renovated buildings with a total appropriation of \$4 million or more be granted for the placement of art in the structure.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Services Fund				
4B7	370-603	Percent for Art Acquisitions	\$86,366	\$86,366
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$86,366	\$86,366
Total Funding: Percent for Art Administration			\$86,366	\$86,366

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted appropriation level for FY 2006 and FY 2007 is 25.5% higher than actual FY 2005 spending. This program is dependent on the size and funding schedule of capital projects and is subject to change.