



First submittal on August 23, 2022 by Camille Wilson White



OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL
2023 SCOPE OF SERVICES
PROGRAM GOALS AND MEASURES

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) is honored to submit its 2023 Scope of Services. OPAAC is grateful and appreciative for the government's support for the arts as demonstrated by the Village of Oak Park.

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. ArtsFunds Grants

OPAAC will administer the ArtsFunds grant program, which provides grants to local Oak Park not-for-profit organizations for operation and/or grant support. OPAAC will award funds based on ArtsFunds criteria including artistic and application merit and to what degree the proposed work contributes to the arts community. Grants are awarded to approximately 25 local organizations that offer programs or performances in the community.

OPAAC is very proud to award \$190,150 in regranting funds to **33** organizations in 2022. The organizations provide arts programs, classes, arts education and exhibits to the community. Many of them are well known on a national and state level. Visitors travel to the Village to see concerts, take tours of architecturally significant buildings and homes. This level of funding allowed OPAAC to substantially increase the amount of the grant awards for this year. The amounts range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. These grants will help to ease the burden caused by COVID 19. All arts organizations are still struggling to survive in the aftermath of the pandemic. The gift of Village ARPA funds is truly a tremendous gift for arts organizations served by OPAAC. The Arts Council is honored to receive this generous ARPA funding from the Village of Oak Park.

2. Community Awareness/ e-Art newsletter

OPAAC will create and distribute the e-Art newsletter, an electronic listing of the latest art and cultural happenings in the tri-Village area.

The newsletter will be issued every two weeks. It is also a resource for art space listings, employment opportunities, auditions and exhibit space.

e-ART is the popular online news listing that is issued on a bi weekly basis. OPAAC has only received compliments about the service. Users eagerly anticipate a new issue. Arts organizations and individual artists are all fans. They appreciate the publicity given to their upcoming events at no cost. The listing gives a 2 week account of performances, auditions, calls to artists, employment opportunities, live/work spaces to rent along with highlighting artists or arts organizations doing extraordinary things.

3. Public Art Programs

OPAAC will be responsible for the management and execution of the following duties to encourage and maintain Public Art throughout the community:

The OPAAC Board of Directors discusses public art at every board meeting. Board members are actively engaged and take part in public art ideas and all projects for the Village.

3.1 Recommend to the Village President and Board of Trustees as part of the OPAAC Annual Budget submission an annual designation of funds to the Public Art acquisition and maintenance fund for the acquisition of new public art and the repair and maintenance of the existing public art collection, together with a supporting acquisition and maintenance plan on cost analysis.

OPAAC is recommending a budget of \$60,000 for 2023. More artwork is needed in some of the Village's business districts. Downtown Oak Park, Madison St., North Ave. and the Oak Park Arts District. OPAAC is recommending the stipend for the Village Community Mini Mural artists be increased by \$500 to \$1,500 per mural. Artists put in a great amount of work on the design and the installation of the art. The stipend of \$1,000 has been the same since the project began in 2010. There will also be a need for repairs of viaduct art and restorations on some of the mini murals.

3.2 Maintain a detailed inventory and record of all existing public art in the Village, including site drawings, photographs, design explanations of the piece, the artist's name and the year of creation, obtain appraisals if needed, artist waivers, evidence of ownership and purchase price, whenever applicable and/or feasible.

OPAAC keeps photos, locations, and artist names on all public art owned

by the Village. There are no formal appraisals of the art at this time.

- 3.3 **Inspect the condition of existing public artworks on at least a tri-annual basis and to communicate maintenance problems and/or suggested solutions to owner, artist or other person or entity designated as responsible for the artwork, or to recommend removal if maintenance efforts are unsuccessful in the case of privately owned artwork. Report on these inspections in required quarterly reports.**
- 3.4 OPAAC has restored the metal base of the sculpture, "Arched Rings" located at Ontario and Harlem. The base had worn through to the bolts and screws of the sculpture. OPAAC contacted a noted sculptor to make the repairs and also remove graffiti. OPAAC also asked Trader's Joes to make an electrical source available for the artist along with parking in their lot. Their store manager was very helpful with all the needs of the artist.
- 3.5 OPAAC coordinated the painting of the marquis signs on Harrison St./Oak Park Arts District. A woman owned business was hired and her crew did an excellent job. They used the original color of the marquis, Public Works planted bushes and perennials, replaced worn out lighting and everything looks great.
- 3.6 **Provide public education on existing public artworks throughout the village.**

The OPAAC provides public education via press releases run in local newspapers, e-Art, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

- 3.7 **Approve and monitor the installation of all public art sponsored by not-for-profit organizations located on Village owned property.**

The Eagle Scouts led by one of the art teachers at Oak Park River Forest High School approached OPAAC about a project. They were seeking permission to restore a mural under the Harvey Ave viaduct. The area was in very poor condition due to graffiti, rust and lime deposits. OPAAC called on Public Works to provide assistance with power washing, and the Scouts scrubbed down the stubborn areas. The area looks great now and the Scouts will receive their Beautification badges for this work.

The West Town Links approached OPAAC to seek help on a special project their chapters are doing across the state. The *PoSITivity* bench needed to find a space for the bench to be installed in a high traffic location. The idea is to offer a safe and peaceful place to sit, read or reflect on things. The Links sought OPAAC to help with finding a suitable location and

permission. OPAAC called the former Executive Director of the Oak Park Public Library. The Director and his staff were very interested. The bench was installed in February at the Gunderson branch. It is in a beautiful area and there is a small plaque identifying the *PoSITivity* bench.

OPAAC has been working with the Walk the Walk Reparations Task Force since last fall. The Village asked OPAAC to work with the group and consider a commemorative plaque that might be installed at the site of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. This church was the anchor of the Black community in the late 19th and early 20th century in Oak Park. OPAAC has proudly taken on the project. There have been many conversations, Zoom calls, emails, in person meetings, webinars on reparations, consulting with VOP interim communications director, and a graphic artist. A village planter on Westgate has been selected for the plaque. It will be close to the original location of Mt. Carmel. Public Works will prepare the site and plant perennials, and other plants. At this time, the plaque will be ready by mid October and a dedication ceremony will take place at that time.

3.8 Work with local developers to advise, renew, and approve the installation of public art elements in accordance with the Village of Oak Park's Planned Development Ordinance.

OPAAC has met with 3 developers this year. All of the developers have presented to the OPAAC board their plans for satisfying their public art requirement.

American Home commissioned a nationally known sculptor to create a sculpture for their building, it was installed on August 16th.

Noah Properties on North Ave. commissioned an Oak Park artist to paint a mural on the Humphrey side of their building. The artist will complete the mural in one more week.

The 715 South Blvd building decided to have 10 artists paint mini murals directly across from their new building. Artists are installing the murals at this time.

3.9 Administer the Village of Oak Park Community Mini Mural Program for the Village. Artists will be selected to paint murals at such locations in the Village as are designated by the Mini Mural jury and approved by the Village Manager. The Arts Council will recruit artist applicants and facilitate the selection of the artist and installation of the art. The Arts Council will coordinate with appropriate Village staff with regard to the technical requirements for the installation/application of the murals.

The Village Community Mini Mural continues to be in high demand for artists. OPAAC receives applications from the area suburbs, Chicago and the state of Illinois. A panel of judges reviews all applications and artwork. Selected artists received 50% of an honorarium after signing a contract with the VOP. Upon completion and review by OPAAC the balance of the honorarium is sent to the artist. OPAAC has noticed an increased interest in the project. While the deadline has passed, people and organizations are continuing to inquire about how they can apply to paint a mural. Coming out of the pandemic, there is even more of an appreciation for public art and what it means to a community.

3.10 Assist arts organizations and artists to find office space, retail and studio or gallery space.

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, the gallery is not able to show artist work. However, the Public Works Dept met with OPAAC to ask about the possibility of hanging a show to feature wonderful photos taken of the employees of the Public Works Dept. The show was approved by Village Management and exhibited during the month of May which was National Public Works Month. The Village wanted to acknowledge the work of the Public Works Department and Village Hall was the perfect venue.

The gallery at Forest Park National Bank is open and showing artist work.

The gallery at the Oak Park Township Senior Services building will hopefully open soon. The Township needs to purchase new hanging hardware.

OPAAC was able to assist the 801 South Blvd building in finding an artist for their live/work space. The artist is pleased with the apartment.

3.11 Host a technical assistance workshop on grant writing that contributes to the professional development of area arts businesses and arts related not-for-profits.

This was the first year that OPAAC used Salesforce for the ArtsFunds applications and reviews. Training for grant applicants and the ArtsFunds grant review panel was facilitated by the Salesforce administrator. Salesforce offers many perks for both OPAAC and the applicants. It will prepopulate organizations' contact info from the prior year, it avoids having to use a separate scoring sheet, offers remote collaboration and securely stores data. Things went smoothly for this first year. OPAAC will gear up again for the grant info and Salesforce workshop this year in late fall.

Run the “Off the Wall” program, a summer art employment program, which recruits area youth who work with a professional artist to install murals in the village.

The *Off the Wall* program celebrated its 17th successful year this summer. This is a fantastic **summer arts employment program** for 16-22 year old artists. The applicants apply; go through an interview along with showing some recent art they have completed. Artists who are hired become part of the apprentice team. This is a summer job and apprentices receive a salary for their work. They are trained and led by our Master Artist who has worked in mosaic tile for over 20 years. The program runs for 8 weeks. The apprentices design the art for the mural, do all of the tile fabrication and install the mural. Many of the apprentices have plans to become art professors/teachers or professional muralists.

This summer work continued on the Longfellow murals. Those murals will be installed on the new Community Recreation Center on Madison St. The apprentices also had an opportunity to create and fabricate small individual pieces of art. These pieces will be on exhibit in the gallery of Forest Park National Bank beginning in September through October. They will also be shown at Oak Park and River Forest High School.

Other accomplishments in 2022

OPAAC had the opportunity to have a college graduate work as an intern in our office this year. She received college credit towards completing her graduation requirements. It was a unique situation due to OPAAC staff working from home as was the intern (lives in Rogers Park). This young woman delved into the world of nonprofit management and also the role of the local arts council in a community. She attended board meetings, sat in on the OPAAC scholarship committee review of high school scholarship applicants and saw the jury in action for review of mural applications. She and the Executive Director talked or Zoomed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Working with the Executive Director, she had a chance to help prepare a part of the OPAAC general operating support grant to the Illinois Arts Council Agency. She wrote press releases and also attended national webinars on arts advocacy to name a few of her tasks this winter and spring. She graduated from Loyola University in May with a double major in Advertising and another in Dance.

OPAAC coordinated a Zoom meeting with Senate President Don Harmon. The Arts Alliance Illinois/AAI staff and their lobbyist (the state arts advocacy organization) were invited to the meeting. OPAAC also invited 7 organizations served by OPAAC and located in Senator Harmon’s district. Each organization/artist was asked to speak 3 minutes on their work and the effect of COVID. The request was to ask the State to fund the arts at a \$100 million for the entire arts sector in Illinois. Senator Harmon was very receptive, \$50 million will be coming to the arts this year.

OPAAC Executive Director was invited to be the judge for the Oak Park Art League's "Art of Disruption" Show. She also spoke at the reception.

Oak Park Area Arts Council

Statement of Activity Comparison

January - December 2022

	Budget	Budget	Projected	Actual	Actual
	Jan - Dec 2022	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022	Jan - Jul 31 2022	Jan - Dec 2021
Revenue					
1 - Government Revenues					
ARPA Funds	-	-	220,000	220,000	-
Illinois Arts Council	24,800	19,900	19,900	19,900	34,800
Village of Oak Park (VOP)					
VOP - Operating Support	90,000	97,000	92,000	53,667	82,000
VOP - Program Support	62,500	70,000	62,500	-	62,500
VOP - Public Art Support	40,000	60,000	40,000	10,000	20,000
Total Village of Oak Park (VOP)	192,500	227,000	194,500	63,667	164,500
Total 1 - Government Revenues	217,300	246,900	434,400	303,567	199,300
2 - Private Revenues					
Foundations	5,000	12,000	2,500	2,500	27,750
Individuals					
Board Members	800	800	800	-	450
Donations and Memberships	2,000	1,500	1,400	832	1,435
Scholarship Funds	-	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,195
Memorial Donation for Leslie Jones	-		2,000	2,000	50
Total Scholarship Funds	-	2,500	3,500	3,500	1,245
Total Individuals	2,800	4,800	5,700	4,332	3,130
Fundraising Events, net of Expenses	5,000				
Membership Dues - Arts Organizations	1,050	875	500	285	285
Total 2 - Private Revenues	13,900	17,700	8,700	7,117	31,165
Total Revenue	231,000	264,000	443,100	310,685	230,558
Expenditures					
1 - Program Expenses					
Total Arts Funds Grants	40,000	44,400	190,650	500	56,444
Fine Arts Scholarships	6,800	12,500	12,500	-	7,000
Mini-Mural	20,000	30,000	20,000	3,500	19,500
Other Public Art Projects	10,000	50,000	27,300	11,500	1,300
Total Off-the-Wall (OTW) Summary	32,500	35,000	31,600	22,807	29,239
Total Other Programs Summary	5,000	3,200	1,200	986	475
Total 1 - Program Expenses	114,300	175,100	283,250	39,294	113,958
Total 2 - Staff Compensation Costs	115,000	145,700	105,100	54,988	81,538
Total 3 - General Admin and FR Expenses	6,500	16,700	7,737	4,054	9,361
Total Expenditures	235,800	337,500	396,087	98,335	204,857
Net Operating Revenue	(4,800)	(73,500)	47,013	212,350	25,700
Addition to Restricted Funds	-	-	(57,000)	-	(50)
Release from Restricted Funds	5,100	63,000	5,800		1,000
Net Revenue	300	(10,500)	(4,287)	212,250	7,462

OPAAC Staff Salary

Camille Wilson White \$80,000 no benefits, full time

Kaidrea Stockman \$22.50 per hour, no benefits, part time



Oak Park Area Arts Council

Plan/Goals 2023

1. Hold an in person OPAAC Annual Meeting

The goal is to unite the arts community in a social setting w/a buffet dinner(hopefully), present the State of the Arts address, announce and honor the Best in Class and the various OPAAC Scholarship recipients.

2. After the OPAAC Board goes through DEI training, roll out training to ArtsFunds organizations and individual artists.

The goal is for everyone to realize the importance of being inclusive to all people and work toward that goal.

3. Bring on 3-4 new OPAAC board members

The goal is to have board members more engaged in the organizations, serve on a marketing committee and fundraising committee.

4. Update the OPAAC website and staff trained to do in house maintenance

The goal is to have the capacity to add or delete info on the web without having to rely on the web administrator.

5. Launch of the ArtWalk

The goal is to showcase the wonderful public art works in Oak Park and increase visitors who will want to see the public art.

6. Banquet fundraiser and performance to honor Patt Cheney

The goal is to honor an outstanding art teacher (now retired) for 40 years of service to the youth in Oak Park and River Forest.



Second submittal on October 11, 2022 by Camille Wilson White

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