

OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL
2020 SCOPE OF SERVICES PROGRAM GOALS AND MEASURES

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) will operate the following programs that support Oak Park's quality of life by creating a community awareness of the arts and providing support to the local arts organizations and individuals.

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 awarded \$61,000 to 32 organizations this year. Grants are awarded for either general operating or special project. OPAAC was very fortunate to be able to increase the pool of grants funds to \$61,000 for 2020. This was made possible by a \$20,000 Rapid Recovery Relief Fund Grant from the OPRF Community Foundation that OPAAC applied for and received. The cancellation of spring, summer and fall concerts, classes and programming have left the arts community struggling to survive. The additional grant funding was a tremendous help.

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.

OPAAC issues the informative online e-Art newsletter every two weeks. It has become a valuable resource for the community and surrounding areas. It serves as a resource for cultural events as well as audition calls, employment opportunities, call to artists, and featuring artists' shows in the area. The newsletter was suspended for the spring and summer as all events were cancelled. The newsletter will return in the fall as groups begin to regroup and find ways to present in a safe way.

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:

- 3.1 **Establish a Public Art sub-committee of the OPAAC Board of Directors, which shall consist of a chairperson and four (4) members. Three (3) of the OPAAC Board of Directors will include the Village Manager or her designee and the other two shall be appointed by the Village President, with the consent of the Board of Trustees.**
- 3.2 **Hold sub-committee meeting on an as needed basis to discuss matters related to the fostering and dissemination of public art throughout the village, and to consider applications for the placement of both acquired and privately owned art on Village property.**

The Board of Directors discusses public art at every board meeting. Board members serve as judges on the Oak Park mini mural project in the spring. Upcoming ideas and public art projects for the Village are discussed at every board meeting.

- 3.3 **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 \$50,000 for 2021.

- 3.4 **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.

- 3.5 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.**

The sculpture titled “The Gate” by artist Mike Brown was retrieved from storage, inspected by the artist, repaired extensively, a permanent base poured and relocated through an Inter Governmental Agreement with the Park District of Oak Park to Mills Park in the fall of 2019.

Repair work is needed on “The Pathfinder” sculpture created by the late Geraldine McCullough. There are bronze spheres that were stolen and need to be replaced inside of the center cage column.

“Compass Rose” by Hector Duarte located on Ridgeland south of Lake Street adjacent to the Ridgeland pool is in very bad condition. The mural was commissioned by the Village of Oak Park.

- 3.6 Provide public education on existing public artworks throughout the village.**

The OPAAC does that 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.**

There have been no requests for 2020. OPAAC has received several calls regarding the VOP Public Art Program. The Black Lives Matter Mural has generated a number of inquiries from other suburbs and towns in Illinois.

- 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 meets with developers to review their public art plans or to lend advice on art/artists for their developments. After the initial meeting and review, they and their selected artist are invited to an OPAAC Board meeting for a presentation. The Board votes and our board member/village designee – Tammie Grossman takes the recommendation back to the Village for implementation. OPAAC worked with the following developers over the past year: Lincoln Property – 1133 South Blvd., Rush Oak Park Hospital, District House (ongoing), Community Developers –

801 South Building and the 435 Madison St development. Turano Bread and Lexington Homes made decisions to donate to the VOP Public Art Fund due to lack of space on their property.

3.9 Administer the Village of Oak Park Community Mini Mural Program for the Village. Artists will be selected to pain 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.

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. There were 25 murals planned for 2020, the program was suspended due to Covid-19.

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

OPAAC works to publicize the needs of artists and arts organizations via e-Art, also social media. The OPAAC manages three (3) gallery spaces. OPAAC uses e-Art to assist arts organizations and artists in need of living, studio or gallery space. The OPAAC manages three “gallery spaces” to showcase artist work. The galleries are in Village Hall of Oak Park, Oak Park Township’s senior services Dining Room and the lobby of Forest Park National Bank. All shows go up for a 2-month period. There have been 32 artists who were invited to showcase their art to the public. Every spring the Oak Park Education Foundation “Art Start” program of District 97 elementary schools is presented in Village Hall. Last year and into 2020 so far, OPAAC has collaborated with Jesse Howard instructor at Oak Park Art League to present the artwork of his adult drawing class. These artists have shown their work at Forest Park National Bank Lobby and Oak Park Township Dining Room.

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.

The OPAAC again hosted an informative grant-writing workshop for potential grant applicants. Alicia Boddy, Development Director for Code Platoon facilitated the 3-hour workshop. She went through the entire Arts

Funds application page by page. Alicia has also offered participants a read of their grant if sent to her 2-3 weeks prior to the deadline.

3.12 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.

Off the Wall is a **summer arts employment program** for young artists 16-22 years old. The artists who are hired by the OPAAC become apprentices in the program. They are trained and led by a Master Artist who has worked in mosaic tile for over 20 years. The apprentices design the art for the mural, do all of the fabrication of materials and then install the mural. The program runs for 8 weeks. It helps to prepare them for what life is like for a professional public art mural artist. Many of the apprentices plan to become professional public art artists.

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) is pleased to be invited to submit its 2021 Scope of Services to the Village of Oak Park. OPAAC is grateful and appreciative for the government’s support of the arts as demonstrated by the Village of Oak Park.