

Oak Park Area Arts Council
Scope of Services 2020

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) respectfully submits its 2020 Scope of Services for review to the Village of Oak Park. OPAAC is deeply grateful for the government's support of the arts as demonstrated by the Village of Oak Park.

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. ArtsFunds Grants - \$34,500.00 awarded to 31 organizations in 2019

One of the major programs of the OPAAC is ArtsFunds. The purpose of this regranting program is the following:

- To assist established and emerging 501c3 organizations in long-rang planning, board and staff development, artistic or financial development, marketing or other priority areas;
- To strengthen the organization's contribution to the local economy.
- To be able to provide financial support to eligible organizations through general operating or special project support. This all aligns with the OPAAC mission and goals:

Mission:

Because we believe art is intrinsic to the quality of life in our communities, the Oak Park Area Arts Council celebrates supports and promotes artists and arts organizations. By raising funds for the arts, and advocating for policies that promote the arts, we enhance the social, economic, and cultural foundations of our communities.

Goals:

1. Work with artists, arts organizations, and arts-related businesses on ways to reach their goals and create awareness.
2. Foster communication and cooperation among arts organizations.
3. Raise money from the private and public sectors in support of the arts.
4. Provide grants
5. Provide financial and other support for youth arts programs.
6. Communicate the importance of the arts as a vehicle for economic development and incorporate public art into new developments.
7. Encourage all aspects of community diversity through the arts.
8. Coordinate all public art programs for the village.

OPAAC received 32 grant applications for either general operating or project support in January of 2019. The grants were reviewed by a professional and skilled group of grant reviewers. Marva Anderson, retired former Corporate and External Relations Director Museum of Science and Industry, Sarita Connelly, Executive Director, Chicago chapter Blue Star Families and OPAAC Board Member, Meghan Eagan, grant writer and OPAAC Board Member. Deepa Gupta, Director of education initiatives and strategy in the global corporate citizenship group at the Boeing Company and National Endowment for the Arts Council Member, Nina Sanchez, Executive Director Enrich Chicago, and Bill Wallace CFO Thrive and OPAAC Board Treasurer. The ArtsFunds application is online, easy to navigate and also eliminates paper waste. The panel reviews and completes initial scoring of each application, scoring takes place again on review day. An all-day grant review session was held in early March. Applicants are encouraged to attend and hear feedback on their grant application.

OPAAC has had a partnership with Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest for 15 years. The bank has funded the Best in Class Awards to arts organizations. The review panel selects three organizations that have exemplified significant growth over the past year. For 2019, History Museum of Oak Park River Forest, United Cerebral Palsy Seguin and Winifred Haun Dancers were saluted for: “Embracing Our Stories.” Each organization received a \$1,000 award from the bank.

The OPAAC has partnered with the Community Foundation of Oak Park & River Forest on a new initiative Strategic Partnerships for Arts & Cultural organizations (SPAC) that was launched on August 30, 2018. Through participation in the OPRF Community Foundation’s capacity building program for nonprofits, 7 local arts and culture organizations expressed an interest in exploring possible partnerships and collaborations to expand their organizational capacity and programs and increase their social impact.

The proposed approach for doing this: Engage a consultant (Mission + Strategy) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the individual organizations that are interested in exploring possible partnerships to provide

- Information for determining meaningful and strategic collaborative options
- Baseline information for evaluating the impact of the resulting partnerships

At the end of the assessment, each organization will directly receive a short summary report with themes, trends, analysis and identification of potential partner opportunities.

M+S will then facilitate a two-hour group meeting of all participating organizations to discuss potential partnership structures and back office opportunities. In this facilitated discussion, participating organizations can explore the possibility of partnership, how to create criteria for

partnerships, and how to begin the negotiation to create a meaningful collaboration across organizations. Funding was secured by the Community Foundation from the Forefront Mission Sustainability Initiative, Chicago Community Arts Works Fund. On behalf of the local nonprofits, OPAAC secured funding from the Arts Work Fund of the Chicago Community Trust that helped the exploratory stage.

Findings were presented at the wrap up session by M+S, the consultants hired to take the organizations through the exploratory stage. Two clear recommendations surfaced. 1. Audience development and 2. Fundraising. The participating organizations were very interested in fundraising. The consultant presented a study of three Chicago organizations who joined forces and hired a shared Development Director, assistant Development Director and a Grant Writer. The salaries were funded by the three organizations. SPAC has now decided to move on to the implementation stage, there are 4 organizations remaining who will work to secure funding that will support a facilitator to lead them through the next steps.

The OPAAC Executive Director is also working with Unity Temple Executive Director along with many arts organizations in the village. This initiative is called United Village Arts Collaborative (UVAC), a network of like-minded organizations coming together for the greater benefit of artistic & cultural endeavors. It will provide opportunities to combine efforts to strengthen outreach and benefit from: shared resources, cross marketing and collaborative programs.

Community Awareness/ e-ART newsletter.

OPAAC creates and distributes e-ART every two weeks. It is well received by the community with 1,000 subscribers. The listing runs the latest arts events and happenings in the community. e-ART includes employment and audition opportunities, calls to artists and exhibition opportunities. This is a great tool for arts organizations and artists to help publicize their special events and concerts. It is a community calendar that helps to promote the arts.

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 Hold meetings on a monthly basis, or as needed, 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 OPAAC Board meets and receives updates on all public art projects at every board meeting. The full OPAAC Board discusses all public art items. Members of the OPAAC Board

have served as jurors on the Community Mini Mural Project for both rounds of judging this year.

3.2 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 and cost analysis.

\$ 75,000.00 is the 2020 recommended funding level.

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

The OPAAC has inventoried all of the sculptures and murals in the Village. Photos, artist name, year of creation, artist's value (not appraised) are what is presently available at this time.

3.4 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.

At this time OPAAC is working with sculptor Mike Brown to repair "The Gate". This limestone sculpture was brought to the Village in 2004 and installed on Lake St., east of the Pier 1 store. The artist has assessed the sculpture and identified the needed work including creating a permanent base for the sculpture. Work will begin later in August and completed by November 2019. The Sculpture will be installed in a new location, at Mills Park. The Butterfly Chair at Van Buren & Oak Park Ave. by Tia Etu is in need of repair which will be done in late August and early September. Pathfinder by Geraldine McCullough, the sculpture that is installed on Madison St. in front of Village Hall needs to have the bronze spheres replaced. About 5 spheres were removed/stolen a number of years ago. OPAAC is in conversation with an artist who does foundry work and will hopefully be able to create new spheres for the sculpture.

3.5 Provide public education on existing public artworks throughout the Village.

The OPAAC website is a work in progress, however the mini murals and sculptures do have a presence on the OPAAC website. There are pictures of all 140 mini murals and their locations.

Pictures of all the Oak Park permanent sculptures and their locations are available on the OPAAC website for viewing.

3.6 Administer the Annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk featuring works of art produced by local and national professional artists which will be displayed within the Village of Oak Park between the months of June through September. Management services include artist outreach, judging, installation and removal, and event marketing.

Sculpture Walk was eliminated for 2019. The OPAAC would like to propose alternative public art projects for 2020:

1. Flying Creatures – an array of Kinetic street sculptures or modern gargoyles could be created by student artists. These creatures “fly” around street pole lights.
2. 3D chalk walk fest – 3D artists create astounding 3D art on sidewalks, parking lots or streets.
3. Poems on sidewalks – installation of poetry on sidewalks in the various business districts.
4. 4. Augmented reality – AR would be an unusual art experience for the village.
https://www.inquirer.com/philly/blogs/things_to_do/mural-arts-philadelphia-augmented-reality-mural-king-britt-20181010.html?outputType=amp

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 several inquiries over the past year, but no proposals have been submitted.

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

OPAAC Executive Director has advised and reviewed public art for 3 developments over the past year. District House, Albion and Community Builders have all presented to the OPAAC Board their public art plans. The OPAAC Board have approved their plans.

3.9 Administer the 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 the 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.

Mini Murals were selected in 2 rounds of judging in June & July. Artists were selected by two different groups of judges. The murals will continue to enliven the Union Pacific Railroad retaining walls. OPAAC hopes to turn the mini murals into a walking tour attracting visitors to the village. Twenty murals are being painted this summer. There will also be a special mural painted in memory of the late Val Camilletti, owner of Val's Halla Records.

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

OPAAC runs information on e-ART when either an artist is seeking work space or when a landlord contacts the Arts Council about space they would like to rent. 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. Shows go up for a two-month period. There were 32 artists who had the opportunity to showcase their art to the public. OPAAC presented the artwork of the Art Start program. This particular show features the art of 3-4 District 97 elementary schools every spring.

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

OPAAC hosts two annual grant info workshops to assist and advise interested arts organizations on applying for the ArtsFunds grant programs. Last December, OPAAC offered an excellent grant writing workshop. Alicia Boddy of Code Platoon facilitated the 3- hour seminar. OPAAC is planning to offer another grant writing workshop this fall for all interested grant applicants.

3.12 Run the "*Off the Wall*" program, a summer art employment program which recruits area youth who work with professional artists to install murals in the Village.

The 14th year of the *Off the Wall* program ended on August 2nd. There were 9 artist apprentices hired to work for 8 weeks. A mosaic tile mural has been installed on the Randolph side of the West Cook YMCA. The mural salutes the 100th anniversary of the Rotary of OPRF and the 115th anniversary of the West Cook YMCA. Carolyn Elaine, master artist, has done another excellent job in working with the apprentices. In fact, an apprentice who has been in the program for 5 years received a big promotion. This young artist was invited to work as Carolyn's assistant. Last fall, she received a commission from Sony to create and install a mural at the Chicago House of Blues!

The apprentices were invited to have lunch with the Rotarians in June. The following week, the Executive Director of West Cook YMCA came over to the studio to discuss all the things the Y does in the community. The conversations helped to inspire all of the apprentice artists.