

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Ohio Arts Council

Keegan Kennedy, Budget Analyst
February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview	2
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal.....	2
Summary of executive recommendations.....	2
Funding for operating expenses	2
Operating Expenses (ALLs 370321 & 370602).....	2
Percent for Art Acquisitions (ALI 370603).....	3
Grant program funding.....	3
Grant programs (ALLs 370502 & 370601)	3
Grant program listing.....	4
FY 2024 grant awards.....	6

Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Redbook

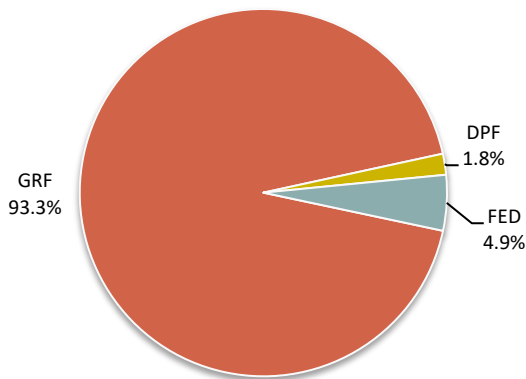
Ohio Arts Council

Quick look...

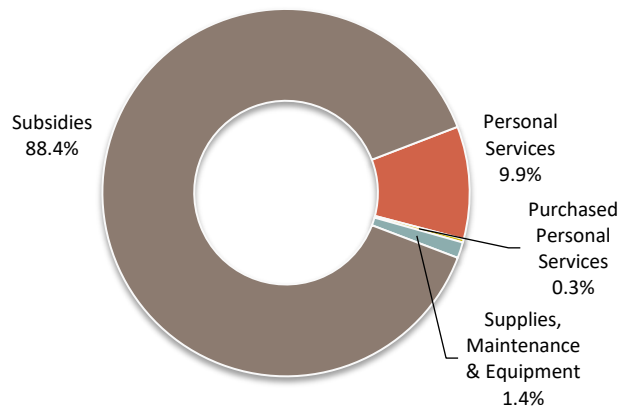
- The Ohio Arts Council, created in 1965, assists in the development of the arts and the preservation of Ohio’s cultural heritage by providing financial assistance and services to Ohio artists and arts organizations.
- The Council’s governing body consists of a board of 19 members that is supported by 19 full-time employees.
- The executive budget recommends \$27.6 million in each FY 2026 and FY 2027.
- More than 90% of funding is appropriated from the GRF.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
General Revenue	\$24,650,422	\$25,563,000	\$25,710,595	\$25,781,201
Dedicated Purpose	\$260,455	\$495,000	\$510,000	\$510,000
Federal	\$1,412,602	\$1,500,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
Total	\$26,323,479	\$27,558,000	\$27,570,595	\$27,641,201
% change	--	4.7%	0.0%	0.3%
<i>GRF % change</i>	--	3.7%	0.6%	0.3%

**Chart 1: ART Budget by Fund Group
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



**Chart 2: ART Budget by Expense Category
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



Biennial total: \$55.2 million

Agency overview

The Ohio Arts Council promotes the visual and performing arts in Ohio through cultural and educational activities and by providing economic assistance in the form of competitive grants to artists, art organizations, and communities. The Council awards grants that support arts learning and education, long-term community vitality, and cultural diversity, among other purposes. It also operates the Riffe Gallery in Columbus and oversees acquisitions for the state’s Percent for Art Program, which places artwork in buildings financed by state capital funds.

The Council is governed by a board consisting of 19 uncompensated members, 15 of whom are appointed by the Governor and four of whom are nonvoting legislative members (two appointed by each chamber). The board meets four times per year. An executive director manages the Council’s daily operations. The Council’s operations are supported by a staff of 19 full-time employees, including an executive director, program coordinators, grants coordinators, and other administrative and support staff.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

Summary of executive recommendations

Chart 2 above displays the executive recommended biennial budget by expense category. Subsidies in the form of competitive grants to artists and art organizations make up 88.3% of the recommended appropriations. Expenses for personal services (payroll) are second highest at 9.9%. Supplies, maintenance, and equipment are 1.4% of the budget, and purchased personal services are 0.3%.

Funding for operating expenses

Operating Expenses (ALIs 370321 & 370602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 370321, Operating Expenses					
\$2,053,668	\$2,047,783	\$2,464,000	\$2,525,000	\$2,672,595	\$2,743,201
% change	-0.3%	20.3%	2.5%	5.8%	2.6%
Fund 4600 ALI 370602, Arts Council Program Support					
\$255,183	\$373,102	\$236,415	\$330,000	\$345,000	\$345,000
% change	46.2%	-36.6%	39.6%	4.5%	0.0%

These two line items support the Council’s operating expenses including payroll and benefits, rent, supplies and maintenance, and equipment costs. Most of these administrative expenses are associated with grant programs, communications to and professional development for the arts community, development of partnerships with local and statewide arts and cultural organizations, research, and executive leadership, which includes oversight and fiscal management.

Line item 370602, Arts Council Program Support, is supported with money appropriated from the Gifts and Donations Fund (Fund 4600), which consists of revenue from intrastate transfer vouchers from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to pay for the operation of the Riffe Gallery, as well as contributions and revenue from other sources that are tied to specific programs. The Riffe Gallery in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in downtown Columbus showcases the work of Ohio artists and curators, exhibitions produced by the Riffe Gallery and other Ohio institutions, and the collections of the state’s museums and galleries. The primary source of revenue for this fund is DAS for the operation of the Ohio Arts Council’s Riffe Gallery, via a Letter of Agreement (LOA). The current LOA is in effect through June 30, 2025, and may be renewed at the beginning of each new biennium by executing an amendment to the LOA.

Percent for Art Acquisitions (ALI 370603)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
Fund 4B70 ALI 370603, Percent for Art Acquisitions					
\$159,183	\$153,360	\$24,040	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000
% change	-3.7%	-84.3%	586.4%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item pays for costs related to the Percent for Art Program, which provides for the purchase, commission, and installation of original artwork in new or renovated public buildings. This program sets aside up to 1% of state capital funding for new and renovated public buildings with state capital appropriations of more than \$4 million, to purchase, commission, and install original works of art. Of this 1% set aside, 7% may be used for administrative costs with respect to the program. Eligible expenses for this line item include costs associated with the selection of artists for specific projects, such as travel and other expenses.

Ohio’s Percent for Art Program is one of 27 state programs in the country. Since the program’s inception in 1990, 361 state building projects have been included, featuring 188 Ohio artists. The number of Percent for Art projects per biennium varies. In recent years, there have been 11 to 20 individual Percent for Art designed projects totaling between \$1.3 million and \$2.2 million in each biennium.

Grant program funding

Grant programs (ALIs 370502 & 370601)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 370502, State Program Subsidies					
\$19,170,015	\$20,068,268	\$22,186,422	\$23,038,000	\$23,038,000	\$23,038,000
% change	4.7%	10.6%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
Fund 3140 ALI 370601, Federal Support					
\$788,451	\$1,413,073	\$1,412,602	\$1,500,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
% change	79.2%	0.0%	6.2%	-10.0%	0.0%

For the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, the Council awarded approximately \$49 million through more than 2,600 grants, supporting an estimated 42 million arts experiences for Ohioans, including more than 10 million for young people and youth benefiting from the arts.

Federal line item 370601, Federal Support, is used to make grant awards funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). States are funded based on two primary criteria: (1) consideration of each state’s population and (2) a competitive merit-based award in arts education, underserved persons, and folk art. In each of the past 15 years, Ohio has received one of the highest National Endowment for the Arts total awards in the country. Strict parameters govern how National Endowment for the Arts funds may be used. The executive budget continues uncodified law that prohibits the line item’s funding for administrative costs unless required under the conditions of the federal grant.

Grant program listing

The tables below detail grants that support organizations and artists, including their purpose, funding, and match amounts.

Grant Program	Purpose	Funding/Matching Amount
Sustainability	Provides general operating support to arts and cultural organizations across Ohio	Determined by panel and formula for large and mid-sized organizations; up to \$10,000 for small organizations; 1:1 match
Statewide Arts Service Organizations	Supports qualifying organizations that provide statewide professional services to arts and cultural organizations	Determined by panel and formula; 1:1 match
ArtsNEXT	Supports innovative proposals that create new economic development and program designs or result in the creation of new work	Up to \$25,000; 1:1 match
ArtSTART	Provides flexible, accessible funding to help organizations complete short-term projects addressing a wide variety of goals and objectives	Up to \$5,000; 1:1 match

Table 1. Grant Programs for Organizations

Grant Program	Purpose	Funding/Matching Amount
ArtsRISE	Supports expanded access to the arts benefiting underserved populations (e.g., organizations serving rural/Appalachian communities, veterans, culturally or ethnically specific communities, people with disabilities, seniors)	Up to \$5,000; 1:1 match for organizations with budgets greater than \$100,000
Capacity Building	Supports organizations' efforts to improve business practices, or add new knowledge and skills that forward organizations' missions	Up to \$5,000; 1:1 match
Artists with Disabilities Access Program (Organizations)	Provides support to organizations that serve artists with disabilities	Between \$1,000 and \$3,000; 1:1 cash match
Ohio Artists on Tour	Provides grants to presenting institutions throughout Ohio that present artists listed in the Ohio Artists on Tour Directory	Up to \$15,000
Arts Partnership	Provides one- or two-year grants to enhance the quality of and access to arts learning	Up to \$25,000; 1:1 match
TeachArtsOhio	Brings schools and community organizations together with artists to share in-depth, engaging, personal, and sustainable arts learning experiences	\$350 per residency per day
Big Yellow School Bus	Supports transportation costs associated with educational field trips to galleries, museums, festivals, exhibitions, and performances	Up to \$500

Table 2. Grant Programs for Artists

Grant Program	Purpose	Funding/Matching Amount
Individual Excellence Awards	Provides grants to Ohio artists for the exceptional merit of a completed body of work	\$5,000
Artist Opportunities	Provides project support and professional development for Ohio artists	Between \$500 and \$2,500
Artists with Disabilities Access Program (Individuals)	Provides support to individual artists with disabilities	Between \$500 and \$2,500
Traditional Arts Apprenticeship	Supports study and collaboration between qualified apprentices and master craftspeople, musicians, dancers, and other traditional artists	\$4,000 maximum
Ohio Heritage Fellowship	Recognizes Ohio folk and traditional artists	\$5,000

FY 2024 grant awards

The table below shows the 1,255 grants approved by the Ohio Arts Council board in FY 2024.

Table 3. Grant Awards for FY 2024		
Program	Awards	
	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Sustainability	450	\$16,940,933
Statewide Service Organizations	5	\$288,510
ArtsNEXT	74	\$1,015,805
ArtSTART	145	\$522,285
ArtsRISE	71	\$339,164
Capacity Building	58	\$178,776
Ohio Artists on Tour	26	\$164,673
Arts Partnership	90	\$1,011,481
TeachArtsOhio	95	\$2,316,650
Big Yellow School Bus	36	\$15,166
Individual Excellence Awards	76	\$375,000
Artist Opportunities	58	\$123,984
Artists with Disabilities Access Program (Individuals)	53	\$106,561
Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	16	\$57,564
Ohio Heritage Fellowship	2	\$10,000
Total	1,255	\$23,466,522

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced
All Fund Groups - Detail**

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	Estimate FY 2025	Introduced FY 2026	Introduced FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
ART Ohio Arts Council								
GRF	370321	Operating Expenses	\$2,464,000	\$2,525,000	\$2,672,595	\$2,743,201	5.85%	2.64%
GRF	370502	State Program Subsidies	\$22,186,422	\$23,038,000	\$23,038,000	\$23,038,000	0.00%	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$24,650,422	\$25,563,000	\$25,710,595	\$25,781,201	0.58%	0.27%
4600	370602	Arts Council Program Support	\$236,415	\$330,000	\$345,000	\$345,000	4.55%	0.00%
4B70	370603	Percent For Art Acquisitions	\$24,040	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	0.00%	0.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			\$260,455	\$495,000	\$510,000	\$510,000	3.03%	0.00%
3140	370601	Federal Support	\$1,412,602	\$1,500,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	-10.00%	0.00%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal			\$1,412,602	\$1,500,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	-10.00%	0.00%
Ohio Arts Council Total			\$26,323,478	\$27,558,000	\$27,570,595	\$27,641,201	0.05%	0.26%
Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total			\$26,323,478	\$27,558,000	\$27,570,595	\$27,641,201	0.05%	0.26%