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# musenews

## NEWS MUSEUMS CAN USE



Volume 55, No. 1 • Winter 2024

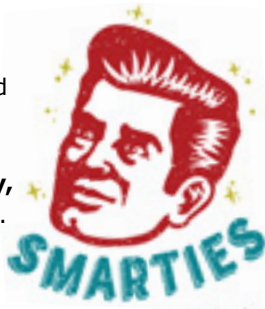
Available to OMA members January 1

Posted online for public February 1



**OMA's 2nd Annual Photo Fundraiser is set to launch this spring. Details coming soon.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and start making Smarty Party plans for **Friday, June 14, 2024.** More details coming soon.



## Oklahoma Museums Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol February 15

**JOIN THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION** and other Oklahoma museums advocates for a great morning at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Visit with legislators and colleagues about the importance of Oklahoma museums to the economy, education and quality of life for Oklahoma citizens. You will be equipped with information to make your visit productive and enjoyable. Register [here](#).

Advocates will gather at 9:00am in the Multipurpose Room 100 on the first floor. There will be a hot chocolate bar, Starbucks coffee, water and cookies for all.

### DATE AND TIME OF EVENT **Thursday, February 15, 2024**

The kick off will begin at 9:00am followed by advocates visiting with their legislators. These activities will conclude by 11:00am

Tours of the Capitol will be at 11:00am

Tours of the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum will be from 10:00am-11:00am

**LOCATION **Oklahoma State Capitol Building**** – Multipurpose Room 100, first floor of the Capitol Building

**SPONSORSHIPS** Current sponsors for the event include Allied Arts, Susan Buchanan, Richard Ellwanger, Brenda & Edward Granger, Tonya Ricks, The Chisholm, The Guild, and D'Leese Travis. The Oklahoma Museums Association is accepting additional sponsorships for the important Oklahoma Museums Day at the Capitol. You can find more sponsorship information [here](#) along with the benefits of your sponsorship or you can contact Brenda Granger, OMA Executive Director [here](#). Thank you for your consideration of a sponsorship.

**REMEMBER** there is an on-demand training here on The Ins and Outs of In-Person Advocacy which you can watch in advance of February 15. During this one-hour webinar, topics discussed include legislative priorities, "making the ask," expectations, and more so that you have the skills to help build and cultivate meaningful relationships with elected officials. It is recommended you watch the on-demand video. ●●●



*Brenda Granger  
Executive Director*

# Happy New Year OMA Members, Donors and Friends!

**I HOPE THAT 2024 IS A GREAT YEAR** for you and your museum. I am excited to announce a great new program available only to OMA members - The Oklahoma Museums Association Fundraising Academy in partnership with Productive Fundraising and @fundraiserchad.

OMA has a long-standing relationship with Chad Barger, CFRE, ACNP. Chad helps nonprofit professionals fundraise more efficiently and effectively. He is the founder of the firm [Productive Fundraising](#), which focuses on bringing actionable, research-based fundraising tactics to small and mid-sized non-profits. He is a top-rated conference speaker and webinar presenter as well as a master trainer of boards that "don't want to fundraise." Chad is also a strategic advisor and coach to many non-profit fundraisers, executive directors and board members. He takes pride in being a qualified curator of top-notch fundraising news and research through his weekly fundraiserchad e-blasts and popular [free monthly webinar series](#).

As a benefit of membership in OMA, all Oklahoma Museums Association members will receive the following when they access The Oklahoma Museums Association Fundraising Academy. All you have to do is contact the OMA office at [info@okmuseums.org](mailto:info@okmuseums.org) to secure the Academy login. We ask that you please do not share the login with others. It is our hope that you will receive great knowledge and fundraising ideas, advice, and inspiration with the academy.



The Oklahoma Museums Association Fundraising Academy in partnership with Productive Fundraising and @fundraiserchad provides:

## ACCESS TO THE PRODUCTIVE FUNDRAISING WEBINAR VAULT

- 15+ hours of on demand video fundraising instruction at your fingertips
- Almost every area of fundraising is explored with top notch instruction designed to optimize fundraising
- All recorded webinars are available to you in an easy access anytime/anywhere format
- Each video includes links to the templates and samples to help immediately put best practice into action

## ACCESS TO AN EXPANDED AND EDITABLE FUNDRAISING RESOURCE LIBRARY

- Access to editable versions of all templates in the Productive Fundraising Resource Library (so you don't have to recreate them)

*continued on page 3*

## OMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Ken Busby**  
Route 66 Alliance, Tulsa

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Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee

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The Chisholm, Kingfisher

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**Lauren Daughety**  
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**David Davis**  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, OKC

**James Pepper Henry**  
First Americans Museum, OKC

**Kevin Hoch**  
Frank Phillips Foundation, Bartlesville

**Lina Holmes**  
Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum, Sapulpa

**Jacob Krumwiede**  
OKPOP, Tulsa

**Sherry Marshall**  
Science Museum Oklahoma, OKC

**Dustin Potter**  
Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, OKC

**Tonya Ricks**  
Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, Seminole

**Thomas Brent Smith**  
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman

**Gena Timberman, Esq**  
The Luksi Group, OKC

**D'Lese Travis**  
Museum Consultant, Weatherford

**Charles Wren**  
Elk City Museum Complex, Elk City

## OMA STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Brenda Granger**

**SENIOR MANAGER OF OPERATIONS**  
**Stacy O'Daniel**

**COMPTROLLER**  
**Jeremy Springer**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS ASSISTANT**  
**Marilyn Shewmaker**

- Exclusive access to many additional samples and resources not publicly available
- Access to a specialized sample file for museums
- Toolkits to aid in compiling many fundraising documents (e.g. appeal letters, annual reports, newsletters, fundraising plans, etc.)

#### ACCESS TO THE PRODUCTIVE FUNDRAISING BOARD TRAINING VIDEO LIBRARY

- Quick videos designed to provide board members with the tools to become more comfortable with their fundraising roles

#### INVITATIONS TO LIVE EVENTS, INCLUDING

- @fundraiserchad's annual client-exclusive "What's Changing in Fundraising & How Nonprofits Can Adapt" webinar summit
- An annual Oklahoma Museums Association specific "Fundraising Q&A / Ask Me Anything" session with @fundraiserchad which will be scheduled in the summer

#### DISCOUNTED FUNDRAISING COACHING & DOCUMENT REVIEW SERVICES

- Ability to book 30-minute zoom executive coaching sessions with @fundraiserchad at the discounted rate of \$195 (normally \$300)
- Ability to have @fundraiserchad review your fundraising documents at the discounted rate of \$95 (normally \$150)

#### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

- Discounts from fundraising industry partners (e.g. fundraising databases, wealth screening, custom printing, etc.) ●●●

*Brenda*



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# Museum Ticket Donations Request

**OMA ENGAGES IN ADVERTISING** to encourage people to visit Oklahoma museums. Some of these opportunities have included such placements as movie theatres, bus benches, Oklahoma Today, and most recently outdoor digital billboards. Tyler Outdoor Advertising again has offered OMA ad space on their outdoor digital billboards in trade for tickets to Oklahoma museums. Our digital ad would be promoting all Oklahoma museums, not one specifically.

We are asking if your museum would consider helping OMA with this great marketing opportunity by donating 10 general admission tickets to your museum as part of our trade. In return, OMA will offer your museum a free half page ad in one OMA newsletter, MUSENEWS, which is valued at \$125. Our newsletter reaches about 2100 inboxes.

We hope you will be able to help us promote Oklahoma museums. If you can help with this opportunity, please send any virtual tickets to Stacy O'Daniel at [sodaniel@okmuseums.org](mailto:sodaniel@okmuseums.org) or you can send hard copy tickets to OMA, 2020 Remington Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73111 by February 15.



*Your donation will help OMA secure outdoor digital advertising*

Thank you very much for your consideration and for being a leader in the Oklahoma museum community and helping to market Oklahoma museums to the traveling public. Just like you, we want Oklahoma museums to be packed with visitors, guests, and tourists. ●●●



**Please join us  
February 15, 2024  
9:00am**

**Multipurpose Room 100, First Floor**

**Oklahoma Museums Day  
at the Capitol**

On demand advocacy training at  
[OKMuseums.org/professional-development-training](https://okmuseums.org/professional-development-training)

More information and to register for this free capitol event visit [OKMuseums.org](https://okmuseums.org)





Dr. Jason Harris

# Museum Advocacy Days

By Dr. Jason Harris

**MUSEUMS ARE NOT MERELY REPOSITORIES** of artifacts and artworks; they are vibrant cultural hubs that contribute significantly to education, tourism, and the overall well-being of communities. In Oklahoma, the museum industry is crucial in preserving the state's rich history and diverse heritage. Advocating for museums to safeguard our cultural legacy and support economic growth is imperative. In the 2024 legislative session, OMA will work on renewing and expanding our existing museum tax exemption and continuing to build relationships with elected officials.

Museums are more than cultural institutions; they are economic drivers that generate substantial revenue and employment opportunities. A thriving museum industry attracts tourists, stimulates local businesses, and fosters community development. In Oklahoma, museums contribute significantly to the state's economy, drawing visitors from far and wide. From admission fees and merchandise sales to increased foot traffic in surrounding areas, museums have an

amplifying effect that benefits various sectors of the economy.

In 2021, OMA worked with Senator Adam Pugh and Representative Trey Caldwell to secure tax exemption for nonprofit museums. While the measure passed and was signed by the governor, that legislation will sunset without renewal. By advocating for museum tax exemption in 2024, we can secure the future of these vital tax exemptions and empower museums to continue their valuable work.


To make a meaningful impact, engaging with local legislators and emphasizing the importance of museum tax exemption is essential. By demonstrating widespread community support, we can encourage legislators to champion this cause and work towards enacting favorable policies. The key to success lies in unity. Museums, cultural organizations, and supporters must unite to form a strong coalition advocating for museum tax exemption. Collaborative efforts amplify our voices, making it impossible to ignore the economic and cultural impact museums have on the state of Oklahoma. As constituents, we send a powerful message that resonates with policymakers, emphasizing the urgency of supporting the museum industry and renewing this vital exemption for museums across the state.

[Register today](#) for Oklahoma Museum Day at the Capitol on February 15, 2024, and let's stand together to secure the future of Oklahoma's museums. Join us as we engage with local legislators and join forces with fellow advocates to help ensure lawmakers know how important our role is in our communities and the state. The

## On-Demand Advocacy Training

Unsure of what advocacy is or just need a refresher before attending Oklahoma Museums Day at the Capitol? Be sure to watch the on-demand webinar **The Ins and Outs of In-Person Advocacy**. This training covers "making the ask," expectations, and more so that you have the skills to help build and cultivate meaningful relationships with elected officials.

event will begin at 9:00 AM with a brief overview of our legislation and instructions before advocates deliver packets and meet with elected officials. Together, we can make a lasting impact and build a legacy for the next generation.

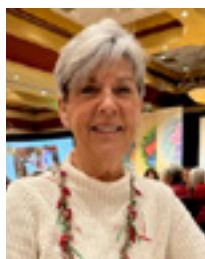
If you want to move beyond the Oklahoma state capitol, join OMA and its volunteers for the American Alliance of Museums Museum Advocacy Day February 26-27 in Washington, D.C. It is a unique opportunity to join fellow museum professionals from Oklahoma and nationwide and ensure lawmakers understand the issues facing museums today. AAM provides will provide training for all participants. As a partner sponsor, OMA members can register at the AAM Member rate. Contact OMA to receive the code. Learn more and register [here](#). 

### ABOUT JASON HARRIS

*Jason Harris is a recognized leader in the museum community with experience in the management of local, state, and national non-profit humanities-based programs and organizations and is currently the executive director of The Chisholm in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.*

# Welcome Aboard

OMA welcomes the following new and recently appointed board members.



## LINA HOLMES

Lina Holmes serves as executive director for Heart of **Route 66 Auto Museum** located on the Mother Road in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. She supervises the director of operations and ten volunteers. Lina and her husband, Richard Holmes, are the founders of museum which officially opened its

doors to visitors in August of 2016. The relatively young museum has received numerous awards from local, state and national museum associations. In 2026, the museum will be host to The Great Race for the second time as it celebrates the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 and the tenth anniversary of the museum.



## DAVID M. DAVIS

David M. Davis is the chief curatorial officer, leading the curatorial, collections, exhibits, and Dickinson Research Center, for the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**. He received a master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of Central

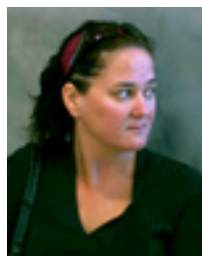
Oklahoma in 2001. In his over 20-year career, David has worked for state and private museums and has worked on exhibitions and projects both nationally and internationally, as well as with private collectors, and Hollywood stars.



## KEVIN HOCH

Kevin Hoch currently serves as the CEO of the **Frank Phillips Foundation, Inc.** in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The Foundation manages Wootaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve as well as the historic Frank Phillips Home. The mission is to preserve the history of the West, educate, and entertain – to

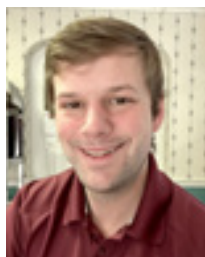
ensure that society can enjoy both properties in perpetuity. Prior to this role, he was a co-owner in a technical services firm that was acquired by private equity in 2020. Kevin and his wife reside in Bartlesville with their two children and two dogs.



## ANNE MURRAY CHILTON

Anne Chilton is the museum administrator at the **Oklahoma Railway Museum** in Oklahoma City. She has worked at the museum since 2009 but through her father has been involved with the group since before the museum was a reality. She is also owner and senior textile conservator

of Murray Conservation Services in Oklahoma City. She has worked as an independent contractor at various Smithsonian museums. Anne received her BA in Anthropology and Art History at the University of Colorado in 1997 and completed preprogram work at Art Conservation Services and Robert Mann Oriental Rug Restoration.



## CHARLES WREN

Charles Wren is a curator at the **Elk City Museum Complex** which includes the National Route 66 Museum, Old Town Museum, and Farm & Ranch Museum. He moved to Elk City from Oklahoma City in June 2022 after working for three years in visitor services and archives at the Oklahoma

Hall of Fame | Gaylord-Pickens Museum. During that time, he earned a master's degree in history at the University of Central Oklahoma. I think our museum complex could really benefit from more involvement in the OMA, so I am looking forward to starting in January.



## TONYA RICKS

Tonya Ricks is the associate director for the **Jasmine Moran Children's Museum** where she leads the guest services, marketing, gift shop, and cafe team members, as well as coordinates the financial, development and human resource efforts. Tonya has over 22 years of experience in the

nonprofit sector with more than 18 of those years spent in the museum field. Prior to working at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, she was the Director of Development at the Mabey-Gerrard Museum of Art. When she's not working, Tonya is with her granddaughter enjoying all her smiles and giggles, curiosity and wonder. 🌈



# NOTABLE NEWS

Let OMA know about new hires, promotions, retirements, etc. for the next newsletter by sending email to [info@okmuseums.org](mailto:info@okmuseums.org).



Long-time arts leader and former executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, **Betty Price**, passed away in November.



**Jeff Briley recently retired after 45 years of service at the Oklahoma Historical Society/ Oklahoma History Center.**

**Chantry Banks** has been named the new director of museums and historic sites for the **Oklahoma Historical Society**.

**Temple History Museum** founder, **Harold Powell**, recently passed away.

**Susan Neal, Gilcrease Museum** executive director, will retire on January 31 after nearly a decade of leadership for the museum and **Tulsa University's Helmerich Center for American Research**. **Jennifer Bennett** will serve as interim director.

**Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art** has welcomed **Jessica Bellamy** as head of finance and operations.

**Marcy Jarrett** is now assistant to the directors of **Sam Noble Museum**.

**Science Museum Oklahoma** recently made the full-time appointment of **Cayla Jones** as development and executive administrator.

**Wayne McCombs**, formerly of the **J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum**, recently passed away. He served as executive director from 2009–2023 when he retired.

**Leonardo's Children's Museum** has named Enid Main Street assistant director **Charlet Ringwald** as executive director. Charlet, a product of the museum's mission, started at Leonardo's as a teen helper in 2001. She is replacing **Tracy Bittle** who has retired after serving in the position for seven years.

**Michelle Burdax** of **Greenwood Cultural Center** has been selected for the **2023-24 National Leaders of Color Fellowship Program**, curated by Western States Arts Federation in partnership with the five U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, including Mid-America Arts Alliance. ●●●



## 2024 OMA Awards Program Accepting Entries

**HAS YOUR MUSEUM INTRODUCED A NEW EXHIBIT**, developed an educational program, launched a fresh website, or overhauled a newsletter in the last year or is it in the process now? Do you wish to acknowledge a valuable volunteer, board member, or funder? The OMA awards program offers an excellent platform for recognizing noteworthy projects and individuals.

Museums are encouraged to self-nominate for project awards.

The 2024 OMA Awards program is open and accepting entries. Download the awards information sheet [here](#) for all the details or to make an award entry.

Following input from the survey of last year's awards program participants, the project awards will reintroduce project expense levels. Projects will be reviewed on their own merit within each project expense level. Additionally, all entrants will receive the status of their entry in advance of the awards ceremony.

Awards will be presented at the Awards Celebration Dinner the evening of September 12 in Idabel, Oklahoma, as part of the Oklahoma Museum Conference. Also following survey participant input, project award winners will receive an award certificate and a digital award badge for use on their website.

The awards program acknowledges those who contribute to enhancing Oklahoma museums and the communities they serve. Enter today to receive acknowledgement for your good works! ●●●



# Fundraising Tips

## Chad Barger with Productive Fundraising

**FUNDRAISING PLANNING** does not have to be overly complicated or complex. That's why we're going to learn how to plan simply. The first step of planning is to analyze the data to decide what goes in the plan. Based on the data you pull, based on the ROI, what do you want to stop doing? What do you want to decrease? What do you want to maintain? What do you want to increase? What do you want to start?

Usually, I like to take a piece of paper, put five columns on it, and break down each strategy based on its performance, how the last year went, and how the trends are going. Which column does it go in? You may notice that your direct mail is not doing as well. So you might stop this one mailing since it has a very low return on investment. Or you could double down and make it more of an omnichannel campaign where you will use email to reinforce it.

The key is to take the time to do the analysis **BEFORE** you start updating your fundraising plan for the year. And [HERE](#) are a bunch of **FREE** resources and templates to help with the fundraising planning process. ●●●

**Bio:** Chad Barger, CFRE, CNP helps nonprofit professionals across the US and Canada fundraise more efficiently and effectively. He is a top rated speaker, master trainer and coach. Chad owns the firm Productive Fundraising which specializes in teaching the latest research-based fundraising tactics and making them approachable for small, community-based nonprofit organizations.



## Free Webinar for Non Profits



**JOIN FUNDRAISING MASTER TRAINER**, Chad Barger, CFRE, for a workshop focused on simplifying the process of creating a nonprofit annual report. Chad will review the evolution of annual reports over the last 20+ years and provide multiple real-life examples of what is working today. The focus of the session is on designing an annual report that donors actually want to read. Participants will leave the workshop with templates and samples to make implementing the best practices a breeze at their nonprofit organization. ●●●

**When:** January 31, 2024 @ 12:00 pm CT

**Register:** [here](#)

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**THANK YOU!**

As private historians, our work depends heavily on the museums, historical societies, and libraries that keep Oklahoma's history alive and accessible. We esteem the OMA and its members for your service to history.

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**Preservation Oklahoma is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Most Endangered Places list.**

**ESTABLISHED AS ONE OF PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA'S FIRST PROGRAMS,** Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places was patterned after a similar annual list produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ralph McCalmont, one of the founding board members of Preservation Oklahoma, had also served on the board of the National Trust and was keenly aware of the program's impact. Realizing the need for Preservation Oklahoma to focus public attention on the state's historic structures, the Board of Directors agreed to publish an annual list of "properties and sites which have special historic or architectural significance to our state, but which are in danger of being lost, due to neglect, poor maintenance, obsolescence or other causes." The purpose of producing this list was stated by John Mabrey, then the President of Preservation Oklahoma, when he said "if we bring the problems to light of a structure familiar to people, they are more likely to do something about it."

For thirty years, people have done "something about it." While inclusion on the list does not guarantee protection or funding, it has proven to be a key component in mobilizing support for the preservation of historic sites by raising each structure's awareness to a statewide level. The nomination process has evolved to reflect the fact that the public is aware of the need to preserve their local structures. Today, nominations are solicited annually from the public. The nominations are compiled and the formal list is selected by a group of preservation experts, including historians, architects, and archaeologists.

To nominate a site/property, click [here](#). ●●●

# Security Webinar

## Creating a Culture of Security, Prevention of Security Emergencies and How to Respond



Jeff McKissack

**THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION**, on behalf of the Oklahoma Alliance for Response, is presenting a free webinar with Jeff McKissack, President of Defense By Design, on March 1, 2024 at 10:00am CT on the topic of creating a culture of security, prevention of security emergencies, and how to respond should they happen in a museum, library or archive setting with cultural property. Register [here](#).

Among items he will be discussing are protests and street crime, which has been a huge concern for museums in recent years. Museums can be victim to protests and street crime, and this webinar will train attendees on how to recognize, respond, and hopefully prevent damage to their cultural property due to a security threat or breach.

Oklahoma is no stranger to catastrophic incidents. In response to current trends, it may be only a matter of time until possible protestors and activists enter Oklahoma museums with the intent to damage cultural property.

Join the Oklahoma Museums Association for this free webinar which will educate museums, libraries and archives on how to have foresight and be knowledgeable on risk management and threats. This information will be valuable to all staff from security to collections to front of house and more. Knowing what to look for at your cultural institution can help prevent man-made disasters and protect cultural property.

The information Jeff will present will help museums, libraries and archives develop strategic and insightful solutions to potential security threats on their cultural property. He helps you spot trouble before trouble spots you, and the goal of the information presented in this webinar will help Oklahoma museums, libraries and archives remain safe and trouble free.

This webinar is made possible by the Alliance for Response Microgrant from the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) along with support from the following: Oklahoma Museums Association, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, and the National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

About the speaker: Jeff McKissack President of Defense By Design, offers safety consulting and is a crime prevention expert with over 35 years of experience in this arena. He is a noted authority in the fields of threat assessment and the prevention of violent crime. ●●●



# 45th Oklahoma Governor's Arts Awards Honorees Announced

THE OKLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL has announced the names of 14 individuals and four organizations that will be honored for their contributions to the arts during the 45th Oklahoma Governor's Arts Awards on Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

**The Oklahoma Museums Association is proud to be a recipient of a special recognition award this year.**

The awards will be presented by Governor J. Kevin Stitt during a special ceremony beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the fourth-floor rotunda at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The ceremony will include a special tribute to former longtime Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Betty Price who passed away in October. A reception will follow in the second-floor rotunda. The event is free and open to the public.

"Throughout history, the power of artistic freedom and expression is evident in every culture of every era," Governor Stitt said. "In Oklahoma, we value the people who work hard to keep the arts community thriving, and these awards are just one way to show that appreciation."

Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples said, "From passionate volunteers and teachers to visionary nonprofit administrators and state leaders, generous philanthropists, community-centric businesses, and others, this year's Governor's Arts Awards honorees reflect a deep level of commitment to the arts seen across our state. Our slate of honorees exemplifies the potential for the arts to impact a broader spectrum of areas and sectors than ever before, increasingly serving the needs of Oklahomans and propelling our state to greater heights in education, economic and workforce development, and quality of life."

Recipients are selected from submitted nominations by the Governor's Arts Awards Selection Committee, comprised of members of the Governor-appointed Oklahoma Arts Council board.

The **Governor's Award** recognizes longtime leadership and significant contributions to the arts. The honorees are:

**Holbrook Lawson, Tulsa**  
**Ann Barker Ong, Muskogee**

The **Business in the Arts Award** recognizes individuals, businesses and corporations that exhibit outstanding support of the arts in Oklahoma. The honorees are:

**American Fidelity, Oklahoma City**  
**LEAP Coffee Roasters, Oklahoma City**

The **Arts in Education Award** recognizes an individual, organization, school, educator, or group for their

outstanding leadership and service in the arts benefiting youth and/or arts in education. Honorees are:

**Marcelle Sharron Ahtone Harjo, Oklahoma City**  
**Trey Hays, Tishomingo**  
**Penny McGill, Muskogee**  
**Jana Telford, Chandler**  
**DWe Williams, Oklahoma City**

The **Community Service Award** recognizes significant contributions to the arts in specific Oklahoma communities in the areas of leadership and volunteerism. Honorees are:

**Suzanne Boles, Grove**  
**Susan E. Brackett, Oklahoma City**  
**Selby Minner, Rentiesville**  
**Darcy Reeves, Marlow**

The **Media in the Arts Award** recognizes members of the media who demonstrate commitment to the arts in Oklahoma documented through public awareness support and fairness, initiative, creativity, and professionalism in reporting. The honoree is:

**Ryan LaCroix, Blanchard**

The **George Nigh Public Service in the Arts Award** recognizes Oklahoma government officials for their outstanding support of the arts. Honorees are:

**Oklahoma State Senator Kevin Matthews, Tulsa**  
**Oklahoma State Representative Mark McBride, Moore**

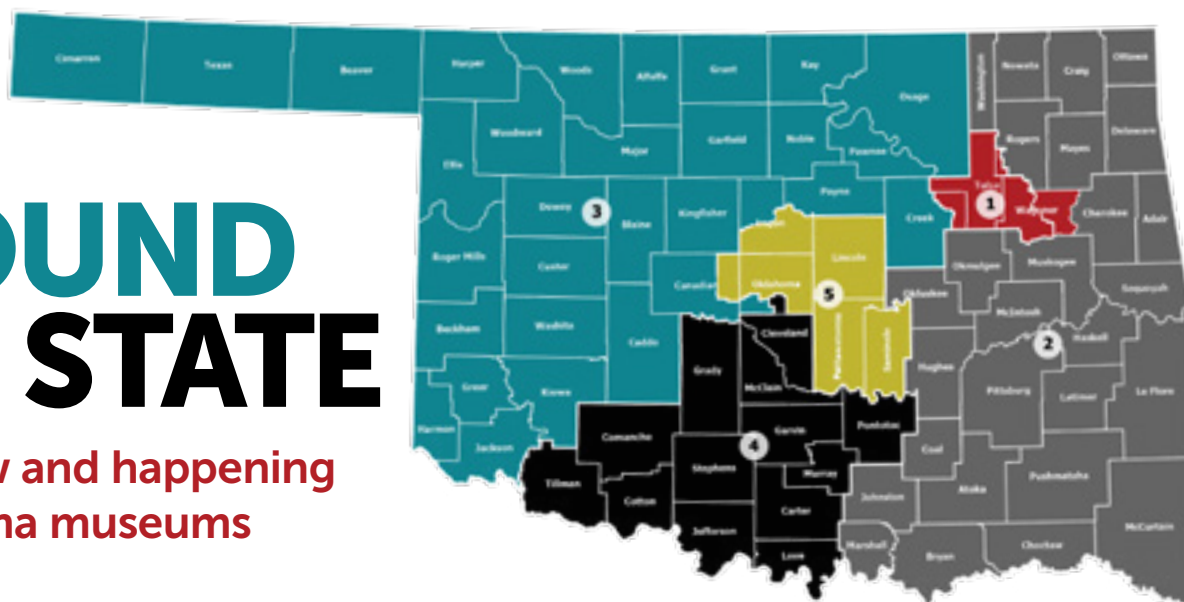
A **Special Recognition Award** recognizes an individual or organization that has made unique contributions in support of the arts. The honorees are:

**Mid-America Arts Alliance, Statewide**  
**Oklahoma Museums Association, Statewide**

Commemorating 50 years of service to the state's arts sector, both **Mid-America Arts Alliance** and **Oklahoma Museums Association** have been selected for Special Recognition Awards. Mid-America Arts Alliance awards funding to artists and arts organizations and works collaboratively with the Oklahoma Arts Council and other art sector institutions to ensure Oklahomans have access to the arts in their communities. Over five decades, they have invested nearly \$3.8 million in funding and services in Oklahoma, assisted more than 20,000 Oklahoma artists, and made possible programming reaching nearly 2.5 million adults and children across the state. Oklahoma Museums Association has been a backbone organization serving the needs of museums across the state for more than 50 years. Representing the interest of more than 500 museums in 200 communities, the association provides museum staff, volunteers, and board members with advocacy and promotion, encouragement of best practices and strong ethics, and opportunities for training and resources. ●●●

# AROUND THE STATE

## What's new and happening in Oklahoma museums



### District 1

*Here Be Dragons: Mapping the Real and Imagined* opens January 17, 2024, at [Philbrook Museum of Art](#), Tulsa. The exhibit includes artworks from the Philbrook collection spanning over three hundred year and builds a sense of place, whether real or imagined.

The *Donna Matles Retrospective* on exhibit at the [Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art](#), Tulsa March 1, 2024. As a respected artist, she helped open the Fenster Gallery which later became the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art.

### District 2

[Choctaw Cultural Center](#), Calera, hosts the exhibit *Ohoyo Hlampko Vhleha: The Influence of Matriarchs* through March 16, 2024. The exhibit by artist Brad Joe honors Choctaw matriarchs and their contributions to Choctaw ways of life.

*Arkansas Diamonds*, a special showcase exhibit at the [Museum of the Red River](#), Idabel, will be on view through February 20, 2024. The stones are from the Sam and Dolly Johnson Collection, a private collection of stones from the Crater of Diamonds State Park.

### District 3

[First Americans Museum](#), OKC, holds a quarterly Homeschool Day focusing

on a different theme that explores the diverse cultures of the 39 tribes in Oklahoma. The next Homeschool Day will be held February 23, 2024.

A collections of photographs from the [Museum of the Western Prairie](#), Altus, are available on [The Gateway to Oklahoma History](#). The photographs are from the W. C. Austin Project, a project of the Bureau of Reclamation that provided water for irrigation, flood control, and included the Altus Dam and four canals.

### District 4

*Treasures of Tuscany: Renaissance in Arezzo* on exhibit at [Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art](#), Norman, through January 28, 2024.

*Picturing Science* on exhibit at [Sam Noble Museum](#), Norman, through January 28, 2024. You will see more than 20 larger-than-life images depicting research happening at the museum.

The [Wilson Historical Museum](#), Wilson, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

### District 5

*Edmond's Social Fabric* on exhibit at [Edmond History Museum](#), Edmond, through March 2024. The exhibit features 17 quilts that visually display Edmond's history.

*Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight* on exhibit at [Oklahoma City Museum of Art](#), OKC through April 28, 2024. This immersive exhibition presents a Tlingit origin story though story telling traditions of Raven and how light was brought to the world.

*The Osage Reign of Terror: The Untold Legal History* on exhibit at the [Federal Judicial Learning Center and Museum](#), OKC, through October 2024. The exhibit highlights the role of the judicial system then and uncovers the tangled legal history.

*Descendants of the Black 1000: Flight from Oklahoma Black Towns to Canada* on exhibit at [Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center](#), OKC, through April 1, 2024. Exhibit features the work of Canadian artists Donna Paris and David Ofori Zapparoli that traces the historical movement of Black communities over time.

The [Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame](#), OKC will host the Class of 2024 Inductees Luncheon on March 28, 2024.

[Red Earth](#), OKC, has announced a call for Emerging Artist Award applications for the 2024 Red Earth Festival scheduled for March 22-24. The award grants funding to one emerging Native American artist to participate in the festival. Application deadline is January 15. 🌈



# Embracing Neurodiversity

## Creating Inclusive Spaces in Cultural Institutions

**HAVE YOU HEARD** other museum professionals discussing “sensory-friendly” spaces, activities, or events and wondered whether your museum should offer these as well? Maybe you’ve heard the term “neurodiversity” before but aren’t sure what it means or what it has to do with your museum. Or maybe you’ve already identified neurodivergence as an area where you’d like to expand your museum’s accessibility efforts but aren’t sure where to start.

Join Square Holes, Science Museum Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Museums Association to learn about neurodiversity and creating inclusive museums in this 3-hour workshop for museum professionals. Led by an occupational therapist and a school psychologist/nonprofit professional, this session promises to demystify neurodiversity in an engaging and welcoming atmosphere. Participants will gain insights into the diverse sensory needs of visitors and learn firsthand how to create welcoming and accessible spaces.

We’ll provide an introduction to the concepts of neurodiversity and sensory processing differences, equipping you with the vocabulary and concepts foundational to this growing area of accessibility. Through hands-on practice, you’ll learn to analyze activities and understand their sensory requirements. This essential skill will enhance your ability and confidence in creating accessibility plans, designing new spaces and events, and creating sensory-friendly environments and experiences.

We’re thrilled to offer an interactive experience, including a visit to the new Sensory Room at Science Museum Oklahoma (SMO). Hear from SMO leadership about their process of identifying the need for this sensory-friendly space and engaging with community partners to make it happen.

No prior knowledge is necessary to participate—this workshop is open to all comfort and experience levels. It’s an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and grow together. We will share practical strategies and tips, empowering you to make meaningful changes in your institution’s environment. You will leave with a toolbox of ideas and a newfound enthusiasm for fostering inclusive cultural spaces.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will be able to explain neurodiversity and its relevance to museums and understand different sensory needs of visitors.



2. Participants will develop the ability to analyze and adapt museum activities for various sensory needs.

3. Participants will explore practical strategies for designing inclusive spaces and events in museums and gain insights into creating sensory-friendly environments through case studies and real-world examples.

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Embracing Neurodiversity: Creating Inclusive Spaces in Cultural Institutions workshop will be held March 7, 2024 from 1:00pm-4:00pm at Science Museum Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. This is an in-person workshop. Registration is \$60. OMA members receive the discounted registration rate of \$40. The deadline to register is Thursday, February 29, 2024. Register online [here](#).

OMA members can apply for a scholarship to cover the workshop registration fee. Scholarship requests are due by Thursday, February 22, 2024. Complete the scholarship request form online [here](#). ●●●



**DAVE TURNBULL, OTR/L, PhD**, is an Occupational Therapist and autism researcher with nearly two decades of experience working with neurodivergent individuals of all ages. He has first-hand knowledge of autism services across home, community, clinical, and educational settings. As a researcher, Dave had the opportunity to work on a variety of community-based research projects related to autistic adolescents and adults. This allowed him to gain insight into the strengths of the community, as well as the many challenges and barriers that neurodivergent individuals face. As a consultant with Square Holes,

Dave uses his expertise to provide sensory evaluations of physical spaces and develop recommendations to make them more accommodating and welcoming for individuals with a range of sensory experiences.



**BETH VARNER, M.Ed., NCSP, CNP**, is a School Psychologist and Certified Nonprofit Professional. She has extensive experience as a school psychologist in public schools and has worked with some of the largest educational publishers to create and deliver professional development programs. In addition to her work in schools, Beth has more than a decade of experience working with non-profit arts organizations, providing operational expertise and helping them to develop effective programs that meet the needs of their communities.

# CALENDAR

## JANUARY

Launch of Oklahoma Museums Association Fundraising Academy

**OMA Awards Program open for entries** - [More](#)

**Unlocking the Full Potential of OMA Membership Live Webinar** - [Register](#)  
January 11, 2024 10:00am CT

**Collections Conundrums Zoom Call**  
- [Register](#)  
January 25, 2024 10:00am CT

## FEBRUARY

**Oklahoma Museums Day at the Capitol, OKC** - [More](#)  
February 15, 2024 9:00am CT

## MARCH

**Creating a Culture of Security, Prevention of Security Emergencies, and How to Respond Live Webinar** - [Register](#)  
March 1, 2024 10:00am CT

**Embracing Neurodiversity: Creating Inclusive Spaces in Cultural Institutions In-Person Workshop, OKC** - [Register](#)  
March 7, 2024

**Oklahoma Museums Week**  
March 17-23, 2024

## APRIL

**Arts & Culture Day at the Capitol, OKC** - [More](#)  
April 11, 2024

# OMA thanks...

## Sep. 1 – Nov. 30, 2023

### CHAMPIONS (\$1,000 AND OVER)

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City of Broken Arrow  
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in memory of Mary H. Herron  
TSET

### SUPPORTERS (\$500-\$999)

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in memory of Michele Bell  
Sherry Marshall, Edmond  
Henry Moy, Idabel,  
in memory of Mary H. Herron

### DONORS (\$100-499)

Bill Boettger, OKC  
Susan Buchanan, Tulsa  
Deborah Burke, Tulsa  
Jan Davis, Norman  
Friends of the Route 66  
Museum, Inc.  
Brenda & Edward Granger,  
Edmond  
Gail Loafman, Duncan,  
in memory of Jerome  
"Jet" Loafman  
David Keathly, Ponca City  
Mercer Associates, Inc.  
Donna Merkt, Brookings SD  
Melvin Moran, Seminole  
Oklahoma Department  
of Libraries  
Pioneer Woman Museum  
Advisory Board  
Christopher Rick, Shawnee  
Tonya Ricks, Shawnee

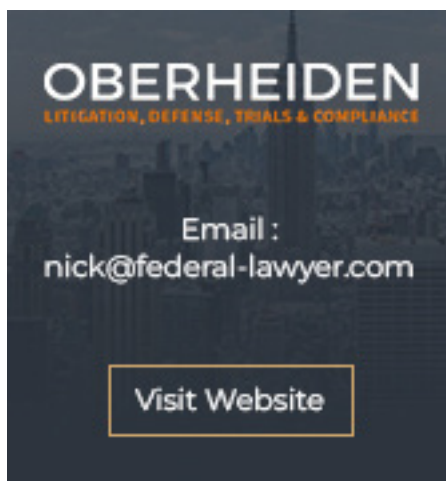
Richard & Diane Salamon, Tulsa  
Marilyn Shewmaker, Edmond  
The Guild  
D'Lese Travis, Weatherford  
Amanda Trumbo, Norman  
Valorie & Wade Walters, Ada  
Sarah Wright, Tulsa

### CONTRIBUTORS (UP TO \$99)

Gladeen Allred, Stillwater  
Atoka County Historical  
Society  
Jesse Damron, Fairfax  
Richard Ellwanger, Wewoka  
Suzanne Hylton, Sayre  
Charlene Lingo, Miami  
PayPal Giving Fund  
Jessica Rice, OKC  
Talbot Library  
Temple Museum Association,  
in memory of Harold Powell  
The Springer Company,  
in memory of Clara Beatrice  
(DeSalvo) Granger  
Amy Stephens, Edmond  
Luann Waters, Wynnewood  
Charla & Jim Wille, OKC,  
in memory of Michele Bell

### IN-KIND

American Alliance of Museum  
From the Vine Studio  
Iris Muno Jordan, Edmond  
Lana Lopez, Edmond  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
D'Lese Travis, Weatherford  
Science Museum Oklahoma  
The Guild  
The Springer Company



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# Celebrate Oklahoma Museums Week!

**March 17-23, 2024**

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY** in raising awareness about the cultural, economic, and educational significance of art museums, historical societies, zoos, aquariums, science centers, botanical gardens, historic houses, natural history museums, children's museums, heritage centers, living history museums, tribal cultural centers, and museums in our state and beyond.

The Oklahoma Museums Association will lead an engaging online conversation throughout the week, featuring a unique hashtag and theme for each day. Check out the daily hashtags below. We encourage all museums and cultural institutions to use these hashtags to share content related to their mission, programming, collections, and exhibitions. Our goal is to inform connected audiences, stakeholders, and policymakers while inspiring visitors to explore Oklahoma during spring break and beyond.

Additionally, OMA will seek to gain a governor's proclamation recognizing museums week and will reach out to all Oklahoma legislators, informing them about the museums and cultural institutions in their districts. We invite our members to extend invitations to their legislators and elected officials for a visit during Oklahoma Museums Week. Let's come together to showcase the rich cultural tapestry of our state and its global impact. 🌈

## HASHTAG SCHEDULE

**Sunday, March 17**

#OnlyInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Monday, March 18**

#ArtandCultureInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Tuesday, March 19**

#InteractiveInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Wednesday, March 20**

#BehindTheScenesInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Thursday, March 21**

#ExploringInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Friday, March 22**

#PastPresentAndFutureInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

**Saturday, March 23**

#MakingADifferenceInOK

#OklahomaMuseumsWeek

## A POWERFUL COMMUNITY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

*The Oklahoma Museums Association empowers Oklahoma museums. We offer our members a variety of resources to connect with the museum profession.*

Download the **NEW OMA APP** to find the latest professional training, job opportunities, news, and to connect with a powerful community of professionals in the forum.

Scan the QR code or search for the Oklahoma Museums Association app in the app store.

(405) 424-7757 • OKMuseums.org





# MUSELINE



## **CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS MUST ANNUALLY FILE WITH OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE**

As a reminder, all charitable organizations (which include most museums) are required to submit their registration renewal with the Oklahoma Secretary of State annually. They accept the filing online now. The Charitable Organizations section represents a subsection of the Secretary of State Business Filing Department. More information [here](#).

## **NEA BIG READ GRANT APPLICATION OF INTENT DUE JANUARY 10**

The National Endowment for the Arts is accepting applications from non-profits, including museums, for the 2024-25 Big Read. NEA Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading for pleasure and enrichment. Organizations selected to participate will receive a grant, access to educational and promotional materials, and online training resources and opportunities. Application of intent deadline is January 10, 2024. [More information](#)

## **NEW LAW FOR OKLAHOMA CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

A new law requires charitable organizations to register with the Attorney General 45 days or more before dissolution, termination, disposition of all or substantially all assets, removal from the state, removal of assets from the state, or amendment of the governing

document that describes the charitable purpose.

## **IS YOUR ART COLLECTION PROPERLY INSURED? EXPERT ADVICE FROM HUNTINGTON T. BLOCK**

Artwork Archive recently held this webinar with Huntington T. Block about insuring your museum art collection. You can find the recording [here](#).

## **OKMUSEUMS.ORG MARKETPLACE**

Looking for museum products or services? Start on the OMA website and explore the Marketplace which features businesses and organizations that are partner members of OMA. The Marketplace can be found [here](#).

## **STANDARDS FOR MUSEUMS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN COLLECTIONS (SMNAC)**

Reminder the School for Advanced Research (SAR) and the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) released late summer the Standards for Museums with Native American Collections (SMNAC), a comprehensive document to help museums clarify and strengthen their roles as stewards, and improve the museum field as a whole with regard to Native American peoples, communities, and cultural items. The SMNAC will serve to guide all aspects of work within museums holding Native collections, making recommendations grouped around the seven function areas as identified by AAM's Core Standards. The SMNAC is currently available for download [here](#).

## **OMA LOGO AND URL WILL BE ON 2024 OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION TOTE BAGS**

The OMA logo and URL will be one of 26 on the 2024 Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department's eco-friendly tote bags. The program allows partners to place their logos and URLs on thousands of tote bags which are distributed in-state, nationwide, and internationally for promotional purposes at consumer shows, niche marketing events, corporate road shows and special activities throughout the year. OMA hopes the public will use the URL to view the list and visit Oklahoma's 500+ museums at [OKMuseums.org](#)

## **OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES RECEIVES SPECIAL GRANT FROM THE NEH - FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

Oklahoma Humanities is proud to announce they have received a Special Chair's Award for \$30,000 to support our partnership with National History Day as well as the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of Oklahoma Humanities magazine. This is part of the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) ongoing inter-agency partnership with the Department of the Interior (DOI) to fund the collection of oral histories and digitization of records documenting the experiences of survivors and descendants of federal Indian boarding schools for the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (FIBSI) and related The Road to Healing tour. 

# Apply to the Museum Assessment Program

The next MAP application deadline is expected to be February 1, 2024

**SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1981**, the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) has helped more than 5,000 small and mid-sized museums of all types strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet standards.

Through a one-year process of self-assessment, institutional activities, and consultative peer review with a site visit and recommendations, your museum emerges with:

**Greater alignment of activities, mission, and resources**  
**Analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities**  
**Prioritized roadmap for improving operations and meeting standards**  
**Practices benchmarked to standards**  
**Enhanced credibility with potential funders and donors**  
**Improved communications between staff, board, and other constituents**  
**Expert advice, recommendations, and resources**  
**Increased capacity for strategic planning**  
**Preparation for core document verification, accreditation or reaccreditation**

**MAP OFFERS FIVE ASSESSMENTS.** Choose the assessment that's right for your museum

- 1) Organizational Assessment Learn more about the Organizational Assessment
- 2) Collections Stewardship Assessment Learn more about the Collections Stewardship Assessment
- 3) Education & Interpretation Assessment Learn more about the Education & Interpretation Assessment
- 4) Community & Audience Engagement Assessment Learn more about the Community & Audience Engagement Assessment
- 5) Board Leadership Assessment Learn more about the Board Leadership Assessment

## MAP APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) Confirm your museum is **eligible** to participate.
- 2) Review **MAP costs, process and schedule** and ensure your museum has the staff time, resources, capacity, and buy-in to undertake a year-long assessment.
- 3) Choose your **Assessment Type** and verify that you meet any special additional eligibility requirements.
- 4) Want to be notified when the next application instructions and details become available? Contact MAP staff at [map@aam-us.org](mailto:map@aam-us.org) to be added to our notification list.

MAP is supported through a cooperative agreement between the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** and the American Alliance of Museums. The MAP information is taken from the **AAM website**. ●●●

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# MEMBER RECOGNITION



**Sep. 1 - Nov. 30, 2023** New and renewing members; new members are indicated with an asterisk.

## Individuals

### FRIEND

Lauren Daughety, OKC

### INDIVIDUAL

Chandra Boyd, OKC  
Brian Crockett, Albuquerque NM  
River Hill, Miami  
Gretchen Jeane, OKC  
Zachery Reis, Norman  
Jessica Rice, OKC  
Allie Seale, Jonestown TX  
Charles Threatt, Upper Marlboro MD\*  
Cindy Van Kley, Spencer\*

### RETIRED PROFESSIONAL

Deborah Baroff, Norman  
Victor Koshkin-Youritzin, Norman  
David Peters, Stillwater

### STUDENT

Hannah Cunningham, OKC\*  
Ike Holland, Edmond  
Ashley Moelling, Arcadia\*  
Lori Steen, Edmond\*  
Evelyn Warren, OKC\*  
Reagan Warren, OKC\*  
Adie Webb, OKC\*

### DESIGNATED STAFF/BOARD/ VOLUNTEER

ShaVon Agee, Okmulgee  
Katie Baker, Norman  
Alicia Ballard, Okmulgee  
gOrk Barrette, Tulsa  
Cray Bauxmont-Flynn, Tulsa  
John Beaver, Okmulgee  
Mikahayla Beebee, Hennessey  
Joy Reed Belt, OKC  
Dale Bennie, Norman  
Charlene Bixler, Waynoka  
D. Wade Bohanan, Calera  
Ellen Brinich, Tulsa  
John Brown, Okmulgee  
Erica Buckwalter, OKC  
CJ Budy, Enid  
Angela Carter, Tulsa  
Amelia Chamberlain, Stillwater  
Susan Clark, OKC\*

Skye Conley, OKC  
Debbie Corwin, Bristow  
Hanna Cox, OKC\*  
J.W. Craft, Tulsa\*  
Adelita Cumm, Hobart  
Scott Cumm, Hobart  
Pat Cunningham, Chickasha  
Diane Dickinson, Claremore\*  
Cheyhoma Dugger, Calera  
Mary Early, OKC  
Mary Ann Eckstein, OKC  
James Erb, Tulsa  
Carolyn Estes, Oologah  
Stephen Evans, OKC  
Jeff Ewing, OKC  
Keith Fagan, Ponca City  
Jarrod Fergeson, OKC  
Ken Fergeson, Altus  
Sarah Finley, OKC  
Pat Fitzgerald, OKC  
Ben Fox, Norman  
Erinn Gavaghan, Norman\*  
Michael George, Waynoka  
Tina Gilliland, OKC  
Dr. Jill Green, Hobart  
Katelyn Grissom, Grove\*  
Steven Groff, Hobart  
Greg Heanue, OKC  
Kevin Hoch, Bartlesville  
Rob Houston, TMP, Enid  
Wesley Hull, Ardmore  
Sophia Hurd, Tulsa  
Van Hurst, Shattuck\*  
Elaine Johns, Enid  
Amy Johnson, Enid  
David Keathly, Ponca City  
Rachel Keith, Tulsa  
Dwight Lawson, OKC  
Marcus Leonard, OKC\*  
Diana Long, Oologah\*  
Donald Lynch, Alva  
Jennifer Lynch, Ponca City  
Jeff Martin, Tulsa  
Lesli Massad, OKC  
Rachel McClelland, Ponca City  
Tina McKinney, Okmulgee  
Savannah Miller, Norman\*  
Steven Mitchell, Hennessey  
Kayla Morris, Tulsa

Val Nabor, OKC\*  
Dr. Denise Neil, OKC  
Megan Nesbit, Tulsa  
Kera Newby, OKC  
Victoria Oltmann, Bixby  
Amy Pence, Norman  
Dustin Potter, OKC  
Harold Powell, Temple  
Lois Powell, Temple  
Aaron Preston, Enid  
Nicole Reynolds, Grove  
Kasey Rhone, Tulsa  
Rachael Robinson, OKC  
Kim Roper, Ponca City  
Jenna Rulo, Bartlesville  
Jenna Spencer, Enid  
Seth Spillman, OKC  
Helen Stiefmiller, OKC  
Beverly Stinchcomb, OKC  
Scott Stulen, Tulsa  
Melinda Taylor, Wilson  
Shiloh Thurman, Bartlesville  
Tracy Truels, Tulsa  
Jessica Upson, Tulsa  
Luke Wassom, Bartlesville  
Kari Watkins, OKC  
Luke Williams, Tulsa  
Madison Wilson, Enid  
Kate Winters, OKC  
Britni Worley, Tulsa

## Museums

### PINNACLE

Bixby Historical Society  
Cherokee Strip Regional  
Heritage Center  
Choctaw Cultural Center  
E.W. Marland Estate  
General Tommy Franks Leadership  
Institute & Museum  
Grady County Historical  
Society & Museum  
Har-Ber Village Museum  
Harn Homestead Museum  
Hennessey Public Library and  
History Center  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum,  
Cultural Center & Archives



Oklahoma City National  
Memorial & Museum  
Oologah Historical Society Museum  
Shattuck Windmill Museum\*  
Woodring Wall of Honor and  
Veterans Park

#### ELEVATED

Cherokee Strip Museum  
Cleveland County Historical  
Society & Moore-Lindsay Historic  
House Museum  
JRB Art at the Elms  
National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
NBC Oklahoma Wigwam Gallery  
Oklahoma City Zoo and  
Botanical Garden  
Pioneer Woman Museum  
Philbrook Museum of Art  
Stillwater Museum of History  
at the Sheerar  
Tulsa Historical Society & Museum  
USA BMX Hall of Fame & Museum  
Waynoka Historical Society  
& Waynoka Air Rail Museum  
Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve  
World Organization of China Painters

#### GROUND FLOOR

Bristow Historical Society & Museum  
International Gymnastics Hall of Fame  
Military Memorial Museum  
Muskogee War Memorial Park  
Oklahoma National Guard Museum  
Putnam City Schools Museum  
Shepherd's Cross & Heart  
of the Shepherd\*  
Temple Museum Association  
Wilson Historical Society

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##### LEVEL I

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# OMA Members Receive Exclusive Savings for the TAM 2024 Conference in Lubbock, Texas

#### THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

(TAM) is excited to extend a special offer for Oklahoma Museum Association members. Join us at the TAM 2024 Conference in Lubbock, Texas, this coming April, and enjoy TAM member pricing! Immerse yourself in the arts and cultural scene of Lubbock, explore iconic venues like the Museum of Texas Tech University and the National Ranching Heritage Center, and be part of conversations that shape the future of our collective cultural enrichment. Learn more about TAM 2024 Lubbock [here](#).

To claim your exclusive discount, simply reach out to [admin@texasmuseums.org](mailto:admin@texasmuseums.org) and TAM Event Planner, Vanessa Anderson, [vanessa@optinexperts.com](mailto:vanessa@optinexperts.com), for your special discount code. TAM is looking forward to collaborating with fellow museum professionals from OMA! 🌈





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# Live Webinar

## Unlocking the Full Potential of OMA Membership

**IN THE SPIRIT OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING**, growth, and collaboration, we are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you for a live webinar that promises to unveil the multitude of benefits available to cherished members (or potential members) of the Oklahoma Museum Association.

**When:** January 11, 2024 at 10:00am CT

**Platform:** Zoom

**Register:** [Here](#)

As passionate advocates for the preservation and celebration of Oklahoma's rich cultural heritage, your involvement in the Oklahoma Museum Association is already a testament to your commitment to advancing the field. However, we believe there's always more to discover, and our upcoming webinar aims to bring the spotlight onto the numerous benefits waiting for you to explore.

### 1. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES:

Connect with fellow museum professionals, share experiences, and build meaningful relationships. Our association is a hub of knowledge and innovation, and this webinar will guide you on how to make the most of these valuable connections.

### 2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Discover the array of resources and programs tailored to enhance your professional skills. From workshops and training sessions to access to cutting-edge research, your membership opens doors to a wealth of opportunities for growth and development in the ever-evolving museum landscape.

### 3. ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT:

Explore the avenues through which the Oklahoma Museum Association advocates for your interests and

concerns. Discover how your membership empowers you to contribute to the shaping of policies that impact the museum community.

### 4. EXCLUSIVE EVENTS AND DISCOUNTS:

From conferences to special exhibitions, gain insight into the exciting events and discounts that come with your membership. Save money while enjoying unique experiences that further enrich your passion for museums.

### HOW TO JOIN THE WEBINAR

Simply register [here](#) to secure your spot. Remember, the more you know about your benefits, the more you can leverage them to make a positive impact on your career and the community you serve.

### SPREAD THE WORD!

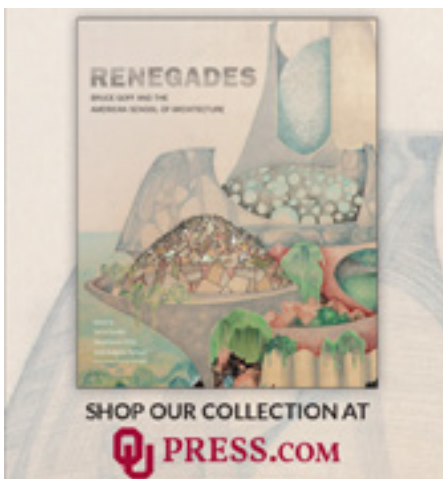
Encourage your colleagues and peers to join us whether they are current OMA members or not. The more engaged our field is, the stronger we become as advocates for Oklahoma's diverse cultural landscape.

In this ever-evolving world, staying informed and connected is key to success. OMA is committed to being your partner in this journey. Join us for this live webinar, and let's unlock the full potential of your membership together! ●●●



**UNLOCKING**  
**the Full Potential of**  
**OMA Membership**  
**Live Webinar**

January 11, 2024  
Register at [OKMuseums.org](https://okmuseums.org)



## Small and Rural Museums Invited to a Collections Conundrums Zoom Call on January 25



**THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION** is excited to announce the upcoming Collections Conundrums Zoom Call, marking the culmination of the Rural Museums Adapting to Contemporary Challenges program. This initiative has been a valuable resource, delivering practical museum collections information online and on-demand to both paid and volunteer museum workers. Participants have also gained access to subject experts in museum collections, receiving guidance and support from OMA to navigate contemporary challenges, with a particular focus on those faced by rural museums in Oklahoma.

To join this insightful session, please register in advance here. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing details on how to join the meeting.

We are honored to have esteemed museum collections experts present to assist in brainstorming answers to your collections conundrum questions. The distinguished panel includes Karen Whitecotton from the Oklahoma

*continued on page 21*

# Voluntary Repatriation, Restitution, and Reparations Project

**From the Center for the Future of Museums - American Alliance of Museums**

**COLLECTIONS LIE AT THE HEART OF MOST MUSEUMS**, so naturally values regarding the ownership and control of collections are central to museum ethics. Recent developments at the global, national, and institutional level—including a wave of voluntary repatriation to descendant communities—suggest we may be at a tipping point regarding those values.

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has launched the Voluntary Repatriation, Restitution, and Reparations project to explore where these changes may lead us, decades hence. What “preferred futures” are envisioned by individuals representing descendant communities and by people working in museums? Which traditional standards and practices continue to have value, and which might need to change? What barriers exist to moving from the current state of museums and society to a desired future state? How might we overcome these barriers to create a more just and equitable world?


The Alliance’s Center for the Future of Museums will use the International Futures Forum’s [Three Horizons framework](#) to guide the project’s three stages:

Stage 1 documents the trends and events that have created the current state of museum practice in the report, *The First Horizon: Understanding the State of Voluntary Repatriation, Restitution, and Reparations Today*. Download your free copy and use the report’s worksheet to begin framing your thoughts on the evolution of museum practice.

Stage 2 will engage voices from descendant communities and the museum field to envision the Third Horizon—preferred futures for this area of practice—via a collection of published papers. Plan to join us at the AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo in Baltimore (May 16-19, 2024) for a workshop to engage with these ideas.

Stage 3 will help the field navigate the complexities of realizing these preferred futures by employing foresight techniques to help the museum sector, as well as individual organizations, identify how to navigate the Second Horizon, a transitional period of disruptive change, to reshape museum practice.

Complete the form on the American Alliance of Museums website [here](#) to download your free copy of the report.

This project is generously supported by David Berg Foundation 



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Historical Society, Melissa Owens from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, and Jennifer Holt from the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

This program is an extension of the Museum Accessioning and Registration of Collection Online Course (MARC), a comprehensive initiative developed by the Oklahoma Museums Association. Covering essential topics such as mission statements, conflicts of interest, ethics, collections management policies, collecting plans, collections committees, and legal issues related to museum collections and deaccessioning, the course comprises 32 online modules and is available to anyone on-demand from the OMA website [here](#).

Engaging in discussions with museum collection experts during this session will empower museums to brainstorm solutions for their collections conundrums and effectively adapt to contemporary challenges. As a conclusion to the program, OMA will furnish attendees with a curated list of resources. This compilation will be based on the information requested during the discussions, supplemented by other beneficial resources, providing a valuable takeaway for all participants.

Priority for this program is given to the 65 museums in Adair, Atoka, Bryan, Caddo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Johnston, Kiowa, Latimer, McCurtain, McIntosh, Okfuskee, and Pushmataha counties thanks to a grant from the Carolyn Watson Rural Oklahoma Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. ●●●

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# Submit Your Proposals Now

## Session Proposals for the 2024 Oklahoma Museum Conference are Due January 31

**ACT NOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS** for the 2024 Oklahoma Museum Conference, scheduled to take place from September 11-13 in Idabel. This year's theme, "Believe in Success: It's Out There," is exemplified by our conference host, Museum of the Red River. As the museum prepares for its upcoming 50th-anniversary celebration, it is worth noting that it has expanded from its original 2,200 square feet to an impressive 45,000 square feet and now contains over 30,000 objects from six different continents.

Your experiences, both successes and challenges, hold valuable insights for others in the field. Consider the following points as you craft your proposal:

### MEASURING SUCCESS

How does your museum define and measure success?

### PROGRAM OR EXHIBIT SUCCESS

What does a successful program or exhibit look like in the context of a large, medium, or small museum?

### CAREER GROWTH

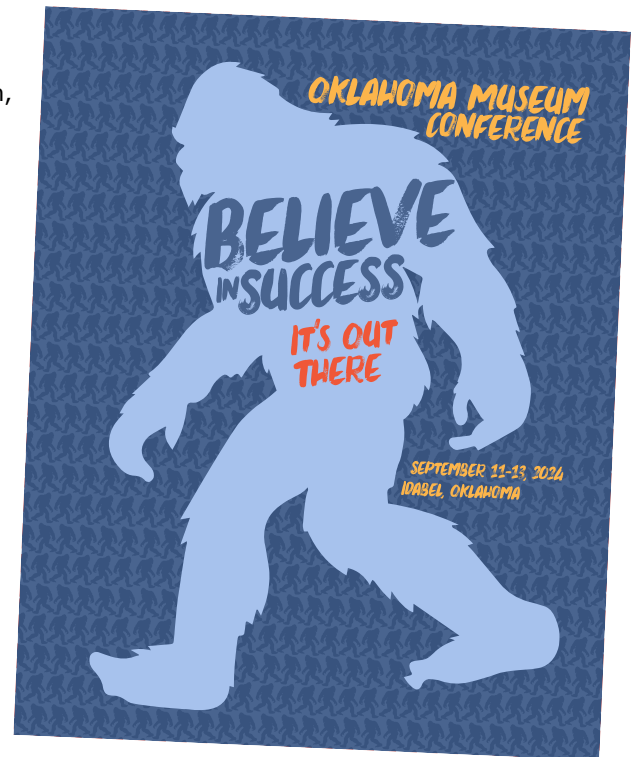
Explore ways to leverage your current work for successful career growth.

### INNOVATION AND RESULTS

Did your board implement an innovative strategic plan that yielded positive results?

Have you cultivated a robust volunteer corps or implemented an innovative employee enrichment program?

Seize the opportunity to share your ideas and insights with fellow professionals in the Oklahoma museum community. Proposals for the upcoming conference must be submitted by January 31, 2024. To guide you through the process, download the "[Considerations When Submitting a Proposal](#)" help sheet, and then submit your proposal [here](#). This is your chance to contribute to the collective knowledge and success of the Oklahoma museum landscape. If you do not want to submit, but would like to suggest a topic, please contact the OMA office at [info@okmuseums.org](mailto:info@okmuseums.org). ●●●



# About



# musenews

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**OMA MISSION: EMPOWERING OKLAHOMA MUSEUMS**

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OMA is a member of the [American Alliance of Museums](#), [American Association for State and Local History](#), [Coalition of State Museum Associations](#), [Arts Council of Oklahoma City](#), [Oklahoma Travel Industry Association](#), [Oklahomans for the Arts](#), and [Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits](#).

## MEMBERSHIP + CONNECTION

OMA offers a variety of programs, services, and networking opportunities that benefit the Oklahoma museum community. The financial support of membership from our 700+ members ensures that we remain a strong and thriving organization. OMA members are an important part of the collective Oklahoma museum voice, so be a member and get connected!

### FOR INDIVIDUALS

Whether you are museum staff, a volunteer, board member, or student preparing for a career in museums, OMA is for you. Membership provides learning and networking opportunities to help you grow in your role and feel connected to the Oklahoma museum community. [Details here](#).

### FOR MUSEUMS

Oklahoma has over 500 museums, historic homes and sites, tribal cultural centers, botanical gardens, zoos, science centers, archives and more! Membership is for every type and size of museum with resources that help strengthen the museum to better engage citizens and enhance their community. [Details here](#).

### FOR PARTNERS

Museum partners are the businesses, consultants, and nonprofit organizations that Offer programs, products and services of interest to museums. Membership provides the opportunity to be seen and recognized as part of the Oklahoma museum community. [Details here](#).

### FOR UNIVERSITIES

Universities can promote their museum studies and archives programs while connecting their students to field-specific networking opportunities and professional training. A win-win all the way around. [Details here](#).



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