



"Enriching Our Communities Through Advancement of the Arts"

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**ALLIED ARTS PARTNERS WITH
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TO STRENGTHEN ARTS PLANNING AND RESOURCES**
Organizations to work together on three-year cultural plan

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., July 7 2010 – Beginning July 1, Allied Arts and the Cultural Development Corporation (CDC) joined forces to offer better coordination and collaboration for the Central Oklahoma arts community. Although the CDC remains an autonomous organization, Allied Arts now houses the organization and provides key support to CDC committee members.

The CDC's next major initiative includes presenting a three-year cultural plan to city officials this month. The organization remains committed to addressing the primary issues faced by art organizations, including: marketing, education, facilities, leadership and resource development.

"The collaboration of Allied Arts and the CDC will further strengthen the role of the arts locally," said Deborah McAuliffe Senner, Allied Arts president and CEO. "We look forward to working together to ensure that the arts remain a vital component in the city."

The CDC's plan includes strategies for advancing Oklahoma City's cultural agenda. During the next three years, the CDC suggests that the city invest in more public art, arts education programs and art tourism opportunities. The organization also recommends exploring a joint-public and private funding solution for implementing the plan strategies.

One of the CDC's primary projects includes measuring the economic impact of the arts as an industry in Oklahoma County. A recent study, commissioned by the CDC and conducted by the Americans for the Arts, revealed the powerful impact the arts has on the local economy. Below are just a few study findings, all specific to Oklahoma County:

- **4,033** full-time equivalent jobs supported by arts organizations
- **\$4,555,000** in income generated to local governments by arts groups and their audiences
- **1,852,941** attendees to local arts and culture events (45% non-residents)
- **\$32.73** spent locally by individual non-residents attending arts events (excluding the cost of admission)

"Investing in the arts will help boost Oklahoma City on its path to becoming a first-class city," said James Pickel, CDC chair. "The CDC and Allied Arts partnership will offer the strategic support needed to grow our arts community, including identifying and implementing plans to keep the arts on the center stage in Central Oklahoma."

To request a full copy of “Arts & Economic Prosperity III: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations and Their Audiences in Oklahoma County” study, please email lindsay.mcintyre@alliedartsokc.com.

For additional information on Allied Arts or the CDC, please call (405) 278-8944 or visit www.AlliedArtsOKC.com.

About Allied Arts

As Oklahoma’s only United Arts Fund, Allied Arts generates awareness of the importance of the arts, mobilizes support for arts and cultural organizations and funds arts education programs for Central Oklahoma school children. Founded in 1971, the organization has raised more than \$40 million to advance the arts in Oklahoma City and its surrounding communities.

Allied Arts’ member agencies include:

- Ambassadors’ Concert Choir
- Arts Council of Oklahoma City
- Canterbury Choral Society
- Carpenter Square Theatre
- Cimarron Opera
- City Arts Center
- Guy Fraser Harrison Academy
- Individual Artists of Oklahoma
- Lyric Theatre and Thelma Gaylord Academy
- Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
- Metropolitan School of Dance
- OK City Chorus
- Oklahoma Children’s Theatre
- Oklahoma City Ballet
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art
- Oklahoma City Philharmonic
- Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park
- Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
- Prairie Dance Theatre
- Science Museum Oklahoma

For more information, contact Allied Arts at 405-278-8944 or visit www.alliedartsokc.com.

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