

City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Kristina Elizondo – 214-670-4081

Cultural Programs Manager – Office of Cultural Affairs

kristina.elizondo@dallascityhall.com

City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs Fact Sheet

Summary:

The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) operates a budget of over \$15 million; oversees 18 cultural facilities, five cultural centers, and 300 works of public art; facilitates cultural services contracts for over 200 arts and cultural organizations; operates television cable systems and a classical radio station; and employs over 70 people dedicated to advancing the arts in Dallas and ensuring that all citizens and visitors have access to a broad array of arts and cultural opportunities.

Mission:

- The Office of Cultural Affairs works to enhance the vitality of the City and the quality of life for all Dallas citizens by creating an environment wherein arts and cultural organizations thrive and people of all ages enjoy opportunities for creative expression and the celebration of our community's multicultural heritage.
- The OCA mission is to establish a cultural system that ensures that ALL Dallas citizens and visitors have an opportunity to experience the finest in arts and culture.

Organizational structure:

- The Office of Cultural Affairs is a division of the City Manager's Office and is charged with the implementation of the City's cultural policy and programs. Office of Cultural Affairs executive staff includes a director, Maria Muñoz-Blanco, and an assistant director, David Fisher. The director reports to the Assistant City Manager for Neighborhood Quality of Life.
- The Cultural Affairs Commission is an eighteen-member advisory board, appointed by the Mayor and City Council, and charged with advising the City Manager and City Council on cultural policy development and implementation.

The OCA carries out its mission through the following services and partnerships:

- **Cultural Services Contracts:** This program supports arts and cultural programs and projects offered by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations based in the City of Dallas. Funding, in the form of service contracts, are awarded annually to over 200 artists and arts/cultural organizations. The main categories in the Cultural Services Contracts Program are: Cultural Organization Program (COP); Cultural Projects Program (CPP); Neighborhood Touring Program (NTP); Leadership Exchange and Advancement Program (LEAP); and Cultural Tourism Initiative (CTI).
- **Cultural Facility Support:** The City of Dallas owns a number of cultural facilities, 18 of which are overseen or operated by the Office of Cultural Affairs. Five of the facilities are operated directly by OCA, while 13 are operated through agreements with private nonprofit organizations. OCA pays for the utilities and other costs associated with the operations of the facilities, and partners with the City's Equipment & Building Services Department for the maintenance of the physical plan of most of these buildings.
- **Cultural Centers:** The OCA operates six cultural facilities. Our largest cultural center, the Meyerson Symphony Center, is managed by City staff and serves as the home for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, which has a long-term primary user agreement for the facility approved by City Council. Four other cultural centers offer year-round programs organized and coordinated by OCA staff: Bath House Cultural Center; Latino Cultural Center; South Dallas Cultural Center; and the Ice House Cultural Center. The Juanita Craft Civil Rights House is operated on a part-time basis by an OCA contractor (it is not City staffed at this time).
- **Public Art Program:** Since the adoption of the Public Art Ordinance in 1988, the City of Dallas has had an active and highly regarded Public Art program that both commissions new art for public facilities and provides maintenance and conservation for the over 300 works in the City collection. New commissions are funded through the City's capital project and by bonds approved by Dallas citizens.
- **Thriving Minds & Audience Development:** Through its partnership with nonprofit art education organization Big Thought and DISD, the OCA is actively engaged in the Thriving Minds educational initiative; as well as undertaking collaborative projects like Smithsonian Jazz Appreciation Month and Free Night of Theater, which seek to expand the opportunities of Dallasites to participate in arts and cultural programs.
- **Cable Systems:** Through its franchise agreement with the local cable provider, the City has 10 cable access channels for PEG use (Public, Educational, and Government). OCA provides the technical and production support to operate the City Channel, oversees the contract with iMedia Network, Inc. for the public

access channels, and partners with DISD, RISD, and DCCCD for the operations of the educational channels.

- **WRR 101.1 FM Classical Radio:** The only municipally-owned commercial station in the United States dedicated to classical music, WRR operates under FCC license. The station generates revenue through advertising and generates enough revenue annually to sustain its operations and to maintain a fund balance for capital improvements.