



OAK PARK ART LEAGUE



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year

May 2022 - April 2023



OAK PARK ART LEAGUE

Founded in 1921, the Oak Park Art League (OPAL) is one of the longest, continually-running non-profit arts organizations in Illinois. OPAL fulfills its mission through its offering of high-quality art education to people of all ages and skill levels, programs and guest lectures, artist demonstrations and critiques, plus monthly exhibition opportunities in our art gallery.

The Oak Park Art League's mission is to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities.

Through the offering of dynamic public arts programming and exhibitions, our goal is to engage the beginner to professional artist in creative practices allowing for the refinement of their creative voice.

720 Chicago Ave
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

708-386-9853
oakparkartleague@gmail.com



Scan QR code to visit www.oakparkartleague.org.

Hello Friends!

We are pleased to share with you the progress the Oak Park Art League community art organization has made this past fiscal year May 2022 through April 2023. We have made good progress building on the reorganization and programming begun in the last fiscal year. OPAL joined the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce and we have hired a part time Marketing Coordinator. We welcome Phoebe Hurd to our team! Covid is still with us and we have worked through the year to live with its presence by maintaining awareness and looking out for each other.

Everyone's support and flexibility, including that of our participating artists, engaged sponsors, generous donors, dedicated art instructors, enthusiastic class and workshop registrants, dependable volunteer members and art friends, have helped enable our staff and volunteer board to continue providing a welcoming and active art-centric agenda. We will continue to build on this solid foundation and we invite you to continue your support in our new fiscal year!

FY 2022-23 Staff

Brad Nugent, Executive Director

Jeff Jenkins, Gallery Manager

Phoebe Hurd, Marketing Coordinator

FY 2022-23 Board of Directors

Kim Fideler Robinson, President/Treasurer

Linda DeViller, Vice President

Maria Gedroc, Secretary

David Baker, Grant Writing

Pam Penney, Education

Lou Thetard, Building & Grounds

Margot McMahon, Community Outreach

Core Statistics

Fiscal Year May 2022 - April 2023

264	Active Members
959	Other Friends and Supporters
96	Courses Offered
376	Course Registrants
10	Art Exhibitions
407	Exhibiting Artists
2,227	Gallery Visitors
1,894	Board Volunteer Hours

Total Revenue = \$183,516

Tuition.....	42.4 %
Art Sales.....	3.8 %
Exhibitions.....	6.3 %
Fundraising.....	24.9 %
Grants.....	13.5 %
Membership.....	9.1 %
	100 %

Total Expenditures = \$169,864

Administrative/Misc.....	1.9 %
Art Sale Commissions.....	3.7 %
Building & Grounds.....	1.1 %
Bank/IT Expenses.....	4.1 %
Office Expenses/Equipment.....	2.8 %
Utilities.....	4.3 %
Payroll.....	49.4 %
Program/School Expenses.....	28.9 %
Insurance.....	3.8 %
	100 %

Net Revenue = \$13,652



FY 2022-23 Accomplishments



Fundraising/Grants:

Our numerous donors, sponsors and grantors partnered with us to allow OPAL to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities. Funds raised at our annual Starry Night fundraiser and from our annual year-end appeal, along with contributions from our gallery sponsors contributed to OPAL's success.

Grants received from the supporters of our Youth Art Education Outreach allowed those programs to thrive. General operating support grants received from the Oak Park Area Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Council Agency allowed OPAL to maintain operations necessary to fulfill our mission.

OPAL continued making progress in the grant funding process with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity toward the goal of installing an ADA accessible restroom on the first level, and additional renovations.



Exhibitions:

OPAL designed and published, for the first time, the entire year's Exhibition Calendar. This proved to be immensely beneficial for exhibiting artists to project and consider the different exhibition "Calls" offered and to plan their submissions ahead of time.

The breakdown of the year's 10 exhibitions included: six "Open Call" exhibitions, two "Member Only" exhibitions, and, two "Juried" exhibitions. We thank Byline Bank and Good Heart/Work Smart Foundation for their continued exhibition sponsorships.



FY 2022-23 Accomplishments *continued*



Studio Courses:

We improved and expanded our facilities to accommodate more course offerings for additional times and days. All of our facilitators and instructing artists are independent contractor professionals who schedule their availability with times and space OPAL provides.

We appreciate these individuals for their creative talents, and thank them for their time, hard work, and dedication to their craft as share their expertise with fellow artists at every level of learning.



Education, Events, and Activities:

We provided facility resources to the **Oak Park Education Foundation's Spoken Word Club**, middle school students, who met and practiced their craft, culminating in a formal presentation/performance in OPAL's Gallery. **Momenta Dance Company** held practices and presented their performance, in the Gallery as well. As an **OPRF Chamber** member, OPAL hosted periodic business and organization panels through the year.

We continued and expanded our outreach programs. The **FamilysARTS** program, free for youth and their chaperones, provides craft activities for them to be creative together for a couple of hours on various Sunday mornings throughout the year.

CritTalk, for adult artists and art appreciators, is a free drop-in session for discussion and learning about the current exhibition and the work presented. This has been held on various Saturdays during the year.

Both of these started as pilot efforts to gauge interest in the community and have become popular programs.

FY 2022-23 Youth Art Education Outreach



As the mission of the Oak Park Art League is to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding region, we are pleased to be able to continue programming for all ages that lives up to this mission.

In 2022-23, through collaboration with **St. Angela Elementary School** and the **Hephzibah Children's Association**, OPAL began to realize its goal of engaging under resourced young people, through art, on a larger scale, other than what we were able to offer through in-house classes at OPAL. By offering art classes to children off-site, we were able to share art education with far more students that could have attended OPAL as well as assist these organizations and teachers with art programs giving these children the resources to develop and refine their creative voice.



With the generous support of the **Mammel Family Foundation**, OPAL received a grant to support an in-school art program for K through 8th grade students at St. Angela Elementary School, in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. This grant enabled OPAL to provide curriculum-based art classes to over 150 students, on a weekly basis during the school year.



FY 2022-23

Youth Art Education Outreach *continued*

Also, through a grant from the **Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's YES Fund**, OPAL collaborated with Hephzibah Children's Association and established a way for these young people to make connections with their peers and community, through art, to process their feelings, perform better in school with a balanced education, and to explore interests they may not know they had. In our pilot program, OPAL provided art activity and education for these young folks, in their home environment.

OPAL proudly presented the artwork many of these young people created, giving them a crucial sense of community belonging. At the end of the last school year, OPAL hosted approximately 20 youth, and their chaperones, to a pizza party at OPAL where everyone could see their work highlighted in a real Gallery!

Being able to provide this service to the community highlights OPAL as a place where everyone can feel comfortable and welcome and enjoy an array of program offerings with their friends and families.

We thank and congratulate Na Suen, who was instrumental in pioneering with us to create this "proof-of-concept" pilot program, and the entire St. Angela team of teachers and administrators who worked hard to put together and support this art education program for all the students. We are also grateful to Phoebe Hurd, OPAL's art facilitator and program liaison with Hephzibah Children's Association, and all of Hephzibah's dedicated staff, for everything they do!



FY 2023-24 GOALS

OPAL will aggressively pursue opportunities to expand our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Increase studio/course/workshop offerings.

Develop viable community engagement through art centered opportunities.

Develop membership drives and benefits.

Elevate and promote exhibitions in the Gallery.

Develop and implement new sponsorship opportunities and support.

Pursue fundraising opportunities and increase opportunities for donor participation.

Search out specific grant opportunities to support programming, operations, and capital improvements.

Continue to secure and make progress on the ADA restroom and related innovations.

Pursue Board expansion.

Continue development and maintenance of best practices for administrative and business efficiencies.

Continue efforts to improve and update marketing and branding of the organization's mission and its programming.

Have fun. Work smart.

Thank you for your generosity!

OPAL thanks everyone who supported our work this past year. Your generous donations of time, talent, and funds made it possible to continue providing art focused programming to Oak Park and area communities.

A special acknowledgment to our generous supporters:

CENTENNIAL PHILANTHROPIST

Giving of \$5,000 and above

Anonymous Donor
Kim Fideler Robinson and Kevin Robinson
Good Heart/Work Smart Foundation
Illinois Arts Council Agency
Mammel Family Foundation
Oak Park Area Arts Council
Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

CENTENNIAL ALTRUIST

Giving of \$2,000 - \$4,999

Pamela Penney
Craig and Bette Williams

CENTENNIAL BENEFACTOR

Giving of \$1,000 - \$1,999

Byline Bank

CENTENNIAL SUSTAINER

Giving of \$500 - \$999

Spencer Baker
Shelley Cirone
Linda DeViller
Maria Gedroc
Jill Kramer
Margot McMahon
Teresa Powell
Frances Sullivan
Skip Saviano
Lou Thetard and Denise DeLaurent

CENTENNIAL PATRON

Giving of \$250 - \$499

Patsy G. Allen Fund
Diane and John Andrews
David Baker
Barbara Best
Cynthia Fellencer and Jaques Shalo
Janet and Michael Hanley
Karen Heller and Robert Becker
Julie and Patrick McKune
Christopher and Amanda Miller
Mary and Frank Pelligrini
Wendy and Bob Planek
Josephine Ryan

CENTENNIAL DONOR

Giving of up to \$249

Geoffrey and Brenda Adaire

Julie Brundage

Susie Chan

Joan Chiolak Peteril

Sue Edwards

Judith Hafeman

Patricia Hannon

Nancy Hlavacek

Kathryn and Thomas Koleski

Jennifer McNulty

Pledgeling Foundation

Adam Santoro

Karen Schuman

Belinda Shastal

Ramesh Tak

Karen Tardy

Shelley Timm-Thompson

Anne and John Vacca

Marilyn Vickers

Kimberly Wojack

STARRY NIGHT

We also thank everyone who supported our 2022 Summer Fundraiser by purchasing event and raffle tickets, providing monetary sponsorships and joining in the fun. Thank you to the **Wood Street Bloodhounds** for providing our musical entertainment that evening and to **Kettlestrings Tavern** for donating wine and beer for the event.

ANNUAL FUND

We also thank all who supported our 2022 year-end Annual Appeal.

SATELLITE GALLERIES VENUES

In FY 2022-23, these companies sponsored continuing exhibiting opportunities for artists, for the benefit of patrons, staff and visitors. This was an opportunity for the public to see artwork otherwise unavailable and for artists to obtain additional support. Although OPAL has decided to discontinue the Satellite Gallery program, we graciously thank our Satellite Gallery partners, who have worked with us and supported us over the years

Kettlestrings Tavern

800 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL

Prairie Title

6821 W North Ave., Oak Park, IL

CrossFunction

1033 South Blvd., Oak Park, IL

The Oak Park Art League is partially funded by Oak Park Area Arts Council, in partnership with the Village of Oak Park, the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funds for the Oak Park Art League were also received from the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and the other donor organizations referenced above.



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