



ohio arts
professionals
network

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ABOUT

The **Ohio Arts Professionals Network (OAPN)** was established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1960 by university-based arts administrators and launched its first annual conference in 1988. Since then, OAPN has continued to present a statewide networking and booking conference—shifting to an even-year biennial format in 2018—and has consistently provided juried artist showcases, professional development, and an exhibit hall designed to support networking and business opportunities for attendees.

Today, OAPN remains committed to its mission of supporting and advancing the touring arts and culture industry in Ohio. Our membership, which includes artists, agents, presenters, individuals, and service organizations, forms a collaborative network that strengthens professional relationships and fosters partnerships with performing arts organizations and artist management agencies throughout Ohio and the surrounding region.

MISSION

Ohio Arts Professionals Network (OAPN) is a member based organization whose mission is to support and grow the touring Arts & Culture industry in Ohio.

VISION

OAPN will be the premier member organization in the state of Ohio that artists, agents, and presenters go to when participating in the touring arts industry.



ANNUAL OVERVIEW

In 2024, OAPN hosted its biennial Conference in Toledo, Ohio, convening 125 Presenters, Agents, and Artists representing more than 15 states, three countries, and 32 Ohio cities.

This year, OAPN expanded its Juried Showcase from 24 to 30 performances, broadening opportunities for artistic visibility. Three Ohio artists—**The Labra Brothers**, **Apostle Jones**, and **Nikki D & The Sisters of Thunder**—were selected for this highly competitive showcase and awarded the EDIA Emerging Artist Sponsorship, which provided a fully funded conference experience through the support of the **Marathon Center for the Performing Arts**. This sponsorship enabled these artists to engage directly with presenters, expand their professional networks, and access new pathways for touring and career advancement.

THE LABRA BROTHERS



APOSTLE JONES



NIKKI D & THE SISTERS OF THUNDER



OVERVIEW CONTINUED

To further recognize excellence within our membership, we increased the number of **OAPN IMPACT Awards** given to celebrate outstanding contributors across the Presenter, Agent, and Artist categories. Honorees included Artist and mentor **Helen Welch** for her impact as a touring professional; Agent **Kevin Peters** for his dedicated work and volunteer leadership within multiple service organizations; and Presenter **Shirley Stary**, honored upon her retirement as Director of Lakeside Chautauqua.



HELEN WELCH



KEVIN PETERS



SHIRLEY STARY

The OAPN IMPACT Award, established in 2021 by Board President Gary Minyard, honors members who make meaningful contributions to our community. Each year, the Board President commissions a local artist to create a unique award, ensuring every recognition is one-of-a-kind. In 2024, President David Mitchell expanded the award from one recipient to three and partnered with Dover, Ohio artist **Jennifer Jo Contini** of **Pop Heartist** to create this year's distinctive pieces.

OVERVIEW CONTINUED

OAPN continued its popular virtual “Tuesday Talks” series, offering monthly Presenter Connects, the highly popular Agent Pitch Sessions—including two additional sessions added due to demand—and several informative webinars. The year’s programming also included a post-conference Young Audience discussion, ensuring continued dialogue and connection beyond the Conference itself.

Ebony Richardson, Membership Coordinator, continued to support member relations, managing email communications, and enhancing OAPN’s social media presence and engagement throughout the year.



176
Members

29
Ohio Counties Represented
by Presenter Members



Pictured: Jessica Rosenblatt, Peg McDonald, Craig VanRenterghem, Janet Herman Barlow

Executive Director Jessica Rosenblatt attended the **Ohio Arts Council’s Arts Impact Ohio** conference in Toledo, gaining valuable insights to statewide discussions on strengthening the arts sector.

2024 CONFERENCE STATS

125

Conference
Attendees

50

Exhibitor
Booths

30

Juried Showcase
Artists

200+

Minutes of
Networking

19

Conference
Sponsors

4

Professional
Development
Sessions

32

Cities in Ohio
Represented

15

States
Represented

3

Countries
Represented

LUCIANE DOM



NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY



MIKE SUPER

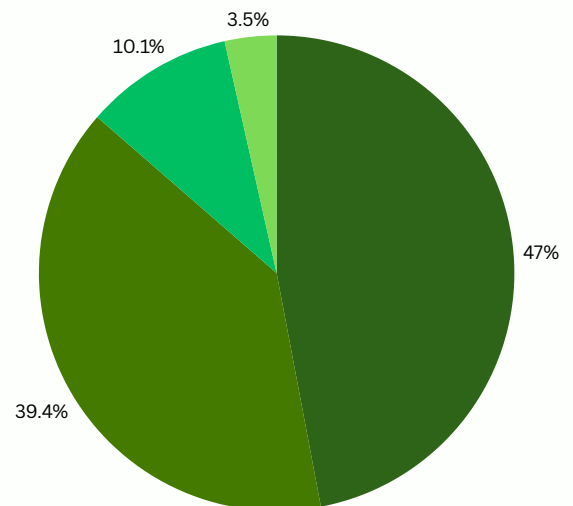


FINANCIALS

In 2024, OAPN generated \$171,473 in total income, driven largely by conference revenue (47%) and grants and donations (39%). Total expenses reached \$191,333, with nearly half invested directly into delivering a high-quality conference experience and the remainder supporting essential administrative and operational needs. While we originally projected a \$14,500 surplus, we closed the year with a \$19,860 loss due to conference attendance falling short by 50 participants—a result influenced by timing and proximity to a new regional Midwest conference. Despite this, the year reflects intentional investments in expanded programming, increased showcases, and member services that strengthen OAPN’s long-term sustainability and position us for stronger performance in future conference cycles.

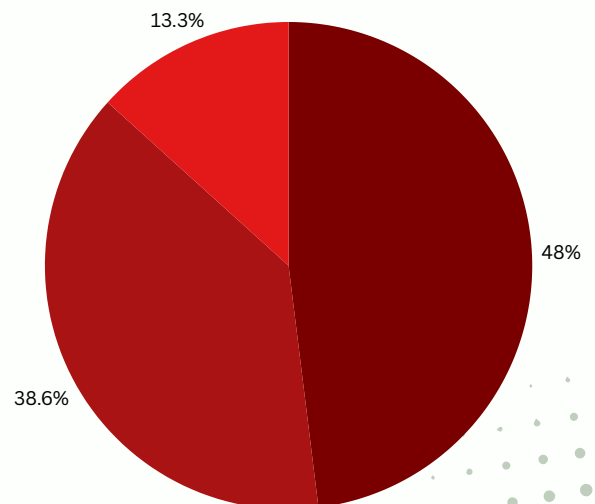
Total Income: \$171,473.14

47% Conference Total:	\$80,622.57
Registration:	\$49,665
Sponsorships:	\$12,200
Other:	\$18,757.57
39.4% Grants & Donations:	\$67,518
10.1% Membership:	\$17,301.50
3.5% Other:	\$6,031.07



Total Expenses: \$191,333.42

48% Conference:	\$91,822.80
38.6% Administrative:	\$73,864.20
13.3% General Operating:	\$25,446.42



OAPN BOARD OFFICERS & STAFF

Our staff has a strong commitment to enriching the lives of our community's residents through artistic expression. They are experts in arts management and use their creative energy to bring the arts alive for you.

Our Board represents a cross-section of our community and has a passion for bringing arts to the masses. The members work hard to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization so that the funds raised allow the membership to continue growing the touring arts industry in Ohio.

Scan me
to view
OAPN's
history



OAPN Executive Board



President
David Mitchell
General Manager
Performing Arts Center
Kent State University at
Tuscarawas



Vice President
Kevin Cornell
Artist, Educator
Mister C, Learning
Science is Fun



Secretary
Edward Schoelwer
Principal
Red Shell Mgmt



Treasurer
Dr. Margaret Carlson
Producing Artistic Director
Verb, 'Ohio Contemporary
Ballet'

OAPN Staff



Executive Director
Jessica Rosenblatt



Membership Coordinator
Ebony Richardson

Board Members At Large



Abe Ambroza
Chief Executive Officer
Veterans Memorial Civic
and Convention Center



Steve Burnette
Executive Director
The Murphy Theatre



Heather Clow
Executive Director
Marathon Center for the
Performing Arts



Sharon Edmond
Receptionist
Saint Luke's Foundation



David M Finkel
Executive Director
Strand Theatre



Erika Finley
Marketing Manager
& Agent
Live Arts &
Attractions



Amber Hansen
Vice President & Upper
Midwest Agent
BiCoastal Productions



Antoinette Kula
Assistant Director,
Ticket Sales & Service
Playhouse Square



Peg McDonald
Retired Presenter



Erin Cameron Miller
Director
Stocker Arts Center



Margo Ohlson
Director
E.J. Thomas
Performing Arts Hall
at The University of
Akron



Dr. Elaine Richardson
Artist, Educator
Dr. E, Ohio State
University Professor of
Literacy Studies



Jerry Ross
President
Harmony Artists

Conference Staff & Volunteers

Production Manager – **Timothy Lake**

Administrative Coordinators – **Danielle Ivancic & Savanah Pfister**

Photographer – **Elaine Manusakis**

Volunteers – **Janet Herman Barlow & Peg McDonald**

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

