



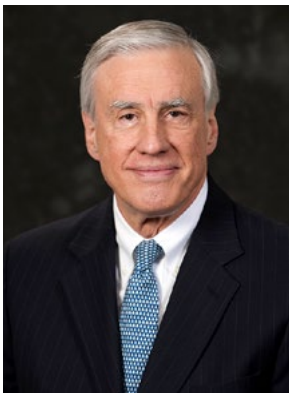
Oklahoma Historical Society

FY2023
Annual Report



Oklahoma Historical Society

Board of Directors



Duke R. Ligon
PRESIDENT



Karen Keith
VICE-PRESIDENT



Donna Sharpe
TREASURER

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is both an agency of the State of Oklahoma and a private membership organization governed by a 25-member Board of Directors. Twelve are appointed by the governor of Oklahoma, and thirteen are elected by the society's members.

Duke R. Ligon, Oklahoma City*

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Charles Tate, Ardmore*

Barbara Thompson, Oklahoma City

James R. Waldo, Oklahoma City*

Weldon Watson, Broken Arrow*

*appointed

Our mission is to **collect, preserve, and share** the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

Agency Leadership



Trait Thompson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Karen Whitecotton
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Trait Thompson
Executive Director

Karen Whitecotton
Deputy Executive Director

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Director of Publications

Kathy Dickson
Director of Museums and Historic Sites

Nicole Harvey
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Gabby Hosek
Chief Financial Officer and Legislative Liaison

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Director of Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Jeff Moore
Director of OKPOP

Larry O'Dell
State Historian

Lynda Ozan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Dan Provo
Director of the Oklahoma History Center

Chad Williams
Director of Research

Proudly Serving Oklahomans

Founded in 1893, the Oklahoma Historical Society maintains museums, historic sites, and affiliates across Oklahoma. Through research archives, exhibits, educational programs, and publications, we continue to chronicle the rich history of our state.

With an appropriation of only **0.13% of the state's annual budget**, the Oklahoma Historical Society reached more than 540,000 visitors, students, educators, researchers, history enthusiasts, and learners of all ages in FY2023.



\$2,826,096

contributed to OHS in donations, grants, memberships, and friends group support

\$1,816,256

in earned revenue

Above: Hunter's Home in Park Hill
Above, right: Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue in Ponca City
Right: Living history program at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City



Support and Connect with OHS

5,442 MEMBERS

enjoyed free admission to OHS museums and historic sites, special discounts, subscriptions to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and *Mistletoe Leaves*, and more!

become a member today
at okhistory.org/join



25,738 HOURS
OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

A MONETARY VALUE OF \$643,450



11,548

SUBSCRIBERS TO *EXTRA!*
WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AN INCREASE OF 30%

subscribe now at
okhistory.org/extra

Above: Event at the Oklahoma History Center
Left: Fred and Addie Drummond Home in Hominy



125,440

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK,
TWITTER/X, AND INSTAGRAM

find us @okhistory



Explore over 60 social media accounts for
our museums, historic homes, military sites,
collections, and more at okhistory.org/social

Archives and Collections

The Oklahoma Historical Society boasts a remarkable range of collections that vividly portray our state's rich heritage.

From meticulously preserved artifacts and documents chronicling Native American history to an extensive collection of photographs offering insights into the past, the society's collections are an invaluable resource for exploring and understanding Oklahoma's multifaceted history.



CRAFTED WITH CARE

This fiddle was handcrafted by H. G. Hall in Konawa, Oklahoma (2022.121.001). It is now part of the Oklahoma Historical Society collections.

86

NEW ARTIFACT
COLLECTIONS

Building collections. Sharing stories.



NEW TO THE COLLECTION

This striking creation is just one of multiple works by Kiowa artist Woodrow Wilson Big Bow added to OHS collections this year (2023.065.004–.008).

Archives and Collections | New Additions



OKLAHOMA! ARTIFACTS

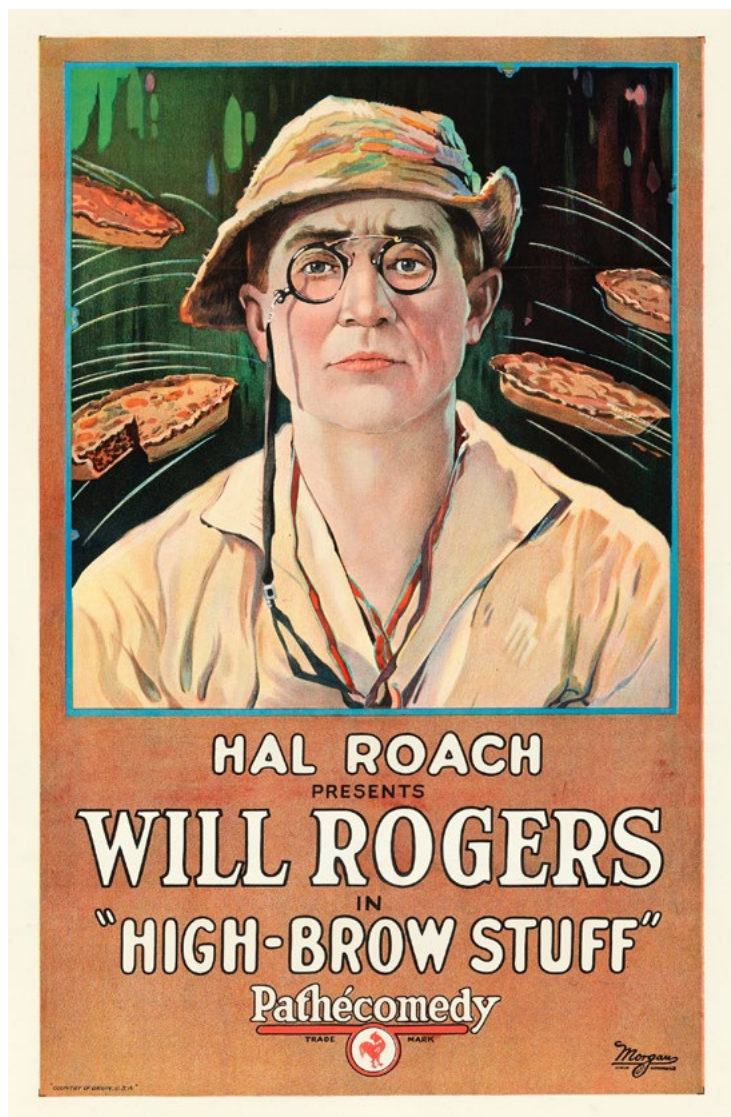
Recent donations include costume pieces worn by Laurey (Shirley Jones) and Ado Annie (Gloria Grahame) in the 1955 film version of *Oklahoma!* The items were donated by the owners of a movie theater, who received the items as part of the movie studio's marketing promotions.



POP CULTURE ICON

Above: This Swedish *Doubling for Romeo* (1921) one-sheet illustrates the global star status attained by *Oklahoma!*'s own Will Rogers.

Left: This rare and colorful one-sheet for the 1924 film *High-Brow Stuff* is now preserved by the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore.



Archives and Collections | New Additions



RETURN TO HUNTER'S HOME

This striking étagère graces the parlor of Hunter's Home once again. The piece had found its way to property in Louisiana owned by the Murrell family, who donated it to the OHS. The étagère is just one of the pieces the Murrell family has donated over the years, helping to restore the history of the state's only remaining antebellum plantation home.



PIECES OF HISTORY

This Baylor wristwatch features tactile markings designed for those with visual impairment (2022.107). A white enamel face is surrounded by raised dots marking each hour.



CELEBRATED OCCASIONS

Created by artist Gary Rosenthal, this pewter alms box includes the inscription, "When two people meet, it should benefit another. —The Lubavitcher Rebbe obm."

The box was presented to Governor Mary Fallin and the people of Oklahoma at the 2013 Chanukah Celebration in Oklahoma City (2023.135.003).

Archives and Collections | [New Additions](#)



STORIES WAITING TO BE TOLD

This scrapbook documenting Fort Sill Indian School was donated by a descendant of former school principal Charles Bryce Montgomery. The images provide a look into daily life at the school in the 1930s.



295 NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

including photographs, manuscript materials, maps, documents, and more



PRESERVED ON FILM

Additions to the Building Owners and Managers Archival Collection (2020.163) include images of Oklahoma City structures lost to Urban Renewal, such as the Equity Building (left) and the Baum Building (right).

Your support helps make it possible.

Since 1893, the OHS has relied on donations of artifacts and archival materials to build collections.

The Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment enables the OHS to acquire and care for historical items in a more deliberate way. All endowment proceeds are dedicated to pursuing and preserving the artifacts, photographs, documents, and precious materials that tell the story of Oklahoma.

Call 405-522-0317 or visit okhistory.org/give to donate.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

This selection of moccasins from OHS collections highlights the intricate beadwork and ornate designs created by Native artists. Top to bottom: Potawatomi/Iowa, Arapaho, Delaware/Shawnee, Kiowa, Comanche, and Cheyenne moccasins.

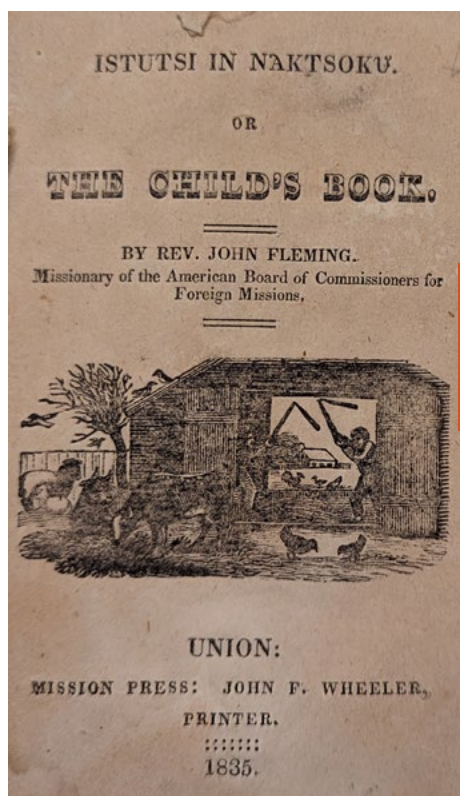
194,594

ARTIFACTS
preserved by OHS

10,000

ORAL HISTORIES

voices of the past are preserved
and over 1,500 interviews are
available on YouTube



83,502

BOUND VOLUMES

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

The first book published in present day Oklahoma was *Istutsi in naktsokv, or, The Child's Book* by John Fleming. This Muscogee (Creek) language primer was published by Union: Mission Press, 1835.

MATERIALS IN 29 languages

including Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), Wyandotte, Shawnee, Quapaw, Kiowa, Delaware, Comanche, Czech, Russian, and Spanish

1,000

FILM COLLECTIONS
with more than 1,300 videos
available on YouTube

Archives and Collections | At-a-glance

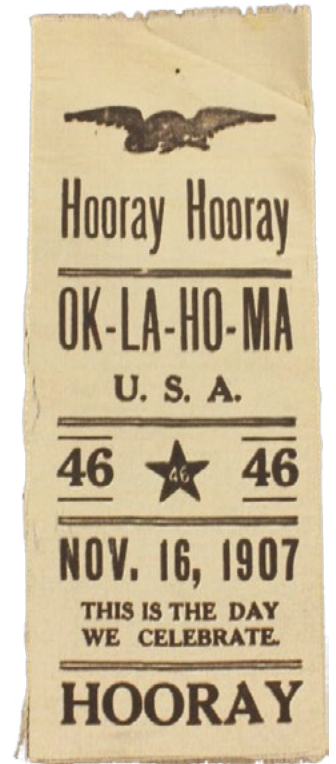
11 MILLION
PHOTOGRAPHS



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Above: Tintype of Amanda Ross Murrell (Cherokee), who resided at Hunter's Home with her husband George Murrell (2010.067.004).

Right: 1907 ribbon celebrating statehood (2005.203.064).



5,000

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

ranging from the diaries of missionaries in Indian Territory to the papers of civil rights activists and political leaders

1,073

CITY DIRECTORIES

1,597

PHONE BOOKS



3,717

NEWSPAPER TITLES

preserved on 46,000 microfilm reels, available to view at the Research Center

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

The OHS preserves the largest and most complete collection of newspapers in the state, with thousands of issues dating from 1819 to the present.

Left: *Ledger Democrat*, Broken Arrow, 1919 (149, W. P. Campbell Collection).

3,473

RESEARCH INQUIRIES ANSWERED

from students, educators, scholars, family historians, and researchers

American Indian Archives

3.5 MILLION
DOCUMENTS

6,000
VOLUMES



Serving Students. Supporting Educators.

Oklahoma National History Day

This annual program engages thousands of students in grades 6–12. After selecting a historical topic, students conduct research, analyze and interpret their sources, and present their work in exhibits, performances, websites, papers, and documentaries. Each May, students from across Oklahoma compete in the state finals at the Oklahoma History Center.

7,359

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT
in 30 counties



Traveling Trunks

The Oklahoma History Center brings the museum to the classroom with a free, hands-on learning opportunity available to teachers and librarians. Trunks include lesson plans, activities, and artifacts that students can touch and feel. These learning tools allow students to form individual connections to the topic and a deeper understanding of the past.

The Traveling Trunk program is made possible by support from BancFirst.



33,555

LEARNERS
SERVED
in 27 counties

27 TRUNKS

explore archaeology, agriculture, Native nations, pioneer life, space exploration, migrations, the Civil War, and the history of African Americans, Latinos, and women in Oklahoma

What educators are saying:

About History Day

“NHD is a valuable educational tool for our students: they learn the research process, use higher-order thinking, relating topics to the theme, and learn how to present themselves to judges. It is a great return on investment.”

About Traveling Trunks

“I love that my students can see and touch artifacts. This engages them and helps me to teach them.”

“I loved being able to use the flags from the different nations to teach about symbolism and the unique histories of each tribe. My students loved researching them and comparing the similarities and differences!”

Oklahoma History Center Field Trips



9,499

**STUDENTS, EDUCATORS,
AND CHAPERONES**
experienced a field trip to the
Oklahoma History Center free
of charge, thanks to funding
from the Inasmuch Foundation



Oklahoma Transportation Grant Program

State-appropriated funding for grants to K-12 schools allowed students to visit the Oklahoma History Center, the Greenwood Cultural Center, Greenwood Rising, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Grants reimbursed transportation costs, making it possible for more learners to explore Black history and civil rights education outside of the classroom.

The Oklahoma History Center Learning and Engagement Department administered this grant program.

What educators are saying: About Field Trips

“Students were able to connect topics that have been talked about in class with real life exhibits and examples. Students loved the connection to real life.”



Delve into History

The Gateway to Oklahoma History

Our free online portal offers access to:

- 513,609 photographs
- 504,580 newspaper issues
- Over 1,000 newspaper titles
- Resources for every county in the state
- Books, maps, documents, and periodicals

1 MILLION

ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE AT
GATEWAY.OKHISTORY.ORG



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Civil rights pioneers Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, Thurgood Marshall (center), and Amos Hall (left) took their battle for equal rights to the US Supreme Court. Find more historic images at gateway.okhistory.org.

FY2023 USAGE AND GROWTH

2 MILLION
SESSIONS

121,169
ITEMS ADDED



The Chronicles of Oklahoma

Since 1921, the Oklahoma Historical Society has shared our state's history through *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Our quarterly journal includes scholarly articles, book reviews, meeting minutes, and notes and documents. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* is now reaching more readers with hundreds of past issues available online through The Gateway to Oklahoma History.

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

1,863
ARTICLES

380
ISSUES

Sharing Our Stories—Online, In Print, and Streaming

A Very OK Podcast

Hosted by Executive Director Trait Thompson and Dr. Bob Blackburn, *A Very OK Podcast* explores the interesting stories and fascinating personalities that make up Oklahoma's unique history.



"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?"

Our most popular episode to date examined the impact of the Great Depression in Oklahoma.

16,000 DOWNLOADS
IN FY2023



**7 MILLION
PAGEVIEWS**

ON OKHISTORY.ORG IN FY2023

okhistory.org

Visit the OHS website to learn about exhibits and events, plan your visit to OHS museums and historic sites, experience online exhibits and virtual tours, find educational resources, trace your family tree, browse encyclopedia articles, locate historic preservation resources, become a member, and so much more.

start your journey now
at okhistory.org

The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

With more than 2,600 entries and growing, *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* is a free resource for discovering the people, places, and events that shape our past.

Dive into arts and humanities, natural resources, government and politics, immigration and ethnicity, education, ranching, transportation, settlement patterns, and more.

2,643 ENTRIES
visit okhistory.org/enc
now to start exploring

SOME OF OUR MOST-READ ENTRIES:

Drummond Ranch
Tulsa Race Massacre
All-Black Towns
Sooner
Land Run of 1889
Okie Migrations
Tenant Farming and Sharecropping
Choctaw (tribe)
Settlement Patterns
Kiowa (tribe)
Doan's Crossing

Step into the Past

Our network of museums and historic sites span the state's diverse geographic and cultural landscape, encompassing 25 locations.

These sites provide a comprehensive exploration of Oklahoma's history, offering authentic artifacts and immersive exhibits that cover topics ranging from Native American heritage to the frontier era and beyond.

Museums

Atoka Museum and Civil War Cemetery, Atoka*
Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry*
Chisholm Trail Museum and Horizon Hill, Kingfisher*
Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus
Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
Oklahoma State Capitol Museum, Oklahoma City*
Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie
Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City
Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
Tom Mix Museum, Dewey*
White Hair Memorial, Hominy
Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore





Historic Homes

Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
 Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City*
 Hunter's Home, Park Hill
 Jim Thorpe Home, Yale*
 Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
 Sod House Museum, Aline

Forts and Battlefields

Cabin Creek Battlefield, Big Cabin
 Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
 Fort Supply Historic Site, Fort Supply*
 Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
 Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah

* affiliate

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum (opposite), Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion (top), and Honey Springs Battlefield Civil War demonstrations (right)



Programs and Exhibits



OHS HELD 354 EVENTS

including festivals,
classes, living history
programs, workshops,
film screenings, tours,
and demonstrations



Event Highlights Include

“The Civil War in Indian Territory: Indigenous Memory and Perspective” program, Honey Springs Battlefield

Asian American and Pacific Islander Experiences in Oklahoma, Oklahoma History Center

Oklahoma Folklife Festival, Oklahoma History Center

Pawnee Bill’s Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

“Finding the Girls: Records for Researching Women” webinar, State Historic Preservation Office

Bob Wills Day at the Capitol, Oklahoma State Capitol

Will Rogers Days and Motion Picture Festival, Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Clara Luper 100th Birthday Celebration, Oklahoma History Center

Bake Day and Gingerbread Decorating, Fort Gibson Historic Site

Let’s Talk About It: *Cowboy Life: Reconstructing an American Myth*, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

1840s Encampment, Fort Towson Historic Site

“History and Hops: Mid-Century Modern Architecture,” Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion

“Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma” webinar series, State Historic Preservation Office

Prairie to Palate outdoor dining experience and fundraiser, Pioneer Woman Museum

Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site

“First Kansas Colored Infantry and Native Home Guard regiments at the Battle of Honey Springs,” Honey Springs Battlefield

“19th-Century Weapons and Tools of Survival,” Hunter’s Home

Spring Agricultural Day, Hunter’s Home

“Perspectives in History”: The Oklahoma History Symposium, Oklahoma History Center

“How to Research Your Historic Property” webinar, State Historic Preservation Office

Museum After Dark series, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

FY2023 Highlights



Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center Grand Opening

Honey Springs Battlefield visitor center near Checotah examines a tumultuous time in our nation's history. An immersive exhibit theatre, historic artifacts, and firsthand accounts from battle survivors tell the story of the largest Civil War engagement in Indian Territory.

In 1863, more than 9,000 troops battled for control of northern Indian Territory. The diverse group of forces included multiple Native American regiments and the celebrated First Kansas Colored Volunteers—the first African American regiment in the Union Army. The four-hour conflict resulted in a decisive Union victory, which ensured Federal control of Fort Gibson and Fort Smith.



Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

Sneed Cabin

A piece of homesteader history will live on at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid. The one-room cabin was constructed in 1900 by homesteaders Everett and Amanda Sneed near Cleveland, Oklahoma.

The cabin has been meticulously disassembled for the journey to Enid. It will be restored and reassembled in the center's Humphrey Heritage Village, which includes an 1893 US land office, the 1896 Turkey Creek School, a 1902 church, and the 1905 Glidewell house. Today, these historic structures are used for living history programs, classes, and events.



FY2023 Highlights



Fort Gibson Historic Site

Navigating History

Fort Gibson Historic Site is now the proud home of the *Muskrat* keelboat. Historians will use the 30-foot craft to spark curiosity in early river navigation with riverside demonstrations. The *Muskrat* is a reproduction of the type of flat freight boat used to haul men, materials, and supplies to 19th-century Fort Gibson.



PICTURED HERE

Keelboat living history program (left),
The *Muskrat* arrives at Fort Gibson
Historic Site (above).



Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

Artifact Returns Home

After 80 years, a historic cannon has returned home to the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum. The 1863 cannon traveled the world, signaling the start of Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows, and was later displayed on the mansion's lawn. Pawnee Bill gifted it to a friend, who bequeathed it to the OHS. After decades on exhibit in Oklahoma City, the cannon again rests in its rightful place at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Left to right: May Lillie, Nellie Ruffner,
and Pawnee Bill, c. 1910 (1991.260.3918,
Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum Collection).

Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program

This grant program empowers local historical organizations as well as local and tribal governments to enhance collections care, create engaging exhibits, and develop impactful programs related to Oklahoma's history.

Ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000, these grants support initiatives that contribute to the preservation and celebration of the state's heritage.



FUNDING IMPACT

This McLoud Historical Society exhibit shares public school history.

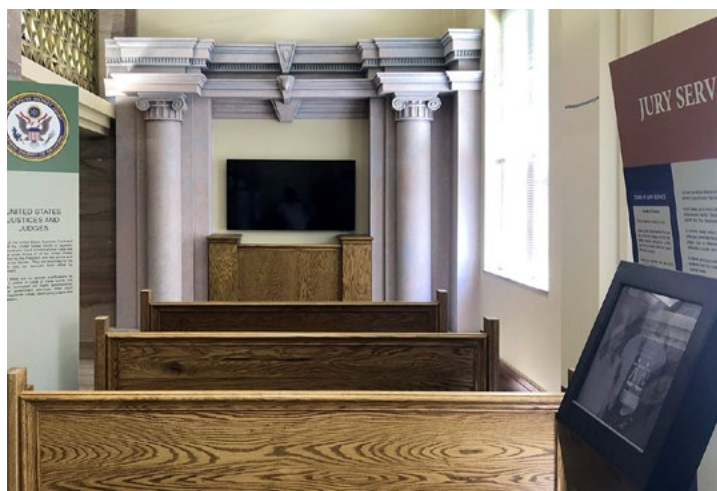
With an impressive record of funding over 160 projects, this program has awarded a total of over **\$1.9 million in funding**, underscoring its vital role in preserving and celebrating Oklahoma's history.

\$577,200 AWARDED TO 39 GRANTEES IN FY2023



FUNDING IMPACT

The Claremore Museum of History highlights the life and contributions of Oklahoma playwright Lynn Riggs through art and artifacts.



FUNDING IMPACT

The US District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma examines *United States v. Ramsey* (1926) from a Native perspective.

State Historic Preservation Office



The National Register of Historic Places

The State Historic Preservation Office identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for inclusion in the register. Listing in the register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties.



Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program

Established in 1989, this program recognizes Oklahoma families who have continuously occupied their land and carried out farming or ranching operations for at least 100 years.

NEWLY ADDED: THE CLARK FARM

This Grady County farm was founded by C. W. and Clara Clark in 1923. C. W. is pictured on the far right.



1,412

OKLAHOMA PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NEW TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse (above) was built in 1940 and was a Works Progress Administration project.

Built in 1950, St. Ann's Home for the Aged (left) is significant for its association with Oklahoma City's social history, as no formal housing for senior citizens existed at the time of construction.

10,550

PROPERTIES EVALUATED in FY2023 for the presence of significant archaeological and/or historic resources

5,250

CONSULTATIONS and technical assistance requests answered

35

PROPERTIES ADDED IN FY2023

1,845

TOTAL PROPERTIES

Thank you to our donors.

Visionary \$50,000+

Inasmuch Foundation
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
M. D. Jirous and Barbara Jirous
Foundation, Inc.

Booster \$10,000+

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Susan Paschall
Gene Rainbolt
Joey Sager

Sustainer \$2,500+

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Museum of the Western Prairie



okhistory.org



Oklahoma Historical Society

800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-2491

ON THE COVER

Front: Bison roam the exhibit pasture at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum in Pawnee.

Above: Allan Houser's *Unconquered* stands at the entrance to the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.