

PRESS RELEASE



OZARK ARTS COUNCIL and *Lyric Theater*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OZARK ARTS COUNCIL CHOSEN FOR HANDS-ON-EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT (HELP)

HARRISON, AR (October 6, 2008) - Mid-America Arts Alliance, a regional arts organization serving cultural organizations in its member states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, has selected the Ozark Arts Council of Harrison, Arkansas as one of twenty organizations to participate in the Hands-On Experiential Learning Project (HELP). Mid-America Arts Alliance is implementing HELP in Arkansas in partnership with the Arkansas Arts Council and with generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Arkansas Museums Association through a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. HELP provides museums with on-site, affordable learning opportunities that further skills in areas critical to successful museums today.

Rachael Prevatte, Executive Director of O.A.C., commented, "We are so excited to have been chosen for this project. Receiving hands-on training to assist us in our efforts for the community is a great honor."

HELP is a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance's (Mid-America) Professional Development division that provides institutional advancement, capacity building and professional development opportunities for constituents. Other Arkansas communities selected for participation in HELP include: Ashdown, Batesville, Burdette, Camden, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Hope, Marked Tree, Paris, Pine Bluff, Pocahontas, Pottsville, Prescott, and Wynne. Participating museums will concentrate on improvements related to nonprofit governance. Training will be directed to museum trustees as well as museum staff and will focus on essential components of good governance.

HELP combines workshops, on-site consultant visits, and online tutorials to assist museums in goal-setting and evaluation. Mid-America subsidizes all workshop travel and a portion of each museum's attendance at a state or regional museum conference, which allows them to connect with peers in the field and other state-wide organizations. Mid-America wants to strengthen existing in-state networks and help participant museums build a community to share challenges and solutions.

For more information, please contact the Ozark Arts Council by phone 870.391.3504 or by email at ozarkartscouncil@gmail.com. The Ozark Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching lives by promoting the arts in Harrison and North Arkansas. The Ozark Arts Council is the proud owner and operator of the historic Lyric Theater.

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