

A vibrant, stylized graphic of a theatre stage. The background is a bright yellow sunburst. At the top center, a white circle contains the text "Oklahoma Children's Theatre". Below this, a red curtain is drawn back to reveal a yellow stage. On the stage, the year "2024" is written in large, bold, yellow-outlined letters, and below it, the words "ANNUAL REPORT" are written in bold, dark blue letters. The stage is flanked by two yellow pillars with red and pink diagonal stripes. At the bottom, a row of red seats is visible.

Oklahoma
Children's
Theatre

2024

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

3

[Tape your photo here]

2



Cut along the square to create a frame for future Oklahoma Children's Theatre memories!

(Fits a 5x5 photo)

4

Flip over and hang up or add to an 8x8 frame!

1

Cut along spine



INTRODUCTION

Oklahoma Children's Theatre (OCT) has been at the forefront of providing exceptional educational and theatrical programs for children across the state for 39 years. As Oklahoma's longest-running children's theatre, OCT strives to inspire creativity, critical thinking, and imagination in young audiences through meaningful storytelling.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the agency upheld its legacy of excellence with a robust lineup of productions, outreach programs, camps, and classes, all designed to inspire and connect with children of diverse backgrounds. Driven by a mission to make the arts accessible, OCT provides scholarships for camps and classes, brings interactive plays to rural communities, and partners with schools to create impactful, arts-based learning experiences.

Through these initiatives, OCT remains dedicated to enriching its communities, reaching over 15,600 young people and their families this past year.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director of Oklahoma Children's Theatre, one word continually resonates—*joy*. From the moment I stepped into this role, joy is the word I've heard time and again—whether from families attending our productions, children discovering new talents at our camps, or community members reminiscing about their own experiences at OCT. Joy defines who we are and what we offer—a place where creativity thrives, friendships blossom, and children feel empowered to explore the world around them. This year has been a journey of change and new experiences for both our team and the children we serve. We've welcomed fresh faces to our staff and Board, closing the year with eight full-time staff members and fourteen dedicated Board Members. We also successfully relaunched our annual gala, Fairytale Ball.

Last season, our productions brought stories to life in ways that left lasting impacts on our young audiences. Watching children light up as they witness performances or take their first steps onto the stage is a reminder of the powerful role theatre arts play in personal growth.



Beyond the stage, our camps, classes, and outreach programs have continued to provide safe, inclusive spaces where children can freely express themselves and build confidence that extends well beyond the arts.

Since stepping into this role in November 2023, I've experienced the same welcoming joy from our Board and staff that many children likely feel on their first day at camp. I am incredibly grateful to work alongside such an amazing and diverse group of individuals who constantly inspire me to find joy and creativity in everything we do.

As we move into our 39th year, we remain committed to creating opportunities for children of all backgrounds to experience the transformative power of theatre. Thanks to

your generous support, our mission continues to thrive. Together, we are making OCT a place where joy is at the core of every interaction and where each child feels seen, valued, and encouraged to dream big.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. I look forward to what lies ahead as we continue to grow, evolve, and bring even more joy to the lives of children across Oklahoma.

With gratitude (and joy),

Austin S. Klososky
Executive Director
Oklahoma
Children's Theatre



PRODUCTIONS



70+ TOTAL PERFORMANCES

Oklahoma Children's Theatre brought five remarkable productions to the stage this year topping over 70 total performances, featuring both professional actors and *Young Company* casts. The season included **Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook**, a hilarious story about honesty and friendship; **The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats**, capturing the magic of a child's first snowfall; **Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat**, a whimsical tale about imagination and responsibility; **The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition**, celebrating friendship and inclusion; and **Annie Jr.**, a timeless story of resilience and optimism. Targeting Pre-K through 6th graders, OCT's productions included weekday field trip performances as well as weekend shows for families.

To extend the magic of theater to more children, OCT partnered with local nonprofits, providing 75 complimentary tickets to children from *Positive Tomorrows* and *Woven Life*. Additionally, discounted group rates allowed OCT to welcome 64 school, day care & home school groups to attend productions at a reduced cost, broadening access to live theatre for young audiences.

75 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS | **64** GROUPS ATTENDING AT REDUCED COST

This past year OCT proudly supported the local arts community by employing

72 

DESIGNERS, DIRECTORS, STAGE MANAGERS & ACTORS

67 

PERFORMERS AGED 7-16

were provided with acting opportunities in mainstage productions

5,151 

AUDIENCE MEMBERS REACHED

48% 

INCREASE IN BOX OFFICE REVENUE FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON

FY24 was a particularly successful year for Oklahoma Children's Theatre!



OCT means a community more than anything. It is a home for some, a hobby for others but a place where everyone can be themselves. No matter how involved you are, you are a part of our community and loved by all. Everyone is appreciated for who they are and there is something for everyone. Everyone belongs.

—Sydney R. (OCT student since 2013)

OUTREACH

In Fall 2023, Oklahoma Children's Theatre toured *Totally True Tall Tales*, an imaginative play where students actively participated in creating folktales. This tour included 15 performances across 14 cities, reaching 3,061 students and 286 school staff. Each student who attended a performance received an activity book designed to support English Language Arts curriculum in a creative way. With additional

funding for this tour, OCT was able to return to two schools to lead literacy-based workshops centered around the play. These workshops explored key story elements such as settings, character development, and sequencing. Every student received a Tall Tales book and teachers received a classroom anthology. In total these workshops reached 347 students and 19 teachers.

TOTALLY TRUE
TALL TALES PLAY

15 PERFORMANCES
14 CITIES
3,061 STUDENTS
286 SCHOOL STAFF

LITERACY
WORKSHOPS

2 SCHOOLS
347 STUDENTS
19 TEACHERS

OKLAHOMA'S
OWN

16 TOWNS

5,186 STUDENTS

396 TEACHERS

20 PERFORMANCES

yee haw!

In Spring 2024, OCT premiered *Oklahoma's Own*, an original play celebrating famous Oklahomans and the state's rich history. This tour included 20 performances across 16 towns, engaging 5,186 students and 396 teachers. Workbooks supporting literacy skills such as reading comprehension and vocabulary were also distributed to the students during this tour. A special highlight from the *Oklahoma's Own* performances was OCT's participation in the Week of the Young Child in Miami, Oklahoma, hosted by the Quapaw Nation and funded by The Nine Tribes.

159 PRE-K STUDENTS
18 TEACHERS



Additionally, OCT's *Come Play with Me In-School Residency Program* served 159 Pre-K students and 18 teachers at *Horace Mann Pre-K Center* and *Hawthorne Elementary School*, introducing early literacy through stories and dramatic play. Each classroom received two interactive lessons, and every student was gifted copies of the books *Bear Snores On* and *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.

This year marked the conclusion of the agency's three-year afterschool program at *Eugene Field Elementary School*, funded by an ESSER grant. Focused on reading and arts-based activities, the program ran for 14 weeks each semester, supporting literacy growth for 1st-4th graders. Fall and Spring semesters served 42 and 39 students respectively, providing snacks, enriching lessons, homework assistance, and transportation. Overall, this program supported 29 paid positions for local artists and teachers.

3 YEAR
AFTERSCHOOL
PROGRAM

81 1ST-4TH GRADE STUDENTS
29 LOCAL ARTISTS & TEACHERS
84 WEEKS OVER 6 SEMESTERS



"OCT is a place to have fun and make new friends. Without it, I wouldn't be who I am today. It is a place to discover new concepts that you've never heard of before. I love this place and I'm so excited for the possibilities to come."

—Gilda G.
(OCT student since 2016)

Oklahoma Children's Theatre's outreach programs continue to make a meaningful impact by expanding access to arts programming for students across the state. These initiatives foster creativity and encourage a lifelong love of learning at no cost to the students or the schools.

CAMPS

Oklahoma Children's Theatre was thrilled to offer a full year of dynamic camps, giving children opportunities to explore their creativity and discover new talents. Through the camp programs, OCT employed 78 Teaching Artists, many of whom had previously attended OCT camps as children themselves. With 12 weeks of **summer camp**, along with **winter and spring break camps**, these programs catered to a diverse range of interests, from theatre and dance to filmmaking and magic. Designed for ages 5-16, OCT's camps foster teamwork, self-expression, and imagination, ensuring every child finds a place to shine.



90
CAMP OPTIONS

78 TEACHING ARTISTS

WINTER BREAK CAMP ATTENDEES **58**

75 SPRING BREAK CAMP ATTENDEES

1,384
TOTAL CAMP ENROLLMENTS

\$10,634
IN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

"OCT has been amazing for my camper; it's the first time in his life that, no matter what program it is or how he feels, he's excited. He says he feels accepted and has a ton of fun and wants to do it FOREVER. Coming from a 13 year old boy, that's a huge compliment."

—OCT Camp Parent

Each week-long camp is grouped by age rather than experience, allowing expert instructors to tailor classes to the unique talents of their students. This past year, popular camps included **Broadway Jr.**, **Podcast Production**, **Swiftie Camp**, and **Pokémon Camp**. All camps featured theater warmups, show devising, rehearsals, interactive activities, and a final performance, where children collaborated to create entertaining and often hilarious plays.

Children from OCT's summer camps enjoyed complimentary performances of **The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition** and **Annie Jr.** performed by OCT's Young Company actors as well as OCU's Performing Arts Academy's production of **The SpongeBob Musical**.

In FY24, OCT offered over 90 camp options, with 58 children participating in winter break camps, 75 in spring break camps, and 787 during the summer, resulting in a **total of 1,384 enrollments**, as many children enrolled in multiple sessions.

To ensure accessibility, OCT provided scholarships that allowed children to attend camps at a reduced rate. Thanks to generous contributions, these scholarships were offered on a sliding scale, decreasing tuition by 20% to 90%—with the average recipient receiving a 70% waiver. Over the past year, OCT awarded more than \$10,634 in scholarships, allowing more children to experience the joy and enrichment of camp programming.



To me OCT is a second home. I got to grow up here for 11 years and I have spent more time here all summer than anywhere else. I have made lifelong relationships and learned so much aside from theatre like how to work with others, how to take care of kids, and leadership.

—Finley C. (OCT student since 2013)



“My daughter has always been a very reserved and soft spoken child in a group setting. At her first performance I was blown away by her courage on stage and how confidently she did her part and how loud she was. Her brother was always the loud one, so this coming from her really took me by surprise. Thanks for giving her a loud and confident voice!”

—OCT Parent



CLASSES

OCT provided a variety of exciting after-school classes for children ages 3-16 this past year, giving them opportunities to dive into creative exploration and collaborative storytelling. In Fall 2023, classes included engaging favorites such as ***Creative Drama with Bluey, My Magical Zoo, Night at the Museum, Comedy Club,*** and more. This momentum carried into Spring 2024 with offerings such as ***Storytime Jam, The Wonderful World of Dr. Seuss,*** and ***Scenes from The Day the Internet Died.***



Both sessions were designed to foster a love of the arts, with each class tailored to a specific age group, ensuring that every child could build confidence and skills in a supportive environment. In Fall 2023, OCT served 73 children, with five out of seven

classes reaching full capacity. Similarly, in Spring 2024, 46 students participated, with three of the four classes filled to the maximum enrollment. All classes emphasize teamwork, creative brainstorming, and

memorization, culminating in a final performance where students eagerly showcase their accomplishments. These programs not only provide an artistic outlet for children but also foster essential skills that benefit them both in and out of the classroom.

AGES **3-16** **11** **8** SOLD OUT CLASSES
CLASSES
73 FALL STUDENTS **46** SPRING STUDENTS

A purple spiral notebook with a green pencil resting on it, symbolizing learning or writing.

“The friendly and inclusive environment you created made my child feel welcome and valued. She often mentioned how supportive and encouraging everyone was, from the staff to the volunteers. This sense of belonging and acceptance truly made a significant impact on her confidence and enjoyment.”

—OCT Parent

MEET THE STAFF



Austin Klososky
Executive Director

I lead OCT in collaboration with our Board of Directors; managing staff, overseeing programs, and guiding the organization toward fulfilling its mission.



Mollie Reid
Director of Programs

I oversee all productions and outreach programming within our organization; collaborating closely with community partners.



Miranda Wagner
Director of On-Site Learning

I am responsible for the planning, staffing, and execution of onsite camps and classes.



Abby Weigand
Director of Community Engagement

I secure and oversee funding from foundations, corporations, and individuals in order to support the wonderful community programs we offer at OCT.

Resident Teaching Artists



Madison Carey



Brigitte Goulart

We facilitate programs, create curriculum, direct productions, and perform as actors.



Sonia Manjarrez
Administrative & Box Office Assistant

I streamline processes, serve as a resource for administrative needs, and handle all box office operations.



Katy Sullivan
Production & Outreach Coordinator

I act as Stage Manager for our productions. I also lead the rural tour and assist the Director of Programs in the creation and planning of outreach programs.

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jamie Shouse
Board President

Emily Blake *Vice President*
Kanika Brown *Secretary*
Shawn Richardson *Treasurer*

Lou Carmichael
Olivia Castrejano
Gina Ellis
Riley Joseph

Charlie Monnot
Paul Shinn
Emily Taylor
Leslie Te

Wesley Burt *Advisory Member*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As President of the Oklahoma Children's Theatre (OCT) Board of Directors, I've had the privilege of watching OCT navigate a year of significant transition with resilience and determination. When our beloved Founder, Lyn Adams, retired at the end of 2022, we anticipated many changes, yet the journey proved even more challenging than expected. Through a series of Interim Executive Directors, this period sharpened our awareness of both our strengths and areas for growth.

During this transitional time, we focused on strengthening OCT's foundation while celebrating the organization's creative successes. OCT is truly a creative powerhouse, with almost half of our annual income generated from our sold-out summer camps and vibrant theatre productions. However, as we expanded programming and reach, we recognized that more robust internal support and additional staff were essential to sustaining this growth. Our goal has been clear—to improve the quality of life for our dedicated staff while enhancing our operational effectiveness. In response, we expanded our team from


five to eight members, adding roles in community engagement, production, touring, administration, and box office management. These additions, along with new internal controls and clearer role definitions, have been transformative.

In November 2023, we were thrilled to welcome Austin Klososky as our permanent Executive Director. With a strong background in internal controls and a genuinely empathetic leadership style, Austin has taken a holistic approach to supporting our team. Under his guidance, I have witnessed the remarkable dedication our staff brings to their work—often dedicating evenings, weekends, and boundless energy to serving young people. Austin recognizes the integral role each team member plays in our mission and has worked intentionally to support their well-being and growth.

As we look toward the future, I am filled with optimism. OCT is in a position of strength, with a renewed focus on increasing corporate and individual giving to expand our production quality, literacy programs,

and reach across rural Oklahoma. Our mission to provide “extraordinary live theatre and interactive educational experiences for young audiences” remains central, and we are excited to thoughtfully extend our impact to schools and communities that need support in literacy and arts access.

To our valued partners and patrons, **thank you for your ongoing support.** We are grateful to have you with us on this journey, and we look forward to building an inspiring future together.



Jamie Shouse

Jamie Shouse

*President of the Board of Directors
Oklahoma Children's Theatre*



FAIRYTALE BALL 2024 UPDATE

Oklahoma Children's Theatre brought back its beloved Fairytale Ball for the first time since 2019 and the event, chaired by **Leslie Williams Te**, was nothing short of magical. The evening was hosted at Science Museum of Oklahoma and featured a kids' ball complete with shows, games, and face painting, while the adults enjoyed a separate ball with a silent auction and raffle. Families dressed in creative costumes for the Night at the Museum-themed celebration, which drew nearly 200 adults and over 120 children.

The event surpassed all expectations, raising an impressive \$120,000—OCT's **most successful fundraiser to date**. The evening held special significance for OCT, honoring its Founder and Former Executive Director, **Lyn Adams**.

Beyond the enchanting atmosphere, all funds raised directly supported Oklahoma Children's Theatre's programs. *"We are thrilled by the incredible turnout and support for this year's event,"* said Austin Klososky, Executive Director of Oklahoma Children's Theatre, *"The enthusiasm and generosity of our attendees have once again demonstrated the power of the arts to bring communities together and make a meaningful difference."*



200 ADULTS 120 CHILDREN
\$120,000
TOTAL RAISED FUNDS



SAVE THE DATE
FTB 2025
MARCH 8
CIVIC CENTER
MUSIC HALL



UPCOMING
2025
SEASON

THE SEASON
OF
KINDNESS

A Sick Day for
Amos McGee

MAR-
APR

JUNE

Seussical
JR.

DISNEY THE LITTLE
MERMAID
JR.

JULY

SEP-
OCT

Maddi's
Fridge

CORDUROY

NOV-
DEC

2025 SEASON MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join OCT for another year of thrilling productions and outstanding programs!

February 15 Summer Camp Enrollment Opens

March 8 Fairytale Ball at Meinders Hall of Mirrors at the Civic Center Music Hall

March 17-21 Spring Break Camp

March 28 - April 13 A Sick Day for Amos McGee Production Run

March 29 Sensory-Friendly Performance of A Sick Day for Amos McGee



May 27 Summer Camp Begins

June 19 - 22 Young Company's Seussical Jr. Production Run

July 24 - 27 Young Company's Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. Production Run

August 8 Last Day of Summer Camp

September 26 - October 10 Maddi's Fridge Production Run

November 21 - December 14 Corduroy Production Run

A big thank you to
all the incredible
supporters who made
this past year possible!



RURAL TOUR SPONSOR - BANCFIRST

JOAN MAGUIRE
THE CHICKASAW NATION · VARIETY CARE
JAMIE & JERROD SHOUSE
COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA
LESLIE & CHARLES TE · MIDFIRST BANK
MCCASLAND FOUNDATION
THE HARRIS FOUNDATION
CRESAP FAMILY FOUNDATION