



2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

A Message from our Leadership

From historic preservation to outdoor recreation, the Oil Region Alliance embodies this region by incorporating a vast knowledge of history into economic development, environmental preservation, and outdoor recreation so that visitors from near and far can quickly find out just how special of a place the Oil Region really is.

My year as chairman has been an eye-opener of sorts as I have been a part of many organizations in the past, but none that truly capture and understand this region and its needs. The Oil Region Alliance does just that. John has built a well-oiled machine, if you will, an amazing team that utilizes the resources the area gives us and finds unbelievable funding opportunities that many times only the ORA can access. The amount of funding that ORA brings through to the Oil Region is substantial, but what they do with those funds is far more impressive. Every monthly meeting is filled with projects and programs that each manager facilitates with passion. Researching various funding sources to bring area residents and visitors from afar great opportunities to explore the outdoors along with learning about the history of the “Valley that Changed the World,” while taking on blighted buildings and addressing housing needs of the area and beautifying once industrial brownfield sites back to usable properties is what the ORA does really well. I could go on and on about the Campus, the acquisition of Venango Catholic, the Campus Apartments, the JM Eagle site in Franklin, the brownfield remediation efforts in Emlenton, river access studies, helping to spearhead the Oil Region ATV Association, the sale of the Hotel property, restoration of the Scheide House in Titusville, and as you can see, the ORA encompasses the vast Oil Region from north to south.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me along the way through this year as chairman. Many dedicated, passionate people put their heart and soul into this region and organization every day and our area is 1,000 times better because we have the Oil Region Alliance.

Sincerely,



Chad Ellis
Oil Region Alliance Board Chair

Dear Members, Friends, and Stakeholders of the Alliance,

The Board of Directors and staff of the Oil Region Alliance thank you for your continued support. Your memberships and project-specific donations are imperative. Working on an asset-based approach to economic development is the overarching umbrella of every initiative and endeavor the Alliance undertakes as a rural development hub organization.

As we reflect on 2024/25, we have gone boldly into large projects that make significant impacts on the region, strengthened existing partnerships, and developed new ones. One such project was the acquisition of the PennWest Venango Campus along with the affiliated apartments, and the purchase of the Venango Catholic High School from the Erie Diocese. Renamed the Oil Region Venango Campus and the West End Village, it is amazing to see the transformation to a multi-use campus for education, workforce support, cultural activities, and event and business space.

As the Alliance celebrates its twentieth anniversary in 2025, I am amazed by the evolution of the organization and the entire Oil Region. The Alliance has established our niche. Recognized at the state and national levels for the quality and execution of our projects, it is clear that our standards of excellence are the only way to do business, and our success would not be possible without our partners' and members' support.

We welcome your assistance and appreciate your support to help us achieve our mission to increase the prosperity and population of the Oil Region by enticing all people to live, work, learn, and play in “the Valley that Changed the World!”

Warm regards,



John R. Phillips, II
Oil Region Alliance President/CEO

Oil Region Alliance Accomplishments from September 2024-September 2025

Oil Region Venango Campus

Through an agreement approved by the PA State Legislature, Pennsylvania Western University, formerly Clarion University, gave its Venango Campus at 1801 West First Street in Oil City to the Oil Region Alliance. The campus includes Suhr Library, Rhoades Center (the student union building with a 100+ seat auditorium and gymnasium), Frame Hall administrative building, and Montgomery Hall academic building, along with 65 acres of land, a pond, gazebo, parking lot, and additional maintenance buildings. Full deed transfer is expected in Fall 2025.

The associated campus housing comprised of five residential buildings totaling 24 four-bedroom, two-bathroom units each with a full kitchen and laundry was acquired by the ORA in October 2024 and is now referred to as West End Village.

An additional 50-some acres featuring a baseball field and a 56,000 sq. ft. building including a gymnasium, classrooms, and office space were added to the ORA's assets when it acquired the former Venango Catholic High School (VCHS) in February 2025.

Collectively these properties comprise the Oil Region Venango Campus. This rural development hub creates opportunities for residents to benefit from access to the arts, oil heritage, indoor and outdoor recreation and personal development. The campus also serves as a workforce development ecosystem, expanding and strengthening the community's access to critical resources including education, healthcare, housing, and childcare to help individuals obtain work, stay on the job, and advance in a career.

- Installed state-of-the-art network equipment through state funding supported by Senator Hutchinson and fiber internet connectivity through a partnership with USA Choice Internet.



- The first cohort of Venango Technology Center's Practical Nursing Program to attend the campus under the ORA graduated in June 2025. A second cohort started in July 2025.
- Working with local employers to offer staff development and educational partners for programs including Medical Assisting, Cosmetology, and Wireless Infrastructure support services.
- Pursuing Private School Licensure from the PA Department of Education.
- West End Village supports campus activities and all areas of ORA programming through short-term rentals, long-term rentals, and corporate housing.
- Partnered with Community Services of Venango County to relocate the senior center to the former VCHS.
- Continuing to host numerous youth basketball tournaments and provide space for youth sport practices and game space for basketball and baseball.
- The Barbara Morgan Harvey Center for the Study of Oil Heritage funded various projects at the Campus, including the installation of new signage.
- Engaged an architect to engineer facilities upgrades and reimagine the space for diversified uses.
- Key partners include Manchester Bidwell Corporation, Keystone Community Education Council, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Institute for Rural Health and Safety — Paramedic Training Program, Penn State Justice and Safety Institute — Probation and Parole Officer Training.
- Local and legislative partners include Bridge Builders Community Foundation, McElhatten Foundation, PNC Charitable Trust, Phillips Trust, Representative R. Lee James, Senator Scott Hutchinson, and Congressman Glenn Thompson.
- Convened the Venango Campus Advisory Committee.



**OIL REGION
VENANGO
CAMPUS**



Economic Development

- Continued assessment work and Phase I Environmental Assessments under FY22 EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant on future targeted brownfields in Reno, Oil City, and Franklin areas.
- Partnered with Clear Lake Authority, Allegheny Valley Trails Association, and Friends of the Riverfront Pittsburgh for strategic recreational and economic development initiatives.
- Marketed Alliance-owned industrial parks in Sandycreek, Seneca, Sugarcreek, and Barkeyville for new projects.
- Organized and hosted separate visits for representatives from DCNR, DCED, DEP, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and legislators to tour and focus on potential projects and needs for the Oil Region as the Rural Development Hub Organization for the area.
- Worked with partners to address absentee ownership of various buildings and properties, pushing for divestiture or improvement and utilization.
- Prioritized improvements to the Crawford Center in Emlenton to create opportunities for economic development incubation.
- Removed the final 20 tons of tires at Kraft/Dahlstrom brownfield site in Oil City. Installed test wells to gather data on contamination levels to begin the process of remediation planning for the site. Reuse visioning will continue and contamination clean up will occur during 2026.

- Developed final remediation and demolition plan for Fuch's Lubricants site in Emlenton, which will occur in 2026.
- Presented at the 2025 National Brownfields Conference in Chicago, collecting continuing education credits and strategies to incorporate into the brownfields program.
- Continued to market Sandycreek Industrial Park with three prospective purchases pending and working with the township to project manage a repaving grant for DeBence Drive, which was written in 2024 and just completed.
- Successfully completed final preparations of former Days Inn Hotel property in Oil City and worked with partners to sell the site for development in 2026.
- Acquired the Levi Building in Oil City, which has a retail tenant on the first floor; working to find funding to redevelop the upper floors.
- Continue to work with partners to assist the Colonel Drake Cultural Alliance on the Lyric Theatre restoration project in Oil City.
- Acquired the former JM Eagle brownfield site in Franklin and have begun the assessment of containments and assembled partners to reimagine and redevelop the site.
- Continued to advocate in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. for projects in the Oil Region on behalf of our many partners.
- In September 2025 the Oil Region Alliance received a \$750,000 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant through the National Park Service, named in honor of the late preservation leader from Vermont. The goal of this grant program is to foster economic development in rural communities through the rehabilitation of historic buildings. As the prime grantee, the Oil Region Alliance is charged with sub-granting out the \$750,000 through a competitive grant process to appropriate historic revitalization projects within the boundary of the Oil Region National Heritage Area.





Preservation Properties

- **Oil Region Heritage Center & Scheide Library** — Completed Phase VI, which included the rehabilitation of the three porches, installation of new carpeting throughout the first-floor office space, and established exterior sign design and fabrication, to be installed in Fall 2025. Hosted Titusville Chamber Open House in July 2025 to begin marketing the first-floor space for rental. Received a \$21,648.00 grant from the Heist Trust administered by PNC Charitable Trusts for the installation of a new boiler, an outdoor spigot, and sealing of the stone porch.
- **Coal Oil Johnny House** — Hosted 840 visitors during Open Hours in October, July, and August coinciding with the OC&T train being in station at Rynd Farm. Finished the installation of the Raingarden and Native Pollinator Implementation Project on the parcel.
- **Tarbell House** — Titusville Area School District held student-led teas in fall 2024 and spring 2025. Hosted several private tours throughout the year in addition to guided tours in coordination with OC&T train trips, a public open house in August during Titusville Oil Fest, Titusville Historical Society's history camp for grades 3-6, and creative workshops. The house was also rented for multiple private events. Participated in Crawford Gives fundraising opportunity for repainting of the exterior.
- **Downs Building** — Was selected for a Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Community Revitalization Fund Program Grant of \$800,000 to complete four upper story apartments, the stockroom, and the façade.

ORNHA / Heritage

- Awarded seven Oil Region Historic Preservation Awards to organizations and individuals in May 2025.
- Attended Alliance of National Heritage Areas' annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in February 2025.
- Compiled photos and research for updates to interpretative panels for the Emlenton community and Allegheny Valley Trails Association.
- Continued researching the ORNHA's historical connections to Azerbaijan for a partnership project with the U.S. Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce.
- Hired Erie metal artist Adam Stempka to complete the Titusville Gateway Sculpture, a 15' x 15' Corten Steel structure that mimics oil derrick and pumping jack design, and incorporates references to the area's scenery and wildlife with silhouette cutouts of a cyclist, angler, hiker, and kayaker. The project was funded in part by PA DCNR, NPS, and in-kind support by the City of Titusville.
- Completed Cultural Resources Survey of the ORNHA focused on rentable space within historic buildings owned by non-profits and municipalities.
- Developed a Wayfinding Signage Plan, an on-the-street rebranding to unify the communities of the ORNHA.
- Finished an Interpretive Plan that identifies major heritage themes in the ORNHA and strategies for presenting them to the public in new and exciting ways.
- Sponsored events held by Washington's Trail 1753, Venango Museum, Titusville Historical Society, PA Greenways and Trails Summit.
- Developed Trail Tales, storyboard displays that entice youngsters to read a page of a children's book and do a related physical activity before moving down the trail to the next page. Trail Tales debuted at National Trails Day in June. The collection of five stories is available for organizations to borrow and use at their events.
- Activities sponsored by the Barbara Morgan Harvey Center for the Study of Oil Heritage included a lecture and book signing by Stephanie Gorton, author of *Citizen Reporters: S.S. McClure, Ida Tarbell, and the Magazine that Rewrote America*, at the Oil Region Venango Campus and hiring a graduate MSLS intern to update the collection archive with additional funding from the Penn West McElhatten Foundation.
- Updated inventory of existing ORNHA interpretive panels.
- Designed enamel pins and stickers as souvenir merchandise for the Tarbell House (shown below).
- Convened the Heritage Advisory Committee quarterly, meeting at varying locations throughout the ORNHA each year.
- Promoted Abigail Watson-Popescu to Heritage Program Manager.



Outdoor Recreation

- Secured \$363,128 through PA DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) and the PA Fish and Boat Commission Facilities Grant for engineering, design, and construction of the President Township River Access. Engineering and design work is currently underway.
- Oversaw the \$500,000 rehabilitation project of the Sportsman Bridge on the East Branch Trail in Crawford County, part of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail alignment.
- Continued management of an active DCNR C2P2 grant for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA); successfully submitted and received an additional grant. Serve as the primary point of contact for professional services associated with both.
- Installed trail counters at key locations along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail to support data collection and trail usage analysis.
- Continued to provide technical assistance to the Oil Region ATV Association, established following a regional ATV study coordinated by the ORA.
- Coordinated a legislative site visit with Congressman Kelly and representatives from U.S. Senators Fetterman and McCormick, Congressman Thompson, State Senator Hutchinson, and State Representative James to discuss strategies for fast-tracking the completion of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.
- Participated in the Statewide Greenways and Trails Summit; staff presented sessions on municipal road access for ATVs and water trail management.
- Organized and hosted the National Kayak Adventure Series Finale, enhancing regional visibility and recreational engagement.
- Secured an America250PA grant to support a commemorative paddling event celebrating America250 and the historical significance of the Allegheny River.
- Printed and distributed the updated Oil Creek Water Trail Guide to support public access and paddling use.
- ORA Outdoor Recreation Project Manager Mark Kerr was appointed to the State Trail Advisory Committee, providing representation on waterways and northwest PA. Serves on the Executive Committee of the PA Water Trails, reinforcing regional leadership in trail development.

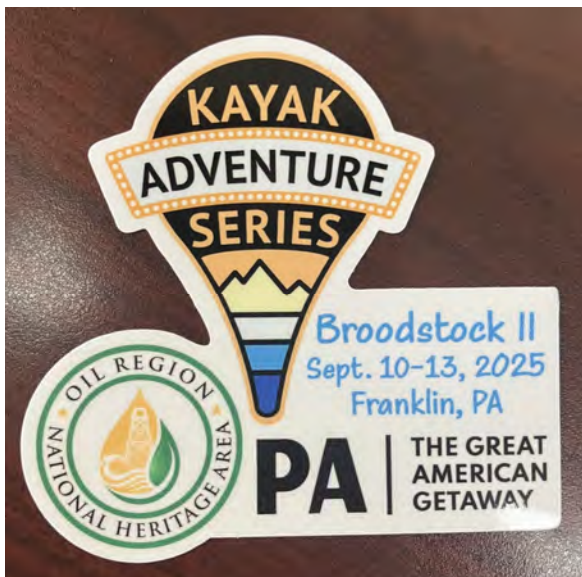


- ORA Outdoor Recreation Program Manager Kim Harris continues to serve on the Transportation Advisory Committee and the executive committee of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance. She has participated in local, regional, and state committees advocating for recreation in the greater Oil Region. Harris also serves on a State Community & Economic Development Work Group.
- Facilitated a multi-agency response for emergency repairs to the Ritchie Run Bridge, vital to both the Allegheny River Trail and the Rockland Station community.
- Ongoing technical assistance provided by staff for a variety of partner-led recreation and infrastructure projects.
- Continued preparation and submission of funding requests and grant closeouts to support partner initiatives.
- Rebranded the regional outdoor recreation business contest as the "Oil Region Alliance - 'Elevating Outdoor Recreation' - Business Plan Contest." Staff member Raven Nespor designed a new logo to align with the contest's refreshed identity and goals.
- Compiled imagery and developed updated text for the replacement of interpretive panels along the Allegheny River to be completed in Fall 2025.
- Convened the Outdoor Recreation Committee on a bi-monthly basis to coordinate regional initiatives and collaboration.

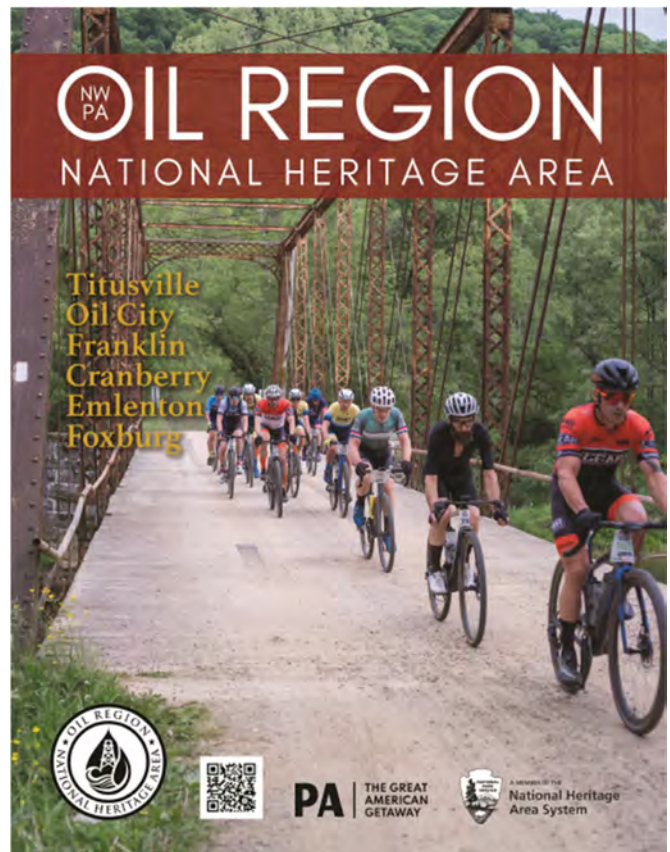


Tourism

- Continue to serve as Venango County's designated destination marketing organization (DMO).
- Created and distributed an Oil Region Guide for 2025 & 2026 (shown at right).
- Advertised in print and digital campaigns through Visit PA, the state tourism office, Compass Ohio, Trib Total Media, and paid social media campaigns on Facebook and Instagram.
- Supported numerous tourism-related non-profits and events (including the Roughneck Gravel Roubaix, Oil Creek 5 & 13 Stacked Trail Race, International Bowhunting Organization's second leg of the Triple Crown, Allegheny Gnar USA Cycling Downhill State Championship Series, and Ten Miles 4 Two Mile Jeep Run) through sponsorships and/or marketing efforts including Hospitality Flyers and on-site displays.
- Welcomed the Kayak Adventure Series fishing tournament finale to the Oil Region. Developed Hospitality Flyers and souvenir sticker (shown below), attended events, provided refreshments, displayed tourism information, and assisted with hospitality needs for nearly 100 competitors, influencers, and even organizers. The event was funded in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development.



- Continue to participate in monthly virtual meetings with other DMOs to discuss a variety of hospitality issues including homeshare legislation and ongoing branding and marketing efforts by the state tourism office as coordinated by the PA Restaurant and Lodging Association (PRLA).
- Partnering with PRLA to develop and host programming for a second annual Homeshare Education event and an inaugural Restaurant Roundtable for those in the



community who work in non-traditional lodging and/or restaurants. A third annual Realtor Roundtable will be held for members of the real estate industry to share what is motivating buyers in the Oil Region and to help further familiarize them with the key themes used when marketing the area for tourism.

- Ongoing cooperation with the PA Great Lakes Region, comprised of Crawford, Mercer, Erie, and Venango counties, includes a Google-grant funded digital Ad Words campaign, paid social media posts, and updates to the design and seasonal content refreshes of the website PaGreatLakes.com.
- Held the fifth annual Oil Region Tourism Awards. The public provided more than 60 nominations for the eight categories, which received votes from nearly 300 participants. Winners will receive signs and certificates at an upcoming reception with extensive media coverage.
- Posting to Facebook and Instagram daily and producing a weekly Constant Contact newsletter to nearly 800 subscribers in addition to regular news releases and updates to OilRegion.org and ExperienceTheOilRegion.com.
- Convened the Tourism and Promotion Advisory Council bi-monthly meetings to review and discuss local hospitality topics and projects.

PENNSYLVANIA
THE GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY



The Oil Region Alliance serves as the fiscal agent and provides office space, staff, and support for the Oil City Main Street program (OCMS). This volunteer-based initiative is focused on making downtown Oil City, Pennsylvania more attractive and vibrant, guided by community-driven efforts. Its mission centers on the revitalization of Oil City's Central Business District.

Since September of 2024 OCMS has had enjoyed many successes.

In Spring of '25 OCMS received a \$100,000 Main Street Matters grant from the Governor, allocated for façade improvements. Already, five façade grants have been awarded to The Exchange, Barr's Insurance, Trinity Church, Venango Museum, and YMCA—marking significant strides in preservation and beautification.

In 2025 OCMS was awarded a Townie Award from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) for its voluntary Oil City Design Guide. This guide has been recognized and shared as a model by both the PDC and the National Main Street Center, underscoring its quality and impact. The project was particularly meaningful, as it was the final undertaking of former manager Kathy Bailey before her passing. Maureen James, who worked closely alongside Kathy on the guide, accepted the award on behalf of OCMS, making it a heartfelt tribute to Kathy's dedication and legacy.

The Samuel Justus Charitable Trust Fund awarded OCMS \$2,818 to support youth-focused outdoor movie nights. The grant covered a projector, 20-foot screen, popcorn machine, and stand. The first showing, "Minecraft: The Movie," took place after Music on the Square during First Fridays. Despite the chilly evening, about 150 people attended. The outdoor movie series continued with "Moana 2," "How to Train Your Dragon (2025)," and "Lilo

and Stitch (2025)". The enthusiastic response from local entrepreneurs shows their commitment to supporting Main Street activities and fostering a welcoming and safe community atmosphere.

Oil City Main Street also received \$6,500 from the Jack Rowley Charitable Trust Fund. This ongoing support enables Music on the Square and additional events throughout the summer, including performances at Oil Heritage Festival and by the Oil City Arts Council. Artist Sunday and other cultural events expose residents to diverse art forms and invite visitors to experience the town's creative energy.

Curb Market continues to grow, offering fresh veggies, fruits, plants, and other craft vendors for community shopping. A heartfelt thank you goes to Market Committee Chair Father Mark Elliston and Christ Episcopal Church for generously allowing the use of their property.

OCMS continues to host cherished annual events such as Oil City Uncorked, Christmas Past, Small Business Saturday, Bridge Fest, and Music on the Square.

Race offerings were also expanded by partnering with the Oil City YMCA to host the Bunny Hop. Future plans aim to launch a 25-mile run/walk to establish Oil City as a destination for serious outdoor enthusiasts.

The annual cleanup day was a resounding success. With help from youth and local businesses, more than 260 bags of trash were removed. A second cleanup is planned for Fall.

The "Meet Me on Main Street" video series, posted on Facebook, continues to grow in popularity. Its reach has more than tripled, drawing attention beyond city limits. Entities are actively requesting to be featured, a testament to the series' impact.

The newest and most ambitious undertaking is the Allegheny River Music and Arts Festival took place September 12–13. With more than 40 years of arts-focused OC revitalization behind it, this festival was led by Oil City Main Street in collaboration with local arts, literary, and drama groups, Venango Museum, the library, Main Street America, Oil Region Venango Campus, and Bridge Literary Arts Center. It was a true celebration of culture, featuring everything from silent films and Broadway-style musicals to a variety of musical acts, literary arts, performing arts, visual arts, and more. Festival venues spanned Justus Park on the north side—hosting 28 hours of music from genres like Americana, rap, country, and a Jimmy Buffett tribute—to the south side's illuminated alleyway called "Lights Under Lindon," which featured diverse musical offerings. Streets were lined with artisans, crafters, and vendors. A special passport program offered prizes designed to entice return visits.

OCMS is currently applying for Designation with the PDC. Oil City Main Street's three-part transformation strategy is clear: establish the city as an arts destination, brand it as an outdoor recreation hub, and continue revitalizing the downtown through business development and historic preservation.





ARTS Oil City is focused on leveraging the visual, performing, and literary arts for community revitalization and economic development. We market Oil City as prospective home for relocating artists throughout the country. We manage the rental of dedicated artists' studios in the historic National Transit Building in downtown Oil City. And, we work hard to provide a supportive network for native and relocated creative professionals, and help to promote and facilitate ongoing arts-related engagement with the community.

We invest in the understanding that the arts are an important component of our community revitalization and economic development. We know the value of the creative economy. We understand that artists, writers, musicians, actors, and craftspeople see the world and our sweet little river town through a different lens. We see the contributions that our local creative professionals make to our sense of place. Our mission is to shine a bright light on the arts in Oil City and our region. We work to create and highlight opportunities for artists. We strive to provide resources and advocate for broad support of the arts and artists in our community.

ARTS OC was originally formed in 2007 as an initiative of the Oil City Arts Council, an entity of the City of Oil City. In 2017, ARTS Oil City restructured to become a program housed with Oil City Main Street, in the offices of the Oil Region Alliance. ARTS OC also continues to receive support from the City of Oil City.

Arts revitalization accomplishments for the past year include:

Through our partnership with Pittsburgh's Bridgeway Capital we launched the ACRE (Alliance for Creative Rural Economies) Oil City Program, which provides a significant capital investment to creative

professionals in the community. In October and November of 2024, we hosted program information sessions and advocated for artists within our community and surrounding towns to attend and apply. In December, we worked with Bridgeway Capital to review applications and select participants. Originally, Bridgeway allocated 10-15 spots for the Oil City program. However, engagement exceeded expectations, and applications were strong. In the end, 18 local creative professionals were selected to participate in the 2025 program.

In 2024, we secured a partnership with Erie Arts & Culture to make their Working Artist 101 workshop series available to our creative professionals at the Oil Region Venango Campus. In FY 2025, we executed that program successfully. We have now renewed our partnership with EAC for a second year. Building on the success, the 2026 program will offer double the amount of workshops available to our artists, and increase the educational opportunities at the Oil Region Venango Campus.

ARTS Oil City continues advocacy and education/mentorship efforts to expand the applications submitted for Erie Arts & Culture grant funds. EAC grant awards continue to increase locally.

We have continued to expand Artists Sunday as a city wide event with more host businesses and participating creative professionals. The Oil City Mayor, once again, issued a Proclamation for Artists Sunday, showcasing the recognition that the visual, performing, and literary arts enhance the fabric of our community and that our creative professionals are an important part of the economic development of our region.

ARTS Oil City took over management of additional studio spaces in the National Transit Building. And, we have continued to grow the creative professional network within the building and our downtown business district. We have further strengthened the strategic partnership with the OC Civic Center to help advance the arts revitalization efforts in the community.

Expanded the studio artist application process to allow young professional, emerging artists to apply and be accepted for studio rentals. This initiative supports the local and regional effort to attract and retain youth in the area, and aligns with our efforts to recruit younger creatives through our Artist Relocation Program.

Installed new artist directory and wayfinding signage on the studio floor of the National Transit Building to improve the local visitor and tourist experience.

Launched a new Open Studios initiative as part of the downtown Northside First Friday Artwalk, attracting repeat and first-time visitors to the building and to shop at the studios.

Launched a new private tour and Artist Open Studios program for local businesses to enhance engagement between the professional creative community and businesses/non-profits.

Launched our "Walking billboard" campaign with concert style T-shirts promoting our Artist Relocation program. Stakeholders and partners are encouraged to wear our stylish shirts when traveling regionally and nationally to help us attract the attention of more creatives.

Initiated an "Artist Spotlight" feature to be used for promotion of Artist Relocation, Transit Studio rentals, and to encourage shopper support of community artists. The initial launch included four Transit Studio artists, but the effort to feature additional creative professionals is ongoing.

Hosted our first dedicated ARTS Oil City intern through the Penn West McElhattan Foundation Grant Internship Program. The success of this has garnered attention at Penn West, resulting in an initiative to expand the partnership between ARTS Oil City and the University, to increase exposure and opportunities for young creatives who wish to explore careers at home rather than big cities.



2025 Major Members



County of Venango



City of Franklin



City of Oil City



Barr's Insurance
Central Electric
Cooperative
City of Titusville

Dale, Woodard, Gent,
McFate Law Firm
Heath Oil
Kapp Alloy
Komatsu

Moody & Associates
Pivian Group/Conair
Rossbacher Insurance
Sandycreek Township

Struxures
Voyten Electric
Webco Industries

Oil Region Alliance Members

AA Nagy Excavation and Construction
James & Janet Aaron
Allegheny RiverStone Center for the Arts
Allegheny Valley Trails Association
Amy's Closet
John Noel Bartlett
Barr's Insurance
Barrow Civic Theatre
Belle Lettres Club
Benson Memorial Library
Darl & Marilyn Black
Borough of Hydetown
Bridge Builders Community Foundations
Caboose Motel
Central Electric Co-op
City of Franklin
City of Oil City
City of Titusville
County of Venango
Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate Law Firm
DeBence Antique Music World
George & Sharon Dorogy
The EADS Group
Emlenton Borough
Jennifer Feehan
Franklin Industrial and Commercial
Development Authority
French Creek Valley Conservancy
Friends of Drake Well
Great Eastern Cutlery
Gustafson General Contracting

Carole Hall
Heath Oil
Hepler General Contracting
Jim Hibbard
Hydetown Borough
Jacob A. Weaver Co., LLC
Maureen James
Kapp Alloy & Wire, Inc.
Betsy Kellner
Kellner's Fireworks, Inc.
Keystone Community Education Council
KJ Consulting & Environmental Service
Josh Kline
Komatsu
Deb Lutz
Moody and Associates
Northern PA Regional College
Oil City Area YMCA
Oil Creek Railway Historical Society
Oil Valley Gravel
PIOGA
Pivian Group/Conair
PNC
Rossbacher Insurance Group
Sassy's Clothing & Gift Boutique
Senator Scott Hutchinson
Specialty Fabrication & Powder Coating
State Representative R. Lee James
Cecile Stelter
Stifel Nicolaus
Struxures

Svetz Consulting Services
George Thompson
Titusville Community Development
Agency
Titusville Historical Society
Titusville Renaissance
Trails to Ales Brewery
Township of Cranberry
Township of Sandycreek
UPMC Northwest
Venango Area Chamber of Commerce
Venango County Fairgrounds
Venango Museum of Art, Science &
Industry
Voyten Electric & Electronics
Washington's Trail 1753
Webco
Vince Witherup
James & Janet Zehner

ORNHA Members

Benson Memorial Library
Jim Hibbard
Oil Creek Railway Historical Society

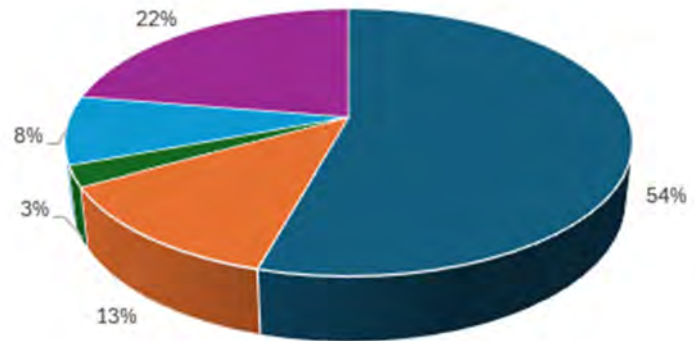


Details on membership including a form to join the Oil Region Alliance can be found at OilRegion.org/the-alliance/membership.

Financial Summary

REVENUE

Grants	\$1,269,472
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$292,618
Membership Dues	\$57,673
Rent-Managed/Owned	\$193,976
Main Street, Other	\$523,427
Total Revenues	\$2,337,166



ASSETS

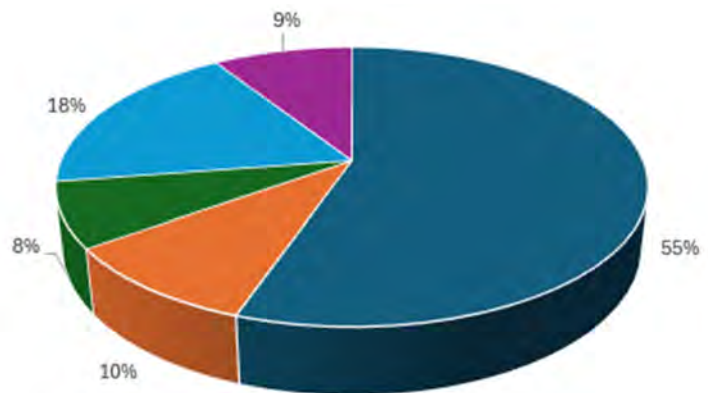
Cash and Equivalents	\$293,012
Accounts, Rents & Grant Rec.	\$2,876,679
Building & Improvements	\$482,011
Office Equipment	\$94,959
Buildings Held for Investment	\$2,652,185
Development Projects	\$1,317,312
Other (Joint Venture, Notes Rec.)	\$229,204
Depreciation & Amortization	(\$269,820)
Total Assets	\$7,745,542

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$176,258
Accruals Liabilities	(\$40,400)
Unearned Revenue Other	\$1,101,258
Long-term Liabilities	\$373,698
Custodial, Sec. Deposits	\$94,476
Total Liabilities	\$1,705,290
Net Assets	\$6,040,252
Total L & NA	\$7,745,542

EXPENSES

Programs	\$1,454,286
Management	\$257,023
Gen & Admin	\$197,501
Properties	\$481,231
Main Street, Other	\$238,648
Total Expenses	\$2,628,689



Financial Summary

Based on unaudited internal Financial Reports. Year ending December 31, 2024. Audited financials for 2024 will be available after October 31, 2025 at OilRegion.org/the-alliance/public-reports/





Our Staff

John R. Phillips, II, President and Chief Executive Officer
 Debra Sobina, Executive Vice President
 Emily Altomare, Communications & Tourism Manager
 Chris Clifton, Director of Staff
 Kody Ealy, Custodian, Crawford Center
 Jessica Gorman, Executive Assistant/IT Support
 Kim Harris, Outdoor Recreation Program Manager
 Seth Herrick, Executive Director, Oil Region Venango Campus
 Todd Ifft, Fiscal Support
 Mark Kerr, Outdoor Recreation Project Manager
 Raven Nespor, Project Coordinator
 Barbara Pierce, ARTS Oil City Coordinator
 Stevette Rosen, Oil City Main Street Manager
 Abigail Watson-Popescu, Heritage Program Manager

2024 - 2025 ORA Councils & Committees

Economic Development/Energy — Jen Feehan, Chair
 Executive Committee — Chad Ellis, Chair
 Heritage Advisory — Betsy Kellner, Chair
 Outdoor Recreation — Chad Ellis, Chair
 Tourism Advisory — Maureen James, Chair
 Campus Advisory — Matt Craig and Stacy Ginkel, Co-Chairs

2024 - 2025 ORA Board of Directors

Chad Ellis, Chair - Rossbacher Insurance
 Stacy Ginkel, Vice Chair - KJ Consulting Environmental Services
 Betsy Kellner, Secretary - Cranberry Township
 Jennifer Feehan, Treasurer - Northwest Commission
 Maureen James, Immediate Past Chair - Artist/Oil City Main Street Program
 Vincent Witherup, Executive Committee - Retired Venango County Commissioner
 Samuel Breene - Venango County Commissioner
 Rhonda Clark - PennWest University — Clarion
 Matt Craig - Webco Industries
 Rodney C. Griffin - Specialty Fabrication and Powder Coating
 James O. "Jimmy" Johnson - City of Franklin
 Michael Knecht - Drake Well Museum & Park
 Matt McSparren - Cranberry Township
 Greg Wilson - Komatsu
 Amy Whitehill - Amy's Closet, Emlenton Borough

On the Cover: *Some Historic Preservation Honorees (upper left), Installation of the Gateway Sculpture in Titusville (right), ORA President and CEO John Phillips with Senator Dave McCormick and Augie Carlino of Rivers of Steel at a constituents meeting in Washington, D.C.*



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