



Our Mission: "To celebrate and perpetuate the history, art and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy and the American West."

## Celebrating the Arts

This year, Chisholm Trail Arts Council, Duncan Little Theater and Chisholm Trail Heritage Center teamed up to take "Arts" to the State Capitol on May 5. While there, they visited with legislators, about the importance of arts education in communities.

**Did you know** arts organizations in Stephens County educate over 10,000 students each year? Often non-profit classes are the only arts training students will receive.

1. Chisholm Trail Heritage Center uses STEAM in all of its educational programs. STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics
2. Arts grants brought \$59,995 in state taxes back to Stephens County in 2014
3. Arts education in schools increases test scores across every subject area, lowers drop out rates and helps close the achievement gap regardless of socio-economic status
4. In a well-documented national study using a federal database of over 25,000 middle and high school students, researchers from the University of California at Los Angeles found students with high arts involvement performed better on standardized achievement tests than students with low arts involvement.

## Blue Stem Ridge efforts visible

Trees have been cleared off the Blue Stem Ridge that is north of the facility, near Chisholm Trail Parkway.

A new entrance/exit post has been added to the south end of the trail, created by Ethan Lang for his Eagle Scout rank. The new post matches the first one at the north end of the nature trail.

If you are interested in being a part of the Blue Stem Ridge project, please call Stacy today, 580-252-6692 or email: [stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com)



*Lois Wilson, Sharon Burum and Paula Huckabaa for talking with Rep Dennis Johnson and representing Chisholm Trail Arts Council, Duncan Little Theater and Chisholm Trail Heritage Center at Art Day at the Capitol.*

Moreover, the high arts-involved students also watched fewer hours of TV, participated in more community service and reported less boredom in school.

<http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Publications/critical-evidence.pdf>

5. Employers recognize art skills are hireable skills
6. Eighty-five percent of surveyed business executives indicated that they are having difficulty recruiting individuals who possess creative ability with demand for creative people expected to grow as firms pursue innovation. Creativity/innovation rates among the top five skills sought by US employers. (Ready to Innovate, from The Conference Board, Americans for the Arts, and the American Association of School Administrators)



## ‘Singing Cowboys’ Summer Exhibit



From the early days of the Grand Ole Opry and Minnie Pearl, Elvis and Hank Williams Sr., to modern day icons like George Strait and Alan Jackson, it will be “Singing Cowboys” all summer.

Our summer exhibit, Grand Ole Opry, 30 photographs from WSM radio show and the Opry, opens June 16. This exhibit will take many of you back in time on a nostalgic trip, while the younger generation will learn about the origins of country music and its role for cowboys on the range. Cowboys would sing songs at night to

soothe the cattle. One cowboy on one side of the herd would sing a verse, and then his partner on the opposite side would sing the next verse. Sometimes, these cowboys would sing for hours to calm the cattle.

Book your field trips now for daycare and children’s groups, senior citizen tours and girlfriend and buddy trips. Come experience music and the old west this summer!

Call Leah or Stacy today to book your trip or tour, 580-252-6692.

## FIELD TRIP FUN .. RUN FOR THE LAND



Comanche third-graders - 75 students lined up north of the museum and made a mad dash for their stakes. More than 2,800 youth have “staked their claims” in this year’s Land Run field trip. They learned about Oklahoma state symbols and created a batik Indian blanket art project.

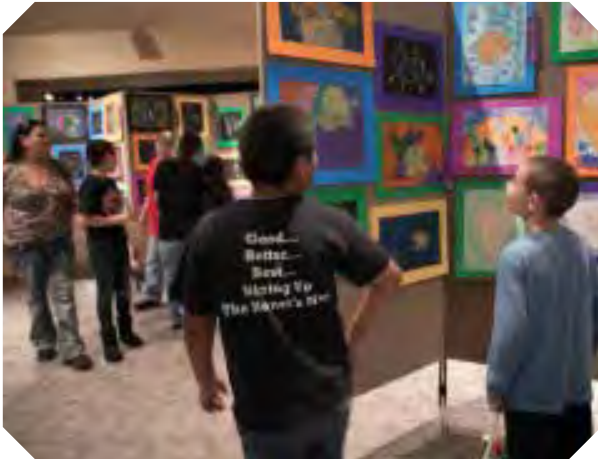
On April 17, students from Fletcher and Anadarko schools came for the Land Run programs. While here, they took part in the Chisholm Trail graphic novel color pages project and learned about Aaron Mallard, the artist who created the book.





# Connecting with the community, recognizing young artists

Hosting the Gabriel's House Art Show & Reception is one of the outreach programs we host each year. Our Education Coordinator, Leah Mulkey, sits on the board of the program, which was founded by Bonnie Talley. About 50 children, plus their parents and other supporters of the program, attended the reception held Tuesday, May 5.



Ryan Neal shows off his winning artwork in front of the temporary art show featuring works by DHS AP Art seniors.

## Ryan Neal's art on way to Washington D.C.

Ryan Neal was one of the seven Duncan High School seniors whose work was featured at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center during the DHS Sr. AP Art Show, May 8-15. One of Neal's pieces won first place earlier this month, in the "An Artistic Discovery" district contest sponsored by

congressional districts across the country. His work was entered into Congressman Tom Cole's district. His artwork will be on display in the nation's Capitol in Washington D.C., for a year. Art has long been an interest for Neal and he's been featured in The Duncan Banner numerous times for

his achievements. Among those shows and awards for 2015, are: State Superintendent Award for Arts Excellence in Visual Arts; Young Talent in Oklahoma, OAEA President's Award of Merit; Droverstock Sidewalk Chalk competition in the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, also featured on

Fox 25 News; USAO's Innovations Judge's Choice Award.

\*\*\*

Neal's sister, Kaley Presgrove, is a team member of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center's education department and also works in the gift shop.

# \$\$\$\$

## Help the Gallery!

# \$\$\$\$\$\$

We are nearing our goal for the matching grant challenge issued by the Kerr Foundation, Inc. of Oklahoma City. Funding will improve the Garis Gallery of the American West. We need to fulfill this obligation, before the June 1 deadline! They have asked us to raise \$2,500 by that date and if we can do that, they

will match \$2,500. Several of you have also indicated a willingness to be actively involved in a committee to brainstorm ideas and implement those ideas. We are excited to begin the process for improvements and can only do this with your help. Every donation helps us reach this goal.

We will be calling those of you who have indicated a desire to be a member of the task teams to begin meeting. You don't have to be a member to donate or volunteer! We need you! Checks must indicate "Kerr Challenge" in the memo line. Call us today to learn how you can help. 580-252-6692.

## Upcoming Artist Exhibits

Christen Walden - Woodland Hymn  
August 31 - Oct. 31, 2015  
Exhibit Woodland Hymn by watercolor artist Christen Walden.

Christen brings out the finer details of nature's still life through her meticulous watercolor paintings and graphite pencil drawings.



The Art of Dylan Cavin  
Nov. 3, 2015 - Jan. 6, 2016  
Artist Reception TBA

The art of Dylan Cavin is grabbing the attention of Oklahoma galleries and museums. Already with a long list of awards, Dylan Cavin keeps the momentum going. Using authentic ledgers, bank notes and other historical items, he transforms them into works of art.





1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533  
Address Service Requested



Visit: [www.chisholmtrail150.org](http://www.chisholmtrail150.org)  
[www.facebook.com/chisholmtrail150](https://www.facebook.com/chisholmtrail150)



## Volunteer Roundup YeeHaw!

We are rounding up volunteers to help celebrate National Day of the Cowboy, – Saturday, July 25th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Tasks Include:

- \* Operate our Experience Theater, Campfire Theater
  - \* Lead tours and assist people in the Garis Gallery of the American West.
  - \* Help with children’s games and art area.

Shifts will be for one to more hours.

If you are interested in helping, please call us so we can begin planning for the big celebration.

It’s a free day and it’s all indoors.

Email: [stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com)



Last year we had more than 800 people visit and enjoy the National Day of Cowboy celebration. This year’s event will feature Allen Wooten and the Cowboy Opry from Comanche. They will perform in our main exhibit room, amidst a backdrop of Grand Ole Opry photographs and other music-related items. Online updates:

[www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/events](https://www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/events)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, July 25, 2015**  
**National Day of the Cowboy**  
**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



<http://www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail>  
Twitter @cthc\_duncan  
Pinterest: cthcduncan



<http://www.arts.ok.gov/>

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Association is a 501c3 non-profit. Your contributions to our programs and exhibits are tax deductible. Consider the Center in your estate and planned giving allocations.

[stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com)  
or 580-252-6692.