



**CITY OF OELWEIN  
HOTEL AND MOTEL TAX FUNDING APPLICATION  
(TOURISM)**

**Application Deadlines**

September 1 • December 1 • March 1 • June 1

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. All areas of the applications must be completed and typed. Each applicant will be afforded the opportunity to attend a brief question and answer session with the Advisory Board.

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Williams Center for the Arts
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Linda Murphy and Sandie Graf, Co-Directors
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 636
<b>City, State, Zip:</b>	Oelwein, Iowa 50662
<b>Phone:</b>	(319) 283-6616
<b>Email Address:</b>	director@williamscenterforthearts.com
<b>Date of Project:</b>	04/18/26
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$ 15,043.00
<b>Total Requested from Hotel/Motel Tax Funds:</b>	\$ 2,500.

Please indicate which category you are applying for funds:

  
  
  

- Category 1 - Primary
- Category 2 - Community Culture and Education
- Category 3 - Community Recreation and Events
- Category 4 - New and Emerging Organization and Events



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**CITY OF OELWEIN  
HOTEL AND MOTEL TAX FUNDING APPLICATION  
(TOURISM, COMMUNITY CULTURE AND EDUCATION,  
AND COMMUNITY RECREATION AND EVENTS)**

**Application Deadlines**

September 1 – December 1

March 1 – June 1

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**Organization Name:** Williams Center for the Arts, (Williams Center, INC.)

**Contact Name:** Linda Murphy & Sandie Graf, Co-Directors

**Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 636

**City, State, and Zip:** Oelwein, IA 50662-0636

**Phone:** 319-283-6616

**Email Address:** director@williamscenterforthearts.com

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,043.

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**Please indicate which category you are applying for funds:**

Primary  
 Community Culture and Education  
 Community Recreation and Events  
 New and Emerging Organization and Events

Please sign and date this application. Your signature below certifies that you have read and understand the guidelines for this funding program. You further understand that you will be required to submit a summary of expenses at the end of the project and if any funds are not expended or are found to be outside the scope of the grant made by the City Council you will be required to reimburse/return these funds to the City of Oelwein.

By  November 24, 2025

Sandie Graf, Co-Director

Williams Center for the Arts

**HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDING APPLICATION  
(Tourism, Community Culture and Education, and Community Recreation and Events.)**

**Project Identification:**

**1. What is the title of your project?**

Billy Joel Tribute Show : Williams Center for the Arts stage.

Provide a brief description of your project. Attach Additional pages if needed.

A musical celebration of an artist whose catalog has over 33 top 40 hits, Billy Nation entertains audiences with a high-energy authentic concert experience of Billy Joel classics from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Complete with Billy's signature grand piano, growling saxophone, rich harmonies, and audience engagement, Billy Nation captures Billy's stylistic range with ease from anthems like 'Piano Man' to rocking songs like 'You May Be Right' to beautiful ballads like 'Just the Way You Are.'

Led by pianist/vocalist, Adam Shapiro, Billy Nation delivers great performances and passionate live shows that bring back the authentic spirit of the Piano Man's music.

Expenses for this concert include the artists' fee, lighting sound, printing, advertising, meals, and housing. This program is the 7th show in the 25-26 Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series. The program will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

**2. Hotel and Motel Tax Funds must be used to fund projects that promote and/or expand tourism activity in Oelwein. How will your project help to realize this goal?**

The Williams Center for the Arts is one of the top destinations of choice for the arts in the four-county area of northeast Iowa. Fifty percent of our audiences come from communities other than Oelwein. We have had concert attendees from over 40 area communities.

Some of the locations which our patrons come from include: Spencer, IA, Des Moines, IA, Minneapolis, MN, Rochester, MN, Galena, IL, Dubuque, IA, as well as the Oelwein area.

People coming to Oelwein for programs at the Williams Center for the Arts not only come to the programs but also spend money with our local businesses such as restaurants, convenience stores and motel/hotels.

During the 2025-26 concert year the Williams Center for the Arts will spend more than \$8,000 in hotel costs at Cornerstone Inn and Suites. An additional \$2,000 is spent for meals, and an additional \$1,500 for hospitality, which is a required part of each contracted event.

4. Project Evaluation:

A. Targeted Population

1.) Hotel/Motel guests generated by this project.

a. Number of guests.

The number of guests generated by this project is approximately 50+. This includes the performers as well as members of the audience needing housing.

b. How will hotel/motel guests be tracked?

We ask for information from Cornerstone Inn and Suites as to the number of rooms used and how many guests were housed in those rooms per evening.

2.) Number of adults the project will reach.

The total number of visitors to the Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series is 7,625 persons per year. Total number of persons using the Williams Center for the Arts during a calendar year is over 75,000. This includes the Artist Series, OCAD, NICC use, school use, district and state music associations, the State of Iowa, and the Federal Government.

The total number of adults this project will reach is 500 persons.

The Williams Center for the Arts provides residents with special needs the opportunity to attend the events at the center. Groups with special needs using the Williams Center for the Arts include: Mercy Living Plus, the two Alternative Living Homes in Oelwein, Full Circle Services, Grandview Nursing Home, Oelwein Care Nursing Home, and ABCM facilities in Independence, IA. These residents are admitted to the Artist Series event at a reduced ticket price.

3.) Number of youth the project will reach.

Approximately 300 youth will be reached by this project and over 10,000 youth will be served for the entire 2024-25 performance year. (This number includes all usage.) Every Oelwein School student (K-12) is admitted at no charge.

**C. Volunteers**

**1) Number of volunteers**

Based on past experience we will have over 25 volunteers

**2.) Number of volunteer hours**

We anticipated volunteers contributing 50 hours.

**D. Attendance of event previous year(s)**

The total number of visitors to the Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series is approximately 75,000 persons. (This includes the Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series, Northeast Iowa Honor Bands and Honor Choirs, Pre-All State High School Vocal Workshop, Programs and Concerts from the Oelwein Community Schools, Gallagher-Bluedorn children's plays, and various Community usages, as well as the State of Iowa, and the Federal Government.

**E. Day open to the public or performances(s)?**

The Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series begins in mid-August and runs through April, 2026. The Billy Joel Tribute Show is 7<sup>th</sup> on our 2025-26 series. It will be held April 18, 2026.

**5. Project Budget:**

**A.** Please provide a project budget and schedule of completion including all expenses. If desired, the project budget may be attached to the application. If exact costs are not known please attach estimates to the application, which should be identified as such. Cost estimates are included at the conclusion of this grant request form in this application.

**B.** List sources of matching funds obtained below. Funding requests are eligible up to 100% funding, but priority will be given to projects with additional sources of funding, including in-kind donations.

**Matching funds:**

Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation, In-Kind donations,  
Memorials, Ticket Sales, Local Business Sponsorships (program ads)

The Williams Center for the Arts is requesting a \$2,500 grant to help cover part of the cost of the Billy Joel Tribute Show.

C. Is this application "seed money" for a new? Project? If yes,  
Please explain.

It is not "seed" money.

D. Is this application for the expansion of an existing project/program?  
If yes, please explain.

This application helps to fund the existing 2024-25 Artist Series at the Williams Center for the Arts.

E. Have you ever received Hotel/Motel funding?  
From the City of Oelwein in the past?

Yes:  No: \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes, please answer the  
following: (attach additional pages if needed)

**Amount of Funding:** The Williams Center Artist Series has received \$6,000 each year for the past several years. Prior to 2017, the City of Oelwein was able to assist the Williams Center Artist series in the amount of \$10,000 yearly. We are asking for a \$2,500 grant.

**Completion Date is April 18, 2026**

### **BUDGET FOR: *Billy Joel Tribute***

Artist fee: \$10,500

Meals: \$500 estimate

Advertising: \$768

Hospitality: \$100

Housing: \$1400 estimate

Sound and Lights: \$1100 estimate

Programs and posters: \$675 estimate

**Total Projected Costs: \$15,043.**