



**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.

Organization Name: Williams Center for the Arts

Contact Name: Linda Murphy and Sandie Graf, Co-Directors

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 636

City, State, Zip: Oelwein, Iowa 50662

Phone: (319) 283-0908 **Email Address:** director@williamscenterforthearts.com

Date of Project: 05/28/26

Total Project Cost: \$ 14,443

Total Requested from Hotel/Motel Tax Funds: \$ 2500

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

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

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

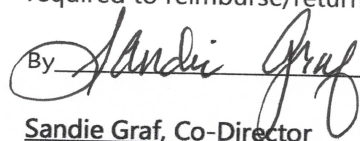
Total Project Cost: \$14,443.

Amount requested from the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds is \$2,500.

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  _____ May 28, 2026

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?**
Strait Outta Texas - George Strait Tribute : Williams Center for the Arts stage.

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

This is the #1 International George Strait Tribute Production in the world. Derek Spence captures the look, sound, and mannerisms of "The King of Country" in such amazing detail, that even Texan's have a difficult time telling the difference.

This program is the 1st show in the 2026-27 Williams Center for the Arts Artist Series. The program will be held on Saturday, August 22, 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 2026-27 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 Artist Series 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 25 youth will be reached by this project and over 10,000 youth will be served for the entire 2026-27 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, 2027. The Strait Outta Texas is the 1st on our 2026-27 series. It will be held August 22, 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 Strait Outta Texas – George Strait 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 2026-27 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: X No: _____

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

Amount of Funding: We are asking for a \$2,500 grant.

Completion Date is August 22, 2026

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR: Strait Otta Texas

Artist fee: \$10,500

Meals: \$200 estimate

Advertising: \$768 estimate

Hospitality: \$100 estimate

Housing: \$1200 estimate

Sound and Lights: \$1000 estimate

Programs and posters: \$675 estimate

Total Projected Costs: \$14,443