

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Shake out 2018 and race to 2019 in the Opening Night Finale 5K!  
3p.m., Monday, December 31st, 2018**

[OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Dec. 4, 2018] – Say goodbye to 2018 and hello to 2019 by participating in Arts Council Oklahoma City's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Opening Night Finale 5K. The festive run will begin at 3p.m. on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at Colcord Drive in Bicentennial Park and lead into Oklahoma City's biggest family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration.

We return this year to our chip-timed USATF certified course where runners will make their way down Walker Avenue and the Riverfront trails in downtown Oklahoma City; it will begin and end again just south of Bicentennial Park. It is a flat and fast course that is perfect for runners of all abilities, even entire families.

Before the race begins, there will be a special "warm up" appearance by the Thunder Girls, Thunder Drummers, Storm Chasers, and Rumble the Bison as they provide entertainment and interact with the crowd. The fun doesn't end when the race begins, there will be live arts and entertainment along the course to keep runners in the festive spirit.

All runners will receive a branded Finale 5K finisher medal, a complimentary Opening Night wristband, and they will have the chance to win original works of art. The top male and female finishers will receive an original Dean Imel windscape sculpture, and the top three finishers in each category will receive custom Collin Rosebrook clay medallions. Participants are also encouraged to dress festive—neon, glitter, capes, costumes, whatever sets them apart—for a chance to win the prize for "Most Festively Dressed."

With an Opening Night wristband, the celebration continues after the race with entertainment for the entire family. Live acts will captivate audiences across 9 stages including music by The Allie Lauren Project, Edgar Cruz, Orquesta D'Calle and Take Cover. The Civic Center's Hall of Mirrors hosts the Children's Area with face painting by the Bricktown Clowns, various interactive art projects, a photo booth, and upbeat tunes by Moetowne Alex & The Nightview Band. Attendees can also enjoy interactive comedy by OKC Improv, a Joe Coover Magic show, and a Broadway Review by Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. The night will end with Opening Night's signature midnight ball raising and fireworks extravaganza.

Finale 5K early registration is \$30 per person and ends next week on December 13<sup>th</sup> and limited edition 2018 Finale 5K t-shirts are guaranteed for the first 225 registrants. Registration increases to \$35 on December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be available through race day. Individuals can register and find more information at [www.artscouncilokc.com/opening-night/opening-night-finale-5k](http://www.artscouncilokc.com/opening-night/opening-night-finale-5k).

Packet pick-up for runners is scheduled for Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-4p.m. at Red Coyote Running and Fitness in Classen Curve, or on race day at the starting location beginning at noon.

Opening Night is produced by Arts Council Oklahoma City. The 2019 event co-chairs are hospitality professional and event producer Kindt Steven Myers and avid OKC volunteer and Lyric Theatre Community Engagement Coordinator Rachael Crawford.

Arts Council Oklahoma City is a non-profit 501 ©(3) organization dedicated to bringing the arts and the community together through free or low-cost cultural events and a variety of arts outreach activities that impact underserved populations. Each year, Arts Council events, programs and services reach approximately one million Oklahoma City residents and visitors. Arts Council Oklahoma City is sponsored by MidFirst Bank, Devon Energy Corporation, Ozarka Water & Coffee Service, Sonic - America's Drive-in, ICG, OGE Energy Corporation, Toucan Production and Tyler Media. Arts Council Oklahoma City receives funding from the Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, and is an Allied Arts member agency. For more information, call 405-270-4848 or visit [www.ArtsCouncilOKC.com](http://www.ArtsCouncilOKC.com).

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