



April 10, 2020

Dear OSAI 2020 Students & Families,

Over the past few weeks, our staff and board of directors have been assessing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in hopes that we could move forward with the 2020 Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain as planned. With much reluctance and heavy hearts, we have decided that we cannot safely hold the Institute in person at Quartz Mountain this summer. While we know this is the best decision for the health and safety of our OAI family, we are grieving the decision right alongside you.

Students, you have all worked so hard to qualify for this experience, and we know how much you've been looking forward to it. All year long, we look forward to seeing you fulfill your creative potentials and find yourselves as artists at Quartz Mountain. We also love seeing students from all walks of life and all corners of the state find "their people" at OSAI. For those who have attended before, you know that the synergy created by having that much talent in one place at one time is palpable. We affectionately refer to it as Quartz Mountain magic, and it bonds our students, families, faculty, and staff alike. Nonetheless, the number of people we would have traveling from all over the state and country to live and work in such close quarters simply makes it unsafe for us to come together at Quartz Mountain this year.

We know that being unable to convene in person for the Summer Institute comes at a great cost. But we intend to provide an online learning experience that strives to recreate as much of the magic of Quartz Mountain as possible. Our staff is reviewing your responses to last week's virtual learning questionnaire, and we will be working hard over the next few weeks to formulate our plans.

We hope you will allow us time to roll out the details of the Institute before you make any decisions regarding your attendance. Our goal is to honor your exceptional achievement of being selected for this prestigious academy by allowing you to study at a level that is not available to you at home. Though the Institute will take place online, you will still study with extraordinary faculty, receive individualized feedback in your artistic discipline, network with other high school artists, and further your creative talents.

To ensure the best attendance possible, we plan to shorten the duration of the Institute, to be held sometime during what would have been our first week at Quartz Mountain, June 13-20. Every student will still attend the Institute on a full scholarship, though a commitment fee of \$40 will be asked of participating students. (The remainder of the original \$290 commitment fee will be refunded, and students qualifying for Angel Fund assistance will still receive a fee waiver.) Exact dates and further details will follow soon, including discipline-specific details, so you will have a better idea of what to expect. At that time, we will ask you to reconfirm your attendance and will begin processing refunds of any remaining portion of paid commitment fees.

In the meantime, please know we are mourning the loss of our would-be summer at Quartz Mountain as much as you all. But we are confident that we can work together creatively to ensure that the students of OSAI 2020 are celebrated for their achievements and receive the benefit of this exceptional educational opportunity.

Wishing you all the best in the weeks ahead,



Julie Cohen
President & CEO



Emily Claudé
Vice President & Director of Programs