



Prairie Lakes is Initiating a New Artist Development Grant of \$1,500 Applications are due June 1, 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, Prairie Lakes will be temporarily suspending the current Artist Grant Program and replacing it with this new artist grant to allow more artists to apply for funding and with the purpose of providing more flexible support. **We are initiating the program quickly to serve artists that need funds to continue their creativity.**

1. **The Artist Development Grant of \$1,500 has a deadline of June 1, 2020**, with the earliest starting date of August 1, 2020. The application will be available online by May 1st.

This project grant provides financial support to artists committed to advancing their work and careers. Artists at all stages of development are eligible. Artists may expand their present work, advance in skill or technique, or move in a new direction. This grant is for a specific project that contributes directly to your growth and development as a professional.

- Because of current COVID-19 restrictions, artist grant requirements are more flexible this year. Funds may be used for supplies, mentorships, etc. as usual, but for this round of grants, artists are able to use up to 100% of funds for creative time and/or living expenses if needed.
- We would like artists to explain how this grant will help them continue to do creative work during this challenging time. If requesting funds for creative time or living expenses be sure to explain how COVID-19 has impacted you in those areas.
- A final exhibit or performance is NOT required for this grant; however, this may be a good time to develop your social media and online presence through Facebook, Twitter, or a website.
- Applicants must show that they can do the project without needing to violate any public health guidelines.

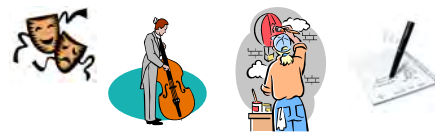
2. **The Goal is to Award 33 Artist Grants for a total of \$49,500 with funds from The McKnight Foundation.**

3. **Applications are encouraged from artists in all art disciplines.** This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, etc.

4. Applicants must have resided in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, or Watonwan County for a minimum of twelve months prior to application.

5. **Application deadline June 1, 2020.** The application will be reviewed at the June 25, 2020 board meeting; and the Earliest Starting Date is August 1, 2020.

Tentative: An additional deadline will be added on July 1, 2020 if all funds are not awarded in June. The application will be reviewed at the July 23, 2020 board meeting.



Artist Grant Webinar

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 5 p.m.

PLRAC Executive Director, Brenda Byron, will conduct an online webinar about the new guidelines for the grant program, project timelines, and what projects can be funded. Email plracc@hickorytech.net to obtain meeting login information.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants of \$117,050 Awarded

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that **Arts and Cultural Heritage grants of \$117,050 were awarded to twenty arts organizations, community groups, and schools in the region.**

Grants were awarded for arts activities in all artistic disciplines. A variety of activities including arts and cultural festivals, instrumental and vocal music concerts, public art, dance and theater performances, and visual art exhibitions were funded. The date of activities will be determined later, as the health situation improves.

The next Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant deadline is August 1, 2020. Organizations can apply once per year for this grant.

Blue Earth County - \$50,400

City Center Partnership, Mankato-\$7,000. They will sponsor the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour consisting of juried outdoor sculptures in downtown Mankato and North Mankato. **Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota-\$7,000.** They will expand dance programs to include more pre-point, ballet technique, dance camps, and hip hop and tumbling classes. They will offer a free camp for children to try dance and Deaf Jamz, a dance workshop for the hearing impaired. **Mankato Area 77 Lancers Marching Band-\$7,000.** They will present their 42nd season as the premier youth marching band for the greater Mankato area. **Mankato Area Community Band-\$4,400.** They will present free outdoor concerts at Sibley Park and Lincoln Park in Mankato. **Mankato Ballet Company-\$7,000.** They will present their large scale, original ballet production “Dorothy” in the St. Peter High School Auditorium. **Mankato Symphony Orchestra-\$7,000.** They will present a concert in their Symphonic Series. **Minnesota State University, Mankato, Music Performances Series-\$7,000.** They will sponsor music performances by Minnesota artists as part of their Performance Series. This will also include outreach activities for the community. **Rosa Parks Elementary School, Mankato-\$4,000.** They will host a regional Elementary Art Show at Bethany Lutheran College with area school districts being invited to participate.

Brown County - \$14,000

New Ulm Suzuki School of Music-\$7,000. They will sponsor their Pops Camp and conduct a season of rehearsals and concerts. **The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, New Ulm-\$7,000.** They will continue their

performing arts series which features many Minnesota artists presenting a variety of music genres and small theater productions. They will also display art exhibitions in their 4 Pillars Gallery in New Ulm.

LeSueur County - \$4,000

Tri-City United High School, Montgomery-\$4,000.

They will host the Classical Actors Ensemble from Minneapolis to perform two Shakespearean productions for the students at the high school.

Nicollet County - \$22,860

Govenaires Drum and Bulge Corps-\$7,000. They will perform throughout Minnesota and the Midwest and host a home concert in St. Peter. **Minnesota “Over-60” Band-\$7,000.** They will perform across Minnesota during their season. **Rock Bend Folk Festival-\$5,000.** They will sponsor the 30th annual festival featuring local and regional Minnesota folk musicians and local artists displaying their work at Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter. **South Central College-\$3,860.** They will sponsor an Asian dance group, to perform at the Global Connections Conference.

Sibley County - \$15,790

Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce-\$5,000. They will sponsor “Music on Main”, consisting of weekly concerts in downtown Gaylord. **Green Isle Community School-\$3,790.** They will sponsor an Artist in Residency where students interview an elder from the community and work with local artists to create a play and music based on the elder’s life. **T-Bird Community Arts-\$7,000.** They will sponsor an Art Camp for grades 3-8, including painting and set design, vocal performance, acting, dance/choreography, and costume design; and a musical performance of “The Sound of Music.”

Watwan County - \$10,000

Madelia Area Chamber of Commerce-\$5,000. They will sponsor the 8th annual Watana Park Blues Festival. **Uniting Cultures Multicultural Fiesta, St. James-\$5,000.** They will host a free, outdoor fiesta with ethnic performances in St. James.



Prairie Lakes' Office Update for May



The Prairie Lakes office is closed to the public, but staff are working remotely. Please contact us by email at plrac@hickorytech.net if you have any questions about our grant programs. We are committed to assisting artists and arts organizations in our region as we respond to the COVID-19 health situation.

We encourage any grantee that has had to change plans because of COVID-19 to contact us to talk about changing the details of their grant to allow them more flexibility in how they use the funds. We plan to be as flexible as possible in this regard. We understand that some events have been cancelled and we will work with any grantee to find appropriate solutions.

Governor Walz said on April 23 in his report, that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. The stay at home order remains in place until May 4.

- Arts groups should anticipate that the “social distancing” guidelines will continue through June and this may impact your arts activities, and you may need to postpone events.
- Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, Prairie Lakes will be temporarily suspending the current Artist Grant Program and replacing it with this new artist grant to allow more artists to apply for funding and with the purpose of providing more flexible support. We are initiating the program quickly to serve artists that need funds to continue their creativity.
- The Artist Development Grant of \$1,500 has a deadline of June 1, 2020. This grant is for artists at all stages of development and you must live in the 9-county area of Southern MN that Prairie Lakes covers. Details for the online application at: www.plrac.org. Details are on page 1 about this Artist Grant.
- **Other PLRAC grant programs and deadlines will be similar for FY 2021 starting with July 1st for Small Art Projects and August 1st for Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants.**
- **However, the amount of the grant may be lower due to the anticipated reduction in State arts funding to our region.**
- **New applications will be posted at the end of June.**

We encourage all of you to stay updated with official public health sources.

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 page is:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/>

[Springboard for the Arts](https://springboardforthearts.org/coronavirus/) has a COVID-19 Resource Page and an Emergency Fund for Artists. If you can, please consider donating to the Emergency Fund for Artists.

<https://springboardforthearts.org/coronavirus/>

<https://springboardforthearts.org/additional-resources/personal-emergency-relief-fund/>

Three other key sources about COVID-19 and the arts are:

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.
<http://artsmn.org/coronavirus/>

Arts Ready. <https://www.artsready.org/>

COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources.
<https://covid19freelanceartistresource.wordpress.com/>

For information on unemployment insurance:
<https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Take the same precautions you would to avoid colds and flu.



Wash your hands.



Stay home when sick.



Cover your cough.

For more information, visit health.mn.gov
HOTLINE: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903

mn DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH





Funds are exhausted
**for the Small Arts Project
Community and School Arts
Project Grant Program in
FY 2020.**

The next available deadline for a Small Arts Project Community or School Arts Project Grant is July 1, 2020. Applications are required to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the event taking place.

**FY 2020 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and
SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT GRANTS**

*These grants were awarded July 2019-March 2020.

The Small Arts Project Community Grant is available to non-profit arts organizations and community groups sponsoring arts activities for their community. School Arts Project Grants are for public or private non-parochial schools K-12 for artist residencies, arts presentations, & arts related field trips. The next deadline is July 1, 2020.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Bethany Lutheran College, film festival - \$2,000
Carnegie Unhinged, interactive exhibits - \$1,110
Creative Self Expression, Drama Kids, Mankato - \$2,000
Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - \$2,000
Deep Valley Book Festival, author talks - \$2,000
Free to the People Theater, Mankato, performing- \$2,000
GSR Fine Art Festival, musicians - \$2,000
Living Earth Center, Mankato, artist presenters - \$1,700
Mankato Area Community Education, theater - \$1,170
ProMusica Minnesota, concerts - \$2,000
South Central Minnesota Pride, mural - \$2,000
The Fillin' Station Mural Committee, Mankato \$2,000

BROWN COUNTY

Adaptive Recreational Services, art classes - \$2,000
Healthy Comm./Healthy Youth, theater - \$2,000
Hermann Monument Society, festival musicians - \$2,000
Martin Luther College Wind Symphony, classes - \$1,730
Musical Tales Concerto, New Ulm, festival - \$2,000
Sleepy Eye High School, field trip - \$1,820
Two Rivers Community Orchestra, concerts - \$2,000

FARIBAULT COUNTY

Blue Earth Area Schools, art contest & speakers - \$2,000
Blue Earth Area Community Education, theater - \$2,000

LE SUEUR COUNTY

Tri-City United Community Education, dance - \$2,000
Tri-City United High School, artist residency - \$2,000

MARTIN COUNTY

Fairmont Concert Association, concert series - \$2,000
South Central MN Interpretive Center, music perf. - \$1,050
Truman Public Schools, theater field trip - \$1,656

NICOLLET COUNTY

Key City TV, arts television program - \$2,000
Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, artist fees - \$2,000
St. Peter High School Band, guest artist - \$2,000
American Guild of Organists, Sioux Trails Chapter - \$1,000

SIBLEY COUNTY

City of Winthrop, concerts - \$1,820
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop School - field trip - \$1,735
Henderson Sauerkraut Days, music performances - \$2,000
Minnesota New Country School, theater - \$2,000
Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Assoc., festival - \$2,000
Sibley County, Arlington Book Project Festival - \$2,000
Sibley County Fair, performances - \$2,000
Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, festival - \$1,400

WASECA COUNTY

American Indian Service Learning Project - \$1,500
Janesville Matters, public art - \$2,000
Project GEM, African art artist residency - \$2,000
Project GEM, American Indian artist residency - \$2,000
Sacred Heart Church, Mexican Mariachi Band - \$2,000
TEAM Academy, Waseca, author residency - \$1,316
Waseca Community Education, theater - \$2,000
Waseca Marching Classic, clinicians - \$1,975

Artist Grants of \$13,000 Awarded

Thirteen artists received a PLRAC/McKnight Artist Career Development Grant of \$1,000 each.

The purpose of the grant is to provide financial support to artists committed to advancing their work and careers. An alphabetical list of the thirteen artist grantees and a brief description of their projects is listed below.

“We are excited that these thirteen artists will be creating new works in a variety of media” noted Byron. We hope that other artists will be inspired and plan to apply for a future grant from Prairie Lakes. **The next deadline for a \$1,500 Artist Development Grant is June 1, 2020.** Grant program information and a link to the online applications are available at www.plrac.org.

Emily Dzieweczynski, Mankato. Emily is a multi-media artist and will use the grant to purchase equipment to work with virtual reality and create a video series entitled “Perspectives on Home” to promote empathy between viewers. She plans to have a virtual reality viewing party of the new videos at the Vagabond Village in Mankato or the Arts Center of Saint Peter in February of 2021.

Jennifer Haugen, New Ulm. Jennifer is a musician and will use the grant to prepare a vocal recital based on the theme of communication and connection. She plans to present two vocal concerts, Feb. 14, 2021 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm and Feb. 20, 2021 at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato.

Jill Hildebrandt, St. Peter. Jill is an actor and storyteller and will use the grant to create a 45-minute, one-woman show, including personal narratives, original poetry and songs, entitled “Inherited”. She plans to present the show at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in August 2020, and at the 410 Project in Mankato and the Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm in September or October 2020.

John Hurd, North Mankato. John is a writer and will use the grant to publish a book of vignettes and short stories titled “Why I Won’t Marry My Girlfriend”. He plans to have a reading at VINE’s Memoir Group in Mankato and participate in a group reading at the Arts Center of Saint Peter.

Jessica Landsteiner, Mankato. Jessica is a musician and will use the grant to study Dixieland and Traditional New Orleans Jazz trumpet playing with mentor, Catie Rodgers. She plans to have two concerts at the Coffee Hag in Mankato and the Arts Center of Saint Peter in August or September 2020.

Marie MacPherson, Mankato. Marie is a photographer and will use the grant to take a one-on-one photography

course with Melissa Vandermause and offer complimentary photography sessions for families going through life transitions such as births or hospice care. She plans to have an exhibit at the Blue Earth County Library in November of 2020.

Natalie Martell, Mankato. Natalie is a writer and will use the grant to complete the manuscript of her young adult novel “Stay Wrecked” and attend a novel writing class at the Loft in Minneapolis. She plans to have a reading at the Coffee Hag in Mankato in August of 2020.

Jerry Mollenhauer, St. Peter. Jerry is a writer and will use the grant to attend the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference in Bemidji MN, June 22-28, 2020. The conference will help him find local market sources and make professional-level contacts while he is in the process of publishing his historical fiction novel. He plans to have readings of his novel at the Arts Center of Saint Peter and the Coffee Hag in Mankato in the late fall or winter of 2020-21.

Edie Schmierbach, St. Peter. Edie is a writer and will use the grant to work with mentor, Nicole Helget, to create a series of essays about her 40 years of experience working in the newspaper industry. She plans to become a free-lance creative writer and will present a reading of her essays during her own art exhibit at the Blue Earth County Historical Society in January 2021.

Willis Stout, Mankato. Willis is a musician and will use the grant to build a custom modular LED video wall. The wall will be used as a mobile display for art and music performances. He plans to debut the display by hosting a show and creating a performance in Mankato that would showcase his music alongside visuals in late 2020.

Mary Traxler, St. Peter. Mary is a musician and will use the grant to purchase the equipment necessary for recording and producing her first album, as well as create more original music. She plans to have an album release party and performance at the Arts Center of Saint Peter in Dec. 2020.

Kevin White, North Mankato. Kevin is a musician and will use the grant to purchase equipment so that his digital music can be performed live. He plans to present a concert of new music at the 410 Project or the Wine Café in Mankato.

Amanda Wirig, Mankato. Amanda is a visual artist and will use the grant to create a public art piece combining two and three-dimensional elements in honor of retiring Minnesota State University, Mankato Music Professor, Dr. John Lindberg. The work will be on display at the Minnesota State University, Mankato, Department of Music in May of 2020.

Arts Calendar

(An asterisk* denotes Arts Events funded by a Prairie Lakes Grant.)

PLRAC is not able to provide any May events or classes due to the uncertainty around the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Based on statewide guidance and for the safety of the community, arts activities should be cancelled at least through May 31st; and maybe through June 2020. We expect that it will become clearer in the coming weeks if further cancellations are necessary.

All PLRAC Grant Applications will be Online.

We will continue the online Grants Management from Foundant technologies for all our grant programs!

**Applicant
Login**

The “Applicant Login” button can be seen on the Home page and the Grant Programs page of the Prairie Lakes Website.

<http://www.plrac.org/grants.html>

Grant Guidelines & Applications are available

On the “Grants Program Page” of the website, each will be a downloadable link. Four program grants will be listed:

- Arts and Cultural Heritage
- Youth Scholarship, grades 7-12 and 3-6
- Small Arts Project Community or School Arts Project
- Artist Grant

Prairie Lakes has identified three primary goals for this change to online applications.

Goal 1: Increased accountability: Grantees will submit data collection information needed for our state funding, through the online application, which can be easily reported to the MN State Arts Board to document evaluation goals, outcomes, etc. that are needed for our Arts and Cultural Heritage funds.

Goal 2: Increase efficiency with the online application, contract, and final report for grantees.

Goal 3: Allow our Prairie Lakes board members to easily read, comment and score applications in a secure online format.



FY 2021 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Organizational Grants - Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, schools, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Fundable projects may include: community choirs & bands, dance activities, literary readings, music presentations, theatre productions, visual arts classes and exhibitions, etc. Maximums for the Arts & Cultural Heritage grants vary as well as matching fund requirements; check guidelines for details. **Organizations can only receive one grant per year.**

Artist Grants - Are for specific projects that will enhance your arts career. Applications will be online at www.plrac.org.

Small Arts Project Community & School Arts Project - TBD

1st of the Month Deadline
July 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021

Youth Scholarship
Grades 7-12 - \$300

October 1 Deadline

Youth Scholarship
Grades 3-6 - \$200

November 1 Deadline

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Arts Programming - \$5,000 TBD
Arts Festivals - \$4,000 TBD

Amounts TBD, based on State cuts

August 1 Deadline &
February 1 Deadline

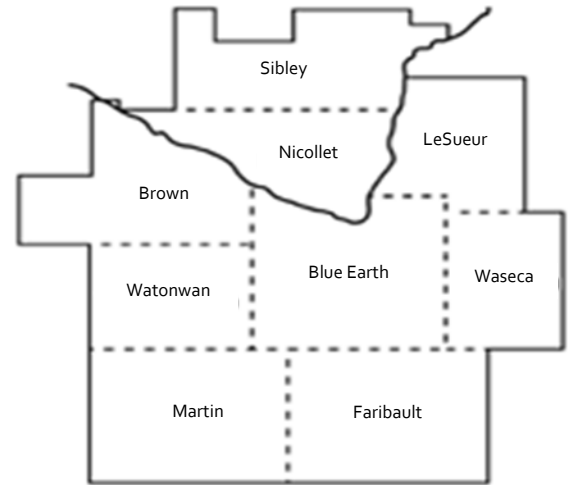
All FY 2021 grant applications will be online by July 1, 2020.

A tutorial that explains the online process is on our website.

Artist Development Grant - \$1,500

June 1, 2020
Deadline

The application for this program
will be online by April 24, 2020



FY 2021 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1 and Feb. 1

Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, and anticipated cuts to our State Arts funding Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will only fund projects from **non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations** that are sponsoring an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater and visual arts. Our priority for the coming year will be to help arts organizations survive and adapt.

1. Arts and Arts Access – Maximum \$5,000 TBD.

Projects that focus on **arts programming** by an organization, maintaining on-going arts programs and services, and offering new and different activities. A variety of activities including community bands and choirs, dance performances, literary readings, instrumental and vocal music concerts, theater productions, visual art classes and exhibitions are eligible.

Also **equipment** that enhances the artistic capabilities of the organization. **Equipment** may include office equipment and software, instruments, risers, theater lighting, theater curtains, sound system, display cases, etc. This also includes **public art**, sculpture, murals, etc; and activities that plan to reach **new audiences** such as youth, ethnic groups, senior citizen groups, people with disabilities, etc. and engage the public in new ways.

2. ACH Youth Scholarship:

Youth Scholarship for Students (7-12) – \$300, and grades (3-6) - \$200. Students have the opportunity to study their chosen art with a practicing professional artist by taking lessons over a period of months. This is for all Art disciplines. Deadline for grades 7-12 is October 1; and grades 3-6 is November 1.



3. ACH Arts & Music Festivals - Amount TBD. For non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations that are sponsoring arts/music festivals and activities that represent diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions.

Small Arts Project Community Grant

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Grants may be \$2,000 TBD. Fundable activities include: arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **Deadline: July 1, and the 1st of each month.**

School Arts Project Grant

Grants are for **schools K-12 public and private.** Matching grants up to \$2,000 are available to fund Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. Cash match is 10%. **Deadline: 1st of each month.**

Artist Development Grant

This project grant provides financial support to artists committed to advancing their work and careers. The artist grant of \$1,500 is more flexible this year and it can be used to sustain artists during this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to 100% of the funds can be used for artist creative time and/or living expenses if needed

Deadline: June 1, 2020

Earliest start date: August 1, 2020

The applicant or organization must have an address and provide arts programming within the Prairie Lakes region; the counties are: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, or Watonwan County.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Board of Directors and Staff



Front Row (L to R): Cindy Lewer, Program Manager; Denice Evers; April Malphurs, Dana Sikkila; Carol Soma; Rita Rassbach, and Brenda Byron, Executive Director. **Back Row:** Charles Luedtke; Karen Krause; Liz Miller; Pam Trumbull, Administrative Assistant; Randy Mediger; Steve Davis; and Teresa Konechne. **Individual photos:** left: Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerence, and right Margie Larson.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has **Five Board Positions Open, beginning July 1, 2020**

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has five vacant positions on the Board for representatives from the **Brown County, LeSueur County, City of Fairmont, City of Mankato, and City of New Ulm.**

The deadline for submitting an application is May 31, 2020. Interested persons residing in these areas should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board. **We will email you a Board Application and a list of responsibilities.**

This is a great opportunity to understand the workings of the granting process, to be more involved with the arts and artists of our region, and to enjoy camaraderie with others who appreciate the arts. The Council seeks to appoint people who represent a cross-section of art forms as well as various arts perspectives: Artists, teachers, and representatives of arts organizations.

Board members serve a three year term. **Monthly evening meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in Mankato, at Bethany Lutheran College;** no meetings in June or December. Attendance at several PLRAC funded arts events per year is required and board members are reimbursed for their mileage to meetings and arts events.

Prairie Lakes Board of Directors

Blue Earth County	Liz Miller
Brown County	Denice Evers
Faribault County.....	Carol Soma
LeSueur County	Randy Mediger
Martin County.....	Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerence
Nicollet County	Rita Rassbach
Sibley County	Teresa Konechne
Waseca County	Karen Krause
Watsonwan County	Steve Davis
City of Fairmont.....	Open
City of Mankato	Margie Larson
City of New Ulm	Charles Luedtke
City of North Mankato	Dana Sikkila
City of St. Peter	April Malphurs

Staff

Executive Director	Brenda Byron
Program Manager.....	Cindy Lewer
Administrative Assistant ..	Pam Trumbull

Learning about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Arts

For the past two years Brenda Byron, the Prairie Lakes Executive Director has been attending meetings and workshops on the topic of **diversity, inclusion, and equity** in the Arts. This effort is also in collaboration with the eleven Regional Arts Councils in Minnesota that will focus on Intercultural Competence in FY 2021. Six meetings of the Regional Arts Council (RAC) Director's were held in 2018-2019 with a consultant that led the RAC's through this discussion. It included an individual assessment survey completed by all Directors focusing on their "intercultural competence" through survey questions and several learning sessions.

Byron noted that "It's been very interesting to explore tactical ways boards and leadership can expand our understanding of diversity, inclusion and equity and build it into our organizational culture and decision making. It was important to learn some definitions in this area and to bring back the information to our Prairie Lakes board at several meetings." This information may also be helpful to the arts organizations and community groups we serve in the nine-county area."

"Although we may have a small percentage of racial diversity in our region, it still important to be aware of including all people in the Arts, noted Byron. In our nine county region the White population is about 90% or higher in 8 counties and our 9th county Watonwan has 77% White, 20% Hispanic, and 3% other. **"The goal of PLRAC as an organization in FY 2021 is to strive for Equity and Inclusion in our policies, programs and the communities we serve."**

Therefore, a few new questions are being asked about Equity and Inclusion in our grant applications if an organization's project is to provide Access to the event. These questions encourage applicants to think broadly and plan intentionally to reach more people through their arts programming and activities. Arts Access activities that plan to reach new audiences and engage the public in new ways, should also think about Equity and Inclusion. Within the context of your community, describe how your project identifies and proactively addresses barriers to engaging historically marginalized, targeted, and underserved people and identities that may otherwise have limited access to your proposed activity.



Examples might include:

- * IPOC (Indigenous people and People of Color including Native American, Black/African/African American, Afro Latino, Caribbean, Chicano/Mexican, Central American, South American, Middle Eastern/North African, Southeast Asian/Asian/Pacific Islander, Immigrants, Refugees, and Muslim individuals.)
- * Economically disadvantaged
- * Youth and Seniors
- * People with Disabilities
- * LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, etc.)

Here are a few definitions we'd like to share to inform you about this topic.

Diversity. The presence of difference within a given setting. Include race, gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, language, socio-economic status, ability, geographical location and more.

Culture. A culture is a way of life of a group of people: the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next. "The way we do things around here."


Cultural difference. The fact of human difference that makes a difference in how we interact with one another.

Inclusion. Individuals with different identities feeling and/or being valued, leveraged, and welcomed to fully participate within a given setting.

Equity. Promote justice, impartiality and fairness within the procedures, processes and distribution of resources by institutions or systems. Eliminate root causes of outcome disparities within institutional and societal systems.

Intercultural Competence. The capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural difference and commonalities.

Learning Strategies Toward Intercultural Competence. Cultural self-awareness including around power and privilege. Recognize overemphasis on commonalities. Increase understanding of cultural differences and understanding of cultural-general frameworks. Interact across cultural difference in ways that expand cultural understanding. Continue to build on knowledge of cultural difference and further develop skills to adapt across differences.



Note: These art centers and galleries may be closed until further notice.
Contact them for details.

Non-profit Art Centers

Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 N. First St. Various events and monthly exhibits. Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Monthly exhibits, an extensive variety of children, youth, and adult art classes and clay classes are offered at www.artscentersp.org/classes. Register for classes at www.stpetercommunityedonline.com. Gallery hours: Tues. & Wed. 1-6 p.m., Thurs. 1-8 p.m., Fri. & Sun. 1-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Contact (507) 931-3630, info@artscentersp.org, or www.artscentersp.org.

Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad Street, Mankato. Artist studios, monthly exhibits and a unique Gift Shop featuring original art work by local artists. Wheelchair accessible. The Carnegie is closed one week each month for gallery installation. Gallery hours: Thurs. 1-7 p.m., Fri. 1-4 p.m. & Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. www.thecarnegiemandkato.com, (507) 625-2730, or artctr@hickorytech.net.

Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Artist studios and gallery space. Hours: Wed.-Sat. 1-6 p.m. emyfrenzartsguild@gmail.com, (507) 779-7206.

Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. Hours: Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and evenings & weekends by appointment. Monthly art exhibitions, artist receptions, workshops, various events for all ages and ballroom dances. www.redrockcenter.org, (507) 235-9262, or redrockcenter@frontiernet.net.

The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m., and Sun. 1-4 p.m. the410project@hotmail.com or www.the410project.com.

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Music every Fri. & Sat. and monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat. during shows 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Artist studios available for rent on second and third floor of the Grand. Contact: grand@thegrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Waseca Art Center, 200 N. State Street. Monthly exhibits, educational programs, weekly art appreciation discussions, and spring concert series. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. info@wasecaartcenter.org, www.wasecaartcenter.org, or (507) 835-1701.

College Galleries

Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Dr., Mankato. Art exhibits are held at Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours: Sun.-Thurs. 1-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 1-8 p.m. www.blc.edu/art-exhibits.

Conkling Art Gallery, 139 Nelson Hall, MN State University, Mankato. Monthly exhibits are on display. Gallery hours: Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-6412 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept.

Hillstrom Museum of Art, 800 W. College Ave., Gustavus Adolphus, College, St. Peter. Events are free and open to the public. Hours: weekdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and weekends 1-5 p.m. (507) 933-7200 or www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom/.

South Central College Lookout Gallery, Room C167, 1920 Lee Blvd., North Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. To inquire about displaying artwork, email: michelle.johnson@southcentral.edu.

Student Union Gallery, lower level of the Centennial Student Union, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to Midnight.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

105 22nd Ave. NE, Suite A, Waseca, MN 56093-2612
 (507) 833-8721 or (800) 298-1254
 plrac@hickorytech.net or www.plrac.org



In FY 2020 Prairie Lakes awarded 222 Grants totaling \$435,729

Here's a summary of Grants awarded:

\$44,000 - McKnight Artist Grants (24 grants)

\$83,379 - State General funds (46 grants)
 Small Arts Project & School Grants

\$308,350 - Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) (152 grants); 45 organizational grants and 107 Youth Scholarships.

The three categories of ACH grants and the amounts awarded were:

- (1) Arts Programming/Arts Access \$238,334, which includes grants to 35 nonprofit arts organizations and community groups, for their arts programs and activities.
- (2) Arts Education \$53,418, which includes 6 school grants and 107 Youth Scholarships of \$300 or \$200 each.
- (3) Arts & Cultural Heritage Festivals \$16,598; which was awarded to 4 community festivals.

June 17 Deadline
Paint the Town Grant

Free paint and coating products for a community mural, community welcome sign, or historic structure projects. Up to 10 projects will be awarded to small communities with a population under 10,000. Grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.smifoundation.org. Contact Jennifer at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for more information, jenniferh@smifoundation.org or (507) 455-3215.

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