

January 2024 Arts Calendar

Created by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, for the 9-county area of southern Minnesota.
Individuals can submit information for our calendar by emailing our office by the 15th of the preceding month.

***Jan. 1-April 26** The annual CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

***Jan. 3-6** Jack Dahl's Watercolor Painting Exhibit and the Membership Show. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 12 Noon-5 p.m. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Jan. 4-Feb. 24 Wood and Metal Exhibit. Held at the Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 First St. N. Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 364-8107 or www.artsandheritagecenter.org.

***Jan. 6** Singing Hills Chorus presents their "I Will Sing" Concert, 1 p.m. Tickets available at the door. General admission \$10, children 10 and under are free. Held at Hosanna Lutheran Church, 105 Hosanna Dr., Mankato. www.singinghillschorus.org or katoactonalz@gmail.com.

Jan. 6 Performance by The Jolly Pops, combining upbeat, original music with a host of children's standards for a concert that is sure to please kids and adults alike, 10:30 a.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 8 Family Movie Monday, view "Turning Red", 6-7:30 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 8 Movie Monday, view "Cool Runnings", 1 p.m. Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Jan. 8-31 Jeff Moody's Furniture Design Exhibit. (Reception, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.) Held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center Gallery, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. Gallery hours: Sun.-Thurs. 1-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 1-8 p.m. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

Jan. 10 Wednesday Movie Matinee, view "Alice Through the Looking Glass", 12 Noon-2 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 10 Virtual author event with Rebecca Serle. She will discuss her novels "One Italian Summer", "In Five Years", "The Dinner List" and more, 7 p.m. Contact the library to register and to receive the link. Sponsored by the Blue Earth County Library. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 11 Author visit by Minnesota author Wendy Webb, 6 p.m. Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

***Jan. 14 & 28** Open Clay Studio in English or Spanish, 3-5 p.m. Try your hand at clay or develop your skills, with guidance and encouragement from an experienced potter. Free. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 15-Feb. 2 Exhibit by Future Art Teachers. (Reception, Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m.) Held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. (507) 389-6767 or <https://hss.mnsu.edu/academic-programs/art/galleries/csu-gallery/>.

Jan. 15-Feb. 9 Minnesota State University, Mankato Graphic Design Faculty Exhibit. (Reception, Jan. 23, 7-9 p.m.) Held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-6412 or <https://hss.mnsu.edu/academic-programs/art/galleries/conkling-gallery/>.

Jan. 16 Indigenous Flute and Drum Circle, 3-4 p.m. This gathering is an opportunity to play and listen to these beautiful instruments. The circle is led by Deb Egeland. No experience is needed and all are welcome. Held at The Grand Center for Arts & Culture's Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.org.

Jan. 17 Wednesday Movie Matinee, view "Wonder", 12 Noon-2 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 17-Feb. 17 "Handle Without Care" Art Exhibit by Michael Wiechmann featuring fascinating artwork created on cardboard. (Reception and Presentation, Jan 17, 6 p.m.) Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/513/Library.

Jan. 18 Good Thunder Reading Series featuring author Allen Eskens. Workshop, 10-11 a.m., Memorial Library, 1st floor, MN State University, Mankato. Craft talk, 3-3:50 p.m., at Centennial Student Union, Room 253/4/5, MN State University, Mankato. Reading, 7:30-8:15 p.m., at Ostrander Auditorium, MN State University, Mankato. Sponsored by MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5144 or <http://gt.mnsu.edu/>.

***Jan. 19** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Andrea Lyn performing her original music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.org.

***Jan. 19-Feb. 16** Michael Wiechmann's Exhibit. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.org.

Jan. 20 An Evening with 651 Jazz, 7 p.m. Focusing on jazz standards, from swing to blues to ballads. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Jan. 20 Author visit by Richard Terrill, discussing his essay collection "Essentially", 10:30-11:30 a.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 20 Concert by the Armstrong Blvd. Brass Quintet, 6 p.m. Come and enjoy a fun show filled with timeless classics from hundreds of years ago - to familiar favorites you know and love. Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Jan. 21 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Music On The Hill, Chamber Music Concert, "Bohemian Folk", 3 p.m., Ages 18+ \$25, students ages 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$1. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Dr., Mankato. (507) 625-8880 or www.mankatosymphony.com.

Jan. 21 Organ Recital by the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, featuring David Fienen, 4 p.m., free. A recital series celebrating the renovation of the organ. Held at First Lutheran Church, 1114 W. Traverse Rd., St. Peter. (507) 934-1836 or www.agosioustrails.org.

Jan. 21 Virtual book discussion about “Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown” by Maud Hart Lovelace, 6-7:30 p.m. Open to all. Free for Betsy-Tacy Society members; \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration required for the Zoom link. Hosted by the Betsy-Tacy Society. (507) 345-9777 or www.betsy-tacysociety.org.

Jan. 23 Virtual author event with Rajiv Nagaich. He will discuss his book “Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice”, 1 p.m. Contact the library to register and to receive the link. Sponsored by the Blue Earth County Library. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 24 Wednesday Movie Matinee, view “Hook”, 12 Noon-2 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 25 Author visit by Jason Lee Willis, 6 p.m. Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

***Jan. 26** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Kaleb Braun Schulz, Mark Braun and Beg Scruggs performing a Dylan/Prine Tribute Show, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.org.

***Jan. 27** Professional Voice Recital by Jonathan Laabs, Kathryn Wurster, Kathryn Carlovsky, and Laura Stelljes, 7:30 p.m. Held at Martin Luther College, Chapel of the Christ, 1995 Luther Ct, New Ulm. <https://mlc-wels.edu/> or (507) 359-4700.

Jan. 30 Virtual author event with Robert Lustig. He will discuss his book “Metabolical: The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine”, 1 p.m. Contact the library to register and to receive the link. Sponsored by the Blue Earth County Library. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 30 Virtual Program, “From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond: The Writing and Legacy of Jules Verne”, 1-2 p.m. This course will introduce you to the scope of author Jules Verne’s novels and thoughts. Free. Contact CAST Senior Center for more information and the link. www.communityandseniorstogether.org or (507) 354-3212.

Jan. 31 Wednesday Movie Matinee, view “Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax”, 12 Noon-2 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 “Seminar” theater production, 7:30 p.m. each day. Adults \$10, seniors over 65 and youth under 16 \$9. Held at Andreas Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-6661 or www.mnsu.edu/theatre/.

Youth Opportunities/Classes

***Jan. 1-7** Register for the Winter Session with the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra. Students in grades 3-12 who play string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments can join. For more information go to www.mayso.net.

Jan. 2 Weaving 101, 1-3 p.m., ages 9-18. We'll use a small loom and wool yarn to create a beautiful hanging masterpiece. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 4-25 Storymakers Academy. Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., ages 8-12. Learn, read, play and create with stories. Come to as many sessions as you can! Held at the Martin County Library, 110 N Park St., Fairmont. (507) 238-4207 or www.martincountylibrary.org.

Jan. 10 Creative Kids, 4-4:45 p.m. Grades K-1. Class to focus on fun as we explore art, crafts, and STEM projects. Registration is required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/513/Library.

***Jan. 10 & 24** heART Therapy Sessions. 5:30-7:30 p.m. A guided class for middle school students to help them create, connect, and take care of themselves. Please call to register. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.org or (507) 359-9222.

***Jan. 13** Kidcasso, Open Art Studio, children of all ages, \$5, 9-11 a.m. An open art studio experience for creative learners from high chair to high-school to experience, explore, and create a variety of open ended arts and crafts using a variety of fun supplies and embellishments. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration appreciated, however walk-ins welcome. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Jan. 20 Children's Learn to Paint Class with instructor Rhonda Johnson. 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Grades Kindergarten+, \$25. Children will be taught step-by-step painting techniques while also being given the freedom to make the artwork their own. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.org or (507) 359-9222.

Jan. 25 Wacky Wonders, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Grades 2-5. Class to focus on fun as we explore art, crafts, and STEM projects. Registration is required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/513/Library.

Jan. 28-29 Auditions for the musical theater performances of "Little Mermaid Jr.", 5 p.m. each day, ages 12 and up. Please bring sheet music for a song you have already learned. Mankato Playhouse will provide a pianist at auditions to accompany you. Performances will be held March 15-24. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. Contact Davori Productions for more information, (507) 317-1245, info@davoriproductions.com, or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

Adult Opportunities/Classes

***Jan. 1-31** Minnesota BIPOC Emerging Writer Award sponsored by the Blue Earth Review. Awards will be \$1,000 for fiction, \$1,000 for creative nonfiction, and \$1,000 for poetry. One submission per participant is allowed. Eligible participants must self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or a Person of Color and have a history of producing artistic work. For guidelines and more information visit <https://blueearthreview.mnsu.edu/contests/mn-bipoc-award-guidelines/>

Jan. 2 & 16 Crafternoon Club. Join the club and bring a project you're working on, 2-4 p.m. Held at the Martin County Library, 110 N Park St., Fairmont. (507) 238-4207 or www.martincountylibrary.org.

Jan. 2-29 Open Pottery Studio Time, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Punch cards are \$40 for 8 sessions and a clay coupon is \$25 including 25 pounds of clay, glaze and firing supplies. Our potter studio has potter's wheels, slab roller, extruder, hand tools, glazes, greenware storage, updated electric kilns and more. This is not an instructional class. Previous pottery experience is required. The studio manager will be present to help with technical questions. Register at www.mankato.ce.eleyo.com. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Jan. 3 & 17 Needlework Group, self-directed time to work on projects including quilting, embroidery, crochet, knitting, etc. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Bring your own supplies. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/513/Library.

Jan. 4 Monthly Fiber Arts Group. 6-8 p.m. Show and tell, demos, and more. Held at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad St., Mankato. (507) 625-2730 or www.thecarnegiemandato.com.

Jan. 8 Poetry Group, each participant is encouraged to read aloud two or three poems, of their own or by others, and discuss them. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/513/Library.

Jan. 9-Feb. 6 Introduction to Ceramics, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$88. This class is designed to build the foundation for ceramic wheel throwing and hand building techniques. Register at www.mankato.ce.eleyo.com. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Jan. 13 Southern Minnesota Poet's Society Meeting, 12 Noon. Different features each month. Enjoy a delicious lunch. Held at Wow! Zone, 2030 Adams St., Mankato. Sponsored by Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 382-6351 or www.southernmnpoets.org.

Jan. 13 & 27 Ceramic Bead-Making Class. 1-3 p.m. each day. Join local ceramist Kolleen Jenne for a beginner-friendly class on embellishing and glazing clay beads. Participants will have several options for creating textures, and may create pendants in addition to beads. Registration required; \$80. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 15 Drop-In Community Writing Workshop. 6-7:30 p.m. A positive, welcoming space for writers of all levels and interests to meet and work toward their individual goals in a community setting. The host will lead 10 minutes or so of light chat, intros, speaking about goals, etc., and an optional prompt to work toward or consider during writing. No registration required; free. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 17 Virtual Drop-In Writers Lounge. 6:30-9 p.m. This is a chance to work quietly while enjoying the fellowship of other writers. We will also provide breakout rooms for those who hope to chat with and bounce ideas off other writers. Pre-registration required for the Zoom link. Hosted by the Betsy-Tacy Society. (507) 345-9777 or www.betsy-tacysociety.org.

***Jan. 17** Open Knitting. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Bring your projects, make progress, and make new connections with fellow knitters. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 17 Writers Group, 6-7 p.m. Bring a piece of writing to share or just come for the fun writing prompts. All genres welcome! Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Jan. 17-May 15 Art Group, self-directed time for artists of all levels and abilities to join this adults-only group. Each artist should bring his/her own materials and ideas. All materials must be non-odorous. 1:30-3:30 p.m., meets every Wednesday. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/363/Library.

Jan. 20 Linoleum Block Carving & Card Printing Class. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Students will learn to transfer a design, carve linoleum blocks and print on a small hand printer. No experience needed. Registration required, \$35. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.org or (507) 359-9222.

Jan. 20 Snowshoe Weaving Workshop, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Join us to not only learn how to lace Ojibwa style snowshoes, but to walk away with your own pair! Bring snacks or a lunch if you want one. (refrigerator and microwave available) Registration required, \$125-135. Held at the Ney Nature Center, 28238 Nature Center Lane, Henderson. (507) 357-8580 or www.neycenter.org.

Jan. 22 Create Smudge Bundles Class, 6-7 p.m. Megan, from Lakota Made LLC, will be here to lead a workshop in creating smudge bundles. Learn about the benefits and uses of a variety of herbs and create a bundle that is specific to your own needs. Materials will be provided. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Jan. 24 or 25 Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m., choose a night. Transfer handwritten recipes onto a cutting board. Registration required. Held at the North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Ave. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Jan. 24-March 13 Intro to Sewing Class. Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. Join local tailor/seamstress/costumer Bianca Wilson for some very beginner-friendly steps into the sewing world. In this course we will learn about different parts of the sewing machine, their functions, and how to troubleshoot. Also included are spotlights on basic seams and finishes, darts, zippers (don't worry!), buttons/buttonholes, basting, and gathering. Registration required; \$160 Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 29 Create Clay Polymer Charms Class, 6-7:30 p.m. Jessica from Mankato Makerspace will lead a workshop on making a number of fun polymer clay charms! Materials will be provided. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507-304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

Grant Opportunities

Jan. 1 Fellowship Grant Deadline for Culture Bearers. The Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and three \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to culture bearers who practice sacred and healing lifeways and share cultural art practices across generations. Go to <https://iroots-mcknight-culturebearers.org/> for more information. All of the McKnight Fellowship Programs can be found at <https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/mcknight-artist-culture-bearer-fellowships/>.

Jan. 1 PLRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Deadline. This grant is for organizations and schools that are producing or sponsoring an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art. Grant maximums range from \$6,000-\$9,000. For more information and to apply online, contact Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, www.plrac.org. or (507) 833-8721.

Jan. 11 Fellowship Grant Deadline for Playwriting. The Playwrights Center administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and recognizes and supports mid-career playwrights living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained body of work, commitment, and attributes of artistic merit. The two fellowships include: a \$25,000 stipend, an additional \$2,500 to support a play development workshop and other professional expenses, and \$1,400 in travel funds. Go online to <https://pwcenter.org/programs/mcknight-fellowships-in-playwriting> for more information. All McKnight Fellowship Programs can be found at <https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/mcknight-artist-culture-bearer-fellowships/>.

Jan. 19 Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support Deadline. Operating Support Funds provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations and arts affiliate organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and to community arts schools and conservatories. Amounts vary. Application deadline: Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or lindi.holliday@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: www.arts.state.mn.us.

Jan. 22 McKnight Fellowship Deadline for Musicians. The four \$25,000 Fellowships for Musicians are administered by the MacPhail Center for Music in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. They are intended to help an artist set aside periods of time for study, reflection, experimentation, and exploration; take advantage of an opportunity, or work on a new project. Ensembles/bands recognized as finalists and/or fellowship recipients will split awards between members. For more information go to <https://www.macphail.org/mcknight-fellowships/> or lewis.lindsay@macphail.org.