

A. Policy Information and Grant Deadlines

The school must have an address and provide arts programming with the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council region; the counties are: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan county. The School Arts Project Grant is open to all public or private non-parochial elementary, middle or secondary schools (K-12) in the nine-county area. Cooperation between parochial and public schools is encouraged. This means that public schools can be the applicant and collaborate with a parochial school to also have their students participate in the proposed arts activity. This program is made possible by State General funds provided by the Minnesota State Legislature, under a program designed by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

The purpose of the School Arts Project Grant is to provide educational partnerships between local and regional professional artists and K-12 schools within the nine-county area. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts activities. Grants may be for: A. Artist Residencies, B. Live Arts Performances or Mini-Workshops, or C. Arts-Related Field Trips. Residencies, mini-workshops, live arts performances and field trips must include at least one hour of in-service for artist-teacher contact time. Further details are listed on pages 6-7.

Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, and cuts to our State Arts funding Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will have less funds to award. Funds may be used to develop or deliver ways of meaningfully engaging students during the pandemic and after. This arts programming may be online or through virtual activities and events. Schools may need to think creatively how to do an artist residency or live arts experience virtually for students, and it may be difficult to plan an arts field trip due to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

- a. No projects or arts activities can take place that risk the health of the participants or audience.
- b. Due to COVID-19 applicants must plan for events that include “social distancing” and wearing masks. You are required to follow the Governor’s Stay Safe Plan and the MN Department of Health’s recommendations. Schools will need to develop a Reopening and COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and include it with their application. Your Reopening/COVID plan could include these areas: hygiene and respiratory etiquette; administrative controls for social distancing; housekeeping – cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination; prompt identification and isolation of sick persons; communications and training for volunteers and supervision necessary to ensure effective implementation of the plan. Contact PLRAC for an example.
- c. Funds may be used to develop or deliver ways of meaningfully engaging students, participants, or audiences during the pandemic and after.
- d. This arts programming may be online or through virtual activities and events. Expenses may include artist fees, salaries, equipment and technology, training, promotion, rent, supplies, etc.

1. School Arts Project Grants are matching grants ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 and this grant must be matched with at least 10% cash. Applicants must provide a 10% cash match of the total project expenses. No in-kind is allowed on the budget page of the application or travel expenses outside of Minnesota. The maximum request should be the difference between the Total Income (Match) for the Project and the Total Project Expenses. Applicants may only receive one grant per fiscal year; and projects must be completed within one year of the awarding of the grant, unless an extension has been specifically requested and granted by the Executive Director of Prairie Lakes.

2. The monthly deadlines are August 1, 2020 thru February 1, 2021; or until funds are exhausted. Applicants should plan their projects six months in advance and submit an application at least 60 days and

preferably 90 days in advance of the project starting date. The review and notification process takes approximately 4 weeks; payment is one month prior to the event. The arts council encourages innovative programming and growth. Repeat projects may not always be funded.

3. One School Arts Project Grant per school building is allowed each fiscal year. When a school district is located in more than one county, the grant is credited to the county of the school building site where the grant will be performed. Schools that have all students in one building can apply for more than one grant if the projects serve different age groups of students; contact Prairie Lakes staff for clarification. If you have any questions about the county your grant is credited to, contact the Prairie Lakes staff.

4. New school applicants or those with different projects (those not receiving a grant in FY 2020) must contact staff prior to submitting an application to review the project, budget and inquire about funds available; otherwise the applicant will not be considered for funding. Submit an application early as this is a first come, first serve program. Applications must be submitted online before 11:59 p.m. of the deadline date to be eligible for consideration. No grant will be considered complete without the electronic signatures of the Project Director and Principal or Superintendent. Applicants may only receive one School Arts Project Grant per year, except if schools have all students in one building, they can apply for more than one grant if the projects serve different age groups of students like elementary, junior high, or high school. Contact Prairie Lakes staff for clarification.

B. Equity and Inclusion in our policies, programs, and the community we serve.

The goal of PLRAC as an organization is to strive for Equity and Inclusion in our policies, programs and the community we serve. Therefore, a few new questions are being asked about Equity and Inclusion in our grant applications if your 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.

This may include historically marginalized and underserved groups such as:

- * **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.)

C. How to Apply: Online Grant Process.

1. Go to our website www.plrac.org and Click on **Applicant Login** button, listed in the left menu on the homepage; or on the Grant Programs page. There is also a written description of the online login process that you can download and save from the Grant Programs page.
2. If your school received a School Arts Project Grant in FY 2020, log into the account that is already created to apply for a new grant in FY 2021. **Don't create a new account!** Use the same login email address and **password** your group previously used. Don't click on Apply at the top left margin; instead look below to your Applicant Dashboard. Click on **Edit Application**. If you want Prairie Lakes staff to copy your grant into the new year, contact our office.
3. New applicants need to Register your school online. If the school is a first-time applicant, an online account will need to be created using an email address and a password.
 - a. You will need the school's EIN number to complete the registration. This is your school's IRS issued Employer Identification Number.

- b. Register yourself as a user under that school. Multiple contact people can be listed for your school. However, only one email address and password will be associated with the account. You can share the email address and password with others, so they can log in and enter information prior to submitting an application.
 - c. Important: The email address you use to register with will be your user login to get back into the system. You will need this login and a password you create for any future applications or follow-up materials. All automated communication for your grant will also come to this email address from administrator@grantinterface.com, so be sure to add it to your safe sender's email list. Once the registration process is completed and an account has been established, the application process can begin.
4. After Registering, you will see the Applicant Dashboard with a horizontal toolbar above the "Applicant Dashboard" title. The horizontal toolbar includes brown words that will highlight in tan when you scroll across them.
- Tip: Clicking on the home icon anytime on the toolbar will bring you back to the Applicant Dashboard.
- a. Click on **Apply**, on the horizontal toolbar.
 - b. Several different grant programs will be listed, and you will select the appropriate one, and click on **Apply** under that section.
 - c. The Grant Programs include: Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH), ACH Youth Scholarship, Small Arts Project Community and School Arts Project Grant, and Artist Grant.
5. Start completing your application online by clicking into the appropriate grant category.
- a. We recommend that you write your answers in a Word document first; and then copy and paste them into the appropriate fields in the application.
 - b. Keep in mind that formatting, such as bold, italics, bulleting, etc. do not transfer to the online application form. When working in Word, periodically do a character count to ensure your answer does not exceed the character limit for each question.
 - c. Review the Grant Guidelines, Review Criteria and Application Questions that are on the Grants Program page of the Prairie Lakes website www.plrac.org or within the online application for your arts grant program.
 - d. The online application form allows you to save your work and come back to it later. The "Save" button is located at the bottom of the page. It is recommended that you save your work often, even while continuing to work on it, so as not to lose any work. Always save before exiting the online grant system, as any work you have done or any files you have uploaded may not have automatically saved. You are required to use the save button to finalize the uploading of the document into the application.
 - e. We recommend that you create a separate file folder in your computer, labeled for each particular application. In this folder store your word draft, downloads of the questions from the grant application process, budgets, support documents, etc.
6. Submit the application online and include: Supporting materials which are essential to the project (i.e. artist resumes, staff resumes, School Arts Project budget form, etc.).
- a. Answer all required questions on the grant application. You will be able to see all the questions and go in and out of the application as you collect answers and complete it. If you are missing items, you will not be able to submit.
 - b. Download, save and complete your School Arts Project budget in an Excel file and then upload it to your grant. Make sure it includes both estimated expenses and revenue. Your expense and revenue portions of your budget must "break even" with the grant award included in revenue. If your school is providing the match please list your school in the revenue portion with the money you are providing to match. If earned income through ticket sales or participant fees generates the match, make sure your numbers are supported within other parts of your narrative and application.

- c. When you log back in to continue working, your draft application will be located at the bottom of your Applicant Dashboard, under your contact information.
7. Applicants are encouraged to call the Prairie Lakes office at 1-507-833-8721, 1-800-298-1254 or email plrac@hickorytech.net to discuss eligibility.
- a. **Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date.**
 - b. Applications received after the deadlines are ineligible. There are no exceptions to this policy.
 - c. The application records the date of submission so make sure that you meet the deadline date for submission online.
 - d. A pre-review of the application, budget, narrative, etc. is available prior to the deadline date. Contact our office two weeks prior to our grant deadline to ask for a review of your application in its draft form within the online grant system. We are able to view your application as you are completing it.

The projects should not occur prior to final grant approval, but exceptions may apply if the applicant just begins rehearsal or planning for the main event or concert. New applicants must contact the staff prior to submitting an application to discuss the project and budget. Failure to do so will make the application ineligible. Staff analyzes the application for eligibility, budget accuracy, clarity and completeness; and contacts the applicant if changes are required. The Prairie Lakes Board reviews and ranks all applications and makes final approval.

D. Application Review Procedure

School Arts Project Grant applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis; however, there is not a board meeting in December or June. Applications must be submitted by the 1st of each month to be eligible for review that month. Those received after that date will be reviewed the following month. The board may recommend approval at the full amount requested, a partial grant, or denial of funding. On occasion the board may request clarification or modification of the grant application; prior to approval and applicants will be contacted. Notification is approximately 4 weeks after the grant deadline.

E. Restrictions on Use of Funds

1. Funds can't be used for support of "routine" school activities in theater, dance, music and visual arts such as: school plays, one-act plays, dance line, band or choir concerts, music competitions, summer band programs or spat camp, visual art classes and displays, etc.
2. Grant funds cannot be used for equipment, capital investments, endowment funds, purchase or commission of works of art, or solely for production costs associated with the creation of an arts event, such as costumes, sets, matting and framing.

F. Restrictions and Non-Fundable School Arts Project Grant Projects

The following projects or use of funds are not allowed.

1. Activities that do not have arts programming and arts activities, arts education or cultural heritage of the arts as their primary focus.
2. Funds are requested to produce fundraising activities involving the Arts such as benefits, receptions, or if the intent is to donate the proceeds (earnings) to another non-profit.
3. Events or project where the purpose is re-granting monies to another event or non-profit group.
4. Applicants have listed travel expenses outside of the state of Minnesota as a Prairie Lakes grant expense (use of funds) on their budget.
5. The application form and all required materials are not submitted online by the deadline date specified in the grant program information.
6. **The applicant has an overdue Final Report from a previous grant.**
7. The applicant is not in compliance with any active contract with the arts council.
8. The applicant does not make all events open to the general public or whenever feasible, does not establish admission charges for the events.

9. Participants (youth) are required to pay a registration or participation fee and no scholarships are offered.
10. Funds are requested to pay fees for touring costs, performances, or exhibitions carried out exclusively by student organizations or schools that do not include the public.
11. Funds are requested for projects that are essentially historical and lack a strong artistic component.
12. Funds are requested to support strictly commercial activities intended for retail or mass-market distribution. (i.e. limited-edition prints, note cards, copies of CD or DVDs for musicians and performers.)
13. Funds are requested for activities that attempt to influence any state or federal legislation or appropriation.
14. Funds are requested to pay for endowment funds, property acquisition, new construction or major building improvements that are not directly related to arts programming, are not eligible.
15. Funds are requested for new building projects.
16. Funds are requested for payment of debts incurred before the grant application is approved.
17. Funds are requested to support activities that are essentially for the religious socialization of the participants or audience (a religious service cannot be any part of the project).
18. Funds are requested to support activities in primary or secondary level parochial schools.
19. Funds are requested for support of “routine” school activities in theater, dance, music and visual arts. Activities such as school plays, one-act plays, dance line, pop concerts, music competitions, visual art classes and displays, summer marching band programs of the school, etc.
20. Funds are requested for an event which is a magic show, parade, or marching bands in a parade.
21. To supplant discontinued or nonexistent arts programs in schools.
22. Applicant cannot purchase equipment for or improve facilities within K-12 public schools. The exception will be, if a nonprofit arts group uses the school facility for rehearsal, classes, performances, or exhibitions, and it needs equipment or facility improvements for its own work. The arts organization could apply for and receive a grant and could develop a cooperative agreement with the school that spells out how the school could also benefit from the purchased equipment or improvements.
23. To compensate ongoing school personnel in full or in part.
24. To pay an artist or arts organization to provide essentially the same services that an ongoing teacher or arts specialist would be expected to provide.
25. For tuition for teachers to earn degrees, meet licensure requirements, or meet continuing education requirements to retain a teaching license.
26. Artists are required to pay excessive entry or exhibition fees in order to exhibit or perform in the project or program for which funding is sought.
27. The project budget contains combined funding from a regional arts council and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) that amount to more than one-half of the project’s total cash expenses. No more than 50% of the income can be from State Grants; Prairie Lakes and MSAB combined.
28. The project may not be eligible if the applicant’s project could be funded through other Arts and Cultural Heritage funding sources such as the Children’s Museums of MN block grant, Minnesota Historical Society, Regional Library System, Statewide County Fair funding, etc. It is up to the applicant to describe how the arts project and use of funds are different, if they are the recipient of other ACH Funding through another agency.
29. State funding restriction: Funds are requested for costs for relocating the applicant’s legal address/residence outside the state of Minnesota.
30. Funds are requested to pay for costs for projects that will take place outside the geographic boundaries of the nine-county PLRAC region.

G. Grant Review Criteria

Three criteria are used by the Prairie Lakes Board to evaluate applications and there are 10 points per category; total of 30 points. Applicants do not answer these questions; we are only providing them for your information.

1. Artistic quality and merit of the project. Is the artistic quality of the artist to perform the activity demonstrated? (schools must submit the required support materials as outlined below) Is the merit of the activity and stated goals demonstrated? Is the involvement of parents and community in the activity demonstrated? Is there effective use of artist-teacher time?

2. Ability of the school to carry out the proposed project. Is the budget feasible and fiscally responsible? How will the activity will be publicized, documented, and evaluated? Is the plan and schedule feasible? Does the project discuss including “social distancing” and following the Governor’s Stay Safe Plan and the Minnesota Department of Health’s recommendations?
3. Artistic need for the project. Is there enhancement to the current arts curriculum and availability of arts experiences in the area?

Based on these review standards the arts council shall make one of the following decisions: (1) Full funding of the amount requested; (2) Partial funding; (3) No funding; or (4) Table the request, pending receipt of additional information or modification.

H. Grantee Responsibilities

The grant recipient must:

1. Not limit participation in the project on the basis of national origin, race, color, religion, age, sex, handicap, or ability to pay.
2. Use grant funds only for the expenses described in the project grant application.
3. Be responsible for completion of the project and for proper management of the grant.
4. Maintain records and receipts showing evidence of grant expenses and income.
5. Submit the Final Report form within 60 days of completion of the project. All future grants will be contingent upon completion compliance with the terms of this grant.
6. Include the following credit line in all advertising, news releases, printed programs, and promotional material: **“This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated from the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.”**

I. Payment Process

1. A Contract and a Final Report are assigned to the grantee and will be accessed through the online account. (In cases of partial funding, the grantee must also submit a revised budget and a letter explaining how the project will be modified in response to the reduced budget.)
2. The grantee indicates agreement with the contract terms and completes the Contract. The Contract will be electronically signed and submitted online.
3. 80% of the grant funds will be paid to the applicant one month prior to the event.
4. Within 60 days of completion of the project, the Final Report must be submitted online. A copy of each Thank You letter sent to both legislators, acknowledging the grant, must be uploaded into the Final Report. After approval of this information, the remaining 20% of the grant is paid to the grantee. Failure to submit a final report will result in the applicant not being considered for funding for the next two years.
5. Include the following credit line in all advertising, news releases, printed programs, and promotional material: **“This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.”**

J. General Information For School Arts Project Grants

Residencies, mini-workshops, live arts performances and field trips must include at least one hour of in-service for artist-teacher contact time. Schools should select artists that have credentials that meet their needs. Their quality of work will be considered as part of the application process.

Required support material for School Arts Project Grant

- Resumes of artists involved in residency, mini-workshop or live arts performance. Preferably no more than two pages, including artist's educational and professional background and teaching or residency experience.
- Support material for field trip locations. This should include fliers from professional institutions, scheduling times and dates, performance or exhibition information, etc.

1. Artist Residencies

- a. Residencies must allow at least one core group or class of students to work with the artist daily throughout the residency.
- b. A teacher must be present in the classroom at all times during a residency.
- c. Artist's fees should be about \$250 a day. Exceptional costs may be considered where reasonable justification is included in the application. (Schools may be willing to pay a higher fee based on the artist's credentials.) Given these guidelines, fees and expenses are negotiable between the artist(s) and the school.
- d. Residencies must involve the general community in some significant aspect. Examples: receptions, poetry readings, exhibitions of the artist or students' work, or a public performance.
- e. Schools can utilize an artist-in-residence for a public art project like a school mural or other hands-on activity the artist does with the students, and it becomes a permanent part of the school building. On page 7 is a general description about public art and what is involved with that process.

Public Art is the creation of a sculpture, mural, public performances, temporary works, and other grassroots forms of public art that engage the community in new ways. The applicant should identify a qualified artist to design and complete the work; working with a committee of citizens. In the proposal the applicant would need to describe: Why this Public Art is needed, how it will represent the community or the community's history, and what community input was solicited in the planning phase. Also, was a committee formed to discuss and plan the project? Public Art often requires collaborations between the city, school, community at large, etc. The applicant would also have to identify and describe which organization would be responsible for the long-term upkeep of the Public Art. Also, submit the artist's resume and documentation of their professional capacity to complete a mural, sculpture, or temporary art installation, etc. and list examples of past work. We recommend applicants inform themselves about Public Art and its processes and a resource is Forecast Public Art in St. Paul which has a Public Art Toolkit for communities. <http://forecastpublicart.org/toolkit/didactic.html>. *Please contact the Prairie Lakes office for more guidance and information on Pubic Art projects if needed.*

2. Live Art Performances and Mini-Workshops

- a. These activities must involve a significant number of the students at the school and involve the general community in some significant aspect (i.e. parents and community members notified and invited to the performance, information in school newsletter or letter to the editor in paper, etc.).
- b. Must show artistic quality and represent one of these art areas: dance, literature, music, theater, or visual art.

c. Arts Related Field Trips

1. Field trips may not include costs associated with food or beverages for participants.
2. Field trips must be within the state of Minnesota only. No travel expenses for travel outside of Minnesota.
3. Field trips must also involve the general community in some significant aspect. Examples: joint bus trips, slide show reviews, volunteer involvement as guides, participants or chaperones. Students and teachers can share the program with other students or community groups following a field trip (i.e. Rotary, senior citizens group, school newsletter, letter to the editor in paper, etc.).

K. School Arts Project Grant Budget Form

Applicants should list all cash expenses related to the project under this heading. If an expense is not applicable, please put NA or \$0 in the blank. The grant requires a 10% cash match of the project expenses. In-kind contributions cannot be included on the budget form or travel expenses outside the state of Minnesota. An Excel document called Art Project Budget Form is included in the application to be completed. saved and uploaded to the grant application.

Project Expenses

You should list all cash expenses related to the project under this heading. If an expense is not applicable just leave it blank. In-kind contributions cannot be included on the budget page for this program. Round all numbers to nearest \$10.

1. Artist(s) Wages - List artist wages for residency. *Note: The artist fee for outstate artists is permitted, but not their travel expenses in this state funded program. In FY 2021 the state legislature has enacted a restriction on travel expenses outside of MN.*
2. Artist(s) Mileage, Meals, Lodging Expenses - Include transportation, hotel and food for artist(s). *Mileage maximum is \$.50 per mile.*
3. Expendable Supplies and Materials - List may include art supplies needed for residencies and project administration, etc.
4. Miscellaneous – No food expenses are allowed on the budget: costs for receptions, cast parties or other food/snacks.
5. Field Trip Transportation. Fee for bus to bring students to location of field trip.
6. Field Trip Ticket or Admission Fee(s). List the cost of each ticket and the number of participants.

Project Income

Identify and document amounts of Cash that your school has to "match" 10% of the project expenses. Round all numbers to the nearest \$10. Use the list below.

1. List School funds committed or budgeted for the project.
2. List sources of other grants, other than the School Arts Project Grant requested. Tell us whether these grants have been received or are anticipated.
3. List estimated Community fundraising income. Community fundraising may include city or county funding, donations from charitable gambling groups or service groups such as: the American Legion, Eagles, Fireman's Association, Lions, Lutheran Brotherhood, Rotary, VFW, etc. Tell us whether this income has been received or is anticipated.
4. List estimated Earned Income and details. For instance, ticket sales and fees should show the estimated number of people multiplied by the price of one ticket or fee.

Total the **Project Income** and enter the "**Grant Amount Requested**" from Prairie Lakes.

Total Support for the project is the two figures added together. Income (1) + Grant Amount Requested (2) = Total Support for the Project (3). Total Income for the Project should also equal Total Expenses. The Grant Amount Requested and Total Project Expenses from the Budget need to be entered in the first section of the grant application.

L. Appeals Process

Groups and organizations applying to Prairie Lakes may appeal the recommendations of the grant review panel however; the appeal must be based on alleged procedural errors. Appeals on judgments of merit or quality or ability will not be heard. The appeals process is as follows:

1. Appellants must submit a formal letter of appeal to the Executive Director stating the reason(s) for the appeal. Letters of appeal must be received within 30 days of written notification of the board's decision on the original application. A copy will be sent to the Chair of the Board of Directors of Prairie Lakes.
2. Appellants will receive written notification from Prairie Lakes of receipt of their request for an appeal. This notification will include the date and time the request for appeal will be brought to the board.
3. The board will review the written appeal request at its first meeting following the receipt of the request. The board meets approximately ten times a year.
4. The board will take one of the following actions:
 - a. Determine that the appellant does not show sufficient cause for appeal;
 - b. Direct the staff to investigate the appellant's request and materials and present a recommendation to a subsequent board or executive committee meeting;
 - c. Request the appellant appear before the board or executive committee at a subsequent meeting and address his or her appeal at that time;

- d. Determine that the appellant does show sufficient cause for appeal and offer settlement to the appellant;
- e. Request that a 3-5 member appeal panel be put together to reconsider the application (discussion of the nature of the appeal will not be brought up during this meeting). The appeal panel decision is binding.
5. Within 45 days of receipt of a request for appeal, appellant will receive notification of the board's decision on the action that will be taken concerning the request.
6. Appellants will be notified in writing of the final board action or appeal panel decision.
7. Following the appeal to the board, if the appellant continues to dispute the decision of the board or appeal panel regarding his or her appeal from the board, this appeal will be conducted as a contested case pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, Minnesota Statutes, and sections 14.48 to 14.62.
8. There is no right of appeal for disputes of decisions of the board and/or its advisory committees with respect to artistic quality or merit, artistic excellence and leadership.

Upon request, Prairie Lakes grant application materials will be made available in an alternate format such as large type, disk or on audiotape. Please call the Prairie Lakes office in Waseca at 1-800-298-1254. For individuals with a disability and in need of TTY, contact the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

M. Survey

A survey is not required for School Arts Project Grants at this time. However, a survey is required for the larger Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants. Some School Arts Project Grantees are already utilizing a survey at their events to assist them when planning their project. Schools can develop their own surveys for the students to evaluate what they learned and to determine if the project was successful.