



## **Draft FY 2022-2023 Prairie Lakes Arts Plan and Budget**

A Virtual Presentation of this draft plan will be held at a Public Hearing on 3/25/21 at 5:30 p.m., during the regular Prairie Lakes board meeting. *Please contact the office to attend at [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net) and we will provide the Zoom link.*

### **Mission Statement**

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council serves the artistic communities of the 9-county area of southcentral MN by supporting the creation and presentation of diverse art forms, fostering equitable access to arts opportunities, and integrating arts and culture to enhance quality of life in our communities.

### **We Value:**

**The Arts** - We value all forms of artistic expression, and resist the notion that there is but one universal definition of art or one best type of art. Instead, we embrace all artistic disciplines, genres, and subgenres, and encourage work that uses imagination, emotion, and craft to communicate.

**Artistic Merit** - We value artistic merit that promotes growth and development of creative knowledge, skills and understanding.

**Creativity** - We value the dedicated pursuit of and engagement with the arts. Creative expression contributes to the health of individuals and communities alike.

**Community** - We value art that reflects a rich and expansive range of cultures, traditions, experiences, and perspectives. The art created by and supported by the community deepens our understanding of ourselves and each other.

**Accessibility** - We value arts programming and arts education that is available to everyone.

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion** - We value an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community. We are committed to countering systemic inequities that exclude individuals and communities from access to the arts based on race, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography.

### **Demographics**

Prairie Lakes serves the nine-county area in southcentral Minnesota which includes Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan counties. The region covers 5,133 square miles and includes 233,081 residents. Blue Earth County is the largest populated county in the region with 67,653 residents (includes city of Mankato with 42,931 residents) and Nicollet County is the second largest at 34,274. The least populated county is Watonwan with 10,897 people. There are five cities with populations over 10,000 and they include: Fairmont, Mankato, New Ulm, North Mankato, and St. Peter. Next is Waseca with about 9,000 residents and New Prague at 7,508; four mid-size towns having populations ranging from 3,300–4,600 are: Blue Earth, LeSueur, St. James, and Sleepy Eye. Most other small towns range in size from 87–2,500 residents. In general, we have low racial diversity in our region, the White Population is about 90% or higher in 7 counties in the region. In Watonwan County their population is 70.4% White, 26.9% Hispanic, 1.2% Black, 1.1% Asian, and 1.2% American Indian; and they have the largest Hispanic population in the region - specifically the cities of Madelia and St. James are noting they have a population that is over 35% Hispanic. Blue Earth County is the largest in size, their population is 87.2% White, 4.3% Black, 3.9% Hispanic, 2.5% Asian, 1.7% two or more races, 0.4%

American Indian. The City of Mankato is more diverse than the rest of the county with a growing Somali population and residents that are 5.6% Black, 4.6% Hispanic, 3.2% Asian, and 2.7% two or more races.

Current state of the Arts and Cultural community in the PLRAC region, from 2019 Creative MN Report.

Although sixth in population size among the state's eleven regions, South Central Minnesota ranks 2nd in youth attendance, 3rd in economic impact from audiences, 3rd in average hourly wages for creative workers and 4th in overall audience attendance. The region also ranks 5th in economic impact per capita and in overall economic impact generated from the arts sector.

Participating Organizations by Discipline: 139 Total. Served 879,364 attendees; and number of students served was 289,800. 50 Performing arts, 17 Arts multipurpose, 6 Visual arts and architecture, 3 Media and communications, 1 Literary art, 1 Humanities, 25 History and historical preservation, 36 Other.

Artists & Creative Workers: 3,161 Total. Full-time artists and creative workers 1,032 and Part-time artists and creative Workers 2,129.

**Planning Process Description and Timeline**

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|----------------|---|
| Ongoing        | PLRAC Board and Staff participate in planning discussions at each Board Meeting (open to the public) to analyze and revise programs/services with assigned goals and outcomes. <u>The timeline dates indicate board meetings unless otherwise noted.</u>  |
| July 23, 2020  | In June 2020 the board quickly responded to COVID issues and revised the Artist Development Grant program to \$1,500 each with McKnight Funds, to award more grants to individual artists. In July Prairie Lakes awarded 35 artist grants for a total of \$52,500. The previous year we funded 24 artists. Board demographics and arts backgrounds were compiled and discussed, and new members introduced.   |
| July thru Nov. | Staff reached out to arts organizations and community groups to discuss grants available, grantee responsibilities and gathered input on PLRAC programs and services, and priorities for the next year. Zoom meetings held 7/7, 7/14, 9/8, 10/6 and 11/10/20. Artist Zoom meeting held on 7/9/20.   |
| Aug. 27, 2020  | PLRAC board reviewed the FY 2020 Final Reports that were submitted to the MSAB and McKnight Foundation. Staff shared a Summary Report on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Activities that were completed in FY 2018 through FY 2020 by Prairie Lakes staff and board. Further information and DEI action steps will be compiled and provided to the board at future meetings.   |
| Sept. 24, 2020 | Board received DEI training document Re-Tool Equity in the Panel Process. Further DEI information/activities were discussed, and an extra board meeting was scheduled for 10/5/20.  |
| Oct. 22, 2020  | Board approved updates to policy manual and received list of updates to Artist and Youth Scholarship guidelines to include consistent equity and inclusion statements. Further DEI information and activities were discussed, and two extra board meetings scheduled for 11/5/20 and 12/3/20. Topics include putting equity into action, and equity in the grant review process. Board approved establishment of first Equity Taskforce of six community members that represent BIPOC and people with disabilities. They will advise PLRAC staff and Executive Committee members who currently serve as the PLRAC Equity Committee. |
| Nov. 19, 2020  | Board received two reports: FY 2021 Summary of Grants Awarded to date and next steps for  |

FY 2022 grant programs; and Summary Report of about Under-Served Populations Receiving Arts Grants from PLRAC, for the last seven years. Extra meeting to discuss updates to mission statement and core values held 11/9/20.

- Dec. 3, 2020 Extra board session about DEI by arts presenter on unconscious bias and prejudice: a self-reflection; and understanding privilege. How can we build relationships with BIPOC artists and organizations? How can we make changes to move towards equity? Also, a hands-on art project for board members.
- Jan. 26, 2021 PLRAC Equity Taskforce of six community members that represent BIPOC communities and people with disabilities met with board and staff to discuss DEI priorities, wording updates in applications/guidelines, etc. Additional meetings were held 2/3, 3/2, 3/16, and 4/13/21.
- Jan. 28, 2021 Board approved updated mission statement and values, and the FY 2022 State grant program structure updates. Discussion on biennial plan purpose and detailed list of required information was provided. Staff presented a three-year Summary of Grants Awarded in each Program from FY 2018 to FY 2020. This allowed the board to see the number of applicants per program and the amount awarded each fiscal year.
- Feb. 25, 2021 Staff provided a five-year summary of Artist grants awarded with McKnight funds, and recent 2021 Artist Survey results compiled in February. Survey information obtained confirmed that one type of Artist Grant at \$1,500 each is preferred by artists and should continue to be offered in FY 2022-2023. Other artist survey responses were similar to 2019 information. The board approved the artist grant program changes and grant guidelines.
- March 9, 2021 Draft FY 2022-2023 Biennial Plan uploaded to our Website for Public Review/Comments.
- March 9, 2021 Public Notice requesting feedback and comments pushed out to public via Constant Contact e-newsletter and social media posts. Legal Notice regarding Public Hearing sent to all regional media for the FY 2022-2023 Biennial Plan Hearing on 3/25/21.
- March 25, 2021 Public Hearing was held at 5:30 p.m. via public Zoom meeting. The FY 2022-2023 Draft Biennial Plan was presented so that the public could offer input. The Prairie Lakes board meets directly after Public Hearing to review and edit final plan based on the constituent input and the board's comments. A written record of the public meeting will be kept on file at the PLRAC office for a period of one year. The FY 2022-2023 Biennial Plan and Budget was approved by the board on 3/25/21.
- April 1, 2021 FY 2022-2023 Biennial Plan and Budget submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board.

### **Work Plan FY 2022-2023**

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will address in our Work Plan the 25-year Legacy Outcomes. We have identified six Biennial Plan Priorities for FY 2022-2023.

#### **25-year Arts Legacy Outcomes:**

1. The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life.
2. Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are.
3. People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts.
4. People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding.
5. The arts thrive in Minnesota.

**1. Priority: To offer grants to artists, arts organizations, and community organizations providing arts programming and activities.**

**Supports 25 Year Goal: #5, The Arts Thrive in Minnesota**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, **#5b**, Minnesota artists say they have access to the resources, information, etc. they need; and **#5c**, Minnesota arts organizations report having access to the resources, information, personnel, audiences, etc. they need.

**Objectives:**

- a. Implement grant programs with State, Legacy and McKnight funding.
- b. Publicize the availability of grant funds in the nine-county area in a timely manner prior to each application deadline. Send reminders of deadlines through our e-newsletter.
- c. Implement online grants through Foundant and continue updates to Tutorial documents to explain the process to applicants.
- d. Provide technical assistance on the grant application process to artists, organizations, and schools.
- e. Administer the review and evaluation process.
- f. Measure outcomes related to these re-grant programs and update the process if needed.
- g. Develop and maintain relationships with underserved communities and populations.

**Measurable Outcome:** In FY 2022 and FY 2023 of those receiving grants from the PLRAC, 75% will indicate that their project was Artistically Successful, reached the target constituency and had community impact.

**Measurement:** This will be measured by the Grantee final reports.

**2. Priority: To offer Youth Scholarships to Students in grades 7-12 and grades 3-6 to develop their skills in the arts.** We anticipate awarding 100 Youth Scholarships per year.

**Supports 25 Year Goal: #5, The Arts Thrive in Minnesota**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, **#5a**, Minnesota students' study/develop skills in the arts.

**Measurable Outcome:** In FY 2022 and FY 2023 of those receiving Youth Scholarships from the PLRAC, 75% of the students will indicate that they developed skills in the arts or expanded their knowledge about an artistic discipline.

**Measurement:** This will be measured by the final report submitted by the instructor, who evaluates if the student's skill or knowledge improves.

**3. Priority: To provide equitable access to grants and services to artists and organizations providing arts activities.**

**Supports 25 Year Goal: #3, People of all ages, ethnicity, and abilities participate in the arts.**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, **#3b**, Minnesotans are aware of arts offerings in their communities and believe the arts are available to them, **#3c**, Applicants, grantees and panelists believe that the PLRAC grant making process is equitable.

**Measurable Outcome:** Applicants, grantees and panelists believe that the PLRAC grantmaking process is equitable.

Measurement: In FY 2022-23, 75% of constituents will indicate that PLRAC provides equitable access to grants and services to artists and organizations. This will be measured by the FY 2023 Needs Assessment.

In an ongoing effort and desire to provide equitable access to all PLRAC programs and services, the Council's Staff have completed the Intercultural Development Inventory and are continuing work toward intercultural competence. During FY 2020 PLRAC developed and published a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement, which guides the work of the council. In FY 2021 we established an Equity Taskforce of four BIPOC community members and two people who represent the disability community to help focus efforts in moving toward more equitable and inclusive priorities, programs, and processes. Specific goals for FY 2022-2023 include additional education on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, analyzing current programs, policies, communications, and procedures through an equity lens and building relationships with under-represented communities in the region.

**4. Priority: To offer programs, technical support and services that help artists, organizations, and community groups better serve and engage with their communities through the arts.**

**Supports 25 Year Goal: #5, The Arts Thrive in Minnesota**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, #5b, Minnesota artists say they have access to the resources, information, etc. they need; and #5c, Minnesota arts organizations report having access to the resources, information, personnel, audiences, etc. they need.

Measurable Outcome: In FY 2022 and FY 2023 of those receiving services from the PLRAC, 75% will indicate that the services provided by PLRAC are important or very important to them and have provided access to a variety of resources they need.

Measurement: This will be measured by the FY 2023 Needs Assessment survey and post activity surveys.

**5. Priority: To act as responsible stewards of public funds.**

**Supports 25 Year Goal: #4, People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding.**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, #4a, Minnesotans are satisfied with how state resources for the arts are allocated and with the benefits those resources produce, #4b, Applicants and grantees understand the grant making process, feel that they have been treated fairly, and were provided with good service by PLRAC.

Measurable Outcome: The FY 2023 Needs Assessment survey will indicate that 80% of those responding will agree that PLRAC acts as a responsible steward of public funds. In addition, 80% will indicate that they were satisfied with how state resources for the arts were allocated by PLRAC, and they feel they were treated fairly. We will also ask similar questions in the ACH Final Report.

Measurement: This will be measured by the FY 2023 Needs Assessment survey; and the FY 2022 Arts & Cultural Heritage (ACH) Final Reports. A yearly procedural audit and reconciliation by the Minnesota State Arts Board and full financial audit by a Certified Public Accountant will result in a positive review of PLRAC's compliance with state grant making policies and state law.

**6. Priority: To act as strong advocates for the arts.**

**Supports 25 Year Outcome: #4 People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding.**

Achieving 25 Year Outcome, #4a, Minnesotans are satisfied with how state resources for the arts are allocated and with the benefits those resources produce.

Measurable Outcome: Minnesotans are satisfied with how state resources for the arts are allocated and with the benefits those resources produce.

Measurement: In FY 2022-23 there will be at least 5 staff and arts grantee/constituent interactions with each of the PLRAC regional legislators. This will be measured by letters and emails from staff and arts grantees/constituents that will attach their Letters to their annual Final Report. In FY 2022-23 PLRAC will support Arts Advocacy Day and responses to “calls for action” and we will maintain memberships in MN Citizens for the Arts and the MN Council of Nonprofits.

### **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council’s FY 2022 and 2023 Grant Funding per year.**

We are anticipating a 30% increase in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds in FY 2022, and 20% in 2023. Grant maximums will increase in each organization category and we anticipate new applicants.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants to organizations =	\$425,000	\$390,000
Arts and Cultural Heritage Youth Scholarships =	\$34,000	\$ 34,000
State Small Arts and School Arts Project Grant =	\$85,000	\$ 85,000
McKnight Artist Development Grant =	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500
Total	\$593,500	\$558,500

FY 2021 grants awarded: ACH \$228,130, Youth Scholarship \$27,300, Small Arts Project grant \$75,000, and Artist grants \$52,500, for a total of \$382,930.

### **FY 2022-23 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant.** Deadlines are Aug. 1 and Feb. 1.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will fund projects from non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations or those using a fiscal sponsor that are sponsoring an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk/traditional arts, etc. No specific cash match is required.

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.

**1. ACH Large Arts Organization Stability Grant.** Arts Programming/Access maximum \$13,000. Deadlines are Aug. 1 and Feb. 1. No specific cash match is required. Eligibility: They must be a 501c3 Arts Organization that has year-round arts programming, has paid staff, and owns their building (or have a yearly lease); and was the recipient of a PLRAC ACH grant in FY 2020 or FY 2021.

**2. ACH Arts Project Grant.** Arts Programming/Access, maximum request \$8,000.  
Use of funds: Arts programming may be online or through virtual activities and events, and in-person if following Minnesota Department of Health’s recommendations. Expenses may include artist fees, salaries, equipment/technology, training, promotion, monthly rent (lease payments) and utilities. This also includes public art, sculpture, murals, etc. and activities that plan to reach new audiences such as youth, ethnic groups, senior citizen groups, etc. and engage the public in new ways.

**3. ACH Arts & Music Festivals Grant.** Maximum request \$6,000. For non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations that are sponsoring arts/music festivals and activities that represent diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions.

**4. Arts Education - There are three categories of support.** Maximum request \$6,000.  
a. Schools. This is available to all public or private non-parochial elementary, middle, or secondary schools (K-12) in the nine-county area. The focus is to provide educational partnerships between local/ regional professional

artists, arts organizations, and schools (K-12).

\*To enhance school arts curriculum by providing artist residencies, live arts performances, mini-workshops, and arts related field trips.

\*To enhance programs and curriculum design through visits to professional artists' studios, performances by professional theatre, dance or musical groups, readings by writers, visits to art galleries, exhibitions, and other locations pertinent to the creation and exhibition of art.

\*To collaborate with arts organizations in the region to perform in their school and/or community.

b. Non-profit and Community Groups. To support life-long learning and appreciation of the arts, through arts activities conducted by a non-profit arts organization, community group, early childhood education, community education, library, senior citizen's organization, unit of government, etc.

c. 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.

**5. Small Arts Project Community Grant.** Maximum request \$4,000.

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Fundable activities include arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions/classes, folk/traditional arts, etc. Deadline: 1st of each month.

**6. School Arts Project Grant.** Maximum request \$2,000. Grants are for schools K-12 public and private and available to fund Artist residencies, Live art performances, Mini-workshops, or Arts related field trips. Deadline: 1st of each month.

**7. Artist Development Grant of \$1,500.** These Artist Grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to an Artists growth and professional development in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk/traditional arts, etc. Funds may be used for matting, framing, equipment, attending a workshop, studio time, or studying with a mentor, etc. Funded by the McKnight Foundation. Deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Prairie Lakes Services**

1. PLRAC Newsletter, published electronically 12 times a year.
2. Grant Writing Workshops, offering several times a year for PLRAC grant programs.
3. Workshops, offering a minimum of three workshops for Artists per year.
4. Grantee Training Sessions: Required for Arts & Cultural Heritage grantees and Artists.
5. Technical Assistance from PLRAC staff is available upon request to learn about PLRAC grants.
6. The PLRAC Website ([www.plrac.org](http://www.plrac.org)) provides online grant forms, expanded information about Prairie Lakes services, and access to our Monthly newsletter.

## **Needs Assessment**

A new 2021 Artist Survey was initiated in January and was sent to Artists on our email database totaling 650+ and there were also several Facebook posts about the survey on the PLRAC page. A summary is provided below.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council continuously assesses and responds to the needs of the region through a variety of channels including day-to-day contact with constituents, feedback from applicants and grantees on their Final Reports, public workshops, meetings, etc. In addition to our ongoing evaluation of programs and services, the Council conducts a formal needs assessment every four years to provide an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the region, as they relate to the arts, and to identify needs that may be addressed by our regional arts council. **The 2019 survey was conducted online through Survey Monkey in**

**February 2019 and three different surveys were utilized.** We distributed our three surveys using our internal email database of constituents totaling 1,500+ and through our Facebook page. We also had an article in our PLRAC Newsletter and sent News Releases to all media in our 9-counties asking for input and directing folks to the “Survey Monkey link”. This information was reviewed by the Prairie Lakes board and was included in our new FY 2022-23 Biennial Plan and our past FY 2020-21 Biennial Plan.

### **2021 Artist Needs Assessment Summary**

Below are the Artist survey results completed by 69 Artists in February 2021. Full details were discussed at the regular board meeting on February 25, 2021. The main purposes for the 2021 Artist survey were to confirm preferences for the artist grant size in FY 2022-23, and two scenarios were available to either continue with the \$1,500 artist grant size, which was a COVID response style grant and amount; or to return to the FY 2020 style of artists grants with two different amounts and deadlines (\$3,000 & \$1,000 size grants). Artist’s overwhelmingly chose the \$1,500 grant size with 77% of respondents selecting this option.

The secondary purpose was to ask Artists what Barriers they have when Applying for an Artist Grant. This is in direct correlation to our PLRAC Equity and Inclusion meetings, and information reviewed with our new Equity Taskforce that met in winter/spring 2021. The respondents were asked to check all statements that applied to their situation. Artists selected from the list of 12 Barriers that they have when Applying for an Artist Grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

A total of 64% of the artists that participated in the survey, said that they do not have any barriers to participate. This was the #12 question. The highest barrier is #2 question “I am too busy trying to make a living and it consumes all my time”, with 18% of artists selecting this sentence. The second highest barrier is #1 question “I do not have the personal time to devote to my work right now”, with 16% of artists selecting this sentence. The third highest barrier is #8 question “I do not have work samples ready to submit with my application”, with 10% of artists selecting this sentence.

#### 1. Identifying Features of Artists:

20% Identified themselves as an Emerging Artist, 38% Established Professional Artist, 26% Arts Educator, 13% Hobbyist, 3% Crafts person.

#### 2. What arts discipline do you primarily work in?

51% Visual Art, 14% Instrumental Music, 14% Literature, 4% Vocal Music, 10% Theater, 4% Dance, 1% Media Arts

#### 3. Artist Development Grant Sizes. Artists were asked to select the Grant Size Amount preferred.

77% Chose \$1,500 artist grant amount. 23% Chose \$3,000 & \$1,000 size grants.

#### 4. Familiarity with the Artist Grant Programs in General.

64% said they are familiar with the Artist Career Development Grant of \$1,000.

56% said they are familiar with the Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant of \$3,000.

56% said they are familiar with the Artist Career Development Grant of \$1,500.

5. Artists Responded That They Received a PLRAC Grant in the Past. 30% said they received an Artist Career Development Grant of \$1,000 in the past; 29% said they Received a Professional Mid-Career Artist of \$3,000 in the past; and 23% said they Received an Artist Career Development Grant of \$1,500 in the past.

6. Artists were asked what Barriers they have when Applying for an Artist Grant. They were asked to check all statements that applied to their situation. Artists selected from the list of 12 Barriers that they have when Applying for an Artist Grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. Prairie Lakes staff intentionally ordered the list of

barriers with #1 and #2 being the most common responses they have heard from artists verbally at a grant writing workshop, or through a past survey.

a. A total of 64% of the artists that participated in the survey, said that they do not have any barriers to participate. This was the #12 question.

b. The highest barrier is #2 question “I am too busy trying to make a living and it consumes all my time”, with 18% of artists selecting this sentence.

c. The second highest barrier is #1 question “I do not have the personal time to devote to my work right now”, with 16% of artists selecting this sentence.

d. The third highest barrier is #8 question “I do not have work samples ready to submit with my application”, with 10% of artists selecting this sentence.

e. Below is the complete list of all choices.

1. I do not have the personal time to devote to my work right now.	16%
2. I am too busy trying to make a living and it consumes all my time.	18%
3. I lack confidence in Grant Writing and therefore, do not apply.	6%
4. I do not have time to attend a PLRAC Grant Writing Workshop, to learn how to apply.	3%
5. I did not understand the online grant process.	3%
6. I do not know how to describe my artist project and plan a timeline to accomplish it.	4%
7. I do not have a resume and/or I need to update my resume.	7%
8. I do not have work samples ready to submit with my application.	10%
9. I think the Artist grant amount size is too small and it is not worth my time to apply.	4%
10. Language is a barrier, and I do not understand the information in the Artist guidelines and application.	1%
11. Language is a barrier, and I would like the Artist guidelines and application translated into another language to accommodate me.	0%
12. I do not have any barriers to participate.	64%

Survey Comments by Artists. A variety of artist comments were listed at the end of the survey document on pages 17-21.

### **2019 Summary of Survey Results.**

The survey results were reviewed by the board at their planning meeting on March 14 and regular board meeting March 28, 2019. This information was reviewed by the Prairie Lakes board and included in our FY 2020-21 Biennial Plan and taken into consideration for our FY 2022-2023 plan.

1. The organizational survey was emailed to 478 area arts organizations and community groups, 283 schools, and 12 PLRAC board members = 773 people.

2. The second survey was sent to 634 artists.

3. **A new third survey was created for the Arts Interested Public**, which we identified as cities and chambers of commerce in our 9-county area. A new database was created for this survey: 73 City contacts and 41 Chambers of Commerce = 114. The MN State Auditor’s office suggested a broader survey be conducted in 2019 and be part of our Needs Assessment for the FY 2020-2021 Plan to the MN State Arts Board.

The results from these surveys were used for our new FY 2022-2023 and our past FY 2020-2021 planning. A summary of all three surveys and the responses is included as an attachment.

We received 84 Organizational surveys in 2019 and 69 in 2016, which is a 22% increase. We received 111 Artist surveys in 2019 and 105 in 2016, which is a 5% increase, so overall we are pleased with the increase.

This is the first year that we have created an Arts Interested Public Survey. A new database was created for this survey: City contacts 73 and Chambers 41 = 114. A total of 15 surveys were received. We received responses from six of the nine counties in the region.

The survey style and questions were similar to our past survey in 2016. The questions asked were different for each survey. A formal 31 question survey was distributed to Artists; the Arts organizations/community groups/schools survey had 25 questions, and the Arts Interested Public answered 21 questions. However, there were NEW questions regarding an Artist's Race and the percentage of organization's board, staff, or audience that are ethnically diverse, or are people with disabilities.

Artist Racial/Ethnic Characteristics: White 96.4% and Asian 3.6%. Artist with a Disability? 5.5% Yes and 94.5% No

Organizations: What percentage of your organization's board and staff identify as People of Color? 90% of Respondents said their board/staff is 2% or Less, People of Color  
However, the percentage of their audience was more diverse, with a majority stating they were 10% persons of color and about 6% people with disabilities.

New Broader questions like do you agree or disagree with the following questions: "I can trust PLRAC's stewardship of public arts funding; PLRAC Programs and services and resources ensure that the arts are interwoven into every facet of community life; PLRAC programs, services and resources ensure that people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts; PLRAC programs, services and resources play a significant role in the arts thriving in Minnesota; etc."

\*In all three survey's respondents were asked about PLRAC's Public Stewardship of funding. All respondents overwhelmingly said they could trust PLRAC's stewardship of public arts funding. Also ranking high were PLRAC programs and services, and resources ensure that people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts.

1. **Organizational Needs Assessment Survey** (Arts and Community Groups, Schools, etc.). The survey asked questions in regard to the types of programs offered, referencing current funding and grant maximums in each category, needs for services, trends in the community, etc. Highlighted results of the survey are listed below. According to the survey results the Council is currently on track with their allocation of State resources for Arts and Cultural Heritage, Small Arts Projects, Arts-In-Education Grants, and McKnight funds for the Artist grants.

Organization Survey: We received 84 Surveys which represented all nine counties. Also, at least 3 people completed the survey in every county. Respondents were asked about their Satisfaction with the following Application Process Components. This is the first time we've asked specifically about the online application form, contract and final report; staff assistance, transparency and communication. The satisfaction for the online processes was positive. Respondents answered Very Satisfied and Somewhat Satisfied to these questions; therefore, we are on track.

Arts Organizations and Community Groups Identified these specific needs: Financial support, Opportunities to connect with other arts organizations, Workshops: grant writing, marketing, fundraising, etc. Identifying features of respondents: 46% Identified themselves as a Non-Profit Arts Organization; 28% Non-profit Community Group (Chamber, Historical Society, Library, etc.); 23% School, Community Education, College; and 3% Unit of

Government. How many years the organization has been in existence? 76% Have been in existence for over 20 years; 11% are 11-20 years; and 13% are under 10 years old.

What activities is the organization involved in? 39% Do both Producing and Sponsoring; 39% Produce their own events; 17% Sponsor other artists and groups to perform; and 5% Not applicable.

What is the Primary Discipline you serve? 37% Music, 36% Multi-Discipline (2 or more art forms), 13% Theater, 8% Visual Art, 4% Literature, 2% Dance.

2. **Artist Survey:** The Artist Survey provides valuable background information regarding artists' discipline, years of experience and training, exhibition, and sales in the area. The level of participation in the Councils sponsored programs and services were very good. It showed that 49% of the artists said they have participated in the Artist Career Development Grant Program, 35% in the Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant Program, 41% participated in the Prairie Lakes Regional Juried Art Exhibition, 41% in a grant writing workshop and 22% participated in the Artist Workshops on specific topics. Artists Identified These Specific Needs: Financial support, Opportunities to connect with other artists, Workshops: grant writing, business skills for artists, etc.

Identifying Features of Artists: 35% Identified themselves as an Emerging Artist; 34% Established Professional Artist; 19% Arts Educator; 11% Hobbyist; and 1% Crafts person.

How many years have you been an artist? 67% Have been an Artist for over 20 years; 29% Have been an Artist for 6-19 years; and 4% Have been an Artist Under 5 years.

What arts discipline do you primarily work in? 48% Visual Art, 19% Instrumental Music, 14% Literature, 7% Vocal Music, 6% Theater, 4% Dance, 2% Media Arts.

3. **Arts Interested Public Survey.** We received 15 surveys. The responses were from six of the nine counties in the region.

The Arts Interested Public identified as 53% City, Unit of Government and 47% Chamber of Commerce. Only 33% of organizations have applied for a grant, 33% did not apply and 34% did not know. The overall impression of PLRAC was 47% Good, 33% excellent, 13% average, 7% Fair and 0% Poor.

\*The most important needs to help them as they work to support Art in their community were: Information on opportunities available. Guidance and direction to assist those working in our area to keep the Arts alive, but who have little time and few funds to do so; An outdoor art show possibly in conjunction with a beer and wine festival can be fun and bring good attention to the arts including music and theater.

\*The greatest strength in their community/county is: The number of people interested in the arts and keeping them alive in our community.

\*Lacking in the Arts in their community were: The passion for the arts; Adequate venues for the performing arts, both indoors and out; Our community has a barn quilt trail that is under-utilized. I would love to be able to elaborate on the existing barn quilt trail; We have a talented art base but lack space and/or location to both display and work on various mediums.

Do you or your organization have an interest in receiving a grant from the Prairie Lake Regional Arts Council?  
80% Yes, 20% No

**Here is the Outline of Information we will submit for the FY 2022-23 PLRAC Biennial Plan.**

**The online application will be submitted by 4-1-21.**

Mission Statement - 1,000 characters maximum

Region - Background, demographics, etc. - 3,000 characters

Needs Assessment - 10,000 characters

Description of the planning process - 3,000 characters

Work plan for grants, programs, and services (overview) - 2,000 characters

Goal and Outcome Priorities: Clearly articulate 1-5 of the proposed measurable outcomes that will result from your grant activities and programs.

Program Information - 5,000 characters

Grant making and monitoring process - 5,000 characters

Public Meeting - 1,000 characters

**Required Attachments:**

Council's Bylaws; Board information (names, affiliation, and arts experience); Staff information (names, titles, job description); Needs Assessment Summary document; and Budget.

**Budget Information for Board Meeting March 25, 2021**

Tentative Expenses and Revenue for the Next 2 years

**Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council - FY 2022-2023 Budget (7-1-21 to 6-30-23)**

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
Grants - ACH	\$255,430	\$459,000	\$380,000
Grants - State	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$85,000
Grants - McKnight	\$52,500	\$49,500	\$49,500
Salaries	\$170,000	\$174,020	\$179,245
Payroll Taxes	\$12,500	\$13,320	\$13,720
Employee Retirement	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800
Health Insurance	\$23,700	\$25,890	\$28,480
Office Rent	\$11,980	\$12,340	\$12,710
Grants Online Software	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Office Expenses (i.e. computer and office supplies, insurance, meeting exp., postage, telephone, travel and workshops)	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$22,000
Total	<b>\$641,910</b>	<b>\$859,870</b>	\$787,455
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
Arts & Cultural Heritage	\$462,744	\$629,332	\$583,057
State General Funds	\$120,076	\$120,076	\$120,076
McKnight Foundation	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Total	<b>\$652,820</b>	<b>\$819,408</b>	\$773,133
2020 ACH Carryover		\$15,741	Carryover
2021 Carryover (PPP Loan)		\$34,900	\$ Amount ?
	<b>\$652,820</b>	<b>\$870,049</b>	