



The Small Arts & School Arts Project Grant Size Increases to \$3,000 and \$5,000 on Dec. 1st

The Prairie Lakes board has increased the Size of the Regular Small Arts Project Grant and School Arts Project Grant starting on Dec. 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022 to \$3,000 maximum (previously \$2,000) and there is no cash match required.

This State funded program is available to provide funding for non-profit organizations directly engaged in the creation of art, the production of artistic performances or arts services, or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in our local communities that are available to the general public.

A variety of activities including art and music festivals, community choirs, dance performances, literary readings, instrumental and vocal music concerts, theater productions, visual art classes and exhibitions are eligible. This arts programming may be virtual or in-person.

Art discipline areas include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art. Public Art projects are also fundable.

Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our grant guidelines. This includes: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+.

\$5,000 Arts Project Grant for Underserved Areas.

Small Arts Project Grants for BIPOC cultural projects and underserved areas has increased to \$5,000. We are interested in receiving new applications for arts projects for cultural activities and/or underserved populations.

Arts organizations may apply for a second Small Arts Grant in some circumstances, for activities in 2022 that are different than a previous grant to PLRAC this year. Contact our staff to inquire. *We request that arts organizations seeking a second grant describe how their activity will expand and reach new audiences and engage the public in new ways by trying to be more inclusive in their programming.*

For example, within the context of your community, describe how your project identifies and proactively addresses barriers to engaging historically marginalized, targeted, and underserved people and identities that may otherwise have limited access to your proposed activity. Please contact the PLRAC office staff to discuss your project idea.

For organizations not familiar with the application, groups are asked to answer the following questions.

1. Describe the project you will carry out with the grant funds. Provide as much detail as possible, including what, where and when.
2. Detail the timeline associated with the project.
3. Describe your yearly arts programming.
4. Describe your board or committee organizing event.

Arts Access activities that plan to reach new audiences and engage the public in new ways should also think about Equity and Inclusion. These questions encourage applicants to think broadly and plan intentionally to reach more people through their arts programming and activities.

1. Explain how your **organization or group** is best positioned to engage with and support the community you have described.
2. In what ways does your **project** engage and support members of the community you have described? How are they represented among your leadership, artists, and decision-makers?
3. If you have defined your community based on geography, how are the above people and identities represented throughout your neighborhood/city/region, etc.? In what ways is this project inclusive of that diversity?
4. In what ways does your project ensure that people with disabilities can participate?

57 Area Students in grades 7-12 were Awarded Youth Art Scholarships for a total of \$17,100

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that scholarships of \$17,100 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is funded by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, have been awarded to 57 students in grades 7-12 throughout the region. They each receive \$300. The Youth Scholarships will provide these students the opportunity to take lessons with an instructor over a period of months. A variety of lessons in cello, dance, figure skating, guitar, organ, piano, string bass, viola, and violin will be provided.

Youth Scholarship recipients live in eighteen different communities representing eight counties,” noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. “We are excited about the wonderful arts activities these students will be

involved in.” They will be taking lessons and participating with many area arts groups including: Dance Conservatory of Southern MN in Mankato, Mankato Ballet Company, Spotlight Dance Company in Mankato, and New Ulm Figure Skating Club; and music lessons at Mankato School of Music and New Ulm Suzuki School of Music. Many independent music instructors throughout the area will also be providing lessons for these students.

Youth Scholarship Recipients from grades 3-6 are listed on page 3.

The next deadline is October 1, 2022 for Youth Scholarships, grades 7-12.

Youth Scholarships, Grades 7-12, listed by County and Community

A total of \$17,100 was awarded to 57 students for scholarships of \$300 each; and they live in 18 different communities, representing eight counties.

Blue Earth County - \$3,000

Mankato: Eleanor Coons-Ruskey, Mollie Kelly, Grace MacPherson, Rose MacPherson, Juan Perez-Hernandez, Tyler Schmitz, Nicholas Willaert

Eagle Lake: Aiden Wersal, Xavier Wersal

Rural Lewisville: Emily Kleidon

Brown County - \$5,700

Hanska: Calleigh Frederickson, Natalia Frederickson

New Ulm: Elizabeth Borgen, Joshua Carlovsky, Nathaniel Carlovsky, Isaiah Correa, Emily Guggisberg, Jonah Hermanson, Jamis Martens, Leah Menzel, Lydia Meyer, Ashley Schaefer, Isaiah Smith, Sebastian Smith, Bethany Spike, Ezra Spike, Karlee Stocker

Sleepy Eye: Gunval Coulson, Nora Coulson

Faribault County - \$300

Blue Earth: Delanie Ackerman

LeSueur County - \$900

LeSueur: Joseph Heim

Rural Henderson: Joseph Fixsen

Rural St. Peter: Julie Weber

Nicollet County - \$3,600

Lafayette: Emma Hoffmann

North Mankato: Marco Jakovich, Sasha Jakovich, Kyle Johnson, Sydney Johnson

St. Peter: Henry Jacobs, Anna Klatt, Adela Madson, Alexa Rassbach, Quinn Rassbach, Micah Stoll

Rural New Ulm: Rory Juberien

Sibley County - \$1,200

Gaylord: Colten Kranz

Gibbon: Estella Ortiz

Henderson: Sophia Davig

Winthrop: Natalie Matzke

Waseca County - \$300

Janesville: Stella Ziemke

Watonwan County - \$2,100

Madelia: Karl Davis

St. James: Olivia Christensen, Isaiah Rete, Lydia Rete, Miriam Rete, Keeley Runge, Diana Sargent

These Youth Scholarships are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



51 Area Students in grades 3-6 were Awarded Youth Art Scholarships for a total of \$10,200

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that scholarships of \$10,200 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is funded by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, have been awarded to 51 students in grades 3-6 throughout the region. They each receive \$200. The Youth Scholarships will provide these students the opportunity to take lessons with an instructor over a period of months. A variety of lessons in cello, dance, figure skating, piano, and violin will be provided.

Youth Scholarship recipients live in seventeen different communities representing seven counties,” noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. “We are excited about the wonderful arts activities these students will be

involved in.” They will be taking lessons and participating with many area arts groups including: BlueJay Dance Studio, Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota, Mankato Ballet Company, Mankato School of Music, New Ulm Figure Skating Club, New Ulm Suzuki School of Music, Spotlight Dance Company, and Waseca Art Center. Many independent instructors throughout the area will also be providing lessons for these students.



The next deadline for Youth Scholarships, grades 3-6, is November 1, 2022.

Youth Scholarships, Grades 3-6, listed by County and Community

A total of \$10,200 was awarded to 51 students for scholarships of \$200 each; and they live in 17 different communities, representing seven counties.

Blue Earth County - \$1,400

Mankato: Alisha Davis, Silas Dell, Evie Johnson, Lucy Kelly, Newman MacPherson, Price MacPherson, Brea Willaert

Brown County - \$2,200

New Ulm: Sylvia Bentler, Eden Carlovsky, Aubrey Correa, Joel Guenther, Judah Guenther, Himalaya Harrison, Theory Harrison, Amelia Hermanson, Jamis Martens, Aric Nelson, Ainsley Tess

LeSueur County - \$1,200

LeSueur: Nathan Heim, Clara Roby, Gabriel Roby

Rural St. Peter: Mollie Weber

Waterville: Jerimy Bohlmann-Little, Jordin Bohlmann-Little

Nicollet County - \$2,800

Lafayette: Avery Fischer, Ellie Hoffmann

North Mankato: Thea Hanel, Andree Jakovich, Hazel Lutterman, Paizyl Pribyl, Vivian Willemsen

St. Peter: Noah Horak, Abram Madson, Hugh Madson, Linnea Miller, Julia Nienow, Ally Peterson, Anya Stoll

Sibley County - \$400

Gaylord: Ada Kranz

Winthrop: Gordon Matzke

Waseca County - \$600

Janesville: Oliver Haekenkamp

New Richland: Alexis Olson

Waseca: Ava Trumbull

Watonwan County - \$1,600

Butterfield: Adyson Steinle

Lewisville: Adriel Martinez

Madelia: Tripp Armstrong, Noah Halverson

St. James: Levi Christensen, Naomi Rete, Katelyn Runge

Rural Truman:Carolynn Groskreutz

We Encourage New Students to Apply

Students will answer these types of questions in their online application.

1. Why are you interested in this art form?
2. Why are you willing to commit this amount of time to your art form?
3. What do you expect to learn from a mentor, instructor, or by participating in this activity?

All applications require an online **Recommendation Form** that is completed by a teacher. **We are also looking for new teachers who provide lessons to students, to be added to our mailing list.**

Visit www.plrac.org for more information.



\$46,500 in Artist Grants Awarded



We are pleased that thirty-one artists were awarded a \$1,500 Artist Development Grant, totaling \$46,500, noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. The purpose of the Artist Development Grant is to provide financial support to artists committed to advancing their work and careers. We are excited that these artists will be creating new works in a variety of media, and they include twelve visual artists, seven literary artists, eight musicians, three media artists, and one dancer.

Artists are using the funds for a variety of needs which may include art supplies, matting and framing, equipment, attending a workshop, musician studio time, using a mentor or an editor for written work, artist creative time or living expenses, etc. We hope that other artists will be inspired and plan to apply for a future grant from Prairie Lakes, and the next deadline is September 2022. These artist grants are made possible by funds provided by the McKnight Foundation under a program designed and administered by Prairie Lakes.

Artists represent five different counties, including 19 artists from Blue Earth County, 7 from Nicollet County, 2 from LeSueur County and 2 from Faribault County and 1 from Martin County. The artists are listed below in alphabetical order along with their project descriptions.

Jacob Bases, Mankato. He is a videographer and will use the grant to plan, write, and produce a three-part video series focusing on non-traditional musicians in southern Minnesota. He plans to show the series on virtual platforms and at events.

Justin Bergo, Mankato. He is a visual artist and will use the grant to explore combining digital illustrations with charcoal and graphite that will be manipulated with inks, water, glue, paint, and pigment. He plans to have an exhibit when the new pieces are complete.

Cindy Bourne, Amboy. She is a visual artist and will use the grant to resume metalsmithing and jewelry making full time. She will create pieces for shows, relaunch her website, teach classes, and participate in exhibitions.

Rebecca Brooks, Mankato. She is a writer and will use the grant to write a feature-length screenplay based on her own novel, "Chasing AllieCat".

Molly Butler, North Mankato. She is a writer and will use the grant to write a memoir/lyric essay collection exploring her family's house fire and the subsequent changes to their lives and uncovering of values.

Mary Carlson Zuehlke, Mankato. Mary is a musician and will use the grant to take advanced violin lessons with David Auerbach, the principal violinist of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

Liz Draper, Mankato. Liz is a musician and will use the grant to film herself performing original compositions for upright bass. She will use this footage to increase her online presence in order to gain future performance opportunities and composition commissions.

Rachael Hanel, Madison Lake. Rachael is a non-fiction writer and will use the grant funds to hire a research assistant to find literary podcasts that would help to promote her new book, "Breaking Point: One Woman's Transformation from Activist to Radical in 1970s America". The book will be published in the fall of 2022.

Jennifer Hildebrandt, Mankato. Jennifer is a writer and will use the grant to edit a collection of "hybrid essays" that were started during the pandemic and examines ideas of movement, connections, community, isolation, and other themes. She will also update her website and design a movement and writing workshop.

David Hyduke, Kasota. David is a visual artist and will use the grant to create three larger steel sculptures inspired by smaller bronze works he has created. These new pieces will be submitted to various sculpture walk programs.

Masayoshi Ishikawa, St. Peter. He is a musician and will use the grant to record his 2nd original jazz studio album entitled "Yoake", meaning "at the break of dawn". The album will include all pieces that have been composed since the pandemic started.

Rachael Jaeger, Mankato. She is a writer and will use the grant to hire an editor and to continue working on her young adult fantasy novel, "The David Project," which is about a teenager who discovers he's responsible for an intergalactic virus but also overcomes his awkwardness and learns to be self-confident in his different relationships along the way.

John Kruse, Wells. He is a musician and will use the grant to record an album of his original music using a live band in his home studio.

PLRAC/McKnight Artist Development Grants

Artist Grantees (continued from page 4)

Dinah Langsjoen, North Mankato. She is a visual artist and will use the grant to write and illustrate a children's picture book that deals with honoring a lost loved one after they pass, written from a 4-year old's point of view.

Charlie Leftridge, St. Peter. He is a musician and will use the grant to write and record a new chamber music composition and to create a new website to market himself as a professional composer.

Eric Lennartson, Mankato. He is a visual artist and will use the grant to make his TapeScape installations more engaging and interactive with digital projection.

Dale Looft, Montgomery. He is a visual artist and will use the grant to create 12-15 still life photography images using a light painting technique and to attend an online Still Life Masterclass by Joel Grimes.

James Mackey, Mankato. He is a visual artist and a writer and will use the grant to finish writing and illustrating his fantasy horror novel "Ragdolls: The Fall of Thronia". The 30-40 pen and ink drawings will be framed and displayed in a gallery show.

Sabrina Mercedes, Mankato. She is a visual artist and will use the grant to expand her work to include more resin pieces that combine dried plants, medicine, or flowers with color contrast. She plans to display and sell her work at Lakota Made in Mankato.

Danielle Moeller, Fairmont. She is a visual artist and will use the grant to develop new matting and framing skills and create new work using soft pastels. She would like to exhibit the new work at the Red Rock Center for the Arts in Fairmont.

Jerry Mollenhauer, St. Peter. He is a writer and will use the grant to continue working on his fiction and historical fiction novels and to attend a writing workshop at the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference.

Lisa Murphy, Mankato. She is a musician and is known as the "Singing Cowgirl". She will use the grant funds to purchase a Bose P.A. System to enhance her performances and have the ability to perform at larger venues.

Austin Oropeza, Mankato. He is a videographer and will use the grant to create his own short film.

Ryan Rader, Mankato. He is a musician and will use the grant to provide higher quality online music lessons and music performance videos.

Tracy Ross, Mankato. She is a writer and will use the grant to complete a collection of monothematic prose poetry entitled "Nikola's Dove".

Laura Schultz, Mankato. She is a musician and will use the grant to record the debut album for her band "Given Names". She plans to have an album release show at the Wine Café in Mankato, summer of 2022.

Stephanie Spencer, Blue Earth. She is a visual artist and will use the grant to create oil paintings to take to shows and display at area venues.

Jeffrey Stocco, Courtland. He is a visual artist and creates wood-turned pieces. He will use the grant to attend the "Turning With Carbide Tools" workshop at Woodcraft of Minneapolis and to meet with a mentor to create a wood-turning curriculum to teach at the Mankato Makerspace.

Molly Stoltz, St. Peter. She is a dancer and will use the grant to continue working on her full-length flamenco and tap dance piece and to build a portable dance floor. She plans to premier the full-length work in 2022.

Willis Stout, Mankato. He is a musician and videographer. He will use the grant to create a flexible and exciting live performance production from the ground up which would include elements of visual design, sound design, and music production.

Jaci Ullrich, Mankato. She is a visual artist who creates acrylic and watercolor paintings inspired by nature. She will use the grant to expand her work using other mediums including yarn and cloth to create new works with a similar abstract nature theme. She plans to exhibit the new work locally.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

**The Prairie Lakes Office
will be closed
December 24 & 31
for the holiday.**



\$243,980 in Arts & Cultural Heritage Grants Awarded in Fall 2021

[A total of 27 arts organizations, community groups and schools were awarded Arts and Cultural Heritage \(ACH\) grants, totaling \\$243,980 this fall by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.](#) The organizations are listed alphabetically.

These grants are for arts activities in all artistic disciplines. A variety of activities are being funded including: art classes and exhibitions, dance and theater performances, instrumental and vocal music concerts, festivals, public art, and youth field trips. This fund was created by the people of Minnesota to support the arts and preserve our heritage. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, passed by the voters in Nov. 2008, created new resources for land conservation, water conservation, parks and the Arts. [The next ACH Grant deadline is February 1, 2022.](#) Organizations can apply once per year for this grant.

- Arlington Chamber of Commerce, ArliDazzle - \$6,000.**
- Arts Center of Saint Peter - \$13,000.**
- Blue Earth Valley Concert Association - \$8,000.**
- DalekoArts, New Prague - \$13,000.**
- Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - \$13,000.**
- Fairmont Opera House - \$13,000.**
- La Grande Bande, Gaylord - \$8,000.**
- Mankato and North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's - \$8,000.**
- Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra - \$8,000.**
- Mankato Children's Chorus - \$6,000.**
- Mankato Figure Skating Club - \$8,000.**
- Mankato Makerspace - \$13,000.**
- Martin Co. Preservation, Assoc. (Red Rock Center for the Arts) - \$13,000.**
- Merely Players Community Theatre - \$8,000.**
- Minnesota New Country School - \$6,000.**
- Minnesota Valley Chorale - \$8,000.**
- Musicorum, Mankato - \$8,000.**
- New Ulm Figure Skating Club - \$6,000.**
- Prairie Winds Middle School, Mankato - \$6,000.**
- Project 1590, Fairmont, public art - \$8,000.**
- Project G.E.M. - \$8,000.**
- ProMusica Minnesota - \$8,000.**
- South Central Service Cooperative - \$8,000.**
- State Street Theater Company, New Ulm - \$13,000.**
- Waseca Arts Council - \$13,000.**
- Waseca County Historical Society - \$5,980.**
- Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library - \$8,000.**



Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Welcomes One New Board Member

We are pleased to announce that Carolyn Borgen has been appointed to the board to serve as the representative for the City of New Ulm.



City of New Ulm – Carolyn Borgen. Carolyn has a BA in Electronic Publishing, Saint Mary's University of MN, Winona and a MA in Art Administration, Saint Mary's University of MN, Minneapolis. She is a musician and plays the bass, and provides lessons for youth for the bass. She is a board member of the New Ulm Figure Skating Club. She previously was Director of Marketing and Design at State Street Theater, New Ulm; Executive Director for Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra; Executive Director for Minnesota Valley Chorale, Mankato; and Program Director for The Grand Center for Arts & Culture, New Ulm.

Prairie Lakes still has Two Vacant Positions on the Board for Representatives for the City of Fairmont and Sibley County.



The deadline for submitting an application is Jan. 1. Interested persons residing in Fairmont or Sibley County should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board. **You will find a Board Application and Board Member Duties (PDF) on our website, www.plrac.org.** Click on About Us, then Board Meetings and Application.



FY 2022 Arts Grants and Funding Has Increased (7/1/21 to 6/30/22)

Brenda Byron,
Executive Director

We are pleased to let constituents know that our State funding for this fiscal year has increased. Arts grants are available for non-profit arts organizations, community groups and schools, that are sponsoring arts activities, in the 9-county area. Deadlines for applying are January 1 and February 1 for our Small Arts Project or School Arts Project Grant, and the 1st of the month until May 1, 2022.

We encourage new applicants and especially BIPOC artists and BIPOC community focused arts activities to apply as well as activities to benefit people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, youth and seniors. Grant information is on pages 8-9.

The ACH Youth Scholarships for grades 3-6 and 7-12 were awarded to 108 youth totaling \$27,300.

We are estimating that ACH grant funds for organizations will be about \$427,218 in FY 2022 which is a substantial increase. Please contact the office to discuss your arts project idea.



Prairie Lakes is proud to support Public Art in our Small Communities

“We were pleased to support public art in our small communities and awarding them an Arts Grant is part of that process”, noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. There can be a lot of ideas for public art projects in our communities, but it can be difficult to figure out how to do it, who to involve, and to engage local community members. The project will likely need other funds to make it happen, so donations are needed as well as a lot of volunteer time. Details about how to plan a public art project in order to qualify for a PLRAC arts grant are on page 9. In this article we are highlighting the public sculpture in Janesville and the community mural in Waterville.

The City of Waterville received a \$4,000 Small Arts Grant in March 2020 to create a mural.

Local resident and artist Patty Salmon at Make It, Waterville initiated the idea of the mural and asked artist Mary Walchuk, of Elysian to create the design. Patty introduced the idea to the staff and council of the City of Waterville and asked for their support and to submit the grant on behalf of the mural project. Their goal was to create a 12 foot by 70-foot mural on the Make It, Waterville building on the corner of Main and Third Street by the end of summer 2021. Funds were used to provide a stipend to Mary Walchuk for the colored pencil artwork design and to artist Justin Ek, of Mankato and Bellissimo Paint and Coatings, in Mankato to layout the artwork design on the building. Mary noted “Justin projected the much-smaller image she created with colored pencils onto the wall and made the outline and labeled each section for its designated color.”



They invited community members to help paint some areas of the mural, and over 20 people participated in the community painting event. Mary posted photos on Facebook as the mural was being created, and this sparked a lot of interest from the community. The brightly colored mural features a collage of iconic “Waterville things” hidden in the colorful outdoor scene. It includes a wave encircled water tower, a bullhead, the Sakatah State Trail, and lakes, as well as paint brushes and spools of thread that give a nod to the town’s current and former artists.

Janesville Matters received a \$2,000 Small Arts Grant in 2020 for their public sculpture from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

The board members of Janesville Matters, a non-profit organization used the grant funds to have a fish sculpture created by Tim Nelson of Bemidji to place in their new sculpture garden on Janesville’s Main Street.

The sculpture was mounted on a field stone and placed in the sculpture garden in front of the Public Utilities Building. Mark Borneke and Tom Miller installed the piece in fall 2021. There was a dedication ceremony for the sculpture garden in October.



Applicants that want to have Public Art projects for their community are requested to follow a process of engaging the community in the decision making.

Details about how to plan a public art project in order to qualify for a PLRAC arts grant, continued from page 8.

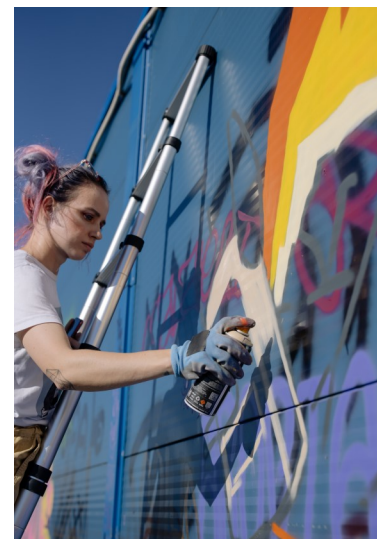
A Prairie Lakes Small Arts Grant or our Arts & Cultural Heritage grant can be used to fund a Public Art Project, noted Brenda Byron. Here are some of the details that are listed in our Grant Guidelines about public art.

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 at plrac@hickorytech.net for more guidance and information on Public Art projects if needed.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement **of Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**

Approved 4/19 and updated 5/21.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) recognizes arts and culture as inherent and vital aspects of life. Art is a proven proponent of healthy, balanced, and prosperous communities. The creation and experience of cultural and artistic expression contribute to both individual and community well-being. We believe in the ability to build increased connectivity through supporting cultural and artistic expression of all social identities including race, tribal affiliation, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, sexuality, religion, ability, socio-economic background and the intersectionality of these identities.

This may include historically marginalized and underserved groups such as: Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+.

We are committed to closing access gaps in the arts with urgency and accountability. We believe sustained impact requires authentic relationships and transformative work,

and to this end we are deeply invested. As stewards of public funds, including those allocated by the Legacy Amendment, PLRAC embraces the unique opportunity to ensure that all residents of the nine-county area have access to quality arts experiences. We celebrate our region as an artistic cultural hub where artists and community members from all walks of life intersect. PLRAC dedicates its work to providing key support at these vital intersections where art and community align. PLRAC is committed to engaging in the relationship building, self-reflection, community discourse, and hands-on work imperative to make our region a place where all artistic communities can thrive.

PLRAC will focus our resources to educate ourselves, modify our practices and shift our own organizational culture to challenge racial disparities as we move toward equitable arts communities. We embrace our responsibility to lead racial equity work in funding, while informing and learning from equity and inclusion in the artistic practices and programming of our constituents.

Three School Arts Project Grants Were Awarded Totaling \$5,550

Our Small Arts Project Grant and School Arts Project Grant program funds non-profit arts organizations, community groups, public organizations, or schools producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community or students. **Three schools were awarded grants, which totaled \$5,550.**

The Grant maximum is \$3,000 or \$5,000 for BIPOC projects and underserved Arts activities. No cash match is required this year.

“Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement. This includes: Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+,” noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director. Contact our office at plrac@hickorytech.net to discuss your project idea, we would be happy to assist you!

Central High School and Freedom (Sober) School, Mankato (SCH) - \$2,000. They will have students paint murals inside and outside the Lincoln Community Center, including bathroom stalls and preschool rooms. Funds will be used to purchase paint and supplies.

Madelia High School (SCH) - \$2,000. High school art students took a field trip to the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit in Minneapolis in November. Funds were used for entrance fees, substitute teacher costs, and transportation.

Mankato East High School (SCH) - \$1,550. They will sponsor “StringFest” for all students in grades 6-12 that play a string instrument, March 8, 2022. All ensembles will have guest conductors and a masterclass on their instrument. Funds will be used for guest conductor stipends and mileage.

We encourage applications for artistic performances or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in the 9-county region. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art, etc. The Small Arts Project and School Arts Project Grants are made possible by funds provided by the Minnesota State Legislature. These Small Arts and School Arts Project Grants are reflected below in a list by County, which we keep updated for the fiscal year.

FY 2022 SMALL ARTS PROJECT and SCHOOL GRANTS

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Central High School & Freedom (Sober) School - \$2000
GSR Fine Art Festival, artist fees - \$2,000
Lake Crystal Community Band, performances - \$1,800
Mankato Community Ed., cultural performance - \$3,000
Mankato East High School, guest conductors - \$1,550

BROWN COUNTY

Hermann Monument Society, German festival - \$2,000
Springfield Community Theatre, performances - \$2,000

NICOLLET COUNTY

American Indian Cultural Events Group, events - \$3,000
Bothy Folk Club, performances - \$2,000

WASECA COUNTY

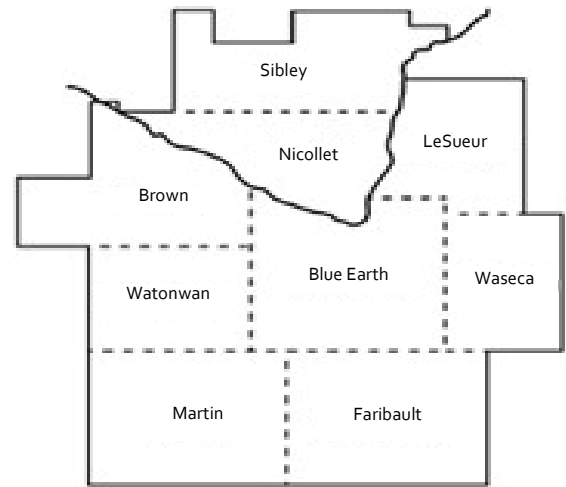
American Indian Service Learning Project, classes - \$1,500
Waseca Latino Cultural Celebration, music - \$1,660
Waseca Marching Classic, band clinics - \$1,980

WATONWAN COUNTY

Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet, performances - \$2,000
Madelia High School, field trip - \$2,000

Happy Holidays!





FY 2022 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1, Sept. 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 producing or sponsoring an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art. This includes arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, public art, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **No specific cash match is required.**

ACH Large Arts Organization Stability Grant. Arts Programming and Access – maximum request \$13,000. **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 for performance space).

ACH Arts Project Grant. Arts Programming and Access – maximum request \$8,000.

Funds may be used for Arts programming that is in-person or virtual. Expenses may include artist fees, artist travel, salaries, equipment, technology, training, promotion, monthly rent (lease payments) and utilities.

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.

ACH Education Grant. Maximum request \$6,000. For arts education programs by non-profit community groups and schools. This may include arts classes, author reading, artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops, or arts related field trips for schools.

ACH Youth Scholarship. Youth Scholarship for Students (grades 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.**

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.

Small Arts Project Grant

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. The grant may be up to \$3,000. BIPOC projects can apply for up to \$5,000. Fundable activities include: arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, public art, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **Deadline: July 1, and the 1st of each month until May.**

School Arts Project Grant

Grants are for **schools K-12 public and private.** Grants up to \$3,000 are available to fund Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. **Deadline: July 1, and the 1st of each month until May.**

Artist Development Grant \$1,500

Artist Grants are for a specific project that contributes directly to their artistic growth and professional development in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art. Funds may be used for supplies, matting and framing, equipment, attending a workshop, studio time, studying with a mentor, artist time, and/or living expenses.

Deadline: September 1

Earliest start date: October 1

FY 2022 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Organizational Grants - Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, schools, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Fundable projects may include: community choirs & bands, dance activities, literary readings, music presentations, theatre productions, visual arts classes and exhibitions, folk and traditional art, etc. Maximums for the Arts and Cultural Heritage grants vary, please check guidelines for details.

\$5,000 Arts Project Grants for Underserved Areas. Small Arts Project Grants for BIPOC cultural projects and underserved areas has increased to \$5,000. We are interested in receiving new applications for arts projects for cultural activities and/or underserved populations.

Artist Grants - Are for specific projects that will advance your work and arts career.

Applications are online at www.plrac.org.

Small Arts Project - \$3,000

BIPOC Projects - \$5,000

School Arts Project - \$3,000

1st of the Month Deadline
July 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022

FY 2022 grant applications
are online at www.plrac.org.

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

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Aug. 1, Sept. 1
and Feb. 1 Deadline

Large Arts Organization

Stability Grant - \$13,000

Arts Project Grant - \$8,000

Arts Festivals Grant - \$6,000

Arts Education Grant - \$6,000

Artist Development Grant - \$1,500

Sept. 1, 2021 Deadline

Youth Scholarship Grades 7-12 - \$300

October 1 Deadline

Youth Scholarship Grades 3-6 - \$200

November 1 Deadline

If any of the information in the grant guidelines is unclear, contact the Prairie Lakes office at (800) 298-1254, (507) 833-8721 or plrac@hickorytech.net.

Upon request, Prairie Lakes grant application materials will be made available in an alternate format such as large print, computer flash drive, or on audiotape. Please call the Prairie Lakes office in Waseca at 1-800-298-1254. For TTY, contact the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.



Prairie Lakes Updated our Mission and Value Statements in 2021

The Prairie Lakes board met several times in 2020 to discuss updates to their Mission Statement and Value Statements. It has been a few years since the mission statement has been revised. Since we were doing planning for FY 2022-23 it seemed like a good time to revisit this topic. Members provided information and feedback about the need to simplify the mission statement and to create some new value statements that would clarify the different categories we are trying to address through our arts grant programs and services. We were pleased with the outcome and everyone was comfortable with the updated information, which was approved at the January 2021 board meeting.

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, Artistic Merit, Creativity, Community, Accessibility, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.



Value Statements:

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.

We support 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.

Prairie Lakes Board Positions are Open for the City of Fairmont and Sibley County

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has two vacant positions on the Board for representatives for the **City of Fairmont** and **Sibley County**.

The deadline for submitting an application is Jan. 1. Interested persons residing in Fairmont or Sibley County should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board. **You will find a Board Application and Board Member Duties (PDF) on our website, www.plrac.org.** Click on About Us, then Board Meetings and Application.

This is a great opportunity to understand the workings of the granting process, to be more involved with the arts and artists of our region, and to enjoy camaraderie with others who appreciate the arts. The Council seeks to appoint people who represent a cross-section of art forms as well as various arts perspectives: Artists, teachers, and representatives of arts organizations. Since a primary function of the Council is to serve as a panel for arts project applications, members are chosen for their knowledge, expertise, and involvement in the arts in the areas of dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art.

Volunteer board members serve a three year term. Monthly evening meetings are typically held the fourth Thursday of the month in Mankato, at Bethany Lutheran

College. The monthly meetings have been conducted as online meetings this year and will continue virtually through May 2022. Attendance at several PLRAC funded arts events per year is required and board members are reimbursed for their mileage to meetings and arts events.

Prairie Lakes Board of Directors

- Blue Earth County Liz Miller
- Brown County Beth Steffl
- Faribault County..... Julie Forderer
- LeSueur County Larry Pint
- Martin County.....Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerence
- Nicollet County..... Rita Rassbach
- Sibley County Open
- Waseca County..... Karen Krause
- Watsonwan County Steve Davis
- City of Fairmont..... Open
- City of Mankato Diana Joseph
- City of New Ulm Carolyn Borgen
- City of North Mankato Dana Sikkila
- City of St. Peter April Malphurs

Staff

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

FY 2022 Prairie Lakes Board of Directors and Staff



Front Row (L to R): Cindy Lewer, Program Manager; Dana Sikkila; Julie Forderer; Rita Rassbach; April Malphurs; and Brenda Byron, Executive Director. **Back Row:** Beth Steffl; Karen Krause; Pam Trumbull, Program Assistant; and Larry Pint. Not pictured: Carolyn Borgen; Steve Davis; Kristi Gaalswyk-Pomerence; Diana Joseph, and Liz Miller.

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Dec. 1-4 Craig Groe and Charlie Putnam's "Convergence" Painting Exhibition. Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.

Dec. 1-8 "Creative Summer" Exhibit of recent work by the Art and Art History Department's recipients of project grants during the summer of 2021. Held at the Schaefer Gallery, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free & open to the public. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <https://gustavus.edu/art/schaefer.php> or (507) 933-7200.

Dec. 1-10 Guido Van Helten's "Photographs - The Mankato Project" Exhibit. 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 www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

Dec. 1-10 Fall Senior Exhibition #2, 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 www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

Dec. 1-11 Fall Campus Arts Show by students in fall semester art classes. 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.

***Dec. 1-17** 13th Annual Artscape Juried Art Show, featuring artwork from local artists in two categories, students in grades 7-12 and adult. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***Dec. 1-23** Holiday Market 2021. Items from local artists will be available for purchase at different times during the multi-month market. December is Pottery, Woodwork, and Holiday Fare. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Gallery hours: Wed.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

***Dec. 1-23** "Potluck", a buy-and-take exhibition of functional pottery by Arts Center ceramists. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Gallery hours: Wed.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

***Dec. 1-Jan. 8, 2022** Gregory T. Wilkins' "We Shall Overcome" Mixed Media Exhibit in the Great Hall Gallery and Peggy Larkin's Exhibit in the Beckmann Gallery. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. Gallery hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs & Fri. 12 Noon-7 p.m. www.wasecartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Dec. 1-Jan. 25, 2022 "Battle at the River Bottom", Exhibit of Drawings and Videos by Kristen Lowe. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free & open to the public. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. (507) 933-7200 or www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom.

Dec. 1-Jan. 28, 2022 New Ulm's Own: "Treasures from Around the World", displaying handcrafted goods. Held in the Smallest Museum in Minnesota display case, outside The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

***Dec. 1-April 30, 2022** The 2021 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

Dec. 2 Pianist Lorie Line's Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. \$55, buy tickets at <https://www.lorieline.com/tour>. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Dec. 2 Holiday Concert with the Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet, 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

Dec. 2-6 Christmas at Bethany Concerts, Dec. 2-4 at 5 p.m., Dec. 5 & 6 at 3 p.m. Featuring the bands and choirs celebrating the season. Admission is free but advance reservations are strongly recommended, performances may sell out. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

Dec. 2-18 2021 Members Exhibition. Held at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Thurs. 1-7 p.m., Fri. 1-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (507) 625-2730 or www.thecarnegiemandkato.com.

Prairie Lakes is on Facebook!



**"LIKE" Prairie Lakes
Regional Arts Council**

Look for upcoming events, grant deadlines, photos and other important information to be posted!

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

***Dec. 2-19** “The Holiday Show” theater performances. Dec. 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 5, 12 & 19 at 2 p.m. General admission tickets \$15, \$20 or \$25. There are a specific number of tickets at each price point; \$15 are sold first, then \$20, then \$25, shop early for best price. Held at DalekoArts, 110 E. Main St., New Prague. (952) 314-9077 or www.dalekoarts.com.

***Dec. 2-28** Exhibit by the Prairie Star Quilt Guild, held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. Gallery Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.

Dec. 2-31 Holiday Boutique, unique handmade gifts created by local artists. 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.

***Dec. 3** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Ben Marti Trio performing jazz 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.com.



Dec. 3 Robby Vee and His Rock and Roll Caravan Holiday Show, 7 p.m. Adults \$12, students \$6, tickets available online. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. Gallery Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. or by appointment. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Dec. 3-4 Minnesota State University Fall Dance Concert. Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. Adults \$10, seniors over 65 and youth under sixteen \$9. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-6661 or www.mnsu.edu/theatre/.

***Dec. 3-5 & 10-12** Merely Players Community Theatre presents “Rex’s Exes”, 7 p.m. each day. Adults \$16, seniors \$14, youth 12 and under \$11. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 388-5483 or www.merelyplayers.com.

***Dec. 3-19** Mankato Playhouse presents dinner theatre performances of “Scrooge, The Musical”. Friday and Saturday dinner seating at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sunday lunch seating at 12:30 p.m., show at 2 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$51, depending on meal choice, tickets available at www.mankatoplayhouse.com. Show Only tickets can be purchased online and if available, can be purchased at the door 30 min. before each show. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. (507) 508-6539 or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

Dec. 4 Holli-Stories Fundraiser, 7 p.m., with new stories and plays by Bette Traxler performed throughout the evening. Held at Rustic Farmer, 209 1st Street South, Montgomery. Sponsored by Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

Dec. 4 Instrumental Jazz and Contemporary Vocal Group Holiday Concert, 3 p.m. General admission \$9, K-12 students and children \$7, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

***Dec. 4** Monoprinting Demonstration by Artist-in-Residence Rachel James, 10 a.m.-12 Noon. She will show her print work and do a demonstration of monoprinting. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

***Dec. 4** Arli-Dazzle winter celebration, featuring demonstrations by the Sakatah Ice Carvers, the Schell’s Hobo Band Quartet, holiday caroling by DeCantus, The Govenaires, a lighted holiday parade at 5:30 p.m., Artisan Holiday Market, and more events all day, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Held on Main St., Arlington. Sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. www.arlingtonmnchamber.org or (507) 964-2378.

Dec. 4-5 “Christmas at the Hubbard House”, including holiday décor and “History Mystery” self-guided tours. Dec. 4, 3-7 p.m. and Dec. 5, 1-4 p.m. Adults \$10, Blue Earth County Historical Society members \$7, ages 5-17 \$5, and children under 5 free. Held at the Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St., Mankato. (507) 345-5566.

Dec. 4-5 Christmas Concerts by the Martin Luther College combined choirs, Wind Symphony, and Hosanna Ringers. Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. Held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990 or www.mlc-wels.edu.

***Dec. 5** Fairmont Concert Association sponsors Miss Myra and the Moonshiners, performing vintage jazz and blues music, 3 p.m. Concert series tickets will be sold. Held at Fairmont High School Performing Arts Center, 900 Johnson St. “Fairmont Concert Association” on Facebook for more information. (507) 236-0714 or (507) 235-9660.

Dec. 5 MN State University, Mankato Holiday Choral Concert, 3 p.m. General admission \$9, K-12 students and children \$7. Held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S. Broad St., Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Dec. 7 Gustavus Winds of Christmas Concert featuring the Wind Orchestra and Wind Symphony, 10 a.m. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.

Dec. 9-12 “The Nutcracker” presented by the Mankato Ballet Company. Dec. 9-10 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 11-12 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Adults \$25, students 12 and under \$15, children under 2 free but must sit on a lap. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 625-7716 or www.mankatoballet.com.

Dec. 9 Country Music Concert by Clint Black and Lisa Hartman Black, doors open at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Tickets \$49.50-\$119.50. Held at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. Tickets available at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com, or call 1-800-745-3000. www.mayoclinichealthsystemeventcenter.com/events-and-tickets.

Dec. 9 A small group of Mankato Symphony Orchestra musicians will present their “Winter Wonders” Concert at 12 Noon. Held at the VINE Faith in Action Community Center, 421 E. Hickory St., Mankato. (507) 625-8880 or www.mankatosymphony.com.

Dec. 10 Sale of 6”x6” donated, original artwork, \$25 each, 6 p.m. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

***Dec. 10** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet performing a wide variety of 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.com.

Dec. 10 Author Peter Razor will discuss his new memoir “While the Locust Slept”, 6 p.m. Held at the North Mankato Police Annex Meeting Room, 1001 Belgrade Ave. Sponsored by North Mankato Taylor Library. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Dec. 10-12 En Masse: The Choreographers’ Gallery, featuring student choreographers works. Dec. 10 at 6 p.m., Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. Held at the Laboratory Theatre, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.

Dec. 10-12 “Solstånd,” a devised slow tempo play in the style of Japanese theatre artist Shogo Ohta. Dec. 10 at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. Held at the Laboratory Theatre, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.

Dec. 10-12 “The Real World” performances of two one-act plays. Dec. 10-11 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Held at Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990 or www.mlc-wels.edu.

Dec. 10-19 Gustavus Adolphus College Senior Art Students Exhibition. (Reception, Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front Street, Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.

***Dec. 11** Waseca Latino Cultural Celebration with music by the Mexican Mariachi band Mariachi America, 6:30-8 p.m. Held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 111 4th St. NW, Waseca. www.sacredheartwaseca.org or (507) 835-1222.

***Dec. 11** Holiday Concert by Musicorum, 7:30 p.m. Held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 S. 2nd St., Mankato. Tickets will be available at the door, \$15. www.musicorum-mn.org or (507) 933-7370.



Dec. 11 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s “Winter Wonders” Family Series Concert, 1 p.m., free. Created for children and their caregivers. Held at the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota, 224 Lamm St., Mankato. www.mankatosymphony.com or (507) 625-8880.

Dec. 11 “Comfort & Joy: Carols, Songs and Favorites Around the Piano” Concert by Zach Unke, 3 p.m., free. Held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Ct, New Ulm. www.mlc-wels.edu or (507) 766-1990.

Dec. 11-12 “Peace, Hope & Belonging” Christmas Concert Cabaret by Becky Borneke and Megan Krause. Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Adults \$15, students \$10. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

***Dec. 12** The Mankato Children’s Chorus will present their Winter Concert at 2 p.m. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 774-0597 or www.mankatochildrenschorus.org.

Dec. 12 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s “Oblivion” Music On The Hill, Chamber Music Concert, 3 p.m. Premium seating \$25, standard seating \$20, students ages 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$1. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. www.mankatosymphony.com or (507) 625-8880.

Arts Event Happening in Your Area?

Please submit the event information to us by the 15th of the prior month to be included in our newsletter!

Email the date, time, location, ticket price, and a brief description of the event to: plrac@hickorytech.net.

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Dec. 12 Maker Market, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Shop for truly unique items created by local artists. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.



***Dec. 14** Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts Lunchbox Entertainment the second Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon. This month features holiday entertainment by Bill Busse, Joyce Schultz, and Sandy Ettesvold. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Dec. 14 Film screening and discussion of a film as part of the Outer Space Series, 6:30 p.m. Hosted by The New Ulm Film Society. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

***Dec. 17** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents Open Mic Night with local artists performing, 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.com.

***Dec. 17** “The Nutcracker” performance by the Youth Dance Ensemble and School from Burnsville, 6 p.m. Held at Tri-City United High School Performing Arts Center, 700 4th St. NW, Montgomery. Sponsored by Tri-City United Community Education, (507) 364-8100 or www.tcu2905.us.

***Dec. 17** Holiday Concert by pianist Glenn Henriksen, 7 p.m. Adults \$15, students \$8, tickets available online. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. Gallery Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. or by appointment. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.



***Dec. 18** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents the Miss Myra Duo performing holiday themed music, 7-9 p.m. Non-members \$15, members \$10, college students free. Light food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Dec. 18 “Warmest Winter” Concert by Home Free, doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$21.50-49.50. Held at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. Tickets available at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com, or call 1-800-745-3000. www.mayoclinichealthsystemeventcenter.com/events-and-tickets.

Dec. 19 The Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience Concert, 2 p.m. Adults \$35, seniors \$30, students \$15; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.

Dec. 19 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s “The Snowman” Concert featuring music from the film, 3 p.m. Adults \$20, students ages 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$1. Held at Ted Paul Theater, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Symphony Orchestra, www.mankatosymphony.com. (507) 625-8880.

Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve Black and White Masquerade Ball, 6 p.m.-12 Midnight. Includes live music, dancing, entertainment, live auction, dinner, champagne, and a midnight balloon drop, \$75 per person. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Dec. 31 “New Year Eve Party” Radio Show, 2 p.m. The link to the virtual show will be posted online. Donations will be accepted to view the show. Sponsored by the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

***ShopART Midwest** is a non-commission online gallery that connects Midwest artists to buyers. This is a service by Twin Rivers Council for the Arts to support local culture makers and to make it easier to anyone to have access to handmade art. Search their ShopART gallery at: www.shopartmidwest.com

Area Wineries have brought back live musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. Please contact them for times, musicians.

Chankaska Creek Ranch and Winery, 1179 E. Pearl St., Kasota. www.chankaskawines.com or (507) 931-0089.

Indian Island Winery, 18018 631st Ave., Janesville. www.indianislandwinery.com or (507) 234-6222.

Morgan Creek Vineyards, 23707 478th Ave., New Ulm. (507) 947-3547 or www.morgancreekvineyards.com.

Next Chapter Winery, 16945 320th St., New Prague. (612) 756-3012 or www.nextchapterwinery.com.



Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Youth Opportunities

***Dec. 1** Spring Registration begins for youth to participate in the three ensembles of the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra, sessions begin in January. Session fees range from \$80 to \$130, and scholarships are available. Visit www.mayso.net for more information.

***Dec. 4** Children's Holiday Gift Making Class with instructor Rhonda Johnson. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. Grades Kindergarten+, \$40. Children will create a variety of holiday gifts to share with loved ones. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.



***Dec. 4** Children's Holiday Cookie Decorating Class with instructor Rhonda Johnson. 1-4 p.m. Grades Kindergarten+, \$30. Children will follow instruction to create unique designs for holiday cookies. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Dec. 7 Make and Take Art Class, 4:30-6 p.m. Grades K-3, \$10. Students will use elements of art and principles of design to complete a project to take home. This month is "Construct a Christmas Gnome," a fun 3D craft to decorate your home for the holidays. Register at www.wasecaartcenter.org/register-for-classes. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Dec. 7 Club Picasso Class, 4:30-6 p.m. Grades 4-6, \$10. Students will use elements of art and principles of design to complete a project to take home. This month is "Make a Magical Forest" using construction paper, cardstock, and paint. www.wasecaartcenter.org/register-for-classes to register. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

***Dec. 18** Children's Learn to Paint Class 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 Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.



Adult Opportunities

Dec. 1 & 15 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. www.newulmmn.gov/363/Library or (507) 359-8334.

***Dec. 1-Jan. 31** Open Pottery Lab, Mondays, 6-9 p.m. Purchase a punch card & clay coupon at the Mankato Community Education Office. Punch cards are \$39 for 8 sessions and a clay coupon is \$25 including 25 pounds of clay, glaze and firing. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Dec. 13 Poetry Group, each participant is encouraged to read aloud two or three poems, of their own or by others, and discuss them. 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

***Dec. 17** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents Open Mic Night for local musicians, 7-9:30 p.m., held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Dec. Art Appreciation Group, meets every Wednesday, except holidays, 10 a.m.-12 Noon. This group works on different techniques and learns new things from each other. Every week is different. Sign up at the Waseca Art Center or online at www.wasecaartcenter.org. Free for Art Center members or \$35 per session for non-members. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Dec. Call for Artists. Do you have an idea for an exhibit at the Red Rock Center for the Arts? Solo and group shows welcome. To submit a 2022 Exhibition Proposal visit <https://www.redrockcenter.org/current-and-upcoming-exhibits.html> or call the Red Rock Center. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

***Adaptive Recreational Services** "On the Go" will distribute Painting with Rhonda canvases and post an online instruction video on their Facebook page. There are some fun paintings to look forward to in December! You can find information about ARS at www.nuars.org. Adaptive Recreational Services is located in New Ulm, and offers creative, recreational and social events for teens and adults with disabilities from the surrounding communities. Contact Karrie Borchert, coordinator, at (507) 217-0383 with any questions.

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Mankato Makers Space is offering art classes in ceramics, leather, glass work, metal sculpture, woodworking and more. Classes may have limited numbers of participants. Visit their website to view the list of classes and the restrictions for each class. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

The Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm has an opportunity for artists, historians, and makers in all disciplines to curate a bi-monthly exhibit in "The Smallest Museum in Minnesota". The museum cabinet is 31.75" wide, 32.75" high and 7.5" deep. The museum is located outside the front entrance at 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm, to visit anytime. Go to www.thegrandnewulm.com/smallest-museum-in-mn for more information.

WORK OF ART: BUSINESS SKILLS FOR ARTISTS

[Springboard for the Arts Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists](#) is a professional development curriculum designed to teach business skills to artists in all disciplines: visual, performing and literary arts. Artists can take the whole series, customized combinations, or individual workshops that best suit their needs, and the curriculum is available for people interested in leading the workshops and offering professional development resources.



Springboard offers The Work of Art Toolkit; available for Free as a digital download.

Read a brief description of all Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists topics and find upcoming Work of Art workshops, panels, classes or events on their website:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/work-of-art-program/>

Grant Opportunities

Dec. 9 Fellowship Grant Deadline for Playwriting.

The Playwrights' Center administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and two \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to mid-career playwrights living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained body of work, commitment, and attributes of artistic merit. Go to <https://pwcenter.org/programs/mcknight-fellowships-in-playwriting> for more information. All of the McKnight Fellowship Programs can be found at <https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/>.

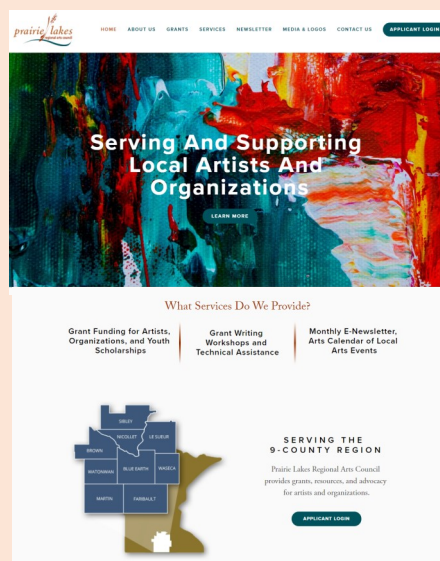
Dec. 21 Fellowship Grant Deadline for Culture Bearers.

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/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/>.

Have you visited www.plrac.org lately?

Prairie Lakes has great information to share that is just a click away!

Find the latest grant applications and guidelines, workshop videos, monthly newsletters and arts calendar, and more!



Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

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

Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, (Temporarily Closed) 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Artist studios and gallery space. emyfrenzartsguild@gmail.com or (507) 779-7206.

Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave., Mankato. They offer art classes in ceramics, leather, glass work, metal sculpture, woodworking and more. Visit their website to view the list of classes offered. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

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

The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Monthly exhibits. Hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com or the410project@hotmail.com.

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Music will be promoted via our website and social media. Gallery shows held monthly, with virtual slideshows online. Gallery and gift shop hours: Tues.-Fri. 12 Noon-5 p.m., office hours Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Smallest Museum in MN display case is located outside. Artist studios available for rent on third floor. www.thegrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or grand@thegrandnewulm.com.

Waseca Art Center, 200 N. State Street. Monthly exhibits and educational programs. Hours: Wed 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs.-Fri. 12 Noon-7 p.m. (507) 835-1701, www.wasecaartcenter.org, or info@wasecaartcenter.org.

College Galleries

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

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

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

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

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

Community Theaters

Curtain Call Theatre. Performances are held in different LeSueur County locations. www.curtaincalltheatre.net or (507) 744-8497.

Mankato Playhouse. 12 Civic Center Plaza Ste 1700, Mankato. www.mankatoplayhouse.com, (507) 317-1245 or (507) 338-5800.

Merely Players Community Theatre. Performances at Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (info@merelyplayersmn.org, www.merelyplayers.com or (507) 388-5483.

Springfield Community Theatre. Performances are held at the Springfield High School. (507) 723-6315, go to "Springfield Community Theatre, Springfield, MN" on Facebook.

State Street Theater Company. Performances at their building, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990, info@statestreetnewulm.org, www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

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



**In FY 2021 Prairie Lakes
awarded 196 Grants
totaling \$387,239**

Here's a summary of Grants awarded:

\$52,500 - McKnight Artist Grants (35 grants)

\$79,309 - State General funds (24 grants)
Small Arts Project & School Grants

\$255,430 - Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH)
(137 grants); 29 organizational grants & 108
Youth Scholarships.

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

- (1) Arts Programming/Arts Access \$213,552, which includes grants to 27 nonprofit arts organizations and community groups, for their arts programs and activities.
- (2) Arts Education \$41,878, which includes 2 school grants and 108 Youth Scholarships of \$300 or \$200 each.
- (3) Arts & Cultural Heritage Festivals \$0; most community festivals were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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