



February 16-19, 2021

Join your fellow arts advocates from across Minnesota to create action for the arts.

Minnesota's premiere arts gathering has moved online! You are needed to help "rally the troupes," recognize this community's resilience, and make our voice heard at the State Capitol.

With your action – online and as part of Zoom calls with legislators – we can help legislators understand the importance of the arts to guarantee funding at this critical time. We may be at our own computers this year, but we can still connect and work together to advance our community. (And hey, we won't need to worry about the annual Advocacy Day snowstorm!)

"Arts Action Week helps to preserve our Legacy Amendment and state grant funds," noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director.

Register Now and Find out More at:

<http://artsmn.org/act/events/arts-advocacy-day/>

Link to the google doc registration form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe94IEkU8etMdIcPy_T68li_sM05IkWbITZ4oP3yuiufkhSeg/viewform

Please register with MCA to attend Arts Advocacy Day and help protect the arts funding you love.

We are requesting that arts folks also contact the PLRAC office to register with us at plrac@hickorytech.net.



Brenda Byron,
PLRAC Executive
Director

We will be scheduling our own Zoom meetings for the 9-county area and we need to have a person from each district take part in their legislator's Zoom meeting coordinated by Prairie Lakes.

Arts Action Week Schedule:

February 16th – 8:30 a.m. Opening Rally webinar to learn the "Message of the Day", celebrate arts supportive legislators and hear from other special guests.

9:30 a.m. Creative MN: Facts & figures to make your case.

10:00 a.m. First time advocate training.

February 16th-19th Legislative Zoom calls as scheduled. (Meetings will be scheduled from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

Small Arts Grants Are Available for Arts & Cultural Activities and Have Been Awarded to 4 Organizations

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has Arts grants available for Arts & Cultural Activities and BIPOC led Arts Initiatives in the 9-county area of southern Minnesota. The purpose of our Arts Grant is 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. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts activities, and public art projects.

“Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our PLRAC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement. This includes: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), Economically Disadvantaged, Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+,” noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director.

The next Small Arts Grant deadlines are March 1, and April 1, 2021. Applicants will now be allowed to receive more than one grant per fiscal year and projects must be completed within one year of the awarding of the grant. Please contact Brenda Byron at the PLRAC office to discuss your project idea at plrac@hickorytech.net.

The Small Arts Project Grants are made possible by funds provided by the Minnesota State Legislature and can be awarded for up to \$4,000. No cash match is required. To create more flexibility for arts organizations and community groups to apply for a grant the Prairie Lakes board has increased the Small Arts Community Project Grant maximum from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

A variety of activities including **virtual events** and in-person events are being funded. Due to COVID-19 all organizations must plan for events that include social distancing and wearing masks; and they are required to follow the Governor’s Stay Safe Plan and the MN Department of Health’s recommendations. The three organizations that were awarded grants in December are:

2B Continued - \$4,000. They are a nonprofit organization that promotes mental health and wellness through community outreach. They will offer Free virtual dance lessons for community members 50 years and older living independently or in congregate housing settings, and also for families with school aged children, led by professional dance instructors (Danny Ross of Henderson RoadHaus and Andrea Mirinda of Heart of Dance). The virtual lessons will begin February 2021 and be coupled with mental wellness, including self-confidence, resilience and teamwork. Funds will be used for artist fees, publicity, and salary.

Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - \$4,000. They will produce two Broadway Teen productions and workshops for grades 6-12 in Mankato in Spring/Summer 2021. Students will gain knowledge, training, and experience in musical theater. Funds will be used for director and technician stipends, royalties, publicity, etc.

Open Arts Minnesota - \$4,000. Open Arts Minnesota provides inclusive theatrical and literary opportunities for people with disabilities. With this grant, they will offer virtual theatre and poetry workshops and rehearsals in Fairmont, New Ulm and Mankato/North Mankato and several other communities. Funds will be used for staff time and a website update. Funds will also be used to create a technology lending library with the purchase of Tablets. These Tablets will be lent to people who do not have access to such technology so they can participate in the activities. Virtual programming began in Jan. 2021.

South Central Service Cooperative - \$3,500. They will sponsor the SCSC Writing Contest for students in grades K-12 to express themselves through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. The 2020–21 theme is “Defining Moments”, significant events or decisions that influence the future. It could be personal or a larger historical event. Funds will be used to suspend all entry fees so students can participate for free. Funds will also be used to create an anthology of the student’s work.



Small Arts Project Grants Available at \$4,000

The Small Arts Community Project Grant has been increased to **\$4,000 maximum** and there is no cash match required.

The purpose of the Small Arts Project grant is to provide funding for 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. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts activities, and public art projects. 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.

Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, and cuts to our State Arts funding Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will prioritize funding arts organizations so they can survive and adapt. Funds may be used to develop or deliver ways of meaningfully engaging students, participants, or audiences during the pandemic and after. This arts programming may be online or through virtual activities and events.

Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our PLRAC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement on page 3 of the newsletter. This includes: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), Economically Disadvantaged, Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+.

Small Arts Project Community Grants have increased to \$4,000 and no cash match is required. We are interested in receiving new applications for arts projects for cultural activities and/or underserved populations. The arts council encourages innovative programming and growth.

- **Update: Applicants will now be allowed to receive more than one grant per fiscal year** and projects must be completed within one year of the awarding of the grant.
- 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 individuals not familiar with the application, groups are asked to answer the following questions.

Project Description for the Small Arts Project

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. Please explain your planning process during this challenging time of COVID-19. How will you be doing things differently?
4. How will you implement “social distancing”, having participants and audiences wear masks and addressing the capacity restrictions for in-door and out-door arts activities? Please provide details.

Arts Access activities that plan to reach new audiences and engage the public in new ways should also think about Equity and Inclusion.

Within the context of your community, describe how your project identifies and proactively addresses barriers to engaging historically marginalized, targeted, and underserved people and identities that may otherwise have limited access to your proposed activity.”

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?

Small Arts Grant Credit Line. This activity is made possible by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is creating their first Equity Taskforce in 2021

At our Prairie Lakes board meeting in November 2020 the council made some minor updates to the PLRAC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement listed below. They also identified equity and inclusion action steps for the year. One of them is to create our first Equity Taskforce.

The **Equity Taskforce** will be made up of community members who represent an “underserved community”, BIPOC, or a Person with a Disability and/or LGBTQ+; and have an interest in building relationships and increasing Arts Access in their community.

The **Equity Taskforce** will meet with the PLRAC Staff and Executive Committee members and provide feedback on our policies, grant guidelines, and applications as it pertains to Equity and Inclusion, through a series of Zoom meetings in February and March 2021.

The goal of the Taskforce is to meet and make suggestions on how Prairie Lakes can adjust our systems and processes to break barriers and bridge gaps that underserved communities have in participating with us and our services. A stipend will be paid to Taskforce members. Prairie Lakes recognizes we can build increased connectivity and economic strength through supporting cultural and artistic expression of all social identities including race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic background, and the intersectionality of these identities.

In January, six individuals volunteered to serve on the Taskforce. They will begin by reviewing Prairie Lakes policies, grant guidelines, and applications as it pertains to Equity and Inclusion. Their suggestions will be shared with the PLRAC Board and may result in changes to our grant guidelines and programs.

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

Approved April 2019 and updated November 2020.

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 and economic strength 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:

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

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.

State Arts Board Funding is Awarded to 23 Artists in Region 9

A total of \$136,143 has been Awarded to 23 Artists from the Prairie Lakes Region by the Minnesota State Arts Board in their Creative Support Grant Program for Artists this Fall.



Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is happy to announce that a total of \$136,143 has been awarded to twenty-three artists in our region from the MN State Arts Board's Creative Support for Artists grant program, noted Brenda Byron. I have been listening to the MSAB meetings the last few months. Below is a list of the artist grantee information PLRAC collected. A majority of the artists received the maximum of \$6,000.

Marie MacPherson	Mankato
April Malphurs	St. Peter
Natalie Martell	Mankato
Christopher McCormick	Mankato
Ashley Richardson	Mankato
Richard Robbins	Mankato
Patti Ruskey	Mankato
Patrick Ryan	Mankato
David Sandersfeld	North Mankato
Colin Scharf	Mankato
Nicholas Schleif	Comfrey
Gregory Wilkins	Mankato
Amanda Wirig	Mankato

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Home Town:</u>
Boatema Agyeman-Mensah	Waseca
Michael Asmus	Gaylord
Tom D. Barna	Eagle Lake
Shelley Caldwell	Delavan
Kirstin Cronn-Mills	North Mankato
Andrea Gehrke	New Ulm
Leslea Gooden	Kiester
David Hamlow	Good Thunder
Benji Inniger	North Mankato
Teresa Konechne	Henderson

These additional State funds from the MN State Arts Board awarded into the 9-county region that Prairie Lakes serves is wonderful! **In FY 2021, Prairie Lakes awarded \$52,500 in grants to 35 artists with funds from the McKnight Foundation, noted Brenda Byron.**

These MSAB grants were awarded in November and December of 2020 and January of 2021. A total of 566 applications were submitted for the three fall deadlines. There were 464 applications funded, or 82%, for a total of \$2,702,106 to artists statewide.

FY 2021 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL GRANTS

*These State grants were awarded August 2020 through January 2021.

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

- Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - \$4,000
- Deep Valley Book Festival, virtual author talks - \$1,400
- GSR Fine Art Festival, virtual artist gallery - \$2,000
- Open Arts Minnesota, virtual theater - \$4,000

NORTH MANKATO COUNTY

- South Central Service Cooperative, youth writing - \$3,500

SIBLEY COUNTY

- 2B Continued, virtual dance classes - \$4,000

WASECA COUNTY

- American Indian Service Learning Project - \$1,800
- Waseca Marching Classic, band critiques - \$1,980

State Arts Board Funding is Awarded to Arts Organizations in Region 9

A total of \$220,400 has been Awarded to 17 Arts Organizations from the Prairie Lakes Region by the Minnesota State Arts Board in their Creative Support Grant Program for Organizations this Fall.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is happy to announce that a total of \$220,400 has been awarded to seventeen organizations in our region from the Minnesota State Arts Board's Creative Support for Organizations grant program. "I was very pleased to listen to the MSAB meeting on December 2, 2020 to hear which organizations were funded from our region in this program," noted Brenda Byron. It was the second group of grantees in the Creative Support program, and there were two deadlines in the fall.



Summit Avenue Music Series in New Ulm received \$8,000, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm received \$7,300, and the Deep Valley Book Festival of Mankato received \$5,000. These grants were awarded in October and December of 2020.

Four additional organizations have applied for a \$15,000 Creative Support for Organizations grant and will find out if they received it in March of 2021. These organizations include Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse; the La Grande Bande music group from Gaylord; Mankato Children's Chorus; and the Waseca Arts Council. We are hopeful that these organizations will also be funded.

"When we heard about the new program by the MN State Arts Board, I immediately began sharing the information with our arts organizations", noted Byron. We had already been in contact with arts groups regarding the PLRAC grant deadlines in August, so I was able to encourage our groups to apply, noting that this would be a great opportunity for them to receive up to \$15,000. I am very pleased that individuals from those groups took the extra time to apply for the State Arts Board grant. For this new grant, the application form had been simplified but the quick turnaround time to submit it was an issue for organizations that were just trying to reorganize and survive during this difficult time of COVID-19.

Here is a summary of the arts grantee information PLRAC collected. Eleven groups were awarded \$15,000 and include DalekoArts in New Prague; Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota, Mankato; the Fairmont Opera House; Mankato and North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's for the Singing Hills Chorus; Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra; the Mankato Symphony Orchestra; Martin County Preservation Association, Red Rock Center for the Arts in Fairmont; Merely Players Community Theater of Mankato; Open Arts Minnesota in Mankato; State Street Theater Company in New Ulm; and Twin Rivers Council for the Arts in Mankato. The Mankato Ballet Company received \$13,100, the Arts Center of Saint Peter received \$12,000, and Project GEM of Pemberton received \$10,000. The

These additional State funds from the MN State Arts Board awarded into the 9-county region that Prairie Lakes serves, is wonderful! It will tremendously help our arts organizations at this difficult time and provide more resources. Prairie Lakes is limited in the State Arts funding that we receive annually, and it is based primarily on the population in our region. Therefore, larger regions that include larger cities like Duluth, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Rochester and St. Cloud receive a lot more funding than our region. In our last fiscal year, FY 2020, Prairie Lakes awarded \$163,500 in grants to twenty-five organizations in the fall. In the spring we awarded \$117,050 to twenty organizations, which totaled \$280,550 to forty-five organizations. Also, last year in FY 2020 we awarded forty-six grants in the Small Arts grant program to arts and community groups, and schools totaling \$83,379 from our State funds.

So, in FY 2020 we funded 91 organizations to produce or sponsor a variety of arts activities (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). Prairie Lakes anticipates awarding a slightly smaller amount of arts grants and money in FY 2021, since we received a 14% cut in our Arts and Cultural Heritage funding. Also, several arts organizations are carrying over their FY 2020 Arts and Cultural Heritage grant and arts programming into FY 2021, which is spring/summer 2021 when it may be safe to gather people together again for an arts performance or activity; and therefore, may not be applying for another grant this year.

Prairie Lakes Provides Overview on how the COVID-19 shut down has affected Art Centers and Arts Organizations - March to Dec. 2020

As you may know, many arts organizations closed their doors for several weeks due to COVID-19 in March – April 2020. Their staff and boards had to meet and decide how they could survive under these circumstances. They needed to determine if they had the capability to do their programming virtually, since it was not safe to do in-person arts events. **Prairie Lakes contacted organizations and offered to help and discuss the transition arts groups could make through a few Zoom meetings.** This assisted groups in knowing that they were not alone in this situation, and other arts groups in the nine-county area could learn from each other. There was discussion on how arts organizations can pivot or transition to do their arts programming differently and learn how to do digital programming and virtual arts activities. Several art centers were able to discuss how they planned to do online virtual programming, and start to showcase their monthly arts exhibitions by posting photos on their website or Facebook page, to stay connected with their arts audience and the public.

Arts organizations that own a building are in the most vulnerable position since they have monthly expenses whether the building is open or not for their arts programming. The loss of revenue to arts organizations has been devastating! There is a continuing concern that we don't know what percentage of people will be comfortable attending in-person activities due to the pandemic, so future ticket sales for theater and music performances, and buying art at a local art center may be a lot less.

How Has Prairie Lakes Been Able to Assist Arts Organizations? Prairie Lakes has been assisting arts organizations by continuing our arts grant programs this fall. Our grant programs remain very similar to past years but now include questions about how arts groups will adapt to COVID-19 restrictions. Prairie Lakes has received a 15% cut in State Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) funding through the MN State Arts Board, and we have received approximately thirty-nine percent of our funding for the fiscal year. The State funds are being received and awarded incrementally, since our State funding is being provided to us in installments over several months.

It has been important for Prairie Lakes to get the funds out the door in grants as soon as possible to assist our arts

organizations who are in a difficult situation. The funding will help organizations survive and adapt at this time to cope with COVID-19 issues. We awarded ACH grants in August, September and October based on funds we currently have. These State funds are from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

In August, we awarded eight arts organizations Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) grants totaling \$83,000. In September we awarded nine arts organizations an ACH Arts grant totaling \$54,000; and in October we awarded three arts organizations an ACH Arts grant totaling \$17,130; for a **cumulative total of \$154,130.** Due to COVID-19 all organizations that received a grant from PLRAC must plan for events that include social distancing and wearing masks; and they are required to follow the Governor's Stay Safe Plan and the MN Department of Health's recommendations.

The Arts grants that PLRAC provided are for arts activities in all artistic disciplines. About **50%** of these arts activities will be **virtual events** and 50% **in-person** events. The virtual events may include art and literature classes, literary festival, visual art festival, art exhibitions shown virtually, music rehearsals for choirs done through Zoom, or joint music performances conducted through Zoom or another online platform. Small Theater performances and Instrumental music concerts have been videotaped and then shown online through YouTube, or other platforms. In-person events are planned for theater performances, art classes with limited capacity, Art exhibitions where people socially distance within the space, etc. Several arts groups are waiting until Spring 2021 to decide if their programming will need to be done virtually or if they can start to do in-person arts events.



PLRAC Grants are still Available

The next Small Arts Grant deadlines are March 1, and April 1, 2021 for up to \$4,000. Please contact Brenda Byron at the PLRAC office to discuss your project idea at plrac@hickorytech.net.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants of \$154,130 Awarded to Twenty Area Organizations

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) grants of \$154,130 were awarded to twenty arts organizations in the fall of 2020.

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 deadlines are February 1 and August 1, 2021. Organizations can apply once per year for this grant. Due to COVID-19 all organizations must plan for events that include social distancing and wearing masks; and they are required to follow the Governor's Stay Safe Plan and the MN Department of Health's recommendations.

The organizations are listed alphabetically. The grants are for **virtual events** and in-person arts activities in all artistic disciplines.

Arts and Heritage Center, Montgomery - \$5,130.

Arts Center of Saint Peter - \$11,000.

DalekoArts, New Prague - \$11,000.

Davori Productions , Mankato Playhouse - \$6,000.

Fairmont Opera House - \$11,000.

La Grande Bande - \$6,000.

Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra - \$6,000.

Mankato Children's Chorus - \$6,000.

Mankato Makerspace - \$6,000.

Mankato/North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's - \$6,000.

**Martin Co. Preservation, Association
(Red Rock Center for the Arts, Fairmont)** - \$11,000.

Merely Players Community Theatre, Mankato - \$11,000.

Minnesota Valley Chorale - \$6,000.

Project G.E.M. - \$6,000.

South Central Service Cooperative - \$6,000.

State Street Theater Company, New Ulm - \$11,000.

Summit Avenue Music Series - \$6,000.

Twin Rivers Council for the Arts - \$6,000.

Waseca Arts Council - \$11,000.

Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System - \$6,000.



FY 2021 Prairie Lakes Remaining Funds to Award

Here's a summary of Grant funds available through June 2021.

Small Arts Project Grants - \$57,320
Deadlines are March 1, April 1, and May 1, 2021

Our new fiscal year, FY 2022 will begin on July 1, 2021 with new funding.

108 Area Students were Awarded Youth Art Scholarships for a total of \$27,300

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that scholarships of \$27,300 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 and 51 students in grades 3-6 throughout the region. Students in grades 7-12 receive \$300 and grades 3-6 receive \$200. The Youth Scholarships will provide these students the opportunity to study their chosen art with a practicing professional artist by taking lessons over a period of months. A variety of lessons in cello, dance, guitar, organ, piano, percussion, string bass, theater, trumpet, viola, violin, and visual art will be provided.

“Youth Scholarship recipients live in twenty-three 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 in Waseca, Dance Conservatory of Southern MN in Mankato, Mankato Ballet Company, and Spotlight Dance Company in Mankato; music lessons at Gustavus Adolphus College

Piano Lab School, Mankato School of Music, and New Ulm Suzuki School of Music; visual art lessons at Waseca Art Center; participation in Mankato Area 77 Lancers Marching Band, and Mankato Playhouse. Many independent music and art instructors throughout the area will also be providing lessons for these students.



The next deadline for Youth Scholarships, grades 7-12, is October 1, 2021.

The next deadline for grades 3-6, is November 1, 2021.

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.



The \$300 Youth Scholarship Recipients from grades 7-12 live in twelve different communities representing six counties. The \$200 Youth Scholarship Recipients from grades 3-6 live in eighteen different communities representing seven counties. Refer to page 10 for complete lists of students by County.

Thinking about applying? Students should remember to answer their application questions with several sentences in a paragraph answer. In general, students scored higher in the review process if they provided more detailed answers to the questions.

- Students in grades 7-12 must be participating with an instructor, an organization or arts discipline for at least 2 years to be eligible.
- Students in grades 3-6 must be participating for at least one year to be eligible.
- Both age groups require an online **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher as part of their application. It should describe goals and outcomes for the students learning during the time period of the scholarship, which may cover several months.

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 12 different communities, representing six counties.

Blue Earth County - \$4,500

Mankato: Colin Besel, Eli Blace, Ella Blace, Sadie Blace, Eleanor Coons-Ruskey, Mollie Kelly, Grace MacPherson, Rose MacPherson, Addison Maxfield, Caden Oleson, Landon Willaert, Nicholas Willaert

Eagle Lake: Aiden Wersal, Madeline Wersal, Xavier Wersal

Brown County - \$4,500

Comfrey: Grace Goedtke, Paul Goedtke

New Ulm: Joshua Carlovsky, Owen Dunkel, Evelyn Friese, Emily Guggisberg, Leah Menzel, Lydia Meyer, Isaiah Smith, Sebastian Smith, Bethany Spike, Karlee Stocker

Sleepy Eye: Gunval Coulson, Nora Coulson, Kayla Schroepfer

LeSueur County - \$900

Waterville: Kaleb Schmidt

Rural Henderson: Joseph Fixsen

Rural St. Peter: Julie Weber

Nicollet County - \$3,600

North Mankato: Gavin Holmes, Marco Jakovich, Sasha Jakovich, Sydney Johnson, Kirsten Sims

St. Peter: Micah Horak, Anna Klatt, Laura Klatt, Alexa Rassbach, Eli Stoll, Rhian Velasquez

Rural New Ulm: Rory Juberien

Sibley County - \$1,500

Gaylord: William Schulte

Henderson: Alexander Davig, Sophia Davig, Lauren Menne, Matthew Menne

Watonwan County - \$2,100

Madelia: Karl Davis

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

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 18 different communities, representing seven counties.

Blue Earth County - \$1,800

Mankato: Luke Blace, Brynn Evans, Evie Johnson, Lucy Kelly, Newman MacPherson, Price MacPherson, Madelyn Wentz, Noah Wentz, Brea Willaert

Brown County - \$2,800

Comfrey: Clara Goedtke

Hanska: Andrew Makela, Jonathan Makela

New Ulm: Elizabeth Borgen, Eden Carlovsky, Nathaniel Carlovsky, Judah Guenther, Amelia Hermanson, Jonah Hermanson, Jamis Martens, Levi Martens, Gabriella Smith, Ezra Spike, Ainsley Tess

LeSueur County - \$800

LeSueur: Clara Roby, Gabriel Roby

Rural St. Peter: Molli Weber, William Weber

Nicollet County - \$2,200

Lafayette: Avery Fischer

North Mankato: Andree Jakovich, Paizyl Pribyl

St. Peter: Noah Horak, Abram Madson, Adela Madson, Hugh Madson, Julia Nienow, Anya Stoll, Micah Stoll, Owen Winkelmann

Sibley County - \$1,000

Gibbon: Estella Ortiz

Henderson: Liam Menne

Winthrop: Gordon Matzke, Marion Matzke, Natalie Matzke

Waseca County - \$600

Janesville: Stella Ziemke

New Richland: Alexis Olson

Waseca: Ava Trumbull

Watonwan County - \$1,000

Butterfield: Adyson Steinle

Lewisville: Adriel Martinez

St. James: Levi Christensen, Katelyn Runge

Rural Truman: Carolyn Groskreutz

PLRAC Board Position from Fairmont is Open

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has one vacant position on the Board for a representative from the **City of Fairmont**.

The deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 15. Interested persons residing in this area should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board. **We will email you a Board Application and a list of responsibilities.**

This is a great opportunity to understand the workings of the granting process, to be more involved with the arts and artists of our region, and to enjoy camaraderie with others who appreciate the arts. The Council seeks to appoint people who represent a cross-section of art forms as well as various arts perspectives: Artists, teachers, and representatives of arts organizations. 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 and visual arts. **We are especially seeking board members who have experience in cultural arts, dance, or music.**

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. Due to COVID-19, the monthly meetings have

been conducted as online meetings and will continue virtually until further notice. 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 Carol Soma
 LeSueur County Larry Pint
 Martin County Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerence
 Nicollet County Rita Rassbach
 Sibley County Teresa Konechne
 Waseca County Karen Krause
 Watonwan County Steve Davis
 City of Fairmont Open
 City of Mankato Diana Joseph
 City of New Ulm Ginny Walters
 City of North Mankato Dana Sikkila
 City of St. Peter April Malphurs

Staff

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

FY 2021 Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Board of Directors and Staff



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

Prairie Lakes' Office Update

The Prairie Lakes office is open. Please contact us by email at plrac@hickorytech.net if you have any questions about our grant programs. We would be happy to assist you. We are committed to assisting artists and arts organizations in our region as we respond to the COVID-19 health situation.

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

Governor Walz is continuing the Stay Safe order. Arts groups should anticipate that the “**social distancing**” guidelines will continue and this may impact your arts activities, and your planning.

Regardless of the venue or gathering, all staff and participants should maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between households, cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, and stay home if sick. Face coverings are required whenever one is gathering or in a setting with others from outside their household.

Face coverings help slow the spread of COVID-19 by helping to keep the person wearing the covering from infecting others. Evidence suggests that the virus causing COVID-19 can be spread by droplets released from the nose and throat of an infected person when they cough, sneeze, sing, speak, or breathe, even if the infected person is not showing symptoms.

The FY 2021 Prairie Lakes grant applications include this information.

- Due to COVID-19 applicants must plan for events that include “social distancing” and you are required to follow the Governor’s Stay Safe Plan and the Minnesota Department of Health’s recommendations. Applicants must submit a Reopening and COVID-19 Plan.
- No projects or arts activities can take place that risk the health of the participants or audience.

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

New Details for the Minnesota COVID-19 Response:
<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>

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

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

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

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

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

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

<http://artsmn.org/coronavirus/>

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

COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources.

<https://covid19freelanceartistresource.wordpress.com/>

For information on unemployment insurance:

<https://www.uimn.org/applicants/needtoknow/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

Help slow the spread



Wear a mask



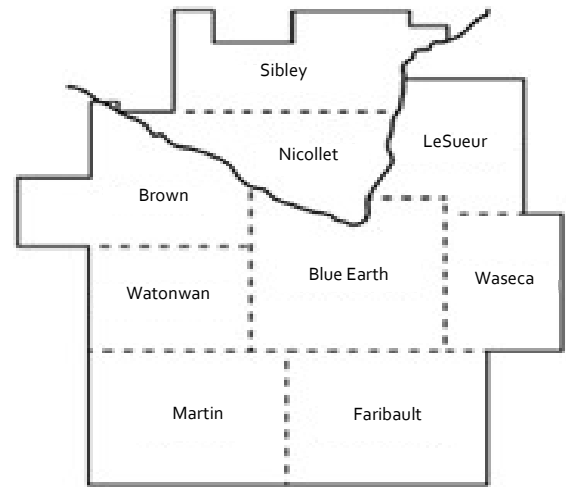
Wash or sanitize
your hands often



Stay 6 feet
from others

mn.gov/covid19

STAY SAFE MN



FY 2021 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant
Deadlines are: Aug. 1, Sept. 1 and Feb. 1

Due to the current COVID-19 health situation, and anticipated cuts to our State Arts funding Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will 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 and visual arts. Our priority for the coming year will be to help arts organizations survive and adapt.

ACH Large Arts Organization Stability Grant. Arts Programming/Access – maximum \$11,000. **Deadline: August 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021.** 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.

ACH Arts Project Grant. Arts Programming/Access – maximum request \$6,000. **Deadline: September 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021.** No specific cash match is required.

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.

ACH Arts & Music Festivals Grant. Maximum request \$4,000. **Deadline: September 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021.** 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 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.



Small Arts Project Community Grant

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Grants may be \$4,000. Fundable activities include: arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **Deadline: August 1, and the 1st of each month until May 2021.**

School Arts Project Grant

Grants are for **schools K-12 public and private.** Matching grants up to \$2,000 are available to fund Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. Cash match is 10%. **Deadline: August 1, and the 1st of each month until May 2021.**

Artist Development Grant

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

Deadline: June 1, 2020

Earliest start date: August 1, 2020

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

All PLRAC Grant Applications are Online.

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



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

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

Grant Guidelines & Applications are available

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, monthly newsletters and arts calendar, helpful links, & more!



FY 2021 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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

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

Small Arts Project - \$4,000 & School Arts Project - \$2,000

1st of the Month Deadline
Aug. 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021

Youth Scholarship Grades 7-12 - \$300

October 1 Deadline

Youth Scholarship Grades 3-6 - \$200

November 1 Deadline

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Large Arts Organization Stability -
\$11,000. Aug 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

Arts Project - \$6,000

Sept. 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

Arts Festivals - \$4,000

Sept. 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

Artist Development Grant - \$1,500

June 1, 2020
Deadline

All available FY 2021 grant applications are online.

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

Learning about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Arts

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

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

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

Therefore, a few new questions are being asked about Equity and Inclusion in our grant applications if an organization's project is to provide Access to the event. These questions encourage applicants to think broadly and plan intentionally to reach more people through their arts programming and activities. Arts Access activities that plan to reach new audiences and engage the public in new ways, should also think about Equity and Inclusion.



Within the context of your community, describe how your project identifies and proactively addresses barriers to engaging historically marginalized, targeted, and underserved people and identities that may otherwise have limited access to your proposed activity.

Examples might include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Due to COVID-19, these events are subject to change. Please contact the organization in advance.

Feb. 1-12 Brandon Lutterman's "Stewardship" Exhibit of a menagerie of animals represented in ceramic sculpture and monumental scale drawing. Held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center Gallery, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. Contact the gallery for open hours and COVID-19 restrictions. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

Feb. 1-19 "Enchanted Castles of Europe" Exhibit of the Danbury Mint collection by Terry and Ellie Sveine. 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.

***Feb. 1-April 30** The 2020 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

Feb. 2-26 Edward Curtis' Photography Exhibit, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat. 12 noon-5 p.m. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

***Feb. 3-27** Reed White's Exhibit of new portraits and paintings. Visitors need to wear masks and observe social distancing. Gallery occupancy will be limited to 10 people at a time. 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.

***Feb. 3-March 5** Deerek Meier's Exhibit in the Window Gallery; Areca Roe's Exhibit in the Great Hall Gallery; and Wednesday Art Adventurers' Exhibit in the Beckmann Gallery. Masks are required. 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. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

***Feb. 3-March 25** Shelley Caldwell's "Sumptuous Shadows" Exhibit. All patrons, staff and volunteers are required to wear a mask. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Feb. 4-14 Joel Iverson's "My Bicycle" Painting Exhibit. Masks and social distancing are required. Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Thurs. 3-6 p.m., Fri. 2-6 p.m., and Sat. 3-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.



***Feb. 4-20** Handicrafts and Hobbies Exhibit, a display of work by local people. 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.

***Feb. 9** Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts virtual Lunchbox Entertainment the first Tuesday of each month at 12 noon. This month will feature a variety of speeches by three Fairmont High School Speech Team members. Watch their Facebook page for the YouTube link each month. Sponsored by Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.

Feb. 10-20 71st Annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival. **Feb. 10-12:** ice sculpting. **Feb. 13:** parade at 12 Noon and fireworks after sunset. **Feb. 20:** Winter Charm on the Farm at Farmamerica with horse drawn wagon rides, snow painting, snowshoe trails, and more. Winter Charm tickets \$10 at the door, \$5 in advance. For more information go to www.sleighandcutterfestival.org.

Feb. 11 Virtual author visit by novelist William Kent Krueger, 6-7:30 p.m. Contact the library for the Zoom login information. Sponsored by North Mankato Taylor Library. www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary or (507) 345-5120.

Feb. 12 The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with Nate Boots, performing his original music, 7-8:30 p.m. To view the live shows, subscribe to The Grand's YouTube channel at www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube. Sponsored by the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Feb. 12-14 Mankato Playhouse presents dinner theatre performances of "Five Course Love". Friday, Saturday, and Sunday dinner seating at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday lunch seating at 12:30 p.m., show at 2 p.m. Table for 2 for \$40-\$96, table for 4 for \$80-\$192, table for 6 for \$150-\$288, depending on meal choice, tickets available at www.mankatoplayhouse.com. Due to social distancing guidelines, only 21 tables are available for purchase for each show. Empty seats at a sold table will not be sold to another guest and table price is not reduced if all seats are not filled. 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. www.mankatoplayhouse.com or (507) 508-6539.



Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Due to COVID-19, these events are subject to change. Please contact the organization in advance.

Feb. 13 The Southern Minnesota Poets Society will host a virtual event with poet Kay McClendon, 1-3 p.m. The event will be held on Zoom. Visit their Facebook page for the Zoom link, Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 345-1174 or www.southernmnpoets.org.

Feb. 14 "Adventures of Thin Man Valentine's Day" Radio Show. The link to the virtual show will be posted online and will be available to view for 3 months. 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.

Feb. 15-April 18 Gwen Westerman's Quilts and Poems Exhibit. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Request an appointment to visit the museum as a guest, at hillstrom@gustavus.edu. All visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing. (507) 933-7200 or <https://gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom/exhibitions.php>.



Feb. 17-21 & 24-28 "Sense & Sensibility" theater production, Feb. 17-20 & 24-27 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 20, 21, 27 & 28 at 2 p.m. \$17, all tickets are general admission and must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.msutheatre.com or (507) 389-6661. This season may be adjusted due to COVID-19, please confirm your tickets before attending.

Feb. 18-21 "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" theater performance, Feb. 18-20 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Contact the Theatre Department for COVID-19 requirements. Held at Anderson Theatre, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. www.gac.edu or (507) 933-7353.

Feb. 19-March 7 Annual Juried Exhibition. (Online Reception and Awards, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.) Masks and social distancing are required. Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.

Feb. 20 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Music On The Hill, Virtual Chamber Music Concert "Not Even Clouds", 7 p.m. Watch for free the symphony's Facebook page or at www.mankatosymphony.org. (507) 625-8880 or www.mankatosymphony.org.

Feb. 25 Good Thunder Reading Series featuring fiction writer Chris McCormick and poet Michael Torres. Craft talk from 3-4 p.m. and reading from 7:30-8:30 p.m.; All events will be virtual on Zoom. Go to <https://gt.mnsu.edu/this-years-events/creative-writing-faculty/> for access. Events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by MN State University, Mankato. <http://gt.mnsu.edu/> or (507) 389-1354.

Feb. 25 The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with Bill and Kate Isles, performing original music, 7-8:30 p.m. To view the live shows, subscribe to The Grand's YouTube channel at www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube. Sponsored by the Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.



***Feb. 25-May 15** School Art Show, artwork by area elementary, middle, and high school students will be on display. Dates will be divided up between schools. 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. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

Feb. 26-April 23 "The Stacked Deck" Exhibit by Clay Schuldt. Held in the Smallest Museum in Minnesota display case, outside The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

March 6-7 The Deep Valley Book Festival will host a two-day "Cabin Fever Edition" virtual festival. Programs begin at 9:30 a.m. each day. The festival will be facilitated on Zoom. Watch their website to view daily schedules and for registration information. www.deepvalleybookfestival.com or julie@mnheritage.com.



***2B Continued** will offer Free virtual dance lessons for community members 50 years and older living independently or in congregate housing settings, and also for families with school aged children, led by professional dance instructors (Danny Ross of Henderson RoadHaus and Andrea Miranda of Heart of Dance). The virtual lessons will begin February 2021 and be coupled with mental wellness, including self-confidence, resilience and teamwork. Registration is required. For more information contact: <https://2bcontinued.org/>, info@2bcontinued.org or (507) 381-4082.



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.)

Due to COVID-19, these events are subject to change. Please contact the organization in advance.

***DalekoArts** in New Prague found a new way to bring theatre into homes with “Daleko Home Invasion”! It is a series of curated theatrical events released four times during DalekoArts’ 2020-21 season. Each box will offer curated content over a 2-3 month time period, each containing between 10-15 experiential events and curated materials for audience members to watch, participate in, and enjoy with members of the DalekoArts team. Subscription cost is \$5 per person, per month. Sign up at <https://dalekoarts.com/dhi> or by calling (952) 314-9077.

***GSR Fine Art Festival** in Mankato continues as a virtual gallery to purchase local artists’ work. Search their ShopART gallery at: <https://shopart.gsrfineartfestival.com>

*Enjoy videos of **La Grande Bande’s** “Season At Home Series” by becoming a Sustainer of the organization. Sustainer levels start at \$5 per month and go up to \$39 per month. Different levels have different benefits! Sign up at <https://lagrandebande.org/supportus/sustainingcontributorbenefits/> (507) 995-7086.

Youth Opportunities

Feb. 6 Valentine’s Day Camp for Kids, 9 a.m.-12 Noon, \$40. Create unique cards, screen printed bags or t-shirts, and other Valentine’s Day gifts. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Feb. 11 Family Valentine Card Making, 6-7:30 p.m., \$20 per household. Create a mechanical Valentine card in this virtual class. A simple supply list and Zoom link will be emailed to participants after registration. Sponsored by the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Feb. 22 Paint Dip Class, 6-7 p.m., ages 12+ or a family. Virtually, learn a new paint dip technique with a Tree Ring Art artist. The library will provide all needed supplies, including a link to connect with a Tree Ring Art professional. Registration required beginning on Feb. 16. You must be able to pick up a kit between 10 and 5 on Feb. 22. Sponsored by the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

Feb. 22-26 Yarn Macrame Wall Hanging for Tweens and Teens, free. This will be a take and make craft at home. All materials will be provided. Registration is required, you will pick three colors when you register. Contact the library for pickup times. Sponsored by North Mankato Taylor Library. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

***Feb.** Register for South Central Service Cooperative’s Young Writers & Artists Conference for grades 3-8, to be held virtually March 1-12. Live and pre-recorded sessions in writing and fine arts will inspire youth to pursue passions in artistic endeavors. A brochure of sessions and registration will be available in February. Attend one or more than 40 sessions for one low price! Visit www.mnscsc.org/ywac online for more information. Sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative. <http://www.mnscsc.org>, mhillmann@mnscsc.org, or (952) 715-8745.



Adult Opportunities

***Feb. 4-April 22** The Singing Hills Chorus is holding its "Here Come the Sun" spring season on Zoom. Social time is from 9:30-10 a.m. Rehearsal is from 10-11 a.m. The chorus is made up of people with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias and their care partners. The chorus is accepting new "singing duets." A duet is a person living with Alzheimer's or a related dementia and a family member or friend. Registration and details are available at www.singinghillschorus.org. Rehearsal and practice CDs provided. A spring concert will be planned. (507) 519-0626 or www.singinghillschorus.org.

***Feb. 10-March 3** Mixed-Medium Stitching: Exploring Free-Form Embroidery Class. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Experiment with aspects of needle point by incorporating additional mediums into our projects. Basic embroidery skills required. Provide your own floss, hoop, and needles. \$40, classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

**Arts Event Happening
in Your Area?**

**Please submit the event information
to us by the 15th of the prior month
to be included in an upcoming
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.)

Due to COVID-19, these events are subject to change. Please contact the organization in advance.

***Feb. 8-March 1 Knitting Skill Builder Class.** Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Join us for this skill building course that will cover basics in the areas of cables, lace stitches, increases/decreases and other intermediate knitting skills. Basic knitting skills required. Provide your own needles and yarn. \$40, classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

***Feb. 9-March 2 Project Weaving Class.** Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Use skills to make two functional washcloths in a two-color pattern. Ample yarn and looms will be provided in advance, pre-warped. Basic table loom experience required. \$40, classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. www.artscentersp.org or (507) 931-3630.

Feb. 10-11 Entry Dates for the Annual Juried Exhibition, 3-6 p.m. both days. \$5 per piece, artists can enter up to 3 pieces. Exhibition Dates: Feb. 19-March 7; Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. www.the410project.com.



Feb. 12 Attention Music Teachers: The Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association meeting at 9 a.m. Program at 9:30-11 a.m., “Celebrating Teachers and Students”, come laugh, have fun, and relieve the stress of virtual lessons. Annual membership \$30, guests can attend a meeting free of charge. Due to COVID-19, meetings will be virtual. Contact the Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association for the meeting login information. (507) 514-3970 or www.mvmta.com.

***Feb. Mankato Makers Space** is offering art classes in ceramics, leather, glass work, metal sculpture, and more. Classes may have limited numbers of participants and other restrictions. Visit their website to view the list of classes. 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 anytime. Visit www.thegrandnewulm.com/smallest-museum-in-mn for more information. At 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm.


Grant Opportunities

***Feb. 1 PLRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant Deadline.** For arts organizations and festivals. \$6,000 available for arts organizations, \$4,000 for festivals. Prairie Lakes serves the 9-county region that includes Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan Counties. Application deadline is Feb. 1. Guidelines can be downloaded from www.plrac.org, along with a link to the online application. (800) 298-1254 or plrac@hickorytech.net.

Feb. 15 Jerome Emerging Artist Residency Program Deadline. The program aims to meet the specific needs of emerging artists while welcoming them into a supportive and inspiring residency environment. Selected emerging artists receive \$625/week in honoraria, plus documentation support, art-making resources, lodging & studio space, a travel stipend, and more. The residency takes place at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Red Wing, August 2021. Guidelines are available at www.andersoncenter.org. Applications must be submitted at www.theandersoncenter.submittable.com. Application deadline is Feb. 15. Contact Adam Wiltgen for more information: adam@andersoncenter.org or 651-388-2009 x4.

March 1 McKnight Fellowship in Book Arts Deadline. The McKnight Fellowship in Book Arts is administered by the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. It is intended to recognize and support mid-career book artists living and working in Minnesota to set aside time for study, reflection, opportunities, new projects, experimentation, and exploration. The fellowship includes: \$25,000 stipend, funding for professional digital documentation of artwork, studio visits, and travel. Application deadline is March 1. There will be an informational Zoom session about the application February 9th at 6 p.m. For more information go online to <https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/> or email terin@mnbookarts.org.

March 15 McKnight Media Artist Fellowship Deadline. FilmNorth administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and four \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to filmmakers, screenwriters, and other media artists. The goal is to find artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, and who are at a career stage beyond emerging. For more information go to <http://myfilmnorth.org/mcknight-fellowships-media-artists/>, (651) 644-1912, or emueller@myfilmnorth.org.



Note: Due to the Governor's Executive Order and COVID-19 these art centers and galleries may be closed, or have limited hours. Contact them for details.

Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

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

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

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

The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Thurs. 3-6 p.m., Fri. 2-6 p.m., and Sat. 3-6 p.m. the410project@hotmail.com or www.the410project.com.

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Music will be scheduled in-person as possible and virtually, promoted via our web site and social media. Gallery shows held monthly, with virtual slideshows online. Gallery and gift shop hours: Tues.- Fri. Noon-5 PM, office hours Tues.-Fri. 10-4 p.m. Artist studios available for rent on third floor of The Grand. www.thegrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or grand@thegrandnewulm.com.

Waseca Art Center, 200 N. State Street. Monthly exhibits, educational programs, weekly art appreciation discussions, and spring concert series. Gallery hours: Wed 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs.-Fri. 12 Noon-7 p.m. info@wasecaartcenter.org, www.wasecaartcenter.org, or (507) 835-1701.

College Galleries

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

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

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

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

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

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

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



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