



## Small Arts Grants Are Available for Arts & Cultural Activities and Have Been Awarded to 3 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 January 1, and February 1, 2021 and the Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant of \$6,000 is due on February 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](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net).

We are also pleased to announce that State arts grants of \$12,000 were awarded in December to three arts organizations. 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 Miranda 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 begins in Jan. 2021.



# 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?

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**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** would 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** would 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 periodically 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.

**Do you represent an underserved community and have an interest in building relationships and increasing Arts Access in your community?** Prairie Lakes is seeking artists, arts-leaders and/or culture-bearers from underserved communities in our 9-county region. These are stipend positions. If interested, please contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director by January 15, 2021 at [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net) or 1-800-298-1254.

## 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 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.



"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

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.

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 January 1, and February 1, 2021 for up to \$4,000 and the Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant of \$6,000 is due on February 1, 2021. Please contact Brenda Byron at the PLRAC office to discuss your project idea at [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto: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 deadline is February 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.

**Arts and Cultural Heritage - \$88,812**

Next deadline is February 1, 2021

**Small Arts Project Grants - \$60,820**

Deadlines are January 1, February 1, March 1, April 1, and May 1, 2021

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

# FY 2021 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL GRANTS

\*These State grants were awarded August-December 2020.

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

## 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



## What's new with the FY 2021 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant?

Brenda Byron, Executive Director

There are a few changes to the Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) Grant program this year, due to the current health situation, and cuts to our State Arts funding. Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will fund projects from non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations or an arts group using a fiscal sponsor that is producing an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, and visual art are eligible.

We are especially interested in funding arts projects that include historically marginalized and underserved groups such as: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), Economically Disadvantaged, Youth and Seniors, LGBTQ+ and People with Disabilities.

**Our priority for the coming year will be to help arts organizations survive and adapt.**

- 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.

[ACH Large Arts Organization Stability Grant, maximum \\$11,000.](#) Deadline: **February 1, 2021.**  
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, maximum \\$6,000.](#) Deadline: **February 1, 2021.**

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, publicity, equipment/technology, training, monthly rent and utilities.

[ACH Arts & Music Festivals Grant. Maximum \\$4,000.](#) Deadline: **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.

Please contact the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council office at [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net) if you have questions about this application and this information. We will be happy to discuss this with you and you can let us know what your arts groups specific circumstance is.

# 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 9 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

# Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Welcomes Two New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Diana Joseph and Ginny Walters have been appointed to the board to serve as the City of Mankato and the City of New Ulm representatives.

## Diana Joseph, Mankato.

Diana has a BA in English (Westminster College, PA) and an MFA in Creative Writing (Syracuse University). Originally from New Castle, PA, she moved to Minnesota in 2005. She is the author of the story collection *Happy or Otherwise* and the memoir *I'm Sorry You Feel That Way*. She teaches creative writing and humanities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She also serves on the board of Open Arts Minnesota, an area nonprofit that creates and fosters inclusive arts activities for people of diverse abilities and directs LitReach, a program that provides area community groups with creative writing workshops.



## Ginny Walters, New Ulm.

Ginny is the Associate Director of the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has lived in Minnesota since 2013, when she moved from her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. She has a B.S. degree in Secondary Education (Concentration: Language Arts) and M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Cincinnati. She has been a Racial Justice Conversation Facilitator for YWCA Mankato and has been on their Women's Leadership Advisory Council since 2019. She has led book discussions focused on racial justice with New Ulm Forward and currently serves on the Missions Team at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in New Ulm.

"We are pleased to have Diana and Ginny join the Prairie Lakes board", noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director.

In visiting with Diana about her role as a board member of Open Arts Minnesota, she described her participation in one of the organization's activities, "Thursday Theatre Gathering of Friends." This weekly Zoom meeting is attended by members of Open Arts' three inclusive theatre groups: Aktion Club Theatre of Mankato, Aktion Club Theater of Fairmont, and the United We Stand Players of New Ulm. During meetings, Open Arts' Executive Director Wilbur Frink leads theater exercises, participants share their literary and musical talents, and once a month, Diana guides the group through the process of creating a collaborative poem.

In Ginny's application to Prairie Lakes she noted "All artistic disciplines are important to the community and the region. In New Ulm specifically and the region more broadly, an infusion of diverse voices is necessary in order to enable more individuals to see the world from a perspective that is not their own. Doing so creates empathy and compassion that are desperately needed in today's world. Whether that voice comes through music, literature, dance, theater, or the visual arts, it has the ability to be powerful and it is necessary."



Brenda Byron,  
Executive Director

**One position is still open for the City of Fairmont and details are on page 11.**

# 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 Jan. 15.** Interested persons residing in this area should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto: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](mailto: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



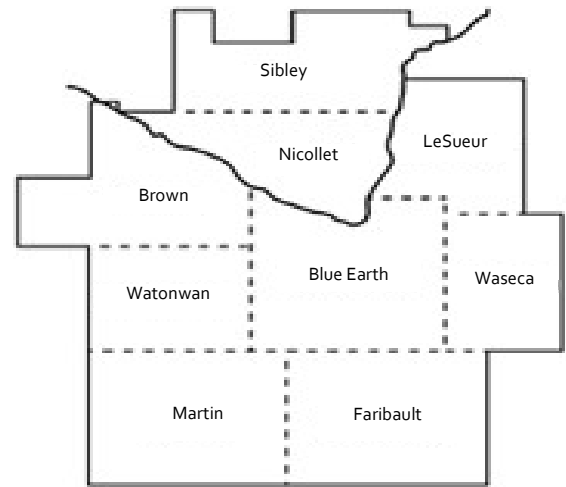
Wash or sanitize  
your hands often



Stay 6 feet  
from others

**[mn.gov/covid19](https://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.

**Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, 105 22nd Avenue NE, Suite A, Waseca, MN 56093**  
[plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net) Online Application through our website, [www.plrac.org](http://www.plrac.org).

# 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](http://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](http://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.**

**\*Jan. 1-2** Holiday Boutique, unique handmade gifts created by local artists and crafts people, held at the Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 First St. North. Hours: Thurs & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 364-8107 or [www.artsandheritagecenter.org](http://www.artsandheritagecenter.org).

**\*Jan. 1-22** A Winter Display in the Window Gallery; Waseca All School Show in the Great Hall Gallery; and Brad Donner's Exhibit in the Beckmann Gallery. Masks are required. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs.-Fri. 12 Noon-7 p.m. [www.wasecartcenter.org](http://www.wasecartcenter.org) or (507) 835-1701.

**\*Jan. 1-31** Purchase tickets to attend the in-person Souper Bowl fundraiser, Feb. 6-7. \$100 pre-pays for 4 bowls and gets first pick. \$50 pre-pays for 2 bowls and gets 2<sup>nd</sup> round picking. \$30 pre-pays for 1 bowl and gets last pick. A bowl selection time will be assigned to you to limit the amount of people in the art center at one time. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or [www.artscentersp.org](http://www.artscentersp.org).

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

**Jan. 5-26** "Modern Movement: Arthur Bowen Davies Figurative Works on Paper from the Randolph College" Exhibit and "Mac Cosgrove-Davies Collections, and Arthur B. Davies Paintings from the Randolph College Collection" Exhibit. These exhibits feature nearly 70 paintings and drawings by American artist Arthur Bowen Davies. 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](mailto:hillstrom@gustavus.edu). All visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing. (507) 933-7200 or <https://gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom/exhibitions.php>.



**\*Jan. 7-Feb. 20** Handicrafts and Hobbies Exhibit, a display of work by local people. Held at the Arts and Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 First St. N. Gallery hours: Thurs & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 364-8107 or [www.artsandheritagecenter.org](http://www.artsandheritagecenter.org).

**Jan. 8-24** Jim Denomie's Painting Exhibit. (Reception, Jan. 8, 7-9 p.m.) 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](http://www.the410project.com).

**Jan. 9** The Southern Minnesota Poets Society will host a virtual event with Poet Budd Powell Mahan, 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](http://www.southernmnpoets.org).

**Jan. 10** The Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Music On The Hill, Virtual Chamber Music Concert 4:15 p.m., featuring works by Mozart and Jennifer Higdon. Watch for free at [www.mankatosymphony.org](http://www.mankatosymphony.org) or on Facebook. (507) 625-8880 or [www.mankatosymphony.org](http://www.mankatosymphony.org).

**Jan. 12** Author Talk with Joe Kimball, author of "Secrets of the Congdon Mansion" a first-hand account of Minnesota's most infamous murder case. 6:30 p.m. as a virtual Google Meet. Registration is required. Sponsored by the New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or [www.newulmlibrary.org](http://www.newulmlibrary.org).

**Jan. 15-Feb. 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](http://www.thegrandnewulm.com) or (507) 359-9222.

**Jan. 20-24** "Atreus" theater production, Jan. 20-24 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. \$10, all tickets are general admission and must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Held at the Andreas Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. [www.msutheatre.com](http://www.msutheatre.com) or (507) 389-6661. This season may be adjusted due to COVID, please confirm your tickets before attending.

**\*Jan. 27-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.wasecartcenter.org](http://www.wasecartcenter.org).

**Jan. 28** Good Thunder Reading Series featuring novelist Brit Bennett. Workshop from 10-11 a.m., craft talk from 3-4 p.m. and reading from 7:30-8:30 p.m.; real time captioning will be provided. All events will be virtual on Zoom. Free, but registration is required. Register at <https://gt.mnsu.edu/this-years-events/brit-bennett/>. Hosted by MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-1354 or <http://gt.mnsu.edu/>.



**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.**

**Jan. 29-Feb. 14** Joel Iverson's "My Bicycle" Painting Exhibit. (Reception, Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m.) 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](http://www.the410project.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/>, (507) 381-4082, or [info@2bcontinued.org](mailto:info@2bcontinued.org).

**\*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.

Support the **State Street Theater Company** by celebrating New Year's Eve with your own masquerade ball at home. This fundraiser will have local treats delivered right to your door, (30 mile radius). Party for 2 or 4: receive cupcakes by Becky Bakes, noisemakers, confetti poppers, and masquerade masks; \$25 for 2 people or \$50 for 4 people. Dinner for 2 or 4: receive dinner and dessert from Sozial Restaurant, small bottle of Prosecco, noisemakers, confetti poppers, and masquerade masks; \$110 for 2 people or \$175 for 4 people. Go to [www.statestreetnewulm.org](http://www.statestreetnewulm.org) to select food choices. State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990.

## Youth Opportunities

**Jan. 3-4** Broadway Teen Auditions for School House Rock Live, Jr., 5 p.m. each night. Grades 6-12. Please bring sheet music for a song you have already learned. Mankato Playhouse will provide a pianist at auditions to accompany you. Performances will be held March 5-7 at the Mankato Playhouse. Contact Davori Productions for more information, [info@davoriproductions.com](mailto:info@davoriproductions.com), (507) 317-1245, or [www.mankatoplayhouse.com](http://www.mankatoplayhouse.com).

## Adult Opportunities

**Jan. 4-25** Introduction to Knitting Class. Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Create natural-fiber washcloths while learning basic knitting skills. Provide your own supplies. \$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](http://www.artscentersp.org).

**Jan. 6-27** Beginning Embroidery Class. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn how to free-form embroider in this beginner level class. Students will learn how to create patterns, use different stitches, and take a project from start to finish. The Arts Center will provide you in advance with hoop & fabric. Provide your own floss (any colors), 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](http://www.artscentersp.org).

**\*Feb. 4-April 22** Rehearsals with the Singing Hills Chorus, Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. The chorus is made up of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and their care partners. Social time is from 9:30-10 a.m. The weekly rehearsals will be held virtually on Zoom. A Facebook Live Concert will be planned. (507) 519-0626 or register at [www.singinghillsschorus.org](http://www.singinghillsschorus.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 and can be visited anytime at 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Visit [www.thegrandnewulm.com/smallest-museum-in-mn](http://www.thegrandnewulm.com/smallest-museum-in-mn) for more information.



# Grant Opportunities

## **Jan. 14 McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting Deadline.**

The McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting is administered by the Playwrights' Center in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. It is intended to recognize and support mid-career playwrights living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained body of work, commitment, and artistic excellence. Application deadline is Jan. 14. The fellowship term is July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 and includes: \$25,000 stipend, \$2,500 to support a play development workshop and other professional expenses and \$1,400 in travel funds. Go online to <https://pwcenter.org/programs/mcknight-fellowships-in-playwriting> for more information or email Julia Brown at [juliab@pwcenter.org](mailto:juliab@pwcenter.org).

## **Jan. 22 Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support Deadline.**

Operating Support Funds provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and to community arts schools and conservatories. Amounts vary. Application deadline is Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or [richard.hitchler@arts.state.mn.us](mailto:richard.hitchler@arts.state.mn.us). For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: [www.arts.state.mn.us](http://www.arts.state.mn.us).

## **Jan. 25 McKnight Fellowship for Musicians Deadline.**

The McKnight Fellowship for Musicians is administered by the MacPhail Center for Music in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. It is intended to recognize and support mid-career musicians living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, artistic excellence, a distinctive musical voice, and a significant performing career over a period of time. The fellowship award is \$25,000. Application deadline is Jan. 25. There will be an informational Zoom session about the application Jan. 3 at 12 noon. For more information about the application go to <https://www.macphail.org/mcknight-fellowships/> or email Lindsay Lewis at [lewis.lindsay@macphail.org](mailto:lewis.lindsay@macphail.org).

## **\*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](http://www.plrac.org), along with a link to the online application. (800) 298-1254 or [plrac@hickorytech.net](mailto: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 that empowers them to take risks, embrace challenges, and utilize unconventional approaches to problem-solving. Selected emerging artists receive \$625/week in honoraria, plus documentation support, art-making resources, facilitation of community connections, lodging & studio space, a travel stipend, groceries, and chef-prepared communal dinners. The residency will take place at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Red Wing, August 2021. Program guidelines are available at [www.andersoncenter.org](http://www.andersoncenter.org). Artists must submit their application at [www.theandersoncenter.submittable.com](http://www.theandersoncenter.submittable.com). Application deadline is Feb. 15. Contact Development Director Adam Wiltgen for more information: 651-388-2009 x4 or [adam@andersoncenter.org](mailto:adam@andersoncenter.org).

## **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 informational Zoom sessions about the application Jan. 7 at 6 p.m., Jan. 30 at 12 noon, and Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. For more information go online to <https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/> or email Torey Erin at [terin@mnbookarts.org](mailto:terin@mnbookarts.org).




**The Prairie Lakes  
Office will be closed  
Friday, January 1  
in honor of  
New Years Day.**

## **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](mailto:plrac@hickorytech.net).



**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](http://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](http://www.artscentersp.org/classes). Register for classes at [www.stpetercommunityedonline.com](http://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](mailto:info@artscentersp.org), or [www.artscentersp.org](http://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](http://www.thecarnegiemandkato.com), (507) 625-2730, or [artctr@hickorytech.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.redrockcenter.org), (507) 235-9262, or [redrockcenter@frontiernet.net](mailto: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](mailto:the410project@hotmail.com) or [www.the410project.com](http://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](http://www.thegrandnewulm.com), (507) 359-9222, or [grand@thegrandnewulm.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@wasecaartcenter.org), [www.wasecaartcenter.org](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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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