



Biennial Plan Public Hearing

Presenting PLRAC's FY 2022-2023 Biennial Programming and Strategic Focus

As required by our designation as the Regional Arts Council serving the 9-county region, Prairie Lakes will present the draft plan for grant programs, priorities and services to be delivered in fiscal years 22-23 beginning July 2021-June of 2023.

Join us to learn how your taxpayer dollars return to your communities through our arts programming. Provide your input and suggestions during the public hearing on Thursday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m.

The Biennial Plan Draft will be available to preview on our website the week of March 8, 2021. You are invited to respond during the live presentation or through email, phone, or mail.

Live Public Virtual Presentation

Thursday, March 25
5:30 p.m. via Zoom

You can register to attend by emailing plrac@hickorytech.net and we will provide the Zoom Meeting link.

Small Arts Grants Are Available for Arts & Cultural Activities

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 art, folk and traditional art, 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 April 1 and May 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.



Virtual Arts Advocacy Week a Success in February



Brenda Byron,
Executive Director

“It was great to participate in Virtual Arts Advocacy Week February 16-19, 2021 which was coordinated by MN Citizens for the Arts”, noted Brenda Byron, MCA board member and Executive Director of PLRAC.



Over 400 Arts advocates from across Minnesota participated and shared their stories with their Legislators.

We were pleased that so many artists and arts organization staff and board members could join us from the 9-county area as we did Zoom calls with legislators.

Each person could share the importance of the arts to them personally, to their organization and their community. This discussion helped our Representatives and Senators understand that State funding for the Arts is critical at this time of COVID-19 and reaches every district in the region. A list of Arts grantees from Prairie Lakes for the last two years was provided to the Legislators and the participants.

“In our meetings with Legislators we asked for their support to preserve our Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage money and State grant funds that are administered through the eleven Regional Arts Councils and the MN State Arts Board,” noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director.

We were able to do Zoom meetings with ten Legislators in our 9-county area and had 25+ arts constituents from the region take part in the meetings

coordinated by MN Citizens for the Arts and Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. Our district meetings with legislators included: District 16 Sen. Gary Dahms, 19 Sen. Nick Frentz, 19A Rep. Susan Akland, 19B Rep. Luke Frederick, 20 Sen. Rich Draheim, 20B Rep. Todd Lippert, 23 Sen. Julie Rosen, 23A Rep. Bjorn Olson, 24 Sen. John Jasinski, and 24A Rep. John Petersburg.

“We are Thankful that for Many Years our legislators have understood the “Value of the Arts” and many noted they were familiar with arts activities in their district. Several mentioned that they receive “Thank You Notes” from students who received youth scholarships from Prairie Lakes, and many arts organizations, schools and community groups that received State arts grants,” noted Brenda Byron. We have a few new legislators this year and they were receptive to learning about arts funding in their district and noted that they would enjoy attending future arts events in the community. It was also noted that the **Arts have a positive economic impact on the community when arts activities happen in town, and people also buy gas and food in town, and may do other shopping while being in town for an arts event.**



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 art, folk and traditional art, and public art projects. **A variety of activities are eligible including: art and music festivals, community choirs, dance performances, literary readings, vocal and instrumental music concerts, theater productions, visual art classes and exhibitions, and folk and traditional arts activities.**

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.](#)

- **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 has created our 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 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.

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. Additional grants will be announced in April 2021.

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 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.

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|---|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
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FY 2021 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL GRANTS

*These State grants were awarded August 2020 through February 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

- 410 Project, banner art project for youth - \$4,000
- Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - \$4,000
- Deep Valley Book Festival, virtual author talks - \$1,400
- Deep Valley Book Festival, fall event - \$4,000
- GSR Fine Art Festival, virtual artist gallery - \$2,000
- Open Arts Minnesota, virtual theater - \$4,000
- ProMusica Minnesota, concert festival - \$4,000

BROWN COUNTY

- Healthy Comm./Healthy Youth, public art - \$4,000

NICOLLET COUNTY

- Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, artist fees - \$4,000
- 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
- Project GEM, Latino artist residency - \$3,000
- Waseca Marching Classic, band critiques - \$1,980

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 April 15. Interested persons residing in this area should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at plracc@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, visual art, folk and traditional art. **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



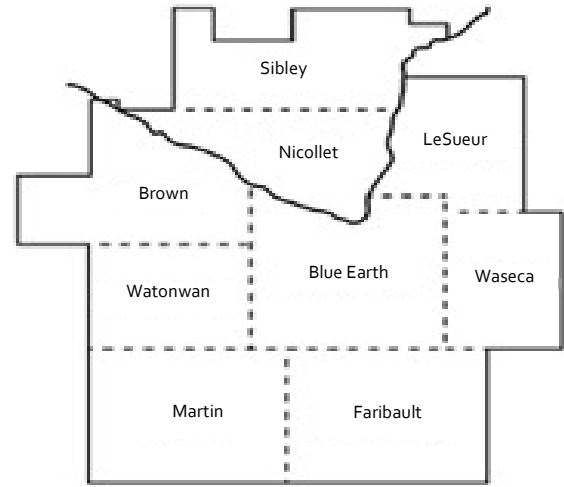
Wash or sanitize
your hands often



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, visual art, folk and traditional art. 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.

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, folk and traditional art, 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 advance your work and 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

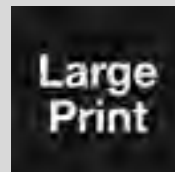
Sept. 1, 2021
Deadline

**All available FY 2021 grant
applications are online.**

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

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

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



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.

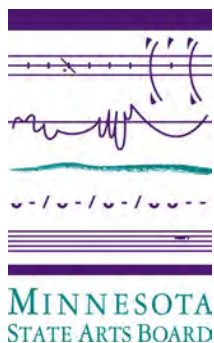
Inclusion. Individuals with different identities feeling and/or being valued, leveraged, and welcomed to fully participate within a given setting.

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.

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>
Boatemaa 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.

WORK OF ART: BUSINESS SKILLS FOR ARTISTS

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

Springboard offers The Work of Art Toolkit; available for free digital download.



Watch videos, read a brief description of all Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists topics and find an upcoming Work of Art workshops, panel, classes or events on their website <https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/work-of-art-program/>

Time Management: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQuPVEO3ECI&t=132s>

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.

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.

March 1-April 18 “From These Hands: Fiber Art and Poetry” Exhibit, featuring the work of Dakota scholar, artist, and poet Gwen Westerman. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Email hillstrom@gustavus.edu to request an appointment to visit the museum as a guest. All visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing. (507) 933-7200 or <https://gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom/exhibitions.php>.

March 1-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 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.

***March 2-25** 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. Gallery Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. or by appointment. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262. 

March 2-31 Randy Wood’s “A Passing-The Vanishing Family Farm” Photography Exhibit capturing the loss of small family farms as they disappear from our landscape. Held at Blue Earth County Historical Society Art Gallery, 415 East Cherry Street, Mankato. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, visitors must book their time to visit through the Historical Society’s website. (507) 345-5566 or www.blueearthcountyhistory.com.


***March 3-5** Brad Donner’s “The People” Painting Exhibit; Postcard Project Exhibit; and Wednesday Art Adventurers’ “The Colors We Share” 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.

March 3-7 Annual Juried Exhibition. 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.

***March 3-26** Virtual High School Art Show. Visit the Waseca Art Center’s website to view the show. Hosted by the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

***March 4-May 15** School Art Show, artwork by 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.

***March 5-April 10** Larissa McConnell’s Exhibit of new work. Visitors need to wear masks and observe social distancing. Gallery occupancy will be limited to ten 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.

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. 

***March 6-April 3** Caitlin Lang and Sam Matter’s “Intentionally Accidental” Mixed Media Exhibit. (Virtual Reception, March 5) 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. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***March 7** ProMusica Chamber Music Concert with music by Bach, Debussy, and Brahms, 6:30 p.m., with clarinetist Gabriel Campos Zamora, cellist Silver Ainomäe, and pianist Bethel Balge. Adults \$10, students \$5. Held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 201 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 205-2249 or www.promusicamn.com.

***March 9** Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts virtual Lunchbox Entertainment the second Tuesday of each month at 12 noon. Watch their Facebook page for the YouTube link each month. Sponsored by Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

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.

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

***March 11-April 23** Mary Walchuk's Colored Pencil Exhibit in the Window Gallery; Peggy Larkin's Exhibit in the Great Hall Gallery; and Jeffery Hansen's 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.

***March 12** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with EZ Jazz Trio, performing jazz music, 7-8:30 p.m. To virtually view the live shows, subscribe to their YouTube channel www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube. Sponsored by the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

March 12-13 Martin Luther College Children's Theater Presents "Jack and the Beanstalk" theater performance, March 12 at 8 p.m. and March 13 at 3 and 7 p.m. This show will be live-streamed only to the public. Please visit www.mlc-wels.edu/forum for current ticket and streaming information. Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990.

***March 12-14** Mankato Playhouse presents performances of "School House Rock Live! Jr.". March 12 at 7 p.m., March 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and March 14 at 2 p.m. Tables for 2, 4, or 6 people will be sold. 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. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. (507) 508-6539 or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

March 12-28 Daniel Kerkhoff's "Cover-ups and Remnants" Mixed Media Painting Exhibit. (Reception, March 12, 7-9 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.



March 13 The Southern Minnesota Poets Society will host a virtual event with poet Janelle Masters, 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.

March 14 "Abbot & Costello" Radio Show. The link to the virtual show will be posted online and will be available to view for three months. Donations will be accepted to view the show. Sponsored by the State Street Theater, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

March 16 Virtual author visit with novelist Fiona Davis, discussing her book "The Lions of Fifth Avenue", 7 p.m. Contact the library for the Zoom login information. Sponsored by the Waseca Public Library, 408 N. State St. (507) 835-2910 or www.wasecalesueurlibraries.com.

March 16-Sept. 30 "Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection" Exhibit highlighting many of Marian's original works that her fine art prints have been made from. Held at Blue Earth County Historical Society Art Gallery, 415 E. Cherry St., Mankato. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, visitors must book their time to visit through the Historical Society's website. (507) 345-5566 or www.blueearthcountyhistory.com.

March 21 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Music On The Hill, Virtual Chamber Music Concert "The Archduke", 4 p.m. Watch for free on the symphony's Facebook and YouTube pages or on their website. (507) 625-8880 or www.mankatosymphony.org.

March 24-28 "Desdemona" theater production, March 24-27 at 7:30 p.m. and March 27-28 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. (507) 389-6661 or www.msutheatre.com. This season may be adjusted again due to COVID, please confirm your tickets before attending.

March 25 Good Thunder Reading Series featuring story and essayist Ayse Papatya Bucak. Workshop from 10-11 a.m., 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/ayse-papatya-bucak/> for access. Events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-1354 or <http://gt.mnsu.edu/>.

March 25 Virtual author visit by Wendy Webb, 6-7:30 p.m. Contact the library for the Zoom login information. Sponsored by the North Mankato Taylor Library. www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary or (507) 345-5120.



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.

***March 26** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with Tim Babel, performing folk, rock, and roots music, 7-8:30 p.m. To virtually view the live shows, subscribe to their YouTube channel at www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube. Sponsored by Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

***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

***March 1-12** Young Writers & Artists Conference for grades 3-8 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 is available online at www.mnscsc.org/ywac. Attend one or more than 40 sessions for one low price! Sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative. (952) 715-8745, www.mnscsc.org, or mhillmann@mnscsc.org.

***March 7** Registration Deadline for the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra’s Summer Session. Students have two options to participate. Students can register for both the full orchestra and the string or wind ensemble or just the string or wind ensemble. Full Orchestra + Ensemble \$50; Ensemble only \$25. Rehearsals will be held Sunday afternoons at the Holy Rosary Parish Center, 546 Grant Ave., North Mankato. (507) 399-1489 or www.mayso.net.

***March 18** Family Tulip Card Making, 6-7:30 p.m., \$20 per household. Create your own flower cards with your family 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.

***March 20** Children's Learn to Paint Class with instructor Rhonda Johnson. 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Grades Kindergarten+, \$25. Children will be taught step-by-step painting technique. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

March 22 String Art Class, ages 12 and up, 6-7 p.m. Create a "Make a Wish" 10 x 10 plaque with instructions from the Mankato Craft Company. You must supply your own hammer. Call to register and to receive the Zoom login information. Sponsored by the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

***March 26** Deadline for students in grades K–12 to enter the FREE SCSC Writing Contest. The contest provides students with an opportunity to express themselves through fiction, non-fiction and/or poetry. It was established in 2017 to encourage the love of language and writing for all students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in south central Minnesota. Visit www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest for more information. Sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative. (952) 715-8745, <http://www.mnscsc.org>, or mhillmann@mnscsc.org.

***March 27** P.L.A.Y. at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 10:30 a.m., ages 0-7 (with an adult) or ages 8-12. Art and literature collide in this explorative and creative session, where we will join in reading picture books together and then engage in a process art project that organizes around the selected theme. This basic level class will allow for ample creative expression while also developing motor skills, practice in following directions, and growing an appreciation for quality literature and illustrations. Fee \$8, pre-registration is required. Participants will be expected to social distance and wear masks. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.



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.

Adult Opportunities

***March 4 & 18** Writing Haikus Class. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. A haiku is a simple poetry form that's easy to remember and fun to write. In the first class, we will read some, talk about what makes them work, and explore a couple of similar poetry forms. We will come back together in a couple of weeks and share some poems we have written and/or discovered. \$20, 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.

***March 9-30** Tapestry from Warp to Wall Class. Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn how to plan a draft, warp a small loom, weave, and finish a small tapestry! Small tapestry looms and materials will be provided to each participant in advance, and instruction will focus on basic loom terms and simple techniques. \$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.

March 12 Attention Music Teachers: The Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association business meeting and refreshments at 9 a.m. Program 9:30-11 a.m., "Chording Songs: Advice from a Guitar Teacher", students who love to play by ear can be a challenge to teach in the piano studio. Learning to chord a melody may be a helpful skill we can offer them. Annual membership \$30, guests can attend a meeting free of charge. Due to COVID-19, meetings will be virtual until further notice. Contact Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association for the meeting login information. (507) 514-3970 or www.mvmta.com.

March 14-15 Musical theater auditions for Mankato Playhouse's performances of "Forbidden Broadway", 7 p.m. each night. Please bring sheet music for a song you have already learned. A pianist will be provided to accompany you. Go to <https://mankatoplayhouse.com/broadway-series-auditions> for more audition information. Held at Mankato Playhouse, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. www.mankatoplayhouse.com or (507) 508-6539.

March 16-April 20 Virtual Sketchbook Art Workshop Series, Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Library staff along with Creativebug instructors will introduce sketchbook techniques, including hand lettering, line drawing, collage, and watercolor and teach participants how to use different tools such as brush markers, gel pens, and more. All supplies, including sketchbooks, will be provided. This free program series is geared for older teens and adults. Registration is required. Contact the library to register and for the Zoom login information. Sponsored by North Mankato Taylor Library. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

***March** 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 at 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm, to visit anytime. Go to www.thegrandnewulm.com/smallest-museum-in-mn for more information.

Grant Opportunities

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. For more information go to <https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/> or 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.

Continued on page 18



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.thecarnegiemandato.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



Grant Opportunities

(Continued from page 15)

March 26 McKnight Visual Art Fellowship Deadline.

Minneapolis College of Art and Design administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and six \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to talented Minnesota visual artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage beyond emerging. The focus of the fellowship is to connect fellows to six visiting critics, to participate in a McKnight Discussion Series that features fellows and invited critics, and to work with each fellow to pursue additional professional development opportunities. For more information go to <https://mcad.edu/about-mcad/fellowships/mcknight-artist-fellowships>, (612) 874-3667, or gallery@mcad.edu.

March 31 McKnight Dancers Fellowship Deadline.

The Cowles Center administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and three \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to mid-career Minnesota dancers whose work is of exceptional artistic merit and who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time. The intent of this program is to recognize and support midcareer artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. For more information go to McKFell@theCowlesCenter.org or <http://www.mcknightdancechoreo.org/dancer-guidelines/>.

March 31 Paint the Town Grant Deadline.

Free paint and coating products for a community mural, community welcome sign, or historic structure projects. Up to ten projects will be awarded to small communities with a population under 10,000. Grant applications and guidelines are available at www.smifoundation.org. Contact Jennifer at the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for more information, (507) 214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoudation.org.

April 2 Springboard for the Arts Equitable Rural Futures Deadline.

Springboard for the Arts invites artists and creatives in rural places and small towns in Minnesota to propose projects that center the perspectives and experiences of people who are BIPOC (Black,

Indigenous or People of Color), Native, LGBTQIA+, and/or people with disabilities in rural and tribal communities, create safe and supportive spaces for connection, confront truth about historic harms, bring non-dominant stories into light, and/or address racism, homophobia and/or transphobia. Culture bearers, makers, artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, performers and other creatives in rural and tribal communities of 25,000 people or less in Minnesota are invited to apply for project support of up to \$2,500, with priority given to proposals led by people who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color and/or Native, LGBTQIA+ people and/or people with disabilities. This program is supported by the Blandin Foundation. There will be a virtual informational session about the application March 5 at 12 Noon. For more information go to <https://springboardforthearts.org/artists-respond-equitable-rural-futures/>, (651) 292-4381, or info@springboardforthearts.org.

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