



March 14-18, 2022

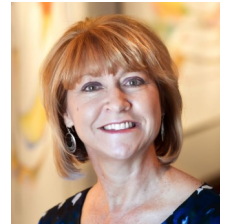
Join your fellow arts advocates from across Minnesota to create action for the arts.

Minnesota's premiere arts gathering has moved online! You are needed to help "rally the troupes," recognize this community's resilience, and make our voice heard at the State Capitol. In addition to protecting our Legacy Amendment and state grant funds, this year we are pushing for passage of a bill that would grant \$100 million to arts and cultural groups who were hurt by the pandemic.

With your action – online and as part of Zoom calls with legislators – we can help legislators understand the importance of the arts who have been hit disproportionately hard by COVID-19. We may be at our own computers again this year, but we can still connect and work together to advance our community.

**Register Now
and Find out More at:**
<http://artsmn.org/act/events/arts-advocacy-day/>

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



Brenda Byron,
PLRAC Executive
Director

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

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

There will be Zoom meetings scheduled for all the districts in the 9-county area and we need to have people from each district take part in their legislator's Zoom meeting. Byron will be the team leader for those meetings.

Arts Action Week Schedule:

March 14th – 8:30 a.m. Opening Rally webinar to learn the "Message of the Day", celebrate arts supportive legislators and hear from other special guests.

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

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

March 14th-18th Legislative Zoom calls as scheduled. (Meetings will be scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

The Story of Arts & Cultural Heritage (Legacy) Grants



What's really made a difference in our region has been the Legacy Arts grants that were available starting in 2008. Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council receives Legacy funds that are used to award Arts and Cultural Heritage grants in the 9-county area we serve in south central Minnesota, noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director.

Prairie Lakes has supported many arts projects, artists, and arts organizations with these State funds. In the next year we will be sharing the story of the Impact that these grants have had in our region, through a series of videos. We'll be talking about projects, arts organizations, and communities that are better because of the Legacy Amendment. Arts events happening in the community stimulate the local economy, promote tourism, and people eat in local restaurants and buy gas while they are in town.

We want to thank the voters of Minnesota for this huge vote of confidence that the Arts are worth investing in, in our State.



Our first video is an overview of the availability of Legacy grants from Prairie Lakes. The second video features Arts and Cultural Heritage grantee Uniting Cultures/Uniendo Culturas in St. James, who sponsor the Multicultural Fiesta in their community.

Pat Branstad and Brenda Byron met in January to record the first video, with the assistance of Triple Falls Productions, Mankato. Pat noted that the Multicultural Fiesta held in September is the signature event of their group and its mission of acknowledging and celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the St. James community.

The Fiesta brings residents of the community together with a festive, family friendly atmosphere in an outdoor space in downtown St. James. Featuring ethnic music performances, international cuisine, and programming for children, the Fiesta's attendance has grown each year along with the involvement of other community groups.

Check out the Prairie Lakes YouTube channel or Facebook page to find these video links.

1. PLRAC Legacy Overview:
<https://youtu.be/SF-thYamiRE>
2. St. James Legacy Video:
<https://youtu.be/MGvoRARb8XA>



On left is Pat Branstad, organizer of the Multicultural Fiesta in St. James and the Uniting Cultures organization, with Brenda Byron, Prairie Lakes.

Prairie Lakes FY 2022 Grants Awarded

(July 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022)

Total Awarded: \$573,270

\$422,705 - Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants to 50 arts organizations & community groups

\$76,765 – State General funds (29 grants)
Small Arts Project & School Grants to date

\$27,300 - 108 Youth Scholarships to Students in grades 3-12

\$46,500 – Artist Development Grant (31 grants)
Grant amount is \$1,500, with funds from the McKnight Foundation.

Prairie Lakes receives funding from the Minnesota Legislature through the **Legacy Amendment** from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, State General funds, and the McKnight Foundation.



MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Carolyn Borgen New Board Member for City of New Ulm



We are pleased to have Carolyn Borgen join the Prairie Lakes board to serve as the representative for the City of New Ulm, noted Brenda Byron.

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

Prairie Lakes Board Positions are open for the City of Fairmont or Sibley County.

Contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of Prairie Lakes at plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board.

The deadline for submitting an application is April 1st. You will find a Board Application and Board Member Duties (PDF) on our website, www.plrac.org. Click on About Us, then Board Meetings and Application.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Awarded

A total of \$178,725 was awarded to 23 Area Organizations

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that **Arts and Cultural Heritage grants of \$178,725 were awarded to twenty-three arts organizations in the region on February 24, 2022.** The organizations are listed alphabetically with a brief description of their artistic activities and events.

The grants are for arts activities in all artistic disciplines. A variety of activities including instrumental and vocal music concerts, theater and dance performances, exhibitions, festivals, public art, and classes for youth and adults are being funded. 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, 2022. Organizations can apply once per year for this grant.

4-Unity, Cornstalk Festival, Dunnell - \$6,000. They will host two music festivals in the summer of 2022, June 25-26 and August 26-28. The festivals will include performances and children's theater activities. Funds will be used for artist fees.

City Center Partnership, Mankato - \$8,000. They will sponsor the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour consisting of 31 juried outdoor sculptures in downtown Mankato and North Mankato, May 2022 to April 2023. Funds will be used to pay stipends to eight artists.

Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota - \$13,000. They will provide summer 2022 dance programs including modern/contemporary, pre-pointe, ballet, boys hip hop, boys tap/jazz, beach party, themed camps, improv, and technique classes. They will also offer free summer camps for children to try dance. Funds will be used for studio rent.

Good Thunder Reading Series - \$8,000. They will bring in six to eight authors for the 40th Good Thunder Reading Series during the 2022-2023 season. Funds will be used for Métis author, Toni Jensen, March 20-24, 2023. Her books include "Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land" and the short story collection "From the Hilltop."

Govenaires Drum & Bugle Corps - \$8,000. They will perform in several Drum and Bugle Corps competitions throughout Minnesota and the Midwest, perform in several parades, and host the Drum Corps Expo, August 2022. Funds will be used for salaries.

Green Isle Community School - \$4,375. They will sponsor an Artist in Residency where students interview an elder from the community and work with local artists to create a play and music based on the elder's life. A public performance of the work will be held May 26,

2022. Funds will be used for artist fees, rent, costumes, sets, and publicity.

Madelia Area Chamber of Commerce - \$6,000. They will sponsor the annual Watona Park Blues Festival during Madelia Park Days; July 9, 2022, featuring musicians from Minnesota and Nashville, Tennessee. Funds will be used for artist fees, publicity, and stage sound and lighting.

Mankato Area Community Band - \$4,400. They will present free outdoor concerts in the summer of 2022. Five concerts will be at Sibley Park, Mankato in June and July; and one patriotic concert will be at Lincoln Park, Mankato on June 28. Funds will be used for the conductor, staff salaries, musician stipends, publicity, and music.

Mankato Area Public Schools - StoryArk - \$6,000. The school will partner with StoryArk to host an online Storytelling Camp in the summer of 2022. At the end of camp, there will be a Red Carpet Celebration to feature the works created by high school students from Mankato Area Public Schools, St. Peter, and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school districts. Funds will be used for artist fees and staff to implement the camp.

Mankato Ballet Company - \$13,000. They will present "Swan Lake" in March 2022 by students in the Mankato Ballet Performing Company, held at the Mankato West High School Auditorium; and the full, original ballet production of "Beauty" in May 2022 by all students, held at the St. Peter High School's Performing Arts Center by all students. They will also add more virtual options with monthly livestreamed performances through Facebook. Funds will be used for artist fees, costumes, sets, and publicity.

(Arts and Cultural Heritage continued on page 5)



These activities 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.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Awarded

(Arts and Cultural Heritage continued from page 4)

Mankato Community Education – Pottery Studio - \$6,000. They will enhance the Pottery Studio by replacing two pottery wheels. They will also expand their ACCESS program for youth and adults with disabilities to have year-round programming with an Art Sampler Series of classes. Funds will be used for artist fees, pottery studio supplies, and two replacement pottery wheels.

Mankato School of Music - \$8,000. They will implement five new programs for their students in 2022 including group classes for string and band students at Mankato East and West High Schools; adult string group instruction classes; Fiddlesticks Classes to teach Celtic, old-time, and bluegrass fiddling; a preschool and school age Music Therapy Class; and an older adult Music Therapy Class at the VINE Community Center. Funds will be used for artist fees and travel, salaries, and publicity.

Mankato Symphony Orchestra - \$8,000. They will present their season premiere Symphonic Series Concert, October 9, 2022, in the Ted Paul Theatre at Minnesota State University, Mankato as part of their 2022/23 season. Funds will be used for artist stipends and conductor salary.

Mankato Youth Place - \$5,950. They will offer 30-minute art classes to its members in kindergarten through 5th grade four days a week in the spring of 2022. Classes will be taught by an art education major and will include concept, overview, and creative time. Funds will be used for salaries and art supplies.

Minnesota Original Music Festival - \$8,000. They will present free concerts and educational workshops hosted by Minnesota artists in St. Peter, July 19-24, 2022. Events include the 72 Hour Band Challenge, singer/songwriter showcases, and music jams. Workshops will be held by professional musicians with topics including music composition, songwriting, improvisation, the use of technology, and accessing resources available to Minnesota artists. Funds will be used for artist fees and travel.

Minnesota “Over-60” Band - \$8,000. They will perform in many parades and concerts in Minnesota during the summer of 2022. Funds will be used for artist travel and stipends, salaries, music, rent, and publicity.

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Music Performance Series - \$8,000. They will sponsor six music performances by Minnesota artists as part of their 2022 Performance Series. They will also include two outreach activities for the community. Funds will be used for artist fees, salaries, and publicity.

New Ulm Suzuki School of Music - \$8,000. They will sponsor their annual Summer Pops Camp in June and conduct their season of rehearsals and concerts in 2022. Funds will be used for the Pops Camp clinician, facility rent, and salaries.

Old Town Mankato Day of the Dead Festival - \$8,000. They will host the A Día De Los Muertos and Halloween festival outdoors on North Riverfront Drive in Mankato, October 29, 2022. There will be traditional Latino Day of the Dead activities, a vendor market, and ethnic dance and music performances. Funds will be used for artist fees and supplies.

Rock Bend Folk Festival - \$6,000. They will sponsor the 31st annual two-day festival featuring local and regional Minnesota folk musicians on two stages and local artists displaying their work at Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter; September 10-11, 2022. Funds will be used for artist fees, artist travel, and equipment rental.

T-Bird Community Arts, Gibbon - \$8,000. They will sponsor an Art Camp for grades 3-8, including painting and set design, vocal performance, acting, dance/choreography, and costume design, June 13-24, 2022, and a summer musical performance of “The Sound of Music, August 4-7, 2022. Funds will be used for music and scripts, sets, costumes, art camp supplies, and salaries.

The Grand Center for Arts and Culture - \$13,000. They will continue their 2022 performing arts series which features many Minnesota artists presenting a variety of music genres each weekend, and display art exhibitions in their 4 Pillars Gallery. They will also provide alternative experience formats including online gallery tours and outdoor performances. Funds will be used for artist fees, publicity, salaries, and supplies.

Uniting Cultures Multicultural Fiesta - \$7,000. They will host the free, outdoor fiesta September 17, 2022, including international food samples and vendors, children’s activities, community information tables, and ethnic music and dance performances. Funds will be used for artist fees, publicity, and stage rental.



Small Arts and School Grants Awarded in January & February Totaling \$34,275

Our Small Arts Project and School Arts Project Grant program funds non-profit arts organizations, community groups, public organizations, or schools producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community or students.

One school was awarded a \$3,000 grant, and eleven Small Arts grants were awarded totaling \$31,275.

We encourage applications for artistic performances or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in the 9-county region. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art, etc.

Funds will be depleted in March, 2022 for this program.

Small Arts Grants can be submitted on June 1, 2022 for events taking place July to December 2022.



Arts and Heritage Center, Montgomery (SA) - \$1,225.

They hosted Craig Kotasek's Tin Can Valley exhibit of printing equipment and artwork created with the equipment in January and February of 2022. They will have students from the Tri-City United Schools come and view the exhibit. Funds will be used for student transportation and publicity.

Henderson Sauerkraut Days (SA) - \$3,000. They will provide three days of musical performances free to the public at the annual celebration which highlights their strong German heritage, June 24-26, 2022. Funds will be used for artist fees.

Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Community Education (SA) - \$1,750. They will sponsor Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production of "Wizard of Oz" for grades 2-12, November 6-13, 2022. Funds will be used for the Prairie Fire directors fees.

(Grants continued on page 7)

FY 2022 SMALL ARTS PROJECT and SCHOOL GRANTS

The Small Arts Project Grant is available to non-profit arts organizations and community groups sponsoring arts activities for their community. School Arts Project Grants are for public or private non-parochial schools K-12 for artist residencies, arts presentations, & arts related field trips. These Small Arts grants were awarded July 2021 to February 2022.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Central High School & Freedom (Sober) School - \$3,000
 GSR Fine Art Festival, artist fees - \$2,000
 Lake Crystal Community Band, performances - \$1,800
 Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Comm. Ed. - \$1,750
 Mankato Community Ed., cultural performance - \$3,000
 Mankato Community Ed., social justice theater - \$3,000
 Mankato East High School, guest conductors - \$1,550
 Open Arts Minnesota, theater - \$3,000
 Safe Relations Space, Mankato, youth classes - \$5,000
 Southern Minnesota Real Big Band, concerts - \$3,000

BROWN COUNTY

Hermann Monument Society, German festival - \$2,000
 Springfield Community Theatre, performances - \$3,000
 Two Rivers Community Orchestra, concerts - \$2,300

LESUEUR COUNTY

Arts and Heritage Center, Montgomery, exhibit - \$1,225
 New Prague Area Arts Council, concerts - \$3,000

NICOLLET COUNTY

American Indian Cultural Events Group, events - \$3,000
 Bothy Folk Club, performances - \$2,000
 Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, performances - \$3,000
 Saint Peter Community Ed., summer art classes - \$5,000
 South Central Service Cooperative, writing contest - \$5,000

SIBLEY COUNTY

Henderson Lions Club, music performances - \$2,000

WASECA COUNTY

American Indian Service Learning Project, classes - \$1,500
 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School - \$3,000
 Project G.E.M., Latino artist residency - \$3,000
 Waseca Latino Cultural Celebration, music - \$1,660
 Waseca Marching Classic, band clinics - \$1,980

WATONWAN COUNTY

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

Small Arts and School Arts Project Grants

(Grants continued from page 6)

Mankato Area Community Education, Social Justice Theatre (SA) - \$3,000. They will sponsor Wilbur Neushwander-Frink from Open Arts Minnesota to present two Social Justice Theatre Summer Camps in Mankato for grades 5-8, in July and August 2022. The students will create an original play that contains social messages that they agree upon. Funds will be used for artist fees, supplies, and salaries.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival (SA) - \$3,000. They will present a two-day festival of plays, four from Minnesota playwrights, four from playwrights across the midwest, and four one-minute plays. The festival will be held September 8-9, 2022, at the Lincoln Community Center in Mankato. Funds will be used for artist stipends, venue and rehearsal rental, and publicity.

New Prague Area Arts Council (SA) - \$3,000. They will host the “Music at the Broz” series of six free outdoor summers concerts from June 30-August 11, 2022. Funds will be used for staging, publicity, and a children’s art program.

New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva Public Schools (SCH) - \$3,000. They will host a residency with artist Greg Preslicka in April 2022. A 125-foot painted mural will be created inside the New Richland Secondary School’s lower commons. Funds will be used for artist fees.

Open Arts Minnesota (SA) - \$3,000. Open Arts Minnesota provides inclusive theatrical and literary opportunities for people with disabilities. They will launch a new program in the Mankato area called Life Story Plays. In collaboration with Minnesota State University, Mankato’s LitReach program, they have worked one on one with Aktion Club actors to write original poems and stories about their lives. They will present one of the original plays in June of 2022 at the Centenary Church in Mankato. Funds will be used for publicity, costumes, props, and salaries.

Project G.E.M., Latino Artist Residency (SA) - \$3,000. They will present a virtual Latino artist residency in February and March of 2022. The artist will demonstrate each project live and teach about the history, symbolism, importance and meaning behind each traditional piece. There will be a Youth Show to display the artwork created. Funds will be used for artist fees and salaries.

Saint Peter Community and Family Education (SA) - \$5,000. They will continue the sPARK Creativity: Mobile Art Studio to bring free art opportunities to BIPOC and economically disadvantaged children in grades K-6 in

summer 2022. Outdoor sites have been chosen within walking distance of selected neighborhoods. Local artist, April Malphurs, will teach the classes along with two local BIPOC guest artists. Funds will be used for artist fees and supplies.

Southern Minnesota Real Big Band (SA) - \$3,000. They will present multiple concerts in the spring of 2022. Funds will be used to pay the band members and guest musicians for the May 14th concert at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato.

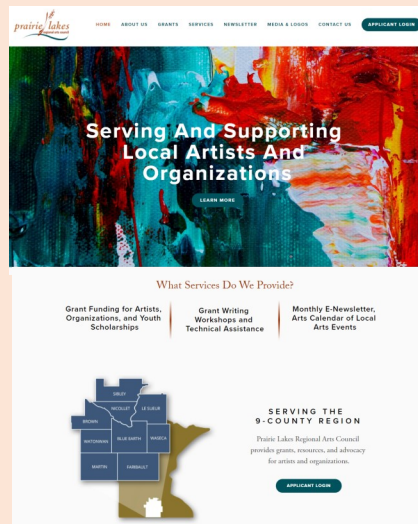
Two Rivers Community Orchestra (SA) - \$2,300. They will present their second season with local musicians from southern Minnesota performing. They will present two concerts on April 4 and October 14, 2022, at the New Ulm Community Center. Funds will be used for venue rental fees, publicity, and salaries.

We encourage applications for artistic performances or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in the 9-county region. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art, etc.

Have you visited www.plrac.org lately?

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

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



State Arts Board Funding is Awarded to 24 Artists in Region 9, Totaling \$142,989



A total of \$142,989 has been awarded to 24 Artists from the Prairie Lakes Region by the Minnesota State Arts Board in their Creative Support for Individuals grant program. This grant program was created as a response to the coronavirus pandemic and the profound impact it has had on Minnesota artists and culture bearers. Creative individuals can use these grants to adapt to an ever changing and challenging environment in which they make and offer their work. “We are pleased to announce these artist grantees,” noted Brenda Byron. “I have been listening to the MSAB meetings the last few months and have collected this information for our region. These additional State funds from the MN State Arts Board awarded into our 9-county region that Prairie Lakes serves is wonderful!”

The Creative Support Artist Grantees included:

1. **Michael Asmus, Gaylord - \$6,000.** Musician Asmus will present three live concerts in the summer of 2022 to continue to provide high quality arts events.
2. **Robin Becker, Mankato - \$6,000.** Becker will work to complete her memoir, Roadkill.
3. **Bradley Coulter, Mankato - \$5,990.** Coulter will integrate digital mark making, computer aided manufacturing, and artisan printing to explore the collective and individual emotional response.
4. **Paloma Mendoza, Mankato - \$6,000.** Mendoza will produce a zine, new mixed media art pieces, and partner with local organizations to produce site-specific murals.
5. **Denise Friesen, North Mankato - \$6,000.** Friesen will create monotypes and oil paintings in a series and explore opportunities to exhibit locally as southern Minnesota galleries return to scheduling.
6. **Brian Frink, Mankato - \$6,000.** Frink will create a new body of work and will seek the exhibition of that work within galleries in the state of Minnesota. He will curate exhibitions in the Rural American Contemporary Art/Gallery.
7. **David Hamlow, Good Thunder - \$6,000.** Hamlow will continue to refine and expand his online, collaborative recycled object collage projects, expanding them to include new patterns, audiences and collaborators, and new public school and social media collaborations.
8. **Nicholas Healy, Mankato - \$6,000.** Healy will revise a novel in progress and prepare it for an agent, and he will conduct readings/talks in greater Minnesota communities.
9. **Carol Herden, Amboy - \$6,000.** Herden will share her sculpting skills with the public and broaden her audience to include the general public.
10. **Justin Hicks, New Ulm - \$6,000.** Hicks will continue to support local podcasters and musicians through teaching and production to help them meet their creative goals.
11. **Jennifer Hildebrandt, Mankato - \$6,000.** Hildebrandt will update her website and blog to reflect new work; create workshops for Minnesota residents that couple explorative movement with journaling; and create a movement memoir performance that entwines movement arts with related personal essays.
12. **David Hoehn (Publicity name: Eli Hoehn), Saint Peter - \$6,000.** Hoehn will create five new works focusing on the nature of being human, including our need for acceptance, to feel important, and our difficulty in understanding truth, as told through his fictional Captain Gravitone characters.
13. **Masayoshi Ishikawa, Saint Peter - \$6,000.** Ishikawa will record his second original small jazz ensemble album (titled Shinoburemembering) The music will be distributed in both physical and digital formats. Album showcase concerts will be held at several musical venues.
14. **Teresa Konechne, Henderson - \$6,000.** Gaming is changing how we interact with stories. Who makes them and what stories are told lacks a diversity of voices. Konechne will advance game writing and career building skills while locally connecting older women, rural people, and eco-gamers.
15. **Christopher McCormick, Mankato - \$6,000.** McCormick will work toward the completion of his third book, a novel set in southern Minnesota.
16. **Liz Miller, Good Thunder - \$6,000.** Miller will create a series of ten wall based fiber works that integrate architectural fragments from the small town where she lives, using visual and written documentation to create a record of place, identity, and connection.
17. **Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm - \$6,000.** Rozeske will use the grant to expand her knowledge and skills of boot making, introduce two new styles of footwear, and increase her virtual outreach.
18. **Patti Ruskey, Mankato - \$6,000.** Ruskey, will create an interactive photography series engaging the public to view everyday life through a different lens.

(Artists continued on page 9)

State Arts Board Funding is Awarded to 24 Artists

(Artists continued from page 8)

19. **David Sandersfeld, North Mankato - \$4,999.** Sandersfeld will purchase recording equipment to allow him to explore his musical ideas at home and in a cost-effective way. He will utilize the equipment to release new music to the public.

20. **Mairead Small Staid, Mankato - \$6,000.** Small Staid will launch her debut work, *THE TRACES*, with readings at bookstores in Minneapolis, Mankato, and throughout greater Minnesota; and will continue work on a second book length essay about translation, religion, and marriage.

21. **Elizabeth Torres** (Publicity name: Elizabeth Horneber), **Mankato - \$6,000.** Horneber will compose new essays towards the completion of her first book length collection and create an artist website.

22. **Reed White, North Mankato - \$6,000.** White will merge animation and live acting to make an entertaining, artistic, educational video about painting. The video will be posted on YouTube. He will speak at three local high schools about his video process and experience as an artist.

23. **Gregory Wilkins, Mankato - \$6,000.** Wilkins will create and exhibit sixteen mixed media works, which will be part of a larger solo exhibition at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the Whit Gallery in Saint Cloud, and the Hutchinson Center for the Arts.

24. **Amanda Wirig, Mankato - \$6,000.** Wirig will create twenty-six small paintings and mixed media works to be exhibited and available to the public through her website and open studio events.

State Arts Board Funding is Awarded to Seven Arts Organizations in Region 9, Totaling \$119,450

A total of \$119,450 has been awarded to seven Arts Organizations from the Prairie Lakes Region by the Minnesota State Arts Board in their Creative Support for Organizations grant program. We are pleased to announce these grantees, noted Brenda Byron. I have been listening to the MSAB meetings the last few months and have collected this information for our region. It is wonderful that these additional State funds from the MN State Arts Board have been awarded into our 9-county region.

In the Creative Support for Organizations program, 178 grants, totaling \$4,016,307, were awarded to arts organizations, arts affiliates, and non-arts organizations that regularly offer arts programming as an integral part of their mission. The coronavirus pandemic brought about profound changes for organizations providing arts programming in Minnesota, and has taken a serious toll on Minnesota's arts and cultural sector. These grants can help organizations reimagine and rebuild their arts programming, and adapt to the changing environment in which they make and offer their work.

Additional Creative Support grants for organizations will be awarded in March 2022. *Prairie Lakes plans to include those grantees in an article in April 2022.*

Creative Support for Organization Grantees:

1. **Deep Valley Book Festival, Madison Lake - \$12,000.** The Deep Valley Book Festival will expand its audience in the southern Minnesota region by offering high quality literary arts experiences during the 2022 festival, namely through the presence of keynote speaker Curtis Sittenfeld.

2. **Fairmont Opera House, Fairmont - \$21,500.** The Fairmont Opera House will offer a virtual after-school children's theater residency with Compass Creative, an in-person children's theater program, and an adult community theater program culminating in productions.

3. **The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, New Ulm - \$11,000.** The Grand Center for Arts and Culture will continue to develop programming to further engage area residents in arts access and education, including live shows, gallery shows, arts workshops, artisan gift shop, artists in residence, Cellar Press, and artist studio space.

4. **Mankato Ballet Company, Mankato - \$14,950.** Mankato Ballet Company will put on a nine-month virtual concert series sharing guest works and in-house works of all styles of dance that will reach the broader community, rural areas, schools, seniors, and many others.

5. **Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Mankato - \$25,000.** The Mankato Symphony Orchestra will offer south central Minnesota a hybrid symphony concert, reaching both a live and virtual audience.

6. **Open Arts Minnesota, Mankato - \$25,000.** Open Arts Minnesota will develop and implement plans to deliver in person and virtual theatrical and literary programming for people of diverse abilities and backgrounds in communities throughout southwest Minnesota.

7. **ProMusica Minnesota, Mankato - \$10,000.** ProMusica Minnesota will offer a variety of the highest quality instrumental chamber music to nourish, educate, and inspire its southern Minnesota community.

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

“We were pleased to support public art in our small communities and awarding them an Arts Grant is part of that process”, noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. There can be a lot of ideas for public art projects in our communities, but it can be difficult to figure out how to do it, who to involve, and to engage local community members. The project will likely need other funds to make it happen, so donations are needed as well as a lot of volunteer time. Details about how to plan a public art project in order to qualify for a PLRAC arts grant are on 11. In this article we are highlighting the public sculpture in Janesville and the community mural in Waterville.

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Details about how to plan a public art project in order to qualify for a PLRAC arts grant, continued from page 4

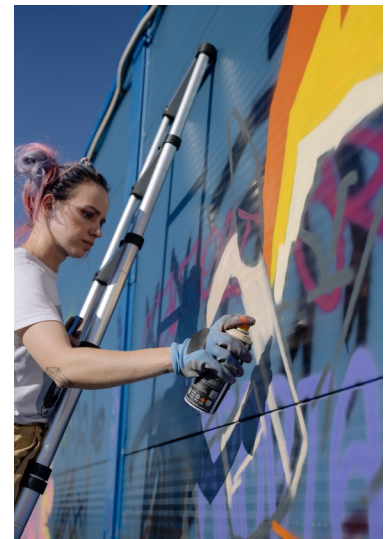
A Prairie Lakes Small Arts Grant or our Arts & Cultural Heritage grant can be used to fund a Public Art Project, noted Brenda Byron. Here are some of the details that are listed in our Grant Guidelines about public art.

Public Art is the creation of a sculpture, mural, public performances, temporary works, and other grassroots forms of public art that engage the community in new ways.

The applicant should identify a qualified artist to design and complete the work, working with a committee of citizens. In the proposal the applicant would need to describe: Why this public art is needed, how it will represent the community or the community's history, and what community input was solicited in the planning phase. Also, was a committee formed to discuss and plan the project? Public Art often requires collaborations between the city, school, community at large, etc.

The applicant would also have to identify and describe which organization would be responsible for the long-term upkeep of the Public Art. Also, submit the artist's resume and documentation of their professional capacity to complete a mural, sculpture, or temporary art installation, etc. and list examples of past work.

We recommend applicants inform themselves about public art and its processes and a resource is Forecast Public Art in St. Paul which has a Public Art Toolkit for communities. <http://forecastpublicart.org/toolkit/didactic.html>. Please contact the Prairie Lakes office at plrac@hickorytech.net for more guidance and information on Public Art projects if needed.



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

Approved 4/19 and updated 5/21.

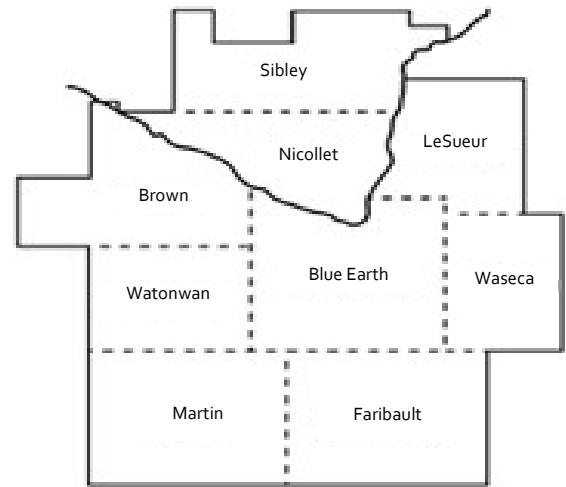
The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) recognizes arts and culture as inherent and vital aspects of life. Art is a proven proponent of healthy, balanced, and prosperous communities. The creation and experience of cultural and artistic expression contribute to both individual and community well-being.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

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

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

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

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



FY 2022 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1, Sept. 1, and Feb. 1

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council will fund projects from non-profit tax-exempt 501c3 arts organizations or those using a fiscal sponsor that are producing or sponsoring an arts activity in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art. This includes arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, public art, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **No specific cash match is required.**

ACH Large Arts Organization Stability Grant. Arts Programming and Access – maximum request \$13,000. **Eligibility:** They must be a 501c3 Arts Organization that has year-round arts programming, has paid staff, and owns their building (or have a yearly lease for performance space).

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

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

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

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

ACH Youth Scholarship. Youth Scholarship for Students (grades 7-12) – \$300, and (grades 3-6) - \$200. Students have the opportunity to study their chosen art with a practicing professional artist by taking lessons over a period of months. This is for all Art disciplines. **Deadline for grades 7-12 is October 1; and grades 3-6 is November 1.**

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

Small Arts Project Grant

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

School Arts Project Grant

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

Artist Development Grant \$1,500

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

Deadline: September 1

Earliest start date: October 1

FY 2022 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

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

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

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

Applications are online at www.plrac.org.

Small Arts Project - \$3,000

BIPOC Projects - \$5,000

School Arts Project - \$3,000

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

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

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

**Arts and Cultural
Heritage Grant**

Aug. 1 and
Feb. 1 Deadline

Large Arts Organization

Stability Grant - \$13,000

Arts Project Grant - \$8,000

Arts Festivals Grant - \$6,000

Arts Education Grant - \$6,000

**Artist Development
Grant - \$1,500**

Sept. 1, 2021 Deadline

**Youth Scholarship
Grades 7-12 - \$300**

October 1 Deadline

**Youth Scholarship
Grades 3-6 - \$200**

November 1 Deadline

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

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



Prairie Lakes Updated our Mission and Value Statements in 2021

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

Mission Statement

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

We value: The Arts, Artistic Merit, Creativity, Community, Accessibility, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.



Value Statements:

The Arts

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

Artistic Merit

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

Creativity

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

Community

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

Accessibility

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

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

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

We support the creation and presentation of diverse art forms, fostering equitable access to arts opportunities, and integrating arts and culture to enhance quality of life in our communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prairie Lakes Board of Directors

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

Staff

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

FY 2022 Prairie Lakes Board of Directors and Staff



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

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

March 1 “Dogman the Musical” Theater Performance, 7 p.m. Adults \$25, students \$5; tickets available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

***March 1-25** Minnesota State University, Mankato, Printmaking Exhibit. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Viewing also available online in the virtual gallery. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

March 1-April 1 Emory and Michelle Moody’s display of miniature replicas of various historical buildings in New Ulm. 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 24 “Fevzi Yazici: Dark White” featuring over 40 drawings by the imprisoned Turkish journalist and artist Fevzi Yazici; and “Recent Donations and Other Acquisitions” Exhibit featuring over 30 pieces acquired by the museum since mid-2018. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free & open to the public. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. (507) 933-7200 or www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom.

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

March 2-5 Annual Juried Exhibition. Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.

***March 2-25** Eddie Hamilton’s Painting Exhibit in the Beckmann Gallery. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State Street N. Gallery hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thurs & Fri. 12 Noon-7 p.m. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

March 3-May 14 Tri-City United Schools Student Art Exhibit. March 3-26 for grades K-4, March 31-April 26 for grades 5-8, and April 28-May 14 for grades 9-12. 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 4 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s “Beethovenfest” Concert featuring music from the composer, 7 p.m. Adults \$20, students ages 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$1. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. **March 1**, meet Howard Hsu, the guest conductor, 6 p.m., held at Bridge Plaza Event Room, 201 N. Riverfront Dr., Mankato. www.mankatosymphony.com or (507) 625-8880.



***March 4** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Everett Smithson performing blues music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***March 4** Opening Reception for the Artist of the Month, 6 p.m. Each month students from area schools are invited to share their work with the community. Local school teachers work with students to prepare and opening receptions are held the first Friday of the month. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***March 4-6 & 11-13** Merely Players Community Theatre presents Agatha Christie’s “Spider’s Web”, March 4, 5, 11 & 12 at 7 p.m. and March 6 & 13 at 2:30 p.m. Adults \$16, seniors \$14, and youth 12 and under \$11. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. www.merelyplayers.com or (507) 388-5483.

***March 4-26** Josh Winkler’s Exhibit of new work. (Reception, March 19, 3-5 p.m.) 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 5 The Deep Valley Book Festival will host a “Cabin Fever Edition” virtual festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The festival will be facilitated on Zoom. Watch their website to view the schedule and for registration information. www.deepvalleybookfestival.com or contact@deepvalleybookfestival.com.



**Arts Event Happening
in Your Area?**

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

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

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

March 5 “Swan Lake” performed by the Mankato Ballet Company, 5 p.m. Adults \$20, students \$8; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

***March 6** Mankato Ballet Performing Company presents “Swan Lake, 5 p.m. In advance: adults \$15 and children under 12 \$12. At the door: cash payment, adults and children \$15; credit card payment, adults \$17, children \$15. Held at Mankato West High School Auditorium, 1351 S. Riverfront Dr. www.mankatoballet.org or (507) 625-7716.

***March 8** Stringfest Concert by orchestra students in grades 6-12, 4 p.m. Held at Mankato East High School, 2600 Hoffmann Road. (507) 387-5671.

March 10-13 “Calvin Berger” Musical Theater Performances, March 10-12 at 7 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. Adults \$15, students \$8; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.



***March 11** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Lehto and Wright performing Celtic, folk, and progressive rock music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

March 11-26 Abigail Rain’s Mixed Media Exhibition. (Reception, March 11, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. www.the410project.com.

***March 12-13** Mankato Playhouse presents performances of “Children of Eden Jr.” March 12 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets in advance, adults \$13 and students and seniors \$10. At the door, adults \$15 and students and seniors \$12. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. (507) 508-6539 or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

***March 12-13** Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra’s Spring Music Concerts, March 12, held at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop High School, 1001 Cottonwood St., Winthrop. March 13, at 3 p.m., held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Dr., Mankato. www.mayso.net.



March 15 MN State University, Mankato, Performance Series Concert by Scottie Miller, performing blues music, 7:30 p.m. In advance \$10, day of show \$12. Held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

***March 18** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Uncle Wheat & Eddie performing a wide variety of music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***March 18** Blue Earth Valley Concert Association sponsors pianist Barron Ryan performing ragtime, jazz and classical music, 7 p.m. The Concert Series tickets will be sold at the door, adults \$50, students \$10, or family \$100. Held at Blue Earth Area High School Performing Arts Center, 1125 N. Grove St. (507) 526-7186 or www.blueearthvalleyconcerts.com.

***March 19** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet performing rock, jazz, pop, baroque, classical, and movie themed music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

March 23-26 “12 Angry Jurors” theater production, 7:30 p.m. each day. Adults \$10, seniors over 65 and youth under 16 \$9. Held at Andreas Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/theatre/ or (507) 389-6661.

***March 25** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents live music, featuring Machinery Hill performing Celtic, rock, and folk music, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Food and beverages will be available. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

***March 27** ProMusica Chamber Music Series in New Ulm: “Cello Treasures” Concert, 3 p.m. Adults \$20, students \$5. Held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 205-2249 or www.promusicamn.com.

Prairie Lakes is on Facebook!



“LIKE” Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

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

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

March 29 MN State University, Mankato, Performance Series Concert by New Orleans piano master Jon Cleary, 7:30 p.m. In advance \$22, at the door \$25. Held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

March 31 The Highwaymen Show, a tribute to Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson, 7 p.m. Adults \$30, students \$8; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Opportunities

March 1 Make and Take Art Class, 4:30-6 p.m. Grades K-3, \$10. Students will use elements of art and principles of design to complete a project to take home. Registration is required at <https://waseca.ce.eleyo.com>. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

March 1 Club Picasso Class, 4:30-6 p.m. Grades 4-6, \$10. Students will use elements of art and principles of design to complete a project to take home. Registration required at <https://waseca.ce.eleyo.com>. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

***March 1-9** Late Registration for South Central Service Cooperative's Young Writers & Artists Conference for grades 3-8, held March 9 at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato. \$39. Students attend an opening program and three breakout sessions in various genres of writing and fine arts. Register at <http://www.mnscsc.org>, or contact Mary Hillmann at mhillmann@mnscsc.org or (952) 715-8745.

March 7-8 Musical theater auditions for Merely Players performances of "Matilda", 6-8 p.m. each night. Performances will be May 13-15 & 20-22. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 388-5483 or www.merelyplayers.com.

***March 12** Open Art Studio, children of all ages, \$6, 9 a.m.-12 Noon. Open studio invites children into the world of imagination through exploring, tinkering, making decisions, and enjoying the process of creating using selected materials in the studio to create their ideas at their own pace. Prompts are set up to stimulate creativity and staff is present to support ideas and facilitate projects. Children under age 6 must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver. Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

***March 19** 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 techniques while also being given the freedom to make the artwork their own. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

***March 25** 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. This year's theme is "Hope". The contest was established 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. for more information visit www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest. Sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative. www.mnscsc.org, mhillmann@mnscsc.org, or (952) 715-8745.



(Opportunities continued on page 19)

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

Adult Opportunities

March 5-6 Creating a Barn Quilt Class, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on March 5 and 1-5 p.m. on March 6. Participants will choose a quilt pattern and learn how to enlarge their chosen pattern on a primed piece of 2' x 2' board, using paint colors of their choice. \$75, materials included. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

March 7-8 Musical theater auditions for Merely Players performances of "Matilda", 6-8 p.m. each night. Performances will be May 13-15 & 20-22. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 388-5483 or www.merelyplayers.com.

***March 9-30** Intermediate Weaving Class. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn how to waffle weave and complete a set of washcloths. A warped loom and fiber materials will be provided. \$40, register at www.artscentersp.org/classes/. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

March 12 Intro to Letterpress Class, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn an introduction to letterpress printing including key equipment, tools, and terminology. Participants will work together to print an edition of posters. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

March 14-15 Musical theater auditions for Mankato Playhouse's performances of "Grease", 7 p.m. each night. Please bring sheet music for a song you have already learned. A pianist will be provided to accompany you. Visit <https://mankatoplayhouse.com/broadway-series-auditions> for additional audition information. Performances will be Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, April 29-May 15. Held at the Mankato Playhouse, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. (507) 508-6539 or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

***March 23** Open Knitting. 4th Wednesday each month, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Bring your projects, make progress, and make new connections with fellow knitters. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

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

March Art for All Open Studio. The space has art supplies for the public to use. Wed., Thurs, and Fri. 2-7 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Held at Sidetracked, 420 Park Lane, Mankato. sidetrackedmankato@gmail.com

Adaptive Recreational Services "On the Go" will distribute Painting with Rhonda canvases and post an online instruction video on their Facebook page. You can find information about ARS at www.nuars.org. Adaptive Recreational Services is located in New Ulm, and offers activities for teens and adults with disabilities from the surrounding communities. Contact Karrie Borchert, coordinator, at (507) 217-0383 with any questions.

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

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

Grant Opportunities

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 15 projects will be awarded to small communities with a population under 10,000. Applications and guidelines are available at <https://smifoundation.org/grants/for-grant-seekers/paint-the-town-grants-2/>. Contact Jennifer at the Southern MN Initiative Foundation for more information, jenniferh@smifoundation.org or (507) 214-7040.

March 25 McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship Deadline. The McKnight Visual Artist Fellowships are administered by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. It is intended to reward talented Minnesota visual artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit and who are at a career stage beyond emerging. Six \$25,000 Fellowships will be awarded. For more information go to <https://www.mcad.edu/why-mcad/partnerships/mcknight-visual-artist-fellowships> or contact Kerry Morgan at (612) 874-3667 or kmorgan@mcad.edu.

Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

College Galleries

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

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

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

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

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

Community Theaters

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

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

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

Springfield Community Theatre. Performances are held at the Springfield High School, 12 Burns Ave. (507) 723-6315, go to "Springfield Community Theatre, Springfield, MN" on Facebook.

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

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

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



Grant Opportunity

April 12 GIG Fund Grant Deadline. This is a flexible grant of \$2,500 that helps Midwestern nonprofit organizations bring professional artists into their community. Funded projects must occur between July-December 2022. For more information visit <https://www.artsmidwest.org/programs/gigfund/guidelines>. Contact Joshua Feist at gig@artsmidwest.org or (612) 238-8054 or with questions.

WORK OF ART: BUSINESS SKILLS FOR ARTISTS

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



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

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

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