



Artist Development Grants for \$1,500 Available!

Applications are due September 1, 2021

Prairie Lakes will be continuing the \$1,500 Artist Development Grant program in FY 2022. This will allow more artists to apply for funding and will provide more flexible support. Applications are encouraged from artists in all art disciplines. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional arts, etc.

The Artist Development Grant of \$1,500 has a deadline of September 1, 2021, with the earliest starting date of October 1, 2021. *The application will be available online by July 1st.*

This \$1,500 project grant provides financial support to artists committed to advancing their work and careers. Artists at all stages of development are eligible. Artists may expand their present work, advance in skill or technique, or move in a new direction.

Applicants must have resided in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, or Watonwan County for a minimum of twelve months prior to application.

This grant is for a specific project that contributes directly to your growth and development as a professional. Funds may be used for art supplies, materials, equipment, mentorships, workshops, creative time, living expenses, etc.

A new Artist Grant Writing Workshop Video and a PDF document is available on the Services page of our website, www.plrac.org.

Here are the links:

PLRAC Artist Grant Writing Video:
<https://youtu.be/zUpZB6tpsWA>

Artist Grant Writing Workshop PDF Document:
[https://plrac.org/downloads/
2021PLRAC_ArtistGrantwritingWorkshop.pdf](https://plrac.org/downloads/2021PLRAC_ArtistGrantwritingWorkshop.pdf)

Prairie Lakes values an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community and this is reflected in our policies and programs. 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 encourage Artists that are BIPOC and LGBTQ+ to apply, as well as artists with disabilities. If you need extra assistance in the application process, please contact the PLRAC office and we would be happy to assist you.

Prairie Lakes plans to Award 33 Artist Grants for a total of \$49,500 with funds from The McKnight Foundation. Artists that were awarded \$1,500 in June of 2020 are not eligible to apply for this grant.

The application deadline is September 1st, and they will be reviewed at the Sept. 23, 2021 board meeting. Please contact Brenda Byron, at the Prairie Lakes office at plrac@hickorytech.net to discuss your artist project idea, we would be happy to assist you.

Artist Grant Webinar

**Monday, May 17 at 5 p.m. or
Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m.**

PLRAC Executive Director, Brenda Byron, will conduct an online webinar about the new guidelines for the grant program, project timelines, and what projects can be funded. We encourage new artists to attend. Email plrac@hickorytech.net to obtain meeting login information.

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION



February 2021 **Artist Survey Results**

The feedback Prairie Lakes received from the February 2021 Artist Survey was taken into consideration in keeping the grant size at \$1,500 for FY 2022, noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director. **Artist's overwhelmingly chose the \$1,500 grant size with 77% of respondents selecting this option.** The board noted they will evaluate this grant size again in one year and may consider changes for FY 2023.

Here are some details from the Artist Survey:

1. At What Level or Category are you as an Artist?

38% Established Professional Artist, 26% Arts Educator, 20% Identified themselves as an Emerging Artist, 13% Hobbyist and 3% Crafts person.

2. What arts discipline do you primarily work in?

51% Visual Art, 14% Instrumental Music, 14% Literature, 10% Theater, 4% Vocal Music, 4% Dance, and 1% Media Arts.

The 2021 Artist survey was completed by 69 individuals and details were discussed at the regular board meeting on 2/25/21. The purposes for the survey were to confirm preferences for the artist Grant Size in FY 2022-23, and two scenarios were available to either continue with the \$1,500 grant size, which was a COVID response style grant and amount; or to return to the FY 2020 style of grants with two different amounts and deadlines (\$3,000 & \$1,000 size grants). **Artist's overwhelmingly chose the \$1,500 grant size with 77% of respondents selecting this option.**

The secondary purpose of the survey was to ask Artists what Barriers they have when Applying for an Artist Grant. This is in direct correlation to our PLRAC Equity and Inclusion meetings, and information reviewed with our new Prairie Lakes Equity Taskforce community members that met in winter and spring 2021.

The respondents were asked to identify Barriers that they have when Applying for an Artist Grant. A total of 64% of the artists that participated in the survey, said that they do not have any barriers to participate when applying for an Artist Grant.

- **The highest barrier at 18% was - I am too busy trying to make a living and it consumes all my time;**
- The second barrier at 16% was - I do not have the personal time to devote to my work right now;
- The third barrier was - I do not have work samples ready to submit with my application;
- The fourth barrier was that artists did not have a resume ready to submit, and;
- Fifth the Artists stated: "I lack the confidence to write a grant, and so I did not apply".

The restriction on frequency of the artist grant for FY 2022 (not eligible again if received in FY 2021), came directly from Artist comments in the survey.

Several individuals had these comments: It seems the same artists get funded year after year. I think there should be a limit on number of grants, so more artists can be funded. I appreciate PLRAC funding artists who are struggling financially. I also appreciate your attempt to fund artists from throughout the nine-counties. Try to give grants to artists that have never received a grant before, not the same artists over and over again.

The Public Hearing was held on Thursday, March 25th for the Prairie Lakes Biennial Plan



Brenda Byron,
Executive Director

It was nice to have several arts constituents attend the meeting, noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director. We presented information about our FY 2022-2023 Biennial Plan and Budget at the meeting,

As required by our designation as the Regional Arts Council serving the 9-county region, Prairie Lakes outlined the draft plan for grant programs, priorities, and services to be delivered in fiscal years 2022-2023 beginning July 1, 2021 through June of 2023. We receive State General funds and Arts and Cultural Heritage funds and McKnight Foundation money to award annually. Approximately 90% of our budget comes from State funds and 10% from the McKnight Foundation.

The good news is that Prairie Lakes is anticipating a **30% increase in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds** in FY 2022, and **20%** in 2023 according to preliminary information we received from the MN State Arts Board. We are one of eleven Regional Arts Councils in the state that distributes money for arts grant programs and services in all 87 counties in Minnesota.

Preliminary information outlined that the **Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) grant maximums will increase** from \$11,000 to **\$13,000** for Arts Organizations that own a building or have a yearly lease agreement for

performance space (this does not include renting office space or storage space); ACH Art projects currently at \$6,000 will increase to **\$8,000**; ACH Festivals will increase from \$4,000 to **\$6,000**. The ACH School grants will be \$6,000.

In FY 2022 Prairie Lakes will continue to offer Artist Development Grants at \$1,500. We anticipate that 33 individual artists can be awarded funds, totaling \$49,500. The deadline will be September 1st. Funds are provided by the McKnight Foundation.

Final arts programs and grant amounts will be confirmed in June after the Legislative session ends, and State funds are allocated to the MN State Arts Board and the eleven Regional Arts Councils. The new fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2021 and new applications will be posted on the PLRAC website. Grant deadlines will remain similar in the next year and details are on page 10 and 11 of the newsletter.

A new Grant Writing Workshop overview (PDF) of Arts programs and services is available on our website if you are not familiar with our programs. It is on the Services page of our website, www.plrac.org. Here is the link: https://www.plrac.org/downloads/2021PLRAC_OverviewGrants_ArtsOrganizationsArtists.pdf.

Please contact our office to discuss your project idea and ask questions about our arts funding programs. We would be happy to assist you.

A new Artist Grant Writing Workshop Video and a PDF document is available on the Services page of our website, www.plrac.org.

Here are the links:
[PLRAC Artist Grant Writing Video:](https://youtu.be/zUpZB6tpswA)
<https://youtu.be/zUpZB6tpswA>

Artist Grant Writing Workshop PDF Document:
https://plrac.org/downloads/2021PLRAC_ArtistGrantwritingWorkshop.pdf.





Funds are exhausted **for the Small Arts Project and School Arts Project Grant Program in FY 2021.**

The next available deadline for a Small Arts Project or School Arts Project Grant is July 1, 2021, and the maximum is \$2,000. Applications are required to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the event taking place. Contact the PLRAC office to discuss your project if your activity takes place this summer.

Prairie Lakes Updated their Mission Statement 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.



Brenda Byron,
Executive
Director

Remarks from the March 2021 Public Hearing to review FY 2022-23 Plan

I am honored to be the Executive Director of Prairie Lakes and to be working with dedicated staff and board members who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the State and McKnight Arts funding our regional arts council has received was awarded this year to dozens of artists and organizations that applied for funding.

I have been amazed and inspired by the unbelievable resilience of our artists and arts organizations who have somehow continued to find ways to survive and bring needed joy to communities throughout southern Minnesota and our 9-county region during this incredibly challenging time. Let us take a moment to reflect and recognize our dedicated artists, arts volunteers, board members and staff of arts organizations who are doing

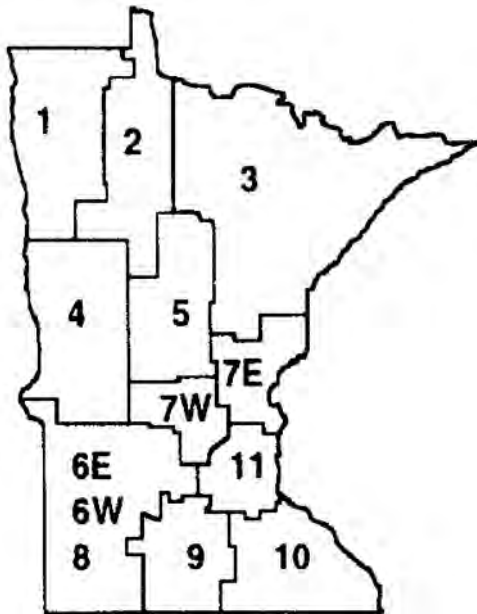
the impossible to get us through the darkest of times by continuing to create art and activities to lift all of us up.

Our board members serve as panelists to review all of the applications received, which totaled 203 this year. Thirty-five artists were awarded grants, 108 students received arts scholarships to take lessons or participate with a youth music group and forty-nine arts organizations, community groups and schools were awarded funds for a total of 192 grants.

Extra assistance was provided to those who needed it, and we were flexible in working with grantees when their activities were cancelled, postponed, and eventually rescheduled. We are still in the process of working with dozens of organizations who are rescheduling activities for this summer and fall.

What is the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota?

Did you know there are eleven Regional Arts Councils in the State?



Brenda Byron, the Executive Director of Prairie Lakes attends monthly meetings with the other Regional Arts Council Directors. The map shows where the other regions are geographically in the state. We work in collaboration with the other regions, and we all receive our funding through the Minnesota State Arts Board who is the fiscal agent for the funding that comes from the Minnesota State Legislature.

The Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota is a consortium of the eleven Regional Arts Councils that serve all 87 Minnesota counties.

The Forum is made up of all eleven (11) Executive Directors of Regional Arts Councils in the state and has been an important space for those directors to come together for learning, sharing, and strategizing as a statewide system. As the Prairie Lakes Executive Director, Brenda Byron represents the southcentral Minnesota region. At meetings Directors leave the meetings with a unified voice on decisions that affect the entire state. The Forum has been incredibly important for working through regional differences and making the appropriate compromises on what would have the greatest statewide impact.

One of the statewide initiatives the Forum has committed to over the past few years is diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through training and mentorships with equity experts, the Forum has been able to deepen our analysis of equity and develop new practices in our own regions.

Forum Vision Statement:

Through the leadership of the Forum of Regional Arts Councils in partnership with the Minnesota State Arts Board, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, the McKnight Foundation, and others:

- All Minnesota residents will have access to the arts;
- The arts will be integrated into the fabric of our communities; and
- Art will become an essential part of community building.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Awarded

A total of \$74,000 was awarded to 9 Area Organizations

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that **Arts and Cultural Heritage grants of \$74,000 were awarded to nine arts organizations in the region.** The organizations are listed alphabetically with a brief description of their artistic activities and events.

A variety of activities including **virtual events** and in-person instrumental music concerts, dance performances, public art, and art classes and exhibitions 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, 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.

City Center Partnership, Mankato - \$6,000. They will sponsor the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour consisting of at least 30 juried outdoor sculptures in downtown Mankato and North Mankato, May 2021 to April 2022. Funds will be used to pay stipends to six artists.

Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota - \$11,000. They will expand their summer 2021 dance programs to include more pre-point, ballet technique, dance camps, and hip-hop classes. They will also offer free summer camps for children to try dance. Funds will be used for studio rent and expenses during the summer months.

Mankato Area 77 Lancers Marching Band - \$6,000. They will present their 43rd season as the premier youth marching band for the greater Mankato area, performing for community events and in parades. Funds will be used for scholarships, publicity, venue rental fee, and supplies.

Mankato Area Public Schools - StoryArk - \$6,000. They will partner with StoryArk to host an online, 3-week Storytelling Camp in the summer of 2021. At the end of camp, there will be a StoryArk Festival to feature the works created by high school students from Mankato Area Public Schools, St. Peter, and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school districts. The grant will be used to support the festival. Funds will be used for artist fees and technical staff to implement the online festival.

Mankato Ballet Company - \$11,000. They will present their original ballet production "Sleeping Beauty", May of 2021 in the St. Peter High School Auditorium or the State Street Theater in New Ulm, depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Funds will be used for costumes, sets, a backdrop, and publicity.

Mankato Community Education – Pottery Studio - \$6,000. They will re-open the Pottery Studio to public use. Funds will be used to purchase and install a wheelchair accessible pottery wheel or another type of adjustable wheel; replenish their inventory of clay, glazes, and supplies; and hire a part time instructor for open pottery hours.

Mankato Figure Skating Club - \$6,000. They will present their annual ice show entitled "Cinderella...If The Shoe Fits" in May 2021. Plans will also be made to live stream the event, if needed, to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions. Funds will be used for coaches' stipends, equipment and prop storage, and ice time for rehearsals and performances.

Mankato Symphony Orchestra - \$11,000. They will present their Symphonic Series Concert "National Monuments", in a celebration of our country and its rich heritage of music this fall. They are planning for an in-person event but will be able to switch to virtual if needed. Funds will be used for artist and conductor fees.

The Grand Center for Arts and Culture - \$11,000. They will continue their 2021 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 socially distanced outdoor performances, as well as virtual performances. Funds will be used for performing artist fees, publicity, music royalty fees, and staff salary.



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.

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.**



Arts constituents met with new legislator, **Representative Susan Akland** from District 19A which covers St. Peter, North Mankato, and Nicollet.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council 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** is 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** met with the PLRAC Staff and Executive Committee members and provided feedback on our policies, grant guidelines, and applications as it pertains to Equity and Inclusion, through a series of Zoom meetings in January, February and March 2021. Details about Equity Taskforce members are on page 5.

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 was 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 began by reviewing Prairie Lakes policies, grant guidelines, and applications as it pertains to Equity and Inclusion. Their suggestions have been 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, 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.

Prairie Lakes Equity Taskforce Members



Sara Aguilar, North Mankato. Sara Aguilar is the Interim Director of Latinx and Multicultural Affairs at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Sara uses her personal and career experiences to help Latinx and underrepresented students accomplish their goals in higher education and beyond. As an immigrant Sara understands the challenges underrepresented individuals face as they establish themselves within their community. Sara received her education at Minnesota State University, Mankato with a Bachelors in Health Sciences with a second focus on ceramic arts. Sara enjoys writing poetry, storytelling, and playing instruments in her free time.



Alice De Yonge, Pemberton. Alice is the Program Director for Project G.E.M. (Growth, Experience, and Motivation) a local south central outreach arts education nonprofit organization. Project G.E.M. offers a variety of educational services for low income/high risk youth with social and behavioral disabilities. Alice has a BS from Minnesota State University, Mankato with a major in Arts and Humanities, Sociology and a minor in Philosophy. She also partners with the LGBTQ+ and Native American communities and organizes school residencies and workshops.



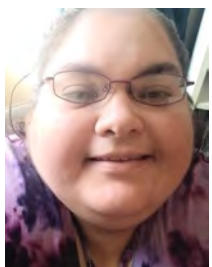
Amy Magnus, Lake Crystal. Amy is a professor at South Central College in North Mankato. She has a Masters in English and a Ph.D. in Multi-Cultural Literature from Case Western Reserve University; and an American Indian Studies Credential from the Minnesota State credentialing office. Amy organizes the South Central College bi-annual Global Connections Conference that brings performance groups, speakers, and artists from other cultures in Minnesota to the college and the local community.



Avan Musse, Mankato. I'm a licensed Social Worker with ISD77, assigned to Dakota Meadows. I was born in East Africa; Somalia then grew up and graduated high school in Egypt. I have called Mankato my home since 2002 and I'm very involved in the community. I'm proud mother to five children. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling the world and love dancing. I'm an advocate by heart and committed to improve the quality of life for all individuals, by implementing system-wide change through the pursuit of social justice.



Wilbur Neushwander-Frink, Mankato. Wilbur is the Executive Director for Open Arts Minnesota, a nonprofit dedicated to the mission of offering people of all abilities and ages the opportunity to participate in inclusive theatrical and artistic activities in an environment of creativity and compassion. She is the director and playwright for The United We Stand Players of New Ulm, the Aktion Club Theatre of Mankato, and the Aktion Club Theatre of Fairmont, groups of adults of all abilities that perform plays with social justice themes such as disability-accessibility, community inclusion, and civil and human rights. She has a BS in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Amy Jo Piedade, North Mankato. Amy Jo is the Artistic Assistant for Open Arts Minnesota, a nonprofit dedicated to the mission of offering people of all abilities and ages the opportunity to participate in inclusive theatrical and artistic activities in an environment of creativity and compassion. She is a member of the Aktion Club Theatre of Mankato. She loves acting, singing, dancing, and poetry.

In FY 2021 Prairie Lakes awarded 194 Grants totaling \$381,239

Here's a summary of Grants awarded:

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

\$73,309 - State General funds (22 grants)
Small Arts Project & School Grants

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

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

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

Have you visited
www.plrac.org lately?



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

Find the latest grant applications and guidelines, monthly newsletters and arts calendar, helpful links, & more!

FY 2021 SMALL ARTS PROJECT and SCHOOL GRANTS

***These State grants were awarded August 2020 through April 2021; and funds are exhausted.**

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

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
Greater Mankato Diversity Council, festival - \$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

Adaptive Recreational Services, art classes - \$4,000
Healthy Comm./Healthy Youth, public art - \$4,000

LE SUEUR COUNTY

City of Waterville, public art mural - \$4,000

MARTIN COUNTY

South Central MN Interpretive Center, music perf. - \$1,725

NICOLLET COUNTY

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, artist fees - \$4,000
Old Town Mankato Day of the Dead Festival - \$4,000
South Central Service Cooperative, youth writing - \$3,500
St. Peter Community Education, art classes - \$4,000
VINE Memoir Writers Group, book publishing - \$4,000

SIBLEY COUNTY

2B Continued, virtual dance classes - \$4,000
City of Winthrop - concerts in the park - \$1,904

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 Positions from Faribault County and City of Fairmont

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

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

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

The FY 2021 Prairie Lakes grant applications include this information.

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

The Latest Overview of Stay Safe MN.

We have reason for optimism! Vaccine availability is expanding, hospitalizations are down, and COVID -19 cases are lower than they’ve been in a long time. The sun is rising on the pandemic even as Minnesotans have gotten back to important parts of daily life.

But we need to be cautious as well. We should continue to take measures to combat the spread of the virus in our communities – wear a mask, keep groups small and distanced, and wash your hands. Get tested if you feel it’s appropriate. Download the COVIDawareMN smartphone app to get notified if you’ve been exposed to someone who tests positive. And get a vaccine if you are eligible.

In Minnesota, the vaccine rollout is one of the best in the nation. More than 40,000 shots are going into arms each day, and as of March 12, 2021, nearly 1.2 million Minnesota have received at least one dose. The data shows us that new cases are down from their peak, hospitalizations are declining, and fewer people are dying of COVID-19. We remain cautious and vigilant to protect the progress we’ve made, but we can see it and feel it now more than ever – we are beating COVID-19.

We can now take more common-sense steps toward “back to normal.” With the impact of vaccines taking hold, it is becoming safer to gather with family and friends, and to support small businesses. These adjustments reflect that reality and give us hope that we are on the cusp putting the pandemic behind us.

Life is slowly returning to normal as vaccine eligibility expands and supply of doses increases. Social activity and family visits are returning in long-term care facilities; cases among teachers and educators have been stable even as many students are back in the classroom; vaccinated grandparents can safely hug their grandchildren again. But COVID-19 is still with us, and we need to be mindful and safe.

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/>

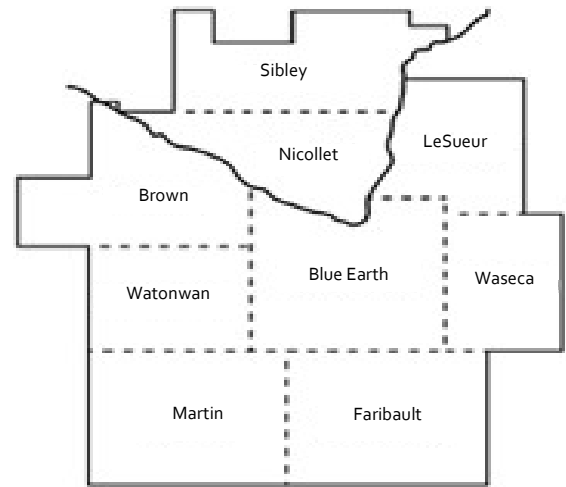
Arts Ready. <https://www.artsready.org/>

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>



mn.gov/covid19



FY 2022 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 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 arts, and folk/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 \$13,000. **Deadline: August 1 and February 1.** 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).

ACH Arts Project Grant. Arts Programming/Access – maximum request \$8,000. **Deadline: August 1 and February 1.** 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 \$6,000. **Deadline: August 1 and February 1.** 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 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 \$2,000. BIPOC projects can apply for up to \$3,000. Fundable activities include: arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. **Deadline: July 1, and the 1st of each month until May.**

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: July 1, and the 1st of each month until May.**

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: September 1

Earliest start date: October 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.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, 105 22nd Avenue NE, Suite A, Waseca, MN 56093
plrac@hickorytech.net Online Application through our website, www.plrac.org.

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.

Organizations can only receive one grant per year. We encourage arts projects for BIPOC 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. Funds are exhausted for all FY 2021 programs.

Small Arts Project - \$2,000
BIPOC Projects - \$3,000
School Arts Project - \$2,000

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

FY 2022 grant applications
will be online by July 1, 2021.

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

Arts and Cultural
Heritage Grant

Large Arts Organization
Stability grant - \$13,000.
Aug 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

Arts Project - \$8,000
Aug. 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

Arts Festivals - \$6,000
Aug. 1 & Feb. 1 Deadline

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.



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 71% White, 26% 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, Latino, Caribbean, Chicano/Mexican, Central American, South American, Middle Eastern/North African, Southeast Asian/Asian/Pacific Islander, Immigrants, Refugees, and Muslim individuals.
- * Economically disadvantaged
- * Youth and Seniors
- * People with Disabilities
- * LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, etc.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arts Events and Opportunities

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

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

***May 1** Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts Open Mic Night, 7 p.m. Any and all musical acts, literature reading, poetry reading, or other talents are welcome. Please pre-register at www.redrockcenter.org to participate. Performance will be both virtual and in-person with limited capacity. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

May 1 Spring Dance Concert by MN State University Mankato dance students, 2 p.m. \$10, all tickets are general admission and must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.msutheatre.com or (507) 389-6661. This season may be adjusted due to COVID-19, please confirm your tickets before attending.

***May 1** "Sleeping Beauty" Virtual Tap Sneak Peek, 6 p.m., on Facebook live. It will feature the advanced Tap Class in a standoff between Aurora's mother, the Queen, and Carabosse. Both have a mini army as they face off in this fun, but intense tap dance battle. Sponsored by Mankato Ballet Company, 1650 Tullamore St. (507) 625-7716 or www.mankatoballet.org.

May 1-2 "The Nerd" theater performances, May 1 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and May 2 at 2 p.m. General admission \$5, sold on location. Held outdoors at the German Park Amphitheater, 200 N. German St., New Ulm. Sponsored by Martin Luther College, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990 or www.mlc-wels.edu.

***May 1-7** Minnesota State University, Mankato Installation Art Show, featuring advanced art students. 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. Viewing also available in our Virtual Gallery at www.thegrandnewulm.com. (507) 359-9222.



May 1-7 Shelley Caldwell's "Lineation" Installation and Works on Paper Exhibit, held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Masks are required. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6767.

May 1-9 Nina Robinson's "Me'lange" Mixed Media Installation. 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.



May 1-13 "6 feet apART" Senior Studio Art Majors Exhibition. Held at Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Send an email to 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>.

***May 1-15** School Art Show, by Tri-City United students in 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. (507) 364-8107 or www.artsandheritagecenter.org.

May 1-16 Mankato Playhouse presents dinner theatre performances of "Forbidden Broadway". Friday and Saturday dinner seating at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday lunch seating at 12:30 p.m., show at 2 p.m. Table for 2 for \$40-\$96, table for 4 for \$80-\$192, table for 6 for \$150-\$288, depending on meal choice, tickets available at www.mankatoplayhouse.com. Due to social distancing guidelines, only 21 tables are available for purchase for each show. Empty seats at a sold table will not be sold to another guest and table price is not reduced if all seats are not filled. Show Only tickets can be purchased online and if available, can be purchased at the door 30 min. before each show. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. www.mankatoplayhouse.com or (507) 508-6539.

May 1-29 Yvonne Cory's Fiber Arts Apron Show. Visitors need to wear masks and observe social distancing. Held at the Albert Lea Art Center, 101 S. Broadway. Gallery hours: Tues. 12 Noon-6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (507) 373-5665 or www.thealbertleaartcenter.org.

***May 1-29** Bryan Holland's "Layered Realities" Exhibit of new work. Visitors need to wear masks and observe social distancing. Gallery occupancy will be limited to 10 people at a time. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Gallery hours: Wed.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

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.

May 1-June 25 “Miniature Art” Exhibit by the Johnson Brothers. 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.

May 1-Sept. 30 “Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection” Exhibit highlighting many of Marian’s original works that her fine art prints have been made from. (A virtual program will be held May 6, 4-5 p.m., register online.) 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.

***May 7** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with the piano and brass trio Machiko performing eclectic music, 7-8:30 p.m. To virtually view the live show, subscribe to The Grand’s YouTube channel at www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube or watch on Facebook live. Sponsored by the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

May 8 The Southern Minnesota Poets Society will host a virtual event with poet Alan Perry, 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.

May 8 The Looney Lutherans present their show “Young(ish) At Heart: Celebrating “Maturity,” 7 p.m. Tickets: In advance adults \$12.50 and students \$8, from the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm HyVee, or online at www.statestreetnewulm.org; at the door adults \$15 and students \$10. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 North State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

May 8-9 “Three Sisters” Theater Performances. May 8 at 7 p.m. and May 9 at 3 p.m. Performances will be virtual and streamed online. www.gustavus.edu/theatre-dance to find the link. Sponsored by Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.

***May 9** ProMusica Chamber Music Concert “Pale Yellow”, 3 p.m. Adults \$10, students \$5. Held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 201 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 205-2249 or www.promusicamn.com.



***May 11** Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts Lunchbox Entertainment the second Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon. This month features musicians Big John and Connie Pedersen. Performances will be in-person. A recording of the program will be posted on Facebook later in the week. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.

***May 11** Community Common Ground Series including fun and educational conversations that take two seemingly unrelated topics, learn about them from local community experts, and then work together to find the common ground that connects them, 5:30-7:30 p.m. May’s event will feature “Speechless Films” presented by The Speechless Film Festival organizers and “Sacred Sites” presented by Megan Schnitker and the Mahkato Revitalization Project. The event will be held virtually on Zoom. Sponsored by the Living Earth Center, 170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato. www.livingearthcentermn.org or (507) 389-4272.

May 14-30 Russ White’s “The Distance Between Us” Drawings and Collages Exhibit. Masks and social distancing are required. (Reception, May 14, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 South Front Street, Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 2-6 p.m. Visit www.the410project.com.

***May 14-June 11** Dana Rose’s Photography Exhibit. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat. 12 noon-5 p.m. Viewing also available in our Virtual Gallery at www.thegrandnewulm.com. (507) 359-9222.

May 16 Adventures of Thin Man “The Case of the Goofy Groom” Radio Show. The link to the virtual show will be posted online and will be available to view for 3 months. Donations will be accepted to view the show. Sponsored by the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

**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.

A decorative graphic featuring several colored pencils (yellow, blue, red, green) arranged around a central pencil holder filled with pencils. The graphic is positioned around the text in the 'Arts Event Happening' section.

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.

***May 20-July 3** Kim Loranger's Exhibit of works in a variety of mediums. Held at the Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 First St. N. Hours: Thurs & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 364-8107 or www.artsandheritagecenter.org.


***May 21** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents a virtual music series with Watermelon Slush performing downhome country music, 7-8:30 p.m. To virtually view the live show, subscribe to The Grand's YouTube channel at www.thegrandnewulm.com/youtube or watch on Facebook live. Sponsored by the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

May 21 Fairmont Opera House presents the country music singer and songwriter Jerrod Niemann on his Ghost Rider Tour, 7:30 p.m. General admission \$35; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.org. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.org.

May 22 Maker Market, sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., in-person. Shop for truly unique items created by local artists. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

***May 22-April 30, 2022** The 2021 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

May 26-29 "The Complete History of America (Abridged)" theater production. All tickets are general admission and must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Watch www.msutheatre.com for ticket costs and performance times. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.msutheatre.com or (507) 389-6661. This season may be adjusted due to COVID-19, please confirm your tickets before attending.

May 27 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra's Music On The Hill, Virtual Chamber Music Concert "The Gypsy", 7:30 p.m. Watch for free on the symphony's Facebook or YouTube pages or on their website www.mankatosymphony.org. (507) 625-8880 or www.mankatosymphony.org. 

May 28 Fairmont Opera House presents the A Cappella group, Tonic Sol-Fa, 7:30 p.m. General admission \$30; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.org. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.org.

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

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

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

***Project GEM** is hosting their Annual Creative Youth Show virtually in 2021, showcasing student artwork from the area. Watch their website for a link to view the artwork starting in May. www.projectgemMN.org or (507) 726-6047.

Area Wineries have brought back live musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. Please contact them for times, musicians, and their COVID-19 safety plans and requirements.

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

Youth Summer Dance Class Opportunities:

Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota: (507) 625-2005 or <https://www.dcsmdance.com/performances>.

Mankato Ballet Company: (507) 625-7716 or <http://mankatoballet.org/classes/summer/>.

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.

May 1-June 30 Enter the Young Writer and Artist Competition, for ages 7-18, sponsored by The Deep Valley Book Festival. Writers: submit a story, in 1,500 words or less, on the theme of "Family". Artists: choose your favorite book and illustrate your favorite scene on an 8.5" x 11" sheet. Go to www.deepvalleybookfestival.com/young-writers-artists-competition for more information, submission instructions, and entry forms. (507) 340-4594, www.deepvalleybookfestival.com or contact@deepvalleybookfestival.com.

***May 2-3** Auditions for the Mankato Playhouse's performances of "Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.", 5 p.m. each day. Auditions are open to all students in 6th-12th grade. Please bring sheet music for a song you have already learned. Mankato Playhouse will provide a pianist at auditions to accompany you. Do not use a song from the show. Do not sing to taped music or sing a cappella. Performance dates are June 24-27. Workshop fee is \$160. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. www.mankatoplayhouse.com or (507) 508-6539.

May 6 or 27 Japanese Side Sewn Book Binding Class, 4-5 p.m., ages 8 and up. Watch a Creative Bug tutorial on side sewn book binding and then dig in and make one for yourself. All materials will be provided, and registration is required. Mask wearing and social distancing are required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/363/Library.

***May 15** 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.



May 20 Suminagashi Paper Marbling Class, 4-5 p.m., ages 8 and up. Suminagashi or "floating ink" is an ancient paper marbling technique that involves using ink and a resistant in a pan of water to create a sequence of rings that are transferred to paper. Watch a Creative Bug tutorial with an instructor and then create your own marbled paper. All materials will be provided, and registration is required. Mask wearing and social distancing are required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmmn.gov/363/Library.

***May 22** 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. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Adult Opportunities

***May 4-25** Introduction to Weaving Class. Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn basic weaving skills by exploring a variety of twill structures while experimenting with texture. Learn to operate a loom and the terminology to create a solid foundation of weaving knowledge. You will create a weaving sampler that can serve as a wall hanging or a helpful reference for future projects. \$40, The Arts Center will provide looms and fiber materials in advance. Classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Register at www.artscentersp.org/classes/. Sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

May 10 or 18 History of Jewelry Class, 6-8 p.m. Artisan Sue Happel of Village Arts and Pottery will teach about the history of jewelry making and then guide participants through crafting their own simple jewelry piece. All materials will be provided, and registration is required. Mask wearing and social distancing are required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmmn.gov/363/Library or (507) 359-8334.

***May 17 & 24** Marketing for the Creative Mind: Developing a Brand and Public Presence Class. Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Explore an overview of marketing skills and strategies tailored to creative work. Public relations specialist and working artist Reese Damiani will facilitate discussion of your brand and how to create a cohesive identity across multiple platforms. Work through steps to clarify your image and tailor your presentation based on your personal business goals. \$20, classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Register online at www.artscentersp.org/classes/. Sponsored by Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

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.

***May 20 & 27 Introduction to Book Binding Class.** Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Bind two different books, one with the Coptic Stitch and another with the Long Stitch. \$20, you provide your own materials. Classes will be held as Zoom Meetings. Register at www.artscentersp.org/classes/. Sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.



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

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

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

Grant Opportunities

May 21 McKnight Ceramic Artist Fellowship Deadline. The Northern Clay Center administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and two \$25,000 fellowships are awarded to ceramic artists. The fellowship recognizes and supports outstanding mid-career ceramic artists living and working in Minnesota. Applicants should demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence and may be working in any mode: functional, sculptural, relational, performative, etc. Funds may be used for: experimenting with new techniques and materials; purchasing materials and equipment; collaborating with other artists; and pursuing education, exhibition, or travel opportunities. For more information contact alisonbeech@northernclaycenter.org, (612) 339-8007, or <https://northernclaycenter.org/artist-services/grants-for-artists/mcknight-fellowships/>.

June 4 Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Individuals Deadline. This program is flexible and meant to help Minnesota artists and culture bearers adapt to a changing and challenging environment in which to work. This grant program will help them maintain their visibility and financial sustainability. Grantees will be able to use funds to sustain their practice and stay relevant and connected to audiences, participants, students, or communities now and in the future. Grant range: \$2,000-\$6,000. Application deadline: June 4th at 4:30 p.m., a 2nd deadline will be August 6th. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or CreativeSupport-Individuals@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the Minnesota State Arts Board website at www.arts.state.mn.us.


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, literary, and performing arts.

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

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





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 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. Contact (507) 931-3630, info@artscentersp.org, 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.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 or (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. 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 of The Grand. www.thegrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or grand@thegrandnewulm.com.

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

College Galleries

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

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

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

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

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

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

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



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