Artist Grant Writing Workshop & Artist Statement Information

Thursday, August 15th
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter
315 S. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter

Artists do you need funding to create new work? Grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to your professional development in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater or visual art. Funds may be used for matting and framing, equipment, attending a workshop, studio time, etc.

Brenda Byron will present information about Prairie Lakes’ Mid-Career Professional Artist Grant of $3,000 due Sept. 15th and the Career Development Grant of $1,000 due January 15, 2020. Topics include: Eligibility Requirements, What Activities can be Funded, How to Complete the Online Application, etc.

At 6:30 p.m. information will be presented on Artist Statements.
An Artist Statement is needed to apply for a grant or to send to an Art Gallery, to get an exhibit along with your work samples. But what should it include? Learn the basics of an artist statement and how it should explain the artistic intentions of your body of work whether you’re a visual artist, writer, musician or performer.

Guidelines for both artist grants are available to review on the Grant Programs page at www.plrac.org.

RSVP by Monday, August 12 to plrac@hickorytech.net

Interview on KEYC about Arts Grants

In July 2019, Brenda Byron, Executive Director of Prairie Lakes was interviewed on the KEYC Midday News program by Lauren Andrego. “We’re excited to inform the public about our Arts grants that are available for community arts activities, schools and artists”, noted Byron. To find out more information about our grants please contact us at (507) 833-8721 or plrac@hickorytech.net.
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Welcomes New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that four individuals have been appointed to the board. Steve Davis of Madelia will represent Watonwan County; Teresa Konechne of Henderson will represent Sibley County; April Malphurs will represent the City of St. Peter; and Rita Rassbach of St. Peter will represent Nicollet County; noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director.

Teresa Konechne has a MFA in Interdisciplinary Art, (video, performance and installation) and a BS in Interior Design/Architecture. She was an Assistant Professor of Video at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. In 2017, she co-founded Henderson CAN (Community Art Nature) which explored creative economy and the relationship between art, economic development, local foods and climate change. She currently is lead artist for a community mosaics project in Henderson. She also founded the non-profit Wicked Questions - art and conversation on climate and change.

April Malphurs has a MA in Art Education and BS in Interior Architecture/Design. She is a practicing artist in sculpture, glass and jewelry. Currently she is teaching community art camps and classes for children in St. Peter and at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. April was the founder of Creative Play Place in St. Peter, and served as board member and director for eight years. She is currently on a leave of absence from her position as a K-5 elementary art teacher at Hoover Elementary School, Mankato. April worked with South and North Elementary Schools in St. Peter as Art Adventure Coordinator for five years, and was a guest artist and volunteer with the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota in Mankato for eight years.

Steve Davis, has been reappointed to a second term. Steve has a BA in Computer Science and is a Software Developer working from his home office in Madelia. He is a violist with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra and Minnesota State University Mankato/Community Orchestra; and volunteers with the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra, the New Ulm Suzuki School of Music, and the Mankato Ballet Company. Currently he is a member of the Madelia Lions Club. Previously he volunteered with the Madelia Community Theatre to run the lighting and sound boards for performances.

Rita Rassbach has a BA/BS in Psychology/Biology and MS in Occupational Therapy. She recently served as Interim Executive Director of the Mankato Ballet Company and served on their Board from 2012-2018. She previously served on the Boards of Merely Players and Creative Play Place. Rita was the co-director of the St. Peter Halloween Fun Run. She is Taiwanese, first generation in the US. Rita noted that “coming from a different background with parents who are immigrants, helps her understand struggles, challenges and obstacles”.

The PLRAC is comprised of fourteen members, one from each of the nine counties, and one from each city over 10,000 in population. Board members serve a three year term. “Our members represent a cross-section of art forms as well as various arts perspectives: artists, art teachers and representatives of arts organizations”, noted Brenda Byron. The primary function of the Council is to serve as a panel for arts project applications; and members are chosen for their knowledge, expertise, and involvement in the arts in the areas of dance, literature, media arts, music, theater and visual arts.

The council still has an opening on the board for the City of Fairmont. Interested individuals may contact the Prairie Lakes office at plrac@hickorytech.net or 1-800-298-1254 to obtain an application, which is due August 31, 2019.
Free Artist Workshops

August 15, September 18,
October 16 & November 13, 2019

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is offering FREE workshops for Artists & we encourage you to attend all of them! The dates and times are listed below. Please register by emailing the Prairie Lakes office at plrac@hickorytech.net or calling Brenda Byron at 1-800-298-1254 or 507-833-8721.

**August 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Artist Grant Writing and Artist Statement**
Held at the Arts Center of St. Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter
**Artist Grant.** Brenda Byron will present information about Prairie Lakes’ Mid-Career Professional Artist Grant of $3,000 due Sept. 15th and the Career Development Grant of $1,000 due January 15, 2020. Topics include: Eligibility Requirements, What Activities can be Funded, How to Complete the Online Application, etc.
An **Artist Statement** is needed to apply for a grant or to send to an Art Gallery, to get an exhibit along with your work samples. But what should it include? Learn the basics of an artist statement and how it should explain the artistic intentions of your body of work whether you’re a visual artist, writer, musician or performer.

**Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m. – Artist Resume & Work Samples that Promote your Work**
Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato.
**Enhance your Promotional materials, like your resume and work samples.**
We will use the WORK OF ART, Artist Workbook, which is FREE to participants online. The presenter is Dana Sikkila, who received her MA in Printmaking as well as her Non Profit Leadership Certificate from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Based in Mankato she concentrates on making her art work as well as being Executive Director of the 410 Project, Community Art Space, along with holding an arts adjunct professor position at MNSU, Mankato. Sikkila serves as a board member for the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, Minnesota Citizen's for the Arts, as well as a Grant Review Panelist, and Artistic Evaluator for the Minnesota State Arts Board.

**October 16, 6-8:30 p.m. – Topic TBD**

**November 13, 6-8 p.m. – Topic TBD**

Download the WORK OF ART Artist Workbook:

These Artist Workshops & PLRAC Artist Grants are funded by the McKnight Foundation.

The McKnight Foundation

Visit our website for grant information, monthly newsletters, and more: www.plrac.org

“Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council”

105 22nd Avenue NE, Suite A
Waseca, MN 56093
(800) 298-1254 or (507) 833-8721
Email: plrac@hickorytech.net

Dana Sikkila & Brenda Byron
In FY 2020 All PLRAC Grant Applications are Online.

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

The “Applicant Login” button can be seen on the Home page and the Grant Programs page of the Prairie Lakes Website.
http://www.plrac.org/grants.html

New Grant Guidelines & Applications will be available July 1st.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have you visited www.plrac.org lately?

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

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

FY 2020 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Arts Project Community &amp; School Arts Project - $2,000</th>
<th>Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant $7,000</th>
<th>Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant - $3,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st of the Month Deadline July 1, 2019 to May 1, 2020</td>
<td>ACH Education- $4,000 Arts Festivals - $5,000</td>
<td>September 15 Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Scholarship Grades 7-12 - $300</td>
<td>August 1 Deadline &amp; February 1 Deadline</td>
<td>Artist Career Development Grant - $1,000</td>
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<td>October 1 Deadline</td>
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<td>January 15 Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Scholarship Grades 3-6 - $200</td>
<td>All grant applications are online.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1 Deadline</td>
<td>A tutorial that explains the online process is on our website.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FY 2020 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1 and Feb. 1

1. Arts and Arts Access – Maximum $7,000.
Projects that focus on arts programming by an organization, maintaining on-going arts programs and services, and offering new and different activities. A variety of activities including community bands and choirs, dance performances, literary readings, instrumental and vocal music concerts, theater productions, visual art classes and exhibitions are eligible.

Also equipment that enhances the artistic capabilities of the organization. Equipment may include office equipment and software, instruments, risers, theater lighting, theater curtains, sound system, display cases, etc. This also includes public art, sculpture, murals, etc; and activities that plan to reach new audiences such as youth, ethnic groups, senior citizen groups, people with disabilities, etc. and engage the public in new ways. A 50% cash match is required.

2. ACH Arts Education:

There are three categories of support:

A. Schools – Maximum $4,000. This is available to all public or private non-parochial elementary, middle or secondary schools (K-12) in the nine county area. Grants may fund Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. A 10% cash match is required for schools.

B. Non-profit and Community Groups – $4,000

C. 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.

3. ACH Arts & Music Festivals - Maximum $5,000. For arts and music festivals and activities that represent diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions. A 50% cash match is required.

Small Arts Project Community Grant

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. Matching grants up to $2,000 are available. Fundable activities include: arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. Cash match is 10%. Deadline: 1st of each month.

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: 1st of each month.

Individual Artist Grant

These Artist Grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to an Artist’s growth and professional development in dance, literature, media arts, music, theater or visual art. Funds may be used for matting and framing, equipment, attending a workshop, studio time, or studying with a mentor, etc. Deadlines are:

September 15 - Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant, $3,000 each.

January 15 - Artist Career Development Grant, $1,000 each.
**In FY 2019 Prairie Lakes awarded 219 Grants totaling $453,144**

Here’s a summary of Grants awarded:

$44,000 - McKnight Artist Grants (24 grants)

$79,918 - State General funds (47 grants)
Small Arts Project & School Grants

$329,226 - Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) (148 grants); 48 organizational grants & 100 Youth Scholarships.

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

1. **Arts Programming/Arts Access** $262,966, which includes grants to 38 nonprofit arts organizations and community groups, for their arts programs and activities.

2. **Arts Education** $50,685, which includes 6 school grants and 100 Youth Scholarships of $300 or $200 each.

3. **Arts & Cultural Heritage Festivals** $15,575; which was awarded to 4 community festivals.

**Grant Opportunities**

*Aug. 1 PLRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant Deadline.* For arts organizations, schools, and festivals. $7,000 available for arts organizations, $4,000 for schools and $5,000 for festivals. Prairie Lakes serves the 9-county region that includes Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan Counties. Guidelines can be downloaded from our website: www.plrac.org, along with a link to the online grant application. (507) 833-8721, (800) 298-1254, or plrac@hickorytech.net.

*Aug. 23 Minnesota State Arts Board Partners in Arts Participation Deadline.* This program is designed for Minnesota nonprofit health or human service organizations to integrate the arts into their programming or services. $5,000-$25,000. Application deadline: August 23rd at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or natalie.kennedy@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: www.arts.state.mn.us.

*Sept. 15 PLRAC Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant Deadline.* This grant provides mid-career and beyond artists with financial support that enables them to further their work and their contribution to their communities. Ten $3,000 grants are available. Prairie Lakes serves the 9-county region that includes Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan Counties. Guidelines can be downloaded from our website: www.plrac.org, along with a link to the online grant application. (507) 833-8721, (800) 298-1254, or plrac@hickorytech.net.

**FY 2020 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL GRANTS**

*These grants were awarded July 2019.*

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

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY**
Deep Valley Book Festival, author talks - $2,000

**BROWN COUNTY**
Musical Tales Concerto, New Ulm, festival - $2,000

**MARTIN COUNTY**
Fairmont Concert Association, concert series - $2,000

**NICOLLET COUNTY**
St. Peter High School Band, guest artist - $2,000

**WASECA COUNTY**
American Indian Service Learning Project - $1,400
Waseca Marching Classic, clinicians - $1,750
Prairie Lakes Needs Assessment Survey
Results Spring 2019

Prairie Lakes continuously assesses and responds to the needs of the region through a variety of channels including day-to-day contact with constituents, feedback from applicants and grantees on their Final Reports, public workshops, and by conducting a formal Needs Assessment Survey every four years. This provides an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the nine county region, as they relate to the arts, and to identify needs and problems that may be addressed by our regional arts council. This survey was conducted online through Survey Monkey in February 2019 and three different surveys were created. We disseminated the surveys using our internal email database of constituents and through our Facebook page, Newsletter, and News Releases.

* We received 84 Organizational surveys in 2019 and 69 in 2016; which is a 22% increase.

* We received 111 Artist surveys in 2019 and 105 in 2016; which is a 5% increase, so overall we are pleased with the increase.

*This is the first year that we created an Arts Interested Public Survey. A new database was created for this survey: City contacts 73 and Chambers 41 = 114. A total of 15 surveys were received.

The survey style and questions were similar to our past survey in 2016. The questions asked were different for each survey. A formal 31 question survey was distributed to Artists; the Arts organizations/community groups/
schools survey had 25 questions, and the Arts Interested Public answered 21 questions. However, there were NEW questions regarding an Artist’s Race and the percentage of organization’s board, staff, or audience that are ethnically diverse, or are people with disabilities.

* Artist Racial/Ethnic Characteristics: White 96.4% and Asian 3.6%

* Artist with a Disability? No 94.5% and Yes 5.5%

Organizations: What percentage of your organization’s board and staff identify as People of Color? 90% of Respondents said their board/staff is 2% or Less, People of Color. However, the percentage of their audience was more diverse, with a majority stating they were 10% persons of color and about 6% people with disabilities.

New Broader questions were included like do you agree or disagree with the following questions: “I can trust PLRAC’s stewardship of public arts funding; PLRAC Programs and services and resources ensure that the arts are interwoven into every facet of community life; ensure that people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts; PLRAC programs, services and resources play a significant role in the arts thriving in Minnesota.”

In all three survey’s respondents were asked about PLRAC’s Public Stewardship of funding. All respondents overwhelmingly said they could trust PLRAC’s stewardship of public arts funding.

We appreciate everyone who participated!

Youth Scholarships for Students

Grades 7-12 - $300 & 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 including dance, literature, media arts, music, theater and visual arts. Students in grades 7-12 must be participating with an instructor, an organization or arts discipline for at least two years in order to be eligible. Students in grades 3-6 must be participating for at least one year to be eligible.

Deadline for grades 7-12 is October 1 and grades 3-6 is November 1.

Last year Prairie Lakes awarded Youth Scholarships of $27,000 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. This included 70 students in grades 7-12 and 30 students in grades 3-6 throughout the region. “Youth Scholarship recipients live in twenty different communities representing eight counties,” noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. “We are excited about the wonderful arts activities these students will be involved in.”
Prairie Lakes Board of Directors and Staff

Front Row (L to R): Denice Evers; Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomereneke; Carol Soma; Dana Sikkila; Cindy Lewer, Program Manager; and Brenda Byron, Executive Director. Back Row: Dennis Van Moorlehem; Liz Miller; Karen Krause; Pam Trumbull, Administrative Assistant; Lauren Shoemaker; Randy Mediger; and Charles Luedtke. Not pictured: Steve Davis, Margie Larson, and Rita Rassbach.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has One Board Position Open

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

The deadline for submitting an application is August 31, 2019. Interested persons residing in Fairmont should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at (800) 298-1254 or 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.

Board members serve a three year term. Monthly evening meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in Mankato, at Bethany Lutheran College; no meetings in June or December. 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 .............. Denice Evers
Faribault County .......... Carol Soma
LeSueur County ............. Randy Mediger
Martin County ............. Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomereneke
Nicollet County .......... Rita Rassbach
Sibley County ............ Teresa Konechne
Waseca County ............ Karen Krause
Watonwan County ......... Steve Davis
City of Fairmont ............ Open
City of Mankato .......... Margie Larson
City of New Ulm .......... Charles Luedtke
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
Celebrating 10 Years of Arts Legacy Funding in the Prairie Lakes 9-County Area

“We were pleased to see so many Arts supporters at our January 2019 celebration in Mankato,” noted Brenda Byron, Prairie Lakes Executive Director, “I discussed the 10 Year Impact of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment in the 9-county region and details are listed below showing the amount of grants awarded from FY 2009 to FY 2018.” Sheila Smith, Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, presented information about how the Arts Give Back to our communities and the statewide Creative Minnesota Study.

In the last 10 years PLRAC has awarded over $2.6 million dollars in grants from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund (Legacy dollars). In total, PLRAC has invested $3.8 million from all sources in the region, including $803,658 from state General Funds. These investments have increased attendance and the economic impact from arts activities in communities across the region, according to the Creative Minnesota study.

The Legacy Amendment was passed by a statewide vote of the people of Minnesota in 2008 to dedicate a portion of the state’s sales tax to create four new funds for 1. land conservation, 2. water conservation, 3. parks and trails, and 4. arts and culture. The legislature appropriates the dollars from the Legacy Arts and Culture Fund to the Minnesota State Arts Board, Regional Arts Councils, Minnesota Historical Society and other entities to provide access to the arts and culture for all Minnesotans.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is a group of dedicated individuals committed to supporting, nurturing and expanding the arts; knowing that the arts improve the quality of life in our region. Our purpose is to provide promotion, technical assistance and grants to non-profit arts organizations, community groups, schools and individual artists. The nine counties served are Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ACH</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>McKnight</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>FY 2009</td>
<td>ACH -50-</td>
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<td>McKnight $379,500</td>
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Pam Trumbull, Administrative Assistant; Lauren Shoemaker, Board President; Brenda Byron, Executive Director; and Cindy Lewer, Program Manager.
Learning about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Arts

For the past year Brenda Byron, the Prairie Lakes Executive Director has been attending meetings and workshops on the topic of **diversity, inclusion, and equity** 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 2020. 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. 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 still important to be aware of including all people in the Arts, noted Byron. In our nine county region the White population is about 90% or higher in 8 counties and our 9th county Watonwan has 77% White, 20% Hispanic, and 3% other. **The goal of PLRAC as an organization in FY 2020 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:

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

The RAC Staff and Board Members from around the state met together in 2018-2019 to continue the discussion on this topic. 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.

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

**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.

**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 Calendar**

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

**Aug. 1** Montgomery Summer Concert Series: Drachenfelscher Musikanten from Cologne Germany performing authentic German music, 7 p.m., held at Memorial Park, Park Lane, Montgomery. Sponsored by the Montgomery Public Library. (507) 364-7615.

*Aug. 1-2* Exhibits by Arealu Kumaraa, Ann Price, and the Wednesday Art Group. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

*Aug. 1-4* Sibley County Fair in Arlington, featuring free entertainment by the Schlueter Band, Issakey Muller Band, Eddie Shimota Band, South 40 Band, Doug Ohman’s Pioneer photography talks, and more. View a complete schedule at sibleycountyfair.com.

*Aug. 1-4* Disney’s “The Little Mermaid” theater performances, Aug. 1-3 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 3-4 at 2 p.m. Adults $12, seniors and students $10, and children $8. Purchase advance tickets on the T-Bird Community Arts Facebook page. Tickets will be available at the door, while supplies last. Held at Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop High School Auditorium, 1001 N. Cottonwood Street, Winthrop. Sponsored by T-Bird Community Arts. https://www.gfwschools.org/community-ed/community/ or (507) 207-2226.


Aug. 1-17 “Celebrating Concertinas” Exhibit, held at the Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery, 206 B. First St. Hours: Thurs & Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 364-8107 or www.artsandheritagecenter.org.

Aug. 1-30 “This is Who We Are” Community Art Show, held at 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. redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.


*Aug. 1-Dec. 31* The 2019/20 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. Aug. 10, 10 a.m., free guided tour of the sculpture tour, starting at 500 S. Front St. at sculpture #1. Bring a water bottle and comfortable shoes. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

Aug. 2 Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre performances of “Cinderella” by students ages 7-16, 5 & 7:30 p.m. Held at Mankato East High School Auditorium, 2600 Hoffmann Rd. Sponsored by Mankato Area Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or mankatocer.com.

Aug. 2 Concert by Tarnished Brass, 7 p.m. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

*Aug. 2-3* Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” musical theater performances by State Street Theater Company, 7 p.m. Tickets: In advance $12.50 from the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm HyVee, or online at www.statestreetsnewulm.org, at the door $15. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetsnewulm.org.


*Aug. 2-23* Todd Leiferman’s Exhibit (Reception, Aug. 2, 5-7 p.m.) Held at the Emy Frentz Gallery, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 South Second Street, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (507) 387-1008 or www.twinriversarts.org.

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**Arts Event Happening in Your Area?**

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

Email the date, time, location, ticket price, and a brief description of the event to: plrac@hickorytech.net.
Aug. 2-24 Peggy Draheim’s “Art Works Through 5 Decades” Retrospective Exhibit. (Reception, Aug. 3, 3-5 p.m.) Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 South Minnesota Avenue. Summer gallery hours: Wed.-Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun. 1-5 p.m. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Aug. 3 Drum Corps Expo featuring the Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps and other drum corps. Gates open at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m., free. Held at St. Peter High School, Floyd B. Johnson Field, Sunrise Dr. (507) 990-9273 or www.govenaires.org/expo.

Aug. 4 Giant Celebration in LeSueur. Parade including the Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps, 1 p.m. Music in the Park by marching bands, 3 p.m. (507) 665-2501.

Aug. 4 “A Salute to Our Military Service Members” Concert by The 34th Infantry Division “Red Bull” Concert Band, 2 p.m., free. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 North State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statenewulm.org.

Aug. 5-28 Open Pottery Lab, held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Purchase a punch card and clay coupon at the Mankato Community Ed. Office. Punch cards are $39 for 8 sessions and a clay coupon is $25 including 25 pounds of clay, glaze and firing. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocenter.com.


Aug. 6, 13, 20 & 27 Weekly Open Houses sponsored by the Minnesota Makers and Artist Guild, 3-6 p.m., Tuesdays. Tour the shops, check out the tools, and purchase memberships. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Aug. 6 & 13 Free Summer Noontime Organ Recitals by the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, 12:10 p.m. each day. Aug. 6 by Grace Kunkel and Aug. 13 by Christine Schulz. Held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 S. 2nd St., Mankato. (507) 933-7447 or www.agosioutrails.org.

Aug. 6-Sept. 6 Exhibits featuring Natural Sculptures by Alonso Sierralta; Eagle Sketches by Maggie Estad; and Artwork & Poems by ICAN Adults With Disabilities. (Reception, Aug. 9, 5-8 p.m.) Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Aug. 7 Gold Star performs Americana music as part of the Music on Main series, 5-7 p.m. Held at the corners of 5th St. and Main Ave., downtown Gaylord. Sponsored by the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce. (507) 237-5535 or www.gaylordmncchamber.com.

Aug. 7 Public reading of the play “Sun Go Down” by local playwright, Tom Barna, 7 p.m. The story is about issues between two Marine brothers. Held at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. (507) 217-1295 or tom.barna@yahoo.com. Tom received a PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grant in 2018 from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

Aug. 7-11 Brown County Fair in New Ulm, view a complete schedule at www.browncountymidfair.com.

Aug. 7-11 Nicollet County Fair in St. Peter, view a complete schedule at www.nicolletcountyfair.com.

Aug. 8 Music in the Park series: The Basics performing 60’s to 80’s music, 6:30-8 p.m. Light meal offered at 5:30 p.m. Held at the Winthrop City Park, Cottonwood St. Sponsored by the City of Winthrop. (507) 647-5306 or www.winthropminnesota.com.

Aug. 8 Performance by students in grades 5-8 who participated in the Step Into Broadway Workshop by Homeward Bound Theatre Company, 3:45 p.m. Favorite scenes from Grease, Annie, and High School Musical will be performed. Held at Mankato East High School Auditorium, 2600 Hoffmann Rd. Sponsored by Mankato Area Community Education, www.mankatocenter.com or (507) 387-5501.

Aug. 8 Summer Sing-Along with the Singing Hills Chorus, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Check out the Chorus prior to the fall 2019 session. The chorus is made up of people with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias and their care partners. Social time is from 9:30-10 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m. Held at The Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato. (507) 387-1256 or www.singinghillschorus.org.

Aug. 8-10 Social Justice + Theatre Drama Ministry presents “Big River” theater production. Contact the Centenary Church for performance times. Held at the Centenary Church, 501 S. 2nd St., Mankato. (507) 225-6370 or www.mankatocentenary.org.


**Aug. 9** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents Gail Sparlin & Company performing blues influenced pop music, 7:30 p.m., free. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

**Aug. 9** Blue Earth Area Community Education sponsors Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre performance of “Pinocchio” by grades 1-8, 7 p.m., $4. Held at the Blue Earth Area High School Performing Arts Center, 1125 N. Grove St. (507) 526-3172 or www.blueearth.k12.mn.us.

**Aug. 9-10** Waseca Community Education sponsors Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre production of “Sleeping Beauty”, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 10 at 2 p.m., $3 at the door. Held at Central Building Auditorium, 500 E. Elm Ave., Waseca. http://ce.waseca.k12.mn.us or (507) 835-5626.

Aug. 9-10 Fairmont Opera House presents children’s theatre performances, grades 3-5 will present “Wizard of Oz: The Deleted Scene” and grades 6-8 will present “Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Jr.” Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. Adults $10 and students $5, 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.

Aug. 9-25 Luke Splinter’s “Pathways” Sculpture Installation Exhibition. (Reception, Aug. 9, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. www.the410project.com.

**Aug. 10** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents “It’s All About You New Ulm” a Improv Comedy Show, 7:30 p.m. Table Salt Production will create an all original, all improvised show about the City of New Ulm with music. Members $8, non-members $12, available at The Grand, the New Ulm Chamber, and online at www.eventbrite.com. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Aug. 11 Open Clay Studio, 3-5 p.m. For all ages and ability levels, under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. An instructor will be available. Held at Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artcenters.sp.org.


Aug. 13 Film screening and discussion of “Sunset Boulevard”, as part of the Film Noir Series, 6 p.m. Hosted by The New Ulm Film Society. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.


**Aug. 14** Off Duty Eggs performs new age music as part of the Music on Main series, 5-7 p.m. Held at the corners of 5th St. and Main Ave., downtown Gaylord. Sponsored by the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce. (507) 237-5535 or www.gaylordmncamb.com.


Aug. 16 Hot Jazz for Decent People Series: Jazz Concert by Toni Wolff’s Dream Wedding, refreshments at 7 p.m. and music at 7:30-9:30 p.m. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. www.artcenterssp.org or (507) 931-3630.

**Aug. 16-17** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents weekend music, 7:30 p.m. each night, free. Aug. 16: Open Mic Night with local artists performing, hosted by Dave “Ocho” O’Connell. Aug. 17: Ethan Keller Band performing folk, blues, rock, jazz, and hip-hop music. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

**Aug. 16-17** Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Community Education sponsors Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre production of “Jack and the Beanstalk”, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 17 at 10 a.m., free. Held at GFW Primary School, 323 E. 11th Street, Gibbon. (507) 207-2204 or https://gfwschools.org/community-ed/classes/.

Aug. 16-Sept. 13 Steve Lestke’s Exhibit, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Aug. 17 Wells Kernel Days parade including the Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus, 5:00 p.m. https://www.wellsareachamber.com/index.php/events/kernel-days or (507) 553-6450.

**Aug. 18** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents “I Was THERE Man!” celebrating the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, 12 Noon-7 p.m. Live music, activities and events, plus an interactive Woodstock show at 3:30 p.m. Advance tickets $15 available at The Grand, the New Ulm Chamber, and online at www.eventbrite.com. At the door $20, children under 12 $5. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.
Aug. 21 Larry Mages and the Mages Family Band performs folk music as part of the Music on Main series, 5-7 p.m. Held at the corners of 5th St. and Main Ave., downtown Gaylord. Sponsored by the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce. www.gaylordmnchamber.com or (507) 237-5535.


Aug. 22 Concert by the Minnesota “Over-60” Band, 6:30 p.m., held at the Sibley East High School, 208 W. Douglas St. Arlington. (507) 317-1974.

Aug. 22 Montgomery Summer Concert Series: Ring of Kerry performing Celtic music, 7 p.m., held at Memorial Park, Park Lane, Montgomery. Sponsored by the Montgomery Public Library. (507) 364-7615.

Aug. 22 Free screening of the Netflix Documentary “13th” followed by a panel discussion with local judges, probation officers, and the DA, 6:30-9 p.m. The film shows scholars, activists and politicians analyzing the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. Held at Centenary Church, 501 S. 2nd St., Mankato. (507) 225-6370 or www.mankatocentenary.org.

Aug. 23 Author, Phyllis Cole-Dai, will discuss her novel “Beneath the Same Stars” set during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 about the relationship between a Dakota warrior and captives Sarah Wakefield and her children, 12 Noon. Held at the Brown County Historical Society Annex, 2 N. Broadway. Sponsored by the New Ulm Public Library, www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.


Aug. 24 Chalkfest, a Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety Chalk Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Internationally known 3D chalk artist Shawn McCann and other chalk artists will demonstrate their work. The public can participate in creating a community mandala. Free admission. Held at the Consolidated Communications parking lot, S. 2nd St., Mankato. Sponsored by SMILES Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises, www.smilesicl.org or (507) 345-7139.

Aug. 25 Maker Market, sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Shop for truly unique items created by local artists. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Aug. 26-Sept. 16 Regan Golden’s Photography Exhibit, (Lecture & Reception, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.) held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-6412 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

Aug. 28 Sandra Lee and the Velvets performs dance music as part of the Music on Main series, 5-7 p.m. Held at the corners of 5th St. and Main Ave., downtown Gaylord. Sponsored by the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce. www.gaylordmnchamber.com or (507) 237-5535.

Aug. 28-Oct. 12 “Ghost Tour”, an original walking tour theater performance. This 75-minute walking tour will take patrons through New Prague's downtown, starting and finishing at the Prague Theater (DalekoArts, 110 E. Main St., New Prague). You will encounter characters from local haunting ghost stories. Tours take place Wednesdays-Saturday, three tours per day. Tickets $18, available online. (952) 314-9077 or www.dalekoarts.com.

Aug. 29 Fairmont Opera House presents Becky Schlegel performing country, bluegrass, and folk music, 7 p.m., free. Held at Sylvania Park, 401 Lake Ave., Fairmont. Sponsored by the Fairmont Opera House, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.


Aug. 29-Sept. 28 Suzanne Manthe’s Pastels Exhibit. (Lecture & Reception, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.) Held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center Gallery, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. Gallery hours: Sun.-Thurs. 1-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 1-8 p.m. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

Aug. 30-Sept. 15 Alex Judkins’ Illustrations Exhibition. (Reception, Aug. 30, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. www.the410project.com.

Area Wineries have musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. Please visit their websites for details.

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


Youth Arts Opportunities

Youth Classes

**Aug. 1** Make and Take Art Class. 4:30-5:45 p.m. Grades K-3, $10. Students will be introduced to a variety of media; exploring & creating works of self-expression, while learning new art ideas and techniques to improve current skills. This month is “Fingerprint Pineapple”, using paint. Registration is required with Waseca Community Education at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Meets first Thursday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

**Aug. 1** Deep Valley Young Writer and Young Artist Competition Deadline in conjunction with the Deep Valley Book Festival, Oct. 5. Students ages 7-18 can write a story in 1,500 words or less about this year’s theme, “Hope”; or submit an original 8.5” x 11”, two-dimensional work in any medium, illustrating a scene from a favorite book. The Festival will be held at Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center in Mankato. For more submission information and to download the entry forms, go to www.deepvalleybookfestival.com. Sponsored by Minnesota Heritage Publishing & Mankato Free Press. rhanel@hickorytech.net or julie@mnheritage.com.

**Aug. 1-4** Animation Studio, come to the Loft and create a stop motion movie about your favorite summer activities. Loft Hours are Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-12 Noon and 1-3 p.m., and Sunday: 1-3 p.m. The Loft is included with regular admission, $8 per person 1 year and older. Held at the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota, 224 Lamm St., Mankato. www.cmsouthernmn.org or (507) 386-0279.

*Aug. 5-8* Step Into Broadway Workshop, grades 5-8, 12:30-4:30 p.m. each day, $50 per student. A professional musical director, production manager & choreographer from Homeward Bound Theatre Company will teach students all aspects of getting ready for and being in a musical production, including acting, movement, costumes and props. Favorite scenes from Grease, Annie, and High School Musical will be performed. Register with Mankato Area Community Education. Held at Mankato East High School Auditorium, 2600 Hoffmann Rd. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

*Aug. 5-10* Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre auditions and rehearsals for “Sleepy Beauty”, $36 per student, times vary from day to day. Registration required with Waseca Community Education at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Held at Central Building Auditorium, 500 East Elm Avenue, Waseca. http://ce.waseca.k12.mn.us or (507) 835-5626.

**Aug. 6** Art Start for Tots – Shapes with Frank Lloyd Wright Class, ages 18 months-4 years old, 10-10:45 a.m., $8. Explore colors, counting, shapes, and cultures. Create artwork to take home. Register with Fairmont Community Education, (507) 235-3141. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. www.redrockcenter.org/ or (507) 235-9262.

**Aug. 6** Club Picasso, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Grades 4 and up, $10. With a focus on skill building, our students will incorporate design elements using a variety of media. Classes reinforce skills and learning new techniques. This month is “Pop Art Burgers” with emphasis on cross hatching, washes, color, and other techniques. Registration required with Waseca Community Education online at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

*Aug. 12-17* Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre auditions and rehearsals for “Jack and the Beanstalk”, $25 per student, times vary from day to day. Registration required with Gibson-Fairfax-Winthrop Community Education. Held at GFW Primary School, 323 E. 11th St., Gibbon. (507) 207-2204 or https://gfwschools.org/community-ed/classes/.


**Aug. 13-14** 2-Session Make and Take Art Class led by Susan Deming Siegmann, 10:15 a.m.-12 Noon each day, grades 1-6. Paint a dramatic silhouetted country sunset with a realistic swamp scene including a frog, dragonfly & more, $42. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatocer.com or (507) 387-5501.

**Aug. 15** Intro to Perspective Class, 10:30 a.m.-12 Noon. Grades 3-6, $5. Learn about vanishing point with 1, 2, and 3-point perspectives. Bring your own ruler and/or T-square. Register with Waseca Community Education at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State Street North. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

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**Youth & Adult Opportunities**

**Aug. 15 & 22** Knitting for Very Beginners Class, 3:30-5:30 p.m. each day. Grades 2-5, free. Aug. 15 is part 1 to learn the basics and choose a design. Aug. 22 is part 2 to ask questions about the project you are working on. Bring your own yarn and knitting needles. Register with Waseca Community Education at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.


Aug. 20 Create Your Own Comic Book Character Class, ages 7-12 at 10 a.m.-12 Noon and ages 13-17 at 2-4 p.m. Bring a pencil, notebook and/or sketchbook, and anything else you like to draw with. Registration is required. Held at the North Mankato Police Annex Meeting Room, 1001 Belgrade Ave. Sponsored by North Mankato Taylor Library. (507) 345-5120 or www.northmankato.com/taylorlibrary.

Aug. 20-23 Kids Art History Camp, 10:30 a.m.-12 Noon each day, ages 4-14. Learn the history of famous artists from around the world. Each day will focus on a different artist, followed by a take home project in that artist’s style. Aug. 20: The Mother of American Modernism, Georgia O’Keeffe. Aug. 21: American Contemporary Painter, Illustrator, Film Maker, Paper Installation Artist, Kara Walker. Aug. 22: Surrealist painter Salvador Dali. Aug. 23: French Impressionist Painter, Claude Monet. $15 per day, sign up for as many days as you would like, sign up for all four and save $10. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

**Youth Summer Dance Class Opportunities:**
Dance Express: (507) 625-3865 or https://sites.google.com/view/specialtycamps.
Mankato Ballet Company: http://mankatoballet.org/classes/summer/ or (507) 625-7716.
Riverfront Performing Arts: https://www.riverfrontartsmn.org/summer-classes or (507) 469-4351.

Individual Art Classes and Mentoring at The 410 Project, for ages 4-18. Director, Dana Sikkila, will give individual lessons based on the child’s artistic interest, classes can be scheduled around family schedules. $15 per hour with student bringing supplies, $20 per hour with The 410 Project’s supplies, $12 per hour for students 5 and under. Email for more information 410project@hotmail.com. Held at The 410 Project, 523 South Front Street, Mankato. www.the410project.com.

Aug. 1-29 Beginner Ballroom Dance Classes, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Come to one class, a few, or all. $15 per class per couple, $10 per individual. Sign up online at www.statestreetnewulm.org or come to the class with payment. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Aug. 6, 13, 20 & 27 Jam Sessions, Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

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Aug. 6-27  Beginning Pottery Classes led by Jacqueline Karsten, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn how to work with clay and create your own pieces. No prior experience required, $69. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatocer.com or (507) 387-5501.

Aug. 7  Welding Basics for Everyone Classes, 6-9 p.m. Learn MIG and Arc welding, including welding safety, equipment use, proper preparation, hands on practice of various types of welding joint techniques. Members $40, non-members $45, each session. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Aug. 7 & 21  Needlework Group, self-directed time to work on projects including quilting, crochet, knitting, embroidery, etc. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Bring your own supplies. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Aug. 8  Glass Torchwork with Basic Color Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn to make your own colored necklace pendants, $80. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Aug. 10  Southern Minnesota Poet’s Society Monthly Meeting, 12:30-3 p.m., come have lunch and bring 10 copies of a one page poem you want critiqued. SMPS members will work in groups to help you whip your poem into shape. Free, visitors are welcome. Held at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Sponsored by Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 345-1174 or www.southernmnpoets.org.

Aug. 11  Drop-In Writers Critique Group, 3-4:30 p.m. Bring work in progress and a question or two for the group. Read for five minutes, get critiqued for ten. Leave with good vibes and new ideas for moving forward. Hosted by Ronda Redmond. All levels welcome, no previous participation or experience necessary. $5, no advanced registration required. Held 2nd Sunday of the month, at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artcentersp.org.

Aug. 12  Poetry Reading Group, each participant will read aloud at least two poems, of their own or by others, and discuss them. 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

Aug. 14  Metal Cutting and Shaping Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn different techniques and the tools needed to work with metal, Member $45, non-member $50. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Aug. 15  Beginner Grant Writing Workshop, 1-4 p.m. This workshop will introduce grant writing to nonprofit professionals who have less than one year of experience with the skill. This session will provide a balance of applicable content and resources to deepen participants’ knowledge and skills. MCN members $45, non-members $75. Held at South Central College, Room NM C129, 1920 Lee Blvd., North Mankato. Sponsored by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. (507) 469-2217 or www.minnesotanonprofits.org.

Aug. 16  The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents Open Mic Night for local musicians, hosted by Dave “Ocho” O’Connell, 7:30 p.m., held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Aug. 25  Carving Club, 1-3 p.m. Participants receive hands-on lessons regarding the fundamentals of wood carving from an instructor. Bring your own basic tools after your first session. Club meets fourth Sunday of every month. Member $3, non-member $5. Reservations required online at www.neycenter.org. Held at Ney Nature Center, 28238 Nature Center Lane, Henderson. (507) 357-8581.

Aug. 25  Maker Market, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Members can exhibit for free, non-members pay $30 fee. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Aug. 27  Non-Profit Directors’ Lunch, 12 Noon-1 p.m. Nonprofit leaders can network while sharing resources, challenges, and successes; free. You are responsible for your own lunch. Held at the Wow Zone Restaurant, 2030 Adams St., Mankato. Sponsored by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. www.minnesotanonprofits.org or (507) 469-2217.

Aug. 28  Metal Sculpture Class, 6-9 p.m. Use basic welding and shaping to make a sculpture of your choosing. Pick one of our pre-cut projects that get welded together or go free style and make your own creation. Member $45, non-member $50. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.
Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

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

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: Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m., and Sun. 1-4 p.m. the410project@hotmail.com or www.the410project.com.

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Music every Fri. & Sat. and monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat. during shows 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Artist studios available for rent on second and third floor of the Grand. Contact: grand@thegrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and the Eny Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Artist studios, gallery space, and Ticket Box Office for arts events in Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. info@twinriversarts.org, (507) 387-1008, or www.twinriversarts.org. Also find other arts events at: www.greatermankatoevents.com. Gallery Application link: www.twinriversarts.org/exhibition-schedule

Waseca Art Center, 200 N. State Street. Monthly exhibits, educational programs, weekly art appreciation discussions, and spring concert series. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. info@wasecaartcenter.org, www.wasecaartcenter.org, or (507) 835-1701.

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.
Minnesota Citizens for the Arts has worked in collaboration with Twin Cities Public Television's Minnesota Original show, to create several Arts Advocacy Videos; showing the Ways the Arts Give Back to Minnesota.

MINNESOTANS LOVE THE ARTS:
82% Believe Creative Expression is Important
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THE ARTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA’S ECONOMY:
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ARTISTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA
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23 MILLION PEOPLE ATTEND THE ARTS IN MINNESOTA

THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA’S QUALITY OF LIFE:
90% Believe the Arts Make Minnesota Desirable
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ARTS EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS:
91% Believe the Arts are Important to Education
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