$31,000 in Artist Grants Awarded

PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantees: Front Row (L to R): Pegeen Rozeske; Wilbur Neushwander-Frink; Shelley Caldwell; and Sarah Houle. Back Row: Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director; Bryan Holland; Andrew Hellmund; Cameron Johnson; and Ronda Redmond.

We are pleased to announce that 10 Professional Mid-Career Artist Grants of $3,000 each were awarded, as well as one $1,000 Artist Career Development Grant. The PLRAC/McKnight Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant provides professional mid-career artists with financial support that enables them to further their work and their contribution to their communities. These artist grantees have demonstrated professional achievement in their disciplines. The artists are listed in alphabetical order with a brief description of their project on page 2. These artist grants are made possible by funds provided by the McKnight Foundation under a program designed and administered by Prairie Lakes.

The next $1,000 Artist Career Development Grant applications are due January 15, 2020. See article on pg. 5 about Artist grants.

(Artist Grantees continued on page 2)
$31,000 in Professional Mid-Career Grants Awarded

“We are excited that these eleven artists will be creating new works in a variety of media” noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director. Below is an alphabetical list of Artists and their projects. We hope that other artists will be inspired and plan to apply for a future grant. Artists expanding their present work, advancing in skill, or moving in a new direction are eligible. Applications are accepted from artists in all art disciplines including: dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, and visual art. Go to www.plrac.org for grant program information and a link to the online applications.

Shelley Caldwell, Delavan - $3,000. Shelley is a visual artist and will use the artist grant to complete a new series of mixed media botanical portraits on paper, featuring vegetation that grows in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Grant will be used for mixed media art supplies, frames, exhibit postcards, and artist’s creative time. She plans to have an exhibition at the Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, July 9-25, 2020.

Andrea Gehrke, New Ulm - $3,000. Andrea is a musician and will use the artist grant to create her third album with songs showcasing how nature ties to the ebbs and flow of living. She will also work on the artwork for the album. Grant will be used to purchase a camera and lens, travel and lodging, and artist’s creative time. He plans to have a concert at the Grand Kabaret, New Ulm or the Arts Center of Saint Peter in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021.

Andrew Hellmund, St. Peter - $3,000. Andrew is a sculptor and will use the artist grant to create large scale, metal sculptures using discarded materials from local industries. Grant will be used to purchase metal scraps, advertising, shop expenses, and artist’s creative time. He plans to install the sculptures in the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. The installation will be in conjunction with his sculpture exhibit at the Arts Center of Saint Peter with another sculptor David Hyduke, July 5-27, 2020.

Bryan Holland, St. Peter - $3,000. Bryan is a visual artist and will use the artist grant to create approximately twenty 2D and 3D mixed media assemblages. Grant will be used for tools and mixed media art supplies, scaffolding rental, and artist’s creative time. He plans to have an exhibit of the new work at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, April 2-May 1, 2021.

Sarah Houle, Mankato - $3,000. Sarah is a musician and will use the artist grant to create a new composition of ten related chamber pieces for winds, brass, percussion and piano entitled “Stars of the North”. She will collaborate with a videographer to create a silent film, featuring images from Minnesota’s North Shore and Iron Range. Grant will be used for travel and lodging, performance space and equipment rental, posters and concert programs, and artist’s creative time. She plans to perform a free concert at Bethany Lutheran College and a ticketed concert at State Street Theater, Oct. or Nov. 2020.

Cameron Johnson, Mankato - $3,000. Cameron is a visual artist and will use the artist grant to create new watercolor paintings and time lapse animations of his painting process to post on multiple online platforms. Grant will be used to purchase a time lapse video camera, recording supplies, canvas, painting supplies, business cards, exhibition postcards, and artist’s creative time. He plans to have exhibits of the new work in Mankato at the Carnegie Art Center, September 2020 and Vagabond Village, October 2020.

April Malphurs, St. Peter - $3,000. April is a visual artist and will use the artist grant to create free standing sculptures combining blown glass pieces, imagery and collage focusing on teen identity issues, mental illness, and opportunities for healing and hope. Grant will be used for glass, tools, and other art supplies, travel, and shop and equipment rental fees. She plans to have an exhibit at the Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, September 2020, including student field trips and gallery talks.

Wilbur Neushwander-Frink, Mankato - $3,000. Wilbur is a playwright and will use the artist grant to attend the three week “The Journey of the Mask” workshop at Pig Iron Theater in Philadelphia, June 2020, to gain knowledge about creating and incorporating masks into her work. Grant will be used for workshop fees, travel, and lodging. She plans to host a free mask workshop locally at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Mankato, October 2020.

Ronda Redmond, St. Peter - $3,000. Ronda is a writer and will use the artist grant to complete and publish her poetry chapbook. Grant will be used for editorial and publication services. She plans to have a book launch at the Arts Center of St. Peter towards the end of 2020.

Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm - $3,000. Pegeen is a cordwainer (shoemaker) and historical re-enactor and will use the artist grant to purchase equipment and gain visibility for her art. Grant will be used to purchase a canopy, folding tables, table cloths for festivals, a stitching machine, and other shoemaking supplies. She plans to demonstrate at multiple fairs and festivals and give classes on shoe making at the Mankato Makerspace using the stitching machine.

David Stordalen, St. James - $1,000. David is a musician and conductor and will use the artist grant to attend the Conductor’s Guild 2020 International Conference in Montreal, Canada, February 5-7, 2020 to gain knowledge about conducting technique, score study, music history and music repertoire. Grant will be used for conductor’s scores, and travel expenses. He plans to present a local concert of the music he studied with a local ensemble.
107 Area Students were Awarded Youth Art Scholarships for a total of $27,800

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that scholarships of $27,800 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is funded by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, have been awarded to 64 students in grades 7-12 and 43 students in grades 3-6 throughout the region. Students in grades 7-12 receive $300 and grades 3-6 receive $200. The Youth Scholarships will provide these students the opportunity to study their chosen art with a practicing professional artist by taking lessons over a period of months. A variety of lessons in cello, flute, guitar, organ, piano, string bass, trumpet, viola, violin, voice, dance, and visual art will be provided.

Youth Scholarship recipients live in seventeen 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.” They will be taking lessons and participating with many area arts groups including: BlueJay Dance Studio in Waseca, Dance Conservatory of Southern MN in Mankato, Mankato Ballet Company, Riverfront Performing Arts in Mankato, and Spotlight Dance Company in Mankato; music lessons at Mankato School of Music and New Ulm Suzuki School of Music; participation in Mankato Area 77 Lancers Marching Band, and Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra. Many independent music and art instructors throughout the area will also be providing lessons for these students.

The next deadline for Youth Scholarships, grades 7-12, is October 1, 2020.
The next deadline for grades 3-6, is November 1, 2020.

These Youth Scholarships are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The $300 Youth Scholarship Recipients from grades 7-12 live in fourteen different communities representing eight counties. The $200 Youth Scholarship Recipients from grades 3-6 live in thirteen different communities representing seven counties. Refer to page 4 for complete lists of students by County.

Thinking about applying? Students should remember to answer their application questions with several sentences in a paragraph answer. In general, students scored higher in the review process if they provided more detailed answers to the questions and had more years of experience in their art form.

The Prairie Lakes Board considers three criteria for grades 7-12. The maximum points for category A. Years of Experience is 4 points, B. Student’s Answers to the Questions is 8 points and C. Instructor Recommendation is 4 points; for total points of 16 maximum for grades 7-12.

The Prairie Lakes Board considers two criteria for grades 3-6. The maximum points for category A. Student’s Answers to the Questions is 8 points and B. Instructor Recommendation is 4 points; for total points of 12 maximum for grades 3-6. The complete list of the criteria for both grade levels is available to view or download at www.plrac.org.
**Youth Scholarships, Grades 7-12, listed by County and Community**

A total of $19,200 was awarded to 64 students for scholarships of $300 each; and they live in 14 different communities, representing eight counties.

**Blue Earth County - $4,200**
Mankato: Eli Blace, Ella Blace, Sadie Blace, Eleanor Coons-Ruskey, Ellie Fischenich, Will Fischenich, Madeline Halvorson, Lilianna Le-Luong, Grace MacPherson, Caden Oleson, Autumn Seiwert, Sabrina Seiwert, Olivia Starkey, Landon Willaert.

**Brown County - $3,900**
New Ulm: Joshua Carlovsky, Owen Dunkel, Evelyn Friese, Emily Guggisberg, Noah Huseby, Leah Menzel, Lydia Meyer, Jade Moellenhoff, Jessica Moellenhoff, Ashlyn Rodewald, Sebastian Smith, Bethany Spike, Karlee Stocker

**Faribault County - $600**
Wells: Eva Woodring, Victoria Woodring

**Le Sueur County - $1,800**
LeCenter: Arya Menk
Le Sueur: Abigail Lange
Waterville: Kaleb Schmidt, Megan Schmitz
Rural Henderson: Joseph Fixsen
Rural St. Peter: Heidi Weber

**Nicollet County - $3,900**
Nicollet: Isabella Aase
North Mankato: Lexi Fosburgh, Sasha Jakovich, Sydney Johnson, Elli Kim, Kira Sims, Kirsten Sims
St. Peter: Anna Klatt, Alexa Rassbach, Eli Stoll, Rhian Velasquez, Paige Winkelmann
Rural New Ulm: Rory Juberien

**Sibley County - $1,200**
Gaylord: Eliza Williams
Henderson: Alexander Davig, Sophia Davig, Gaian Geldner

**Waseca County - $600**
Waseca: Jordan Bauman, Eleanor Pearce

**Watonwan County - $3,000**
Madelia: Karl Davis, Katharine Davis
St. James: Olivia Christensen, Lucia Kulseth, Maya Kulseth, Isaiah Rete, Lydia Rete, Miriam Rete, Keeley Runge, Diana Sargent

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**Youth Scholarships, Grades 3-6, listed by County and Community**

A total of $8,600 was awarded to 43 students for scholarships of $200 each; and they live in 13 different communities, representing seven counties.

**Blue Earth County - $2,000**

**Brown County - $2,400**
Comfrey: Paul Goedtke
New Ulm: Elizabeth Borgen, Nathaniel Carlovsky, Isaiah Friese, Vaughn Hicks, Claire Jeske, Jamis Martens, Norah Rodewald, Gabriella Smith, Isaiah Smith, Ezra Spike, Ainsley Tess

**Le Sueur County - $800**
Le Sueur: Anna Hackett, Gabriel Roby
Rural St. Peter: Julie Weber, Molli Weber

**Nicollet County - $2,000**
Lafayette: Arianna Uher, Mathias Uher
Nicollet: Gordon Matzke, Natalie Matzke
North Mankato: Marco Jakovich
St. Peter: Abram Madson, Adela Madson, Linnea Miller, Quinn Rassbach, Anya Stoll

**Sibley County - $1,000**
Gaylord: Colten Kranz, Mallory Kranz
Gibbon: A.J. Ortiz, Estella Ortiz
Henderson: Ayla Geldner

**Waseca County - $200**
Waseca: Ava Trumbull

**Watonwan County - $200**
St. James: Katelyn Runge
Artist Career Development Grants of $13,000 Available!
January 15, 2020 - Application Deadline

We encourage artists to apply for the Artist Career Development Grant of $1,000 for activities taking place from March 2020 to March 2021. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial support to developing artists committed to advancing their work and careers. Artists in their formative stages of development are eligible, as well as artists expanding their present work, advancing in skill, technique and/or moving in a new direction. This program provides artists with small but critical grants for specific projects that contribute directly to their growth and development as professionals.

Funds may be used for: art supplies, matting and framing, equipment, literary editor, music recording, studying with a mentor, attending a workshop, etc. In addition to the online application, artists need to submit their resume and work samples: visual artists (10 images), writers (10 pages), and performers (8 minutes) submitted as a YouTube link or a small uploadable file. Artists should be prepared to explain how the project will advance their career at this time. Please call or email the office if you have project ideas that you want to discuss. This program is made possible by funds provided by the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis. Grants will be submitted online. Go to our website at www.pirac.org.

FY 2020 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT GRANTS

*These grants were awarded July-November 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
GSR Fine Art Festival, musicians - $2,000
South Central Minnesota Pride, mural - $2,000

**BROWN COUNTY**
Adaptive Recreational Services, art classes - $2,000
Hermann Monument Society, festival musicians - $2,000
Musical Tales Concerto, New Ulm, festival - $2,000
Sleepy Eye High School, field trip - $1,820
Two Rivers Community Orchestra, season - $2,000

**LE SUEUR COUNTY**
Tri-City United Community Education, dance - $2,000

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

**NICOLLET COUNTY**
Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, artist fees - $2,000
St. Peter High School Band, guest artist - $2,000

**SIBLEY COUNTY**
Minnesota New Country School, theater - $2,000
Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Assoc., festival - $2,000
Sibley County, Arlington Book Project Festival - $2,000
Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, festival - $1,400

**WAASECA COUNTY**
American Indian Service Learning Project - $1,500
Janesville Matters, public art - $2,000
Project GEM, African art artist residency - $2,000
Sacred Heart Church, Mexican Mariachi Band - $2,000
TEAM Academy, Waseca, author visit - $1,316
Waseca Marching Classic, clinicians - $1,975
Prairie Lakes will feature Twenty McKnight Artist Grantees in an Art Exhibition & Reception

January 7-February 6, 2020

at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State Street North

We are pleased to announce the upcoming exhibit of PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantees from 2018. We are excited to provide our artist grantees this opportunity to be featured in a group exhibition. This exhibition will highlight grantees funded by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. The exhibit will take place at the Waseca Art Center, 200 North State Street, from Jan. 7 to Feb. 6, 2020. Funding for our artist grant programs and this exhibit is from the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis.

The Opening Reception will be Sunday, January 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 10 visual artists will talk about their work, 3 writers will read their work, 3 musicians will perform, and 1 media artist will show an excerpt of their film. “We are pleased to collaborate with Andrew Breck, Executive Director of the Waseca Art Center and have the exhibition held in this location,” noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director.
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

Grant Guidelines & Applications are available

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

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, 105 22nd Avenue NE, Suite A, Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 833-8721 or 1-800-298-1254. Online Application through our website, www.plrac.org.
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council
Board of Directors and Staff

Front Row (L to R): Cindy Lewer, Program Manager; Denice Evers; April Malphurs, Dana Sikkila; Carol Soma; Rita Rassbach, and Brenda Byron, Executive Director. Back Row: Charles Luedtke; Karen Krause; Liz Miller; Pam Trumbull, Administrative Assistant; Randy Mediger; Steve Davis; and Teresa Konechne. Individual photos: top: Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerenc, bottom: Margie Larson.

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 Dec. 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-Pomerene
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

Happy Holidays!
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.)

*Dec. 1 17th Annual GSR Fine Art Festival of professional artist vendors and musical performances. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free admission. Held at Mankato Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. (507) 934-5655 or www.gsrfineartfestival.com.

Dec. 1 The Mankato Riverblenders and the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines present a Christmas Season concert, “Holiday Harmony”. Each chorus and select quartets will perform separately and the two choirs will jointly perform several Christmas songs as well. 3 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 222 Plau St., Mankato, and 7:30 p.m. at The Church of St. Peter, 1801 W. Broadway, St. Peter. Adults $10, students free with food shelf donation, tickets available at Cub Foods and HyVee Stores in Mankato and at the door. (507) 420-5847 or www.singmankato.com.

Dec. 1 Mankato Opry Jamboree, an opry style country music Christmas Show featuring the Mankato Opry All Star Band and guest singers, 2 p.m. Show only $22. Country buffet additional $15. Buffet starts at 12:30 p.m. Held at the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato. (507) 625-7553 or www.katoballroom.com.


Dec. 1-13 Inspiration Exhibit, held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. 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. (507) 389-6767 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

Dec. 1-22 “Adventures in Matting: Holiday Edition” theater performances. Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 2 p.m.; Dec. 7, 14 & 21 at 5:30 p.m. and Dec. 6, 13 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets $12, $18 or $25. There are a specific number of tickets at each price point; $12 are sold first, then $18, then $25, shop early for best price. Held at DalekoArts, 110 E. Main Street, New Prague. www.dalekoarts.com or (952) 314-9077.


Dec. 1-31 Kiwanis Holiday Lights in Sibley Park, Mankato. Sun.-Thurs. 5-9 pm. and Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m. Dec. 20 & 21 includes ice sculpting of a train that will be lit up with lights. www.kiwanisholidaylights.com or (507) 385-9129.

*Dec. 1-31 Wood Engravers’ Network Third Triennial Exhibition of 64 engravings by 37 artists. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Gallery hours: Tues. & Wed. 1-6 p.m., Thurs. 1-8 p.m., Fri. & Sun. 1-5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscenters.org.

Dec. 1-Jan. 31 Exhibit of African Works from the Collection of Ruth and Raymond Reister and Watercolor Works. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free and open to the public. Hours: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. www.gustavus.edu/arts/hillstrom or (507) 933-7200.

Dec. 2-3 Senior Show 2, held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6412.

*Dec. 2-18 Open Pottery Lab, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Purchase a punch card & 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. www.mankatocer.com or (507) 387-5501.

Dec. 3, 10 & 17 Weekly Open Houses sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & 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. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

*Dec. 3-28 All School Show featuring art by local youth of all ages. (Reception, Dec. 3, 4:30-7 p.m.) Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Dec. 3-31 Adrienne Herbert, Kimberly Jansen and Tricia Mikel’s “Art x 3” Exhibit. 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. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Dec. 4-15 Meghan Rosenau’s Sculpture Exhibit, held at The 410 Project, 523 South Front Street, Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. www.the410project.com.

Dec. 5 University Contemporary Vocal Groups Concert, 7:30 p.m. General admission $9, K-12 students and children $7. Held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.
Dec. 5  “Don’t Be Like Emily Dickinson or Kathryn Cullen” Poetry Reading, 7 p.m. Held at Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Avenue. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersstp.org.

Dec. 5  Concert by the Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet performing holiday-themed music, 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

Dec. 5-8  “Love Beyond Borders” Christmas in Christ Chapel, featuring music, dance and spoken word. Dec. 5, 6 & 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 & 8 at 3:30 p.m. $30, purchase online at www.gustavustickets.com. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or web@gac.edu.

Dec. 5-8  Christmas at Bethany Concerts, Dec. 5 & 6 at 5 p.m., Dec. 7 & 8 at 3 p.m. Featuring the Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Choir, Mary Martha Singers, and Handbell Choir. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

Dec. 5-12  All Student Art Show. (Reception, Dec. 5, 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.

Dec. 5-Jan. 2  Holiday Boutique, unique handmade gifts created by local artists, 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. Dec. 5: at 6:30 p.m. is Montgomery’s Torchlight Parade, cookies and treats will be for sale. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

Dec. 5-21  Carnegie Members’ Exhibition. Also shop in the gift shop of unique handcrafted holiday gifts by local and regional artists. Held at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Thurs. 1-7 p.m., Fri. 1-4 p.m., and Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. www.thecarnegieatmankato.com or (507) 625-2730.

Dec. 6  Fairmont Opera House presents Mick Sterling’s “At Christmas” performance of stories and music, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; tickets available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

Dec. 6-7  Minnesota State University Fall Dance Concert. Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Adults $10, seniors over 65 and youth under sixteen $9. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-6661 or www.mnstate.edu/theatre/.

Dec. 6-7  The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents weekend music, 7:30 p.m. each night. Dec. 6: Bad Liquor Management performing rock, folk, and blues music, tickets $5. Dec. 7: The Lost Walleye Orchestra performing classic rock, Americana, blues, and folk music, free. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Dec. 6-22  Mankato Playhouse presents dinner theatre performances of “Miracle On 34th Street, A Live Musical Radio Play”. Friday and Saturday dinner seating at 5:45 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday lunch seating at 12:15 p.m., show at 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday dinner theater tickets $45, Sunday lunch theater tickets $40, available at www.mankatoplayhouse.com. Limited number of show only tickets available at the door $17. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. www.mankatoplayhouse.com or (507) 508-6539.

*Dec. 6-27  Resident Artists Exhibition (Reception, Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m.) Held at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat. 1-6 p.m. (507) 387-1008 or www.twinriversarts.org.

*Dec. 6-Jan. 3  11th Annual Artscape Juried Art Show, (Reception, Dec. 6, 5-7:30 p.m.) held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

*Dec. 7  Arli-Dazzle winter celebration, featuring demonstrations by the Sakatah Ice Carvers, the Schell’s Hobo Band Quartet, holiday caroling by DeCantus, dance by Inspyre Performance, a lighted holiday parade, Artisan Holiday Market, and more events all day. Held on Main St., Arlington. Sponsored by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. (507) 964-2809 or www.arlingtonmnchamber.com.

*Dec. 7  Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration with music by the Mexican Mariachi band Mariachi Estrella, 6:30-8 p.m. Held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 111 4th St. NW, Waseca. www.sacredheartwaseca.org or (507) 835-1222.

**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.
Dec. 7 Holli-Stories Fundraiser, 7 p.m., with new stories and plays by Bette Traxler performed throughout the evening. Held at Next Chapter Winery, 16945 320th St., New Prague. Sponsored by Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

Dec. 7 Fairmont Opera House in partnership with Green Mill Restaurant, presents “Murder Me Always” murder mystery dinner theatre performance. Social Hour 6-7 p.m., show and meal at 7 p.m. $50 per person or $45 per person for a table of 8; available by calling (507) 268-4900. Held at the Green Mill Restaurant, 1201 Torgerson Drive, Fairmont. Sponsored by Fairmont Opera House, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

Dec. 7-8 “Christmas at the Hubbard House”, costumed characters bring history to life to solve a mystery. Dec. 7, 3-7 p.m. and Dec. 8, 1-4 p.m. Adults $10, Blue Earth County Historical Society members $7, ages 5-17 $5, and children under 5 free. Held at the Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St., Mankato. (507) 345-5566.

Dec. 7-8 “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” Holiday Dance Show presented by the Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota, 2 p.m. each day. Held at Mankato East High School, 2600 Hoffman Rd. (507) 625-2005 or www.dcsmdance.com.

Dec. 7-8 “A North Woods Nutcracker” performance presented by Riverfront Performing Arts. Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. Adults $12, children under 12 $8. Held at Mankato West High School Auditorium, 1351 S. Riverfront Drive, Mankato. www.riverfrontartsmn.org or (507) 469-4351.

Dec. 7-8 “Joy Had Dawned” Christmas Concert by the Martin Luther College combined choirs, the Wind Symphony, and Hosanna Ringers. Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. Held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990 or www.mlc-wels.edu.


Dec. 8 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.artscenterstp.org.

Dec. 8 University Holiday Choral Concert, 3 p.m. General admission $9, K-12 students and children $7. Held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S. Broad St., Mankato. Sponsored by MN State University, Mankato, www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.


*Dec. 10 Lunch with the Arts, 12 Noon, bring a bag lunch. Holiday music by local musicians Bill Busse, Joyce Schultz and Sandy Ettesvold, free. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 East Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

Dec. 10 Film screening and discussion of “Brick”, 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 North Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

*Dec. 13 Annual Holiday Performance by pianist, Glenn Henriksen, 7 p.m. Advanced tickets required, $15, available at Fairmont Hy-Vee or online. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.


*Dec. 13 “Christmas in the Country” event, 3-8:30 p.m. Featuring music by the Mages Family Band, GFW Thunderbird Carolers, and Dick Kimmel and Lori; and including art projects for students, spruce pots for adults, treats at local businesses, and a holiday movie. Held in downtown Winthrop. Sponsored by Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, (507) 647-2627 or www.winthropminnesota.com/chamber-of-commerce/.

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!
**Dec. 13** Fairmont Opera House presents Holiday Hoopla, a festive afternoon of movies, games, snacks, and more, 4-7 p.m., free. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.


**Dec. 13 & 15** Blue Earth Town and Country Players will present “Misdeeds at Mistletoe Mine or...The Sanity Clause” Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 1:30 p.m. Dessert and show ticket $15, show only $10, either ticket can be purchased at the door. Desserts served half an hour before the show times. Held at Blue Earth Area High School Unity Hall Commons and Performing Arts Center, 1125 Hwy. 169 N., Blue Earth. (507) 400-1827 or “Blue Earth Town & Country Players” on Facebook.

**Dec. 13-15** “4 A.M.” and “Oz” one act play performances. Dec. 13-14 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 2 p.m., $5. Held at Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990.

**Dec. 14** Singing Hills Chorus presents their “Circle of Love” Concert, 1:30 p.m. with reception to follow. Tickets $10; children 5 and under are free, however, a ticket is required. Limited tickets are available at Rhapsody Music, Scheitel’s Music and The Music Mart in Mankato. To find out if tickets are available at the door, call (507) 519-0626 or visit the Singing Hills Chorus Facebook page. Held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato. www.singinghillschorus.org.

**Dec. 14** “Dancing Through the Year” Dance Recital by BlueJay Dance Studio Dance Students, 2 p.m. Held at Waseca Central Building Auditorium, 501 E. Elm Ave. Sponsored by Waseca Community Education. (507) 835-5626 or www.cc.waseca.k12.mn.us.

**Dec. 14** A Bluegrass Christmas Concert with Monroe Crossing, 7 p.m. Tickets $15, available at the door, or in advance at the Waseca Community Education Office, 501 E. Elm Ave. Held at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center, 1717 2nd St. NW. (507) 835-5626.

**Dec. 14** Author Allen Eskens will read from his book “Nothing More Dangerous”, 10:30 a.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

**Dec. 14-15** “Christmas with Musicorum” Holiday Choral Concert. Adults $15, seniors and students $10. Dec. 14: 7:30 p.m. at Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato. Dec. 15: 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1114 W. Traverse Rd., St. Peter. www.musicorum-mn.org or (507) 933-7370.

**Dec. 15** The Mankato Children’s Chorus present their Winter Concert “All is Well”, 3 p.m. Adults $12, seniors and students $10, children 5 and under $5. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 387-9007 or www.mankatochildrenschorus.org.

**Dec. 15** The Looney Lutherans Christmas Show “Hold the Lutefisk”, 2 p.m. Tickets: In advance $12.50 from the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm Hy-Vee, or online at www.statestreeenewulm.org, at the door $15. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

**Dec. 15** Holiday Makers Market, sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Shop for truly unique items created by local artists. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

**Dec. 15-Jan. 30** Project GEM’s Creative Youth Show, showcasing area students artwork from an African Art Workshop. Held at the St. Peter Community Recreation Center, 600 S. 5th St. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sun. 12 Noon-8 p.m. (507) 726-6047 or www.projectgemMN.org.

**Dec. 16** Screening of Esther Marcella Hoffmann’s short film “I Am The Moment”, 6 p.m., free. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. 507 (304) 3694. Esther received a PLRAC/MeKnight Artist Grant in 2019 from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

**Dec. 17** Author Lorna Landvik will discuss her novels “Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons” and “Best to Laugh”, 6-7:30 p.m. 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.

**Dec. 20-21** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents weekend music, 7:30 p.m. each night, free. Dec. 20: Open Mic Night with local artists performing, hosted by Dave “Ocho” O’Connell. Dec. 21: Nate Boots and The High Horses performing acoustic, electric, alternative folk music. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

**Dec. 20-21** “All I Care About is Love” Holiday Cabaret Show with a variety of musical acts, 7:30 p.m. Held at Next Chapter Winery, 16945 320th Street, New Prague. Sponsored by the Curtain Call Theatre. www.curtaincalltheatre.net or webmaster@curtaincalltheatre.net.
Dec. 21 The Longest Night: Solstice with Mary Traxler in Concert. Doors open at 7 p.m. and music at 7:30 p.m., $10. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. www.artscentersp.org or (507) 931-3630.

Dec. 21 Fairmont Opera House presents a bluegrass concert by Monroe Crossing, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or one hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

Dec. 22 “Dive Bar Christmas Tour” Concert by Home Free, doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Held at the Mankato Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. Tickets range from $21.50-$49.50, available at the Civic Center Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com, or call 1-800-745-3000. www.mankatociviccenter.com or (507) 389-3000.

Dec. 27 Siama’s Congo Music, 10:30 a.m., hear music and narrated stories. Kids will also get to play shakers and participate. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.


Dec. 31 Fairmont Opera House presents “Even It Up” a Heart tribute band and “Rumble Seat” a John Mellencamp Experience, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.

Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve Gala with Sandra Lee and the Velvets, performing 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s music. Doors open at 8 p.m., music begins at 8:30 p.m. Dance tickets: in advance $20, at the door $24. Optional dinner buffet at 7 p.m., additional $20, dinner tickets must be purchased in advance. Held at the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato. (507) 625-7553 or www.katoballroom.com.


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**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.

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The PLRAC Office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas, and Wednesday, January 1st in observance of New Year’s Day.
Youth Arts Opportunities

Youth Classes

Dec. 1 Poetry Out Loud 2020

Competition deadline for high school registration. Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Schools must register their participation. South Central Service Cooperative is proud to partner with the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board to host Poetry Out Loud. www.mnsesc.org/poetry-out-loud for more information. (952) 715-8745.

Dec. 3 Club Picasso, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Ages 9-12, $7. With a focus on skill building, students will incorporate design elements using a variety of media. Classes reinforce skills and learning new techniques. This month is “Christmas Tree Tassellations” with math and art coming together to create tassellating trees. Registration required with Waseca Community Education: www.waseca.ce.elyeo.com. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State Street North. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Dec. 3 Ornament Making Class, 6:30 p.m., for ages 12 and up. Supplies provided; registration required. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Dec. 3, 16 & 31 Washer Word Bracelet Class, ages 13-18. Design and make a positive, personal reminder with a custom hand-stamped bracelet. Dec. 3: 6-7 p.m. at the Waseca Public Library, 408 N. State St. (507) 835-2910. Dec. 16: 5-6 p.m. at the Waterville Public Library, 210 Paquin St. (507) 362-8462. Dec. 31: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Waldorf Public Library, 119 S. Main St. (507) 239-2248.

Dec. 5 Make and Take Art Class, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Grades K-3, $7. Students will be introduced to a variety of different media; creating works of self-expression, and learning new art ideas and techniques to improve current skills. This month is “Magical Reindeer”, using pastels and rubbing techniques. Registration required with Waseca Community Education:


*Dec. 7 Children's Gift Making Camp with Rhonda Johnson, 1-4 p.m., $50. Ages 6 and up. Includes a variety of crafts, each student will leave with four newly wrapped gifts. Registration required. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 North Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Dec. 7 Gingerbread House Canvas Painting Class led by Laura Doyen, ages 8-12, 10-11:30 a.m. Learn to create a fun Gingerbread themed painting, $25. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Design & Wine, 300 Belgrade Ave., North Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Dec. 10 Seasons Greetings Kids Painting Class led by Rhonda Johnson, ages 5 and up, 6-8 p.m. Learn painting basics in a fun and creative atmosphere, $35. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 152, 110 Fulton St., Mankato.


Dec. 12 & 14 You & Me Canvas Painting Classes led by Laura Doyen, ages 4-12 with an adult. Each of you will create a canvas painting with step-by-step instructor. Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m., create Santa paintings. Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-12 Noon, create snowman paintings. No experience required. $45 for each class, includes materials and registration for both participants. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Design & Wine, 300 Belgrade Ave., North Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Dec. 12, 14-15 Decorate a Gingerbread House at the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota. Dec. 12, 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; or Dec. 15, 12:30-3:30 p.m. $20 per house for museum members and $25 per house for non-members plus museum admission. www.cmsouthermn.org or (507) 386-0279.


(continued on page 17)
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.

Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota offers unique and hands on programs and events for youth of all ages. Hours: Tues.-Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thurs. until 7:30 p.m. $8 per person 1 year and older. Located at 224 Lamm St., Mankato. (507) 386-0279 or www.cmsouthermn.org.

**Adult Artists**

**Dec. 1-March 1** Call for artists to participate in the “Farmers and Agriculture” Project. Artists will create work that celebrates agriculture. It will be displayed in participating Montgomery businesses from May 16-Oct. 13. Any medium is eligible, 2D or 3D. Prizes of up to $1,000 will be awarded. Contact Maureen Gunderson for more information and a registration form, artsandheritagecenter@gmail.com or (507) 317-1433. Sponsored by Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery. www.artsandheritagecenter.org or (507) 364-8107.

**Dec. 2** Suminagashi Class, 6-7 p.m. Explore the art of suminagashi (or “floating ink”) paper marbling. This technique originated in Japan as early as the 12th century. Held at the Elysian Public Library, 202 E. Main St. (507) 267-4411.

**Dec. 3, 10 & 17** Jam Sessions, Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

### Dec. 2-3

**Entry Days** for the ArtScape Juried Art Show

Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Up to 3 submissions per artist. The fee is $5 per submission for the student category grades 7-12 and $5 per submission for adult members, $10 per submission for adult non-members. Exhibition dates: Dec. 6-Jan. 3. Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

**Dec. 4 & 18** Intro to Laser Cutting and Engraving Class, 6-7:30 p.m. Learn how to properly prepare and set up files to use on our laser cutting and engraving tool, the Glowforge. Members $25 and non-members $30, each session. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 Third Avenue. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

**Dec. 4 & 18** 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.

**Dec. 4-18** Beginning Knitting Class, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn basic knitting skills, needles and yarn for practice are available. No experience required. $45. Register with Mankato Area Community Education. Held at Mary Lue’s Yarn & Ewe, 605 North Riverfront Dr., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Area Community Education, www.mankatocer.com or (507) 387-5501.

**Dec. 5** Washer Word Bracelet Class, 12 Noon-1 p.m. Design and make a positive, personal reminder with a custom hand-stamped bracelet. Held at the Waseca Public Library, 408 N. State St. (507) 835-2910.

**Dec. 5, 12 & 19** Wire and Wine Design Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn wire wrapping and create your own jewelry. Members $40, non-members $45 each session. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

(continued on page 18)
Adult Arts Opportunities

Dec. 7, 14 & 21 Stained Glass Sun Catcher Class, 6-9 p.m., learn stained glass basics to make a sun catcher you will take home that night. $75. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Dec. 8 Exploring Encaustic Painting Class, 1-5 p.m. Paint with molten wax on a warm wood panel, fusing each layer with a heat gun. $65. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Dec. 8 Drop-In Writers Critique Group, 3-5 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, there is no previous participation or experience necessary. $5, no prior registration required. Held 2nd Sunday of the month, at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Dec. 9 Poetry Discussion 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 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Dec. 14 Southern Minnesota Poets Society Monthly Meeting, 12:30-3 p.m., come for a potluck lunch and bring 10 copies of a one page poem you want critiqued. SMPS members will work in groups to help you with your poem. Free, visitors welcome. This month will also be a Winter Celebration with music from a vocal quartet. Held at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 South Second St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 345-1174 or www.southernmnpoets.org.

Dec. 15 Holiday Makers Market, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Members can exhibit for free, non-members pay $30 fee. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Avenue. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Dec. 19 Basic Clear Torchwork Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn about glass working basics, safety, equipment use, torch and glass techniques; and make your own clear creation, $60. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 Third Avenue. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

*Dec. 20 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 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Dec. 27, 28 or 29 Holiday Clay Days Classes, 2-4 p.m., for all ages, children must be accompanied by a paying adult. Make fun and easy hand-built pieces, ready for pickup within a month of the session. $20 per session, registration required. Dec. 27 class is tiles; Dec. 28 is tea bowls; and Dec. 29 is lidded vessels. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Dec. Accepting Exhibit Applications. Red Rock Center for the Arts in Fairmont is taking artist applications for 2020 gallery exhibitions. Solo and group shows welcome. Contact director@redrockcenter.org for an application. Held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.

Individual or Small Group Art Lessons. Artist, Kevin Kroeber, will give individual or small group lessons in drawing and watercolor painting at his studio. Kevin has MFA and MA degrees in art and has training in the French technique of realism at the Atelier Lack. Contact kkroeger@hickorytech.net or (507) 420-3760 to set up lessons. Held at 723 Warren St., Mankato.

23 MILLION PEOPLE ATTEND THE ARTS IN MINNESOTA

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
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/FpoGZArcX2qsAiYlk6yBOA==/

THE ARTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA’S ECONOMY:
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/-A15bylPwxgej9JuuoRCA==/

ARTISTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA:
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/zKQtdH50mtLIPIrGc7S9FQ==/

THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA’S QUALITY OF LIFE:
90% Believe the Arts Make Minnesota Desirable
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/yR7xMJU3llbhQd9MO2hYQ==/
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.artcentersp.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@artcentersp.org, (507) 931-3630, or www.artcentersp.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.thecarnegie.com, (507) 625-2730, or artctr@hickorytech.net.

Emy Frentz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Artist studios and gallery space. Hours: Wed.-Sat. 1-6 p.m. emyfrentzartsguild@gmail.com, (507) 387-1008, or www.twinriversarts.org, then link to www.greatermankatoevents.com.

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.

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.

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/arts/hillstrom/.

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

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

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

Grant Opportunities

Dec. 5 Many Voices Fellowship Deadline. The Many Voices Fellowship is administered by the Playwrights’ Center in partnership with the Jerome Foundation. It is intended to support early career playwrights of color and Indigenous playwrights who demonstrate artistic potential and a commitment to a year-long residency in Minnesota. The fellowship is additionally supported by a professional theater artist mentor. Fellowships provide an $18,000 stipend and $2,500 in play development funds. Go to https://pwcenter.org/programs/many-voices-fellowships for more information or email Julia Brown at juliab@pwcenter.org.

Dec. 5 Many Voices Mentorship Deadline. The Many Voices Mentorship is administered by the Playwrights’ Center in partnership with the Jerome Foundation. It is intended to support a Minnesota artist of color and/or Indigenous artist who is new to playwriting but demonstrates artistic potential and an interest in learning more about the craft and will be able to take advantage of the resources the Playwrights’ Center provides. The mentorship year will run July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 and provides a $2,000 stipend as well as free access to over $1,500 in services designed to introduce beginning playwrights to the craft of playwriting. Go to https://pwcenter.org/programs/many-voices-mentorships for more information or email Julia Brown at juliab@pwcenter.org.

*Jan. 15 PLRAC Artist Career Development Grant Deadline. The purpose of the $1,000 grant is to provide financial support to developing artists committed to advancing their work and careers. Artists in their formative stages of development are eligible, as well as artists expanding their present work, advancing in skill, technique and/or moving in a new direction. Prairie Lakes serves the 9-county region that includes Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, 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.

*Feb. 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, LeSueur, 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.

Inside the December Newsletter

Page 1-2 PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantees
Page 3-4 Youth Scholarships Awarded
Page 5 Artist Grants Available
Page 5 Small Arts & School Grantees
Page 6 PLRAC Grantee Exhibition
Page 7 PLRAC Online Grants
Page 7 PLRAC Grant Deadlines
Page 8 PLRAC Grant Programs
Page 9 PLRAC Board Members
Page 9 PLRAC Board Member Opening
Page 10 Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
Page 11-15 December Arts Calendar
Page 15 FY 2019 PLRAC Grants Awarded
Page 16-18 Arts Opportunities & Classes
Page 18 Arts Give Back
Page 19 Non-Profit Art Centers & Galleries