9th Annual PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibit and Reception on January 13, 2019 a Huge Success!

“We had a great turnout with 70+ people attending the Reception January 13, at the Waseca Art Center for the PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibit. We were pleased to have visual artists discuss their work, writers read from their work, a play was presented and musicians performed”, noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. You can see a Live Stream of the reception on the Prairie Lakes Facebook page or see photos of the event and artwork. The Art exhibit continues through Feb. 7, 2019. At the reception Byron commented “What’s unique about the exhibit is that other artists can be inspired by a local artists journey in their career, learn about how they used their artist grant from Prairie Lakes to achieve their career goals and see the final product of that endeavor”. We received some very good publicity for the exhibit from KEYC TV in North Mankato, the Waseca County News and Prairie Lakes did a video of the artwork and posted it on YouTube. Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJV_6tici_U&feature=youtu.be

In the top photo is Brenda Byron at the reception and below is the gallery view as you enter the Waseca Art Center. There are more photos on pages 2-4.
9th Annual PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibit and Reception on January 13, 2019 a Huge Success!

“We were pleased to have visual artists discuss their work, writers read from their work, musicians perform, and here is 
playwright Tom Barna, of Eagle Lake having his play “The Assumption of Hope” performed by actors”, noted Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director. You can see a live stream of the reception on the Prairie Lakes Facebook page or see photos of the event and artwork. Additional photos on page 3, 4 and 20.

Musician Grantees performed at the Reception
On the left is musician Dick Kimmel, of New Ulm performing Bluegrass music with Lori Jean. On right is musician Joe Tougas, Mankato performing original songs with Ann Rosenquist Fee.

On the right is musician Sarah Houle, of Mankato performing at the Reception January 13, 2019, with The Mostly Conical Brass Quartet, that includes Josh Forbord, Ryan Shirk and Jessica Landsteiner.
Visual Artists Displaying at the PLRAC/McKnight Exhibit

Here is a sample of the artwork which is on display through Feb. 7 at the Waseca Art Center. (More on page 4)

Sheila Becker, LeCenter
Mixed Media

Bruce Blaisdell, Mankato
Wood Vessel

Kay Herbst Helms, Mankato
Digital Photograph

Denise Friesen, North Mankato, Triptych, Oil

Craig Groe, Mankato, Oil painting

Michelle Kaisersatt, St. Peter
Sculptural Clay

Marjie Laizure, Mankato
Oil painting

Margie Larson, Mankato
Oil and cold wax
Writers and Musicians that were featured at the Reception Jan. 13

Tom Barna
Playwright

Candace Black
Poet

Rebecca Brooks
Fiction Writer

Sara Buechmann
Musician

Sarah Houle
Musician

Dick Kimmel
Musician

Teagan Knoblich
Fantasy Writer

Joe Tougas
Musician
On January 24th We Celebrated 10 Years of Arts Legacy Funding in Region 9

“We were pleased to see so many Arts supporters at our January 24th 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, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan.

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**Ten Year Summary of Grants funded by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY</th>
<th>ACH</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>McKnight</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$-50-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$282,625</td>
<td>$82,705</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals:** ACH $2,638,039 State $803,658 McKnight $379,500 = $3,821,197

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Sheila Smith, Executive Director, MN Citizens for the Arts (MCA); Dana Sikkila, PLRAC and MCA Board Member and Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director & MCA Board Member.
Arts Advocacy Day will be March 12, 2019
Sign up now at WWW.ARTSMN.ORG

Arts Advocacy Day is important to show the strength of MN’s statewide arts community; especially when legislators discuss the state budget and Legacy funding, known as “Arts and Cultural Heritage” funding that provides money to the MN State Arts Board and eleven Regional Arts Councils, including Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

Brenda Byron, PLRAC, will lead a team of Arts Advocates at the capital to meet with legislators from our region. We encourage you to register with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts’ for Arts Advocacy Day on March 12, 2019. We start with a rally and then split into teams to talk to legislators about why they should support the arts. Arts people from every corner of the state come together in St. Paul.

Register Now and Find out More at:
http://artsmn.org/act/events/arts-advocacy-day/
Registration Deadline is March 8, 2019

Arts Advocacy Day Schedule:

7:30 a.m. MN History Center in St. Paul
8:00 a.m. Registration & the Creative Minnesota 2018 Report: New Local Studies
8:30 a.m. Advocacy Class for New Attendees
9:00 a.m. Rally and Join Your Team
10:00 a.m. Walk or Take MCA Shuttle to Capitol
10:15-2:00 p.m. Legislator Appointments

On March 12, 2019 Minnesota Citizens for the Arts will bring hundreds of arts advocates from around the state to the State Capitol for “Arts Advocacy Day”. They will educate legislators about the arts in their communities and ask them to support the arts funding promised through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that dedicated funds to conservation and the arts. In 2017 1,000 arts advocates filled the capitol! MCA hopes to have a similar amount in 2019.

Brenda Byron, PLRAC and Arts Advocates from the Region 9 area at the Capitol.
ARTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY
will be conducted in February-March 2019
by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

A constituent survey will be conducted in the 9-county area served by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. **Two electronic Survey Forms will be created for Artists and Organizations using Survey Monkey.** The surveys will be sent to over 1,500 individuals on the PLRAC mailing list and the public will be encouraged to participate through news releases that will be sent to all media in the 9-county area. Further details and dates will be provided later. **We hope you will participate!**

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FY 2019 SMALL ARTS PROJECT and ARTS-IN-EDUCATION GRANTS

*These grants were awarded July 2018 through January 2019.*

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

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY**
Artist on Main Street, Mankato, music bench - $1,263
Bethany College, Speechless Film Festival - $2,000
Deep Valley Book Festival, author talks - $875
GSR Fine Art Festival - $2,000
Maple River High School Band, field trip - $1,820
Rosa Parks Elementary School, art show - $1,800

**BROWN COUNTY**
Hermann Monument Society, ethnic music - $2,000
New Ulm Middle School, artist-in-residence - $1,800
Sleepy Eye High School, theater field trip - $1,560

**FARIBAULT COUNTY**
Blue Earth Area Orchestra, field trip - $1,720

**LE SUEUR COUNTY**
Czech and Slovak Century Celebration, music - $2,000
Waterville Elyssian Morristown School, theater - $1,510

**MARTIN COUNTY**
Rural Advantage, music performances - $2,000

**NICOLLET COUNTY**
Minnesota Shorts Play Festival - $2,000
Play With Your Food Theatre, performances - $1,960
Rural Route Dance Ensemble, performances - $2,000

**SIBLEY COUNTY**
City of Arlington, public art - $1,170
City of Winthrop, summer concert series - $1,580
Henderson C.A.N., public art - $2,000
Henderson Sauerkraut Days, music - $1,500
Minnesota New Country School, theater - $2,000
MN Valley Music Teachers Assoc., piano festival - $1,800
Sibley County Fair, music performances - $2,000
St. Thomas Oratory Jessenland, Irish music - $1,725
Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, music - $1,000

**WASECA COUNTY**
Project G.E.M., American Indian Artist Residency - $2,000
American Indian Service Learning Project - $1,400
St. Olaf Lake Association, music performance - $600
Waseca Marching Classic, clinicians - $1,750
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 2019. Four meetings of the Regional Arts Council (RAC) Director’s were held in April, May, August, and October in St. Cloud 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 2019 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 August 2018 to continue the discussion on this topic. RAC Staff also met in October 2018. 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.
In 2019 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 PLRAC Website.

http://www.plrac.org/grants.html

New Grant Guidelines & Applications are available.
On the “Grants Program Page” of the website, each is a downloadable link. Four program grants are listed:

• Arts and Cultural Heritage
• Youth Scholarship, grades 7-12 and 3-6
• Small Arts or Arts-In-Education for schools
• 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 2019 PLRAC GRANT DEADLINES
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

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. Details are on page 10.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts-In-Education &amp; Small Arts Project - $2,000</th>
<th>Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant $8,000</th>
<th>Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant - $3,000</th>
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<td>ACH Education- $4,000</td>
<td>September 15 Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2018 to May 1, 2019</td>
<td>Arts Festivals - $5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Scholarship</td>
<td>August 1 Deadline &amp;</td>
<td>Artist Career Development Grant - $1,000</td>
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<td>Grades 7-12 - $300</td>
<td>February 1 Deadline</td>
<td>January 15 Deadline</td>
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<td>October 1 Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 3-6 - $200</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1 Deadline</td>
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</table>

All grant applications are online in 2019. A tutorial that explains the online process is on our website.
FY 2019 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1 and Feb. 1

1. Arts and Arts Access – Maximum $8,000.
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 art and music festivals, community 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. This 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 Grant

Non-profit arts organizations, community groups, or public organizations producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community are eligible. The maximum grant is $2,000, with a 10% cash match. For arts and music festivals, community bands and choirs, theatre events, dance activities, literary readings, visual arts exhibitions and classes, etc. Deadline: 1st of each month.

Arts-In-Education Grant

Grants are for public and private schools K-12. The maximum is $2,000 with a 10% cash match. Funds are available for Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. Deadline: 1st of each month.

Individual Artist Grant

These McKnight Artist Grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to an Artists growth and professional development in dance, 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 Board of Directors and Staff

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

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has One Board Position Open

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

The deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 28, 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 ............ Diane Harms
Sibley County .......... Dennis Van Moorlehem
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 .......... Lauren Shoemaker

Staff
Executive Director .......... Brenda Byron
Program Manager .......... Cindy Lewer
Administrative Assistant .. Pam Trumbull
**Arts Calendar**

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

Feb. 1 Charles E. Burchfield’s “Oh My Heavens” Exhibit of paintings, drawings, and prints. Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free & open to the public. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. (507) 933-7200 or www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom.


Feb. 1 & 3 “Tick Talk” theater performances, about teen social issues. Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. Adults $8, youth under 18 $4. Held at Fitzgerald Auditorium, 110 North Fifth Street, Mankato. Sponsored by Riverfront Performing Arts, www.riverfrontartsmn.org or (507) 469-4351.

Feb. 1-3 & 6-10 “Peter and the Starcatcher” theater production, Feb. 1-2 & 6-9 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 3, 9 & 10 at 2 p.m. Adults $16, seniors over 65 and youth under sixteen $14. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-6661 or www.mnsu.edu/theatre/.

Feb. 1-3 & 8-9 “Kiss Me, Kate” musical theater performance by the Choraliers, Feb. 1-2 & 8-9 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 3 & 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets $15. Held at Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. www.blc.edu or (507) 344-7000.


Feb. 1-8 Jim Denomie’s “Fearless” Painting and Multimedia Exhibit, held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6412.

Feb. 1-9 Sue Allofs’ Painting 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.

Feb. 1-9 Wes Taylor’s Photography Exhibit. 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.

Feb. 1-17 Annual Juried Exhibition. (Reception, Feb. 1, 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.

Feb. 1-22 Bend of the River Photography Club Exhibit of barns, varying in size, shape, color and condition. (Reception, Feb. 1, 5-7 p.m.) Held at the Emy Frenz Gallery, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (507) 387-1008 or www.twinniversarts.org.


Feb. 1-28 Matthew Petrowiak’s Photography and Painting 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. www.redrockcenter.org or (507) 235-9262.

Feb. 1-March 30 Kathy Black’s “Upcycled Treasures” Exhibit. Held at Blue Earth County Historical Society Art Gallery, 415 E. Cherry St., Mankato. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 345-5566 or www.blueearthcountymuseum.com.

Feb. 1-April 13 “Whose Truth & Justice?” Exhibit by Gregory Wilkins featuring mixed media work of Indigenous people, culture, and environment. At South Central College Lookout Gallery, Room C167, 1920 Lee Blvd., North Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-7396.


**Feb. 3** Fairmont Opera House presents “Charlotte’s Web” by Theatreworks USA, 2 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, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.

**Feb. 4-April 29** 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. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatococer.com.

**Feb. 5** Author Allen Eskens will give a presentation for the Winter Speaker Series, 7-8 p.m., held at the Gaylord City Library, 428 Main Ave. www.gaylordmnlibrary.org or (507) 237-2280.

**Feb. 5** Authors Julie Schrader and Bryce Stenzel will discuss their new book, “The Boy in Blue: Blue Earth County Minnesota’s Civil War Memorial”, detailing the history of the original Civil War monument erected in Mankato’s historic Lincoln Park in 1893, its demise, and reconstruction, 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

**Feb. 5-19** Installation Students Exhibit, (Reception, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.) held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6767.

**Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26** Weekly Open Houses sponsored by Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 3-6 p.m., Tuesdays. Tour the shops, check out the tools, and purchase memberships. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

**Feb. 7** Good Thunder Reading Series featuring short story author Sequoia Nagamatsu and poet Jordan Deveraux. Workshop, 10-11 a.m., at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, Emy Frenz Gallery, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato. Craft talk, 3-4 p.m., at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Ct., Mankato. Reading, 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Centennial Student Union Room 245, MN State University, Mankato. Sponsored by MN State University, Mankato. http://gt.mnsu.edu/ or (507) 389-1354.

**Feb. 7** Author Jill Kalz will present her book “The Winter Bees” at the St. Peter Reads event, 7 p.m. Held at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219, 600 S. 5th St. (507) 933-7588.


**Feb. 7-23** Reed White’s “Local Talent” Painting Exhibit in the Cook Gallery and Lori Wolf’s “Deliquescent: Fluid Motion” Exhibit in the Rotunda and Fireplace Galleries. (Reception, Feb. 9, 7-9 p.m.) Reed’s gallery talk is Feb. 16, 3-4 p.m. Lori’s gallery talk is Feb. 21, 6-7 p.m. 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.thecarnegiemankato.com or (507) 625-2730.

**Feb. 7-27** “Immigration: Becoming American” Exhibit, immigration stories and photos of young immigrants from the individuals’ perspectives. (Reception, Feb. 8, 5-7 p.m.) Held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

**Feb. 8** Chocolate and Chamber Music Concert, 7:30 p.m. An evening of music featuring a selection of cheese, chocolate, treats, and local wines. Dessert & music $15 each or 2 for $25. Dessert, music & wine tasting $30 each or 2 for $50. Held at the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra. (612) 420-0501 or www.mayso.net.

**Feb. 8-9** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents weekend music, 7:30 p.m. each night. Feb. 8: The Amy Manette Band performing jazz music, free. Feb. 9: The Divers performing eclectic music, $5 admission. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.


Feb. 10 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.artscentersp.org.

*Feb. 10 MN State University, Mankato Performance Series Concert by The Barley Jacks, performing bluegrass, acoustic, Celtic, and folk music, 7:30 p.m. $15, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

Feb. 11 Artistic Duality Panel Discussion featuring Brian Frink & Wilbur Neushwander-Frink, as well as Betty & Ocho, 6 p.m. They will discuss the dynamics that come into play when two creative brains are at work. Free, but registration is required. Held at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. (507) 387-1008 or www.twinriversarts.org.

Feb. 12 Film screening and discussion of “The Last Picture Show”, as part of the Coming of Age Films Series. Hosted by The New Ulm Film Society, 6 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

*Feb. 12-March 15 38th Annual Regional High School Art Exhibit. (Reception, Feb. 15, 5-7 p.m.) Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 St. N. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 12 Noon-3 p.m. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Feb. 14 Bunny Just Piano Festival Concert by Scottie Miller, performing boogie and blues piano music, 7:30 p.m. $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

Feb. 14 The Mankato Riverblenders will deliver a singing valentine, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in the Mankato and St. Peter area. $50, for two songs, a long-stemmed rose, a card, and a photo. Call for an appointment: (507) 469-4085 or (507) 382-9384. www.singmankato.com.

Feb. 14 Music by Lovers, Readings by Others, 7:30 p.m. Join authors Rebecca Fjelland Brooks, Shelley Tougas, Jennifer Hildebrandt, and Joe Tougas for an evening of readings from new works in progress. Music by Laura Schultz and Colin Scharf of Good Night, Gold Dust. Held at Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Feb. 14-16 “Tony and Tina’s Wedding”, interactive dinner theater, doors open at 6:30 p.m., wedding at 7 p.m. $33, includes show, Italian buffet dinner, and wedding cake. Tickets must be purchased in advance. At the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato. (507) 625-7553 or www.katoballroom.com.

Feb. 14-March 16 High School Art 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.


Feb. 14-March 24 Jason Jaspersen’s Ceramic Sculpture Exhibit. (Reception and Gallery Talk, Feb. 21, 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.

Feb. 15 Concert and Valentine’s Day Dinner with the OK Factor Band, 5-7 p.m. At Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 www.redrockcenter.org/.

*Feb. 15-16 The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents weekend music, 7:30 p.m. each night, free. Feb. 15: Open Mic Night with local artists performing, hosted by Dave “Ocho” O’Connell. Feb. 16: Masa Ishikawa performing jazz music. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

Feb. 16 The Mankato Symphony Orchestra’s Valentine’s Day Concert, 7:30 p.m., featuring rock and pop classics with The New Standards band from the Twin Cities. Held at the Verizon Center’s Grand Hall, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. Adults gold seat $65, silver seat $45, bronze seat $25, children under 18 free; purchase online at www.mankatosymphony.com. (507) 625-8880.

Feb. 16 Concert by The Ericksons, 7:30 p.m., $10. Held at Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Feb. 16 Megan L. Schnitker, Lakota, from Rosebud Reservation will present a family-friendly presentation on Indigenous Culture including answering questions about history, heritage, and contemporary issues, 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Held at Blue Earth County Historical Society Art Gallery, 415 E. Cherry St., Mankato. (507) 345-5566 or www.blueearthcountyhistory.com.

Feb. 16 Gustavus Choir Home Concert, 7:30 p.m. Held at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.
Feb. 17 Bunny Just Piano Festival Concert by Jerico Vasquez, performing classical piano music, 7:30 p.m. $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

Feb. 17 Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and Gustavus Jazz Ensemble Home Concert, 1:30 p.m., held at Björling Recital Hall, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.

Feb. 17 Wind Symphony Concert with the Wisconsin Lutheran College Band, 3 p.m., held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990.


Feb. 18-March 22 Josh Winkler’s Mixed Media Exhibit, 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/.

Feb. 18-April 18 “For the Gods: Photographs of India” Exhibit by Pricilla Briggs. (Reception and Artist Talk, Feb. 18, 7-9 p.m.) Held at the Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Free & open to the public. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom or (507) 933-7200.

Feb. 19 Contemporary Instrumental Ensembles 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.

Feb. 21-24 “Iphigenia and Other Daughters” Theater Performances. Feb. 21-23 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. At Anderson Theatre, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. (507) 933-7013 or www.gac.edu.


Feb. 22 “Unplugged” Concert, featuring DD & Rosco, Lori Jean & Dick Kimmel, and Scott Sparlin & Smiley Wiltschek, 7:30 p.m. Tickets in advance $10, available at the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm HyVee or online at www.eventbrite.com/e/ste-unplugged-tickets-53653774885; at the door $15. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 North State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Feb. 22-24, Feb. 28-March 3 & March 7-10 “Constellations” theater performances. Feb. 22-23, Feb.28-March 2, & March 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 24, March 3 & 10 at 2 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. At DalekoArts, 110 E. Main Street, New Prague. www.dalekoarts.com or (952) 314-9077.

Feb. 22-March 10 Lisa Bierer’s “Painting is the Immediate Somewhat Between a Thought and a Thing” Painting Exhibit, (Reception, Feb. 22, 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.

*Feb. 23 MN State University, Mankato Performance Series JazzFest Concert, 6 p.m. $15, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

Feb. 23 Fairmont Opera House presents Danger Committee, a juggling, knife throwing, thrilling, hilarious comedy show, 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, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.

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.

Feb. 24-25 University Winter Choral Concerts, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. General admission $9, K-12 students and children $7. Held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

Feb. 25-March 19 Art League Exhibit, held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6767.

Feb. 26 University Concert Bands Concert, 7:30 p.m. General admission $9, K-12 students and children $7. Held at the Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

*Feb. 26* Public theater performance by New Ulm Middle School students who participated in the theater artist-in-residence, 3:30 p.m. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statetstreetnewulm.org.

Feb. 27 Bethany Concert Band Spring Tour Concert, 7 p.m. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. www.blc.edu or (507) 344-7000.

Feb. 28 University Contemporary Vocal Ensembles 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.

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

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


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In FY 2018 Prairie Lakes awarded 214 Grants totaling $409,330

Here’s a summary of Grants awarded:

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

**$82,705** - State General funds (48 grants)
Small Arts Project & Arts-In-Education Grant

**$282,625** - Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) (142 grants); 40 organizational grants and 102 Youth Scholarships.

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

1. **Arts Programming/Arts Access** $224,090, which includes grants to 32 nonprofit arts organizations and community groups, for their arts programs and activities.

2. **Arts Education** $43,945, which includes 4 school grants and 102 Youth Scholarships of $300 or $200 each.

3. **Arts & Cultural Heritage Festivals** $14,590; which was awarded to 4 community festivals.
Youth & Adult Opportunities

Youth Classes

Feb. 1 Parent/Child Date Night Pottery Class led by Felicia DeWald, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Learn the basics to wheel-thrown pottery and make a project together. No prior clay wheel experience required. $45. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Mankato Area Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

*Feb. 1-March 1 Register for South Central Service Cooperative’s Young Writers & Artists Conference for grades 3-8, held March 12-13 at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, $27. Students attend a keynote and three breakout sessions in various genres of writing and fine arts. Register at: http://www.mnsesc.org, or contact Mary Hillmann for info. mhillmann@mnsesc.org or (952) 715-8745.

*Feb. 1-March 25 South Central Service Cooperative’s Writing Contest Submission Deadline for grades K-12. Students can express themselves by writing fiction, non-fiction, or poetry; with the theme of “Bravery”. Up to three entries per category can be submitted; $3 per entry. For more information visit www.mnsesc.org/writing-contest; or contact Mary Hillmann at (952) 715-8745 or mhillmann@mnsesc.org.

Feb. 5 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’s project is “Java Joe”. Registration required with Wasceca Community Education: online https://isd829.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/home/ or (507) 835-5626. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Feb. 7 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 and creating works of self-expression, while learning new art ideas and techniques to improve current skills. This month is “Mosaic Mania”. Registration required with Waseca Community Education: online https://isd829.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/home/ or (507) 835-5626. Meets first Thursday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Feb. 9 & 23 Kids Art Club, Every other Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-12 Noon, for ages 8-14. Explore different art mediums, projects will vary from ceramics, to painting and drawing, to sculptures. Members $10 and non-members $15. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 Third Avenue. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.


Feb. 16 Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza workshop, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A great opportunity for children to see the organ up close, ask questions, and get to know this instrument. Held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 605 N. State St., New Ulm. Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, Sioux Trails Chapter. www.agosioxtrails.org.

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. 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.cmsouthernmn.org.

Private Art Instruction, is available at $20 per hour for children or adults, up to 5 participants. Contact the Waseca Art Center for more information. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. (507) 835-1701, info@wasecaartsCouncil.org or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Adult Artists

Feb. 1-March 1 Minnesota Shorts Play Festival is accepting Short Play Scripts to be included in the fall festival. Seven plays from Minnesota writers will be chosen. Plays must be 10 pages or less, each writer can submit up to 2 plays to be judged. For more information go to www.mnshorts.com or (507) 420-1881.

Feb. 2 Physical Comedy Workshop, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Get on your feet and play! Explore creating comedic characters through games, clowning techniques and improvisation. $25, go to http://newulm.ce.elyco.com to register. Held at State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statetreenewulm.org.

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Adult Arts Opportunities

Feb. 2 Larval Masks Workshop, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Inspired by the carnival masks of Basel Switzerland, Larval masks are semi-formed beings that are naive, curious & vulnerable. These large geometrically shaped masks amplify gesture & movement, encouraging the actor to make clear physical choices to create a theatrical dynamic that is compelling to watch! Learn how to use these masks to help create comedic characterizations for the stage. $25, register online at http://newulm.ce.eleyo.com. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statethestreetnewulm.org.

Feb. 2 & 16 Floral Painting Techniques Class, 6-10 p.m. Learn color and balance in a free form painting style. Members $20, non-members $25. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 Third Avenue. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Feb. 2 Intro into Aerosol Class, 7-9 p.m. Learn the basics of aerosol spray paint. Talk about products, valves, nozzles, safety, and style, $35. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.


Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26 Jam Sessions, Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26 Intro to the Wheel Ceramics Classes, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. $35, members receive a 25 lb. bag of clay for free. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27 Art Group, self-directed time to work on projects including visual art, literary art, etc. 2-5:30 p.m., meets on Wednesdays. Bring your own supplies. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27 Wednesday Morning Drawing and Study Group, 9:30 a.m.-12 Noon, free and open to the public. 9:30-10:45 a.m. studio time to work on your own art. 11 a.m.-12 Noon, art appreciation discussion. Contact Rachel James at racheljames@wasecaartcouncil.org for a schedule of topics. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Feb. 6 & 20 Needlework Group, self-directed time to work on projects including quilting, crochet, knitting, embroidery, and more. 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 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.


Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Wire and Wine Design Classes, 6-9 p.m., Learn wire wrapping to create your own jewelry. A different project each session. Members $40, non-members $45, each session. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 Third Avenue. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Learn to Burn Screens and Screen Print Classes, 4-8 p.m. Learn to make transparencies, put emulsion on screens, and burn your image to be ready to print. Bring an original artwork file. $25 each session. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Avenue. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Feb. 7-28 Beginning Pottery Class led by Felicia DeWald, Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Learn how to form a piece of fully functional pottery. No prior clay wheel experience required. $69. Register with Mankato Community Ed. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Mankato Area Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Feb. 8 Pottery Date Night Class led by Felicia DeWald, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bring your significant other, learn to make basic forms on the potter’s wheel, choose 1-2 pieces to be glazed and fired. No prior clay wheel experience required. $45. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Mankato Area Community Education, (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Feb. 8 Attention Music Teachers: The Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association refreshments and business meeting at 9 a.m. Program 9:30-11 a.m., “Getting It All In! Doing the Impossible in 30 Minutes” presentation by Marilyn Henry. Annual membership $30, guests can attend a meeting free of charge. Held at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. 2nd St., Mankato. (507) 514-3970 or www.mvmta.com.

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Feb.  9 Southern Minnesota Poet’s Society Monthly Meeting, 12:30-3 p.m., come have soup 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, new visitors welcome. Held at the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Sponsored by Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 345-1174 or www.southernminnesotapoets.org.

Feb.  9, 16, 23 & March  2 Ballroom Dance Class for Intermediate Dancers, 9-10 a.m. Class offered to students who have previous ballroom dancing experience or who have been through the beginner classes. $50 per couple or $30 per person, register online at http://newulm.ce.elevo.com. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statetstreetnewulm.org.

Feb. 10 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 pre-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.

Feb. 11 “That’s Original: Creating Plays and Music for the Stage” Class with instructor Benji Inniger, 1-2:30 p.m. Learn what goes into creating a play from scratch, and also how Benji goes about composing original music for other productions. Members free, non-members $5. Register before Feb. 8. Held at VINE Adult Community Center, 421 E. Hickory Street, Mankato. (507) 386-5586 or www.vinevolunteers.com.

Feb. 12 Welcome Mat Workshop, create a custom welcome mat at this relaxed, creative workshop, 7 p.m. For all skill levels. Registration Required. Held at the Waseca Public Library, 408 North State Street. www.wasecalesueurlibraries.com or (507) 835-2910.

Feb. 12 Beginner Acrylic Pouring Class led by Jessica Schwantes, 6:30-8 p.m. Choose to paint on an 8”x10” canvas, a record, or a set of four 4”x4” ceramic tiles. No experience required. $30, includes all materials. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at the Lincoln Center Community, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Area Community Education, www.mankatocer.com or (507) 387-5501.

Feb. 16 Saint Peter Music Lovers Monthly Meeting, 2-4 p.m. Create memories around your passion for music, anyone interested can join. Contact Jill Niebuhr for more info., warriorjammin@gmail.com. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Feb. 23 Directing Workshop, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Study the art and craft of directing plays and musicals for Community Theaters. Workshop is part lecture and part demonstrations and activities. All participants will serve as actors, directors, technicians, and stage managers. Participants will have a chance to work on their skills at the workshop. $60, register online at http://newulm.ce.elevo.com. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statetstreetnewulm.org.

Feb. 23 Preserving Your Family Documents Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Learn how to preserve important photos and documents. Adults $10, BECHS Members $7. Held at Blue Earth County Historical Society Art Gallery, 415 E. Cherry Street, Mankato. (507) 345-5566 or www.blueearthcountyhistory.com.

Feb. 23 Southern Minnesota Movie Musicals Club, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. View “By the Light of the Silvery Moon”, free. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

Feb. 24 Maker Market, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Members can exhibit for free, non-members pay $30 fee. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Individual or Small Group Art Lessons. Artist, Kevin Kroebel, 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 kkroebel@hickorytech.net or (507) 420-3760 to set up lessons. Held at 723 Warren St., Mankato.

Private Art Instruction, is available at $20 per hour for children or adults, up to 5 participants. Contact the Waseca Art Center for more information. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. (507) 835-1701, info@wasecaartscouncil.org or www.wasecaartcenter.org.
Grant Opportunities

*Feb. 1  PLRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant Deadline. For arts organizations, schools, and festivals. $8,000 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.

Feb. 8 Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Learning Grant Deadline. This program offers funding for projects that help lifelong learners acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage learners with skilled teaching artists and high-quality artistic experiences. $5,000-$150,000. Application deadline: Feb. 8 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.

March 12 Media Artist Grant Deadline. FilmNorth administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and four $25,000 fellowships are awarded to filmmakers, screenwriters, and other media artists. The goal is to find artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, and who are at a career stage beyond emerging. Go to http://myfilmnorth.org/mcknight-fellowships-media-artists/. All McKnight Fellowship Programs can be found at https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/arts/artist-fellowships.

March 22 Minnesota State Arts Board Minnesota Festival Support Grant Deadline. This program provides meaningful arts experiences to Minnesotans through festivals that celebrate the arts, build community, and expose communities to diverse art forms including folk and traditional arts. $5,000-$75,000. Application deadline: March 22 at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or rina.rossi@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: www.arts.state.mn.us.

March 29 Visual Artist Grant Deadline. Minneapolis College of Art and Design administers fellowships on behalf of the McKnight Foundation and six $25,000 fellowships are awarded to visual artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage beyond emerging. The focus of the fellowship is to connect fellows to six visiting critics, participating in a McKnight Discussion Series that features fellows and invited critics, and working with each fellow to pursue additional professional development opportunities. Contact Kerry Morgan, program director, at gallery@mcad.edu or (612) 874-3667 for more information. All of the McKnight Fellowship Programs can be found at https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/arts/artist-fellowships.
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. Gallery hours: Tues. & Wed. 1-6 p.m., Thurs. 1-8 p.m., Fri. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Contact (507) 931-3630, info@artcentersp.org 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.thecarnegiemankato.com, (507) 625-2730, or artctr@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., Thurs., 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@thebrandnewulm.com, (507) 359-9222, or www.thebrandnewulm.com.

**Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and the Emlyn Frentz 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. 12 Noon-3 p.m. info@wasecaartcenter.org, www.wasecaartcenter.org, or (507) 835-1701.

College Galleries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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State-Wide Online Resources

**COMPAS**
www.compas.org
A Minnesota resource for artist residencies in the arts.

**Minnesota Citizens for the Arts**
www.artsmn.org
State-wide Arts Advocacy Organization.

**Minnesota Council of Nonprofits**
www.minnesotanonprofits.org
Information and links about board governance, marketing, fundraising, etc.

**Minnesota State Arts Board**
www.arts.state.mn.us
Artist and Organization Grant Information.

**Springboard for the Arts**
www.springboardforthearts.org
Artists & non-profit arts groups workshops.

**Statewide Website for Artists & Organizations**
www.mnartists.org
The website showcases the work of over 4,500 MN Artists in all disciplines.

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