Prairie Lakes will feature Twenty McKnight Artist Grantees in an Art Exhibition & Reception

We are pleased to announce the upcoming exhibit of the PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantees from 2018. We are excited to provide our artist grantees this opportunity to be featured in a group exhibition. The exhibit will take place at the Waseca Art Center, 200 North State Street, from January 7 to February 6, 2020. The Waseca Art Center gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Funding for our artist grant programs and this exhibit is from the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis.

We invite the public to attend this free Reception on Sunday, January 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The visual artists will talk about their work, writers will read their work, musicians will perform, and a media artist will show an excerpt of his film.

A schedule for the Reception is on page 2.
Exhibition Reception Schedule

Sunday, January 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

1:15 p.m.  **Program Begins**

*Introduction by Brenda Byron, Executive Director of Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.*
All artists will be introduced and briefly discuss their work or perform.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Artist(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Shelley Caldwell, Delavan</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Jane Horton, Mankato</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:35 p.m.</td>
<td>Rachel James, St. Peter</td>
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<td>1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm - Shoemaker</td>
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<td>1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Ronda Redmond, St. Peter - Writer</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Richard Robbins, Mankato - Writer</td>
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<td>2:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Andrew Judkins, North Mankato</td>
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<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Mika Laidlaw, Mankato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Todd Shanafelt, Mankato</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Mary Walchuk, Elysian</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Andrea Gehrke, New Ulm - Musician</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
<td><em>Intermission (10 minutes)</em></td>
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<td>2:55 p.m.</td>
<td>Bethel Balge, New Ulm – Musician, music video presented</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Colin Scharf, Mankato – Filmmaker, excerpt from film shown</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Jack Williams, Waseca - Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:35 p.m.</td>
<td>Reed White, North Mankato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:40 p.m.</td>
<td>John Kruse, Wells - Musician</td>
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</table>

The Exhibit of Artwork takes place on first floor, which is handicapped accessible.

*The Program will take place in the Schultz Auditorium on the second floor of the Waseca Art Center.* Please note that this 2nd floor space is not handicapped accessible. However, we will Live Stream on Facebook the Artists Program to the first floor Lobby, which is handicapped accessible, for those that need it. Please contact the PLRAC office if you need an accommodation.

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**THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION**
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.plrac.org.

FY 2020 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT GRANTS
*These grants were awarded July-December 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**
Davori Productions, Mankato Playhouse - $2,000  
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  
Martin Luther College Wind Symphony, classes - $1,730  
Musical Tales Concerto, New Ulm, festival - $2,000  
Sleepy Eye High School, field trip - $1,820  
Two Rivers Community Orchestra, concerts - $2,000

**LE SUEUR COUNTY**
Tri-City United Community Education, dance - $2,000  
Tri-City United High School, artist residency - $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

**WASECA 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 residency - $1,316  
Waseca Marching Classic, clinicians - $1,975
Happy New Year

$31,000 in Artist Grants Awarded

PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantees: Front Row (L to R): Pegeen Rozeske; Wilbur Neushwander-Frinking; 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.

THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

(Artist Grantees continued on page 5)
$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. She 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 Hydude, 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.

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, Lilyanna 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

**LeSueur County - $1,800**
LeCenter: Arya Menk
LeSueur: 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

**LeSueur County - $800**
LeSueur: 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
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.

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<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st of the Month Deadline</td>
<td>Arts Programming - $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>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Scholarship</td>
<td>Arts Festivals - $5,000</td>
<td>Artist Career Development Grant - $1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 7-12 - $300</td>
<td>August 1 Deadline &amp;</td>
<td>January 15 Deadline</td>
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<td>October 1 Deadline</td>
<td>February 1 Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<th>Youth Scholarship</th>
<th>All grant applications are online.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 3-6 - $200</td>
<td>A tutorial that explains the online process is on our website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1 Deadline</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
FY 2020 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

Deadlines are: Aug. 1 and Feb. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Small Arts Project Community Grant

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

School Arts Project Grant

Grants are for schools K-12 public and private. Matching grants up to $2,000 are available to fund Artist residencies, live art performances, mini-workshops or arts related field trips. Cash match is 10%. Deadline: 1st of each month.

Individual Artist Grant

These Artist Grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to an 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
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: left: Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerenke, and right 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 Jan. 31, 2020. 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
Le Sueur County ............. Randy Mediger
Martin County.............. Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerenke
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
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.)

*Jan. 1-30  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. Fifth 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.

Jan. 1-31 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. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. weekends. (507) 933-7200 or www.gustavus.edu/finearts/hillstrom.

*Jan. 1-April 30 The 2019/20 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

*Jan. 2-3 11th Annual Artscape Juried Art Show, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Jan. 6-Feb. 8 Juana Arias’ Ceramics Exhibit. (Lecture & Reception, Jan. 16, 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.

Jan. 6-Feb. 29 Edward S. Curtis “The North American Indian” Photographic Exhibit. (Open houses, Jan. 19 & Feb. 2, 2-5 p.m.) 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.

*Jan. 6-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 Street, Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatocer.com.

Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Weekly Open Houses sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 3-6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Tour the shops, check out the tools, and purchase memberships. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

*Jan. 7-Feb. 6 10th Annual Prairie Lakes/McKnight Artist Grantee Art Exhibition, featuring Artist Grantees funded in 2018. (Reception, Jan. 12, 1-4 p.m. Program starts at 1:15 p.m. featuring visual artists discussing their work, literary artists doing readings, and musicians performing.) Visual artists: Kimberly Baerg, Betsy Byers, Shelley Caldwell, Judith Forster, Jane Horton, Rachel James, Andrew Judkins, Mika Laidlaw, Pegeen Rozeske, Todd Shanafelt, Mary Walchuk, and Reed White. Literary artists: Ronda Redmond, Richard Robbins, and Jack Williams. Musicians: Andrea Gehrke, Bethel Balge, and John Kruse. Filmmaker: Colin Scharf. Held at Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. North. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (507) 833-8721 or www.plrac.org.

Jan. 9 Concert by Audacious, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s all female a cappella group, 7:30 p.m. Held at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center, 1717 2nd St. NW. (507) 835-5470.


Jan. 10 Fairmont Opera House presents the James Sewell Ballet, 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.

Jan. 10-19 Dana Sikkila and Hope Cook’s “The Authentic Self, Intersecting Thoughts” Print Installation Exhibit (Reception, Jan. 10, 7-9 p.m.) 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.

Jan. 11 Jesters Comedy Improv Show, in the style of “Who’s Line Is It Anyway?”, 7 p.m. Tickets $10, 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.

Jan. 11 Phil Thompson will perform a night of Billy Joel and Elton John hits, 7 p.m. Tickets: In advance $20 from the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm HyVee, or online at www.statestreetnewulm.org, at the door $25. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

Jan. 12 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.artcentersp.org](http://www.artcentersp.org).

Jan. 13-31 Kevin Snipes’ Ceramics Exhibition, (Lecture & Reception, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.) 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/](http://www.mnsu.edu/artdept/) or (507) 389-6412.

Jan. 16 “Songshare: An Evening of Songs and Their Stories with Local Songwriters” Original Music Concert by Colin Scharf, Laura Schultz, and Jenn Melby-Kelley. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and music at 7 p.m., $10. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 South Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or [www.artcentersp.org](http://www.artcentersp.org).


*Jan. 17-26 “What’s Your Vision for the Future” Exhibit of work by St. Peter High School Advanced Art Students. (Reception, Jan. 26, in conjunction with the Arts Center’s annual meeting and potluck, 4 p.m. Please RSVP to info@artcentersp.org) 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. [www.artcentersp.org](http://www.artcentersp.org) or (507) 931-3630.

*Jan. 18 Joint Orchestra Concert by Martin Luther College Band students and New Ulm Suzuki School of Music students who participated in a music workshop, 7 p.m. Held at Martin Luther College, 1955 Luther Ct., New Ulm. (507) 276-5874.


Jan. 21-Feb. 10 Art Education Books 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. (507) 389-6767 or [www.mnsu.edu/artdept/](http://www.mnsu.edu/artdept/).


Jan. 24 MN State University, Mankato, Performance Series Concert by singer and songwriter Mike Munson, performing Americana music, 7:30 p.m. $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or [www.mnsu.edu/music/events](http://www.mnsu.edu/music/events).

Jan. 24 Fairmont Opera House presents BariToned, a trio of baritone players, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; available at [www.fairmontoperahouse.com](http://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](http://www.fairmontoperahouse.com).

Jan. 24 Meatsauce and Common Man “Grand Larceny Comedy Tour” by Dan Cole and Paul Lambert from KFAN radio. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. General admission: in advance $20, at the door $25. In advance VIP ticket $35, includes reserved front row table and a meet and greet before the show. Held at the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato. (507) 625-7553 or [www.katoballroom.com](http://www.katoballroom.com).


Jan. 24-Feb. 9 David Rogers’ Text-Based, Mixed-Media Exhibit (Reception, Jan. 24, 7-9 p.m.) 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](http://www.the410project.com).
**Jan. 24-Feb. 21** Sarah Huttner and Joshua Guth’s Printmaking Exhibit, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

**Jan. 25** “Haydn Go Seek” Family Concert Series, 3 p.m., created for children and their caregivers, all ages welcome. Features musicians, actors, storytelling, and musical activities. Free admission one hour prior to the show. Held at the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota, 224 Lamm St., Mankato. Sponsored by the Mankato Symphony Orchestra. www.mankatosymphony.com or (507) 625-8880.

**Jan. 27** Art Professor Bill Bukowski will give a presentation on the making of his “Creation Fresco”, 7 p.m. Held at Meyer Hall Lobby, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

**Jan. 28** MN State University, Mankato, Performance Series Concert by Gypsy Mania Hot Club Quartet, performing gypsy jazz music, 7:30 p.m. $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

**Jan. 28 & 30** Good Thunder Reading Series featuring novelist Peter Geye. Jan. 28 & 30: Workshops, 10-11 a.m., at Emy Frenz Arts Guild, 523 South 2nd Street, Mankato. Jan. 30: Craft talk, 3-4 p.m., at Ostrander Auditorium, MN State University, 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/ (507) 389-1354.

**Jan. 30-Feb. 2 & Feb. 5-9** “A Doll’s House” theater production, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 & Feb. 5-8 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 2, 8 & 9 at 2 p.m. Adults $16, seniors over 65 and youth under sixteen $14. Held at the Andreas Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/theatre/ or (507) 389-6661.

**Jan. 31** The Grand Center for Arts & Culture presents the Amy Manette Band performing jazz music, 7-10 p.m., free. Held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 North Minnesota Street, New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

**Jan. 31-Feb. 2 & Feb. 7-8** “Annie Get Your Gun” musical theater performance by the Choraliers, Jan. 31-Feb. 1 & Feb. 7-8 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 2 & 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets $15. Held at Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

**Jan. 31-Feb. 29** Bill Bukowski’s “Landscapes” Exhibit. (Reception, Feb. 1, 3-5 p.m.) 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. www.artscentersp.org or (507) 931-3630.


### 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)
- **$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.

**Happy New Year!**
Youth & Adult Opportunities

Youth Classes

Jan. 1-31  Registration to participate in the Mankato Children’s Chorus, spring semester. Students in grades 1-12 welcome. Register online at www.mankatochaildrenschorus.org. (507) 387-9007.

Jan. 7  Club Picasso, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Ages 10 and up, $7. With a focus on skill building, students will learn to incorporate design techniques using a variety of media. This month is “Agamograph (Card) Art”, learn to create a card for any occasion. Register with Waseca Community Education, www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Meets first Tuesday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State Street North. (507) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Jan. 7  Snowman Kids Painting Class led by Rhonda Johnson, ages 5 and up, 6-8 p.m. Learn painting basics in a fun, creative atmosphere, $35. Register with Mankato Area Community Education. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 152, 110 Fulton Street, Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatoccer.com or (507) 387-5501.

Jan. 9  Make and Take Art Class, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Grades K-3, $7. Students will be introduced to a variety of media while learning new art ideas and techniques to improve current skills. This month is “Winter Village”, using cut paper, paint, and printmaking to create a winter picture. Registration required with Waseca Community Education at www.waseca.ce.elyo.com. Meets on the first Thursday of the month. Held at the Waseca Art Center, 200 State St. N. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Jan. 11  Winter Wonderland Day, creative activities for the whole family, 10:30 a.m. Held at the Art and Soul Makers Space, 299 Johnson Ave. SW (back side of the building), Waseca. (507) 340-8029, “Art & Soul Makers Space” on Facebook or artandsoulmakersspace@yahoo.com.


Jan. 27  Junk Funk Drumming with Marc Anderson, 10:30 a.m., for ages 4 and up. Participants will learn hip-hop grooves, African rhythms and other funky beats while using found objects as instruments. Held at the Blue Earth Country Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. (507) 304-4001 or www.bcelibrary.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. 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.cmsouthernmn.org.

Adult Artists

Jan. 1-31  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, 2020. 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.

Jan. 2  Intro to Handbuilding Ceramics Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn the basics of handbuilding with clay and make your own creation, $35. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30  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.

Jan. 4, 11 & 18  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.

Jan. 4-25  Intro to Crocheting Class, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 Noon, four session class. Learn the basics of crocheting to create a scarf. Members $40, non-members $45. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

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Adult Arts Opportunities

Jan. 4 Tending our Performing Arts Gardens Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Performing arts organizations, including the artists, administrators, board members, and volunteers, must be tended in order to thrive, build capacity, and take care of the holistic well-being of the people involved. Join the Minnesota Theater Alliance and dynamic presenters for useful workshops and conversations around the themes of establishing strong roots for capacity building and positive community impact. Members $40, non-members $60. Go to https://mntheaterralliance.org/event/tending-our-performing-arts-gardens-mankato -mn/ or register. Held at MN State University, Mankato, 320 Maywood Ave. Hosted by Minnesota Theater Alliance, www.mntheaterralliance.org or (651) 789-0787.

*Jan. 5-7 Open Auditions for Merely Players Community Theatre’s production, “Jesus Christ Superstar”. Contact Merely Players for audition times. Performances are March 12-14 and 19-21. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. www.merelyplayers.com or (507) 388-5483.

Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28 Jam Sessions, Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Jan. 9 Basic Clear Glass 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 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Jan. 11 Southern Minnesota Poet’s 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 “Hot” celebration, wear Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses and sandals. Held at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Sponsored by Southern Minnesota Poets Society. www.southernmnpoets.org or (507) 345-1174.

Jan. 12 Drop-In Writers Critique Group, 3-5 p.m. Bring work in progress and a question for the group. Leave with good vibes and new ideas. Hosted by Ronda Redmond. All levels welcome, there is no previous participation or experience necessary. $5, no registration needed. Held 2nd Sunday of the month, at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artcentersp.org.

Jan. 13 Poetry Reading Group, each participant will read aloud at least two poems, of their own or by others, and discuss them. 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

Jan. 13 Snowman Mug Class, 6-7 p.m., an ARTifact instructor will help you create a one-of-a-kind mug. Free, but registration is required. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

*Jan. 14, 16 & 18 Open Auditions for State Street Theater’s production of “Over the River and Through the Woods”. Jan. 14 & 16 at 6-8 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.-12 Noon. Performances are April 17-19. Roles are available for three men and three women. Auditions will be a cold read from the script, new and seasoned actors are encouraged to audition. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 N. State Street, New Ulm. Enter at Washington Street, back parking lot, backstage door. (507) 359-9990, statestreettheater@gmail.com or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

*Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 Painting with Rhonda Classes for teens and adults with disabilities, 6:15-7:30 p.m. These canvas painting classes are open to current Adaptive Recreational Services participants and any new participants that want to join. Classes are free; however registration is needed at least two days before each class. The first classes are Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 and will continue meeting the second Tuesday of each month. Held at the New Ulm Community Center, 600 N. German St. For information contact Adaptive Recreational Services, arsnu@newulmtnet.net, (507) 217-0383, or www.nuars.org.

Jan. 15 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.

Jan. 15 & 22 Art Group, self-directed time for adults 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 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Jan. 21-Feb. 11 Introduction to Hand Building Class led by Caitlin Heyer, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn the history of ceramics and gain skills while creating your own pieces. No experience required. $69. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatoces.com or (507) 387-5501.

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Jan. 23-Feb. 13  Introduction to Pottery Class led by Caitlin Heyer, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Learn basic throwing techniques and skills while creating your own pieces. No prior experience required. $69. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 153, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatocenter.com or (507) 387-5501.

Jan. 26  Intro to the Woodshop Class, 3 p.m. Required course to be able to use the wood shop. Members $10, non-members $15. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Jan. 27-Feb. 17  Skill Building for Knitters, Mondays, 4-6 p.m. Come learn to knit or bring an unfinished project to work on. You are welcome to bring your own supplies or use the materials at the Arts Center. All levels welcome, no experience is necessary. $55, register online at www.artscentersp.org. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

Jan. 27-April 13  The Artist’s Way Class, Mondays, 2-3 p.m. and visual artists seeking to build creative muscle. Participants will receive a copy of Julia Cameron’s “The Artist’s Way”, a book for anyone following the spiritual path to higher creativity. Each class meeting will include discussion, the opportunity to report on goals and progress, and reading/writing assignments for the following week. $50, register online at www.artscentersp.org. Held at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

*Jan. 30-May 7  Singing Hills Chorus Spring Session Rehearsals, Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Social times 9-10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12 Noon. Chorus includes members with Alzheimer’s or dementia and their care partners. $25 per person, must register in pairs, the person with dementia must register with a care partner. Concert will be May 9. Held at School Sisters of Notre Dame, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato. www.singinghillschorus.org.

Jan. 30-Feb. 27  Moving Beyond the Basics Watercoloring Class led by Kevin Kroeber, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. This intermediate painting class will explore more challenging subject matter and help to develop your style of painting. $77. Register with Mankato Area Community Education. Held at Lincoln Community Center, Room 152, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatocenter.com or (507) 387-5501.

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 kkroeber@hickorytech.net or (507) 420-3760 to set up lessons. Held at 723 Warren St., Mankato.

Art and Soul Makers Space offers a collaborative workspace for making, learning, exploring, and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. They provide hands on learning, help with critical thinking skills and boost self-confidence. Hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. 7 days a week. $25 per month membership. At 299 Johnson Ave. SW (back side of the building), Waseca. (507) 340-8029, “Art & Soul Makers Space” on Facebook, or artandsoulmakerrspace@yahoo.com.

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/-A15byIpxwgej9dJ9uoRCA==/

ARTISTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA:
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/zKQtDH50mtLlPr1Gc7S9FQ==/

THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA’S QUALITY OF LIFE:
90% Believe the Arts Make Minnesota Desirable
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/yR7xMJU31bhQQd9MO2hYQ==/
Grant Opportunities

*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, 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.

Jan. 16  McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting Deadline. The McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting is administered by the Playwrights’ Center in partnership with the McKnight Foundation. It is intended to recognize and support mid-career playwrights living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. The fellowship term is July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 and includes: $25,000 stipend, $2,500 to support a play development workshop and other professional expenses and $1,400 in travel funds. Go to https://pwcenter.org/programs/mcknight-fellowships-in-playwriting for more information or email Julia Brown at julia@pwcenter.org.

Jan. 17  Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support Deadline. Operating Support Funds provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and to community arts schools and conservatories. Amounts vary. Application deadline: Jan. 17 at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact (800) 866-2787 or richard.hitchler@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: www.arts.state.mn.us.

Jan. 23  Core Writer Program Deadline. Core Writer Program is to support playwrights who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. It gives 25-30 of the most exciting playwrights from across the country the time and tools to develop new work for the stage. All Core Writers receive play development workshops in collaboration with prominent directors, actors, dramaturgs, and designers. Core Writers are eligible to be included in a formal season of public readings. For more information go to https://pwcenter.org/programs/core-writer-program or email Julia Brown at julia@pwcenter.org.

*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 including 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. plrac@hickorytech.net, or (507) 833-8721, (800) 298-1254.

Feb. 7  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-$100,000. Application deadline: Feb. 7 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.

The PLRAC Office will be closed Wednesday, January 1st in observance of New Year’s Day.

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.
Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

**Carnegie Art Center**, 120 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-mankato.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) 779-7206.

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

**The 410 Project**, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Wed., Thu., 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/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.
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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