Free Artist Workshops
September 18, October 9 & November 13, 2019

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

All Workshops held on Wednesday
at The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato

**Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m. – Artist Resume & Work Samples that Promote your Work**

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

**October 9, 6-8 p.m. – Tax Planning for Artists**

Open to all artists! The presenter is Ann Etter, licensed CPA and performing artist from Northfield. She will provide advice and tips for artists on business finance and taxation, that will enable them to make better business decisions, and to decrease the anxiety that accompanies tax issues. Questions covered: should I use a home office, what is deductible and how do I track things? After the hour-long group presentation/discussion, Ann will be available to meet individually with up to ten artists for 5-minute Mini-Sessions. These free Mini-Session are available to the first ten artists to RSVP.

**November 13, 6-8 p.m. – Topic TBD**


These Artist Workshops & PLRAC Artist Grants are funded by the McKnight Foundation.
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Welcomes New Board Members

PLRAC Board Members April Malphurs and Teresa Konechne with Brenda Byron, PLRAC Executive Director.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The council still has an opening on the board for the City of Fairmont. Interested individuals may contact the Prairie Lakes office at plrac@hickorytech.net or 1-800-298-1254 to obtain an application, which is due September 30, 2019.
In FY 2020 All PLRAC Grant Applications are Online.

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

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

**New Grant Guidelines & Applications 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

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**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](http://www.plrac.org).

**Small Arts Project Community & School Arts Project - $2,000**
1st of the Month Deadline
July 1, 2019 to May 1, 2020

**Youth Scholarship**
Grades 7-12 - $300
October 1 Deadline

**Youth Scholarship**
Grades 3-6 - $200
November 1 Deadline

**Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant $7,000**

**Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant - $3,000**
September 15 Deadline

**Artist Career Development Grant - $1,000**
January 15 Deadline

**All grant applications are online.**
A tutorial that explains the online process is on our website.

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**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.

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**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 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant

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.**

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**Small Arts Project Community Grant**

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

**School Arts Project Grant**

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

**Individual Artist Grant**

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

- **September 15** - Professional Mid-Career Artist Grant, $3,000 each.
- **January 15** - Artist Career Development Grant, $1,000 each.
In FY 2019 Prairie Lakes awarded 219 Grants totaling $453,144

Here’s a summary of Grants awarded:

$44,000 - McKnight Artist Grants (24 grants)
$79,918 - State General funds (47 grants)
Small Arts Project & School Grants
$329,226 - Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) (148 grants); 48 organizational grants & 100 Youth Scholarships.

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

1. Arts Programming/Arts Access $262,966, which includes grants to 38 nonprofit arts organizations and community groups, for their arts programs and activities.
2. Arts Education $50,685, which includes 6 school grants and 100 Youth Scholarships of $300 or $200 each.
3. Arts & Cultural Heritage Festivals $15,575; which was awarded to 4 community festivals.

Grant Opportunities

Sept. 13 Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Community Partnership Deadline. This program is designed to enhance the careers of individual artists of color. Artists, at any stage in their careers, can apply for grants to help support collaborative projects. $1,000-$8,000. Application deadline: Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m. For additional information contact (800) 866-2787 or Sherrie.Fernandez-Williams@arts.state.mn.us. For a link to the online application go to the MN State Arts Board website: www.arts.state.mn.us.

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

Oct. 16 Forecast Public Art Artist Grants Deadline. Forecast Public Art has multiple grant programs available for artists to create public art in their communities. $2,500-$10,000. www.forecastpublicart.submittable.com/submit to learn more about specific projects that can be funded. (651) 641-1128 or info@forecastpublicart.org.

FY 2020 SMALL ARTS PROJECT COMMUNITY and SCHOOL GRANTS

*These grants were awarded July-August 2019.

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
Deep Valley Book Festival, author talks - $2,000
GSR Fine Art Festival, musicians - $2,000
South Central Minnesota Pride, mural - $2,000

BROWN COUNTY
Hermann Monument Society, festival musicians - $2,000
Musical Tales Concerto, New Ulm, festival - $2,000

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

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

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

SIBLEY COUNTY
Sibley County, Arlington Book Project Festival - $2,000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We appreciate everyone who participated!

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**Youth Scholarships for Students**

**Grades 7-12 - $300 & Grades 3-6 - $200**

Students have the opportunity to study their chosen art with a practicing professional artist by taking lessons over a period of months. This is for all Art disciplines including dance, literature, media arts, music, theater and visual arts. Students in grades 7-12 must be participating with an instructor, an organization or arts discipline for at least two years in order to be eligible. Students in grades 3-6 must be participating for at least one year to be eligible.

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

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

Front Row (L to R): 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. Not pictured: Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerene and 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 Sept. 30, 2019. Interested persons residing in Fairmont should contact Brenda Byron, Executive Director of PLRAC at (800) 298-1254 or plrac@hickorytech.net to find out more about our board. We will email you a Board Application and a list of responsibilities.

This is a great opportunity to understand the workings of the granting process, to be more involved with the arts and artists of our region, and to enjoy camaraderie with others who appreciate the arts. The Council seeks to appoint people who represent a cross-section of art forms as well as various arts perspectives: Artists, teachers, and representatives of arts organizations.

Board members serve a three year term. Monthly evening meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in Mankato, at Bethany Lutheran College; no meetings in June or December. Attendance at several PLRAC funded arts events per year is required and board members are reimbursed for their mileage to meetings and arts events.

Prairie Lakes Board of Directors

Blue Earth County ............ Liz Miller
Brown County ................. Denice Evers
Faribault County ............ Carol Soma
LeSueur County ............... Randy Mediger
Martin County ............. Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerene
Nicollet County ............ Rita Rassbach
Sibley County .............. Teresa Konechne
Waseca County ............ Karen Krause
Watonwan County .......... Steve Davis
City of Fairmont .......... Open
City of Mankato .......... Margie Larson
City of New Ulm .......... Charles Luedtke
City of North Mankato .. Dana Sikkila
City of St. Peter .......... April Malphurs

Staff

Executive Director .......... Brenda Byron
Program Manager .......... Cindy Lewer
Administrative Assistant . Pam Trumbull
Celebrating 10 Years of Arts Legacy Funding in the Prairie Lakes 9-County Area

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

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

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

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

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Pam Trumbull, Administrative Assistant; Lauren Shoemaker, Board President; Brenda Byron, Executive Director; and Cindy Lewer, Program Manager.
Learning about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Arts

For the past year Brenda Byron, the Prairie Lakes Executive Director has been attending meetings and workshops on the topic of **diversity, inclusion, and equity** in the Arts. This effort is also in collaboration with the eleven Regional Arts Councils in Minnesota that will focus on Intercultural Competence in FY 2020. Six meetings of the Regional Arts Council (RAC) Director’s were held in 2018-2019 with a consultant that led the RAC’s through this discussion. It included an individual assessment survey completed by all Directors focusing on their “intercultural competence” through survey questions and several learning sessions.

Byron noted that “It’s been very interesting to explore tactical ways boards and leadership can expand our understanding of diversity, inclusion and equity and build it into our organizational culture and decision making. It was important to learn some definitions in this area and to bring back the information to our Prairie Lakes board at several meetings.” This information may also be helpful to the arts organizations and community groups we serve in the nine-county area.”

“Although we may have a small percentage of racial diversity in our region, it still important to be aware of including all people in the Arts, noted Byron. In our nine county region the White population is about 90% or higher in 8 counties and our 9th county Waconwan 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.)

**Sept. 1-15** Alex Judkins’ Illustrations Exhibition. 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.

**Sept. 1-28** Suzanne Manthe’s Pastels Exhibit. Held at the Ylisaker 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.

*Sept. 1-Dec. 31* The 2019/20 CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour artwork is installed in the city centers of Mankato and North Mankato. Sept. 14, 10 a.m., free guided tour of the sculpture tour, starting at 500 S. Front St. at sculpture #1. Bring a water bottle and comfortable shoes. www.cityartmankato.com or (507) 388-1062.

**Sept. 3-6** Alonso Sierraalta’s Natural Sculptures Exhibit; Maggie Estad’s Eagle Sketches Exhibit; and Artwork & Poems Exhibit by ICAN Adults With Disabilities. 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. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

**Sept. 3-13** Steve Lestke’s “Imaginary Memories – A Collection of Fantastical Art” Exhibit, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.

**Sept. 3-16** Regan Golden’s Photography Exhibition, (Lecture & Reception, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.) held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-6412 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

**Sept. 3-23** Fashion Photography Club Exhibit, held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. (507) 389-6767 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

**Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24** Weekly Open Houses sponsored by the Minnesota Makers and Artist Guild, 3-6 p.m., Tuesdays. Tour the shops, check out the tools, and purchase memberships. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

**Sept. 3-27** Lisa Truax’s Tile Art Exhibit, held at Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. Hours: Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and evenings & weekends by appointment. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

*Sept. 4-Oct. 12* “Ghost Tour”, an original walking tour theater performance. This 75-minute walking tour will take patrons through New Prague's downtown, starting and finishing at the Prague Theater (DalekoArts, 110 E. Main St., New Prague). You will encounter characters from local haunting ghost stories. Tours take place Wednesdays-Saturday, three tours per day. Tickets $18, available online. (952) 314-9077 or www.dalekoarts.com.

*Sept. 5-6* 11th Annual Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, 7:30 p.m. each night. The festival features 14 different ten-minute plays, seven each night, from across the state and country. Advance tickets $10 at www.merelyplayers.com; tickets at the door $12. Held at the Mankato West High School Theater, 1351 S. Riverfront Dr., Mankato. (507) 420-1881 or www.mnshorts.com/.

**Sept. 6** Walk the red carpet to the “Golden Age of Hollywood” evening of elegance drawing back to the 1940’s movie premiers by watching “Casablanca” on the big screen. Film with dinner at “Rick’s Café Americana” $50, at 5:45 p.m.; film and dessert only at the “Arifa Airport Lounge” $25, at 6:30 p.m.; and general admission for film only $10 at 7:30 p.m. Held at the State Street Theater, 1 North State St., New Ulm. (507) 359-9990 or www.statestreetnewulm.org.

*Sept. 6-8* South Central Minnesota Pride Festival, including a newly commissioned mural partially funded by a state grant from PLRAC, hung on the ARTifact building, 321 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato. Visit www.scmnpride.org/festival for a schedule of events.

*Sept. 6-27* Lori Wolf’s “Deliquescent: Art in Motion” Painting Exhibit (Reception, Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m.) Held at the Emy Frenz Gallery, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second Street, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. www.twinriversarts.org or (507) 387-1008.

**Sept. 6-28** Pioneer Spinners and Fiber Artists Exhibit and Cyle Gruver’s Clay Work Exhibit. (Reception, Sept. 14, 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. (507) 931-3630 or www.artscentersp.org.

*Sept. 7* HermannFest 2019, including ethnic music by Dain’s Dutcher at 11:30 a.m., Wendinger Band at 1:30 p.m., and Concord Singers at 3:30 p.m. in Hermann Heights Park, New Ulm. Additional musical performances will be held at Harman Park from 6-10:45 p.m. in New Ulm. For a complete schedule go to: www.hermannmonument.com, (507) 354-3494.

*Sept. 7-8* 29th Annual Rock Bend Folk Festival in St. Peter. The festival features art by many local artisans and a variety of music including blues, folk, jazz, rock, etc. on two stages, in a family friendly setting. Free; Sept. 7 at 12 Noon-10 p.m. and Sept. 8 at 12 Noon-7 p.m. Food vendors are on site, or bring your own food and beverages. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, no pets. Held at Minnesota Square Park, on Hwy 169, St. Peter. For a complete list of performers go to www.rockbend.org.

*Sept. 8* Open Clay Studio, 3-5 p.m. For all ages and ability levels, under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. An instructor will be available. Held at Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Ave. (507) 931-3630 or www.artcentersp.org.

*Sept. 9-Nov. 10* Exhibit of Industry, Work, Society, and Travails in the Depression Era: American Paintings and Photos from the Shogren-Meyer Collection (Reception, Sept. 9, 7-9 p.m.; Gallery Talk with Daniel Shogren, Sept. 15, 3:30 p.m.; and Nobel Conference Reception, Sept. 24, 6-8 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/arts/hillstrom or (507) 933-7200.

*Sept. 9-Dec. 18* Open Pottery Lab, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Purchase a punch card & clay coupon at the Mankato Community Ed. Office. Punch cards are $39 for 8 sessions and a clay coupon is $25 including 25 pounds of clay, glaze and firing. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 387-5501 or www.mankatococ.com.


*Sept. 10* Film screening and discussion of “Touch of Evil”, as part of the Film Noir Series, 6 p.m. Hosted by The New Ulm Film Society. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

*Sept. 10-Oct. 11* Robin Warburton’s Wood Carving Exhibit and Anna Segner’s Mixed Media Painting Exhibit, (Reception, Sept. 13, 5-7 p.m.) 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) 835-1701 or www.wasecaartcenter.org. Robin received a PLRAC/ McKnight Artist Grant in 2018 from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

*Sept. 12* MN State University Performance Series Concert by singer, songwriter Lena Elizabeth, performing folk and blues music, 7:30 p.m. In advance $10, at the door $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, Minnesota State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

*Sept. 12-28* Lois Peterson’s Mixed Media Drawings and Nicolas Darcourt’s Sculptures in the “Signals and Echoes” Exhibit in the Rotunda and Fireplace Galleries. (Reception, Sept. 14, 7-9 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. (507) 625-2730 or www.thecarnegiemankato.com.

*Sept. 13* Performance by the banjo duo The Lowest Pair, 7 p.m. Adults $12, children $6. Purchase a season pass for six different performances for $50. Held at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, 222 E. Blue Earth Ave., Fairmont. (507) 235-9262 or www.redrockcenter.org.

*Sept. 13* Fairmont Opera House presents “I Am King – The Michael Jackson Experience”, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, www.fairmontoperahouse.com or (507) 238-4900.


*Sept. 13-15* “Theatre Physics,” an all-original production by Bethany theatre faculty and students. Sept. 13 & 14 at 7 & 9 p.m.; and Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. Free, but tickets are required. Held at Bethany Lutheran College, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, 700 Luther Dr., Mankato. Call box office for tickets at (507) 344-7374. www.blc.edu.

*Sept. 14* Fairmont Opera House presents Deuces Wild, a dueling piano act, 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.

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Prairie Lakes is on Facebook!  
“LIKE” Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council’  
Look for upcoming events, grant deadlines, photos and other important information to be posted!
*Sept. 14* “Uniting Cultures” Multi-Cultural Fiesta, 4-10 p.m. Share cultures with food vendors, exhibitors, music, and dancers including: Native Pride, Native American dancers; Kalpulli Yaocenootli, Indigenous roots music; Mexico Lindo, Latin American dance group; Narren of New Ulm, German storytelling and music; Mapleton Kilties, Scottish dancers and bagpiper; and Twin Cities Hardingfelelag, Norwegian folk music group. Held on Railroad Avenue, behind CCF Bank and the Princess Theater, St. James. (507) 375-5450 or “Uniting Cultures” on Facebook.

*Sept. 15* “Strings Attached” Summit Avenue Music Series: “Tangos Et Cetera” Chamber Music Concert, 3 p.m., with violinist Soh-Hyun Park Altino, Brazilian cellist Leonardo Altino, and pianist Bethel Balge. Adults $15, students and children $5, individual season pass $35, family season pass $60. Held at Chapel of the Christ, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 354-8221 or www.summitavenuemusic.com.

*Sept. 15* MN State University Performance Series Concert by Greg Herriges and Stella Roma, performing music from around the world, 7:30 p.m. In advance $10, at the door $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

*Sept. 16* D-Day Presentation by historical re-enactor Arn Kind, using multi-media, hands-on activities & costumes, 6-7:30 p.m. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

*Sept. 18-21* “Cloud 9” theater production, 7:30 p.m. each day. Adults $10, seniors over 65 and youth under 16 $9. Held at Andreas Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-6661 or www.mnsu.edu/theatre/.

*Sept. 19* “Following the Evidence” Gallery Talk, 5:30 p.m., with Gustavus Adolphus College professors: Nicolas Darcourt and Lois Peterson, both Art Professors; Thomas LoFaro, Mathematics Professor; and Scott Bur Chemistry Professor. The talk will focus on identifying the larger objectives of research; whether visual, mathematical, or scientific. Held at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad St., Mankato. (507) 625-2730 or www.thecarnegiemankato.com.

*Sept. 19* MN State University Performance Series Concert by singer, songwriters Molly Maher and Erik Koskinen, performing country and Americana music, 7:30 p.m. In advance $10, at the door $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. (507) 389-5549 or www.mnsu.edu/music/events.

*Sept. 20* La Musique de la Chambre Concert by the La Grande Bande performing Baroque music with period instruments, 7 p.m. $5, available at www.lagranderdabanme.com/tickets. Watch the La Grande Bande prepare for the concert at a free open rehearsal at 3 p.m. Held at First Lutheran Church, 213 Hennepin St. N., Winthrop. www.lagranderdebanme.com or (507) 995-7086.

*Sept. 20* Starving Artist Under The Bridge site-specific art and annual fundraiser for Twin Rivers Council for the Arts. Dynamic local artists perform, create and interact with guests to delight your senses while raising funds for Twin Rivers. VIP Pre-Party 7-8 p.m., main event 8-10 p.m. VIP ticket $75, general admission $50, Twin Rivers affiliate $25. Held under the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. Sponsored by Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, www.twinriversarts.org or (507) 387-1008.


*Sept. 20-22* Wacipi 2019, Mankato PowWow. Event hours: Fri. 4-10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. PowWow times: Fri. 7 p.m.; Sat. 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. General Admission $7 for the whole weekend, seniors 60 and older and children 12 and under are free. Held at Land of Memories Park, 100 Amos Owen Lane, Mankato www.mahkatowacipi.org.

*Sept. 20-Oct. 6* Erik Noren’s “Peacock Groove - The Ostentation” Show Bicycle Design and Fabrication Exhibition. (Reception, Sept. 20, 7-9 p.m.) Held at The 410 Project, 523 South Front St., Mankato. Gallery hours: Wed., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. www.the410project.com.

*Sept. 20-Oct. 18* Bernd Hillmann’s Exhibit, held at 4 Pillars Gallery, The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

*Sept. 20-Nov. 22* “Autumn Visions” Exhibit by local and regional artists. Held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Road, Mankato. Hours: Mon. 10:30 a.m.-12 Noon & 1-3 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 Noon & 1-3 p.m., and Fri. 9 a.m.-12 Noon. (507) 387-6592.

The PLRAC Office will be closed Monday, September 2nd in honor of Labor Day.
*Sept. 21* 32nd Annual Waseca Marching Classic, parade at 12 Noon in downtown Waseca and includes competing High School Marching Bands, Floats, Royalty, Classic Car Cruise, and more. Field competition for High School Marching Bands, 5:15 p.m., fireworks after the awards ceremony, held at the Waseca High School football field, 1717 2nd St. NW. Advance purchase admission $5 or at the field $8 with program. www.wasecacorningclass.com.

*Sept. 22* Composition Concert by Benji Inniger, 4 p.m., free. Featuring original compositions and chamber arrangements from video games, theatre projections, and other music. Performed by members of the Minnesota Orchestra, Mankato Symphony Orchestra, BLC staff and students and the BLC Concert and Mary Martha Choirs. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu. Benji received a PLRC/McKnight Artist Grant in 2018 from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

*Sept. 22* Maker Market, sponsored by the Minnesota Makers & Artist Guild, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Shop for truly unique items created by local artists. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

*Sept. 23-Oct. 11* Mary Johnson’s Sculpture Exhibition, (Lecture & Reception, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.) held at Conkling Gallery, Dept. of Art, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (507) 389-6412 or www.mnsu.edu/artdept/.

*Sept. 24* Memorable Minnesotans, legendary characters are brought to life through stories and songs written by Charlie Maguire, 7 p.m. Held at the Waseca Public Library, 408 North State Street. (507) 835-2910 or www.wasecalesueurlibraries.com.

*Sept. 24* MN State University Performance Series Concert by Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson, performing jazz music, 7:30 p.m. In advance $10, at the door $12, held at Elias J. Halling Recital Hall, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/music/events or (507) 389-5549.

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**Arts Event Happening in Your Area?**

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

Email the date, time, location, ticket price, and a brief description of the event to: plrac@hickorytech.net.

**Sept. 24** Contemporary Christian Music Concert by musicians from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakeville MN, 7 p.m. Held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato. (507) 344-7000 or www.blc.edu.

**Sept. 24** Historical re-enactor Arn Kind, will present “Minnesota in the Great War”, 6:30 p.m. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 N. Broadway. (507) 359-8334 or www.newulmlibrary.org.

**Sept. 26** Good Thunder Reading Series featuring poet Ada Limón. 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 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. (507) 389-1354 or http://gt.mnsu.edu/.

**Sept. 26** Film screening and discussion of “The Public”, a newly released dramatic film that highlights the role that one library played in serving its city’s homeless population, 6 p.m. Hosted by The New Ulm Optimist Club. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

**Sept. 26-28** New Ulm Film Society Film Festival. Films will be shown in New Ulm at The Grand Center for Arts and Culture, 210 N. Minnesota St.; State Street Theater, 1 N. State St.; and the New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway. Visit www.newulmfilmfestival.com for an event schedule. info@newulmfilmfestival.com.

**Sept. 26-28 & Oct. 3-6** “Newsies” theater production, Sept. 26-28 & Oct. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 5 & 6 at 2 p.m. Adults $22, seniors over 65 and youth under sixteen $19. Held at the Ted Paul Theatre, MN State University, Mankato. www.mnsu.edu/theatre/ or (507) 389-6661.

**Sept. 27-Oct. 13** Mankato Playhouse presents dinner theatre performances of “Jesus Christ Superstar”. Friday and Saturday dinner seating at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday lunch seating at 12:30 p.m., show at 2 p.m. Dinner theater tickets $45, available online at www.mankatoplayhouse.com. Limited number of show only tickets available at the door $17. Held at the Mankato Event Center, 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1700. (507) 508-6539 or www.mankatoplayhouse.com.

**Sept. 28** Fairmont Opera House presents Flying Foot Forum, a vibrant and bold theater company that fuses percussion and percussive dances, 7:30 p.m. Adults $20; seniors $15; Veterans, active duty, or students $10; under 10 $5; available at www.fairmontoperahouse.com or 1 hour prior to the show. Held at the Fairmont Opera House, 45 Downtown Plaza, (507) 238-4900 or www.fairmontoperahouse.com.
Sept. 29 Minnesota River Valley Wind Ensemble Concert, 3 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.

Sept. 29 Wind Symphony Concert, 3 p.m., held at the Martin Luther College Auditorium, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm. (507) 766-1990.

Sept. 30-Oct. 18 Advanced Painting Students’ Exhibit, held at Centennial Student Union Gallery, MN State University, Mankato. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 12 Midnight, Sat. 8 a.m. to 12 Midnight, and Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight. www.mnsu.edu/artdept/ or (507) 389-6767.

Area Wineries have musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. Please visit their websites for details. Chankaska Creek Ranch and Winery, 1179 E. Pearl St., Kasota. www.chankaskawines.com or (507) 931-0089.


Youth & Adult Opportunities

Youth Classes

Sept. 5 Make and Take Art Class, 4:30-5:45 p.m., for grades K-3, $7. 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 “Bubble Wrap Bee”, using printing and paint. Registration required with Waseca Community Education: www.waseca.ce/eleyo.com. Meets first Thursday of the month.

Sept. 3 Club Picasso, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Grades 4 and up, $7. With a focus on skill building, students will incorporate design elements using a variety of media. Classes reinforce skills and learning new techniques. This month is “Awesome Abstract Trees” with emphasis on painting. Registration required with Waseca Community Education: www.waseca.ce/eleyo.com. Meets first Tuesday of the month.

*Sept. 8-9 Open Auditions for Merely Players Community Theatre’s production of “Annie”, 6-8 p.m. each night, call back will be Sept. 10. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 388-5483 or www.merelyplayers.com.


Sept. 23 Manga by Mackie Class, 6-7 p.m., ages 8 and up. Join local artist Jeff Mackie, who will offer some great instruction and tips for drawing manga and improving your drawing skills. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. or www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

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

Sept. 3 Ceramics: Intro to the Wheel Class, 7-9 p.m. Learn the basics of throwing on a ceramics wheel, $35. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24 Jam Sessions, Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.
Adult Arts Opportunities

Sept. 3-24  Introduction to Hand Building Class led by Caitlin Heyer, Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Learn the history of ceramics and gain 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.mankatoccer.com or (507) 387-5501.

Sept. 4 & 18  Needlework Group, self-directed time to work on projects including quilting, crochet, knitting, embroidery, etc. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Bring your own supplies. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Sept. 5  Basic Color Glass Torchwork Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn to make your own glass pendants, $60. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.


*Sept. 5-Dec. 9  Rehearsals with the Singing Hills Chorus, Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m. The chorus is made up of people with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias and their care partners. Social time is from 9:30-10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12 Noon. $25 per person to participate in the season, concert will be held Dec. 14. Held at The Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Dr., Mankato. www.singinghillschorus.org or (507) 519-0626.

Sept. 8  Drop-In Writers Critique Group, 3-4:30 p.m. Bring work in progress and a question or two for the group. Read for five minutes, get critiqued for ten. Leave with good vibes and new ideas for moving forward. Hosted by Ronda Redmond. All levels welcome, there is no previous participation or experience needed. $5, no 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.

*Sept. 8-9  Open Auditions for Merely Players Community Theatre’s production of “Annie”, 6-8 p.m. each night, call back will be Sept. 10. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. (507) 388-5483 or www.merelyplayers.com.

Sept. 11  Metal Cutting and Shaping Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn about different techniques and metal tools. Member $45, non-member $50. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Sept. 11, 18 & 25  Art Group, self-directed time for adults to work on projects including visual art, literary art, etc. 2-5:30 p.m. Bring your own supplies. Held at the New Ulm Public Library Meeting Room, 17 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Sept. 12  Basic Clear Glass Torchwork Class, 6-9 p.m. Learn to make your own creation, $60. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Sept. 13  Attention Music Teachers: Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Association will host refreshments and their business meeting at 9 a.m. Program runs 9:30-11 a.m. 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

Sept. 14  Southern Minnesota Poet’s Society Monthly Meeting, 12:30-3 p.m., come have lunch and bring 10 copies of a one page poem you want critiqued. SMPS members will work in groups to help you whip your poem into shape. Free, visitors welcome. Held at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, 523 S. Second St., Mankato. Sponsored by Southern Minnesota Poets Society. (507) 345-1174 or www.southernminpoets.org.

Sept. 16  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 North Broadway. www.newulmlibrary.org or (507) 359-8334.

Sept. 17  Canvas Painting Class, 5:30-7 p.m. Learn step-by-step instructions and create a funky, book-themed piece of art. Registration required; ages 18 and up. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main St., Mankato. www.beclibrary.org or (507) 304-4001.

Sept. 18  Welding Basics for Everyone Classes, 6-9 p.m. Learn MIG and Arc welding, including welding safety, equipment use, proper preparation, hands on practice of various types of welding joint techniques. Members $40, non-members $45, each session. Held at Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. (507) 514-2921 or www.mankatomakerspace.org.

(continued on page 16)
Adult Arts Opportunities

Sept. 18  Picture Book 101: Writing and Illustrating Picture Books Class, 1-2:30 p.m. Learn what a picture book is, which types there are, basic elements to consider for writing and illustrating your own and also do a quick writing exercise. Held at the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main St., Mankato. (507) 304-4001 or www.beclibrary.org.

*Sept. 20  The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm presents Open Mic Night for local musicians, hosted by Dave “Ocho” O’Connell, 7:30 p.m., held at the Grand Kabaret, 210 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. www.thegrandnewulm.com or (507) 359-9222.


Sept. 22  Maker Market, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Members can exhibit for free, non-members pay $30 fee. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

Sept. 24  Non-Profit Directors’ Lunch, 12 Noon-1 p.m. Nonprofit leaders can network while sharing resources, challenges, and successes; free. You are responsible for your own lunch. Held at the Wow Zone Restaurant, 2030 Adams Street, Mankato. Sponsored by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. (507) 469-2217, www.minnesotanonprofits.org.

Sept. 25  Metal Sculpture Class, 6-9 p.m. Use basic welding and shaping to make a sculpture of your choosing. Pick a pre-cut project that gets welded together or make your own creation. Member $45, non-member $50. Held at the Mankato Makerspace, 1700 3rd Ave. www.mankatomakerspace.org or (507) 514-2921.

*Sept. 26  Watercolor 101 Class with instructor Carol Edwards, 6-8 p.m., Registration required. $50, includes all supplies. Held at the Grand Center for Arts & Culture, 210 N. Minnesota Street, New Ulm. (507) 359-9222 or www.thegrandnewulm.com.

Sept. 30-Oct. 28  Beginning Watercolor Painting Class led by Kevin Kroeber, Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Learn the basic fundamentals and techniques for watercolor painting. No prior experience required. $75. Register with Mankato Community Education. Held at the Lincoln Community Center, Room 154, 110 Fulton St., Mankato. Sponsored by Mankato Community Education, www.mankatocer.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.

State-Wide Online Resources

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

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
www.artsxmm.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.mmartists.org
The website showcases the work of over 4,500 MN Artists in all disciplines.
Non-profit Art Centers

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

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

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

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

The 410 Project, 523 S. Front St., Mankato. Monthly exhibits. Gallery hours: Wed., Thur., Fri., Sat. 2-6 p.m., and Sun. 1-4 p.m. the410project@hotmail.com or www.the410project.com.

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

Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and the Emy 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. 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.
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/
FpoGZArcX2qsAiYl66yBOA==/

**THE ARTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY:**
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/-
A15byIPpxgej9dJ9uoRCA==/

**ARTISTS ARE IMPORTANT TO MINNESOTA**
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/
zKQtDH50mlIPrIGc7S9FQ==/

**23 MILLION PEOPLE ATTEND THE ARTS IN MINNESOTA**

**THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA'S QUALITY OF LIFE:**
90% Believe the Arts Make Minnesota Desirable
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/
yR7xMJU3lbhqQd9MO2hYQ==/

**ARTS EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS:**
91% Believe the Arts are Important to Education
https://player.pbs.org/partnerplayer/
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