

MINUTES

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, Inc.
Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato
Room 104, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center

November 18, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:00 p.m.) by Rachael Hanel

Members Present: Judy Berkeland, Denice Evers, Rachael Hanel, Mary Jenatscheck, Joe McCabe, Don Myers, Pat Potzler, Lill Robinson, Bonnie Taplin, Bette Traxler, and staff Brenda Flintrop, Cindy Lewer and Pam Trumbull.

Members Absent: Marie Kreft, Judy Martens, and Mary Motter.

Panelists Present: Bob Finkler and Jim Tanner.

Artists Present: Tom Barna, Pamela & Mike Bidelman, Terri DeGezelle, Denise Friesen, Antje Meisner, Lois Peterson, and Janet Schultz.

Hanel thanked the two panelists for attending and sharing their expertise. She explained that Prairie Lakes Bylaws permit the use of panelists in grant rounds. Both Bob and Jim are retired Art Professors from MN State University, Mankato.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Changes / additions to agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

B. Approval of Agenda

Evers moved to approve the November agenda, seconded by Traxler. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Review of PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship Grants

Flintrop noted that Prairie Lakes has a 19 year history of funding Artist Grants through the McKnight Foundation. Prairie Lakes was granted \$60,000 a year for the next 3 years to continue funding artists through the McKnight Foundation. Flintrop stated McKnight has recently changed their focus for funding to target artists only, not organizations. In the past Prairie Lakes was able to award small fellowship grants to mid-career artists for only two years. As a result of the focus change, the board should now be able to continue a strong Fellowship Grant Program and award ten \$3,000 grants per year. Flintrop noted that the board will discuss any changes to the grant program at the planning meeting in January. Flintrop stated that a board member can abstain from voting on a grant if they do not feel qualified to score it.

Hanel reviewed the Fellowship Grant criteria with the board and panelists. 1) Artist's past endeavors and current work, including a resume for 0-10 points. 2) Impact the Fellowship may have on the applicant's career and future directions for 0-15 points. 3) Public

component, what artistic impact will the project have on the community, for 0-5 points. Flintrop explained the order of presentation, starting with visual artist samples, then literature, then music and multi-media applications. Flintrop stated that all applications will be scored the same, with no discipline getting a set number of grants. The amount requested is \$54,000 and \$30,000 is available. A total of 10 artists will receive \$3,000 grants. Flintrop noted that the board should only consider lowering the amount of the grants if the scores are very close. Hanel noted that all the applicants were very strong and ranking will be difficult. She explained that artists in attendance were observing only and would not be asked any questions. Hanel noted that it was great to have artists attend and to learn the grant process so they can write even better applications in the future.

Board members, panelists, and staff were introduced.

Review of 18 Fellowship Applications and Work Samples

Applicants were reviewed according to the Order of Presentation List.

Visual Artists: 13 sets of samples were viewed.

1. Pamela Bidelman, St. Peter: Pamela plans to have a one year mentorship with Cheryle Melander, Minneapolis. She will develop her skills in oil painting through this mentorship, create new paintings and will exhibit her work at a gallery in southern Minnesota at the conclusion of her mentorship. Myers noted that this was a very sensible application and the mentorship is very appealing. He stated Pamela's work samples were strong and the mentorship artist she chose is very skilled. Myers also noted the letters of recommendation were from well established artists from the St. Peter area. Robinson agreed the grant was well written and noted that spreading out the mentorship for 12 months was a great idea. Finkler stated it will be interesting to see the direction Pamela will go. Tanner noted this was a courageous project and added that the works were very close in emotion and very pictorial. As Pamela stated in her application, Tanner agreed more depth would help her work. Tanner noted that the grant shows great need and desire to continue as an artist. Hanel stated it was clear Pamela wanted to move beyond the same work she is creating now. She also stated that Pamela received an Emerging Artist grant in 2005 that significantly propelled her career and would expect the same with a Fellowship Grant. Evers noted she liked the public component to make prints, not only originals, so the art would be more accessible to all. Robinson noted that Pamela planned to show her work in two new locations. Myers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Evers. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Craig Groe, Mankato: Craig plans to further focus on a four painting series entitled "The Four Seasons" with each painting being 5 feet high by 8 feet wide. He plans to create a traveling exhibition to be shown at both local and state-wide venues. He will also purchase better supplies, and create a 4-color brochure of his work to send to galleries. Evers asked about the grant being used for studio rent and Hanel noted that Craig's studio is a rented space at the Carnegie Art Center. Myers asked about Craig creating a brochure and noted it may be unnecessary since most artists submit digital images. Tanner stated he viewed the brochure as a piece in addition to the digital images to

familiarize a gallery with more personal information about an artist. Tanner noted that having a brochure holds value as a take away piece from a showing; it provides the public with more information and history. Robinson liked Craig's desire to show his work through the Minnesota Artist's Exhibition Program at the Minneapolis Art Institute or the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. Finkler stated the work samples are the most ambitious work he has seen from Craig. He noted Craig started drawing cartoons and then became interested in paint and abstract works. Hanel noted that even though she wasn't a visual artist she could defiantly see the improvement between works create in 2006 and the more recent pieces. It was noted that Craig received Emerging Artists grants in 2001 and 2004. Finkler noted Craig is a persistent artist that is self motivated. Robinson made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Jenatscheck. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Amanda Gullixson, Eagle Lake: Amanda plans to purchase materials and spend time in studio completing her current body of work, the Ad Series, 48"x24" works inspired by advertisements from the 1950s and 1960s. She plans to exhibit the series in July or August at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts. Finkler asked if the work samples submitted for the Fellowship were similar to the samples for Emerging. Hanel noted that Amanda had applied for an Emerging Artist grant with the same work samples. Flintrop stated that some applicants had applied for Emerging Artist grants and did not receive funding. Flintrop stated that if the board decides the artist is not mid-career, then staff could send them a letter encouraging them to re-apply for an Emerging Artist grant in the future. Tanner stated that he sees talent, however she applied for an Emerging Artist grant in Feb. 2010 and now a few months later applied for a Fellowship Grant is not appropriate, she did not receive an Emerging Artist grant. To mature as an artist takes more time than that. Hanel stated concern that the same four pieces were submitted as work samples, yet the artist wanted to have 6-9 more completed by July or August, 2011. It doesn't seem like the artist could accomplish that. Finkler noted the work was refreshing and edgy. Tanner suggested that Amanda should apply for an Emerging Artist grant. Traxler asked for clarification that this artist wasn't beyond Emerging status. Flintrop noted that artists are eligible for Emerging Artist grants as long as they are not a current student or an adjunct faculty at a college. Finkler noted that Amanda seems to be a very creative person. Evers noted that it would have been beneficial to see different work samples. Hanel noted she shows potential. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Lois Peterson, St. Peter: Lois plans to produce and exhibit a series of large scale, mixed media drawings, primarily done in oil sticks. Funds will be used to upgrade her art studio, purchase supplies and framing, and transportation costs for the exhibit. An exhibition is scheduled for the fall of 2011 at the Pump House Art Center, LaCrosse, WI. Robinson admired this artist for having a long career and being able to switch mediums for health reasons. Myers noted the photos do not do the work justice; there are many sewn on elements and extra stitching. Myers stated that Lois has always been involved with tile and ceramic work, and this is an exciting new direction for her. Tanner stated it is quite an accomplishment to switch mediums and to be this good in such a short amount of time; she shows many accomplished techniques with the work. Robinson noted that

Lois was reaching a broader audience with shows in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois. Finkler noted the white marks in the linear structures were very nicely done; the works are not out of control, but still have freedom. Myers noted the application was well written and concise. Myers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Tanner. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Patti Ruskey, Mankato: Patti plans to document and create a portfolio of her previous work, create a new body of mixed media pieces, and pursue exhibits in new spaces in order to reach a wider audience. Funds will be used for art supplies, framing, digital camera and computer supplies. An exhibit at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, Bloomington Art Center, or other gallery is planned. Evers noted that not being able to take quality photos of their work is a real problem for artists. Jenatscheck stated that this was a very practical and clear application. Tanner noted that Patti's previous work was more subtle and now recently has much more going on. Hanel noted it is great she has had several individual shows. She added that better equipment could help Patti expand to galleries outside the region. Tanner stated the youth opportunities were reflected well in the application. Traxler made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Janice Tanner, Janesville: Jim Tanner stated a conflict of interest. Janice plans to create three mixed-media pieces that represent a sculptural canvas using bird shapes as a way to compose and inform the paintings. Photographing birds, animals and nature has become an integral part of her art work and funds will be used to purchase a digital camera, lens and art supplies. An exhibit at the Carnegie Art Center or Waseca Art Center is planned at the end of 2011. Robinson noted that each piece had lots of movement and was very labor intensive, with some pieces taking three years to create. Finkler noted that the grant was very detailed in describing how the works were created. The grant was also very concise in telling what Janice wants to capture with the new camera. Traxler felt Janice understands what she needs to go forward in her career and asked for exactly that. Hanel expressed concern that a top of the line camera was being requested. Robinson stated that to deconstruct a bird in flight may require the high quality photography equipment. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by McCabe. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Brad Widness, North Mankato: Brad plans to create new work that goes beyond the traditional 2-D format and incorporates book-art forms and other related 3-D structures. Funds will be used for classes, supplies, equipment and tools to create this new work. He plans to exhibit the work locally and may incorporate poetic readings at the reception, which have uniquely inspired certain works. Robinson noted this application had a vague budget page. Flintrop said that many artists do not include a detailed budget page. She noted that may be something to change in the future since that information is needed to make decisions on the grant. Tanner stated the images were spectacular and the artist has intimate knowledge of his work. Tanner also noted Brad has amazing multi-dimensional awareness and the work was intensely vibrating with energy. Tanner was very impressed with this artist. Finkler noted these were great work samples; which have wonderful mystery and raise curiosity. Myers noted this was one of the strongest groups of images

- in the whole grant round; each piece has been completely thought through. Hanel noted Brad has a very good resume that was very clear. Evers commented on the extensive list of exhibitions, even states away. Myers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Finkler. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Denise Friesen, North Mankato: Denise plans to create new drawings and monotype works. Funds will be used for supplies, matting and framing. In 2011 she plans to exhibit her work at the Carnegie Art Center, Mankato; The Bell Museum, University of MN; and the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI. Hanel stated there was not a clear sense of C, D & E of the application being answered; she felt the application was vague. Tanner agreed these sections were not well answered; however, the work samples were great, seeing the basis as drawing then painting the same image as another form. Finkler said the forms in Denise's art were very clear. Traxler noted that Denise previously received three Emerging Artist grants, and was impressed by someone who has stuck with her art over the years and continued it as a career. Robinson stated that Denise's affiliation with "Project Art for Nature" helped advance the artist's work. Traxler made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.
 9. Mika Laidlaw, Mankato: Laidlaw plans to create new work using a slip-casting technique with the high-fire porcelain slip; and a coil-building technique with various types of clay. Funds will be used for supplies, clay and glaze. An exhibit at the Conklin Gallery, MSU, Mankato is planned in fall 2011. Hanel noted that it was obvious Laidlaw was someone who knows what she is doing. Robinson noted the story about Japan was wonderful and brought you into the artwork. Tanner stated that the work was dynamite! Finkler and Myers agreed, noting this was one of the strongest artist applicants. Hanel noted the artist has already done many great things and expects much more from receiving a Fellowship Grant. Robinson stated the recommendation letters were great and the work pieces drew you to want to touch them. Myers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Tanner. Motion carried unanimously.
 10. Todd Shanafelt, Mankato: Todd plans to create 15 new ceramic-based sculptural works. He will be exploring a new idea with this work and the association between the human component and the natural world. Funds will be used for tools, clay, glaze, and mixed media materials; and a laserjet printer and supplies. An exhibition at the Centennial Student Union Gallery, MSU, Mankato and/or the Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, is planned. Evers noted that creating fifteen new pieces was very ambitious. Finkler stated that Todd was capable of completing this project. Myers stated the finished work was impressive with surprising approaches. Finkler stated there was subtle play between objects within the works, they all were very strong. Tanner noted Todd's understanding of science and nature was evident and he did very well showing the relationship between the two. Tanner also stated the artist uses a full range of elements; some boxes look well-crafted, some have rough edges that many would change, this adds dimension. Finkler noted Todd had to find unique ways to make the pieces work. Tanner made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Cheryl Casteen, St. Peter: Cheryl plans to create a new body of digital photographic portraits. Funds will be used for lighting equipment, supplies, matting and framing. She plans to exhibit her work at a gallery in St. Peter and at one other location. Finkler noted the work samples were all strong portraits. Robinson stated she love the element of Cheryl wanting to know what the people wanted to achieve from their sittings. Finkler stated that there were few compositional elements in each photo, however you were still intrigued to see the next image. Robinson noted that many audiences, including schools and the web, gave the artist a great public component. Robinson made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Finkler. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Antje Meisner, Mankato: Antje plans to purchase a photo scanner and attend workshops in Sante Fe, New Mexico; Rockport Main; and Snowmass Village, Colorado to increase her knowledge and skill of other alterative photography methods. Hanel noted that having her own equipment instead of going to Minneapolis would give her more time to devote to being an artist. Myers stated he appreciated her interest of utilizing an older medium of gelatin instead of going all digital. Robinson noted the titles of the photos were as fantastic as the work. Finkler stated he felt this artist fit more appropriately into the Emerging category so she can develop individuality. Tanner noted that Antje has accomplished quite a bit recently, however she does not seem to fit the Fellowship criteria completely. He stated that he was very impressed with the work samples. Traxler stated Antje received an Emerging Artist grant in 2009. Hanel noted that Antje did great things with the Emerging Artist grant she received. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Jenatscheck. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Alex Stork, LeSueur: (No description plan was given on the grant.) Hanel stated that Alex did not provide much information about himself or how he plans to use the Fellowship Grant. He also had only one letter of recommendation. Myers stated that enough information was missing to consider this application ineligible. Evers stated that it would not be fair to the other applicants who filled out the application completely, to consider this application for funding. Flintrop noted this artist applied for, but did not receive an Emerging Artist grant in February 2010. Hanel stated she liked the photography; some were strong, while others had an emerging quality. Finkler stated he did not feel a combining element to the images; the photos didn't have any thrust behind them, however we wanted to know more about the artist. Robinson made a motion to declare this grant application ineligible due to lack of information and not move it to the ranking round, seconded by Tanner. Motion carried unanimously.

Flintrop asked for Finkler, Tanner and Myers' top five visual artist applications to assist the rest of the board with their scoring. She noted that the visual artists were a very strong grouping of artists and scoring and ranking will be difficult. Myers stated his top five were: Pamela Bidelman, Lois Peterson, Brad Widness, Mika Laidlaw, and Todd Shanafelt. Finkler stated his top five were: Janice Tanner, Mika Laidlaw, Cheryl Casteen, Brad Widness, and Todd Shanafelt. Tanner stated his top five were: Mika

Laidlaw, Todd Shanafelt, Brad Widness, Lois Peterson, and Denise Friesen. Flintrop noted it was helpful to see that even the panelists saw different things in the work samples.

Literary Artists: two artists were reviewed.

14. Tom Barna, Eagle Lake: Tom plans to conduct professional reading workshops, complete the script for “The Genesis of Joseph,” and produce the production in Mankato or Fairmont in 2011 including paying actors and rental fees. Hanel stated the budget was extremely detailed. An aspect of producing plays that is many times overlooked is paying the actors. The actors are expected to donate their time, when in reality to get quality actors to be in your play they need to be paid. Hanel wondered who the actors were, if they were local actors, or professionals from outside our area. She noted Tom’s artistic resume had a lot of detail, showing that he is working hard to write plays; however is the artist mid-career? Evers noted that the work sample was very predictable, since the Bible cannot be changed, she would like to see Tom take a different direction. Hanel noted the work sample was very readable and she could easily visualize the play. Traxler agreed that everything was relatively new work; if a visual artist had been working longer perhaps Tom is an emerging artist. Berkeland noted since so much was listed for recent accomplishments maybe the artist just didn’t include his past work. Traxler said she was impressed with the information provided about him for the past two years. Robinson stated more background information about the artist would have been beneficial. Berkeland stated this was the first time Tom has requested an artist grant. Traxler noted he was on the right track being associated with organizations that are active. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Jenatscheck. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Terri DeGezelle, Mankato: Terri plans to promote herself more professionally as a children’s author by working with coaches, creating better promotional materials and more effective school presentations for students. Hanel stated that Terri has been writing for many years and has been successful. She shares her talent at schools, showing great initiative. Hanel noted Terri submitted great samples. Evers noted liking the commitment shown to students since elementary schools are always looking for things to spark kid’s interest. Robinson noted Terri’s drive to get out and share her talents. Hanel noted that the artist chose a literary service outside the region and thought one in the region could be utilized; however the service chosen was specific to authors. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Potzler. Motion carried unanimously.

Musicians & Multi-media: three artists were reviewed.

16. Charlie Heymann, Winthrop: Charlie plans to develop a concert program of Gaelic, Welsh and Cambro-Latin oral narrative poetry (myth, genealogy, law, history, etc.) with period instruments, including telyn rawn, a horsehair strung Welsh bray harp; six string plucked lyre; three sting bowed lyre; and three string bowed Welsh crwth. The program will be presented in at least three venues within the nine county area. Robinson asked

where the performance venues would be. Traxler stated this application only had one letter of recommendation; the artist did not follow the criteria, which is unfortunate with such a strong application. Hanel noted an inclination to lower Charlie's score in the first scoring section. Myers stated the application was technically ineligible. Myers noted that in this grant round there were very strong applications and he said this application should be ineligible. Myers noted it is a wonderful project and if the application was complete, would have scored very high. Hanel stated the project was unique using period instruments and would encourage Charlie to apply again in the future. Traxler and Evers agreed that the application should be ineligible; all applicants need to follow the grant criteria, no exceptions should be allowed. Myers made a motion to declare this grant application ineligible due to incomplete information and not move it to the ranking round, seconded by Traxler. Eleven in favor of and one opposed. Motion carries.

17. Michael Jorgensen, St. Peter: Michael plans to prepare and present a song recital for baritone and piano featuring works by living composers from Minnesota. In addition to performing existing works, he will present world premieres of two songs written for this recital and a new realization of a movement from a symphony that he has previously premiered. Funds will be used to compensate the three composers involved in the premieres and the pianist. The recital will take place at Gustavus Adolphus College in October 2011. Traxler said that opening the Nobel Conference at Gustavus is one of the biggest honors in the area. Berkeland stated that Michael had great references. She also said that using area composers is fantastic. Myers noted Michael has a beautiful voice and the grant is the perfect opportunity for where he is in his career. Michael is on sabbatical and even on a special diet to improve his voice. Hanel liked seeing the artist moving on to solo level and showing great ability. She also noted it was great that he wants to work with new composers. Evers made a motion to advance this grant to the ranking round, seconded by Berkeland. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Wes Schuck, Mankato: Wes plans to obtain further training to advance knowledge of filmmaking. He will attend a week long acting course at the New York Film Academy, Los Angeles branch, from January 17-23, 2011. Hanel stated that Wes did not complete the application and it's unfortunate since he is doing great things in his discipline, even on a national level. Robinson agreed and noted there were no answers to the grant questions and no resume. Myers stated the application was ineligible. Flintrop asked the board for comments on the work sample to give to the artist. Evers stated the samples were good and showed talent. Hanel agreed that the application was not complete and no resume was submitted. Evers noted the letter of recommendation was not on letterhead or signed, so anyone could have written it. Robinson stated Wes needs to reapply and give the board much more information. Traxler stated the grant could not be ranked when so much information is missing. Tanner stated the application was obviously incomplete and the board shouldn't take time discussing it since it wouldn't be fair to the other grant applicants who completed theirs. Traxler made a motion to declare this grant application ineligible due to lack of information and not move it to the ranking round, seconded by McCabe. Motion carried unanimously.

Board and Panel Members scored and ranked applications; and staff tabulated the results.

Lewer requested the board members turn in the computer compatibility forms to ensure receiving CD's that can be viewed for the Emerging Artist grants coming up in February.

Flintrop noted the scores were close between rank 9, 10, 11 & 12; however there was still a natural break. Myers stated the board shouldn't break up the funds and made a motion to fund the grants ranking 1-10 at \$3,000 each, seconded by Evers. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2011 PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship Grantees

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount Funded</u>
1	Mika Laidlaw	\$3,000
2	Janice Tanner	\$3,000
3	Brad Widness	\$3,000
4	Michael Jorgensen	\$3,000
5	Todd Shanafelt	\$3,000
6	Pamela Bidelman	\$3,000
7	Lois Peterson	\$3,000
8	Patti Ruskey	\$3,000
9	Cheryl Casteen	\$3,000
10	Denise Friesen	\$3,000

D. Small Arts and Arts-In-Education Grants

1. MN Valley Music Teachers Association (SA) - \$550. To present the 23rd Annual Bernice Jones Piano Festival for students in grades 7-12 on March 26-27, 2011, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Evers noted there is a need for quality piano players since many students do not continue lessons when they become involved in other school activities. This is a great project to continue interest in playing piano. Evers made a motion to approve this grant, seconded by Myers. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mankato Mosaic Theater Company (SA) - \$1,500. To work with 4Playwright Project to stage the Coffee Shop Tales, three short plays that take place in a coffee shop. The plays will be performed at Laura's Candy and Coffee, North Mankato; The Coffee Hag, Mankato; and River Rock, St. Peter in February-March 2011. Jenatscheck noted it sounded like a fun project for everyone involved. Traxler stated it was a great opportunity for playwrights in the area with exposure to different communities in the region. Hanel stated it was great to see an emergence of playwrights in the area. Jenatscheck noted coffee shops are small with limited seating so it will be interesting to see how the performances work out. Traxler said it is good they have a partnership with 4Playwrights. Traxler made a motion to approve this grant, seconded by Taplin. Motion carried unanimously.
3. LeCenter Community Education (SA) - \$615. To present a children's musical theater activity for participating students in grades K-8, auditions in February and performances in March, 2011. Local artists, Bette Traxler will write and direct the play and Stacie

Lehman will write the musical score and serve as musical director. Traxler stated a conflict of interest. Evers stated it was exciting for students to have a script written just from them. Traxler said there will be 6 pieces of music written and the script was finished. The play is about women in history and they expect 50-60 students to be involved in the production. Traxler also noted there was no admittance fee. Evers made a motion to approve this grant, seconded by McCabe. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Maple River High School (AIE) \$750. To fund an Artist Residency with percussionist, Michelle Roche, January-February 2011. Roche will arrange music for solo marimba, marimba/flute duet, and percussion ensemble. She will also give lessons on drum set for jazz musicians and percussionists in grades 6-12. Evers stated it would be a good experience for these students to study with someone notable in the area. She also noted the day's schedule is quite full and liked the idea of individual lessons, not just group sessions. Berkeland noted Roche was a former instructor in the Maple River school district. Robinson noted Roche was an Emerging Artist grantee this year. Myers made a motion to approve this grant, seconded by Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Lafayette Charter School (AIE) - \$910. To fund a three day Artist Residency with cartoonist, Gary Harbo, in March or April, 2011. He will work with students in grades 2-8 to develop a cartoon character and develop a story line. He will also teach students to create illustrations for a book. Hanel noted she liked combining the elements of an author and illustrator for a residency. Jenatscheck noted the 3-day schedule was very in depth. Jenatscheck made a motion to approve this grant, seconded by Potzler. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes for August and September 2010

Jenatscheck made a motion to approve the August and September minutes, seconded by Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Financial Statements for August 2010

Lewer reviewed the August 2010 Financials and said everything is on track at this time. Robinson noted that with the excellent audit there wasn't as much to review. Evers made a motion to approve the August Financial Statements, seconded by Taplin. Motion carried unanimously.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. STAFF REPORT

Lewer noted final reports were submitted to the State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. Lewer noted there would be no meeting in December. The January meeting will be for planning and will include discussion about grants, programs, and any changes that are needed. Lewer noted staff is working on planning the Artist Exhibition for Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010. The opening reception will be January 22, 2011 at the Art Center of Saint Peter from 2-5 pm. Lewer also noted staff will be mailing a newsletter highlighting Arts and Cultural Heritage Grantees and the December Arts Calendar next week.

Flintrop said she attended a pre-conference on artist grants in Chicago, Illinois, October, 2010; which was part of the Grantmakers in the Arts National Conference. She noted Prairie Lakes has a very good process in place letting artist grantees attend the review meeting; many private funders do not allow this. Finkler noted the board did the right thing with sticking to the criteria and disqualifying specific applications. Tanner noted that making the applicants follow the guidelines teaches them about the entire grant process. Evers noted that some artists would not feel the grant review process had been followed if some incomplete grants would have been allowed to go to the ranking round. Finkler stated that it's best to explain that the top ranked artist filled out the application the correct way. Flintrop stated that the board gave good feedback to the non-funded artists so they can learn the process and write better grants in the future.

B. Reports by Board Members who have attended PLRAC funded Events

Board members were asked to turn in their blue Attendance Forms arts events. Myers attended the Brian Wicklund and the Barley Jacks concert at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, on October 16, 2010. Berkeland, Evers and Taplin attended Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos concert at the Fairmont Opera House, on November 12, 2010. Robinson attended the Sweet Adelines concert "Time in a Bottle," at South Central College, November 6, 2010. Taplin attended the artist reception for Sandra Arcement at the Red Rock Center for the Arts, November 5, 2010.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Evers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by McCabe. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

November 18, 2010

1. FY 2010 Final Report Submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board

The Final Report was submitted on September 30, 2010 to the MN State Arts Board. A copy will be mailed to all board members with their second November packet. The FY 2010 Audit will also be mailed to the MN State Arts Board after it is approved by the PLRAC Board at our November meeting.

2. FY 2010 Final Report Submitted to the McKnight Foundation

The Final Report was submitted on October 8, 2010 to the McKnight Foundation. A copy will be mailed to all board members with their second November packet.

3. No PLRAC Board Meeting in December 2010.

There is no meeting scheduled for December. The next meeting will be January 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. and it will be primarily a planning meeting.

4. Review of Fellowship Grants at November 18th Meeting & History of Artist Program

Eighteen applications have been received, which are eligible requesting \$54,000 and there is \$30,000 available. Applicants must be mid-career artists. The applications represent the following

disciplines: 13 visual artists, 2 literature, 2 music and 1 multi-media. As you may recall, I mentioned to the board that we had received 21 Letters of Intent, but three artists decided not to submit an application; for a variety of reasons.

Therefore, the “Letter of Intent Process” does help artists understand the guidelines and prepare better for submitting an application. This process also helps staff to have more contact with artists and answer questions and resolve problems before a full application is submitted; and to gauge the staff workload to prepare for the grant round. It takes several days to review the artist applications, Xerox the grants and also create a Master CD of all work samples.

The board is receiving this packet of grant applications three weeks prior to the meeting so that you will have ample time to review them. You have received 1 CD of visual art and 1 CD of music work samples, and a DVD of a multi-media work sample which you should review prior to the meeting. For your information several of the artist applicants may be attending the meeting to observe the grant review process. However, they may not comment on the grant to the board or be asked questions. The audience will not be introduced at the beginning of the meeting, as is customary, but only the Prairie Lakes board members and two visual art panelists Bob Finkler and James Tanner. We do it this way so the artists are not uncomfortable during the meeting and the board members can speak freely about the applications and work samples.

Some artists may not be mid-career, as demonstrated by their application, resume, and work samples; and therefore should be scored lower in the Review Process. These artists may not be funded but could reapply for the Emerging Artist Grant of \$1,000 in February 2011. Board members and panelists may abstain from Scoring and Ranking a particular applicant if they are not familiar with that art discipline and they think the discussion held at the meeting is not adequate for them to judge this art discipline and applicant. Overall ranking scores are not affected negatively if a member abstains from scoring an application; it is just divided by the number of members scoring the application. This situation often occurs when a board member has a **Conflict of Interest** with an applicant; and they do not discuss nor score the application.

For your information the Regional Arts Council has a 19-year history of funding Individual Artists with grants with funding provided by the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis. We began Individual Artist Grants in 1992 and five artists were awarded \$500 project grants. The program has developed over the years and the amount and number of grants has increased based on funding from the McKnight Foundation. Recently the board has awarded nine Emerging Artist Grants each year at \$1,000 each. A summary of Individual Artist Grants awarded from FY 1992 through 2010 is enclosed. As you can see from the list over 170 artist grants have been awarded and several artists have received up to three grants over the years. As you may recall, I have been the Director of the Regional Arts Council since 1989 and I created our artist grant program when we knew funds were available from the McKnight Foundation. Every few years the priorities of the foundation change and therefore Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has had to refocus our funding to certain program areas. In 2010 the McKnight Foundation’s board of directors has reaffirmed their Foundation’s longstanding commitment to the arts in Minnesota, with a new spotlight on those at the heart of it all: artists. Future McKnight funding will go to support an environment in which artists are valued leaders in our community, with access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. Therefore, beginning in 2010, Minnesota’s 11 Regional Arts Councils will also channel McKnight funds to support individual artists statewide.

Fellowship Grants have only been offered twice by the Regional Arts Council during that nineteen year time period. In FY 2002 the board awarded three Fellowship Grants at \$1,500 and in FY 2008

five Fellowships at \$2,000 each were awarded. Therefore, the Fellowship Program in FY 2011 will be more substantial and the board will award ten Fellowships at \$3,000 each.

5. Upcoming Executive Director Schedule

Nov. 10 Regional Arts Council Directors Meeting, St. Cloud
Nov. 11 Holiday: Office Closed
Nov. 15 MN Citizens for the Arts, annual meeting in Minneapolis
Nov. 18 Prairie Lakes Board Meeting, Approve Artist Fellowship Grants
Nov. 25-26 Holiday: Office Closed
Dec. 8 Regional Arts Council Directors Meeting, via conference call
Dec. 24 & 31 Holiday: Office Closed

6. Professional Development Activity: Grantmakers In the Arts Conference Oct. 2010

I attended the Grantmakers in the Arts Conference on October 17 – 20, 2010 at the Westin Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The conference cost was \$2,541 and 80% was paid for by the Statewide Regional Arts Council's (RAC) program budget (\$2,032.85); and Prairie Lakes paid 20% of the cost. On average the Director of a RAC can attend a conference like this every other year and be reimbursed. I submitted a report to the Statewide RAC organization and also our request for reimbursement, which has already been paid. Below is a copy of the information. Some of these topics will be helpful to our organization and I will discuss some of this at our January 27, 2011 Planning Meeting.

Describe the purpose of the Grantmakers in the Arts Conference.

The purpose of the conference is to explore a wide range of ideas for art grantmakers. The value of this conference is in the content of the workshops, speakers, training and networking. I have attended this conference in the past, and I found it to be extremely helpful. The majority of the workshops were of interest to me; especially in the areas of: Individual Artist Grant Programs, Strategic Problem Solving, Evaluation, Social Change in the Arts, Rethinking our Business Models and Thinking beyond Our Limitations.

What were your expectations? Did the event fulfill your expectations? Describe.

Yes, the preconference and conference met my expectations and was a good use of my time and the Forum's resources. This was a really good experience for me professionally, as a regional arts council director. I also appreciated having my colleagues from Minnesota present, other RAC Directors and several MN Foundation representatives at the conference. We'll be able to share experiences and topics from the conference in the upcoming year. This gathering of grantmakers from across the nation provides an opportunity to share knowledge around timely issues. It is a learning experience, networking opportunity, and provides professional growth opportunities, and insights into the ways that funders are responding to and changing best practices in this new economy. The 2010 Chicago conference provided an opportunity for grantmakers to connect, reflect, and rededicate themselves to this important work.

Sunday, October 17, 2010, Pre-conference – Support for Individual Artists

This preconference focused on the ways artists and funders inform each other, develop meaningful and productive relationships, and work together to create and refine programs that support kindred visions and consequential collaborations. The preconference was designed and led by both artists and funders and was held at artist-run Experimental Station located in the Woodlawn neighborhood

of Chicago's south side. Throughout the day there were individual and group presentations interspersed with open dialogue that encouraged engagement by everyone in attendance. The session allowed for candid conversation between artists and grantmakers, and topics included: new enterprises in the sector and practical tools for program implementation. We also had a performance art piece in dance.

Evening Activities and Receptions in Chicago were fun. They included: Sunday, Opening Reception at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art. Welcome by Peter Sagal, National Public Radio (NPR). He is well known as an author and part of the news quiz show on NPR, *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me*. Monday, Dine-arounds at various restaurants. I selected a Greek Restaurant and also attended an original play by high school students on the south side of Chicago. Tuesday, we had a Reception and could also view the exhibits at the National Museum of Mexican Art.

The sessions I attended October 18-20, 2010 included:

1. Strategic Problem Solving (Overcoming Old Obstacles in Your New Normal),
2. Arts Philanthropy, Evaluation, Accountability and Social Change;
3. Innovation and Change: How Small Arts Organizations are Rethinking their Business Models;
4. Arts for Social, Civic, and Community Change (The Current Funding Landscape);
5. Community Arts-buzzards or Meaningful Practice: Making Sense of the Expanding Universe of Community-based Arts Practice; and
6. Thinking Beyond Our Limitations: A Foundation Capacity-Building Collaborative (ArtsLab in Minnesota) partnership with the Bush, Mardag, McKnight and Saint Paul Foundations, and Arts Midwest.
7. I also attended a morning session where NEA staff discussed their new Publication: A National Study of Outdoor Arts Festivals.

Keynote Speakers and Topics were interesting and enjoyable. They included:

Monday, October 18, 2010

1. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman provided his perspective, based on his travels throughout the country this past year. What is the state of the arts? What has changed since October 2009? He highlighted new NEA programs "Arts Work" and "Our Town" which has awarded 21 cities grants that focus on arts and community development. His focus the past year has been working on forming partnerships with other Federal Agencies. He also noted that he would like to see joint initiative of the NEA and private foundations.

2. National Capitalization Project. GIA convened a group of thirty national and regional funders over four days between April and July to tackle the under-capitalized nature of the field and how funders might, in the long-view, change practices to reverse this chronic situation. A draft of principles developed in these meetings was rolled out in this plenary session.

*Funder Peer Group Discussions followed the opening plenary, providing an opportunity to reflect on the changes we've seen in the past year and respond to the National Capitalization Project draft, providing further input as this work moves forward. I attended the group that had small to mid-size grant making organizations in the USA (including 2 other Regional Arts Council Directors from MN). We had some issues in common, but also some different responses to this National

Capitalization Project since we were from different states including the Midwest, East and West coast. Ethnic organizations seemed to have quite a different perspective on this.

3. Joi Ito, futurist, CEO of Creative Commons, and founder of PSINet Japan, Digital Garage, and Infoseek Japan, was Monday's keynote speaker at lunch. Ito discussed his experience as a creative leader in the digital communication field—where rapid change is the norm—to bear on arts philanthropy, as well as gave us a peek at what is to come.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Aaron Dworkin, MacArthur fellow and founder and president of Detroit's Sphinx Organization, the groundbreaking school that prepares Black and Latino youth for professional careers in classical music and composition, was the keynote speaker. Following this presentation we enjoyed a performance by Sphinx Organization musicians, the Catalyst Quartet.

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Native American Buffy Sainte Marie delivered the closing plenary Keynote address. She is an artist, performer, philanthropist and social activist. She is well known for her protest songs and love songs in the 1960's, including "Universal Soldier".