



Northern Arts News

A Publication of the Region 2 Arts Council

Guest Commentary: Looking at Art

By Marlon Davidson

Who could be more opinionated than an artist? After all, the act of making art forces an individual to make choices, not just practical ones like which paint to buy or whether to use canvas or paper, but larger ones, more philosophical ones like what stylistic approach he or she will take, decisions about content, and meaning.

Often when I am confronted with a new work of art, I ask myself, (I should be asking the artist but hesitate) "Whatever happened to the Twentieth Century?" In other words, the work seems to me to take no consideration of the changes that were manifested during that period. To me, a work of art, however slightly, however carefully, however skillfully, should reflect that the artist is aware of the progression, the enlightenment that has passed from one artist to the next and has become a part of the history of art. I go on to ask myself, "Is this artist aware at all of the history of art?" This would be true if I were reading a poem, listening to a serious musical work or looking at a painting. If a composer is creating a nocturne today I don't think he/she wants it to be mistaken for a work by Chopin.

I once attended a series of classes that focused on writing art critique, a valuable and intense experience where I learned a lot about looking. One of the phrases the very able instructor repeated contained the phrase, "window of opportunity," as a guide in making one's way, intellectually and emotionally, into a work of art. The basic idea here is

that nearly every work of art on the face of the earth has a window to climb into, a door that will lead the viewer into a deeper understanding and appreciation of that work. It could be color that opens first, it could be subject matter that makes a narrative, it could be the very action of paint on a surface, the way the painter has applied the medium. This is a good place to start and let us hope that beyond the window are a series of rooms that expand out and lead the viewer into understanding. If the work gives up all of its secrets after a cursory glance, it seems to me that it has failed in some way.

We are all a bundle of influences. At times I have wondered if I have ever had an original thought. I look back at my experience over a lifetime of mentors and colleagues and recognize the ones who pointed me toward my present position as an artist. What is it that will lead one artist toward a lifetime of creating art that seeks only to reproduce nature rather than reacting to nature, to synthesizing nature into a response that is original, metaphorical and personal? I must admit, after all the thinking I have done regarding the act of looking at art, I don't know the answer to that question.

Marlon Davidson is an artist/writer who has lived in the Bemidji area for 20 years. He has been an educator, an arts administrator, the owner of a B and B and at the present time is devoting full time to arts production. His work may be seen presently at the Bemidji Arts Center and next spring at the Wild Hare.

July/August 2009
Vol. 11 No. 6

Region 2 Arts Council Offers Grants

Contingent upon funding, R2AC has several upcoming grant deadlines for eligible artists and art organizations in the five-county area of Region 2, which includes Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnommen Counties.

Arts Project Grants

September 15 & March 10

For any organization, school or community group that needs funding assistance with an arts project or event.

Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grants

October 1 & March 4

Grants awarded to individuals, schools and organizations for projects that address AAI's mission of supporting, maintaining and promoting traditional and contemporary Native American art.

Individual Artists Grants

October 7 & February 10

Designed for artists at various career stages for production or exhibition of art, performances, workshop fees, materials/equipment, mentorships and projects.

McKnight Grants to Arts Organizations.

January 13

For 501(c)3 arts organizations that need funding assistance for events or small capital items.

For information and applications, contact Terri Widman at R2AC. 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447. E-mail: r2arts@paulbunyan.net or visit: www.r2arts.org.

Special Thanks to Outgoing R2AC Board Members

Thank you to **Cynthia Ekren**, Hubbard County, for volunteering her time and knowledge as a member of the Board of Directors for the past three years. Her dedication in serving on the Region 2 Arts Council Board was appreciated. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

R2AC Welcomes New Board Members

Two new members have been elected to the R2AC Board of Directors for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2009.

Kathy Gustafson, Beltrami County, is a co-founder of Gallery North and a current member. She has been a member of the Artists of Minnesota organization for over 24 years and a member of the Northern Artist Association for over 30 years. She is a visual artist who works in a variety of media, including metal sculpture.

Sandra Fynboh, Hubbard County, is an artist and the owner of Blue Sky Beads. She has been active with nonprofit organizations and is interested in learning more about what is happening with other local artists and how she can do a better job of supporting the arts.

Art is...a question mark in the
minds of those who want to know
what's happening.

-- Aaron Howard

Showcase Artist

Kathy McKeown



"Admiring God's Handiwork"
12" x 18"
Photograph

~ See Page 4 for more from Kathy ~

NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, published 6 times per year, with a distribution of over 1,300.

Funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, *Northern Arts News* provides news and information to artists in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties of north central Minnesota.

We welcome:

- story topic ideas;
- guest commentary topic ideas;
- names to add to our mailing list;
- collaboration and registration notifications.

To submit information and/or to be added to our mailing list, contact the R2AC office:

Call: 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447

FAX: 218-751-2777

E-mail: r2arts@paulbunyan.net

Website: www.r2arts.org

Northern Arts News
Region 2 Arts Council
426 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, MN 56601

Fiscal Year 2009 Board of Directors

Karen Edevold, <i>Chair</i>	Clearwater	694-6201
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Newsletter Editor: Amy Zimmermann

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GUEST COMMENTARY inquiries are invited. Submit your topic idea to Terri Widman by telephone, FAX, or e-mail. Selected works must be previously unpublished and fit within the space allotment.

Due to the advanced print deadlines of this publication, we suggest that you call to confirm dates, times, and other pertinent information about events and opportunities listed here.

R2AC Offers Free Grant Writing Workshops

Cass Lake	Aug. 10	Chewe Convenience Store Conference Room
Anishnaabe Arts Initiative Grant		4:30 - 5:30p.m.
Red Lake	Aug. 13	Tribal Council HQ Bldg.
Anishnaabe Arts Initiative Grant		4:30 - 5:30p.m.
Bagley	Aug. 20	Faith Lutheran Church
Individual Artist Grant Arts Project Grant		4:30 - 5:30p.m. 5:30 - 6:30p.m.
Bemidji	Aug. 24	R2AC Office
Annishinaabe Arts Initiative Grant Arts Project Grant Individual Artist Grant		4:00 - 5:00p.m. 5:00 - 6:00p.m. 6:00 - 7:00p.m.
Ogema	Aug. 27	Minwanjige Cafe
Anishnaabe Arts Initiative Grant Individual Artist Grant		4:00 - 5:00p.m. 5:00 - 6:00p.m.
Baudette	Sept. 3	LOW High School ITV Rm.
Individual Artist Grant Arts Project Grant		5:00 - 6:00p.m. 6:00 - 7:00p.m.
Park Rapids	Sept. 10	Public Library Conf. Rm.
Arts Project Grant Individual Artist Grant		5:00 - 6:00p.m. 6:00 - 7:00p.m.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION is required. To reserve a place in a free workshop or for further information, please call 218-751-5447 or 1-800-257-5447, or e-mail: r2arts@paulbunyan.net

Region 2 Arts Council Executive Director Terri Widman will offer free grant writing workshops for anyone interested in applying for an Arts Project Grant, Individual Artist Grant, or an Anishnaabe Arts Initiative Grant within the Region 2 area (serving Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnomen counties). These workshops will familiarize potential applicants with the application process, what projects are eligible, how to develop a project budget and other tips.

The **Artists Project** grant writing session will be open to any non-profit organization, school (including community education offices), and units of government. These grants offer funding for a variety of art projects including costs related to performances or exhibitions, engagement of guest artists, and artists-in-residence.

The **Individual Artist** grant writing session will be open to artists in all art disciplines. These grants offer funding for costs associated with the exhibition, performance, or production or a creative work; purchase of materials or equipment necessary for a creative work; educational opportunities; mentorships; and proposals for career-enhancing projects or opportunities.

The **Anishnaabe Arts Initiative Grant** is open to individual Native American artists, schools who wish to bring in a Native American artist-in-residence and communities to assist an organization in sponsoring or producing an arts project.

THE MASK & ROSE WOMEN'S THEATER COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

A female rendering set in 1968's Summer of Love of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" featuring young actors from NYC and local talent. Musical score composed by the Canadian pop/rock group Bare Naked Ladies.

Dates: July 16 - 20th

Performances at 7:30 p.m. with matinee times to be announced for Saturday and Sunday.

Performances at the festival tent behind Paul & Babe on Lake Bemidji

Cost: \$13 adults
\$5 students

General admission seating. Tickets may be reserved by emailing shaxtickets@gmail.com and will be waiting at "will call" at the lakefront box office. Tickets are available in advance at Brigid's Cross Irish Pub.

For more information, contact Cate at 218-243-2685.

Northern Arts News

Submission deadline

August 7

for the

Sept./Oct. issue

Please send to:

amy.zimmermann@hotmail.com

or

r2arts@paulbunyan.net

OPPORTUNITIES

Red River Water Color Society
presents
2nd "Art at the Lake" Workshop
Steps in Art

September 18-20, 2009
Northern Pines Assembly Grounds,
Park Rapids

Guest artist and instructor:
Ellen Jean Diederich
artist, author and co-founder of RRWS

The weekend is broken into four mini-workshops. A watercolor workshop on Friday afternoon is offered for those not interested in the entire weekend.

Cost:

Workshop, four meals and two nights
shared accommodation:
\$145 for RRWS members,
\$165 for non-members
\$100 for spouse (no workshops)
\$80 per child (no workshops)

For more information, contact Anne
Kaese at 701-232-4139 or visit www.RedRiverWS.org.

North Dakota Museum of Art Exhibition
presents
*Snow Country Prison: Interned in North
Dakota*

September 1 - 25, 2009
North Country Museum, Park Rapids

October 6 - 20, 2009
White Earth Veterans Memorial
Building, Mahanomen

The North Dakota Museum of Art, in
collaboration with the Minnesota
Region 2 Arts Council, is pleased to
present *Snow Country Prison:
Interned in North Dakota*.

This event is free and open to the
public with an informal talk on the
exhibition by Matthew Wallace,
Director of Rural Arts Initiative. All
Minnesota sites are funded by the Met
Life Foundation.

More information, contact Matthew
Wallace at mwallace@ndmoa.com,
701-777-4195 or visit www.ndmoa.com.

Call For Artisan Guild Village

The Bemidji Community Art Center is
looking for artists, organizations, clubs
or guilds interested in participating in
the Artisan Guild village as part of the
42nd Annual Art in the park Fair and
Centennial Celebration.

July 18 - 19, 2009

The BCAC is interested in weavers,
spinners, blacksmiths, woodworkers,
glass blowers, wheel thrown pottery
or other art and craft by hand that
lends itself to a Guild Village setting
and do demonstrations or allow hands
on experiences for children and/or
adults.

Deadline: July 4

This event is made possible in part
by the Bemidji Area Arts Endowment
and the H.B. and Ina T. Roholt Family
Fund.

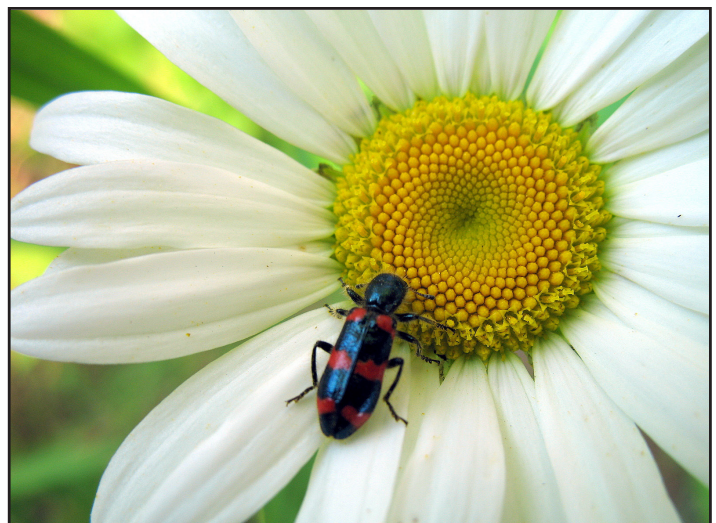
For more information, contact BCAC
at bcac@paulbunyan.net, 218-444-7570,
or visit www.bcac.wordpress.com.

About the Showcase Artist

Kathy McKeown

Artist's Statement:

*I find myself shooting close ups and
creating a photo of something while
observing the whole. I am especially
drawn to subjects accentuated by light.*



"Bug on Daisy"
14" x 14"
Photograph

Bemidji Sculpture Walk

The Bemidji Sculpture Walk received a grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation to create 10 fiberglass sculpture blanks that 2D and 3D artists can manipulate and paint in their own styles. This project is similar to the cows of Chicago and the St. Paul Peanuts series. This sculpture series will be part of the Bemidji Sculpture Walk 2010.

Request for Opinion

At this time, we are asking for community members' opinions as to what icon or form would best represent Bemidji and could be reproduced and modified by artists. This will be a majority vote and will be collected until August 31st.

Please vote once for one of the following themes for fiberglass sculpture: Heron, fish, beavers, Paul Bunyan, small deer, small canoe, turtle, etc.

Request for Artist Qualifications

Along with the request for opinion, we are requesting artist qualifications. Artists working in paint, multi media, mosaic and other techniques are encouraged to apply.

Please send votes and artist qualifications to:

Bemidji Sculpture Walk
P.O. Box 1444
Bemidji, MN 56619

or e-mail to bemidjisculpts@gmail.com with RFQ in the subject line.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Centennial Celebration of the Arts is looking for community members to participate in a hands-on residency with the "In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre" (HOBT).

The culmination of this residency will be a two-day Pageant Presentation at the 42nd Annual Art in the Park festival July 18th -19, 2009.

HOBT is looking for:

- Children and adults with theatrical interest
- Musicians of all ages
- Volunteer crew members

Beginning July 8, the Headwaters School of Music and the Arts will transform into a giant studio where staff artists of HOBT and volunteers will create the pageantry. Workshops are free, children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear "painting" clothes, no reservations required.

For more information, contact Janet Brademan at the Headwaters School of Music and the Arts at headwatersschool@yahoo.com or 218-444-5606.

This activity is sponsored by the Bemidji Community Art Center, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts and Bemidji Community Education. It is also made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Bemidji Area Church Musicians

2009 Summer Recital Series

Wednesdays, Noon - 12:30 p.m.

July 1	Allison Seeger, piano New Salem Church
July 8	Evangelical Free Musicians Evangelical Free Church
July 15	Lois Simonson, piano Evangelical Covenant
July 22	Dr. Beverly Everett, organ St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
July 29	Glenn Seibel, euphonium Wayne Hoff, piano United Methodist Church
Aug. 5	Joan Meulebroeck, organ Mary Thoreson, piano Calvary Lutheran Church
Aug. 12	Wayne Hoff, organ Aardahl Lutheran
Aug. 19	Joe Henry, piano, organ Joe Vene, bass St. Philip's Church
Aug. 26	Muff Magelssen, organ Don MacKinnon, piano The Other Mountain Remnant Band First Presbyterian Church

Free will offering supports music scholarships. Lunch will be available following each recital.
Costs to be announced.

**As the sun colors
flowers, so does art
color life.**

-- John Lubbock

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

July 3
August 7

Downtown Bemidji

More information in our
"Calendar of Events" under each
participating business or gallery.

JULY

Through July

Bemidji Community Art Center invites you to their **First Friday Art Walk** and opening reception on July 3 from 5 - 7 p.m. Join us for the CD Release party for "The Kali Yuga Rag" a CD of recorded poetry by Anthony Swann, featuring a talk and partial reading by the author at 6 p.m. NEW WORK by Davidson, Holden, Jones, Kaul, Knudson and Morgan showcasing new and recent works from this group of local artists including sculpture, mixed media, ceramics, painting and photography. 426 Bemidji Ave N. 218-444-7570.

Through July

Gallery North will feature artists Kathy Gustafson, known for her fine paper cuttings and paintings and Doug Zuehlsdorff, a new Gallery member, who does pen and ink landscapes and buildings. Showcase artist is Tom Hetznecker who is known for his unique line drawings. 502 3rd St. NW. 218-444-9813.

July 1 Headwater School of Music and Arts. Flat Cardboard Puppets and Mask workshop. Ages 4-5, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. ages 6-7, 1:30-3 p.m. This is the final class of a series. 218-444-5606.

July 10-12 Stony Creek Artists Bickey Bender, Janine Merrick, Terri Young and Ray Wattenhofer will exhibit their work at the Stony Creek Artists' Annual Exhibit and Sale at the C'mon Inn, Park Rapids. Opens with a reception 5-8 p.m. Friday. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 11 Bagley Art in the Park presents a fun filled day in the Bagley City Park over looking beautiful Lake Lomond. Free. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 218-694-6164.

July 11 Gallery North presents a watercolor class in painting a "Northwood's birch tree in a loose watercolor style." 1p.m. Registration at Gallery North. 218-751-7741.

July 17-19 Cass Lake Rib Fest. Craft fair and live entertainment. Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free. 800-356-8615.

July 18 TIN PAN gALLerY will host an open house and book signing for the author/illustrator Don Houseman. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with readings by Houseman at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. His original pen inks will be on exhibit from July 2-25. Located at Main Street and Margaret Avenue in downtown Blackduck. Hours: Thurs. and Fri. 1 - 4 p.m. and Sat. 10 - 4 p.m.

July 18 Bemidji Symphony Orchestra presents its summer concert at 7:30 p.m. at Bemidji High School Auditorium. Features the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra in concert with Chris Brubeck's "Triple Play" jazz trio: Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown and Peter Madcat Ruth. Cost: Free. For more information, visit www.bemidjisymphony.org.

July 24-25 Upnorth Summer Festival, Century School Complex, Park Rapids. Crafts, food and music. Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free. 218-732-7536.

Bemidji Community Art Center's

42nd Annual Art in the Park

Fine Arts and Craft Fair

July 18 and 19

Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Over 100 artists presenting ceramics, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, painting and much more! Located in Library Park on Bemidji Avenue next to the Historic Carnegie Library in downtown Bemidji. For more information call 218-444-7570, e-mail bcac@paulbunyan.net or visit www.bcac.wordpress.com

Featuring:

Artisan Guild Village Demonstrations

In the Heart of the Beast Mask and Puppet Theatre

AUGUST

Through August

Gallery North will feature artists Grace Garland and Erma Stelter. Grace works in oil, acrylic and watercolor. Erma is a Gallery North founding member well known for her oil paintings. Showcase artist is Linda Walker, a nationally recognized oil painter who does landscapes and wildlife. 502 3rd St. NW. 218-444-9813.

Aug. 7-8 Lakes, Loons and Logging Fest, Red Bridge Park, Park Rapids. Chainsaw carving and Native American drumming and dancing. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 800-247-0054

Aug. 8 Beltrami County Historical Society will celebrate its 8th Annual Depot Day Fest at the History Center. Fundraising event features music, flea marketers, arts and crafts, antiques and collectables and much more. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. More information, 218-444-3376.

Aug. 18 Gallery North presents "Wet Floral" a watercolor class at 1 p.m. Registrations taken at Gallery North. 218-751-7741.

Aug. 22 Northwoods Art Festival and Book Fair, Lake Street, Hackensack. Exceptional festival includes paintings, ceramics, metal, wood, fiber, authors and illustrators. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. 218-675-6052.

4th Annual Summer Noon Hour Concert Series

Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council

July 9 Mari Willie, French horn
Jane Wolff, piano
Faith Baptist Church

July 23 The Taffetas
Faith Baptist Church

Aug. 6 Concert to be announced
Calvary Lutheran Church

Aug. 20 Northland Studio Dancers
Faith Baptist Church

All noon hour concerts held between 12:15 and 12:45 p.m. The audience is invited to bring lunch; coffee and bars are provided and served by the churches.

Lake Bemidji State Park Concert Series

Local musicians will be featured at the State Park amphitheater.

July 3	Bill and Kate Isles
July 11	Northern Bass, Jon Romer, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater, Historical Characters & Trillium
July 12	Freedom's Call
July 18	Mark Fogelson
July 26	Pine Tones
July 31 & Aug. 1	Bemidji Community Theater's Melodrama
Aug. 7 & 8	Bemidji Community Theater's Melodrama

Sunday performances at 1:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m.

Presented by the Headwaters School of Music & the Arts and Lake Bemidji State Park. These concerts are made possible in part by a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature.

Summer Theater

Long Lake Theater
Hubbard, MN

"Nunsensations"
July 8 - Aug. 1

"Dearly Departed"
Aug. 5 - 29

Performances are Wed. 3 p.m. and Thurs. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m.
Call (218) 732-0099 or visit www.longlaketheater.net for ticket reservations and directions.

Northern Light Opera Company
Park Rapids, MN

"Fiddler on the Roof"
July 31 - Aug. 2
Aug. 6-8

Performance times:
Fri. - Sat. 7 p.m. Sun. 3 p.m.
at the Park Rapids Area High School Auditorium
Tickets available at online at www.northernlightopera.org and at the door.

Paul Bunyan Playhouse
Bemidji, MN

"Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure"
July 8 - 18

"Greater Tuna"
July 22 - Aug. 1

"The Who's Tommy"
Aug. 5 - 15

Performances:
Wed. - Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m.
Second week: Wed. - Sat. 8 p.m.
Call 218-751-7270 or visit www.paulbunyanplayhouse.com for tickets.



Region 2 Arts Council
426 Bemidji Ave.
Bemidji, MN 56601-3139

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NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation. Mission: "The Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education, and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen Counties."

Noteworthy

Bemidji artists **Marlon Davidson** and **Don Knudson** have work in several on-going venues, the Blandin Foundation Building in Grand Rapids where there are five collaborations, the Arboretum in Brainerd where there are seven works. The new bank on Paul Bunyan Drive "Bank Forward" has added a Davidson/Knudson collaboration to its new building as well as an **Al Belleveau** wall sculpture.

Mary Therese Peterson has a solo exhibit "Pieces of Nature" at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, MN June 16 - July 15.

Bemidji artist **Wesley May** received the "Contemporary Best of Show" at the Leech Lake Tribal College/Bemidji State University Ojibwe Art Expo 2009 for his painting "Sustenance."

The Bemidji Community Art center would like to congratulate **Greg Gasman** on receiving their 21st Annual Friend of the Arts Award. As a Friend of the Arts, the BCAC held a celebration to honor Greg and present him with a Butch Holden bowl.

We are celebrating an historic victory for the arts!

The state legislature approved and the governor signed the bill that appropriates the first two years of proceeds from the constitutional amendment passed last November. As Minnesota Citizens for the Arts recently indicated, it is significant in Minnesota and nationally, as it will put us among the top states both in dollar investments and in per capita funding for the arts and culture. Arts funding is under threat nationally as many states are suffering deficits like Minnesota. So our success in that context is even greater.

Funding to the arts via the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) and Regional Arts Councils (RACs) will increase by \$21,650,000 per year for the next two years, for a total of \$43.3 million. Added to the \$8.6 million we passed in the state's economic development bill earlier in the session, just over \$30M in state funding will be for the arts annually, compared to just over \$10M annually for the arts this year.

These funds will go out in grants and services to Minnesotans in every county, support artists and arts organizations and increase access to the arts for all Minnesotans. While the new tax creating the resources begins on July 1, a few months will be transition as the money gets into the funds. Then, the MSAB and RACs must set up their grantmaking structures to start distributing the funds to support the arts for all Minnesotans.