



R2AC 2015 Individual Artist Grant Awards

Region 2 Arts Council (R2AC) awarded \$19,933 through the Individual Artist Grant Program. The purpose of this grant is to stimulate new artistic endeavors in the region by providing project assistance to regional artists who are seriously committed to their work and to the advancement of their artistic careers. The Individual Artist Grant Program is supported by a grant from the McKnight Foundation.

Karen-lisa Forbes of Bemidji was awarded \$1,725 to rent studio/gallery space in downtown Bemidji where she will gain public exposure for her work and produce six new pieces of Cavandoli knotted art for an exhibition at Dunn Bros. Coffee.

Susan Olin of Bemidji was awarded \$1,655 to do intensive study with harpist Andrea Stern in the Twin Cities, improving technique and ear training skills, as well as upgrading to a better music notation program to provide higher quality printed music.

Keila McCracken of Bemidji was awarded \$2,000 to use human powered technology to create clothing out of local fibers and dyes using local artisans and a Hattersley Scottish loom.

Evonne Sumsky of Tenstrike was awarded \$925 to attend the National Basketry Organization (NBO) Conference in St. Paul MN July 14-19, 2015 to study rib-style construction resulting in an art show of 8-10 baskets.

Sean McCroy of Bemidji was awarded \$1,151 to travel to, and participate in, the Photoshop World 2015 Conference.

Duane Goodwin of Bemidji was awarded \$2,000 to advance to another level of sculpture by creating a bronze casting from one of his previously carved stone sculptures.

John Theroux of Bemidji was awarded \$1,387 to craft historically inspired chainmaille riding armor comprised of a hauberk and coif with mantle.

Natalia Himmirska of Bemidji was awarded \$2,000 to create and exhibit a new body of work exploring the continuity and fertility of visual language, including prints and paintings, for exhibition in Beltrami County.

Emily Krueger of Bemidji was awarded \$2,000 to attend the annual Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Malotte Backer of Bagley was awarded \$2,000 to purchase a larger kiln, kiln shelves, and a venting system to expand firing options to accommodate her developing ability to throw larger objects.

Colleen Hilts of Bemidji was awarded \$234 to purchase power tools to enable her to create more refined woodcarvings.

Erja Wiltse of Bemidji was awarded \$896 to attend a 5-day workshop titled "Finding your visual voice" conducted by artist Mary Jo Dell to enhance her individual development as an artist.

Julia Lee of Bemidji was awarded \$1,960 to hire a literary publicist to organize and carry out a book tour as well as hire a graphic designer to create a book trailer in order to publicize her debut novel, *Seven Stones*.