



## R2AC Awards FY 2017 Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants

Region 2 Arts Council (R2AC) awarded \$130,465 through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant Program to arts organizations, cities, schools, and non-profits in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahanomen counties. The funds will be used to create opportunities for arts access, arts education, and the arts and cultural heritage activities that build bridges between Minnesotans. These funds are made available through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund passed by Minnesota voters on November 4, 2008.

### **The grant recipients included:**

#### **Fall Grant Awards**

**City of Mahanomen** was awarded \$6,000 to install public art murals over the boarded up windows, doors, and ticket counter of the old Pembina Theater, an abandoned and vacant building located in the heart of downtown Mahanomen.

**Bemidji State University English Department** was awarded \$6,000 to organize and host the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference and provide attendees and the community access to well-known authors expertise and high quality literary activities.

**Nevis Public School**, was awarded \$6,000 to hire professional brass quintet, The Copper Street Brass, to for a two-day educational and music performance residency as well as a concert for the community.

**Bemidji Community Theater** received \$6,000 to mount a full-scale production of *Mary Poppins*.

**Headwaters School of Music & the Arts, Bemidji**, was awarded \$2,915 to host Ragamala Dance Company's Sacred Earth performance and residency program in April 2017.

**Northern Light Opera Company, Park Rapids**, was awarded a \$6,000 Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant to mount a theatrical production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical *South Pacific*, July 28 to August 5, 2017.

**Bemidji Symphony Orchestra** received \$6,000 to assist in funding the concert *Celtic Legends* with Beverly Everett conducting and Lisa Bost-Sandberg performing Christopher Rouse's Flute Concerto with an additional concert especially for children.

**Nemeth Art Center, Park Rapids**, was awarded \$5,916 to hire writer Matthew Schum to curate an exhibition of the permanent collection and to write an essay tying together the life of George Bonga, the Mississippi region, and the art works in the collection to celebrate their 40th Anniversary.

**Lake of the Woods Art Guild, Baudette**, was awarded \$1,918 to offset student tuition for a weeklong classical academic oil painting seminar with artist James Robinson from the Art Academy in St. Paul.

**Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Bemidji**, received \$6,000 to produce *Legally Blonde*, specifically funding the musical director, choreographer, lighting designer, sound mixer technician, head set microphone rentals, and set expenses.

**Bagley Area Arts Collaborative** was awarded \$6,000 to host a series of musical storytelling presentations and educational concerts that examine the roots and styles of music as well as pivotal historical events.

**Watermark Art Center, Bemidji**, received \$4,000 to host the 4th Annual Creative Spirit Fiber Festival, featuring a vendors market, free and low-fee classes, workshops and hands-on opportunities focused on fiber arts.

### **Spring Grant Awards**

**Red Lake Middle School** received \$6,000 for an artist residency with Tanaya Winder and Frank Waln to work with students writing lyrics and music, for a video featuring the students which showcases Red Lake Native American talent and culture.

**Bemidji Community Theater** was awarded \$5,500 to produce the children's musical *Dragonsong*.

**The Depot Preservation Alliance, Baudette**, was awarded \$6,000 to help fund their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bluegrass Festival at the Baudette Depot on August 5, 2017.

**Bemidji Contra Dance Group** was awarded \$6,000 to host a series of monthly musicians' workshops and community dances at the Rail River Folk School in Bemidji.

**Watermark Art Center, Bemidji**, received \$5,565 to host the Pine to Prairie Fiber Arts Trail April 21-22, including a key note address by Tressa Sularz, an exhibition by Tom Stillday, and workshops by Betsy May, Clyde Estey and Karen Goulet.

**Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council** was awarded \$3,990 for producing and hosting the Great American Story event for 2017.

**Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Bemidji**, received \$6,000 to produce the play, based on the Emmy Award winning 1970's morning cartoon, "Schoolhouse Rock Live!"

**Park Rapids Downtown Business Association** was awarded \$2,222 for producing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Stage Summer Concert Series.

**Bemidji MusiCamp** was awarded \$6,000 to organize and host their annual summer camp for young musicians on the Bemidji State University campus.

**Church Basement Rosemalers, Shevlin**, received \$2,150 to hire Ruth Green, a Gold Medalist Rosemaler from Decorah, Iowa, to hold a three-day workshop on American Rogaland Rosemaling in June, 2017.

**City of Bemidji Park & Recreation Department** was awarded \$4,751 to partner with the Bemidji Community Theater to host a summer theater day camp for children and teens.

**Headwaters School of Music & the Arts, Bemidji**, was awarded \$2,313 to host 5 day Fiddle Camp, providing individual instruction as well as small and large group performance, with a special focus on Contra Dance music and dance lessons.

**Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council** was awarded \$5,225 for organizing and hosting Art Leap, a driving tour to local artists studios and local arts venues, including live music performances.

**Bemidji Symphony Orchestra** received \$6,000 to present a concert of opera music featuring guest tenor J. Warren Mitchell.