



R2AC Awards Community Arts Support Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Region 2 Arts Council recently granted \$50,000 in Community Arts Support grants that are available as a result of funding through the Minnesota State Legislature and the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed by voters of Minnesota in November of 2008.

Community Arts Support Grants provide some measure of funding stability for non-profit arts organizations so that their energy can be better focused on increasing the quality and availability of the arts to their communities.

Non-profit arts organizations that benefited from the Community Arts Support Grants are as follows:

Northern Light Opera Company, Park Rapids was awarded \$6,000 to cover operating expenses including space rental for musical theater productions.

Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded \$6,000 to remain fiscally stable during a time of ongoing transition as we devise a sound and sustainable means to develop our administrative component while concurrently advancing our artistic component.

Lake of the Woods Art Guild, Baudette was awarded \$3,000 to rent studio space and a post office box.

Bemidji Community Theater was awarded \$6,000 to become an anchor tenant of Paul Bunyan Playhouse during the off-season.

Pequana Playhouse, Baudette was awarded \$3,000 to be more available to the public by providing a location for public access.

Northern Artist Association, Bemidji, was awarded \$4,000 to assist with general operating expenses such as rent, phone, and internet service for Gallery North, as well as enhanced art programs for the public.

Bemidji Sculpture Walk was awarded \$3,000 to pay a stipend to hire someone to coordinate mailings, seek out new artists, send invoices to supporting businesses, coordinate the artist reception, send awards and honorariums to artists, coordinate the printing of the guide and other related tasks that have been done by volunteer board members for the last 15 years.

Headwaters School of Music & the Arts, Bemidji was awarded \$6,000 to engage in an organizational assessment with staff, board, constituents and stake-holders to produce a two-year strategic plan and aid the transition to a new executive director.

Nemeth Art Center, Park Rapids was awarded \$4,000 to pay a part time director year round, which will continue to help improve the quality of programming, arts education, and outreach done by the art center.

Watermark Art Center, Bemidji was awarded \$6,000 to hire an executive assistant to assist the executive director with the day-to-day operations of the art center.

Bemidji Chorale was awarded \$3,000 to provide high quality choral experience for both members and our audience.

The arts are a vital part of life in northern Minnesota. The Region 2 Arts Council is dedicated to supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties in north central Minnesota.