Region 2 Arts Council Awards Arts Access Grants

In fiscal year 2019, the Region 2 Arts Council Board of Directors granted $127,354 in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds to arts organizations, groups with a fiscal sponsor, schools and non-profit institutions and organizations for the creation and production of arts activity that would benefit community members residing in our five-county region.

**Fall 2018 Recipients:**

**Watermark Art Center** received $3,876 to support the 14th Annual "It's Only Clay" National Juried Ceramics Competition and Exhibit during the months of October and November 2018.

**Bagley Area Arts Collaborative** received $4,764 for "Arts Unlimited," a series of art workshops for 2019.

**Bemidji Symphony Orchestra** received $6,000 to produce "Lincoln Portrait" and a concert for children featuring Sarah and Sadie Hamrin performing Mozart's Sinfonia concertante with Dr. Beverly Everett conducting.

**Bemidji Sculpture Walk** received $5,800 for the Bemidji Sculpture Walk 20th Anniversary Festival with sculptor demos, living sculptures & music in spring 2019.

**Bemidji Contra Dance** received $6,000 to continue building the local contra dance musician and dancer community through workshops and monthly dances from Nov - May welcoming people of all ages, abilities and incomes.

**Clearbrook-Gonvick Community Education** received $796 to assist Clearbrook-Gonvick Community Ed in sponsoring the play *Cinderella* for local performers age 7-adult as part of their Summer Recreation program.

**Red Lake Middle School** received $6,000 for artists-in-residence Lady Midnight and Garlic Brown to work with 7th grade students to write lyrics and music for a video showcasing Red Lake Native American talent and culture.

**Northwest Indian Community Development Center** received $4,770 for their "Seasonal Pathway of a Deer Hide" Workshop Series including how a deer hide is traditionally processed and utilized for producing tobacco pouches, moccasins, rattles, and medicine bags.
Paul Bunyan Playhouse received $6,000 to produce "Driving Miss Daisy" during their summer 2019 season supporting the Playhouse in offering diverse roles and themes for actors and audiences in the northern Minnesota region.

Lake of the Woods School received $1,781 for "Pottery Possibilities" with artist-in-residence Janet Johnson to teach wheel throwing and hand building techniques to 7-12 grade students during the day and to community members in the evenings.

Lake of the Woods School received $6,000 for a 2-day educational and performance residency with Copper Street Brass.

Bemidji State University Center for Extended Learning received $6,000 to bring poet and writer Terrance Hayes as the Distinguished Visiting Writer to the the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference in June 2019.

Bemidji Community Theater received $5,890 to produce the children's musical The Reluctant Dragon in March of 2019.

Spring 2019 Recipients:

Park Rapids Downtown Business Association was awarded $6,000 to assist in providing music for the 2nd Street Stage 10-week summer concert series.

Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council was awarded $3,095 to assist in planning and producing the Great American Story 4th Annual Storytelling Contest, including a storytelling workshop.

Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council was awarded $5,741 to sponsor Art Leap 2019, a driving tour of artists' studios and other cultural destinations.

Nemeth Art Center was awarded $5,632 to host exhibitions by Minnesota artists Georgia Mrazkova and Andy Messerschmidt and provide youth outreach with hands-on art activities to accompany these exhibits.

Northern Light Opera Company was awarded $6,000 to assist in mounting a production of the Broadway Musical The Drowsy Chaperone the last weekend in July through the first weekend in August at Armory Square Theater, Park Rapids MN.

Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $1,236 to assist in hiring Creative Pear Designs to create a 7-page web site for publicizing arts events and promoting local artists.

4-Directions Development was awarded $4,800 to assist in supporting the Ogichidaag Arts Initiative, in collaboration with and First Peoples Fund, to train a group of core artists to develop and implement hands-on workshops that will increase art access and transfer artistic knowledge and skills to others.
Manidoo Ogitigaan was awarded $6,000 to assist in funding a series of recorded art immersion events led by local Native artists to increase arts access opportunities to community members in our region.

Headwaters Music & Arts was awarded $4,925 host a series of activities exploring the fiddle music of Canada with visiting musician Carrie Dlukowski.

The City of Bemidji Parks & Recreation Department was awarded $5,855 to host, in collaboration with Bemidji Community Theater, a summer Theater Day Camp for youth, known as BCT Jr.

Bemidji Community Theater was awarded $5,696 to mount a full-scale production of the musical Annie.

Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded $6,000 to assist in funding a concert featuring cellist Anthony Arnone performing Antonin Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104.

Indigenous Environmental Network was awarded $2,697 to host a birch bark canoe build at the Rail River Folk School with dedicated apprentices and master builders providing hands-on arts learning opportunities for the general public including an open paddle experience with the finished canoe.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.