Region 2 Arts Council Awards Arts Access Grants

In fiscal year 2020, the Region 2 Arts Council Board of Directors granted $120,744 in Arts and Cultural Heritage funds to arts organizations, groups with a fiscal sponsor, schools and nonprofit institutions and organizations for the creation and production of arts activity that would benefit community members residing in our five-county region.

**Fall 2019 Recipients:**

**Red Lake Middle School** received $6,000 for a music video production residency with Lady Midnight and Garlic Brown for 7th grade students, resulting in a public performance, music video, and book documenting the process.

**Bemidji Community Theater** received $4,791 to mount a musical production of Treasure Island in March of 2020.

**Bagley Area Arts Collaborative** received $6,000 for “Creativity Explored,” a series of art workshops offered by artists from the Clearwater County area as well as two nationally known artists.

**Clearbrook-Gonvick Community Education** received $2,705 to bring Prairie Fire Children's Theatre to their community to conduct "Beauty and the Beast" for their Summer Recreation program.

**Northern Light Opera Company** received $6,000 to produce its 19th Annual Summer Production to be held July 24 through August 8, 2020.

**Clear Waters Life Center** received $5,540 to provide a variety of quality art classes to engage those that are experiencing difficult transitions in their lives: Seniors (13 weeks), Men in a recovery program (12 weeks), and Youth (20 weeks) from December 2019 – April 2020.

**BSU Honors Program** received $4,800 to bring together national professional directors and playwrights with regional actors and playwrights to create a Short Play Festival that highlights the earth as its subject for local audiences.
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra received $6,000 to host Saxophonist Scott Sandberg for two rehearsals of special music in a jazz/swing style in which Dr. Sandberg will provide expertise to help BSO musicians and director learn to perform this unique musical style.

Bemidji Contra Dance received $6,000 to hold 7 public participatory traditional dance events with live music, support local musicians as they build their dance repertoire and skills, and do 2 BSU outreach events to college students in the area.

Red Lake Nation College received $6,000 for a professional writing coach to help RLNC students write professional-quality theatre scripts, and to pay renowned Navajo playwright Rhiana Yazzie to direct a student-acted theatre performance, open to the public, of these scripts at RLNC.

Spring 2020 Recipients:
Bemidji Community Theater was awarded $6,000 to produce The Music Man.

City of Bemidji Park and Recreation Department was awarded $6,000 to host BCT Jr., a theater day camp for youth, in partnership with Bemidji Community Theater,

Heartland Arts of Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to hire an artist and her crew to complete a new mural on the side of a downtown business at a highly visible location.

Northern Light Opera Company of Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to produce the George and Ira Gershwin 1931 musical, Of Thee I Sing.

Nemeth Art Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to produce a five-person, multi-media group show with targeted youth and adult programming to accompany the exhibition.

Heartland Arts of Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to sponsor Art Leap, a driving tour of artists' studios and other cultural destinations.

Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded $6,000 to host a concert featuring guest artist Roger McVey, Piano performing Brahms Piano Concerto #2, Bach's Toccata in D Minor, and Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain.

Hubbard County Developmental Achievement Center was awarded $5,990 to hire teaching artists to provide art classes with new techniques and media that are adapted for use with IDD, MI and Senior participants culminating in a public mural.

Headwaters Music and Arts of Bemidji was awarded $4,922 to establish a jam band program for area youth.

Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $4,526 to hire Swedish Dalmålning (Kurbits) Painter Pieper Fleck Bloomquist, Watercolor Artist David R Smith, and Sami Bracelet Artist Michelle Hanevold to teach arts workshops.
Bemidji High School was awarded $3,200 to hire artist Wesley May to work with students in designing and constructing a new school mural with Ojibwe/Anishinaabe cultural relevancy.

Lake of the Woods Art Guild in Baudette was awarded $3,136 to host a workshop instructed by Master Traditional Artist Jessica Gokey in the art of native beadwork design and execution.

Clearbrook-Gonvick Community Education was awarded $2,704 to hire Global Multi-Instrumentalist Todd Green to provide classes and a public performance.

Bemidji State University’s Music Department was awarded $430 to assist the Bemidji Concert Series in hosting the Chinook Winds for a series of community concerts and masterclasses.

Region 2 Arts Council Arts Access Grants are made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.