Region 2 Arts Council awards $134,000 in Arts Access Grants

On April 10, 2021, the Region 2 Arts Council Board of Directors granted $134,000 through the Arts Access Grant program to arts and non-profit organizations for the creation and production of arts activity that will benefit community members and visitors to Minnesota's Hubbard, Mahnomen, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, and Beltrami Counties. This year, in an effort to mitigate COVID-related impacts on arts and culture entities, Region 2 also invited applications for operational support funding.

Arts Programming Support Awards:
The Nemeth Art Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to present internationally acclaimed, Minnesota-based photographer Alec Soth’s Paris, Minnesota photo series and its accompanying educational engagement activities.

Manidoo Ogitigaan of Bemidji was awarded $6,000 to work with community members to build a birch bark canoe and continue apprenticeships with Laban Smith from Walpole Island First Nation.

The Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded $6,000 to present a concert with bassoonists Dr. William Jones and John Miller performing Christian Dietter’s Concerto for Two Bassoons and violinists Dr. Everaldo Martinez and Dr. Melanie Hanson performing music of Astor Piazzolla.

The Northern Artist Association in Bemidji was awarded $5,052 to host art workshops in a variety of genres for young people aged 8-18 at Gallery North.

The Hubbard County Developmental Achievement Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to hire 4 artists to provide visual art and theater classes to help participants to grow their artistic skills.

The Hubbard County Developmental Achievement Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to hire a local artist to teach staff and participants how to use screen printing equipment.
The Clear Waters Life Center in Clearbrook and Gonvick was awarded $5,582 to host a series of hands-on, community engagement art classes in welding, garden art, acrylic mixed media painting, and mosaics.

The Clear Waters Life Center in Clearbrook and Gonvick was awarded $6,000 to host woodcarving and pottery classes for all levels.

The Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $6,000 to hire five artists to provide arts workshops in the Bagley area.

The Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $6,000 to hire a professional videographer to help create 5 short videos to tell the story of arts opportunities in the Clearwater County area.

The Bemidji Community Theater was awarded $6,000 to produce Disney’s musical Frozen Jr. in Spring 2022.

The Northern Light Opera Company in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to organize a 7-day workshop led by a duo of professional playwrights, designed to facilitate area writers in trying their hand at playwriting.

Belle Thalia Creative Art Space in Puposky was awarded $6,000 to create “The Nine Muses Youth Sculpture Club” to provide youth in the region the opportunity to create large sculptures.

Heartland Arts in Park Rapids was awarded $5,900 to hire an artist to paint a mural in Pioneer Park in downtown Park Rapids.

The Bemidji Sculpture Walk was awarded $6,000 to work with area youth and elders to construct 5 functional sculptural benches.

Operating Support Awards:
The Bemidji Community Theater was awarded $6,000 to support the purchase of accessibility equipment and supplies as they prepare their downtown venue for programming.

The Armory Arts & Events Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to support hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant.

The Paul Bunyan Playhouse in Bemidji was awarded $6,000 to contract performing artists, technology artists, and employ box office personnel to produce stage productions and musical acts.

The Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded $6,000 to support the development and implementation of a marketing plan.
The Mask & Rose Women’s Theater Collective in Puposky was awarded $6,000 to support hiring a program specialist for theater and dance programming for elders.

The Northern Artist Association in Bemidji was awarded $6,000 to improve its visibility to the public through upgrades to its website and social media platforms.

The Northern Light Opera Company in Park Rapids was awarded $5,892 to support the purchase of welding and lighting equipment to expand design possibilities into the future.

The Bemidji Sculpture Walk was awarded $3,574 to support high school outreach, brochure development, and software.

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