Region 2 Arts Council awards $144,728 in Arts Access Grants

With the support of community panel reviews conducted on October 18, 2021 and on May 16 and May 18, 2022, the Region 2 Arts Council Board of Directors granted $144,728 to fund arts activity in our communities through the Arts Access Grant program. Arts Access Grants help fund the creation, production, and presentation of high-quality, accessible arts activities that serve the people in the Minnesota counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnomen and to help instill the arts in public life.

Headwaters Music & Arts in Bemidji was awarded $2,730 to host a community book reading and related activities based on "One Goal: A coach, a Team, and a Game That Brought a Divided Town Together" written by award-winning author Amy Bass.

The Hubbard County Developmental Achievement Center in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to help participants to increase their skills in papermaking, pottery and theater by learning and exploring new techniques, and developing deeper relationships with teaching artists.

The City of Mahnomen was awarded $5,986 to set-up a residency at Mahnomen school with local artist Grace Roberts, of Manoomin Performance Project, to conduct a series of puppet making workshops and community open studios with indigenous guest artists.

Northern Light Opera Company in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to host the Workbench New Play Workshop, a 7-day workshop led by a duo of professional playwrights, to teach a group of community-based writers to create heir own original plays.

The Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $5,797 to bring back two nationally known artists who are very popular with area and regional artists to offer newly designed workshops.

Bemidji Community Theater was awarded $6,000 to mount a full stage production of The Wizard of Oz.

The Northern Artist Association in Bemidji was awarded $4,110 to offer free art classes at Gallery North including video tutorials and materials packets for those attending remotely.

The Northern Light Opera Company in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to purchase lighting equipment and offer a Lighting Design Workshop, with award-winning lighting designer Heidi Eckwall, to area youth and theater lighting technicians.
Pride Support Network in Bemidji was awarded $6,000 to host Bemidji Pride, a celebratory, interactive, one-day event featuring artists of multiple genres enhancing the lives and visibility of LGBT2S+ individuals, families, and allies in the Bemidji community.

Red Lake Middle School was awarded $6,000 to engage resident artists Lady Midnight and Dexter to work with all seventh grade students to write lyrics to a song, record the song, and create a music video.

Mask & Rose Women’s Theater Collective in Puposky was awarded $6,000 to produce "Water From Snow,” an original musical by Minnesota artist Janet Preus, in a concert showcase format, garnering audience feedback and leading to full production.

Lake of the Woods Art Guild in Baudette was awarded $6,000 to offer two Acrylic Portrait Workshops to help the community to build their acrylic painting skills.

The Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji was awarded $5,997 to collaborate with the Neilson Spearhead Center to offer teens the opportunity to draw and paint local birds with artist Mary Therese and take part in creating a public mural.

The Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $6,000 to produce a puppet presentation based on ancient tales and legends of Norwegian trolls.

The Watermark Art Center in Bemidji was awarded $5,007 to host It's Only Clay, a high quality, national art exhibit and community workshop with this year’s guest artist and juror Delores Fortuna.

The Northern Light Opera Company in Park Rapids was awarded $5,111 to offer a 3-day “Making Film” Workshop led by award-winning film director David Leidy designed to facilitate a group of community-based filmmakers in the basics of making their own original films.

The Bemidji Senior Center was awarded $2,000 to offer eight two-hour sessions with artists Les and Kathy Sanders to teach watercolor pencil and acrylic poured paint techniques.

The City of Bemidji Parks & Recreation Department was awarded $5,645 to host a Summer Theater Day Camp for youth in collaboration with Bemidji Community Theater.

The Heartland Concert Association in Park Rapids was awarded $2,120 to host Copper Street Brass, a Minneapolis-based brass sextet program, for students in the Park Rapids area.

The Bagley Area Arts Collaborative was awarded $5,258 to host workshops by a new watercolor artist and a new pottery artist in the community.

Bemidji Dance Academy was awarded $5,996 to offer a bi-monthly series of family dance parties focusing on mutigenerational family-friendly movement and dance activities.

Norda Gonvick Rosemalers were awarded $2,009 to offer a class on Valdres-style rosemaling taught by Lois Mueller who holds a Vesterheim Gold Medal in rosemaling and has published several instructional books.
Heartland Arts in Park Rapids was awarded $6,000 to organize Art Leap 2022, a driving tour to artists’ studios and other local cultural destinations.

Clear Waters Life Center in Gonvick was awarded $5,900 to offer 24 different art classes to engage community members in a variety of art forms featuring hands-on instruction by local artists.

The Bemidji Symphony Orchestra was awarded $6,000 to mount a concert featuring Dr. Scott Sandberg performing Eric Ewazen’s Classical Concerto for Tenor Saxophone and the orchestra performing Duke Ellington’s Black Brown and Beige Suite and A Medley for Orchestra.

Bemidji State University Music Department was awarded $6,000 to host, in collaboration with the Silent Voices Project, a chamber music festival featuring recent compositions by womxn composers.

Beltrami County Historical Society in Bemidji was awarded $3,062 to produce Depot Days! an annual history celebration showcasing local musicians.

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