



ANNUAL REPORT:
for funds appropriated by
the Minnesota State Legislature
through the Minnesota State Arts Board

Fiscal Year 2014

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**Erling Ellison
Chair**

**Robert A. DeArmond
Executive Director**

**THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - FY2014
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The Annual Report of the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council contains the following information in accordance with rules adopted by the Regional Arts Council Forum and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

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Attachments:

Organizational grant programs which are funded all or in part, with Legacy and State General funds:

- Two-Year Operating Support Grants
- Art Project Grants
- Rural and Community Art Grants
- Art and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning Grants
- Quick Start Grants

Individual artist grants programs which are funded all or in part, with McKnight, Legacy, or State General funds:

- McKnight/ARAC Individual Artist Fellowship Grants
- McKnight/ARAC Career Development
- Art and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning Grants
- Technology/Equipment Grants
- Quick Start Grants

All guidelines are available on the ARAC web site: www.aracouncil.org.

Programs and services offered by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council are made possible through support from the Minnesota State Legislature; the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008; and The McKnight Foundation.

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council
Year Ended June 30, 2014

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 75,963
Adjustments to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash flow from operating activities: depreciation	\$ 400
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	\$ 5,948
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable/accruals	<u>\$ 28,102</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>\$ 110,413</u>
Cash flows provided by (used in) investing activities:	
Leasehold Improvements	<u>\$ (0)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash equivalent	\$ 110,413
Cash balance, beginning of year	<u>\$ 95,753</u>
Cash balance, end of year	<u>\$ 206,166</u>

Fiscal statement showing disbursement of State and McKnight funds

Statement of Functional Expenses years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013:

	Program	Fundraising	Management and General	2014 Total	2013
Salaries	\$120,017	\$0	\$21,180	\$141,197	\$135,867
Payroll taxes	10,024	0	1,769	11,793	6,056
Employee benefits	17,800	0	3,141	20,941	36,810
Pension	6,525	0	1,151	7,676	6,474
Total Compensation	<u>\$154,366</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$27,241</u>	<u>\$181,607</u>	<u>\$185,207</u>
Accounting	\$0	\$0	\$4,040	\$4,040	\$2,400
Administrative	0	0	10	10	3,583
Arrowhead Arts Awards	5,278	0	872	6,150	5,767
Bank charges	0	0	41	41	127
Contract Services	4,193	0	2,796	6,989	0
Council and staff travel	13,963	0	1,610	15,573	13,952
Depreciation	0	0	400	400	400
Dues	0	0	2,116	2,116	1,453
Duplicating	0	0	0	0	274
Equipment and repair	0	0	3,961	3,961	4,738
Foundant Technologies	7,458	0	0	7,458	0
Grants paid	498,466	0	0	498,466	518,890
Insurance	0	0	1,816	1,816	1,502
Miscellaneous	0	0	4,110	4,110	2,865
Office rent	8,593	0	3,683	12,276	12,000
Postage	1,393	0	597	1,990	1,815
Printing	203	0	87	290	35
Programming	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies	2,880	0	1,234	4,114	2,741
Technical assistance	1,924	0	825	2,749	0
Telephone	1,617	0	693	2,310	2,415
Website redesign/maint.	1,761	0	755	2,516	0
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$702,095</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$56,887</u></u>	<u><u>\$758,982</u></u>	<u><u>\$745,392</u></u>

Grants Paid: During the year ending June 30, 2014, the Council disbursed total grant funds of \$450,900 to arts organizations and artists. State disbursed grant funds amounted to \$365,229. *The \$211,253 in general and administrative expenditures listed above come directly from ARAC's FY2014 year-end audit. Approximately \$56,887 was general administrative expenses and \$201,510 was grant program and services expenses as defined in the fundamental issues accepted by the MSAB and Regional Arts Councils. ARAC's general administrative expenses for FY2014 were 8% of its total annual budget.*

Statement of Financial Position Arising from Cash Transactions

Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 206,166
Prepaid expenses	<u>\$ 281</u>
Sub Total	\$ 206,447

Property and Equipment:

Leasehold improvements	\$ 15,007
Office Equipment	\$ 33,995
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 35,397</u>
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 13,605

Total Assets	<u>\$ 220,052</u>
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Liabilities and Net Assets:

Accounts payable	\$ 140
Grants payable	\$ 35,230
Accrued payroll	\$ 4,423
Payroll taxes withheld	<u>\$ 6,612</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 46,405

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$ 112,207
Temporary restricted	<u>\$ 61,440</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 173,647

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 220,052</u>
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Statement of Activities Arising from Cash Transaction:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues:			
Minnesota State Arts Board Grants:			
Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds	\$ 386,022	\$ 0	\$ 386,022
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 354,315	\$ 0	\$ 354,315
The McKnight Foundation Grant	\$ 90,000	\$ 0	\$ 90,000
Interest income	\$ 756	\$ 0	\$ 756
Other Income	\$ 3,852	\$ 0	\$ 3,852
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 834,945	\$ 0	\$ 834,945
Expenses:			
Program expenses	\$ 702,095	\$ 0	\$ 702,095
Management and general	<u>\$ 56,887</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 56,887</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 758,982	\$ 0	\$ 758,982
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 75,963	\$ 0	\$ 75,963
Net assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$ 36,244</u>	<u>\$ 61,440</u>	<u>\$ 97,684</u>
Net assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 112,207</u>	<u>\$ 61,440</u>	<u>\$ 173,647</u>

FY2014 Grant Programs and Sources of Funding

For Arts Organizations:

- **Art Project Grants** support activities directly involved in the creation, performance, exhibition or publication of art or to present events by contracting for the services of another group or individual. This matching grant program is for all Duluth based organizations and regional arts groups with annual cash budgets of \$40,000 or larger. In this matching grant program, an applicant organization could request up to \$5,000 per application, per grant round. This program had two deadlines in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy and State General funds.*)
- **Rural and Community Art Grants** support community or artist initiated arts activities by groups that impact the group and/or community it serves. Arts activities are defined as collaborative efforts between community groups, artists, and/or arts organizations. This matching grant program is for all regional arts groups outside of Duluth with annual cash budgets under \$40,000. In this matching grant program, an applicant could request up to \$5,000 per application, per grant round. This program had two deadlines in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy and State General funds.*)
- **Two-Year Operating Support Grants** support high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and community arts groups that make arts learning available to regional individuals of all ages and abilities. The Two-Year Operating Support grant program offers two years of funding to qualified organizations to maintain their ongoing operating needs and services. This program recognizes that organizations with a record of programmatic service and administrative stability should have access to funds to support their organizational goals and objectives, rather than specific projects or new initiatives. In this matching grant program, an applicant could request up to \$12,000. This program had one deadline in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy funds.*)

For Individual Artists:

- **McKnight/ARAC Individual Artist Career Development Grants** support and assist regional artists from all cultural backgrounds at various stages in their careers. This non-matching grant program encourages artistic development by assisting artists to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity and to nurture artistic creativity through an artist generated opportunity. Applicants could request up to \$2,500 per application. This program had two deadlines in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy and McKnight Foundation funds.*)
- **McKnight/ARAC Individual Artist Fellowship Grants** recognize the contributions of regional individual artists make to the cultural environment of the Arrowhead Region. This non-matching grant program is open to artists working in contemporary or traditionally based visual, literary, media or performing arts. This program is designed to allow artists the time to work to achieve specific career goals by purchasing supplies and materials, participating in advanced study not related to a degree program, or pursuing other activities that will allow them to meet their artistic goals. The fellowship awards are \$5,000 each. This program had one deadline in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy and McKnight Foundation funds.*)
- **Individual Artist Technology/Equipment Grants** support requests from regional artists to purchase technology, equipment, or pay for training and services that will help advance and/or sustain their work as an artist. Applicants could request up to \$2,000 per application in this matching grant program. This matching grant program had two deadlines in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy, State General funds and McKnight Foundation funds.*)

For Individual Artists and Art Organizations:

- **Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Community Arts Learning Grants** support individual artists, arts organizations and/or arts groups to create high quality arts learning activities in any arts discipline. This matching grant program is intended to serve as a catalyst for innovative, participatory projects providing arts education to increase knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts. Applicants could request up to \$5,000 per application, per grant round. This matching grant program had two deadlines in this fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy funds.*)
- **McKnight/ARAC Quick Start Opportunity Grants** provide non-matching grant support to artists

and/or arts organizations for sudden unanticipated opportunities. These grants are intended to enable applicants to take advantage of goal affirming arts activities. Applicants could request up to \$1,000, and the turnaround time for grant notification and payment was approximately 14 working days. This program had ongoing deadlines. An applicant could only receive one Quick Start grant per ARAC fiscal year. (*Funding: Legacy, State General funds and McKnight Foundation funds.*)

ARAC administered two programs for **The Artist Fund**, a Duluth based non-profit founded to assist artists in times of need, by raising, administering and distributing emergency financial support and by providing information about other resources available to them in times of hardship.

- **Emergency Support for Individual Artists** program provided regional artists with financial support to help them pick up the pieces from an emergency and to expedite recovery so they can continue to work. This program was available to individuals living in the following counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties in northeastern Minnesota and Douglas and Bayfield counties in northwestern Wisconsin. Grant amounts ranged from \$500 to \$1,500. This program had ongoing deadlines. (*Funding: Private*)
- **AHH - North: Artists Access to Healthcare** program provided uninsured artists living in the same counties with assistance in accessing health care. **The Artist Fund** reimbursed up to \$100 towards the cost of an artist, their spouse, domestic partner, or dependents' paid visit to a doctor, dentist, or licensed health care practitioner of their choice anywhere in its service area. (*Funding: Private*)

Summary of Applications Requested/Awarded during FY2013/14:	FY2014	FY2013	In./Decr.
Total number of applications received from arts organizations	116	140	-18%
Total number of applications from arts organizations funded	71	84	-16%
Total amount requested by arts organizations	\$543,099	\$543,823	-1%
Total amount awarded to arts organizations	\$338,275	\$329,341	3%
Total number of applications received from individual artists	173	139	25%
Total number of applications from individual artists funded	81	87	-7%
Total amount requested by individual artists	\$415,779	\$346,134	21%
Total amount awarded to individual artists	\$162,469	\$153,109	7%

Summary of grants paid during Fiscal Year 2014

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount of the Grant</u>
Aaron Squadroni	\$970
Adam Moe	\$2,599
Adam Swanson	\$1,000
Adam Swanson	\$1,060
Aitkin Community Education	\$2,470
Amy Lucas	\$5,000
Amy Schmidt	\$5,000
Andrew Messerschmidt	\$5,000
Andrew Turpening	\$5,000
Armory Arts and Music Center	\$5,000
Arna Rennan	\$3,000
Arrowhead Chorale	\$1,200
Arrowhead Chorale	\$5,000
Arrowhead Chorale	\$5,000
Arts on Superior	\$500
Arts on Superior	\$1,000
Bill and Kate Isles	\$1,000
Blake Thomas	\$5,000
Brett Grandson	\$2,528
Bryan Hansel	\$1,794

Cathy Dybiec Holm	\$300
Chalk.a.Lot	\$4,995
Chenoa Williams	\$1,258
CHOICE, unlimited	\$3,390
Christine Marcotte	\$550
Claire Taylor	\$763
Cole Perry	\$1,000
Cole Perry	\$5,000
College of St. Scholastica	\$5,000
College of St. Scholastica	\$3,000
Cook Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000
Crescendo Youth Orchestra	\$4,800
Danielle Sosin	\$1,000
Danielle Sosin	\$5,000
Duluth Superior Film Festival	\$4,000
Duluth Superior Film Festival	\$5,000
Duluth Superior Film Festival	\$5,000
Earl Austin	\$2,250
Echoes of Peace	\$5,000
Ed Newman	\$2,500
Edge Center for the Arts	\$2,500
Edge Center for the Arts	\$6,000
Edge Center for the Arts	\$5,000
Elizabeth Minette	\$480
Ellen Redshaw	\$500
Ely ArtWalk	\$1,000
Ely Community Spring Musical	\$3,250
Ely Winter Festival	\$2,850
Ely Winter Festival	\$5,000
Emily Moe	\$3,000
Esther Piszczek	\$840
Felicia Schneiderhan	\$2,952
Frank Sander	\$2,000
Friends of B'nai Abraham	\$2,950
Good Harbor Hill Players	\$5,000
Grand Marais Arts, Inc.	\$1,500
Grand Rapids Players	\$5,000
Icebox Radio Theater	\$1,140
Icebox Radio Theater	\$7,000
Icebox Radio Theater	\$2,000
International Falls Public Library	\$1,430
Irene Hartfield	\$562
Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program	\$1,800
Jacqueline Solem	\$1,000
Jaques Art Center	\$5,000
Jeanette Cox	\$900
Jeanette Cox	\$5,000
Jeffrey Dexheimer	\$3,000
Jeffrey Kalstrom	\$964
Jessica Roeder	\$780

Jo Wood	\$3,000
John Connelly	\$3,000
John Michael Cook	\$1,000
John Weidemann	\$1,000
Karen Nease	\$2,760
Karen Savage-Blue	\$1,000
Karl Bardon	\$1,000
Kathleen Roberts	\$2,500
Kathy McTavish	\$2,000
Ken Marunowski	\$1,000
Kim Gross	\$950
Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra	\$1,460
Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra	\$5,950
Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra	\$5,000
Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra	\$4,850
Lake Superior Community Theater	\$5,000
Lake Superior Youth Chorus	\$6,000
Lake Superior Youth Chorus	\$5,000
Lenna Stever	\$1,800
Linda Melcher	\$1,000
Loretta Worthing	\$1,000
Lucie Amundsen	\$5,000
Lynda Ferguson	\$3,000
Lyric Opera of the North	\$2,500
Lyric Opera of the North	\$5,000
MacRostie Art Center	\$4,050
MacRostie Art Center	\$4,135
Maeri Hedstrom	\$2,500
Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe	\$5,000
Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe	\$5,000
Marc Gartman	\$3,000
Mary Bue MacLean	\$3,000
Matias Valero	\$1,000
Matinee Musicale	\$5,000
Mesabi Symphony Orchestra	\$1,500
Mesabi Symphony Orchestra	\$5,000
Michael Scholtz	\$790
Mitchell Bercier	\$2,000
Nicholas Sundahl	\$450
Nicholas Sundahl	\$1,356
North Shore Music Association	\$5,000
North Shore Music Association	\$3,060
North Shore Music Association	\$3,050
North Shore Players	\$2,000
Northern Lakes Arts Association	\$1,150
Northern Lights Music Festival	\$5,000

Northwoods Friends of the Arts	\$5,000
Penny Perry	\$1,000
Project Lulu	\$5,000
Prøve Collective	\$4,000
Prøve Gallery	\$5,000
Rachel Nelson	\$3,000
Range Center Inc./SoHo Gallery	\$5,000
Renegade Theater Company	\$5,000
Ressl Dance!	\$5,000
Robert Pokorney	\$1,244
Robert Watkins	\$1,000
Rodrigo Zuniga	\$450
Rodrigo Zuniga	\$2,662
Ron Benson	\$2,000
Rose Arrowsmith DeCoux	\$2,999
Ryuta Nakajima	\$1,600
Sandra Brandley	\$2,000
Sarah Brokke Erickson	\$1,850
South Ridge School	\$4,600
Spirit Lake Poetry Series	\$5,000
Stephanie Mirocha	\$3,000
Stephanie Mirocha	\$2,000
Susan Vann	\$1,330
The Singing Slovenes	\$285
Three Bridge Int'l Chamber Music Festival	\$5,000
Three Bridges Int'l Chamber Music Festival	\$5,000
Tim Byrns	\$1,000
Tim Byrns	\$5,000
Tim Byrns	\$3,000
Todd Hohenstein	\$2,920
Tonya Borgeson	\$400
UMD Department of Theatre	\$5,000
Vernal Bogren Swift	\$300
Virginia Mural Committee	\$5,000
Washington Elementary School	\$5,000
Wendy Savage	\$1,124
Wise Fool Shakespeare	\$5,000
Zepa Family Foundation	\$1,000
Total:	\$450,900

Direct Programming Efforts

The following direct programming was executed by the ARAC during FY2014:

1. **News and press releases:** The ARAC produced and distributed news and press releases by email and Constant Contact on an as needed basis. The news and program specific press releases were also available online and hard copy upon request. The Council continues to increase its use of emails and

the web site to inform constituents of events of interest, programs, deadlines, and services. During FY2014, the Council developed a Facebook page and totally redesigned its web site.

ARAC currently has over 1,000 email contacts in its data base. The following information is being distributed electronically, by hard copy, and can be viewed on the ARAC web site:

- upcoming deadlines for all ARAC funding programs;
- information and changes to new and existing grant programs;
- notification of board openings, lobbying efforts, technical assistance, grant writing workshops, etc;
- recent grants awarded by the name of the arts organization or artist, the amount of the award, and a description of the project; and
- a link to ARAC's web site.

- 2. Grant writing workshops:** ARAC held seventeen grant writing workshops during FY2014. These workshops were held by the ARAC staff to familiarize constituents with the Council's programs and application process and to offer regional artists and arts organizations technical assistance in submitting grant applications. Twelve of these grant writing workshops were held in the Marshall Professional Building where the Council's offices are located. ARAC offered program specific grant writing workshops two weeks prior to each program deadline. Staff also held grant writing workshops in the following regional communities: Hibbing, Tower, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais, and Virginia. ARAC also cosponsored grant writing workshops by the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Bush Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, MN Fringe, the Cultural Data Project, and other statewide organizations upon request.
- 3. Technical assistance for individual artists:** ARAC's assistant director, Sam Black, administered the individual artist grant programs through March 31, 2014. Individual artists had access to the five grant programs: Fellowship, Career Development, Quick Start, Technology/Equipment, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning. In addition to the individual artists grant writing workshops he offered prior to each program deadline, Staff offered grant writing workshops in the following communities in the region: Hibbing, Tower, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais, and Virginia. ARAC contracted with Brian Lukasavitz, a Duluth lawyer, to give a series of workshops related to legal issues for individual artists. Lukasavitz has developed six workshops dealing with a wide range of legal issues. These workshops were presented in Grand Marais and Virginia in FY2014. Staff continued to work with mnartists.org and assists individual artists to participate on the web site and how to post their events on the web site's statewide calendar. The Council's expanded grant programming has increased the one on one in-person consultations, electronic communication, and phone interactions with regional artists.
- 4. Scheduling/attending meetings by organizations from inside and outside the region:** In FY2014, ARAC continued to host or schedule meetings by organizations from inside and outside the region aimed at addressing specific needs of our constituents. Meetings were held in Duluth or in communities in the region by the Minnesota State Arts Board (general grant information and artist initiative in Grand Rapids), the Bush Foundation (Leadership and individual artist fellows), the Jerome Foundation and The Minnesota Fringe Festival, and the Cultural Data Project (CDP). ARAC's director and assistant director took part in the following activities on behalf of the arts community and our constituents:
 - DeArmond met with two University of Minnesota, Duluth, senior art seminar classes to discuss grants, the role of non-profits in the arts, and the regional arts community.
 - DeArmond and Black attend and are members of the Arts Align Twin Ports.
 - DeArmond and Black took part in Greater Duluth Downtown Council's discussions concerning the role of the arts in the future of Duluth.
 - DeArmond serves on the Sib Adams Arts Fund, Duluth/Superior Area Community Foundation.
- 5. Board Retreat:** On July 18, 2013, ARAC held a Board retreat in Duluth in the Marshall Professional Building. At this retreat, the Board reviewed what had been accomplished during the last year, discussed the new and existing programs, and refocused on what still needs to be done as ARAC moves forward in its three year plan. Discussion focused on the vision for the organization, a new

staffing structure, and staff transitioning. The Board also received an introduction to the new web site under construction.

6. **Arrowhead Arts Awards:** The 16th Annual Arts and Cultural Heritage Arrowhead Arts Awards celebration took place in International Falls at the Backus Arts Center on May 30, 2014, and at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet on May 31, 2014. These events recognized two individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region. These awards are presented by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council with funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The recipient of FY14's **George Morrison Artist Award** was composer, performer, and contemporary Native American composer **Elizabeth Jaakola**. Jaakola, a member of the Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, has spent the past 20 years composing, performing, and teaching music in the Arrowhead region and beyond. Her mixed heritage has allowed her to embrace performing and writing in many musical styles and genres which has influenced young musicians throughout the region.

After earning a Masters in Music from University of Minnesota Duluth, Jaakola embraced teaching full-time Music and Indian Studies at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College before embarking on her performance journey. She is an accomplished performer, having performed locally as well as internationally, in various styles and genres. Jaakola has performed at the Rome Operafestival (Mezzo Soprano), Carnegie Hall, and with the Duluth Festival Opera, Lyric Opera of the North, and Arrowhead Chorale. She is a Traditional ceremony singer, a jazz scat singer, Blues siren, and regional soloist in many venues in northern Minnesota.

In addition to teaching and performing, she is currently compiling her native-based choral pieces and striving to promote Anishinaabe music performances and education in the area. Jaakola's Native-based compositions have been heard on radio stations, television, video, and many stages near to her home on the Fond du Lac reservation.

Jaakola is the Founder of the Anishinaabe Youth Chorus, the Native women's hand drum group, and a founding member of the award winning group Oshkii Giizhik Singers. In 2001, she received a Regional Emmy Award for the PBS Eight Documentary Series, "Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa" and was nominated for a Northeast Minnesota Book Award for her book "Our Journey."

Jaakola has produced four CD and performs on several more. She serves on Boards of the Fond du Lac Tribal College, the First Nations Composers Initiative, the American Composers Forum, and the Nation and Minnesota Education Association.

The **George Morrison Artist Award** is named after internationally acclaimed visual artist George Morrison (1919-2000), who was an important member of the second generation of American abstract expressionist artists. Morrison was heralded for successfully synthesizing American Indian themes with abstraction and surrealism. As a life-long member of the Grand Portage Chippewa, he resided and worked for many years in the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota.

The the recipient of FY2014's **Maddie Simons Advocate Award** was **Mr. John Faith**. John Faith has been known as "Mr. Music" in International Falls for over 40 years. Faith has spent his career teaching music, band, orchestra, giving lessons, and developing an exceptional commitment to both students and the community.

Faith started his music career performing across the U.S. and Europe in the U.S. Navy band, which played for such dignitaries as John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice Presidents Humphrey and Mondale, and the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie. Since 1970, he has been teaching music in International Falls schools, as well as being heavily involved in bringing music to the community through performing, teaching classes, arranging concerts and bringing in outside performances. He has been a member of such groups as the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra, President of the Backus Community Center, the Borderline Community Orchestra, the Fort Frances City Band, and other musical ensembles.

Faith's advocacy for the arts is well documented - one example being his work to preserve and save two historic school buildings in the community, the Alexander Baker School (1912) and the E.W. Backus Jr. High School (1937) from being demolished. He and his colleagues formed a nonprofit corporation and purchased the buildings in 2002 with the goal of restoring them as a center for the performing arts, now the Backus Community Center. The Center, now on the National Register of

Historic Places, is a thriving venue that hosts not only performing arts but dozens of community events each year.

Through his career, Faith has inspired and influenced many, while having never sought out or coveted any recognition for his work. He has devoted countless hours of his own time with music lessons, and has purchased musical instruments for students with his own funds. Faith's passion for music, teaching, mentoring, and performing continues to have an impact to this day on thousands of people in Koochiching County and beyond.

The **Maddie Simons Arts Advocate Award** is named for Madeline Simons, the first volunteer Chair of the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Board. A long-time resident of Grand Marais, MN, she owned a dance studio, helped start the Grand Marais Playhouse, the Lutsen Art Fair, and Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

Services Provided by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council

The following services were provided by the ARAC staff to artists, arts organizations and the arts public:

1. **Information and Referral:** Emails, phone calls, and letters requesting information about arts related matters were answered directly or referred to appropriate sources. ARAC's 800 number, e-mail addresses, and web site made it easy for constituents to access the Council's programs and services.
2. **Networking:** Artists and arts organizations received staff help in making local, regional, statewide, and national connections for needed resources.
3. **Grants Writing Workshops:** Formal or informal sessions were held with artists and arts organizations to assist them in completing ARAC applications and in partnership with other statewide arts funding agencies.
4. **Library of Resource Material:** ARAC maintained a resource library for artists and arts organizations which includes resource books; organizational and foundation newsletters and annual reports; arts related publications; grant guidelines from appropriate funding agencies; copies of the economic impact studies for both arts organizations and individual artists; etc.
5. **Data Collection:** ARAC maintained a database of regional arts organizations, artists, and other relevant information which is available by contacting the office.
6. **Technical Assistance to Arts Organizations:** Technical assistance provided ranged from ARAC staff facilitating brainstorming sessions on fundraising, board development, etc. to helping select a consultant to fit specific need. ARAC also maintained information on how to file as a tax-exempt organization or to become a non-profit incorporation.
7. **Technical Assistance to Individual Artists:** Artists seeking career development options, grant writing, and/or resume preparation could request an individual session with staff. Staff also helped artists with the resources to help them get their work and career information onto The McKnight Foundation's statewide web site, www.mnartists.org. Requests to access mnartists.org have gone down in the last few years.
8. **Computer Assistance/Presence:** ARAC maintained a web site (www.aracouncil.org) which includes information on the Council; its funding programs; downloadable program guidelines and application forms; a list of recent grants awarded; and Council news. By the beginning of FY2015, ARAC was able to accept grant applications on-line for its first three grant programs with July deadlines. ARAC's web site also includes links and addresses for the eleven Regional Arts Councils, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, Springboard for the Arts, the Americans for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a map of the legislative districts in the Arrowhead Region and a list of current legislators. In FY2014, ARAC developed a presence on FACEBOOK which is expanding going into FY15.

The ARAC serves 22% of the State's land mass and has the fourth largest population of the eleven regional arts councils. The region contains many arts organizations which function at a very sophisticated level, both programmatically and organizationally as well as numerous small, all volunteer rural arts groups. The Council is careful to not become an arts producing organization. ARAC works hard to make as much funding as possible available to individual artists and arts organizations so that they *can create, produce, or present art*.

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council - FY2014 Members List

County Representatives:

Aitkin County

Erling Ellison, Chair 6/2014
9 Fifth Avenue NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

Carlton County

Mark King 6/2015
306 Dalewood Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720

Cook County

Ann Russ 6/2016
413 Ct. Road 60
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Duluth

Dana Mattice 6/2016
230 West 7th Street
Duluth, MN 55806

Itasca County

Ashley Kolka 6/2015
323 N.E. First Avenue, #3
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Koochiching County

Victoria Olson 6/2015
909 2nd Street
International Falls, MN 56649

Lake County

Michelle Ronning 6/2015
1203 Ronning Drive
Two Harbors, MN 55616

St. Louis County

Jan Carey, Vice Chair 6/2017
403 Highland Drive
Hibbing, MN 55746

Student Ad Hoc

Ashley Leek 6/2014
1618 Vermilion Road
Duluth, MN 55812

At-Large Members

John Gregor 6/2016
2437 Hwy. 3
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Adam Guggemos 6/2015
602 N. 6th Ave. E., #A
Duluth, MN 55805

Peter Pestalozzi 6/2015
1568 McMahan Boulevard
Ely, MN 55731

David Beard, Secretary 6/2014
2011 Jefferson St., Lower Apt.
Duluth, MN 55812

Ken Bloom, Treasurer 6/2016
521 N. 19 ½ Avenue West
Duluth, MN 55806

Kate Fitzgerald 6/2015
416 West 8th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Catherine Meier 6/2014
1915 Woodland Avenue
Duluth, MN 55803

Staff:

Robert DeArmond, Exec. Director
4115 Robinson Street
Duluth, MN 55804

Samuel Black, Asst. Director
1017 North 10th Avenue East
Duluth, MN 55805
(resigned 3-31-14)

Bonnie Sylvester, Admin. Asst.
5337 Hermantown Road
Hermantown, MN 55810
(resigned 6-30-14)

Erin Turner, Operations Manager
610 Selfridge Drive
Duluth, MN 55811
(started work 3-16-14)

Ashley Kolka, Grants Manager
1210 East 1st, Apt. B
Duluth, MN 55805
(started work 6-2-14)

Tom Moriarty, Media Intern
618 North 1st Ave. E., Apt. 1
Duluth, MN 55805
(started work 6-9-14)

Arts and Cultural Heritage Individual Artist Fellowship Panel for FY2014

Erling Ellison, professional jeweler and theater artist, Aitkin.

Catherine Meier, visual artist, Duluth.

Kathy Dodge, classical musician, theater artist, past director of the Itasca Orchestra and String Program, Grand Rapids.

Paul Imholt, professional singer songwriter, St. Cloud.

Doris Ressler, dancer, choreographer, college dance instructor, Long Beach, CA.

Narrative Summary of Goals and Objectives

This is the narrative summary of the goals and objectives as started in ARAC's FY2014 biennial plan.

GOAL 1: To provide programming support for arts activities and artists in the Arrowhead Region.

- a. ARAC adapted the existing programs to address the identified needs in the region and conform to the mandates in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment.
 - 1. The Review Process/Planning Committee reviewed and made changes, as needed, to the existing grant programs and guidelines for arts organizations and individual artists to insure that the programs address the mandates in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment.
- b. ARAC did create a new grant program in FY2014 and made changes to two existing grant programs to better address identified needs in the region and conform to the mandates in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment.
 - 1. The Board created the **Technology/Equipment Grant Program** to address the increasing technology needs identified by individual artists. Technology has become an indispensable of every artist's existence, from the potter working primarily in clay to the multi-media artist working with digital projections. In its first year, this program was able to fund 41% of the applications received and the number of applications increased as artist became aware of the program.
 - 2. ARAC removed one deadline from the **Career Development Grant Program** beginning in FY14 and increased the amount that could be requested in the **Quick Start Grant Program** to \$1,000 to better address artists' continuing need for support to take part advantage of unexpected opportunities.
- c. When reviewing grant applications, ARAC put a priority on projects that were artistically challenging for artists, arts organizations, and the audiences served.
 - 1. ARAC administered a **Quick Start Grant Program** for arts organizations and individual artists. This program had ongoing deadlines. \$28,000 was available in this program and was awarded to individual artists and arts organizations by the first week in May, 2014. The program was shut down between May and June 31st, 2014. The amount available in this program was increased by 28% and the Council ran out of funding 10 months into the fiscal year. In FY14, ARAC funded 41% of the applications received. In FY13, ARAC funded 67% of the applications received.
 - 2. ARAC administered the **Art Project Grant Program** which awarded \$124,485 to arts organizations in the region; the **Rural and Community Art Grant Program** which awarded \$65,185 to arts organizations outside of Duluth; and the **Career Development Grant Program** which awarded \$68,667 to individual artists in the region.
 - 3. ARAC used the following process for soliciting and reviewing artist and organizational grant applications: inform constituents of upcoming grant program deadlines; provided technical assistance for project and application development upon request; and conducted application reviews.
 - 4. The staffing of grant applications included the following duties: preparing review materials for Council or panel consideration; researching applications; contacting applicants; scheduling and staffing grants review meetings; notifying applicants of action on their proposals; and issuing contracts and payments.

GOAL 2: To develop support systems and services that will advance sustainability for artists and arts organizations.

- a. ARAC continued to refine its support program which offers support to stabilize the administration and programming of existing arts organizations.
 - 1. ARAC administered the **Two-Year Operating Support Grant Program** which awarded \$71,100 to arts organizations in the region. The name and focus the program was changed slightly to better conform to the mandates in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment. The amount that could be requested was raised from \$8,000 to \$12,000 for the two-years. The focus of the program was broadened to include capital expenses.
 - 2. The process for soliciting and reviewing applications is the same as: **Goal 1, c 3 and 4.**
- b. ARAC continued to work to create support services to advance and stabilize arts organizations and the careers of individual artists.
 - 1. ARAC continued its financial partnership with The McKnight Foundation by administering McKnight Arts Plan funds to regional artists.

2. ARAC administered the **McKnight/ARAC Career Development and Artist Fellowship Grant Programs** which awarded \$110,185 to regional individual artists. These programs provided support for a wide variety of identifiable activities that advanced and/or sustained the artist's work or career. These programs are open to artists working in all disciplines. Artists of ethnicity were encouraged to apply.
 3. The process for soliciting and reviewing applications is the same as: **Goal 1, c 3 and 4.**
 4. ARAC administered the **Emergency Support for Individual Artists Program** for The Artist Fund. This program offered financial support to artists living in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties in Minnesota and Douglas and Bayfield counties in Wisconsin, who found themselves in immediate need of financial assistance due to an unexpected, career-threatening loss of income. Each year the demand for this program seems to go down.
 5. ARAC administered the **AHH - North: Artists Access to Healthcare program** for The Artist Fund. This program reimbursed artists, or an immediate family member, up to \$100 towards the visit to any licensed health care professional. The demand for this program has also been very small.
- c. ARAC continued the work to establish three programs that advance sustainability for artists and arts organizations.
1. The staff and Board members worked with entertainment attorney, Brain Lukasavitz, to develop workshops which address legal issues of importance to individual artists. The first workshops were held in Duluth in FY13 and additional workshops were held in Grand Marais and Virginia.
 2. The Board developed the new **Technology/Equipment Grant Program** to assist individual artists to acquire the technology necessary to be a part of the new digital age.
 3. Staff developed a program that would bring in groups from inside and outside to present resources and information that addresses sustainability issues for regional arts organizations and artists. ARAC sponsored a workshop by the **Cultural Data Project** to encourage involvement in the project and to explain how groups can use the data strengthen their organization. ARAC sponsored a presentation by the **Minnesota Fringe Festival**. Involvement in the Fringe Festival is an opportunity for regional theater and performing artists to expand their audience.
- d. ARAC staff worked with the Public Relations Committee and web designer to refine the information to be available on the web site. The new ARAC's web site was launched in March of 2014. The web site was constructed on Word Press and is able to be updated by staff. It is user friendly and connects directly to ARAC's new Facebook page. It has the capability to include video presentations.

GOAL 3: To encourage artistic and cultural diversity in the Arrowhead Region.

- a. ARAC supported artistic and cultural diversity in activities by arts groups, organizations, and community based arts groups by actively encouraging applications from arts groups, organizations, and community based arts groups that highlight artistic and cultural diversity and assist them so as to increase their chances of being funded. In FY2014, the Council received 24 applications from culturally diverse artists and arts organizations which represent 9% of the total applications received. This is an increase of 5% over FY13. The most recent US Census shows the culturally diverse population of the Arrowhead Region to be just under 3% of the region's total population. Of the 24 applications received, the Council funded 15. Staff did not hold any grant writing workshop specifically in communities of color and ethnic diversity but held several in locations which were easily accessible to individuals from these communities.
- b. ARAC supported informative and inclusive projects proposed by ethnically diverse arts organizations, artists, and community groups.
 1. ARAC administered the **Rural and Community Art Grant Program** for regional arts organizations. This program's focus is to support activities that involve the community's artistic and ethnically diverse population. In the Arrowhead, diversity includes communities of color as well as long standing communities with culturally diverse populations.

2. ARAC administered the **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning Grant Program** which awarded \$69,220 to regional arts organizations and artists. This program supported a few artistic and culturally diverse activities which included the presentation of a program and a community learning opportunity.
3. The process for soliciting and reviewing applications is the same as: **Goal 1, c 3 and 4.**

GOAL 4: To work to provide leadership to individuals, arts organizations and communities in the Arrowhead Region.

- a. The staff was welcoming, informed, communicated clearly and was respectful with constituents and regional individuals.
 1. Staff was available during regular business hours or to return calls in a timely manner.
 2. Staff members were up to date on the grant programs, services, and workshops offered by the Council and clearly communicate this information upon request.
 3. Staff maintained clear and respectful communication with individual artists, arts organizations, and communities in the region. Staff:
 - a. Logged in excess of 500 technical assistance contacts with artists, over 250 contacts with arts organizations, and approximately 25 contacts with communities related to grant applications or grant questions.
 - b. Conferred with at least 100 grantees and/or prospective grantees.
 - c. Attended in excess of 30 activities by arts organizations or did site visits upon request. Logged at least 35 visits to Council funded events.
 - d. Solicited suggestions and comments from grantee and applicant organizations about the Council's services and programs.
 - ✓ Suggestions and comments were solicited from grantee on the grant final report form.
 - ✓ Suggestions and comments were solicited from all applicant organizations on a grant feedback form included with their grant notification letter.
 - e. Provided assistance to communities upon request.
 - f. Provided consultation to communities seeking assistance.
 - g. Provided written materials or the link to ARAC's web site to assist organizations.
 - h. Provided reference and digital materials and referral information.
 - i. Made contact with at least 37 arts organizations around the region.
 - j. Held organizational grant writing workshops and informational meetings in five communities in the region and Duluth and also held technical assistance sessions in the ARAC meeting room two weeks prior to each grant deadline.
- b. ARAC continued to have the Public Relations Committee work to develop at least two strategies to increase ARAC's visibility in the region.
 1. ARAC created a Facebook to create visibility through social media.
 2. ARAC work to create a printed brochure that will be placed in high visibility locations around the region.
 3. DeArmond was interviewed on WTIP, Grand Marais, concerning the Arrowhead Arts Awards.
 4. DeArmond was interviewed on the "Playlist," Duluth Public Television, concerning the Council and its programs.
 5. DeArmond was videoed for "The Bat of Minerva," an archive of artists and arts visionaries from around the state produced by Peter Shea, a University of Minnesota instructor. The interview is shown on Minneapolis Public Television and archived at the University.
- c. ARAC contributed to public policy planning and implementation at the local, regional, and state level by taking part in the following:
 1. Participated with the MSAB and the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, Inc. in the development of an arts funding and implementation plan for the State of Minnesota.
 2. Worked with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts to foster the arts in Minnesota.
 3. Attended and took part in the planning of the Rural Arts and Culture Summit held in Morris, MN in June of 2013.
 4. Maintained memberships in regional, state, and national arts service organizations.
 5. Participated as a member of the following organizations or conferences:
 - ✓ On the Board of The Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, Inc.

- ✓ As members of the Twin Ports Area Nonprofit Coalition (Arts Align), a chapter of the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits
- ✓ On the Sib Adams Arts Committee for the Duluth/Superior Area Community Foundation
- ✓ Attended the Rural Arts and Culture Summit
- ✓ Served other relevant local, regional, state, and national organizations upon request

GOAL 5: To advocate for the arts as essential to the quality of life as well as to the economic and educational development of the region.

- a. ARAC staff advocated for fair professional development and market wages for artists by doing the following:
 1. Logged at least 32 instances of advocating for paying fair wages to artists when advising applicants requesting organizational project support.
 2. Logged at least 22 instances of advocating to applicants that individual artist programs may be used to support activities that advance an artist's professional development.
 3. Logged at least 35 instances where staff advocated for fair market wages in consultation with applicants.
- b. ARAC staff advocated for arts professionalism, economic stability, and educational development in the region by continuing to work with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation/City of Duluth and the findings in the three-year Knight Soul of the Community study of the Duluth-Superior area and by participating in Greater Duluth Downtown Council's discussions concerning the role of the arts in the future of Duluth.
 1. ARAC staff publicly advocated for arts professionalism when the possibility presented itself.
 2. ARAC staff advocated for increased support for arts professionalism and economic support by:
 - ✓ Encouraging arts organizations to apply to ARAC's **Two-year Operating Support grant program** for projects and activities that increase their professionalism and economic stability.
 - ✓ Encouraging artists to apply to ARAC's two **McKnight/ARAC Individual Artist grant programs** to support activities that advance their professional and educational development.
 - ✓ Encouraging artists to apply to ARAC's **Technology/Equipment grant program** to purchase needed technology to advance or sustain their artistic careers.
 - ✓ Encouraging artists to apply to ARAC's **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning grant program** to support activities that advance educational development in the region.
 3. ARAC staff advocated the importance of artists and arts organizations to the quality of life and economic vitality of the communities in the region when the possibility presented itself.
 4. Arts organizations and artists funded by ARAC were required to attach the *Legacy Amendment logo* to all printed and electronic materials related to their project or activity.
- c. ARAC staff encouraged activities by arts organizations that provided opportunities that promote public awareness of the arts or a particular art form by encouraging artists to apply to ARAC's **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning grant program** and by presenting the 15th annual **Arts and Cultural Heritage Arrowhead Arts Awards** to Elizabeth Jaakola and John Faith in Cloquet and International Falls, Minnesota.
- d. ARAC encouraged organizations to develop appropriate promotional strategies for their projects so that the people in their community, and the region, were aware of their events and the importance of the arts to their lives and the economy in the Arrowhead Region.
 1. The Review Process/Planning Committee developed new wording for inclusion in all the grant program guidelines which define appropriate promotional strategies.
 2. Staff advocated the development of appropriate promotional strategies during personal contacts and grant writing workshops.
- e. Staff encouraged regional organizations to list their events with the Department of Tourism, mnartists.org, and community web sites. Contact information for the Department of Tourism and www.mnartists.org was posted on the ARAC web site and referenced in all appropriate grant program guidelines.

- f. Staff sent information about funded projects and artists to statewide press; regional and statewide arts organizations; as well as posting grant award information on the ARAC web site to increase the awareness of the Council's recognition and support of regional artists and arts organizations.

GOAL 6: To operate an office accountable to constituents and funding sources.

ARAC met this goal by doing the following:

- a. Preparing and filing all documents required by the Minnesota State Arts Board and The McKnight Foundation.
- b. Preparing and filing all final reports with the appropriate agency or foundation: the MSAB, The McKnight Foundation, Legislative Library, and the Regional Forum Archivist.
- c. Developing and filing a FY2015 Spending Plan with the MSAB and The McKnight Foundation.
- d. Leasing and maintaining an office at 1301 Rice Lake Road, Suite 120, Duluth, MN.
- e. Employing appropriate staffing to administer grants, programs, and services of the agency.
- f. Conducting six business meetings and twelve Board and panel grant reviews during FY2014.
- g. Complying fully with all contracts entered into with all funding sources.
- h. Maintaining comprehensive records of Council activities and decisions.
- i. Maintaining IRS 501(c)(3) status, employee records and payments in compliance with federal and state regulations.
- j. Maintaining a financial accounting system in full compliance with State of Minnesota standards, including a yearly audit.
- k. Evaluating all grants, programs, and services of the agency.
- l. Conducting an ongoing assessment of the Council's grants and services to determine how to better serve the arts in the Arrowhead Region.
- m. Reviewing any data collected by other arts organizations about needs in the region.
- n. Maintaining grant logs and audit trails.
- o. Maintaining an ARAC web site that includes organizational information, programs, guidelines, application forms, deadlines, and grants awarded.
- p. Maintaining and expanding a computerized data base of regional arts organizations.
- q. Maintaining a resource library of regional and national arts publications.

The following is a narrative summary of the additional goals related to the receipt and stewardship of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment funding.

Arts-in-Education - Goal: To increase interaction between students, community members and professional artists.

- a. To address this goal, ARAC administered the **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning grant program**. The **Art Project** and **Rural and Community Art grant programs'** guidelines have also been refined to allow grant funded activities to include involvement with students and community members.

Outcomes/Measurements:

- a. ARAC received 91 applications to the six grant deadlines in FY2014. \$263,890 was awarded to 61 applicants, or 67%.
- b. Twenty six of the grantees, or 43% of the awarded applicants, did projects that interacted with students.
- c. Thirty of the grantees, or 50% of the awarded applicants, did projects that interacted with community members ranging in age from children to adults.
- d. Fifteen of the grantees, or 25% of the awarded applicants, did projects that interacted with a professional artist.
- e. Seven **Quick Start** grants were awarded to artists or arts organizations that interacted with community children or students.
- f. Funded projects included interactive classes, demonstrations, theater/performances opportunities, and master classes.

Community Arts Development - Goal: Increase the connection of arts organizations and artists in all aspects of their community.

- a. In FY2014, ARAC increased the funding available through its **Rural and Community Art** grant program by 43%.
- b. The **Art Project** and **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning** grant program guidelines were access to make sure that the focus of the two programs was articulated appropriately.

Outcomes/Measurements:

- a. The number of applications received that increased their involvement with their community increased by 15% over FY13.
- b. The number of applications received from non-traditional arts organizations remained the same as in FY13.
- c. Some of the funded projects in FY2014 included: arts activities connected to an existing community celebration; creating theatrical performance around a current community concern or event; visual arts exhibitions program in a local Library; community art camps; special arts events for underserved audiences; and performance/demonstrations at County fairs or in State Parks.

Administrative Support - Goal: **To support projects which directly address a group’s administrative, organizational, and facility needs.**

- a. In FY2014, ARAC broadened the focus of the **Two-Year Administrative Support** grant program and renamed it the **Two-Year Operating Support** grant program.
- b. In FY2014, the **Small Capital** grant program for organizations was discontinued and capital expenses were folded into the **Two-Year Operating Support** grant program.

Outcomes/Measurements:

- a. The **Two-Year Operating Support** grant program received eleven applications and was able to fund six, or 55% of the applications. This was a 58% increase in the number of applications received in FY2013.
- b. Of the funded **Two-Year Operating Support** grant recipients, 100% indicated that the grant support was being requested for staffing along with other training and facility expenses necessary to stabilize their organization.
- c. 50% of the funded **Two-Year Operating Support** grant recipients reside outside of Duluth.

Arrowhead Arts Awards - Goal: **To recognize two individuals annually who have made important contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region.**

This program is explained in detail beginning on page 10, including the dates, locations, and recipients.

Outcomes/Measurements:

- a. The sixteenth annual Arrowhead Arts Awards ceremony was attended by 128 individuals.
- b. The two award recipients were very pleased to be recognized for their contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region and beyond.

Long Range Planning - Goal: **To continue to involve the ARAC Board, constituents, and regional community members in planning for what they want the arts in their communities and the region to look like with the influx of the new Legacy Amendment funding over the next twenty five years.**

- a. ARAC’s staff held seventeen grant writing and informational meetings in Duluth and communities throughout the region. Informal discussions with constituents were also done throughout the region during the year.
- b. ARAC’s Board held an annual retreat in July, 2013. The Board reviewed the last year, the new and existing programs, and what still needs to be done in its three year plan. Discussion focused on the vision for the organization, a new staffing structure, and staff transitioning.

Outcomes/Measurements:

- a. In response to ARAC’s planning process, the Board continued to refine three of its existing grant programs and developed one new program for individual artists for FY2014.
- b. In FY2014, ARAC received 13 fewer applications than the total number of applications received in FY2013. The Amount of funding requested was also less than in FY2013. These figures are described in more detail below.

Number of people participating in and served by Council funded programs.

The passage of the Clean Water, Land and Heritage (Legacy) Tax Amendment in November of 2008 brought a major increase to ARAC's public funding allocation which allowed the Board to restore programs and services to their previous levels as well as add programs and services that address previously underserved needs in the regional arts community. The administration of the new public tax funding involved changes in reporting, staffing, programming, and facility needs. The new amendment funding has had a major impact on ARAC's grant programs and services and has strengthened our ability to address the needs of communities and the arts throughout the Arrowhead Region.

In FY2014, ARAC reviewed **116** applications to its five grant programs for arts organizations, made possible with funding from the State General Fund and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment Fund. In FY2014, ARAC reviewed **181** applications to its five grant programs for individual artists, made possible with funding from the State General Fund, the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and an allocation from The McKnight Foundation. ARAC reviewed a total of **297** applications in all of its granting programs. This is **18** more applications than were reviewed in FY2013.

In FY2014, ARAC awarded **71**, or **62%**, of the applications in its five grant programs for arts organizations. In FY2014, ARAC awarded **82**, or **46%**, of the applications to its five grant programs for individual artists. ARAC awarded a total of **153** applications in all of its granting programs. This represents an **11%** decrease in the number of applications awarded over FY2013. There were more than **30** potential applicants who started work on a grant and who may submit applications in the future.

It is estimated that FY2014 funded projects by arts organizations will service **2,572** artists and reach an audience of **169,135** individuals through **141** performances. This represents an increase of **10%** in the number of artists served, an increase of **93%** in the number of audience members reached, and a **59%** decrease in the number of performances than funded in FY2013. It is estimated that FY2014 funded grants to individual artists will service **328** artists and reach an audience of **535,181** individuals through **146** opportunities. This represents a decrease of **64%** in the number of artists served, a **189%** increase in the number of audience members reached, and a **12%** decrease in the number of performances than funded in FY2013. ARAC awarded a total of **\$430,003** in State General and Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds in its eight grant programs in FY2014, an increase of **8%** from FY2013.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage funding has enabled ARAC to award grants to artists and arts organizations in each of the seven counties it serves and in every legislative district in the Arrowhead Region.

ARAC observed that during the eight years of cuts to state funding for the arts, small and rural arts organizations had lost their stability and their willingness to take chances in their programming. The past cuts to state arts funding along with the current economy in the Arrowhead Region continues to make ARAC support of regional artists and arts organizations critical to the vibrant arts scene in the Arrowhead Region. The Legacy Amendment funding has made possible for ARAC to restore arts activities in the region by awarding larger grants and by encouraging arts organizations to expand their offerings in the region.

Technical assistance was provided by the executive director, assistant director, and office manager to individual artists and arts organizations upon request. There were over 1,550 calls requiring information or assistance in areas ranging from "how can I find out the value of this painting?" to "what kinds of grants are there for individuals in the visual arts?" or "is there a publication listing community theaters in Minnesota which tour?" to "how do I enter arts fairs in the region?" Organizations also called for information on how to apply for a 501(c)(3) federal non-profit designation status and for suggestions that might help them develop their organization.

Summary in Support of the 10% for Children Legislation

During FY2014, the Council reviewed **116** applications to programs for arts organizations which include State funds and awarded funding to **71**. The primary focus of **26** of the funded applications is children and **21** other funded applications encourage youth involvement as either a participant or audience member. This number of applications represents **41%** of the total applications received and **65%** of the applications funded. Approximately **\$111,405** of the awarded State funding went to activities that include children. This figure represents **26%** of the **\$430,003** in State funding that was awarded to arts organizations in FY2014. State funded applicants estimated that their activities will reach **120,550** people. They estimate that **30,700** or **26%** of those people will be children.

Activities funded which focus primarily on children include children's theater productions and pageants; a youth chorus; a youth orchestra; a classical music camp; and participating as audience members at theater productions, dance concerts, chamber music concerts, poetry readings, etc.

Summary of the Monitoring and Evaluating of Grants

The Council monitors and evaluates all approved grants by means of final reports. Final reports are reviewed in the following three step process:

- 1st - Staff reviews, logs and files all reports.
- 2nd - If there is a problem, staff contacts the applicant and attempts to resolve the situation.
- 3rd - If the problem is not resolved, staff brings the report to the Executive Committee which makes a recommendation to the full Council.

All final reports are available to Council members for inspection at any time. During FY2014, staff conducted two program audits and reviewed the financial and program information on the final reports of all completed grants.

The ARAC expresses its appreciation for the support from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. The ARAC grant programs and services are made possible through appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature and The McKnight Foundation.