



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

**Fiscal Year 2015**

**The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council  
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**Jan Carey  
Chair**

**Robert A. DeArmond  
Executive Director**

**THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT - FY2015  
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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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**Grant Guidelines:**

*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 website: [www.aracouncil.org](http://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, 2015**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

<b>Cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities:</b>	
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ (105,924)
Adjustments to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash flow from operating activities: depreciation	\$ 400
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	\$ 281
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable/accruals	<u>\$ 35,988</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>\$ (69,255)</u>
<b>Cash flows provided by (used in) investing activities:</b>	
Leasehold Improvements	<u>\$ (0)</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash equivalent</b>	<b>\$ (69,255)</b>
<b>Cash balance, beginning of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 206,166</u></b>
<b>Cash balance, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 136,911</u></b>

**Fiscal statement showing disbursement of State and McKnight funds**

**Statement of Functional Expenses years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014:**

	<b>Program</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Management and General</b>	<b>2015 Total</b>	<b>2014</b>
Salaries	\$156,203	\$0	\$27,565	\$183,768	\$141,197
Payroll taxes	18,859	0	3,328	22,187	11,793
Employee benefits	10,421	0	1,839	12,260	20,941
Pension	6,020	0	1,062	7,082	7,676
Total Compensation	\$191,502	\$0	\$33,795	\$225,297	\$181,607
Accounting	\$0	\$0	\$4,350	\$4,350	\$4,040
Administrative	0	0	4,095	4,095	10
Advertising/Public Relations	0	0	4,462	4,462	500
Arrowhead Arts Awards	5,205	0	750	5,955	6,151
Bank charges	0	0	0	0	41
Board Technology Stipend	0	0	2,757	2,757	0
Contract Services	1,943	0	1,295	3,238	6,989
Council and staff travel	13,045	0	5,685	18,730	15,573
Creative MN Individual Study	0	0	750	750	0
Depreciation	0	0	400	400	400
Dues	0	0	1,911	1,911	2,116
Equipment and repair	2,222	0	8,889	11,111	3,961
Foundant Technologies	8,500	0	0	8,500	7,458
Grants paid	612,376	0	0	612,376	555,032
Insurance	0	0	1,813	1,813	1,816
Miscellaneous	0	0	788	788	3,252
Office rent	8,551	0	3,665	12,216	12,276
Postage	661	0	283	944	1,990
Printing	104	0	45	149	290
Programming	1,023	0	0	1,023	0
Rural Arts/Cultural Summit Scholarships	2,745	0	0	2,745	0
Supplies	4,770	0	2,094	6,864	4,471

Technical assistance	2,678	0	1,148	3,826	2,749
Telephone	2,177	0	934	3,111	2,310
Website redesign/maint.	975	0	418	1,393	2,516
Total Expenses	<u>\$858,478</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$80,326</u>	<u>\$938,804</u>	<u>\$815,548</u>

**Grants Paid:** During the year ending June 30, 2015, the Council awarded total grant funds of \$612,376 to arts organizations and artists. Of this figure, ARAC paid out \$576,839 in awarded grant funds. \$91,796 was grant funds encumbered from FY14 and \$127,333 of awarded grant funds in this fiscal year were encumbered to be paid in FY16. State disbursed grant funds amounted to \$530,946. *The \$80,326 in general and administrative expenditures listed above come directly from ARAC's FY2015 year-end audit as does the \$246,102 in 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 FY2015 were 9% of its total annual budget.*

**Statement of Financial Position Arising from Cash Transactions**

**Assets:**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 136,911
Prepaid expenses	<u>\$ 0</u>
Sub Total	\$ 136,911

**Property and Equipment:**

Leasehold improvements	\$ 15,007
Office Equipment	\$ 33,995
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 35,797</u>
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 13,205
Total Assets	<u>\$ 150,116</u>

**Liabilities and Net Assets:**

Accounts payable	\$ 0
Grants payable	\$ 127,333
Accrued payroll	\$ 7,718
Payroll taxes withheld	<u>\$ 3,908</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 138,959

**Net Assets:**

Unrestricted	\$ 11,157
Temporary restricted	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 11,157
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 150,116</u>

**Statement of Activities Arising from Cash Transaction:**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Minnesota State Arts Board Grants:			
Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds	\$ 0	\$ 579,034	\$ 579,034
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 0	\$ 161,303	\$ 161,303
The McKnight Foundation Grant	\$ 0	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Interest income	\$ 801	\$ 0	\$ 801
Other Income	\$ 1,742	\$ 0	\$ 1,742
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>\$ 830,337</u>	<u>\$ (830,337)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 832,880	\$ 0	\$ 832,880
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Program expenses	\$ 855,733	\$ 0	\$ 855,733

Management and general	\$ 83,071	\$ 0	\$ 83,071
Total Expenses	\$ 938,804	\$ 0	\$ 938,804
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>	\$ 105,924	\$ 0	\$ 105,924
<b>Net assets, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 117,081	\$ 0	\$ 117,081
<b>Net assets, End of Year</b>	\$ 11,157	\$ 0	\$ 11,157

## FY2015 Grant Programs and Sources of Funding

FY2015 was a pivotal year for the Council in that it went through a major staff restructuring and the grant application process went completely online. In the last year and a half the Council hired a new operations manager, grants manager, office coordinator, and began a half-time internship program. The website was totally redesigned and an online application process was launched for all of the Council's eight grant programs. This was both a trying and exciting year for the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

### 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 \$3,000 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 \$750, and the turnaround time for grant notification and payment was approximately 14 working days. This program had ongoing deadlines. (*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. Due to a lack of requests, **The Artist Fund** ceased doing business on June 30, 2015.

- **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 FY2014/15:**

	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>In./Dec</b>
Total number of applications received from arts organizations	108	116	<b>-7%</b>
Total number of applications from arts organizations funded	82	71	<b>15%</b>
Total amount requested by arts organizations	\$506,696	\$543,099	<b>-7%</b>
Total amount awarded to arts organizations	\$382,010	\$338,275	<b>13%</b>
Total number of applications received from individual artists	215	173	<b>24%</b>
Total number of applications from individual artists funded	118	81	<b>46%</b>
Total amount requested by individual artists	\$505,917	\$415,779	<b>22%</b>
Total amount awarded to individual artists	\$240,091	\$162,469	<b>48%</b>

**Summary of grants paid during Fiscal Year 2015**

<b>Grantee:</b>	<b>Total Amount of the Award</b>
Aaron Squadroni	\$3,000.00
Adam Swanson	\$5,850.00
Alberta Marana	\$725.00
Amy Clark	\$420.00
Amy Lucas	\$5,000.00
Amy Woschek Schmidt	\$4,880.00
Andrew Turpening	\$4,800.00

<b>Grantee (continued):</b>	<b>Total Amount of the Award</b>
Angie Frank	\$5,750.00
Anne-Marie Erickson	\$5,000.00
Anthony Ferguson	\$5,000.00
Arna Rennan	\$1,190.00
Arrowhead Chorale	\$15,000.00
Barbara Leuelling	\$2,900.00
Betsy Hunt	\$750.00
Brent Kustermann	\$750.00
Brett Grandson	\$1,870.00
Briand Morrison	\$5,000.00
Brittany Kubes	\$3,000.00
Bryan Hansel	\$1,000.00
Candace LaCosse	\$3,600.00
Carla Hamilton-Eisele	\$750.00
Carolyn S. Olson	\$2,980.00
Catherine Meier	\$5,000.00
Cecilia Lieder	\$2,000.00
Chalk.a.Lot	\$5,000.00
Cheryl Reitan	\$2,980.00
Chris LeBlanc	\$1,660.00
Citizens For Backus	\$5,000.00
Cody Paulson	\$750.00
Cole Perry	\$2,900.00
Cook Area Chamber of Commerce	\$2,600.00
County Seat Theater Company	\$6,000.00
Crystal Gibbins	\$5,000.00
Daniel Neff	\$5,000.00
Darrell S Chosa	\$750.00
Dawn LaPointe	\$2,095.00
Delina White	\$1,020.00
Duluth All Souls Night	\$5,000.00
Duluth Pop-Up Galleries	\$750.00
Duluth Sister Cities International	5,000.00
Duluth Superior Film Festival	\$10,000.00
Echoes of Peace	\$750.00
Edge Center for the Art	\$1,000.00
Elizabeth (Lisa) McKhann	\$750.00
Ely Artwalk	\$4,700.00
Ely Community Resource	\$600.00
Ely Greenstone Public Arts Committee	\$5,000.00
Emily Derke	\$380.00
Emily Moe	\$5,000.00
Eric Dubnicka	\$1,090.00
Eric G. Meyer	\$713.00
Erin Altemus	\$1,680.00
Eun-Kyung Suh	\$2,500.00
Felicia Schneiderhan	\$3,000.00
Florencia Matamoros	\$1,520.00
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	\$650.00
Francine Sterle	\$5,000.00
Friends of B'nai Abraham	\$3,000.00

<b>Grantee (continued):</b>	<b>Total Amount of the Award</b>
Gina Temple-Rhodes	\$4,344.00
Good Harbor Hill Players	\$13,000.00
Grand Marais Arts, Inc.	\$5,000.00
Grand Marais Playhouse	\$5,000.00
Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus	\$4,900.00
Grand Rapids Arts	\$5,710.00
Grand Rapids Players	\$5,000.00
Great River String Ensemble	\$3,640.00
Ice Box Radio Theater	\$5,000.00
Itasca Choral Society/Itasca Community Chorus	\$4,950.00
Itasca County Private Woodland Committee	\$4,000.00
Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program	\$7,910.00
Jaques Art Center	\$5,100.00
Jason Page	\$7,000.00
Jeanette Cox	\$995.00
Jeff Dexheimer	\$2,000.00
Jeffrey Kalstrom	\$750.00
Jeffrey Ruprecht	\$2,000.00
Jeremy Kershaw	\$4,696.00
Jesse Hoheisel	\$2,000.00
Jessica Roeder	\$750.00
Jowllyn Rock	\$3,000.00
Jo Wood	\$1,870.00
John Zasada	\$750.00
Karen Savage-Blue	\$10,000.00
Katherine Sandnas	\$750.00
Kathleen McTavish	\$3,280.00
Kathleen Roberts	\$2,000.00
Kim Garrett	\$3,000.00
Kristina Estell	\$360.00
Kyle Lind	\$720.00
Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra	\$14,800.00
Lake Superior Community Theatre	\$10,565.00
Lake Superior Youth Chorus	\$6,750.00
Lance Karasti	\$2,000.00
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Ball Club Community Center	\$5,000.00
Lily Winter	\$1,190.00
Loretta (Lory) Worthing	\$750.00
Lyric Opera of the North	\$10,000.00
MacRostie Art Center	\$15,750.00
Maria Sippola	\$2,600.00
Mary Plaster	\$750.00
Matinee Musicale	\$6,000.00
Melinda Johnson	\$1,570.00
Mesabi Community Orchestra	\$11,570.00
Michael Nordin	\$750.00
Michelle Matthees	\$3,000.00
Michelle Wegler	\$2,545.00
Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships	\$5,000.00
Nate Johnson	\$3,000.00
Nicole Jerome	\$1,940.00



<b>Grantee (continued):</b>	<b>Total Amount of the Award</b>
North Shore Music Association	\$17,090.00
Northern Lakes Arts Association	\$750.00
Northern Lights Music Festival, Inc.	\$11,000.00
Northwoods Friends of the Arts	\$6,200.00
Pamela Davis	\$750.00
Paula Gudmundson	\$750.00
PK Pestalozzi	\$750.00
Prøve Collective	\$5,000.00
Rachael Kilgour	\$2,750.00
Rachel Johnson	\$3,000.00
Rachel Nelson	\$1,500.00
Range Center Inc./Soho art	\$5,000.00
Renegade Theater Company	\$10,000.00
Ressl Dance!	\$5,000.00
Richard Colburn	\$2,745.00
Roy Misonznick	\$1,870.00
Samuel Miltich	\$750.00
Sasha Howell	\$1,720.00
Sean Elmquist	\$2,000.00
Sharon Vanous	\$2,610.00
Shaunna Heckman	\$1,700.00
Shawna Gilmore	\$7,000.00
Sheila Yrjanainen	\$1,480.00
Sky Blue Jazz Ensemble	\$3,280.00
Spirit Lake Poetry Series	\$5,000.00
Stephanie Mirocha	\$750.00
Susan Hawkinson	\$4,610.00
Teague Alexy	\$3,000.00
The College of St. Scholastica	\$5,000.00
The Ojibway Woman Elder Art Guild	\$750.00
Tim Kaiser	\$1,745.00
Troy Rogers	\$5,750.00
Trudy Vrieze	\$750.00
Twin Ports Wind Ensemble	\$6,000.00
Tyler Kaiser	\$3,000.00
Vermilion Community College	\$750.00
Wendy Savage	\$561.00
Wes Bailey	\$2,580.00
Wise Fool Shakespeare	\$3,090.00
Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community	\$5,750.00
<b>Total Grants Paid</b>	<b>\$576,839.00</b>

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### **Direct Programming Efforts**

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The following direct programming was executed by the ARAC during FY2015:

- 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 by hard copy upon request. The Council continues to increase its use of emails and the website to inform constituents of events of interest, programs, deadlines, and services. During FY2015, the Council hired an intern to revitalize our Facebook page and establish a Twitter account. Establishing this paid internship program has greatly increased the Council's visibility through social

media outlets and has developed an ongoing relationship with the colleges in the region.

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

- 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 website.

**2. Grant writing workshops:** ARAC held seventeen grant writing workshops during FY2015. These workshops were held by the ARAC staff to familiarize constituents with the Council's programs and new online application process. Staff offered regional artists and arts organizations technical assistance in submitting grant applications. Nine 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: Aitkin, Ely, Fond du Lac, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais (twice), International Falls, Two Harbors, and Virginia. ARAC also co-sponsored grant writing workshops by the following organization from outside the region: Nonprofit Assistance Funds, the Cultural Data Project, and Creative Capital.

**3. Technical assistance for individual artists:** 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 offered prior to each program deadline, Staff offered grant writing workshops in the following communities in the region: Aitkin, Ely, Fond du Lac, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais (twice), International Falls, Two Harbors, and Virginia. ARAC developed an excellent calendar of funded events on its website and posts artist funded events, when appropriate. Staff continued to work with [mnartists.org](http://mnartists.org) and has provided assistance to individual artists interested in using the site. The Council's expanded grant programming has increased the one-on-one in-person consultations, electronic communication, and interactions with regional artists.

**4. Scheduling/attending meetings by organizations from inside and outside the region:** In FY2015, 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 staff 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.
- Kolka, grants manager, talked with two writing classes at the University of Minnesota, Duluth about the Council and grant writing.
- DeArmond attended meeting of Arts Align Twin Ports.
- DeArmond took part in Greater Duluth Downtown Council's discussions concerning the role of the arts in the future of Duluth.
- DeArmond met with Forecast Public Art involving the development of a Municipal Arts and Culture Plan for Duluth.
- Kolka, grants manager, was appointed to serve on the Duluth Public Arts Commission's Municipal Arts Plan steering committee.
- DeArmond served on the public art selection committee for the State Government Building in Duluth.
- DeArmond serves on the Sib Adams Arts Fund, Duluth/Superior Area Community Foundation.

**5. Board Retreat:** Due to the staff and Board's decision to go to an online grant application process, a

Board retreat was not held in FY15. The website, grants programs, and services were redesigned to facilitate and compliment the new online grant application process, paperless grant reviews, and board meeting materials. The staff and Board spent the year preparing for a two day facilitated Board retreat which will be held in November of 2015.

- 6. Arrowhead Arts Awards:** The 17th Annual Arts and Cultural Heritage Arrowhead Arts Awards celebration took place in Grand Marais, Minnesota, at the Grand Marais Art Colony on Friday, May 29, 2015, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event 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 Legacy Amendment.

The recipient of FY15's **George Morrison Artist Award** was visual artist and illustrator **Chris Monroe**. Monroe grew up in Duluth but her work has been enjoyed throughout the world. Her comic strips, "Violet Days" and "The Invisible Fence," have been published in the Twin Cities Reader, Star Tribune, The Funny Times, Duluth News Tribune, and Washington D.C.'s "Madcap," as well as several small, independent papers.

Monroe is the author of the award-winning children's book series "Monkey With A Tool Belt," which has received much critical acclaim. She has also illustrated "Totally Uncool," by Janice Levy which won the Best Foreign Picture Book award from the Mianichi Newspaper Association, Tokyo, Japan, and "Big Little Brother" by Kevin Kling. Her illustration work has been used by Dayton Hudson, Coca-Cola, Minnesota Public Radio, Nice Man Inc., Jim Henson Co., and Shaky Ray Records. Her children's titles are published in five languages worldwide.

It has been said that Monroe's illustrations visually define Northern Minnesota's art community for the current generation of artists. Uniquely modern in its content and inspired by the traditional masters, her artwork entertains us in newspapers, magazines, books, and galleries. Her comic art tells a story in five frames while her other artwork explores color, mood, and the isolation of the figure in the landscape. Her work is in the Tweed Museum of Art's permanent collection and has been exhibited in Duluth and around the state.

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 recipient of FY15's **Maddie Simons Advocate Award** was **Amy Demmer**. Demmer, Executive Director of the Grand Marais Art Colony, has transformed the Colony by involving the Board and whole community in the process of its growth.

Demmer moved to Grand Marais in 2006 after working in several communities in Minnesota as well as in Spain, Cuba, and Chile. In Grand Marais she finally felt at home. Demmer believes good work begins on a small scale and creates lasting impact by engaging the community.

In the last five years, Demmer has led the Art Colony through a time of struggle and confusion to where it is today: a true center of art-making for all ages. She built on the organization's strengths while expanding programming into new areas beyond anything previously envisioned. She dramatically increased the variety of mediums being taught and geared the classes to community members. Demmer expanded the class offerings to include instruction in sculpture, book arts, print-making, pottery, glass, and encaustic and sumi-e painting. She opens the pottery studio to artists and community members every fall for Empty Bowls, a fundraising event for the local food shelf. She also encourages students of all ages to work in their well-equipped glass and print studios.

Demmer initiated after-school programs for children during the school year and through the summer. She also initiated a new month-long artist-in-residence program featuring artists such as painter Hazel Belvo and sculptors/printmakers, Lee and Dan Ross. The community is welcome to visit and watch their progress.

Demmer's enthusiasm for the arts, ability to hear and value ideas from others, and skill at focusing ideas into useable programs, have had a major impact on the arts in the Grand Marais community.

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**

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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, Facebook, and website 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. In FY15, ARAC supplied scholarship support to eight individuals in the region to attend the Rural Arts and Cultural Summit in Morris, MN. Three Council staff also attend the Summit.
- 3. Grants Writing Workshops:** Formal or informal sessions were held with artists and arts organizations to assist them in completing ARAC's new online grant application process 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 copies of the economic impact studies for both arts organizations and individual artists.
- 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 website, [www.mnartists.org](http://www.mnartists.org). Requests to access mnartists.org have gone down in the last few years.
- 8. Computer Assistance/Presence:** ARAC maintained a website ([www.aracouncil.org](http://www.aracouncil.org)) which includes information on the Council; its funding programs; an online grant application process; downloadable program guidelines and application forms; a list of recent grants awarded; a calendar of funded events; Council news; and other resources. ARAC's website also includes links to the Minnesota State Arts Board, and The McKnight Foundation. ARAC maintains an active presence on Facebook and is expanding its presence on Twitter.

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 sure that as much funding as possible is available to individual artists and arts organizations so that they can create, produce, or present art.

## **The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council - FY2015 Members List**

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### **County Representatives:**

#### **Aitkin County**

Erling Ellison, Treasurer 6/2017  
9 Fifth Avenue NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

#### **Carlton County**

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

#### **Cook County**

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

#### **Duluth**

#### **Itasca County**

#### **Koochiching County**

Dana Mattice 230 West 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Duluth, MN 55806	6/2016	Tara Makinen 1114 NW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. Grand Rapids, MN 55744	6/2017	<i>Vacant</i>	
<b>Lake County</b> Michelle Ronning 1203 Ronning Drive Two Harbors, MN 55616	6/2015	<b>St. Louis County</b> Jan Carey, Chair 403 Highland Drive Hibbing, MN 55746	6/2017	<b>Student Ad Hoc</b> Moira Villiard 305 Ridge Road Cloquet, MN 55720	6/2015
<b>At-Large Members</b> John Gregor 2437 Hwy. 3 Two Harbors, MN 55616	6/2016	Adam Guggemos 602 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. E., #A Duluth, MN 55805	6/2015	Peter Pestalozzi 1568 McMahan Boulevard Ely, MN 55731	6/2015
David Beard 2011 Jefferson St., Lower Apt. Duluth, MN 55812	6/2017	Ken Bloom, Vice Chair 521 N. 19 ½ Avenue West Duluth, MN 55806	6/2016	Kate Fitzgerald 416 West 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Grand Marais, MN 55604	6/2015
Catherine Meier 1915 Woodland Avenue Duluth, MN 55803	6/2017				
<b>Staff:</b>					
Robert DeArmond, Exec. Director		Erin Turner, Operations Manager		Ashley Kolka, Grants Manager	
Steve Wick, Office Coordinator (Started 10-15-15)		Joni Van Bockel, Media Intern (Started 6-15-15)		Tom Moriarty, Media Intern (Left 6-19-15)	

## Arts and Cultural Heritage Individual Artist Fellowship Panel for FY2015

**Dana Mattice**, Development and Communications Director of the Duluth Art Institute; Duluth.

**Peter Pestalozzi**, furniture maker and wood worker; Ely.

**Dr. Linda Grover**, Professor of American Indian Studies and published author; Duluth.

**Kathy McTavish**, cellist and video artist; Duluth.

**Karen Sunderman**, filmmaker and producer at WDSE; Duluth.

**Crystal Pelkey**, theater actor, director, and manager; Duluth.

## Narrative Summary of Goals and Objectives

This is the narrative summary of the goals and objectives as stated in ARAC's FY2015 biennial plan.

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

- a. ARAC has 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 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 and discussed possible changes for the new biennium.
- b. ARAC did not change any of its grant programs for FY15 because the year was spent getting all the grant programs into the new online grant application process.
- 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. \$32,978 was available in this program and was awarded to individual artists and arts organizations by the last week in May, 2015. The program was

shut down between May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The amount available in this program was increased by 18% and the Council ran out of funding 11 months into the fiscal year. In FY15, ARAC funded 66% of the applications received. In FY14, ARAC funded 41% of the applications received.

2. ARAC administered the **Art Project** grant program which awarded \$132,090 to arts organizations in the region; the **Rural and Community Art** grant program which awarded \$94,500 to arts organizations outside of Duluth; and the **Career Development** grant program which awarded \$90,992 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 offers support to stabilize the administration and programming of existing arts organizations.
  1. ARAC administered the **Two-Year Operating Support Grant Program** which awarded \$93,840 to arts organizations in the region. This program continues to focus on the mandates in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment. The amount that could be requested was \$12,000 over the two-years. The program included funding for 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 **Quick Start, McKnight/ARAC Career Development and Artist Fellowship** grant programs which awarded \$175,220 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 and were funded at twice the percentage of the ethnic population in the Arrowhead region.
  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 through December 31, 2015, when it ceased doing business. 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 through December 31, 2015, when it ceased doing business. 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 did not develop any new grant programs in FY15. It was important to not making any changes as the programs were moved into an online application process.
  1. The staff and Board increased funding in the **Technology/Equipment** grant program to better address the increased number of applications received. Applications to this program doubled in each of the three years of its existence. This program was developed to help individual artists acquire the technology necessary to sustain and/or advance their careers.

2. Staff brought in the following groups to present resources and addresses sustainability issues for regional arts organizations and artists: the **Cultural Data Project, Nonprofit Assistance Funds, the Cultural Data Project, Creative Capital, and Minnesota Fringe Festival.**
- d. ARAC staff worked with the Public Relations Committee and web designer to complete the redesign of the website. The website 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 the region by actively encouraging applications from arts groups and organizations doing programming that celebrates our region's diversity, and by encouraging applications from artists of color. In FY2015, the Council received 57 applications from culturally diverse artists and arts organizations, which represent 18% of the total applications received. This is an increase of 316% over FY14. The most recent US Census shows the minority population of the Arrowhead Region to be just under 7% of the region's total population. Of the 57 applications received, the Council funded 32. Staff held a grant writing workshop on the Fond du Lac Reservation in Cloquet, MN, and numerous artists of color attended grant writing workshops in other locations.
- 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 celebrating community and cultural identity through artistic programming.
  2. ARAC administered the **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning** grant program which awarded \$71,490 to regional arts organizations and artists. This program supported several artistic and culturally diverse activities.
  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 750 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 150 grantees and/or prospective grantees.
    - c. Attended in excess of 75 activities by arts organizations or did site visits upon request. Logged at least 40 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 website to assist organizations.
    - h. Provided reference and digital materials and referral information.
    - i. Made contact with at least 100 arts organizations around the region.

- j. Held organizational grant writing workshops and informational meetings in eight communities in the region and held technical assistance sessions in the ARAC meeting room, in Duluth, two weeks prior to each grant deadline.
- b. ARAC's Public Relations Committee develop at least two strategies to increase ARAC's visibility in the region.
  - 1. ARAC created a Facebook page and Twitter account to create visibility through social media.
  - 2. ARAC create a printed brochure that was placed in libraries, given to arts organizations and distributed to high visibility locations around the region.
  - 3. ARAC created a banner to compliment the Legacy Amendment banner for use and workshops and events.
  - 4. ARAC purchase print ads in publications by regional arts organizations in the regions. Print ads were placed in: the Grand Rapids Players yearly program; the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra's Season 2015-16 program; the Duluth Art Institute's newsmagazine; the Duluth Superior Film Festival's program; Homegrown's program; and the Duluth Superior Pride Guide.
  - 5. ARAC produced name tags for Board members to wear when attending ARAC funded events.
  - 6. DeArmond was interviewed on the "Playlist," Duluth Public Television, concerning the Council and it programs.
- 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. DeArmond was a member of the steering committee and attended the Rural Arts and Culture Summit held in Morris, MN in June of 2015.
  - 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 35 instances of advocating for paying fair wages to artists when advising applicants requesting organizational project support.
  - 2. Logged at least 25 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 40 instances where staff advocated for fair market wages in consultation with applicants.
  - 4. Established a suggested minimum value of labor for artists of \$24 per hour that is included in the guidelines for each of the Council's grant programs.
- 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.
    - ✓ ARAC offered funding to assist four communities in the region to commission a ***Creative Minnesota: The Health and Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Sector*** study for their community or county.
  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 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Arts and Cultural Heritage Arrowhead Arts Awards** to Amy Demmer and Chris Monroe in Grand Marais, 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 evaluated the effectiveness of suggesting the development of appropriate promotional strategies for funded events in all the grant program guidelines.
    2. Staff advocated the development of appropriate promotional strategies during personal contacts and grant writing workshops.
    3. ARAC launched a calendar on its website to promote funded throughout the region.
  - e. Staff encouraged regional organizations to list their events with [martists.org](http://martists.org).
  - 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 website 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 Biennial Work Plan for FY2016/17 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 FY2015.
- 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 website that includes organizational information, programs, guidelines, online application process, 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 (less is collected since most is now available online).

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 89 applications to the six grant deadlines in FY2015. \$298,080 was awarded to 65 applicants, or 73%.
- b. Fifteen of the grantees, or 23% of the awarded applicants, did projects that interacted with students.
- c. Thirty one of the grantees, or 47% of the awarded applicants, did projects that interacted with community members ranging in age from children to adults.
- d. Thirty of the grantees, or 46% 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 FY2015, ARAC increased the funding available through its **Rural and Community Art** grant program by 13%.
- b. The new online grant application process enable the Council to appropriately articulate the differences between the **Art Project** and **Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Arts Learning** grant programs.

**Outcomes/Measurements:**

- a. The number of applications received that increased their involvement with their community increased by 22% over FY14.
- b. The number of applications received from non-traditional arts organizations increased by 15% over FY14.
- c. Funded projects in FY2015 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.**

**Outcomes/Measurements:**

- a. The **Two-Year Operating Support** grant program received twelve applications and was able to fund eight, or 66% of the applications. This was a 1% increase in the number of applications received in FY2014.
- b. Of the funded **Two-Year Operating Support** grant recipients, most indicated that the grant support was being requested for staffing along with other training and facility expenses necessary to stabilize their organization.

- c. 62% 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 in the Direct Programming Efforts section of this report.

**Outcomes/Measurements:**

- a. The seventeenth annual Arrowhead Arts Awards ceremony was attended by 75 individuals.
- b. The two award recipients were very pleased to be recognized for their contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region and beyond.
- c. This year the two award recipients receive an award in the shape of a glass bowl made by Two Harbor's artist Michael Tonder.

**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 Review Process/Planning Committee met seven times to review the existing programs and services; the online application process; the new staffing structure; and to prepare for a two day Board Retreat in FY16.

**Outcomes/Measurements:**

- a. The staff continued to refine its existing grant programs as the online application process was put into place.
- b. In FY2015, ARAC received 34 more applications than the total number of applications received in FY2014. The amount of funding requested also increased by \$53,735 over the amount requested in FY2014.

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

The Legacy Tax Amendment continues to be a major portion of ARAC's annual budget. Legacy funding 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 strengthened ARAC's ability to address the needs of communities and the arts throughout the Arrowhead Region.

In FY2015, ARAC reviewed **108** 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 FY2015, ARAC reviewed **215** 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 **323** applications in all of its granting programs. This is **34** more applications than were reviewed in FY2014.

In FY2015, ARAC awarded **82**, or **76%**, of the applications in its five grant programs for arts organizations. In FY2015, ARAC awarded **118**, or **54%**, of the applications to its five grant programs for individual artists. ARAC awarded a total of **200** applications in all of its granting programs. This represents a **32%** increase in the number of applications awarded over FY2014.

It is estimated that FY2015 funded projects by arts organizations will service **2,493** artists and reach an audience of **80,922** individuals through **223** performances. This represents a decrease of **3%** in the number of artists served, a decrease of **52%** in the number of audience members reached, and a **58%** increase in the number of performances than funded in FY2014. It is estimated that FY2015 funded grants to individual artists will service **349** artists and reach an audience of **354,952** individuals through **120** opportunities. This represents an increase of **6%** in the number of artists served, a **34%** decrease in the number of audience members reached, and an **18%** decrease in the number of performances than funded in FY2014. ARAC awarded a total of **\$547,105** in State General and Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds in its eight grant programs in FY2015, an increase of **27%** from FY2014.

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.

Prior to the passage of the Legacy Tax Amendment, small and rural arts organizations were struggling and unwilling to take chances in their programming. The uncertain climate in the region's economy makes ARAC's support of regional artists and arts organizations critical to the vibrant arts scene in the Arrowhead Region. In the recent **Creative MN** study, the economic impact of the arts community in the Arrowhead is second only to the Metro region. The Legacy Tax Amendment funding enabled the 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 and staff to individual artists and arts organizations upon request. There were over 1,600 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.

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### **Summary in Support of the 10% for Children Legislation**

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During FY2015, the Council reviewed **118** applications to programs for arts organizations which included State funds and awarded funding to **86**. The primary focus of **21** of the funded applications is children and **18** other funded applications encourage youth involvement as either a participant or audience member. This number of applications represents **33%** of the total applications received and **45%** of the applications funded. State funded applicants estimated that their activities will reach **70,852** 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.

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### **Summary of the Monitoring and Evaluating of Grants**

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Staff reviews, logs and files all reports.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - If there is a problem, staff contacts the applicant and attempts to resolve the situation.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 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 FY2015, staff conducted one appeal 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.**

**ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**  
**Board of Directors for FY2016**

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Erling Ellison  
9 Fifth Avenue N.W.  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
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County: Aitkin  
Theater/Visual Arts  
Terms: 6/2014:6/2017  
[ottercreations@charter.net](mailto:ottercreations@charter.net)

Ann Russ  
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Music  
Terms: 6/2016:6/2019  
[russ@boreal.org](mailto:russ@boreal.org)

Tara Makinen  
1114 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW  
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Michelle Ronning  
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