



**MSAB/LRAC
FY 15 FINAL REPORT**

AUTHORED BY:

Maxine Adams, Executive Director
For second year of a two year grant
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Date submitted: 09/2015

Lake Region Arts Council Fiscal Year 2015 Final Report

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Message from the Director:

Fiscal year 2015 was the sixth year that the Lake Region Arts Council received Arts & Cultural Heritage funding. This additional source of funding has made a huge impact on the grants and services we offered our constituents. Please note that we have split our reporting into two separate focuses, one for the Base Legislative appropriate and one for the Arts & Cultural Heritage funding, to more easily report the differences between the two sources of funding.

We are excited and encouraged to have this opportunity to report on the growth that the Lake Region Arts Council has experienced this past year.

2015 Lake Region Arts Council activities:

- The LRAC partnered with VSA to offer a special Legacy grant to arts organizations for increasing their handicap accessibility.
- The LRAC awarded second Arts Legacy City Grants to Battle Lake, bringing the number of cities in the LRAC region, receiving the designation of “Arts Legacy City” to eight. These cities have changed their city government structure to include an arts advisory committee.
- This year the LRAC Board implemented a strategic, long range goal of broadening our concept of providing grants and services. The Board is supportive of the concept that LRAC is part of a statewide arts support system and more emphasis was placed on connecting artists and arts organizations in our region with statewide resources, not just what is available through LRAC. The FY15 activities that support this goal are; the Aug. 16, 2014 Arts Resource Fair, and Artist Work Sample Improvement Project.

— Maxine Adams, Executive Director

GRANT PROGRAMS

During fiscal year 2015, the Lake Region Arts Council awarded grants as shown below. A detailed listing of all grants awarded is included with this report. (Attachment B)

Summary of Grants Awarded

<u>Grant Program:</u>	<u># Req.</u>	<u># Fnd.</u>	<u>\$ Req.</u>	<u>\$ Funded</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
Project Grants	27	22	\$57,830	\$44,200	81.5%
Operating Support Grants	13	12	\$47,700	\$41,700	92.3%
*Legacy Grants, Individual	17	9	\$121,870	\$57,994	53%
*Legacy Grants, Organizations	41	21	\$394,430	\$190,389	51%
*Career Development	21	8	\$24,900	\$9,040	38%
*Artist Quick Start Grant	13	6	\$9,750	\$4,500	46%
*Fellowships	10	1	\$50,000	\$5,000	10%
*Artist Mentor Program	17	16	\$10,200	\$9,6000	94%
Totals:	159	95	\$716,680	\$362,432	60%

This year 60% of the requests were funded, down from 64% in FY 14 and 50 % of the dollars requested were funded, down from 56% in FY14.

These figures indicate that we are not able to sufficiently meet the need that exists. This inability to adequately fund the requests we receive has existed since these statistics have been tracked beginning in 1999.

OTHER SERVICES

Website: The LRAC website has seen a significant increase in its usage this year. All grant applicants are now directed to our website to access our online grant application

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process. Visitors to the website may access any of your services such as the Arts Calendar, Artist Registry, Newsletter, Workshop registration and information on our Galleries. Constituents reported in the satisfaction survey that they highly value this resource. In FY15 there were 33,536 total page views for the website.

Arts Calendar: An online, interactive, searchable listing of arts events and opportunities for artists and arts organizations. There have been 7912 page views in FY14 down from 12,298 views in FY 14. Decreased use of the Calendar will be addressed in FY16 with a revamp of this feature to make it more user friendly.

Monthly newsletter: The monthly newsletter, Art Headlines was sent via email to a mailing list of 1,596 households compared to 1,487 households in FY 14. An issue of the Art Headlines is included with this report.

Facebook: LRAC's Facebook page helps promote our grants, services and arts activities. The Facebook Page also appears on our website and has a viewership of over 211,000 individuals, plus the page now has 4,900 "likes". We have started offering artists the opportunity to use our Facebook page to promote their events and performances. Because of our large reach, this allows the artists to reach more people than they normally would on their own.

Artist Registry: Through the LRAC website artists can now apply and upload work sample images online. The Artist Registry may now be accessed and searched by the public online. There have been 7,606 page views in FY 15, compared to 6,917 in FY 14. At the end of FY 15 there were 162 individual artists listed.

Technical Assistance: The LRAC staff provided technical assistance and site visits to arts organizations in and beyond the region. This assistance was offered through consulting in the office, site visits, and by phone.

Workshops: The LRAC provided ten grant writing workshops, one prior to every grant round. The LRAC provided the following workshops, MN Artists Workshop, Minnesota Theatre Alliance workshop, Costume Design Workshop and Janelle Sundberg Watercolor Portrait Workshop. Five scholarships to attend the Lake Region Writers Conference and 10 scholarships to the Rural Arts and Cultural Summit. All feedback on the satisfaction and impact of the workshops, 95% of participants reported meeting or exceeding their expectations.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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OTHER SERVICES, Cont.

Artist Work Sample Improvement Project: In FY 15 LRAC worked with 30 artists to improve their work sample photographs by providing photo sessions with professional photographers and classes on how to take your own work sample photographs. 85.7% of those responding to the satisfaction survey reported that the quality of their work samples had improved and 57% reported they had taken action and used the new work samples to further their career goals.

BIENNIAL PLAN FY 14-15 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The LRAC goals, as specified in the FY 14-15 Biennial Work Plan, regarding both the Base Legislative appropriation and the Arts and Cultural Heritage funding, are dealt with separately in this final report. Each of the two work plans has a corresponding outcome evaluation report. The base legislative appropriation work plan and outcome evaluation is presented first, pages 7-9, followed by the Arts and Cultural Heritage work plan and outcome evaluation on pages 10-12.

These goals are in addition to the ongoing provision of grant programs, technical assistance, and other services such as grant writing workshops, the monthly newsletter, resource information, and technical services.



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Biennial Goals FY 2014-15, Base Legislative Appropriation :

Five goals with accompanying objectives were adopted to accomplish our mission and address the organizational and individual artist needs through our base legislative appropriation.

I. Goal: Provide financial and technical support to artists.

Objective A: Provide Career Development, Artist Quick Start, and Fellowship grants to individual artists.

Objective B: Offer artist registry, Art Headlines newsletter, resource library, LRAC Gallery, LRAC website, and workshops for artists.

Objective C: Increase regional awareness of LRAC grants and services.

II. Goal: Provide financial and technical support to organizations.

Objective A: Offer Project, Operating Support, and Organizational Small grants to organizations.

Objective B: Offer artist registry, Art Headlines newsletter, resource library, LRAC website, and workshops for organizations.

Objective C: Increase regional awareness of LRAC grants and services.

III. Goal: Maintain strong communication between LRAC and the MN Legislature.

Objective A: Keep region's Legislators informed about current activities and issues.

Objective B: Support Arts Advocacy Day.

Objective C: Maintain memberships in Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and Americans for the Arts.

IV. Goal: Respond pro-actively to increases in requests for grants and services

Objective A: Implement a multi-faceted funding plan that include earned income strategies.

Objective B: Investigate the best use of available technology and implement when appropriate.

V. Goal: Act as responsible stewards of public funds.

Objective A: In FY 14-15 work with our arts delivery partners to develop a strategic plan for best use of the amendment funding, based on feedback from the state's citizens.

Objective B: Develop methods to increase our system's level of accountability, including but not limited to peer review, checks and balances, and public involvement.

Objective C: Maintain a strong and highly functional Board of Directors.

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Outcome Evaluation Base Legislative Appropriation:

I. Goal: Provide financial and technical support to artists.

II. Goal: Provide financial and technical support to organizations.

A. In FY14 and FY15, of those receiving grants and services from the LRAC, 75% will indicate that their project was artistically successful, reached the target constituency and had community impact. This will be measured by the final reports.

Results: 100% of the grantees indicated that their projects met or exceeded their project goals to be artistically successful, reach the target constituency and have community impact.

III. Goal: Maintain strong communication between LRAC and the MN Legislature.

A. In FY14 and FY15 there will be at least 5 staff and constituent interactions with each of the LRAC legislators. This will be measured by letters, emails and phone calls from staff and constituents, attendance at Arts Advocacy Day and responses to calls for action from Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

Results: There were 15 direct contacts with legislators. Announcements of grants awarded in their districts after each grant round, monthly newsletters, invitation to Aug. 16 Arts Resource Fair Big Check Awards, Arts Advocacy Day and a post Arts Advocacy Day thank you card.

IV. Goal: Respond pro-actively to increases in requests for grants and services

A. In FY14 and FY 15 LRAC will continue implementing new funding source strategies with a goal of adding a minimum of \$5,000 in extra revenue per biennium year.

Results: In FY 15, LRAC discontinued the Six Word Short Story writing contest based on the minimal return for the time and resources needed to run the contest. LRAC will continue to pursue other funding opportunities, but will not prioritize such activities in the FY16-17 Biennial Plan.

B. In FY15, the LRAC will achieve a 95% rate of online grant submissions vs. paper grant submissions. This will be measured by the LRAC data base.

Results: 100% online grant submissions vs. paper grants was achieved in FY15. In addition, final reports are now submitted online.

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(cont.) Outcome Evaluation Base Legislative Appropriation:

V. Goal: Act as responsible stewards of public funds.

A. In FY14 and FY15, 75% of constituents will signify a satisfaction level of acceptable to superior when asked if the LRAC has acted as responsible stewards of the public funds they administer. This will be measured by a constituent survey.

Results: Based on FY13 Needs Survey, 95% reported they felt LRAC had either, achieved, exceeded, or highly exceeded accountability as responsible stewards of the public funds they administer.

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Biennial Goals FY 2014-15, Arts and Cultural Heritage fund :

Five goals with accompanying objectives were adopted to accomplish our mission and address the organizational and individual artist needs through our Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

I. Goal: Increase Access to the Arts by supporting Minnesota artists and arts organizations in creating, producing, and presenting high-quality arts activities; to overcome barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities; and to instill the arts into the community and public life in this state.

Objective A: Provide financial support to eligible individual artists and organizations for activities that support access to the arts.

II. Goal: Increase Art Education by supporting life long learning and appreciation of the arts, including but not exclusive to K-12 activities.

Objective A: Provide financial support to eligible individual artists and organizations for activities that support life long Arts Education.

III. Goal: Increase Arts & Cultural Heritage activities by supporting events and activities that represent the diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this state.

Objective A: Provide financial support to eligible individual artists and organizations for activities that support arts and cultural heritage.

IV. Goal: Provide Services and Support to individuals and organizations that provide arts activities in our region.

Objective A: Provide Publicity/Public Awareness services to support and increase the visibility and understanding of the arts.

Objective B: Provide networking opportunities to share best practices and build relationships.

Objective C: Provide workshops to increase knowledge and expertise of individual artists and organizations.

Objective D: Provide individualized support through one on one meetings with LRAC staff to explore how to best utilize Arts & Cultural Heritage funds.

Objective E: Provide an Arts Resource Fair, to help connect artists to statewide resources.

Objective F: Provide opportunity for artists to improve their work sample photographs to increase the likelihood that they will be selected for grants and exhibition opportunities.

V. Goal: Achieve Accountability of Arts and Culture Fund by acting as responsible stewards of public funds.

Objective A: Work with our arts delivery partners to develop and refine a strategic plan for best use of the amendment funding, based on feedback from the state's citizens.

Objective B: Develop methods to increase our system's level of accountability, including but not limited to: peer review, checks and balances, and public involvement.

Objective C: Maintain a strong and highly functional Board of Directors.

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Outcome Evaluation Arts and Cultural Heritage fund :

I. Goal: Increase Access to the Arts by supporting Minnesota artists and arts organizations in creating, producing, and presenting high-quality arts activities; to overcome barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities; and to instill the arts into the community and public life in this state.

II. Goal: Increase Art Education by supporting life long learning and appreciation of the arts, including but not exclusive to K-12 activities.

III. Goal: Increase Arts & Cultural Heritage activities by supporting events and activities that represent the diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this state.

For Goals I, II, III:

A. In FY15, of those receiving grants and services from the LRAC, 75% will indicate that their project was artistically successful, reached the target constituency, and had community impact. This will be measured by the final reports.

Results: Overall, of those who have completed final reports, 86-100% felt the project's goals were either met or exceeded.

IV. Goal: Provide Services and Support to individuals and organizations that provide arts activities in our region.

A. In FY15, the LRAC will provide publicity/public awareness services to minimum of 15 grant recipients. This will result in an increased awareness of the arts in the LRAC region. This will be measured by staff tracking of publicity releases.

Results: Through the LRAC newsletter, arts calendar, Face Book, publicity releases, and website, LRAC provided publicity for 40 grant recipients.

B. In FY 14-15 the LRAC will provide resources for arts organizations and artists to attend a minimum of 2 networking opportunities with 75% attendees responding that they were impacted favorable.

Results: LRAC provided scholarships to the Rural Arts and Cultural Summit, and hosted two meetings of the MN Theatre Alliance, three networking meetings for area textile and fiber artists. 85% of those attending responded that they were impacted favorably by their attendance.

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(cont.) Outcome Evaluation Arts and Cultural Heritage fund :

IV. Goal: Provide Services and Support to individuals and organizations that provide arts activities in our region.

C. In FY 14-15 LRAC will provide resources for arts organizations and artists to attend a minimum of 2 workshop opportunities, through scholarships or by holding workshops, with 75% attendees responding that they were impacted favorable. This will be measured by an exit survey.

Results: In FY15, LRAC offered The LRAC provided ten grant writing workshops, one prior to every grant round. The LRAC provided the following workshops, MN Artists Workshop, Costume Design Workshop and Janelle Sundberg Watercolor Portrait Workshop. Of the 72 participants responding to post surveys, 80-100% responded either good or excellent that the workshops were useful to them.

D. In FY 14-15 there will be a minimum of 20 individual support meetings held with constituents interested in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, 75% of constituents will indicate that these meetings were beneficial. This will be measured by a constituent survey.

Results: In FY15, there were 318 individual support meetings by appointment and by phone with constituents interested in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund compared to 181 in FY14 In FY15 90% felt that the support was highly beneficial.

E. FY 15 LRAC will provide an Arts Resource Fair, to help connect artists to statewide resources. Event will be attended by 100 artists and 10 statewide arts organizations, with a 75% satisfaction rate of those attending.

Results: The Arts Resource Fair was held Aug. 16, 2014 with 121 artists and 16 statewide arts organizations attending. Of those responding to the post survey, 97% of artists and 100% of organizations said they would attend again. Of all the activities and program that LRAC did in FY 15 the Arts Resource Fair was the most successful. Due to the significant investment of time and resources the next Arts Resource Fair will be scheduled in June of 2016 and be a biennial event.

F. In FY 15 LRAC will provide the opportunity for a minimum of 10 artists to improve their work sample photographs to increase the likelihood that they will be selected for grants and exhibition opportunities with 75% of participants.

Results: 26 artists participated in photo shoots with professional photographers, workshops on how to photograph your work and building a portfolio. 56% reported that their work samples improved or greatly improved and 57% reported that they had already used their new work samples to further their careers.

V. Goal: Achieve Accountability of Arts and Culture Fund by acting as responsible stewards of public funds.

A. In FY14-15, 75% of constituents will signify a satisfaction level of acceptable to superior when asked if the LRAC has acted as responsible stewards of the public funds they administer. This will be measured by a constituent survey.

Results: Based on the FY13 Needs survey, of the constituents surveyed, 95% reported they felt LRAC had either achieved, exceeded, or highly exceeded as responsible stewards of the public funds they administer.

Financial reports are included for the General Legislative appropriation, Arts & Cultural Heritage funding, and The McKnight Foundation funding (Attachments A).

SUMMARY OF ALL GRANTS AWARDED

A complete listing of all grants awarded by LRAC in FY15 (Attachment B).

BOARD AND STAFF

Board Member and Staff information:

Rosters of Council and staff members, a list of Council committees and Council member biographical information are included with this report (Attachments D and E).

LRAC FY 2015 Biennial Expenses

Revenues

- 1. State of Minnesota (Gen. & Arts & Cult. Heritage)
- 2. McKnight Foundation
- 3. Other Income-
- 4. Interest
- 5. Total Revenues**

Expenses

Program & Services

6. Grant Programs and Services

- Project grants -Gen. Allocation
- Artist Mentor prog. Costs-Gen.
- Operating Support grants-Gen. Allocation
- Arts Access-ACHF
- Arts Ed.-ACHF
- Arts/Cult. Heritage-ACHF
- Career Dev.-McK
- Artist Small grants-McK
- Fellowship- McK
- Arts Legacy City grants/Handicap Access
- Base OpSup Suppliment
- Artist Mentor Suppliment

7. Grant Programs & Services, Operations & Support

8. Subtotal Grant Programs & Services

9. Non grant Prog./Serv.

- McK Gallery
- McK Springboard Satellite office
- Workshops
- Public Awareness ACHF
- Grant review meetings
- Staff Training Gen./ACHF/McK

10. Non grant Prog./Serv. (Operations& Support)

Other

11. Subtotal Non-grant Programs & Services

12. Total Programs & Services

13. Fundraising

14. General Administration

15. Total Expenses

Balance

Gen. Allocat.	Arts Access	Arts Ed.	Arts/Cult.	McKnight	Total FY2015
128852.00	374,056.00	65459.00	28055.00		596422.00
				60000.00	60000.00
					0
					0
128852.00	374,056.00	65459.00	28055.00	60000.00	656422.00
44200.00					44200.00
6118.00					6118.00
18800.00					18800.00
	165,600.00				165600.00
		30715.00			30715.00
			15421.00		15421.00
				8500.00	8500.00
				4500.00	4500.00
				5000.00	5000.00
	35,759.00				35759.00
	18,960.00	3318.00	1422.00		23700.00
		5264.00			5264.00
32181.50	71,299.20	12477.36	5347.44	3218.00	124523.50
101299.50	291,618.20	51774.36	22190.44	21218.00	3188000.00
				17430.00	17430.00
				12984.00	12984.00
0.00	13,590.40	2378.32	1019.28		16988.00
	25,628.00	4484.90	1922.10		32035.00
4745.00	2,587.20	452.76	194.04	2124.00	10103.00
260.00	1,464.80	256.34	109.86	65.00	2156.00
5349.50	24,921.60	4361.28	1869.12	2077.00	38578.50
	239.00	0.00	0.00	97.00	336.00
10354.50	68,192.00	11933.60	5114.40	34680.00	130274.50
111654.00	359,810.20	63707.96	27304.84	55898.00	618375.00
				703.00	703.00
12147.00	8,549.60	1496.18	641.22	4523.00	27357.00
123801.00	368,598.80	65204.14	27946.06	61221.00	646771.00
5051.00	5,457.20	254.86	108.94	-1221.00	9651.00

FY 2015 GRANT APPLICATIONS BY PROGRAM - Summary of annual report proofing spreadsheet

8/24/2015

		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	ACHF AAA	ACHF AE	ACHF CH	State	Other
		Source of Funds											
Regional Arts Council 04													
Artist Mentor Program													
= 17	Applications	17	17	17	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$0					
= 16	Eligible Applications	16	16	16	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$0					
= 16	Grants	16	16	16	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$0				\$9,600	
											\$9,600	Total source of funds	
Artist Quick Start													
= 13	Applications	16	2,850	2,850	\$9,750	\$4,650	\$13,290	\$1,420					
= 13	Eligible Applications	12	2,350	2,350	\$9,000	\$4,650	\$12,290	\$1,170					
= 7	Grants	10	1,150	1,150	\$5,250	\$4,650	\$8,650	\$1,280					\$4,500
											Grant not equal to Source of Funds	\$4,500	Total source of funds
Career Development													
= 21	Applications	85	1,885	1,885	\$24,520	\$9,040	\$32,480	\$7,990					
= 18	Eligible Applications	82	1,885	1,885	\$20,920	\$9,040	\$25,110	\$4,220					
= 8	Grants	27	1,110	1,110	\$9,240	\$9,040	\$10,770	\$1,560					\$9,040
											\$9,040	Total source of funds	
Fall Project													
= 9	Applications	65	4,825	4,825	\$21,405	\$15,455	\$54,985	\$15,650					
= 8	Eligible Applications	25	3,825	3,825	\$18,405	\$15,455	\$45,885	\$15,650					
= 7	Grants	24	1,325	1,325	\$15,455	\$15,455	\$40,935	\$11,650					\$15,455
											\$15,455	Total source of funds	

FY 2015 GRANT APPLICATIONS BY PROGRAM - Summary of annual report proofing spreadsheet

8/24/2015

		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	Source of Funds			State	Other
									ACHF AAA	ACHF AE	ACHF CH		
Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage													
= 58	Applications	1,145	23,882	23,882	\$516,300	\$255,982	\$829,350	\$145,080					
= 54	Eligible Applications	749	22,627	22,627	\$452,100	\$255,982	\$744,250	\$112,650					
= 33	Grants	426	15,470	15,470	\$307,810	\$255,982	\$594,410	\$104,270	\$203,978	\$30,164	\$14,350		
										Grant not equal to Source of Funds		\$248,492	Total source of funds
McKnight Fellowship													
= 10	Applications	84	2,051	2,051	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$0					
= 10	Eligible Applications	84	2,051	2,051	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$0					
= 1	Grants	1	0	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0					\$5,000
										\$5,000	Total source of funds		
Operating Support													
= 13	Applications	781	6,950	6,950	\$47,850	\$41,700	\$685,404	\$0					
= 12	Eligible Applications	756	6,450	6,450	\$41,850	\$41,700	\$614,405	\$0					
= 12	Grants	756	6,450	6,450	\$41,850	\$41,700	\$614,405	\$0					\$41,700
										\$41,700	Total source of funds		
Spring Project													
= 18	Applications	286	8,296	8,296	\$36,425	\$28,745	\$162,390	\$16,800					
= 15	Eligible Applications	268	7,185	7,185	\$28,745	\$28,745	\$146,290	\$10,300					
= 15	Grants	268	7,185	7,185	\$28,745	\$28,745	\$146,290	\$10,300					\$28,745
										\$28,745	Total source of funds		

FY 2015 GRANT APPLICATIONS BY PROGRAM - Summary of annual report proofing spreadsheet

8/24/2015

		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	ACHF AAA	Source of Funds			State	Other
									ACHF AE	ACHF CH				
Regional Arts Council 04														
= 159	Applications	2,479	50,756	50,756	\$715,850	\$370,172	\$1,837,499	\$186,940						
= 146	Eligible Apps	1,992	46,389	46,389	\$630,620	\$370,172	\$1,647,830	\$143,990						
= 99	Grants	1,528	32,706	32,706	\$422,950	\$370,172	\$1,430,060	\$129,060	\$203,978	\$30,164	\$14,350	\$95,500	\$18,540	
										Grant not equal to Source of Funds	\$362,532	Total source of funds		

Certifications

Data reviewed and information is accurate.

Maxine Adams 9/8/15
signature of RAC staff member date

Data reviewed; refer to corrections in annual report proofing spreadsheet.

Maxine Adams 9/8/15
signature of RAC staff member date

Arts Board database updated per corrections in annual report proofing spreadsheet.

Juli [Signature] 8/24/2015
signature of Arts Board staff member date

Lake Region Arts Council

March 2015 Art Headlines

Dear Maxine,

Save the Date: March 19

A new study on the health and impact of the nonprofit arts and culture sector will be released at 11:00 AM on March 19, 2015, by the Lake Region Arts Council and Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. The presentation of the results will be made at the West Central Initiative offices at 1000 Western Ave. in Fergus Falls, followed by a discussion of the economic impact of the arts in the region. Lunch will be provided to attendees, so please RSVP to ian@mncitizensforthearts.org

IMPACT ON ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT



LRAC Work Sample Improvement Project



The Lake Region Arts Council is offering artists who live in our nine-county region, several opportunities to improve their work sample photography and to learn how to promote their art.

Free photo shoots. Take advantage of the opportunity to have a professional photographer take photos of your artwork. These high-quality images may be used to apply for grants, enter juried art exhibits or juried art festivals. These free appointments are limited and are first come, first considered. You MUST register!

Register by clicking here.

- Clay County, Mark Anthony, Fri. April 10, 10 am-5 pm, at 806 NP Av. #302, Fargo ND

- Fergus Falls, Holly Diestler, Sat. April 18, 10 am-4 pm at Kaddatz Gallery, 111 W. Lincoln Ave.

Free classes:

"Photographing Your Own Art Work" covers all you need to know about lighting, composition, and working with your camera to take better photos of your artwork. These free classes are limited and are first come, first considered.

[Register by clicking here.](#)

- Alexandria, Mar. 7, 9:30 am -11:30, 1204 Nokomis Northeast,
- Clay Co., Fri. Apr. 17, 1-3 pm, at 806 NP Av. #302, Fargo, ND
- Fergus Falls, Sat. Apr. 4, 1-3 pm at Kaddatz Gallery, 111 W. Lincoln

"Your Promotional Tool Kit", will be presented by Springboard for the Arts and will cover building a portfolio, writing an artist resume, artist statement, and choosing your work samples. These free classes are limited and are first come, first considered. [Register by clicking here.](#)

- April 14 at the LRAC offices in Fergus Falls, 6-8:30 pm

A List Event

Anthony Miltich, Evansville Arts Coalition March 6, 2015

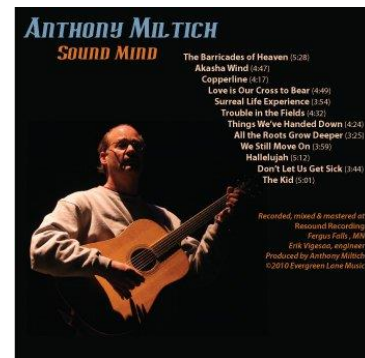
First Friday Concert March 6 at 7 pm - Anthony Miltich

In the singer/songwriter tradition, Miltich will engage you with his evocative, powerful voice and dexterous, multifaceted guitar playing. As a vocalist and acoustic guitar soloist, Miltich has appeared live on Minnesota Public Radio on several occasions and toured college campuses, coffeehouses and clubs throughout the region.

In November of 2014 he was included as composer for a grant by the Lake Region Arts Council for a dramatic production celebrating the life and times of the Regional Treatment Center (Kirkbride) of Fergus Falls, to be staged on September 18-20, 2015.

- Evansville Arts Coalition begins its' "First Friday Concerts, March - December", featuring "Anthony Miltich" March 6, 7pm. (Free will donation.)

[Anthony Miltich Facebook Video](#)



Anthony Miltich

Featured Artist

Karla Jean Gallagher
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

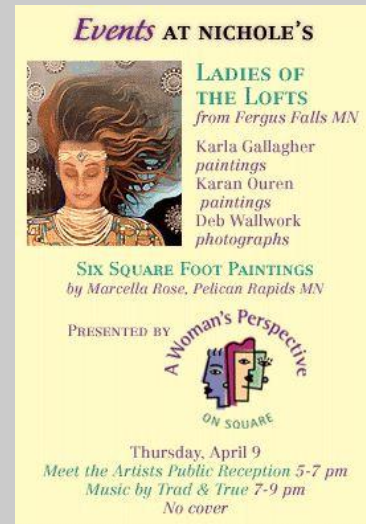
It was no accident that Karla Jean Gallagher stumbled into LRAC in 2010. Not knowing who LRAC was (or that staff just discussed creating a Solo Gallery minutes prior), Karla needed assistance as her vehicle broke down in front of the building. Staff noticed her eyes light up when she realized where she was. An exhibit was booked and LRAC has been following her progression as an artist ever since.

Karla Jean Gallagher's latest piece, "The Quiet Answer" is currently featured in "Ladies of the Lofts" at Nichole's Fine Pastry in Fargo.

"This is about finding the answers to all problems by quieting our minds and stopping long enough to feel the stillness and beauty of our own essence. The answers are always found in the question of , who am I and only known by experiencing the beauty of Spirit."

[Visit Gallagher's Website, "Art to Enlighten and Entertain" by Clicking Here!](#)

[Karla Gallagher on LRAC's Artist Registry](#)



**The Quiet Answer by
Karla Jean Gallagher**

LRAC Galleries

9 am to 5 pm, Mon.-Fri.

Main Gallery:

"Barbara Thill Anderson Retrospective" exhibit.

The exhibit will feature still life and representational paintings of Barbara Thill, Barbara was a professor of art and gallery director at Concordia College, Moorhead for many years. Read the article about this exhibit online by clicking the link below.

[LRAC Announces Barbara Thill Anderson Exhibit](#)



Painting by Barbara Thill
Anderson

Solo Gallery:

"Artwork by Blayze Buseth"

This award winning young artist's creativity and skill will amaze you with the depth and movement in the carvings of his turned pottery. His work will be on display during the

months of February and March. Watch a time lapse video of his process by clicking his Facebook link below.

Post by Artwork by Blayze Buseth



And Now for Your Viewing Pleasure...

LRAC Grants

2015 Career Development Grant

- **Deadline is April 7, 2015**
 - Open to all Individuals in the LRAC region
 - Apply for up to \$1,200 to expand your artistic career
 - Grant will be reviewed in May 2015.

2015 McKnight Fellowship Grant

- **Deadline is May 5, 2015**
 - **Literary Arts and Performing Arts Disciplines only**
 - \$5,000 will be awarded to one individual to recognize their accomplishments and contributions to the Arts!
 - Grant will be reviewed in June 2015.

Grant Writing Workshop is Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 6 to 8 pm

- **It's Free, but registration is required.**

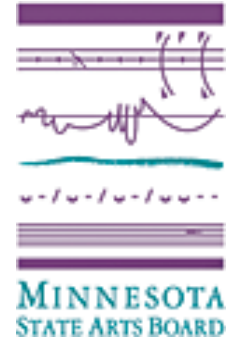
Register for the McKnight Grant Writing Workshop

[Click Here](#)

Minnesota State Arts Board

MSAB Folk and Traditional Arts Grant Program

- **Deadline is June 26, 2015**
 - Application materials are now available for the FY 2016 Folk and Traditional Arts grant program. Funds can be used for projects that will create, preserve, document, present, and honor Minnesota's folk and traditional artists and art forms.



[Click Here to view MSAB Folk and Traditional Art Page](#)

Opportunities

Call for Artists!

Music: Voice, Composition, Trumpet, Cello, Percussion, Guitar, Chinese Lute

Dance: Ballet/Point, Ribbon

Literature: Writing, Novel

Visual: Painting, Drawing all mediums

Theatre: Cross Discipline - Furrries



LRAC's Artist Mentor Program is currently expanding its roster of eligible mentors. Please create an Artist Registry Profile, listing your services as mentor or juror at:

[LRAC Artist Registry Application](#)

Assignments to mentors will begin after the Review Session/Audition on Saturday, March 7, 2015. The study will be completed between June 1, and October 1, 2015.

Please contact Connie Payson, Artist Mentor Coordinator at (218) 739-5780 for more information.

[What is involved in being a mentor? Click Here!](#)

BECKER COUNTY

Donald S. Clark (07/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 17371 Bijou Circle H: 218-238-5073
 Lake Park, MN 56554 D: 218-329-2597
donald.s.clark.msum@gmail.com yamobeedare1069@gmail.com

Eric R. Abrahamson (07/13) 7/13 - 6/16, 1st Term
 33066 120th Street H: 218-847-0649
 Frazee, MN 56544 D: 701-212-7975
newera@lakesnet.net forthelastdetail@yahoo.com

CLAY COUNTY

Pagyn Alexander Harding (9/10) 07/11-06/14, 1st Term
 10506 Hwy 32 N H: 218-962-3202
 Hitterdal, MN 56552
pagynharding@yahoo.com C: 701-412-6053

Mark Anthony Ryan (7/13) 7/13-6/16, 1st Term
 915 11th St. S H: 218-287-6023
 Moorhead, MN 56560 D: 701-219-3960 (cell)
mryan@plainsart.org mozzhead@hotmail.com

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Nancy Berns (11/10) 7/11-6/14 1st Term
 338 East Lake Cowdry Lane NW H: 320-763-4645
 Alexandria, MN 56308 W:
njberns@gmail.com C: 320-766-8353

Carolyn Aarsvold (2/08) 7/08-6/14, 2nd Term
 105 Linden Ave.
 Alexandria, MN 56308 W: 320-763-3200 (resort)
info@genevabeachresort.com C: 320-760-8528

GRANT COUNTY

Timothy J. Ray (07/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 18680 130th Ave H: 320-986-2822
 Barrett, MN 56311
tim@mnray.net raypopp@runestone.net

Kari Kjesbo (10/09) 7/10-6/16, 2nd Term
 31506 230th St H: 320-284-2218
 Norcross, Mn 56274 C: 218-770-0157
kari@runestone.net

OTTER TAIL COUNTY

AmyAnn Mursu (10/13) 7/14 - 6/17, 1st Term
 51113 340th Street 320-309-3903
 New York Mills, MN 56567 C:
amy@lakeviewestatelaw.com

OTTER TAIL COUNTY, Cont.

Gary Henrickson (07/08) 07/08-06/14, 2nd Term
 1120 Somerset Road #305 H: 218-998-2540
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537 W: 218-736-1506
Gary.Henrickson@Minnesota.edu

POPE COUNTY

Minette Stalheim Johnson (07/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 615 W 6th Street H: 320-239-3990
 Starbuck, MN 56381 C: 320-334-1865
msjohnson.officemail@gmail.com

Jeannie Pederson

131 E MN Ave (07/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 Glenwood MN 56334 H: 320-805-0592
famcolab@charter.net D: 320-634-3909
jlphearts@gmail.com

STEVENS COUNTY

Kari Adams (09/11) 07/12-06/15, 1st Term
 330 S. Columbia Avenue, Apt 1 H: 320-287-2803
 Morris, MN 56267
adamsk@morris.umn.edu

Michael Eble

4 North Court (07/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 Morris, MN 56267 H: 320-585-5460
meble@morris.umn.edu C: 320-288-8389

TRAVERSE COUNTY

Christian T. Boe (11/12) 7/13-6/16, 1st Term
 305 12th St N #103 H: 320-349-0554
 Wheaton, MN 56296 W:
cdu802@frontier.com

Carolyn Flieder

1403 1st Ave N (01/12) 7/12-6/15, 1st Term
 Wheaton, MN 56296 H: 320-563-0468
 ~no e-mail~ W: 320-563-0468
 C: 320-287-0913

WILKIN COUNTY

Amy Schmidt (9/07) 7/08-6/14, 2nd Term
 PO Box 21 621 6th St. H: 218-630-5801
 Campbell, MN 56522 W: 701-672-5830
bookhavenbooks@gmail.com

Stan Goldade

1117 Douglas Ave (04/12) 7/12 - 6/15, 1st Term
 Breckenridge, MN 56520 H: 218-643-8803
goldade5@gmail.com Day: 701-640-0909

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lrac4@lracgrants.org steve@lakescountry.tv

BECKER COUNTY

Eric R. Abrahamson, Detroit Lakes

Eric's background in performing arts and theatre management earned him the 2007 Creamer Award for theater excellence. While yet in high school, Eric became involved in the startup of Playhouse 412 in 1975 and over the years he served in all facets of theatre production. Eric served several terms as a board member for a community theater, with four of those years as chairman. He has served as an alternate LRAC Board member representing Becker County. He currently co-owns Center Stage Music Traveling DJ Show and the Finger Painters Paint contracting company and regularly volunteers for the Historic Holmes Theatre in Detroit Lakes.

Donald Clark, Lake Park

Don has BFA and an MFA in Art/Photography, from Utah State University, and an MFA in Candidate Photography from Rochester Institute of Technology. Currently he is a Professor at Minnesota St. University in Moorhead. His photography has been exhibited widely across the nation. Don is a past recipient of an LRAC Career Development grant and has served on several Minnesota State Arts Board Peer Review Panels. He is interested in serving on the Board because, "In the past, I have benefited from the services of the LRAC and Minnesota State Arts Board. I believe in paying back and would like the opportunity to serve my community."

CLAY COUNTY

Mark Anthony Ryan, Moorhead

Mark studied History and Biology at the University of Wyoming and earned his M.A. in Museum Studies at Texas Tech University. He has served on numerous arts, art conservation and museum boards and committees. With a strong background in the visual arts as a museum professional and staff member of the Plains Art Museum, and an avid literary reader, Mark is committed to leadership roles that ensure members of our region have access to the highest caliber art experiences possible in all disciplines.

Beth Salvatore, Barnesville

Beth Salvatore recently completed the MLA with a Graduate Certificate in Publishing, and holds an AA in Graphic Arts, and a BA in Humanities and Music. Beth has a broad interest in the arts, including music, (playing bagpipes for two years), fiber arts, (knitting and sewing), literary editor, (screening manuscripts for New Rivers Press), and becomes enmeshed in many other disciplines. Beth has a strong customer service employment background, having provided trouble shooting for several Fortune 500 organizations and is currently providing services for SEI LLC. She feels her broad Humanities education including music and writing in conjunction with her interests contributes to a balance of arts administration.

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DOUGLAS COUNTY

Gregory DeGier, Alexandria

Greg DeGier is currently a member associate of several music, education, and band organizations both nationally and within the state, holding chair positions and completing direct assignments. A graduate of U of MN, Morris, he is a teaching artist in the Instrumental Music Program at Alexandria Area Schools. He enjoys playing the trumpet and performing in pit orchestras for musicals, and the Central Lakes Symphonic Orchestra.

Susan Scarborough, Alexandria

Susan Scarborough recently retired after 28 years serving as the Community Education Director for Alexandria Public Schools which included arts programming with funds obtained through LRAC grants. She earned her BA from U of MN, Morris in Elementary Education and Sociology, her Master of Education from Florida Atlantic University, and her Education Specialist from Nova University, Davie Florida. She feels by serving on the Board it is a way of "giving back".

GRANT COUNTY

Kari Kjesbo, Norcross

Kari has a B.A. in Business Management from Moorhead State and has owned her own businesses doing catering and producing tote bags made from recycled billboard. She also managed the Underbrush Art Gallery in Fergus Falls. Kari is very involved in her home community in school events, Dollars for Scholars and the Thorson Memorial Library. Kari wants to serve on the LRAC Board because, "It is very important for rural Minnesota to support artists and the arts...All forms of art enrich all of our lives and bring pleasure to everyone who wishes to participate, making a happier community."

Timothy J. Ray, Barrett

Timothy Ray has a B.S. in Secondary Education from the U of MN, Minneapolis and a B.A. in Theatre Arts from the U of MN, Morris. He completed one year of graduate studies in Acting and Directing at NDSU, Fargo. Ray is a recipient of the Fleihr Award for "outstanding contribution to Minnesota's community theatres." He has worked in all facets of theatre: acting, directing, designing and building theatre projects. He is a grateful recipient of numerous LRAC grants as an individual artist and as board member for arts organizations. He is anxious to give back to LRAC and to support the regional arts as a member of the LRAC Board.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY

AmyAnn Mursu, New York Mills

AmyAnn Mursu received her Juris Doctorate from Notre Dame Law School, and holds a BA in Philosophy and Political Science with Minors in Business and English from Concordia College, Moorhead. Amy has a history of serving as a community ambassador in support of the arts, beginning as a secondary and post-secondary student and going on to

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volunteer as a board member for United Arts of Central MN. Music is a large part of her life, beginning with piano lessons at age 4 and studying the clarinet, tuba, and violin. She enjoys playing piano for herself and for weddings and funerals.

James A. Arvidson, Parkers Prairie

James Arvidson attended U of MN, Crookston and obtained an Associate of Agriculture degree. In 2007, he completed the Regional Leadership Institute. His community leadership roles have earned him with medals and awards internationally as well as national and local recognition. James held many executive positions through community service organizations, including the Lions, Jaycees, Lutheran Brotherhood, Church Council, and Lakeland Hospice. He has a lifetime of service in the region with the goal of making a difference in the lives of those who choose to live in West Central Minnesota. He believes all art forms benefit our culture. He looks forward to the important work that lies ahead with LRAC.

POPE COUNTY

Minette Stalheim Johnson, Starbuck

Minette Stalheim Johnson earned her BA in English and Religion from St. Olaf College and has since studied special education, theological studies and art. Her work experience has been in social services and educational positions, with her most recent position serving as a lay interim minister for various churches. She has volunteered for numerous boards and organizations including county museums, women's clubs, a singing group and youth focused organizations. Interested in expanding her own writing and visual arts skills, she is especially drawn to rosemaling, the plays of Henrik Ibsen and poetry. Knowing how important art is for all ages, she is committed to bring her wide-ranging appreciation, experience and interest for the arts to LRAC as a board member.C

Jeannie Pederson, Glenwood

Jeannie has a BA in Home Economics from Concordia College, Moorhead and is currently employed at Minnewaska Area Schools and Pope County as their Family Collaborative Coordinator and EC/THRIVE Initiative Coordinator. She and her husband are interested in theatre performance and various other forms of art. Jeannie has been involved with Central Square and says, "I truly love all forms of art as they have enriched my life. Over the years, playing piano and flute have allowed my creativity to flow. I admire actors on a stage and artists who start with a blank slate and create beautiful artwork or music."

STEVENS COUNTY

Michael Eble, Morris

Michael Eble has a MFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Mississippi and a BFA in Painting and Drawing with a Minor in Photography from the University of Louisiana. He currently works as an associate Professor of Studio Art/Curator of the HFA Gallery and Discipline Coordinator of the Studio Art Discipline at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Eble's primary focus is visual arts. Being a working artist, Eble would like to be more connected to the regional arts community and give back to the organization that supported his artistic career.

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Kari Adams, Morris

Kari graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris with a BA in Studio Art and English, with a Minor in Art History. She enrolled in the University of South Dakota MFA Printmaking Program, and completed a Communication Art and Design Program, at Alexandria Technical College. Kari is currently a Graphic Designer with University Relations at the University of MN, Morris. Kari's artistic career began in her high school years, which also included a study grant in LRAC's Artist Mentor Program. Kari states "I want to learn about the grants process and to find out what kind of art projects are happening in our community," and "...meet others who are interested in the arts."

TRAVERSE COUNTY

Jamie Beyer, Wheaton

Jamie Beyer obtained her BA in Philosophy from the U of MN, Morris and completed the coursework for the Masters of Science Public Administration Program at MSUM, Moorhead. She is currently providing marketing, graphic design and bid packaging services for national companies and works with her family farm business. Her portfolio suggests her creativity in the business world is expressed through t-shirt designs, furniture design and various computer illustrations. Jamie serves on the Traverse County Arts Council.

Carolyn Flieder, Wheaton

Carolyn has a B.S. in Elementary Education and Special Education, and one year in Psychology. She has worked as a Social Worker for Lutheran Social Services and has owned and operated a quilt shop, bed and breakfast and provided private social work services. Carolyn is a fiber artist and also works with Fimo clay sculpting, mixed media. Additionally she enjoys theater and classical music. She has been a member of Glacial Ridge Artists for over 10 years, and a past member of the SW Minnesota Art Meander. Carolyn would like to help represent artists in Traverse County and to encourage people to utilize their creative talents in any way they can. She would like to help provide and promote art opportunities in Traverse County.

WILKIN COUNTY

Erin Gunderson, Breckenridge

Erin Gunderson holds a BA in Religion from Concordia College with a Minor in History. She is the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Branch Manager in Breckenridge. Her volunteer service includes council member of the Symphonic Band, Kalispell, MT, providing support and designed pieces for the Campus Entertainment Commission, Concordia. Erin sings, plays flute and piano, paints, and makes jewelry, pottery and graphic designs.

Stan Goldade, Breckenridge

Stan has a background in Mathematics and Physics, receiving his MA in Mathematics from Minot State University. Stan also has a diverse interest in the arts. He has arts experience in photography, pottery and was the sculptor for "The Sierpinski Tetrahedron: Metal Sculpture" a public art piece in Breckenridge, MN. He is currently employed as a math

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instructor at the Breckenridge Senior High School. Stan's reasons for serving on the LRAC Board are, "I would like to promote art in our community and create opportunities for artist to display and sell their artwork."