

INFORMATION BRIEF

Research Department

Minnesota House of Representatives

600 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Mary Mullen, Legislative Analyst
651-296-9253

March 2016

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

This information brief provides information about the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). The ACHF is one of four “legacy” funds created by a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in 2008. The amendment increased the state’s sales tax to provide additional funding for outdoor heritage, clean water, parks and trails, and arts and cultural heritage.

What is the “Legacy Amendment”?

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment, often referred to as the “Legacy Amendment,” that increased the state’s sales tax by 3/8ths of 1 percent for 25 years ([Minn. Const. art. XI, § 15](#)). The funds raised by this tax are dedicated to four separate funds that each receive a specific percentage of the revenues: Outdoor Heritage Fund (33 percent), Clean Water Fund (33 percent), the Parks and Trails Fund (14.25 percent), and the ACHF (19.75 percent).

The amendment requires that the funds “supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes” and prohibits the funds from being used as a substitute.

What is the “ACHF”?

The ACHF is a state fund that “may be spent only for arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage” ([Minn. Const. art. XI, § 15](#)). There has not been a permanent council or other group established to make recommendations for the use of the ACHF. The legislature has based funding decisions largely on input and recommendations from stakeholders. The ACHF has been distributed to many different public and private groups. Certain state entities and private institutions have received funds in consecutive years and some organizations have received onetime funding (see Table 1 on page 5).

Chairs of the committees in the House and Senate with jurisdiction over this area have emphasized that the ACHF is not a guaranteed funding source for past recipients and should be flexible to fund different projects over time. The funds are used to provide funding for new purposes or additional funding for existing programs in order to uphold the constitutional requirement that the funds supplement and not supplant traditional sources of funding. The ACHF appropriations have generally not been used to purchase or maintain real estate, buildings, or vehicles.

How much has been appropriated and what have the appropriations been used for?

The appropriations made through the ACHF have risen each year. In the first year of funding, fiscal year 2010, the legislature appropriated nearly \$44.5 million dollars. That number has grown each year as the revenue from the constitutionally dedicated sales tax has brought in more money, and funding for the 2016 fiscal year was \$61.5 million.

ACHF appropriations have predominately been spent on:

- Programming and education, including funding for:
 - Nonprofit radio and television
 - Artists and art organizations
 - Educational opportunities in arts, history, and culture
 - Zoological programs and educational opportunities
 - American Indian language and historical preservation
- Museum upgrades and acquisitions
- Historic preservation of historic sites and artifacts

Much of the funds are distributed to state agencies, councils, and commissions. Those agencies, councils, and commissions use the money for education and programming, including grants to other groups to fund arts, culture, and heritage projects throughout the state. The recipients of legacy funds often fund a project for their own organization, or in many cases, offer grants to artists, art organizations, local historical societies, libraries, and nonprofits to provide programming or fund historical preservation.

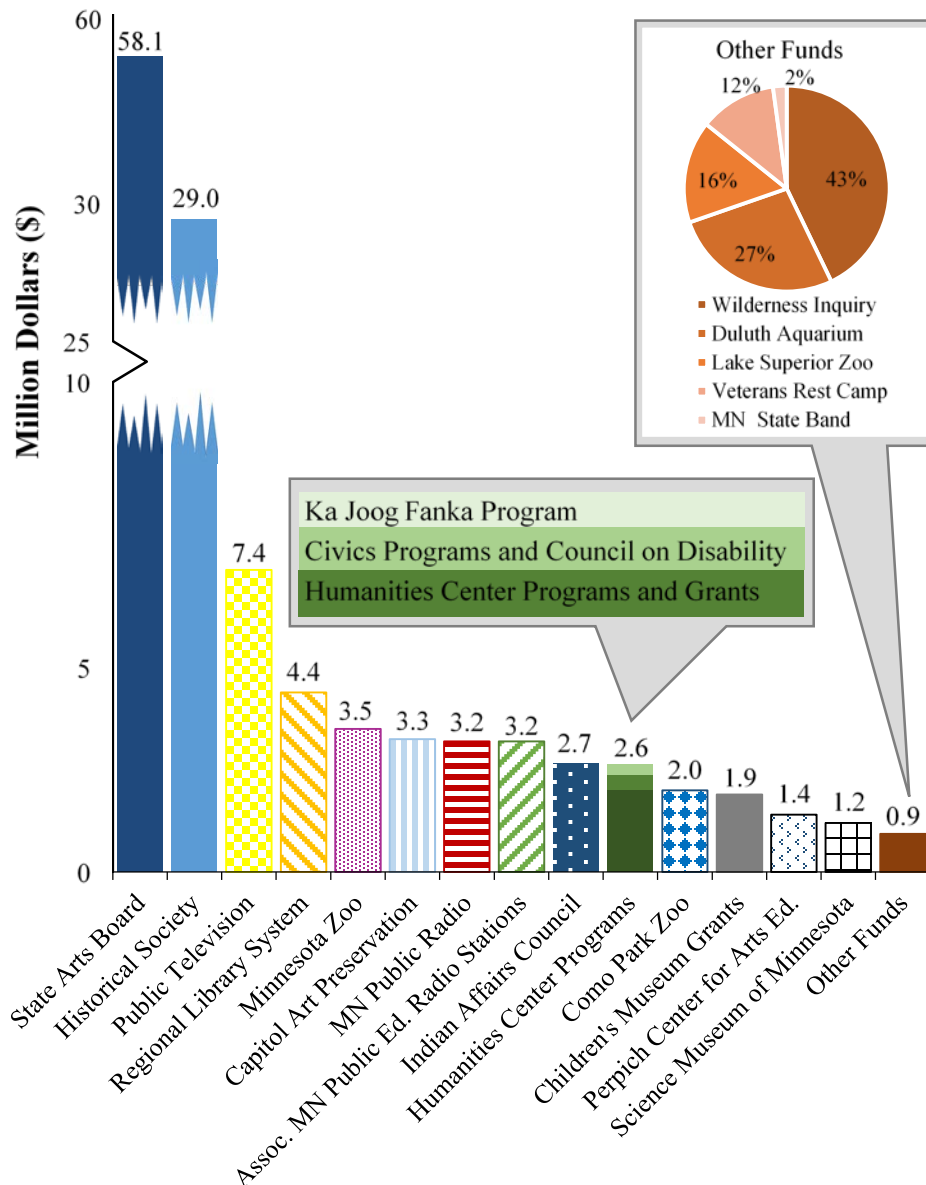
The 2013 Legislature amended the arts and cultural heritage fund statute, [Minnesota Statutes, section 129D.17](#), to include a provision requiring 47 percent of the annual ACHF appropriation go to the Minnesota State Arts Board, making it the largest recipient of the ACHF. This state agency provides arts programming, arts education, and grants to individual artists and arts organizations.

The State Arts Board has traditionally used 30 percent of the funding it receives to fund the regional arts councils located throughout Minnesota to provide arts programming and education in each region of the state. There are 11 regional arts councils that encompass the entire state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Historical Society has also received funding each year from the ACHF. The funding has been used for programs at the Minnesota History Center and regional historical society sites throughout Minnesota. The funding has also provided grants to local historical societies throughout Minnesota, the Historical Society’s digital library, and nonprofit civic education programs.

The regional library system has received funding each year through an appropriation to the Minnesota Department of Education that provides a grant to the 12 regional library systems. These grants allow the libraries to provide educational programs on Minnesota history, culture, and literary arts.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund FY 2016-2017 Appropriations



How can people find legacy funding opportunities and grants?

Many state agencies, private organizations, and individual grant recipients have benefited from legacy funding. The recipient of a direct appropriation from a legacy fund must provide information on legacy grants and spending to the Minnesota Legislature's Legislative Coordinating Committee (LCC).¹ The LCC provides information on each fund, past fund recipients, and future grant opportunities on its website, <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/opportunities-funding>.

More than 12,000 legacy-funded programs are listed on the website. There are many different types of funding opportunities, and the grants range from a few hundred dollars to millions of dollars. The majority of these projects are from the ACHF because the ACHF provides smaller grants to many organizations, while the other funds provide much larger funding opportunities to a smaller number of projects.

The legacy website provides links to various organizations that distribute legacy grants; many of these organizations also offer grants that are funded from other sources, as well as from the ACHF. A few examples of websites are listed below; the LCC website has many other links as well.

- Minnesota State Arts Board <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/machf.htm>
- Minnesota Film Board <https://mnfilmtv.org/incentives/>
- Regional Arts Council (clickable by region) <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/index.htm>
- Minnesota Historical Society <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants/>
- Minnesota Humanities Center <http://www.mnhum.org/grants>
- Department of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/index.html>
- Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council <http://www.lsohc.leg.mn/>
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/>

The Minnesota State Grants portal also lists state grant funding opportunities, including legacy funds. The grants are divided by topic, including “arts, culture, and humanities,” “education,” and “environment.” This site also lists grant opportunities by topic on a more specific list and by the state agency providing the grant. Grants are searchable by multiple categories, as some grants fall into more than one area. This site also provides grants that would not be listed on the legacy website because they have a different state funding source. The state's grant website can be accessed here: <http://www.grants.state.mn.us/public/>.

¹ [Minnesota Statutes, section 3.03](#), subdivision 10, paragraph (b), “As soon as practicable or by January 15 of the applicable fiscal year, whichever comes first, a state agency or other recipient of a direct appropriation from a fund covered under this section shall submit the information required under paragraph (a) and, when applicable, compile and submit the same information for any grant recipient or other subrecipient of funding.”

Table 1: ACHF Recipients, 2010-2017

State Agency Or Nonprofit Recipient	Activities Funded*	Years Funded
Historical Society	Historical preservation or programs through the Historical Society and local historical societies, and funding for historical sites, the digital library, and civics education	2010-2017
Arts Board	Grants and programming for arts activities, arts education, and grants to regional arts councils around the state	2010-2017
Humanities Center	Educational programs, grants for educational programs, and the veterans voices program	2010-2017
Regional Library Systems	Grants to 12 regional library systems for educational programs in history, culture, and literary arts	2010-2017
Perpich Center for the Arts	Develop and provide arts education	2010-2017
Indian Affairs Council	Grants for Indian language immersion schools and programs	2010-2017
Department of Agriculture – County Fairs Grants	Grants to county fairs for programs and facilities	2012, 2013
State Capitol Preservation Commission	Manage, design, and oversee capitol restoration	2012, 2016
Council on Disability	Programs celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act	2014-2016
Public Television	Production and acquisition grants	2010-2017
Film and TV Board	Grants to Minnesota residents to make films and to operate film incentive programs	2012, 2013
Public Radio	Programming on Minnesota culture and heritage	2010-2017
AMPERS	Grants to member stations for programming	2010-2017
Minnesota Zoo	Educational programming and exhibits	2010-2017
Como Zoo	Program development	2010-2017
Lake Superior Zoo	Educational exhibits	2010-2017

State Agency Or Nonprofit Recipient	Activities Funded*	Years Funded
Children's Museum	Develop exhibits and educational programming; provide arts access	2010-2017
Duluth Children's Museum	Develop exhibits and educational programming; provide arts access	2010, 2011, 2014-2017
Grand Rapids Children's Museum	Develop exhibits and educational programming; provide arts access	2014-2017
Southern Minnesota Children's Museum	Develop exhibits and educational programming; provide arts access	2014-2017
Science Museum of Minnesota	Arts education and outreach, IMAX funding, and expansion of the American Indian collection	2010-2017
Disabled Veterans Rest Camps	Upgrades to two campgrounds for disabled veterans	2012, 2016
Veterans Memorials	Grants to municipal parks for veterans memorials	2014
Lake Superior Center Authority	Develop exhibits for the aquarium	2014, 2016
Minnesota African American Museum	Arts access and arts education	2014
Grants to Small Theaters	Grants to theaters to upgrade from 35mm to digital technologies	2014, 2015
Turnaround Arts	Arts support for schools and programs	2016, 2017
Ka Joog Fanka Program	Arts education workshops, mentor programming, and community engagement	2016, 2017
Children's Museum Rochester	Develop exhibits and educational programming; provide arts access	2016, 2017
Wilderness Inquiry	Grants to connect Minnesota youth to the state's natural resources	2016, 2017
Minnesota State Band	Grant to promote and increase public performances around Minnesota	2016, 2017

* For more information on funded program see the legacy website, <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/>