



# **MSAB/LRAC FY 16 FINAL REPORT**

## **AUTHORED BY:**

Maxine Adams, Executive Director  
For second year of a two year grant  
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Date submitted: 09/2016

Lake Region Arts Council Fiscal Year 2016 Final Report

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### Message from the Director:

Fiscal year 2016 was the seventh 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 appropriation 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.

#### 2016 Lake Region Arts Council activities:

- The LRAC awarded an Arts Legacy City Grants to the City of Hoffman, bringing the number of cities in the LRAC region, receiving the designation of “Arts Legacy City” to nine. 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 FY16 activities that support this goal are; the June 25, 2016 Arts Resource Fair, and Artist Work Sample Improvement Project.
- In FY 16 we also began a new program designed to help regional arts organizations work on capacity building. Our “Surviving to Thriving” program has resulted in a cohort of 17 organizations identifying priority areas of funding, marketing and community engagement and the best ways for LRAC to support their capacity building in these areas. The work done in FY16 will be the foundation for the continued work of the cohort in FY17.

— Maxine Adams, Executive Director

GRANT PROGRAMS

<u>Grant Program:</u>	<u># Req.</u>	<u># Fnd.</u>	<u>\$ Req.</u>	<u>\$ Funded</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
Project Grants	26	24	\$48,845	\$41,800	85.5%
Operating Support Grants	12	10	\$46,620	\$42,500	91.2%
*Legacy Grants, Individual	21	13	\$160,930	\$49,473	30.7%
*Legacy Grants, Organizations	35	14	\$443,120	\$131,016	29.5%
*Career Development	20	8	\$23,320	\$9,040	36%
*Artist Quick Start Grant	13	6	\$9,750	\$4,500	46%
*Fellowships	10	1	\$50,000	\$5,000	10%
*Artist Mentor Program	21	17	\$12,600	\$10,200	80%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>93-59%</b>	<b>\$795,185</b>	<b>\$293,529</b>	<b>37%</b>

During fiscal year 2016, the Lake Region Arts Council awarded grants as shown above. A detailed listing of all grants awarded has been submitted to the MN State Arts Board in a separate document.

**Summary of Grants Awarded**

This year 59% of the requests were funded, down from 60% in FY 15 and 37 % of the dollars requested were funded, down from 50% in FY15. Reason for this drop was a reallocation of Legacy funds to cover providing the Arts Resource Fair and first year of the Surviving to Thriving program, coupled with an increase in Legacy requests for funding. FY 17 will show an increase in Legacy grant funding.

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.



## MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

### OTHER SERVICES

**Website:** The LRAC website continues to be a heavily used vehicle for sharing information about LRAC and all regional arts activities. All grant applicants are now directed to our website to access our online grant application process. Visitors to the website may access any of our 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.

**Arts Calendar:** In FY 16 the Arts Calendar received a major overhaul. The result has been a more user friendly format, easier search options and the ability to display featured arts events. The revamp has made it easier to cross promote Arts Calendar events to the LRAC Facebook page.

**Monthly newsletter:** The monthly newsletter, Art Headlines, was sent via email to a mailing list of 1,772 households compared to 1,596 households in FY 15. A PDF 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 the Face Book page now has 5,764 "likes". In Fiscal Year 2016, our expanding Facebook presence enabled us to help promote events and activities of our regional arts organizations, as well as arts activities at area public schools and colleges throughout the region. On almost any given week, LRAC's Facebook page is viewed by more people, has more engagement, and continues to grow with more new followers than all the other regional arts councils' and the Minnesota State Arts Board's Facebook pages combined.

**Artist Registry:** Through the LRAC website artists can now apply and upload work sample images online. The Artist Registry can be accessed and searched by the public online. At the end of FY 16 there were 198 individual artists listed compared to 162 in FY 15.

**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 eleven grant writing workshops, one prior to every grant round. The LRAC provided the following workshops, Preparing, Submitting & Marketing your Manuscript, Marketing & Social Media for Artists, Paint & Sip Workshop, and additional 20 workshops as part of the Arts Resource Fair. 94% of participants reported meeting or exceeding their expectations.

## **MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT**

### **OTHER SERVICES, Cont.**

**Artist Work Sample Improvement Project:** In FY 16 LRAC worked with 11 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. 100% of those responding to the satisfaction survey reported that the quality of their work samples had improved and 100% reported they had taken action and used the new work samples to further their career goals.

### **BIENNIAL PLAN FY 16-17 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The LRAC goals, as specified in the FY 16-17 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 7-8, followed by the Arts and Cultural Heritage work plan and outcome evaluation on pages 9-12.

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.



# MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

## Biennial Goals FY 2016-17, Base Legislative Appropriation :

Four 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, Artist Mentor 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: Act as responsible stewards of public funds.**

**Objective A:** In FY 16-17 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.

# MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

## 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 FY16 and FY17, 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 FY16 and FY17 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 June 25 Arts Resource Fair Big Check Awards, Arts Advocacy Day.

### **IV. Goal: Act as responsible stewards of public funds.**

A. In FY16 and FY17, 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. FY16 feedback from in person meetings with arts delivery partners and participants in "From Surviving to Thriving" meetings and the Arts Resource Fair post survey indicate a high satisfaction level of LRAC's stewardship. A new expanded needs assessment will be done in FY17.



## MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

### **Biennial Goals FY 2016-17, 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 "LRAC Arts Organizational Development Program: From Surviving to Thriving", focused on building capacity in the areas of financial management, strategic planning, evaluation, publicity and board leadership.

**Objective F:** LRAC will provide an "Artist Work Sample Improvement Program" designed to improve artists' ability to apply for and receive grants and enter juried competitions.

**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. (cont.)

# MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

## Biennial Goals FY 2016-17, Arts and Cultural Heritage fund

### V. Goal: Achieve Accountability of Arts and Culture Fund (cont.)

**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.



## MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

### 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 FY16-17, 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, 93-100% 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 FY16-17, 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 50 grant recipients.

B. In FY 16-17 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 an Arts Resource Fair where 122 artists networked with 22 arts organizations. 96% of those attending responded that they were impacted favorably by their attendance. Provided a MN Theatre Alliance networking meeting, 20 people attended and 85 % said they were impacted favorably.

C. In FY 16-17 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 FY 16 LRAC provided the following workshops: Preparing, Submitting & Marketing your Manuscript, Marketing & Social Media for Artists, Paint & Sip Workshop, and additional 20 workshops as part of the Arts Resource Fair. All feedback on the satisfaction and impact of the workshops, 94% of participants reported meeting or exceeding their expectations.



## MSAB/LRAC FY16 FINAL REPORT

### Outcome Evaluation Arts and Cultural Heritage fund :

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

D. In FY16-17 there will be a minimum of 20 individual support meetings held with constituents interested in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Results:** In FY16 LRAC staff provided 371 support meetings, in person, by email or editing of applications by email. 261 meetings pertaining to Legacy.

E. In FY 16-FY 17 at least 75% of the arts organizations participating in the "LRAC Arts Organizational Development Program: From Surviving to Thriving", will report an increase in their ability to successfully manage their organizations. This will be measured by a participation satisfaction survey.

**Results:** 100% of the organizations participating felt the "LRAC Arts Organizational Development Program: From Surviving to Thriving", met or exceeded their expectations.

F. In FY 16-17 at least 75% of the artists that participate in the "Artist Work Sample Improvement Program" will report an increase in the quality of their work samples.

**Results:** 100% of those participating reported an increase in the quality of their work samples.

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

A. In FY16-17, 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. FY16 feedback from in person meetings with arts delivery partners and participants in "From Surviving to Thriving" meetings and the Arts Resource Fair post survey indicate a high satisfaction level of LRAC's stewardship. A new expanded needs assessment will be done in FY17. In FY17 LRAC will do a new needs assessment survey.

**Attachments**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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 FY16 were previously submitted to the MN State Arts Board by a separate document.

**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 C and D).





									Source of Funds				
		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	ACHF AAA	ACHF AE	ACHF CH	State	Other
Regional Arts Council 04													
Artist Mentor Program													
= 17	Applications	17	17	56	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$0					
= 17	Eligible Applications	17	17	56	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$0					
= 17	Grants	17	17	56	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$0		\$5,264		\$4,936	
										\$10,200	Total source of funds		
Artist Quick Start													
= 12	Applications	40	1,700	3,331	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$10,410	\$1,410					
= 12	Eligible Applications	40	1,700	3,331	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$10,410	\$1,410					
= 6	Grants	34	1,075	2,278	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$5,300	\$800					\$4,500
										\$4,500	Total source of funds		
Career Development													
= 18	Applications	21	6,555	22,109	\$20,990	\$8,500	\$23,670	\$3,780					
= 18	Eligible Applications	21	6,555	22,109	\$20,990	\$8,500	\$23,670	\$3,780					
= 8	Grants	9	5,190	15,554	\$9,040	\$8,500	\$10,310	\$1,270					\$8,500
										\$8,500	Total source of funds		
Fall Project													
= 8	Applications	67	2,330	8,736	\$14,480	\$14,480	\$44,230	\$6,075					
= 8	Eligible Applications	67	2,330	8,736	\$14,480	\$14,480	\$44,230	\$6,075					
= 8	Grants	67	2,330	8,736	\$14,480	\$14,480	\$44,230	\$6,075				\$14,200	
										Grant not equal to Source of Funds			
										\$14,200	Total source of funds		

									Source of Funds				
		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	ACHF AAA	ACHF AE	ACHF CH	State	Other
Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage													
= 44	Applications	476	37,095	108,683	\$475,030	\$180,110	\$819,797	\$97,902					
= 44	Eligible Applications	476	37,095	108,683	\$475,030	\$180,110	\$819,797	\$97,902					
= 20	Grants	248	17,995	43,523	\$208,430	\$180,110	\$453,417	\$42,557	\$144,445	\$25,675	\$9,990		
											\$180,110	Total source of funds	
McKnight Fellowship													
= 10	Applications	14	880	2,597	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$0					
= 10	Eligible Applications	14	880	2,597	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$0					
= 1	Grants	2	0	1,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0					\$5,000
											\$5,000	Total source of funds	
Operating Support													
= 11	Applications	473	7,850	35,150	\$44,230	\$42,500	\$631,496	\$169,000					
= 11	Eligible Applications	473	7,850	35,150	\$44,230	\$42,500	\$631,496	\$169,000					
= 10	Grants	413	7,815	34,150	\$43,200	\$42,500	\$621,173	\$169,000	\$18,695	\$3,753	\$1,252	\$18,800	
											\$42,500	Total source of funds	
Spring Project													
= 15	Applications	54	1,370	7,491	\$26,185	\$25,800	\$35,745	\$16,850					
= 15	Eligible Applications	54	1,370	7,491	\$26,185	\$25,800	\$35,745	\$16,850					
= 15	Grants	54	1,370	7,491	\$26,185	\$25,800	\$35,745	\$16,850				\$25,800	
											\$25,800	Total source of funds	

FY 2016 GRANT APPLICATIONS BY PROGRAM - Summary of annual report proofing spreadsheet

9/20/2016

									Source of Funds				
		Artists	Youth	Adults	Request	Grant	Expense	In-kind	ACHF AAA	ACHF AE	ACHF CH	State	Other
Regional Arts Council 04													
= 135	Applications	1,162	57,797	188,153	\$650,115	\$291,090	\$1,625,548	\$295,017					
= 135	Eligible Apps	1,162	57,797	188,153	\$650,115	\$291,090	\$1,625,548	\$295,017					
= 85	Grants	844	35,792	112,788	\$321,035	\$291,090	\$1,185,375	\$236,552	\$163,140	\$34,692	\$11,242	\$63,736	\$18,000
Grant not equal to Source of Funds											\$290,810	Total source of funds	

Certifications

Data reviewed and information is accurate.

signature of RAC staff member

date

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

signature of RAC staff member

date

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

signature of Arts Board staff member

date



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Featured in this issue: Arts Resource Fair, Red River Valley Concert Band, Mara Morken Fogarty, The Kaddatz is more than a gallery!, LRAC Gallery Exhibits, Upcoming Grants, other Opportunities

## LRAC May Art Headlines

**The Arts Resource Fair**  
June 25, 2016

**Registration now open!**  
**Open to all artists of all genres.**



What is an Arts Resource Fair? An event that provides regional artists and state wide arts organizations the opportunity to meet and get to know each other. The Arts Resource Fair is a time to connect, communicate and create community. Artists will have the opportunity to meet and talk with grant makers, exhibition/performance venues, and a variety of organizations that want to help them become a better artist, singer, dancer, writer or performer. There will be panel discussions, workshops and guest speakers. By attending, an artist will be better prepared to advance with their career goals and become aware of new opportunities to contribute to the growth and vitality of their communities. Join us June 25 at M State Campus, 1414 College Way, Fergus Falls.

Join the Arts Resource Fair email list

[Click Here To Register](#)

[Visit our website](#)

## Featured Event

**Red River Valley Concert Band**  
May 12, 8:00 pm @ Perham Center for the Arts,  
101 5th St NE, Perham



The Red River Valley Veteran's Concert Band promotes patriotism through marches and anthems, plus more. The band's music includes Broadway show tunes, TV theme songs, big band swing, Dixieland, rock and roll and even Latin music. A concert will be held at the Perham Center for the Arts. The band will also perform earlier for the residents of Perham Living.

This activity is funded in part by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation. Other sponsors include Perham Lions, Thrivent, and the Perham Center for the Arts.

[Link to Perham Center for the Arts Events](#)

## Featured Artist

**Mara Morken Fogarty of Moorhead** is the Artist and Creator of Sticksgarden. Mara says "Sticksgarden is intended take the prize for coolest public planter in Moorhead! (Well, if such a prize existed.)"

Mara is most excited by art which engages the everyday passerby. Recent projects include Sidewalk Art, the Sticksgarden, and the Alley Project. She is about to undertake a community mural. All projects are located in Moorhead.



[Video of Mara Morken Fogarty's Alley Project in Moorhead, MN](#)

[Link to Sticksgarden](#)

[More about the  
Sticksgarden,  
and Mara!](#)

## Featured Arts Partner Organization

### Kaddatz Galleries

111 W. Lincoln Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Phone: (218) 998-4405  
Email: [info@kaddatzgalleries.org](mailto:info@kaddatzgalleries.org)



You expect to see art in a gallery, but when a non-profit gallery is innovative and takes its community and art seriously, you have a fantARTstic arts partner organization! The Kaddatz educational programming includes opportunities for all ages to explore their creative side. Click on the link below and find out about a progressive evening called "Art at Home", sign up for "Plein Air Painting", attend a "Drawing from Life", enter into an art call, and more!

[Visit the  
Kaddatz  
Website](#)

[Visit the Kaddatz Website](#)

## LRAC Gallery Exhibits

**Main Gallery**, "In the Potter's Hands", exhibit ends May 27.

The exhibit features work that represents three very different approaches to the use of clay as an art form. Each artists' work reflects a unique style in their use of form, glazes and techniques.

Blayze Buseth  
Sean Scott  
Merodie Seykora



**Solo Gallery**, Naomi Bjorklund, Fine Art Painter and Jewelry Artist  
April-May

[Follow "Handcrafted by Noni" on Etsy](#)

### Artist Reception,

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm @ Lake Region Arts Council McKnight & Solo Gallery, 133 S. Mill St. Fergus Falls, MN.



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Featured in this issue: Arts Resource Fair, Red River Valley Concert Band, Mara Morken Fogarty, The Kaddatz is more than a gallery!, LRAC Gallery Exhibits, Upcoming Grants, other Opportunities

## LRAC May Art Headlines

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**June 25, 2016**

**Registration now open!**  
**Open to all artists of all genres.**



What is an Arts Resource Fair? An event that provides regional artists and state wide arts organizations the opportunity to meet and get to know each other. The Arts Resource Fair is a time to connect, communicate and create community. Artists will have the opportunity to meet and talk with grant makers, exhibition/performance venues, and a variety of organizations that want to help them become a better artist, singer, dancer, writer or performer. There will be panel discussions, workshops and guest speakers. By attending, an artist will be better prepared to advance with their career goals and become aware of new opportunities to contribute to the growth and vitality of their communities.

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[Link to Perham Center for the Arts Events](#)

[Red River Valley Veteran's Concert Band Website](#)

Red River Valley Veteran's  
Concert Band Website



View Naomi Bjorklund  
video

View Naomi Bjorklund video

## LRAC Grants

### Spring Project Grant Announcement

LRAC Board awards \$25,800 to 15 Spring Project Grants.  
Read the full article for all the details. Click on the button below.



### Looking ahead to LRAC Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17)

The new LRAC grant year begins July 1, 2016.  
Check out the [FY17 Calendar](#) for all the workshops, deadline and grant review dates.

LRAC Spring Project Grant Announcement

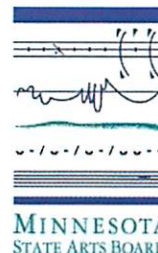
## MN State Arts Board Grants

### FY 2017 Minnesota Festival Support grant program

To access the program overview and application instructions, visit the  
Minnesota Festival Support program page on the Arts Board Web site.

**Deadline is Friday, May 13, 2016.**

Proposed projects must take place between November 1, 2016, and October 31, 2017.



MSAB Festival Support Grant

### FY 2017 Minnesota Festival Support grant program

The Minnesota State Arts Board is offering a free one-hour Webinar to help applicants prepare to  
apply for the Folk and Traditional Arts grant program.

**Session Date:**

Monday, May 16, 3:00 pm

The webinar is free of charge, but advance registration is strongly encouraged.

FY2017 Folk and Traditional Arts Webinar Registration

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**FY 16 LRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS**

2/16/2016

**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.

**Susan Kay, Osage**

After receiving a B.A. degree in Liberal Studies from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, Susan attended the University of Cincinnati where she received a master's degree in Women's Studies with a concentration in literature. She completed coursework in a doctoral program in American Studies at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. After eight years of teaching courses in English and American history at Cascadia College, located in the Seattle metropolitan area, Susan returned to her home state where she is employed at The New York Mills Cultural Center. She is involved with programming and serves as coordinator for their arts retreat residency program. With a firm belief that exposure to artistic experiences can enhance sense of community especially for those living in rural areas, Susan hopes that her service on the LRAC Board will contribute to community building through the arts.

**CLAY COUNTY**

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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.

## FY 16 LRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS

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### 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."

### Beth Salvatore

Beth Salvatore received her MLA with a Graduate Certificate in Publishing, from MSUM in 2014, 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 almost three 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 background, and has been working for SEI LLC for over nine years. She also has recently begun contributing and editing for, the pun fanzine, *Maximum Rocknroll*. She feels her broad Humanities education including music and writing in conjunction with her interests contributes to a balance of arts administration.

## 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 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 flute, clarinet, tuba, and violin. She also enjoys painting and writing.

### 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, Lakeland Hospice, Dollars for Scholars, and more

## **FY 16 LRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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recently the West Central Initiative/Parkers Prairie Swimming Pool Fund. 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**

#### **Jeannie Pladsen, Starbuck**

Pladsen attended Moorhead State University, Moorhead studying education, and worked for 37 years as the payroll manager for the University of MN, Morris. After 13 years of owning and operating “Berries & Marigolds Bed and Breakfast”, she has retired. A life-long volunteer, Jeannie’s leadership positions include serving as a City Council Member for the City of Starbuck, MN. While in this role she provided support for establishing an Arts Commission for city improvements that have an arts focus. Other community supported initiatives include youth programming, holding office in her church, local museum, organizer for reunions, Chamber of Commerce among others. Jeannie states “Not having the talent to be an artist myself I have come to appreciate the beauty of everyone who has artistic talent.”

#### **Barbara Lent, Glenwood**

Lent attended the School of Communication Arts for Photography and operated a studio in Rogers and Brooten, MN. She has held state positions in both Minnesota and Iowa. Barbara also spent 14 years in corporate America in both Minneapolis and Chicago. Most recently she has been a realtor for the past nine years. Barbara is an artist in several mediums, preferring textiles and painting. She currently owns a retreat center, and continues to enjoy photography. She has organized art shows and will serve on the LRAC Board with the goal of personally becoming closer to and be more currently informed of the art world. She thrives in assisting other artists in fulfilling their artistic dreams.

### **STEVENS COUNTY**

#### **Siobhan Bremer, Morris**

Bremer is an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of MN, Morris, and holds an M.F.A. Degree in Acting from Minnesota State University at Mankato, MN, and a B.S. Degree in Speech/Theatre, graduating cum laude from Winona State University, MN. She has acted professionally at the Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, The Black Hills Playhouse, South Dakota, Northern Lights Playhouse, Wisconsin as well as directed, danced and acted in many productions since the age of four. She is the recipient of the Association and Theatre in Higher Education and American College Theatre Festival Region V, 2014-15 Innovative Teaching Award. Bremer looks forward to contributing to the LRAC Board through institutional and strategic planning and policy making.

#### **Andrew Sletten, Morris**

Sletten holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of MN, Morris and serves as the U of M’s Admissions Counselor on the Morris campus. An avid musician and performing arts artist, Sletten is working with students and community members to create a community arts space and performance venue in Morris, MN. He enjoys the intersection of music and history, and a scholarly perspective of this intersection creates a passion within that Sletten describes as “a personal motivator to ensure that the same endlessly meaningful and extraordinarily fulfilling arts experience is available to

## **FY 16 LRAC COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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everyone.” Serving on the LRAC Board allows him to contribute to the growth and development of the arts in West Central Minnesota.

### **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 Flathead Symphonic Band, Kalispell, MT, providing support and designed pieces for the Campus Entertainment Commission, Concordia. Erin is also a board member of the Three Rivers Arts Council. 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 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.”