

Fiscal Year 2017 Program Analysis

Mission Statement

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council's mission is to facilitate and encourage local arts development. This mission statement grows from a conviction that the arts improve the quality of life in the region.

ARAC Vision

- The arts are integrated into the social, political, economic fabric, and identity of every community in the region. (Cultural Integration)
- Artists, arts organizations, and arts activities thrive and contribute to the regional economy. (Sustainability)
- Community members and audiences are arts literate. (Education)
- The Council utilizes an innovative rural arts model that ensures the arts are accessible throughout the whole region. (Leadership/Access)

Core Values

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council...

- will provide financial support, information, and encouragement to the arts community.
- will value its responsibility to provide leadership to individuals, arts organizations, and communities.
- will communicate clearly and respectfully.
- will develop innovative programs and services to meet the needs of its expanding arts community.
- will advocate for the essential role of the arts in daily life.

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(Clockwise starting from top left) Daniel Oyinloye, Lyric Center for the Arts, Ann Klefstad's *Trees in Season: Willow and Alder*, Daniel Jandl's *Lake Superior Waves 2*, Ely Winter Festival, Daniel Jandl's *Stoney Point and Milky Way*, Robert Pokorney's *Flower Field 2013*, Leah Yellowbird's *Medicinal Flower*, Duluth All Souls Night 2016, and Briand Morrison.

Message from the Director



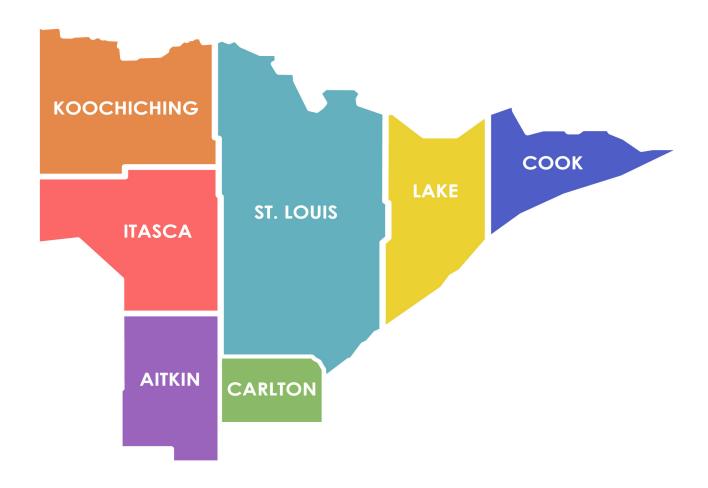
Fiscal Year 2017 was another big year of transition for the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. The council's longtime executive director Robert DeArmond retired after nearly three decades. The board finished its restructuring as result of deliberate planning. The council brought more individuals into the review panel process.

Some things remained the same. Demand for grants was again very high. We know that we have historically been one of the most competitive regions in the state for grants. Representatives of the region played a strong role in advocating for continued state funding for the arts. More research showed just how important the arts are to the economic health of the region.

During his tenure as Executive Director, DeArmond took the Council from awarding approximately \$70,000 a year in two grant programs to awarding over \$3,500,000 in the last seven years across ten grant programs. DeArmond was instrumental in the development and management of grant programs and services for individual artists; rural arts organizations and groups; operating support for arts organizations; and grants with a quick turnaround time to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. He was a founding member of the Artist Relief Fund which offered emergency support to regional artists, and has served on several state committees, Percent for Arts projects, and nonprofit funding panels. DeArmond joined the Council in 1989 as its fourth Executive Director and its first full-time employee.

The board welcomed one new member in July and has four openings going into the new fiscal year.

This report represents the accomplishments of the Council in FY2017 through collected data and analysis.



Region Population Statistics (2015 Estimates)*

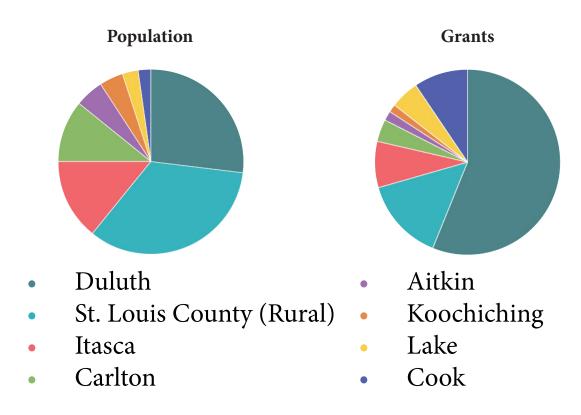
Total Regional Population:325,413Duluth City Population:86,859 (27%)Rural Population:238,554 (73%)People of Color:28,205 (9%)

^{*} United States Census Bureau estimates via minnesotacompass.org

FY 2017 Program Summary

ARAC has made access to our programs a priority in recent years, and that work shows in the program summary data for FY17. People of color represent 9% of the region's population, but received 17% of individual artist grants. FY17 saw a 50% increase from FY16 in successful applications from artists living outside of Duluth, which is an exciting shift.

That said, the data also point to areas that need more attention; Carlton County and the Iron Range cities continue to have fewer applicants than population suggests, and demand from Duluth artists continues to significantly out-pace the rest of the region.

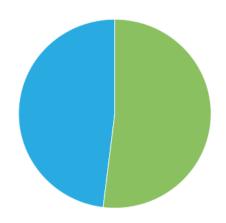


Organizations

FY 2016

109 applications received 30 new applicants (28%) 57 funded \$614,875 requested \$326,270 awarded

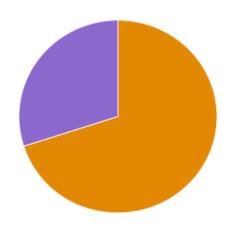
52% of organizational applicants were funded



FY 2017

91 applications received 19 new applicants (21%) 64 funded \$490,730 requested \$324,290 awarded

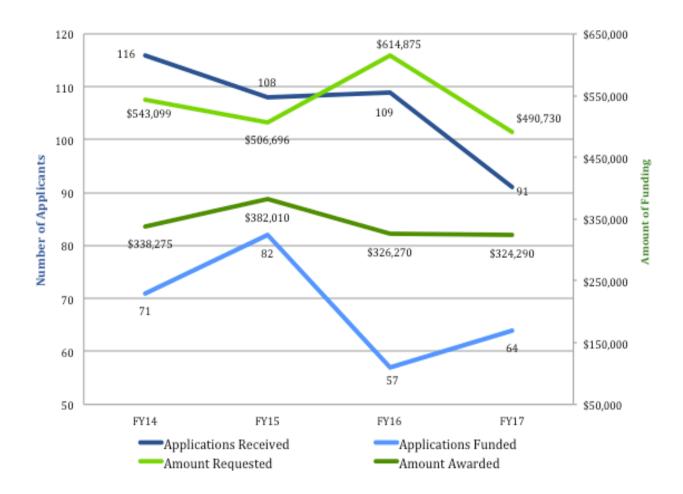
70% of organizational applicants were funded





Lake Superior Youth Chorus (Duluth)

Year-to-Year Overview: Organizational Grants



Individuals

FY 2016

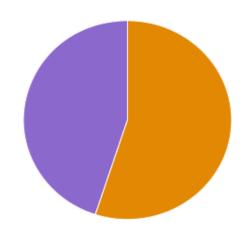
206 applications received 69 new applicants (33%) 97 funded \$593,240 requested \$229,730 awarded 47% of individual applicants were

FY 2017

176 applications received 74 new applicants (42%) 96 funded \$549,290 requested \$232,450 awarded

funded

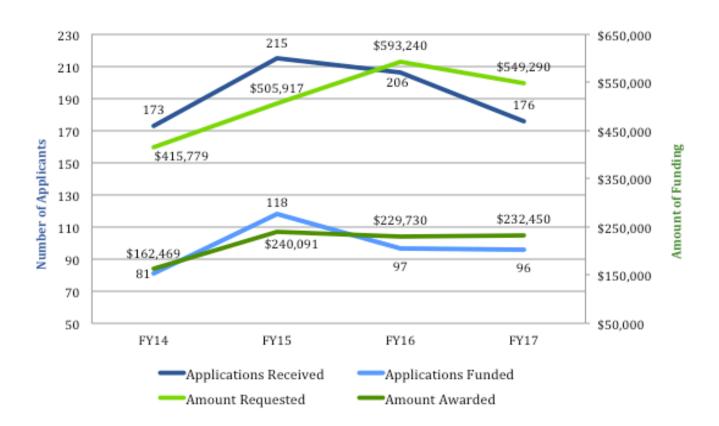
55% of individual applicants were funded





Craig Blacklock (Moose Lake)

Year-to-Year Overview: Individual Grants



Of the Applications Received

	Total Applications Received	Total New Applicants	New Applications Funded
St. Louis	189	63	27
St. Louis (Duluth)	150	51	23
St. Louis (Rural)	39	12	4
Itasca	24	10	4
Carlton	8	2	2
Aitkin	5	3	1
Koochiching	2	0	0
Lake	21	9	4
Cook	18	6	5
Total	267	93	43

These data show the total number of applications received from each county in FY17, the number of applicants, and how many of their projects were funded.

The data in the following county summary pages focus exclusively on funded applications.



Tim White (Duluth)

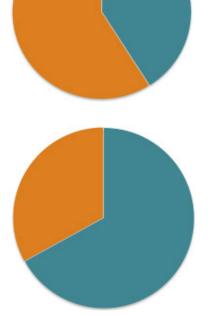
Of the Applicants Funded

Duluth Groups: 26/64 41% Rural Groups: 38/64 59%

New Applicants: 9/64 14%

Duluth Artists: 64/96 67% Rural Artists: 32/96 33%

Artists of Color: 16/96 17% New Applicants: 34/96 35%



- Received a higher percentage of grants than would be expected based on overall population.
- Received an expected percentage of grants based on overall population.
- Received a lower percentage of grants than would be expected based on overall population.



Sarah Brokke Erickson (Duluth)

Return Rates for Successful First-Time Applicants

New Artists Funded in FY15

Program	Artists Funded	New Artists Funded	Funded Again in FY15-17
Quick Start (Ind.)	34	14 (41%)	5 (36%)
Career Development	34	12 (35%)	6 (50%)
Tech & Equipment	35	18 (51%)	10 (56%)
Arts Learning (Ind.)	4	1 (25%)	0 (0%)
Fellowship	12	4 (33%)	0 (0%)

New Artists Funded in FY16

Program	Artists Funded	New Artists Funded	Funded Again in FY16-17
Quick Start (Ind.)	32	11 (34%)	4 (36%)
Career Development	32	11 (34%)	2 (18%)
Tech & Equipment	22	5 (23%)	1 (20%)
Arts Learning (Ind.)	4	1 (25%)	0 (0%)
Fellowship	7	1 (14%)	0 (0%)

Return Rates for Successful First-Time Applicants

Analysis

These data for analyzing the successful return rate of successful first-time applicants is limited in its scope because ARAC didn't begin collecting this information until FY15, and three years is a relatively short window. The new artists ARAC funded in FY16 have had less time to come back than those from FY15, and it shows in the numbers. That said, these charts still provide us with some interesting information because they offer a snapshot of what's happened with new artists ARAC funded since moving its applications online.

There was a significant shift in the number of overall and new applicants funded in the Technology & Equipment program from FY15 to FY16 – ARAC carried a significant amount of funding from FY14 into FY15, which dramatically increased the number of awards in that program. It is exciting to see that many of the successful new applicants who benefited from the surplus capitalized on that opportunity, coming back successfully for other grants at a high rate.

Quick Start's perceived role as a reliable 'Gateway Grant' is validated by its consistent data, but the data also show that first-time applicants have been successful in ways as diverse as their talents and needs.

Leah Yellowbird First Grant: Quick Start

Leah received her first grant in FY16, to prepare for her first solo exhibition at AICHO in Duluth. Her career has since taken off, and she has gone on to receive several other grants, including an ARAC Fellowship and a MSAB Folk and Traditional Arts grant.



Notes

Troy Rogers First Grant: Quick Start

Troy received his first grant in FY15, to travel to Art Basel Miami to perform a musical robotics show. Since then, he has gone on to do many grant-funded projects across the region and beyond. He has given makerspace-style musical robotics workshops for children on the Iron Range and in Duluth, and is in the process of recording his first album with Steve Albini at Electrical Audio in Chicago.



St. Louis (All)

Population: 199,744 (61%) Grants: 113 (70%)

Organizations

Art Project: 17/18	94%
Rural & Community Art Project: 8/20	40%
Arts Learning: 8/12	67%
Two-Year Operating: 5/6	83%
Quick Start: 6/8	75%

Total: 44/64 **69%** New Applicants: 3

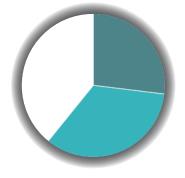
Individuals

Career Development: 23/31	74%
Technology & Equipment: 18/26	69%
Arts Learning: 4/4	100%
Fellowship: 5/7	71%
Quick Start: 19/28	68%

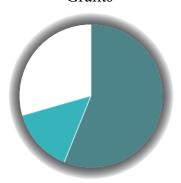
Total: 69/96 **72%** New Applicants: 24 looks bright, but it is a massive county with tremendous variation across its communities. The county includes Duluth, long recognized as our region's major urban arts hub; the Mesabi Iron Range cities, where interest in the arts is growing; wilderness destination communities such as Ely, Cook, and Tower; as well as many rural townships with rich cultural histories. In order to have a clearer understanding of ARAC funding in this county, we have separate reports for Duluth and greater St. Louis County.

The overall picture of St Louis





Grants



St. Louis

St. Louis (Duluth)

Population: 86,859 (27%) Grants: 90 (56%)

Organizations

4
%
%
%

Total: 26/64 41% New Applicants: 1

Individuals

Career Development: 23/31	74%
Technology & Equipment: 18/26	69%
Arts Learning: 2/4	50%
Fellowship: 4/7	57%
Quick Start: 17/28	61%

Total: 64/96 67% New Applicants: 22

Population

With three four-year colleges in the area offering arts-related degree programs and many longstanding and emerging arts organizations, Duluth boasts an ever-changing, dynamic, and diverse artistic community that is supported

through a network of strong

organizations offering a broad range of opportunities for artists of all levels.

Grants



St. Louis (Rural)

Population: 112,885 (34%) Grants: 23 (14%)

Organizations

Art Project: 3/18	17%
Rural & Community Art Project: 8/20	35%
Arts Learning: 3/12	25%
Two-Year Operating: 1/6	17%
Quick Start: 4/8	50%

Total: 19/64 30% New Applicants: 2

Individuals

Career Development: 0/31	0%
Technology & Equipment: 0/26	0%
Arts Learning: 2/4	50%
Fellowship: 1/7	14%
Quick Start: 2/28	7%

Total: 5/96 5% New Applicants: 2 Despite these tough numbers there have been positive developments in greater St. Louis arts communities over the past year – awarded grants increased by 40% from FY16. These gains came largely in our programs for organizations. ARAC should continue to encourage and nurture this organizational development, but also work to better engage and connect with emerging individual artists.

Population



Grants



Itasca

Population: 45,672 (14%) Grants: 13 (8%)

The region's second most populated county, Itasca is home to a strong infrastructure of arts organizations, homegrown artists, and passionate advocates who recognize the valuable role of creativity in developing community identity. The recent moves of MacRostie Art Center and the Itasca Orchestra & Strings Program to MSAB Operating Support has created an opportunity for new organizations to come to ARAC for funding.

Organizations

Art Project: 0/18	0%
Rural & Community Art Project: 3/20	15%
Arts Learning: 0/12	0%
Two-Year Operating: 1/6	17%
Quick Start: 0/8	0%

Total: 4/64 6% New Applicants: 1

Individuals

Career Development: 3/31	10%
Technology & Equipment: 2/26	8%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%
Fellowship: 2/7	29%
Quick Start: 2/28	7%

Total: 9/96 9% New Applicants: 3

Itasca

Population



Grants



Carlton

Population: 35,744 (11%) Grants: 6 (4%)

Organizations

Art Project: 0/18	0%
Rural & Community Art Project: 3/20	15%
Arts Learning: 1/12	8%
Two-Year Operating: 0/6	0%
Quick Start: 0/8	0%

Total: 4/64 6% New Applicants: 2

Individuals

Career Development: 0/31	0%
Technology & Equipment: 1/26	4%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%
Quick Start: 1/28	4%

Total: 2/96 2% New Applicants: 0 Carlton's proximity to
Duluth sometimes leads it
to be under-recognized as a
place with a compelling and
unique identity in its own
right. Home to inspiring
landscapes with deep
histories, a strong Ojibwe
community, a longstanding
and distinctive rural film
community, and a wealth
of talented individual
artists, Carlton has many
opportunities for growth.

Population



Grants



Carlton

Aitkin

Population: 15,610 (5%) Grants: 3 (2%)

Organizations

Art Project: 0/18 0%
Rural & Community Art Project: 1/20 5%
Arts Learning: 1/12 8%
Two-Year Operating: 0/6 0%
Quick Start: 0/8 0%

Total: 2/64 3% New Applicants: 1

Individuals

Career Development: 0/31 0%
Technology & Equipment: 1/26 4%
Arts Learning: 0/4 0%
Fellowship: 0/7 0%
Quick Start: 0/28 0%

Total: 1/96 1% New Applicants: 0

Aitkin's arts nonprofit leadership has struggled

through difficult and

frequent turnover in recent

troubles and has made gains

Aitkin

since last year. Filling the vacant board position in Aitkin should be a priority

in the coming year.

years, and those struggles

have adversely impacted

ARAC's granting there.

That said, the county's art community seems to be emerging from those

Population

Grants





Koochiching

Population: 12,753 (4%) Grants: 2 (1%)

Organizations

Art Project: 0/18	0%
Rural & Community Art Project: 2/20	10%
Arts Learning: 0/12	0%
Two-Year Operating: 0/6	0%
Quick Start: 0/8	0%

Total: 2/64 3% New Applicants: 0

Individuals

Career Development: 0/31	0%
Technology & Equipment: 0/26	0%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%
Quick Start: 0/28	0%

Total: 0/96 0% New Applicants: 0

Population



Grants



Home to the region's most geographically isolated communities, Koochiching's creative community may be small, but it is also close-knit, community driven, and active-carving out a compelling and unique artistic identity around its remoteness. Filling the vacant board position in Koochiching should be a priority in the coming year.



Lake

Population: 10,626 (3%) Grants: 8 (5%)

Like the rest of the north shore, Lake benefits from a steady flow of seasonal tourists and is home to a wealth of artistic talent. Individual artists from the county have made significant gains since last year. Lake would benefit from cultivating a more unified organizational network in cultivating its distinctive artistic identity.

Organizations

Art Project: 0/18	0%
Rural & Community Art Project: 1/20	5%
Arts Learning: 1/12	8%
Two-Year Operating: 0/6	0%
Quick Start: 1/8	13%

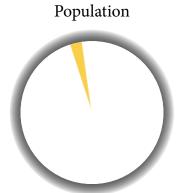
Total: 3/64 5% New Applicants: 2

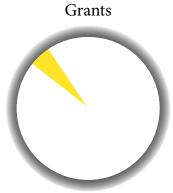
Individuals

Career Development: 2/31	6%
Technology & Equipment: 1/26	4%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%
Quick Start: 2/28	7%

Total: 5/96 5% New Applicants: 2

Lake





Cook

Population: 5,264 (2%) Grants: 15 (9%)

Organizations

Art Project: 1/18	6%
Rural & Community Art Project: 2/20	10%
Arts Learning: 1/12	8%
Two-Year Operating: 0/6	0%
Quick Start: 1/8	13%

Total: 5/64 8% New Applicants: 0

Individuals

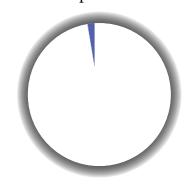
Career Development: 3/31	10%
Technology & Equipment: 3/26	12%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%
Quick Start: 4/28	14%

Total: 10/96 **10%** New Applicants: 5 smallest county, it packs a mighty artistic punch. Home to the strongest arts community on per capita basis, Cook has a longstanding, deep, and vibrant arts community centered in Grand Marais that is supported by passionate locals, a steady flow of tourists, and a strong infrastructure of organizations.

Cook

Though Cook is the region's







Assessment, Accountability, & Access: Changes for FY18

During the FY16-17 biennium, the Council and staff undertook a strategic planning and assessment process that began with a facilitated retreat. That process identified three major themes for exploration and development: Understanding, Refining, and Implementing Board and Staff Roles; Developing a Needs Assessment to Inform Long-term Planning; and Positioning Ourselves in Our Environment. Through various channels of staff and committee work, ARAC introduced the following changes for FY18:

Board and Staff

The maximum number of members on ARAC's Board of Directors was reduced from 17 to 13, and the Conflict-of-Interest rules were updated. ARAC introduced community review panelists into the Career Development and Rural & Community Art Project programs in FY16. In FY18, community review panelists will also be introduced into the Technology & Equipment and Arts Learning programs.

Needs Assessment/Programmatic Priorities

The Review Process and Planning Committee and staff conducted both a broad public needs assessment survey, and a more focused programmatic priorities survey of the Board. As a result of the findings of those surveys, the primary review criterion was changed from Artistic Quality to Impact in the Career Development and Technology & Equipment programs. Staff worked to clarify and streamline the process of applying for grants by rewriting and redesigning all of the program guidelines. Staff also created short tutorial videos to embed into all of the online application forms.

Positioning Ourselves in Our Environment

ARAC has tested a variety of ways to make sure that the core mission of ARAC - facilitating and encouraging local arts development - has the right platform. The board set indicators of success that required ARAC show evidence of a higher public profile, evaluate demographic data and grant data, show evidence of more community support/engagement, and help increase audiences for artists.

Understanding this, ARAC has already made substantial accomplishments with data-based research on demographics and grants, a more aggressive (and evaluated) social media campaign, and the additional engagement of community members by having them serve on an increasing number of review panels.

The next steps are to have a formal marketing and impact plan, due to the board this November, as well as continued outreach and the development of more services programming.

Creative MN

Arts and Culture remain a robust economic sector in the Arrowhead Region. Minnesota Citizens for the Arts in association with Americans for the Arts completed their second Creative Minnesota economic impact study this year. The report had far greater participation than the first, providing a more accurate picture of art and culture's economic impact across the region. The economic impact of arts and culture in the Arrowhead is second only to the Twin Cities Metro Area in Minnesota.

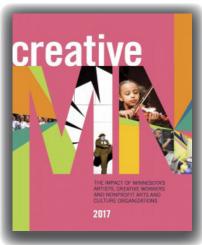
Across the state, arts and culture generates \$1.2 billion in total economic impact and supports the equivalent of 33,381 full-time jobs.

In the Arrowhead, 4,099 artists and creative workers working for themselves and 143 nonprofit and cultural organizations had a combined economic impact of \$83.3 million.

The 2017 study shows:

- **Top 3** creative jobs are photographer, singer, and author.
- 88% of this region's artists volunteer compared to 25% of all Americans and 35% of all Minnesotans.
- Total government revenue generated by organizations and artists in the Arrowhead: \$8,078,000
- Arrowhead, while 4th in populations among the areas studied, is 2nd in both creative job density and total economic impact behind only the Twin Cities metro.

Individual studies on Cook County, Duluth, Grand Rapids, and Virginia were done in 2015. A new study on Arts and Culture across the Iron Range is underway. All of the research developed by Creative Minnesota is available at creativemn.org.



Creative MN

Total Economic Impact in the Arrowhead Region:

\$83.3 million

Attendees in the Arrowhead Region:

1,373,159

Average Hourly Wage for Creative Workers:

\$17.99



Grant Workshops & Outreach





OUTSIDE RESOURCES

ARAC also co-sponsored workshops by the following organizations: Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB), Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), and Very Special Arts Minnesota (VSA).

GRANT WORKSHOPS

10 workshops57 attendees

Grant Workshops

ARAC held 10 grant workshops during FY17. These workshops were held by staff to familiarize constituents with the Council's programs and to offer regional artists and arts organizations technical assistance in submitting applications. These program-specific workshops were held in the weeks prior to application deadlines. 5 of the workshops were held at the ARAC office in **Duluth**. Workshops were also held in the following locations: American Indian Community Housing Organization (**Duluth**), **Cloquet**, **Ely**, **Grand Rapids**, and **Two Harbors**.

Staff also attended and spoke at Minnesota State Arts Board workshops in **Duluth (x2)**, **Ely**, **Grand Marais**, **Grand Rapids**, and **Two Harbors**.

Grants Manager Ashley Kolka also participated in trainings offered by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, hosting a round table at its annual regional conference in **Duluth** and taking part in a daylong session on assessment and evaluation in **International Falls**. She made additional informal networking/site visits to: Jaques Art Center (**Aitkin**), Northwoods Friends of the Arts (**Cook**), and Old School Lives (**Cotton**).



Arrowhead Arts Awards

On Friday, May 26th, 2017, ARAC presented its 19th Annual Arrowhead Arts Awards in Virginia, MN. This event recognized two individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region.

This year's **George Morrison Artist Award** was awarded to sculptor **Dave Lynas**. Many of Lynas' innovations in clay have come from studying and modifying art from other cultures, such as Aboriginal didgeridoos, or South American flutes. Through exploring clay instruments, he has brought together his love for making visual art with his interest and skill in music. His love for art is infectious and his ability to share his knowledge and skills with other people has allowed him to connect with students of all ages as well as local, regional, and national artists. Lynas' work contunues to be exhibited and collected nationwide.

This year's **Maddie Simons Advocate Award** was presented to arts advocate **Mary McReynolds**. McReynolds was the driving force in the formation of the group to renovate the Lyric/State Theatre in Virginia, MN in 1998, working in all facets necessary to bring this facility back to life. McReynolds has not only been part of the building projects, she also researched, wrote, and managed numerous grants that have helped to keep the project moving forward. She is currently overseeing the renovation and repair of the front of the Lyric Center for the Arts (the State Theatre) to return the theater to its 1912 appearance, a project that will start this summer.



ARAC is proud to have individuals like **Dave Lynas** and **Mary McReynolds** in our region and look forward to their future contributions to the arts community of the Arrowhead Region.



This year ARAC commissioned Itasca County artist **Danny Root** and St. Louis County artist **Leah Yellowbird** to make the awards.

ART PROJECT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Arrowhead Chorale (Duluth) †

To pay for music, performing artists, venue costs, and marketing materials for the Chorale's Holiday Jubilations & Traditions concert at Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth.

Duluth All Souls Night (Duluth)

Support for the 2016 Duluth All Souls Night celebration at the Depot in Duluth, featuring music, visual arts, performing arts, dance, poetry, and more.

Duluth All Souls Night (Duluth) †

Support for the 2017 Duluth All Souls Night celebration at the Depot in Duluth, featuring music, visual arts, performing arts, dance, poetry, and more.

Duluth Superior Film Festival (Duluth) †

To pay for exhibition rights for film titles, venue rentals, marketing, and fees to performers for the 2017 Duluth Superior Film Festival, taking place at locations around Duluth and at the Comet Theater in Cook.

Freshwater Dance Collective (Duluth)

Support for Dances on the Lakewalk, an annual performance of site-specific dances with original choreography by Minnesota and California artists, at Lake Place Park in Duluth.

Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra (Duluth)

To present two works for piano and orchestra: George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* in its original 1924 version, and the world premiere of Hooshyar Khayam's *Rhapsody in Turquoise*, composed as a companion piece for the Gershwin work.

Notes

Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra (Duluth)

To present a concert at Weber Hall in Duluth featuring talented locals: recordist Shelley Gruskin, flautist Johanna Gruskin, and composer Mina Kaiser.

Lake Superior Writers (Duluth) †

To present a themed program featuring four local writers (Lucie Amundsen, Julie Gard, Alice Marks, and Felicia Schneiderhan) reading from their first published books, with a Q&A discussion about their journeys to becoming published, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Duluth.

Lyric Opera of the North (Duluth) †

To pay artists participating in LOON's production of Verdi's tragic masterpiece, *Rigoletto*, at Marshall Performing Arts Center in Duluth.

Matinee Musicale (Duluth) †

To present concert and outreach events featuring tenor Jack Swanson: a public concert at Weber Hall, a performance at an area senior living facility, and a master class for area college students at The College of St. Scholastica, all in Duluth. (**Pictured**)

Matinee Musicale (Duluth) †

To present a concert featuring violinist Erin Keefe and pianist Anna Polonsky at Mitchell Auditorium in Duluth.



Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (Virginia) †

To present spring performances of Borodin's *Prince Igor* overture, Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances*, and Beethoven's groundbreaking *Eroica* symphony in Virginia and Chisholm.

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (Virginia) †

To collaborate with area choirs to perform a concert celebrating Leondard Bernstein's 100th birthday in Virginia. The concert will feature pieces from *Chichester Psalms*, *Westside Story*, and *Candide*.

Northern Lights Music Festival (Aurora)

To support performances in Bemidji, Ely, and Grand Marais featuring students from the Northern Lights Music Festival Opera Apprentices program.

North Shore Music Association (Grand Marais) †

To support a performance and master class by worldrenowned German pianist Andreas Klein at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais.

Prøve Collective (Duluth)

To present Relax Girl, You're an Artist, an exhibition curated by Betsy Hunt and Zach Moser featuring work by women from around the U.S., each of whom works as an artist outside of her official employment responsibilities.

Sacred Heart Music Center (Duluth) †

To support a performance by Aaron David Miller, an internationally acclaimed organist and composer, accompanying a silent film on the Felgemaker organ, a centerpiece of the Sacred Heart Music Center. (**Pictured**)



Spirit Lake Poetry Series (Duluth)

To support the 20th run of the Spirit Lake Poetry Series, featuring readings from Michelle Matthees, Holly Day, Jennifer Knox, and Francine Sterle, as well as a special guest from Milkweed Editions, at Prøve Collective in Duluth.

RURAL & COMMUNITY ART PROJECT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Aitkin Community Education (Aitkin) †

Support to bring Prairie Fire Theatre Company to Aitkin to host a weeklong series of interactive theater workshops for K-12 students, culminating in a public performance.

Carlton County Historical Society (Cloquet) † *

To produce and present *Voices from the Flames*, a published collection of poetry and reader's theater production commemorating the centennial of the 1918 fires that ravaged Carlton County.



Ely ArtWalk (Ely)

To present the 2018 Ely ArtWalk, an 11-day winter art show that transforms local storefronts into artist showcases in conjunction with the Ely Winter Festival.

Ely Community Spring Musical (Ely) †

To present *Pippin* as its 2017 musical. Each year, the Ely Community Spring Musical offers the public an engaging musical theater production while allowing cast members and community performers to develop their crafts.

Ely Folk School (Ely) *

To support lead artist Erik Simula in directing the build of a birch bark canoe during the course of the summer of 2017. Crafting sessions will be held two evenings per week at the Ely Folk School, in which volunteers will work under the artist's direction.

Ely Winter Festival (Ely)

To present the 2018 Snow Sculpture Symposium in Whiteside Park as part of the Ely Winter Festival. Massive blocks of snow are transformed by teams of artists into large sculptures that delight and inspire resident and visitors of all ages.

Notes

Friends of B'nai Abraham (Virginia)

To present a series of summer concerts featuring Minnesota artists and groups performing a wide variety of programs at the historic B'nai Abraham synagogue in Virginia.

Good Harbor Hill Players (Grand Marais) †

To produce a community pageant celebrating the summer solstice. The show will take place in the commons area of North House Folk School on the harbor in Grand Marais.

Good Harbor Hill Players (Grand Marais) †

To prepare and perform an original shadow puppet performance with live music in celebration of the winter solstice. The show will take place at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais.

Grace House of Itasca County (Grand Rapids) *

To host two performances of zAmya Theater Project's *Reality Roadshow* at the Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids.

Icebox Radio Theater (International Falls)

To present the Theater's 2017/18 podcast season. Icebox Radio Theater brings the Northland's stories to the world through the medium of sound. (**Pictured**)

Itasca Choral Society/Itasca Community Chorus (Grand Rapids) †

To present Broadway: Past and Present!, a choral concert at the Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids.

Lake County Developmental Achievement Center, Inc. (Two Harbors) \dagger *

To present the creative talents of Lake County DAC's Art Expressions clients as a part of its annual Fall Fest Open House in Two Harbors. The presentations will include visual art and dance.

Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships (Virginia)

To hold the 36th annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships at the Merritt Elementary School Auditorium in Mountain Iron.

Moose Lake School (Moose Lake) † *

To create and install a themed three-paneled mural (Fine Arts, Academics, Athletics) featuring the work of local artists in the new Moose Lake Community School building.

Northern Lakes Art Association (Ely)

To present the Mixed Precipitation Theater's picnic operetta, *Philemon and Baucis-Planet in Peril*, an adaptation of Haydn's rarely performed 1773 marionette opera paired with the rock and roll music of Queen, at a CSA farm near Babbitt.

Rainy Lake Community Orchestra (International Falls) †

To host the Orchestra's annual Summer String Program, a week-long mentoring workshop for regional strings players that will end with a public performance.

St. Louis County (Hibbing) †

Support for the creation of mural depicting the Hill of Three Waters by John Cook at the Hibbing Courthouse.

VFW Post 1720 (Grand Rapids)

To host a series of 10 themed jazz concerts designed by Sam Miltich and featuring guest artists at the VFW as a part of Grand Rapids' monthly First Friday art crawls.

Washington Elementary (Cloquet) †

To work with artist Adam Swanson to create a 13ft x 8ft mural at the school based on the local landscape and animals of the Lake Superior Water Basin.

Arts Learning (Organizational) Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Aitkin High School Jazz Band (Aitkin) † *

To host a jazz clinic and concert featuring trombonist Tom "Bones" Malone, an original member of the Blues Brothers as a member of the Saturday Night Live Band and a longtime trombonist with the CBS Orchestra. (**Pictured**)

Arts on Superior, Inc., (Two Harbors)

To bring storyteller Rachel Nelson to Piedmont Elementary School for a weeklong 4th grade Story to Literacy residency.

College of St. Scholastica (Duluth)

Support for a collaborative mural project led by the CSS Art Department students and faculty and joined by students from Harbor City International School and community members from Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center. Participants will work collaboratively to create two murals for permanent installation at Safe Haven and HCIS.



Duluth Children's Museum (Duluth) †

To present Makizinikewin: Ojibwe Pucker Toe Moccasin Making with local Anishinaabe artist Sarah Howes. Howes will use part of the museum's exhibit hall as a working studio, constructing a pair of Ojibwe pucker toe moccasins, while teaching children how to create their own moccasin vamps.

Echoes of Peace (Duluth)

To present Art of Ubuntu, a concert and art exhibit focused on the theme of kinship and community at Zeitgeist in Duluth. A unique aspect of this project will be the inclusion of a "one community, one song" intergenerational community choir.

Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra (Duluth)

To support The Quartet Project, an intensive chamber music workshop for area middle and high school string students. Students meet with coaches drawn from the professional musicians of the LSCO for two days per week over three weeks. This year the Quartet Project will also work with local fiddler and disability activist Gaelynn Lea Tressler.



Notes

Lake Superior Youth Chorus (Duluth)

To bring together 100 4th-6th grade students from around the region to rehearse for the 2018 LSYC Honor Choir. The day will end with a concert from the students.

Minnesota Discovery Center (Chisholm) †

To present two Ojibwe arts learning opportunities as a part of MDC's Iron Range Roots Festival. Sharon Day will offer a 2-hour hand-drumming workshop and speak about Native American musical traditions; Leanne Johnson will offer a 1-hour workshop on beading.

North Shore Music Association (Grand Marais)

To host two educational events in Grand Marais with GRAMMY-winning folk musician Dom Flemons: a lecture/demonstration of old-time folk music history, and a workshop on the Rhythm Bones, one of the world's oldest instruments. He will also perform a concert at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts. (**Pictured**)

Northstar Foundation (Hibbing) †

To host the 23rd season of the Northstar Arts Camp at the historic Mesaba Co-op Park near Hibbing. This artsinfused camp takes advantage of the beautiful natural setting to immerse children in an interaction of art, nature, and community learning.

Vermilion Community College (Ely)

To present public lectures and presentations at VCC with writer and educator Louis Martinelli, who will educate audiences about writer Paul Gruchow's legacy of exceptional writing about nature and place, especially the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Washington Elementary (Cloquet) †

To host an artist-in-residency experience with musician Ross Sutter. Sutter will work with third grade students to extend and enhance their understanding of the physics of sound as, under Sutter's direction, students build three musical instruments—a two-hole whistle, a mouth bow, and a one-string dulcimer.

Two-Year Operating Support Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Armory Arts and Music Center (Duluth) †

To support the operations of the Music Resource Center, which provides area 6th-12th grade students with access to free, high quality after school music programs.

Duluth Superior Film Festival (Duluth)

To hire a year-round staff member and increase year-round marketing efforts.

Edge Center for the Arts (Bigfork) †

To hire an accounting firm to help communicate financial information; purchase data and donor management software; and consult with an insurance agent.

Lake Superior Writers (Duluth) †

To hire a part-time administrator to assist in managing activities and membership. Support will also be used to assist with rent, insurance, and the creation of new marketing materials.

Lyric Center for the Arts (Virginia) †

To update the Lyric website and increase advertising; increase energy efficiency with the installation of LED lighting; and install a projection screen for film showings.

Notes

Prøve Collective (Duluth)

To update equipment, purchase design and donor software, and support day-to-day administrative operations.

Quick Start (Organizational) Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Bottle Cap Productions (Ely)

To purchase a projector and screen for the production of a staged reading of Root Beer Lady, the Musical at Vermillion Community College.

Chisholm Public Schools (Chisholm) *

To host All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914, a play by Theatre Latte Da, at Chisholm High School.

Duluth Film Collective (Duluth) † *

To purchase a television for screening films.

Grand Marais Art Colony (Grand Marais) †

To purchase a portable air purifier with a carbon blend filter to ensure a non-toxic, high quality work space for studio artists, students, and employees at the Colony.



Knife River Recreation Council (Knife River) † *

To support musical performers at the Knife River Julebyen Festival. (**Pictured on previous page**)

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (Virginia) †

To pay trumpet soloist Ryan Beach to perform with the orchestra in Virginia and Ely.

Singing Slovenes (Duluth) †

To replace and upgrade on-stage banner and signage.

University of Minnesota-Duluth (Duluth) †

To host an open-call exhibition, Ceremonial Birth, at American Indian Community Housing Organization in Duluth.

Career Development Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Anthony Adams (Duluth) † *

To purchase materials and tools needed to produce 6 stringed instruments to be displayed and played by local musician Dave Lynas at the Duluth Coffee Company.

Kirsten Aune (Duluth) †

To create large-scale textiles, projections, and animations for an exhibition, Luova Taide Yhdessa: Creative Art Together, at the Nordic Center in Duluth.

Karlyn Berg (Bovey) † *

To purchase the materials needed to create a new body of collages for a solo exhibition at the Phipps Gallery in Hudson, WI.

Notes



Allen Cragin (Duluth) † *

To create a music video for a track from Reflectivore's new album. (**Pictured**)

Justin Dallas (Knife River) † *

To purchase tools and materials, as well as support the work time, to create three 4x8 ft bas relief carvings featuring fish of the Knife River.

Staci Drouillard (Grand Marais) † *

To facilitate the completion of her book, *Walking the Old Road: The Village of Chippewa City and the Grand Marais Chippewa*, a narrative history of the community.

Joan Farnam (Grand Marais) †

To create four storytelling videos with local videographer Patrick Knight to be shared at a launch event at the Grand Marais Art Colony.

Marc Gartman (Duluth) †

To record and produce tracks for Plans, a new album by his band, Glitteratti.

Shawna Gilmore (Duluth)

To create new work and defray framing costs for an exhibition at Gallery 360 in Minneapolis.

John Gregor (Two Harbors) †

To pay for time to research, travel, photograph, and process images in order to create a body of photographs called Remains of the Lake.

Carla Hamilton (Duluth) †

Support to prepare mixed media artwork for Gezielt (Targeted), her solo exhibition at the Duluth Art Institute.

Mina Kaiser (Duluth)

To compose a concerto for flute, recorder, and string orchestra, which will be performed by the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra as part of its 2017 season.

Ann Klefstad (Duluth)

To create a new body of work of small grisaille paintings, as well as wood and steel sculptures, which will be toured regionally and nationally in 2018.

Sarah Krueger (Duluth) †

To launch a new project with fellow musician Ben Larson. She will write new songs, purchase recording equipment, and commission professional press photographs.



Notes

Paul LaJeunesse (Duluth) *

To create new paintings and commission sound art for Laurentian, a north woods themed group exhibit at the Duluth Art Institute that will also include members of the Duluth Woodturners Guild.

Maichong Lor (Duluth) † *

To create a portfolio of textile designs inspired by traditional Hmong textile crafts that, together, tell the story of her family.

Kathleen McTavish (Duluth)

To prepare an early prototype for her upcoming exhibit at the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth.

Michelle Matthees (Duluth)

To give readings and undertake other promotional activities related to the release of Flucht, her latest poetry collection.

Catherine Meier (Duluth) †

To research and develop a new body of visual artwork as a resident at Cedar Point Biological Station in western Nebraska.

Samuel Miltich (Grand Rapids)

Support to teach a gypsy jazz workshop at the 2017 Grappelli-Django Camp, which will take place in the village of De Glind, near Amersfoort, in The Netherlands.

Chani Ninneman (Duluth) † *

To create high quality, original adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, *Treasure Island*, which will be produced by Wise Fool Shakespeare and performed at Lincoln Park Middle School in Duluth.

Erin O'Daniel (Duluth)

To purchase an internet/Intel friendly computer, hire a website designer, and learn about how these tools can better serve her essay writing.

Mary Plaster (Duluth)

To construct a giant skeleton puppet body at Chris Lutter's Puppet Farm Studio in Minneapolis.

Robert Pokorney (Duluth) †

To purchase oil paints, brushes, panels, and framing supplies for an upcoming solo exhibition at Prøve Gallery in Duluth. (**Pictured on previous page**)

Yvonne Rutford (Duluth) †

To attend a writing workshop instructed by Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew, entitled "Alone Together: Living Revision," at Madeline Island School of the Arts.

Laura Sellner (Duluth)

To manufacture CDs and vinyl pressings of Superior Siren's first full-length album. (**Pictured**)

Corrie Steckelberg (Hovland)

To take a sculpting course at the Grand Marais Art Colony with instructor Helen Otterson in support of the creation of a new body of artwork.

Vernal Bogren Swift (Bovey) †

To create sixteen large batiks exploring the theme of 'Deep Time' for an upcoming solo exhibition at the North Dakota Museum of Art in Fargo.

Tim White (Duluth) †

To create a second book of photographs, with the working title North.

Peter Witrak (Duluth)

To professionally record and produce a second album for his band, Tender Ness.

Notes



Leah Yellowbird (Duluth) †

To create a to create a life-size, seven foot tall bear sculpture covered with Ojibwe floral patterns created with craft pompoms.

Technology and Equipment Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Reggie Asplund (Duluth)

To purchase a new laptop and an updated version of the Adobe Creative Suite in order to continue pursuing photography.

Kristen Biles (Duluth) *

To purchase Jaanome Horizons Memory Craft 8200QC sewing machine to create custom costuming for theatrical productions.

Jeffrey Brown (Duluth) *

To purchase a new computer and software that will be used to create theatrical scene and lighting designs.



Craig Blacklock (Moose Lake) †

To obtain a high definition monitor that will allow for more precise photo editing.

Sean Elmquist (Duluth) †

To purchase of a high fire ceramic kiln, which will be used to make a new body of sculptural ceramic work.

Josh Gorham (Duluth) *

To purchase new lenses for photography and a new computer and software to be used to edit photos.

John Gregor (Two Harbors) †

To purchase a new mobile docking station and laptop computer for photo editing while traveling to on-site locations.

Ann Gumpper (Duluth) † *

To purchase software and undertake training that will update her skills and enhance her work as a scenic designer.

Daniel Jandl (Duluth) *

To purchase of large aperture camera lenses to take high-quality, low-noise, low-light landscape photographs not possible with current lenses.

Notes

Michael Jasper (Grand Rapids) *

To launch a professional website and purchase a spray booth for ceramics glazing.

Nate Johnson (Dora Lake)

To purchase a blacksmithing forge, anvil, and tools in order to pursue metalworking projects.

Jacob Jonker (Duluth) † *

To purchase a "Soloamp" Sound System, "Soloette" Travel Guitar, Zoom A3 Guitar Processor, and Grado headphones to be used for public performances and practice. (**Pictured**)

Mina Kaiser (Duluth)

To purchase a desktop computer, large monitor, and Sibelius music composition software.

Allen Killian-Moore (Duluth) *

To replace aging and broken filmmaking equipment with a new 8mm camera, tripod, and light meter.

Chris LeBlanc (Duluth)

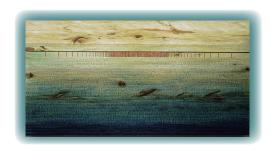
To purchase of studio monitors, a keyboard controller, and a microphone to produce and record higher quality audio pieces.

Ingrid Lyons (Duluth) *

To purchase various pieces of interviewing equipment that will improve the quality of her documentary film work.

Stephanie Mirocha (Aitkin)

To purchase photographic equipment to document large size and textured artwork. The equipment consists of camera, macro lens, polarizing filter, tripod, and lighting accessories.



Briand Morrison (Grand Portage) †

To purchase audio speakers capable of handling larger venues and events.

Daniel Oyinloye (Duluth) † *

To obtain updated audio and visual equipment for recording and producing higher quality projects.

Jason Page (Duluth)

To purchase a steady-cam rig, a 25mm micro 4/3 lens, and additional accessories to assist in high quality film making.

Mary Plaster (Duluth)

To commission a designer to help her create a new website with interactive features (blog, newsletter, and store).

Ellie Schoenfeld (Duluth)

To purchase a new computer and a printer; these items will be used to continue her work as a writer.

Neil Sherman (Grand Marais)

To purchase a computer, a new high-quality camera and adaptor lens, and Adobe Photoshop software to better document and present completed works.

Corrie Steckelberg (Hovland) *

To purchase a laptop and software for image processing and editing, research, and website development.

Notes

Nicholas Sunsdahl, (Duluth)

To purchase a new computer for video editing, processing and rendering.

Tim White (Duluth)

To puchase a new digital camera, laptop, and external hard drive for photography.

Arts Learning (Individual) Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Barbara Leuelling (Angora) †

To provide community weaving experiences at a Weaving Center at Old School Lives (OSL) in Cotton, MN.

Amy Lucas-Peroceski (Chisholm)

To present a free, 4-day summer visual art camp for children at the Virginia Public Library.

Daniel Oyinloye (Duluth) † *

To teach 12-session program that aims to engage youth in storytelling, reading, and literacy discussions through the creation of hip hop music and mix tapes. This program will take place at Woodland Hills in Duluth.

Cecilia Ramon (Duluth) † *

To offer a two-day symposium, Terrain: the Art of Localizing, at the Duluth Art Institute, which will address the intersections between ecology, art, and design through the framework of systems thinking. (**Pictured**)

Fellowship Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Daniel Anderson (Grand Rapids) †

To participate in a film making residency through Kunstverein Letschebach, an artist group that organizes international arts residencies in the German Black Forrest region.

Nathan Bray (Iron)

To utilizes his background as an electrician and race car builder to develop a new body of sculptural ceramic work.

Sarah Brokke Erickson (Duluth)

To complete her Reliquaries of the Sacred Feminine body of paintings, exhibit them, and develop promotional and proposal material for future exhibitions.

Eddy Gilmore (Duluth) † *

To write and self-publish a new book that reflects upon what it means to live locally.

Tim Kaiser (Duluth) †

To take time off from touring in order to experiment with forms and methods, and to research new instrument concepts.

Adam McCauley (Duluth)

To create a new body of abstract paintings and show them at the Art Center of St. Peter in St. Peter; the Nemeth Center for the Arts in Park Rapids; and the Banfill-Locke in Fridley. (**Pictured**)

Notes



Aaron Squadroni (Coleraine) †

To create a new body of metalpoint drawings based on the landscapes of the Mesabi Iron Range. These works will be shown at the Octagon Center for the Arts in Ames, IA.

Quick Start (Individual) Award Summary

† Received Staff Assistance * First-time Applicant

Niki Burger (Two Harbors) † *

To purchase and move a treadle sewing machine.

Jefferson Campbell (Duluth) *

To attend the Glickman-Popkin Bassoon Camp at WildAcres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC.

Shannon Cousino (Duluth) *

To attend the Frogman's Print Workshop in Omaha, NE in order to develop plate lithography skills.

Bonnie DuFresne (Ely) † *

To support for February exhibit at the First Stage Gallery at the Lyric Center in Virginia.

Kelly Dupre (Duluth) †

To frame work and do promotion for three local art shows in the summer and fall of 2016.

John Finkle (Duluth) †

To host a community/cooperative traditional Scandinavian wooden boat build in downtown Duluth.

Wendy Hansen (Grand Marais) † *

To begin a Writers' Club for youth in Grand Marais.

Mila Horak (Grand Marais) † *

To produce a community mural during the Grand Marais Art Fair.

Nate Johnson (Dora Lake)

To attend smelting and forging workshops at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais.

Tim Kaiser (Duluth)

To defray expenses to travel to San Diego, CA to present and perform at the San Diego Art Institute.

Rachael Kilgour (Duluth)

To support a New York, NY performance and record release.

Rebecca Koepke (Eveleth) *

To frame pieces for upcoming local exhibitions.

Kerry Lambertson (Grand Marais) † *

To attend a guitar making workshop at North House Folk School in Grand Marais.

Notes

Kathleen McTavish (Duluth)

To purchase two monitors to exhibit work at the Duluth Art Institute's Arrowhead Biennial.

Linda Melcher (Two Harbors)

To present a workshop at Drum Circle Facilitators Gild annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Janelle Miller (Duluth) † *

To attend the 5th Ladies of Letterpress Conference in Mt. Pleasant, IA.

Adam Moe (Duluth)

To support Pushing Chain to attend the 2017 Folk Alliance International Conference in Kansas City, MO.

David Moirera (Duluth)

To support travel expenses to Santa Cruz, CA for an international group show at Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History.

Briand Morrison (Grand Portage)

To replace a broken guitar amplifier. (Pictured)



Ariane Norrgard (Duluth)

To complete the final editing of a documentary film about Anishinaabe elder Jim Merhar, in preparation for its premiere at the Duluth Superior Film Festival.

Elizabeth Pawlik (Duluth) †

To attend a 3-day intensive metalsmithing course at Quench Jewelry Arts in Minneapolis.

Micaella Penning (Duluth) †

To document and prepare work for upcoming exhibition at New Scenic Café in Duluth.

Mary Plaster (Duluth)

To take advantage of a puppet and mask-making opportunity with Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, MA. (Pictured)

Ellen Sandbeck (Duluth) †

To prepare a solo exhibition for the Dr. Robert Powless Cultural Center at the American Indian Community Housing Organization in Duluth.

Olivia Skaja (Deer River) † *

To take violin lessons with Nathan Cole, the associate concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, via Skype, in preparation for conservatory auditions.

Danielle Sosin (Duluth)

To cover home costs while working as a writing fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, VA.

Adam Swanson (Cloquet) †

To purchase an iPad, stand and mount adapter for displaying reference photos.



Staff

Bob DeArmond
Executive Director FY17

Drew Digby Executive Director FY18

Erin Turner Operations/Systems Manager

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Quentin Stille * Student Liaison

* Term ended FY17

