



November 14, 2019

Mr. Chris Steller
Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Steller:

The Minnesota State Arts Board is pleased to share the enclosed, fiscal year 2019 annual report with you. As directed by MS 129D, the report includes an overview of the board's activities; a summary of requests received and grants awarded by the Arts Board and by Minnesota's eleven regional arts councils; and a financial summary, accounting for the use of our state and federal funds for the year.

The arts are a creative asset for our state and its residents. They inspire creativity and innovation, they strengthen communities and produce significant economic benefits.

Since the passage of the legacy amendment, ten years ago, Minnesotans from every county of the state have benefited from legacy funded grants awarded by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the state's regional arts councils. We are very proud that those funded activities have touched and enhanced the lives of more than 100 million audience members and participants.

We are honored to serve Minnesotans through careful and effective investment of public resources in and through the arts. This report highlights a few of the many important ways that Minnesotans are benefiting from public funding for the arts.

We are grateful for the State funds that have been entrusted to us, and would be delighted to answer any questions you might have about this report or our activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susanne K. Gens".

Susanne K. Gens
Executive Director

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MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

YEAR 2019
ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2018 -
JUNE 30, 2019



**ENSURING
THAT ALL
MINNESOTANS
HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE ARTS**



**MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD**

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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota State Arts Board is provided to all individuals regardless of race, national origin, color, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in admission, access, or employment.

Upon request, Minnesota State Arts Board publications will be made available in an alternate format.

All photos supplied by grantees.

YEAR IN REVIEW

“The arts and its related businesses are responsible for billions of dollars in cultural exports for this country. It is imperative that we continue to support the arts and arts education both on the national and local levels. The strength of every democracy is measured by its commitment to the arts.”

–CHARLES SEGARS, CEO OF OVATION

“We need people who think with the creative side of their brains—people who have played in a band, who have painted...it enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively.”

–ANNETTE BYRD, GLAXOSMITHKLINE

The arts have long been essential to the people of Minnesota and their proud shared heritage. Minnesota’s many vibrant towns, rural communities, and diverse cities are often ranked as national leaders in economic vitality, quality of life, wellness, and overall happiness. A major factor in this ongoing success story is the role of the arts and how it impacts people of all ages and walks of life.

The arts bridge divides, spark conversation, instill pride, and strengthen the many communities that make up this great state. Our shared dreams, hopes, and ideals find voice and expression in many diverse art forms. Minnesota has always been a leader in promoting the public good, and the arts have always been an integral component of that vision.

Minnesota’s well-earned reputation for leadership owes a great deal to its investment in arts and culture—a legacy dating back more than a century to the inspired business and civic leaders who helped found many of the state’s enduring cultural institutions. This forward-looking leadership also finds expression in legislators who created an arts agency within our state government to oversee public investment in the arts—the key to a great many success stories that have paid dividends both financial and social for our state.

2019 marked the ten-year anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. This extraordinary act, made possible by Minnesota voters, preserves and enhances some of the most important elements of our state. Often referred to as the legacy amendment, this amendment to the Minnesota Constitution created four funds, one which is dedicated to arts and cultural heritage.

Since the passage of the legacy amendment, these funds have been put to diligent work fostering participation in the arts, building greater bonds among communities, and driving economic benefits and impact. Thanks to legacy funding, more Minnesotans are able to engage in the arts in new ways. These dollars are also put to use to achieve some of our most important public goals: in health and wellbeing, youth development, building inclusive communities, civic engagement, among others.



■ NISSWA-STÄMMAN FESTIVAL | NISSWA

YEAR IN REVIEW

Together, the Minnesota State Arts Board and regional arts councils awarded 13,894 legacy supported grants over the past decade. As a result, since 2009 there has been a 45 percent increase in the number of unique organizations awarded funding. The driving economic benefits of the arts in Minnesota are significant. The financial impact is valued at over \$2 billion per year and credited with supporting more than 60,000 jobs. This impact is spread throughout towns, cities, and rural communities to provide tangible benefits for all Minnesotans. Perhaps the greatest impact is demonstrated through reach and participation. In the first ten years of the legacy amendment, the number of participants in Arts Board and regional arts council funded activities exceeds 104 million.

In the truest spirit of our traditions, the arts benefit everyone. These benefits touch new audiences and participants every year, deepening engagement and impact. The proud traditions of Minnesota are finding expression in arts and culture, along with substantial financial benefits and the building of a stronger and more prosperous tomorrow.

Working for the People of Minnesota

As the recipient of both general fund and arts and cultural heritage fund dollars, the Minnesota State Arts Board acts on behalf of Minnesota voters, residents, and communities. Its statewide citizen board is appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Together, the board and its staff focus on outcomes and its responsibility for sound stewardship and conscientious fiscal management of funding to produce results for Minnesotans across the state.

The Arts Board distributes state appropriated dollars through ten competitive grant programs, through block grants to Minnesota's eleven regional arts councils, and through other programs and services designed to bring the benefits of the arts to the lives of more Minnesotans. These funds foster and stimulate the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in multiple forms and mediums throughout the state. These dollars have a direct and appreciable impact on the lives of Minnesotans through:

- Stimulating existing arts sectors and programs
- Fostering growth and new creation, leading to direct economic impact
- Reducing barriers and roadblocks for underserved groups
- Promoting conversation and connections
- Communicating points of view and appreciation of differences
- Providing lifelong education and stimulation
- Exploring the many aspects and experiences of Minnesota heritage
- Maintaining Minnesota's place as a national leader and trailblazer in arts and culture
- Attracting talent to Minnesota to strengthen its future in education, business, culture, and commerce.

10 years
of the Legacy
Amendment

13,894
awarded grants

104 million
participants
in funded arts
activities, programs,
and events



■ PARADISE CENTER FOR THE ARTS | FARIBAULT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Enlightened Public Investment

The State of Minnesota appropriated \$39,276,000 to the Minnesota State Arts Board for fiscal year 2019. Of that amount, \$7,540,000 came from the state's general fund and \$31,736,000 came from the arts and cultural heritage fund. This report contains highlights and stories of how these funds were used to enhance the lives of Minnesota residents and contribute to the health and vitality of our communities.

Grant Making

Grant making is the Minnesota State Arts Board's primary service. The Arts Board offers grant programs that are directly aligned with the priorities outlined in the legacy amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. During the fiscal year 2019, the Arts Board received and reviewed more than 1,200 grant applications and awarded 627 grants totaling more than \$26.6 million.

A complete list of all grants awarded is available on the Arts Board Web site at <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/2019/>. The following are grant categories, and examples of grantees and their activities that were supported in fiscal year 2019.

Grants for Arts and Arts Access

Arts and arts access grants advance the Arts Board's mission of fostering greater participation in arts and culture in Minnesota. The board offers six grant programs designed to promote engagement throughout the state.

- **Arts Access**, helping identify and break down barriers that prevent underserved groups from participating in the arts.

FEATURED STORY



■ Sue and Larry at Paramount Center for the Arts

Paramount Center for the Arts, Saint Cloud

An Operating Support grant supports work on healthy aging for people 55 and older, particularly individuals with memory loss and their caregivers, in learning about and creating art. **Sue Smith** is a caregiver who participates in Paramount's memory care program.

I first got involved with Paramount after I retired. I took a clay class there and put all my effort into it; after that, I started working with kids and became pretty involved. Then my partner Larry was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia, and I heard about the Arts Smarts class for dementia and caregivers and we went to that.

What we did in class was wonderful. It was so encouraging to me, also to see the other people with dementia there doing wonderful things and really enjoying it. Larry wouldn't always take my suggestions as a caregiver but they had volunteers and ours could get him to do most anything. We really got into making some art, and I was very pleased with that.

In the spring I fell and broke my hip. I thought, "Who's going to be Larry's caregiver?" It was really clear to me from the minute I got to the hospital that the people at Paramount were going to help me. We had a person a day bring meals and help with the housework. They continued that for about three weeks. You make friends. I was in the right place at the right time, and it's really helped me a whole lot.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Artist Initiative**, providing grants for individual artists for creative or career development.
- **Arts Tour Minnesota**, supporting arts programs that tour to communities through the state.
- **Cultural Community Partnership**, enhancing the career development of artists of color by supporting collaborative projects with other artists or nonprofit organizations.
- **Operating Support**, providing general support for arts producers and presenters, nonprofits that serve practicing artists, and arts education organizations.
- **Partners in Arts Participation**, supplying assistance to health and human service organizations to incorporate the arts into their programs.

Arts and arts access grants have substantial and broad impact in a wide range of diverse communities throughout the state of Minnesota. The following are examples of how fiscal year 2019 funds have been invested:

- **International Friendship Through the Performing Arts, Eagan**, received \$23,985 to hire top ethnic and jazz musicians to perform concerts and participate in outreach activities in eight Minnesota retirement communities.
- **The Hubbard County Developmental Achievement Center, Park Rapids**, received \$18,136 to collaborate with Vision Theatre and two visual artists to provide people with developmental disabilities and mental illness a full year of multifaceted art experiences for personal growth, deeper social relationships, and increased community engagement.
- **The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul**, received \$20,370 to work with ComMUSICation to present a performing arts program for at risk youth to improve confidence and academic outcomes through performance and other Boys and Girls Clubs' holistic programs.
- **The Good Thunder Reading Series, Mankato**, was granted \$39,792 to promote literature and inspire creativity by bringing seven writers from diverse backgrounds and literary traditions to Mankato to participate in a series of readings, talks, and workshops.
- **People Serving People, Minneapolis**, received \$8,100 to collaborate with MacPhail Center for Music to offer weekly music classes to children experiencing homelessness enrolled in People Serving People's early childhood development program.
- **ArtReach, Saint Croix**, received \$18,590 to collaborate with area state park naturalists to take their show on the road through a mobile art gallery and pop-up performance venue, inviting the region's rural residents to experience art in natural landscapes.



■ **ISAIAH GOULET**, *Fresh Voices* | **CROOKSTON**

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Jeffrey E. Brooks, Minneapolis**, was granted \$10,000 to compose a work for choir and harmonicas with texts by Minnesota teens on the topic of despair. The texts are interspersed with ancient poems of lamentation. The piece was titled “De Profundis.”
- **Saint Cloud Symphony Orchestra, Saint Cloud**, was granted \$24,665 to expand access to high quality live music for seniors with limited mobility through performances at seventeen senior residences in central Minnesota, and two concerts for seniors at the Paramount Center.
- **Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, Minneapolis**, was granted \$46,220 to tour *Birds Sing Differently Here*, an original bilingual theater production based on and told by Iraqi Minnesotan immigrants and refugees, directed by Taous Khazem, to three communities around the state of Minnesota.
- **The Duluth Playhouse, Duluth**, was granted \$34,936 to work with the Scottish Rite Clinic to conduct three ten-week sessions of Stage Play: Theatre for Children with Autism, designed to serve youth with a variety of autism spectrum and related disorders.
- **Jones-Harrison Residence, Minneapolis**, was granted \$25,000 to integrate artist led programs in dance and movement, pottery, and drumming into ongoing wellness and therapeutic recreation initiatives to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of its residents.
- **Riley L. Nelsen, Baxter**, received \$9,983 to share the video *Bird House Legend*, a documentary on the life and craft of Dick Bellefeuille who in the Anishinaabe tradition has crafted over 25,000 original birdhouses with birch bark and barnwood.

FEATURED STORY



■ Performers in *Breaking Ice*

Pillsbury House Theatre, Minneapolis

An Operating Support grant helped fund Pillsbury House’s *Breaking Ice* program, in which theater artists portray real-life situations and workplace interactions to foster conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. In 2019, the Minnesota Wild organization, including director of human resources and organizational development **Monica Laurent**, participated.

Our team owner, Craig Leopold, had been proud to sign the CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion Pledge, committing to have meaningful conversations on diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Looking for something with an impact on staff, we did lots of research and talked to experts who brought up Breaking Ice. We felt this would be a good program for us. We took a leap of faith, basically, that this would be beneficial and help us have that meaningful conversation.

It was just amazing, a very unique experience. It’s so powerful. It was overwhelmingly well received in our organization. They cover so much ground in an hour-long performance and 30-minute debrief. We trained more than 500 people with two performances. I think it’s hard not to walk away changed or impacted. People who had worked together for years learned things they didn’t know about each other.

We wanted to invest in something that would change people’s hearts and minds. Not a lecture, not a checklist—instead you’re seeing real-life stories play out. It’s hard to find something so authentic and that’s what makes it so powerful. The actors make it their own, and our organization was really blown away by their talent.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **The Anderson Center, Red Wing**, was granted \$10,090 to present poetry readings and related community workshops by three nationally renowned poets/performers with diverse backgrounds, to broaden audiences for the center's programming and introduce new audiences to poets/performers.
- **Good Samaritan Society-Westview Acres Senior Housing, Waconia**, received \$10,992 to offer semester long arts programs for seniors that sought to decrease isolation and build community inside a senior housing complex with more than 100 residents.
- **Northern Lights.mn, Minneapolis**, was granted \$100,000 to work with community partners in Rondo, the American Indian Cultural Corridor, and with independent artists to build long-term relationships using Northern Spark to engage residents as planners, attendees, and artists.
- **Vail Place, Hopkins**, received \$21,739 to collaborate with the History Theatre to introduce adults with serious mental illnesses to theater arts and support their mental health recovery goals.
- **EssJay TheAfrocentricRatchet, Saint Paul**, received \$8,000 to collaborate with SafeZone's Drop-in Beats, creating, recording, and performing original music throughout the Twin Cities. The program resulted in a showcase to display the art created in the program.
- **Illusion Theater, Minneapolis**, received \$63,425 to work with ASL signers, artists, audiences, and community members who are deaf or hearing impaired, to identify and address participation barriers, and create, develop, and produce an original production with deaf and hearing-impaired populations.



■ **KAIROS ALIVE!, Intergenerational Dance Hall | MINNEAPOLIS**

Operating Support grants help many of Minnesota's finest arts organizations provide year-round, high quality arts programming throughout the state. These grants assist small organizations such as **Alexandria Area Arts Association (Alexandria)**, **Fairmont Opera House (Fairmont)**, **The Givens Foundation for African American Literature (Minneapolis)**, **Grand Marais Art Colony (Grand Marais)**, **MacRostie Art Center (Grand Rapids)**, **Ananya Dance Theatre (Saint Paul)**, **The Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts (Winona)**, **Paul Bunyan Playhouse (Bemidji)**, and **Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company (Saint Paul)**.

Midsized organizations that benefit include **Juxtaposition Arts (Minneapolis)**, **Central Lakes College Theatre (Brainerd)**, **TU Dance (Saint Paul)**, **Great River Shakespeare Festival (Winona)**, **Penumbra Theatre Company (Saint Paul)**, **Duluth Playhouse (Duluth)**, and **Rochester Art Center (Rochester)**.

These grants also help serve the missions of Minnesota's largest institutions such as the **Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis)** and the **Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (Saint Paul)**. Arts Board support helps these organizations engage audiences and participants of all ages, nurture new artists and art forms, attract visitors, strengthen communities, and enhance Minnesota's reputation as an exceptional place to live and work.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Grants for Arts Education

These grants provide investment in lifelong arts learning across the state of Minnesota. Grant programs include:

- **Arts Learning**, supporting projects that build understanding and skills in the arts for lifelong learners.
- **Community Arts Education Support**, providing funding for organizations and programs that make arts education more accessible to Minnesotans of all ages and artistic abilities.

The following are examples of how fiscal year 2019 funds were invested in arts education:

- **New York Mills Regional Cultural Center, New York Mills**, received \$12,272 to collaborate with professional teaching artist Cheryl Bannes to present artwork and art workshops to students in grades 4-6 in New York Mills, Wadena, Battle Lake, Henning, and Perham elementary schools.
- **Ubah Medical Academy, Hopkins**, received \$59,726 to provide 70 youth from East African immigrant communities with inspiring learning experiences in photographic expression and enriching exposure to postsecondary education in the visual arts.
- **Epic Enterprise, Dundas**, received \$25,149 to work in partnership with a clay artist from Northern Clay Center, poet Becca Barniskis, and musician Nick Jaffe to provide three in-depth arts learning opportunities for 45 adults with developmental disabilities.
- **Copper Street Brass, Minneapolis**, was granted \$47,200 to teach active listening skills in an interactive musical context through its Big Ears and Blue Ox program with those who are most intensely learning and practicing their communication skills: young people ages 2-10. The program was presented in elementary schools in small communities in greater Minnesota.
- **Great River Arts, Little Falls**, was granted \$20,000 to support its effort to enrich lives by providing arts experiences and services to the people of Morrison County and the surrounding communities.
- **Caponi Art Park, Eagan**, received \$27,095 to work with Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science on Nature Journaling, a year-long residency for first and fifth grade students that builds observation and visual communication skills for inquiry in art and science.



■ STEPPINGSTONE THEATRE | SAINT PAUL

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis**, received \$79,488 to collaborate with community organizations serving older adults, delivering educational clay programs tailored to engage those in skilled nursing care, independent living cooperatives, clinical settings, and day programs.
- **Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference, Bemidji**, was granted \$34,000 to bring award winning writers of national stature to present craft talks and public readings and teach weeklong intensive workshops in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction beside Lake Bemidji.
- **History Theatre, Saint Paul**, received \$29,865 to pilot an intergenerational experience with Avalon School and Episcopal Homes. In arts residencies for youth and older adults, participants created plays based on lived experiences and performed them at History Theatre.
- **The Jungle Theater, Minneapolis**, received \$88,500, to offer an expanded 25-week playwriting education and mentorship program and a new four week summer section of the program for teen girls/young women ages 14-18 that linked with the theater's productions.
- **Rochester STEM Academy, Rochester**, received \$14,420 to collaborate with four professional teaching artists for spoken word poetry. Students demonstrated the achievements of their residency with four poetry readings and a competition with programs from around Rochester.

FEATURED STORY



■ Regalia featured during the Dress the Horses show

Dakota Wicohan, Morton

This nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the Dakota language and culture received a Folk and Traditional Arts grant to support its Tawokaga program, which passes on knowledge from master artists to adults and youth in southwest Minnesota. The grant seeks to preserve, document, and honor Minnesota's folk and traditional arts. Master artist and grandmother, **Dory Stands**, trains apprentices, including her grandchildren, passing on the traditional art of horse regalia.

The workshops are in an apprentices and master artists format. We've had a variety of different mediums: tanning leather with the hide on a large frame where it's scraped and cured, quilting work, quill work with porcupine quills, making medicine pouches. The horse regalia takes a good deal of time because of the process of beadwork and painting involved.

It's our mission to revitalize our language and Dakota lifeways. These traditional art forms are a part of that. We have a ton of interest—whenever we announce a new workshop or apprenticeship opportunity the phones go ringing off the hook.

We're using the same traditional materials as in the past: the same leather, the sinew to tie things together. But of course we have better tools nowadays to work with: a heavy-duty sewing machine for the leather, an awl that can poke better holes and make things easier. It had the old parts and the new technology, too. It's really been super amazing to have this opportunity to share and bring back these art forms, so they're really alive.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Grants for Arts and Cultural Heritage

Grants under this category focus on building connections between Minnesotans of all backgrounds. Grant programs include:

- **Folk and Traditional Arts**, celebrating the ethnic and cultural traditions of artists and their work.
- **Minnesota Festival Support**, encouraging community building and showcasing artists of diverse mediums and traditions.

The following are examples of how fiscal year 2019 funds were invested in arts and cultural heritage:

- **The Minnesota Discovery Center, Chisholm**, received \$20,306 to create a program to celebrate and share Scandinavian blacksmith traditions.
- **Riverside Plaza Tenant Association, Minneapolis**, received a \$70,000 grant to form the Somali Minnesota Poets Corner, a program that recorded traditional poetry from master Somali poet Jirde Abdullahi, taught traditional Somali poetry to Somali youth, and hosted three poetry readings.
- **Karen A. Aakre, Underwood**, received \$6,150 to exhibit and teach Skinfeller classes to students in Grand Marais, Minneapolis, Milan, Lanesboro, Bemidji, and Moorhead.
- **Mid West Music Fest, Winona**, was granted \$29,100 to present a festival of multigenre original music in several venues in downtown Winona. The festival featured over 80 performances by 250 musicians.

FEATURED STORY



■ *Gander* by Mary Myers Corwin

VFW Post 1720, Grand Rapids

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council awarded a Rural and Community Arts grant for the project Barnabas 22, which raised awareness of veteran suicide and the role of canine companions in promoting veterans' wellbeing. **Mary Myers Corwin** participated by creating pastel chalk portraits of veterans' beloved service dogs that were eventually collected in a show and reception.

I have a background in law enforcement as service staff. I'm retired now, and have always had a passion for dogs and for veterans. The number 22 refers to fact that we lose 22 veterans every day to suicide. Barnabas is one of my favorite Bible characters, he was called the 'son of encouragement,' and my goal is to encourage people through my art.

The point I wanted to make was that without the loving devotion of a well trained service dog that number of suicides could go even higher. Some of the guys and gals I've worked with have said that their dogs saved their lives.

When I was working on a portrait and getting kind of close, I'd take a picture of it and send it to the veteran and ask how it looked: Too light? Too dark? Don't be afraid of hurting my feelings. I messaged one who was taking a long time getting back to me, and he finally just sent the message: "OMG, my baby, I'm crying." I've made forever friends including a couple of vets I check in on every day.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **India Association of Minnesota, Saint Paul**, was granted \$22,920 to produce IndiaFest, engaging 20,000 Minnesotans with Asian Indian arts and culture on August 17, 2019, on the state capitol grounds.
- **Gao Hong, Northfield**, received \$34,071 to record the ten most important Pudong style pipa pieces on video to help pass on Pudong music to future generations. She presented two concerts, ten lectures, and ten workshops for schools, senior centers, and community music groups.
- **RiverSong Music Festival, Hutchinson**, received \$20,808 to host its two-day, outdoor, family friendly music festival in Hutchinson, July 12-13, 2019, introducing a diverse audience to a variety of music in a scenic riverside setting.
- **Karen Organization of Minnesota, Roseville**, was granted \$60,000 to revive and share the traditional art of Karen weaving through workshops, apprenticeships for youth, and public events.
- **Nisswa-stämman, Brainerd**, received \$19,931 to present its annual gathering in June 2019, celebrating Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish traditional music and dance. In addition to presenting Nordic artists from the Midwest and Scandinavia, Nisswa-stämman documented the impact the festival has had on Nordic traditions in Minnesota over the last 20 years.

FEATURED STORY



■ Student murals at Ethnic Fest

Leech Lake Chamber of Commerce, Walker

The Five Wings Arts Council awarded a Community Arts Access grant for the annual Ethnic Fest in Walker. **Roxie Parks** of the Leech Lake Chamber of Commerce describes the festival's impact on the community.

We completed the 27th Ethnic Fest in 2019. We set up four stages around town and put up tents for the dancers, singers, and storytellers.

We always struggle (financially). We sell pins and we sell shirts hoping to make some money. But without our grant we would be so limited. We were able to bring in hoop dancers, Irish dancers, a German group playing all German music dressed in authentic German shirts and dresses. We had people polkaing in the street. I also love when performers on the Native American stage invite people to come up and dance with them and share their culture.

We have at least 5,000 people come for the festival. We need something in the fall, being a tourist town. Our downtown and our retailers and resorts count on the summer months to make money and get through the cold winter. Our hotels and resorts are full during Ethnic Fest; it's one more weekend people can count on for some more impact before the snow flies.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Minnesota's Regional Arts Councils

Together, the Minnesota State Arts Board and Minnesota's eleven regional arts councils serve all of the state's 87 counties. As directed by statute, the Minnesota State Arts Board issues block grants to the regional councils as well as acting as their fiscal agent. During fiscal year 2019, \$11,231,365 was awarded in the form of block grants to the eleven regional arts councils.

With these funds, the councils together awarded 1,707 grants, and provided arts services and support tailored to the needs of the people and communities in their geographic regions.

A list of the eleven councils, the geographic areas they serve by county, and the amount of their block grants for fiscal year 2019 can be found in the "Fiscal Year 2019 Block Grants to Regional Arts Councils" section of this report. The section "Fiscal Year 2019 Summary of Requests and Grants to Regional Arts Councils" presents the number of applications and grants awarded, and the total dollars requested and granted by the regional arts councils.

FEATURED STORY



■ Filmmakers, Visiones Latino Youth Film Program

Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), Saint Paul

This nonprofit organization serving Latinos in Minnesota received a Partners in Arts Participation grant to empower Latino youth to share their experiences and stories through education in creating short films. Community artist and photographer **Ricardo Bennet Guzman** led the program.

It was a very intensive summer workshop for participants ages 16 to 19 to dive into the filmmaking world, especially the documentary side. We touched on the basics of storytelling and script writing, sound recording, lighting, editing, cinematography, as well as touching on some theories of film.

We developed skills and trust for the students to open up and talk about their experiences and what has shaped their identities as Americans. They felt empowered to tell their stories and not feel ashamed or embarrassed of who they are or who their parents are, and to feel more secure and assured about going to college or continuing their education. They feel more connected, and feel that what they say matters. They feel acknowledged and take pride in who they are.

At the end of the workshop we had a big exhibition at Metro State. Seeing the films on the big screen was really impressive for the students. Now we're partnering with the MSP Film Society, which asked us to submit the films—we got the news they wanted to show four of them at a festival. That was fantastic and had a real impact.

Partnerships | Service | Professional Development

The Minnesota State Arts Board expands its capacity and extends its reach by working in collaboration with other agencies and organizations that share similar goals.

The following are key partnerships in place during fiscal year 2019.

Percent for Art in Public Places

Minnesota's art in state buildings statute allows that up to one percent of the total budget appropriated for construction of new or renovated state buildings may be used to purchase or commission works of art. The Percent for Art in Public Places program enacts the legislation established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1984. It operates under the auspices of the Minnesota Department of Administration and is managed by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

During fiscal year 2019, Percent for Art projects included completing the installations of:

- *River Bend* by Michele Gutlove at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. Located in Wilkins Hall, a new dormitory that provides residential living space for deaf or hearing impaired students. Gutlove's design mixes shapes from American Sign Language with glass animals native to Riverbend Nature Center, a beloved feature of the Faribault landscape.
- *River Spire*, by Allbritton Lee at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. An outdoor, 40-foot steel and stone monument interprets the chevron symbol into spiraling Corten plates that hold river rocks, evoking the movement of the nearby Mississippi River. The sculpture is located just outside the Veterans Home chapel entrance, visible from many high traffic areas.



■ ALLBRITTON LEE, *River Spire* | MINNEAPOLIS

Poetry Out Loud 2019 National Champion Isabella Callery of Northfield

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation project cosponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. Through Poetry Out Loud, high school students learn about great poetry through memorization, recitation, performance, and competition. Fiscal year 2019 was the fourteenth year that Minnesota participated in the initiative. The Arts Board worked in partnership with the Loft Literary Center of Minneapolis to administer the program.

More than 1,600 students in 18 Minnesota schools participated in the program in the 2018-2019 school year. These young people represented the communities of Apple Valley, Big Lake, Columbia Heights, Duluth, Hopkins, Milaca, Minneapolis, Northfield, Saint Paul, and Wabasha.



■ ISABELLA CALLERY | NORTHFIELD

Three students were named Minnesota 2019 Poetry Out Loud champions at the state competition: Isabella Callery of Arcadia High School, Northfield (first place); Alina Vang of Johnson High School, Saint Paul (2nd place); and Grace Ulferts of Washburn High School, Minneapolis (3rd place).

In April 2019, Callery represented Minnesota in the Poetry Out Loud national finals in Washington, D.C. Competing against state champions from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, Callery won the title of 2019 Poetry Out Loud National Champion and garnered a \$20,000 award for taking the top prize. Isabella Callery is the first Minnesotan to earn the national champion title.

Building Infrastructure for Traditional Arts and Artists

Thanks to a \$20,000 partnership grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Board launched phase two of folk and traditional arts infrastructure initiatives in the Willmar and Worthington communities. Arts Board staff, regional partners, and traditional artists with heritage from East Africa, Mexico, and Central America, worked closely together to design attainable initiatives in each region to support and promote folk and traditional arts.

These initiatives included:

- Somali traditional daanto dance group leadership working with local arts council leaders to develop skills in fundraising and successfully acquiring funding to bring experienced teachers to Willmar to deepen local dancer skills
- A bilingual English-Somali folktales event for Willmar families featuring a Somali elder storyteller and Somali youth
- A Cinco de Mayo celebration with live Norteño music and dancing in collaboration with the Willmar Main Street Project
- Kunama dance group leadership working with local supporters to develop skills in fundraising in Worthington
- Meetings with Danzantes (Aztec dancers) in Worthington to discuss their future goals and how to achieve them
- Hosting a training for Worthington East African and Hispanic/Latino leaders on leveraging local resources to establish cultural centers
- Mexican paper flower demos and interactive flower making activities at public events and community programs in Worthington.

The third phase of the project will occur in fiscal year 2020.

Improving Access for Persons with Disabilities

The Arts Board is host to the Minnesota Access Alliance (www.mnaccess.org) through which it provides information, resources, and professional development opportunities to arts and cultural organizations that seek to learn about and/or expand their own efforts to make the arts more accessible to people of all abilities. In fiscal year 2019, the Arts Board supported the alliance in diversifying leadership with professionals from communities of color, with disabilities, and from greater Minnesota.

Following the arts accessibility nonprofit VSA Minnesota's announcement it would cease operations at the end of September 2019, the Arts Board worked closely with VSA Minnesota to strategically and permanently transition programs and services to new organizational stewards. Minnesota Access Alliance, COMPAS, Springboard for the Arts, and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council are among the organizations that are taking on services and programming to help ensure invaluable services for artists with disabilities will continue.

The Arts Board collaborated with organizations to advance accessibility in the arts, hosting information sessions on the following topics:

- Getting Started in Web Accessibility;
- Marketing Accessibility;
- The State of Arts Access for Persons with Diverse Sensory and Cognitive Abilities;
- Funding Accessibility; and
- Highlights and resources from the 2018 Leadership Exchange in the Arts & Disability (LEAD) national conference via live Webinar.

A Dose of Art, Promoting Healing and Wellness

In communities around Minnesota and elsewhere, caregivers and health practitioners are utilizing the power of the arts to help treat disease, improve health, and increase overall wellness. The Arts Board created a partnership with the University of Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Leadership program and Hennepin Theatre Trust to host a convening of practitioners from a variety of disciplines to raise awareness and discuss the emerging field of art and health.



■ VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA | MINNEAPOLIS



■ EPIC ENTERPRISE | DUNDAS

Showcasing the Work of Minnesota Artists and Organizations

In conjunction with the biannual Saint Paul Art Crawl, the Arts Board hosted two arts exhibitions that spotlighted the work of its grantees.

In October 2018, the Arts Board presented **pARTnership**, a visual arts showcase of work created by artists of color produced in collaborative partnerships. The exhibition highlighted work born out of the Cultural Community Partnership grant program, a program designed to enhance professional growth for individual artists of color and to support collaborative projects to develop authentic relationships with Minnesotans across diverse communities. Partnerships comprise two artists of color or an artist of color collaborating with a Minnesota arts organization.

In April 2019, the board presented **A Creative Investment**, a visual arts showcase celebrating ten years of legacy art and impact. The exhibition highlighted the breadth of art engagement throughout the state and featured work by all ages and all abilities. Its theme was that all Minnesotans are creative, and all benefit from the arts. Artworks by 35 grantees from 30 communities around the state were featured.



■ **TEO NGUYEN, *Untitled* | GOLDEN VALLEY**



■ **SHAWNA GILMORE, *Faith Holding Hope* | DULUTH**

Statewide Arts Information

The Minnesota State Arts Board continues to use its Web site—www.arts.state.mn.us—as its primary communications vehicle. The site is designed to be user-friendly, and a comprehensive source of information about the Arts Board and about the arts in general.

Among the features that can be found on the Web site:

- Arts Board grant program details, application forms, and instructions
- Programs and activities funded by the arts and cultural heritage fund
- Calendar of grant deadlines and grant review meeting dates
- List of grantees for the current as well as previous years
- Arts Board Voices – short videos featuring the work of Arts Board grantees
- Program information including a map of public art that the State of Minnesota has acquired through the Percent for Art program, with information about the art and artists
- Facts about the importance and impact of the arts in Minnesota
- An interactive state map linking visitors to each of the eleven regional arts councils
- Information about the Minnesota Presenters Network, a consortium of presenting organizations in Minnesota ranging from small local community groups to large university and municipal presenters.
- Links to Minnesota arts organizations' Web sites
- Links to national and state arts research and policy information
- Links to accessibility and ADA information and resources



■ RIVERSONG MUSIC FESTIVAL | HUTCHINSON

25-YEAR STRATEGIC ARTS FRAMEWORK

Vision

In twenty-five years, Minnesotans will have made a significant investment in the arts. As a result ...

In Minnesota, the arts define who we are. This is a place where people are transformed by high quality arts experiences, and see the arts as essential to their communities. The arts are integrated into all aspects of our lives, connecting people of all ages and cultures, fostering understanding and respect.

Arts and culture are central to Minnesota's educational system and lifelong learning opportunities. The arts develop creative minds that maximize new opportunities and find solutions to life's challenges.

In Minnesota, the arts industry is an integral part of the economy. Because of the arts, Minnesota communities are successful, dynamic, attractive places to live and work.

Minnesota is a recognized national arts leader. It attracts, nurtures, and sustains creative people and organizations and recognizes them as assets. It is a magnet for arts enthusiasts and a destination for tourists. Residents and visitors are assured a world-class, quality arts experience.

Every Minnesotan appreciates, creates, attends, participates, and invests in the arts. Minnesota's effective, innovative, vibrant, public-private support for the arts is the strongest in the country. Universal support and appreciation for the arts help ensure the state's exceptional quality of life.



■ KETTLE RIVER MURAL | SANDSTONE

Guiding Principles

Decisions that the Minnesota State Arts Board and the regional arts councils make about how best to use funds will be grounded in the following guiding principles:

- **STATEWIDE APPROACH** – The needs and interests of the entire state will be considered when determining how best to allocate funds.
- **DEMOGRAPHIC AND GEOGRAPHIC FAIRNESS** – Minnesotans of all types, and in every community, will recognize and experience the tangible results of the arts and cultural heritage fund.
- **COMPREHENSIVE** – The full spectrum of arts providers and arts disciplines will be considered when determining how best to serve Minnesotans with these funds.
- **SUSTAINABLE** – Some arts activities are meant to be onetime or short term; others are meant to exist and thrive over time. All are valuable and will be eligible for support. In the latter case, funds will be allocated strategically so that the activity or organization funded can be successful into the future, beyond the life of the arts and cultural heritage fund. Funds also will be used to create a sustainable climate in which artists can live and work.
- **ANTICIPATORY AND FLEXIBLE** – Decisions about how best to allocate the funds will be reassessed on a regular basis and will adapt as needs and opportunities change.
- **TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** – Broad public input and engagement in decision making will be vital to produce the outcomes that Minnesotans' expect.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP** – Public funds belong to Minnesotans. The Arts Board and regional arts councils will use them in the most effective manner possible and will routinely report the outcomes achieved through the uses of the funds.



■ RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE | OSHKIIMAAJITAHDAH

Goals and Key Strategies

In order to realize our legacy vision, the Minnesota State Arts Board and Minnesota’s regional arts councils must work together to accomplish the following goals:

- OVERARCHING GOAL** The arts are essential to a vibrant society

- GOAL STRATEGY** The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life
Develop strategic relationships and partnerships

- GOAL STRATEGY** Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are
Enhance public understanding of the value of the arts

- GOAL STRATEGY** People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts
Fully engage with nontraditional and underrepresented participants
Transform everyone’s life by experiencing the arts

- GOAL STRATEGY** People trust Minnesota’s stewardship of public arts funding
Provide an accountable arts support system
Be responsible stewards of public funds

- GOAL STRATEGY** The arts thrive in Minnesota
Foster visionary, skilled arts leaders and organizations statewide
Ensure sufficient resources to sustain the arts and artists
Serve as a clearinghouse of information on best practices and successful programs



■ ARTISTRY | BLOOMINGTON

FY 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

State, Minnesota Legislature		
General fund - FY 2019 appropriation		\$7,540,000
General fund - FY 2018 carryforward		\$97,942
Arts and cultural heritage fund - FY 2018 appropriation		\$31,736,000
Arts and cultural heritage fund - FY 2018 carryforward		\$680,783
Percent for Art in Public Places (1)		\$205,232
Federal, National Endowment for the Arts		\$782,800

Total Revenue		\$41,042,757
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EXPENSES

Grants - General fund		\$6,965,515
Regional arts council block grants	\$2,139,000	
Operating support	\$4,555,023	
Artist assistance	\$236,872	
Partnership grants/sponsorships	\$34,620	
Grants - Arts and cultural heritage fund		\$30,447,348
Regional arts council block grants	\$9,092,365	
Arts access	\$17,278,280	
Arts learning	\$3,050,971	
Arts and cultural heritage	\$1,025,732	
Grants - Federal, National Endowment for the Arts		\$418,500
Artist assistance	\$408,500	
Partnership grants/sponsorships	\$10,000	
Percent for Art in Public Places (1)		\$264,573
Partnership projects		\$54,884
Legislatively mandated projects		\$50,000
Operations and services		\$2,129,229

Total Expenses		\$40,330,049
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General Fund, unobligated, return to general fund		\$5,164
Arts and cultural heritage fund, carryforward to FY 2019		\$695,633
Federal, unobligated, return to National Endowment for the Arts		\$11,911

(1) Revenue reflects funds transferred to the Arts Board from other agencies/entities that received capital investment appropriations and opted into the Percent for Art program, as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 16B.35. The Arts Board can use up to ten percent of the transferred funds for administrative costs; it supplements those funds with dollars from its general fund appropriation. Funds received through capital investment appropriations may be available to the Art Board for a period of one to four years.

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

FY 2019 Summary of Requests and Grants

	Number of Applications	Dollars Requested	Number of Grants	Dollars Granted
ARTS BOARD GRANT PROGRAMS				
Artist Initiative	574	\$5,603,722	190	\$1,870,067
Cultural Community Partnership	35	\$270,152	13	\$104,000
Arts Access	83	\$3,434,768	55	\$2,186,272
Arts Learning	150	\$5,708,973	70	\$2,940,971
Arts Tour Minnesota	97	\$3,880,465	45	\$2,029,047
Community Arts Education Support	8	\$110,000	8	\$110,000
Folk and Traditional Arts	37	\$1,150,592	19	\$501,495
Minnesota Festival Support	34	\$1,041,201	15	\$524,237
Operating Support	177	\$15,655,358	176	\$15,640,357
Partners in Arts Participation	61	\$1,199,032	32	\$638,426
Partnership Grant	3	\$69,620	3	\$69,620
Sponsorship Grant	1	\$10,000	1	\$10,000
Total, Arts Board grant programs	1,260	\$38,133,883	627	\$26,624,492
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL BLOCK GRANTS				
2019 Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts and arts access	11	\$7,331,249	11	\$7,331,249
2019 Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts and cultural heritage	11	\$440,351	11	\$440,351
2019 Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts education	11	\$1,320,765	11	\$1,320,765
2019 Regional block funds	11	\$2,139,000	11	\$2,139,000
Total, Regional arts council (*)	11	\$11,231,365	11	\$11,231,365
Total	1,271	\$49,365,248	638	\$37,855,857

A complete list of fiscal year 2019 grantees and grant amounts is available on the Arts Board Web site: <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/2019/index.htm>

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCILS

FY 2019 Block Grants to Regional Arts Councils

Region 1	Northwest Minnesota Arts Council		
	Warren		
	Counties served: Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau		
	General fund block grant	\$	85,151
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$	363,656
		Total	\$ 448,807
Region 2	Region 2 Arts Council		
	Bemidji		
	Counties served: Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon		
	General fund block grant	\$	82,730
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$	353,316
		Total	\$ 436,046
Region 3	Arrowhead Regional Arts Council		
	Duluth		
	Counties served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Saint Louis		
	General fund block grant	\$	158,318
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$	676,133
		Total	\$ 834,451
Region 4	Lake Region Arts Council		
	Fergus Falls		
	Counties served: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin		
	General fund block grant	\$	122,243
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$	522,066
		Total	\$ 644,309
Region 5	Five Wings Arts Council		
	Staples		
	Counties served: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena		
	General fund block grant	\$	112,904
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$	439,476
		Total	\$ 552,380

Region 6E/6W/8	Southwest Minnesota Arts Council Marshall Counties served: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine	General fund block grant	\$ 139,513
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$ 595,822
		Total	\$ 735,335
Region 7E	East Central Regional Arts Council Braham Counties served: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine	General fund block grant	\$ 100,882
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$ 430,840
		Total	\$ 531,722
Region 7W	Central Minnesota Arts Board Foley Counties served: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright	General fund block grant	\$ 167,760
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$ 716,456
		Total	\$ 884,216
Region 9	Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Waseca Counties served: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan	General fund block grant	\$ 120,643
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$ 515,231
		Total	\$ 635,874
Region 10	Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council Rochester Counties served: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona	General fund block grant	\$ 194,070
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$ 828,818
		Total	\$1,022,888
Region 11	Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Saint Paul Counties served: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington	General fund block grant	\$ 854,786
		Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	\$3,650,551
		Total	\$ 4,505,337
	Total, all regions		\$11,231,365

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCILS

FY 2019 Summary of Requests and Grants

Region	Regional Arts Council	Number of requests	Dollars requested	Number of grants	Dollars granted
1	Northwest Minnesota Arts Council	98	\$372,040	91	\$317,615
2	Region 2 Arts Council	131	\$482,837	90	\$294,488
3	Arrowhead Regional Arts Council	320	\$1,055,665	161	\$485,625
4	Lake Region Arts Council	133	\$513,033	90	\$318,750
5	Five Wings Arts Council	117	\$451,758	105	\$409,244
6E/6W/8	Southwest Minnesota Arts Council	134	\$753,697	115	\$589,409
7E	East Central Regional Arts Council	43	\$286,261	42	\$282,971
7W	Central Minnesota Arts Board	205	\$911,256	141	\$669,404
9	Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council	288	\$548,183	218	\$452,544
10	Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council	207	\$1,133,471	157	\$811,871
11	Metropolitan Regional Arts Council	791	\$5,697,215	497	\$3,540,795
Total		2,467	\$12,205,416	1,707	\$8,172,716

RULES CHANGES

The Minnesota State Arts Board did not propose new rules or make amendments to its existing administrative rules (Minnesota Rules, chapter 1900) during fiscal year 2019.

COMPLAINTS / CONCERNS

- The Arts Board's appeals process is outlined in Minnesota Rules, chapter 1900, section 1110. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=1900>

The process states "There is no right of appeal for disputes of decisions with respect to interpretation of review criteria. An appeal may be made only if it is asserted that the board, or its staff, or advisory panels, did not follow the policies and procedures as provided by this chapter."

The Arts Board received no grant program appeals during fiscal year 2019.

- In September 2018, the Minnesota State Arts Board was named as codefendant in a legal suit against the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Arts Board. The plaintiffs, Bruce Stillman and Big Stone Advancing Arts, alleged that the defendants had abused monopoly power in the Minnesota visual arts market and misused taxpayer funds.

In December 2018, the codefendants submitted motions to dismiss the case. The case was heard in Hennepin County District Court on January 28, 2019. On February 5, 2019, Judge Bruce A. Peterson signed an order granting all codefendants' motions to dismiss.

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

FY 2019 Members

Eleven private citizens, appointed by the Governor for four-year terms, comprise the Minnesota State Arts Board. Members represent one of the state's eight congressional districts or the state at-large. The board meets every other month to establish policies, monitor agency programs, and act upon grant recommendations.

During fiscal year 2019, the board or its committees met 24 times for approximately 65 hours.

The following individuals served on the board for all or part of the fiscal year 2019.

Ardell Brede, Rochester
Mayor, City of Rochester
Term: February 2015–January 2019
Congressional district: One

Peggy Burnet, Wayzata (*)
Entrepreneur / Civic leader
Term: July 2018–January 2022
Congressional district: Three

Uri Camarena, Minneapolis (*)
Director of business consulting, Metropolitan
Economic Development Association
Term: June 2016–January 2020
Congressional district: Five

Michael J. Charron, Winona (*)
Dean of arts and humanities, Saint Mary's
University of Minnesota
Term: June 2016–January 2020 (third)
Congressional district: One

Sean Dowse, Red Wing (*)
Mayor, City of Red Wing
Term: February 2015–January 2019 (second)
Congressional district: Two

Philip McKenzie, Thief River Falls
Team Lead, Boutique Air / Arts educator
Term: July 2018–January 2020
Congressional district: Seven

Mary McReynolds, Virginia
Executive director, Lyric Center for the Arts
Term: July 2018–January 2022
Congressional district: Eight

Tom Moss, Saint Paul
Consultant, nonprofit and government sectors
Term: June 2017–January 2021
Congressional district: Four

Dobson West, Minneapolis
Retired attorney
Term: January 2017–January 2021
Congressional district: Five

Chris Widdess, Minneapolis (*)
Nonprofit and arts consultant
Term: June 2016–January 2019
Congressional district: Five

(*) Served as an officer and member of the board's executive committee during all or part of fiscal year 2019.

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

Arts Board Members' Conflicts of Interest

During fiscal year 2019, board members declared conflicts of interest with the following applicants or grantees. If a member has declared a conflict of interest with an artist or organization being considered for a grant, the member recuses him or herself from the process.

Member	Declared a conflict with...
Ardell Brede	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rochester Civic Music Board, City of Rochester (*)
Peggy Burnet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walker Art Center
Uri Camarena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP Film Society • VocalEssence
Michael J. Charron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great River Shakespeare Festival (*) • Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (*) • Minnesota Marine Art Museum • Page Theatre, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (*)
Sean Dowse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson Center (*) • Sheldon Theatre, City of Red Wing (*) • Universal Music Center
Philip McKenzie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mankato Symphony • Northern Lights Music Festival
Mary McReynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conflicts
Tom Moss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conflicts
Dobson West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillsbury House Theatre • The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (*)
Chris Widdess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CommonBond Communities • Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

(*) Arts Board member serves as an employee, director, or trustee of grantee organization

FY 2019 Grant Program Advisory Panel Members

In order to ensure that its grant making is open and fair, and that it represents the diverse interests of Minnesotans, the Arts Board recruits volunteer advisors each year who review grant requests and make recommendations to the board. In fiscal year 2019, the following individuals contributed their time and expertise to the Arts Board's grant making process.

Arts Access

Heather J. Allen	Saint Joseph
Cate Belleveau	Puposky
Bruce R. Berglund	Saint Peter
Adam Courville	Saint Paul
Rachel Coyne	Lindstrom
Rhonda Dass	North Mankato
Shantel Dow	Grand Rapids
Elizabeth Horslev Gilbert	Detroit Lakes
RJ Kern	Minneapolis
Zoe A. Malinchoc	Red Wing
McKayla Murphy	Saint Paul
Sherrie Pugh	Mound
Pamela Ransom	Ely
Mónica M. Segura-Schwartz	Saint Cloud
Aamera Siddiqui	Saint Paul
Simon M. Sperl	Saint Paul
Chelsea A. Unold	Minneapolis
Nathan Wunrow	Saint Paul
Julio Zelaya	Saint James

Arts Learning

Julie Ahasay	Duluth
Brad Althoff	Saint Paul
María E. Argueta	Crookston
Carl E. Beihl	Wayzata
Lawrence Benson	Minneapolis
Susan Berdahl	Shorewood
Mike Carlson	Saint Cloud
Karen L. Charles	Golden Valley
Nolita R. Christensen	Pine River
Melissa Cuff	Minneapolis
David J. DeGennaro	Columbia Heights
Nat Dickey	Moorhead
Caitlin Drayna	Alexandria
Aaron Drew	Minneapolis
Anastasia S. Faunce	Minneapolis
Joelle M. Fernandez	Fridley
Molly Rose Gamble	Hopkins
Larry M. Gavin	Faribault
Dave Glenn	Saint Augusta

Robyn Gray	Little Falls
Jane A. Gudmundson	Ponsford
Kao Ly Ilean Her	Maplewood
Ann K. Heymann	Winthrop
Lauren G. Hildebrand	Fifty Lakes
Carla-Elaine Johnson	Saint Paul
Athena O. Kildegaard	Morris
Paul LaJeunesse	Duluth
Connie M. Lanphear	Minneapolis
Alex Legeros	North Oaks
James G. Miller	Minneapolis
Lin Nelson-Mayson	Golden Valley
Andrew J. Nordin	New London
Akiko Ostlund	Minneapolis
Jeffrey Prauer	Saint Paul
Kathleen L. Ray	Barrett
Theresa Remick	Winona
Molly Sheeley Melton	Apple Valley
Sharon K. Thalmann	Alexandria
Therese Vogel	Felton
Sydney Willcox	Saint Paul
Maryam E. Yusefzadeh	Minneapolis

Arts Tour Minnesota

Kim Christianson	Marshall
Darcey Engen	Saint Anthony
Megan R. Flanagan	Eagan
Simón Franco	Morris
Sennami Goziem	Blaine
Nathan Hanson	Saint Paul
Kajsa Jones	Woodbury
Trisha Kirk	Minneapolis
Kurt Kwan	Minneapolis
Scott Lykins	Minneapolis
Del Lyren	Bemidji
Katie Marshall	Grand Rapids
David M. Marty	Grand Rapids
Nicole Mulder	Eden Prairie
Christine Murakami Noonan	Vadnais Heights
Daniel Z. Peltzman	North Saint Paul
Rebecca Lynn Petersen	Fergus Falls

Advisory Panel Members

Sara Pillatzki-Warzeha	Delano
James A. Rocco	Saint Paul
Louella Voigt	Luverne
Dennis Whipple	Saint Cloud

Folk and Traditional Arts

Shams M. Ahmed	Inver Grove Heights
Jose Alvillar	Minneapolis
Paul S. Dahlin	Two Harbors
Mary Ellen Halverson	Red Wing
Peggy Korsmo-Kennon	Eagan
Rita M. Mustaphi	Crystal
Lucia Pawlowski	Saint Paul
Kari C. Tauring	Minneapolis
Gene Yang	Walnut Grove
Leah H. Yellowbird	Grand Rapids

Minnesota Festival Support

Fiona Avocado	Minneapolis
Adrienne Dorn	Minneapolis
Robin C. Gillette	Minneapolis
Jay Gilman	Minneapolis
Michelle Gratton	Knife River
Seth Kaempfer	Minneapolis
Amanda Lien	Crookston
Stephen Manuszak	Minneapolis
Tabitha Montgomery	Saint Paul
Xinyi Qian	Shoreview
Jamie Robertson	Wadena
Craig Samborski	Duluth
Joseph Scapanski	Sauk Rapids
Iris Shiraishi	Saint Paul
Alejandra C. Tobar	Minneapolis

Partners in Arts Participation

Lynne C. Beck	Lake Elmo
Gordon M. Coons	Minneapolis
Robin Cruze	Saint Joseph
Janette Davis	Edina
Mary Delorie	Minneapolis
Nathan H. Fisher	Saint Paul
Timothy M. King	Long Prairie
Micah Minnema	Saint Paul
Simone Needles	Minneapolis
Olga Nichols	Lake Lillian
Scotty Reynolds	Saint Paul
William D. Venne	Minneapolis

Lisa Wigand	Pillager
Gervaise Wilhelm	Crosslake
Christina Woods	Duluth

Artist Initiative, dance

Anne Adabra	Saint Paul
Annie Deutz	Marshall
Heather Klopchin	Northfield
Sharika Kurumathur	Bloomington
Rachmi Diyah Larasati	Minneapolis
Jill Patterson	Lakeville

Artist Initiative, media

Tony Adah	Moorhead
Sara Enzenauer	Winona
Rob Larson	Duluth
Rebecca A. McDonald	Minneapolis
Jatin Setia	Saint Louis Park

Artist Initiative, music

Zachary J. Baltich	Minneapolis
James G. Everest	Minneapolis
Joan E. Griffith	Minneapolis
Paula M. Gudmundson	Duluth
Doug Harbin	Moorhead
Masayoshi Ishikawa	Saint Peter
Janis C. Lane-Ewart	Minneapolis
Jeffrey Meyer	Moorhead
Jim Parker	Minneapolis
Stephen R. Pelkey	Rochester
Karen E. Quiroz	Minneapolis
Nirmala Rajasekar	Plymouth
Gabriel B. Rodreick	Minneapolis
David Stoddard	Fergus Falls
Joseph J. Tougas	North Mankato
Kelly M. Turpin	Minneapolis

Artist Initiative, photography

John M. Akre	Minneapolis
Priscilla Briggs	Minneapolis
Gregory A. Harp	New London
Tuckaghrie Hollingsworth	Minneapolis
Su Legatt	Moorhead
Carla A. Rodriguez	Saint Paul
Aki Shibata	Saint Paul

Advisory Panel Members

Artist Initiative, poetry

Philip S. Bryant	Saint Peter
Rebecca T. Fremo	Saint Peter
April R. Gibson	Edina
Michael Kleber-Diggs	Saint Paul
David Mura	Minneapolis
Donna A. Salli	Brainerd
Linnea Schluessler	Crookston

Artist Initiative, prose

Rebecca F. Brooks	Mankato
Judy Budreau	Duluth
Scott Dominic Carpenter	Northfield
Karlyn Coleman	Minneapolis
Martin L. Cozza	Minneapolis
William C. Durbin	Duluth
Anika Fajardo	Minneapolis
Angela F. Foster	Pine City
Harmony H. Neal	Saint Paul
Margie Newman	Saint Paul
Cole B. Perry	Bovey
Robin L. Rozanski	Minneapolis
Debra J. Stone	Robbinsdale
Molly Sutton Kiefer	Frontenac
Sarah E. Warren	Minneapolis

Artist Initiative, theater

Jeffrey Blead	Saint Cloud
Julia Gay	Minneapolis
Rachel Haider	Northfield
Paul D. Herwig	Minneapolis
Rebecca L. Meyer-Larson	Moorhead
William Nour	Minneapolis
Eliza Rasheed	Minneapolis
Benjamin Thietje	New Prague

Artist Initiative, 2- and 3-dimensional visual

Kjellgren Alkire	Lake City
Mica Lee Anders	Saint Paul
Ken Bloom	Duluth
Nicole J. Chamberlain-Dupree	Winona
Guillermo Cuellar	Shafer
Nicholas M. DeVries	Brainerd
Kristina Estell	Duluth
John J. Fleischer	Minneapolis
Karen E. Goulet	Bemidji

Guillermo Guardia	Saint Paul
Nicole A. Havekost	Rochester
Laura Heit-Youngbird	Breckenridge
Karissa Isaacs	Duluth
Ann Klefstad	Duluth
Suzanne Kosmalski	Minneapolis
Alexandros Lindsay	Saint Paul
Mary Beth Magyar	Rochester
Rod Massey	Minneapolis
Thomas A. McGregor	Saint Paul
Kathryn Nobbe	Stillwater
Mat Ollig	Minneapolis
Melanie Pankau	Minneapolis
Drew R. Peterson	Minneapolis
Jane E. Powers	Minneapolis
Chris Rackley	Rochester
Juliane B. Shibata	Northfield
Susan M. Shields	Minneapolis
Kari CL Weber	New London
Reed D. White	North Mankato

Cultural Community Partnership

Sarah Abdel-Jelil	Minneapolis
Ayesha Adu	Minneapolis
Krista L. Beier	Minneapolis
Warren C. Bowles	Minneapolis
Rebecca Davis	Vergas
Soli Hughes	Big Lake
Yuko Taniguchi	Rochester
Maria Cristina Tavera	Minneapolis



■ YELLOW TREE THEATER AUDIENCE | OSSEO

Advisory Panel Members

Operating Support, advisory review panelists

William Adams	Erhard
Crystal Brinkman	Minneapolis
Brenda J. Brousseau	Saint Paul
Amy Browender	Minneapolis
John Connelly	Grand Rapids
Michael J. Cook	Minneapolis
Paul K. Dice	Northfield
Ann Rosenquist Fee	Mankato
Sindiswa Georgiades	Saint Paul
Marjorie D. Grevious	Minneapolis
Betsy Husting	Minneapolis
Sonja M. Jacobsen	North Mankato
Deborah Johnson	Saint Peter
Paula Justich	Saint Paul
Cheryl Kessler	Eden Prairie
Laura Kinkead	Minneapolis
Sarah B. Larsson	Excelsior
Anne Makepeace	Saint Peter
Philip D. McKenzie	Thief River Falls
Mary McReynolds	Virginia
Gregory J. Peterson	Winona
Anne Jin Soo Preston	Minneapolis
Steven Richardson	Wayzata
Deneane Richburg	Saint Paul
Jonathan Rutter	Moorhead
Jon F. Jee Schill	Minneapolis
Carla M. Tamburro	Duluth
Cassandra Utt	Minneapolis
Sachi Venkatakrishnan	Oakdale

Mary Ann J. Laxen
 Colleen LeBlanc
 Jon Lewis
 Erinn K. Liebhard
 Prachee Mukherjee
 Sara Pillatzki-Warzeha
 Anne Jin Soo Preston
 Theresa Remick
 Stacy Richardson
 Kathryn D. Savage
 Anat Shinar
 Cassandra Utt

East Grand Forks
 Fort Ripley
 Minneapolis
 Saint Paul
 Minneapolis
 Delano
 Minneapolis
 Winona
 Minneapolis
 Minneapolis
 Minneapolis
 Minneapolis



■ TU DANCE | SAINT PAUL

Operating Support, artistic advisors

Heather J. Allen	Saint Joseph
Jim Bartsch	Minneapolis
Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra	Saint Paul
David J. DeGennaro	Columbia Heights
Kathy Dodge	Grand Rapids
Joelle M. Fernandez	Fridley
Amy L. Hunter	Richmond
Sonja M. Jacobsen	North Mankato
Shelley R. Johnson	Columbia Heights
Cheryl Kessler	Eden Prairie
Athena O. Kildegaard	Morris
Sharika Kurumathur	Bloomington
Janis C. Lane-Ewart	Minneapolis
Sarah B. Larsson	Excelsior



■ SHANNON ESTLUND, *Expansion* | FRIDLEY

Advisory Review Panel Members' Conflicts of Interest

The following advisory review panel members (in left column) declared conflicts of interest with the grant applicants listed (in right column).

Arts Access

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Shantel Dow	The Copper Street Brass Quintet
McKayla Murphy	Northern Starz Theatre Company
Sherrie Pugh	Forecast Public Artworks
Chelsea A. Unold	Northern Clay Center

Arts Learning

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Lawrence Benson	The Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts
Karen L. Charles	Minnesota Shubert Center for Dance and Music, Inc.
Carla-Elaine Johnson	Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop
Paul LaJeunesse	Denfeld High School
Jeffrey Prauer	Ragamala Dance, VocalEssence
Sydney Willcox	Young Dance, Inc.

Arts Tour Minnesota

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Kurt Kwan	Taous Khazem, Ten Thousand Things Theater, TigerLion Arts
Scott Lykins	Zeitgeist
Katie Marshall	Brian Malloy
David M. Marty	Zorongo Flamenco, Inc., Zenon Dance Company and School, Inc., Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater
Nicole Mulder	John Munson

Folk and Traditional Arts

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Jose Alvillar	Congregations Caring for Creation, Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum, South High School, Urban Arts Academy
Paul S. Dahlin	Arna Rennan, Nisswa-stämman
Peggy Korsmo-Kennon	Rockford Area Historical Society, Martha Brummitt, Karen Jenson, Arna Rennan, Nisswa-stämman, Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum
Rita M. Mustaphi	Nirmala Rajasekar, Pooja Pavan, Raneer Ramaswamy, Suchitra Sairam
Lucia Pawlowski	Karen Organization of Minnesota
Kari C. Tauring	Nisswa-stämman, Arna Rennan
Leah H. Yellowbird	Congregations Caring for Creation

Minnesota Festival Support

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Fiona Avocado	Art Shanty Projects
Tabitha Montgomery	Midtown Greenway Coalition

Advisory Review Panel Members' Conflicts of Interest

The following advisory review panel members (in left column) declared conflicts of interest with the grant applicants listed (in right column).

Partners in Arts Participation

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Lynne C. Beck	Jones-Harrison Residence, Keystone Community Services, Wellspring Second Chance Center
Gordon M. Coons	Keystone Community Services, First Call for Help of Itasca County, Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio
Micah Minnema	National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota
Lisa Wigand	Family Tree, Inc.

Artist Initiative - dance

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Sharika Kurumathur	Rita Mustaphi

Artist Initiative - media arts

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Sara Enzenauer	Mark Brown
Jatin Setia	David Ash, Jennifer Kramer, Andrew Peterson, Ariel Tilson

Artist Initiative - music

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Zachary J. Baltich	Kristine Bergmark
Joan E. Griffith	Christopher Olson
Karen E. Quiroz	Jean Ockuly
Nirmala Rajasekar	Patti Cudd, Paul Dice

Artist Initiative - photography

Panelist	Declared conflicts
John M. Akre	Mike Hazard, Barbra Nei, Christopher Faust
Priscilla Briggs	Melissa Borman, Areca Roe
Su Legatt	Christopher Selleck, Luke Erickson
Carla A. Rodriguez	Forrest Wasko, Mara Duvra, Christopher Selleck
Aki Shibata	Carrie Thompson

Artist Initiative - prose

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Scott Dominic Carpenter	Maria del Mar Garcia-Valdecantos
Karlynn Coleman	Mimi Iimuro Van Ausdall
Martin L. Cozza	Julie Evans
William C. Durbin	Marisha Chamberlain, Erin Downing
Anika Fajardo	Rachael Hanel, Vanessa Ramos
Margie Newman	Elizabeth Horneber
Robin L. Rozanski	Brian Malloy, Kathryn Savage, Lara Palmquist, Erin Kate Ryan, Kurtis Scaletta, Allison Wyss
Debra J. Stone	Patrick Luby, Karen Gu
Molly Sutton Kiefer	Paige Riehl
Sarah E. Warren	Vanessa Ramos

Advisory Review Panel Members' Conflicts of Interest

The following advisory review panel members (in left column) declared conflicts of interest with the grant applicants listed (in right column).

Artist Initiative - theater

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Jeffrey Bleam	Luverne Seifert
William Nour	Kathryn Haddad, Taous Khazem
Eliza Rasheed	Taous Khazem, James Williams
Benjamin Thietje	Heather Meyer, Joshua Campbell

Artist Initiative 2- and 3-dimensional

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Ken Bloom	Hend Al-Mansour
Nicole A. Havekost	Lisa Truax
Mary Beth Magyar	Cassandra Buck
Thomas A. McGregor	Gregory Lecker, Linda Snouffer
Melanie Pankau	Paula McCartney, Leah Pierce
Jane E. Powers	Monica Sheets, Katayoun Amjadi
Chris Rackley	Lisa Bergh
Juliane B. Shibata	Greg Mueller

Cultural Community Partnership

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Sarah Abdel-Jelil	Pangea World Theater, Khaldoun Samman
Ayesha Adu	Marlina Gonzalez
Soli Hughes	Katha Dance Theatre
Maria Cristina Tavera	Aki Shibata, Zeitgeist, Patti Kameya, Dameun Strange, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Sophia Maia, Amber Speller

Operating Support

Panelist	Declared conflicts
Brenda J. Brousseau	Nautilus Music-Theater
Sarah B. Larsson	Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association
Deneane Richburg	Sounds of Hope, Ltd.

STAFF

The following individuals served on the Arts Board staff during all or part of fiscal year 2019.

Jill Bode	Executive assistant
Sherrie Fernandez-Williams	Program officer
Sue Gens	Executive director
Richard Hitchler	Program officer
Kimberly Hocker	Information systems administrator
Julie Jackson	Program secretary
Kathleen Kanne	Program assistant, Percent for Art
Natalie Kennedy-Schuck	Program officer
Thomas Miller	WebGrants coordinator
Jodi Niehoff	Director, communications and external relations
Ben Owen	Program officer
Virginia Padden	Outreach coordinator
Justine Pearson	Grants office assistant
Beth Richardson	Advisory panel coordinator
Rina Rossi	Program officer
Charles Scheele	Accounting technician
Beth Skye	Data management assistant
Mike Supina	Relocation coordinator
Pam Todora	Grants office assistant
Karl Warnke	Work sample coordinator
David White	Director, finance and grants administration
Rena Youngs	Director, research and evaluation



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