

FY 20 Final Report to MSAB from the Lake Region Arts Council

Approved at the LRAC Board meeting, Sept. 15, 2020

Use of this report:

This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Minnesota State Legislature to qualify the Lake Region Arts Council for receipt of a block allocation to be used in funding local arts development programs and activities. In addition, this FY20 Final Report is to provide a basis for decisions to be made by the Lake Region Arts Council regarding overall activities as a Regional Arts Council and to act as a guide against which progress can be measured as the Council strives to attain its stated goals in this biennium (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).

Planning Process

The Planning Process for this Biennium has relied on several assessment tools, including the regional needs assessment survey done in January, 2019, (see attachment), on site interviews with grantees, input from our grantees final reports, workshop/networking evaluations and a LRAC Board self-assessment tool.

The prioritized critical issues gleaned from the feedback and surveys related to the work of LRAC are:

- LRAC should provide networking opportunities
- LRAC should provide workshop opportunities
- Public awareness and education about the arts is vital
- Increase accessibility to LRAC services and grants to underrepresented groups
- Encourage building partnerships and relationships with underrepresented groups
- Individual artists need more direct help to connect with arts resources
- There is an increased need for operational support
- Need to hold LRAC workshops, networking meetings and events in a wider variety of locations within the region

The LRAC dedicates its McKnight Foundation funding to the needs of individual artists, for which the critical issues were:

1. Need funding resources for artists
2. Need marketing/advertising expertise and guidance
3. Need space/opportunities to display art or performance space
4. Need opportunities to network with other artists

COVID 19 Impact

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic LRAC made the following adjustments:

Board meetings and grant reviews were held virtually, beginning in March and continuing to date

LRAC offices and galleries were closed to the public starting in March and continuing to date

Flexibility was given to FY20 grantees who had to cancel/postpone activities. See grant section for details.

Grants *

Provide a narrative summary reflecting on the grants that you awarded, include your observations related to number of applications, successful marketing, training you provided, and other interesting activities related to awarding grants this year across all your funding sources.

LRAC Grant Programs	# Req.	# Funded	% Grants Funded	\$ Requested	\$ Funded	% Dollars Funded
Project Grants	26	14	54%	\$47,237	\$35,175	68%
Operating Support Grants	16	16	100%	\$65,040	\$65,040	100%
Legacy Grants, Individual	9	5	56%	\$65,507	\$36,277	55%
Legacy Grants, Organization	27	19	70%	\$279,841	\$163,286	58%
Legacy Local Gov. Grants	2	1	50%	\$20,000	\$10,000	50%
Career Development Grants	5	4	80%	\$6,000	\$4,800	80%
Artist Quick Start Grants	9	6	67%	\$6,750	\$4,500	67%
Fellowships	8	1	13%	\$40,000	\$5,000	13%
Arts Mentorship	20	14	70%	\$12,000	\$8,400	70%
Total	102	80	78%	\$542,375	\$329,428	61%

During fiscal year 2020, the Lake Region Arts Council awarded grants as shown above. A detailed listing of all grants awarded has been submitted to the MN State Arts Board in a separate document.

Summary of Grants Awarded

This year 78% of the requests were funded, up from 64% in FY 19. These figures indicate that we are not able to sufficiently meet the need that exists. This inability to adequately fund the requests we receive has existed since these statistics have been tracked beginning in 1999.

COVID 19 Impact

The LRAC Executive Director conducted phone interviews with regional arts organizations to assess what kinds of support would have the most value during the COVID 19 pandemic. Top three responses were:

1. Be as flexible as possible with grantees, allow changes in performance dates, deadlines, approved activities, and conversion of funds for projects to operating expenses.
2. Keep funding levels in FY21 as close to FY20 levels as possible
3. Access to the technology to move organizational operations and activities to online platforms and the technical support to use them.

LRAC responded by:

Allowing FY20 Op. Support grants impacted by Coronavirus restrictions, to shift approved expenses to a different Op Support category and allow payment of FY20 Op. Support grants final 20% prior to submission of final reports.

Allowing LRAC non Op. Support grants, impacted by Coronavirus with unspent funds due to cancellation to convert those funds to operating support expenses. The grant would add the outcome of: "Minnesota arts organizations report having access to the resources, information, personnel, audience, etc. they need."

Rescheduling FY20 Arts Mentorships to summer of 2021

Extend FY19, 20 and 21 grant deadlines to June 30, 2022.

FY 21 the LRAC Board approved to:

Limit applicant eligibility to only arts organizations

Discontinue requiring a 20% match for Project grants

Services*

Provide a narrative summary reflecting on the services your region offered, include your observations related to number of people served, successful marketing, training you provided, and other interesting activities related to serving your region this year across all your funding sources.

Services Snapshot:

Service	Funding Source	Comments
Arts Newsletter	Legacy	Emailed every mo. to over 1,200 households, ranked as important in Needs Assessment Survey
Artist Registry	Legacy	Lists 34 regional artist, ranked as important in Needs Assessment Survey
LRAC Website	Legacy	Has over 800 visits/mo. average, ranked as very important in Needs Assessment Survey
LRAC Facebook Page	Legacy	Has over 6,500 followers, ranked as very important in Needs Assessment Survey
Networking Meetings	Legacy	LRAC held 2 networking meetings, ranked as important in Needs Assessment Survey
Workshops	Legacy	LRAC held and sponsored over 12 workshops, ranked as very important in Needs Assessment Survey
Regional Media Promotion	Legacy	LRAC produced over 15 videos promoting artists, arts organizations and arts events, feedback is that the videos are very valuable
Equitable Access Program	Legacy	See detailed info below
Artist Cohort Program	Legacy	See detailed info below
Galleries, Main and Solo gallery space Closed to the public on 3.2020 /COVID 19	McKnight Foundation	11 exhibits per year, average attendance is 150 viewers per exhibit, but it varies greatly.
Springboard for the Arts office	McKnight Foundation	Connects and helps 628 artists, provided 28 workshops. 14 artist residencies, ranked as very helpful in Needs Assessment Survey

FY20 Measurement of success: In FY20 of those receiving services from the LRAC, 75% will indicate that the services provided by LRAC are important or very important to them and have provided access to a variety of resources they need.

End of year measurement shows that 80% of those responding to the FY19 Needs Assessment Survey* indicated that the services provided by LRAC are important or very important to them and have provided access to a variety of resources they need.

Observations from survey comments: There is a continued strong interest by individual artists and arts organizations to have access to networking opportunities. LRAC will work to provide networking aspects in our workshops and other gatherings.

In FY20 the LRAC online Artist Registry was completely redone. The search function is now more user friendly and artist's profiles include video, links to artist's websites and better work sample images. Due to the redesign, we are rebuilding the list of artists from scratch.

*LRAC was scheduled to conduct a FY20 Needs Assessment survey in March 2020, due to the COVID 19 disruption, the survey was cancelled and we are relying on the FY19 Needs Assessment for our measurements of success.

FY 20 was the third year for the Artist Cohort Program and our Equitable Access Program.

- **End of year observations: Artist Cohort Program** continues to be successful, but the following changes will be made in FY20, based on feedback and observations of what works and didn't work in FY20.
 - Working with 6 instead of 10 artists proved very successful. All artists completed all components of the Cohort program. Previously only 75% completed.
 - LRAC staff, Rebecca Davis, will assumed the duties of Artist Cohort Coordinator and worked more directly with members of the FY20 Artist Cohort. Her guidance and consistent communications with the Cohort helped us achieve a 100% completion rate.
 - Feedback from Cohort members, placed a high value on the experiential learning components of the program. We will be adding more hands on learning in FY21, such as completing a mock grant application.
- **End of year observations: Equitable Access Program**, LRAC continued to build relationships with the following underserved groups:
 - Pelican Rapids Multicultural Committee, supported their Festival of Nations event
 - Moorhead Pangea Festival, supported multi-cultural event
 - Invite 3 artists of color to apply for open LRAC Board positions.
 - LRAC staff and Board members who are people of color will help design a pilot project for artists of color. This would be funded by McKnight funds if approved.

LRAC will continue to seek out artists and organizations that represent diverse and underserved communities.

Overall Success and Evaluation

Use this space for additional comments that do not fit in another section but you have included in your final report.

The following are additional indicators of success that LRAC identified in their FY 20-21 Biennial Plan, Work Plan:--

1. In FY 20 of those receiving grants from the LRAC 75% will indicate that their project was artistically successful, reached the target constituency and had community impact.

End of year measurement shows that 100 % of those receiving grants indicated that their project was artistically successful, and 96% reached the target constituency and had community impact. Evaluation method: Grantee Final Reports

2. In FY 20 of those receiving services from the LRAC, 75% will indicate that the services provided by LRAC are important or very important to them and have provided access to a variety of resources they need.

End of year measurement shows that 80% of those responding to the survey indicated that the services provided by LRAC are important or very important to them and have provided access to a variety of resources they need. Evaluation method: FY19 Needs Assessment Survey

3. In FY20 75% of those responding to the FY 19 Needs Assessment Survey will agree that LRAC awards grants with fairness to all applicants.

End of year measurement shows that 94% of those responding to the survey indicated that LRAC awards grants with fairness to all applicants.

Evaluation method: FY 19 Needs Assessment Survey

4. In FY 20 75% of those surveyed will indicate that LRAC acts as a responsible steward of public funds.

End of year measurement shows that 99% of those responding to the survey indicated that LRAC acts as a responsible steward of public funds.

Evaluation method: FY 19 Needs Assessment Survey.

5. In FY20 LRAC will communicate a minimum of 5 times per year informing regional legislators of arts activities and issues. LRAC will maintain membership in MCA, AFTA and participate in Arts Advocacy Day.

End of year evaluation: A total of 6 mailings were sent to regional legislators announcing LRAC and MSAB grants that were awarded in their districts. Legislators also receive our monthly eNewsletter and were invited to our Annual meeting. In FY20 LRAC paid dues to MCA and AFTA. LRAC participated in virtual Arts Advocacy Day, March 2020.

Attachments:

1. Needs Assessment Survey, 2019- on file at MSAB
2. MSAB budget template, FY20 EOY, unaudited

LAKE REGION ARTS COUNCIL
Fiscal Year 2020

	General Fund	Arts &	Arts	Arts & Cult	McKnight	Other	2020 Total
	2020 State	Access	Education	Heritage	Foundation	Funds	
		2020 State	2020 State	2020 State			
REVENUE							
1	State of Minnesota	121,669	442,780	83,447	27,248	0	\$675,144
2	State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2019		7,969	1,502	490		\$9,962
3	McKnight Foundation				62,823	0	\$62,823
4	Other Income	5,804	0	0	0	0	\$5,804
5	Interest	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
6	TOTAL REVENUE	\$127,473	\$450,749	\$84,949	\$27,738	\$62,823	\$0
EXPENSES							
Programs and Services							
7	Grant Programs and Services						
	Project grants -Gen. Allocation	31,185					\$31,185
	Artist Mentor prog. Costs-Gen.	1,191					\$1,191
	Operating Support grants-Gen. Allocation	29,919					\$29,919
	Arts Access-ACHF		169,802				\$169,802
	3% Set Aside - Arts Access		0				\$0
	Arts Ed.-ACHF			27,511			\$27,511
	3% Set Aside - Arts Ed.			0			\$0
	Arts/Cult. Heritage-ACHF				2,200		\$2,200
	3% Set Aside - Arts/Cult. Heritage				0		\$0
	Career Dev.-McK				4,800		\$4,800
	Artist Small grants-McK				4,500		\$4,500
	Fellowship- McK				5,000		\$5,000
	Arts Legacy City grants		10,000				\$10,000
	Capacity Building grants		16,898				\$16,898
	Base OpSup Supplement		20,325	3,831	1,251		\$25,407
	Artist Mentor Supplement			5,321			\$5,321
	Building Equity Program				1,500		\$1,500
8	Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	31,304	107,460	20,252	6,613	1,705	\$167,334
9	Subtotal Grant Programs and Services	\$93,599	\$324,485	\$56,914	\$11,564	\$16,005	\$0
10	Non-grant Programs and Services						
	McK Gallery	0	0	0	0	17,386	\$17,386
	McK Springboard Satellite office	0	0	0	0	10,650	\$10,650
	Workshops	0	6,343	1,195	390	0	\$7,928
	Public Awareness ACHF	0	46,471	8,758	2,860	0	\$58,088
	Grant review meetings	2,861	909	171	56	640	\$4,637
	Staff Training Gen./ACHF/McK	313	173	33	11	1,113	\$1,642
11	Non-grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	5,486	32,915	6,203	2,025	2,634	\$49,264
12	Subtotal Non-grant Programs and Services	\$8,661	\$86,809	\$16,360	\$5,342	\$32,423	\$0
13	Total Programs and Services	\$102,261	\$411,294	\$73,274	\$16,906	\$48,429	\$0
14	Fundraising	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
15	General administration	13,439	19,274	3,632	1,186	8,055	\$45,587
16	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$115,699	\$430,569	\$76,907	\$18,092	\$56,484	\$0
17	Surplus/Carryforward or Deficit	\$11,774	\$20,181	\$8,042	\$9,646	\$6,339	\$0

Line 6 Is the sum of lines 1 through 5

Line 7 Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all grant programs and services costs

Line 9 Total of all lines under line 7, plus line 8

Line 10 Change the subitem names, and/or Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all non-grant programs and services costs

Line 12 Total of all lines under line 10, plus line 11

Line 13 Add line 9 and line 12

Line 16 Add lines 13, 14, and 15

Line 17 Subtract line 16 from line 6