

ampers

Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities



Report to the Minnesota State Legislature Fiscal 2020



REPORT TO THE MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATURE FOR THE MINNESOTA ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

FISCAL YEAR 2020 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 15, 2021

Submitted To Representative Melissa Hortman, Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Senator Jeremy Miller, Vice Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Senator Carrie Ruud, Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and
Legacy Finance Committee
Senator Fong Hawj, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Environment and Natural
Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance
Committee in the Minnesota Senate
Representative Leon Lillie, Chair, House Legacy Finance Division Committee
Representative Steve Green, Ranking Minority Member, House Legacy Finance Division
Committee
Members of the Legacy Finance Division Committee in the Minnesota House of
Representatives

Cc: Michelle Weber, Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Sally Olson, Commission Assistant, Legislative Coordinating Commission

Submitted By: Freddie Bell, Ampers Chair, KMOJ-FM General Manager
Joel Glaser, Ampers Chief Executive Officer
Ampers, 1881 Munster Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116 - 651-587-5550

Regarding: Minnesota Statute 129D.19, Subdivision 5: “A noncommercial radio station receiving
funds appropriated under this section must report annually by January 15 to the
commissioner, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the chairs and ranking
minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees and divisions
having jurisdiction over arts and cultural heritage policy and finance regarding how the
previous year’s grant funds were expended. In addition to all information required of
each recipient of money from the arts and cultural heritage fund under section 3.303,
subdivision 10, the report must contain specific information for each program produced
and broadcast, including the cost of production, the number of stations broadcast-
ing the program, estimated number of listeners, and other related measures. If the
programs produced include educational material, the noncommercial radio station must
report on these efforts.”

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Board of Directors, as well as the member stations of the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (Ampers), I would like to thank all of the legislators, as well as the citizens of Minnesota, for continuing to support our programming with funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF/Legacy).

What a year! Despite the pandemic, and, in some cases because of the pandemic, Ampers and its member stations were able to produce and distribute some incredibly powerful and impactful artistic, cultural, and historical programming. To ensure artists continued to get paid during the pandemic, and still give Minnesotans the opportunity to enjoy the artists' work, several of the stations adjusted to produce virtual concerts and events. Collectively we used Legacy funds to pay 421 artists, 136 contractors, and fund 13.89 FTEs.



Joel Glaser, Ampers CEO

It was another award-winning year for Ampers and our stations. Collectively we received ten prestigious awards for Legacy programs. KFAL received five awards from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for its **Minne-Culture** series. KMOJ and Ampers received top honors from SPJ for our FY19 documentary **Sex Trafficking: Breaking Free**. Ampers received a second SPJ award for **Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine**. KQAL received an Eric Sevareid Award for **The Live Feed** and a second for **Culture Clique**. And, WTIP earned an Edward R. Murrow Award for its **Boundary Waters Podcast** project.

In Fiscal Year 2020, ACHF funding helped Ampers and its member stations produce 27,423 hours of Legacy programming. We now have more than 21,354 ACHF programs archived on the Ampers website for all Minnesotans to enjoy now and in the future. Before the pandemic forced the cancellation of all live events, approximately 72,000 people attended events that Ampers and its member stations produced or co-produced/promoted with other organizations.

Please accept this as our formal annual report to the Legislature for our FY2020 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grants. In this very detailed report, you will find the information that we are required to submit along with feedback and comments from listeners, artists, and other organizations that benefited from our Legacy programming in FY20. Because the report is so large, we have included an index at the end of the report making it easier for you to find information that is relevant to your district. We sincerely hope the Legislature will continue to support our efforts. If you do, we will continue to ensure our programming focuses on serving all Minnesotans with a special emphasis on underserved and underrepresented arts, cultures, and communities throughout the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Glaser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Joel A. Glaser,
Ampers CEO

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ABOUT AMPERS

Ampers is a collection of 18 independent community radio stations in Minnesota. Each station is locally managed and programmed by and for the local communities they serve. The Ampers stations reach rural, minority, and student audiences not served through traditional media. Eight of the stations are licensed to educational institutions and 10 are licensed directly to the communities they serve. Of the 10 community licensed stations, four are licensed to or affiliated with Native American communities.

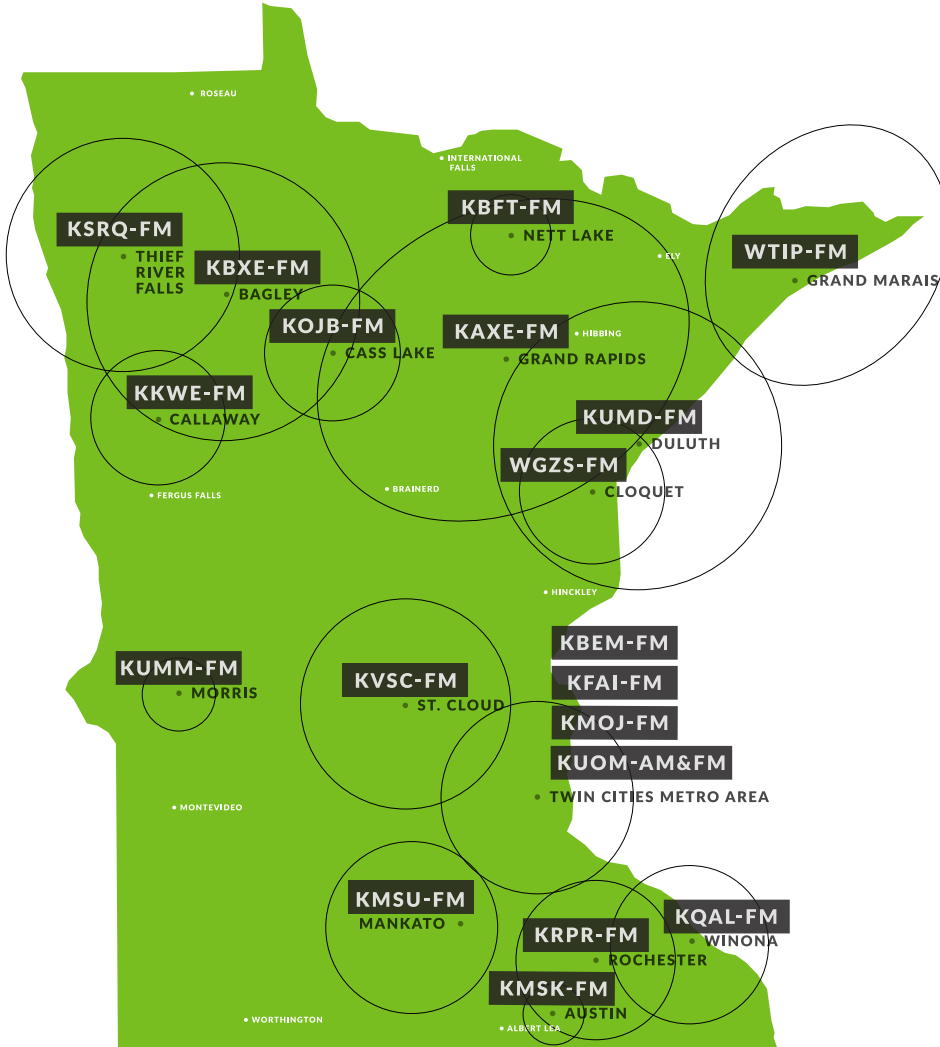
Ampers' mission is to strengthen its member stations and help them better serve their diverse communities by generating revenue, developing and sharing programming, and actively work to change the narrative regarding historically underrepresented communities through accurate storytelling and reporting. The Ampers stations carry programming in 11 different languages ranging from Hmong, Spanish, and Somali, to Amharic and Oromo. Ampers has no affiliation with Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and does not receive financial support from MPR.

<i>City</i>	<i>Station</i>	<i>Dial Position</i>
Bagley / Bemidji	KBXE-FM	90.5 FM
Bois Forte / Nett Lake	KBFT-FM	89.9 FM
Duluth	KUMD-FM	103.3 FM
Fond du Lac / Cloquet	WGZS-FM	89.1 FM
Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage	WTIP-FM	90.7 FM / 89.1 FM / 90.1 FM
Grand Rapids / Ely / Brainerd	KAXE-FM	91.7 FM / 89.9 FM / 103.9 FM
Leech Lake / Cass Lake	KOJB-FM*	90.1 FM
Mankato	KMSU-FM	89.7 FM
Minneapolis / St. Paul	KBEM-FM (Jazz88)	88.5 FM
Minneapolis / St. Paul	KFAI-FM	90.3 FM
Minneapolis / St. Paul	KMOJ-FM	89.9 FM
Minneapolis / St. Paul	KUOM-AM/FM (Radio K)	770 AM / 100.7 FM / 104.5 FM
Morris	KUMM-FM**	89.7 FM
Rochester	KRPR-FM	89.9 FM
St. Cloud	KVSC-FM	88.1 FM
Thief River Falls	KSRQ-FM	90.1 FM
White Earth / Callaway	KKWE-FM	89.9 FM
Winona	KQAL-FM	89.5 FM

*KOJB-FM did not spend Legacy funds in FY20.

**KUMM-FM in Morris does not meet the minimum requirements to qualify for Arts and Cultural Heritage funds.

OVERVIEW



In Fiscal Year 2020, Legacy funds allowed Ampers to capture, memorialize, and share the memories and stories of Minnesota's Korean War Veterans before it was too late. As many Minnesota musicians were struggling financially because of the pandemic, KMSU paid artists to perform in the safety of their own home while at the same time allowing listeners to enjoy the concert in the comfort and security of their homes. Before the pandemic, more than 72,000 people attended live events that Ampers and its member stations produced or co-produced/promoted with other organizations in FY20. In that same year, Ampers and its member stations produced and distributed more than 27,423 hours of Legacy programming that covered a variety of arts, music, nature,

history, and cultural topics. Since Ampers first started receiving Arts & Cultural Heritage funding in 2009, the organization itself, combined with its member stations, has developed, produced, and distributed more than 21,350 Legacy programs of various lengths. To significantly increase Minnesotan's access to arts and culture, Ampers archives these programs online at ampers.org. Everyone has access to the 21,350 artistic, cultural, and historical programs and can listen to them on-demand when their busy schedules allow. Ampers also promotes ACHF programs through Facebook and Twitter, giving more Minnesotans access to the content as well as giving them the chance to share and comment on the programs. In FY20, Ampers and its member stations paid 136 contractors and more than 400 artists to create artistic, cultural, and historical programming. Ampers and its stations strive to make sure all of Minnesota's various arts and cultures are represented by our ACHF programs with a special emphasis on under-served and underrepresented arts, cultures, and communities. And, we take great pride in the fact that the stories and segments we produce, as well as the events that we host and support, take place in all areas of the state.

There are now more than 21,350 Legacy segments and programs on the Ampers website.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) featured popular Minnesota and regional bands in its two-day outdoor festival of live-musical performances for its project **Mississippi River Festival**. The annual family-friendly live concert brought together an outstanding mix of blues, folk, rock, and world music. More than 350 people attended the Annual **Mississippi River Festival**, which was held in July and took place at the KAXE amphitheater in Grand Rapids. In addition to live music, the **Mississippi River Festival** featured an art auction, food, puppets, and more. In FY20, band and festival performers included: Bad Bad Hats, The 4onthefloor, Kitchi Boogie, Whitehorse, Kevin Gordon, and Lindsay Beaver. The live broadcasts of **Mississippi River Festival** included 12-hours of live programming during the festival. The station also recorded the live programming and rebroadcast it later for those unable to listen to the live broadcast, providing the artists and festival with even more exposure. The project resulted in about eleven hours of on-air programming. **Mississippi River Festival** was a yearlong project for KAXE staff and volunteers.



KAXE's **Mississippi River Festival** was a two-day event that resulted in 12-hours of live radio programming.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) did some preparation work for its **Minnesota Jazz Legends** project, which honors and shines a light on some of Minnesota's most notable jazz legends in their 70s and 80s who are still performing. The station engaged in preparatory work for a Spring 2020 concert event, but COVID-19 mitigation efforts necessitated the cancellation of those plans, especially given the vulnerability of the honorees due to their age and preexisting health conditions. Plans are underway to honor the selected 2020 honorees and a new class of 2021 Legends with a safely distanced production in Spring 2021. **Minnesota Jazz Legends** was a three-month project.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) kept its listening audience informed about upcoming concerts and music events happening each week in the Twin Cities region through its project **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week**. In FY20 this took on an added importance as artists and performers adjusted to the limitations and realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and the many canceled public events. **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** consisted of two weekly eight-minute segments, combining interviews, artfully mixed with an artists' own music. Segments of **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** generally aired three times during the week preceding the performances that took place Fridays through Sundays, and segments of **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** generally aired three times during the weekend preceding the performances that took place Mondays through Thursdays. Additionally, this project created non-date-specific versions of the radio programs, called **Minnesota Music Profiles**, which promoted an artist in general, and which many artists post on their own websites as a marketing tool. In FY20, KBEM broadcast 105 new episodes of **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** and 50 episodes of **Minnesota Music Profiles**. The show, hosted by Phil Nusbaum, has attracted a large following because it is highly entertaining and informative. Each of the eight-minute segments focused on a musician or group and explored various aspects of the artists' inspiration, creative process, background, and influences. Some of the musicians featured in these segments included: Steve Kaul of Wild Sound recording studio in Minneapolis, who shared

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

about artists' musical expressions related to social justice; singer Maud Hixson, who spoke of working on her performance vocals even as COVID-19 shut down live performances; acclaimed artist Gao Hong, who shared how she adapted her international Chinese music career to the COVID-19 era; Chris Bates, who spoke about curating music for Jazz at the Black Dog in St. Paul; and many more. The pieces showcased a broad range of musicians and their music in many forms including jazz, folk, Latin, gospel, and bluegrass. ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week*** was a nine-month project.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) preserved the massive and rich archive of the historical recordings of Leigh Kamman and shared them with a whole new generation of listeners through its project ***The Jazz Image—Minnesota Edition***. Leigh Kamman died in October 2014, leaving a vast and important treasure of recordings from his 60 years in jazz broadcasting, during which time he conducted hundreds of interviews with jazz artists, including many from the Minnesota scene. For this project, KBEM partnered with the Leigh Kamman Legacy Project, an organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the audio, visual, and written resources of jazz broadcaster Leigh Kamman. In addition to preserving Kamman's recordings, as part of ***The Jazz Image—Minnesota Edition*** project, the station edited some of the interviews down to shorter segments for on-air broadcast. KBEM produced and broadcast ten five-minute audio segments for this project. Some of the segments presented in FY20 included interviews with musicians such as Herb Pilhofer, who was gigging on piano in the Twin Cities by the mid-50s and became the Guthrie Theater's musical director in 1963; drummer Eric Kamau Gravatt, who played with McCoy Tyner, Joe Henderson, and Weather Report; Douglas Ewart, who built and performed on a variety of woodwinds, didgeridoos, and percussion instrument building over many decades of his career; and more. All of these segments provided listeners with an awareness of the depth of jazz talent and history in Minnesota. ***The Jazz Image—Minnesota Edition*** was a nine-month project.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) showcased all of the station's Legacy-funded content through its 24/7 online web streaming platform, ***Minnesota Jazz Tracks***, as part of its ***MPS Voices*** project. The webstream is dedicated to helping provide Minnesota's jazz musicians with a larger audience, as well as providing a platform for student work. In FY20, 12 students helped produce and distribute ***MPS Voices*** which included short-form documentaries, music, and interviews with Minnesota jazz artists. The ***MPS Voices*** project allowed students to learn how to produce audio and gave them experience in expressing themselves through the medium of audio. The ***Minnesota Jazz Tracks*** stream aired 24-hours a day, seven days a week, so students, along with their families and friends, could hear their work. ***MPS Voices*** provided Minnesotans significantly more access to music by Minnesota jazz musicians, and it provided the students of the Minneapolis Public Schools with a platform for their work. All of this was shared on the stream as well. ***MPS Voices*** was a yearlong project.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) featured several Jazz bands in the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) as well as other jazz bands that included MPS students for its ***Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools*** project. KBEM recorded the bands, on-location and in-studio, and showcased excellence in our schools with its weekly one-hour program. A total of 48 students were involved with this project in FY20. KBEM commissioned recordings of several student jazz events in the fall and winter of 2019 for future broadcast, which will be added into the existing rotation of shows from previous years, which aired weekly through the fiscal year. The project highlighted the work of high school band teachers and student artists in concert settings. ***Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools*** also included jazz workshops with guest clinicians that culminated with

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

the Jazz Around Minneapolis (JAM) Fall Festival. JAM brought together student musicians and educators from multiple secondary schools in the Minneapolis district for a day of jamming and performing along with professional musicians hired for the event. **Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools** was an eight-month project.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) featured Native musicians, writers, storytellers, and songwriters, with its project **Native Fest Music Series**, a collection of interviews and songs, bringing to its audience both wonderful music and conversations with performing artists. The station recorded songs and interviews from four live performances featured in its **Native Fest Music Series** and edited them into three five-minute segments for later broadcast. Among the musicians, artists, and performers featured in FY20 were: Michael Lyons, a musician, author, and puppeteer who uses his talents to spread knowledge and understanding of the Ojibwe language and culture through his puppets; country music singer Tracy Bone shared her story as a Native woman and performer; and Keith Secola performed and spoke at the high school in Cook, the place where he grew up. Singer-songwriter Keith Secola plays rock and roll, folk-rock, folk, and reggae on the guitar and flute. Additionally, the station brought many of the performers to the Nett Lake elementary school to meet with grade-school students, and to meet with students in the Boys' and Girls' Club after school. The project included four performances featuring 11 different Native American musicians who were paid for their performances. These one-hour live concerts highlighted the works of Minnesota Native American musicians and performers. Approximately 173 people attended the concerts. **Native Fest Music Series** was a yearlong project.



In addition to paying musicians to perform, KBFT sent the artists to area schools to meet with and inspire students.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) had to cancel the **Bemidji Block Party**, its free outdoor concert, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff did invest some time preparing for the concert before having to cancel the event.



KBXE created 50 episodes of **Centerstage Minnesota** showcasing Minnesota musicians.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) shined the spotlight on great Minnesota music, through its project **Centerstage Minnesota**, a weekly show hosted by Brett Carter. The station produced and broadcast 50 one-hour episodes of **Centerstage Minnesota** in FY20 and featured music, interviews with musicians, reviews, and a calendar of concerts and events. **Centerstage Minnesota** strengthened our sense of place and community by showcasing the lives and talents of Minnesota musicians and supporting the local music scene. The show offered listeners a variety of musical styles, historical contexts and backgrounds, local music information, and much more. **Centerstage Minnesota** highlighted dozens of Minnesota musicians and groups throughout the year. A sampling of those featured in FY20 included: Jose James, Ian George, Faith Boblett, Sarah Morris, The Roe Family Singers, The Latelays, Steam Machine, POLICA, North Ridge, MN Moder, Prudence Johnson, Sarah Streitz, Peter Mayer, Jeremy Messersmith, Holy Hive, Davina and The

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

Vagabonds, Ellis Delaney, Erik Koskinen, J.S. Ondara, Jaspar Lepak, Jillian Rae, Jack Klatt, Lera Lynn, Keith Secola, Larry Long and Friends, PaviElle, and many more. **Centerstage Minnesota** was a yearlong project.

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul)

highlighted original music from Minnesota musicians through its **Live from Minnesota** project. Since the performances couldn't take place in front of a live audience, the station teamed up with the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network to provide Minnesotans with video as well as audio of the concerts. The partnership captured live performances by



Because of COVID-19, KFAI added video to their **Live from Minnesota** project creating virtual concerts, since people couldn't attend in-person.

Lady Midnight as well as Kiss the Tiger. The concert by Lady Midnight and her band was 68 minutes and Kiss the Tiger performed for 42 minutes. A total of 10 musicians, four camera operators, an audio engineer, a KFAI host, and a technical producer were all paid to work on this project. In addition to airing the concerts on KFAI, the station posted the shows on Facebook, YouTube, SoundCloud, Public Radio Exchange, and then archived them on the Ampers website **Live from Minnesota** series was a five-month project.



KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) produced and broadcast 24 one-hour episodes of its series **Then & Now: Old-Time Music from Minnesota**, formerly called **Cruisin' the Minnesota Blues with Mr. Jack**. This popular KKWE program covered the blues genre in its entirety, starting with music from the early 20th century through today. Mr. Jack, the host of the show, has been studying the history of blues for more than 30 years and has a large collection of blues music that he shared with listeners. Mr. Jack also provided historical facts and context behind the music, artists, and songs. **Then & Now: Old-Time Music from Minnesota** primarily focused on blues artists in Minnesota. Some of the artists featured in FY20 included Marquise Knox, Elmore James, Snooky Pryor & Mel Brown, Hound Dog Taylor & the House Rockers, The Nick Moss Band, and many more. **Then & Now: Old-Time Music from Minnesota** was a yearlong project.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) supported and grew its High Definition (HD) Channel, found at KMOJ-FM 89.9 HD2, for its project **The Ice: Expanding the Reach of Minnesota's 1st Urban Hip-Hop Format**. This station targets a younger 12- to 24-year-old audience within the Twin Cities Communities of Color, that prior to the launch of **The Ice**, was not being served. KMOJ created an on-air and production studio from the ground up, so it could deliver on its mission of training young broadcasters and air culturally specific programming and in FY19 the station began broadcasting **The Ice**. In FY20, the

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

station broadcast culturally specific public affairs programming. This project significantly expanded the new station's reach by enhancing the dedicated website for **The Ice** as well as creating a 24/7 online stream. **The Ice: Expanding Minnesota's First Urban Hip-Hop Format** was a yearlong project.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) featured up-and-coming DJs during the 12 days of the 2019 Minnesota State Fair, through its project **Dancing with the DJs**. Throughout the Great Minnesota Get Together, the station highlighted the talent of nine DJs from the KMOJ State Fair booth. The **Dancing with the DJs** project provided an excellent opportunity for local DJs to gain experience interacting with the public and share their personal music styles which ranged from R&B and hip-hop to salsa and much more. KMOJ presented **Dancing with the DJs** in partnership with



KMOJ helped nine DJs to have their work showcased to about 7,000 people per day at the State Fair.

Ampers (Statewide). Three or four different DJs performed each day of the Fair, and nearly 700 people per hour, about 7,000 people per day, stopped by the **Dancing with the DJs** area. The project helped to showcase and increase awareness of this unique form of artistry, helping to demonstrate that even high school students can pursue and thrive as a DJ. At least two of the DJs report they have secured private event opportunities as a result of their participation in the project, and one young “spinner” was a candidate for a commercial radio opportunity in the Twin Cities. **Dancing with the DJs** was a three-month project.

KMSU (Mankato) supported Mankato's thriving music scene by promoting and contributing to the annual **Blues on Belgrade**, a family-friendly music festival held on Belgrade Avenue. **Blues on Belgrade** is a popular blues festival, held in North Mankato, in collaboration with the group, Business on Belgrade. The event featured regional and national blues acts and is a free community event, supported by local businesses and KMSU. Among the acts included in FY20 were Ghost Town Blues Band, The Echoes Big Band, Miss Myra & The Moon Shiners, Tas Cru, City Mouse, and Rod Hamdallah. More than 4,000 people attended this day-long event. **Blues on Belgrade** was a yearlong project.

KMSU (Mankato) responded to the crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic with its **Alone Together Concert Series** project. With venues closed and concerts canceled, many artists were not able to perform. Nor were Minnesotans able to enjoy the music of Minnesota musicians. The **Alone Together Concert Series** aimed to address some of those challenges, by bringing the music of some Minnesota musicians directly to listeners. The station paid six artists to record musical performances in their own homes, and then broadcast the

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

30-minute programs on the radio station. The ***Alone Together Concert Series*** project also gave listeners a brief escape from the stress of quarantine by providing a way to support and enjoy the work of local musicians, from the comfort and safety of their homes.



KMSU helped to support and promote the ***Rock Bend Folk Festival***, which attracted more than 6,000 people.

KMSU (Mankato) supported and promoted the 29th Annual Rock Bend Folk Festival, through its ***Rock Bend Folk Festival*** project. More than 6,000 people attended the two-day event. The popular annual music event was held at the Minnesota Square Park and showcased more than 25 different bands and musicians playing folk, country, and blues music. In addition to the free performances at The Pavilion and Joyce's North Grove stage in St. Peter, attendees enjoyed food, and folk artists sharing their original crafts. The festival featured more than eight hours of music on Saturday and

six hours of music on Sunday. KMSU conducted brief on-air interviews with event performers and organizers, during the weeks leading up to the festival. The station also featured music from bands performing at the event on KMSU's locally produced weekly Folk Music programs. In FY20, some of the acts included Captain Gravitone & The String Theory Orchestra, Becky Kapell and the Fat 6, City Mouse and Friends, Roe Family Singers, Bruce Davis Folk Scene, Aaron Kamm & The One Drops, Jaedyn James & The Hunger, The Divers, and many more. ***Rock Bend Folk Festival*** was a yearlong project.

KMSU (Mankato) presented live music events for the Alive After Five portion of its ***Songs on the Lawn/Alive After Five*** project. The summertime live outdoor events were held on Thursdays in August and September in downtown Mankato. June concerts in FY20 were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Performances included local and regional acts and were produced in collaboration with Greater Mankato Growth and the City Center Partnership. KMSU also interviewed band members and event organizers and broadcast the 5- to 10-minute interviews, as well as live in-studio performances, promoting both the event and the musical acts. More than 3,000 people attended the four events in FY20 that the station supported. ***Songs on the Lawn/Alive After Five*** was an eleven-month project.

KMSU (Mankato) recorded, edited, and later broadcast two high-quality stereo recordings of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra (MSO) concerts, for its ***Mankato Symphony Orchestra Recordings*** project. This project aims to increase accessibility to local classical music by offering southern Minnesota residents the opportunity to hear two one-hour to 90-minute orchestra concerts broadcast on KMSU. The concerts in FY20 included: the MSO's Celebrate Mankato Past and Present concert, which featured Guest Conductor Dr. Ruth Lin, and Resident Composer Benji Inniger. For *The Snowman* concert, the MSO performed Howard Blake's beautiful score to the animated film *The Snowman*, Leroy Anderson's *The Sleigh Ride*, and, a popular holiday sing-along. *The Snowman* concert featured Guest Conductor Ernesto Estigarribia. More than 900 people attended the live concerts and it's estimated that more than 5,000 people listened to each of the two radio broadcasts. ***Mankato Symphony Orchestra Recordings*** was a nine-month project. In addition to the newly

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

recorded broadcasts for FY20, KMSU broadcast four archived concerts from previous years. This was an effort to share these musical works in a time when live music events were not happening due to COVID-19.

KMSU (Mankato) supported multiple bands and artists as part of its **KMSU Live Events** project, which showcased six unique performances that were 90 minutes to two hours long. These free public events were mostly music related but also included other art forms. More than 900 people attended the events, and the project increased the exposure, appreciation, and variety of the arts in every facet of community life in Minnesota. Several events in FY20 were produced in collaboration with other organizations including Midwest Art Catalyst, the Arts Center of St. Peter, and Minnesota Makers and Artists Guild. The project supported several “pop-up” concerts at various intimate venues around Mankato and North Mankato. The station also featured music, some live in-studio performances, and information on-air in the days leading up to the event. In FY20, two events were canceled due to COVID-19. **KMSU Live Events** was a yearlong project.



In addition to paying artists for their work, KMSU gave the artists additional exposure with on-air interviews for its **KMSU Live Events** project.

KMSU (Mankato) partnered with the music department of Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) to host a series of concerts for its project **Collaboration with MSU Department of Music Performance Series**. In FY20, an estimated 300 MSU students and community members attended three 90-minute public concert events, both on and off-campus. Music students from the Department of Music were given the opportunity to gain real-world experience with these concerts in the areas of concert production and audio technology. Following some of the concerts, audience members were invited to participate in a question and answer session with the musicians and production crew. Only two of the events were canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Collaboration with MSU Department of Music Performance Series** was a yearlong project.

KMSU (Mankato) partnered with the Art Center of St. Peter to host music and spoken word events for its **Collaboration with the Arts Center of St. Peter** project. In FY20, KMSU helped to support two events for this project. The two organizations collaborated to create one concert and one community production that collectively attracted approximately 400 people. The community production of the Rocky Horror Pageant and Sing-Along featured more than 30 area residents performing songs by Meat Loaf songs that were featured in the Rocky Horror Picture Show and Bat Out Of Hell in costume and with live musicians, including a marching band, and tap dancers. KMSU provided promotional and financial support as well as hosts and emcees for the event. The concert was entitled **The Longest Night: Solstice with Pianist, Ukuleleist & Vocalist Mary Traxler**. KMSU provided promotional and financial support as well as hosts and emcees for the event. KMSU also recorded the performance held at the Arts Center for later broadcast on-air during a special episode of **Live From The Arts Center of St. Peter**. **Collaboration with the Arts Center of St. Peter** was a yearlong project.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

KQAL (Winona) produced 50 episodes of **The Live Feed**, its award-winning series featuring music and discussions with local and regional bands. The popular program consisted of segments ranging from 30 to 60 minutes, and it aired twice weekly. The aim of **The Live Feed** was to increase locally focused content and showcase local musicians through public radio. **The Live Feed** included performances by and interviews with local musicians and bands across several genres. Some episodes featured musicians performing live in-studio along with interviews and acoustic performances and, to expand KQAL's social media presence, six episodes of **The Live Feed** were performed as

in-studio video performances that were shot, edited, and posted on YouTube and Instagram for on-demand viewing. In addition to the regular episodes of **The Live Feed**, KQAL aired an additional 10 Sunday episodes (June–August), featuring a rebroadcast of the Winona Municipal Band. Once again, the Midwest Broadcast Journalism Association recognized KQAL's **The Live Feed** with an *Eric Sevareid Award of Merit*. The station earned the recognition for its segment about Minnesota singer/songwriter, Lee Henke. Through broadcasts on **The Live Feed**, KQAL worked with local music venues in Winona, including Ed's (No Name) Bar, The Acoustic Café, and Blooming Grounds Coffee House, to highlight local musicians, promote performances, and gather content for **The Live Feed** programs. KQAL also utilized **The Live Feed** to help promote the popular Mid West Music Fest. Additionally, the station joined forces with the Minnesota Association of Songwriters and featured Minnesota artists for the program. The bi-weekly program was a yearlong project.



KQAL's **The Live Feed** gave 50 Minnesota based artists significantly more exposure by showcasing their work on-air.

KQAL (Winona) was a key partner in presenting and promoting Minnesota bands for the 11th annual Mid West Music Fest (MWMF), through its project **Mid West Music Fest**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mid West Music Fest 2020 was forced to adapt to uncertain times, so it could continue to support artists. So, the board and staff decided to make the festival a virtual event, the Mid West Music Fest 2020 AT HOME, a two-day virtual festival. The station supported this multi-genre, volunteer-driven, two-day spring music event, by showcasing artists and information on its airwaves. About 3,000 people tuned in for the virtual event, which included performances by more than 53 bands. KQAL supported the MWMF in a multitude of ways. KQAL used legacy funds to help cover the cost of performances by several Minnesota artists and groups, including King Pari, Coyote Kid, General B and the Wiz, and Charlie Parr. The station also contributed through promotion and on-air interviews. KQAL also supported and promoted the MWMF 2020 initiative to bring awareness to and support mental health for musicians. KQAL's support also included on-air promotion on **The Live Feed**, another ACHF funded project. **Mid West Music Fest** was a yearlong project.

KRPR (Rochester) in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) produced and broadcast 15 episodes of **Rochester Music Notes**, celebrating noteworthy songs, artists, and musical performances. This series consisted of highly produced 90-second segments, exploring fun, moving, and delightful, musical moments in the history of Rochester and the surrounding region, offering listeners a glimpse of the incredible stories behind the music. Among the topics featured in **Rochester Music Notes** in FY20 were: Rochester brothers

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

Jose and Ivan Arguelles and the musical origins of Jose's 2005 album *Galactic Meditation and Arcturian Folk Songs*; a look back at the Rochester Male Chorus, under the directorship of Harold Cooke, and its famous performance for Richard Nixon at the White House in 1973; the opening of The Plummer Building in 1928, and its tower with 23 bells (later increased to 56) known as the Mayo Carillon; and more. **Rochester Music Notes** was a yearlong project.

KRPR (Rochester) purchased the equipment and began building a studio for its project **Live Music Showcase** in FY20, to create a space for local bands and musicians to perform for the KRPR audience. In FY21, KRPR will programs that will feature local area bands and musicians. The shows will allow the artists to perform on-air and will include interviews with the musicians as well as providing them with significantly more exposure for their music. **Live Music Showcase** was a six-month project.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) served the community's interest in the heritage and tradition of "Old Time" music with its project **Pioneer PolkaCast KSRQ HD-2**, by delivering new and vintage songs from more than 100 Minnesota polka, old-time, classic country, and bluegrass acts with its 24/7 webstream and HD radio service. The special programs included rebroadcasts of KSRQ's popular Variety Show with Cathy Erickson, as well as locally hosted weekday morning and mid-day shows, artist interviews, historical pieces, and three remote broadcasts. KSRQ distributed this program as a webstream and on the TuneIn app for mobile phones. Pioneer Polkacast KSRQ HD-2 reached 13,407 online listeners in FY20. More than 200 area residents attended a Polka dance in June that was broadcast live. **Pioneer PolkaCast KSRQ HD-2** was a yearlong project.



More than 13,000 people listened to KSRQ's **Pioneer PolkaCast** online.



KSRQ helped to attract about 2,500 people to **RiverFest**.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) presented and promoted **RiverFest**, a partnership with the Thief River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. **RiverFest** was the largest community event of the summer in the Thief River Falls area, with approximately 2,500 people attending in FY20. The station aired six interview and live-performance segments that were 15 to 50 minutes long, with performers and community groups that participated in **RiverFest**. KSRQ also posted photos and videos from the event online. The goal of the project was to increase attendance and community awareness of the two-day festival and give more Minnesotans access to the arts. The station helped support three students who performed music on stage. This year's festival featured music from The Johnny Holm Band, 100 Proof, The Bad Campers, Creedence Revived, Martin Zellar's Tribute to Neil Diamond, Four Wheel Drive, The Jensen Sisters, and more. KSRQ's **RiverFest** project gave more Minnesota musicians the opportunity to perform in front of live audiences. **RiverFest** was a two-month project.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)



KSRQ's *Music in Our Schools* allowed parents to enjoy school concerts from home.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) supported music programs in local schools, by working with directors from Northwest Minnesota high schools, college bands, orchestras, and choirs, to broadcast their concerts as part of its *Music in Our Schools* project. The station recorded and later broadcast school concerts presented throughout the school year, resulting in four original episodes of *Music in Our Schools*. The broadcasts varied in length from 30 to 90 minutes long. Additionally, the station interviewed four teachers about their music programs. As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted classes, the station spoke with teachers about the challenges of adapting music programs to distance learning. Among the schools

featured in the FY20 programming were Northland High School Honor Band, Red Lake Falls Lafayette High School Band and Choir, and, Thief River Falls Lincoln High School Band and Choir. In addition to the broadcasts, students, family, and friends shared these professionally recorded concerts through digital media, providing these young artists with a much bigger audience than they would get by simply performing at their school. *Music in Our Schools* was a yearlong project.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) created and aired five segments about Minnesota's forgotten musical moments for its *Minnesota Music Oddities* project. The 40- to 60-minute episodes featured interviews, archival reporting, music, and historical sound clips of the Twin Cities music scene in the 1970s and 80s from the vantage point of a photographer who documented it. *Minnesota Music Oddities* was a yearlong project.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) created and broadcast 35 weekly segments informing listeners of upcoming arts and cultural events in Northwest Minnesota for its *Arts & Culture Calendar* project. The one- to three-minute episodes aired 10 to 15 times per week and shared information about arts events happening within the station's listening area. The information was also posted on the station's website and social media and linked listeners to the various event websites and Facebook pages. *Arts & Culture Calendar* was a yearlong project.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) produced and aired a weekly interview highlighting artists and leaders of arts organizations for the station's *Artist Spotlight* project. This was a partnership with Northwest Minnesota Arts Council. KSRQ's *Artist Spotlight* focused on 45 area artists or arts organizations who received their own ACHF grants, speaking about their work and their artistic process, in segments that were eight to 20 minutes long. Northwest Minnesota Arts Council (NWMAC) also shared the produced pieces on Facebook and the NWMAC also published a podcast feed of the episodes. Some of the artists showcased in FY20 included: Shalese Snowden of Warroad, who contributed to an art installation highlighting the stories of missing or murdered indigenous women; Mayor Karie Kirschbaum of Gary, who discussed a 1930's Works Project Administration



KSRQ's *Artist Spotlight* helped to showcase the work of 45 local artists.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

(WPA) project resulting in hundreds of acres of pine trees; kindergarten teacher Shannon Christenson of Kittson Central School District in Hallock and coordinator of Camp Art, a summer art camp for elementary school-aged children; and many more. **Artist Spotlight** was a yearlong project.

KUMD (Duluth) helped Minnesota musicians and bands share their music and stories in its project **Live from Studio A**. KUMD produced and broadcast 23 episodes of the regular 25- to 30-minute program. Hosts Christine Dean and Chris Harwood invited independent and emerging musicians or Minnesota artists from genres that are underrepresented in commercial radio, into the studio to tell stories and perform their music. Additionally, the station engineered, mixed, and recorded the live concerts and interviews, so they could be shared online in their entirety. Some of the artists and performers featured in FY20 were: singer/songwriter/guitarist Jim Hall; singer/songwriter/guitarist Rob Justice; Mary Bue; Paul Cerar; Twin Cities indie folk/rock artist Reina del Cid; pop-rock band Life Parade; Sing! A Women's Chorus; Pert Near Sandstone; songwriter Taylor James Donskey; folk singer/songwriter Ellis; garage-pop band Key Kids; and many more. **Live from Studio A** was a yearlong project.



No other media outlet in the Duluth area showcases local musicians to the level that KUMD does with **Live from Studio A**.



Eleven college students got to work on Radio K's **Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off Mic & On Camera**.

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul) supported Minnesota artists and musicians by providing space, equipment, and the opportunity to perform and share their work, through its project of **Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off Mic & On Camera**. Radio K produced 35 videos, which were three to seven minutes long, and 35 five- to fifteen-minute audio episodes of **Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off Mic & On Camera**, was a creative collaboration with local artists. Through unique, first-person, Minnesota-centric videos, collaborative interviews, and performances, **Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off Mic & On Camera** created a cross-platform and interactive digital archive for Minnesotans (and the Minnesota-curious) to participate in, share, and

celebrate Minnesota's vibrant music culture, increasing the State's artistic footprint. Among the musicians and bands featured in FY20 were: Lydia Liza, Animal Actor, Muun Bato, Magnetic Ghost, Internet Dating, Little Fevers, and many more. This yearlong project helped artists to use both visual and technological paths to increase their exposure to audiences both in-state and far beyond.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul) helped students connect with the larger musical community through its project, **Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music**. Radio K producers created five episodes featuring underground and undergraduate bands from Minnesota. The 30- to 45-minute-long podcasts consisted of in-studio conversations and performances. **Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music** filled a gap by drawing on the diversity of the University of Minnesota's campus communities. The podcast engaged listeners across the state and the globe through music's universal language. Among the bands and local performers featured in FY20 were: Jake Hasapopoulos and KoldKral of 101115hotel, who talked about making art people could live in; Mister Wes, who talked about some inspiring teachers they've had and their inspirations that have influenced their rock band; members of Vial, talked about the struggles and triumphs of being an all femme presenting band; Atomic Cafe and Bob, shared acoustic sessions and lyric-focused conversations; Juniper Douglas and Sapphire brought the power of women into the pop-punk scene; and much more. **Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music** was a yearlong project.



Radio K showcases local bands that otherwise might never get radio airtime.



Seven students were involved in promoting and producing the KVSC Minnesota Music Concert.

well. The station produced and posted the interviews online as podcasts. Students were an important part of the concert. They helped produce all the artists' interviews and on-air promotional spots, designed the print and digital advertising, and staffed the events. KVSC partnered with Red Carpet Nightclub in St. Cloud to host the concert. **Minnesota Music Concerts** was a yearlong project.

KVSC (St. Cloud) organized, promoted, and hosted a live concert featuring musicians with deep Minnesota connections and performers for its **Minnesota Music Concert** project. KVSC presented Brother Ali with support from St. Paul rap artist Kaleem the Dream, for the station's **Take Me Home(coming)** concert at the Red Carpet Nightclub, in St. Cloud. Brother Ali has earned wide critical acclaim for his deeply personal, socially conscious, and inspiring brand of hip-hop, which the station has followed for more than 17 years. Three-hundred and fifty people attended the performance. Before the concert, KVSC interviewed Brother Ali and Kaleem the Dream on-air and streamed the interviews live online as

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced four episodes of ***Northern Music Hour***, the station's hour-long series of programs exploring music relevant to the heritage of Northeast Minnesota's European settlers (circa 1880-1915). Host Martha Marnocha shared a narrative history interwoven with curated musical selections and interviews. ***Northern Music Hour*** provided listeners with an in-depth exploration of the cultural heritage of Northeast Minnesota's European settlers, and included traditional instruments and instrumentation, musical pieces, and interviews with area musicians. The project included the work of the Grace Notes, a local Cook County trio that specializes in European folk and American old-time music. Listeners also learned from craftsman and Lake Superior fisherman Steve Dahl, who taught about a little-known Norwegian folk instrument called a langeleik. ***Northern Music Hour*** was a yearlong project.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced and aired 52 episodes of ***The Scenic Route***, a weekly hour-long program where host Will Moore explored multiple genres from folk and bluegrass to country, blues, and beyond. The show featured performances and interviews with local and regional musicians. ***The Scenic Route*** showcased the music and musicians from the North Shore of Minnesota and the Lake Superior region and featured live recordings from various WTIP in-studio sessions and festivals. The program also included live interviews with relevant artists and community members talking about cultural events in the area. Some of the musicians featured in FY20 included Duluth blues guitarist Charlie Parr; Twin Cities country-folk group The Cactus Blossoms; Minneapolis songwriter Siri Undlin; North Shore favorite Pushing Chain; and many more. ***The Scenic Route*** was a yearlong project.



WTIP created 52 hours of artistic, cultural, and historic programming for ***The Scenic Route***.



WTIP's ***The Roadhouse*** had 1,575 on-demand listens and 3,000 website page views.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced 45 episodes of ***The Roadhouse***, the station's popular weekly arts and culture magazine show, which featured interviews, a compilation of weekend happenings, stories on local issues, as well as toe-tapping music performed in-studio. Every Friday night, ***The Roadhouse***, kicked off the weekend with music and fun with a two-hour live broadcast. The popular weekly arts and culture magazine show, featured interviews, a compilation of weekend happenings, stories on local issues, as well as music performed in-studio. Some of the featured guests on ***The Roadhouse*** in FY20 included: author of Minnesota's Geologist, Sue Leaf; Desperate Electric duo Kayti Korte and Ben Morris; Bill Lichtenstein, director of the award-winning documentary, WBCN and the American Revolution; Guitarist Jim McGowan; musicians Rich Mattson and Germaine Gemberling; and many more. ***The Roadhouse*** was a yearlong program.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: MUSIC (Continued)

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) presented the **Radio Waves Music Festival** in Grand Marais, featuring three days of music by local and regional musicians, which included 24 acts. The festival included all musical tastes, including rock, jazz, Americana, classical, alternative, country, and folk. The event took place at Sweetheart's Bluff in the Grand Marais Recreation Area. The **Radio Waves Music Festival** was a family-friendly event that included live music performances as well as on-site food vendors, camping, a children's activity area, and a large tent for musicians and attendees, making it a rain or shine event.

More than 1,300 people attended the festival in FY20. The **Radio Waves Music Festival** was a partnership between WTIP, the Grand Marais Park Board, and hundreds of local and regional musicians who performed at the festival along with the North Shore Music Collaborative. The event attracted people of all ages. It was a favorite weekend for many locals, families, seniors, and visitors to the area. North Country Fair, Upjumped Trouble, Singleton Street, Gentleman's Anti-Temperance League, Joshua J Schmidt Band, Woodblind, were among the 24 acts that performed at the festival in FY20. **Radio Waves Music Festival** was a yearlong project.



WTIP's **Radio Waves Music Festival** attracted more than 1,300 people and featured 24 artists and musicians.

Approximately 72,000 people attended live events that Ampers and its member stations produced or co-produced/promoted with other organizations in FY20 before live events had to be canceled because of COVID-19.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE



KBFT brought Native artists to Nett Lake School and Northwoods High School.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) highlighted the work and artistry of Native authors, artists, and musicians, sharing their writing, musical performances, cultural cooking, and history, through a series of live monthly events and on-air segments for its project **Native Fest Art Series**. KBFT organized, promoted, and hosted three live events as part of this project, with a total of about 130 people attending the events. KBFT recorded the featured artists for later broadcast on the radio, resulting in two episodes that were both approximately five-minutes long. KBFT also produced two videos of the events, which were posted online and available for on-demand viewing that were approximately five-minutes long. And, the station interviewed each artist on the air for about a half-hour to promote the event and give the artist even more exposure. The interviews and videos were above and beyond the outputs promised in the station's approved workplan for the project. As part of this project, Wayne Valliere taught people about the importance of the native cradleboard, and Luhme and Samsosche Sampson explored the history and significance of Native Hoop Dancing. As part of the project,

the station also brought the artists to the Nett Lake school, where they talked with second through fifth-grade students. Each artist met with the students for an hour and some of them performed as well. As a result of COVID-19, state and tribal government guidelines forced the station to cancel many of their **Native Fest Art Series** events in FY20. **Native Fest Art Series** was a seven-month project.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) produced 93 episodes of its popular series, **Area Voices**, which told the arts and cultural stories of northern Minnesota, by drawing on the area's fascinating historical content, its unique cultural heritage, and the life experiences of residents. These in-depth segments varied in length, from four to 15 minutes, and aired during the Morning Show. Listeners were kept up-to-date and informed about cultural happenings within the local arts scene through interviews and engaging conversations, facilitated by hosts of Northern Community Radio's Morning Show. KBXE partnered with many regional groups and organizations for local coverage including: Arrowhead Regional Arts Council in Duluth, for stories about artists effected by the COVID-19 pandemic; Bemidji State University, to cover events at the university; Crossing Arts Alliance, for coverage of Brainerd artists; the Babinski Foundation in Pequot Lakes helped with coverage of animal shelters; Headwaters Music and Arts partnered for shows about

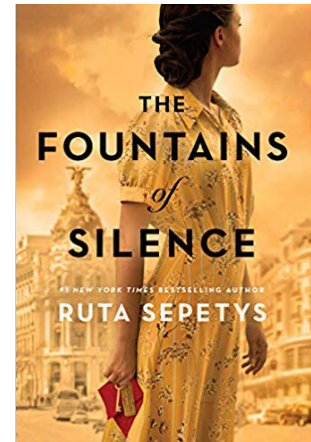


Of the listeners who reported hearing KBXE's **Area Voices**, 96% said it gave them more access to our state's heritage and history.

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE (Continued)

music education in Bemidji; Watermark Art Center provided information about art and resources for artists in Bemidji; Macroste Art Center partnered for monthly episodes about art in Grand Rapids; Reif Center in Grand Rapids helped with shows about theater and music performances; the Edge Center, for coverage on arts and films in Bigfork; the Nemeth Art Center, to produce episodes about art and artists in Park Rapids; the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, on segments about performances including composers and musicians; the Beltrami Historical Society, the Ely Folk School, and many more. **Area Voices** was a yearlong project and segments were broadcast three times per week.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) produced 10 episodes of **What We're Reading**, Northern Community Radio's hour-long radio show focused on books, stories, and what we love to read. The program featured discussions, interviews, reviews, book lists, and events. Hosted and produced by Tammy Bobrowsky, **What We're Reading** was all about books: who's writing them, who's reading them, and which books we can't put down, in a monthly hour-long program from September through June. **What We're Reading** also covered author news, book clubs, and writers' groups. Some of the authors and books featured in FY20 were: Minnesota writer Kathleen West's debut novel *Minor Dramas & Other Catastrophes*, a story about a privileged high school, overworked teachers, and micromanaging parents; author Kate Winkler Dawson shared about the origins of forensic crime-solving techniques in her new book, *American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics and the Birth of American CSI*; We speak with local Bemidji State University professors on recommended books on racism, diversity, and racial justice; Washington Post reporter and new Minnesota transplant, Christopher Ingram spoke about his new book *If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now*, a book written about his family's transition from the east coast to rural Minnesota; and many more. **What We're Reading** has its own Facebook group, which grew to 465 members, where participants can share their own book reviews, book suggestions, and comments. Excerpts from **What We're Reading** also run on the station's Morning Show. **What We're Reading** gave Minnesotans broader exposure and easier access to the work of Minnesota authors. This was a yearlong project.



KBXE's survey found 97% felt **What We're Reading** gave them more knowledge and appreciation for writers and literature.



About 750 people attended KKWE's Nijji's Minnesota Mixdown events.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) helped bring art and culture into the rural communities across the KKWE listening region, through its project **Nijji's Minnesota Mixdown Series**. The station collaborated with Circle of Life Academy in White Earth, to produce a series of performing arts events and visits from arts professionals. The station also brought the program and the artists into the schools so the artist could talk with the students about their work and careers. The project brought art and culture into rural communities across their listening region. The station hosted a series of live events at local venues in Mahanomen, White Earth, Nevis, Detroit Lakes. In FY20 the station held six of these events and

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE (Continued)

estimates that about 750 collectively attended them. KKWE also recorded and edited these events and meetings and then broadcast them on-air, resulting in six 30- to 60-minute programs. **Nijji's Minnesota Mixdown Series** was a yearlong project.

KMSU (Mankato) supported and promoted the **Austin Area Artworks Festival**, a weekend celebration of local artists in the Historic Downtown Power Plant in Austin, with its project by the same name. The popular free and family-friendly arts and music festival offered the community a broad selection of arts, crafts, and music experiences. Specifically, it showcased dozens of local artists, authors, and musicians, with ties to the area, and attracted more than 5,000 people. The event included visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, culinary arts, and more. KMSU also supported the event by conducting a brief on-air interview before the event. **Austin Area Artworks Festival** was a yearlong project.

KMSU (Mankato) hosted a series of odd and artsy outsider films and cult classic movies for its project, **Grind Fu Cinema**. The popular film screening project is free to the public, and hosted by KMSU's Dynamic Shuffle Function Duo, Tim Lind, and Shelley Pierce. **Grind Fu Cinema** consisted of three free monthly screenings throughout FY20 and was held at the Minnesota State University's Wiecking Auditorium. Among the offerings of weird films featured were Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*, and a Quentin Tarantino double feature of *Reservoir Dogs* and *Inglourious Basterds*. These popular and well-attended events took place over nine months, helped increase the appreciation of visual arts and cinema, and provided residents of Southern Minnesota with greater access to visual arts. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer events happened in FY20 than were originally planned.

KMSU (Mankato) supported Minnesota based bands through its **Red White and Boom Mankato Fireworks Spectacular** project. Mankato's annual fireworks event is a popular and crowd-pleasing event of fun with live music. The station featured music and information on-air in the days leading up to the popular event, which was attended by about 1,000 people. **Red White and Boom Mankato Fireworks Spectacular** was a three-month project.



KQAL's **Art Beat** helped showcase local artists and got more people interested in visiting area art museums and exhibits.

KQAL (Winona) produced and broadcast 33 episodes of **Art Beat**, its weekly program showcasing local and regional artists in 25- to 45-minute segments. The goal of the show was to raise awareness of the vibrant art and culture in Southeastern Minnesota, by highlighting performing arts, writing, crafts, painting, woodworking, and more. **Art Beat** featured the work and accomplishments of local artists, craftspeople, directors, as well as curators, and helped to promote events put on by various arts organizations in and around Winona. Some of the artists and leaders of arts organization featured during FY20 included Dave Casey, Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions at the Minnesota

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE (Continued)

Marine Art Museum, who shared online programs and exhibits created for at-home use during the pandemic; artist Rebecca VanAcker, who discussed her paintings, sketches, and her work with *Bloodtooth*, a novel, and role-playing game series; Winona State University film student Brynn Artley, who spoke about her film, *Maternity for a Weekend*, which explored Artley's sister's experience with an infant simulator for her home economics class; filmmaker Brenda Piekarski shared her documentary, *Ode to Minnesota*, which follows the experience of two outdoor enthusiasts on a 1,300-mile journey around Northern Minnesota, on a two-month-long trip on bike, paddle and foot; local photographer Joy Davis Ripley shared her new photo exhibit titled *Visible/invisible: Life With Mental Illness*, aimed at dispelling the stigma surrounding mental illness by making what is often invisible visible; and much more. **Art Beat** was a yearlong project.

KRPR (Rochester) in partnership with KSMQ-TV (public television) produced 24 two-minute segments of its **R-Town Radio Series**, and four of these segments aired in FY20 along with seven segments from FY19. The remaining aired in FY21. These fun and engaging audio stories were edited versions of longer stories that appeared on KSMQ-TV. The short segments featured various people, events, and activities in and around Rochester, intending to enhance community awareness and increasing participation in the arts. Some of the events and places showcased in the **R-Town Radio Series** in FY20 included: The Rochester Honkers, a minor league baseball team that played in the Northwoods league; a summer weekly block party in downtown Rochester called Thursday's on First where street vendors, food trucks, and live bands and musicians performed; and The Olmsted County Free Fair, which started in 1860 and has been held annually the last week of July. One of the segments created for the **R-Town Radio Series** explored Rochester's comprehensive Skyway System networked to allow access to most major downtown buildings including the entire Mayo Clinic campus, and the Mayo Civic Center, throughout the year. All the segments were posted on the station's website, Public Radio Exchange, and Ampers website, for on-demand listening. **R-Town Radio Series** was a yearlong project.



KRPR partnered with KSMQ-TV to produce 24 segments of **R-Town**.



KSRQ's **Readers' Theater** helped to get Minnesotans of all ages involved in the arts.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) produced and broadcast radio plays and virtual concerts in collaboration with the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater for the station's **Readers' Theater** project. KSRQ produced and aired nine segments of these radio dramas and concerts, each of which was 40 to 60 minutes in length. Thirty area performers, including actors, vocalists, and instrumentalists, were featured in the production. Local performer Scott Pream brought his acting and singing talent to several **Readers' Theater** episodes, including a role as the host of a radio talk show about ice fishing, as well as songs from the musical *Oklahoma!*, and more. Before COVID, another collaboration with the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater brought a cast of actors from Lincoln High School to the studio. Listeners were treated to the sound of the NBC Radio

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE (Continued)

Network circa 1946, with the classic comedy *The Bickersons*, performed by Jane Anderson, Rob Burkel, and Pat Brickson. **Readers' Theater** was a yearlong project.

KUMD (Duluth) produced 10 episodes of a four- to ten-minute weekly feature called **(poetry)**, which was broadcast on KUMD's Northland Morning. The feature celebrated the many languages that make up the rich cultural landscape of the Northland through the medium that communicates it best: poetry. Minnesota residents, half of them immigrants, were invited to share a poem in their native language, or a language representing their heritage or interests, and why the poem or the poet speaks to them. Participants also shared translations along with details about the author and source of the poem and what inspired them to share it. Some of the people who shared poems on the **(poetry)** segment in FY20 included: Jennifer Brady, who read *Aurora* by Federico García Lorca; Dr. Ahmed Maamoun shared poems by Egyptian writers Assi and Mansour Rahbani; Jim Rock shared a Dakota poem that reminds him of his father; Lise Lunge-Larsen shared poetry from Norwegian writer Halides Moren Vesaas; and many more. **(poetry)** was a yearlong program.

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul) created 25 episodes of its podcast series for its **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast**, project. Through first-person storytelling and reporting, the podcast series focused on cultural trends and artistic events in the Twin Cities, in 30-minute audio episodes, which were delivered throughout numerous on-demand audio podcast platforms. Additionally, the station also broadcasted **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast** on-air each week. **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast** tapped into the creative capital of Minnesota's next generation of home-grown innovators, historians, entrepreneurs, comics, poets, artists, and thought leaders. In FY20 discussions on **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast** covered a wide range of cultural ideas, topics, and trends including surviving a quarantine; how the pandemic affected campus and education; the protests that gripped both Minneapolis and the world, homelessness; music; movies; and much more ranging from the serious to the lighthearted. **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast** was a yearlong project.



Radio K produced 15 episodes of **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast**.



KVSC paid 18 actors, writers, and technical crew, and 12 students, to produce **Granite City Radio Theatre**.

KVSC (St. Cloud) produced three old-style live-radio shows, in front of a live audience, as well as one live-radio show, with a virtual audience, for its **Granite City Radio Theatre (GCRT)** project. KVSC collaborated with the Pioneer Place Theatre Company in St. Cloud to present **GCRT**. Due to COVID-19, the station wasn't able to perform the final episode of **Granite City Radio Theatre** in-person. So, the station created a virtual event on Twitch and Facebook. The programs were also broadcast

on KVSC. This fun radio show featured live music, comedy sketches, radio drama segments, and a trivia challenge. **Granite City Radio Theatre** drew on the talents of local professionals, students, and featured

ARTS PROGRAMMING: VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND MORE (Continued)

several special musical guests including Dave Cofell, Prudence Johnson, Debbie Duncan, and Michael Shynes. The program also featured Muggsy and Collective Unconscious as the house band, the Shades Brigade radio drama, feisty skits with Heather Mastromarco and McKenzie Lahren, and the irreverent and funny trivia challenge with Dan Barth. The **GCRT** performances were approximately two-and-a-half hours long, with eight hours of live radio broadcast time. The fourth episode was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic but was pulled together through some audio engineering that allowed performers to contribute while safely social distancing, and without a live audience. Before that disruption, more than 510 people attended the in-person **Granite City Radio Theatre** shows. Approximately 18 actors, writers, musicians, technical directors, stage directors, and promotions specialists participated in each Granite City Radio Theatre production. Twelve students assisted with sound, engineering, and announcing the program live on-stage. The students also promoted the events through social media and printed materials. The station also made the programs available for free download on KVSC's website. **GCRT** was a yearlong project.

KVSC (St. Cloud) teamed up with GREAT Theatre to create a radio drama for its project **Sherlock Holmes Live with GREAT Theatre**. The production was a reinvigoration of Mercury Theatre's radio drama of William Gillette's enduring melodrama based on the famous stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Performed in front of a studio audience, the play brought to life the adventures of world-famous detective Sherlock Holmes and trusty sidekick Dr. Watson as they outwit London's most nefarious criminals in a night of twists and turns. The 90-minute live radio show took place at the Helgeson Learning Lab, a theatre in the round. About 160 people were in the audience to watch the 23 community members who participated as actors. The play, entitled *Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Professor Moriarty*, written by Jeff Carmack, and directed by Jon Legg, brought KVSC listeners to the nighttime streets of 19th Century London just as the world is about to change forever. **Sherlock Holmes Live with GREAT Theatre** was a yearlong project.



Twenty-three community members we're involved in the production of *Present Sherlock Holmes Live with GREAT Theatre*.

More than 570 students participated in or helped produce Legacy programming like KVSC's *Granite City Radio Theatre*.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) showcased regional events and locations with its project **Close to Home**, a series exploring events and historical sites, through interviews with people connected to those places and events. The station produced eight episodes which were seven to 12 minutes in length. **Close to Home** also used social media to share photos and additional information about featured stories and locations, in addition to the on-air broadcasts. In FY20, some of the people, events, and places covered on **Close to Home** included: three Itasca County FFA chapters combating hunger through outreach in the Brainerd Lakes; the first-ever Iron Range Pasty Festival in Mt. Iron; a visit to the North American Bear Center in Ely; a Model Horse Sale and Swap in Twig; and many more. KAXE partnered with many regional groups, organizations, and businesses to help create rich local programming for **Close to Home** including the Outreach Program of the Brainerd Lakes Area in Nisswa, to produce a show on Knockout Hunger; Mesabi Outdoor Adventures in Virginia, to produce a show on winter camping training; Natural Resources Research Institute in Coleraine, to produce a show on innovation and research; North America Bear Center in Ely, to produce a show on black bear research; North Central Farm and Antique Association in Grand Rapids to produce a show on farm equipment. **Close to Home** aired twice a month and was a yearlong project.



Ninety-seven percent of **Close to Home** listeners said the segments made them more aware of local historical events and places.



KAXE created 41 hours of cultural and historical programming for its **Stay Human** project.

KAXE (Grand Rapids / Brainerd / Ely) created 41 segments featuring 102 essays for the station's weekly program **Stay Human**. The project showcased guest essays from local writers and essayists, read by the writer, in two-to six-minute segments. In FY20 the **Stay Human** segments explored culture and the world of ideas like resilience, motherhood, the four directions, the poetry of science, and many more fascinating topics and ideas. The segments were an engaging mix of music, conversation, and spoken word aimed at giving us all a little encouragement. **Stay Human Essays** was a yearlong project.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced 11 episodes of **Audio Essays by Steve Downing**, the station's popular segment recorded in the writer's own voice about topics related to Minnesota arts, culture, and history. Among the essays in FY20, Steve Downing shared his thoughts regarding the drastic changes in air travel over the last 40 years and theorized as to what happened; explained the many things that make autumn his favorite season of the year; and much more. These two- to five-minute musings aired monthly in FY20. **Audio Essays by Steve Downing** was a yearlong project.



Each of the **Audio Essays by Steve Downing** reached about 4,600 listeners.



Of the KAXE listeners who heard **Strong Women**, 97% said the segments increased their knowledge of the role women played in our state's history.

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) celebrated the impact of women and their stories, with its **Strong Women** project in FY20. The station produced 12 radio segments all about 15 to 20 minutes in length. The **Strong Women** segments featured in-depth interviews with a variety of women speaking about their lives, their stories, and what they have learned along their journeys. Some of the women featured in the **Strong Women** series included: Kayla Aubid, an educator and arts administrator; Ashley Hanson and Joy Dolo from Sod House Theater; Teresa Kittridge, Erica Bjellan, and Rachel Juritsch who are all members of the organization called 100 Rural Women; Betty Folliard, Founder of ERA Minnesota; and many more. **Strong Women** was a yearlong project.

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced 11 episodes for its **Youth in Radio** project during FY20. **Youth in Radio** engaged youth, age 19 and younger, in radio production, so the next generation of Northern Minnesotans will be educated and experienced in the art of radio communications and broadcasting. The station supported and encouraged youth from the community to get involved in radio, so they could learn and enjoy the most amazing form of communication in human history. Twenty-seven students learned that radio is fun and relevant, by helping to produce and host five- to 20-minute radio and podcast segments, which aired on the station's Morning Show. The youth were guided to plan, write, rehearse, record, and edit their own segments, which focused on a wide variety of subjects. **Youth In Radio** was a yearlong project.



KAXE's **Youth in Radio** project gave 24 students, under the age of 19, hands-on experience producing radio programs.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced and broadcast 16 episodes of ***Dig Deep***, a series of topical conversations centered around ideas and opinions expressed by two friendly educators and bloggers, the conservative commentator Chuck Marohn and the liberal commentator Aaron Brown. The colleagues engaged in deep conversations, about the past, present, and future of Minnesota, and grappled with ideas and possible solutions. Brown and Marohn's ***Dig Deep*** conversations explored many different topics, from environmental regulations, the political landscape, and the cultural impact of COVID-19. Each segment was 15-to 20-minutes in length. The segments were also available as podcasts, for on-demand listening. In FY20, the station partnered with Reif Center in Grand Rapids to present a live version of the program. Forty-five people attended the event, which featured the duo speaking on rebuilding and making sustainable communities, which was drawn from Chuck Marohn's recent book, *Strong Towns: A Bottom Up Revolution to Rebuild America*. ***Dig Deep*** was a yearlong project.



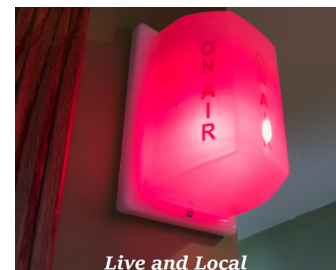
The pandemic didn't stop the ***Dig Deep*** conversations. The team just had to get a little creative.



Through KAXE's ***Northern Voices*** project, listeners learned about the Mesabi East Environmental Education Center in Aurora.

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced 13 episodes of ***Northern Voices: Celebrating Ties to Minnesota's Northland*** for its project, ***Northern Voices***. In these ten-minute segments, host Leah Lemm connected with community members and neighbors, who shared sustainable practices, traditions, as well as indigenous and ancestral ways of life in Northern Minnesota. Through these conversations, ***Northern Voices*** celebrated the richness of individual, organizational, and communal ways of life within the region. Some of the folks featured in FY20 included: artist Herb Fineday, owner of Round Lake Traditions a clothing shop based out of Brookston; entrepreneurs Denise and Dani Pieratos, Tracy Dagon, and Nikki Love of the Bois Forte Band who created Harvest Nation Inc; Storyteller Tashia Hart; musicians Fiona Robinson and Kyle Ollah of the Duluth Folk School; and many more. ***Northern Voices*** was a yearlong project.

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced seven hour-long radio specials in FY20 for its project ***Live and Local***. Listeners of ***Live and Local*** heard about local events, performance, and interviews from musicians who have swung by the KAXE/KBXE studios, or that have performed at one of the station's concert events. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the stay-at-home order happened in March of 2020, live performances were curtailed. But Host Sarah Bignall continued to bring listeners the joy of hearing musicians performing and speaking about their music, by looking into the archives and bringing forth in-studio recordings and live events, which took place before the pandemic. Some of the artists, bands,



KAXE's ***Live and Local*** program informed listeners about local events and shows.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

and performers featured on the program in FY20 included: Bad Bad Hats, Jed LaPlant, 4onthefloor, Kevin Gordon, Dave Simonett, Corey Medina and Brothers, Gaelynn Lea, Humbird, Leah Lemm, Sam Miltich and the Clearwater Hot Club, Kim Nagler, Not Your Average Family Band, A Sprig of That, poetry from Anthony Swann, and many more. **Live and Local** was a yearlong project.



KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) produced two one-hour episodes of its dramatized serial about Iron Range historical figure Victor Power. These programs were broadcast on the station and also published as a podcast. The show, entitled “Power in the Wilderness,” was created as part of the station’s **Victor Power Serial (Podcast and Broadcast)** project. In the program, filmmaker Karl Jacob and author Aaron Brown team up to take a road-trip-movie style journey through time to unlock the mystery of their hometown of Hibbing. Through these audio-rich programs, the duo examines and explores the storied life of a dynamic mayor named Victor Power, a first-generation Irish American, who left few traces after his mysterious death almost a century ago. His political

ghost still haunts an opulent, castle-like high school in the middle of the wilderness and reveals a story of America that has never been told before. “Power in the Wilderness” featured stories researched for historical accuracy, tracing the mysterious life of Victor Power and his out-sized impact on Northern Minnesota, in a conversational style. Hosts Karl Jacob and Aaron Brown contextualized and unfolded the content through discussions, personal recollections, and by bringing in the voices of contemporary residents, scholars, and historians. The program also featured music by Sam Miltich. **Victor Power Serial (Podcast and Broadcast)** was a yearlong project.

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) broadcast 37 episodes of **Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo**, a radio segment about the Ojibwe language and culture that features puppets. The four- to seven-minute radio segments grew out of a popular podcast and video series featuring the puppets Nanaboozhoo and Natasha. The program takes place in their friendly puppet studio, where the cloth pair shared stories, poetry, singing, and music, drawing from Ojibwe culture, traditions, and language. The segments were presented in a way that was fun and accessible for children and Minnesotans of all ages. Some of the topics Nanaboozhoo and Natasha covered in FY20 included: the Ojibwe word for hummingbird, the story of the hummingbird and the great fire, a poem to honor Mother’s Day, the Ojibwe word for the month of May, the Ojibwe word for “pet” along with a poem for all those who have lost a pet, and many more. **Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo** was an eight-month project.



Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo introduced KAXE listeners to the Ojibwe culture, traditions, and language.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)



As part of KBFT's *Native Fest Writing Series*, authors spent an hour with elementary school students.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) featured local and regional writers and artists, speaking and sharing their talents, in its *Native Fest Writing Series*. The project showcased presentations from Indigenous writers, authors, and artists throughout Native country. KBFT held four live events that were open to the public and attracted 116 people in FY20. As part of *Native Fest Writing Series*, KBFT recorded the presentations and produced two segments for broadcast. The final segments of the *Native Fest Writing Series* were five minutes long. Some of the writers featured in FY20 included renowned author Marcie Rendon, an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, who is a playwright, poet, and author; Ojibwe author and Bois Forte Band member Linda LeGarde Grover, who shared her stories of the Lake Vermilion Boarding School; Native comedians Marc Yaffee and Jon Roberts, who discussed writing comedy; and Native comedian Ron Kanutski shared his humorous gifts. The station also interviewed each of the writers and produced four five-minute segments aimed at promoting the events and allowed the writers to share their work with even more Minnesotans. As part of the

project, the writers also spent about an hour with second- through fifth-grade students at the Nett Lake school. *Native Fest Writing Series* was a seven-month project.

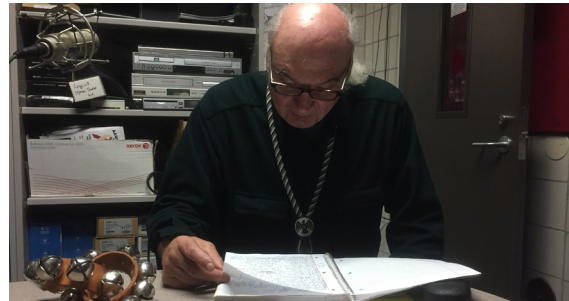
KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) hosted the 3rd annual Biboon Anshinaabemoen Gabeshiwin (Ojibwe Language Winter Immersion Camp), as part of its *Anishinaabe Language Immersion Camps* project. The camp was free and open to the public and provided the KBFT listening community the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Ojibwe language and culture, as well as learn various Native American crafts and teachings. About 170 people attended the event, which took place over three days at the Bois Forte Tribal Center in Nett Lake. The camp featured cultural and language lessons with Gene Goosky; traditional Anishinaabe storytelling with Karen Drift and Billy Blackwell; culture and language with Gabe Desrosiers, Darrell kingbird, and Wayne Valliere; along with moccasin games, beading classes, Ojibwe outdoor winter games, a talent show, mini Pow Wow with Bois Forte Singers, traditional meals; and much more. Presenters shared stories, perspectives, and old-time knowledge passed down from the elders. In addition to the live events, KBFT also produced a 17-minute radio program and one video, which was 17 minutes in length. All were posted on the KBFT website and shared through social media. *Anishinaabe Language Immersion Camps* was a yearlong project.



About 170 people of all ages attended KBFT's *Anishinaabe Language Immersion Camps*.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) drew on the wisdom and expertise of Ojibwe elder Billy Blackwell of Grand Portage for its **Anishinaabemoen** project. The station created 500 30-second to two-minute segments, hosted by Billy Blackwell sharing stories about language and dialect to help Nett Lake residents learn, use, and preserve the Ojibwe language. **Anishinaabemoen** was a yearlong project.



KBFT created 500 Ojibwe radio segments to try and help save the language.



Community members cooked everything from venison sausage to beaver stew for KBFT's **Nanaboozhoo Cafe**.

Nanaboozhoo Café derives its name from Nana Boozhoo, a Native American puppet show that involves Ojibwe language and cultural teachings for adults and kids to learn and enjoy. Nana Boozhoo is a creation of Michael Lyons who is an illustrator, artist, and musician. **Nanaboozhoo Café** ended up being a six-month project, cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) collected stories from participating families in the community to preserve family knowledge and history for its project **Genealogy/Family History**. The purpose was to add an audio dimension to the genealogical information, that many families share among members, and to preserve stories and information into the future, through audio recordings. Some of the elders who shared memories and stories were Dayshun Goodsky, who spoke about some of the people who called Nett Lake home in the past; Bois Forte Elder, Fred McDougal talked about economic growth in the Nett Lake Community; Bois Forte Band descendant, Nick DeShaw spoke about the Ojibwe Language and his Family ties on Nett Lake Indian Reservation; and Elder Heart Warrior Chosa shared memories about growing up in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The station produced and aired four three-to five-minute segments for the project. **Genealogy/Family History** was a yearlong project.



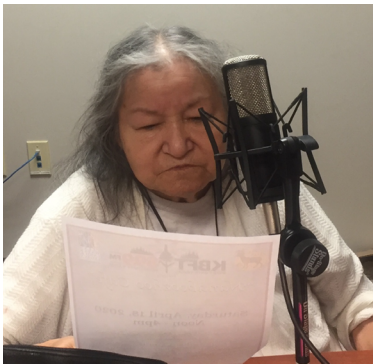
Bois Forte Elders helped to preserve history with KBFT's **Genealogy/Family History** project.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) hosted a cooking event for members of the Bois Forte community as well as people in the surrounding communities for its **Native Food Fest Series** project. The station invited a Native food specialist to share their knowledge of traditional tribal foods and how to prepare it. This event was free and open to the public. Brian Yazzie (a.k.a. Yazzie the Chef) hosted the event. Yazzie is a Diné Chef from Dennehotso, Arizona, which is located on the Northeastern part of the Navajo Nation. He currently resides in Saint Paul and has a degree in Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Culinary Arts from Saint Paul College. Yazzie's culinary mission is working for the betterment of tribal communities, wellness, and health through sharing insights about Indigenous foods, ancestral knowledge, and modern techniques. This event featured live food demonstrations, preparations of traditional recipes, used by local people in and around the Nett Lake communities. **Native Food Fest Series** was a four-month project.



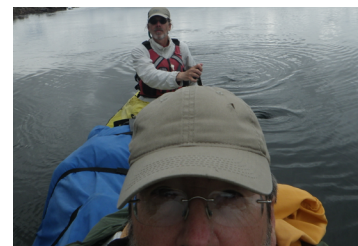
KBFT and Yazzi the Chef helped teach area residents about Native American food.



KBFT listeners learned the important role Jiibay (spirits) play in Ojibwe culture.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) put out the call to community members for its project **The Unexplained**, inviting people to come into the studio and share their stories of strange occurrences that have happened on the Bois Forte Reservation. The word *Jiibay* is the Ojibwe word for ghost or spirit and plays an important role in Native culture and history. KBFT encouraged listeners with *Jiibay* stories about ghosts, bigfoot, UFOs or anything out of the ordinary to reach out, so the station could capture the stories and history behind the unexplained that have been witnessed and reported on the Rez. Community members who shared their stories and experiences included Bois Forte Elder Fred McDougall, who talked of his unexplained encounter while serving time in the US Navy; Bois Forte Elder Karen Drift talked of some of the spirits that reside in Nett Lake; Bois Forte resident Dani Pierotos, who spoke of an experience she had when she witnessed something unexplained in the sky; and Bois Forte Elder Murial Deegan shared about strange occurrences while at her workplace. The station created and aired six five-minute segments. **The Unexplained** was a nine-month project.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) produced five episodes of **Paddle Minnesota**, the station's audio-rich segments which ranged from 10 to 15 minutes in length. **Paddle Minnesota** was hosted by volunteer and retired wildlife biologist Jim Gallagher, and the show provided listeners with information, inspirational stories as well as cautionary anecdotes, aimed at encouraging exploration of Minnesota's rich waterways, lakes, and rivers. **Paddle Minnesota** explored canoe culture, people, adventurers, and crafters in Minnesota. In FY20, host Jim Gallagher talked with traditional woodworker Max Kelsey of Bemidji about the history and process of carving dugout canoes; band members from the Leech Lake Indian Reservation shared stories about the wild rice harvest; author Robin Radcliffe and illustrator Consie Powell spoke about their new children's book *Canoeman Joe*; and many more. **Paddle Minnesota** was a yearlong project.



Paddle Minnesota explored the major role canoes play in Northern Minnesota culture.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)



KBXE estimates that about 4,600 people heard each segment of *Let's Visit*.

.....

on the station. Some of the places KBXE visited in FY20 included the remote towns of Turtle River, Pine River, Meadowlands, Walker, and more. ***Let's Visit*** partnered with many local organizations including Red Lake Boys and Girls Club, for a program about connecting youth with their culture and language; the Waasabiik Ojibwemotaadiwin Language Immersion Program in Red Lake, for a program about elders sharing their knowledge, language and native ways; the Sax Zim Bog in Meadowland, for a program about bird and wildlife in the area; and Leech Lake Art League in Walker, for a show on the benefits the league gives to members. ***Let's Visit*** was a yearlong project.

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) produced, broadcast, and streamed 46 segments of ***10,000 Fresh Voices***, a series of sound-rich stories, primarily focused on the Twin Cities metro area, but also including a handful of stories from greater Minnesota. KFAI producers created the four- to 12-minute segments, which shared a wide range of voices and stories about Minnesota's history and diverse communities. ***10,000 Fresh Voices*** aired on KFAI's Morning Show and throughout the day. In FY20, ***10,000 Fresh Voices*** included segments about Minneapolis DJs Shannon Blowtorch & Adonia, who hosted a weekly ***Quarantine Live: Online Dance Party*** during the COVID-19 stay at home orders; Polish American artist Piotr Szyhalski, who responded to news reports about the pandemic through his humorous drawings; a new musical about the controversial Kensington Runestone, found by a farmer in the 1800s, and which has been hotly debated by locals and scholars ever since; and many more. ***10,000 Fresh Voices*** was a yearlong project.



KFAI's ***10,000 Fresh Voices*** looked at everything from Polish American art to a skateable art plaza.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)



One of KFAI's *MinneCulture* documentaries explored the colorful history of The Gibbon Ballroom in Sibley County.

County and a massive building complex that was once considered by some to be the polka capital of the world. The story is told through the voices of the musicians, dancers, and local residents who loved it. And "Fighting Back: The Rise of Anti-Racist Action in Minneapolis" traced the history of the Anti-Racist Action (ARA) which started in Minneapolis in 1987 with a multiracial group of teenage skinheads who fought the rising white power movement. The story is told through vivid first-person accounts, archival audio, and music from the era and was 54 minutes long. The *MinneCulture* audio documentaries aired on KFAI's *MinneCulture Presents* show at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. The audio documentaries were also shared on SoundCloud, PRX, KFAI's website, and the Ampers websites. *MinneCulture* was a yearlong project.

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) reached new and younger listeners and significantly extended the radio station's terrestrial reach through its *KFAI's MinneCulture Podcast* project which distributed content on multiple digital platforms. In FY20, KFAI created and distributed a total of three episodes of *MinneCulture Podcast*, which varied in length from 19 to 26 minutes. The station distributed the shows on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Radio Public, and SoundCloud. The podcast episodes covered a range of topics including Haitian dancer Djenane Saint Juste, who shared intimate scenes

from sheltering in place with her mother and hosted a series of boisterous dance lessons in her apartment; Hmong chef Yia Vang looked to his parents' experience as refugees to guide him through the pandemic; an uplifting interview with Twin Cities hip-hop artist Nur-D, who dropped an EP recorded entirely from his bedroom during the pandemic; a tender, slightly gloomy audio diary from Minneapolis poet Ed Bok Lee, who discussed skeletons and shared knock-knock jokes with his young daughter; following the death of George Floyd, producer Melissa Olson visited the intersection of 38th and Chicago Avenue, where Native jingle dress dancers offered a ceremony of healing; Twin Cities hip-hop artist Tall Paul, recounted his experience patrolling south Minneapolis and protecting local businesses during the uprising; and a gritty walking tour of

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) produced and broadcast three original audio documentaries for its award-winning *MinneCulture* project. *MinneCulture* took a deeper look into Minnesota arts, culture, and history, delving into topics important to Minnesota's communities. Fulbright Fellow, historian, and podcaster Katie Thornton produced "A Brief History of Women in Bars: A Minnesota Story in Three Rounds". The show, which was 45 minutes long, looked at how the state's temperance movement set the stage for its women's suffrage movement. "Stay Young, Go Dancing" was a 30-minute documentary that presented the colorful history of The Gibbon Ballroom, a venue in Sibley



MinneCulture Podcast listeners learned how the pandemic was impacting Minnesota artists.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

unsanctioned artwork, hosted by graffiti artist Peyton Scott Russell. KFAL's **MinneCulture Podcast** episodes also aired on KFAL's **MinneCulture Presents** show at 7 pm on Wednesdays. KFAL's **MinneCulture Podcast** was a six-month project.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) brought to life the document that governs the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), the original Constitution, and the Revised Constitution of 1963, in its **History of the MCT Constitution and Interpretations** project. The station recorded conversations with knowledgeable and qualified MCT members, to create programs that helped band members, and all community members, gain a better understanding of this vital document for all Chippewa Tribes. KKWE created and aired two 20- to 30-minute programs in FY20. **History of the MCT Constitution and Interpretations** was a yearlong project.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) took a fun and unique approach to teaching listeners about Ojibwe history, culture, and traditions through its **Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts** project. KKWE based the radio content on a board game about Minnesota's Chippewa Tribes. The station aired a daily five-minute segment that included a fun fact about Minnesota's Ojibwe history and culture. Listeners learned what inspired the layout of the Fond du Lac Tribal College (a bear paw); what a traditional drum hide is made of (moose or beaver); information about the first tribal newspaper (*The Progress* and the first issue of it was published on March 25th, 1886, on the White Earth reservation); and the three songs that begin a Pow Wow (*The Grand Entry*, *Veterans Song*, and *Flag Song*). KKWE created and aired a total of 213 five-minute segments in FY20. **Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts** was a yearlong project.



KKWE's **Ojibwe Arts Rising** attracted 22 high school students who learned more about Ojibwe culture.

● **KKWE (White Earth/Callaway)** introduced young people to Ojibwe arts and crafts with its **Ojibwe Arts Rising** project. The station worked with young people on and off the White Earth Reservation, to create and facilitate classes focused on artistic and cultural crafts. KKWE planned and hosted two classes in FY20, which included a total of 22 high school students in the classes. The first class was a beaded popsocket class, taught by Candace Potter, and the second was a moccasin class taught, by Nichole Dewy. **Ojibwe Arts Rising** was a yearlong project.

● **KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul)** in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) produced two one-hour radio documentaries for the station's project **KMOJ Documentaries**, which was later renamed **Housing First: KMOJ explores Housing Challenges and Opportunities, So Our Community Can Thrive**. For the first hour-long segment host Freddie Bell shined a light on how housing challenges affect people in our communities. Homeownership is the pathway to true equality and prosperity. But racial covenants on property titles in the early 20th century created structural barriers to safe housing and wealth building. The program explored how these restrictions served as powerful obstacles for people of color seeking safe and affordable housing. The show also explored what is

being done now to mediate the effects of these historical inequities, efforts to create more affordable housing in the twin cities, as well as what is being done to end homelessness in our communities. The first hour-long

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

segment featured: Daniel Bergin, a filmmaker and longtime producer with Twin Cities PBS, speaking about his film, *Jim Crow of the North*; researchers from *Mapping Prejudice*; Laronda Lake speaking about her path out of homelessness; and more. The second hour-long segment comprised audio recorded at a live community conversation, moderated by KMOJ's Zannie K, and featured researcher Dr. Brittany Lewis, legal aid attorney Joey Dobson, Ward 5 Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, and former executive director of MPHA, Tracey Scott, along with voices and stories of many community members speaking about their housing challenges and opportunities. Approximately 80 community members attended the event which was held at the Cora McCorvey Health & Wellness Center and hosted by KMOJ and Twin Cities PBS. Both **Housing First** programs aired on KMOJ, as well as its sister station, **The Ice**, and were made available online for on-demand and podcast listening. The **KMOJ Documentaries** project that made up these two **Housing First** programs was a yearlong project.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) kicked off its **LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth** legacy project by creating a pilot event in FY20, with a celebration that took place as part of Rondo Days in July of 2019. The aim of **LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth** was to bring together the KMOJ family of personalities, along with listeners and community members, to celebrate Juneteenth—the late notification that African American slaves were indeed free. Juneteenth is recognized on June 19th every year. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned celebration for 2020, which would have featured a parade, food, vendors, and performances by popular local musicians, was canceled. Instead, KMOJ moved the celebration on-air with KMOJ personalities making tributes and honoring Juneteenth throughout the broadcast day. **LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth** was a one-month project, which culminated with the Pilot Event which took place at the Heritage Tea House in St. Paul. Special guests included Governor Tim Walz, and longtime Rondo neighborhood residents including St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter.



KMOJ drew attention to Juneteenth, the end of U.S. slavery, with a live radio broadcast.



KMSU supported 25 dancers and drummers at the Mahkato Traditional Wacipi.

KMSU (Mankato) helped support dancers and drummers at the 47th Annual Mahkato Traditional Wacipi, the Indian Powwow held at Dakota Wokiksuye Makoce, through its legacy project **Mahkato Wacipi Pow Wow**. The vision statement for the Mahkato Traditional Wacipi states that “In the spirit of reconciliation, Mahkato Mdewakanton Association is committed to healing and enriching the experiences of Dakota and non-Dakota communities through the preservation and sharing of Dakota history, traditions, and culture.” This annual Powwow takes place at the Land of Memories Park in Mankato, which honors the 38 Dakota members who were killed in the largest mass execution in the United States that took place on December 26, 1862. This gathering of nations is aimed at celebrating and honoring traditions and ancestors, with the goal of reconciliation and bridge-building between all nations through education, storytelling, and sharing Dakota Indian culture. KMSU helped

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

to support 25 dancers and drummers for the event, which approximately 5,000 people attended. KMSU also conducted a 15-minute on-air interview with event organizers and drummers in the days before the event. **Mahkato Wacipi Pow Wow** was a two-month project.



KQAL's **Culture Clique** explored everything from how streetwear at a pop-up shop builds community, to the role of the Conservation Corps.

KQAL (Winona) produced and broadcast 26 episodes of **Culture Clique**, a program that explored a wide range of cultural topics relating to the Winona community, by looking at past, present, and emerging ideas, perspectives, and values. Through 15- to 30-minute segments, KQAL's weekly program **Culture Clique** kept all Winona citizens engaged with the changing culture, by exploring the past as well as the present. People, subjects, and organizations covered on **Culture Clique** in FY20 included: Student Senate President Ben Ellgen, who discussed the Senate's advocacy for increased student counseling services and pedestrian safety; the Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, an AmeriCorps agency, shared opportunities for young people to work in conservation and natural resources; Samantha Berhaw from the Winona Digital Literacy Project addressed what it means to cut the cord and move towards streaming TV; Mollee Sheehan shared ideas from the ancient practice of Ayurveda to help transition through the seasons; and much more. **Culture Clique** won

an Eric Sevareid Award, presented by the Midwest Broadcast Journalist Association, for its interview with *A Prairie Home Companion* writer and creator Garrison Keillor. **Culture Clique** aired weekly and was a yearlong project.

KQAL (Winona) produced and aired 46 live segments of **Don't Cha Know** and 206 episodes of **The Arts & Entertainment Download** for its project **Don't Cha Know & Arts and Entertainment Download**. These weekly programs were all about being in the know about upcoming events, featuring interviews with interesting people and stories about historically significant places in the Winona area. **Don't Cha Know** segments aired every Monday and were 30 minutes in length. The **Don't Cha Know** series provided a myriad of clubs, organizations, and non-profits the opportunity to use KQAL and KQAL.org as a conduit to promote events and activities. The station helps to inform listeners about events at several music venues, local museums, and the Winona County History Center. **The Arts & Entertainment Download** focused on arts, culture, history, music, family-friendly events, and public service opportunities, and the 60- to 90-second daily updates aired twice a day on KQAL, Monday through Friday. Both features showcased events at the two other universities in Winona and several Winona Public Schools. Some of the topics covered on **Don't Cha Know & Arts and Entertainment Download** in FY20 included: musical performances and concerts, public health and wellness topics, food drives, blood drives, farmers markets, stage performances on the Winona State and St. Mary's campuses, public works projects, plus several other trends and topics affecting those in Southeastern Minnesota. The shows also typically previewed the station's Legacy programs for the coming week. **Don't Cha Know & Arts and Entertainment Download** was a yearlong project.

KRPR (Rochester) in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) produced and broadcast 15 episodes of **MN90: Rochester History in 90-Seconds**, a series of short, fun, and engaging stories exploring the history of

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

Rochester and the surrounding area. The highly produced 90-second segments covered a wide range of topics including sports, politics, agriculture, business, pop culture, entertainment, and more. Some of the topics included in **MN90: Rochester History in 90-Seconds** in FY20 were a respected goose authority visiting the banks of Silver Lake in Rochester to investigate curious Canada geese sightings; when Ernest Hemingway checked into the Mayo Clinic for electroconvulsive therapy to help with depression in 1960; when renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright came to Rochester in the late 1940s to design a home for a Mayo doctor; and when World War II, B-24 pilot Lester Fiegel of Rochester, and co-pilot Tom Watson, Jr., the son of IBM founder Tom Watson, Sr, ferried a general and his staff to Moscow for secret talks; and more. **MN90: Rochester History in 90-Seconds** was a yearlong project.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) produced and aired 57 episodes of its **Community Voices** series, a program that highlighted the efforts of individuals and non-profit organizations that serve and strengthen the community. Segments varied in length from 10 to 60 minutes and featured artists and other community members, highlighting the work they do within their communities. The station also broadcast live from some of the festivals and events. When the pandemic hit, the project shifted to include a series of interviews about how local individuals adapted to the COVID-19 Stay at Home order. KSRQ partnered with 14 local and regional non-profit organizations in Northwestern Minnesota. Some of the organizations, municipalities, and events featured in this project in FY20 were: VisitTRF, East Grand Forks Campbell Library, Altru Safe Kids, Northland Community & Technical College, Pennington County Fair, Marshall County Fair, City of Halma, St. Hilaire Lions, City of Karlstad, Middle River Community Club, Violence Intervention Project, Challenger Elementary School, Marshall County Fair, Pennington County 4-H, Thief River Falls Concert Association, Inter-County Nursing, Young Authors Conference, Marshall County Veterans Memorial Committee, Lincoln High School, North Dakota Museum of Art, and more. **Community Voices** was a yearlong project.



KSRQ interviewed 4-H'ers at the State Fair as part of its **Community Voices** series.



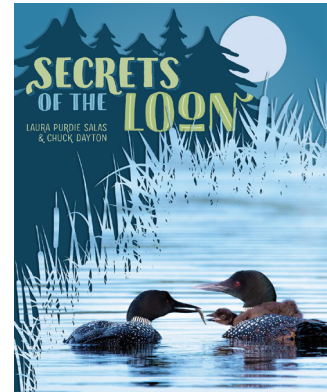
KUMD explored the connections between health and native culture in its **Journey to Wellness** series.

KUMD (Duluth) produced and broadcast 20 episodes of **Journey to Wellness**, five- to 18-minute segments covering many aspects of Native American health, that featured interviews with medical and health researchers, professors, doctors, and others. KUMD partnered with the Center of American Indian and Minority Health at the University of Minnesota's Medical School on the Duluth campus for the project, which contributed story ideas, access to researchers, and community connections. **Journey to Wellness** featured interviews focused on innovations in community health initiatives in Indian country, community health experiences, and the community collaborations aimed at improving and changing approaches to Native American healthcare. Many of the topics covered in FY20 included health disparities during the pandemic, the challenges of distance learning, dealing

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

with anger and grief unearthed during racial protests and unrest following George Floyd's death. ***Journey to Wellness*** was a yearlong project.

KUMD (Duluth) produced and broadcast 44 episodes of ***MN Reads***, the station's program that showcased the latest books by Minnesota authors, by engaging listeners with books about Minnesota history and culture. This yearlong weekly program highlighted Minnesota authors and was produced in partnership with The Minnesota Historical Society and The University of Minnesota Press. Interviews covered the content of the books as well as the author's writing, research, and creative process. Some of the books and authors featured in FY20 included: *Minnesota's Black Community in the 21st Century*, by Anthony R. Scott and Dr. Chaunda Scott; the novel *Fishing*, by Sarah Stonich; *The Wolf's Trail: An Ojibwe Story, Told by Wolves*, by Thomas D. Peacock; *How Good Are You Willing To Let It Get?*, by Sarah Bamford Seidemann; and many more. These 8- to 23-minute features were produced and aired over the course of the year.



KUMD's ***MN Reads*** gave Minnesota authors significantly more exposure.



In the Spirit of Medicine listeners learned about holistic health traditions in our Native American communities.

KUMD (Duluth) produced and broadcast 24 episodes of ***In the Spirit of Medicine***, a series featuring the essays of Dr. Arne Vainio, which covered a range of topics about life, work, medicine, and spirit, that brought the expertise of both western and holistic health traditions from a Native American perspective. Dr. Arne Vainio's is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and a family practice doctor on the Fond Du Lac reservation in Cloquet. Among topics covered on ***In the Spirit of Medicine*** in FY20 were practicing in small communities, helping young medical students find their place in the vast field of medicine, and the great sickness visiting humankind in 2020. The segments were five to eight minutes long. Dr. Vainio's essays were originally published in *News From Indian Country*, and KUMD also posted these audio essays on the station's website. ***In the Spirit of Medicine*** was a yearlong project.

KUMD (Duluth) partnered with many local community groups and festivals throughout the Northland for its ***Arts & Cultural Events*** project. The station supported many arts organizations by helping to promote 20 in FY20 including the Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Association, the John Beargrease Marathon, Park Point Community Club, Bob Dylan Way Committee, First Ave, Bayfront Festival Park, FeMNFest, and more. KUMD supported the events with promotions and schedule information, through broadcast, social media as well as web coverage before, during, and after the events. For its ***Arts & Cultural Events*** project, the station



KUMD's ***Arts & Cultural Events*** project helped to give dozens of Minnesota musicians and artists significantly more exposure.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

produced and aired interview segments, special story series, live performances, and special programming in advance and during these arts and cultural events. KUMD's support helped raise awareness of the events and increased attendance, for events that took place before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. KUMD partnered with organizers to share information with the public about artistic, cultural, and historical events in the Duluth radio through promotions and programming. The station shared dozens of images online and on social media. **Arts & Cultural Events** was a yearlong project that resulted in 14 on-air segments that varied in length from four to 17 minutes.



KUMD helped the **Duluth Homegrown Music Festival** move from an in-person to a virtual concert so Minnesotans could still enjoy the music despite COVID-19.

KUMD (Duluth) refused to let the COVID-19 pandemic ruin its largest celebration of Duluth's local music. For its project **Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage**, the station adjusted and provided coverage of a Virtual Homegrown 2020 over eight days, as artists, performers, and fans, enjoyed the music virtually and from a distance, while following Minnesota's stay-at-home order. KUMD shared photos, daily blog stories, videos and, live-streamed recordings from Duluth's largest and premier annual music event, which featured bands, performing virtually. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, KUMD adjusted and brought interviews and music to listeners through

a virtual studio. KUMD highlighted five musicians on the air, in 30-minute segments during the week of the festival, and the station highlighted 49 different local musicians on Facebook. Some of the artists and performers featured in FY20 included Black River Revue; Dance Attic; Dave Mehling of the Fontanelles; singer/violinist Ren Cooper and One Less Guest; Jason Wussow and Veikko Lepisto of Woodblind; and many more. Through KUMD's project **Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage** the station took the lead, utilizing its airwaves, social media, and website to embrace the arts, connect to listeners and festival attendees, spotlighting local talent, and bringing music to the forefront of the Northland community, even as we stayed home. **Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage** was a three-month project.

KVSC (St. Cloud) produced and broadcast 28 episodes of **Untold Stories of Central Minnesota**, a half-hour program that explored the historical and cultural impact of Central Minnesota's people, places and livelihoods, through interviews and conversations with historians, artists, authors, musicians, and other compelling sources of regional news-makers. The in-depth series featured stories relevant to Central Minnesota and was broadcast on KVSC, and then also made available to listeners anytime, anywhere as a digital podcast. KVSC collaborated with many local and regional groups to



KVSC created 28 episodes of **Untold Stories of Central Minnesota** featuring community members ranging from professors and musicians to students and elected officials.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

uncover story ideas and interesting guests to feature in ***Untold Stories of Central Minnesota***. The station worked with the St. Cloud Police Department, St. Cloud's Mayor, the Stearns History Museum, the Folk Alliance Midwest Region, and the St. Cloud State University-Department of English. Shonda Craft, Dean of the SCSU School of Health and Human Services, discussed the racial experience in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Other topics covered in FY20 included St. Cloud's first Art Cruise, in response to the cancellation of Art Crawls due to COVID-19; Executive Director Erik Helgeson spoke about Tuscaloosa the Movie; the public shared their stories on Juneteenth, at St. Cloud's Promise Neighborhood; Tracy Ore, of the SCSU Community Garden, spoke about food security; and many more. This project was a yearlong series of long-form, multi-sourced radio, and podcast features designed to highlight the culture of Central Minnesota.

WGZS (Fond du Lac/Cloquet), in partnership with Ampers (Statewide), created a compilation CD containing twenty 90-second segments from season one of WGZS's project ***Ogichida Voices***, also known as ***Fond du Lac's Ogichida Voices***. The project ***Ogichida Voices CD Season One*** included segments that featured the stories and memories of 10 different members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who served in the military. One of the Veterans featured in ***Ogichida Voices CD Season One*** was Davalance Depoe, who shared how he felt fulfilling his dream of becoming a para-trooper, just like his father and brother, and he talked openly about facing PTSD and the challenging path of recovery. The segments recognized and honored the knowledge, experience, and leadership of Native veterans, from their own perspective, and in their own voice. Native Americans have had and continue to have the highest number of members in the U.S. military per capita of any cultural group. The CD was completed in FY20 and 500 copies of it will be duplicated and distributed in FY21. ***Ogichida Voices CD Season One*** was a yearlong project.

WGZS (Fond du Lac/Cloquet), in partnership with Ampers (Statewide), produced and WGZS broadcast, fourteen 90-second segments for its ***Ogichida Voices Season Two*** project, also known as ***Fond du Lac's Ogichida Voices***. The two organizations also collaborated to produce 14 three- to five-minute segments that WGZS will broadcast at a later time. The project ***Ogichida Voices CD Season Two*** featured the stories and memories of eight different members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who served in the military. ***Ogichida Voices Season Two*** recognized and honored the knowledge, experience, and leadership of Native veterans, from their own perspective and in their own words. The ***Ogichida Voices Season Two*** segments included Marine Kevin Dupuis Sr., who spoke about joining the military to protect his homeland, just as many other members of his family had done before him; Marine Clarence Chuck Smith, who spoke about how his military experience fed his value for service, which led to becoming a Veterans Service Officer; Army Veteran Fran White spoke about the need for recognition and respect for all women, and how she now carries the women's Eagle Staff in ceremonies; and many more. ***Fond du Lac's Ogichida Voices*** was a yearlong project.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)



WTIP's *Community Voices* generated more than 5,100 listeners on SoundCloud.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced and aired 260 episodes of *Community Voices on North Shore Morning and North Shore Weekend*, programming focused on all aspects of community and daily life on the North Shore. The 2-hour programs featured community members and WTIP staff members who shared creative and artistic stories. The project also included special three- to six-minute artistic and cultural stories and interviews that aired within the shows. In addition, the station produced and aired 52 three-hour recap shows that aired every Saturday. Throughout FY20 staff members conducted interviews and produced segments highlighting a wide range of different perspectives, ideas, and cultures that make up the North Shore region. Some of the columnists featured included leadership and life coach Marcia Hyatt's *The Best of Ourselves* segment, which explored how we can be resilient and creative in these turbulent times; Fred Smith's coverage of happenings in the upper Gunflint territory in the Wildersmith on the Gunflint segment; Vicki Biggs-Anderson's

Magnetic North feature; Steve Ramberg's Gunflint Notebook segment; Chel Anderson North Woods Naturalist and many more. *Community Voices on North Shore Morning and North Shore Weekend* partnered with numerous community and arts organizations to promote their activities and outreach, including the Cook County Commissioners, Cook County Health and Human Services, Cook County Higher Ed, the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the City of Grand Marais, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, North Shore Hospital, North House Folk School, Grand Marais Art Colony, Grand Marais Playhouse, and many more. The staff and volunteers of WTIP worked on *Community Voices* the entire year.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced six episodes of its highly produced series of short features for *The Lake Superior Project*. The award-winning show looked at the broad range of issues facing one of the world's largest resources: Lake Superior. The five- to eight-minute segments covered a broad range of issues facing Lake Superior, which holds ten percent of the world's freshwater. The segments explored the arts, culture, environment, as well as the history of the lake and its effect on those living along Minnesota's North Shore. Listeners learned about the history of the Grand Portage and Grand Marais fur trading posts through the journals of several fur trade clerks that mention an Anishinaabe tribal leader named Espagnol; the destructive forest fire of 1908, which hit Northeast Minnesota after an unusually hot, dry summer; and the many geologic events over the ages that produced the landscape we know today in Northeastern Minnesota.

For *The Lake Superior Project*, WTIP partnered with the Minnesota Sea Grant, Michigan Tech Research Institute, Cook County Soil and Water, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Isle Royale National Park, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the North House Folk School, the Cook County Historical Society and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. *The Lake Superior Project* was a yearlong project.



WTIP's *Lake Superior Project* taught listeners about the history of the lake and its effect on those living along the North Shore.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)



WTIP explored the new growing culture of living off-the-grid.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced a series focused on people in the Cook County area who have chosen to live “off the grid” for its **Powering Down** project. The station created two episodes that were eight to twelve minutes long. **Powering Down** featured interviews with people presented in a “day in the life” style format, detailing what daily actions are taken in lieu of having power, water, or internet. The segments explored their choices to downsize or use alternative energy and the lifestyle changes, challenges, and benefits that come with it. In FY20 listeners learned about going solar with Doug Turner, who converted his Gunflint Trail home to full solar power. They also met Art and Beth Kidd, who were among the first people to choose wind and solar power in the area and share their experiences of living off-grid for several decades. The Kidds talked about the early challenges, the growth of green technology, and the adaptations of a daily routine that come with living the simple life. **Powering Down** was a four-month project.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced one episode of **Beyond the Canoe: Outdoor Recreation on the North Shore**, a 14-minute segment exploring non-traditional, or alternative sports that are fast becoming a part of the North Shore culture. The aim of **Beyond the Canoe: Outdoor Recreation on the North Shore**, was to showcase ways people enjoy the outdoors that extend past the gunnels of a canoe. In FY20 the station focused on ice skating and the search for “wild ice.” **Beyond the Canoe: Outdoor Recreation on the North Shore** was a six-week project.



WTIP's **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Podcast** attracted more than 2,000 visits to its web page.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) produced and released 12 episodes of its popular Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCAW) Podcast for its project, **The Boundary Waters Podcast**. This project captured stories about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the most visited wilderness in the United States, which is often referred to as “Minnesota’s crown jewel.” WTIP provided its audience with an audio format they could take with them into the BWCAW, beyond the reach of the radio station’s signal. The podcast consisted of lively 45- to 70-minute long

conversations with people enthusiastically sharing their BWCAW stories and experiences, including conversations about gear and other insights and lessons. The station also edited the podcasts down to create 12 shorter segments of each episode that they then broadcast on-air to help promote the podcast and give even more people access to the content. Each month, WTIP Boundary Waters Podcasters Joe Friedrichs and Matthew Baxley met and talked with a wide variety of people venturing into the BWCAW. Some of the topics covered in episodes in FY20 included: Boundary Waters enthusiast, botanist, and plant ecologist Chel

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

Anderson; outdoor writer and journalist Stephanie Pearson; Erik Dickes from Omaha, Nebraska who made the trip in memory of his father; John Oberholtzer; Rachael Romnek; and many more. ***The Boundary Waters Podcast*** was a yearlong project.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) worked with a small group of students who created ***Wavelengths—A Program Created by WTIP's Youth Community Advisory Board***. The group of six young people, between the ages of eight and sixteen, created one 60-minute on-air program. The students were solely responsible for content creation which included original features, a podcast submission, and live music recorded for the programs. The goal of WTIP Community Radio's Youth Community Advisory Board was to engage new listeners to participate in making local radio, through spoken word, musical performances, and content creation. WTIP developed a youth community advisory board in 2019 to help the station expand its volunteer and listener base, and to engage a new demographic. Based on the advisory board's experience and recommendations, WTIP developed new relevant local content, sharing the work of young radio performers and programmers.



WTIP had students create a one-hour radio program for its ***Wavelengths*** project.

Wavelengths—A Program Created by WTIP's Youth Community Advisory Board helped the station fulfill one of its long-term core values, to recognize the voices and perspectives of community members of all ages. ***Wavelengths—A Program Created by WTIP's Youth Community Advisory Board*** was a yearlong project.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) created one 12-minute piece for its project entitled ***What Matters to Us: Growing up Near Lake Superior***. There are many reasons why people choose to live on the North Shore, but many young people are either born there or move there with family, and do not necessarily live there by choice. With this project, WTIP set out to talk with local youth about what matters the most to them today. The station interviewed residents who grew up on the North Shore and continue to live there as adults. The purpose of the project was to take a cultural look at the past, the present, and the future of young people living near Lake Superior, with a special emphasis on the Grand Portage Reservation and the Gunflint Trail. Because of the pandemic, WTIP was only able to produce one segment. The station hopes to continue the project into FY21. ***What Matters to Us: Growing up Near Lake Superior*** was a six-week project.



WTIP listeners learned about area trappers, hunters, and fishermen.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) created and aired two five- to eight-minute episodes for its ***Legacy of Hunting and Trapping on the North Shore*** project. This series covered the history and culture of hunting and trapping on the North Shore of the Minnesota Arrowhead Region, through story-telling and community voices, sharing personal experiences, historical documentation, and first-hand experiences of area trappers, hunters, and fishermen. Segments also explored the continued cultural significance of hunting through stories from members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. In FY20, listeners heard from Jim Wallner, and his family in Cook County, about their early winter tradition of setting trap lines in the nearby forests.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

They also learned about recreational netting for whitefish and cisco on designated lakes in Cook County and on the Gunflint Trail. **Legacy of Hunting and Trapping on the North Shore** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) produced 60 episodes of **MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds**. This popular series explores Minnesota history statewide through short, fun, and engaging audio stories. MN90 segments cover a wide range of topics including sports, politics, agriculture, business, pop culture, entertainment and much more. In FY20, listeners of **MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds** learned how Sauk Centre native Sinclair Lewis became a sensation with the publication of his novel *Main Street*. Listeners heard how Franz Halberg, a scientist and physician at the University of Minnesota, fascinated by the human body's daily rhythms, coined the term Circadian Rhythm. And about



More than 230,000 people heard **MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds** each week.

the cookbook author and television personality that prompted hundreds of Minnesotans to line up at the Minneapolis Dayton's in 1955. In FY20 Ampers finalized production of its compilation CD, **Best of MN90 Volume V** and distributed about 7,500 CDs, free of charge, at the Minnesota State Fair and other events statewide. Ampers also began production on **Best of MN90 Volume VI** in FY20. **MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds** aired on 16 Ampers stations statewide either once or twice per day Monday through Friday. The MN90 segments reach approximately 236,300 Minnesotans each week. More than 8,300 people "Liked" MN90 on Facebook. The post with the highest reach in FY20 was on May 2, 2020, with a reach of 10,298. **MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) created and distributed Season Two of **Native Lights Podcasts: Where Indigenous Voices Shine**, produced by the Minnesota Native News team. This popular podcast series centers on Native voices, perspectives, and stories, from a foundation of strength, and humor. In the second season of **Native Lights**, the production team created six 25- to 60-minute podcast episodes. In 2020, the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists recognized **Native Lights** with a second-place award in the Hard News Category, for its Media Maker episode from Season One. Season Two of **Native Lights Podcast: Where Indigenous Voices Shine** was hosted by siblings Leah Lemm and Cole Premo, both members of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. **Native Lights** focused on people in Native communities around Mni Sota Mkoce—a.k.a. Minnesota—and their stories about finding their gifts and sharing them with the community. These were stories of joy, strength, history, and change from Native people who are shaping the future and honoring those who came before them. Some of the people who shared their stories on the podcast included: respected Anishinaabe elder and well-known physician, Dr. Arne Vainio (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe); Lakota doula Takayla Lightfield (Mnicoujou Lakota, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota); Rebecca Crooks Stratton (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community), who is the Secretary/Treasurer of her tribe; advertising executive Chad Germann (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe); Deb Foster (Ojibwe), who is the Executive Director of Ain Dah Yung; and architect Mike Laverdure (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota). When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Minnesota Native News team created a specialty podcast series

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

called ***Native Lights—Biidaapi***. The Ojibwemowin word Biidaapi means “he or she arrives laughing,” and the conversations reminded us to keep our spirits up through connection, at a time when we were encouraged to keep a greater distance from our community members, friends, and loved ones. Throughout the series hosts Leah Lemm and Cole Premo spoke with different people from Tribal communities across the state, creating a total of 24 segments which were 12 to 20-minutes long. Some of the guests on ***Native Lights—Biidaapi*** were Shelbie Shelder (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians); a fourth-year medical student at the University of Minnesota, Vanessa Goodthunder (Lower Sioux); and Dr. Antony Stately, Ph.D. (Ojibwe/Oneida), the CEO of Native American Community Clinic (NACC). ***Native Lights Podcast, Where Indigenous Voices Shine*** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) produced 46 episodes of ***Minnesota Native News***, its award-winning weekly five-minute radio program that covers stories and issues in a way that was informative and relevant to both Native and non-Native listeners. Each week ***Minnesota Native News*** explored economic, cultural, health, government, and public policy issues that impact Indian country in Minnesota. Thirteen of the Ampers stations carried the weekly segment, reaching more than 124,000 listeners each week. Several of the stations air the program more than once. The four-person team that regularly works on the ***Minnesota Native News*** newscast, includes both Native and non-native reporter/producers, all sharing in the editorial and story-telling duties. In FY20, ***Minnesota Native News*** explored how businesses, artists, and freelance workers, among many others, were hit hard by the economic reach of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how many made adjustments and innovations. We learned how Migizi Communications, a longstanding Native organization that supports and empowers youth, lost its new building to a fire that destroyed it, along with many others, during the unrest following the murder of George Floyd. And, we witnessed the celebration in Red Lake Nation when it enrolled 1,212 new citizens after a change to the blood quantum rules. In addition to the regular weekly broadcasts, individual stories from the newscast were featured and shared through digital media on Facebook and Twitter. Nearly 10,150 people “Like” ***Minnesota Native News*** on Facebook and more than 1,230 people Follow ***Minnesota Native News*** on Twitter. The Facebook post with the highest reach in FY20 was on June 25, 200, and reached more than 21,000 people. In FY20, Minnesota Native News launched an Instagram account and has attracted more than 1,000 followers. ***Minnesota Native News*** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) produced 30 two-minute segments for its project ***Veterans’ Voices Korea: Memories and Stories of Minnesota’s Korean War Veterans***, which were broadcast on sixteen Ampers member radio stations. Ampers also produced six longer podcast episodes, drawing from the original audio content, which were 15 to 25 minutes in length. All of the segments, hosted by Kevyn Burger, featured veterans sharing personal stories and memories of the war, in their own voices. The goal of the project was to provide listeners the opportunity to hear firsthand from these veterans to get a deeper understanding and appreciation of the character, values, and spirit of the Minnesota men and women who served our country during the Korean War, often referred to as the Forgotten War. Kevyn Burger interviewed 18 Korean War Veterans for this project. No single agency tracks how many survive today, but according to the National Veterans Association, the average



Listeners learned about the role Minnesotans played in the Korean War through Ampers’ ***Veterans’ Voices Korea*** project.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

age of these servicemen and women was 86 years old in the fall of 2019. We are grateful that we were able to record these interviews when we did, because just a few months later, once the pandemic hit, it would have been impossible to connect with this vulnerable elderly population. Among the topics explored was a segment called “The Silent Generation,” which looked at how the men and women who fought in the Korean War were born when many farms still relied on horses. They have been eyewitnesses to massive societal changes. Born between the Greatest Generation and the Baby Boomers, they are part of an entire generation that is often overlooked. Another segment, called “The Shadow of World War II,” looked at how those who entered military service during the Korean War had been children during World War II, and wartime shaped their youth. Many of them grew up with family members who fought and died in Europe or the Pacific Theater. But the Korean War proved to be a very different experience for their generation of veterans. Another segment called “The GI Bill” looked at what is officially called the *Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act*. The GI Bill was established after World War II, and Congress extended it to cover Korean War veterans. The benefit allowed many of them to get a college education that would have otherwise been out of the question. Ampers compiled the 30 two-minute segments onto a CD, which will be duplicated and distributed statewide. In previous years, Ampers has handed out free copies of Veterans Voices CDs to attendees of the Minnesota State Fair, and that was our intention. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Minnesota State Fair was canceled. Ampers hopes to distribute free copies of the ***Veterans’ Voices Korea: Memories and Stories of Minnesota’s Korean War Veterans*** CD to fairgoers in 2021, and copies will also be given away at events throughout the state. This was a one-year project.

Ampers (Statewide) produced three episodes of ***Veterans’ Voices: Honoring Those Who Served in the 20th Century***. This project was created in response to Minnesotans who said they want to hear more stories from the Veterans who have been featured in our earlier Veterans’ Voices projects. For these podcast episodes host Kevyn Burger revisited the stories of some Minnesota World War II Veterans who were featured previously in short 2-minute radio segments. The 20-minute programs include longer reflections and memories of the men and women who served in the Second World War of the 20th Century. The goal was to give a deeper understanding of the character, values, and spirit of the elder citizens, from their own perspectives, and in their own voices. Host Kevyn Burger puts the stories into a rich historical and cultural context. In one episode we hear from Minnesota veterans who were stationed in England and flew bombing missions targeting the Nazis when they were shot down and put into harsh Prisoner of War camps, and from a veteran who was serving in Europe at the end of the war as labor and concentration camps were liberated. The project allowed Ampers to maximize Legacy funds by utilizing audio we have collected over the last five years for our Veterans’ Voices projects. ***Veterans’ Voices: Honoring Those Who Served in the 20th Century*** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) broadened the reach of some of its most important programs through its ***Educational Outreach*** project, by bringing them beyond the airwaves and into Minnesota classrooms. Over the years, Ampers has frequently heard from educators and many teachers that they view Ampers’ original audio content as a highly valuable tool to bolster and support their lesson plans. As part of its ***Educational Outreach*** project, Ampers continued to take several steps to make it easier for teachers to access existing and new artistic, historical, and cultural programs. Ampers worked with a web developer to completely overhaul the *Teacher Resources* section of the website. The upgrades make it easier for teachers and students to utilize

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PROGRAMMING (Continued)

the content that is on the website. Users can now fast-forward, rewind, and pause segments. In addition to the technical upgrades, Ampers add a *Getting Started Guide* for teachers, sample lesson plans, instructions on how students can cite material found on the website, and even a button to click that will generate a proper citation that the student can cut and paste to make it even easier for them to properly cite any Ampers material used in a report. **Educational Outreach** was a yearlong project.

Ampers (Statewide) supported and helped its member community radio stations with its project **ACHF Legislative Report and Station Support**. Ampers worked with the stations to gather all of the information for and produce the annual ACHF Legislative report. Additionally, Ampers provided individual support to the stations as needed. Support included assistance with grant reporting, invoicing, budgeting, program development and creation, podcast distribution, compliance, and more. In FY20, Ampers also co-created and produced Legacy programs for KMOJ, KRPR, and WGZS. **ACHF Legislative Report and Station Support** was a yearlong endeavor.

Ampers (Statewide) made it easier for all Minnesotans to access the programs paid for by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, by maintaining and updating its website for its **Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media** project. All the Legacy funded projects produced by Ampers and its member stations can be found at ampers.org. The website houses more than 21,354 artistic, cultural, and historical programs. Additional work was done to enhance the site to make it more user-friendly as well as increase accessibility for individuals with disabilities when possible. Users can now pause, fast-forward, and rewind segments on the website. In FY20 collectively Ampers along with its member stations added 2,054 segments to the website. Ampers maintained an infrastructure to ensure Legacy programs were made available to all non-commercial radio stations eligible for state grants and made all the programs available online for all Minnesotans now and in the future. The result of maintaining the website is that Minnesotans had easier access to locally-focused content and Minnesota focused content produced by public radio, as well as providing local artists, historians, writers, and others with a place where their work was showcased online. In addition to being able to listen to all Legacy programming on-demand at ampers.org, visitors could also access and listen to most of the stations' live streams. The project also engaged more Minnesotans by distributing Legacy programming through Facebook and Twitter. More than 8,400 people "Liked" the Ampers Facebook page. The **Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media** project also assured that Ampers itself and all its member stations were in compliance with Minnesota Statute 129d.19 by archiving all Legacy programming produced by Ampers and its member stations on the Ampers websites. This was a yearlong project.

Ampers and its member stations added 2,054 Legacy segments
to the Ampers website in FY20.

AWARDS RECEIVED FOR ACHF PROGRAMMING

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) swept the Feature (Radio) category in the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists (MNSPJ) 2020 Page One Awards in Radio Journalism for three **MinneCulture** feature programs, including Robert McGinley Myers's first place for *Courtroom Theater*; Ryan Dawes's *Unfamous Rock Manager Tells All*, second; and Sheila Regan's *Time Signatures Explained, Then Deranged*, third. Britt Aamodt's *Generation AIDS: Minnesota's HIV/AIDS Crisis*, a **MinneCulture** feature, received second place in the Investigative (Radio) category. *Rinkside With Brownbody*, a **MinneCulture** feature by Anna Stitt, took first place in the Sports News Coverage category.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) and Ampers (Statewide) earned first place at the MNSPJ 2020 Page One Awards in the Special Project/In-Depth Series (Radio) division for ***Sex Trafficking: Breaking Free, A 2-Part Radio Documentary***, an FY19 Legacy project. Hosts Freddie Bell and Chantel Sings, with the help of producers Laurie Stern and Erin Warhol, explored the important connection between the sexual exploitation of women today with slavery and colonialism.

KQAL (Winona) was the recipient of two Eric Sevareid Awards. In the Documentary/Special category for Small Market Radio, The ***Live Feed*** won an award of merit for a story on Minnesota singer/songwriter Lee Henke. Lee was the former lead singer for the Minneapolis based band, The Last Revel. KQAL's ***Culture Clique*** also received an award of merit for Bill Stoneberg's interview with Minnesota broadcast legend Garrison Keillor.

WTIP (Grand Marais) was among the winners of a 2020 regional Edward R. Murrow Award, as announced by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA). The Murrow Awards are the embodiment of the values, principles, and standards set forth by Edward R. Murrow, a journalism pioneer who set the standards for the highest quality of broadcast journalism. In the small market radio category, WTIP won for Best Podcast, ***Boundary Waters Podcast***. The award is for overall series content based on the submission of *Episode 18: A Father's Dream*, the story of Erik Dickes, who recorded an audio diary on a trip to the BWCAW in May 2019, to commemorate his late father, and tell the story of a canoe trip they had planned to take together in 2018.

Ampers (Statewide) was recognized with a second-place award at the MNSPJ Page One Awards for *Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine, Media Makers Episode 5* in the Hard News Report (Radio) category. Many Native people are dissatisfied with the media portrayal of Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. This award-winning episode of ***Native Lights*** explored how several Native media makers are doing it differently by finding their voices, telling their communities' own stories, and changing the very framework for how stories are told.



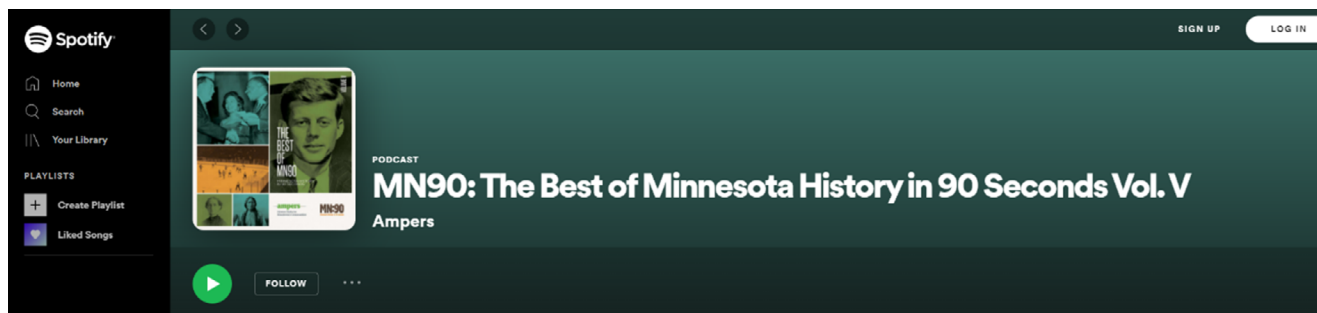
WTIP (Grand Marais) received a 2020 regional Edward R. Murrow Award for ***Boundary Waters Podcast – A Father's Dream***.

Ampers and its member stations have received more than 75 awards for Legacy programming in the past seven years.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

In FY20 Ampers distributed 10,000 copies of the “Best of MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds Volume V.” The CD, which contained 40 segments of the program ***MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds***, was distributed at the Minnesota State Fair in the fall of 2019 as well as other events around the state, before the pandemic. Many teachers and fairgoers now stop by Ampers’ booth, in the Education Building at the State Fair, each year to pick up a copy of the latest CD. Ampers provided the CDs to members of the House and Senate Legacy Committees and the Department of Administration. The CDs can be accessed on-demand through your favorite podcast service or by clicking [here](#). Ampers also produced the “Best of MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds Volume VI,” which will be distributed once the pandemic is controlled enough to allow for public events. The same is true for the ***Veterans’ Voices Korea: Memories and Stories of Minnesota’s Korean War*** CDs. Ampers has produced the CD and will distribute them after the pandemic. The ***Veterans’ Voices: Korea*** two-minute segments, as well as the podcasts, will be available online very soon.

In FY20, Ampers also substantially improved its Teacher Resources section of its website. Users can now pause, fast-forward, and rewind segments, making it easier for teachers to use the content on the website. Ampers also added information about how students can cite the content on the site and gave teachers sample lesson plans.



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“Thank you! I frequently use segments and ideas from MN:90 in my sixth grade Minnesota Studies classes!” – Teacher who stopped by the Ampers booth at the 2019 State Fair.

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FUNDING SOURCES

Station	Expense Type	Funding Source	FY20 Amount	FY19 Amount
 KQXE <small>AUTHENTIC LOCAL RADIO</small> <small>93.7 Grand Rapids, 100.3 Brainerd, 98.9 Brainerd</small>	KAXE Grand Rapids / Ely / Brainerd	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$23,829.17
		Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$1,204.17
 JAZZ88 <small>jazz88.fm</small> <small>88.5FM</small> <small>KBEM</small>	KBEM Minneapolis / St. Paul	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$27,450.00
		Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$50,640.00
		Supplies	Dept. of Administration	\$3,270.00
		Advertising	Dept. of Administration	\$7,340.00
		Equipment	Dept. of Administration	\$1,300.00
 KBFT <small>89.9 FM</small> <small>BOIS FORT</small>	KBFT Bois Forte / Nett Lake	Salaries/Benefits	Ampers Pilot Project	\$40,657.00
		Admin	Ampers Pilot Project	\$11,739.13
		Contracted Services	Ampers Pilot Project	\$37,603.87
 KBXE <small>BAGLEY/BEMIDJI</small> <small>90.5 FM</small>	KBXE Bagley / Bemidji	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$75,897.00
		Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$204.17
 KFAI <small>90.3 FM TWIN CITIES</small>	KFAI Minneapolis / St. Paul	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$9,103.00
		Salaries/Benefits	Ampers Pilot Project	\$1,000.00
		Advertising	Ampers Pilot Project	\$2,600.00
 KKWE <small>89.9 FM</small> <small>WHITE EARTH</small>	KKWE White Earth / Callaway	Salaries/Benefits	Ampers Pilot Project	\$80,164.40
		Contracted Services	Ampers Pilot Project	\$3,000.00
		Equipment	Ampers Pilot Project	\$10,650.00
		Supplies	Ampers Pilot Project	\$78,650.00
 KMOJ <small>89.9 FM</small> <small>RADIO</small>	KMOJ Minneapolis / St. Paul	Salaries/Benefits (Paid by Ampers)	Ampers Pilot Project	\$200.00
		Contracted Services (Paid by KMOJ)	Ampers Pilot Project	\$500.00
		Contracted Services (Paid by Ampers)	Ampers Pilot Project	\$4,500.00
		State Fair Tickets (Paid by Ampers)	Ampers Pilot Project	\$24,250.00
		Postage	Ampers Pilot Project	\$21,500.00
		Mktg. and Advertising	Ampers Pilot Project	\$550.00
		Equipment	Ampers Pilot Project	\$15.00
			Ampers Pilot Project	\$3,000.00
 KMSU <small>89.7 FM</small> <small>MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANITO</small>	KMSU Mankato / Austin	Contracted Services	Ampers Pilot Project	\$1,500.00
		Supplies	Dept. of Administration	\$89,285.54
 KOJB <small>90.3 FM</small> <small>LEACH LAKE</small>	KOJB Leach Lake / Cass Lake	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$3,000.00
		Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$69,200.00
				\$20,800.00

FUNDING SOURCES (Continued)

Station	Expense Type	Funding Source	FY20 Amount	FY19 Amount
 KQAL Winona <small>Your Radio Alternative</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$89,600.00	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$5,400.00	\$5,000.00
	Supplies	Dept. of Administration	\$2,047.08	\$2,047.08
	Advertising	Dept. of Administration	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
 KRPR Rochester <small>Classic Rock Without the Talk</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Ampers Pilot Project	\$4,500.00	
	Contracted Services	Ampers Pilot Project	\$22,500.00	
	Equipment	Ampers Pilot Project	\$4,500.00	
 KSRQ Thief River Falls <small>PIONEER 90.1 RADIO</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$71,980.13	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$18,019.87	
	Equipment	Dept. of Administration	\$1,204.15	\$1,204.15
 KUMD Duluth <small>103.3 FM</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$89,684.50	\$930.80
	Advertising	Dept. of Administration	\$315.50	\$123.37
	Supplies	Dept. of Administration		\$150.00
 KUOM Minneapolis / St. Paul <small>770 AM 100.7-104.5 FM Real College Radio</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$88,294.00	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$1,706.00	
	Equipment	Dept. of Administration	\$1,204.16	\$1,204.16
 KVSC St. Cloud <small>88.1 FM</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$55,223.00	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$34,681.17	\$1,204.16
	Advertising	Dept. of Administration	\$1,300.00	
 WTIP Grand Marais / Gunflint Trail / Grand Portage <small>WTIP</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$52,338.00	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$37,662.00	
	Supplies	Dept. of Administration	\$1,204.17	\$1,204.17
 Ampers Statewide <small>Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities</small>	Salaries/Benefits	Dept. of Administration	\$209,969.00	
	Contracted Services	Dept. of Administration	\$539,895.00	
	Station Distribution	Dept. of Administration	\$50,100.00	\$7,000.00
	Equipment	Dept. of Administration	\$15,771.00	
	Advertising	Dept. of Administration	\$66,300.00	\$2,500.00
	Postage	Dept. of Administration	\$200.00	
	Travel	Dept. of Administration	\$4,000.00	
	Supplies	Dept. of Administration	\$500.00	

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ACHF PROJECTS

<i>Station</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Amount</i>
KBFT	<i>Native Fest Music Series</i>	Donations	\$40.00
KSRQ	<i>Pioneer Polkacast HD-2</i>	Listener Contributions	\$765.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$300.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$300.00
KUMD	<i>Journey to Wellness; In the Spirit of Medicine</i>	Underwriting	\$936.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$500.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$400.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$1,000.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$135.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$150.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$450.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$150.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$300.00
KUMD	<i>Arts & Cultural Events</i>	Underwriting	\$150.00
KVSC	<i>Granite City Radio Theatre</i>	Ticket Sales	\$4,274.00
KVSC	<i>Minnesota Music Concert - Brother Ali</i>	Ticket Sales	\$2,040.00
WTIP	<i>Radio Waves Music Festival</i>	Ticket Sales	\$15,000.00
Ampers	<i>Minnesota Native News</i>	Underwriting	\$4,000

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES



KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) Official ratings are not available. KAXE has an estimated weekly audience of 18,650 listeners, based on the formula of 10 listeners for every one donor (a nationally accepted standard to estimate audience size when official ratings are not available). KAXE, with sister station KBXE, which make up Northern Community Radio, have a combined total of 1,865 members. Northern Community Radio has 6,182 followers on Facebook, 2,145 on Twitter, and 1,310 on Instagram.

KAXE achieved its goal of attracting a large live audience for the **Mississippi River Festival** with more than 350 people attending. The two-day live-music festival featured six Minnesota and regional musicians. KAXE's listener survey also showed the event helped to bring more arts and culture to the area. Of those surveyed who said they attended the festival, 95% said the event gave more Minnesotans access to the arts. The success of the festival was also demonstrated by positive comments and feedback given to the station, some of which appear later in the Listener Comment section of this report. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **The Mississippi River Festival**.

KAXE's program **Strong Women: MN Women with Stories to Tell** highlighted the personal history and notable contributions of Minnesota women to Minnesota's arts, culture, and history. KAXE increased the appreciation and access to the history and experiences of Minnesota women with twelve 10- to 20-minute segments that were heard by an average of an estimated 4,600 listeners. The success of the program was demonstrated by positive feedback from women that were featured on the program and positive comments from KAXE's listeners who felt empowered by the program. Some of these comments can be found later in this report. The KAXE annual survey also helped show that **Strong Women** achieved the outcome of Minnesota women and their role in our state's history. Of KAXE listeners who say they heard **Strong Women**, 97% agreed that the segments helped increase the knowledge of women's history and cultural contributions in Minnesota. KAXE produced one more segment than promised in its workplan and achieved the proposed outcomes for **Strong Women**. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Strong Women**.

KAXE's **Close to Home** program highlighted historical events, places, and the different cultures of Northern Minnesota in eight segments that were seven to 12 minutes in length. The station estimates that each segment reached an estimated 4,600 people. The program achieved its goal of informing listeners about local cultural and historical events and sites in Northern Minnesota. The station showcased a total of eight sites/events and 15 people. In addition to the sites mentioned in the Program Description section of this report, the station also highlighted events in Twig, Mountain Iron, and a second destination in Grand Rapids. KAXE's success was demonstrated in their FY20 listener survey. Of **Close to Home** listeners, 97% said it made them more aware of historical events, places, and local culture. Additionally, 97% agreed that the program increased locally-focused content on public radio. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Close to Home**.

The KAXE program **Audio Essays by Steve Downing** had an estimated audience of 4,600 listeners for each of its 11 two- to five-minute segments, one more than promised in the station's workplan. The program's goal was to have Steve Downing highlight and increase awareness of the arts and culture of Northern Minnesota by pondering and explaining poetry, language, art, and food. KAXE's demonstrated the success of this program in its FY20 survey. For those surveyed who said they have listened to **Audio Essays**, 96% said it increased

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

their appreciation for the writer's art and the arts in Minnesota. The station produced one more segment than promised in its workplan for this project. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Audio Essays by Steve Downing**.

KAXE's program **Stay Human** resulted in 41 one-hour segments showcasing 102 essays. The station estimates approximately 4,600 listeners heard each segment. The program's essays increased the audience's appreciation for spoken word and storytelling. This was demonstrated with positive comments from listeners, some of which appear in the Listener Comments section of this report. KAXE's FY20 survey found that of the respondents who said they have listened to the program, 95% agreed that **Stay Human** helped them gain more knowledge, information, and access to the arts, particularly to writers and storytellers. The station produced two more segments than promised in its workplan for this project. KAXE achieved the outcomes of this project.

KAXE's **Youth Radio** program helped 24 students get a taste for radio and broadcasting. The program aired 11 episodes that were five to 20 minutes in length. The station believes that approximately 4,600 people heard each segment. The program received positive feedback from listeners who enjoyed hearing the young people on the air. Some of the comments about this project appear in the Listener Comments section of this report. KAXE's FY20 survey also showed the success of the program. Of those surveyed, 100% of those who said they've listened to the program indicated that they feel the **Youth Radio** project had increased student exposure to the art of radio production and writing. In addition, 84% said the program helped KAXE expand knowledge, information, and access to the arts and Minnesota's history and cultural heritage. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Youth Radio**.

The project **Dig Deep** achieved its proposed outcome of giving Minnesotans increased access to Minnesotans history and appreciation for its relevance today. The success of this outcome was measured in audience size, quality of listener feedback, and results of survey questions. For **Dig Deep**, KAXE produced 16 segments that were 15-20 minutes long and each reached an estimated audience of 4,600 people. Through its FY20 survey, KAXE received positive comments from listeners about their appreciation for **Dig Deep** and the value they find in the project. Some of the listener comments can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. In KAXE's FY20 listener survey, 95% of surveyed listeners agreed that the program increased their access and appreciation for Minnesota history and its relevance today. The station produced one more segment than promised in its workplan for this project. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Dig Deep**.

KAXE's **Live and Local** project broadcasted interviews and performances with more than 51 Minnesota musicians in seven one-hour shows. The station estimates that at least 4,600 people heard each of the shows. The project's achievement of the proposed outcome was measured by comments and feedback, some of which appear in the Listener Comments section of this report, as well as a listener survey and demographic data. KAXE's received positive comments in the station's survey. Of those surveyed, 53% said they remembered hearing **Live and Local** and 87% of those agreed that the project gave them greater access to local music and local event information. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Live and Local**.

The **Northern Voices** project provided KAXE listeners historic and cultural information about the sustainable practices, traditions, as well as indigenous and ancestral ways of life in Northern Minnesota. KAXE produced

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

13 segments for **Northern Voices** that were ten-minutes in length and the station estimates that about 4,600 people heard each segment. **Northern Voices** achieved the proposed outcome of enriching listeners' cultural and historical knowledge. The success was measured by listener comments and feedback from the FY20 survey. KAXE listeners sent the station positive comments on Facebook and in the FY20 station survey. Some of the comments appear later in the Listener Comments section of this report. In KAXE's FY20 listener survey, 100% of **Northern Voices** listeners felt informed about people who maintain Northern Minnesota cultural practices. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes for **Northern Voices**.

The **Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo** project provided KAXE listeners with Ojibwe language (Ojibwemowin) lessons that were suitable for all ages and fluency levels. KAXE produced 37 segments that were four to seven minutes in length and were broadcast to an estimated audience of 4,600 listeners. **Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo** also received positive comments from listeners. Some of which appear later in the Listener Comment section of this report. In the station's FY20 listener survey, 100% of **Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo** listeners surveyed agreed that the project helped make Ojibwemowin and Anishinaabe culture more accessible. The station produced seven more segments than promised in its workplan for this project. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

The **Victor Power Serial** project was a podcast and broadcast program that followed the life and times of famous northern Minnesotan Victor Power. KAXE produced and broadcast two one-hour segments that were titled "Power in the Wilderness" and was heard by an estimated 4,600 listeners. The project received positive comments, some of which appear in the Listener Comment section of this report. Also, in the station's FY20 survey, and, of those who indicated they remember hearing these segments, 82% agreed that the **Victor Power Serial** project provided them with more knowledge, information, and access to Minnesota's history and cultural heritage. KAXE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.



KBEM/Jazz 88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) According to Radio Research Consortium (Nielsen Audio) estimates, KBEM has a weekly cumulative audience of about 85,200 people. On Facebook, KBEM has 5,938 followers and 5,792 likes. The station has 2,568 followers on Twitter.

KBEM's project **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** featured interviews with Minnesota musicians about their craft, living through the pandemic, and their upcoming virtual shows. In FY20, KBEM created and broadcast 105 episodes of **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** and created and distributed 50 episodes of **Minnesota Music Profiles**. KBEM

broadcast **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** six times a week and estimates the segments were heard live by about 17,930 people each week. Additionally, according to Streamguys and PRX analytics, the program's episodes were accessed for on-demand streaming 2,098 times in FY20. All segments were eight minutes long. Two episodes of **Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week** also aired on Ampers' stations KAXE, KBXE and WGZS. Non-member stations WOUB and WAMC also aired episodes from this project. The 50 episodes of **Minnesota Music Profiles** were a part of this project but above and beyond the outputs

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

promised in KBEM's workplan. The station received positive comments from artists who participated in the project, some of which can be found later in this report. KBEM achieved the measurable outcomes for this project by providing Minnesota musicians with significantly more exposure.

For the project **MPS Voices**, KBEM shared all the station's Legacy-funded content through its streaming platform, **Minnesota Jazz Tracks**. The 24/7 online radio webstream provided Minnesota's jazz musicians with a larger audience, as well as providing a platform for student work. In FY20, 12 students helped with the project. KBEM's **Minnesota Jazz Tracks** stream was accessed by more than 14,700 listeners in FY20. The project also received a positive listener comment, which can be found in the Listener Comment section of this report. KBEM achieved its proposed outcomes of helping students learn how to produce audio, and more importantly, how to express themselves through the medium of audio.

KBEM did some preparation work for its **Minnesota Jazz Legends** project, which was supposed to honor and shine a light on some of Minnesota's most notable jazz legends in their 70s and 80s who are still performing. The station engaged in preparatory work for a spring 2020 concert event, but COVID-19 mitigation efforts necessitated the cancellation of those plans, especially given the vulnerability of the honorees due to their age and preexisting health conditions. Plans are underway to honor the selected 2020 honorees and a new class of 2021 Legends with a safely distanced production in spring 2021. Because of the pandemic, there are no measurable outcomes to report on for FY20.

KBEM showcased excellence in our schools with its weekly one-hour program **Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools**. The project featured several jazz bands in the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) as well as other jazz bands that included MPS students. KBEM commissioned recordings of several student jazz events in the fall and winter of 2019, to be added into the existing rotation of shows from previous years which were aired weekly through the fiscal year. The project highlighted the work of high school band teachers and 48 student artists. KBEM received positive feedback about this program, some of which can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. As part of **Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools**, Jazz88 also sponsored a Fall 2019 jazz enrichment workshop in which 125 students participated alongside professional musicians. KBEM achieved some of the proposed outcomes for **Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools**.

- “The student concerts
- on Monday are great,
- and it is fun to hear
- their passion for jazz.”
- –Scott Gregory, Minneapolis,
- commenting on *Jazz@MPS SHOW*

For the project **The Jazz Image—Minnesota Edition** Jazz88 preserved and shared the massive and rich archive of the historical recordings of Leigh Kamman. KBEM produced and broadcast 10 five-minute audio segments for this project. KBEM estimates the segments were heard by about 8,000 people each week and streamed on demand at least 22 times. KBEM partnered with the Leigh Kamman Legacy Project for this production. **The Jazz Image** received positive feedback. One of the comments can be found in the Listener Comment section of this report. By producing and airing these segments, Jazz88 achieved its outcome of helping listeners gain an awareness of the depth of jazz talent in the Twin Cities.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)



KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) Official ratings are not available. KBFT's Facebook has 1,867 followers and the station has 73 followers on Instagram.

KBFT hosted four one-hour live concerts showcasing 11 Native American musicians as part of their **Native Fest Music Series**. A total of 173 people attended the events. The station recorded songs and interviews from the live performances and featured them in three five-minute on-air segments, that played on the station multiple times to an estimated audience of 310 people. Additionally, the station brought many of the performers to the Nett Lake elementary school to meet with grade-school students, and to meet with students in the Boys' and Girls' Club after school. KBFT set out to inspire the youth, increase musician exposure, and engage station listeners. By producing the concerts that showcased the music of 11 musicians, promoting them on-air, and bring the musicians to the schools, KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes exposing students to more art and culture and increasing exposure for Minnesota musicians, despite having to cancel many of these events because of COVID-19.

The station hosted three live events for its project **Native Fest Arts Series**. From these events, the station produced two segments that were approximately five-minutes long. Each segment showcased one artist and was broadcast to an estimated audience of 310 people. KBFT had to cancel many of these events because of COVID-19. About 130 people attended the **Native Fest Art Series** live the events, that highlighted the works of Minnesota Native American artists. The station also interviewed each artist on the air for about a half-hour, to promote the event and give the artist even more exposure. As part of the project, the station also brought the artists to the Nett Lake school, and Northwoods High School, where they talked with second through fifth-grade students. Each artist met with the students for an hour and some of them performed as well. The station wanted to increase artist exposure, give Minnesotans artistic demonstrations, and expose more students to music and art. While KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes of this project, the project was negatively impacted by COVID because the station had to cancel many of the events.

KBFT also held four live events for its project **Native Writing Series**. The events were open to the public and attended by 116 people. KBFT also recorded the presentations and edited them down into two five-minute segments which were broadcast to an estimated 310 people. As part of the project, the writers also spent about an hour with second-through fifth-grade students at the Nett Lake school. The station said the project would increase awareness of literary works, inspire youth, and increase writer exposure. KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes of this project by showcasing the work of four writers and bringing those writers into the schools. While we can report that KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes for this project, it was negatively impacted by the pandemic.

KBFT hosted one camp for its **Anishinaabe Language Immersion Camps** project. The camp provided approximately 170 people of all ages from the KBFT listening community the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Ojibwe language and culture, as well, as learn various Native American crafts and teachings. The station also created a fifteen-minute broadcast segment for the project that was heard by an estimated 310 people. The yearlong project allowed the station to pay five language instructors and garnered 31,227 total impressions on Facebook. The station received nine positive comments from event attendees, listeners, and participants. The station wanted to give community members the chance to learn about the Ojibwe culture through fully immersed weekend-long events. KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

KBFT drew on the wisdom and expertise of Ojibwe elder Billy Blackwell of Grand Portage for its **Anishinaabe-moen** project. The station created 430 different segments that were 30 seconds to two minutes long. Billy Blackwell hosted the segments and shared stories about language and dialect, to help Nett Lake residents learn, use, and preserve the Ojibwe language. The segments were heard by an estimated 310 people. By creating more than 400 segments the station significantly increased locally-focused content. **Anishinaabe-moen** was a yearlong project. KBFT achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

KBFT held a cooking contest, open to KBFT listeners of all ages, for its **Nanaboozhoo Cafe** project. Thirteen community members participated in the event, sharing dishes such as Beaver stew, maple venison, squash, venison sausage, cake, and more. **Nanaboozhoo Café** was a six-month project but was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project exposed the attendees to Native cooking and culture. Because of the pandemic, KBFT was only able to achieve most of the proposed outcomes for this project.

KBFT produced and aired four three- to five-minute segments for its **Genealogy/Family History** project. The purpose of this project was to add an audio dimension to the genealogical information, that many families share among members, and to preserve stories and information through audio recordings. The three segments produced were broadcast to an estimated audience of 310 and aired approximately 160 times. This program was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and precautions for elders. By airing the segments more than 160 times, KBFT significantly increased locally and Minnesota-focused content, made Minnesota culture more accessible, and increased focus and awareness of Native American culture. KBFT met the proposed outcomes for this project.

For the project **Native Fest Food Series** KBFT held one live event in FY20 with Diné Chef Brian Yazzie. The free event helped expose more Minnesotans to Native American culture through food. The event was attended by 37 community members. Despite COVID-19 cutting this project short, KBFT was able to meet most of the proposed outcomes for this project.

KBFT produced and aired six episodes of **The Unexplained** in FY20. The episodes were broadcast approximately 200 times over the year and reached an estimated audience of 310 people each time. Facebook posts related to the program reached 931 people. The project was also streamed on PRX 20 times in total. The project exposed more Minnesotans to culture and increased locally-focused content produced by public radio. KBFT met its proposed outcomes for this project.



KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) has an estimated weekly audience of 18,650 listeners, based on the formula of 10 listeners for every one donor (a nationally accepted standard to estimate audience size when official ratings are not available). KBXE, with sister station KAXE, which make up Northern Community Radio, have a combined total of 1,865 members.

KBXE's project **What We're Reading** achieved its proposed outcomes of increasing Minnesotan's knowledge of writers and their works by showcasing more writers through public broadcasting and giving listeners greater access to the work of Minnesota's authors. For this project, KBXE produced ten one-hour radio programs in FY20, each of which the station reports reached an estimated on-air audience of 4,600 people. The Facebook group dedicated to the project grew by about 18% in FY20 from 379 to 465. In its FY20 survey,

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

of the respondents who said they've listened to the program, 97 percent said ***What We're Reading*** helped increase the number of local writers and others that have their work showcased through public broadcasting. The survey also found that 97% agreed that ***What We're Reading*** gave them more knowledge and appreciation for writers and literature. KBXE received many positive comments about ***What We're Reading*** some of which appear in the Listener Comments section of this report. KBXE achieved the proposed outcomes for ***What We're Reading***.

KBXE's produced 93 episodes of ***Area Voices***, which achieved its proposed outcomes of giving listeners access to cultural and community voices, history, and art. The station estimates that about 4,600 people heard each episode of ***Area Voices***. In the FY20 station survey of KBXE listeners, 96% of those who indicated that they listen to ***Area Voices*** said they gained more access to Minnesota's cultural heritage, history, and information through ***Area Voices*** and 98% said the ***Area Voices*** programming helped increase locally-focused content on public radio. KBXE achieved the proposed outcomes of ***Area Voices***.

KBXE showcased and informed listeners about Minnesota music with ***Centerstage Minnesota***. KBXE's annual survey showed that they achieved this goal. Of those surveyed who said they have listened to ***Centerstage Minnesota***, 96% said they felt more informed about local music because of the program. KBXE estimates that each of the 50 episodes of the weekly one-hour program reached an estimated listening audience of approximately 4,600 people. KBXE achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Centerstage Minnesota***.

The KBXE project ***Paddle Minnesota*** achieved its goal of educating listeners about local culture and historical events in Northern Minnesota. KBXE produced five episodes of ***Paddle Minnesota*** that were 10 to 15 minutes in length and had an estimated on-air audience of 4,600. KBXE received positive comments and feedback from its listeners about their appreciation for ***Paddle Minnesota***. Some of the comments can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. In KBXE's listener survey, 97% of those surveyed that indicated they had listened to the program agreed ***Paddle Minnesota*** provided more knowledge and information about local culture and historical events. And, 97% said the segments helped increase the number of local crafters, canoeing adventurers, writers, or others that have their work and its cultural significance showcased through public broadcasting. KBXE achieved the proposed outcomes of ***Paddle Minnesota***.

KBXE's project ***Let's Visit*** highlighted the people and cultures of small towns across Northern Minnesota. The project highlighted Northern Minnesota places and people in nine one-hour segments. KBXE's achieved its goal of giving its listening audience more information, knowledge, and access to the history, geography, and culture of Minnesota. In FY20 ***Let's Visit*** gave an estimated 4,600 listeners per episode a look into the history, culture, and art of Northern Minnesota. In the FY20 survey, 100% of respondents who said they listen to ***Let's Visit*** agreed the project gave them more knowledge of Minnesota history, geography, and culture. KBXE achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Let's Visit***.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)



KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Official ratings are not available. KFAI has an estimated weekly audience of 26,370 listeners, based on the formula of 10 listeners for every one donor (a nationally accepted standard to estimate audience size when official ratings are not available). KFAI has 2,637 contributing members. More than 12,200 people like KFAI's Facebook page; 13,600 followers on Facebook; more than 2,500 followers on Instagram and 2,475 Twitter followers.

KFAI produced 46 episodes of **10,000 Fresh Voices**, which were four-to twelve-minutes long. Three of the segments produced in FY20 aired in FY21. The station estimates each segment reached an estimated audience of 26,370 people. KFAI achieved its objective of exposing more people to Minnesota artists, by featuring Minnesotans in the series, which included musicians, writers, poets, historians, archivists, comedians, actors, arts managers, visual artists, sculptors, trades members, and more. These stories were streamed 7,695 times on SoundCloud, and other radio stations downloaded and aired **10,000 Fresh Voices** pieces 39 times on Public Radio Exchange (PRX). More than 1,600 people like KFAI's **MinneCulture** page on Facebook, which is where the station posts segments of **10,000 Fresh Voices**. The posts related to the project received 167 comments and 17,025 engagements. Some of these comments can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. More than 600 people followed **MinneCulture** on Twitter. KFAI achieved the proposed outcomes of giving more Minnesotans access to art and culture by providing more locally-focused content on public radio with **10,000 Fresh Voices**.

For its project **MinneCulture**, KFAI produced three documentaries that were 30 to 60 minutes in length. The station estimates each segment reached an estimated audience of 26,370 people. The **MinneCulture** documentaries were streamed 2,960 times via Soundcloud and were downloaded through PRX two times. More than 1,500 people like KFAI's **MinneCulture** page on Facebook, which is where the station posts segments of **MinneCulture**. Posts related to the documentaries were commented on 36 times and engaged 3,234 people in FY20. More than 600 people followed **MinneCulture** on Twitter. KFAI achieved the proposed outcomes of giving more Minnesotans access to art and culture, increasing the amount of locally-focused content on public radio, and increasing awareness of how history has affected our lives with **MinneCulture**.

KFAI's **MinneCulture Podcast** succeeded in exposing more Minnesotans to the arts through the launch of Season 3 of its podcast. For the project KFAI's **MinneCulture Podcast** the station produced three episodes which each aired once on KFAI, reaching an estimated radio audience of 26,370 people. The podcasts had 815 streams. KFAI's **MinneCulture Podcast** was made available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, PlayerFM, and iHeartRadio (via Blubrry). One episode was purchased on PRX, and Facebook posts related to this project had 6 comments and 1,960 engagements. KFAI achieved the proposed outcomes of giving more Minnesotans access to art, culture, and history, creating an increased focus on Minnesota artists, and, increasing locally-focused content on public radio with KFAI's **MinneCulture Podcast**.

KFAI's **Live from Minnesota** resulted in two shows that highlighted original music from Minnesota musicians recorded live at various local venues, in programs that were 42 to 100 minutes in length. **Live from Minnesota** had more than 1,937 video views on Facebook and 197 views on YouTube. The station estimates each segment reached an estimated audience of 26,370 people. KFAI partnered with the St. Paul Neighborhood

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

Network to produce the videos for **Live From Minnesota**. KFAI achieved the proposed outcomes of giving more Minnesotans access to art and music, helping the arts to thrive in Minnesota, and increasing locally focused-content on public radio with **Live from Minnesota**.



KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) Official ratings are not available. More than 6,200 people follow KKWE on Facebook and more than 6,000 like the station on Facebook. The station has 226 followers on Twitter.

The station hosted seven arts events for its **Nijiji's Minnesota Mixdown Series** project which were attended by approximately 750 people. KKWE also recorded and edited six of the events and meetings and broadcast them later as 30- to 60-minute radio programs. The station estimates that approximately 500 people heard each broadcast. The series of live events brought art and culture to rural communities across KKWE's listening region. The station received positive comments from listeners and participants, who appreciated the local focus of the project. The events attracted a diverse audience ensuring the station achieved its goal of increasing the number of Minnesotans of all ages, ethnicities, abilities, and income participate in the arts and helping art, culture, and history to thrive. And the on-air shows increased locally-focused content on public radio. The station hosted one more Mixdown event than promised in its revised workplan for FY20. KKWE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

KKWE made Anishinaabe culture and history more accessible with **Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts**. The station produced 231 five-minute radio segments for the project. The station estimates each segment reached an estimated audience of 200 people. The project increased locally-focused content produced by public radio and helped culture and history to thrive in Minnesota. **Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts** received positive feedback on social media. The station produced and aired seven more **Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts** than promised in its workplan for FY20. KKWE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

The station produced 24 hour-long episodes of the music show **Then & Now: The Old-Time Music of MN** which aired twice a week. The program provided historical facts and context behind the music, artists, and songs. It also resulted in more locally-focused content produced by public radio and increased the number of local artists that had their work showcased through public broadcasting. The station estimates each segment reached an estimated audience of 200-500 people. The station received positive comments about the show but did not have any PRX downloads. KKWE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

The station held two classes for its project **Ojibwe Arts Rising**. Twenty-two students were involved in the camp. The camp helped to interweave art, culture, and history into people's lives and helped to increase the number of Minnesotans of all ages, ethnicities, and incomes who participated in the arts, culture, and history. KKWE achieved most of the proposed outcomes of this project.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

KKWE produced two episodes of ***History of the MCT Constitution and Interpretations*** in FY20 and aired the half-hour segments in FY21. ***History of the MCT Constitution and Interpretation*** highlighted the history of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Constitution. The goal of the project was to increase the number of Minnesotans of all ages, ethnicities, abilities, and incomes who learn about culture and history and increase their awareness of the way history affects their lives. KKWE achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.



KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) According to Radio Research Consortium (Nielsen Audio) ratings, KMOJ has a cumulative weekly estimated audience of 63,000 listeners. KMOJ has more than 37,000 followers on Facebook, more than 2,610 followers on Instagram, and more than 7,700 followers on Twitter.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) produced two one-hour radio documentaries for the station's project ***Housing First***. In FY20, KMOJ created two hour-long programs as part of this project. In "Housing First: KMOJ explores Housing Challenges and Opportunities, So Our Community Can Thrive—Hour 1" host Freddie Bell shined a light on how housing challenges affect people in our communities. "Housing First: KMOJ explores Housing Challenges and Opportunities, So Our Community Can Thrive—Hour 2" comprised edited audio from a live event in February of 2020. Approximately 80 community members attended the event. The broadcasts of these segments were heard by an estimated 2,200 people. KMOJ engaged 21 volunteers to execute the housing event. KMOJ's podcast pages average 171 views per week. The two segments have been streamed in total 51 times. KMOJ achieved the proposed outcomes of this project

"The Ice: Expanding the Reach of Minnesota's 1st Urban Hip-Hop Format" also helped to increase the number of local artists who had their work showcased through public broadcasting. The station, which is on KMOJ's HD-2 and streams online and features live, local, and culturally specific programming 12 hours a day. KMOJ's project ***The Ice*** was streamed on average 69 times per day during FY20 and had more than 25,300 streams total. KMOJ achieved the proposed outcomes for "The Ice: Expanding the Reach of Minnesota's 1st Urban Hip-Hop Format."

For the project ***Dancing with the DJs*** KMOJ was on-site throughout the Minnesota State Fair showcasing different styles of music. A total of nine DJs benefited from having their work performed in front of thousands of fairgoers. KMOJ increased awareness of the art and culture of music for all ages at the State Fair. Based on the information provided by the State Fair, KMOJ estimates 7,000 people per day came by their booth. In addition, KMOJ broadcasted a minimum of four live segments per hour, each day of the fair from 10 am to 9 pm. Those segments reached an estimated 63,000 listeners. The large live audience combined with the on-air segments helped increase awareness for the DJs. KMOJ achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Dancing with the DJs***.

With ***LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth***, KMOJ kicked off the project with an event during Rondo Days in July of 2019. The event at the Heritage Tea House in St. Paul included special guests including Governor Tim Walz and longtime Rondo neighborhood residents including St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. KMOJ estimates more than 300 people attended Rondo Days while the station was there. KMOJ planned to hold a Juneteenth

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

event in FY20, but the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project helped to increase the number of local artists who had their work showcased through public broadcasting and exposed more Minnesotans of all ages to this unique art form. KMOJ achieved the proposed outcomes for ***LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth***.



KMSU (Mankato) Official ratings are not available. The station has 1,863 followers on Facebook and approximately 3,100 favorites on Tune-In radio. KMSU created high-quality recordings and helped the Mankato Symphony Orchestra reach a wider audience by recording and broadcasting two of their concerts in FY20. The two broadcasts gave an estimated audience of 10,000 people an increased chance of hearing the Mankato Symphony Orchestra. The broadcasts resulted in an increase in locally-focused content on public radio and helped give Minnesotans increased exposure to the work of professional artists. KMSU received positive listener comments related to the concerts and positive feedback from the symphony's executive director. The broadcasts were also viewed on PRX approximately 25 times. KMSU also replayed previous Mankato Symphony Orchestra recordings due to the absence of live music events because of the COVID-19 pandemic. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes for the ***Mankato Symphony Orchestra Recordings***.

KMSU helped to support 25 Indigenous dancers and drummers for its ***Mahkato Wacipi Mankato Pow Wow*** project, which was attended by approximately 5,000 people. The Pow Wow is an annual event that exemplifies the mission of the Mahkato Mdewakanton Association, which is committed to healing and enriching the experiences of Dakota and non-Dakota communities through the preservation and sharing of Dakota history, traditions, and culture. Attendees learned more about Dakota culture as well as the 1862 U.S.-Dakota Conflict. In a survey of attendees, 97% of respondents said they would attend next year's event, and, 92% of respondents said they learned something new about Dakota culture. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Mahkato Wacipi Mankato Pow Wow***.

KMSU's project ***Alone Together Concert Series*** aired six segments of live music performances during the first few months of the COVID-19 Pandemic presented as individual 28- to 30-minute shows. KMSU contracted and paid six Minnesota artists for the project. The station interviewed the musicians and had them remotely perform live, reaching an estimated radio audience of 6,000 listeners. Artists appreciated the opportunity to talk about how they were dealing with the shutdown of live music events caused by COVID-19, as well as share music they were creating while under the stay-at-home order. The station re-aired the segments three times each and made the programs available on-demand on their website. The segments promoted on Facebook received approximately 100 positive reactions, including 73 "likes" and 28 "loves". In comments, listeners said they appreciated the artists' insights on the "stay-at-home" era of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the listener comments for this project can be found in the Listener Comment section of this report. This project gave more Minnesotans access to Minnesota music, increased locally-focused content on public radio, and helped to pay more Minnesota musicians for their work. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes of the ***Alone Together Concert Series***.

KMSU contracted Minnesota artists to perform in Riverfront Park before Mankato's city fireworks display for the project ***Red White and Boom Mankato Fireworks Spectacular***. Approximately 1,000 people attended

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

the event. KMSU interviewed the musicians and featured their music on-air in the days leading up to the event. Each interview was available online for two weeks after it aired. These artists would not normally be performing in the Mankato area, so these concerts provided an opportunity for people in the region to be exposed to these artists and their music. The project resulted in more locally-produced content on public radio, help arts to thrive, and increased Minnesotans' exposure to the work of professional artists. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes of ***Red White and Boom Mankato Fireworks Spectacular***.

The project ***Collaboration with the Arts Center of St. Peter*** resulted in one event and one community production that featured local performing artists and attracted approximately 400 people. Minnesota musicians and support staff, including lighting and sound technicians, were paid for their work. KMSU promoted the production and event on-air and online with participant interviews and general promotion. In addition, the station recorded and then broadcast the 60-minute program, which the station estimates reached an audience of approximately 3,000 people. The station achieved the goal of allowing residents to enjoy unique concert experiences. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Collaboration with the Arts Center of St. Peter***.

KMSU helped to pay Minnesota artists to perform at the ***Blues on Belgrade*** music event for the project of the same name. Approximately 4,000 people attended the event. KMSU interviewed and featured music from three of the performing artists in the days leading up to the event. Each interview was available online for two weeks after it aired. These artists would not normally be performing in the Mankato area, so these concerts provided an opportunity for people in the region to be exposed to these artists and their music. KMSU received positive feedback from each of the bands performing. The event organizer expressed deep appreciation for KMSU's participation in the event which gave more Minnesotans access to Minnesota music and helped art to thrive in Minnesota. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes of ***Blues on Belgrade***.

KMSU's project ***Rock Bend Folk Festival*** supported and promoted the 29th Annual Rock Bend Folk Festival, which attracted approximately 6,000 attendees to the two-day event. The annual music festival showcased area bands and musicians. In an event survey, 98% of respondents agreed the lineup was excellent, 90% of respondents would attend in the future. Minnesota musicians and support staff, including lighting and sound technicians, were paid for their work and performances. Artists that performed at the event also had their songs played on KMSU ahead of the event to help promote their music and the event. Some artists were interviewed on the air and had their interviews posted on KMSU's website. The station achieved the proposed outcomes for the ***Rock Bend Folk Festival***.

For its project ***KMSU Live Events*** the station helped to execute six live events in FY20 that brought Minnesota performing artists to a less-traveled region of the state that attracted a combined audience of approximately 900 people. KMSU conducted interviews with each artist and featured their music on-air in the days leading up to each event. The station also made each interview available online for two weeks after it aired. Minnesota musicians and support staff, including lighting and sound technicians, were paid for their performances. The station achieved the proposed outcomes of giving Minnesotans access to free live music in ***KMSU Live Events***.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

KMSU collaborated with the Music Department of Minnesota State University–Mankato to produce three events attended by an estimated 300 people. The events helped increase the amount of art and live performances that students and community members have access to. For ***Collaboration with MSU Department of Music*** KMSU contracted with Minnesota musicians and support staff, including lighting and sound technicians. This project helped to give more Minnesotans access to Minnesota music and helped to thrive. The pandemic prevented KMSU from recording and broadcasting any of the concerts. Despite being unable to record and broadcast the concerts, KMSU achieved most of the proposed outcomes for ***Collaboration with MSU Department of Music***.

KMSU partnered with Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) for four live events for its project ***Alive After Five***. An estimated 3,000 people attended the events. KMSU and GMG successfully contracted with and paid Minnesota artists and partnered with 10 other community partners. KMSU aired interviews with each artist who performed at the events to help promote the performances. The project helped to give Minnesotans of all ages access to art and music, increased locally-produced content on public radio, and help art and culture to thrive in our state. The “Songs on the Lawn” portion of this project had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Despite that cancellation, KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes of ***Alive After Five***.

KMSU supported and promoted the Austin Area ArtWorks Festival, with its project by the same name. KMSU achieved its proposed outcome of allowing area residents to enjoy live music, arts, and food. An estimated 5,000 people attended the two-day festival, and KMSU partnered with Austin area businesses and individuals to present the outdoor stage at the festival. The station paid Minnesota performing artists. The event helped to showcase dozens of local authors, artists, culinary art, literary art, and more. The station successfully allowed area residents to enjoy live music, arts, and food. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes for the ***Austin Area ArtWorks Festival***.

KMSU’s ***Grind Fu Cinema*** helped increase the appreciation of visual arts and cinema by giving residents of Southern Minnesota free access to artistic films and cult classics. For this project, KMSU screened six films, spanning three separate events, that were viewed by an estimated 100 people. In a survey, 99% of respondents appreciated the cultural significance of the film screened, and 90% said they would attend another ***Grind Fu*** event. Tim Lind and Shelley Pierce, the hosts of the station’s morning show ***Shuffle Function***, hosted the screenings and promoted the events on-air during their program. KMSU achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Grind Fu Cinema***.



KQAL (Winona) Official ratings are not available. KQAL’s Facebook page has more than 1,610 followers. The station has 433 followers on Instagram, and 836 followers on Twitter. The KQAL stream was accessed a total of 1,531 times in FY20.

In FY20, the station partnered with and helped to support the ***Mid West Music Festival***, an event that featured more than 55 virtual performances over two days. An estimated 31,300 views were accumulated on the festivals’ virtual performance videos on Youtube and Facebook. KQAL contracted five Minnesota bands during the festival. KQAL is represented on the Mid West Music Festival board. The project helped expose more Minnesotans

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

to arts and culture and gave the artists themselves more exposure, especially in the absence of live music performances during the COVID-19 pandemic. KQAL achieved the proposed outcomes for **Mid West Music Festival** by exposing more Minnesotans to art and culture and showcasing the work of more Minnesota musicians and artists.

KQAL listeners had the opportunity to listen to 50 different editions of **The Live Feed**, which featured the music of 50 Minnesota based artists performing live pre-pandemic and during the pandemic. In FY20, KQAL produced 50 new episodes for the project which were approximately a half-hour each. The Live Feed featured music from solo artists and groups from Minnesota. The station estimates that approximately 350 listeners heard each of the 50 segments. The station ended up producing five more than promised in its workplan. A Facebook post in September of 2019 about the project reached 548 people. KQAL partnered with several venues and promoters to highlight local musicians. The station achieved the proposed outcomes by creating more locally-focused content on public radio and by significantly increasing the number of Minnesota musicians and artists who had their work showcased through public broadcasting.

KQAL produced a total of 254 segments for its project **Don't Cha Know/Art & Entertainment Download**. One part of the program is a same-day event update, the "Art & Entertainment Download," that airs on the station Monday through Friday, twice a day. The station estimates that approximately 350 people heard each segment. In FY20, 206 unique segments were created for the "Art & Entertainment Download" portion of the project. Each of those segments were 60 to 90 seconds long. The "Don't Cha Know" portion of the project consists of half-hour segments that go more in-depth highlighting events and activities. KQAL produced 48 episodes of "Don't Cha Know" segments for this project; that's two more than promised in the workplan. KQAL used the project to highlight area non-profits. KQAL estimates that each of the on-air elements for this project reached approximately 350 people. The project increased awareness for approximately 25 exhibits, activities, learning opportunities, and live events in the area. It helped to interweave art and culture into the community and increased the number of local artists, historians, and writers who had their work showcased through public broadcasting. KQAL achieved the proposed outcomes for "Art & Entertainment Download."

KQAL produced 33 episodes of **Art Beat**, which were each 15 to 30 minutes long. The program gave its listeners information about 33 area artists. KQAL produced three more episodes than originally promised in its work plan. The station estimates that approximately 350 people heard each of the on-air segments. Social media posts about an episode featuring Minnesota author James Petrillo reached 480 people on Facebook and engaged 68 people. KQAL achieved the proposed outcomes for **Art Beat**.

For its project **Culture Clique** KQAL produced and aired 26 segments that were 15 to 30 minutes in length. KQAL highlighted 26 unique personalities from Southeastern Minnesota and throughout the state, highlighting local educators, guest lecturers, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople. The station estimates that approximately 350 people heard each segment. An episode of the project featuring an interview with local clothing designers Max Hayden and Parker Peterson reached 814 people on Facebook and engaged 76 people. KQAL achieved the proposed outcomes for **Culture Clique**.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)



KRPR (Rochester) Official ratings are not available. Currently, the KRPR Facebook page has more than 800 likes. KRPR, in partnership with KSMQ-TV (public television), produced 24 two-minute segments of its **R-Town Radio**. Four of these segments aired on KRPR in FY20. The remaining will air in FY21. The station estimates the on-air radio segments reached approximately 700 people, and, approximately another 500 people through the online stream. This project resulted in an increase in locally-focused content on public radio and helped more Minnesota artists, historians, writers, and history makers to have their work showcased through public broadcasting. KRPR received one comment for this project, which can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. KRPR achieved the proposed outcomes for **R-Town Radio Series**.

KRPR partnered with Ampers (Statewide) to create 15 segments of **MN90: Rochester History in 90 Seconds**. Segments aired weekdays on KRPR in morning and afternoon drive starting in May. The station estimates that the on-air segments reached approximately 700 people and that an additional 500 people heard them online. The series taught listeners about the heritage of Rochester and how some of the historical events and individuals helped to shape the current Rochester culture. The project gave listeners more access to history, created more locally-focused content, and showcased Minnesota historians and history makers. KRPR achieved the proposed outcomes of **MN90: Rochester History in 90 Seconds**.

KRPR also partnered with Ampers (Statewide) to create 15 segments of **Rochester Music Notes** that focused on local musicians and events. The program gave listeners a broader knowledge of the local music scene, including several historical music events. KRPR aired the segments twice-a-day Monday through Friday starting in May. The station estimates that approximately 700 people heard the segments on-air and another 500 heard them online. KRPR achieved its proposed outcomes of exposing more Minnesotans to the music created by musicians from the Rochester area, creating more locally-focused content for public radio, and showcasing Minnesota musicians through public broadcasting.

For its **Live Music Showcase** project, in FY20, KRPR purchased broadcast equipment and began building a studio so that local bands and musicians will be able to perform live for the KRPR audience after the pandemic. The station achieved the outcomes it proposed in its workplan for this project.



KSRQ (Thief River Falls) According to Radio Research Consortium (Nielsen Audio), it is estimated that KSRQ reached 2,300 people each week, although this number only represents the western portion of KSRQ's listening area. The eastern half of the station's coverage area is not surveyed by Nielsen Audio. KSRQ posted select Legacy programs on SoundCloud, which collectively received approximately 600 total plays. The remaining segments were posted to the station's webpage or PRX for archival purposes. The station has 1,667 Facebook followers.

KSRQ produced **The Pioneer Polkacast**, a 24/7 webstream and HD radio channel, that delivered new and vintage songs from more than 100 Minnesota and Midwest polka, old-time, classic country, and bluegrass acts. The average monthly streaming audience was approximately 1,100 listeners in FY20. The project also

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

included a Polka dance and live concert that collectively attracted about 450 people. Pageviews for **The Pioneer PolkaCast** pages were the second-highest on KSRQ's website at 11,533. The Facebook page for the project has 662 likes and the **PolkaCast** TuneIn Radio page has more than 2,700 followers. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for **The Pioneer PolkaCast**.

The station produced 57 episodes of **Community Voices** which varied in length from ten minutes to an hour long. Throughout the project, KSRQ highlighted community groups, local events, and individuals from northwest Minnesota. The station estimates that approximately 400 people heard each segment on-air. **Community Voices** related Facebook posts had 1,473 engagements during FY20. The project allowed more Minnesota artists and arts organizations to have their work showcased through public broadcasting and allowed more Minnesotans to participate in and be exposed to art and culture. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for **Community Voices**.

For its **RiverFest** project, KSRQ successfully increased community awareness and attendance of the two-day music festival, which approximately 2,500 people attended. To help increase awareness for the artists and event, the station aired interviews and also broadcast performances of the artists. The station estimates that on-air broadcasts reached at least 400 people. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for **RiverFest**.

KSRQ's **Music in our Schools** helped to give area school concerts significantly more exposure and larger audiences. Rather than limiting the concert audiences to the capacity of the auditoriums, anyone in the listening area could hear them, and, the concerts were archived online for on-demand listening as well. The station recorded and broadcast four school concerts and four music educator interviews for this project. Approximately 340 students were involved in the concerts. Each broadcast ranged from 15 to 90 minutes in length and reached an estimated on-air audience of at least 400 people. In addition to the broadcast, there were 271 visits to the on-demand listening pages for the project. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for **Music in our Schools**.

The station's five episodes of **Minnesota Music Oddities** helped to promote and preserve the history of the Twin Cities music scene in the 1970s and 80s from the vantage point of a photographer who documented it. The segments ranged in length from 40 minutes to an hour long and were broadcast to an estimated audience of 400 listeners. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

For its **Arts & Culture Calendar**, KSRQ produced 35 one- to three-minute segments that aired 10 to 15 times per week informing listeners about a total of 85 different local arts-related events. The station estimates that approximately 400 people heard the on-air elements of this project. The segments helped to significantly increase awareness about artistic and cultural events in the area allowing more people to participate in the events. KSRQ achieves the proposed outcomes for this project.

KSRQ's project **Artist Spotlight** highlighted 45 area artists or arts organizations who received their own ACHF grants, allowing them to talk about their work, and their artistic process. KSRQ produced 45 segments that were 8 to 20 minutes long and were broadcast to an estimated audience of 400 people. The program was a partnership between KSRQ and the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council (NWMAC). The NWMAC also shared the produced pieces on Facebook and published a podcast feed of the episodes. Posts related to

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

the project received 3,234 engagements in FY20 and 98 page views on KSRQ's website. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

KSRQ produced and broadcast nine segments of radio dramas that were each 40 to 60 minutes long—the **Readers' Theater** project—in FY20. Area performers, including actors, vocalists, and instrumentalists were featured in the production. The station estimates that each broadcast was heard by an estimated 400 people. In addition to the broadcast audience, videos produced in the project were shared by 3,866 people on Facebook. **Readers' Theater** resulted in an increase in locally focused content on public radio, allowed for more Minnesota artists to have their work showcased through public broadcasting, and exposed more Minnesotans to art and culture. KSRQ achieved the proposed outcomes for **Readers' Theater**.



KUMD (Duluth) According to Radio Research Consortium (Nielsen Audio), it is estimated that KUMD reaches approximately 8,900 listeners each week. KUMD's has attracted more than 12,000 followers on social media, with 7,294 followers on Facebook, 2,521 followers on Instagram, and 3,443 Twitter followers. The station involved nine students in the production of its legacy projects during FY20.

KUMD produced and broadcast 23 episodes of **Live from Studio A** project, producing and broadcasting 23 episodes. **Live from Studio A**, was a 25- to 35-minute program that consisted of live interviews and live studio performances by Minnesota musicians and bands. KUMD reports that each episode reached an estimated 3,300 listeners each week. KUMD is the only local media outlet in the Duluth area that showcases interviews and live performances from local and regional musicians to this degree. Of the listeners surveyed who were familiar with the program, 100% told KUMD that **Live from Studio A** makes them feel more informed about Minnesota musicians and music and agreed that the project helps bands, musicians, and the local music scene thrive in Minnesota. KUMD received positive comments for **Live from Studio A**. Some of these comments can be found in the Listener Comment section of this report. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for **Live from Studio A**.

With **MN Reads**, an ACHF program that featured Minnesota authors in 44 weekly eight- to 23-minute segments, the station estimates the segments reached approximately 1,700 listeners each week. **MN Reads** had 3,844 pageviews on KUMD's website. Forty-four Minnesota authors were highlighted, helping the station to achieve its goal of supporting and increasing awareness of Minnesota authors. KUMD partnered with the University of Minnesota Press and the Minnesota Historical Society Press to spotlight the best and latest publications and authors. The project received positive comments from listeners, some of which can be found in the Listener Comment section of this report. It resulted in an increase in locally-focused content and gave more Minnesota authors the opportunity to have their work showcased through public broadcasting. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for **MN Reads**.

The station produced 20 five- to 18-minute segments of **Journey to Wellness**, a program focused on health and wellness in Minnesota's Native American community. The station estimates that each segment reached an estimated 1,700 listeners each week. The project covered 18 different topics including, the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, suicide prevention, and the re-naming of historical landmarks. The project resulted in an increase in locally-focused content on public radio and gave Minnesotans a better understanding of

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

Native American culture and history. The station received positive feedback about ***Journey to Wellness***, some of which can be found in the Listener Comments section of this report. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Journey to Wellness***.

KUMD supported a wide variety of community events and festivals with its ***Arts and Cultural Events*** project. KUMD produced and aired interview segments, special story series, and live performances as well as special episodes of regular programming for its arts and cultural events. The station's on-air promotion, community visibility, and special programming helped to promote 20 events that reported attracting more than 38,595 attendees. ***Arts & Cultural Events*** was a yearlong project that resulted in 14 on-air segments that varied in length from four to 17 minutes. KUMD also produced 19 additional web posts related to the featured events. In FY20, the station's posts about the Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon had approximately 4,000 pageviews and KUMD's Facebook posts about it reached 18,000 people with 2,059 engagements. The project helped give more Minnesotans of all ages access to Minnesota art and culture, gave Minnesota artists and musicians more exposure, and resulted in more locally-focused content on public radio. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Arts and Cultural Events***.

KUMD created programs about Duluth's largest local music festival for its project ***Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage***. The festival moved to virtual events, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The station accomplished its goal of informing more listeners about community arts events, by producing and airing five 30-minute programs and one 11-minute segment highlighting bands that performed. KUMD showcased five musicians on the air during the week of the festival; in addition, the station featured 49 different local musicians on Facebook the same week. The station estimates that approximately 3,300 people heard each on-air segment. The project created even more exposure with web and social media posts. KUMD's ***Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage*** had 1,737 pageviews on its website and reached over 20,720 people via Facebook posts, with 2,167 engagements. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

KUMD produced and broadcast 24 five- to eight-minute segments of ***In the Spirit of Medicine***. The station estimates that each segment reached an estimated 1,700 listeners. ***In the Spirit of Medicine*** had 7,869 page views on the KUMD website, and Facebook posts about this program reached more than 4,293 people with 585 engagements. In KUMD's FY20 survey, of those who listened to ***In the Spirit of Medicine***, 93% agreed that the project informs them of Indigenous and Finnish culture and its history in Minnesota. This project also received positive comments from listeners, some of which appear in the Listener Comments section of this report. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for ***In the Spirit of Medicine***.

The station created and aired 10 episodes of ***(poetry)***, which were four- to 10-minute segments that reached an estimated audience of 1,700 listeners each week. The program had 468 page views on the station's website. ***(poetry)*** helped to raise awareness of poetry and literature of different cultures that are in Minnesota. In total, KUMD featured nine different languages on the program and ten different cultures. KUMD received positive comments from listeners about ***(poetry)***—some of which appear in the Listener Comments section of this report. The project resulted in an increase in local-focused content on public radio and gave more Minnesotans increased access to Minnesota's culture through diverse poetry. KUMD achieved the proposed outcomes for ***(poetry)***.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)



KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Radio K has an estimated weekly cumulative audience of 27,667 per the Radio Research Consortium (Nielsen Audio). The station has 10,994 Facebook followers, 15,600 followers on Twitter, and 3,602 on Instagram. In FY20, 23 students participated in KUOM's legacy projects.

KUOM produced and aired 25 half-hour episodes of its ***North Star Stories from Real College Podcast***. According to the station, each episode reached an estimated audience of 5,000 people. Seven University of Minnesota students received valuable learning experiences through this project that would not have happened without the support of the ACHF grant. The podcast episodes received 304 views online. A station survey of listeners to ***North Star Stories from Real College Podcast*** found that 93.3% of respondents believed that it is important to have media dedicated to covering the arts, culture, and history of Minnesota. Also, 80% of respondents said they believe that ***North Star Stories from Real College Podcast*** helped deepen their appreciation of Minnesota and Minnesotans. KUOM achieved the proposed outcomes for ***North Star Stories from Real College Podcast*** of giving more Minnesotans access to art and culture and giving students hands-on instruction and experience in producing, promoting, and archiving artistic and cultural programming.

KUOM created five episodes of ***Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music***, its stream-only online program, which generated 196 views. Five students received valuable learning experiences through this project. In episodes that ranged from 30 to 45 minutes, the station succeeded in positively contributing to the music community through the ***Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music*** podcast, by recording local musicians in their Studio K and sharing information about up-and-coming acts. A station survey found that 73% of respondents said that ***BaseMnt Music*** deepened their appreciation of Minnesota and Minnesotans. KUOM achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music***.

For ***Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off-Mic & On-Camera*** Radio K produced 35 videos of in-studio performances featuring more than 35 Minnesota musicians. Each video was approximately three to seven minutes long. Eleven University of Minnesota students gained valuable experience working on the project. The webpage for ***Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off-Mic & On-Camera*** had 3,139 views. A station survey found that 100% of respondents believed ***Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off-Mic & On-Camera*** deepened their appreciation of Minnesota and Minnesotans. KUOM achieved the proposed outcomes for ***Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off-Mic & On-Camera***.



KVSC (St. Cloud) Official ratings are not available. The KVSC Facebook page has 5,877 followers, the station has 980 Instagram followers, and 3,348 followers on Twitter.

KVSC increased exposure and helped to support five Minnesota musicians with its ***KVSC Minnesota Music Concert***. The event also gave listeners access to the arts of Minnesota and helped the arts thrive. The concert, which resulted in about three hours of music, attracted 350 people. Seven students were involved in producing and promoting the ***KVSC Minnesota Music Concert*** project. The event gave the students a working laboratory

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

where they received hands-on experience in planning, promoting, and producing a live music show. The station also actively promoted the show on Facebook and Twitter. KVSC received positive feedback about the concert. KVSC achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

KVSC provided its listeners with arts, culture, and historical information specific to central Minnesota for **Untold Stories of Central Minnesota**. The station produced and aired 28 half-hour programs that featured 57 community members ranging from professors, musicians, history center leaders, and the mayor of St. Cloud, to student leaders, community event organizers, and attendees. The segments were broadcast to an estimated audience of 7,200 people. KVSC received positive feedback for this project, some of which appear later in the Artist Comment section of this report. According to the station's website tracking, the **Untold Stories of Central Minnesota** page generated 340 unique visits and 500 page views. The project **Untold Stories of Central Minnesota** achieved its proposed outcomes.

KVSC provided increased access to the arts and culture of Central Minnesota through its three live performances of **Granite City Radio Theatre**, the quarterly live radio broadcast. More than 500 people attended the live shows. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KVSC was not able to perform the fourth **Granite City Radio Theatre** before a live studio audience. Instead, the station brought the show right to the listeners' homes by producing a virtual show, hosted on Twitch and Facebook, which reached an estimated audience of at least 1,159. The segments were broadcast on-air to an estimated audience of 7,200 people. The segments were streamed on KVSC.org approximately 330 times. The project created a total of eight hours of live radio programming. Approximately 18 actors, writers, musicians, technical directors, stage directors, and promotions specialists participated in each **Granite City Radio Theatre** production and were compensated in a fair and timely matter. Twelve students were also involved with the project and learned the logistics behind creating and promoting a live production. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KVSC was not able to conduct in-person surveys at the season's final performance, which they had planned to do. Despite the pandemic, by adjusting and producing a virtual show, KVSC was still able to achieve the proposed outcomes for this project.

The project **KVSC Presents Sherlock Holmes Live with GREAT Theatre** was a community partnership project that featured more than 23 community members who performed and produced a live theatre and live radio event to a sold-out audience of 160 people. The station estimates the on-air broadcast reached an additional 7,200 people. Three students gained hands-on experience in sound engineering, event promotion, and marketing, by working on the event. The station also paid three professional artists to be involved in the production including a director, stage manager, and sound effect artist. KVSC met its proposed outcomes for this project.



WGZS (Fond du Lac/Cloquet) Official ratings for WGZS are not available. WGZS broadcasts to the Fond du Lac Community and Cloquet MN at 50,000 watts. WGZS has 1,093 followers on Facebook.

WGZS, in partnership with Ampers (Statewide), created a compilation CD containing twenty 90-second segments from season one of WGZS's project

Ogichida Voices, also known as **Fond du Lac's Ogichida Voices**. The project "Ogichida Voices CD Season

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

One” included segments that featured the stories and memories of 10 different members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who served in the military. The CD was completed in FY20 and 500 copies of it will be duplicated and distributed in FY21. “Ogichida Voices CD Season One” was a yearlong project. WGZS achieved the proposed outcome for this project which was to prepare all of the elements for the CD so that it can be produced and distributed in FY21.

WGZS in partnership with Ampers (Statewide) produced and broadcast fourteen 90-second segments for its project **Ogichida Voices Season Two** also known as **Fond du Lac’s Ogichida Voices**. In addition, the two partnered to produce 14 three- to five-minute segments that will air in FY21. The project “Ogichida Voices CD Season Two” featured the stories and memories of eight different members of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who served in the military. The interviews were recorded in association with the Tribe’s Annual Veterans Dinner. The station estimates that approximately 200 people heard the on-air segments. The project helped to increase the amount of locally-focused content on WGZS and helped to give more Minnesotans a better understanding of the role Native Americans played in our state’s history. **Fond du Lac’s Ogichida Voices** was a yearlong project. WGZS did not receive any feedback about the program.



WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) Official ratings are not available. While the total population for WTIP’s coverage area is only approximately 10,000 residents, the station has more than 1,300 active members/contributors. WTIP has more than 7,036 followers on Facebook, 509 followers on Instagram and 1,342 Twitter followers.

For the WTIP **Boundary Waters Podcast** project, the station created twelve 45- to 70-minute programs that greatly increased cultural and environmentally focused content related to the issues and topics relevant to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The station also edited the segments down to create 12 shorter segments that they broadcast on-air to promote the podcasts. The on-air segments were above and beyond what was promised in the station’s workplan. The project covered more than 20 topics relating to the BWCA and significantly increased awareness about the cultural and environmental issues and topics relevant to the BWCAW. The podcasts generated 26,103 on-demand listens through Soundcloud. WTIP also had more than 2,000 visits to the **Boundary Waters Podcast** page on its website. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

More than 1,300 people attended the **Radio Waves Music Fest**, a three-day live event in September 2019 that featured 24 musical acts, including mostly Minnesota musicians and artists. Attendees were able to engage with and experience the work of area musicians. People of all ages were exposed to a wide variety of arts and culture through this annual event. In addition, there were 2,571 visits to the **Radio Waves** event page on WTIP’s website. In a survey of 260 attendees of the event, 98% said the project enriched the arts and culture in WTIP’s listening area. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP created 260 two-hour programs for its **Community Voices on North Shore Morning and North Shore Weekend** project as well 52 three-hour **North Shore Weekend** shows. By doing so, the station significantly increased access to locally-focused art and culture content giving residents of the area easier access to the

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

arts. The station reports the project helped to attract 859,011 visits to its website. In addition, there were 5,132 listens via SoundCloud, 491 views on PRX, and on average, 50 online listeners for each program. An increased number of Minnesota artists, historians, writers, scientists, storytellers, and others were able to showcase their work through the project. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP produced and aired 45 two-hour segments of **The Roadhouse**, which significantly increased access to locally-focused art and cultural content for area residents. The shows generated 1,575 on-demand listens through the station's website. Articles related to **The Roadhouse** on WTIP's website had more than 3,000 views in FY20. An increased number of Minnesota artists, historians, writers, scientists, storytellers, and others were able to showcase their work through **The Roadhouse**. The project also generated 85 listens and 651 views on PRX and 2,803 listens via Soundcloud. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

Through its six segments of the **Lake Superior Project**, WTIP was able to increase the amount of its locally focused content. The segments explored cultural and environmental interests in the area. There was a two-part look at Lake Superior geology, information about the history of early Anishinaabe headman Espagnol, a look at the Sudbury Meteorite, as well as a two-part story of a missing hiker. The **Lake Superior Project** garnered 39 views on PRX and 627 listens via Soundcloud. The project page on WTIP's website generated 752 visits. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes for **The Lake Superior Project**.

For WTIP's project **The Scenic Route** the station created 52 one-hour segments that significantly increased access to locally-focused art and culture content for area residents. The station reports that the project attracted an estimated 1,404 live web streamers, plus 926 on-demand listens through the website. The project also attracted 25 listens on PRX plus 249 views, and 1,630 listens via Soundcloud. Each show featured at least one Minnesota musician through live performances or in-depth interviews, providing them with significantly more exposure for their work. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP's project **Wavelengths—Youth Advisory Board** introduced young people, between the ages of 8 and 16, to radio content development, production and performance. In FY20 six area youth became active participants in creating original radio content that focused on art and culture. The students created one 60-minute program that was broadcasted on WTIP to an estimated on-air audience of approximately 300 people. Social media posts related to **Wavelengths** reached 3,590 people and 27 people streamed the show on the station's website. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP produced and broadcast four one-hour shows for its **Northern Music Hour** project. The programs significantly increased access to locally-focused artistic and cultural content for the listeners. Online, the programs attracted 926 on-demand listens through the WTIP website, 25 listens and 249 views on PRX and 1,630 listens via Soundcloud, in addition to the on-air audience. Several Minnesota musical acts, through live performances or in-depth interviews, had their work showcased on WTIP's **Northern Music Hour**. These local and regional musicians were able to gain increased exposure through the efforts of WTIP Community Radio, a public broadcasting organization on the North Shore of Lake Superior. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP's project **Powering Down** project resulted in two 8- to 12-minute features that increased people's knowledge about energy independence and off-grid living in Minnesota's Arrowhead region. The station

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

estimates an on-air audience for the segment to be approximately 300 people. The project also generated 421 on-demand listens as well as an average of 50 live web streamers. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

WTIP produced one five-minute segment for ***Beyond the Canoe***. The piece focused on the ways people enjoy the beautiful landscape of the North Shore past the gunnels of a canoe. The station estimates that approximately 300 people heard the segment on-air, the content was accessed by 56 on-demand listeners, and approximately another 50 people heard it on the station's live stream. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

For its project ***The Legacy of Hunting and Trapping on the North Shore***, WTIP created two five- to eight-minute segments that preserved the stories of local hunters and trappers for generations to come. The pieces documented the personal experiences and stories of area trappers, hunters, and fishermen. With audio archived on the WTIP website, and available through Soundcloud, these stories are preserved for Minnesotans of all ages. The station estimates the on-air audience for this project was approximately 300 people, there were 184 on-demand listens, and approximately 50 people who would've heard it on the stream. WTIP achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.



Ampers (Statewide) official ratings are not available because many of the Ampers stations are in areas where ratings are not available. It is estimated that collectively all of the stations combine to reach approximately 330,000 people. In FY20, Ampers created and distributed 139 programs to its member stations for broadcast.

Sixty of those were segments of ***MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds***. Sixteen Ampers stations aired ***MN90*** either once or twice per day Monday through Friday. It is estimated the segments reached approximately 240,000 Minnesotans each week. The ***MN90*** page on the Ampers website attracted 3,152 visits making it the third most visited page on the site in FY20. More than 8,500 people "liked" the ***MN90*** page on Facebook. The ***MN90*** Facebook page reached approximately 220,400 people in FY20 – with an average of 18,000 per month. In addition to posting ***MN90*** segments on Facebook, Ampers posts information about historic events that took place on that day in Minnesota, all in an effort to give Minnesotans of all ages, ethnicities, and incomes better access to Minnesota history as well as helping to interweave history into more facets of community life. In an FY20 survey of KAXE/KBXE listeners, every respondent indicated they remembered hearing ***MN90*** on the station and 100% of them agreed that the segments gave them more knowledge and information about Minnesota's history and culture. Ampers and its member stations handed out 10,000 free "Best of MN90 Vol. 5" CDs at the Minnesota State Fair in the fall of 2019 and at events statewide. Many teachers at the State Fair indicated that they use the segments in their classrooms. Collectively the on-air segments, the Facebook posts, and the CDs helped to increase awareness and knowledge of history and how it affected people's lives so they can make informed decisions in the future. Ampers also began production on "The Best of MN90 Vol. 6" in FY20. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

Ampers produced and distributed 46 episodes of ***Minnesota Native News***. It is estimated that each episode, which airs between once and eight times on 13 of the Ampers radio stations, reaches more than 125,000

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

listeners each week. Also, nearly 10,000 people “Like” **Minnesota Native News** on Facebook, and more than 2,000 people follow **Minnesota Native News** on Twitter. Minnesota Native News also started an Instagram page in FY20; amassing 1,007 followers. Facebook posts from Minnesota Native News reached approximately 300,500 people in FY20, with an average reach of 25,000 people a month. The **Minnesota Native News** page attracted 4,627 pageviews, making it the second most viewed page on the Ampers website. Minnesota Native News also launched a dedicated website for its content toward the end of FY20, Google Analytics was not set up by the developer until FY21. The podcast feed of the segments had 508 downloads from the time it was created in February 2020 until the end of FY20. Ampers received a lot of positive feedback about **Minnesota Native News**, some of which can be found later in this report in the Listener Comments section. In an FY20 survey of KAXE/KBXE listeners, 89% of the respondents remembered hearing **Minnesota Native News** on the station and, 100% of those agreed that **Minnesota Native News** gave them more access, knowledge, and information about Minnesota Native history and/or cultural heritage. **Minnesota Native News** helped to give more Minnesotans access to Minnesota history and culture. It also helped to increase awareness and knowledge of history and how it affected people’s lives so that they can make informed decisions about the future. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

Ampers Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media project truly gives more Minnesotans access to arts, culture, and history. The project makes all ACHF programs produced by Ampers, as well as all of the Ampers stations, available online for free to all Minnesotans now and in the future. In FY20, Ampers along with its member stations added 2,054 segments to the website. The site now houses more than 20,300 artistic, cultural, and historical programs. More than 8,200 people “liked” the Ampers Facebook page. Posts on Facebook reached 81,927 people in FY20, averaging about 6,800 people a month. The Ampers website had more than 53,700 page views with more than 42,929 of those being unique. Ampers made significant upgrades to the website in FY20. Users can now pause, fast-forward, and rewind audio segments on the site. The **Ampers Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media** project also assured that Ampers itself and all its member stations complied with Minnesota Statute 129d.19 by archiving all Legacy programming produced by Ampers and its member stations on the Ampers websites, as well as making sure the programs are shared amongst the stations. **Ampers Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media** helped to increase focus on Minnesota artists, museums, and literary performances and provided Minnesotans with easier access to locally focused content produced by public radio. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

For its **Educational Outreach** project, comments Ampers received show its efforts to make it easier for teachers to access the artistic and historic content that it produces is paying off. One teacher wrote, “Thank you! I frequently use segments and ideas from MN:90 in my sixth grade Minnesota Studies classes!” Other teachers that stopped by Ampers’ broadcast booth at the Minnesota State Fair made similar comments about **MN90** and **Veterans’ Voices**. Many teachers stopped by the booth to pick up a copy of the latest **Best of MN90** CD. Ampers expanded its efforts to make the teacher resources section of its website more user-friendly. Users now have the ability to pause, fast-forward, and rewind segments, making it easier for teachers to use the content on the website. Ampers also added information about how students can cite the content on the site and gave teachers sample lesson plans. In FY20, the teacher resources page attracted 314 pageviews with 230 of them being unique. The project is giving teachers easier access to Minnesota-focused

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (Continued)

content produced by public radio and making people more aware of the state's history and how it affected their lives so they can make informed decisions in the future. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

Ampers staff spent a great deal of time helping several of its member stations create their Arts and Cultural Heritage programming as well as helping all of the stations with the reporting administrative responsibilities that go along with the grant. As part of the **ACHF Legislative Report and Station Support**, the Ampers staff worked with all of the stations to gather all of the information required and then produced this report. In addition, Ampers helped with invoicing, budgeting, program development, program creation, program distribution, compliance, and served as the liaison to the Department of Administration. The purpose of this project is to ensure that Ampers and its member stations report all of the information required by the ACHF grant and ensure that people will trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts, culture, and history funding. The project also helps stations with fewer resources to develop local Legacy programming like **Rochester Music Notes** and **Ogichida Voices**, as well as many more like those. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

Ampers continued **Native Lights Podcasts: Where indigenous Voices Shine.** In the second season of **Native Lights**, Ampers produced and posted six 25- to 60-minute podcasts exploring the history, work, strength, and resiliency of Native people who are sharing the future while also appreciating those who came before. During the lockdown era of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ampers also produced 24 segments of **Native Lights: Biidaapi**, that were 12 to 20 minutes in length and focused more on the cultural impact of the pandemic and how Native communities were looking to their past to help cope with the current crisis. In total, Native Lights produced 30 segments in FY20. Native Lights had approximately 1,000 page views on the Ampers website in FY20. Episodes published in FY20 received approximately 7,600 streams on the podcast feed. On Apple Podcasts, **Native Lights** has 24 five-star reviews. Season 2 of **Native Lights** had approximately 20 streams on PRX. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes of this project.

Ampers produced three segments for **Veterans' Voices: Honoring Those Who Served in the 20th Century** that were 18 to 26 minutes in length. Even though the segments were finalized and posted towards the very end of FY20, the episodes garnered approximately 100 streams on its dedicated podcast feed without any promotion, which will come in the second year of the project. One episode was purchased for broadcast on the Public Radio Exchange by a non-Ampers station. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

Ampers produced 30 two-minute segments for its project **Veterans' Voices Korea: Memories and Stories of Minnesota's Korean War Veterans**, which were broadcast on 16 Ampers member stations. Ampers also produced six longer podcast episodes, which were 15 to 25 minutes long. In an FY20 listener survey done by Northern Community Radio, of the listeners who indicated they remembered hearing the segments, 86% said that the program helped increase their knowledge of Minnesota history and Korean War history. In previous years, Ampers has handed out free copies of **Veterans Voices** CDs to attendees of the Minnesota State Fair, and that was the intention for **Veterans' Voices Korea: Memories and Stories of Minnesota's Korean War Veterans**. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 Minnesota State Fair was canceled. Ampers hopes to distribute to fairgoers in the fall of 2021. Ampers achieved the proposed outcomes for this project.

PROGRAM SHARING INFORMATION



Ampers (Statewide) shared 139 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely) shared 426 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) shared 167 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake) shared 35 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji) shared 296 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul) shared 57 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway) shared 64 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul) shared 2 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KMSU (Mankato) shared 7 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KQAL (Winona) shared 128 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KRPR (Rochester) shared 14 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KSRQ (Thief River Falls) shared 201 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KUMD (Duluth) shared 140 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul) shared 76 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

KVSC (St. Cloud) shared 36 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

WGZS (Fond du Lac/Cloquet) shared 14 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage) shared 293 ACHF programs with all Ampers stations

Note: Information above is reported by Public Radio Exchange (PRX) and reflects programs and segments uploaded to PRX between 7/1/19 and 6/30/20.

PROGRAMS AIRED ON OTHER STATIONS

<i>Producing Station</i>	<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Number of Stations</i>
Ampers	<i>MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds</i>	Aired on 17 Ampers stations
Ampers	<i>Minnesota Native News</i>	Aired on 13 Ampers stations
Ampers	<i>Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine</i>	Aired on 8 Ampers stations
KAXE	<i>Northern Voices</i>	Aired on 3 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KAXE	<i>Youth Radio</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 2 non-Ampers stations
KAXE	<i>Strong Women: MN Women with Stories to Tell</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 2 non-Ampers stations
KAXE	<i>Stay Human Essays</i>	Aired on 4 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KAXE	<i>Audio Essays by Steve Downing</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KAXE	<i>Close to Home</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KAXE	<i>Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo</i>	Aired on 3 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KAXE	<i>Dig Deep</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBEM	<i>Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week</i>	Aired on 2 other Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBXE	<i>Area Voices</i>	Aired on 6 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBXE	<i>Let's Visit</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBXE	<i>Paddle Minnesota</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBXE	<i>What We're Reading</i>	Aired on 3 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBXE	<i>Centerstage Minnesota</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KBFT	<i>Native Artist Series</i>	Aired on 1 other Ampers station and non-Ampers station
KFAI	<i>10,000 Fresh Voices</i>	Aired on 2 other Ampers stations and 3 non-Ampers stations
KFAI	<i>MinneCulture Podcast</i>	Aired on 2 other Ampers stations
KQAL	<i>Culture Clique</i>	Aired on 1 other Ampers station and 2 non-Ampers stations
KSRQ	<i>Times Past</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
KUMD	<i>In the Spirit of Medicine</i>	Aired on 2 Ampers stations and 1 non-Ampers station
KUMD	<i>MN Reads</i>	Aired on 2 non-Ampers stations
KUMD	<i>Live from Studio A</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
KUMD	<i>A Journey to Wellness</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
KUOM	<i>Real College Podcast</i>	Aired on 1 other Ampers station and 1 non-Ampers station
KUOM	<i>Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off-Mic & On-Camera</i>	Aired on 1 non-Ampers station
KVSC	<i>The Untold Stories of Central Minnesota</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
WTIP	<i>The Roadhouse</i>	Aired on 4 other Ampers stations and 2 non-Ampers stations
WTIP	<i>Scenic Route</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
WTIP	<i>Northwoods Phrenology</i>	Aired on 3 other non-Ampers stations
WTIP	<i>The Lake Superior Project</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station
WTIP	<i>Community Voices on North Shore Morning and North Shore Weekend</i>	Aired on 1 other non-Ampers station

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Steve, and his work, are an asset to our community!”—KAXE listener, commenting on the program **Audio Essays by Steve Downing**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Always thought provoking and heartfelt essays about the Northland and the people we share it with!”—KAXE listener, commenting on the program **Audio Essays by Steve Downing**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I was listening on my drive to Bemidjigaamag this morning. I like how they clarified our local history. Miigwech!”—David Manuel, KAXE listener, commenting on **Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “**Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo** is a great program! I am not Ojibwe, but I love learning about the language and culture.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Shows like this justify the funding from the state to help all of us understand and know each other better.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This program is wonderful example of the inclusiveness of Northern Community.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This is the kind of unique radio programming that I expect from a community radio station.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “One of my favorite programs here on Northern Community Radio. Grant does a fabulous job each week.”—David Lathrop, Silver City, NM, commenting on **Close to Home**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Grant does a great job on his program. Love listening to Close To Home. More than ever now I live out of the area. Member for life!”—David Lathrop, Silver City, NM commenting on **Close to Home**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “It is fun to hear and learn more about the surrounding local community. Grant always seems to find the local gems to interview. I enjoy these sessions.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Close to Home**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Grant Fraser is a true storyteller who makes the people and places of Northern MN come to life.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Close to Home**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “**Close to Home** brings me to events that I wouldn’t know about otherwise.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Close to Home**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “**Close to Home** highlights the what and why we live here.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Close to Home**

• “Shows like this justify
• the funding from the
• state to help all of us
• understand and know
• each other better.”
• —KAXE Listener, commenting on
• *Boozhoo Nana Boozhoo*

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I learn SO much every time I listen to this program, and it always provides context for our region today.”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I love the respectful tone. Would not listen if it were only talking points/talking over one another.”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “A rarity to have this kind of intelligent, thoughtful, personal, meaningful dialogue about politics. Worth our tax dollars’ investment. Funds well spent!”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “*Dig Deep* provides the history, current situations and future prospectives of many issues that affect Northern Minnesota. I learn thoughtful, educated, and trustworthy views from more than one viewpoint.” – KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I enjoy listening to these bright minds discuss important MN topics in a respectful and thought-provoking way!”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “If you want healing in political discussion and politics in general, fund more programs like this one.”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “More replays of past Mississippi River Fest performances, please!!”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Live and Local*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Another worthwhile program for Northern MN.”—KAXE listener, commenting on *Live and Local*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “We had such a great time! These are great photos. Really shows how much fun this band (4ontheFloor) brings.”—Annaliesa McCartney, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

• “A rarity to have this kind of intelligent,
• thoughtful, personal, meaningful
• dialogue about politics. Worth our tax
• dollars’ investment. Funds well spent!”
• —KAXE Listener, commenting on *Dig Deep*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Louisiana sound in Northern MN!”—Kathy Edmonds, Bemidji, referring to performer Kevin Gordon at the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “They were great! Thanks KAXE for a wonderful festival!”—Kathy Edmonds, Bemidji, referring to the Whitehorse performance at the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “My favorite! What a vocalist she is.”—Mary Traxler Anderson, referring to the Whitehorse performance at the *Mississippi River Festival*

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “These Festivals are what we need to know the music and people of the area.”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “So much new information is shared. It is our favorite local summer activity!”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Great outdoor event for fun, friends and families. Great selection of musicians from both near (MN) and countrywide.”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This production is fantastic! Sharing Minnesota music is a great way to connect our communities.”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Events of music and art and people in the beautiful surroundings of the Mississippi River are needed. Cannot wait for it to happen again, post-pandemic.”—KAXE listener commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This festival is an awesome addition to Minnesota summers!”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “A fantastic music festival that gets better every year. We drive there from Bemidji and spend the weekend. So sad to miss it this year.”—KAXE listener, commenting on the *Mississippi River Festival*

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Another thoughtful, enlightening, interesting, well produced program.”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This has been a very informative show and often gives me new perspectives on native culture.”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This show increases understanding and connections among people living in rural Minnesota.”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “*Northern Voices* makes me feel more connected to a broader area that I consider my neighborhood.”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Wonderful storytelling that brings a unique perspective to northern MN”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This program is a great way to demonstrate how ACH funds can bring people together.”—KAXE listener, survey comment on the *Northern Voices* program

• “This has been a
• very informative show
• and often gives me
• new perspectives on
• native culture.”
• —KAXE Listener, survey
• comment on *Northern Voices*

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Wonderful, profound show with lots of great stories, especially Aaron’s and Sam M’s!” —Denise Mayotte, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “‘Playing for Change’ compilations are really cool. If you want to see a version done by a freaking amazing bunch of young adults, watch ‘The Other’ Josh Turner.” —Chad Haatvedt, Grand Rapids, , commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Michael, your description on the radio of the Loggy Dome brought tears to my eyes. Thank you!” —Tom Nelson, , commenting on **Stay Human** segment

• “Love the variety of
• voices and the music
• on this show. So well
• done. Should be a
• national show!”

• —KAXE Listener, commenting on
• **Stay Human**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Hope you and yours are safe and healthy! I want to extend my gratitude to Michael for the **Stay Human** episode today! It was great! I particularly enjoyed Peter Pearson’s bit (think I got the name right), Frank Bebeau (again, not sure of last name), and of course our dear Winona LaDuke! I had to sit in my car an extra five minutes to hear it all! I’m so glad the show is on earlier in the day! Take care!” —Linda Ottman, Hackensack, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Good Morning, Michael, I had an inquiry about whether your program is rebroadcast, or in some way posted. This was, of course, a veteran who inquired, who felt pretty bad about missing ‘And Then There Was One.’ I meant to mention that you nicely worked both *America the Beautiful* and the requiem (which one?) in. I think that is the most moving *America the Beautiful* I have heard.” —John Erickson, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Michael, you have had good programs and great programs and FABULOUS programs, but nothing that can compare to this week’s show (which I just listened to for the second time). It will take a lot for you to better this one, but there is one thing I know: you will do it! Thanks for your wisdom, wit, production expertise, and for being one of the best ever former staff and current volunteers of Northern Community Radio. You are appreciated!” —Carolyn King, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I listened to your episode on science and poetry with so much pleasure! I really admire the way you put these programs together, the blend of music and language in many forms. Sort of cross-pollination. I also love thinking about Grand Rapids and the remarkable people there. Thanks so much.” —Connie Wanek, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This show must be available as a podcast, I need to track it down. Tend to miss it when it is aired, but really, really like it.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Love the variety of voices and the music on this show. So well done. Should be a national show!” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Really original format, love the mix of music with written material, very entertaining and stimulating.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “The weekly topics on **Stay Human** are so interesting and sometimes important. The segments include a variety of viewpoints. Michael Goldberg does an amazing job of combining the voice and music segments.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “One of the best shows on radio. Period.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “LOVE this show about our local people, communities, music, arts, social issues, and in one word, HUMANS.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This is a class act! We make it a point to listen every Sunday when we can. And when we miss it we go to the archives. Thanks so much for this sensitive, thoughtful show.” —KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This is a beautifully produced show that challenges the listener to ponder a topic that is pertinent to current events or simply just ‘being human.’ Music is interwoven into storytelling, and the host is both sensitive and provocative. We listen weekly and often leave the broadcast with something to contemplate.” – KAXE listener, commenting on **Stay Human** segment

“A program like this proves the value of funding local programming.”

–KAXE Listener, commenting on **Strong Women**

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “A most interesting Almanac!! The work of Heidi and Laura with facilitating the focus groups and compiling information that makes us all, as women/mothers of daughters/grandmothers of granddaughters, realize the significance of our feelings and reactions creating our culture - I aim to go to the website to listen to the many Strong Women have missed. Thank you!” - Brenda Greeley, Grand Rapids, commenting on **Strong Women** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “I love the work you are doing! It’s so important and inspiring. I learned so much from your interview. Nice job, Heidi and Laura!”—Andrea K. Stelljes, commenting on **Strong Women** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Listening to this show is inspiring! I always learn something from these amazing women!”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Strong Women** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This show is another example of increasing our access to knowledge and information about Minnesota’s cultural heritage.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Strong Women** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “A program like this proves the value of funding local programming.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Strong Women** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This segment is awesome, and it is helping me change how I define strong!! I’m so grateful to you for creating it!”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Strong Women** show

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “If you haven’t listened to this program yet, prepare to have your mind blown.”—KAXE listener, commenting on ***Strong Women*** show

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Very interesting telling of little known history.”—KAXE listener, survey comments on the ***Victor Power*** program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “Fabulous! Can’t wait for the next episode!”—KAXE listener, survey comments on the ***Victor Power*** program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “This is an important part of Iron Range history, and I had never heard of Vic Power before this program.”—KAXE listener, survey comments on the ***Victor Power*** program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “A great opportunity for our students and young people. They create great and engaging content, and this teaches them so many good and important skills.”—KAXE listener, survey comments on the ***Youth Radio*** program

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): “It’s great to hear voices of our youth, sharing community!”—KAXE listener, survey comments on the ***Youth Radio*** program

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “The student concerts on Monday are great, and it is fun to hear their passion for jazz.”—Scott Gregory, Minneapolis, commenting on ***Jazz@MPS SHOW***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “I listen to every single one of the programs as much as possible. They are educational and entertaining. The Minnesota Jazz Legends and the interviews by Leigh Kamman provide a perspective that listeners cannot find anywhere else in the world. Phil Nusbaum does an amazing job interviewing all the awesome talent around and he does it in a genuine way. The student musicians on ***Jazz@MPS*** provide me with optimism about our talented youth. Honestly, I don’t know what I would do without KBEM’s valued programming. The pandemic has been difficult for everyone. KBEM has been a lifeline for many years, but particularly these past eight months. Happy 50th birthday!.....and thank you for all you do to improve our well-being. ”—Doris Oberby, commenting on ***Jazz@MPS SHOW***, ***Minnesota Jazz Legends***, and ***The Jazz Image-Minnesota Edition***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “It is always fun to hear the notes from the special segments. I enjoy all of them and they add to the already informative programming. Whether it’s ***Jazz Legends*** or Phil Nusbaum all these segments are an important part of the programming at Jazz 88 and should remain.”—Ed Griffin, Edina and Fernandina Beach, FL, commenting on ***Minnesota Jazz Legends*** and ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “I am writing to express my appreciation for KBEM providing jazz and roots music programming that stands alone in the Twin Cities and stands high among radio stations all over the country. I especially appreciate that KBEM is local. It’s not just a local broadcast of a national satellite feed—it’s music programs curated by announcers who live here. Phil Nusbaum plays bluegrass

• “The student concerts
• on Monday are great,
• and it is fun to hear
• their passion for jazz.”

• —KBEM Listener, commenting on
• *Jazz@MPS SHOW*

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

music live. Patty Peterson, of course, is Twin Cities jazz royalty even when she's not managing the board for The Playroom. Particularly those of us new to these genres are better for having such experienced tour guides. And the local angle persists in giving Minneapolis high school students a chance to learn about broadcasting and in showcasing Minnesota music talent. **Minnesota Jazz Tracks** and **Jazz Legends** are two programs I've enjoyed frequently and found educational every time. There's plenty of coverage available in Minneapolis and St. Paul for the next big rapper or country vocalist. But only KBEM provides consistent coverage of Minnesotans playing jazz and roots music. That, without doubt, is a voice that should continue to be heard. I certainly believe KBEM wants to do it; we all need to make sure the funding exists so they can continue to provide this coverage. Thank you!"—Steve Dropkin, commenting on **Jazz@MPS SHOW**, **Minnesota Jazz Legends**, and **Minnesota Jazz Tracks**

KBFT (Nett Lake): "Amber Buckanaga's fashion show was amazing!"—Susan Anderson, commenting on the **KBFT Fashion Show**

KBFT (Nett Lake): "Last night's KBFT **Country Music Night** was awesome! Thanks to the performers: Maurice Champagne, and Tracy Bone and Sweet Freedom."—KBFT listener, commenting on **Country Music Night**

KBFT (Nett Lake): "Awesome show!! Thanks, KBFT." Tracy Dagen, commenting on **Country Music Night**

KBFT (Nett Lake): "You can tell so many stories through art. Whether it's dance, music, or visual arts, expression is a beautiful thing. The Sampson Brothers and Keith Secola performed at my school today. They told stories of their Anishinaabe culture through fine arts. I was mesmerized by the hoops and tunes. Let us celebrate what makes us unique but also continue to be inspired by people from all walks of life."—Rachel Betterley, referring to the Sampson Brother and Keith Secola performance

• "Important part of my day; you cannot
• put a price on all I have learned from
• these shows."
• —KBXE Listener, commenting on *Area Voices*

KBFT (Nett Lake): "Singing the traveling song with some of my cuzzins Darren Landgren and Terry Goodsky as well as friends Chaz Wagner and Gabe Desrosiers! Great event up at Bois Forte! Thanks for organizing this language and cultural immersion weekend as always it was a great time!"—Nicholas Surfista DeShaw, commenting on **Bois Forte Ojibwe Language Winter Immersion Camp**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): "I listened to this on my drive from Grand Rapids to Duluth, and was so impressed by this interview and what these women had to say!"—Brenda Greeley, commenting on **Area Voices**, the "Women in Leadership" segment

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): "Thanks Katie Carter. I love her work and the interview was so informative!"—Anita Cunningham, commenting on **Area Voices**, the Aimee Bouchard interview

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): "Such a cool topic. Thank you Michael!" Amber Neumann, commenting on **Area Voices**, the "Indigenous Astronomy" segment

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Articulate and powerful! Well done, Nevada Littlewolf! You make us proud!” —Diane J. Rauschenfels, commenting on **Area Voices**, the Nevada Littlewolf interview

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Important part of my day; you can not put a price on all I have learned from these shows.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Great interviewer, truly do gain a new appreciation about our area and our talented folks through **Area Voices**.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Shows like **Area Voices** create community and connection in rural Minnesota.” —KBXE listener, survey comments on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “A chance to hear local ideas that might not be available anywhere else.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Listening to this program is like taking a virtual tour of northern Minnesota.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “I have learned about artists in a wider area of Northern Minnesota than I would have otherwise been able to do.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Great insight to the people who call the Northland their full time home, like us!” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Love this feature. Have learned about so many resources in northern MN through Katie’s exploration.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Area Voices connects its listeners with the rich history and culture of Northern Minnesota.” —KBXE listener, survey comment on **Area Voices**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “I’ve discovered and supported some amazing local artists because of this program.” —KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “This is a vital service, for musicians and listeners both. The variety of Minnesota musicians is wonderful, and a point of pride.” —KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

• “Programs like this
• are priceless. We must
• continue to fund the
• local scene.”

• —KBXE Listener, commenting on
• *Centerstage Minnesota*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Excellent show, and great way to connect our communities through music.” —KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “I really enjoy Centerstage MN. It’s a great showcase for the musical talent in Minnesota.” —KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Minnesota musicians deserve continued support through programs like this one.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Programs like this are priceless. We must continue to fund the local scene.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on **Centerstage Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Katie, I just listened to your McIntosh radio show thank u from the bottom of my heart! U rock! I plan to make a donation.”—KBXE listener, Facebook comment on **Let’s Visit**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Dear Katie, I recently heard your wonderful program on the Sax-Zim Bog and Meadowlands. I was at a conference there some years ago and met Sparky Stenson. Your interview with him and Helen was great! Keep up the super work on FM radio!”—Joan Schulz, Sugar Lake near Grand Rapids, note on **Let’s Visit**

• “Unique programs like this deserve
• support for providing something
• impossible to find anywhere else.”
• —KBXE Listener, commenting on **Paddle Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Enjoyed that, thanks. Loved the story of Joe holding Consie’s hand for 25 minutes.”—Jerry Vandiver, Facebook comment on **Paddle Minnesota** show, Canoeman Joe book interview

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Great story, Jim. And I ordered the book for my grandson!”—KBXE listener, commenting on **Paddle Minnesota** show, “In the moment” essay by Jim Gallagher and Nancy Lizette Berlin

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “These are superbly produced segments that truly celebrate the Northwoods, and inspire listeners to get out on the water.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on **Paddle Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “This is a great segment about the waters of the North and people who paddle them.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on **Paddle Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Jim, your sugarbush is so powerful. I love the pace of it. The dripping, like a drum, slow enough to think about it all. Take it all in. Feel it. Journey with it. Connecting us to the time long ago when trees and people greeted each other laughing with surprise after surviving another winter. I want to be in that time. I want to make a conscious effort to greet the trees. Your piece makes me so happy. Thank you for sharing this beauty with us. It was what I needed today.”—Karuna Eberl, Key West, FL, email comment on **Paddle Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Unique programs like this deserve support for providing something impossible to find anywhere else.”—KBXE listener, survey comment on **Paddle Minnesota**

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “**Paddle Minnesota** promotes tourism of our beautiful lakes and rivers in northern Minnesota.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on **Paddle Minnesota**

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “This show is great exposure to authors, books and ideas and well done by Tammy.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Always find great MN writers to learn more of during this program.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Valuable programming to build community and encourage reading.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Love this segment! I have been introduced to some great authors!”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “The art of writing and the art of reading are important. Please continue to fund.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Tammy is a treasure at this station. Her thoughtful reviews and interviews make me want to read even more.”—KBXE listener, survey comments on *What We’re Reading*

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Granted, I was a little kid, but I so wanted my parents to bring me to this. I was soooo disappointed. I understand now why they did not want to bring a first grader (I think that’s about what I was) to that chaos. I spent the night unhappy, listening to the Beatles on a radio in my room, I think it was WDGY....” —Tammie Marie, Chanhassen, commenting on *10K Fresh Voices*, “One Night Only: The Beatles in Minnesota” by Britt Aamodt

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “KFAI MinneCulture, my father took my sister and I to this concert! Paul McCartney introduced his new song ‘Yesterday’ at the end of the show. First time we ever saw him with a violin. It was the only concert on the U. S tour that was not sold out. Ticket prices were \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, and \$5.50 each”—LuAnne Kizner, commenting on *10K Fresh Voices*, “One Night Only: The Beatles in Minnesota” by Britt Aamodt

• “Glad you are keeping
• the language alive!”

• —KFAI Listener, commenting
• on *10K Fresh Voices*, “Learning
• Tslagi, One Turtle Step at a
• Time” by Melissa Olson

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “I think my folks kept it a secret from me so they wouldn’t have to take kindergarten me to the concert! If I had known about it, I would have hounded them to take me! I hadn’t yet learned to read or tune the radio - sigh.”—Lesley Pederson Ernst, Apple Valley, commenting on *10K Fresh Voices*, “One Night Only: The Beatles in Minnesota” by Britt Aamodt

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Fun to see up in Alexandria, MN. Worth a trip.”—Richard Ohlenberg, Sibley County, commenting on *10K Fresh Voices*, “‘Rock’ Musical Excavates Muddy Truth Behind Runestone” by Emily Bright

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Very interesting! I’ve been to the Runestone Museum and the original site where the stone was found. Fascinating story!”—Hammer, commenting on *10K Fresh Voices*, “‘Rock’ Musical Excavates Muddy Truth Behind Runestone” by Emily Bright

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Glad you are keeping the language alive!”—Sherrill Sharp, commenting on **10K Fresh Voices**, “Learning Tslagi, One Turtle Step at a Time” by Melissa Olson

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “I discovered Vicky Emerson a few months back via a Hennepin County Library feature on artists with MN roots. Love ‘Steady Heart!’” —Karen Marquardt, commenting on **10K Fresh Voices**, “Thunder Chases Lightning: Vicky Emerson’s Music and Mentorship” by Dixie Treichel

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “As a full time performing artist, I appreciate this business model and the information provided. Thank you.”—Grayling Pingel, Clintonville, commenting on **10K Fresh Voices**, “Earning Trust: How the Hook & Ladder Cuts Artists a Fair Deal” by Colleen Cowie

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “And to think when polka first arrived on the European music scene, it was described as the ruination of youth, refinement, and culture! Take it away boys n squeeze that box and spin your gals!! *Ausgezeichnet!* I remember returning from years of overseas vagabonding,

finding myself at an old town hall in northern Wisconsin with an accordion playing friend, for an amazing band of accordionists... my friend, noting how I watched the players and the dancers, told me to drink it up now, because players as good as these weren’t going to be around in another 20 years... that was 13 years ago and they’re getting harder to find here.”—John SonofMel, commenting on **MinneCulture In-Depth**, “Stay Young, Go Dancing” by James Napoli

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Memories were heaven—whirling around and around to polka music before I really knew how—then going really fast around the floor when we did know and had a good partner! Holes in my stockings at the end of the night, drinking too much (a wonder we all got home) gloriously tired and laughing! Best exercise ever. Teen bop dancing was fun too—just a different vibe.”—Terry Lynn, commenting on **MinneCulture In-Depth**, “Stay Young, Go Dancing” by James Napoli

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Was just listening to this last night, amazing work!”—Aaron Westendorp, Hopkins, commenting on “Fighting Back: The Rise of Anti-Racist Action” in Minneapolis by Anna Stitt

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Thank you for this as I am still learning about Minneapolis culture moving here about 10 years ago from The South. Similar (yet different) organizations, resistance, and action, and it is amazing to learn the history here.”—Rene DeDon, Minneapolis, commenting on “Fighting Back: The Rise of Anti-Racist Action in Minneapolis” by Anna Stitt

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Love Tall Paul! My students and I read a Newsela story about him, great conversations/music!”—Pam Becker, commenting on **MinneCulture Podcast** “Episode 27: What do we do now?” by Nancy Rosenbaum, Anna Stitt, Emily Bright, Ryan Dawes, and Melissa Olson

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): “The show was a great listen, love the content of the show.”—KKWE listener, commenting on **Then and Now: Old-Time Music from Minnesota**

• “This was an awesome
• show!!! Great tribute to
• veterans!”
•
• –KSRQ Listener, commenting
• on *Community Voices*, “USS
• Marshall County” Veterans
• Program

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): “Great information; loved the little tidbits of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) facts.”—KKWE listener, commenting on ***The History of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Constitution and Interpretations***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Great job! Listened today. It was fun!”—Lisa Swanson, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***, “The Secret Garden” radio drama

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I thoroughly enjoy your programming over the interweb, especially during these trying times we have.”—TJ Papp, South Bend, IN, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “New walking music here in South Texas!”—Kathy Carriere, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Riding along, doing the polka makes for one great world. Thanks.”—Don Loeslie, Warren, MN, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I’m an old concertina player. I’ve been enjoying your programming on the Pioneer ***PolkaCast*** for a long time.”—Gary, an online listener in Iowa, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the interview you had with Larry Novotny. That was really good. I’m wondering if you plan on re-broadcasting that or having other interviews. I learned a number of things about the Novotny Trio.”— Glenn Buehlmann, Mauston, WI, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I would like to commend you for what you do, to bring music to the radio audience and to the nursing homes. Music brings healing and comfort to the body, mind and soul. We will get through this virus and become stronger because of it.”—Delaine Russum, Grafton ND, commenting on ***Cathy’s Variety Show***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I listen to your radio program and really enjoy it. I live in Tucson, AZ, so it’s interesting hearing about the weather, too! I have heard and danced to—in person—some of the people you play: Julie Lee, Larry Olsen, etc, and enjoy those memories. Thank you for your show, and the rest of the gang at Pioneer ***PolkaCast***. I enjoy them all.”—Arleen Watkins, Tucson, AZ, commenting on ***PolkaCast***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Thank you to the person who provided info on Pioneer 90.1 radio this morning. Lots of great info. I appreciate this community service.”—Betsy Watts, commenting on ***Community Voices***, Altru SafeKids interview

• “It sounds like home! I live very far
• away now, but I can listen to Radio K
• and feel like I’m back home, but without
• being cold.”
• —KUOM/Radio K Listener, commenting from California

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “This was an awesome show!!! Great tribute to veterans!”—Sherri Page, Thief River Falls, commenting on ***Community Voices***, “USS Marshall County” Veterans Program

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “A good time was had by all! The music was great!”—Jeff Thrall, commenting on *RiverFest*

KUMD (Duluth): “I started off my day listening to this and I think it’s improved my whole morning. Peace, friends & happy nearly fall!”—

Annmari Geniusz, Duluth, 9/4/19 comment accompanying her Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “Manoomin is worth cooking right and it’s forever worth protecting”

KUMD (Duluth): “This is so sad and beautiful. I can’t imagine the amount of faith and need for connection that it would take to give up those feathers. I’m glad that he reached out to the right people and I’m glad he’s finally getting some kindness and compassion. I’ll be thinking about Robert for a long time.”—from Eleni Pinnow, Duluth, 10/28/19, on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “Life Takes Some Interesting Turns”

KUMD (Duluth): “Oh my goodness. Heavy and full heart. Thank you Arne Vainio for another beautiful and vulnerable piece. This resonated so much having proud grandparents who lived in a Predominantly white town and how we were coached to ‘present’ in public. Powerful stuff. Thank you.”—Di Jay, Duluth, 11/11/19, on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “Did my grandfather vote?”

KUMD (Duluth): “As always, I love Arne’s telling of the story, but it is certainly a horrible story to have to tell, yet it needs to be told and learned from.”—Carl Karasti, Minnesota resident commenting on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “Did my grandfather vote?”

KUMD (Duluth): “Always love your sharing Arne. Your mom crying beside the road as a single mom with a flat tire, and the woman you tried to help... hits home. Miigwech.”—Pam Snyder, Minnesota resident, 12/9/19, on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “I Won’t Miss My Opportunity Next Time”

KUMD (Duluth): “Beautiful, sad, wonderful story! My son is getting a used black guitar this year...not quite as rich a story behind it, but it’s coming to him from a wonderful person in our community. I’ll share this story with him when he plays it.”—David Syring of Duluth, 12/23/19, on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “The Red Guitar”

KUMD (Duluth): “I am moved to tears by your story, Arne. I love how much the guitar in the photo looks like my Gibson SG Standard, gifted to me by Israel Malachi.”—Richie Townsend, Duluth, on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook share of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “The Red Guitar”

KUMD (Duluth): “Thank you Dr Vainio”—Nancy Ensley, Ely, Minnesota, 1/6/20 Facebook comments on a KUMD post and post by Ivy Vainio of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “My brother died this morning”

• “Every time we visit Grand Marais, we
• tune in to WTIP, and we plan our
• September visits to coincide with *Radio*
• *Waves*.”
• —WTIP Listener, commenting on *Radio Waves*
• *Music Festival*

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KUMD (Duluth): “Great wisdom and truth, Arne. I’m always so thankful for the thoughts you share.” - Pam Snyder, Minnesota resident 1/6/20 Facebook comments on a KUMD post and post by Ivy Vainio of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “My brother died this morning”

KUMD (Duluth): “I just love these.”—Jill Hagstrom Yankee, Duluth, 1/6/20 Facebook comments on a KUMD post and post by Ivy Vainio of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “My brother died this morning”

KUMD (Duluth): “Arne’s writings move me to tears when he writes on topics like this. This is one of Arne’s gifts. He tells the story and you are invited in. You feel the emotions and pains of those in the story but also the emotions and pain it reminds us of in our own stories.”—Bruce Holmen, Duluth, 1/6/20 Facebook comments on a KUMD post and post by Ivy Vainio of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “My brother died this morning”

KUMD (Duluth): “What a wonderful story. ❤️ I wish more doctors took the time and compassion to look at the complex health issues some of us face and not just try and provide a quick and easy fix. 🙏” —Alyxis Feltus, Duluth, 1/23/20 comments on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook post of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “I Just Knew Something Wasn’t Right”

KUMD (Duluth): “Your sharing of these beautiful persons’ stories always means so much to me, Arne and Ivy. ❤️🙏❤️” —Pam Snyder, Minnesota resident, 2/3/20 on Ivy Vainio’s Facebook post of *In the Spirit of Medicine* episode “You Need to Hold My Hand”

KUMD (Duluth): “Many people don’t understand the pain of the Natives that grew up in this neighborhood. I have a few friends that get me, but I think interviews like this help validate our feelings and make it ok to say, we are hurting too. Miigwech!!” —Melissa Wallace, Minnesota resident, 6/30/20 comments on post from Antony Stately, guest on *Journey to Wellness* for a segment titled “Why Are Cops Killing Brown Boys? And What They Know is, They’re Brown.”

KUMD (Duluth): “Tom and I are listening again to your interview with Jim, right now (loved it on air too!) I have to say, it’s just killer. I have been crying through it because you do such a wonderful job drawing folks out. Also, I just love Jim, and have had the great fortune of knowing him this last 20 years. Thank you for making this lovely piece of him for us all to experience. Beyond that, I really do appreciate how good you are at what you do. We are so lucky to have you in our community! Gush!” —Karin Kraemer, Duluth, 11/15/19 e-mailed comment on the 11/14/19 *Live from Studio A* session with Jim Hall

KUMD (Duluth): “Just listened to Jim’s KUMD *Live from Studio A* interview (I missed it when it was live). I think it’s wonderful.” —Tom Hollenhorst, Duluth, 11/15/19 Facebook share from of 11/14/19 *Live from Studio A* session with Jim Hall

KUMD (Duluth): “This was great Christine! Wonderful segment and interview.” —Emily Norton, Duluth, 5/29/20 comment on Facebook share of “Sound an Echo” virtual *Live from Studio A* session

KUMD (Duluth): “This morning you played a song by Cloud Cult, one of my favorite bands. I even read the book about them as I heard about it on *Minnesota Reads*. What a gift you are. Thank you for so much enrichment to my life!” —listener Sarah Stock 9/18/19 E-mail to *MN Reads* host Lisa Johnson

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

KUMD (Duluth): “Great interview yesterday morning.”—Kate McCall Isles, Duluth, 12/6/19 comment on Facebook share in Duluthians of Zenith Group, regarding **MN Reads** episode “Walking the Old Road” by Staci Lola Drouillard

KUMD (Duluth): “Dear Konnie, I just listened to your radio interview about your latest writing. I enjoyed listening very much, and I will pick up your book soon. It was so nice to hear your voice during your question and answer on the radio!”—Carol E. Stodola, Mound, Minnesota, 1/9/20 comment on Facebook post from Lane Ellis sharing **MN Reads** episode featuring “Picnic in Venice” by Konnie Ellis

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “This is how I know about local arts and culture events and news, and I really don’t have any other outlet for info on the culture and history of this great state.”—KUOM listener

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Great opportunities for students, music options for listeners”—Kathy in Roseville

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Good music that you don’t hear anywhere else.”—Niki in Minneapolis

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Love the diversity of music”—Michele in Minneapolis

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Radio K plays the best variety of music and gives young folks a chance to experience broadcast!”—Caleb in Forest Lake

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “It sounds like home! I live very far away now, but I can listen to Radio K and feel like I’m back home, but without being cold.”—Amy in California

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Without Radio K I wouldn’t hear that new jam that puts a smile on my face and a spring in my step.”—Gabriel from Minneapolis

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Great music. No pretentiousness. Supports college kids and musicians.”—KUOM listener in North Oaks

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “I enjoy listening very much. The boundary waters is my happy place and I love hearing from people who feel the same way.”—Kyle A. Wilson, commenting on **Boundary Waters Podcast**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “We love the **Boundary Waters Podcast** with Joe and Matthew. Listening now online.”—Brad and Missy, Burnsville, MN, commenting on **Boundary Waters Podcast**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Great work! So happy for you all—you deserve it! Keep up the good work.”—WTIP listener, commenting on Regional Edward R. Murrow Award

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Sharing some well-earned recognition for WTIP and the **Boundary Waters Podcast**.”—Sally Hardy, Project Manager, Community Counts Initiative, National Federation of Community Broadcasters, commenting on Regional Edward R. Murrow Award

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Kudos to WTIP, Joe Friedrichs and Matthew Baxley!! What great recognition for an important feature of WTIP! Good luck in the nationals!”—Joan Farnam, Grand Marais, MN, commenting on Regional Edward R. Murrow Award

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Just finished listening to your interview, and I gotta say that was an excellent piece of journalism. I’ve been starting my day listening to your 7am show, you’ve been a voice of calm and reason during this stressful time. Keep up the great work. The Murrow award was truly deserved, well done!”—George Wulf, Rockford, IL

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Love the morning show!! Appreciate you all so much! Great music!”—Jessy Goble, Grand Marais, MN, commenting on **Community Voices**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Thank you for the accurate news, local music, and creative radio services you provide for the North Shore. Not to mention the friendly faces at the studio!”—Krysten and Joe, Silver Bay, MN, commenting on **Community Voices**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Have been listening for a couple of years. Listen every day! WTIP is my morning companion. Makes us feel closer to the North Shore until we can get back up there. Thank you for all you do!”—Shirley Maier, Burnsville, MN, commenting on **Community Voices**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Hello from Alberta, I am an avid radio hobbyist here in western Canada, and last Thursday afternoon while tuning around on my truck radio I found quite a number of distant signals coming in, including yours on 90.7 MHz. I’m sure you don’t hear from many listeners in Alberta, so I thought I’d drop you a line and let you know your signal made it up this way.”—Nigel Pimblett, Dunmore, Alberta

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Matthew and ALL the staff and volunteers. Thank you for your combined efforts for providing a most wonderful community event called **Radio Waves**. It provides a marvelous atmosphere of connection and networking for community members, musicians, and traveling visitors to enjoy music, one another, and be served by you all. It truly is a Hallmark event to the community.”—Russ Viton, Grand Marais, MN, commenting on **Radio Waves Music Festival**

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Every time we visit Grand Marais, we tune in to WTIP, and we plan our September visits to coincide with **Radio Waves**.”—Susan Carlson, Minneapolis, MN, commenting on **Radio Waves Music Festival**

Ampers (Statewide): “I have learned so much from this show, it’s the only place I have been able to learn about the reservation life.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “It’s good to have news with a native perspective. It’s helped broaden my knowledge of my community and the issues affecting it.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “I think that this is an essential feature on Northern Community Radio. Hearing about current topics from a Native perspective informs my ideas and understanding of a culture different than

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS (Continued)

my own. Only as we are able to understand other people can we respect their culture.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “I really like getting the different perspective and news that I don’t get exposure to elsewhere.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “This program needs continual funding since it makes the listeners strong and better able to be compassionate.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “Thank you for this programming that helps us learn about our neighbors whose ancestors so valued this place we call home.”—KAXE listener, commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “It is necessary for the non-Native Minnesota population to take the time to learn about Minnesota Native history. We cannot fix what history has destroyed, but we can choose to learn and have a better understanding of our first people’s needs and history.”—KAXE listener commenting on **Minnesota Native News**

Ampers (Statewide): “You think you know a lot about MN, until you hear this program” - KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “This long running program has taught me many, many historical facts that I would never have learned in any other way. It is also taught in an accessible way that is easy to understand.” - KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “Love, love, love this segment! I have learned so many interesting things about MN history!” - KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “I like learning about Minnesota history. These short snippets are fun to hear. I like when they cover issues that we may not have learned about in school or through other avenues.” - KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “We learn where we are going by where we have been. I can’t tell you the number of times I have had to tell people the names of the three Minnesota Iron Ranges to Minnesota residents who have been schooled here in the state. **MN 90** is a perfect format to help remind us of this type of information. Also having to explain to colleagues and professionals that ‘Cuyuna’ is not a Native American word and its subsequent origin also gets a chuckle.”—KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “When I was teaching, I used to use these as listening exercises for my Jr/Sr high students. While listening is a formal part of the Minnesota state language arts standards, I was concerned that it was a definite weakness in the students I saw, and yet, was not often formally addressed. Great high interest material.”—KBXE listener, commenting on **MN 90** segment

Ampers (Statewide): “Good educational piece for all!”—KBXE listener, commenting on **Veteran’s Voices**

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Phil, I just listened to the show. Wow, you are so good at this! You made it flow so well, and the music bed behind the talking is always just perfect. Thanks so much for doing this! I’ll share it on our Facebook page and website tomorrow morning.”—Loretta Simonet for Curtis & Loretta, “Best Acoustic Performers of the Twin Cities”—City Pages commenting on ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “It is SO COOL when you do these—totally pro. Thanks so much, Phil!”—Aaron Kerr, St. Paul Cellist, talking about ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Awesome, thanks! Great work as always!”—Alana Horton, Director of Marketing & Communications, The Cedar Cultural Center, referring to ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Phil, thank you! I felt a little like a mess that morning, and you patched me all up! Great work. And, as always, much appreciated. All the best.”—Tony Balluff, Clarinetist/Leader Southside Aces, Minneapolis, commenting on ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “Hi, Phil. Thank you again for featuring OBI and the Kolyada concert on your show a couple of weeks ago. We sold out this show at the Cedar! Pretty amazing for a cold Sunday night in the midst of the holiday season. Thank you and KBEM/PRX so much for your support!”—Colleen Bertsch and Orkestar Bez Ime, referring to ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): “I just got around to listening to your spot on the Twin Cities Jazz Sampler Volume Three release. I remember feeling like I was unable to articulate stuff. . . but the end result AGAIN is really great work on your part. Thank you again for representing my work so well and for being so excellent.”—Steve Kenny, trumpeter, Twin Cities, commenting on ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week***

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Thanks so much for the interview! Really appreciate the support for my show! Take care.”—Jane Ryan, artist featured on ***Area Voices***

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Super grateful for the opportunity to talk to all the KBXE listeners this morning about organizing; you had great questions!”—Tammy Callahan Schotzko, professional organizer featured on ***Area Voices***

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Brett & Kari, we so appreciate you both allowing Amy & Adams to again appear on *Centerstage Minnesota*. We had a great time and felt so good about the spot. Brett, you did such a fine job and made us feel so at ease and special. Thank you for playing a couple songs from our new album

• “Super grateful for the opportunity
• to talk to all the KBXE listeners this
• morning about organizing; you had great
• questions!”

• —Tammy Callahan Schotzko, commenting on KBXE's
• *Area Voices*
•

SOMETHING SPECIAL. We hope folks all over MN & US will find something to enjoy. But thank you for being our first station, once again, to play a new Amy & Adams album! Best wishes and thank you both and KAXE/KBXE”—Mark & Amy Adams-Westin, artists featured on ***Centerstage Minnesota***

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS (Continued)

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Katie, thank you for highlighting our little neck of the woods, and Leroy in particular. So beautiful and timely.”—Peggy Schultz, Inventor and Entrepreneur in Turtle River, commenting on *Let’s Visit*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Greetings, Jim, I heard the interview this morning and want to thank you for the opportunity. Interviewing and editing takes time, and you did a superb job of mixing the music with the conversation. Your work highlighting other paddlers and *On The River* hosts is a great example of what a treasure we all have in Northern Community Radio’s culture of real folks on the air sharing stories. None of this happens without artistic people like you putting in the effort. Thanks again, I feel honored.”—Susan Lick, music programmer, commenting on *Paddle Minnesota*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “It turned out GREAT! Thank you for the wonderful interview and for asking strong questions!”—Amy Pendino, Minnesota writer, commenting on *What We’re Reading*

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): “Thanks so much Tammy! It was such a fun experience, and I’m glad I got to be part of it.”—Jordan Shearer, reporter with the Bemidji Pioneer, commenting on *What We’re Reading*

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): “I love that Nijii Radio supports local artists and gives them a chance.”—Katie Sandruga, artist participant, commenting on *Ojibwe Arts Rising*

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): “It’s the best feeling to turn on the radio and hear yourself on the radio-only on Nijii Radio; I love performing for their events.”—Todd Sisston, musician, commenting on *Minnesota Mixdown Series*

KMSU (Mankato): “It’s great to partner with an organization that concentrates on giving local talent exposure. The crowds are always supportive at the *Makerspace* events and tend to spread the word. Playing at venues like the *Makerspace* is different and fun. We get paid for our time because people appreciate and value live music.”—Cindy Bourne from the Mankato Makerspace Board commenting on *Makers Space Organizer Event*

KMSU (Mankato): “The Mankato Symphony Orchestra is very thankful for the services KMSU has provided us. They have made professional recordings for years, and the broadcasts of those concerts have extended our audience reach exponentially. We have especially felt the impact of KMSU’s broadcasts during our current pandemic. Since the MSO has been unable to hold live symphonic concerts, Dwayne Megaw has been broadcasting archived concerts on the first Sundays of the month. These broadcasts help bring our community together. Many community members who participated in the performance are able to relive those moments through the rebroadcasts.”—Bethel Balge, Executive Director, Mankato Symphony Orchestra (MSO)

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Theater can be a lifeline for children, and the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater Summer Program has been a rare opportunity for area young people from all economic, cultural, and social backgrounds to take the stage and become whatever they want to be. Because of the pandemic,

• “It turned out GREAT!
• Thank you for the
• wonderful interview
• and for asking strong
• questions!”

• —Amy Pendino, commenting on
• KBXE’s *What We’re Reading*

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS (Continued)

we were forced to shut down our traditional program, but—because of 90.1—children did not lose their opportunity to bring their talent to the community. The radio station stepped forward, broadcasting theater monologues, vocal and instrumental solos that gave children the opportunity to carry on. At the same time, these broadcasts have also been a lifeline to thousands of listeners, stuck at home, bringing the arts to lighten a dark and difficult time.”—Key Teeters, Thief River Falls Area Community Theater, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Working with 90.1 FM was the answer to a prayer. When the pandemic shut down our entire theater season, we were able to keep working, creating, coming together as an artistic community and to perform. Personally, it helped me continue to hone and advance my skills. This radio station is vital to our area.”—Jane Anderson, Executive Director, Thief River Falls Area Community Theater, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I am a vocal coach for several students in Thief River Falls. My students had been working diligently hard on their recital songs and when COVID hit it appeared like all their efforts were going to be for naught. Then the opportunity came through Pioneer 90.1 for my students to not only perform their songs but also have their songs professionally recorded.

• “I am listening to Dwayne Heyd on
• KSRQ radio. I wanted to thank your team
• for always playing us and acknowledging
• us. What a treat to be able to turn the
• radio on and hear one of our songs. I
• ask you to send a thank-you to all of
• your radio DJs.”
• —Rhonda Heyd, commenting on KSRQ’s *PolkaCast*

What an unforgettable experience for these young talents! They were excited and nervous but, in the end, did a great job and boosted their confidence level on stage and their ability as a performer. My students, their families, and I are very grateful for this experience and hope to see more opportunities like this in the future.”—Laura Rude, Thief River Falls, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Pioneer 90.1 has been a godsend to the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater. With the pandemic closing everything down we were still able to give our community an opportunity to hear and see our local artists perform through 90.1 FM radio and Facebook. Everything was professionally done and looked and sounded GREAT. We are looking forward to being able to work with you again, pandemic or not. 90.1 FM is an asset to our community.”—Scott Pream, Thief River Falls, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “As the sound tech, I found the experience to be challenging but very rewarding. I discovered new ways of applying my knowledge, which, if the recording is continued, would be a continued experience furthering my knowledge as a sound engineer. I found the whole process as a wonderful way to expose local talent and give younger performers the experience needed to improve their skills. I do hope this continues in some form even if the stage productions resume next year.”—Bruce Elseth, Newfolden, commenting on ***Readers’ Theater***

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS (Continued)

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “The recorded and broadcast music programs by local artists of all ages and experience levels were professionally managed by each of those in charge. The community benefited from both performing and seeing/ hearing the work of others.”—Wade Benson, Thief River Falls, commenting on *Readers’ Theater*

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I have received great feedback by phone and even e-mail notes. Great job. You are a pro and such nice people. My thanks. People said reception was super, even in the state of Washington. Again, thanks so much. It was super.”—Don Loeslie, Warren, MN, Organizer, “USS Marshall County” live broadcast salute to veterans, commenting on *Community Voices*

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Thanks so much for your willingness to help. The class of 2020 and all of us at LHS are grateful!”—Assistant Principal Kelly Weets, Lincoln High School, Thief River Falls, commenting on *Class of 2020 Graduation Caravan Radio*

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I am listening to Dwayne Heyd on KSRQ radio. I wanted to thank your team for always playing us and acknowledging us. What a treat to be able to turn the radio on and hear one of our songs. I ask you to send a thank-you to all of your radio DJs.”—Rhonda Heyd, Grand Forks, ND, commenting on *PolkaCast*

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Thanks so much for coming! We really appreciate your support and coverage.”—Laura Stengrim, Middle River GooseFest live broadcast organizer

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Thank you for the opportunity to get our Thief River Falls Visitors Guides in the hands of State Fair-goers!”—VisitTRF

• “Thank you for everything, Pioneer 90.1
• and thank you to the Minnesota Arts
• and Cultural Heritage Fund! It was a
• great weekend and we can’t wait for
• next year!”
• —Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce, commenting
• on KSRQ’s *RiverFest*

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “The East Grand Forks Campbell Library benefits from Pioneer 90.1’s weekly presentation of *Campbell Corner*. Each Wednesday, Pioneer 90.1 interviews guests, library staff or the director about ‘all that is Campbell.’ Interviews with special presenters who will be at the library are entertaining and informative. Ron West’s experience and expertise show through in the welcoming conversations. Our attendees come from across the region to hear a new style of music or listen to an author present her work. They often hear about the event during *Campbell Corner* on Pioneer 90.1. The Campbell Library Board and Staff are appreciative to reach beyond the city limits through Pioneer 90.1’s audience. The program has helped create many connections in our region and will continue to do so in its friendly and professional manner.”—Charlotte Helgeson, Director of the East Grand Forks Campbell Library

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Pioneer 90.1 and the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council have had a successful and mutually beneficial partnership promoting the arts in our region for 10 years. The listening audience learned of arts-related events, artists, ideas, and funding opportunities and resources that they otherwise might never have heard about. The radio guests represent a variety of art forms, community organizations,

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS (Continued)

and geographic locations. This partnership has been a win-win for everyone involved. We look forward to continuing this partnership into the future.”—Kristin Eggerling, Promotions Specialist, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, commenting on **Artist Spotlight**

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “I am very proud of our unique collaboration with Pioneer 90.1 in bringing arts and culture to our area. Our collaboration was featured at the National Arts Marketing Conference in 2018 and at the Rural Arts and Culture Summit in Minnesota in 2019, as a best practice to encourage other similar collabora-

• “Hey, I just want to thank you all again
• for inviting me to be part of the *Radio*
• *Theatre*. It was a whole lot of fun. Good
• wishes to all for a happy 2020!”

• —Prudence Johnson, commenting on KVSC’s *Granite*
• *City Radio Theatre*
•

tions throughout the Midwest and nation. It is a true collaboration, with our Promotions Specialist researching and arranging the interviewees, and the radio station conducting and recording the interviews. The interviews are professional and high quality. The recording of the interview is emailed to our Promotions Specialist and she places them on our website with short descriptions for the public’s enjoyment. Any artist or arts organization interviewed can then link to the podcast to promote themselves or their organization and provide much-needed validation and marketing for their endeavors. Last year, there were 45 interviews that turned into value-added podcasts! It is an exciting project that we hope remains for many, many more years. We appreciate Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funding being allocated to the radio station and to our regional arts council to support this valuable service program.”—Mara Hanel, Northwest MN Arts Council Executive Director, commenting on **Artist Spotlight**

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): “Thank you for everything, Pioneer 90.1 and thank you to the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund! It was a great weekend and we can’t wait for next year!”—Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce, commenting on **RiverFest**

KUMD (Duluth): “Thanks again for having me, Christine! It was a great time!”—Robb Justice, **Live from Studio A** guest

KUMD (Duluth): “Thanks for having me, Lisa and Kevin. It was a lot of fun. Good discussion.”—Bob King, guest on **MN Reads**

KUMD (Duluth): “Miigwech to KUMD 103.3 FM for this AICHO interview regarding issues relating to our AICHO Shelters in response to COVID-19. Miigwech to Jennifer (Jenn) Davey, Dabinoo’igan Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter Manager, for being a part of this important interview/discussion. If people want to donate financial contributions to help our families in need, please give at our GiveMN Fundraiser at <https://www.givemn.org/.../American-Indian-Community...>! Miigwech for your consideration.”— American Indian Housing Organization (AICHO), Duluth, 3/23/20 Facebook post sharing **Journey to Wellness** episode “We Need to Know What the Plan Is”

KUMD (Duluth): “This aired yesterday. I usually hate the sound of my voice, but this one wasn’t so bad. I talked about what it was like to see the neighborhood I grew up in as a child, after the rioting and looting

COMMENTS FROM MINNESOTA ARTISTS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS (Continued)

following the killing of George Floyd. Heartbreaking, to say the least.”—Antony Stately, guest on ***Journey to Wellness***, 7/1/20 Facebook comment regarding his share of the segment

KVSC (St. Cloud): “Hey, I just want to thank you all again for inviting me to be part of the Radio Theatre. It was a whole lot of fun. Good wishes to all for a happy 2020!”—Prudence Johnson, singer/folk musician, commenting on ***Granite City Radio Theatre***

KVSC (St. Cloud): “When the pandemic happened, all of us in the theatre community were looking for ways to share content, to keep it alive, and figure it out. I have seen a ton of theatre in different formats, and what I have watched tonight on KVSC is pretty much the best thing I have seen in creating art. This show looks great, it sounds great, it’s very entertaining. This show looks beautiful and gives me hope in theatre we can adapt and figure out how to do this. Great job everybody!”—Eric Webster, creator of *Shades Brigade* radio drama writer and producer, on KVSC’s June 2020 live video stream of ***Granite City Radio Theatre***

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Grateful for all of the wonderful staff and volunteers who bring us everything WTIP has to offer, including *Roadhouse* and *Radio Waves*.”—Jim McGowan, ***Roadhouse*** musical guest, St. Paul, MN

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Thanks again to beautiful Grand Marais friends for a wonderful weekend!”—Courtney Yasmeneh, guest on ***Scenic Route***, July 2019

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Will at WTIP North Shore Community Radio did an expert job interviewing us about our music, my cancer victory, and the wonderful people of Grand Marais. I think I just fell even more in love with the North Shore.”—Andy Nelson, guest on ***Scenic Route***, August 2019

• “Community is what it’s all about and
• WTIP North Shore Community Radio’s
• lineup of 24 bands for this weekend’s
• 12th Annual Radio Waves Music Festival
• is going to be amazing!”
• —Roxanne Berglund, commenting on WTIP’s
• *Radio Waves*
•

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Thunderheads have been traveling to Grand Marais regularly for nearly 10 years. We often stop by WTIP North Shore Community Radio to chat and play some songs. . . Thanks to Annie Possis for inviting us and to the *Roadhouse* and Dave & Brian for having us on your show.”—Craig Paquette of the group Thunderheads, guests on ***Roadhouse***, August 2019

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Community is what it’s all about and WTIP North Shore Community Radio’s lineup of 24 bands for this weekend’s 12th Annual *Radio Waves Music Festival* is going to be amazing!”—Roxanne Berglund of Rox and Soul, performers at ***Radio Waves***, 2019

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): “Good morning, Staci. Sincere thank you to WTIP for once again allowing the Violence Prevention Center to be a very small part of the annual *Radio Waves* weekend on Saturday. As always, it was a very fun day and gave us the opportunity to connect with community and share bubbles and bracelets with both kiddos and folks that are kiddos at heart.”—Jodi, Grand Marais, MN, commenting on ***Radio Waves***

PROGRAM COSTS/PRODUCTION COSTS

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely): *Audio Essays by Steve Downing*: Program Costs: \$2,864.77, Administrative Costs: \$165.50; ***Dig Deep*:** Program Costs: \$5,343.18, Administrative Costs: \$169.43; ***Close to Home*:** Program Costs: \$4,242.17, Administrative Costs: \$120.02; ***Northern Voices*:** Program Costs: \$9,895.91, Administrative Costs: \$146.35; ***Live and Local*:** Program Costs: \$2,201.48, Administrative Costs: \$31.59; ***Mississippi River Festival*:** Program Costs: \$16,394.88, Administrative Costs: \$142.83; ***Stay Human*:** Program Costs: \$11,034.64, Administrative Costs: \$301.69; ***Strong Women*:** Program Costs: \$4,821.81, Administrative Costs: \$50.68; ***Youth in Radio*:** Program Costs: \$8,884.18, Administrative Costs: \$93.21; ***Victor Power Serial*:** Program Costs: \$4,979.15, Administrative Costs: \$145.88; ***Boozhoo Nanaboozhoo*:** Program Costs: \$6,887.49, Administrative Costs: \$299.29.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): *Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools*: Program Costs: \$3,270; ***The Jazz Image-Minnesota Edition*:** Program Costs: \$3,200; ***MPS Voices*:** Program Costs: \$1,590.59; ***Minnesota Jazz Legends*:** Program Costs: \$3,373.50; ***Twin Cities Weekend/Twin Cities This Week*:** Program Costs: \$29,000.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake): *Native Fest Music Series*: Program Costs: \$26,491.04, Administrative Costs: \$3,043.55; ***Native Fest Art Series*:** Program Costs: \$13,491.10, Administrative Costs: \$1,790.17; ***Native Fest Writing Series*:** Program Costs: \$12,641.80, Administrative Costs: \$1,90.17; ***Anishinaabemoen*:** Program Costs: \$4,687.99, Administrative Costs: \$798.00; ***Nanaboozhoo Café*:** Program Costs: \$2,740.43, Administrative Costs: 601.08; ***Genealogy/Family History*:** Program Costs: \$1,470.17, Administrative Costs: \$703.96; ***Native Food Fest Series*:** Program Costs: \$4,441.71, Administrative Costs: \$446.06; ***Anishinaabe Language Immersion Camp*:** Program Costs: \$4,460.01, Administrative Costs: \$450.00; ***The Unexplained*:** Program Costs: \$2,310.17, Administrative Costs: \$330.45.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): *Area Voices*: Program Costs: \$25,863.41, Administrative Costs: \$60.92; ***Bemidji Block Party*:** Program Costs: \$547.66, Administrative Costs: \$135.02; ***Centerstage Minnesota*:** Program Costs: \$25,799.42, Administrative Costs: \$36.69; ***Let's Visit*:** Program Costs: \$12,804.07, Administrative Costs: \$83.30; ***Paddle Minnesota*:** Program Costs: \$2,728.70, Administrative Costs: \$71.27; ***What We're Reading*:** Program Costs: \$8,404.13, Administrative Costs: \$143.17.

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): *Live from Minnesota*: Program Costs: \$7,405.80, Administrative Costs: \$390.00; ***10,000 Fresh Voices*:** Program Costs: \$38,100.46, Administrative Costs: \$2,005.00; ***MinneCulture*:** Program Costs: \$14,415.00, Administrative Costs: \$759.00; ***MinneCulture Podcasts*:** Program Costs: \$7,744.87, Administrative Costs: \$408.00.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): *Niiiji Minnesota Mixdown*: Program Costs: \$11,784.50, Administrative Costs: \$240.50, ***Then & Now: Old-Time Music from Minnesota*:** Program Costs: \$9,797.00, Administrative Costs: \$303.00, ***Ojibwe Arts Rising*:** Program Costs: \$3,678.92, Administrative Costs: \$75.08, ***History of the MCT Constitution and Interpretations*:** Program Costs: \$450.00, Administrative ***Minnesota Ojibwe Fun Facts*:** Program Costs: \$6,370.00, Administrative Costs: \$130.00. Note: All of KKWE's expenses were incurred in FY20 but paid in FY21.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul): *Dancing with the DJs*: Program Costs: \$2,879.17, Administrative Costs: \$151.54; ***LOL: Live on Location/Juneteenth*:** Program Costs: \$10,630.95, Administrative Costs: \$559.52;

PROGRAM COSTS/PRODUCTION COSTS (Continued)

KMOJ Documentaries: Program Costs: \$29,201.71, Administrative Costs: \$1,536.93; **The Ice: Expanding the Reach of Minnesota's 1st Hip-Hop Format:** Program Costs: \$7,312.83, Administrative Costs: \$226.17.

KMSU (Mankato): Blues on Belgrade: Program Costs: \$5,000; **Alive After Five:** Program Costs: \$3,000; **Collaboration with MSU Music Department:** Program Costs: \$8,149; **Mankato Symphony Orchestra Recordings:** Program Costs: \$4,800; **Grind Fu Cinema:** Program Costs: \$1,400; **Collaboration with the Arts Center of St. Peter:** Program Costs: \$6,700; **Austin Area Artworks Festival:** Program Costs: \$3,500; **Red White and Boom Mankato Fireworks Spectacular:** Program Costs: \$5,000; **KMSU Live Events:** Program Costs: \$5,015; **Rock Bend Folk Festival:** Program Costs: \$5,000; **Alone Together Concert Series:** Program Costs: \$2,286; **Mahkato Wacipi Pow Wow:** Program Costs: \$3,500.

KQAL (Winona): Art Beat: Program Costs: \$19,712; **Culture Clique:** Program Costs: \$1,9712; **The Live Feed:** Program Costs: \$33,152; **Don't Cha Know & Arts and Entertainment Download:** Program Costs: \$1,7024; **Mid West Music Fest:** Program Costs: \$5,000.

KRPR (Rochester): MN90: Rochester History in 90 Seconds: Program Costs: \$5,983.01, Administrative Costs: \$122.10; **Rochester Music Notes:** Program Costs: \$6,430.87, Administrative Costs: \$131.24, **Live Music Showcase:** Program Costs: \$10,098.84, Administrative Costs: \$102.01, **R-Town:** Program Costs: \$4,825.96, Administrative Costs: \$48.75. **Note: \$4,800 for **R-Town** was incurred in FY20 but paid in FY21.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): Community Voices: Program Costs: \$18,804; **Music in Our Schools:** Program Costs: \$4,223; **Pioneer PolkaCast KSRQ HD-2:** Program Costs: \$28,724; **Minnesota Music Oddities:** Program Costs: \$4,000; **Arts & Culture Calendar:** Program Costs: \$2,111; **Artist Spotlight:** Program Costs: \$15,306; **RiverFest:** Program Costs: \$10,223; **Readers' Theater:** Program Costs: \$7,812.

KUMD (Duluth): MN Reads: Program Costs: \$17,245.77, Administrative costs: \$806.06; **Live from Studio A:** Program Costs: \$17,245.77, Administrative costs: \$593.94; **In the Spirit of Medicine:** Program Costs: \$12,510.76, Administrative costs: \$593.94; **Journey to Wellness:** Program Costs: \$7969.00, Administrative costs: \$381.82; **(poetry):** Program Costs: \$9,725.00, Administrative costs: \$509.09; **Arts and Cultural Events:** Program Costs: \$20,801.00, Administrative costs: \$1,103.03; **Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Coverage:** Program Costs: \$5,183.24, Administrative costs: \$254.54.

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): Behind the Scenes with MN Musicians: Off Mic & On Camera: Program Costs: \$44,541.84; **North Star Stories from Real College Podcast:** Program Costs: \$35,663.20; **Musicians that Matter: BaseMnt Music:** Program Costs: \$10,999.12.

KVSC (St. Cloud): Untold Stories of Central Minnesota: Program Costs: \$48,682.55; **Granite City Radio Theatre:** Program Costs: \$36,796.62; **Minnesota Music Concert:** Program Costs: \$3,750.00; **Present Sherlock Holmes Live with GREAT Theatre:** Program Costs: \$1,975.00.

WGZS (Fond du Lac/Cloquet): Ogichida Voices CD Season One: Program Costs: \$3,690.11, Administrative Costs: \$75.31; **Ogichida Voices Season Two:** Program Costs: \$6,628.26, Administrative Costs: \$135.27.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): Community Voices on North Shore Morning and North Shore Weekend: Program Costs: \$3,2571.00, Administrative Costs: \$390.85; **The Roadhouse:**

PROGRAM COSTS/PRODUCTION COSTS (Continued)

Program Costs: \$7,972.00, Administrative Costs: \$95.13; **Lake Superior Project:** Program Costs: \$2,453.00, Administrative Costs: \$29.44; **Radio Waves Music Festival:** Program Costs: \$2,2449.75, Administrative Costs: \$269.40; **Powering Down:** Program Costs: \$375.00, Administrative Costs: \$4.48; **Scenic Route:** Program Costs: \$2,227.00, Administrative Costs: \$26.73; **Northern Music Hour:** Program Costs: \$1,600.00, Administrative Costs: \$19.20; **Wavelengths--A Program Created by WTIP's Youth Community Advisory Board:** Program Costs: \$375.00, Administrative Costs: \$4.48; **The Boundary Waters Podcast:** Program Costs: \$5,371.00, Administrative Costs: \$63.80; **Legacy of Hunting and Trapping on the North Shore:** Program Costs: \$266.00, Administrative Costs: \$3.20; **Beyond the Canoe: Outdoor Recreation on the North Shore:** Program Costs: \$817.00, Administrative Costs: \$9.80.

Ampers (Statewide): MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds: Program Costs: \$73,458.26, Administrative Costs: \$3,866.22; **Minnesota Native News:** Program Costs: \$66,565.72, Administrative Costs: \$3,503.46; **Station Support:** \$54,722.26, Administrative Costs: \$13,680.57; **Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine:** Program Costs: \$75,404.13, Administrative Costs: \$3,968.64; **Veterans' Voices: Honoring Those Who Served in the 20th Century:** Program Costs: \$4,308.13, Administrative Costs: \$87.92, **Educational Outreach & Teacher Resources:** Program Costs: 5,552.73, Administrative Costs: \$113.32, **Ampers Digital Archive, Website, and Social Media:** Program Costs: \$18,922.26, Administrative Costs: \$386.17. **Veterans' Voices: Korea:** Program Costs: \$54,590.12, Administrative Costs: \$75.13. Note: Expenses listed for **Veterans' Voices: Korea** were incurred in FY20 but \$15,413.40 were paid in FY21.

- “I have learned so much from this show,
- it’s the only place I have been able to
- learn about the reservation life.”
- –KAXE Listener, commenting on *Minnesota*
- *Native News*
-

INVESTMENTS IN OUR STUDENTS

KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): Worked with 24 students to produce podcasts for the *Youth Radio* project.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): Worked with 48 students on *Jazz at Minneapolis Public Schools*, and 12 students on *MPS Voices*.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): Worked with 2 students to produce *Area Voices*, 8 students were involved with producing *Let's Visit* and 2 participated in *Centerstage Minnesota*.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): Worked with 22 students on the *Ojibwe Arts Rising* program and engaged more than 370 students in the *Minnesota Mixdown Series*.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul): Engaged 21 volunteers with the *Housing Project*.

KQAL (Winona): One student worked with their Program Coordinator throughout the academic year.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): Fifteen students acted or sang in five different productions of Reader's Theater. Three students performed on-stage – music performances for RiverFest, and ten students participated in two student-led discussions about the impact of the pandemic on school activities for Community Voices.

KUMD (Duluth): Five students assisted with tabling, promotion, and photography for Arts and Cultural Events, one student helped with production of *In the Spirit of Medicine*, one student helped with scheduling guests for MN Reads, one student assisted with posting web content for all projects and posting Live from Studio A to PRX, and one student helped with graphic design for projects as needed.

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): Had 23 University of Minnesota students who were involved in creating all ACHF projects combined.

KVSC (St. Cloud): Had 12 students working with sound engineer, studio host, on-stage emcee, promotional production, stage crew, lighting technicians, social media/event design elements, and fill crew for Granite City Radio Theatre's final episode June 2020. Seven students were involved with interviewing the headlining performer, promotional production, sound engineer support, social media/event design elements, and load-in/load-out crews for the Minnesota Music Concert. Sherlock Holmes involved three students working

as sound engineer for house mix and promotional production and social media/event design elements.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): Worked with a group of six students ages 8 to 16 as part of the Youth Community Advisory Board to create two on-air programs during the project period. The students were solely responsible for content creation, which included original features, a podcast submission, and live music recorded for the programs.



More than 600 students across the state helped to produce or participated in ACHF programming.





KAXE (Grand Rapids/Ely/Brainerd): .41 FTEs (ten full-time employees and one part-time), eight contract employees, and 59 artists/performers/musicians.

KBEM/Jazz88 (Minneapolis/St. Paul): 0.1 FTEs (one part-time employee), two contract employees, and four artists/performers/musicians.

KBFT (Bois Forte/Nett Lake): 0.5 FTEs (one full-time employee), 23 contract employees, and 29 artists/performers/musicians.

KBXE (Bagley/Bemidji): 1.18 FTEs (ten full-time employees and one part-time employee), two contract employees, and seven artists/performers/musicians.

KFAI (Minneapolis/St. Paul): 0.02 FTEs (three full-time employee, and two part-time employees), 24 contract employees, and 10 artists/performers/musicians.

KKWE (White Earth/Callaway): .5 FTEs (two part-time employees) four contract employees and 19 performers/artists/musicians.

KMOJ (Minneapolis/St. Paul): 0.17 FTEs (four full-time employees), six contract employees, and two artists/performers/musicians

KMSU (Mankato): 0 FTEs (one full-time employee and two part-time employees), 21 contract employees, and 136 artists/performers/musicians.

KQAL (Winona): 1.55 FTEs (one full-time employee and one part-time employee) and 18 artists/performers/musicians.

KSRQ (Thief River Falls): .92 FTEs (two full-time employees and one part-time employee), one contract employee, and six artists/performers/musicians.

KUMD (Duluth): 1.43 FTEs (four full-time employees).

KUOM/Radio K (Minneapolis/St. Paul): 3.7 FTEs (two full-time employees and 23 part-time employees) and one contract employee.

KVSC (St. Cloud): 1.0 FTEs (two part-time employees), 23 contract employees, and 10 artists/performers/musicians.

WTIP (Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/Grand Portage): 1.55 FTEs (six full-time employees and one part-time employee), four contract employees, and 115 artists/performers/musicians.

Ampers (Statewide): 2.70 FTEs (four full-time) and 16 contract employees

The Circle

NATIVE AMERICAN NEWS AND ARTS

Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine

By [catwhipple](#) October 5, 2019



Native Lights hosts Cole Premo and Leah Lemm interview Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan (center) at the Minnesota State Fair in September. (Photo courtesy of Ampers.)

By Lee Egerstrom

An unusual association of independent, community-based radio stations brought forth Native voices and faces for visitors to the Minnesota State Fair this year, and for the stations' listeners, giving credence to the fair's nickname as "the Great Minnesota Get-Together."

Stations that are part of the 18-station Ampers Radio Network broadcasted programs daily at the Aug. 22 to Sept. 2 fair from facilities at the Education Building. New at this year's fair, however, was a two-hour, live podcast in Aug. 24, "Native Lights: Where Indigenous Voices Shine."

Native radio broadcasting and now the podcast are keyed to serving Minnesota's Native communities. They also serve to strengthen ties with "Minnesota neighbors when it is so easy for us to be ignored," said Leah Lemm, a host and producer of the podcast along with a similar regionally-focused program, called Northern Lights, in tandem with Northern Minnesota radio stations.

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

Sister and brother Lemm, of Grand Rapids, and Cole Premo, of Minneapolis, host the Native Lights podcast that was started earlier in the year. Members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, both are professionals in broadcasting and music.

Podcasts are audio files – or programs – made available for free on the Internet. They can be similar to radio programs broadcast on air but may involve a wide range of creative ways to supply or share anything from news to fun entertainment. This year, the fair podcast was available both on the Internet and broadcast live by Ampers stations.

Lemm and Premo, with other Ampers' personnel, started Native Lights as an outgrowth of Minnesota Native News, a five-minute weekly news show produced for the Ampers stations. Lemm has been a reporter and producer for Native News for the past two years.

Native News and Native Lights try to serve Minnesota's Native communities that are often ignored, Lemm said in an interview. At the same time, it offers a way for Native people to interact with other Minnesotans at a time when ethnic groups are often demonized.

"We want this to be useful news for Natives and for our non-Native neighbors," she said. This is important if all Minnesotans seek to understand and respect others.

"Too often, we (Natives) have been demonized. But the eraser treatment is almost worse than demonizing ... just making us disappear and go away," she said.

Accomplished Native guests of the podcast included Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a citizen of White Earth Nation; Sarah Wheelock, with Twin Cities Native Lacrosse; Hennepin County Library community liaison Allison Waukau, Menominee and Navajo; Rhiana Yazzie, Navajo, founder of the New Native Theatre in the Twin Cities; and James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw, a Minneapolis educator and public speaker who started the "Ojibwe Word of the Day" blog.

How Lemm and Premo humanize their guests was apparent in how they build from their own professional music and personal backgrounds. They got Lieutenant Governor Flanagan to talk about how she evolved from a music background to child psychology to public service.

Following their interviews on the podcasts, the two entertained visitors and listeners with a few of their own composed songs.

When Minnesota Native News announced it would host the live podcast at the fair, reporter and producer Melissa Townsend described the intent this way:



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

"We've built the podcast to feel like you are sitting in a comfy chair shooting the breeze with a couple of food friends. They tell you stories that are hilarious, thoughtful and sometimes devastating. But every one of them offers a gift."

How this comes about and reaches all corners of the state is a story in itself.

Ampers was started with six community radio stations in 1972 as the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations, with a second identity as Ampers, Diverse Radio for Minnesota Communities.

Joel Glaser, chief executive officer since 2009, said the association grew from 12 stations to 18 in the years he's been CEO. That makes Ampers the largest state community radio network, or association, in the nation.

Among station members joining during Glaser's tenure were the state's four tribally-owned community stations. They include KBFT (FM 89.9) for Bois Forte at Nett Lake, KKWE (FM 88.9) for White Earth at Callaway, KOJB (FM 90.1) for Leech Lake at Cass Lake, and WGZS (FM 89.1) for Fond du Lac at Cloquet.

All 18 stations are locally managed and controlled, and all are licensed to a college, school, university, Native tribe or to a community organization.

Erin Warhol, program director for Ampers, said the outreach for Native communities come through by the reception programs receive at colleges and universities. "There is real interest among students and education communities that is real rewarding," she said.

Ampers stations cover the collegiate and geographical map of Minnesota. In addition to the four tribal stations, the network includes WTIP (serving Grand Marais, Grand Portage and Gunflint Trail), KAXE and KBXE (Grand Rapids, Bemidji, Brainerd), KSRQ (Thief River Falls), KMOJ (Twin Cities), KUOM (Twin Cities), KUMD (Duluth/Superior), KVSC (St. Cloud), KUMM (Morris), KFAI (Twin Cities), KBEM (Twin Cities), KMSU (Mankato/Austin), KQAL (Winona) and KRPR at Rochester.

Looking back, Native Lights host Lemm said the fair podcast was a "first anniversary" celebration because the programming started within the past year. The podcast doesn't have a set schedule, she said, and future programming "is a work in progress."

All involved with the news and podcast programs are interacting with listeners and others "to determine what works, what we might do better." That, she said, includes numbers and sequences for podcasts going forward.

Ampers arts and cultural affairs programming is supported by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, authorized by Minnesota voters in 2008, that supports public broadcasters and programming. That include diverse broadcasters such as Minnesota Public Radio, Minnesota Public Television and Ampers.

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

State Fair and earlier podcasts can be found on the Internet, at: <http://ampers.org/native-lights-podcast>. And Ampers programming can be found at: <http://ampers.org/listen-live>.



MINNPOST

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'The People's Station': KMOJ-FM broadcasts for the Minnesota African-American community and beyond

KMOJ connects in a way that only community radio can, providing as it does a listening experience wherein the deejays speak directly to you, the listener, complete with the freedom to voice their opinions about life and the news of the day.

By [Jim Walsh](#) | MinnPost contributing writer



Part of the staff that makes KMOJ go (left-to-right): Back row: Ray Seville (underwriting manager), Malcolm Samuels (underwriter), Glen Golden (announcer), Freddie Bell (general manager), Walter "Q Bear" Banks, Jr. (operations manager/announcer). Front row: Nikki Love (announcer/underwriter), Tiffany Washington (announcer/receptionist), Bridgette Stewart (underwriter).

MinnPost photo by Jim Walsh

Aug. 22, 2019 Monday morning was a quiet hive of urgent activity at the studios of [KMOJ-FM](#) on Penn and Broadway in north Minneapolis. The station's weekly board meeting had just ended, and employees and volunteers were gearing up for the business week of running one of the nation's oldest and most successful community radio stations.

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

There was legendary [KMOJ deejay Walter “Q Bear” Banks, Jr.](#), heading over to his memorabilia-festooned cubicle while planning his next drive-time show. There was the one and only Nikki Love, arguably the most respected hip-hop deejay in the Twin Cities. There was Ray Seville, the station’s underwriting manager and founder of the dance party stalwart [Ray Seville Productions](#), who was heading off to the State Fairgrounds to set up KMOJ’s booth — this year with a “dancing with the deejays” theme.

“At the State Fair, at any event we have a booth, people always stop and say, ‘I love KMOJ, I just LOVE KMOJ,’” said [General Manager Freddie Bell](#), fresh from hosting his Monday-through-Friday early shift on “The Morning Show with Freddie Bell and Chantel Sings.” “It’s really heartwarming to hear people say they love KMOJ. Who says they love a radio station? I get chills when I think about it.”

Chills are what can regularly happen via the warmth that KMOJ organically delivers. KMOJ connects in a way that only community radio can, providing as it does a listening experience wherein the deejays speak directly to you, the listener, complete with the freedom to voice their opinions about life and the news of the day. Which can be followed by a song that makes sense to them or the times, all the while cutting through the rest of the world’s noise and intimately connecting — a neat trick in these times of great skepticism about radio, media, government, people/robots.

“We’re that friend that comes through the car radio,” said Bell. “We’re that friend in the morning that can tell you the temperature and the weather, but we’re also that neighbor, that close companion, that gives you the information that you need so that you can act as quickly as you need to act, in order to take care of yourself and your family.”

Depending on the time of day or night, punching the radio dial in the Twin Cities can provide an embarrassment of riches, a dearth of originality, commercial-clogged talk pablum, and boatloads of cold corporate crap. Springing out of that maw is KMOJ and its many voices of reason. For all of its 43 years, KMOJ’s tagline has been “the people’s station,” and these strange days it feels that way. Special. Warm. Human. Humane.

“The same things that impact the African-American community impact people all around our country,” said Bell, who took the reins as KMOJ’s general manager the same year Donald Trump was elected. “So the more that we stay vigilant with what’s important to us, that can translate over time to a better society. We don’t have the answers, but we do know that we want to celebrate the successes in our community. We want to put a big light on that.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

“We want to do stories about our community, our people. One example is this [young man who set up hot dog stand](#). We broadcast live from his family’s house, and that went everywhere. We want stories like that. But also, at the same time, when forces are [trying to vanquish the voice of Ilhan Omar](#), we talk about that as well.”



Under Freddie Bell’s leadership, KMOJ has focused on more journalism projects, including a series on sex trafficking that earned the station a first-place award from the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

MinnPost photo by Jim Walsh

Most casual listeners to KMOJ tune in for the great music, and a mix of soul, funk, jazz, R&B as played by deejays who obviously curate and care about each cut: Listeners can readily hear the passion, knowledge, and freedom in their voices and choices. But beyond the steady beats and deep knowledge, the station has always been a resource for its listeners in a way that true public radio and community radio was created for.

This year, the station was awarded [a first-place Society of Professional Journalists award](#) for “[The New Slavery](#),” its 2018 series on sex trafficking. And when longtime civil rights leader and teacher [Josie Johnson](#) was recently “[treated poorly](#)” by an [Uber driver](#), KMOJ reported the story, including a live feed from a town hall.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

“It’s grass-roots people talking about grass-roots issues,” said Bell, who received his journalism degree from Creighton University in Omaha, and has worked in radio most of his life, most notably as the main voice behind Solid Gold Soul, formerly at 950 on the AM dial. “I haven’t heard that Josie Johnson story anywhere but on KMOJ. It was an amazing situation where the community came together to capture the video and bring it forward, the hearings were held, and they talked about it and came to the support of Josie Johnson. It’s amazing.”

Two years ago, KMOJ unveiled its sister station, The Ice, geared to a younger demographic. The studio itself drips in history (a poster of James Brown and Q Bear greets visitors), but it’s safe to say that KMOJ has never been more vital than it is today. Bell himself is a persuasive speaker, connector, and advocate for his staff, the history of KMOJ, and the station’s invaluable role in Minneapolis music and storytelling.

“My background is as a journalist, and I’ve tried to bring that forward at KMOJ. But there have been people here, long before I even knew KMOJ existed, and some of them are still here. ... We have over 50 [weekly broadcast] hours of public affairs programming, where all we talk about are the issues. So I believe the music is a hook to get you to stick around long enough and to hear about the issues that are impacting the community with our wonderful hosts. We stop every day at 6 o’clock and talk for an hour about various things that are happening. We do it on Saturdays. We do it on Sunday mornings. We take prime time to talk about the topics that we have.”

KMOJ started in 1976 as a blip on the north Minneapolis radar. Now thanks to the worldwide web, KMOJ can be heard all over the planet, giving the station’s “the people’s station” a broader definition.

“With our app, with technology the way it is, we’re no longer just the northside radio station,” said Bell. “Our signal and our reach is worldwide. We are very, very conscious of the messaging that we send out. We know it’s not just being heard here, so when I talk to corporations, I talk about the history of when we began in 1976 as a five-watt radio station. The signal barely got off the block. We had a power increase in 2011 that got us to St. Paul. We’re still a relatively small station, but we’re on a higher stick: Sixty-two hundred watts of power.

“‘The People’s Station’ is more than just a slogan. There’s some good parts about it and some bad parts about it. We’re a business, number one. There are some people who believe that just because we’re ‘the people’s station’ they can come in and sit at a microphone and say whatever they like. We would like for that to happen, and there are portals for that. However, when we’re talking about the people’s station, we’re talking about young people, old people, black people, white people, yellow

people, red people — we're talking about people. But we're very, very aware that we're super-serving our African-American community.

"That's why it was set up in '76. And now more than ever, it's a way to really bring people together and to talk about the common issues that we have, and also to shed a light on the issues that really are impacting people of color. That's what the people's station is for me."



Wall artwork at the studios of KMOJ in Minneapolis.

MinnPost photo by Jim Walsh

"There's been tremendous growth just in the past three years that we've been working with our community partners, and I'm just hoping that more and more of our partners in the community, [from] the major corporations, the Fortune 500 companies to the community organizations that are just getting by — we want to partner with all of these entities," said Bell.

"If you're advertising with KMOJ, if you are serious, then this is the place to be if you want to reach our community. We super-serve the audiences that you're looking for. That's why we brought up the Ice a couple years ago. The mission is still the same as it was in 1976: to train broadcasters and also to bring forth the issues of the day.

"So what does that mean? If I'm talking health care on KMOJ, the people's station, we might be talking about retirement. If I'm talking health care on the Ice, I'm talking about the fact that you might be entering the workforce, and to make sure

that you take as much money as they're offering for a retirement plan early on. Take the health care plan.

"So we're talking about health care in those two instances, but we're really sensitive as to the audience to which we're talking. So now we have that 25 to 54 age range, but we're super-sizing on the Ice, 6 years old to 25. So that's the real sweet spot: So we've got mom and dad, we have their kids, and we have the grandparents and the great-grandparents, too."

It's all about edification at KMOJ, be it public affairs shows like Dr. Charles Morgan's "In The Mix," Mahmoud El Kati's "Reflections," Nneka Morgan and Lennie Chism's "Financial Fitness," Sara Hollie's "Know Your Options," Lissa Jone's "Urban Agenda," or a recent station-sponsored Alzheimer's symposium.

"One of the things I wanted to do when I came here as general manager was add to the narratives that we talk about, and one thing we hadn't talked about is aging in the African-American community," said Bell. "What Alzheimer's looks like. Sometimes there can be a stigma when people start aging, but we wanted to embrace it and so we've added that narrative."



A poster of soul legend James Brown and KMOJ legend Q Bear greets visitors to the station's headquarters.

MinnPost photo by Jim Walsh

"When you think about it, there are some people who will work until they die, because they have no financial backing. There are wonderful agencies like the [Agency On Aging](#) that do fine work here in the Twin Cities, but I've never heard of a program where we take significant time to talk about what happens beyond 65. We



have a huge amount of baby boomers in our community. Some will retire very, very well, but a lot will not. Some will work and probably die on the job. Some are deacons in their church, and will die on their knees in the church.

“We wanted to shed a light on that, to let people know there are resources and strategies to be employed. We wanted to make sure that we put a big light on that, or a big microphone in front of it. We have a show called ‘Financial Fitness,’ and we’re talking about how we can take care of not only ourselves, but how our families can take care of each other in a financial way. We’ve brought forward those issues at KMOJ, and my job, I believe, is to add to the narratives that are not commonly spoken about, and see what it is to impact change.”

Hanging on the wall near Q Bear’s cubicle is a poster of some of the on-air KMOJ talent, including Ray Richardson, Sonny Day, Candace Gray, DJ Divine, Lady L and more. On the shelves in Bell’s office and the conference room are broadcasting and journalism awards. Outside the windows beats the heart of a thriving, growing city that KMOJ helps document, chronicle, and inspire.

“I don’t know what’s next, but I was part of a conference where we talked about our profession, and reporting, adding the narrative that takes into account what people of color who are reporters go through,” said Bell. “How in some cases their personalities and their drive to want to bring the real story forward are somewhat thwarted because of being the only one in a newsroom. Or if they bring it, the news editor puts the kibosh on it because they’re not as sensitive to it.

“I still read stories today that say a group of protesters were at a X meeting somewhere, and that’s a buzzword: If you know the address, or the area of the community, ‘Oh, that’s just probably a bunch of African-Americans, or Somalis, or what have you.’ What’s wrong with saying, ‘A group of people got together to bring forward their concerns over an issue that is impacting their community’? It’s the same story, but it’s without the easy, go-to buzzwords that turn people off from listening to what the real story is, that’s impacting the human condition.

“We can do better.”



Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, a former City Pages music editor and award-winning columnist for the Pioneer Press, writes about music and local culture. He is the author of the oral history “The Replacements: All Over but the Shouting.”



MESABI TRIBUNE



KBFT Native Fashion Show

Updated Sep 9, 2020

The designer modernizing traditional Ojibwe clothing

By Eric Killelea Assistant Editor

Nov 4, 2019

TOWER — In 2017, Amber Buckanaga left a career in education to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer. She converted her basement into a studio. There was no serger. No embroider. But she had a sewing machine. The basic setup proved all she needed.

Buckanaga had learned how to sew blankets and quilts and traditional dance regalia as a kid and continued practicing while attending high school at Nay Ah Shing on the Mille Lacs Band Reservation and then Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet. Drawing on her experience, she worked in her home to create 14 looks in men and women wear for Rise New York Fashion Week this past February. It was her first full collection. Her first show ever. In the three months that followed, she went on to show her collection at the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids, Fashion Week Minnesota Kick Off Party in Minneapolis and the depot train museum with the Duluth Art Institute.

Since then, Buckanaga, a 28-year-old enrolled member of the Leech Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe residing in East Lake, has been showcasing the

Assisting club members include her sister Alyssa Buckanaga (beaded jewelry and leather work), her brother Aaron Buckanaga (leather work specializing in belts, drums, drumsticks and regalia design) and her friends Sophie Glass (acrylic paint artist now working on a large painting for a store in Jacobson, Minn.) and Chelsey Wilkie (sewist acting as Buckanaga's assistant during fashion shows).

Last Sunday, Buckanaga brought four of her looks from the New York event in addition to 14 new ones from her Spring/Summer 2020 collection to the KBFT Native Fashion Show at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Reservation. "I stepped outside my comfort zone and created clothing with colors that I wouldn't normally wear with reds and pinks and lots of prints," Buckanaga said. "But I like my work to be bold so I used bright colors."

In presenting her latest collection, Buckanaga said she sought to "make modern clothing." She provided a few examples of standout pieces. "Usually men wear ribbon shirts and pants, but I made them for females, too. And the crop tops are modeled after the strap dresses worn by Ojibwe women." She added, "I like for anyone to wear what I make."

Buckanaga enlisted five Indigenous models to appear in the fashion show, including Alyssa Buckanaga, 27, Mandy Behnke, 31, Alyssa Northrop, 18, Kayla Aubid, 27, and Jamie Aubid, 38. (Kayla Aubid is the gallery director at the MacRostie Art Center.)

Twenty minutes before the show, the models gathered in the dressing room for final preparations.

Alyssa Buckanaga fingered through a rack of her outfits: 1) “this is a high-waisted applicad pants with red and light blue ribbon work”; 2) “and here are purple shorts with front pockets and applicad on the backside”; 3) “a traditional ribbon skirt”; 4) “and a gold gown with ribbon work of burgundy, red, green and tan.”

Where did the ideas come from? “Amber’s brain,” Alyssa Buckanaga said, smiling when applying makeup beside the four other women in the dressing room. Jamie Aubid, the only male model, was adjusting his clothing in the space filled with family and friends and children. “I feel it’s traditional with a twist of modern to it,” Alyssa Buckanaga continued. “I feel like New York opened up her mind to the way she designs clothing and she’s grown from using neutral colors to very bright colors in a modern way.”

Meanwhile, Brian Anderson, of Fortune Bay, and George Strong, the general manager at KBFT 89.9 FM Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio, banded together in welcoming a crowd into the free event in the Woodlands Ballroom. Strong said the Native Fashion Show was put on with money received through Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month. The radio station also used the money to sponsor Tracy Bone, an Indigenous country music singer from Canada who played the room after the fashion show over the weekend.

During the fashion show, Alyssa Buckanaga walked from the dressing room through black curtains, strutting her high-waisted applicad pants with multi-colored ribbon work, onto the stage and down a runway between rows of Native and non-Native onlookers. She modeled the clothing, as Beyonce’s 2019 song “Brown Skin Girl” played over the loudspeakers. “Brown skin girl/Your skin just like pearls/The best thing in the world/Never trade

you for anybody else.” There was applause and cheers and “wows” as the models walked the casino runway to the beats of Minneapolis-grown rapper Lizzo.

Buckanaga’s fashion show was the first of its kind at Fortune Bay. And it was the first fashion show for many in the audience, including Panda Whiteman, of Canada, and her daughter Charmaine Jourdain, 23, and son Brian Whiteman Jr., 23, who cheered on the models.

Panda Whiteman said she thought “it’s important to support artists because they’re showing their creativity and a lot of people in the community like to sew and bead.”

“I see ribbon skirts at pow-wows, but this is a different take on how it’s modern,” Jourdain explained. “It’s very creative. They went beyond the traditional and they showed how you could wear them everyday and not only at ceremonial events. I could wear those clothes out in town.”

Brian Whiteman, an enrolled member of the Bois Forte, added, “I liked the shorts and T-shirts. I’d buy them.”



the TIMBERJAY



From left, Brian Whiteman Jr., Panda Whiteman, Charmaine Jourdain, and Carleigh Whiteman work together on a cradleboard for future use by their family. Not pictured is Brianna Whiteman.

D. COLBURN



Posted Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:37 pm

David Colburn

NETT LAKE- The men were the first to arrive on the final day of a recent three-day cradleboard workshop at Nett Lake School, and in light of Ojibwe tradition it was wholly appropriate. "The woodworking was actually done by the men," said workshop leader Wayne Valliere, a Lac Du Flambeau Ojibwe from Wisconsin. "The expectant father and grandfather went out and did this heavier work."

Nicholas deShaw came from St. Paul to learn how to make a cradleboard.

"I'm here because my wife and I are expecting our first baby in April," he said. "I'm trying to learn these traditions to pass on to him and try to raise him as best I can in our Anishinaabe traditions." Darren Landgren is digital communications director for KBFT, the Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio station which sponsored the workshop. He was making a cradleboard for the station's resource library.

"We want to capture as much history and knowledge as we can to preserve it so that if people have an interest they can come learn about it here," Landgren said.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

Landgren and deShaw exchanged thoughts about who was traditionally responsible for making a cradleboard.

"This is traditionally a men's craft, but there are a lot of women here, too," deShaw said.

"I thought it was a women's craft," Landgren replied.

"What I've heard is that the father would make this," deShaw said. "In modern times it's kind of whoever can do it."

Valliere said cradleboard-making is typically a joint venture, with the father responsible for woodworking and the mother responsible for making the lining, ties, beading, and traditional moss-filled pillow.

"There are different customs from Ojibwe group to Ojibwe group," Valliere said. "In Minnesota, they would not even start the cradleboard until after the baby was born. The mortality rate was so high amongst native people that the cradleboard could be an awful reminder to mom and dad of what could have been and could be very emotionally damaging. That's why they waited."

In Wisconsin, boards are started when a mother learns she is expecting.

"The Ojibwe people in Wisconsin believe we are sending these vibes to the Great Spirit to assure that the baby is born," Valliere said. "That is our custom. Which one is right? They're both right. It's what our grandparents did."

To view a cradleboard as simply a means to carry a child is to miss most of its purpose and meaning, Valliere said.

"It's tradition, it's culture," he said. "There are a lot of teachings, and it's ceremonial as well."

For instance, a cradleboard is a primary teaching and bonding tool for the Ojibwe.

"Our babies are put in it when mom's working," Valliere said. "That baby is put in a place where they can see everything that is going on. They hear everything, they see everything, and they learn from a very, very early age, and they're secure."

Landgren said he learned that specific traditional features of a cradleboard facilitated this closeness and observation outdoors.

"The spikes at the end like that are so it can be stuck in the ground," he said. "The hole is significant because you can hang it from a tree branch if you're out in the woods. I knew it was to carry a baby, but I didn't know all the different functionalities of it."

Panda Whiteman, originally from Ontario but now living in Nett Lake, came to the workshop with her children, Carleigh, 9; Brianna, 15; Brian Jr., 18, and Charmain Jourdain, 25.

"We just wanted something for them when they have their own children, and for them to make it together," Whiteman said. "I had all my kids in them when they were younger. There are teachings that go along with it. While we're doing this here I'm able to share those with them."

"We already had a few laughs yesterday over what we were doing when we were putting it together. I'm hoping they can share that with their kids."

It was also a family affair for elder Karen Drift, who encouraged her granddaughters to attend.

"You come up there and learn how to make a cradleboard because we elders aren't going to be here all the time, I told them," Drift said.

Drift said she attends events like the cradleboard workshop to pass along Ojibwe language and traditions to attendees. On this day of the workshop she brought 30 pieces of fry bread, a wild rice dish, and a dessert of wild rice, blueberries, and strawberries.

"That's what we're supposed to do, we're supposed to feed the people," she said. "We don't really do that anymore."

Throughout the workshop, Drift shared stories of her experiences with cradleboards. One example illustrated how cradleboards are intended to allow babies to learn by observation.

"My aunt used to bring her baby when we used to paddle down Lost River to pick blueberries," she said. "She brought her baby cradleboard and she'd prop it up by a tree, sit down and pick blueberries, and when she got done with that patch she'd move him to another tree."



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

Telling her stories in her native tongue is especially important to Drift.

"I grew up in a home where, ever since I was born I had fluent speakers all around me," she said.

"As I grew older I saw us losing language and the things we used to do when I was a girl. I try to be at these outings so I can talk Indian to the people who are here."

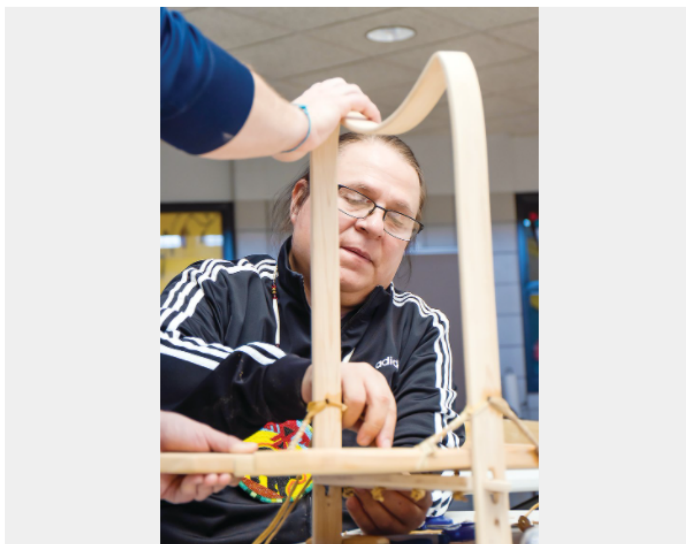
Drift's contributions were one of the highlights for Whiteman.

"It's nice coming to events like this because you get to hear people like Karen speak and she tells a lot of the old stories from a long time ago," Whiteman said. "It was nice listening to her."

"I love this activity. I'm happy they did this. There's a lot of teaching in it."



Nicholas deShaw steadies a cradleboard for Darren Landgren as he attaches a handle with lashes.



Cradleboard workshop leader Wayne Valliere fastens a handle to a cradleboard base.



the TIMBERJAY



Posted Tuesday, July 2, 2019 3:47 pm

Marcus White

NETT LAKE - Darren Landgren and George Strong surveyed the progress being made on a traditional birch bark canoe last Saturday morning, as part of a weekend of activities here designed to reconnect Bois Forte band members with the traditions of their culture and language.

Landgren and Strong were part of team being led by Wayne Valliere, one of only five remaining Ojibwe master boat builders in North America.

"People like to say that birch bark canoes are primitive crafts; they're superior crafts," Valliere said. "The shape hasn't changed since they were created. Europeans even abandoned their boats when they got here."

The history of the birch bark canoe dates back centuries and was brought to the Great Lakes region as part of the Ojibwe westerly migration.

"They are so important in our past," Chaz Wagner said. "It's an old technology, but it's the technology of our future."

The canoes are used for everything from transport, to ricing, spear fishing and hunting.

Valliere said it wasn't too long ago when all Ojibwe families knew how to build one. He said the canoes were once as common as cars are today.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

With only five master builders left, Valliere said some, including himself, have spent the past eight years traveling the Midwest to revive the skill including a residency at the University of Wisconsin - Madison where Valliere and several apprentices brought the canoes to life on campus.

The style of the canoe is called a "high-end" canoe, which is one of the most archaic designs. While the majority of the design is birch, other components are made from cedar and spruce.

"This particular canoe is very special because several tribal members have put their hands on it and helped with it," Valliere said. "There is a lot of leg work that needs to happen. They're modeling it for their people."

Valliere and Wagner said the process of collecting the material can be long and hard, with only one out of every 50 birch trees having the right type of bark to use. And with birch trees in Minnesota becoming less common, the process becomes more complicated by the scarcity of resources.

Those resources, though, when harvested properly don't deplete their environment.

"The thing about the material is that it all regenerates," Valliere said. "We only use secondary (tree) roots and the bark regenerates over time. It doesn't leave an imprint on the environment to build these crafts."

The canoe was set to be completed by the end of the weekend with an official launch set for Sunday or Monday afternoon.

Keeping the
language alive

Boat building wasn't the only topic of learning and immersion in Nett Lake this past weekend. A series of Ojibwe language speakers were also presenting at this year's third language immersion camp.

Wagner said weekend camps in the past have focused on specific activities, such as ricing, but this weekend was about the language itself.

Dr. Anton Treuer, a professor of the Ojibwe language at Bemidji State University, was one of the teachers present for the event.

"This isn't a lecture day, but one with activities to build up their speech," he said. "It's a combination of academic and social learning environments. Everyone is wired a little differently. Some need to hear it, others need to see it."

Some of the activities range from conversation prompts on Jenga blocks while others are more traditional classroom-oriented lessons on sentence and grammar structure.

Treuer said language and culture are the bonds that tie all communities together, and he believes that immersing communities in their cultural traditions will heal many old wounds.

"For those who do know (the language), it translates to a positive development in their life from relationships to emotional, physical and spiritual health," he said. "To preserve a language is the most important way to combat domestic abuse and other community ailments. Other solutions

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

are just band-aids that don't always address the root of the problem. It not only heals wounds but prevents them."

He said the loss of language to Native peoples around the Americas is a dire situation, one that isn't always recognized.

"It is scary out there, but anyone who isn't worried, doesn't have their eyes open," Treuer said. "Only 20 of the 500 known native languages are spoken by native kids. Where we've seen meaningful revitalization projects, we've seen really amazing things. A community language camp won't make everyone fluent, but it does advance the knowledge of those who do attend. It connects people with information that can help them keep going."

The canoe building and immersion camps are organized through the Bois Forte radio station, KBFT. Future events can be found by going to their website, www.kbft.org.

GrandRapidsMN.com

HeraldReview

The designer modernizing traditional Ojibwe clothing

By Eric Killelea Hibbing Daily Tribune
Nov 7, 2019



Minnesota-based designer Amber Buckanaga presents her modern collection at the Native Fashion Show at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Reservation.

Eric Killelea

In 2017, Amber Buckanaga left a career in education to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer. She converted her basement into a studio. There was no serger. No embroider. But she had a sewing machine. The basic setup proved all she needed.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

Buckanaga had learned how to sew blankets and quilts and traditional dance regalia as a kid and continued practicing while attending high school at Nay Ah Shing on the Mille Lacs Band Reservation and then Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet. Drawing on her experience, she worked in her home to create 14 looks in men and women wear for Rise New York Fashion Week this past February. It was her first full collection. Her first show ever. In the three months that followed, she went on to show her collection at the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids, Fashion Week Minnesota Kick Off Party in Minneapolis and the depot train museum with the Duluth Art Institute.

Since then, Buckanaga, a 28-year-old enrolled member of the Leech Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe residing in East Lake, has been showcasing the collection at several other events in the region and also working with the crew at her own clothing design company, called the Buckanaga Social Club to create a distinctly modern style for a new collection.

Assisting club members include her sister Alyssa Buckanaga (beaded jewelry and leather work), her brother Aaron Buckanaga (leather work specializing in belts, drums, drumsticks and regalia design) and her friends Sophie Glass (acrylic paint artist now working on a large painting for a store in Jacobson, Minn.) and Chelsey Wilkie (sewist acting as Buckanaga's assistant during fashion shows).

Last Sunday, Buckanaga brought four of her looks from the New York event in addition to 14 new ones from her Spring/Summer 2020 collection to the KBFT Native Fashion Show at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Reservation.

"I stepped outside my comfort zone and created clothing with colors that I wouldn't normally wear with reds and pinks and lots of prints," Buckanaga said. "But I like my work to be bold so I used bright colors."



In presenting her latest collection, Buckanaga said she sought to “make modern clothing.” She provided a few examples of standout pieces. “Usually men wear ribbon shirts and pants, but I made them for females, too. And the crop tops are modeled after the strap dresses worn by Ojibwe women.” She added, “I like for anyone to wear what I make.”

Buckanaga enlisted five Indigenous models to appear in the fashion show, including Alyssa Buckanaga, 27, Mandy Behnke, 31, Alyssa Northrop, 18, Kayla Aubid, 27, and Jamie Aubid, 38. (Kayla Aubid is the gallery director at the MacRostie Art Center.)

Twenty minutes before the show, the models gathered in the dressing room for final preparations.

Alyssa Buckanaga fingered through a rack of her outfits: 1) “this is a high-waisted applique pants with red and light blue ribbon work”; 2) “and here are purple shorts with front pockets and appliqueed on the backside”; 3) “a traditional ribbon skirt”; 4) “and a gown with ribbon work of burgundy, red, green and tan.”

Where did the ideas come from? “Amber’s brain,” Alyssa Buckanaga said, smiling when applying makeup beside the four other women in the dressing room. Jamie Aubid, the only male model, was adjusting his clothing in the space filled with family and friends and children.

“I feel it’s traditional with a twist of modern to it,” Alyssa Buckanaga continued. “I feel like New York opened up her mind to the way she designs clothing and she’s grown from using neutral colors to very bright colors in a modern way.”

Meanwhile, Brian Anderson, of Fortune Bay, and George Strong, the general manager at KBFT 89.9 FM Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio, banded together in welcoming a crowd into the free event in the Woodlands Ballroom. Strong said the Native Fashion Show was put on with money received through Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month.



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

The radio station also used the money to sponsor Tracy Bone, an Indigenous country music singer from Canada who played the room after the fashion show over the weekend.

During the fashion show, Alyssa Buckanaga walked from the dressing room through black curtains, strutting her high-waisted appliqueed pants with multi-colored ribbon work, onto the stage and down a runway between rows of Native and non-Native onlookers. She modeled the clothing, as Beyonce's 2019 song "Brown Skin Girl" played over the loudspeakers. "Brown skin girl/Your skin just like pearls/The best thing in the world/Never trade you for anybody else." There was applause and cheers and "wows" as the models walked the casino runway to the beats of Minneapolis-grown rapper Lizzo.

Buckanaga's fashion show was the first of its kind at Fortune Bay. And it was the first fashion show for many in the audience, including Panda Whiteman, of Canada, and her daughter Charmaine Jourdain, 23, and son Brian Whiteman Jr., 23, who cheered on the models.

Panda Whiteman said she thought "it's important to support artists because they're showing their creativity and a lot of people in the community like to sew and bead."

"I see ribbon skirts at pow-wows, but this is a different take on how it's modern," Jourdain explained. "It's very creative. They went beyond the traditional and they showed how you could wear them everyday and not only at ceremonial events. I could wear those clothes out in town."

Brian Whiteman, an enrolled member of the Bois Forte, added, "I liked the shorts and T-shirts. I'd buy them."

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Brother Ali preaches love and truth at KVSC's homecoming concert

📅 September 30, 2019 🧑 Contributing Writer 🎧 Brother Ali, Homecoming, homecoming 2019, music, reviews

Not many people can claim to have known an artist years before their big break, but KVSC has had a long relationship with rapper Brother Ali ever since playing a free show on the Atwood Mall about fifteen years ago. Much has changed since that free show, including Ali making waves on the U.S. rap charts with every album since 2009's *"Us"*. This was a

Recent Posts



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

homecoming concert not just for St. Cloud State, but also for Ali in the fact that he hasn't played a show in St. Cloud in over ten years.

There were no shortage of people waiting in line for doors to open for the show at the Red Carpet in downtown St. Cloud, with many people asking every few minutes or so if doors were open yet. As students started to trickle inside the venue, the air was instantly filled with excitement of the night to come.

Opening the show was St. Paul based rapper Kaleem the Dream. He immediately took the stage and told everyone that he wanted them in the center of the dance floor to have a good time. Kaleem's immediate energy on stage and charismatic stage presence made it easy for the crowd to start dancing along to his catchy rap/hip-hop sounds. The crowd looked easily won over by his music by the second or third song.

K"Opening for Brother Ali was something special, considering that I've opened up for him at First Ave main room five years back, so seeing it all come full circle was amazing," said Kaleem. "The show was amazing, a lot of good energy in the room. I definitely want to come back here and throw another show".

Kaleem and his DJ kept the energy going throughout the whole set and finished out the show strong with loud cheers from a crowd that wasn't ready to stop dancing yet.

In between sets, St. Cloud residents and students continued to filter in the venue until it was packed with people. The tension continued to rise as everyone waited patiently for Ali to take the stage. Soon enough, Ali's DJ – DJ Last Word – took the stage to play some beats and scratches while everyone anxiously waited for the headliner.

After around fifteen or so minutes, Brother Ali took the stage to roaring applause of the crowd. Ali immediately began his message of love and truth, making sure the crowd knew what he was all about. The crowd took to the rapper quite quickly by dancing, singing, and of course spreading love with everyone else in the venue. Once the crowd favorite "*Own Light*" came onto the turntables, the mood was instantly positive with lyrics like, "They been trying to shut us down our whole life / I thank God for healing. You ain't got to get me lit I got my own light / Thank God for listening, listen". Ali kept the positivity and good feeling of the crowd going throughout the whole night.

Another aspect of Brother Ali's live shows that makes him stand out from other rappers today is his aspect of rapping about social justice. Crowd

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

favorite "*Uncle Sam G*ddamn!*" was a definitive example of this with possible the loudest cheering from the crowd all night with everyone yelling the chorus, "*Welcome to the United States, land of the free, home of the slave,*" at the top of their lungs.

With a few witty jabs against our current political system, the crowd was won over with Ali's politically savvy words.

"I like to think of Brother Ali as someone who walks the talk, so he can put out the lyrics and be conscientious, and he can talk to you about what it means to be active and what it is to be part of something bigger than you," said KVSC Station Manager Jo McMullen.

All shows have to come to an end and unfortunately, Ali had to finally wrap up the set, but all in all, the crowd seemed to love the show and had a fun night.

Many in the crowd were astonished by how similar Ali's rapping voice is to his recorded tracks. Ali finally left the stage to a huge round of applause and a generally happy and loving crowd.

Hopefully the bond between St. Cloud and Brother Ali can grow stronger soon and he can return to the town again someday. Although the homecoming football game was a loss, KVSC's homecoming concert was a definite win with the home crowd.

SC Times

ENTERTAINMENT

Debbie Duncan to headline Granite City Radio Theatre

Sarah Colburn Special to the Times

Published 5:00 p.m. CT Mar. 3, 2020

The infamous Debbie Duncan, known as the Midwest's "First Lady of Song," will headline the upcoming Granite City Radio Theatre performance.

Duncan, who's known for energizing the crowd and her quick changeovers on stage, takes audiences from a crooning moment to a fevered pace in seconds. She is known throughout the world of jazz and blues, especially in her Minnesota stomping grounds.

Her accolades are numerous and include Best Female Jazz Vocalist, Best Female Performer and Best Jazz Vocalist. She's done back-up vocals for Mitch Ryder and Bob Seger and opened for the likes of Herbie Hancock and Miles Davis. She's stood side-by-side singing with Bobby Watson and Horizon, Roy Hargrove and Von Freeman.

"She's got a really fun personality, she's just a sparkplug," said Jo McMullen Boyer, station manager for St. Cloud State University's KVSC and executive producer of the production.

Though GCRT has featured Indie and Americana artists, it's the first time they'll feature a straight blues and jazz musician, McMullen Boyer said. Together, they'll play four songs, two in the first half and two in the second half of the live, on-air show.

The night includes a mix of live music, comedy, skits, commercials and radio drama by Shades Brigade, a group out of the Twin Cities that has been researching and using local Central Minnesota history as a basis for its serial drama.

Duncan has performed on-air radio only twice, once as a guest with Garrison Keillor.

"I'm just looking forward to it...It's been a long time, and it will be interesting to find out how the format works," she said.

From a performance standpoint, doing live radio with a live audience isn't that different from performing a concert and Duncan said she'll choose music from her personal catalog of

PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

5,000 songs. Her performance will include “I Love Being Here With You.”

“I like the lyrics, melody, the energy of it,” she said. “It’s my way of being welcoming to the people I’m performing for.”

“I kind of enjoy the immediate gratification that I give and that I get,” she said. “There’s a certain energy level that is there with live performance, it just all goes together and it works out to be an extremely positive experience.”

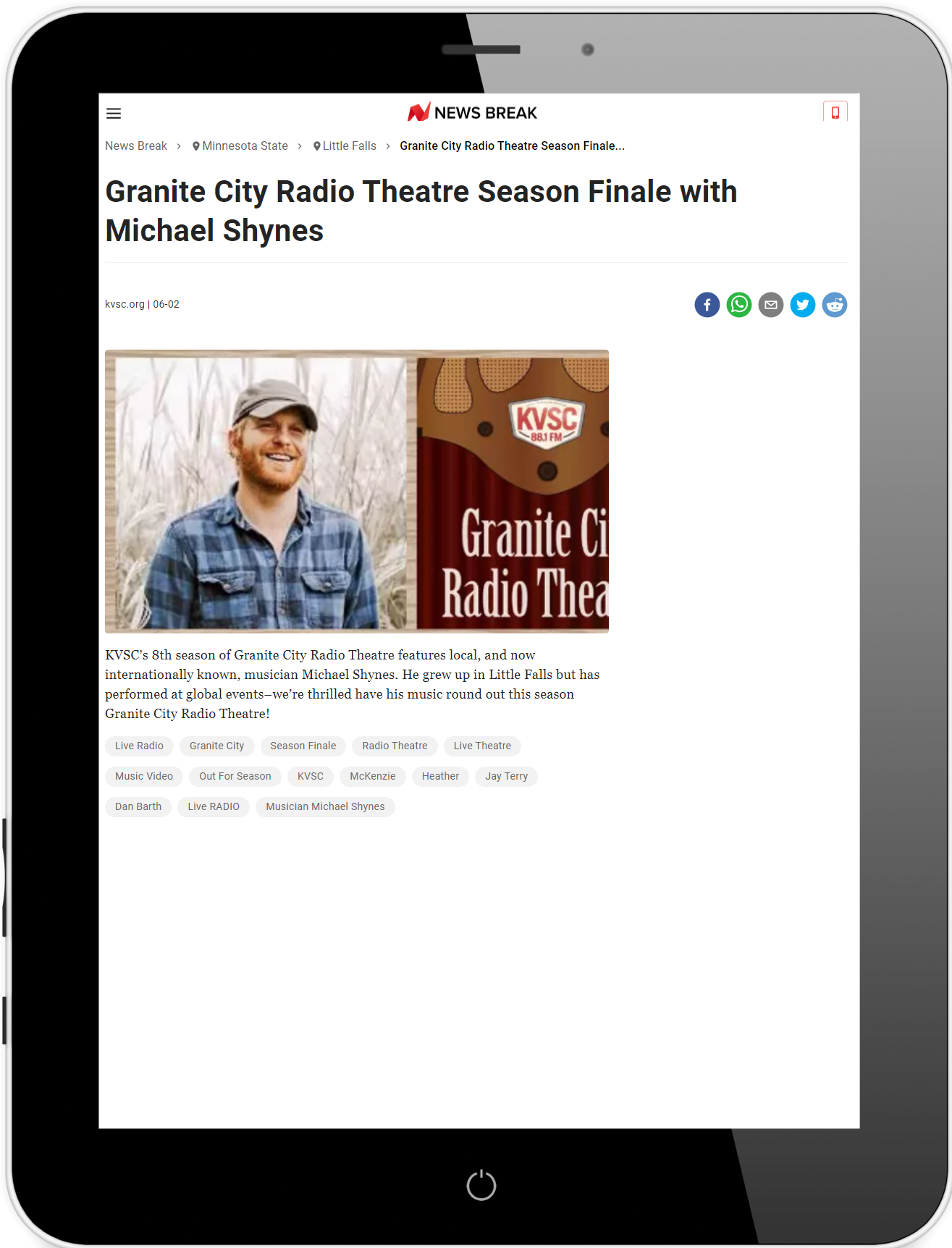
The script for the evening of radio theater tops 60 pages and, because the performers don’t see the script ahead of time, there’s always a good punch line or side joke, McMuller Boyer said. Occasionally, the group will write the musical guest into a script if they’re willing to play along.

This is the eighth season of Granite City Radio Theatre, and through the years it has featured 32 guest musicians, never repeating a guest.

Doors open at 7 p.m. March 11 at Pioneer Place on Fifth. The live-to-air performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at <http://www.ppfive.com/>.



Debbie Duncan will headline Granite City Radio Theatre at 7 p.m. March 11. *John Whiting*





KMSU Radio, Arts Center of Saint Peter Host Rocky Horror Show/Bat Out of Hell

October 19th, 2019

SAINT PETER, MINN. – Thirty local musicians form the cast, band, and chorus of The Rocky Horror Show/Bat Out Of Hell Pageant & Singalong, a free, one-night-only community musical event on Saturday, October 26, 8:00 p.m. at Patrick's on Third, 125 S. Third Street, St. Peter.

Several of the cast members rarely perform in public, or are making their public debut with this production. "Those are some of the most standout performances," says Arts Center Executive Director Ann Rosenquist Fee. "Three soloists who really fit that bill are Rachel Maccabee, Lisa Noll, and Ronda Redmond, all powerful altos, each taking lead on a different Meat Loaf tune."

The production also includes some staples of the local arts scene—Evan Bierer (sax), Betty Harsma (vocals, pole), Laura Karels (vocals), Colin Scharf (vocals), Emily Stark (vocals, tap), and Joe Tougas (vocals, guitar).

Early in the rehearsal phase, Stark claimed the role of "Time Warp's" tap-dancing Columbia. Three fellow chorus members with childhood tap experience—Maureen Gustafson, Jill Hildebrandt, and Ronda Redmond—also expressed interest, and the group quickly committed to refreshing their skills and developing choreography. The result is a tap quartet on raised platforms throughout the entire eighteen-song production, with costume changes to suit the mood of each tune from the 1973 Richard O'Brien Musical The Rocky Horror Show or Meat Loaf's 1977 debut studio album Bat out of Hell.

The event is free and lyrics will be provided. Bar and restaurant seating will be first-come, first-served. Audiences are encouraged to dress in the same vein as the performers, mixing costume elements from Meat Loaf's role in Rocky Horror (leather, denim) and his Bat out of Hell persona (tuxedo, ruffles, suspenders). Audiences are also welcome at the final rehearsal on Wednesday, Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m. at Patrick's on Third.

Information about future community singalong events will be announced via the public Facebook group "Pageant & Singalong Nation."

The Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps provided financial support for the production. The event is made possible by support from the State Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature to KMSU Radio.





OUTDOORS

BWCA outfitters and users acknowledge precautions necessary when coronavirus grip lightens

The BWCA closure has created anxiety for outfitters; regardless, they're preparing to double-down on safety.

By TONY KENNEDY | APRIL 16, 2020 — 5:28PM

Users and outfitters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness are reading between the lines this spring to estimate when the nation's most-visited federal wilderness will open to paddling, fishing, hiking and sleeping under the stars.

When the U.S. Forest Service this week closed the BWCA through May 4 because of the coronavirus pandemic, the agency gave no assurance it will immediately reopen the area May 5. Indications are that the keys to canoe country rest in the hands of Gov. Tim Walz, who's expected Friday to make a statement about outdoor recreation.

"We are following the state's lead in closing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness," Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins said in an e-mail to the Star Tribune. "This is based on Governor Walz's Stay at Home order, as well as conversations we have had with local community leaders."

She declined to be interviewed.

Steve Piragis of Piragis Northwoods Co. in Ely said he's operating on the premise that the BWCA will be closed as long as Walz extends his stay-at-home order. Other public lands, such as Isle Royale National Park, already have been closed by the Forest Service until mid-June.

"Missing May won't kill us," Piragis said. "But missing June, July and August ... that would kill us."

He noted that storefronts associated with BWCA outfitting are closed right now as nonessential businesses. Canoe and gear rentals would have to move outside.

Steve Nelson, founder of Spirit of the Wilderness in Ely, said the big question is when will the governor reopen the state.

"We're all waiting on the edge of our seats," Nelson said. "It's going to get precarious for some operators" if the closure lasts for months.

He said outfitters all around the million-acre wilderness have been sharing ideas on how to hand out equipment, sanitize and operate shuttle buses, or open bunkhouses and showers for arriving and departing paddlers. COVID-19 precautions will be needed regardless of when entry points are reopened, he said.

For Jason Zabokrtsky, owner of Ely Outfitting Co., the temporary shutdown of the vast BWCA is understandable but ironic.

"It's sort of the original social distancing vacation," he said.

Ely Outfitting's business revolves entirely around outfitting and guiding BWCA visitors. Zabokrtsky's clients last year arrived from 48 states and 13 foreign countries. Only half of those visitors lived within driving distance, he said.

"It's going to be difficult for people to travel long distances," Zabokrtsky said. "If we are no longer under a stay-at-home order it could look a lot different."

The uncertainty and dreadfully slow bookings have prompted a number of BWCA outfitters to apply for the government's paycheck protection program. The loan money — forgivable when hiring goals are met — will allow the small businesses to cover



AARON LAVINSKY AARON.LAVINSKY@STARTRIBUNE.COM

Managers of the Superior National Forest say they are following the lead of the state of Minnesota when it comes to reopening the



PRESS COVERAGE FOR LEGACY PROJECTS (Continued)

payroll, rent and utilities for a couple of months.

One hopeful sign from the Forest Service is a new policy for BWCA visitors to effectively draw permits online without having to enter ranger stations or outfitters' storefronts to obtain the paperwork. Zabokrtsky said the change is consistent with getting paddlers into the BWCA with less human interaction.

"We're absolutely planning on having the BWCA open at some point," Zabokrtsky said. "We've got to do everything in a way that's safe for guests, staff and the community."

Clare Shirley, co-owner of Sawbill Canoe Outfitters near Tofte, said she's optimistic that entry points will open in time to salvage a good portion of the paddling season. But she said the situation is tricky and businesses that cooperate with the Forest Service don't know for sure what will unfold. Hiring the right number of workers for the season is one of the complications. It's also unclear when the Forest Service will reopen campgrounds on the outskirts of the BWCA.

Shirley said a normal day at Sawbill in April includes four to six phone calls from paddlers wanting to plan a BWCA trip. Those inquiries have slowed to about one every three days, she said.

Joe Friedrichs, host of "Boundary Waters Podcast" (<https://www.startribune.com/currents-joe-friedrichs-wtip-producer-and-podcaster/558704212/>), on WTIP radio in Grand Marais, said visitors this season must plan their trips like never before to abide by health recommendations. The Forest Service hasn't said anything about reducing the maximum BWCA group size of nine people, but Friedrichs said parties may want to draw more than one permit to distance themselves at nearby campsites.

He said paddlers may want to forgo bunkhouse stays and minimize entry into stores.

"The amount of planning needs to increase ten-fold," Friedrichs said. "You have to think about what you are bringing to the table way more than in years past."



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KAXE hosts 15th annual Mississippi River Festival



The 15th Annual KAXE Mississippi River Festival will be held Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20. This two-day music festival features both national and local musicians. Friday's line-up starts at 6 p.m. and includes a great evening of music with indie rock band from Minneapolis, Bad Bad Hats. Closing Friday night is the well-oiled high-octane rock n' roll band, the 4onthefloor.

Day two of the KAXE Mississippi River Festival starts at 2 p.m. with a full line-up, starting with Kitchie Boogie. They incorporate blues, funk, psychedelic and country. Next, from Hamilton, Ontario is Whitehorse, a husband and wife duo with a sound described as "Ethereal folk. Space Cowboy twang. Psychedelic spaghetti western. Intergalactic blues grooves,

and Pop noir." Starting at 6 p.m., straight from Monroe, La., bluesman Kevin Gordon. Closing the night out is Lindsay Beaver, described as "the love child of Amy Winehouse and Little Richard," she is a blues-rocking, soul-singing handclapper and drummer.

One and two day tickets are available at KAXE.org. A special thanks to the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for making the festival possible and to the sponsors: Hawkinson Construction and Grand Rapids State Bank. Northern Community Radio is an independent, listener-supported, nonprofit public media organization that operates KAXE 91.7 FM in Grand Rapids, 89.9 FM in Brainerd, and 103.9 FM in Ely as well as KBXE at 90.5 FM in Bagley. Bemidji and streams online at www.kaxe.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Lindsay Beaver



Bad Bad Hats



Kitchie Boogie



Kevin Gordon



4onthefloor

'Willy Wonka' comes to The Edge

BIGFORK – It has been 10 years since making its first appearance in Bigfork as the whimsical world of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka returns to the Edge Stage. The new musical adaptation, based on the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl, follows the adventures of Charlie Bucket and the other Golden Ticket holders through Willy Wonka's mysterious Chocolate Factory filled with Oompa-Loompas, fun, candy and magic around every corner. The play, presented in Bigfork and produced by the Stages Theatre Company, is a sweet treat for the entire family. This musical will be on stage at the Edge Center in Bigfork Friday, July 19 through Sunday, July 21. Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Directed by Nikki Swoboda, this production of the children's classic was adapted to stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald, and features the enchanting songs from the 1971 film, along with new songs by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley. "Willy Wonka is filled with big dreams and a generous sprinkle of candy, which just so happens to be the

ingredients for an excellent summer," said Swoboda, director. "Charlie's big heart and open eyes bring us on a fantastical journey from nothing to everything, and all kinds of wild adventures in between."

Every year, Stages Theatre Company brings a treat with their special productions filled with music and laughter for a wonderful experience for both the theater and the Bigfork community. This show, filled with color and excitement, will be sure to transport audiences to a world of pure imagination!

"We are grateful to continue that amazing partnership with Edge and the experiences that our summer tour to Bigfork provides for our young actors, families, and the community," said Sandy Boren-Barrett, artistic director of Stages Theatre Company.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka TYA is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. To learn more, visit <https://edgecenterarts.org> or www.facebook.com/EdgeCenterArts, email admin@edgecenterarts.org, or call 218-743-6670.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Willy Wonka" will be presented on stage at the Edge Center in Bigfork Friday through Sunday, July 19, 20 and 21. Performances are on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

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Small city, big theater ... undeterred

Theater in TRF takes to the airwaves

by David Hill
Editor

Radio theater and dramas probably enjoyed their greatest successes in the 1920s and 1930s, but it never really went away. Because of the global pandemic, this mode of expression is enjoying a bit of a revival.

The Thief River Falls Area Community Theater has enjoyed years of success in front of area audiences, but that was all put into question this spring because of the pandemic.

The pandemic closed everything down, said Jane Anderson, executive director of TRFACT. "We weren't sure how long it would be. A lot of people thought it would be a week or two, or a month, so we didn't do anything at first. We just waited."

But as the weeks passed by and the infection rates climbed, they began considering the "what ifs." It was a bit depressing to think they wouldn't be able to perform the four full shows and five casts planned for the summer, but after a month, they realized it just wasn't going to happen.

Anderson said the impact of that realization was like looking at a blank sheet of paper ... and having nothing.

Early on, they realized they had this connection with Pioneer Radio. Anderson said they've been performing Radio Reader Theater with Mark Johnson at Pioneer Radio (90.1FM) for a couple of years.

With this at the back of



Amelia Ballard has been one of the singers participating in the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater radio - theater productions. In all, 68 individuals have performed for the Tuesday evening production on Pioneer Radio (90.1 FM). (Submitted)

their mind, they decided to gather a group of eight to 10 creative people via a video chat to see what they could come up with.

There were a lot of discussions, but Mark Johnson, radio station director, said the idea they landed on was probably the one that was discussed the most. "It almost seemed pre-approved as it was hatched."

At one point, they considered live video streaming, but the logistics would have been a nightmare. They did decide on audio and video

recordings of each act and then presenting them on the radio and on Facebook because different age groups follow different media.

Anderson described the half-hour to hour-long radio shows as "concerts." Many of the shows that have been recorded consisted of singing, but there were also speeches from high school students who weren't able to finish their speech season, vocal students of a voice teacher in Thief River Falls, a performance by Isaiah Burkel, who is studying

opera, and a show by Alex Conwell, violinist, storyteller and podcaster from Red Lake Falls who demonstrated a looping technique.

Johnson noted that it also morphed into a show about theater during which Anderson discusses different plays.

In all, 68 individuals performed on the radio this summer. Anderson said, some like Burkel and Conwell, performed a whole show, but a lot of individual

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NORTHERN WATCH

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Small city, big theater ... undeterred, it goes to the airwaves/Continued



Amber Koski has been one of the 68 individuals who have performed for the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater radio hour on Pioneer Radio 90.1 FM. The show is on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. (Submitted)

(Continued from Page 1) performers responded to the community effort.

Both said the experience of connecting with an audience in this manner was amazing.

Act II

In Act II of a majority of plays, the main character encounters an obstacle that prevents him or her from achieving a goal or goals.

The economic implications of not being able to perform might not have been as significant as that of a theater group in a larger city with a theater and performers to pay, but there are ex-

penses.

As executive director, Anderson does get a stipend, and they do rent a storage facility. The main expense, however, is the rights and royalties to perform shows. The rights and royalties to perform a major musical, for example, costs in the neighborhood of \$2,500.

Anderson said she was thankful she was a little behind schedule, which is very unusual. The theater had already contracted and paid for rights and royalties, as well as scenery backdrops, scripts and some costumes, but Anderson was a little behind in getting personnel contracts out, so they were not obligated to pay out on those contracts.

Recording the performances was a challenge at first, but Johnson and Anderson said that by the end of the summer, everything was running pretty smoothly.

Because of the pandemic, of course, they also had to clean and prepare the recording studio before and after each and every performance, and other than those who were involved in the production, no one else could be in the studio.

Act III Resolution

It has been more success-

ful than they could have imagined.

There's no money coming in, which is a challenge in and of itself, but Anderson said last week, for example, they had over 10,000 hits on their Facebook page - an amazing tribute to their skill and the amount of community interest and support.

(After each radio performance, the performances are placed on the Facebook page for Thief River Falls Area Community Theater.)

Johnson also said it has been very beneficial for the radio station. Not only have they had more people visiting their Facebook page, but with every person who performed, especially the children, grandparents, parents and friends who might not have ever listened to Pioneer Radio in the past, tuned in and the station's audience grew. "It has been great to be a part of this experience."

While the work often involved some marathon recording sessions (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), recording the performances in a studio also gave the performers more of an opportunity to improve their delivery. While there may be no re-takes on stage, there are in a studio.

For the past few years, members of the organization have provided lessons to

younger students. For many actors, the immediate response from the audience is important, but the lack of an audience, noise, lights and anxiety that goes with performing in front of an audience may have helped some young performers. Anderson said she saw some kids really blossom this summer. She said she hopes that next year they will audition well.

For many actors, getting on the stage is important to their well-being and goals of improving their craft. Anderson said she herself begins to lose her nerve if she is unable to get on the stage every once in awhile. The radio show at least provided them an outlet for their talent and an opportunity to improve.

It has been a long, challenging summer, but they were able to record a lot of performances this summer. In fact, they've already recorded some Christmas shows.

Anderson said she and Dena Halsa decorated the Northland stage with Christmas decorations in August. It was a warm day, a very warm day. "It was a little weird, but it was fun, and the video turned out quite well."

When to listen in
Everyone is invited to

tune in to Pioneer Radio 90.1 FM at 5 p.m. every Tuesday evening to catch that evening's performance.

What's next?

Next week, the show consists of Anderson discussing the Broadway Show Hamilton. The week after that, the show will feature the Wood-Picks of Thief River Falls fame, a bluegrass, gospel and Americana band.

Frederica Mathewes-Green once said, "Disaster movies do us the psychological service of forcing a quick

march through the worst that could happen. At the end we see that you win a few, you lose a few, some cars are up in trees, and only the most attractive of the young people have survived."

It may seem strange that today's pandemic may in the future be the subject of new plays. If so, it wouldn't hurt if it was set in a small city, with aspirations of providing big theater. I wouldn't mind seeing a romantic comedy, either.



Mark Johnson, director of Pioneer 90.1 FM in Thief River Falls, has been instrumental in connecting audiences with the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater during the pandemic. (Submitted)

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