



Minnesota  
Humanities  
Center

**Report on Impact of  
Legacy Funding Appropriation  
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021**  
(2018 Minn. Laws, Chap. 2 Art. 4 Sec. 2 Subd. 8)

*for*

**the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library**

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Submitted January 15, 2022

## **Minnesota Humanities Center Report on Legacy Funding from the 2019-2021 Biennium**

The Minnesota Humanities Center received four direct appropriations totaling \$6,400,000 from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment during the 2019-2021 biennium.

This report includes detail on funds expended for each of the four appropriations from July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2021. We anticipate funds will be spent by June 30, 2022 or left unrequested.

Note – Due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, a 14% holdback of Legacy Year Two funds has been mandated – those figures are noted below where appropriate.

### **Programs and Purposes (page 4)**

\$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,100,000 the second year are for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center.

### **Children’s Museum Grants (page 8)**

\$1,200,000 each year is for arts and cultural heritage grants to children's museums for arts and cultural exhibits and related educational outreach programs. Of this amount:

- (1) \$525,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for the Minnesota Children's Museum for interactive exhibits and outreach programs on arts and cultural heritage, including, during the first year only, the Minnesota Children's Museum in Rochester;
- (2) \$150,000 the second year is for the Children’s Museum of Rochester for interactive exhibits and outreach programs on arts and cultural heritage;
- (3) \$50,000 each year is to develop and fabricate a permanent STEM exhibit for the Minnesota Children’s Museum of Rochester, which must be under a separate grant agreement from the grant agreement used to provide funding to the Minnesota Children’s Museum; and
- (4) \$625,000 each year is for grants to other children’s museums to pay for start-up costs or new exhibit and program development. Funds are to be distributed through a competitive grant process. The Minnesota Humanities Center must administer these funds using established grant mechanisms.

### **Civics Programs (page 29)**

\$100,000 each year is for grants to the Minnesota Civic Education Coalition: Minnesota Civic Youth, the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, and YMCA Youth in Government to conduct civics education programs for the civic and cultural development of Minnesota youth. Civics education is the study of constitutional principles and the democratic foundation of our national, state, and local institutions and the study of political processes and structures of government, grounded in the understanding of constitutional government under the rule of law.

### **Community Identity and Heritage Grant Program (page 35)**

\$850,000 the first year and \$850,000 the second year are for a competitive grants program to provide grants to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Minnesota. The Minnesota Humanities Center must operate a competitive grants program to provide grants to programs that preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Minnesota or that provide education and student outreach on cultural diversity or to programs that empower communities to build their identity and culture.

### **Cultural Identity Grants (page 35)**

Priority must be given to grants for individuals and organizations working to create, celebrate, and teach indigenous arts and cultural activities and arts organizations and programs preserving, sharing, and educating on the arts and cultural heritage of immigrant communities in Minnesota.

**Hmong Cultural Heritage Grants (page 92)**

Of this amount, \$250,000 the first year is for a grant to one or more community organizations that provide arts and cultural heritage programming celebrating Hmong heritage.

**Somali Cultural Heritage Grants (page 106)**

Of this amount, \$250,000 the first year is for a grant to one or more community organizations that provide arts and cultural heritage programming celebrating Somali heritage.

## Programs and Purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center

Funds are appropriated for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center. The humanities remind us of where we have been, bring knowledge and insights to current life, and help us envision where we are going. The Minnesota Humanities Center collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame community conversations, build and deepen relationships, and bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have often been left out or marginalized.

MHC is committed to programs that are built with a diversity of people in communities across the state. During the 2019-21 biennium, the Humanities Center's Legacy Funded work will be divided in five priority areas: 1) K-12 Public Education; 2) *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* Exhibition; 3) Veterans' Voices; 4) We Are Water MN; and 5) Public Humanities.

### (1) K-12 Public Education

**Total: \$327,102.41**

The primary goal of the Humanities Center's Education Initiative is to increase student engagement and success; the foundation is strengthening the teacher-student relationship. Drawing upon the multiplicity of experiences and cultures represented in schools, educators gain insight into how to engage every student authentically and respectfully. Activities and events implemented during the biennium include:

- *Learning from Place: Bdote* immersions: participants spend the day visiting local sites of significance to Dakota people and learning about them from Dakota perspectives.
- *Teaching Bdote* workshop, in partnership with St. Paul Public Schools, invites educators who have attended or plan to attend a Bdote trip to share and discuss resources and strategies for sharing Dakota content with students. Educators leave with new resources and content, deeper understanding, and the beginnings of an action plan to bring students on a Bdote trip or to bring the experience into the classroom.
- *Increase Engagement through Absent Narratives* workshops, wherein participants learn and practice strategies through personal storytelling and guided reflection to help them engage others with respect and empathy in their community or classroom.
- Resource sharing and development including an educator guide for the newly published Somali youth anthology *Crossroads: An Anthology of Resilience and Hope by Young Somali Writers*, virtual opportunities for educators to learn and incorporate the Absent Narrative Resource Collection – an online searchable database of over 1,000 ready-to-use videos, teacher guides, and readings that help educators increase classroom engagement – into their practice through presentations and conference workshops.
- Cultural Education Forums: *Realizing Wakanda, From Mountains to Lakes: Hmong Educational Forum*: Through cultural lenses, educator communities and practitioners participate in facilitated conversations and interactive learning sessions about cultural histories, current experiences, educational resources, and impact and opportunities in the classroom.
- Educator and Story Circle Institutes: The *2021 Educator Institute* and *2021 Story Circle Institute* provided educators an opportunity to delve into topics and ideas with teams of educators from across the state to share knowledge and experiences and build communities of practice. Using the humanities to bridge gaps in relationships between educators and their colleagues, students, and families through the power of story, uplifting narratives that have been erased or marginalized and amplifying community solutions, these institutes serve as the spark to catalyze change at all levels – personal, classroom, building, and district.

**(2) Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations** Exhibition  
**Total: \$45,068.12**

*Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* is a traveling exhibition made in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit explores relationships between Dakota and Ojibwe Indian Nations and the U.S. government in this place we now call Minnesota. Legacy funds support the exhibit, host sites, and community engagement activities throughout the state in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and 11 sovereign nations. In 2020-2021, the exhibit traveled to Morris, Red Wing, Carleton, Preston, and Bagley, MN. In 2022, it is scheduled to travel to St. Cloud, Mahanomen, Cass Lake, and Nevis, MN.

Accompanying the exhibit, a series of third-grade level books was produced by, for, and about Dakota and Ojibwe leaders, healers, culture-keepers, and other notable figures. These books will help Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Native American children imagine their own potential and help them see their cultures represented alongside biographies of non-Native leaders in society.

**(3) Veterans' Voices**  
**Total: \$99,936.40**

Drawing on the power of the humanities, Veterans' Voices changes the narrative of Veterans and honors their contributions. It empowers Veterans to speak in their own voices through plays, discussions, literature, and the Veterans' Voices Award. Veterans' Voices will recognize the next great generation and illustrate that the Veteran's voice is essential to the work of building our great democracy. Activities and events implemented during the biennium include:

- The *2020 Veterans' Voices Awards* program, honors and demonstrates the diversity of Veterans in Minnesota making positive and extraordinary contributions to their communities, this year through compelling prose and poetry written by Veterans.
- *Hikes and Humanities*, piloted for Veterans, explores the healing effects of nature and camaraderie while exploring meaningful literature and mental health. Held at Twin Cities area parks, these day-long events include reflection time, conversations about selected readings, and hiking.
- *Warrior Writers Workshops* held virtually to convene Veterans and encourage the sharing of stories, opinions, and ideas for productive writing, reflecting, storytelling, and art-making.
- Listening sessions and community conversations: Convening and connecting Veterans with local communities, organizations, educational institutions for conversation and education about amplifying Minnesotan Veterans Voices.

**(4) We Are Water MN**  
**Total: \$0**

We are Water MN is a program and partnership with the Humanities Center, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota section of the American Water Works Association, and six greater Minnesota communities. Legacy funding will support *We Are Water MN* work for relationship building with existing partners and for community engagement events at the six 2020-2021 Minnesota host sites. The 2020-2021 host sites are located in Chisom, Pipestone, Morris, Mankato, St. Paul, and Rochester.

## **(5) Public Humanities**

**Total: \$723,736.68**

The Minnesota Humanities Center is dedicated to bringing informative, enlightening, and engaging events to the community, providing all Minnesotans opportunities to build relationships, listen to stories, and learn from one-another. Activities and events implemented during the biennium include:

- *How Can We Breathe*, a four-part community engagement initiative to amplify the voices of African Americans and make meaning of the Minnesota we're living in now.
- Virtual reading of Amoke Kubat's "*Angry Black Woman & Well-Intentioned White Girl*"; following a reading of an excerpt of the play, attendees participate in a mediated conversation strengthening intercultural understanding and communications.
- *True Crime: Why We Are So Obsessed*, exploring the fascination with stories of real life crime with panelists and discussing how judges, juries, and forensic science come together, or not, to ensure justice is served.
- Humanities To Go virtual event series: conversations that illuminate what the humanities are, from many different perspectives and experiences for a general public. HTG champions, shares, and supports humanities work by humanities practitioners and creatives from all corners of Minnesota. Programming features multicultural perspectives on emergent news items, cultural heritage months, holidays, commemorations/anniversaries, and recognitions of Minnesotans for outstanding humanities accomplishments.
- MHC's pilot annual event, *Envision A Just Minnesota*: celebrating the humanities and envision a just Minnesota that is connected, curious, and compassionate. Minnesota's most creative thought leaders muse, inspire, and reflect on what a just society means and requires through the humanities.
- Financial and program support through re-grants and funding opportunities for humanities projects in communities across the state including the Twin Cities, Granite Falls, Waite Park, Cold Spring, and Pipestone.
- *Neurodiverse Literature & Art*: this interactive event featured literary and visual artists with intellectual/developmental disabilities, touching on the power of the humanities as a gateway to broader inclusion and its unique implications for the disability community.
- *Write on Race*: The Minnesota Humanities Center and Love & Struggle partnered to help regional hubs develop action plans to create a more just society. Participants learn about past, present, and future impacts of race in our communities, reflect through journal writing and build understanding with community members by storytelling and sharing, and develop action plans to move communities from passive non-racism to active anti-racism.
- Read Brave virtual events: A community partner with St. Paul's Read Brave program, MHC hosted virtual events featuring artists, authors, and guest speakers discussing Read Brave book selections and their themes.
- *With Malice Toward None*: Community conversation event in which participants hear, share with, and better understand one another across lines of difference through reflections on featured stories, conversations in breakouts, and personal action commitments.

## **Program Management**

**Total: \$133,888.20**

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding for program planning and management. This support includes work such as exploratory and planning meetings for new initiatives and program management of all our Legacy work.

## **Administrative Support**

**Total: \$48,927.12**

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding to provide administrative support for Legacy-funded work. This support includes work such as financial management, reporting, technology, and website maintenance.

**Amount Expended as of October 31, 2021**

	<b>Direct Expense</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
K-12 Public Education	\$327,102.41	\$0	\$327,102.41
<i>Why Treaties Matter</i> Exhibition	\$45,068.12	\$0	\$45,068.12
Veterans' Voices	\$99,936.40	\$0	\$99,936.40
<i>We are Water MN</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Humanities	\$723,736.68	\$0	\$723,736.68
Program Management	\$133,888.20	\$0	\$133,888.20
Administrative Support	\$0	\$48,927.12	\$48,927.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,329,731.81</b>	<b>\$48,927.12</b>	<b>\$1,378,658.93</b>

## Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Children’s Museums

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to children’s museums, including through a competitive grant process. A small portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective museums.

### Minnesota Children’s Museum: Arts and Access Programs Year I

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Recipient: Minnesota Children’s Museum

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to pursue three major initiatives between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020:

- New dynamic experiences at Minnesota Children’s Museum in Saint Paul
- Statewide initiative to engage communities in playful learning
- Changing and new experiences and access at Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester

Contact: Dianne Krizan  
President  
651-225-6008  
DKrizan@mcm.org

Funding Amount: \$511,875

Start Date: 07/01/2019

End Date: 11/12/2020

#### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

##### Saint Paul

- 455,000 total visitors, 120,000 from Play for All
- Receive feedback from 3,000 visitors
- Implement changing experiences for Imaginopolis and Summer 2020
- Complete design for permanent gallery change in SAA
- Begin evaluation of Tot Spots in the museum

##### Statewide

- Identify partner(s)
- Develop play prompt concepts and details related to content, prototyping, locations, and installation
- Determine plan for implementation of play prompts in public spaces

##### Rochester

- Engage visitors in Southeastern Minnesota to build creative and critical thinking skills through play
- 26,000 total visitors, 4,000 through Play for All
- 452 free memberships distributed

#### Revised Outcomes due to COVID-19:

At the onset of FY20, we could not have predicted how the year would unfold. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota Children’s Museum closed its doors to the public on March 14, 2020 to do our



part to slow the spread of the novel virus. The closure happened during our busiest season, making the impact all the more severe. We have taken a number of necessary, but painful measures to reduce expenses, including eliminating some staff positions and several important programs. We are grateful we were able to pivot our Legacy Funding to support outreach activities during the closure and plan a safe reopening.

#### St. Paul

Our priorities throughout closure fell into three categories:

- 1) Adapting our parent resources and messaging to help families navigate this critical time
- 2) Adapting our plans and communications for closure and reopening, including:
- 3) Adapting our programming model to provide virtual and off-site experiences that promote the power of play

#### Statewide

We are excited that our statewide project was underway before the pandemic. We were able to move forward with refining the concept for a mobile play component, landing on a plan to convert a portable traffic message trailer into an interactive dance game.

#### Rochester

Engage visitors in Southeastern Minnesota to build creative and critical thinking skills through play  
26,000 total visitors, 4,000 through Play for All 452 free memberships distributed develop and fabricate a new exhibit experience for our new space (NON-STEM)

#### Measurable Outcomes:

Adapting our parent resources and messaging to help families navigate this critical time:

We shifted our focus online during the museum's closure with much of our mission work done to provide online resources for parents. We created a "Play Helps" framework that houses the content on [mcm.org](http://mcm.org) and our social media channels.

Adapting our plans and communications for closure and reopening, including:

Museum staff enhanced our procedures for cleaning and sanitizing all museum spaces. Plexiglas barriers were installed at the box office and security desk. Hand sanitizer stations were added throughout the museum. Soft props, face paint, and air-blowers were removed, replaced with new activities that are easier to clean. Bright yellow tape outlines areas where families can play, while physically distancing. We have upgraded our air filters and created new protocol for monitoring air flow throughout the museum. We developed a SAFE plan that details out the responsibilities of MCM, employees and volunteers, and visitors. We established a touchless admission process that allows for reserved admission times and printed onsite signage related to COVID precautions and processes.

Adapting our programming model:

We revamped our website to be a resource hub for parents and caregivers.

#### Statewide

The City of Crystal donated a used traffic trailer and our is working with an outside coder/developer and an illustrator to put the final touches on what we have named, The Big Orange Dance Machine. The trailer has been refurbished and modified with new LED panels, batteries, electrical systems.

#### Rochester

We supported changing exhibits, scholarship memberships for low-income families, engaged Southeastern Minnesota with hands-on learning. and cultivated community partnerships. We were able

to support more trainings for our visitor assistants to help engage with diverse audiences. We fabricated Our World Bazaar, a permanent exhibit for our new space in Apache Mall.

Counties Served: Statewide; Olmsted; Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$511,875; \$0

Number of FTEs: 5.5

Board Members: Michael Fiddelke, Chair of the Board; Suzette Huovinen, Treasurer & Chair Elect; Kate McRoberts, Secretary; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Debra Bauler; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Matt Brown; Tony Brown; Adrian Chiu; Elizabeth Cummings; Hayley Cunningham Tang; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Abbey Godlewski; Krista Hagen; Julie Joyce; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Jim Mancini; Steve Mog; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Pilar Oppedisano; Gail Peterson; Scott Peterson; Andrea Piepho; Elisa Rasmussen; Liz Revnew Wolf; Elizabeth Rominski; Nicole Server; Kimberlee Sinclair; Cassidy Steiner; Katharine Tinucci; Robert Wollan; Drew Zinkel

## **Minnesota Children's Museum: Arts and Access Programs Year 2**

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Recipient: Minnesota Children's Museum

Project Overview: At Minnesota Children's Museum we are committed to our mission of sparking children's learning through play. Play may seem simple, yet it is profound to a child's development. Researchers and educators know that play benefits the development of the whole child across social, cognitive, physical and emotional domains. As our community continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota Children's Museum will help parents and caregivers keep children engaged in playful learning.

Contact: Dianne Krizan  
President  
651-225-6008  
DKrizan@mcm.org

Funding Amount: \$366,145

Start Date: 11/13/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

St. Paul: Welcome visitors to engage in hands-on learning. Offering variety for our visitors increases participation, engagement, and learning. We will plan and create new museum experiences based on evaluation and visitor feedback.

Duluth and St. Cloud: Drive attendance to each museum by offering visitors a new experience.

Statewide: Road test the Big Orange Dance Machine with an audience then deploy the machine across the state. We are excited to have an outdoor and hands free activity that we can use to promote the power of play during the pandemic. We will work with a contractor to capture photos and videos of people interacting with the machine to share on our social media platforms.

Measurable Outcomes:

SAA: Primarily this time period was focused on building the new permanent exhibit, Shipwreck Adventures. We have partially completed several areas of the exhibit and it will open in FY22. We launched a website to get visitors excited about the new exhibit (<https://mcm.org/shipwreck-adventures/>) that details our design process, interviews our designers and developers, and provides an overview/flythrough video of the space.

The Studio: The joy of mark making and color mixing were explored through painting in The Studio. Visitors played collaboratively and individually with different paint experiences. A large-scale group painting activity included a small playhouse and a faux brick wall that were transformed over and over again. Our youngest visitors were invited to explore unique brushes and low paint easels.

Imaginopolis: We reengaged the theater professionals to let them know the project will resume after Shipwreck opens.

The other areas were completed during the first half of the year. Updates can be found in our interim report.

The museum sparked unexpected joy and fun with the Big Orange Dance Machine, a highway message trailer that's been converted into an interactive dance experience. Kids and adults showed off their moves during the machine's appearances at Keg & Case in St. Paul, a community festival in Crystal, a family event at Mears Park, the museum's 40th anniversary block party and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival. The dance machine helps the museum highlight the power of play beyond our walls.

We will provide 2,000 free play kits to families in need. The kits feature tinkering materials such as cloth, springs, cups, a propeller, and include play prompts and tips for parents to support the child during the activity. The museum is working with partner organizations, such as Head Start providers and People Serving People, who are interested in receiving and distributing kits to families they serve. This initiative will continue into FY22.

Counties Served: Statewide, Ramsey, St. Louis, Stearns

Progress: In Progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$366,144; \$0

Number of FTEs: 9.5

Board Members: Michael Fiddelke, Chair of the Board; Suzette Huovinen, Treasurer & Chair Elect; Kate McRoberts, Secretary; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Debra Bauler; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Matt Brown; Tony Brown; Adrian Chiu; Elizabeth Cummings; Hayley Cunningham Tang; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Krista Hagen; Julie Joyce; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Jim Mancini; Steve Mog; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Pilar Oppedisano; Gail Peterson; Scott Peterson; Andrea Piepho; Elisa Rasmussen; Liz Revnew Wolf

## The Children's Museum of Rochester: Arts, Culture and Access Programs Year 2

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Recipient: The Children's Museum of Rochester

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to pursue three major initiatives between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021:

- Health and Safety of our visitors and the community
- Dynamic Experiences and programming at Children's Museum of Rochester
- Initiative to engage communities in playful learning through access programs

Contact: Lindsey Hemker  
507-218-3104  
lhemker@sparkrochestermn.org

Funding Amount: \$146,775

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- Engage visitors in Southeastern Minnesota to build creative and critical thinking skills through play
- 25,000 total visitors
- 500 free memberships distributed

Measurable Outcomes:

Our goal without knowing a pandemic was about to hit was 43,000 the first year in our space. So the fact we almost reached that goal with several months shut down due to COVID-19 is amazing!

We have been able to target more specific programming that aligns more with our three focus areas, health and well-being, STEM, and cultural connectedness. We have been able to build a lot of new partnership within our community help support the communities' underserved population. Through these partnerships, we have found new groups to deliver more free memberships with our voucher program. We have been able to communicate and work with the Center for Autism, and Families First.

We also had a goal to deliver 500 free memberships to families and we exceeded this goal. Because of the pandemic a lot of families had financial struggles and were unable to afford a membership but still needed their children to be involved in hands-on educational learning. So we continued to give free memberships on our budget because we knew that these families needed this so badly.

Counties Served: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$146,775; \$0

Number of FTEs: 1.5

**Board Members:** Angie Bowman-Malloy; Melissa Brinkman; Ken Brown; Tim Deutsch; Darcy Elmer; Greg Epsom; Loree Flick; Shelley Henry; Jenny Hosfeld; Laura Kropp; Kari Michaletz; Becky Montpetit; Shruthi Naik; Carla Nelson; Sankesh Prabhakar; Sean Ryan; Christopher Wendland; Soledad Andrade; Ben Trehey; Zoey Jantsan; Angela Mattke

## **Minnesota Children’s Museum: Rochester STEM Exhibit Fabrication Year I**

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**Recipient:** Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester

**Project Overview:** Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to identify and plan a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) exhibit experience, design and develop the exhibit, select a fabrication partner, and fabricate the exhibit components between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. The STEM exhibit will be designed to help children practice critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Contact:** Dianne Krizan  
President  
651-225-6008  
DKrizan@mcm.org

**Funding Amount:** \$48,750

**Start Date:** 07/01/2019

**End Date:** 06/30/2020

**Proposed Measurable Outcomes:**

- Rochester museum gains experience developing exhibit that aligns with strategic framework
- One fully fabricated STEM exhibit

After the grant period, the exhibit will be installed and launched, providing hands-on STEM learning to an estimated 43,000 visitors each year.

**Measurable Outcomes:**

Our H2OH! exhibit is dedicated to exploring and playing with water, building STEM skills like critical thinking, creativity, and innovation in our visitors. The gallery takes aesthetic cues from other new experiences in development and is meant to suggest the Zumbro River flowing out of Rochester into the surrounding blufflands. The exhibit is split into two main areas: the dam and turbine challenge and the open-ended water play area. The dam and turbine area posts challenges to visitors that will help engage older children and adults too. Visitors will attach blocks to the water table to create their own dam and drive water to the turbine. If enough water flows past the turbine then lights turn on in the dam model and other nearby graphics. The experience includes multiple interactive elements – valves and pipes, a water dome, a water wheel, a vortex, and loose props – where visitors can manipulate, observe, and explore the nature of water.

These exhibits outcomes are for children to experience sensory play and recognize water as a clean natural resource and to show how water can turn into electricity.

**Counties Served:** Olmsted

**Progress:** Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$48,750; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Michael Fiddelke, Chair of the Board; Suzette Huovinen, Treasurer & Chair Elect; Kate McRoberts, Secretary; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Debra Bauler; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Matt Brown; Tony Brown; Adrian Chiu; Elizabeth Cummings; Hayley Cunningham Tang; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Abbey Godlewski; Krista Hagen; Julie Joyce; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Jim Mancini; Steve Mog; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Pilar Oppedisano; Gail Peterson; Scott Peterson; Andrea Piepho; Elisa Rasmussen; Liz Revnew Wolf; Elizabeth Rominski; Nicole Server; Kimberlee Sinclair; Cassidy Steiner; Katharine Tinucci; Robert Wollan; Drew Zinkel

The Children's Museum of Rochester became its own entity on July 1, 2020 and thus now has its own Board of Directors: Angie Bowman-Malloy; Melissa Brinkman; Ken Brown; Brooke Carlson; Tim Deutsch; Darcy Elmer; Greg Epsom; Loree Flick; Shelley Henry; Jenny Hosfeld; Laura Kropp; Kari Michaletz; Becky Montpetit; Shruthi Naik; Carla Nelson; Kim Norton; Sankesh Prabhakar; Sean Ryan; Christopher Wendland

## **The Children's Museum of Rochester: STEM Exhibit Year 2**

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Recipient: The Children's Museum of Rochester

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to identify and plan a STEM exhibit experience, design and develop the exhibit. From then we will be using additional capital funding to design components, fabricate, and install the exhibit components. The goal is to start the concept and design process January 2021, which will take several months to get a conceptual design. Then between May 2021 and December 31, 2021, fabricate the design and install in the new museum that opened this summer!

Contact: Lindsey Hemker  
507-218-3104  
lhemker@sparkrochestermn.org

Funding Amount: \$48,925

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- Rochester museum gains experience developing exhibit that aligns with strategic framework
- A design and concept that will be ready to fabricate and install by the end of 2021

After the grant period, the exhibit will be installed and launched, providing hands-on STEM learning to an estimated 43,000 visitors each year.

Measurable Outcomes: We did not achieve our original goal of the Smarter Cities exhibit with this grant at this time, as the design is still in an introductory phase. But I believe we were able reach even more educational experiences and provide MULTIPLE exhibits with this funding to provide even more hands-

on STEM education and variety. The outcome is the funds helping to fabricate a Light Bright Exhibit, and Air Wall Exhibit, Reaction Time Interactive Exhibit, Magnetic Wall, and Car Run exhibit.

Counties Served: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$48,925; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Angie Bowman-Malloy; Melissa Brinkman; Ken Brown; Tim Deutsch; Darcy Elmer; Greg Epsom; Loree Flick; Shelley Henry; Jenny Hosfeld; Laura Kropp; Kari Michaletz; Becky Montpetit; Shruthi Naik; Carla Nelson; Sankesh Prabhakar; Sean Ryan; Christopher Wendland; Soledad Andrade; Ben Trehey; Zoey Jantsan; Angela Mattke

### ***Children's Museums (Competitive)***

#### **Children's Discovery Museum**

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Recipient: Children's Discovery Museum

Project Overview: As an established Children's Museum, it is time to re-evaluate our policies, programs, displays, & activities. There will be financial support (scholarships) for classroom/community field trips and bussing which will allow children of all abilities and ethnicities to have a museum experience. Data and suggestions collected from the teachers or adult chaperones will be shared with the Grant Committee and Advisory Board for their work. Member families will be given the opportunity to share their options & suggestions through a new survey that can be completed near the expiration date of their annual membership. In addition, we will allocate a portion of the funding to new exhibits that will be determined by staff, consultants, & the community Advisory Board.

Contact: Janie Heitz  
Executive Director  
218-326-1900  
Janie.heitz@cdmkids.org

Funding Amount: \$158,000

Start Date: January 1, 2020

End Date: September 30, 2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- School program attendance will be measured
- Community group attendance will be measured
- Membership attendance will be measured
- Number of purchased memberships will be noted
- Scores on School & Community Field Trip Evaluations will be 4.0 or higher

- Scores on Membership Evaluations will be 4.0 or higher

We are expecting new community groups as well as public/private school field trips to the museum. Classrooms are the window on society, and by providing a means for everyone to visit, we are reaching out to young Minnesotans of all the economic levels, social classes, & ethnic origins. The programs and informal education we provide will expand the experiences of hundreds of children.

We believe that by inspiring more community members to join in conversations about the museum and its future, we will create a place that is responsive to the needs of the community. Through their different spheres of influence, we will have more advocates for the museum who will help to promote it in the community and beyond.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

1. School Program attendance - 115 students from 2 counties (prior to pandemic)
2. Community group attendance - not measured due to pandemic
3. Number Attendance - 10,372 visitors since April of 2021
4. Number of purchased Memberships - increased from 47 members in spring of 2021 to 190 in September of 2021
5. Scores on School and Community Field Trip Evaluations will be 4.0 or higher - not evaluated due to pandemic
6. Scores on Membership Evaluations will be 4.0 or higher. - we conducted a survey through Blue Scarf Consulting asking for feedback on Interactivity, post visit, museum hours, memberships. Below is a summary of those results.

#### Satisfaction

- 52% said their overall satisfaction with all of their visits to CDM was great, 21% good, and 16% exceptional
- Most important for an enjoyable museum visit were hands-on experiences 91%, engaging activities for the whole family 86% and interesting and varied content 79%
- Second set of important items included well-maintained facilities and opportunities to be creative 77% each, opportunities for physical movement 74% and knowledgeable and welcoming staff 63%

#### Interactivity

- 81% rated the interactivity of CDM exhibits considerable 46% or extremely 35%
- The top four exhibits repeatedly selected as most interactive River Water Table 70%, Theater Stage & Dress Up area 72%, Wind Tunnel 60% and Lake Life 47%
- Grocery Store 64% and the Hospital and Clinic 32% when asked which of the Rivertown components they found most interactive
- Playground with Slide 47% and the Fishing Pier 43%.when asked which of the Lake Life components they found most interactive

#### Post Visit

- 69% of respondents talked about their CDM visits in the car on the way home
- 57% of respondents observed children recall specific things about their museum experience

#### Hours

- 56% satisfied with the museums' spring/summer hours
- Fall/winter hours split between neutral 33%, 37% dissatisfied and 30% satisfied

Counties Served: Aitkin, Cass, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$158,000; \$0



Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Ray Nikkel, Jon Miner, Melanie Jacobson, Vicki Rasmussen-Wilcox, Sara Gabriel, Katie Ryan, Jeff Borg

## **Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota**

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Recipient: Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota

Project Overview: The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota (CMSM) will build upon a strong foundation of Minnesota Arts, Culture and Heritage (ACH) learning experiences made possible with prior MN Legacy funding support to:

- Establish new exhibits to enhance ACH learning at the Museum.
- Expand existing exhibits with additions designed to enrich ACH learning experiences.
- Enhance exhibits and Museum floor space so that social distancing and visitor safety can be instituted while minimizing the impact on play and ACH learning experience.
- Develop and implement evaluation plans to assess engagement and measure outcomes associated with CMSM exhibit and visitor experiences.

Contact: Louise Dickmeyer  
Chief Executive Officer  
507-344-9104  
louise.dickmeyer@cmsouthernmn.org

Funding Amount: \$256,000

Start Date: 07/01/2019

End Date: 09/30/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

As a result of this project, CMSM WILL EXPERIENCE INCREASED CAPACITY to serve as a valuable resource to promote Minnesota Arts, Culture, and Heritage learning through:

- The addition of dynamic new exhibits and exhibit experiences to the Museum's indoor and outdoor facility – enhanced to maximize visitor and staff safety and health during a pandemic.
- Robust evaluation plans developed and processes in place to document visitor engagement and impact across all Museum departments.

In addition, MORE MINNESOTANS WILL BENEFIT when current and new visitors from across our region participate at CMSM in new and deeper ACH learning experiences, with:

- Diverse audience engagement, increased memberships/admissions over the course of the project period, and enhanced regional participation.
- 90% of visitors engaged in Museum evaluation processes indicating positive engagement/learning outcomes associated with CMSM learning experiences.

### Measurable Outcomes:

#### **NEW EXHIBITS/COMPONENTS:**

- Dakota Seasons – An interactive Dakota language exhibit showcasing the seasons of the year.

- Butterfly House – An immersive outdoor pollinator exhibit focusing on monarch butterflies and host/nectar plants that support them.
- H2GO Outdoor Water Gallery – Children turn an Archimedes screw to lift water in this hands-on STEM learning experience.
- Lights, Camera, Action! A touchless, interactive light display enhances dramatic play in the Lauri Kuch Theater.
- Nature’s Harvest – A rotating Ag and Nature Labe exhibit that introduces children to the bounty of nature and Minnesota-based natural foods.
- Smaller scale exhibit enhancements took place in loft, Play Porch, Tree of Forts, Farmyard and Back 40.

EVALUATION: A Visitor Survey was conducted by an independent Evaluation Consultant in May/June. 554 Museum Members and 220 non-Members shared feedback related to their Museum experiences.

Survey highlights:

- 94% indicated high levels of satisfaction.
- High marks were given for the Museum’s knowledgeable, friendly and courteous staff; fun and playful atmosphere; educational content of programming and exhibits; cleanliness
- The Power of Play was reinforced as a key element as to why families choose to participate at the Museum, with the majority noting they come to the Museum for their child to learn through play (97%); to promote the positive development of child (96%); to ignite child’s curiosity (95%).

The Consultant also conducted a survey that was distributed to CMSM Community Partners – child/family service organizations that serve families that experience disparities/inequities. 16 partners responded to the survey and indicated similar high marks (to learn through play – 97%; to promote positive development - 97%; to ignite curiosity - 92%) when it comes to why families their organization serves choose to participate at the Museum.

Counties Served: Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Isanti, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Kanabec, Kittson, Le Sueur, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Swift, Todd, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$256,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 1.3

Board Members: Heather Carlson, Ann Hendricks, Mark Monson, Trevor Park, Sarah Richards, Sue Schwickert, Paul Shneider, Christie Skilbred, Parker Skophammer, Jerhod Smithback, Liz Ulman, Chastity Valvick, Shane Van Engen, Heather VonBank, Gwen Westerman, Christi Wilking

## **Duluth Children’s Museum**

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Recipient: Duluth Children’s Museum

Project Overview: After the recent purchase of a new building that will become the future home of the Duluth Children's Museum, this project will facilitate the transition to this new space while continuing to provide regionally focused play and learning experiences that are accessible to all children.

Contact: Cameron Kruger  
President/CEO  
218-733-7543  
cameron@playduluth.org

Funding Amount: \$69,000

Start Date: 07/01/2019

End Date: 09/30/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. Museum visitors will experience engaging, interactive rotating exhibits that draw from the region's community, history, and culture. The addition of these experiences will result in increased attendance and position the museum as a desirable attraction in the community. Attendance will increase by 5% compared to 2018-2019.
2. Legacy funded exhibits will be prepared for their move to the new location.

Measurable Outcomes:

Following the Giant Boardgame exhibit, the museum brought in Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice from the Minnesota Children's Museum. Complimentary programming, including the use of "field jackets" for digging out actual dinosaur bones, has been designed to enhance the experience.

Legacy funded exhibits have been prepared for their move to the museum's new location, with a goal for opening the site in mid-January 2021.

Counties Served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, St. Louis

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$69,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.5 FTE

Board Members: Kyle Terrio-Johnson, Kelly Davidson, Max Rubin, Patty Cartier, Dana Kazel, JoAnn Mattson, Erica Henkel

## **Great River Children's Museum**

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Recipient: Great River Children's Museum

Project Overview: In 2018 the Great River Children's Museum, (GRCM) received a building worth \$1,500,000 from Liberty Bank. Since receiving this gift, the Board of Directors has completed a Museum Strategic Master Plan with Vergeront Museum Planning, a predesign plan and building condition assessment with JLG Architects, a hazardous building materials assessment with Braun Intertec, and a

marketing plan with Gearbox Marketing. The GRCM mission is "to create a place where every child and their caring adults can create, explore, discover and be inspired through the extraordinary power of play." The GRCM website, <https://greatrivercm.org/> provides a great overview of the efforts up to this point and highlights the effort to promote understanding and inclusion of diverse populations. With the funding provided by the Legacy Funds, the GRCM plans to hire staff to provide:

- building management
- financial and systems management
- business and strategic planning
- program and exhibit development and
- management of volunteers and future staff.

By September 2021, in conjunction with the architectural design plan, and museum master plan, exhibit development and building renovation will be coordinated and moving toward completion.

Contact: Cassie Miles  
Executive Director  
cassie.miles@greatrivercm.org

Funding Amount: \$230,000

Start Date: 01/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

**MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF THE GRCM START-UP PROJECT**

**1. EXHIBITS OUTCOMES**

- a. Exhibits Plan: Complete the conceptual exhibit plan begun during the Museum Master Plan process. Move forward towards completion with Schematic and Final Development/Design coordinated with professional and consulting services - architects, exhibit designers and fabricators. The outcome will be fabrication and installation plans. The Legacy funds will be used to initiate the design process for the Great River exhibit which will reflect local history, cultural heritage and art connected to our relationship with the Mississippi River. The other exhibit that will be designed using these funds will be the Bridges to the World marketplace for cultural explorations.

**2. LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS OUTCOMES**

- a. Formal and Higher Education: Move beyond the formative and early planning stages to develop potential collaborative arrangements such as co-staffing, student volunteer placements, shared and aligned curriculum, field trips, college student internships or practicums for future educators, joint training or research opportunities across different disciplines-from child development and education, non-profit management to marketing.

**3. PARENT-CHILD LEARNING IN A MUSEUM SETTING OUTCOMES**

- a. Research: Families participating in GRCM events and activities prior to opening will steadily increase in numbers and in demographic range. Observations of interactions during play and feedback from parents and children will inform museum development of exhibits, programming, and practices.

**4. COMMUNITY PARTNERS OUTCOMES**

- a. Beyond St. Cloud Metro: Implement five outreach events using mobile exhibits and activities to introduce the museum and connect with over 50 families in outlying areas to develop a regional audience.

- b. Community Organizations, Clubs, Service Groups: Continue to outreach and introduce the museum through presentations off-site or at the museum - in the community room; explore volunteer activities, develop partnering relationships around mutual community interests, secure donations for program development and scholarships for low income families.
- c. City of St. Cloud: Participate with Downtown Council, City of St. Cloud and downtown neighbors in mutually beneficial and collaborative way.

Who or what is expected to change as a result of the grant?

#### EXPECTED TO CHANGE

As an emergent museum, the board, committees and planning groups are looking towards the future, when the GRM building is completed and exhibits installed. Loads of visitors will come through the doors, and leave with smiling faces. GRM's guiding vision, established in the Museum Master Plan, "is a welcoming and flourishing Greater St. Cloud where ALL children look forward to a future that offers expanding opportunities". Anticipated improvements to quality of community life:

- St. Cloud businesses will see parents and children coming into the downtown area, giving it more vitality and a reputation for being family-friendly.
- School districts and private schools in the metro and rural areas will have a new partner. Home schooled children will have a new learning resource.
- St. Cloud will have a new jewel to go along with the relocated and newly built City Hall and other established, major cultural attractions – Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud Civic Center, Paramount, and Pioneer Theatres.
- GRM will open its doors for business, becoming a permanent regional attraction and Central Minnesota cultural resource.
- Our children will be more knowledgeable, become better adults, and have more FUN and JOY!

#### Measurable Outcomes:

The grant partially funded an Executive Director position & Program staff person to coordinate the following outcomes and expand and support our volunteer board and committees.

GRM hired our first museum staff. An Executive Director was hired in July 2020 and has provided leadership in financial management- establishing a new accounting system, financial policies, guiding a successful audit and securing additional funding. The ED has also directed GRM's significant progress in facility renovation and exhibit development and coordinated committee work.

A Program & Outreach Manager was hired Feb. 2021 and has developed volunteer policies and training. She has also assisted with visiting exhibits and planned activities for community events, and piloted an onsite camp & field trips.

Exhibit Design-Legacy funds supported important progress on two exhibits- Bridges and Great Big River- An exhibits committee was created in late 2019 that developed exhibit concepts, reviewed 12 RFPs and selected the Split Rock Studios/Haizlip/KidZibits team for design, fabrication and installation of exhibits that began work in Feb. 2021. They conducted 6 groups- 2 kick-off sessions and four workshops with community members. They completed Schematic Design I in July and SD II in September. This process involved several different community groups in providing input and feedback to these exhibit proposals.

Mobile Exhibits- GRM sponsored 2 visiting exhibits Storyland and Curious George from the Minnesota Children's Museum that were supported by Legacy funds. These exhibits welcomed over 1,000 people into the museum building and provided preview experiences for families, early childhood and school programs. These experiences allowed GRM to gain experience with assembling exhibits and establishing a COVID-safe protocols and cleaning routines for exhibit areas.

Office Equipment & Supplies supported staff and volunteer activities in the museum building and at community events.

Counties Served: Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wright, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Swift, Pope, Douglas

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$230,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 1.75

Board Members: Glen Palm (Board Chair); Buddy King (Vice Chair); Greg Reigstad (Treasurer); Monica Segura-Schwartz (Secretary); Jill Amsberry; Becky Coborn; Jim Davis; Jane Ellison; Heather Allen; Sara McKeever; Vincent Miles; Jennifer Mueller; Jerry VonKorff; Ismail Mohamed; Heidi Everett; Tom Grones

## **Otter Cove Children's Museum**

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Recipient: Otter Cove Children's Museum

Project Overview: Otter Cove Children's Museum will be a state-of-the-art educational and cultural center in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, providing a much-needed accessible, indoor play space for the children of Otter Tail County and beyond. Otter Cove was started and driven by a group of moms but the actual place, Otter Cove, is for children and the "critters" who live there; the otter in the Otter Romp Playground, the fox at the cafe, the beaver at the dentist office, the raccoon at the grocery store, the swan on the stage, the mice at the bookstore, and the skunk at the veterinarian. Every detail at Otter Cove is designed to look and feel like a true destination that guests are transported into as they walk through the door. Furthermore, the region's landscape, agricultural influence, businesses and art scene are visible as the actual exhibits and core components of the museum's play structure, miniature downtown, farm and field, and art and maker space. The beneficiaries of the museum will be the young people visiting the museum who lack imaginative, creative, educational and physical play options in the region. Families and caregivers will appreciate a place where connections and community foster, especially in the winter. Family connections will grow, as the museum is an experience that will have impacts across generations - parents and their children, grandparents with their grandchildren, families and caregivers across the spectrum. It's exciting that Otter Cove will be the only children's museum with an indoor play structure in a 180 mile radius, ultimately helping increase traffic for local businesses from the additional visitors in town. We have heard countless employers donate to the project because they are excited to attract and retain young talent with this unique amenity. Childcare providers and school groups will also benefit from having an educational destination for field trips that is local.

Contact: Tasha Rohlfs  
Board President  
612-819-8033  
ottercoveff@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$137,000

Start Date: July 1, 2019

End Date: March 31, 2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Our Proposed Measurable Outcomes are as follows:

- Having a visitor return rate of 70% by the end of the first year.
- Have a membership renewal rate of 85% by the end of the first year.
- Engage 40% of licensed daycares in Otter Tail county in membership opportunities.
- Have four free admission Saturdays during our first calendar year where Otter Cove becomes available and accessible to anyone and everyone.
- Have six low sensory events, outside of normal museum hours, where children can engage with our exhibits who may not normally visit during busy times.

Measurable Outcomes:

Otter Cove Children's Museum was ready for its grand opening when COVID struck in March 2020. Our team immediately went into survival mode and began fundraising to pay for our rent, unsure how long we would have to remain closed. It was a painful feeling, knowing how isolated everyone was and that we had a fully completed, state-of-the-art children's museum in the heart of downtown, just waiting for visitors to come play. Starting in July 2020, we began hosting private rentals with no more than 40 people at a time. We also gave private tours to our amazingly supportive donors who were anxious to see the completed space. The response was incredible. Friends would join together to rent the space just so their kids could play. We started tracking zip codes and realized how far people were traveling to play at Otter Cove, even during a pandemic. We held a series of open-air art classes in the Maker Shop; these were some of the only children's and adult programs available during the summer and fall of 2020. We are proud that we could offer creative opportunities for our community while following COVID safety protocol. Despite the pandemic, we achieved our goal of becoming a regional gathering ground for children and families. We are also proud of Otter Cove's impact on the local economy. Often when guests leave the museum, they ask staff for recommendations of great local restaurants. If a child is having a difficult time leaving Otter Cove, caregivers will often tempt them with a trip to Uncle Eddie's Ice Cream, just down the street from Otter Cove.

Counties Served: Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Brown, Carver, Clay, Crow Wing, Dakota, Douglas, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Itasca, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Koochiching, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Mille Lacs, Mower, Nobles, Norman, Olmstead, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Roseau, Saint Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Washington, Wilkin, Winona, Wright, Yellow Medicine

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$137,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Tasha Rohlf, Amy Baldwin, Kelsey Evavold, Ryan Tungeth, Sarah Duffy, Erinn Webb, Greg Wagner, Arriana Velasco

**Region 5 Children's Museum**

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Recipient: Region 5 Children's Museum

Project Overview: With a population of 162,000 that expands by approximately 300,000 annually through tourism, the Brainerd Lakes area is truly a beloved “up north” destination in Minnesota. Brainerd’s emerging Region 5 Children’s Museum (working title) envisions a more connected Minnesota and will actively bring together people from diverse backgrounds in shared experiences through the exploration of northern Minnesota’s rich art, culture, and heritage. After an initial five years of dedicated planning and development, the children’s museum is ready to begin providing educational, hands-on programming that engages children, families, educators, and the community. Playful Explorations: Creating Connections through Art, Culture, and Heritage, the children’s museum Legacy Grant project, will provide residents and visitors with opportunities to enjoy and benefit from 60 programming events in at least 20 communities over the 18-month grant cycle. In addition, local engagement specialists will bring programming directly to at least 100 participants experiencing significant participation barriers. Playful Explorations programming events will be delivered by local professional and emerging artists, along with children’s museum professionals. Artwork, stories, and other participant-generated content will be collected and recorded to inform and to be integrated into the design and development of future children’s museum’s exhibits, environments, and programs. The children museum will engage communities of all ethnicities, abilities, and incomes and will pay special attention to reaching community members experiencing participation barriers.

Contact: Peter Olson  
Museum Project Director  
507-995-2242  
Polsonregion5cm@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$188,455

Start Date: February 3, 2020

End Date: September 7, 2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: To measure the effectiveness of accomplishing the stated goals, the children’s museum projects the following outcomes:

1. The children’s museum will facilitate 60 hands-on arts, culture, and heritage-related programming events in three phases over the 18 months of the grant cycle.
2. Families in at least 20 communities within Region 5 will benefit from being host sites of arts, culture, and heritage-related programming events.
3. We conservatively estimate that at least 2,400 individuals will participate in the arts, culture, and heritage-related programming events, an average of at least 40 participants at each of the 60 programming events.
4. At least 300 examples of input will be collected to inform the design and development of exhibits, environments, and programs. The examples of input collected may be in the form of art, recorded stories and conversations, quotes, surveys, or other input-engaging forms, to be determined by the design and development team at the outset of the project.
5. Since the program events will be free to the public, the children’s museum expects high numbers of participants who otherwise experience participation barriers taking part in these programming events. In addition, the children’s museum will seek out, engage, and collect input from at least 100 families expressly experiencing participation barriers. These families may be experiencing financial hardship, isolation, cultural barriers, proficiency or special need issues, or other participation barriers.
6. Exhibit and environment schematic designs for the new children’s museum will reflect the input collected from diverse participants throughout the region.



Measurable Outcomes:

This has been a very exciting grant period for us. In April, we were able to distribute over 400 Play Packets (as described in our last report). However, we weren't done there. Beginning in May of 2021, we were able to start doing in-person programming both at our studio in the Franklin Arts Center and throughout the region. Between the beginning of May, 2021, and the end of October, WonderTrek Children's Museum was able to facilitate 184 different play experiences for children throughout the region. These included:

- over 25 separate festivals in 15 towns in Region 5
- approximately 50 events at libraries in 5 different communities
- programs at 20 different elementary schools throughout the region
- a coordinated effort with therapists at Greater Minnesota Family Services to provide approximately 40 play therapy experiences for young children who have experienced trauma.

In addition to programming, we have been able to continue to further develop our infrastructure and have hired on two additional staff. These two Program Coordinators have aided in program development, facilitation, and marketing.

Counties Served: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$188,455; \$0

Number of FTEs: 2

Board Members: Chuck Albrecht, Paul Drange, Ellen Haglin, Dianne Heldman, Cheryal Hills, Matt Kilian, Melissa McKay, Steve Northway, Quinn Swanson, Shannon Wheeler

## **The Works Museum**

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Recipient: The Works Museum

Project Overview: Every culture engineers. We may use different words and materials, but we all share a need to design solutions to everyday problems. Through the *We Are All Engineers* project, The Works Museum will leverage the organization's expertise in elementary engineering education and the cultural knowledge of community partners to co-create and deliver new elementary education programs that align with the cultural benchmarks in the Minnesota State Science Standards introduced in June 2019. The museum will also co-create an interactive station for the museum gallery to extend learning beyond the classroom and with museum visitors. During the grant period, these new programs will provide a projected 47,000 children and families with culturally authentic experiences that engage them meaningfully in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) while highlighting the engineering contributions of Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong, Mexican, and Somali cultures.

Contact: Kit Wilhite  
Director of Education  
952-888-4262 ext. 211  
kit@theworks.org

Funding Amount: \$121,545

Start Date: February 1, 2020

End Date: June 30, 2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Outcomes for We Are All Engineers are aligned with the three project goals:

1) Goal: To successfully implement The Works Museum's first co-creation model to develop two new 90-minute workshops that support Minnesota teachers in implementing the Science Standards and an associated interactive station for our museum gallery.

Outcomes:

- Partners from the Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong, Mexican, and Somali cultural communities will have shared elements of their cultures and made connections with The Works Museum's family and school audiences.
- The project team will have developed two new workshops that support Minnesota teachers in implementing the Science Standards and will have created an associated interactive station for our museum gallery.
- The Works Museum will have demonstrated the ability to successfully co-create programming with members of communities who are historically underrepresented in STEM, document the co-creation process, and establish partnerships with representatives from these five cultural communities.
- The Works Museum will have increased our capacity to co-create programs, providing an important foundation for incorporating the diverse Minnesotan community in our work long-term.

2) Goal: To create authentic, meaningful primary resource experiences that allow children to explore the Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong, Mexican, and Somali cultures through the lens of engineering and that allow kids from non-dominant cultures to see themselves represented in STEM.

Outcomes:

- Students from non-dominant communities will see their cultures represented in The Works Museum's programs, feel welcomed at the museum, and engage more meaningfully in STEM experiences.
- Workshop participants and museum visitors will interact with and gain a better understanding of engineering contributions from Minnesota American Indian and other non-dominant Minnesota cultural communities.

3) Goal: To provide opportunities for children from the five cultures represented in the project, for children from under-resourced schools, and for all museum visitors to engage with these cultures through hands-on exploration and play.

Outcomes:

- The Works Museum will deliver new workshops to all 2nd and 4th grade students at each of the six partner schools, selected for their high percentages of students representing the five cultures, reaching an estimated 1,000 students.
- An estimated 1,000 children from under-resourced schools will participate in the new programs with subsidized bus and program fees.
- In addition to the 2,000 students served through program delivery to partner and under-resourced schools, we estimate that an additional 45,000 museum visitors will engage with these cultures through hands-on exploration and play in the museum gallery during the grant period.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress; no measurable outcomes reported to date.

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: .575 FTE

Board Members: Carol Aegerter, Nicole Cameli, Carolina Dufault, Brianne Gregory, Kelly Klein, Cary Komoto, John Lee, Gene Sieve, Karl Smith, Megan Tuetken, Nate Witzany

## **Wheel and Cog**

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Recipient: Wheel and Cog

Project Overview: Project, "It takes a Village", involves program development which would include community outreach development.

Contact: Jessica Sabrowsky  
Founder/Executive Chair  
651-788-0548  
director@wheelandcog.com

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Start Date: February 1, 2020

End Date: October 31, 2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. Through improved community access and outreach, we will track outreach activities. We have a goal of 1 community-based activity each month starting May 2020. The outcomes we expect to see is an increase in requests for outreach across the state of Minnesota.
2. Trailer, we expect that the trailer be utilized at least monthly starting May 2020.
3. Signage/Video, we expect the video of exhibits and testimonial to be viewed 150 times each month after it is posted to website. We expect to receive positive feedback regarding cohesive signage throughout museum, updated brochures and sign along hwy 15.
4. Cloud-based membership/donor tracking, we expect class registration to be easy, increase in donations and circle of membership donors, as well as ease of tracking and reporting capabilities.

### Measurable Outcomes:

Cohesive marketing:

- a) We monitor our account using Google My Business. We have 3-5 star ratings, mostly 4's and 5's.
- b) We are able to track several measures: 22,263 followers; in the last month 59 people used google for directions; 233 visited the website; 22 phone calls and we currently have a 4.7 star rating on Google.
- c) Signs: The outdoor permeant signs and the billboard have been driving up awareness of our location.

Community Outreach:

a) Initially, during the summer, we were only reaching 20-25 kiddos each week with our Community Outreach program, "Art in the Park".

b) In August 2021 alone, with the Hands-on STREAM weekly activity, we increased kits to 75 per week and are seeing 70-75, kiddos each week participate in the activities, or take a take-and-make kit home.

Counties Served: Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Pope, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Todd, Waseca, Wright

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$40,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Jessica Sabrowsky, Melissa Goldstein, Angela Mellies, Kathy Nordby, Erin Wendolek, Richard Appleby

## Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Civics Programs

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to civics organizations. A small portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective organizations.

### Minnesota Civic Education Coalition Appropriations

#### YMCA Youth in Government – Year I

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Recipient: YMCA Youth in Government

Project Overview: Minnesota Youth in Government (YIG) is a youth-led experience that engages middle and high school youth in democratic governing leadership. Students learn about government process and gain an understanding of local, state, national and international concerns. They research and debate, participate in model Assemblies, United Nations, Youth Conferences on National Affairs, retreats and trainings, and National Judicial Competition, and gain an appreciation of diverse viewpoints in respectful ways.

Contact: Amy Anderson  
Executive Director  
651-330-3045  
Amy.anderson@ymcamn.org

Funding Amount: \$29,100

Start Date: 08/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: In 2019, before the pandemic, our Youth in Government conference welcomed 1,600 student participants, and our Model United Nations conference welcomed almost 800. We will hit one milestone with all the students who used to attend our conferences are again lined up with a school-based delegation director. We will hit another milestone when we start to welcome new delegations in communities we had not served before, because that community didn't have a YMCA branch. We would love to welcome at least 2,500 students to our Youth in Government conference and at least 1,500 to our Model United Nations conference. We believe this is achievable with this new model within the next five years.

Measurable Outcomes:

In the period of July 1, 2019 to March 30, 2020 (at which time Y staff was furloughed due to COVID), the state program director for outreach connected with every superintendent in the state to share success stories from our programs. In addition, he conducted in-person visits to 45 schools/organizations.

During the January 2020 conference, the following delegations either fully participated for the first time or participated in a new program that they had not been involved with before:

- Carlton High School (Carlton, MN) – 3 students
- CHOICE Technical Academy (Owatonna, MN) - 3 students
- Cologne Academy (Cologne, MN) – 3 students
- Eagan YMCA (Eagan, MN) – 5 students

- Faribault High School (Faribault, MN) – 4 students
- Cook County YMCA (Cook County, YMCA) – 5 students
- Academy of Holy Angels (Minneapolis, MN) – 7 students
- Itasca County 4-H (Grand Rapids, MN) – 3 students
- Mesabi Area YMCA (Virginia, MN) – 2 students
- Parnassus Prep (Maple Grove, MN) – 12 students
- St. Anthony Village High School (Minneapolis, MN) – 5 students

The program director for outreach also successfully completed a Model UN Sampler experience for five young people from Kandiyohi County Family YMCA.

In January 2021, we hosted a virtual conference for more than 500 young people, led by 48 delegation directors, to whom we paid a stipend that was determined by the number of students in their delegation (the spreadsheet with details will be included as backup documentation). We considered this outcome to be a tremendous success given the challenges circumstances students and teachers were experiencing due to COVID. We believe that our conference was the largest gathering of Youth in Government participants in any state nationwide and we also believe that offering teachers stipends to help recruit and prepare students made a significant difference in our ability to move forward with this program during such a challenging year.

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$29,100; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Siyad Abdullahi, Whit Alexander, James Altman, Peter Bach, Anthony Bassett, Laura Baskerville Becker, Adam Berry, Troy Cardinal, Lori Carrell, Jeanne Crain, Deniz Cultu, Richard Davis, Jacquelyn Daylor, Wendy Dayton, Richard Dorn, Robert Ehren, Patience Ferguson, Marcus Fischer, Gloria Freeman, Jennifer Gale, Bob Gardner, Bill George, Bill Guidera, Jeffrey Greiner, Bjorn Gunnerud, James Hereford, Derrick Hollings, Mick Johnson, Clarence Jones, Shelley Kendrick, Chris Killingstad, Michael Klingensmith, Jeffrey LaFavre, Bruno Lavandier, David Law, Michael Lovett, Matthew Marek, Steve Meads, Bruce Mooty, Greg Munson, John Naylor, Andrea Nordaune, Ravi Norman, Amit Patel, Scott Peterson, Kathryn Mitchell Ramstad, Kyle Rolfing, Clifton Ross, David Royal, Jon Ruppel, Carolyn Sakstrup, Ronald Schutz, Rajni Shah, David St. Peter, Robert Thompson, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Andrea Walsh, Tim Walsh, Lance Whitacre, Walter White, David Wichmann, Norman Wright, Dick Zehring

## **YMCA Youth in Government – Year 2**

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Recipient: YMCA Youth in Government

Project Overview: Minnesota Youth in Government (YIG) is a youth-led experience that engages middle and high school youth in democratic governing leadership. Students learn about government process and gain an understanding of local, state, national and international concerns. They research and debate, participate in model Assemblies, United Nations, Youth Conferences on National Affairs, retreats and trainings, and National Judicial Competition, and gain an appreciation of diverse viewpoints in respectful ways.

Contact: Amy Anderson  
Executive Director  
651-330-3045  
Amy.anderson@ymcamn.org

Funding Amount: \$28,650

Start Date: 11/01/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: In 2019, before the pandemic, our Youth in Government conference welcomed 1,600 student participants, and our Model United Nations conference welcomed almost 800. We will hit one milestone with all the students who used to attend our conferences are again lined up with a school-based delegation director. We will hit another milestone when we start to welcome new delegations in communities we had not served before, because that community didn't have a YMCA branch. We would love to welcome at least 2,500 students to our Youth in Government conference and at least 1,500 to our Model United Nations conference. We believe this is achievable with this new model within the next five years. To meet this goal, we are seeking to both add new delegation directors but also to encourage returning delegation directors to make greater efforts to increase the number of students in their delegations.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.1

Board Members: Siyad Abdullahi, Whit Alexander, James Altman, Peter Bach, Anthony Bassett, Laura Baskerville Becker, Adam Berry, Troy Cardinal, Lori Carrell, Jeanne Crain, Deniz Cultu, Richard Davis, Jacquelyn Daylor, Wendy Dayton, Richard Dorn, Robert Ehren, Patience Ferguson, Marcus Fischer, Gloria Freeman, Jennifer Gale, Bob Gardner, Bill George, Bill Guidera, Jeffrey Greiner, Bjorn Gunnerud, James Hereford, Derrick Hollings, Mick Johnson, Clarence Jones, Shelley Kendrick, Chris Killingstad, Michael Klingensmith, Jeffrey LaFavre, Bruno Lavandier, David Law, Michael Lovett, Matthew Marek, Steve Meads, Bruce Mooty, Greg Munson, John Naylor, Andrea Nordaune, Ravi Norman, Amit Patel, Scott Peterson, Kathryn Mitchell Ramstad, Kyle Rolfing, Clifton Ross, David Royal, Jon Ruppel, Carolyn Sakstrup, Ronald Schutz, Rajni Shah, David St. Peter, Robert Thompson, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Andrea Walsh, Tim Walsh, Lance Whitacre, Walter White, David Wichmann, Norman Wright, Dick Zehring

## **Minnesota Civic Youth – Year I**

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Recipient: Minnesota Civic Youth

Project Overview: Research shows that few young people receive a high-quality social studies education, despite the key role social studies plays in preparing students for civic life. Active and responsible

citizens identify and analyze public problems, respectfully deliberate with others, take constructive action together, reflect on their actions, and influence institutions. We support young people in developing the knowledge, skills and motivation to participate as invested stakeholders in civic life.

Contact: Amy Anderson  
Executive Director  
651-330-3045  
Amy.anderson@ymcamn.org

Funding Amount: \$38,800

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We will hold a mini-conference in partnership with the city of Minneapolis in fall 2021 with no fewer than 50 participants and no more than 100 participants to evaluate our program format, content and delivery and make any needed adjustments to be able to offer the program to other cities across Minnesota.

Measurable Outcomes: This project will teach high school youth about local government issues, functions, and structures in their jurisdiction through a hands-on two-day workshop. Originally we had hoped to research, plan and develop this workshop between January 2021 and July 31, 2021, and deliver it in August 2021. However, several factors led to us delaying deliver of the actual workshop until December 2021. Most notably, our city partner -- the Office of Minneapolis Elections -- had to deal with significant staffing issues and issues related to the ballot question around police reform during the spring and summer months. They also determined that recruiting young people and delivering a workshop prior to the November 2 election would be very difficult for them. As a result, we spread out the research and development process and used the extra time to engage one of our younger team members who had not been through a program development process. We felt that the longer development timeline gave us more time to research program models that may have been helpful as well as spend time discussing all the elements of successful program design. For instance, it's not good enough just to develop a program that has good content -- others have to be interested in that content, the content has to be presented at their level and in an engaging way, the program has to be priced in such a way that your intended audience can afford it but you also have to cover expenses, etc.

We adjusted our timeline so that we would develop a workshop plan, agenda, activities, and materials and hold a weekend conference in partnership with the city of Minneapolis in December 2021. This first conference will serve between 40-50 participants; we will use it to evaluate our program format, content, and delivery. Following the conference, we will make any needed adjustments and offer the workshop to youth in other cities across Minnesota.

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$38,800; \$0

Number of FTEs: 1



Board Members: Siyad Abdullahi, Whit Alexander, James Altman, Peter Bach, Anthony Bassett, Laura Baskerville Becker, Adam Berry, Troy Cardinal, Lori Carrell, Jeanne Crain, Deniz Cultu, Richard Davis, Jacquelyn Daylor, Wendy Dayton, Richard Dorn, Robert Ehren, Patience Ferguson, Marcus Fischer, Gloria Freeman, Jennifer Gale, Bob Gardner, Bill George, Bill Guidera, Jeffrey Greiner, Bjorn Gunnerud, James Hereford, Derrick Hollings, Mick Johnson, Clarence Jones, Shelley Kendrick, Chris Killingstad, Michael Klingensmith, Jeffrey LaFavre, Bruno Lavandier, David Law, Michael Lovett, Matthew Marek, Steve Meads, Bruce Mooty, Greg Munson, John Naylor, Andrea Nordaune, Ravi Norman, Amit Patel, Scott Peterson, Kathryn Mitchell Ramstad, Kyle Rolfing, Clifton Ross, David Royal, Jon Ruppel, Carolyn Sakstrup, Ronald Schutz, Rajni Shah, David St. Peter, Robert Thompson, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Andrea Walsh, Tim Walsh, Lance Whitacre, Walter White, David Wichmann, Norman Wright, Dick Zehring

## **Minnesota Civic Youth – Year 2**

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Recipient: Minnesota Civic Youth

Project Overview: Research shows that few young people receive a high-quality social studies education, despite the key role social studies plays in preparing students for civic life. Active and responsible citizens identify and analyze public problems, respectfully deliberate with others, take constructive action together, reflect on their actions, and influence institutions. We support young people in developing the knowledge, skills and motivation to participate as invested stakeholders in civic life.

Contact: Amy Anderson  
Executive Director  
651-330-3045  
Amy.anderson@ymcamn.org

Funding Amount: \$38,200

Start Date: 11/01/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We will hold two mini-conferences, one in partnership with the city of Minneapolis and the other in partnership with the city of Rochester. A total of approximately 100 participants will learn how to follow issues and advocate for positive change in their local jurisdictions. Youth participants will provide positive evaluations and indicate a desire and confidence for ongoing engagement with their local government.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Olmsted

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1.4

**Board Members:** Siyad Abdullahi, Whit Alexander, James Altman, Peter Bach, Anthony Bassett, Laura Baskerville Becker, Adam Berry, Troy Cardinal, Lori Carrell, Jeanne Crain, Deniz Cultu, Richard Davis, Jacquelyn Daylor, Wendy Dayton, Richard Dorn, Robert Ehren, Patience Ferguson, Marcus Fischer, Gloria Freeman, Jennifer Gale, Bob Gardner, Bill George, Bill Guidera, Jeffrey Greiner, Bjorn Gunnerud, James Hereford, Derrick Hollings, Mick Johnson, Clarence Jones, Shelley Kendrick, Chris Killingstad, Michael Klingensmith, Jeffrey LaFavre, Bruno Lavandier, David Law, Michael Lovett, Matthew Marek, Steve Meads, Bruce Mooty, Greg Munson, John Naylor, Andrea Nordaune, Ravi Norman, Amit Patel, Scott Peterson, Kathryn Mitchell Ramstad, Kyle Rolfing, Clifton Ross, David Royal, Jon Ruppel, Carolyn Sakstrup, Ronald Schutz, Rajni Shah, David St. Peter, Robert Thompson, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Andrea Walsh, Tim Walsh, Lance Whitacre, Walter White, David Wichmann, Norman Wright, Dick Zehring

**Learning Law and Democracy Foundation – Years 1 and 2**

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*Information will be included in online reporting pending a signed agreement.*

## **Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Cultural Identity Grants (Competitive)**

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the American Indian and immigrant communities through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Identity funds were distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020) and a fourth round in the second year of the legislative biennium (through June 2021). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants were awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third and fourth rounds, the remaining funds were awarded in larger amounts. A 14% holdback was issued for the fourth round of awards – these funds became available after July 1, 2021 and were awarded after that time.

### **Round 1 Grants:**

#### **MIGIZI Communications Microgrant**

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Recipient: MIGIZI Communications

Project Overview: Begin to digitize 40 years of audio archives to enable future usage by American Indians and all Minnesotans.

Contact: Kelly Drummer  
612-721-6631  
kelly@migizi.org

Funding Amount: \$4,958

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

#### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

The goals of this project were to:

1. Begin the digitization of our audio archives with 24 pieces, to enable future use by Migizi and others;
2. Teach two Migizi youth media interns basic audio skills and have them help create the sample rough cut.
3. Create a 15-25 min Rough-cut of samples from each of the audio reels;
4. Host two convenings/listening sessions and play samples and rough cut for community members and solicit feedback.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

Migizi followed the recommendations of community members and legacy producers, from archivists and audio professionals, and chose 24 pieces of reel-to-reel tape from the archive between the years 1978 and 1987. We have digitized these 24 pieces of audio material from the Migizi Legacy Radio archive, based on the priorities articulated by the community members who met in late January and the audio professional who helped us determine a method for assessing the state of the archive.

We first convened a small group of original producers of the programs and formed an advisory committee. The community consultant, Melissa Olson, presented a 'rough-cut' of digitized material from

these first three reels to the first convening of Migizi's legacy radio archive on January 23rd. The rough cut is approximately 15-minutes in length and features the work of several of the original producers of The Native American Program.

The producers of Migizi's legacy programming who were in attendance at the Jan 23 convening spoke about their hopes for digitizing the archive. Producer Scott Raymond said he believed it was important to make the archival material available to producers, and especially Native producers, who might want to repurpose the archive to create documentary and/or reference work. Producer Janice Command spoke to her desire to see the material preserved as a part of a historical record that could be made available to scholars, researchers, and historians interested in the Red Power Movement of the 1970s. Executive Director Laura Waterman Wittstock, who had originally been responsible for the distribution of Migizi's programming stated that she would like to see the archived preserved in a location where it would have the broadest possible availability to interested producers, researches, scholars, and historians.

Based on all recommendations, the community consultant chose 24 pieces of archival material to be digitized and delivered them to John Miller, who not only digitized the tapes, but evaluated the archive and gave us specific recommendations for future preservation and conversion to digital format.

After the convening and the digitization, we transcribed the programs. We chose two American Indian high-school students to listen to the recordings and read along through the transcripts and select certain sections they thought were of particular cultural and/or historical significance. Melissa Olson created an assignment for them and mentored them through this process of completing an assignment through to deadline. Both youth producers listened to hours of tape, read transcripts, and selected clips from those transcripts—learning how to build a radio or audio story in the same ways stories are created by professional journalists.

One of our youth says he connected with the material in ways that surprised him. He says he was intrigued to hear stories about Native youth going back to the late 1970s that resonated with his experience of the world today, and says that material motivated him to choose clips that contained facts and data that helped to tell the story of the archive.

We have begun to do outreach and publicize the existence and importance of the project. The clips chosen by the youth producers were compiled by the Community Consultant and KFAI Fresh Air Community Radio as a 24 minute Supercut that represents selections from each newly digitized recording. The Supercut is intended to be shared with community members and partners as an example of the Migizi Legacy Radio Archive through Migizi's website and social media platforms.

You can find it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/melissa-olson-1/migizi-legacy-radio-archive-24-min-supercut/s-ludwDKDITZB>

We also engaged a graphic designer to create a high-quality identifiable logo for the project.

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$4,958; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Joseph A. Erickson, Sommer Green, Barbara Cole, Tony Genia, Marie Rainey, Jillian Rowan, Kevin Waller, Tiffany Hand

## **Chaz Wagner Microgrant**

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Recipient: Chaz Wagner

Project Overview: Ojibwe podcast broadcast via YouTube, iTunes, Spotify, Facebook, etc. The Ojibwe Podcast would include oral interviews with local elders, community experts, activists, and Anishinaabe peoples of Minnesota.

Contact: Chaz Wagner  
218-780-3755  
Chaz706@yahoo.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: To educate public on Ojibwe Language and Culture in northern Minnesota through audio/video podcast and videography.

Measurable Outcomes: I've created and uploaded audio podcast to YouTube, Facebook, and Apple Podcast, and worked on video and audio pieces. In addition to the podcasts - with the equipment I purchased - I created language-based posters/pictures/maps all in our traditional Ojibwe Language. Also with this equipment, I was able to create a couple of different versions of the AT logo.

Counties Served: St. Louis

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

## **Dakota Wicohan Microgrant**

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Recipient: Dakota Wicohan

Project Overview: Provide a fun, supportive and engaging opportunity for Dakota youth to learn the Dakota language and culture through weekly activity nights, which includes assisting with the planning and production of a monthly fun cultural lesson video for distribution on YouTube and social media.

Contact: Eileen O'Keefe  
507-697-6272  
eokeefe@dakotawicohan.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 06/30/2022

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of reporting.

## **Telling Queer History/Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia Microgrant**

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Recipient: Telling Queer History/Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

Project Overview: IX and TQH will collaborate to support the immigrant members of IX who are also part of the queer community. We want to focus on this intersection because IX has a handful of members who embrace this identity and struggle for recognition within their Latinx community. IX will work with TQH to support the intersectional identities of IX members through their claiming of their narratives. This will be done at a December storytelling event of TQH, through IX members (and adding a cross-cultural element) as well as queer Hmong and Somali individuals sharing their stories publicly.

Contact: Rebecca Lawrence  
Founder, Telling Queer History  
612-423-4320  
hello@tellingqueerhistory.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

The goal of this collaboration is to build stronger connections between two cultural communities that have overlap that is often erased. Our goal is to build allies across differences, a deeper knowledge of each other's history and lives, and empathy which will lead to a healthier community overall.

TQH events typically draw 30-60 people but with this collaboration we anticipate a larger gathering of 60-90 people. We will record our attendance at the December 8th event and compare that to previous years. We will also track if people return after this event. As people sign in we ask them how they first heard of the event so we can measure the influence of each organization.

We will know we have been successful when presenters feel a deeper connection to multiple communities outside of their own identities and when attendees learn and feel connected to stories. We want to ensure that heterosexual identified members of Inquilinxs attend to support and hear stories of their queer members. It can be more difficult to come out in Latinx communities than in than US born communities. Highlighting the stories of Latinx LGBTQ+ will increase empathy and compassion for members of Inquilinx that identify as LGBTQ+, empower them to speak up and be seen in their Latinx communities and at IX events. Simultaneously, highlighting Latinx stories at Telling Queer History will broaden the narrative of LGBTQ+ stories and build empathy and connection to Latinx communities within predominantly European descent LGBTQ+ community. They will hear from these stories a shared struggle with housing scarcity and discrimination.

TQH will distribute a survey in English and Spanish for attendees to fill out. Through this we will measure sense of connection to community and knowledge of other identity groups. We will also track what zip code people live in and how they identify.

After the event, we anticipate other measurable outcomes. We hope TQH attendees join the IX mailing list and show up for events to fight for their housing needs and IX members join the TQH mailing list to attend future events. The event will grow the power and reach of both organizations.

Measurable Outcomes:

We had 31 people in attendance. Powerful stories were shared by three storytellers with a variety of identities. The attendees were moved by the vulnerability and courage to share very personal stories of being LGBTQ+ immigrants in Minnesota.

Seven surveys were filled out: six paper and one online (less than one third of attendees). Most people learned about IX and felt connected to stories.

To follow up on the event, Telling Queer History and IUPJ had the audio transcribed. We had hoped to use this audio to release a podcast that both organizations would be able to use but one of the storytellers would not respond to our request for a release form. We tried multiple methods of communication with this storyteller and were not able to reach them.

We have written permission from one storyteller to use their audio as needed and oral permission from the third storyteller. TQH will be using the written permission person's story as a short clip to promote our Oct 2020 Coming Out event. TQH has been requesting audio release forms to be signed prior to their events because of what we learned from the grant.

Jen and Rebecca acknowledged that longer term work and multiple points of exposure would be needed to build the connections and relationships that we want to see between these two cultural identities.

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$4,523.62; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.01

Board Members:

TQH board: Rebecca Aylesworth, Meghan Lafferty, Joanne Garlich, David T. Lawrence. ED is Rebecca Lawrence.

IX members involved in this project: Jennifer Arnold, Jen Jang, Arianna Feldman, Denisse Herrera, Edain Altamirano

**Bee Yang Microgrant**

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Recipient: Bee Yang

Project Overview: Composing and recording traditional Hmong song poetry now that I'm in the third phase of my life, focused on my responsibilities as an old man, a grandfather. I want to do an album of song poetry about the things I am leaving behind. My voice is not as young or as handsome as it once was, scarred by time and circumstances, I now sing with an older man's tones. But even this is valuable for the human experience.

Contact: Kao Kalia Yang  
763-219-3401  
kaokaliayang@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: I applied for the grant because I wanted funds to secure creative composition time to work toward the completion of a third album of traditional Hmong song poetry. My focus was going to be on the third segment of my life, all the things I have left behind for my grandchildren and other youth who may one day be interested in finding the art forms they came from. I could not have taken into account the Coronavirus and the revolution we are currently in. All of a sudden, I, who had felt like an old man, realized that the world was still young, that this country was still so new. To say the least: my focus has not been on the past but the present. This is a disruption, of course, to my original plan but also a chance to meet the world again as a young place. Also, as expected, this pandemic has interfered with my ability to creatively engage with my form. I am all of a sudden so very concerned about my family, especially the safety of my children who wander the world working. There has been a great many instances of racial discrimination against Asians, against my Hmong family. This has been a stumbling block to my poetry. But as I tell my children and myself, "Let us survive this moment first. The art is coming."

Measurable Outcomes: This opportunity has given me a stronger sense of artistic purpose. I know I sing for an audience of elders. I sing in the hopes that the young can hear it in the background of their lives and one day when they need it, it will rise from the past to show them a way toward the future. It has been a gift, everyday to go into my little closet and sing to my clothes, sing to the threads of my life. Yes, I believe I have achieved my goal, not in the way that I had planned, but in that I know that if we make it from our current moment together, then there will be many new songs to sing. I know that I have achieved this because in the time since this journey began, I have recorded two new songs that would not exist before now. I understand that "now" is a moment to survive and that my poetry of old are as powerful to me as the new poetry that will live after. There is a circularity to the way poetry works, to the way life unfolds, to the life of an artist. We sing those songs when we are young so that we can recall the beauty of youth; we sing the songs of our ages, so they can be a place of return. In this way, I have returned to pieces of myself I had been worried was lost: now is a moment not so different from my years in the jungle, my years in the refugee camp, my early years in America. This is how I know I have achieved; I am here to say these words to my daughter who types them down so they will not forgotten easily.

Counties Served: Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA



## **Round 2 Grants:**

### **Artists Collective for Community Collaboration Microgrant**

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Recipient: Artists Collective for Community Collaboration (AC3)

Project Overview: AC3 will create two art-building workshops for indigenous youth and their families. The work itself will focus on the lives and stories of missing or murdered indigenous women (MMIW) in Minnesota. The workshops will be co-hosted with Anishinaabe Academy (AA) and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC). At both events, students, their parents, and their siblings will be trained in silk screening production, will manufacture printed fabric and paper arts together, and will be educated in Native American history, culture, and contemporary experiences.

Contact: Rory Wakemup  
507-430-3768  
Wakemup productions@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: These events are first and foremost art therapy for the community. It is insane how common it is for folks in the Native American community to have a blood relative that is missing or that has been murdered, not to mention suicide. This workshop helps raise the voices of the ignored by uniting us in a unified calling for change. Art helps to humanize us and the workshops help us gather, share stories and heal. This is not just an issue that plagues the Native American community, folks from other POC groups show up to support and share their stories as well.

These workshops are not only a source for folks to come together and heal but it's a place for others to show up and support. MN350 shows up to support in large numbers as well as folks from MCAD. I have been doing workshops like these for the last four years supporting justice movements. These workshops and public art builds help community organizers from an eclectic range of advocacy groups to converge and support each other. These workshops help humanize us and build relationships in our community. Art is literally a subversive tactic to build community.

Of all the different things participants feel/get from these workshops, the most important is a sense of community unity.

Measurable Outcomes: The community showed up to help make hundreds of objects for the MMIW march on Feb. 14th. Folks shared stories and got to know new people they might not have met without the workshop opportunity. Every goal was achieved.

Counties Served: Statewide, Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: I do not have a board yet, more an advisory panel:

- Patina Park, Minnesota Indian Womens Resource Center (MIWRC)
- Mary Lagarde, Director Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC)
- Christine Davidon, Minnesota Indian Womens Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC)
- Nick Tilsen, President NDN Collective
- Laura Sullivan, Principal Anishinabe Academy.

## **Oyate Hotanin Microgrant**

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Recipient: Oyate Hotanin

Project Overview: We will add to the number of American Indians presenting artistic work and ideas, and expand our audiences to promote a vibrant, honest American Indian world view in Minnesota by supporting 3 short term projects led by artists in our coalition: The January Buffalo Show, RedTalk Symposium, and Live At the Buffalo Show CD Audio Mastering and short run printing. In collaboration with Bryant Lake Bowl, Pangea World Theater and our ever-expanding network of artists we are building a community around authentic and unusual material, with this micro grant we will deliver 3 new, treasured projects in a short timeframe.

Contact: Laura LaBlanc  
651-263-0739  
laura@oyatehotanin.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The goal of our Micro Grant project is to jump-start our new year, add to the number of American Indians presenting artistic work and ideas, and expand our audiences to promote a vibrant, honest American Indian world view in Minnesota. We are achieving this goal by using grant funding to support three short term projects led by artists in our coalition: The Buffalo Show; a RedTalk Symposium; the videotaping and dissemination of both of these events; and final mastering of "Live at the Buffalo Show" CD.

Measurable Outcomes: Outcomes from our project were strong, based on counts of artist and audience numbers; feedback from those who participated, and written reflections from the RedTalk Symposium.

### **Buffalo Show**

Thanks to support from the MHC Micro Grant, we were able to offer a strong lineup of 10 artists for the January 28 Buffalo Show and had 80 people in the audience – an almost entirely sold out show. The show was a metro area release party for the full-length CD "Better Days" by our featured artist Corey Medina (Dine, Bemidji) and Brothers (Eric Sundeen and Gary Broste).

Our headliner was joined by:

- Joe Savage (Fond du Lac), steel guitar;
- Strong Buffalo (Dakota, St. Paul), poet;
- Al Gross (Leech Lake, St. Paul), storyteller;
- Micah Nickey, (Sicangu Lakota), traditional singer
- Naomi Berglund, (Northern Cheyenne & Oglala Lakota, Minneapolis), back up singer
- Crystal Norcross, (Dakota, St. Paul) back up singer; and
- Judd Rappe, guitar.

Special segments of the January Buffalo Show included a RedTalk by Micah Nickey, an artist interview of Angela Two Stars, and a Strong Buffalo poem for murdered and missing indigenous women (MMIW). Micah spoke of the intersection between neuroscience and all he has learned from his elders and traditional practices. Angela helped us understand how she has woven language revitalization into her sculptures and her visual arts. Strong Buffalo led all the performers in a special presentation of his poem “Dear Miss Long Gone,” with a backdrop of projections of many drawing, paintings, installments and posters created by artists across the country in honor of MMIW.

Someone once said, “if you’re working on a revolution, make it a party.” With MHC’s support, we have added to both the revolution and the party with our January Buffalo Show and provided a great start to our year and the next five Buffalo Shows scheduled in 2020.

#### RedTalk Symposium February 10

On February 10, more than 110 Metro State students and faculty joined our inaugural launch of RedTalk Symposium. The event included four insightful talks that highlighted Native American people on a wide range of topics such as strategic solutions, visions for the future, health and wellness, spirituality, and art. Four speakers were invited for the RedTalk as well as the leaders at Oyate Hotanin. The speakers were Bella Dawson, a spoken word artist. Jane Harstad, a member of the Red Cliff of Lake Superior Anishinaabe and serving as the state Director of Indian Education and Tribal Liaison to Minnesota’s eleven Tribal Nations at MD of Education. Graci Horne, a multi-disciplinary artist in painting, print making, puppet making, photography, films, and poetry. And Micah Nickey, a Sicangu Lakota and member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The thoughtful reflections shared by students on the impact of the event speak for themselves:

“...they highlighted the strengths and challenges the Native community are facing.”

“Throughout the speakers, I have learned that their pain has traveled through generations. The different generations that were speaking during the RedTalk, they all showed their pain differently, whether it was words or art or data.”

“One meaningful insight I took away from this event is that it doesn’t matter what backgrounds you come from, healing and resistance play an importance role in the health and well-being of all individuals.”

“The speaker that I enjoyed the most was Bella Dawson. I appreciated the healing tool that she shared with us and how she made everyone participate in exercising this tool. Bella did a wonderful job in expressing her poem, as she spoke her voice and expression told such a painful story. It was as if one could hear the pain and heartache that the trauma caused, to me it was something very powerful. In her poem Bella stated, “What kind of ancestor do you want to be?” this was something that left me thinking. Seeing the trauma that was caused in her family it made me think have I caused any pain myself and how can I be a better ancestor for the following generations.”

“The most meaningful information that I took from this event was presented by Dr. Jane Harstad. Dr Jane spoke about the Indian education in Minnesota and this is a topic that I had not heard about as in detail as she explained it. Knowing that she is not only talking to the department of education but also listening to tribes I thought was something very important.”

“I enjoyed all the speakers; each enlightened my knowledge of American Indians place in society. I particularly enjoyed the singing. In the moment, I could feel a sense of oneness, calm. The moment was inspiring; a desire to want to know more. I enjoyed Micah Nickey and his stance on wellness. I would welcome an opportunity to hear more from him.”

“The Red Talk started with a short clip of an American Indian man who is a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Through this small clip I learned about the pride that the man felt to belong to the American Indian Movement. The clip demonstrated the feel that many American Indians experience till this day. I immediately caught on to the preference in what American Indians like to be called. Through my early years in school I was taught to call this population; “Native Americans”. However, during this Red Talk presentation all the speakers referred to themselves and the population as American Indians. This is important, because no one better to show us what to call a group or population than that specific group.”

“Most if not all the speakers shared a same similar worldview when it comes to education. Education is a bit contradicting to their “indigenous worldview” as Professor Nick described. The type of knowledge that Indigenous people carry is much different and can be said to be more “old” than white American knowledge.”

“My two favorite speakers were Bella and Micah, I went home that day reflecting on my own traumas and how I will continually work to heal those before assisting others to heal. Both speakers made me reflect on my self-awareness of my own culture as well as valuing and respecting what we learn from others. Everything that was shared in the Red Talk is useful information and a great reminder to continually work on gaining more cultural competence. I believe it would be great to have more trainers like Micah Nickey that could possibly expand in other cultures that professionals need more learning on.”

#### Videotaping, CD Creation, and Distribution

Both the January Buffalo Show and the RedTalk Symposium were fully videotaped by Lucas Reynolds (Fond du Lac) and are now available on the Oyate Hotanin YouTube channel. In addition, the entire Buffalo show was broadcast live on Facebook.

In addition, we are producing and in the process of distributing a CD from the 2018 recording “Live at the Buffalo Show.” Twelve tracks from the show have been mastered, a contract has been signed for the production of the CD, and distribution of the CD is set to begin July 2020.

The CD features lead artist Strong Buffalo (Dakota, St. Paul), poet and storyteller, as well as:

- Spoken word with top local and statewide talent including Corey Medina (Dine, Bemidji);
- Joe Savage, Fond du Lac, steel guitar;
- Dakota Blue (Dakota, Minneapolis), flute, guitar and harmonica;
- Myron Thorne (Leech Lake), guitar;
- David Huckfelt, vocals and guitar;
- Ben Weaver, vocals, guitar and banjo;
- and others.

Proceeds from the sale of the CD will fund future Oyate Hotanin projects highlighting American Indian thought, music, and talent.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Crystal Norcross, Mat Pendleton, Laura LaBlanc, Tom LaBlanc, Al Gross, Dipankar Mukherjee, Damon Drake, Cindy Killion, Nick Metcalf

### **Penumbra Theatre Microgrant**

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Recipient: Penumbra Theatre

Project Overview: Weathering, a new play in-progress written by Harrison David Rivers and directed by Talvin Wilks, explores the histories and health outcomes for mothers of color in America. To generate authentic voice and representation, Penumbra's developing deep engagement opportunities with Rivers and Minnesota's healthcare professionals/caregivers with help from black doula/midwife circles, and from this commission's two official sponsors, Regions Hospital and Healthpartners.

Contact: Nathan Young  
651-288-6782  
nathan.young@penumbratheatre.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 08/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Throughout drafting process, Penumbra will facilitate conversations between playwright Harrison David Rivers and caregivers. With the help of institutional and community partners we will weave together the unique experience of motherhood across cultures and time. This process will create a feedback loop. The stories and statistics of weathering and black motherhood will enlighten caregivers, who, through public forums and intimate workshops, will inform the shape and content of the play itself. Penumbra's fully produced commission will broadcast these challenges and opportunities to audiences.

Measurable Outcomes: After several meetings with Harrison Rivers (playwright), Talvin Wilks (provisional director) and Sarah Bellamy (Penumbra's Artistic Director), the first draft is complete. This spring we planned to conduct an intimate reading with representatives from project partners Regions Hospital and HealthPartners, as well as from grassroots orgs with whom we're still developing relationships. They're helping us to include doctors and nurses and community-based caregivers and daughters of color who can contribute to our new play.

This work has been put on hold due to the planetary pandemic. We're currently working with stakeholders to continue workshops and networking virtually. Final production remains track for Fall 2021 (FY22)

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Jovanté Anyabwelé, Shamayne Braman, Sarah Bellamy, Paul Acito, Jeannine Befidi, Matthew Branson, Melanie Douglas, Marcus Fischer, Carson Funderburk, Duane Johnson, Kevin Maler, Mark A. McLellan, Layla Nourae, Robert Olafson, Jeffrey N. Saunders, Tim Sullivan, Joseph Wald, David L. Welliver

### **Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen Microgrant**

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Recipient: Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen

Project Overview: A food memoir book with the working title of "Hand to Mouth: A Daughter's Memory and a Mother's Legacy of Vietnamese Food" about my complicated relationship with Vietnamese food and how cultivating that relationship over time influenced my desire to learn about my Vietnamese culture and family history. Woven throughout this three-part essay will be a story highlighting my mother's experiences working in Vietnamese restaurants in the Twin Cities, as well as historical reflections on four Asian markets on University Ave and stories about the history of the buildings/locations before they became Asian markets. These Asian markets have all played important roles in the legacy of my mother's cooking and the ability of refugees, like my family, from South East Asia to find food and ingredients that remind them of home.

Contact: Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen  
510-282-7159  
poetessanhhoa@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of reporting.

### **Maggie Lorenz/Wakinyan Luta Oyanke Drum and Dance Society Microgrant**

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Recipient: Maggie Lorenz/Wakinyan Luta Oyanke Drum and Dance Society

Project Overview: Guest speakers will provide cultural teachings pertaining to the drum, the songs, the dances, and powwow protocols.

Contact: Maggie Lorenz  
763-439-3532  
Maggie.WakinyanLuta@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/19/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: In 2020 we want to expand our program by creating a new addition to our weekly drum and dance, which is inviting in guest speakers monthly to provide cultural teachings pertaining to the drum, the songs, the dances, and powwow protocols. Our guest speaker program will achieve the following goals:

- Deepen the cultural knowledge in our drum and dance society members
- Build relationships between our drum and dance society and well-respected members of the powwow circuit

A successful program will include our members having gained deeper cultural knowledge and feeling stronger in their sense of cultural identity.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

### **Round 3 Grants:**

#### **Center for Community Services, Kangle Singers and Dancers**

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Recipient: Center for Community Services, Kangle Singers and Dancers

Project Overview: Funding to support rehearsals, five outreach performances, and a concert entitled "We Are a Family", to be held on Saturday February 6, 2021 at the CCS auditorium.

Contact: Sophie Liu-Othmer  
651-403-0953  
Sebastian10152007@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$9,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 02/28/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

This project is to support the Kangle Singers and Dancers at the Center for Community Services (CCS) - specifically their rehearsals, five outreach performances, and a concert entitled "We Are a Family", to be held on Saturday February 6, 2021 at the CCS auditorium.

This project has three goals: 1) to double rehearsal time, and thereby to sustain and increase the number of Chinese immigrant seniors who participate in S&D programs; 2) to support five outreach performances, and thereby raising awareness of works by senior Chinese artists in the community and increasing the understanding of the Chinese cultural identity through interaction with other senior citizens in the Twin Cities area; and 3) to foster collaboration and partnerships with other artistic organizations.

Success will be measured in three ways: 1) Quality and satisfaction of the seniors who participate in our project; 2) Appreciation and satisfaction of our audiences, specifically the number, diversity, and geographic coverage of the audience; 3) Impact on the Chinese immigrant and Minnesota community at large. Specific components of these measures and our progress to date on achieving them are as follows.

Measurable Outcomes:

1) All rehearsals and lessons have been carried out as scheduled for this project, despite the pandemic. We have doubled the rehearsal time from once every other week to every week. Dance rehearsals are held every Saturday, and singing rehearsals are now held on every Sunday PM. After some initial struggles, the seniors have learned to sign on to Zoom Meeting for their rehearsals. Attendance has stabilized at around 25 people for both singing and dance rehearsals for a total of 50-60 people. As the pandemic continues, more and more people are looking to increase their stay-home activities, and as a result, the number of attendees at our rehearsals is increasing.

2) Kangle stands for 'health' and 'happiness' so we named our outreach program "Healthy Dance and Happy Singing". Instead of the proposed five outreach performances, we have held 17 outreach lectures/past performances via Zoom Meetings to date, reaching over 60 participants each time from both inside and outside the Chinese community. The lectures focused on Chinese music and Chinese dance. They were held on Sunday mornings from 10 - 11:15 AM. Video clips included performances from Kangle Singers and Dancers and our partner organizations such as CAAM CDT, and Minghua Chorus. Student dancers and singers gave demonstrations from their homes. English captions of the lectures were posted via Chats for non-Chinese speakers. Of the participants, 70% are Chinese, 30% Caucasian and other. 70% are over 55 years old, 30% are youth and from other age groups. 60% are female and 40% are male.

With the outreach lectures/performances, the singers and dancers really enjoyed watching their past performances again on videos, mesmerized by "how young we looked." Audiences were impressed with the accomplishments Kangle artists have achieved. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to participate in the lectures. Some even joked for the pandemic to go on, so the lectures can continue. We received overwhelming responses from artists who want to participate in our programs, either by giving lessons or lectures. We would like to thank MHC for making this project possible.

The lectures have been recorded. In addition to posters, information of our Zoom lectures have been forwarded to Eden Prairie Senior Center, Edina Senior Center, Pebmoob Senior Center, Yorktown Continental Senior Apartment, and York Gardens Senior Living. The Chinese Heritage Foundation has posted our lecture series on its calendar online.



A total of 17 lectures were held from August 23 to February 07 as our outreach program.

Our final concert called "We Are a Family" was held on Feb 28 as proposed for the project. It was broadcasted via YouTube and two other Chinese overseas Internet social media channels (Bilibili <https://m.bilibili.com/video/BV1uz4y1m7eo> , GoMedia <https://youtu.be/B2G0ejdeB84> , <https://youtu.be/mNck3pkz07U> ). The concert generated over 3000 viewers. It was a result of our collaboration with Alliance of MN Chinese Organizations (AMCO), and Chinese American Association of MN (CAAM) as described in our original proposal. More than 10 organizations performed in our concert, including but not limited to CAAM Dance theatre, Carlton Chinese Music Ensemble, Qian Xu Singing Studio, Twin Cities Dance Theatre, and MiNtshis Performing. Kangle S&D's chorus "The Red Sunset" was a huge success. Much time and work were spent on learning and producing the programs online.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$9,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.12

Board Members: Huan Gao, Ben Yan, Lixin Qin, Chungui Li, Shaotian Chen

## **Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)**

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Recipient: Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

Project Overview: CLUES will create "Santuario," a multi-layered public art & creative placemaking project uplifting Latino cultural heritage, traditions, & identity; ultimately creating a cultural sanctuary space for Latino immigrant communities. The project will be coordinated by CLUES staff, led by 5 local Latino artists, & will involve 100-200 community participants. Through this process, participants will feel a sense of ownership in the space & will invite other friends and family into our community space.

Contact: Aaron Johnson-Ortiz  
651-379-4275  
ajohnson@clues.org

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. Community Participation: 100-200 community members participate in the project (tracked through sign-in sheets), and at least 75% of those surveyed will report experiencing a sense of intergenerational collaboration and connection.
2. Community Ownership: 75% or more of new visitors or returning clients report feeling welcome and a sense of increased ownership in the space. We will assess this using short surveys and dialogue with visitors.

3. Cultural Identification: 75% of participants (artists and community members) report feeling an increased sense of belonging and cultural representation through the arts.
4. Community Safety & Mental Health: Latino community members spend time in our building – looking at art, relaxing, connecting with friends and strangers, playing with their children, etc. This success will be evaluated informally by staff who spend time in the lobby, and who can comment on increased participation and happiness in the space. CLUES mental health professionals will be asked for input about how their clients respond positively to the space and the art.
5. Uplifting Latino Artists: Latino artists will expand their portfolio and 75% of participating artists will report feeling that they gained increased exposure and connection to other Latino artists through the project.

#### Measurable Outcomes:

CLUES is proud to celebrate our achievements over the past year, including updates to our gallery space, exhibits, workshops, and public arts. During this grant period we started our Community-Engaged Latino Artist Collaborative, a 7-month program for Latino artists to work together, learn from each other, share skills, and gain experience in community-engaged art practice and collaborative work. Originally scheduled to start in May 2020, it was rescheduled and started in May 2021.

We could not have anticipated the unprecedented challenges caused by the dual crisis of a racial injustices and the COVID-19 pandemic. To address these challenges, we postponed, cancelled, and or changed many of our programs, community engagement goals, and exhibit plans. This added significant amounts of work because we had to start from scratch several times on most of our programs and goals. However, we remained committed to adapting and changing along with our community as needed.

During the beginning of the pandemic, when we weren't sure when we would be able to open again, we tried out various new strategies, with varied results, including Facebook Live workshops, outdoor public art as a "street gallery", virtual gallery tours, etc. After September 2020, we were able to better create successful programming based on what we learned during the summer.

Our gallery was closed to the public, due to COVID, severely reducing our visitors and ability to survey. However, comments from Facebook live and other online events, garnering an incredible 800 to 1,500 views, had overwhelmingly positive comments. Our workshops also had positive responses, indicating increased community connection.

In August 2021, Artist in residence Juan Chawuk created an 8-panel painted mural representing the work of CLUES and the Latino community in Minnesota. Chawuk is a master painter and an indigenous Maya Tojolabal muralist. As part of his residency, he engaged in about a dozen community workshops with CLUES participants and the broader community. The mural was unveiled in September of 2021, at our Fiesta Latina celebration. The mural received a lot of attention, including a story on MPR (<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2021/09/17/culture-as-cure>), and other outlets. The name of the mural is "Al Ritmo de la Migracion del Universo" which means "To the Rhythm of Migration of the Universe", representing our movements and interconnectedness as human beings and as Latinos.

In September, we opened our Muralismo Minnesotano exhibit. This was a culmination of our public art project, celebrating 40 years of CLUES and 100 years of the muralist movement. The opening was at Fiesta Latina, where we provided guided tours to several hundred individuals, and engaged families in 10 different art activities with teaching artists, reaching about 1,500 people in person. The exhibit was covered by MPR (see above), and other sources. A virtual guided tour can be viewed here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot9F2zIKoHM>), and a summary of the exhibit can be viewed here: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw96GrccCEc>)

We exceeded our community involvement goals (community input from 200 community members, and art activities for 100-200 people). The input process for the various murals exceeded 200 individuals, and the estimate for participants at art activities is around 2,000 individuals.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$20,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.28

Board Members: Virginia (Ginny) Arthur, Hazzen Muñoz, Manuel (Manny) San Miguel, Miguel A. Ruiz Diaz, Miguel Rocha, David Garcia, Erick Garcia Luna, Marco Antonio Ortiz, Angelina Vilouta

### **Coalition of Asian American Leaders on behalf of the LinkingLeaders Partnership**

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Recipient: Coalition of Asian American Leaders on behalf of the LinkingLeaders Partnership

Project Overview: Understanding interconnected social justice histories is foundational to build solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities to address systemic inequalities. LinkingLeaders Partnership will integrate solidarity practices by creating and integrating resources, tools, and modules for teaching BIPOC histories in our programs. Resources will be shared as models for practicing solidarity to be used and adapted by others doing solidarity and racial justice equity work.

Contact: Bo Thao-Urabe  
612-208-7226  
bo@caalmn.org

Funding Amount: \$8,000

Start Date: 06/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

#### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

The following project outcomes provide guidance for the group. It is our hope that these serve only as a starting point and that the group will identify and achieve additional outcomes as part of the process. Throughout implementing the Practicing Solidarity Framework the group will reflect on the processes, projects, and activities to inform the groups' learning as well as assist in creating and refining by asking: What happened?, How did it feel?, What options become apparent? And What will we do more of, less of, start, stop as a result?

- Share resources, learning, and training modules that enhance our focus on solidarity and enrich our programs
  - Create a shared resource library with the potential to share beyond our Partners
  - This work will be the collective effort of the group. They will decide what type of information is needed to expand and deepen learning as well as formats that will work well for their leadership programs as well as translate well for external programs to adapt.
- Commit to a practice of unlearning and learning the histories.
  - Develop a process, generate ideas for how to practice and determine accountability measures.

- Document the process to inform the creation of a tool or module that can be used by others.
- Document pre/post learning to demonstrate shifts in learning and understanding.
- Create space to teach one another those histories.
  - Track the ways that this occurs as a way to document and share as examples for both internal and external application. We will have multiple approaches integrated to honor the different ways of learning – readings, articles, websites, videos, in-person, virtual, interactive, individual, large and small group.
- Create an artifact that demonstrates the context of each Partner’s organizational, cultural and local histories and the peoples.
  - Each Partner will create a minimum of one artifact with the potential for more depending on how each team approaches the activity.
- Implement a process for integrating learning and sharing the artifacts.
  - Each CoP member is the director of their leadership program and will work with their team of staff, volunteers, and trainers to implement a plan and practice for embedding tools and resources into their training curriculum. We will have four different plans/processes that exhibit different and culturally relevant ways to integrate learning and practice solidarity. These plans will include evaluation elements to track and understand how the process works as well as learning of the organization and program participants.
  - The CoP will partner with the Solidarity team to create similar processes.
- Understand how power is organized and where our communities are advantaged and disadvantaged by system designs.
  - We will create specific learning modules that highlight this area as well as reflection and discussion questions that will facilitate understanding for participants.
  - This can also be integrated into program evaluations to gauge depth of understanding and implications for systems change.
- Leverage alignment to target oppressive systems and strengthen solidarity.
  - Leadership program participants will identify 2-3 pressing issues to inform the Partnership on shared efforts.
  - This can also be integrated into program evaluation and/or through facilitated discussion.

Measurable Outcomes: The most significant outcomes of our project were that we created a Community of Practice and Solidarity work groups work group who met consistently despite this time. We were also able to hosts a Solidarity event, help CAAL integrate a session on cross-racial solidarity, and completed a video. Beyond these things, we've had many insights about the challenges of building solidarity in the midst of a systems that continue to harm and make Black, Indigenous, Asian and Latinx communities vulnerable. What we strived to do in 18 months has taken 400 years of systemic oppression and our work will not end these structural oppressions. We learned how to find feasible and short term wins while we move to confront and rebuild systems that build on our communities' assets.

Counties Served: Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$8,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Bilal Alkatout, Suzi Kim Scott, Michelle Tran Maryns, Nonoko Sato, Margie Jo Eun Joo Andreason, Fei Wong McKhann, Anil Hurkadli, Marcq Sung, Dr. Rose Chu, Samantha Sencer-Mura, Shoua Lee

### **Dakota Wicohan – Increasing Wicozani (Well-being)**

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Recipient: Dakota Wicohan

Project Overview: Dakota Wicohan will develop programming alternatives, like online and media resources and delivered care packages, to stay engaged with our youth, adults and families, focusing specifically on using culturally appropriate means to bolster the mental and spiritual health of our youth, and help them deal with any losses they experienced in their families and community. We will continue this new at-home support and activity component of our programming beyond the Covid-19 crisis.

Contact: Eileen O’Keefe  
320-522-3882  
eokeefe@dakotawicohan.com

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: In this project, we will be using our Wicozani tool to measure well-being during and beyond the pandemic crisis, and we will be able to compare those data to data collected prior to the pandemic.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.3

Board Members: Gabrielle Strong, Darin Minkel, Mary Peters, Dr. Teresa Peterson, Evelyn Tsinnijinnie, Leah Owen

### **Lower Sioux Indian Community**

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Recipient: Lower Sioux Indian Community

Project Overview: The goal of the Dakota History Symposium at Lower Sioux Agency is to reclaim Dakota voice in a narrative that under-represents Dakota perspective and cultural worldview while providing opportunity for exiled Dakota to reconnect to their shared history, disrupting dominant

power dynamics that restrict Dakota truth-telling. Hosting a Dakota-led educational event will enhance public understanding, broaden worldviews perspective and increase access to historic truths of the State of Minnesota.

Contact: Cheyanne St. John  
507-697-8672  
Cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Start Date: 06/01/2020

End Date: 03/01/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

We have identified immediate and long-term outcomes for this project.

Measurable immediate outcomes include: a) establishment of an Oceti Sakowin Planning Committee; b) develop a strategy/model for future event sustainability; c) develop and strengthen institutional and organizational relationships within the region; d) fortify alliances dedicated to culture & heritage preservation, Dakota story-telling/truth-telling, history and interpretation; e) increase LSA site attendance by up to 500 ppl. in 2 day; and f) Gather as the Oceti Sakowin at Lower Sioux Agency- strong, successful and resilient.

Long term outcomes we hope to see from this project are as follows:

1. Increased interest from educators to include Indigenous authorship, Dakota relevant history curriculum, outreach and cultural education in the classroom.
2. Audiences can gain an awareness of authentic cultural, historic resources that reflect an accurate narrative.
3. By attending this event people will broaden their views on Minnesota history and determine historic inaccuracies of written materials.
4. Build and strengthen inter-generational connections within and across our Dakota and Minnesota rural communities.

The planning committee in partnership with LS THPO and SSTM will be responsible for drafting a mechanism for evaluation- this could be surveys, video clips, comment cards.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Blue Earth, Brown, Redwood, Renville, Scott, Stearns, Yellow Medicine

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.3

Board Members: Robert Larsen, Grace Goldtooth, Earl Pendleton, Kevin O'Keefe, Jane Steffen

## **MIGIZI Communications**

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Recipient: MIGIZI Communications

Project Overview: Migizi holds a large collection of reel-to-reel audio tape recordings of our original radio programming. Migizi intends to transfer 1,000 pieces of reel-to-reel audio to a digital format so that it may be preserved and re-introduced. With our media partner, KFAI Fresh Air Radio, we will produce 12 new audio stories utilizing the archive as source material. Stories will be broadcast on KFAI's airwaves and digital media platforms for listeners across Minnesota on the AMPERS Radio Network.

Contact: John Gwinn  
612-721-6631 x222  
jgwinn@migizi.org

Funding Amount: \$80,600

Start Date: 07/06/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

As a community radio station KFAI is proud to broadcast Native American current affairs and music programming to diverse audiences. KFAI's MinneCulture has been making short and long form audio stories about Minnesota arts and cultural heritage for the past decade, and MinneCulture producers have won numerous awards for their work.

KFAI MinneCulture subscribes to a human-designed centered model for creating new stories for radio and podcast. For this project we begin by asking, "What does my audience need in order to feel connected to topics and subject matter. For this project, editors and producers intend to focus on an appropriate theme for the year: Superpowers: Making Visible the Invisible. As audio story tellers, KFAI MinneCulture believes that when we meet the needs of our audiences to feel better connected to Minnesota arts and cultural heritage our listeners continue to tune in to our broadcasts, and continue to search out our content online.

For this reason, KFAI MinneCulture will be collecting the number of streams and downloads for our social media sites and reporting it back to Migizi. We feel strongly that in a media saturated landscape collecting data on the number of streams and downloads is an important evaluation method. One important difference between broadcast formats and newer podcast platforms is that listeners seek out stories that are made available on digital platforms -- and so in this sense downloads and streams are an important data set because we recognize that we are fulfilling an audience's need for more content related to subject matter that interests them, in this instance, American Indian art, history, and culture in Minnesota. Our project consultant will also work with KFAI editor to track the number of downloads on the Public Radio Exchange, the carriage reports of AMPERS community radio stations across Minnesota who broadcast our stories throughout the year, and comments on social media sites.

- We expect to reach 500-1200 listeners on the radio each month when our short stories are broadcast on Wednesday night at 7pm on MinneCulture presents, and an additional 500-1200 listeners when the stories are broadcast as interstitials (between the hour) on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8am and 4pm.
- We expect each of our stories on Soundcloud to reach between 250-400 listeners.
- We expect to stream each of stories between 100-200 each month on our digital platforms

- We will share our stories with all 18 of the AMPERS radio stations on PRX
- We expect that between 8-10 public and community radio stations throughout the United States will air our short stories in their respective markets.
- We expect to harvest 4-6 comments per story (including hashtags and/or tweets) from our social media sites

Data on downloads helps us to continue to build our audiences by continuing to ask in this instance, “How well did our producers make the invisible visible?” KFAI will provide data to Migizi Communications and continue to discuss our theme and our stories throughout the year.

KFAI’s MinneCulture already collects social media data and comments on an ongoing basis to evaluate its own programming. A sample of MinneCulture data reveals:

- In 2018, 17 different MinneCulture producers submitted 62 stories.
- On SoundCloud we reached 15.9K streams in 2018, and 21.2K in 2019.
- In 2018, 43 of our 62 short stories were licensed by eight stations: WAMC Northeast Public Radio, WDBM East Lansing, MI, PRX Remix, KBCS Bellevue, WA, KMUN Astoria, OR, KVSC St. Cloud, MN, KUMD Duluth, MN, Cards Against Humanity: The Good News Podcast.
- An internal look at the diversity in our programming reveals that in 2018 34 (of 63) short stories featured the voices of women as the primary interview subject; 20 feature voices of people of color; 8 feature stories about Minnesotan art pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to the compliments posted in response to our stories on a rolling basis (“Wow” “Fascinating”), KFAI’s MinneCulture harvests comments from our social media sites. A recent story about a historical site in Minnesota yielded the following from one of our listeners in praise of the context our producer provided, “Few have a sense of even American history much less world history. Any event in history has to be evaluated within the CONTEXT of events that went before and after it. Myopia completely distorts one’s perspective in evaluating any one event.” Another recent story we reported about public art at Bde Maka Ska related the impact of the story on educators, “Thanks for the post. Will share with my students.” KFAI editors will continue to harvest and report these to Migizi throughout the year.

The results will be shared with Migizi staff to help tell the story of the archive as we move forwards with the larger goal of creating additional content. Understanding how to attract and grow our audience will aid Migizi and its media partners in seeking to create more content, including long-form multi-season podcasts and long form documentaries. Learning what our audiences need and how we work to make them feel better connected. Those comments will help our project to continue to delve into subject matter that is meaningful for listeners. We know we are successful when listeners consistently return to stream and download or broadcast our stories.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Joseph A. Erickson, Sommer Green, Barbara Cole, Tony Genia, Marie Rainey, Jillian Rowan, Kevin Waller, Tiffany Hand



## **North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)**

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Recipient: North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)

Project Overview: NATIFS is launching the Indigenous Food Lab in Minneapolis. By providing education and training that give Native people access to healthy, local, indigenous food, we can address serious issues of malnutrition, food-related illness, and economic impoverishment on tribal lands. We are requesting funding to launch virtual programming now, including how-to videos and podcast conversations with Native chefs and other relevant Native health experts.

Contact: Dana Thompson  
612-242-9700  
dana@natifs.org

Funding Amount: \$27,600

Start Date: 06/01/2020

End Date: 05/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We will have at least 12 podcasts and/or short video tutorials posted on our website. We will be able to track the number of people viewing these materials.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **New Arab American Theater Works**

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Recipient: New Arab American Theater Works

Project Overview: New Arab American Theater Works is requesting funds for a community project exploring the impact of immigration from historic Syria (including modern day Lebanon) to the Americas over the last 100 years through an exploratory multi-disciplinary work of art and the input of community members. This will culminate in a 3 week production and 9 community dialogues exploring the complex subject of Lebanese and Syrian migration to the Americas.

Contact: Kathryn Haddad  
612-810-0764

newarabamericantheater@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$12,000

Start Date: 06/15/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Our measurable outcomes include:

- have a written and visual record of stories of our community with participation of the community
- dialogue with community and community experts around the topic of immigration
- enlisting the participation of members of our community in all aspects of the process of creation. This includes (Syrian and Lebanese for this project) from: various religions (Christian - Maronite, Orthodox; Muslim - Sunni, Shiite; Druze, Atheist, other?), immigration status (new immigrant, refugee, second-third generation), ages (youth to elderly), genders, sexual preferences, economic status, and abilities.
- enlisting the participation in the final product (audience/discussions) of a wide variety of community members that include all above and also other Minnesotans who share a connection to, and interest in our stories

We will evaluate using checks along the way that we are meeting our goals, formal and informal surveys, attendance information, survey of participation by a variety of community as audience and artists.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Anoka, Blue Earth, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **Saymoukda Vongsay**

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Recipient: Saymoukda Vongsay

Project Overview: Curated by Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, The Manual will contain ruminations from 9 Southeast Asian artists exploring themes like refugee identity formations, healing, trauma, (re)imaginings, cultural preservation, manifesting new identities, and decolonization. The Manual will combine short films and interactive elements like quizzes, reflective and creative writing prompts, poems, comics, tongue-in-cheek astrological readings, a map on how to find “home,” coloring pages, infographics, etc.

Contact: Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay  
612-338-8257  
saymoukda@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We are confident in our abilities to execute this project successfully because we have experience in producing collaborative work and creating public art. With that stated, we have a clear plan of actions for our project. Below are our anticipated outputs and outcomes.

Anticipated OUTPUTS:

- 9 artists impacted
- 400+ combined hours of artists' work
- 300+ community members engaged
- 100+ APIA artists engaged as ambassadors for the project
- 500+ online downloads/engagements
- 75 minimum # of Manuals printed (estimate based on budget)
- 15 complimentary copies to selected partner organizations serving APIAs

Anticipated OUTCOMES:

- 100% of collective members will have worked with another member that they did not work with prior to The Manual project
- we anticipate that at least 40% of audiences will be aware and engage with an artist that they did not have prior knowledge of
- we anticipate that at least 70% of audiences will feel better empowered to begin/continue to pursue creative expressions towards their own healing (mental, emotional, spiritual, physical)
- we anticipate that at least 80% of audiences will have a better understanding of how the arts impact their lives every day (in every way) and how cultural production work is necessary for individual and collective identity and wellbeing

To gauge the audience/community impact, we will conduct "low pressure/laid back" aural surveys and written surveys that we will disseminate at the public event.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

## **The Minnesota Urban Debate League**

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Recipient: The Minnesota Urban Debate League

Project Overview: The Minnesota Urban Debate League is an independent program of Augsburg University. We serve over 1,200 students and provide academic debate programming to 40+ Twin Cities high school and middle schools. Two of our programs are designed to specifically address the needs of immigrant communities in Minnesota: The Spanish Debate League and the East African Debate Initiative. Both programs build students' positive cultural identity while sharpening their academic skills.

Contact: Amy Cram Helwich  
612-359-6467  
cramhe@augsborg.edu

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Start Date: 08/10/2020

End Date: 07/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Broadly, our Spanish Debate League & East African Debate Initiative aim to improve academic opportunity and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Twin Cities middle and high school students.

The MNUDL evaluates our Spanish and East African debate programs with the same outcomes as our nonspecialized community programs. These academic and SEL outcomes include:

Outcome 1: Helping middle and high-school aged youth demonstrate & achieve academic growth

Indicator 1a: Participants will demonstrate increased reading comprehension;

Measurement(s): MCA Reading Scores

Indicator 1b: Participants will demonstrate improvements in academic skills such as critical thinking and analysis;

Measurement(s): Survey questions on ability to understand both sides of an issue and confidence in understanding complex ideas

Indicator 1c: Participants will demonstrate greater engagement in school;

Measurement(s): Class attendance, Enrollment in advanced coursework

Outcome 2: Helping middle and high-school aged youth improve their social and emotional skills

Indicator 2a: Participants will demonstrate growth mindset;

Measurement(s): End of season student survey

Indicator 2b: Participants will develop and maintain positive relationships with teachers, coaches, mentors, and peers;

Measurement(s): End of season student survey

Indicator 2c: Participants will learn conflict management skills;

Measurement(s): End of season student survey

Outcome 3: Helping students feel empowered, and connected to their culture and community

Indicator 3a: Participants will feel empowered with the skills to influence those around them;

Measurement: End of season student survey

Indicator 3b: Participants will feel more connected to their culture and community;  
Measurement: Interviews of students

Goals will be tracked by our program team on our data dashboard with a weekly assessment of new program launch metrics. These include: number of new teacher coaches recruited, number of kick-off meetings held, number of students recruited per school program, number of students attending practices and then number of students attending tournaments.

Program academic outcomes (Outcome 1) are measured through our research agreements with Minneapolis Public Schools and Saint Paul Public Schools. The MNUDL provides researchers with the name, student ID, and school that a student attends, along with the number of practices and tournaments a student attends (program dosage.) Researchers compares debaters vs. non-debater peers and evaluates:

- MCA reading and math scores
- Enrollment in advanced classes
- Attendance
- Expulsion or suspensions
- ACT scores
- Progress toward on-time graduation

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) outcomes (Outcome 2) are measured through an annual student survey of participating students. Students complete the survey online through a google document. Survey questions have been approved by Dr. Brianna Mezuk of the University of Michigan who has published in peer-reviewed journals regarding the impact of debate on academic and SEL outcomes. SEL categories include: Growth Mindset, Goal Setting, Resilience, Positive Relationships & Agency, and Constructive Criticism.

Student Empowerment and Agency as well as connection to students' culture and community (Outcome 3) will be measured through a combination of the student annual survey as well as interviews of students at tournaments.

Our entire team reviews our outcomes regularly. Additionally, we share our evaluation results with stakeholders, including foundations, school districts, coaches, parents, and students, through monthly e-newsletters, social media, and quarterly print newsletters. Our staff and advisory board use this information to continually improve programming.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.35

Board Members: Not yet reported

## Turkish American Association of Minnesota

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Recipient: Turkish American Association of Minnesota

Project Overview: We will prepare resource kits for elementary students which will introduce the traditional arts and crafts of Turkey, as situated within the broader historical and geographical context. Because the kits will meet the guidelines of MN Academic Standards, they can be used in Social Studies and Arts classes as part of cultural diversity activities. The kits will include artifacts, documents, DVDs, curriculum guides and implementation suggestions for students to learn through hands-on experiences.

Contact: Aydin Durgunoglu  
218-343-0619  
aydin.durgunoglu@taam.org

Funding Amount: \$8,000

Start Date: 10/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

**Outcome 1:** Creation of the resource kits that can be used by elementary school students as part of cultural diversity activities.

The coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that the kits contain all the parts that were promised in the proposal. TAAM Board will do the first evaluation to ensure that the content is interesting, informative and accurate.

**Outcome 2:** Parent approval of the resource kits

We will also ask parents from the Turkish-American community to try some of the activities with their own children. The volunteer parents will evaluate the kits and pilot test them with a their children to gauge the usability, interest level, comprehensibility of the materials. We will give parents a short survey to collect this information.

**Outcome 3:** Teacher approval of the resource kits

The more formal evaluation of the kits will be conducted by a panel of six teachers who will examine the materials and give feedback. We will also request that teachers try the kits with a few children informally (if possible). We will have focus groups with the consultant teachers to get in-depth feedback on the following topics:

- a) How rich the kits are in terms of content
- b) How well the kits address the Minnesota academic standards
- c) How useful and relevant the kits would be for teachers and parents
- d) How easy it would be to implement the activities using the curriculum guides
- e) [If piloting was possible] What the children thought about the activities they have tried.

**Outcome 4:** School districts and libraries find the kits useful and relevant and add them to their resource collections.

Once we finalize the content and duplicate the materials, we will ask libraries and school districts to examine the kits and determine if they would be a useful addition to their diversity resources.

The outcome measure here is how many have added the kits to their resource collections.

**Alternative Outcome 4 (COVID-19 possibility):** Publicizing the kits on our website and Facebook page, parents and teachers find them useful and check them out

If we cannot distribute the kits to schools and libraries right away, we will loan them to interested teachers and parents ourselves, using our website as the vehicle. We will mail the kits or deliver them contactlessly to interested individuals. When we loan the kits to the users, we will also include a survey to get feedback. The survey will ask about which activities were used by that teacher/parent and how the children enjoyed it and benefited from it (only during the last month of the grant)

Alternative Outcome 5 (COVID-19 possibility): Making the resources available totally online and parents and teachers find them useful and check them out.

If we have to revise the resource kits' format and make it completely online, we will provide a link for interested parents and teachers to access. Again during the last month of the grant we will keep track of the site traffic and also give a survey to the users.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Pinar Basgoze, Yigitcan Eryaman, Aydin Durgunoglu, Sema Aksan, Hatice Akakin, Oznur Exman, Zeynep Basgoze, Ali Durgunoglu, Ilgin Sezer, Figen Haugen, Defne Menciloglu

## **Round 4 Grants:**

### **Artists Collective for Community Collaborations (AC3)**

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Recipient: Artists Collective for Community Collaborations (AC3)  
Fiscal Sponsor: Springboard for the Arts

Project Overview: AC3 will use these funds to continue engagement with Native American community members and expand into dialogue with artists in the native and black communities. We will uncover messages and narratives that will then be turned into semi-permanent visuals as well as host a series of interactive arts-based community events to engage Native residents in exploring and amplifying messages of unity, justice, and solidarity.

Contact: Rory Wakemup  
507-430-3768  
wakemup productions@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$81,000

Start Date: 12/03/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Create at least 500 cultural artifacts through a series of relationship building and cultural artmaking events (pending public health and community input and availability).

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: In progress

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.13

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **AdopteeBridge**

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Recipient: AdopteeBridge

Project Overview: OurHistory Adult Adoptee Retreats are for transracial adult adoptees, ages 21+. They are a series of two, 2-day retreats. This is a time for adoptees to come together in a safe space to share experiences and to learn and grow—both individually and as an adoptee community. It is a time to focus on our identities, both as adoptees and People of Color, living in the State of Minnesota.

Contact: Christine Heimann  
651-491-0618  
christine@adopteebridge.org

Funding Amount: \$12,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: At a workshop AdopteeBridge held in January 2020, we sent a survey to participants. We will send out a similar survey to retreat participants to see their likes, dislikes, and recommendations for future retreats.

We asked for feedback regarding the following topics:

- Logistics
- Size of workshop
- Sessions & activities
- Possible future activities
- Suggestions and concerns

After each retreat, we will send a similar survey.



It is very important for AdopteeBridge to introduce our programs, including the OurHistory Retreat, to adoptees we previously have not had contact with, but to also continue building the relationships and community formed. Therefore, we will add a section in the survey of the following:

--What AdopteeBridge programs do individuals participate in?

--Is this the first OurHistory Retreat or are they a returning participant?

We will add a section to include the following:

--Does the participant plan to attend the next retreat?--We expect a retention rate of 50% returning participants and the other 50% will be new participants.

--Did the retreat enable the participant to connect with other adoptees?--We expect a response of 90-100%

--Did the retreat enable the participant to reflect on their adoption journey?--We expect a response of 90-100%

--Did the retreat and the participants validate your adoption journey?--We expect a response of 90-100%

For the first retreat, we will compare survey results to the results received from the January 2020 Workshop. Our goal is to receive a rating of 75% or higher in regards to positive feedback for activities held during the retreats. For potential activities that receive an interest of 75% or higher, our staff will seriously consider to plan for a future retreat.

At AdopteeBridge, it is very important to also receive written feedback--this helps us hear directly from the individuals we work with to hear their thoughts and ideas for future programming. It also allows us to hear the impact a program has (or has not) had on adoptee's journey.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.83

Board Members: Sarah Cook, Martin Hamilton, Ben Jahnke, Jennie Anderson, Brian Heimann, Eric Martin, Danielle Miskowic, Tasha Ness, Stephanie Oyler, Adam Wetterlin

## **Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT)**

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Recipient: Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT)

Project Overview: Crossing Mountains is a highly collaborative effort by a coalition of Hmong artists to create a sweeping story of two generations of Hmong women who escape Laos to Minnesota. Their story is one of sacrifice and hardship and ultimately hope and redemption. Inspired by the real story of an amazing Hmong woman from Minneapolis, this Hmong opus will use ballet to share the Hmong story of escape from Laos to acclimating in a strange new land.

Contact: Steve Thao  
559-709-5948  
stevet@aboutchat.org

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Start Date: 11/01/2020

End Date: 03/31/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

**Outcome #1:** More Hmong youth will support and participate in ballet. We will track our workshops attendance numbers, provide surveys evaluate knowledge of ballet, interest and intentions to pursue ballet as an activity as a dancer or patron. We will also have surveys at our performances. We will stay in touch with the local ballet schools, instructors and dancers in the months after the workshops and performances if there are more Hmong student involvement. We can measure and track how Hmong students enroll in ballet schools (that we are connected with).

**Outcome #2:** More community support of Hmong art and art activities. We have a Salesforce for Nonprofits license and have developed a CRM database of users and participants. We intent to collect data from all participants from the workshops and performances of Crossing Mountains and measure them against future tracked art activities. We can analyze how many events each unique name attends, donates or purchases tickets and we can filter all the unique names that attended the Crossing Mountains performance or workshops and get concise numbers of the patrons of Crossing Mountains that supported future arts activities. We can get a measurable sense that Crossing Mountains help generate more support for Hmong art activities.

We hope that providing unique experiences like Crossing Mountains the Hmong community will support us to provide more experiences like this that honor the Hmong culture as well as connect Hmong youth to their culture. We hope that patrons of the arts can recognize that the Hmong culture has a layered and rich history with multitudes of powerful stories to be shared.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey, St. Louis

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Not yet reported

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)**

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Recipient: Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

Project Overview: We seek MHC support for three core exhibit activities:

1. Arts- and Humanities-informed Exhibit and Community-based Celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the University of Minnesota's Chicano & Latino Studies Department;
2. Arts happenings and popup art gallery on Minneapolis' Lake Street; and
3. Solo exhibits for emerging Latino artists.

Contact: Maria Lopez  
612-504-4882  
Mlopez@clues.org

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- **1-2 Latino Artists Gain Special Exposure and Recognition:**  
Emerging Latino artists gain exposure and special recognition through solo exhibits (3), media attention (2+ blog posts, press hits, etc), increased audience exposure (400+), and career advancement (3+ gain participation in professional development opportunities, exhibits at other galleries, commissions, as a result of work with CLUES).
- **20-30 Latino Artists Supported Through Participation in Collective Art Exhibits & Activities:**  
In surveys, at least 75% report increased exposure and connectedness to Latino Arts & Culture through participation with CLUES. At least 20 Latino artists participate in 1 to 3 arts happenings or events (poetry readings, popup exhibits, etc).
- **200-300 Latino Community Participants Increase Connections to Cultural Roots:**  
CLUES participants engage in culturally-relevant arts and cultural programming that make them feel at home as immigrants, and as Latinos. In surveys, at least 75% report increased exposure and connectedness to Latino Arts & Culture through participation with CLUES.
- **2,000 General Public Audience Members Increase Understanding and Empathy for Latino Arts & Culture:**  
Audience members report a better understanding and appreciation for Latino Arts & Culture. Audience members include people who view popup and outdoor art exhibits and happenings, gallery visitors, etc. General public feedback gathered through informal conversations, guestbooks, social media comments, media attention, etc.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.5

Board Members: Gonzalo Petschen, Efrain Cardenas, Jeffrey Savage, Virginia (Ginny) Arthur  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Erick Garcia Luna, Hazzen Muñoz, Manuel (Manny) San Miguel, Miguel A. Ruiz Diaz, Miguel Rocha, Ruth Paredes  
**NON-VOTING MEMBER:** Consul Gerardo Guerrero

## **Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičiye (DIO)**

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Recipient: Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičiye (DIO)

Project Overview: Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičiye (DIO) was created out of an international need for Dakota language materials to be implemented for language learning in the home, community and classroom. Out of necessity for the language to live and thrive for generations despite the pandemic, we envisioned the Dakota Language Distance Learning (DLDL) program. This program offers daily, online Dakota language classes to support distance learning as school districts across Minnesota navigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Contact: Ethan Neerdaels  
612-458-7372  
ethan@dakhota.org

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/15/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: In order to address the increasing language loss, low academic achievement, and negative impacts on social and cultural identity of Dakota language learners, the detailed outcomes that this project will achieve are outlined below.

Outcome 1: Increase teacher-training, while also encouraging teachers to pursue certification and continuing education credits through other DIO programming (e.g. DIO Summer Institute)

Outcome 2: Produce more Dakota language and culture teachers that are highly qualified to teach in Minnesota Public schools

Outcome 3: Increase the number of students receiving Dakota language and immersion education as well as cultural education in Minnesota Public Schools

Outcome 4: Increase the number of youth as second language learners of Dakota, those both on and off reservation

Outcome 5: Improve Dakota proficiency of students and families

Outcome 6: Increase motivation of both students and families to practice Dakota both in and out of the classroom setting

Outcome 7: Provide a best-practice Dakota curricular resource for K-12 students

Outcome 8: Increase the number of curricular materials in Dakota

Outcome 9: Increase capacity for Dakota immersion

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

**Board Members:** Ethan Neerdaels, Wayne Bendickson, Neil McKay, Clifford Canku, Katie Blue, Wil Meya, John Reynolds, Raine Cloud

## **Dakota Wicohan**

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**Recipient:** Dakota Wicohan

**Project Overview:** Dakota Wicohan will offer a 16-week “Beading 101” course, covering 5 to 7 different beading techniques presented by experts in each technique, and the needles, thread and other supplies needed for each style. Stitches to include lazy stitch, peyote stitch, the three drop technique, beading with two needles, the wrap technique, loom beading, and, throughout, general beading tips and tricks.

**Contact:** Eileen O’Keefe  
507-697-6272  
eokeefe@dakotawicohan.com

**Funding Amount:** \$25,500

**Start Date:** 02/01/2021

**End Date:** 12/31/2021

**Proposed Measurable Outcomes:**

- Six Apprentice Artists will complete our 16-week course
- Four or more Guest Artists will present techniques and provide samples to the class
- The Apprentice Artists will present their finished products in a public show that will also be posted on our Facebook page.

**Measurable Outcomes:** In progress

**Counties Served:** Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine

**Progress:** In progress

**Direct Costs vs. Admin:** In progress

**Number of FTEs:** 0.12

**Board Members:** Gabrielle Strong, Darin Minkel, Mary Peters, Dr. Teresa Peterson, Evelyn Tsinnijinnie, Leah Owen

## **Fond du Lac Reservation**

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**Recipient:** Fond du Lac Reservation

**Project Overview:** The Ojibwe Aanikeginde-mazina’iganan project will create classroom literacy readers for Grades K-5. These readers will be printed only in Ojibwe with the teacher’s editions including

English translations to assist teachers so they can help students develop understanding. The readers will be printed in the standard Double-Vowel Orthography. First Language Speakers will be the primary sources of language for the classroom literacy readers.

Contact: Charles Smith  
218-878-8188  
CharlesSmith@FDLREZ.com

Funding Amount: \$83,373.37

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. Develop a Leveled Literacy Matrix for our language
2. Create literacy resources that are currently unavailable specifically count and measure amounts based on number of items we plan to create
3. Increase Access to literacy resources for Immersion and Non-Immersion Ojibwe Language programs - by printing, distribution of products to programs and schools, and finally making them available for free in PDF formats on our website.
4. Giving access to a number of language learners (4 or more) to learn from a team of professionals on how to record, document, and preserve of first language Ojibwe speakers.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.04

Board Members: Kevin Dupuis Sr. - Chairman, Ferdinand Martineau Jr. - Secretary/Treasurer, Wally Dupuis - District 1 Representative, Bruce Savage - District 2 Representative, Roger Smith Sr. - District 3 Representative; Executive Director Miyah Danielson

## **Grassroots Indigenous Multimedia**

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Recipient: Grassroots Indigenous Multimedia

Project Overview: Project Reclaim will transmit the Ojibwe language and relationship to the land through an augmented reality (AR) experience so as to reawaken Ojibwe language and culture in Minnesota. For this stage of the project, GIM will hold a Community Analog Prototype Workshop and design Reclaim, an interactive mobile app that will simulate the experience of walking in the woods with Ojibwe Elders, exploring Ojibwe ancestral lands while learning the Ojibwe language.

Contact: Mary Hermes  
715-558-6236  
mhermes@umn.edu

Jessica Leach  
812-961-6360 x4  
grants@gim-ojibwe.org

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- (1) Increased access to innovative and effective Ojibwe language-learning materials.
- (2) An increased number of Ojibwe community members, particularly young community members, learning Ojibwe language and culture.
- (3) Increased proficiency of the Ojibwe language among Ojibwe community members.
- (4) An increased feeling of belonging and connection in our Ojibwe youth, particularly those who do not live on or near Ojibwe reservations.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.65

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **Green Card Voices**

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Recipient: Green Card Voices

Project Overview: The grant will support the production of our first Children's Book created by immigrant youth for children ages K-4. Content will cover a wide range of topics: reasons for immigration, emotions and other aspects such as bullying, marginalization, transitions and loss. 3,000 copies will be produced and distributed along with accompanying events such as book readings. The goal is to build inclusive and integrated communities by sharing authentic first-person immigrant stories and building empathy.

Contact: Julie Vang  
612-889-7635  
julie@greencardvoices.org

Tea Rozman Clark  
612-355-0602  
tea@greencardvoices.org

Funding Amount: \$14,800

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/15/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

#1 Educate 5,000 MN youngest residents (K-4th) about the local immigrant experience as lived by young, first-generation immigrants and refugees, and ensure they gain (1) cultural awareness & understanding of diverse immigrant experiences, and (2) undergo a change in attitude towards diverse immigrants.

#2 Empower 30 immigrant youth by sharing their stories as authors of the Children's Book. Through this process they will be (1) empowered, (2) grow their creativity, self-awareness, advocacy, and leadership skills, (3) practice their public speaking skills, and (4) develop self-advocacy skills (components include: speaking in public, articulating needs, contributions, and strengths). As they gain confidence in telling their story and experience positive responses from audiences, students learn and grow in self-knowledge and social interaction.

1. 5,000 MN youngest residents (K-4th) who received locally-specific, and authentic immigrant experience. They will increase cultural awareness & understanding of diverse immigrant experiences by 30%, and (2) undergo a positive change in attitude towards diverse immigrants by 30%.
2. 30 empower immigrant youth whose positive experience working on the Children's Book left them with (1) increased creativity, self-awareness, advocacy, and leadership skills (by 30%), (2) increased public speaking skills (by 30%), and (4) newly develop self-advocacy skills (3 new skills).
3. Production of a Children's book, printing, and distribution.
4. 3-5 Book promotion events.
5. 3,000 books produced and distributed.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1.73

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA)**

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Recipient: Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA)

Project Overview: "Preserving Hmong Cultural Farming Traditions" is a project devoted to documenting, through photography, videography, and oral interviews, the unique agricultural practices, traditions, and stories of Hmong farmers. Farming is an intrinsic element of Hmong heritage and identity. But very little of the knowledge and experience of Hmong farmers is being passed down to Hmong youth. This project will document and preserve Hmong farming stories and agricultural traditions for future generations.



Contact: Janssen Hang  
651-493-8091  
janssen@hmongfarmers.com

Funding Amount: \$27,000

Start Date: 11/01/2020

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: HAFA's measurable outcomes for this project fall into three main goal areas. We use a combination of quantitative and qualitative measurements when evaluating grant outcomes, such as evaluating metrics, conducting surveys, group discussions, and one-on-one interviews. Each of these methods are applied as appropriate for the outcome in question.

> Documentation and Preservation of Cultural Traditions

HAFA will be gathering information about the agricultural practices and traditions specific to Hmong culture and Hmong farmers. Measurable outcomes include:

- Interviewing each of HAFA's Hmong farmer-members, currently numbered at 20, in their homes;
- Photographing each of HAFA's Hmong farmer-members at work in the fields as they execute Hmong-specific farming practices;
- Capturing video footage of HAFA's Hmong farmer members during interviews.

This portion of the project will be a success if photographs of every farmer are taken in the field, every farmer is successfully interviewed, and if every interview is successfully captured through video footage. The materials gathered during this phase will be used as the basis for creating the gallery show and coffee table book, and a presentation materials for Hmong youth outreach.

> Increased Connection with Hmong Youth

HAFA will reach out to Hmong youth organizations and younger Hmong individuals who are interested in farming, for the purpose of educating them about Hmong agricultural traditions and reconnecting them with that portion of their heritage. Measurable outcomes include:

- Distributing coffee table books directly to at least 25 Hmong youth;
- Have at least 100 Hmong youth attend the public gallery exhibit at the end of the project.

We will consider this part of the project a success using quantitative measurements and meeting these numeric goals. However, we will also be evaluating the success of our outreach efforts by talking directly with Hmong youth, conducting surveys, and keeping track of interest in our "New Hmong Farmer Fellowship" program. Our hope is that sharing this information will generate more interest in farming among Hmong youth and they will begin to pursue agricultural careers for themselves.

> Increased Public Awareness

HAFA will be disseminating the information we gather in order to educate the public about the importance of Hmong farmers to the local food economy, and celebrate their cultural heritage and traditions as it relates to farming and agriculture. Measurable outcomes include;

- Hosting a public gallery show, attended by at least 500 people, consisting of photographs, videos, and oral histories, for the greater public's consumption and education;
- Printing and releasing a 50 page coffee table books to HAFA's organizational partners, the Eastside Freedom Library, and Hmong youth, which will include the photographs and written materials gathered during the project;

- Distributing 25 coffee table books to partner organizations, libraries, Hmong youth, and members of the general public.

The success of these outcomes will be evaluated based on meeting our numeric goals, but also on the elevated interest and inquiries we receive as a result of publishing the information we gather during the project and in making it accessible to the public through the gallery show. In the past, we have also evaluated our success based on an uptick in sales for our farmers at Farmers Markets and of our Food Hub's CSA program, however during the COVID-19 pandemic this may not be a reliable way to gauge success. However, as publishing the coffee table book and putting on the public gallery show will not occur until late 2021, we will reevaluate using sales as a measurable outcome at that time.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.05

Board Members: Eva Margolis, Mai See Moua, Liz Johnson, Yolanda Cotterall, Lillian Hang, Xeng Thao, Shirley Yang, Marge Higgins

## **Hmong Archives**

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Recipient: Hmong Archives

Project Overview: The Legacy of Hmong Immigrants: Wat Tham Krabok Project will encourage communications and understanding between generations and across cultures, specifically the legacy and experiences of the last wave of Hmong refugees, the Wat Tham Krabok immigrants. We hope that this new project will encourage communications and understanding between Hmong generations and across cultures; especially the project encompass the experiences of a minority within a minority.

Contact: Brian Xiong  
612-978-8359  
brianvxiong@gmail.com

Marlin Heise  
651-621-5469  
mlh1stpaul@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 07/15/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We have had 1400 visitors to our Facebook site (30K reviewed our poster in the HER and Hmong American Experience website), but don't know how many have searched the Hmong Archives website. We are writing an article for Hmong Times and will create posters for our website and Facebook once the book is printed, as well as printed copies for the East Side Freedom Library desk and distribution. On this budget, we will be able to print about 150 copies of our 300-page book with many full color photos.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Song N. Vaj, Dr. Brian Xiong, Marlin Heise, Kou Xiong, Long Khang

## **Honor the Earth**

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Recipient: Honor the Earth

Project Overview: The Oshki-Filmmakers Project is a series of film workshops and opportunities for the White Earth Ojibwe Reservation. Focusing on Indigenous youth, these workshops bring established Indigenous filmmakers from across our region together with youth artists to share stories and knowledge as our young artists begin to shape their artistic craft. We provide work space and equipment to empower our youth to share their own stories and those of our community for many generations to come.

Contact: Ajuawak Kapashesit  
218-375-3200  
development@honorearth.org

Amber Burroughs  
218-375-3200  
amber@honorearth.org

Funding Amount: \$24,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The measurable outcomes of this project will be attendance by a small cohort of at least five youth for these workshops with artists over the project year for these workshops. We aim to reach more but with currently undefined schedules and a worsening Pandemic, we cannot confirm a larger cohort will be safely possible. Though we anticipate more youth participants at some point, we will prioritize safety and quality of time with a select cohort for this early project implementation with opportunities for expansion down the road. Further, we will purchase camera equipment to be held for the community to use as resources such as these are currently very rare in the community. Thus our measurable outcomes can be defined as expanded youth participation in visual arts programming (at least 5 participants at each workshop; at least 4 workshops with visiting artists) and expanded access to filmmaking resources for youth artists (at least 2 cameras).

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Becker, Mahnommen

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Paul Demain, Cynthia Perez, Emily Saliers, Amy Ray, Trish Weber

## **Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project**

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Recipient: Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project

Project Overview: IARP is proposing to form a traditional Iraqi dance troupe to study and perform traditional dances from different regions across Iraq and to perform for the general public of Minnesota. Iraqi Minnesotan youth and young adults will be trained by transitional dance instructor and musician Hisham Shallal.

Contact: Jessica Belt Saem Eldahr  
jessy@reconciliationproject.org

Funding Amount: \$14,005

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- A group of at least eight youth and young adults train with dance instructor and musician Hisham Alshallal
- IARP, artists, and Dance Troupe work together to celebrate Iraqi culture and build a positive relationship
- Iraqi Minnesotans engage in dance music they identify with, uplifts their culture, and allows the next generation to actively participate in and preserve their culture.
- Provide career furthering opportunities for Iraqi Minnesotan artists
- Minnesotan general public engages with Iraqi dance and music that broadens their understanding of and appreciation for Iraqi culture and art.

Effectiveness and progress toward project outcomes will be determined through artist, participant, and audience survey and interview results. Audience members will be asked to fill out audience surveys for the exhibition that will include questions around community engagement activities designed by an outside evaluation consultant. The surveys will contain both evaluative and demographic questions. IARP project coordinator will record attendance numbers. Performance will be photo-documented. Local media attention will be recorded. After the performance is complete, we will conduct an evaluation session with the artists and dancers. We will review summaries of data and feedback, discuss the project's successes and challenges, assess community engagement, and formulate recommendations for ongoing performances, trainings, and the future of the group, etc. Outside evaluation consultant Tricia Heuring, curator and director of Public Functionary will design the evaluation materials. She has an MA in Arts and Cultural Management from St. Mary's University, where she studied program evaluation. She has worked as the outside evaluator on Iraqi Voices for the past four years and has built the repertoire

needed to successfully interview Iraqi Voices participants and is familiar with IARP team and mission. Tricia will analyze the results and compile the evaluation data and the group's conclusions into a final report that our board will review. We have a strong track record of implementing evaluation results into current and future programming.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Dr. Azar Maluki, Hiba Qader Al Hasnawi, Kathleen Adam, Sally Othman, Rev. David Smith, Shaymaa Hassan, Ahmed Al-Sheikhli, Adil Al-Najji

## **Language Attitude**

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Recipient: Language Attitude

Project Overview: The vision of Language Attitude is to research, promote and create culturally sustaining and revitalizing practices in the fields of education, media, and communications. In collaboration with teachers and artists, we will develop and implement an educational toolkit focused around culturally relevant learning activities. This toolkit will empower teachers to create a classroom environment sustaining students' languages, literacies, and cultures.

Contact: Veronica Quillien  
402-304-1132  
Quill021@umn.edu

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Start Date: 01/04/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Outcomes based evaluations examine broader impacts and often investigate what greater good was served as a result of the program or project. We anticipate to see changes in classrooms and beyond. By practicing the healthy techniques, receiving developmental guidance, and having access to a support system, teachers will:

- Explore Cultural Identity
- Connect with Cultural Communities
- Increase Cultural competence
- Support Language Reclamation

Our ultimate goal is to facilitate teachers development through the use of our toolkit to create a classroom environment sustaining students' languages, literacies, and cultures. We will monitor the process and collect feedback from teachers to understand the effectiveness and teaching experience of

our toolkit. We expect that changes can also be identified and reported by students. We hope to see measurable outcomes that not only meet our aspiration but also reflect our mission. Therefore, we listed two areas for measurable outcomes: A) Changes in Classrooms and Beyond, and B) Toolkit Effectiveness.

#### Changes in Classrooms and Beyond

**Explore Cultural Identity:** Our toolkit aims to help teachers encourage students to share diverse cultural identities in the classroom. We measure it by tracking the number of cultural themes explored in the classroom.

**Connect with Cultural Communities:** We want to track the cultural expressions created for the classroom with students' families. By doing so, we can build an intergenerational circle that fosters students' growth in cultures and languages.

**Increase Cultural competence:** We want teachers to increase the ability to understand, appreciate and interact with people from cultures or belief systems different from one's own. We will compare changes in the pre-and-post surveys on cultural self-awareness as well as social relationships for students.

**Support Language Reclamation:** By cataloging cultural expression, we want to generate a database of culturally relevant teaching materials.

**Toolkit Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of our toolkit relies mainly on the transformations we support in teacher ways of being in the classroom and beliefs. It is these that drive teacher behavior. In other words, the teacher's ways of being and beliefs create the conditions for student learning and growth.

**Teacher Experience:** Our toolkit is accessible to teachers and can be easily implemented. It is designed to allow teachers with any prior experience to grow in cultural competence. Reflection questions prime the teacher for their transformational journey: Why are you engaging in this project? What are you hoping to create, learn, feel, be able to do as a teacher for equity at the end of this project? What are your fears in engaging in this project with students? How might this project make your class more meaningful and engaging for you and your students?

**Student Response and Learning:** Students are able to sense, identify, and reflect on the changes and progress they make during and after the implementation of our toolkit. Those changes are in the area of understanding, thinking, and feeling. They are expected to understand the loss of Culture and Language, Raise Cultural Awareness, Feel Connected, Increase the Sense of Pride, Generate a Sense of Belonging, Develop Relational Accountability, Participate in Civic Engagement, and Involve in Cultural Leadership.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Laura Mann Hill, Megan Lovitz, Tina Maynor, Sara Musaifer, Margaret Ogas, Maria Schwedhelm, Sarah Zhao, Yi-Ju Lai

**Marlena Myles**

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Recipient: Marlena Myles

Project Overview: Wiyounkihipi (We Are Capable) Productions will be a platform for Dakota voices to publish and pass on their teachings to future generations. We will be a resource hub that publishes children's books of the Dakota culture and language. Writers and artists will be professionally supported through profile pages, encouraging educators from around the state to invite them into their schools through in-person or virtual meetings, so that there is authentic Native representation in our classrooms.

Contact: Marlena Myles  
651-734-3502  
sephiroth@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$46,345

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The trackable outcomes will be the books themselves (distribution to schools etc), the audience numbers on social media, sales of books. I hope to see support from the community so that financially this project can continue after the funding period from this Cultural Identity Grant. Each author and writer having a professional webpage.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

## **Minnesota China Friendship Garden**

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Recipient: Minnesota China Friendship Garden

Project Overview: A classical China garden features stone: mini-mountains, poetic tablets, part of a painting. Nine art stones for the China Friendship Garden will amplify Chinese, Hmong & Native voices with form and calligraphy that sing out identity, honor icons, and display messages of cultural curators. This topography of talent will be unveiled in a cultural celebration, generate cultural guides and docents; become a destination for students of all ages; and affirm intercultural collaboration in Minnesota.

Contact: William Roger Zajicek  
763-913-4438

mcfgs@mnchinagarden.org

Funding Amount: \$20,300

Start Date: 04/01/2021

End Date: 11/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: This project, and the larger Minnesota China Garden, honor and amplify immigrant culture, provide education and increase awareness of diverse cultures. Below are the measurable outcomes as they relate to our goals:

Measurable Outcomes of Goal #1 [to involve relevant cultures in the selection, design, and installation of these 9 Art Stones in this classical work of public art]:

- # of individuals involved in selection, content & placement of stones (Target goal of 20 individuals);
- # stones created/installed (9 Art Stones).
- # artists and cultural advisors used to select, design and engrave Art Stones (Target goal of 9 individuals)

Measurable Outcomes of Goal #2 [to further create and promote an accessible and inspiring public open space and Unveiling Event that honors Native and immigrant cultures, and opens doors to healing and understanding]:

- # of volunteers involved in planning the unveiling event (Target goal of 46 volunteers)
- # of volunteer hours to plan the unveiling event (Target goal of 250 hours)
- # cultural performers (Target goal of 15 performers)
- # of attendees at Unveiling Event (estimated attendance 500)

Measurable Outcomes of Goal #3 [to deepen viewers' understanding of the garden and the cultural significance of its elements by creating and providing self-guided tour materials and trained docents, newspaper articles, school fieldtrips, and sponsoring a poetry contest]:

- 1 Major Press Release produced
- # of newspaper articles submitted or published (Target goal of 5 publications)
- # of school field trips (Target goal of 5 field trips)
- # of poems submitted (Target goal of 12 submissions Statewide with representation from the Hmong, Chinese, Native American, Phalen Park, and student communities)
- 1 document to explain the cultural significance of all the Art Stones that can be made available via our website for the public and emailed to local schools
- Conduct 3 interviews of attendees to gauge impact and knowledge gained and suggestions for future cultural education.
- 1 Videotape of the Unveiling Event, posted on website, Facebook page, WeChat, and Instagram
- 1 issue of China Garden Newsletter covering the event (expected audience of 500 people)

Measurable Outcomes:

Outcome of Goal #1: We engaged 22 individuals (not including paid contractors) who had knowledge and expertise in Classical China Garden design and/or the relevant cultures to effectuate the selection, content, and placement of the 9 Art Stones; they included artists and cultural advisors from the Chinese (9), Hmong (3), and Native American (3) communities who helped select and design the 9 Art Stones. Nearly 300 hours were expended in the selection of the stones, the selection of the text for the stones



(and details about font, size, placement of the text on the stone, etc.), the location and orientation of installing the stones at the site.

The text for the 9 Art stones (with translations provided here) are as follows. 1 Dakota Stone: Dakota TaMakoce | Imnija Ska Otunwe. The first line translates: “Dakota Homelands” or “Lands of the Dakota.” The second line is: “Village along the White Cliffs” or “St. Paul.” Dakota translations by Redwing Thomas.

5 Chinese stones: (1) 山水有清音 心与月俱静. This is a composite of two Chinese poems: the first line from a poem by Zuo Si 左思 (250-305), translates as “Mountains and waters are making pure music.” The second line from a poem by Li Tiaoyuan 李调元 (1734-1803), translates as “My heart and the moon are listening in peace.” (2) 美 means “Beautiful” and is also the first character in the word Meiguo 美國 meaning “America.” (3) 中 means “Middle” and is also the first character in the word Zhongguo 中國 meaning “China.” (4) 明 means “Bright” and is also the first character in the word Mingzhou 明州 meaning “Minnesota” meaning “Minnesota.” (5) 苑 means “Garden” or “Park” and has been the logo for the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society since 2005.

3 Hmong stones: (1) Moob Minnesota txais tog koj = “Hmong Minnesotans welcome you,” (2) Kev kawm txuj, kawm ci yog kev tsim nuj, tsim nqi; Kev sib pab, sib txhawb yog kev vam meej = “Education is knowledge, knowledge is wisdom; The path to success is by helping and supporting each other,” (3) Yog thaaj chaw nuav tsi muaj yaam koj nyam, los thov koj nyam yaam koj muaj = “If this place does not have what you like, please like what you have.”

Outcome of Goal #2: We created and installed 9 Art Stones at the China Friendship Garden; 5 with Chinese calligraphy, 3 in the Hmong language, and 1 in the Dakota language. Each stone generally weighs between 1 and 2 tons. See attached educational document with the description of the cultural significance of each stone. We held an Unveiling Event on September 18, 2021, attended by more 100 community members, and involved members of the Native America community, Chinese community, and Hmong community in the event as organizers and participants. The event began with at 9:45 with Dakota drummers drumming their welcome to attendees as they entered the West Entrance Archway at 9:45. At 10:00, MCFGs President Bill Zajicek welcomed the visitors and introduced speakers Senator Mary Kunesh (representing the Dakota community), MN Senator Fong Hawj, MCFGs HAC Chair Thangying Chuyangheu, and Hmong 18 Council President Nao Houa Moua (representing the Hmong community), and MCFGs Chair Chen Zhou (representing the Chinese community). The event included a Hmong Feng Shui ceremony dedicating the site for the future Hmong Plaza, with music and dancing performances by members from the Chinese and Hmong communities.

This was followed by the Unveiling Ceremony of the 9 Art Stones, which began with Dakota drummers calling the visitors to the site of the Dakota stone, unveiled by Crystal Norcross, followed by a Dakota chant and poem by Tom LaBlanc and Dakota flute player “Dakota Blue” Peter. This transitioned to the 1st China stone, with the unveiling by Margaret Wong and Weiming Lu (artist whose calligraphy was on the stones) and Chinese Hulusi player Huang Ningsheng, and then to the grouping of 4 China stones, with the unveiling by Caroline and Ali Hsiao Van (daughter and granddaughter of deceased C.C. Hsiao, whose calligraphy was on the stones). This transitioned to the 3 Hmong stones unveiled by Senator Fong Hawj, members of the MCFGs HAC, and Hmong 18 clans, with Hmong Qeej playing by Lang Thao. This grant helped further create an accessible and inspiring public open space that is free and open to the public at any time. The Unveiling Ceremony was widely publicized and well-attended. Photos of the event are posted on the MCFGs website. The event honored Native, Chinese, and Hmong immigrant cultures and began conversations about healing and understanding.

On October 24, 2021 (a month after the Unveiling Event), a Chinese Feng Shui Blessing ceremony was held to bless each of the 9 Art Stones. This was an additional event to involve the community in a cultural event directly related to the outcome of this grant. The Feng Shui blessing for the garden today was comprised of three parts. The first part was the blessing of the land using seeds

that were specially prepared with red powder and liquor. The seeds represented expansion, community awareness, and unity. The intentions were to lay an energy grid from the 3 corners of the China Garden that would culminate at the Pavilion. The grid would be under the surface -----the seeds simply representing it on the surface. Two Sanskrit chants were used-one about moving forward, expanding, the other about reaching potential not only in the garden but also within ourselves. Board members were a part of setting the grid. The second part was placing individual intentions for the garden around each of 9 stones---- a stone for the Dakota stone (in the East), 1 stone with poetry that was calligraphed by Wei Ming Lu (in front of pavilion), 4 Chinese stones calligraphed by C.C. Hsiao (along path), 3 Hmong stones (in the West). The participants processed to each stone and witnessed one of the board members as they placed flower petals at the base of the stones stating their intention out loud, beginning in the East and ending in the West. Setting intentions out loud increased their meaning and created harmony. See the attached photo collage created to memorialize this document and the intentions set.

Joyce Hsiao, our 95-year-old MCFGS Co-Founder and wife of the deceased artist whose Chinese calligraphy appears on 4 of the Art Stones was able to have a private viewing (because of her health) after the Unveiling Event to witness first-hand the beautiful work. She was deeply moved and very emotional to see her husband's calligraphy in the China Garden, the culmination of decades of building friendships between China and Minnesota.

Outcome of Goal #3: We created a 4-page educational document explaining the significance of each of these 9 Art Stones as a self-guide in order deepen viewers' understanding of the China Garden and the cultural significance of its elements, particularly these 9 Art Stones. This is available on the MCFGS website for free download, was made available to attendees at the Unveiling Ceremony, and was reproduced and is posted on the west side of the donor wall at the east entrance to the China Garden. We also created a document explaining the use of two Hmong dialects for this project, Green/Blue Hmong and White Hmong. This document is posted at the entrance of the China Garden and will further educate visitors about this aspect of the Hmong culture represented in these Hmong stones. This document is also posted on the MCFGS website for free download. See attached document.

Immediately after the Unveiling Ceremony, we also hosted the MCFGS New Voices Poetry Contest, which featured the 5 winners of MCFGS's 1st multi-language poetry contest. There were four language categories (Chinese, Hmong, Dakota, and English; youth and/or adult). MCFGS enlisted native language speakers from each of these 4 languages to be Judges for the contest. Each winner was introduced and read their poem for everyone to enjoy. The names of the poetry winners and judges can be found on the MCFGS website. MCFGS issues press releases in advance of the event, and articles about the event was covered by China Insight, a local Hmong newspaper, and a Chinese social media platform after the event.

Counties Served: Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$20,300; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Bill Zajicek, Chen Zhou, Ken Lau, Linda Mealey-Lohmann, Brian Hammer, Stuart Knappmiller, Christina Deng Morrison, Romi Slowiak, Pa V Thao, Ali Van, Moua Wang-Yu Vu, Mary Warpeha, Xuejiao (Joanie) Zhang

## **Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)**

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Recipient: Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)

Project Overview: The purpose of the AMRA Native Authors Program is to support a cohort of Native American authors, working in different literary genres, with the end goal of creating a path to publishing new literary works. This program allows Native authors the support and public platform to tell our stories rather than having our stories be told by non-Natives.

Contact: Angela Two Stars  
612-559-4679  
atwostars@nacdi.org

Funding Amount: \$37,850

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: First and foremost, the authors will have works that have been developed and improved throughout the program.

The authors will see and have a path to publishing, which may include journals, non profit or for profit presses, magazines, online journals, etc. There are many forms of publishing. Each will determine with their mentor the particular publishing path that makes sense for each work.

At NACDI/AMRA we value evaluation. To show our progress toward our goals, we use qualitative and quantitative information, staff experience, cohort member experience, mentor experience. We will use survey tools with our authors, mentors and audience members (for the public readings). We have a strong history of collecting feedback through our networks that include person to person, social media, and other ways to collect survey information.

NACDI/AMRA holds transparency as a value. With the permission of our authors and mentors, we will share our results through our online social media platforms and our newsletter. We will utilize suggestions from our first cohort of authors and mentors to make the program stronger. This is also a strength of NACDI/AMRA collecting suggestions and adjusting a project along the way.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Sam Olbekson, Christine McDonald, Joe Hobot, Peter McLaughlin, Mihailo Temali, Heid Erdrich, Deanna Standing Cloud, Sonja Tanner

## **North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)**

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Recipient: North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)

Project Overview: This archive will be a central resource for accessible Indigenous knowledge around Indigenous foods systems and will include documentation of local traditional ecological knowledge on wild plants, animals, Native agriculture, seed saving, recipes, language, crafting, medicinals, places, histories, health, sports and games, stories, and more.

Contact: Dana Thompson  
612-242-9700  
dana@natifs.org

Funding Amount: \$34,250

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Measurable outcomes include an Internet-based, searchable database available to the public and containing resources around traditional Indigenous food, plants and ingredients, as well as other Native culture.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.25

Board Members: Not yet reported

## **Oyate Hotanin**

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Recipient: Oyate Hotanin

Project Overview: We will lift up Minnesota American Indian arts, culture, and heritage and increase our audience through five new activities: presenting “Reunion of the Buffalo Herd”; staging a full production of Tatanka for video recording; establishing an annual RedTalks Symposium; creating a live interview series featuring American Indian elders and traditional healers; and creating an American Indian Artists Hub to promote our artists.

Contact: Laura LaBlanc  
651-280-7727  
laura@oyatehotanin.org

Funding Amount: \$60,710

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The measurable outcomes each of the core activities in our Amplifying Minnesota American Indian Voices in the Arts project are described below.

a) “Reunion of the Buffalo Herd” CD Release Party Special Event.

The key measurable outcomes for this activity will be the number of CDs sold, the total dollar value of CD sales, and the number of people who attend the event.

Our original plan was to draw a live audience of 250 people and we have scheduled this event later in calendar year 2021 in the hope of being able to host this event live. However, we are also making plans to livestream the event if restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still in place. If the event is virtual, we anticipate that the audience could be far larger than our initial estimate of 250 people. Even if we host the event live, we may put some segments online, enabling us to reach a larger audience even for a live show.

This staged release of our CD, using a live event as a promotional vehicle, is intended to become a model for future revenue-generating work, helping us create a reliable income stream for artistic investments.

b) Video Production of Tatanka.

The key measurable outcomes for this activity will be the completed video of the production and our documented outreach to at least one government or community-based organization and at least one tribal entity by the end of the calendar year, with the intent of gaining a commitment from the organization to present our production to an identified audience for educational purposes in 2022 and beyond.

In addition, once the video is completed, we will upload a link to our Oyate Hotanin YouTube channel and make the video available to our community network through Facebook and an “Opening Night” online event, track the number of people who access the video online.

c) RedTalks Facebook Live/Zoom Symposium Series.

The key measurable outcomes for this activity will be the size of the live or virtual audience.

Our original plan was to draw a live audience of 125 people at Metro State. However, we are making plans instead to livestream the event because the COVID-19 pandemic

We will also conduct a survey of participants, and track the number of respondents who report that, in watching the RedTalks, they encountered ideas that are new to them and that impact their thinking or make them want to learn more about American Indian perspectives, values, worldviews, and experiences.

d) Voice of the People Series.

The key measurable outcomes for this activity will be the six completed interview sessions, which we anticipate will reach total audience of at least 10,000 people.

We will also explore ways to determine what attracted the audience to the interviews: Were they most drawn to the conversation topic? The interviewee? The format? We will track the audience for each interview in the series in an attempt to determine if there is a pattern to participation: does each interview reach a similar-sized audience or are differences evident across interviews?

e) American Indian Artists Hub (Customer Relationship Management Platform).

The key measurable outcome for this activity will be the number of profile materials created for artists, with at least 10 completed and featured on the hub by the end of the calendar year.

Another measurable outcome, which spans all of these projects, is more than 50 artists, performers, designers, and thought leaders will be given respectfully paid work opportunities.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Crystal Norcross, Mat Pendleton, Laura LaBlanc, Tom LaBlanc, Al Gross, Dipankar Mukherjee, Damon Drake, Cindy Killion, Nick Metcalf

## **Pangea World Theater**

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Recipient: Pangea World Theater

Project Overview: Pangea World Theater's Lake Street Arts!- Circling utilizes story circles, poetry, community conversations and site specific theater to deepen our engagement with stakeholders through the arts to create both a space for histories to be gathered and visions for a more just, sustainable and livable Minneapolis to emerge. Lake Street Arts!- Circling centers the realities and dreams of Dakota, Ojibwe, Latinx, Asian, Immigrant, Black and East African communities along Lake Street.

Contact: Ellen Marie Hinchcliffe  
612-594-9485  
ellenhinch@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$66,248

Start Date: 01/15/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Three poets curate 20 poems about the pandemic and Uprising. 10 from youth poets. These poems are installed in windows of buildings along Lake Street and also on plaques in various spaces on Lake Street.

Each of the poems will be available on Pangea's website and there will be a poetry reading in person or zoom with all ten poets.

An urban water walk takes place from Bde Maka Ska to the Mississippi. Prior to the walk there are two workshops that will teach about protocols for water walks.

A series of Story Circles are held in person or over Zoom giving a wide array of people a space to share their stories about living through the pandemic and Uprising.

A selection of the Story Circles are transcribed and edited into an archive. This collection of stories is available as a downloadable PDF and as a print book. In book form this archive is sent to city

departments and city council members and other organizations and elected officials to keep real people and their lives present when policy decisions are made.

A series of four conversations are held between several artists and community activists and organizers about vital issues facing Lake Street communities. These conversations are free and open to the public.

A site specific ensemble based large scale performance is created at the intersection of Lake and Minnehaha. The work is a collaboration between Pangea's artistic directors, the cohort of Story Circle Artists and others. It runs for two nights.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.75

Board Members: Ramona Indru Advani, Afshan Anjum, M.D., Mona Antilla Carloni (Board Chair), Sharon Day, Soyini Guyton, Olga Herrera (Secretary), Kelley Lindquist, Freida Martin, Rajan Menon, Dipankar Mukherjee, Meena Natarajan, Anh Thu T. Pham Raj V. Rajan, PhD, Jasmine Sanchez, Bert Wilson (Treasurer)

## **Ragamala Dance Company**

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Recipient: Ragamala Dance Company

Project Overview: Ragamala Dance Company will develop a new, limited-series podcast entitled Subcontinuity: Voices from the South Asian-American Diaspora. Curated by Aparna and Ashwini Ramaswamy and developed with Public Radio Exchange (PRX), Subcontinuity will explore the significance of South Asian-Americans within the cultural landscape of Minnesota and the U.S. Subcontinuity will feature cross-disciplinary conversations between visionary South Asian-Americans doing vital work that speaks to the current moment.

<u>Contact:</u>	Aparna Ramaswamy 612-703-0638 aparna@ragamaladance.org	Tamara Nadel 612-964-9213 tamara@ragamaladance.org
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Funding Amount: \$25,000

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

QUANTITATIVE OUTCOMES:

- I. Ragamala will produce 8 episodes of the podcast, Subcontinuity: Voices from the South Asian-American Diaspora

2. Ragamala will partner with 8-10 Humanities advisors in the creation of the project
3. Ragamala will foster a new institutional partnership with PRX
4. Subcontinuity will feature at least 16 South Asian-American visionaries representing a broad array of genres and disciplines
5. Subcontinuity will reach a substantial audience in Minnesota and nationally\*
6. Ragamala will find new audiences and constituencies for our work
7. Subcontinuity guests will build new constituencies for their work

\* In developing this proposal, Ragamala reached out to our project partner, Jason Saldanha—Director of Content at PRX—about the possibility of projecting an estimated audience number for Subcontinuity. In his expert view, given that Subcontinuity is a new project, we are too early in the process to quantify accurate audience metrics.

#### QUALITATIVE OUTCOMES:

1. Diverse Minnesotans will be exposed to individuals, ideas, cultures, histories, and perspectives with which they were previously unfamiliar
2. South Asian-American listeners will feel as though their own stories, perspectives, and experiences are an important part of Minnesota's—and the U.S.'s—history and culture
3. Multi-hyphenate American youth will be inspired to envision new and often unconventional ways of constructing a South Asian-American identity
4. South Asian-American youth will learn about—and find their own place within—their rich cultural heritage
5. Broad audiences will be exposed to vital role artists and immigrants play in the work of cultural and societal transformation
6. Listeners will feel empowered to think creatively around root causes and solutions to pressing societal issues.
7. Listeners will be inspired to think differently about their neighbors and their communities
8. National/international audiences will perceive Minnesota as a vibrant creative hub that nurtures South Asian-American leaders

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.9

Board Members: Dr. Krishnan Subrahmanian, Neal Cuthbert, Dheenu Sivalingam, John Riske, Marguerite Ahmann, Nithya Balakrishnan Mathad, Cyrus Hanson, Sumit Kumar, Aparna Ramaswamy

#### **The SEAD Project**

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Recipient: The SEAD Project

Project Overview: Our project will expand our successful storytelling program to 1) offer more pathways for community engagement with Southeast Asian diaspora stories and cultural arts; 2) increase



the number of people we are able to engage through our storytelling program; 3) increase public dialog and engagement with Southeast Asian stories and cultural arts. Our work will bring Southeast Asian diaspora communities together to share cultural arts and stories and to increase accessibility of community stories.

Contact: Chanida Phaengdara Potter                      Jessica Eckerstorfer  
612-481-3964    612-987-7313  
chanida@theseadproject.org                                      jessica@theseadproject.org

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Start Date: 10/18/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The outcomes of this project are:

1. More Southeast Asian community stories are shared and preserved through a community-led process.
2. Southeast Asian community members will better realize their power and how to navigate systems through storytelling.
3. Communities will build cross-cultural mutual understanding.
4. Southeast Asian diaspora communities will be more centered in shared public narratives.
5. Southeast Asian diaspora community histories, stories and cultural arts will be more centered in public art and understanding.
6. Southeast Asian heritage communities will have affordable and accessible classes, language tools, and cultural arts to preserve their histories and understand their cultures; and better communicate in their heritage languages in their work, community, and family lives (primarily Hmong, Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese).
7. Educators, policymakers, healthcare workers, and other community leaders who work with predominantly Southeast Asian communities (Hmong, Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese) will have accessible classes and language tools to learn about Southeast Asian cultures and histories, to increase their cultural competency and communication skills.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.75

Board Members: Chann Kong, Joy Manichan Nguyen, Casey Skeide, Saroeun Earm, Maishia Yang, Michael Sasorith

## **Twin Cities Media Alliance**

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Recipient: Twin Cities Media Alliance

Project Overview: Our Space Is Spoken For is a multidisciplinary public art storytelling project to creatively foster largescale awareness and dialogue around the untold narratives of how historically marginalized communities redefine and negotiate space. TCMA will curate a cohort of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists and St. Paul BIPOC residents to create public art performances inspired by residents' stories, which will be filmed and later screened as part of a public event and discussion.

Contact: Adaobi Okolue  
612-293-7761  
adaobi@tcmediaalliance.org

Funding Amount: \$23,945

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Shifting narratives is long-term, systems change work that we believe Our Space will play a role in affecting for years to come. Nonetheless, within the timeframe of this grant, we are hoping for the following outcomes:

- 1) At least 70 percent of participants that engage with Our Space Is Spoken For (e.g., film attendees) will note engaging in a narrative that's influenced or shifted their thinking about the lived experiences of BIPOC communities.
- 2) 80 percent or more of Our Space artists will indicate having increased access and confidence in their ability to engage in public art.
- 3) At least 70 percent of participants that engage with Our Space will indicate having a broader perspective/vision of public art.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0.5

Board Members: Carolyn Szczepanski, Cassandra Fenelon, Martin Hernandez, Kevin Kalla, Kadra Abdi, Georgia Fort

## **Wood Krueger Initiatives, LLC**

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Recipient: Wood Krueger Initiatives, LLC

Project Overview: My proposed project is to create the Urban Native Plant Guide. This set of laminated cards will be a user friendly, portable guide to some of the native plants present in the Minneapolis-St. Paul community. The guide will be created through collaboration and insight from local Native elders

and will include traditional uses of the plants, along with their names in Anishinaabe, Dakota, and Lakota where available.

Contact: Odia Wood-Krueger  
612-599-9809  
odiawoodkrueger@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$14,950

Start Date: 01/04/2021

End Date: 06/01/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. During the award period, provide 60 people with a 2 hour learning opportunity that teaches about indigenous plant knowledge relevant to the local area.
2. Documenting the number of newsletter sign-ups and requests for volunteer opportunities. (Marketing of the guide and the learning opportunities will be widespread. Upon signing up for activities, participants will be sharing their contact information with organizers which will be shared with partner organizations to increase their support networks. Furthermore, representatives from these partner organizations, as hosts, will introduce their work to all participants. \*In a non-COVID world, participants would be able to visit the partner organizations for a face-to-face tour and build a relationship firsthand.)
3. Disseminate 150 copies of the Urban Native Plant Guide to the general public.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Dakota, Hennepin, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

*An additional grant has been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending a signed agreement.*

## **Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Hmong Cultural Heritage Grants (Competitive)**

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the Hmong community through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Heritage funds were distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants were awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third round, the remaining funds were awarded in larger amounts.

### **Round I Grants:**

#### **Hmong Archives Microgrant**

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Recipient: Hmong Archives

Project Overview: Photograph all items of the Martha Kaufman-Zimmerman Collection of needlework and four archival boxes of objects from ca. 2000 to 2019 of Wat Tham Krabok with accession information and several hundred digital photos, and post them on our website so they may be viewed at any time and place. Publish books in Hmong and English with selected images and texts from our accession record, with additional information about common design elements and audio-video interview information. Record, transcribe, and translate video interviews with Hmong elders to record their childhood, education, arming, army, refugee, resettlement, and current stories, as well as knowledge of Hmong history, language, music, herbs, paj ntaub, customs, silversmithing, blacksmithing, and many other aspects of Hmong culture for future publications and other projects.

Contact: Dr. Brian Xiong  
Board of Director  
612-978-8359  
brianvxiong@gmail.com

Marlin Heise  
Board of Director, Archivist  
651-621-5469  
mlh1stpaul@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$4,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Our proposed goals are to produce and/or publish our Hmong Paj Ntaub collections by Martha Zimmerman. This is an amazing collection of 700 Paj Ntaub (embroideries and story cloths) from an equally amazing Madison, WI, woman who assisted local Hmong refugees in the 1980s. After two years of conversations, Hmong Archives received this exceptional collection from Martha's family in June 2018. Martha Kaufman (later Zimmerman) and her anthropology husband lived in Laos and Thailand in the 1950s and 1960s. While there, she learned Thai and some Lao, which lead to conversations at O'Hare Airport in 1979 with "Laotian" refugees going to be resettled in Madison. Her home became a center for English studies, tutoring, and problem solving, including collecting Paj Ntaub for consignment sales in shops in Madison and beyond. Martha recorded in her small pencil and pen handwriting, some 3000 items from 61 clients on 112 pages in her register.

Measurable Outcomes: With the support of the Minnesota Humanities Center's Legacy Cultural Heritage and Identity Micro-Grants, the Hmong Archives and HER Publisher were able to achieve this

goal in producing/publishing our Paj Ntaub collection that tributes to Martha L. Zimmerman and the many Hmong women whose fingers and needles produced these 700 beautiful works of Hmong textile art. Paj Ntaub, created by nimble fingers with needles and thread, is perhaps the best-known aspect of Hmong culture to the outside world. It is an adaptation of traditional clothing designs as a response to the Hmong refugee economic situation. A book featuring the intricate and colorful designs still prevalent in this 1980s collection, with information about those designs, is a beautiful tribute to an art that has been almost completely replaced by machines.

Counties Served: Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$4,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Brian V. Xiong, Marlin L. Heise, Kou Xiong, Song Vaj, Chue Chang, Long Khang

### **Tou SaiK Unites Microgrant**

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Recipient: Tou SaiK Unites

Project Overview: Unified Worldwide is a Hmong language Hip Hop project which includes songs accompanied by a curriculum. This is a journey to relearn Hmong language through writing lyrics. A strong focus of songs on this album are "message" and "content" to address social issues, reflect personal stories and preserve cultural identity. This album incorporates collaborations with Hmong elders who are masters of traditional instruments such as rab ncas (mouth harp), lub raj (flute) and xim xaus (violin).

Contact: Tou SaiK Lee  
651-353-7497  
tousaikunites@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

### **Hnub Tshiab – Hmong Women Achieving Together Microgrant**

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Recipient: Hnub Tshiab – Hmong Women Achieving Together

Project Overview: Our book titled Staring Down the Tiger: Stories of Hmong American Women, provides a platform to tell stories of Hmong women—stories that are often left unheard. The collection of the stories in the book were developed during a writing retreat that provided emotional and technical

writing support to nearly 30 women. The writing retreat was invaluable in helping non writers uncover and creatively share their stories. We are requesting \$5,000 to create a personal development workbook that will supplement the book offering readers their own virtual experience of the writing retreat. The workbook will be developed by the book's editor Pader Vang who has extensive experience in education, culture and clinical social work. The creation of the workbook is in response to the soft launch of the book.

Contact: Pa Der Vang  
651-321-4928  
infoathmongwomenachieve@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: We are requesting \$5,000 to create a personal development workbook that will supplement the book offering readers their own virtual experience of the writing retreat. The workbook will be developed by the book's editor Pader Vang who has extensive experience in education, culture and clinical social work. The creation of the workbook is in response to the soft launch of the book. Women regretted not being able to participate in the writing retreat to uncover their story. There are many successes that will come from the book and workbook, in the most simplistic but profound form is Hmong women being able to reflect on wisdom through narratives that parallel theirs and readers regardless of gender and background will uncover human similarities of vulnerability and strength.

Measurable Outcomes: The purpose of the grant was to produce a self reflection guide to the book Staring Down the Tiger: Stories of Hmong Women. The self reflection book has been completed and copies of the workbook have been received. The finish product looks beautiful and resembles a mini personal journal. Although we have had some preliminary successes with the concept of the workbook while the workbook was in development we were hoping to support more women in overcoming Tigers in their life through face to face writing circles. We are working with a social media women's support group with over 10,000 members to host a virtual writing/healing cohort.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Pa Der Vang, Chee Lor, Kao Ly Ilean Her, Maypahou Ly, May Seng Yang, Ntxhee Yees Xiong

### **Hmong Museum Microgrant**

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Recipient: Hmong Museum

Project Overview: Hmong Museum will spearhead a new pilot program around lost arts and sharing stories and knowledge passed on through oral tradition. The project will be around the practice and teaching of Hmong elder's knowledge and skill around a folk art activity, such as bamboo basket weaving.

Contact: Mai Vang  
651-428-3979  
info@hmongmuseumMN.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of reporting.

## **Round 2 Grants:**

### **The SEAD Project Microgrant**

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Recipient: The SEAD Project

Project Overview: Our project aims to develop free online resources that teach Hmong language and culture to the public. First, printable literacy and cultural decks – for example, flashcards of the Hmong alphabet, or an overview of a prevalent Hmong tradition – available for download on our website. Our second resource include an interactive web app that teaches introductory Hmong language. Users gain literacy skills of consonants, vowels, and grammar, and can also engage in lessons that teach topics such as common greetings, introductions, survival phrases, pronouns, and more.

Contact: Chanida Phaengdara Potter  
612-987-7313  
chanida@theseadproject.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Our project aims to develop free online resources that teach Hmong language and culture to the public.

Our first resource includes printable literacy and cultural decks that are available for download on our website. These decks would feature different aspects of the Hmong heritage, for example, flashcards of the Hmong alphabet, or an overview of a prevalent Hmong tradition.

Our second resource include a web app that teaches introductory Hmong language. The web app is an interactive platform for users to gain literacy skills of consonants, vowels, and grammar. Users can also engage in lessons that teach topics such as common greetings, introductions, survival phrases,

pronouns, and more. Lessons are presented as interactive activities and games to help users to stay engaged in the curriculum and motivated to keep learning.

With these resources, we aim to make all aspects of the Hmong heritage more accessible to everyone, from people who grew up in a Hmong household to newcomers of the culture. We want to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the Hmong culture and to empower Hmong-Americans with the necessary tools to connect with their culture.

For us, success means high engagement rates with our resources. More importantly, success means that our users feel more empowered by the language and cultural literacy learned from our resources, and that they feel more confident to engage in and seek out aspects of Hmong arts, culture, and heritage.

Measurable Outcomes: When the grant was received in November 2019, we started planning and developing our work on the Hmong culture program for Spring 2020. For a \$5,000 microgrant, the overall funding helped jumpstart some of our planning to pay for cultural and language experts to develop, and we are still seeking funding to continue that work, as it requires more technical resources. As COVID and uprisings happened from February through May, we couldn't host in-person workshops anymore and had to address and pivot our work a bit, but we were still able to complete a Hmong language alphabet decks, a Hmong new year resource deck, and a beta version of the web app, and are still developing content for this summer and fall resources as well as a virtual pop-up workshop.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 2

Board Members: Chann Kong, Joy Manichan Nguyen, Casey Skeide, Saroeun Earm, Maishia Yang, Michael Sasorith

## **Hmong American Day Microgrant**

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Recipient: Hmong American Day

Project Overview: The Hmong American Day non-profit would like to collaborate with Hmong for Native Speakers courses in the Osseo School District at Park Center Senior High and at Osseo Senior High to provide a culturally relevant education. They would also like to help students tap into their cultural heritage through engaging activities that invite students to continue with their learning and sharing of Hmong language and culture: Students and families will contribute to a book that tells personal and cultural stories that could include the history of the Hmong people through individual and family experiences. We would also like to integrate the art of storytelling along with actual artwork connected to Hmong culture and history.

Contact: Tzianeng Vang  
651-239-3488  
txiabneeb@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000



Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 11/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Our goal for this project is to preserve Hmong culture and strengthen students' identity through Hmong language learning. Elders are a wonderful way to share this knowledge across generations and we would like to have the ability to invite elders into the classroom to provide lessons for 250 students and to bridge the cross-generational gap in the Hmong community. The goal would be for them to be able to use this knowledge outside of the classroom and to be able to participate in cultural experiences in a meaningful way. This would also help students to build confidence and self-esteem by understanding more about their Hmong identity.

A second goal is to create a student-centered space that allows high school Hmong youths to be involved in the planning and to lead activities at the Hmong American Day celebrations in order to share their learning and build their sense of pride in Hmong culture.

At the end of the school year, we will have a showcase of student work and cultural projects that is open to the school and community. Students who contribute to this book will have an opportunity to share their writing and artwork. Last year's event brought over 600 people to the showcase.

Measurable Outcomes: The proposal and actual activities are different because of COVID – we did staggered cultural lessons with students that happened right before Hmong Day. We didn't have any in person, they were virtual. Cultural classes need to be hands on and in person to model after the instructor – that didn't happen but thankfully we had a professor who was enthusiastic about teaching, who has opened the eyes of students and teachers about how important ceremonies are in the community.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Sherburne

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Xia Vang, Sydney Chang, Dr. Charles Pao Vang

### **Hmong Cultural Center Microgrant**

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Recipient: Hmong Cultural Center

Project Overview: This project will involve the creation of a new theater room to be included in the Hmong Cultural Center Museum and Library. The theater room will allow visiting groups and walk-in visitors to view clips of historical documentaries about the Hmong diaspora and Hmong American Experience as part of their museum experience.

Contact: Txongpao Lee  
651-917-9937

txong@hmongcc.org

Funding Amount: \$3,090

Start Date: 12/19/2019

End Date: 04/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Hmong Cultural Center requests funding for Marketing of a New Museum Theater. A Museum Theater will also be added in the Spring of 2020 to show screenings of classic Hmong documentaries including “Miao Year” (1968), Disappearing World (1972) and Becoming American (1982). Through enhanced marketing of our unique museum theater, Saint Paul and Minnesota residents will have greater opportunities to learn about Hmong heritage and culture in Minnesota. The proposed project to enhance marketing of our museum and library builds strongly on Hmong Cultural Center’s unique heritage over the past 27 years teaching the Minnesota public about Hmong culture and history. It is also strongly related to a key goal of the Legacy fund: “Arts, history and cultural heritage programs will engage our diverse communities from every corner of the state in celebrating the richness of our differences while building greater understanding and connection to the values that bind us together.” There are two central community needs that this project is intended to respond to in a substantive manner:

- Cultural heritage education for the Hmong Minnesotan Population
- Multicultural education for the broader Twin Cities and Minnesota Population

Measurable Outcomes: In March 2020, we bought the large screen TV (Samsung Electronics 4K Smart LED TV (2018), 75") for the museum. In January 2021, we printed 20,000 museum brochures for the purpose of marketing the museum to future visitors and touring groups including school groups. In March 2021, we ran a sponsored Facebook ad promoting the upcoming opening of our new museum theater in Summer 2021 which reached almost 29,000 unique people on Facebook. This ad may be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/HmongCulturalCenter/videos/260576682245722> We were not able to do the theater launch yet due to the pandemic but we anticipate the launch event for the museum including the new theater space will take place in July 2021.

Counties Served: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, Statewide

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$3,090; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Shuly Her, Kamai Xiong, Maiyia Yang, Vong Thao, Victoria Herr, Chad Lee, Bee Moua

### **Pha Association, Inc. Microgrant**

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Recipient: Pha Association, Inc.

Project Overview: Elders and youths will engage with each other to instill a sense of value and validation of one another’s skills and abilities. Participants will strengthen their proficiency in the Hmong language and Hmong alphabet through these lessons. Youths will learn basic conversational Hmong words and

they will be introduced to the Hmong alphabet. The youths will learn the skills of storytelling, singing traditional songs, and making and creating their own paj ntaub. By having Hmong elders engage with youth, they are building a bridge that connects them to their heritage, culture, and history.

Contact: Neng Pha  
651-431-8242  
Bpha38@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/19/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: An outcome of the project will provide an opportunity for the elders and youths to engage with each other to instill a sense of value and validation of one another's skills and abilities. Furthermore, it will contribute to minimizing the intergenerational gaps between both groups as understanding develops into empathy and care among the youths for their elders.

Participants will strengthen their proficiency in the Hmong language and Hmong alphabet through these lessons. Youths will learn basic conversational Hmong words and they will be introduced to the Hmong alphabet. Today's Hmong youths are unable to carry a normal conversation nor understand their parents. Teaching youth foundational words can help them identify with their families and communities.

The youths will learn the skills of storytelling, singing traditional songs, and making and creating their own paj ntaub. From this experience, they can appreciate the beautiful artworks on their Hmong clothes when they wear them in addition to the significance of the work. They will also appreciate and learn the importance of storytelling and singing traditional songs, as those are integral to the Hmong narrative.

In order to accomplish these goals, the plan is to have the youths meet on the weekend for a period of two hours at a community center to learn from elders and Hmong culture and language instructors. The time frame for this project is for 12 weeks. There will be a total of 30 youths participating in this project. Participants in this program will demonstrate their acquired skills at local community celebrations or showcases in the Twin Cities.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Neng Pha, Chou Pha, Linda Pha, Tony Pha, Yeng Pha

**Round 3 Grants:**

**Center for Hmong Studies**

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Recipient: Center for Hmong Studies

Project Overview: The Center for Hmong Studies is seeking a \$20,000 grant from the Hmong Cultural Grant program to acquire the Jason Schoonover Collection, to provide stipend for students to digitize and catalog the collection, and to organize a Hmong Textile exhibit to show the collection.

Contact: Lee Pao Xiong  
651-641-8870  
xiong@csp.edu

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 08/15/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

1. The completed acquisition of the Jason Schoonover Collection
2. The completed digitization and cataloging of the Jason Schoonover Collection
3. The complete installation of the Hmong Textiles and Arts Exhibit

Measurable Outcomes: Due to the pandemic, we have decided to launch an online 3D exhibit via the web platform. They are divided into two exhibits, the second primarily focuses not only on textiles but tools as well. The webpages are below:

<https://artspace.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/5126913/jason-schoonover-collection>  
<https://artspace.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/6507459/jason-schoonover-collection-2>

The exhibit web link was posted via the Center for Hmong Studies' Facebook page as well as on several other Facebook pages frequent by Hmong as well as non-Hmong with interest in the Hmong community. We also posted it on the Center for Hmong Studies webpage at <https://hmongcenter.csp.edu/>. Mr. Jason Schoonover also posted the weblinks to his page as well as send it to his email networks.

The response was overwhelming. Here are some of the comments after viewing the exhibit:

- Very complex embroidery design. it is extraordinary!
- They bring back lots of memories.
- We don't get to see those original baby carriers anymore.
- That's amazing! I'm glad we have collectors who have held on to relics to share with the public. Hope to see these in the future when I visit the center.
- Wow! So many unique designs!!
- Very nice!! I would like to see larger versions!
- Wonderful!!!

Some of the textiles was borrowed by ArtReach St. Croix in Stillwater, Minnesota for an exhibit that started in May 2021 and ended the first week of July 2021.

Since we were not able to do a physical exhibit and opted for a hybrid exhibit model due to the pandemic, we were able to realize some cost savings. As such, we decided to acquire six large paintings by Minnesota artist Jackie Yang. The paintings are historically significant because it depicted the Hmong-Minnesotan's role in partnering with the United States during the Secret War of Laos in saving American

lives. These paintings were on loan to the Center for Hmong Studies, but we were able to negotiate a reasonable price for the acquisition of them.

Counties Served: Statewide, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$20,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Dr. Zha Blong Xiong, Dr. Yang Dao, Dr. Chia Youyee Vang, Dr. Kou Yang, Paul Herr, William Yang, William MacArthur, Marvin Suomi, Carol Byrne, George Latimar, Rev. Dr. Robert Holst

## **Hmong Cultural Center**

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Recipient: Hmong Cultural Center

Project Overview: The Hmong Cultural Heritage Initiative is intended to both preserve and spread awareness and knowledge of Hmong culture in a comprehensive and multifaceted manner by supporting several outreach initiatives of the Hmong Cultural Center Museum.

Contact: Mark Pfeifer  
651-769-4670  
markpfeifer@hmongcc.org

Funding Amount: \$76,955

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

The Hmong Cultural Center Museum Outreach Initiatives will be evaluated in terms of the extent of the successful completion of the following outcomes:

- Completion of production of 2000 new outreach brochures as well as enhanced staffing for group tours of the museum and library
- Completion of production and printing of 2500 enhanced take-away exhibit programs for visitors to add even further educational value to the museum experience
- Completion of printing of 1000 educational curriculums tied to Minnesota State K-12 Standards intended for school groups visiting the Hmong Cultural Center Museum Exhibits (planning of the museum curriculums has already been completed with a Minnesota Historical Society grant)
- Completion of the planning and development of a museum app that will allow walk-in visitors to listen to a guided audio tour when visiting the HCC Museum space
- Completion of planning and development of a traveling exhibit which will include a condensed version of museum exhibit panels and exhibit objects that Hmong Cultural Center can loan to other community institutions including museums and libraries in Minnesota for display

Dr. Mark E. Pfeifer, who has been involved in program evaluation and grant reporting at the center for 20 years will be the lead individual involved in project evaluation activities along with Txongpao Lee, the Executive Director. Evaluation results will be shared with the center's Board of Directors and Advisory Council for feedback. Evaluation results will be used to guide future museum projects as well as marketing to both the Hmong and broader mainstream communities and also used to direct future changes and additions to cultural arts programming initiatives at Hmong Cultural Center. Evaluation results will also be shared with the Minnesota Humanities Center for any required evaluation reporting of grant activities.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1.5

Board Members: Shuly Her, Kamai Xiong, Maiyia Yang, Vong Thao, Victoria Herr, Chad Lee, Bee Moua

## **Hmong Museum**

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Recipient: Hmong Museum

Project Overview: Hmong Museum proposes developing a 400 sq feet traveling exhibit around the importance of Hmong's oral culture. It will be a research phase with collaboration between Hmong Museum and community members. Topics would include Hmong stories that are passed on including history narratives, skills that are taught orally, and folktales. It will also provide an opportunity for visitors of all backgrounds to be inspired to share their own stories about their lives and experiences.

Contact: Mai Vang  
651-428-3979  
mnvang@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$76,955

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Goal: Accountability for grant project (Accountability)

- Measurable outcome 1: Completion of position descriptions for each role which will be shared with the public.
  - How evaluated: When an Exhibit manager, two researchers, one SGU Liasion, and Collaborative are recruited.
- Measurable outcome 2: A written work plan for the year that includes goals, activities, due dates, and person responsible. This will be used internally to complete the project.

- How evaluated: This plan will be reviewed by the Hmong Museum board and the Exhibit team for clarity and completion.
- Measurable outcome 3: Host five meetings with the Collaborative and Hmong Museum board. Notes from these meetings will be used as a guide for the exhibit team as well as recording the progress of the project.
  - How evaluated: There will be an end-of-meeting rating that will be recorded at the end of each meeting.

Goal: Complete research, content writing and acquisition, and design

- Measurable outcome 1: A document with research questions which will be used as a guide to do the research.
  - How evaluated: Reviewed by the exhibit team and approved. When the research can be completed with evidence of a bibliography, notes and interviews.
- Measurable outcome 2: Completed labels for panels and list of photos and objects.
  - How evaluated: With peer review notes on the labels and a list of photos and objects are in hand.
- Measurable outcome 3: Completed design of panels and drawing sketch of the mural.
  - How evaluated: When the exhibit team and Collaborative has approved the final design and drawing.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Chuayi Yang, Koobmeng Lee, Sandy Lo

## **The DIAL Group**

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Recipient: The DIAL Group

Project Overview: The DIAL will collaborate with Hmong artist Tou SaiKo Lee to develop “Ntiajteb Koomtes” (“Unified Worldwide” in English) – a Hmong language program based on Hmong traditional music infused with poetry and hip hop. Project activities include piloting the curriculum, developing media, and evaluating and revising the curriculum through feedback from students, teachers and linguists.

Contact: Tou SaiKo Lee  
651-353-7497  
tousaikunites@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$28,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

The most significant impact for the Ntiajteb Koomtes project will be in classrooms and schools. The arts can enhance students' learning of language, culture, and social justice. Researchers have shown that the arts can increase young people's academic achievement and contribute to their positive development. Our project's measurable outcomes for students and schools are to increase:

- 1) the number of youth learning Hmong language and culture through the arts (approx.. 80 students for this project period);
- 2) the diversity of effective and creative teaching materials available to schools that wish to preserve the Hmong language, history, and culture (1 album with 5 music tracks, 5 videos, and music-based curriculum);
- 3) the amount schools that teach Hmong language and culture using our arts-based curriculum (4 schools this project period).

The DIAL and our project partners will measure and evaluate the outcomes of Ntiajteb Koomtes using three primary evaluation methods:

- Process Evaluation to monitor project activities regarding implementation and timing.
- Summative Evaluation to assess overall effectiveness and achievements.
- Outcome Evaluation to measure the impact of the project.

We will design and implement the evaluation plan and tools with oversight and direction from the DIAL's executive director David Kang. The DIAL uses best practices to design our evaluations, and uses industry methods and standards to ensure project effectiveness, efficiency and quality. Also, we will measure the literacy of the students with support from their classroom teachers who have been tracking their progress before the implementation of our programming. We plan to have teachers determine the learning level of each student and then in our follow-up evaluations, we will assess the progress of each student after residency.

Taken together, the surveys, interviews, focus groups and other evaluation tools will help measure the extent to which the program outcomes are being achieved, as well as the overall quality of the project. The evaluation results will also help us eliminate or adjust the ineffective parts to Ntiajteb Koomtes for better program outcomes and performance. The DIAL will also share the results of the project to the community through our websites. Lastly, we will present the MN Humanities Center with the finding of our project and evaluations.

Outside of the direct outcomes of the project, we hope that indirectly instructors become facilitators of creative learning and are empowered in their own professional growth. Teachers will feel fulfilled and able to provide a hands-on, arts-based learning environment for their students. The Hmong language and learning curriculum has been a work in progress to fit into learning models in the United States. While living in villages of Asia, the Hmong have naturally learned through arts in our everyday lives as a means of survival whether it be sewing clothing for our families or chanting poetry in the forest as a form of therapy.

In the long-term, the DIAL and our partners will track the number of teachers and schools that implement our arts-based Hmong language curriculum, and the number of students who participate. We will have periodic check-ins beyond the grant period, since this is a long-term and ongoing effort for the organization, artists, and other collaborators.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress



Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$28,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.2

Board Members: Phil Raskin, Grace Lee, Rodney McGee, David Kang

## **Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Somali Cultural Heritage Grants (Competitive)**

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the Somali community through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Heritage funds were distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants were awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third round, the remaining funds were awarded in larger amounts.

### **Round I Grants:**

#### **Isuroon Microgrant**

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Recipient: Isuroon

Project Overview: In summer 2020 Isuroon will be piloting a new program, designed by and for young Somali people. The focus is on creating a space for Somali youth to discuss the realities of being a first- or second-generation immigrant with the compounding factors of their racial, linguistic, ethnic and religious identities. This space will provide resources on how to both heal and lead in and through the arts and nature.

Contact: Jeannette Lutter Gardella  
612-886-2731  
jeannette@isuroon.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/16/2019

End Date: 07/31/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of reporting.

#### **Somali Community Resettlement Services Microgrant**

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Recipient: Somali Community Resettlement Services

Project Overview: The goal is to develop a “Basic Somali Language and Culture Class” curriculum. This course will be a tailored 20 – 30-hour training for people in the business community as well as Somali youth. Each class session will have an element of language and an element of culture.

Contact: Julie Olson  
507-384-3553  
julie@somalcrs.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The goal is to develop a “Basic Somali Language and Culture Class” curriculum. Through research, SCRS has not found curriculum for basic Somali language and culture available to be taught in a traditional setting (face-to-face). This course will be a 20 – 30-hour training for people in the general community, and possibly Somali youth. Each class session will have an element of language and an element of culture. Curriculum will be developed such that the course will be able to be tailored to fit a business’ or agency’s needs.

Measurable Outcomes: Success will be to have the “Basic Somali Language and Culture” class developed and available to train employees of businesses, agencies, and general community members. SCRS has met the outcome. A "Basic Somali Language and Culture" class has been developed and Rice County Social Services has two departments that are interested in having their staff take the class as soon as in-person training is available in our area again.

Counties Served: Rice, Steele

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Yusuf Ahmed, Sadat Ali, Anab Garuf, Hassan Hussein, Ayan Mohamed, Nadiro Mohamed, Gulad Mohamoud, Daniel Reisman, Joy Watson, Hussein Weli, Mohamed Yarow

### **West Bank Athletic Club Microgrant**

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Recipient: West Bank Athletic Club

Project Overview: Soccer is important to Somali culture and the most popular sport in Somalia. The proposed activity is our 11th annual Thanksgiving tournament. In order to make the popular tournament a more holistic community event, we will incorporate Somali singers and poets into the soccer tournament program.

Contact: Adrienne Dorn  
651-336-6838  
adriennedorn@gmail.com

Ahmed “Coach” Ismail  
612-702-7677  
coachahmed08@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 08/31/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The goals of West Bank Athletic Club’s programming and our year-round tournaments are:

1. Provide a platform for Somali youth to build teamwork and feel a sense of belonging and purpose
2. Build the knowledge, skills, values and motivation of Somali youth to make a difference in civic life
3. Strengthen our community by facilitating community connections and social cohesion
4. Celebrate Somali culture and increase understanding across cultures

West Bank Athletic Club aims to help more youth in our community feel a sense of belonging, have opportunities to build leadership and other skills, and have the support they need to succeed. We hope that through soccer and soccer tournaments, we can build community connections both within and between communities and cultures.

Measurable Outcomes: As proposed, we hosted a 7-day soccer tournament that engaged 16 teams of Somali youth from Minnesota and across the country. Our application proposed a Thanksgiving (2019) tournament that would incorporate Somali poets and singers. Because of the short timeline in proximity of fund notification, we adjusted the dates of our proposed project to take place in Spring, 2020 by hosting a Spring break tournament. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and facility closures, we had to push the funded project to Summer 2020 so we could access open facilities and host activities outside. We thus hosted a tournament from August 3rd through 9th, 2020. The tournament hosted 16 teams from the following states:

- 8 - Minnesota,
- 2- Lewiston, Maine
- 1- Denver, CO
- 1- Syracuse, New York
- 2- Grand Forks, ND
- 1- Seattle, WA
- 1- Louisville, Kentucky

There were approximately 30 players per team, totaling 480 young people. We hosted 31 games over seven days. The tournament took place at six Different Locations including Kennedy High School in Bloomington, Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Como Park in St. Paul, and fields in Woodbury, at Fort Snelling, and in Minnetonka. We also hosted a Somali DJ who played Somali songs for two days during the tournament and a Somali singer, Hussein Shaqi, who performed to closeout the tournament.

The tournament provided an opportunity for teams to connect with each other and with other Somali and non-Somali youth throughout the state and the county, in particular during a time when individuals and youth are struggling with isolation. After stay at home orders, young people are looking more than ever for community and connections. The tournament and Festival provided a safe way to do that (because it was primarily outdoors, not in close quarters, and without a large audience). The youth were able to engage with and celebrate Somali culture by playing soccer and experiencing Somali music.

Covid-19 made it difficult if not impossible - and unsafe - to engage Somali and non-Somali audience members. The project did build understanding across cultures among others involved, including Coaches, referees, staff of the various venues, and the players. We are also seeing the participating teams in our regular tournaments diversify from exclusively Somali youth to include youth from other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Counties Served: Blue Earth, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Olmsted, Ramsey, Stearns

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Nicholas Rogers, Matt Shipman, Greg Holker, Coach Ahmed

## **Round 2 Grants:**

### **Somali Parents Autism Network Microgrant**

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Recipient: Somali Parents Autism Network

Project Overview: A project that helps families express their feelings through poetry, sharing historical perspectives on disability within the Somali Community. We will invite school administrators, teachers, and community members and discuss the social stigma of disabilities and mental health through innovative strategies. In our parent to parent peer support, we have event nights where parents gather informally and express their daily barriers for the first half of the session, and then we go through resource sharing the second half of the session.

Contact: Deeqaifrah Hussein  
612-532-3925  
deeqaifrah@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of reporting.

### **Speaking Out Microgrant**

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Recipient: Speaking Out Collective

Project Overview: Ayeeyo Childcare Center is a Somali-American family's business. Ayeeyo staff and students expressed a desire to work with Speaking Out to create workshops that use storytelling and acting to center Somali stories, language and culture.

Contact: Tessa Flynn Henderson  
612-799-3317  
speakingoutcollective@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 06/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Our primary goal for this project is to support Ayeeyo children in reconnecting with and retaining Somali cultural tales. Somali people have always passed down tales through the art of oral storytelling. These tales are told not only to entertain but also to teach lessons. Although many of the families whose children attend Ayeeyo may no longer live in Somalia, the center seeks to carry on cultural traditions as well as introduce new experiences. Ayeeyo staff and students expressed a desire to work with Speaking Out to create workshops that use storytelling and acting to center Somali stories, language and culture.

Through this project, both Speaking Out and Ayeeyo have a shared vision of success we want to achieve. We want the children at Ayeeyo to have a deeper understanding of their cultural narrative and identity. For other non-Somali Minnesotans, we want community members to learn more about their neighbors' history and backgrounds.

Our proposed activities include:

- 20 sessions with 2 teaching artists/session at Ayeeyo which will include children listening to staff and teaching artists tell Somali cultural tales. Then, with support, students will retell them and act them out.
- Children will create their own theatrical retelling and will work with artists to make sets, props and costumes based on the Somali tales they heard.
- Children will share their Somali stories at a community celebration which will be planned in collaboration with Ayeeyo center directors and the children
- We will work with Suad and Raqiya at Ayeeyo to explore and determine who should be invited from the community and if there can be additional performances at local community spaces around the metro area.

For a project like this, success looks messy. Success looks like creating a space where people of many ages come together to listen to each other, to disagree, to find inspiration in art and practice enacting change. We acknowledge that there are varied learning styles and levels of comfort when sharing ideas in front of a crowd and have therefore built in many different ways to participate in this event: watching the show, writing responses to open questions, sharing ideas verbally after the performance, embodying ideas by enacting them, participating in art-making activities as well as more casual discussion with food. Success looks like varied levels of participation by a variety of demographics (age, race, socio-economic status and gender).

#### Measurable Outcomes:

Despite the long interruption in delivery of the activities, all of the goals for this grant were met. Through interviewing site staff, we learned that the center felt like our partnership was once again a great success.

Artists visited the center and held sessions that contained theatre and community-building games, storytelling, acting and puppet making. The children and staff loved the games and stories. In addition to telling cultural tales, teaching artists took theatre games and adapted them to Somali culture. For example, a theatre game originally called Grandmother's Footsteps became Ayeeyo's Footsteps - Ayeeyo means grandmother in Somali, and elders are revered in Somali culture. The children added chants to the game like, "Ayeeyo sees everything," and the goal of the game was to reach Ayeeyo first.

We found that some of the students were familiar with different versions of the cultural tales, and welcomed their tellings and sharing of the variations. The children were excited to share the versions that they knew and were proud to be the experts in the room. The sessions culminated in a final celebration with the community where we all shared a Somali meal.

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Sonja Kuftinec, John Sessler, Sandra Agustin, Emily Asp, Sonja Harriday, Emily Zimmer

### **Multicultural Resource Center Microgrant**

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Recipient: Multicultural Resource Center

Project Overview: The city of Pelican Rapids has an International Friendship Festival nearly every year. They invite musicians and dancers from many of the nationalities that make up the town. The Festival is an opportunity for all the diverse peoples in this town to share their own cultures and their art. We would like to hire the Somali Cultural Museum's Dance Troupe to perform at the 2020 Festival. We also plan to run a Somali dance workshop the day after the Festival.

Contact: Abdullahi Hashi  
763-614-6476  
abdullahihasi17@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$3,120

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 07/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The goals for this project is to have a day where different culture from different communities in the town of Pelican Rapids are shared so that people learn from each other's cultural values which in turn creates social integration, respect for the differences and work together for achieving progressive goals. Working together in peace and harmony while differences in cultures and values exists in our community.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Otter Tail

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Shaakir Mohamud, Abdulkadir Isse, Jeylani Ishawa, Abdullahi Mohamed

### **Unite Cloud Microgrant**

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Recipient: Unite Cloud

Project Overview: For this project, we are partnering with a local Somali-owned business, Nori Cafe and Creamery. Nori Cafe and Creamery provides a space that bridges the gap between different cultures through events and an array of coffee, tea, smoothies and cold drinks. Starting this past June, they have hosted bi-monthly "Somali Language Nights" where a local member of the Central MN Somali community teaches Somali phrases to non-Somali community members. #unitecloud has promoted this event on our social media and the response has been fantastic! We have many community members asking when the next one is so they can put it on their calendar. Through this grant, we hope to be able to provide free food and drink during these nights to drive more neighbors to each event. We also want to increase the capacity for Nori to have these more frequently by paying a stipend to the organizers to be able to carve out time to do this important, bridge-building work.

Contact: Natalie Ringsmuth  
404-422-0290  
natalie@unitecloud.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 06/30/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Goal of this project: Host four "Somali Language and Culture" gatherings at Nori Cafe and Creamery in St. Cloud, MN.

Success for this project looks like: Bringing neighbors together by offering free Somali food and drinks as well as a safe community space to get to know their neighbors, learn Somali phrases and experience Somali culture.

Measurable Outcomes:

We had a great first session at the end of February. As participants came in, we handed them a short survey to understand what their hopes were for the classes, and we plan to incorporate their suggestions and questions into the remaining sessions. During the first class, we learned how to say a few common greetings like "Hello" and "My name is". We also learned a bit about the history of Somalia as a country and found out that Somali has only been a written language since the 1970s! Participants asked questions about everything from refugee camps to life as a Muslim woman in Minnesota. Everyone loved trying a variety of sambusas, Somali tea, malawah (Somali pancake), and madhasi (Somali fried bread). Many people stayed after class to hang out in the cafe and talk more with Farhiya, our session leader, and her sisters.

With COVID-19 came the negative result of us not being able to host our sessions at Nori Cafe, or anywhere else in person, for that matter. In talks with Farhiya and Nori Cafe, they said they would be willing to teach these sessions via Zoom. This took more time for our facilitator and organizer to organize and plan around, so we proposed using the food budget as extra stipend for Farhiya and Unite Cloud, since the food wouldn't be possible for the remaining sessions. We had postponed our March class, unsure at that time if things would be "back to normal" by April or not. When the Governor announced extended social distancing for April we decided to move that class to an online model and combined the March and April session into one online session in April held at the same time as we originally planned it to happen to hopefully fit in well with people's schedules.



For our final session, many of our participants, as well as our facilitator, were having trouble with their internet connection (this was the weekend of George Floyd's murder and there were a lot of internet issues across the state). Because of this, Farhiya recorded the final session and we sent it out to participants.

While we did meet our goals of this class, due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to do so in unconventional ways. We were so glad that we were able to have one class together in person so that our participants had a chance to try Somali food and Somali tea. While we never meant to have these classes through Zoom, we were pleased to see from our post-sessions survey results that participants did still feel that connection with our facilitator and thoroughly enjoyed learning from her.

In looking at the results our post-sessions survey and comparing it to our pre-sessions survey, we were amazed by the growth in our participants:

\*On a scale from 1-10, how much do you know about the Somali LANGUAGE after attending this series? (1=not knowing anything, 10= knowing all)

Pre-Survey: Range of 1-3

Post- Survey: Range of 2-7

\*On a scale from 1-10, how much do you know about Somali CULTURE after attending this series? (1=not knowing anything, 10= knowing all)

Pre-Survey: Range of 1-4

Post- Survey: Range of 6-9

Counties Served: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$5,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Zurya Anjum, Younsook Yeo, Maria Greaves, Mike Morrow, Ekram Elmoge, Esther Aspling

## **Tusaalo Mentoring – Ubah Medical Academy Microgrant**

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Recipient: Tusaalo Mentoring – Ubah Medical Academy

Project Overview: Tusaalo Mentorship Program is an innovative program developed with the goal of connecting Somali youth with local Somali professionals through culturally-specific and school-based mentorship. In Somali, to be a "tusaalo" is to be an example, which is precisely the role we envision for Somali professionals. Focusing on 9th and 10th graders, our goal is to establish the foundations necessary for increased academic engagement and performance. Mentoring will allow students to explore, visualize and plan for post-secondary success and develop an appreciation for cultural traditions and community. Our programming will incorporate journaling, goal-setting, and workshops (career, creative writing, self-care, and personal development).

Contact: Suidi Hashi  
651-500-1580  
tusaalomentoring@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$2,500

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- 1) School-Engagement
- 2) Interpersonal Relationships
- 3) Self-efficacy
- 4) Culture and Identity

Tusaalo will aid high school students in developing skills and strategies necessary to plan and accomplish goals while developing an appreciation for cultural traditions and community. Our programming will incorporate journaling, goal-setting, and workshops (career, creative writing, self-care, and personal development).

Measurable Outcomes: As a result of funding Tusaalo was able to have material for programming, create activities, bring speakers and provide youth and mentors with resources in order to achieve their goals in the program. Additionally during the second half of the year, the funding supported the program substantially because we were able to now continue programming through the virtual transition of distance learning due to covid as well as have our end of program cycle activities. With new transitions we utilized the funding to create virtual spaces for our weekly group and mentoring session. We conducted these sessions utilizing Zoom licensed platform as well as Discord for out of session communication. We also created virtual learning packets as well as new communication schedules to make sure students were getting the support they needed during difficult times like these. Tusaalo was also able to start renting an office location to hold material and information, create a space where our program participants can drop by as well as a location to record our end of year recap video in a way that followed current health guidelines. With these new transitions we were able to continue to meet our program goals in: School Engagement, Culture and Identity and Building Self Efficacy/Intrapersonal skills. We captured our data through both quantitative and qualitative surveys and interviews with mentors and mentees. The data we captured show that 10/12 of our mentees showed positive improvements academically as well as showed positive behavior and engagement changes. 100% of our mentees felt that having a mentor that they shared a similar background with made an impact on them allowed them to enjoy Tusaalo more. Lastly some testimonies from our youth and mentors included:

“It’s a great experience that makes you feel important knowing that people just like can be successful” - Youth mentee

“My Tusaalo mentor made me believe in my dreams” - Youth Mentee

“Being a Tusaalo Mentor has given me an opportunity to give back to our youth and help build our future leaders”- Tusaalo Mentor

Being a Tusaalo mentor means alot to me. I leave every session inspired and motivated. I love being able to help my mentee navigate life - Tusaalo Mentor

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$2,500; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Nadira Mohamed, Hibat Sharif, Roun Said, Ahmed Maday, Mohamed A. Mohamed, Nasro Abshir, Abdulmalik Buul, Mohamud Mohamed

## **Soomaal House of Art Microgrant**

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Recipient: Soomaal House of Art

Project Overview: Soomaal proposes to do Spearwave - a monthly intimate exhibition and gathering space for conversations about art and culture. We hope this gesture will foster interconnectedness, and, using Spearwave as a foil, allow these artists a fresh opportunity to experiment with new ways of bringing to you the fruits of their artistic conceptions. In this program 3 Somali emerging artists will get the opportunity to learn, explore and exhibit a concept from beginning to end product. There will be four month process of learning/mentoring for the emerging artists that is being led by Soomaal and the lead artist. The emerging artists will explore concepts and skills need to present and exhibit their work at the end of the project. To conclude the project the emerging artists and the lead artist will show their work in an exhibit that will be open to the public. There will be a talk where they'll share their experience and process in hopes other artists in the audience to learn as well. In addition, to the staff at Soomaal, who are visual artists themselves, the emerging artists will work closely with an established artist and showcase with them at the end of the project.

Contact: Khadijah Muse  
612-308-7251  
k.muse@soomaalhouse.com

Funding Amount: \$2,500

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 11/30/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Through this project, we aim to curate intimate exhibitions and gathering space for conversations about art and culture. We hoped this gesture will foster interconnectedness, and allow these artists a fresh opportunity to experiment with new ways of conceptualizing their artistic expressions. This project aimed to have:

- 3 young and emerging artists to exhibit works
- 500 community members attend the events.

Measurable Outcomes: We were able to create programs that were open to the public and encouraged and mentored young Somali artists to showcase their works. The Soomaal artists worked with young and emerging artists with picking pieces to showcase and helped them formulate ideas. We held event outside to have people spread out and keep safe distant due to COVID19. We held four events at Soomaal (Seward neighborhood in Minneapolis) four weekends in September and October in 2020. Each event had 2-4 artists present their work. After their presentation, one of the Soomaal artists moderated talk where the audience engaged with the art work and the artists. We had 30-50 people at each event. Though we were able to work with the number of artists we aimed to, the audience were less than we anticipated which was largely due to the COVID19.

Counties Served: Hennepin

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$2,500; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: NA

## **East Africa Health Project Microgrant**

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Recipient: East Africa Health Project

Project Overview: For this project, eahpro is interested in focusing efforts in obesity prevention and chronic diseases through amplification and celebration of Somali arts, culture and heritage in Minnesota, because different Somali dances are exercise which help to prevent obesity and chronic disease. If we get help from Minnesota humanities center (MHC) we will create multicultural event and dinners to show different communities how Somali culture and heritage and dance are important and can be part of prevention of chronic diseases.

Contact: Dr. Osman Ahmed  
612-306-0539  
osmanahmed@eahpro.org

Funding Amount: \$2,500

Start Date: 01/01/2020

End Date: 05/01/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: The goal of the project is to amplify and connect all Minnesotans to Somali art and cultural heritage in state of MN. The project will honor and preserve Somali culture and heritage because we are Somalis who know the worth of the art and culture of Somali people. For this project, EAHP is interested in focusing efforts in obesity prevention and chronic diseases through amplification and celebration of Somali arts, culture and heritage in Minnesota, because different Somali dances are exercise which help to prevent obesity and chronic disease. If we get help from Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) we will create multicultural event and dinners to show different communities how Somali culture and heritage and dance are important and can be part of prevention of chronic diseases. We want to increase the depth and breadth of Minnesotans who will connect with Somali art culture and heritage and show them how Somali dance can prevent obesity and chronic disease.

Measurable Outcomes: East Africa Health Project held seminars before the COVID19 outbreak began to introduce to the Somali Community their most popular Somali dances as a substitute for the GYM life style especially during this difficult time while people are quarantined at home. The seminar participants were very receptive to our program and it was well received by them. East Africa Health Project developed and produced a 10-minute video to mobilize Somali Community on the essence of cultural health through art and performance. This will enable us to promote and educate the community about healthy living while preserving their religion and cultural heritage.

Counties Served: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$2,500; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Dr. Douglas Pryce, Ahmed Mohamed, Hibakh Mohamoud, Dr. Sadia Jama, Dr. Layla Bile, Dr. Osman M. Ahmed

### **Round 3 Grants:**

#### **Ka Joog**

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Recipient: Ka Joog

Project Overview: Ka Joog and Afro American Development Association (AADA) will partner to create a platform for Somali American youth to learn traditional Somali artistic mediums and present their learning through public presentations that will ignite community conversations. Art clubs and public forums will be implemented in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Clay counties and will promote inter-generational dialogue on taboo topics within the Somali American and cross-cultural acceptance with non-Somali audiences.

Contact: Mohamed Farah  
651-795-1589  
mfarah@kajoog.org

Funding Amount: \$43,380

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2021

#### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Ka Joog and AADA propose to measure qualitative and quantitative outcomes for each goal as follows:

Goal I: Somali American youth build their knowledge of traditional Somali art forms and increase their capacity to use Somali arts as a communication tool

Outcomes of Goal I:

- 20-25 Somali American youth participate in monthly art clubs
- 100 Somali American youth use Somali art to present their ideas in a public forum
- 90% or more of youth participants self-report an increase in knowledge of Somali art after participating in workshops

To assess whether these activities achieve their intended impact, AADA and Ka Joog will use post-art club surveys distributed to participating students and artists to help us determine how we can continuously improve our approach and instruction quality. Learning from art clubs will culminate in public presentations, implemented quarterly. At the conclusion of each presentation, we will request youth and participating artists to self-assess what they learned, how they have grown, and what support

they would like Ka Joog and AADA to offer to deepen their learning and enhance their practical application of their new artistic skills.

Goal 2: Public presentations change community perceptions and increase dialogue within the Somali American community in the Twin Cities and Moorhead.

Outcomes of Goal 2:

- At least 130 individuals attend public presentations (this indicator is the same for Goal 3)
- 70% of Somali American attendees indicate they have new knowledge or understanding after participating in the presentation

To measure these outcomes, Ka Joog and AADA will distribute post-presentation surveys to each attendee and we will collect their feedback when guests exit the venue. After each presentation, our team will also facilitate conversations to allow attendees to share their impressions verbally. We will document this feedback as qualitative information to complement data collected through surveys.

Goal 3: Public presentations change intercommunity perceptions and increase dialogue between the Somali and non-Somali communities in the Twin Cities and Moorhead.

Outcomes of Goal 3:

- At least 130 individuals attend public presentations
- 30% of public presentation attendees will identify as non-Somali
- At least 50% of non-Somali attendees report improved intercultural appreciation after participating in a public presentation

Like Goal 2, Ka Joog and AADA will use post-presentation surveys to assess the outcomes of our presentations. We will measure positive changes in perceptions of the Somali American community by non-Somali attendees to determine if our program has positively impacted intercultural perceptions.

To further the impacts of goals 2 and 3, Ka Joog and AADA intend to document the public presentations and share them widely through our websites, YouTube channels, and social media platforms. When we complete our final project report, we will include any qualitative feedback collected through these channels and describe how this input influenced our work.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Anoka, Carver, Clay, Dakota, Faribault, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Polk, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Steele, Washington

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1

Board Members: Ali Elmi, Hussein Mohamed, Guled Abdullahi, Aisha Muktar, Ibrahim Farah, Abdi Barkat

## **Somali American Social Service Association (SASSA)**

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Recipient: Somali American Social Service Association (SASSA)

Project Overview: The Somali community in Rochester, MN is by far one of the most connected cultural groups in the region. Our project hopes to untangle the rich culture that is often hidden from the public sphere in Rochester, MN. Unity begins with knowing your neighbors. Through the Humanities Center's Cultural Grant we will implement a program to inform and teach our fellow neighbors about the Somali culture. Our platform will be based on speakers, multimedia, tv programming, and print.

Contact: Omar Nur  
507-990-5289  
onur@sassamn.org

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start Date: 06/01/2020

End Date: 05/01/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Sassa plans to use electronics and paper methods to survey guests before and after the events. We will also use the data to measure metrics on the number of people who attended. In addition, we plan to do data analyses to help improve our process.

The goals of the project are as such:

Inputs

- i. Board direction
- ii. Staff training
- iii. Partner Organizations
- iv. Grant Funding
- v. External Educational Resources (speakers)

Activities

- i. Informational Sessions/Conferences
- ii. Community Education
- iii. Peer Support Instruction
- iv. City/County involvement
- v. Pre- and Post-metrics to draw conclusions and compare data

Outputs

- i. Represent data that can analyze (descriptive statistics,...)
- ii. Number of youth who attend
- iii. Number of training offered
- iv. Number of community contacts
- v. Number of immigrants who increase understanding of Somali culture
- vi. Number of diverse Professionals (Nurse, Lab Tech...) who present

Outcomes

1. To enhance the understating of the Somali culture and its importance to the community.
2. To steer the direction of knowledge towards a central source through our webpage.
3. To give Somali immigrants the tools and resources to convey their culture in a meaningful way.
4. To prevent cultural misunderstandings resulting in violent groups, and property damage.
5. To bridge cultural and traditional customs with the opportunities available in the U.S.A.
6. To provide a survey to see how neighbors perceive Somali culture.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: To enhance the understating of the Somali culture and its importance to the community. We made an effort to make sure the Somali Culture was understood properly. We worked with translators to sure ambiguous phrases were conveyed accurately.
- Outcome 2: To steer the direction of knowledge towards a central source through our webpage. We have accomplished this by making sure SASSA would be the contact if anyone was interested in our services or even learning more.
- Outcome 3: To give Somali immigrants the tools and resources to convey their culture in a meaningful way. This was also accomplished and the tools were provided and on how to find these resources.
- Outcome 4: To prevent cultural misunderstandings resulting in violent groups, and property damage. A lot of misunderstanding was worked out and all parties were to ask any questions they had
- Outcome 5: To bridge cultural and traditional customs with the opportunities available in the U.S.A. We found that most people have the same goals in dreams, safety, and goals.
- Outcome 6: To provide a survey to see how neighbors perceive Somali culture. We are still working on finding a way to capture this information via Zoom.

Counties Served: Olmsted

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$20,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 1

Board Members: Fanah Adam, Omar Dahir, Ahmed Aden, Abdisalan Sabrie, Fatuma Omar, Yahye Ahmed, Abdirashid Ture, Dr. Shafici Mohamed, Asha Afrah, Mohamud Ahmed, Abdul-Kadir Adam

## **Somali Community Resettlement Services**

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Recipient: Somali Community Resettlement Services

Project Overview: This project will connect Somali youth to their rich cultural heritage through arts and language. The Somali Youth Cultural Empowerment project will ensure youth learn their native Somali language and culture through classes taught by Somali teachers and will participate in the cultural tradition of Danta Dance. A dance group will perform at cultural events, with music performed live from previous members of the Somali supergroup, Waaberi, and thus, share Somali art culture with Minnesotans.

Contact: Julie Olson  
507-384-3553  
julie@somalcrs.org

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 09/30/2021



Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Goal #1: Preserve Somali language and culture within the Somali community

Success of this goal will be:

- an estimated 160 students have expanded knowledge of Somali language and culture
- number of students and attendance at each class will be tracked
- Outcomes for each class session will be tracked for each student
- Satisfaction surveys will be given at the end of each training to both students and parents.
- Changes to curriculum will be made based on comments received.
- A Language and Culture curriculum will be developed and can be taught again the future.
- Participation/attendance in Danta dance groups is over 90%.

Goal #2: Introduce Somali art culture to all Minnesotans

Success of this goal will be:

- Festival committees in Minnesota are requesting performances of the dance groups and musicians
- Danta dance groups of Somali youth are performing at events – with an anticipated 3 performances for Rochester’s group and 2 performances for Faribault’s group.
- Musicians who were members of the Waaberi Band will perform at events
- Number of performances will be tracked

Measurable Outcomes:

Goal #1: Preserve Somali language and culture within the Somali community.

We met most of this goal. We had 102 students take part in the language and dance trainings. The training was offered online during the grant period. We had originally planned to offer the trainings in Faribault and Rochester, but because the classes were online and there was high interest from other students, we were able to provide the training to interested students from Minneapolis and Owatonna. We surveyed the students through oral surveys and the results were that 100% of the students felt they gained knowledge in Somali language and culture. We could also gauge interest through our 90% rate of student class attendance. Surveys among parents gave the same results - 100% of parents felt their children gained knowledge in Somali language and culture.

We did not meet our second measure of success of having Danta dance groups perform at events due to COVID concerns.

Goal #2: Introduce Somali art culture to all Minnesotans. We offered Danta dance training beginning in January and going through the grant period. We were able to provide training to 102 students from Rochester, Faribault, Owatonna, and Minneapolis. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to have dance groups performing at festivals in Minnesota. Because of this, we did not meet this goal. We do still have strong interest in Danta dancing among the youth and will be continuing the groups. We are hoping to be able to have dance groups perform next summer.

Counties Served: Hennepin, Olmsted, Rice, Steele

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$40,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0.36

Board Members: Yusuf Ahmed, Sadat Ali, Anab Garuf, Hassan Hussein, Ayan Mohamed, Susan Starr, Gulad Mohamoud, Daniel Reisman, Joy Watson, Hussein Weli, Sayid Mohamed, Mohamed Yarow, Faisel Ahmed

## **Somali Museum of Minnesota**

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Recipient: Somali Museum of Minnesota

Project Overview: The Somali Museum of Minnesota will curate and present two new monthly series of public programs designed to amplify, celebrate, and preserve Somali culture. The first series will be gallery-based and draw from the museum's collection to offer Somali language, cultural and history instruction targeted to Somali families and school age youth. The second series, designed for a broader audience, will present artist talks and demonstrations, dance performances, exhibitions, and poetry readings.

Contact: Khadijah Zahra Muse  
612-308-7251  
zahra@somalimuseum.org

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 12/31/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Outcome: Programs in Somali art and culture will become available to Minnesotans who historically do not access arts programming, including Somali-American youth and elders

Evidence: Participants will access programming that was otherwise unavailable

Evidence: Somali Museum will increase programs offered by 15% from 2018-2019

Outcome: Somali-American youth will access Somali traditional art forms, which were previously unavailable to them

Evidence: Youth will give testimony about their new exposure to Somali art forms

Outcome: Non-Somali Minnesotans will participate in programs about Somali culture and art for the first time

Evidence: Participants will give testimony about their new exposure to Somali art

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide, Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Stearns, Washington, Winona

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1

Board Members: Dr. Abdulfatah Mohamed, Bashir Sheikh, Lisa Friedlander, Busad Ali Kheyre, Asha Hibad, Mohamed Ahmed Salad, Abdullahi Samater, Kate Roberts, Osman M. Ali

**Unite Cloud**

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Recipient: Unite Cloud

Project Overview: Through our “Somali Language and Culture” gatherings, Central MN neighbors will learn conversational Somali phrases they can share with their colleagues, customers, clients, patients, and/or friends. These gatherings will also include a time of learning about the Somali culture! These sessions will be taught by Farhiya Iman, a member of the St. Cloud Somali community, a Unite Cloud speaker, and a local small business owner.

Contact: Natalie Ringsmuth  
404-422-0290  
natalie@unitecloud.org

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Start Date: 08/01/2020

End Date: 11/30/2021

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Outcome #1: Provide a chance for over 100 Central MN residents to learn about Somali Language and Culture.

Measured by: sign-ups and attendance

Outcome #2: Attendees will grow in their knowledge of Somali Language and Culture.

Measured by: Pre and Post survey

Pre-Survey questions:

1. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about the Somali language?
2. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about Somali culture?
3. What interested you in wanting to learn more about Somali language and culture?
4. What do you hope to gain from this event?

Post-Survey questions:

1. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about the Somali language?
2. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about Somali culture?
3. What were your favorite parts of learning about Somali language and culture?
4. Any advice for us as we continue to host these sessions for your neighbors?

Measurable Outcomes:

Outcome #1: Provide a chance for over 100 Central MN residents to learn about Somali Language and Culture. (Measured by: sign-ups and attendance)  
220 people attended over 7 cohorts!

Outcome #2: Attendees will grow in their knowledge of Somali Language and Culture. (Measured by: Pre and Post survey)

1. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about the Somali language?

2. On a scale from 1-10, 1 not knowing anything to 10 knowing all, how much do you know about Somali culture?

After compiling the results from all 7 cohorts, here were the results:

- Question #1: This cohort started with a range of 1-5 with a majority of respondents saying 1. After the classes were complete the range grew to 1-9 with an average score between 3 and 5.
- Question #2: This cohort started with a range of 1-6 with a majority of respondents saying 3. After the classes were complete the range grew to 3-10 with an average score between 6.

Counties Served: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns

Progress: Complete

Direct Costs vs. Admin: \$20,000; \$0

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Younsook Yeo, Maria Greaves, Pedro Dos Santos, Breeze Hennes, Mike Morrow

## **West Bank Athletic Club**

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Recipient: West Bank Athletic Club

Project Overview: West Bank Athletic Club (WBAC) will expand its popular, ten-year running Somali youth soccer tournament into a comprehensive cultural heritage festival that includes Somali-specific sports, arts, and cultural activities. The 2021 WBAC Summer Festival will include a soccer tournament, live Somali music, interactive workshops, speakers, and a variety of arts and cultural activities led by youth.

Contact: Adrienne Dorn  
651-336-6838  
adriennedorn@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

### Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Somali-Minnesotans will have a stronger connection to their community and culture because of experiences that reflect and uplift Somali culture and heritage. We will determine whether we have achieved this outcome by reviewing survey results; analyzing interviews with artists, audiences, and partners; and assess audience members' future engagement with WBAC activities and arts events.

Outcome 2: WBAC will leverage our reputable annual soccer tournament to expand our capacity to provide cultural experiences for Somali audiences in the future. Our ability to plan and execute similar programming in the future and to incorporate arts in WBAC's other year-round events will gauge increased capacity of WBAC to provide arts experiences.

Measurable outcomes that will determine success of the project include:

- Number of soccer players and teams who register and compete, information that will be collected via digital registration sheets
- Number of audience members who attend tournament games, which will be collected via tally counters by volunteers stationed at the entrances
- Number of audience members who attend other Festival events, information that will be collected by Project Directors
- Number of tickets sold to the finale live music performance
- Diversity of participants (whether WBAC is successful in engaging Somali community members as well as non-Somali community members and a diversity of ages in order to engage intercultural interaction.), which will be collected via interviews, surveys, and staff/volunteer debriefs
- Qualitative and Quantitative feedback from written surveys (which will be distributed after the Somali cultural events), digital surveys (which will be distributed by email to those who purchase tickets to the finale live music performance through the ticketing website), and simple SMS surveys that will be presented on Augsburg's digital video board during games.

We will also evaluate our goals and outcomes using “programmatic inclusions,” which build assessment tools into the events and activities. Assessment tools will be tailored to the specific goals of each activity (e.g. a post-workshop survey will measure change in skills and knowledge of Somali music). Assessment tools can include participatory activities such as writing down answers to questions or prompts.

We will collect and review evaluation data throughout and after the program. We will hold training and brainstorm sessions with staff and volunteers in advance of the Festival on how to evaluate outcomes and how to course correct to improve outcomes based on observations and feedback over the course of the Festival. We will look for evidence of changes in connection to community, attitude about Somali culture and heritage, and the perception of relevance of the activities to the participants' interests and background.

If we are able to use Arts Board funding, we will hire a professional evaluator (an Evaluation Fellow) who will design our evaluation protocol, including surveys and observation rubrics; work with volunteers to distribute and collect surveys; attend all activities to record observations; facilitate group discussions; conduct interviews with artists, players, and audience members; and write a comprehensive report on results. The Research Fellow will lead before and after learning labs to train staff and volunteers on how to record observations and gather data and to share evaluation results for future course corrections.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Hennepin, Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Nicholas Rogers, Matt Shipman, Greg Holker, Coach Ahmed