

Lake Region Arts Council

Proposed modifications to Biennial Plan, FY2020-2021

Impacting FY21

In response to the impact of COVID 19 pandemic, LRAC will add extra flexibility to our grantee agreements. Grantee requests for grant modifications will result in addendums to the grant contracts. The pandemic's effect on artists and arts organizations stability has been taken into consideration and the effect of the down turn in the State's economy will have on the State funding available to the Lake Region Arts Council.

Changes to grant programs:

1. In compliance with passage of a MN Bill that extended the FY19, 20 and 21 funding deadline to June 30, 2020, LRAC will extend the grantee deadlines to June 30, 2022.
2. Applicant eligibility for Project and Legacy grants may be limited to arts organizations only, this is pending approval at the June 16, 2020 LRAC Board meeting.
3. LRAC Board approve allowing FY20 Op. Support grants impacted by Coronavirus restrictions, to shift approved expenses to a different Op Support category and allow payment of FY20 Op. Support grants final 20% prior to submission of final reports.
4. LRAC Board approved Project and Organization Legacy grantees to convert remaining final 20% payment to operating support. Grant contract outcome for the conversion amount would be "Minnesota arts organizations report having access to the resources, information, personnel, audience, etc. they need."
5. LRAC Board approved Project, Organization Legacy, and Operating Support grantees to request final 20% payment to help with cash flow during the quarantine even though the events have been postponed.

Changes to services:

1. Rent for the LRAC Main Gallery is \$15,900/yr. In FY20 the rent was funded by the McKnight Foundation. Because of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic the Gallery has been closed indefinitely. Artists have also been impacted by loss of income. The McKnight Foundation would like to see more of their funding go directly to artists. In order to keep the Gallery space as a resource and important service to artists, LRAC would like approval to use \$7,950 of McKnight funding and \$7,950 in Base funding to keep the Gallery Space. The Base funding is carry over from money saved through the Payroll Protection Program Loan. This would only be for FY21.
2. The Artist Cohort program will see the addition of \$7,950 in McKnight funds as a stipend to the 6 artists that participate in the program. LRAC and Region 2 Arts Council are in negotiations to partner to offer Springboard's Work of Art Series online in both regions, and will focus on engaging Native American artists in both regions. Region 2 has an interest in developing an Artist Cohort program similar to LRAC.

Changes to LRAC Board meetings and staffing:

1. More Board meetings grant reviews will be held on line. It is possible that of our 10 meetings per year, 6 to 8 meetings may be virtual. Open meeting laws will be followed.
2. LRAC staff will continue to work from home until September 2020, The LRAC office will remain closed to the public

Changes to the LRAC Budget:

In early April, LRAC conducted a series of personal phone calls with arts organizations leaders and artists to determine what they valued concerning how LRAC would use it's diminished FY21 funds to support the arts. Their feedback was to keep the grant programs we have, no new emergency funds, be as flexible as possible to accommodate cancellations and postponements, and keep the level of funding as close to FY 20 as possible.

The changes to our grants outline previously, were based on this feedback. If the cut to LRAC funds from the General Appropriation and Legacy funds are in the range of 10% to 20% funding to our grant programs will be at the FY20 level. If cuts are higher than that, grant funds will need to be reduced.

Final note:

LRAC is still planning and responding to changes in our constituents needs, and changes in the projections of the FY21 funding for LRAC. We will file additional amendments to this notice of change to the FY20-21 Biennial Plan.