FISCAL YEAR 2026
ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2025 -
JUNE 30, 2026







MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Ensuring that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in the arts



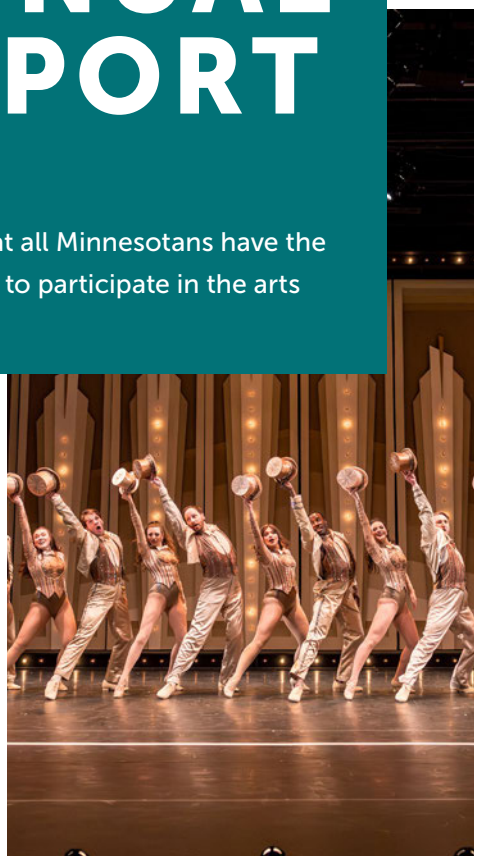









TABLE OF CONTENTS

FY 2026 Year in Review 3

25-Year Strategic Arts Framework 23

FY 2026 Financial Statement 26

Minnesota State Arts Board
- FY 2026 Summary of Requests and Grants 27

Regional Arts Councils
- FY 2026 Block Grants 28
- FY 2026 Summary of Requests and Grants 30

Rules Changes 31

Complaints / Concerns 31

Minnesota State Arts Board
- FY 2026 Members 32
- Members' Conflicts of Interest 33

Grant Advisors
- FY 2026 Advisors 34
- Advisors' Conflicts of Interest 41

Minnesota State Arts Board Staff 43

This report describes Minnesota State Arts Board activities between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

It is submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 129D.02, subdivision 5.

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

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

All photos supplied by grantees. Cover: 410 Project, Mankato; Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, Saint Paul; Arts Center of Saint Peter, Saint Peter; Letterpress Printing, Meander Art Crawl, Montevideo; Park Square Theater, A Chorus Line, Saint Paul; Festival de las Calaveras, Minneapolis; Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka; Duluth Playhouse, Seussical, Duluth; Selby Avenue Jazz Festival, Saint Paul

YEAR IN REVIEW

The sparkle in a child's eyes as she takes a bow at her dance recital. The memories parents create with their children as they hold hands at a summer arts festival. The bonds that form as a young boy learns how to carve from an elder, gaining discipline and resilience. A pause in a busy week for slowed breath and relaxation during a moving piece of music at a concert. The confidence a teenager gains as he takes the stage in a play and becomes someone else in front of his community. The owner of a restaurant looking out on a full dining room the night an arts center opens a new exhibition next door.

These are only a few examples of the countless ways the arts touch our lives. The reasons Minnesotans embrace the arts are as unique as each person: for some, the arts bring joy and inspiration; for others, the arts help them make friends and feel less isolated; for business owners, the arts generate income; for some, a book or a cultural performance helps them learn about people or times different from their own; and for young people, the arts help develop the confidence and competency they will need to succeed in school and life.

At their core, the arts exist to inspire, uplift, explore, reflect, and share what makes us human. At the same time, arts activities produce larger societal benefits such as community pride, academic achievement, improved health outcomes, tourism, and broad-based economic development.

The Arts Board strives each day to help Minnesota residents and communities have access to meaningful kinds of arts experiences. We are grateful for the ongoing support that we receive from the Governor and the Minnesota Legislature. During fiscal year 2026, the State of Minnesota appropriated $45,484,000 to the Minnesota State Arts Board. Of that amount, $7,798,000 came from the state's general fund and $37,686,000 came from the state's arts and cultural heritage fund. This report offers insights into how those funds were used to serve Minnesota residents and communities.

Grant making

Grant making is the Arts Board's primary activity. In FY 2026, the board offered seven competitive grant programs: Accessible Arts, America250-Minnesota Arts Grants, Arts Education, Arts Experiences, Cultural Expression, Creative Individuals, and Operating Support. It received and reviewed more than 1,600 grant applications and awarded 812 grants totaling $30,613,848.

The following are the grant programs offered, and a few examples of grantees and their activities that were supported in fiscal year 2026. A complete list of all grants awarded is available on the Arts Board Web site at **https://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/2026/index.htm**



ANDERSON CENTER, *Children's Book Festival* | RED WING

YEAR IN REVIEW

Accessible Arts

People with disabilities face significant barriers to the arts as creators, participants, and attendees. Accessible Arts grants are meant to increase the capacity of the arts sector to make arts experiences more accessible. Funds can be used for investments that will have a longer-term impact on the applicant, such as professional development related to accessibility (i.e., staff or volunteer training, etc.), hiring accessibility consultants to conduct accessibility audits and/or develop accessibility plans, etc. Funds may also be used for small physical or equipment investments that will make programming more accessible (i.e. assisted listening, captioning equipment, grab bars, etc.).

The Arts Board received 41 applications in this program requesting nearly $800,000. It was able to award 21 Accessible Arts grants totaling $390,615.

The following are just a few examples of those investments:

- **Northern Light Opera Company** (Park Rapids) received funds to work with North Star Inclusive Strategies to improve its overall accessibility infrastructure, creating a more welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities.
- **Full Circle Theater** (Minneapolis) hired a part-time accessibility coordinator to implement accessibility strategies identified during an audit; and consultants to train staff, board, and artists in accessibility awareness and reparative wellness practices.

FEATURED STORY



HOPEWELL MUSIC COOPERATIVE NORTH | MINNEAPOLIS

Hopewell Music Cooperative North

Hopewell Music Cooperative North is a nonprofit music school in Minneapolis dedicated to providing affordable, inclusive, and engaging music education. Founded in 2012, the school serves as a critical resource by removing financial and geographical barriers through sliding-scale tuition and low-cost instrument rentals. An Operating Support grant contributed to offering music lessons, Hopewell Music's multigenerational ensemble program, ongoing equipment rental, and neighborhood workshops, classes, and seasonal camps empowering local musicians and youth.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Paradise Center for the Arts** (Faribault) hired an accessibility consultant to work with the staff and volunteers to develop an ADA action plan encompassing programming, policies, access services, and organizational approach.

- **Northern Clay Center** (Minneapolis) engaged its teaching artists, staff, and board in training to more universally address areas in which the Center can make programs and facilities more accessible. The training focuses on adaptive practices and the implementation of adaptive equipment.



DUNIYA DRUM AND DANCE | BROOKLYN PARK

Arts Education

This program makes grants to help Minnesotans develop personal relationships with an art form(s) by supporting learning experiences for individuals of all ages and abilities. Project grant funds may be used for age-appropriate classes, workshops, camps, after-school programs, online education programs, community arts education, school residences or partnerships, etc.

The Arts Board received 288 applications in this program requesting more than $8.4 million. It was able to award 138 Arts Education grants, totaling $4,050,017.

The following are just a few examples of those investments:

- **Aurora Center for the Arts** (Fosston) received funds to offer a series of visual and performing art classes for adults, children, and youth bringing new and expanded arts experiences to participants.



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA, *Golden Voices* | MINNEAPOLIS

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Minnesota Dance Theatre & School** (Minneapolis) received a grant to provide free dance classes in public schools and full tuition scholarships for a year-round dance program. These programs are designed to develop dance techniques and creativity and promote social and emotional growth.
- The **Ely Folk School's** (Ely) grant helped it offer and expand folk art classes and programming organized and taught by local artists and culture bearers.
- **Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota** (Saint Paul) received support to provide dance classes for Tibetan children (aged 5-18) to engage and discover traditional Tibetan performing arts, connecting them to their cultural heritage.
- **Manoomin Arts Initiative** (Naytahwaush) coordinated six artist residencies in Mahnomen and Waubun schools, where students created an art publication to build their literary and visual arts skills.
- **Little Theatre of Owatonna** (Owatonna) offered a five-day summer theater camp and theater field trips for local public school students.
- **Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop** (Minneapolis) delivered eight, in person creative writing classes to Minnesotans incarcerated across eight state prisons. Courses were designed in collaboration with "writers collectives" of experienced students at each facility.



GRANITE AREA ARTS COUNCIL | GRANITE FALLS



SELBY AVENUE JAZZ FESTIVAL | SAINT PAUL

YEAR IN REVIEW

- The **Avon Hills Folk School** (Avon) hosted April Ogimaakwe Stone to present a series of demonstrations and workshops in black ash basketry. Learners observed and practiced construction techniques and the harvest and preparation of materials.
- **Girl Scouts River Valleys** (Saint Paul) offered a summer camp for Hmong girls to help them learn about their culture and history through unique cultural arts activities.
- In partnership with celebrated artist J. D. Steele, the **Capri Theater** (Minneapolis) received support to offer Capri Glee!, a north Minneapolis adult community choir that provides in-depth arts learning and creative expression while boosting community connections and comradery.
- The Penguin Project at **Northern Starz Children's Theatre** (Ramsey) gave individuals with disabilities the opportunity and skill set to be a star, both onstage and offstage.
- **CommonBond Communities'** (Saint Paul) grant enabled it to collaborate with professional teaching artists to deliver four 16-week arts education classes for low-income older adults living in its affordable housing communities across Minnesota.

FEATURED STORY



ELY FOLK SCHOOL | ELY

Ely Folk School

The Ely Folk School is a noncompetitive, intergenerational community learning center located in downtown Ely near the Boundary Waters. Founded in 2015, the school connects more than 80 local artisans and experts with a wide variety of learners to celebrate the culture, wilderness, heritage, craft, and history of northern Minnesota. With its Arts Education grant, the organization continued its offerings and expanded folk art classes and programming organized and taught by local artists and culture bearers.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Paul Van Dyke** (Northfield) used his grant to teach four, ten-week creative writing courses (two fiction/two creative nonfiction) to U. S. military vets and vet family members, and host a public reading highlighting student work.
- The **Crossing Arts Alliance** (Brainerd) grant helped the organization expand its art education offerings to more sites and communities in the central lakes area, guiding residents of greater Minnesota in learning about art and encouraging creative expression in people of all ages and abilities.
- **Highland Friendship Club** (Falcon Heights) provided opportunities for teens and adults with disabilities to explore their creativity, connect with their peers, and engage with their community through theater training/ performance, and photography classes.
- **New Native Theatre** (Saint Paul) collaborated with the Division of Indian Work for its Youth Summer Camp, open to the public and designed for Native Americans living in the Twin Cities. Students have an opportunity to practice conventional theater skills led by Native instructors and professional artists.



CHOPS, INC. | MINNEAPOLIS



MAINSPRING | CALEDONIA

YEAR IN REVIEW

Arts Experiences

Arts Experiences grants support individuals and organizations who provide meaningful arts experiences for Minnesotans within their communities. Funds may be used for a variety of arts programming such as creating and/or presenting concerts, plays, tours, exhibitions, arts festivals, public art, or other kinds of activities that provide Minnesotans opportunities to engage in arts activities that are instilled into community and public life.



WEISMAN ART MUSEUM, *Rug Life* | MINNEAPOLIS

The Arts Board received 453 applications in this program requesting more than $12.7 million. It was able to award 166 Arts Experiences grants totaling $5,011,386.

The following are just a few examples of those investments:

- **Zeitgeist** (Red Wing) received funding to present Blue in the Distance, a performance event featuring chamber music and video by Minnesota artists designed to be presented in planetariums in outstate Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro.



CLIMB THEATER, *Olive and the Cosmic Clash* | INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

- **825 Arts** (Saint Paul) received a grant to produce the Frogtown Arts Festival, welcoming more than 1,000 attendees to enjoy dozens of diverse local artists, vibrant performances, vendors, and family-friendly activities that celebrate the neighborhood's culture.

- **Resounding Voices** (Rochester), a chorus for people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia and their care partners, received support for weekly rehearsals and seasonal public concerts, offering participants and caregivers comfort and a sense of joy through shared singing and performance.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- The **Selby Ave JazzFest** (Saint Paul) received support for the 25th annual festival in 2026, featuring a day of live jazz, interactive kids' arts activities, and artist demonstrations. The event also included food vendors and a small business market, all within a strong, inclusive community environment.
- **Northern Lakes Arts Association's** (Ely) grant helped it offer theater productions, two youth camps, and nine free concerts as part of the 2026 Broadway in the Boundary Waters season, ensuring accessible arts experiences in rural northern Minnesota.
- The **Urban Village** (Saint Paul) is using its funds to present year-round arts programming in Saint Paul that supports Knyaw (Karen) and Karenni artists through workshops, exhibitions, pop-up markets, and cultural events that celebrate and preserve community heritage.
- **Meander Art Crawl** (Appleton) presented the 2026 Meander Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl, a self-guided tour of more than forty artist studios designed to engage new and repeat audiences in southwest Minnesota.

FEATURED STORY



MANKATO AND NORTH MANKATO ACT ON ALZHEIMER'S | MANKATO

Mankato and North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's

Mankato and North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's is a volunteer led, grassroots action organization established in 2014 with a mission of building an impactful dementia friendly community across Mankato and North Mankato. With an Arts Experiences grant, the organization provided meaningful, community based arts engagement activities for people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, also including a programmatic mission of supporting those individuals' care partners.

- **Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota** (Saint Paul) produced four performances of Sad Times by David Almquist in the Midway/Frogtown community of Saint Paul. The play was written, acted, conceived, codesigned, and directed by DSAMn's Advanced Acting Class, who are all artists with Down syndrome.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Vintage Band Festival** (Northfield) presented a lineup of concerts by historic bands that exemplify the evolution of U. S. military and ceremonial bands from the Civil War to present day. The three-day festival helped to celebrate the country's 250th birthday.
- **Minnesota Salsa Fiesta** (Minneapolis) engaged over seventy-five performing artists and hundreds of attendees by presenting an outdoor showcase of salsa music, Latin dance, and Latino art in Minneapolis in July 2026.
- **Minnesota Ballet** (Duluth) staged a refreshed production of Sleeping Beauty, including a sensory friendly performance. The performance offered neurodiverse individuals and their families a supportive and meaningful opportunity to experience live ballet.
- **Brook LaFloe**, Turtle Mountain, (Saint Paul) receive funding to host a cultural sharing series of workshops, including beadwork, ribbon work, quillwork, and screen printing. The sessions, co-led with other Native artists and culture bearers, help pass on traditional and contemporary art skills.
- **Inspire, Inc.** (Ada) received support to provide arts programming for persons with disabilities in rural northwest Minnesota featuring activities such as photography, sketching/portraits, sculpture, instrumental classes, and theater involvement (as both audience members and performers).

FEATURED STORY



CHOICE UNLIMITED | DULUTH

CHOICE unlimited

CHOICE unlimited is an organization in Duluth that supports individuals with disabilities and those experiencing barriers to employment and community inclusion. It assists nearly 170 individuals annually across eight northeast Minnesota counties, helping transition students from high school to work and serving adults through tailored community programming. With an Arts Experiences grant, it provided participatory platforms for self-expression in theater, dance, visual art, music, and creative writing for people with disabilities, and educated the public about the possibilities inherent in all individuals.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Good Harbor Hill Players** (Grand Marais) offered public workshops to create a large-scale puppet pageant to celebrate the summer solstice and a shadow puppet show to celebrate the winter solstice encouraging community involvement of all ages and skill.

- **Twin Cities Jazz Festival's** (Saint Paul) grant helped it attract 35,000 festival goers from throughout the state of Minnesota to Lowertown and downtown Saint Paul, showcasing 200 Minnesota jazz artists from diverse communities and genres.

- **The Lakes Bluegrass Festival** (Pine River) received funding for its 20th annual festival in 2026, celebrating and preserving American roots bluegrass music. The event featured live main stage performances, interactive workshops, and impromptu jam sessions.

- **The Indian Music Society of Minnesota** (Minneapolis) produced a series of six, in person classical (Asian) Indian music concerts and two lecture demonstrations that showcased Indian music and cultural heritage with Minnesota audiences.



ROCHESTER ART CENTER, *Ageless Art* | ROCHESTER

- **Eric Elefson** (Two Harbors) received a grant to produce and direct Shakespeare in the Park with local artists, presenting two performances in Two Harbors, accompanied by artist talks.

- **The Velvet Tones** (Apple Valley) senior choir shared the joy of music with the community by performing concerts at churches, retirement homes, care facilities, and veteran centers reaching audiences with limited access to live performances.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Cultural Expression

This program supports activities that share, explore, pass on, express, or celebrate culture through the arts. Culture may be defined by a common ethnicity, tribal affiliation, geographic or regional identity, occupation, language, or recreation. Traditional and contemporary forms of cultural expression may be funded in this program. Funds could be used to support practicing a cultural art form; presenting cultural festivals, community celebrations, performances, media or exhibitions; offering demonstrations, etc. Funds could also be used to deepen or pass on cultural traditions through apprenticeships or documentation.

The Arts Board received 192 applications in this program requesting more than $5.3 million. It was able to award 46 Cultural Expression grants totaling $1,387,011.

The following are just a few examples of those investments:

- **Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College** (Cloquet) received support to present a year-long Preservation of Traditional Arts workshop series, celebrating and helping preserve endangered Ojibwe traditional art forms.
- **BORIKÉN Cultural Center** (Mounds View) hosted its annual Parranda Boricua celebration, honoring various Puerto Rican folkloric traditions. Participants could engage in community healing and belonging through musical performances, dance, and holiday related customs.



TALIESIN NYALA | WINONA



CIRCUS JUVENTAS | SAINT PAUL

YEAR IN REVIEW



COMMUSICATION | SAINT PAUL

- **Waḳaŋ Ṭípi Awaŋyaŋkapi** (Saint Paul) commissioned artists and developed public programming as part of the Dakota Lifeways program, an integrated traditional cultural and ecological art initiative.
- **Roseau County Historical Society's** (Roseau) grant helped it host a year-long cultural series celebrating and sharing the cultural heritage of the region through music, dance, food, and art.
- **Cow Tipping** (Minneapolis) received support to help seventy Minnesotans with intellectual and developmental disabilities—half BIPOC and half from greater Minnesota—build intersectional disability culture and publish seven radically self-representative chapbooks, celebrated in community events.
- **Dan Yang** (Saint Paul) and his team received a grant to produce a bilingual animated video program Once Upon a Time. This twelve-episode series introduced Minnesota audiences to the rich tapestry of classic Hmong folklore and mythology.
- **Centro Tyrone Guzman** (Minneapolis) worked with professional Latine artists to engage low-income Latines of all ages in creating a Día de Muertos community altar, hosting a public celebration event, and documenting and sharing the stories of three Latine altar artists.
- **Mewinzha Ondaadiziike Wiigaming** (Bemidji) received support to coordinate traditional and contemporary arts workshops in Bemidji. Through creative expression, participants share, explore, and celebrate Anishinaabe culture across generations and identities.
- **Somali Youth and Family Development Center's** (Minneapolis) grant helped provide traditional Somali dance, henna, and fashion workshops in the Twin Cities. These activities help preserve Somali cultural traditions and share them with the broader Minnesota community.
- **Waawaate Programs** (Ely) hosted media workshops with students and educators from the Bois Forte Reservation. Participants use modern storytelling techniques to increase community connection to the land and traditional ways.
- **WE WIN** Institute (Minneapolis) received funding to celebrate African American culture by sharing the history and principles of Kwanzaa through storytelling, dance, spoken word, hip-hop, drumming, and other cultural art forms.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Creative Individuals

This program awards project grants to help individual artists and culture bearers develop or sustain their creative practices and meaningfully engage with Minnesotans. Grantees may use funds to support their creative practice and meaningfully connect to and engage with audiences, participants, students, and/or communities during the grant period.

The Arts Board received 455 applications in this program requesting more than $4.4 million. It was able to award 212 Creative Individuals grants, totaling $2,068,565.

The following are just a few examples of those investments:



LES SANDERS, Gelli Printmaking | BEMIDJI

- **Amy Sands** (Golden Valley) received a grant to commemorate the 200th year of Norwegian immigration to Minnesota by creating editioned boxed sets of polymer photogravure prints and sharing them with the community through historical centers throughout Minnesota.
- **Michael Bowman's** (Bemidji) grant helped him create traditional arts and regalia for Minnesota Indigenous communities, participate in an artist workshop to further develop skills, and teach traditional arts workshops to pass on knowledge.
- **Suyao Tian** (Saint Paul) led workshops for children of incarcerated parents, where they could use abstract paintings to process their experiences, heal through art, and tell stories, resulting in a group mural, individual paintings, and a public exhibition.
- **Brian Few, Jr.** (Minneapolis) received funding to lead filmmaking workshops for Minneapolis and Saint Paul youth, empowering them to reclaim their voices by crafting short documentaries that spotlight community stories. A public screening of the films celebrated their work and fostered dialogue.
- **Sarah Johnson** (Winona) received support to work with Winona Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Kids First after-school program to provide ongoing art activities for youth in 2026. The activities included mural making and smaller projects designed to improve the neighborhood environment.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Paul Creager** (Stillwater) produced a fifteen-minute film, Prairie Sustain, about Minnesota's last remaining native remnant prairies and their ecological importance today. The filmmaking process includes collaboration with Minnesota prairie experts and artists.

- **Pamela Gaard's** (Minneapolis) grant will help her explore the stories of caregivers and those receiving care through portraiture, to amplify their stories and show the beauty and struggle in this dynamic.

- **Bradley Hall** (Granite Falls) developed new skills in plein air painting, creating a new body of work of vanishing structures and landscapes in rural Minnesota. The project celebrates the road less traveled.

- **Jon Hinkel** (Duluth) received support to guide six apprentices in the creation of a fine press book edition documenting the voyage of a traditional Norwegian sailing vessel. The book project included two open house events and a public presentation.



MARINE MILLS FOLK SCHOOL | MARINE ON SAINT CROIX

- **Bonnie Neumann's** (Chaska) grant helped her complete specialized dance training, to work with individuals living with Parkinson's disease.

- **Elizabeth Albert-Peacock** (Cloquet) developed and published two Ojibwe children's books, organizing readings across the state and conducting three writing workshops for Indigenous youth.

- **Zachary Ploeger** (Pipestone) received support to compose a set of musical pieces for wind band that highlights the culture of rural southwestern Minnesota, engaging area communities in the creation and premiere performances of the work.

- **Sophia Ek** (Minneapolis) studied Khmer art and history while developing a series of paintings to be exhibited at Indigenous Roots Cultural Center. The exhibit was accompanied by youth art workshops linked to her new work.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Operating Support



CANTUS | MINNEAPOLIS

Operating Support grants provide a vital, financial foundation that enables arts organizations to focus on mission-driven priorities, sustain core programs, and engage new audiences. The program supports small organizations such as Rumriver Art Center (Anoka), Headwaters Music and Arts (Bemidji), The Crossing Arts Alliance (Brainerd), Chatfield Center for the Arts (Chatfield), Giving Voice Initiative (Edina), Ely's Historic State Theater (Ely), Northern Lights Music Festival (Gilbert), Lanesboro Arts (Lanesboro), Great River Arts (Little Falls), Hopewell Music Cooperative North (Minneapolis), Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop (Minneapolis), Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center (Saint Paul), New Native Theatre (Saint Paul), Young Dance (Saint Paul), Teatro del Pueblo (Saint Paul), and The Barn Theatre (Willmar). It supports midsized organizations including Austin Area Arts (Austin), Lakes Area Music Festival (Brainerd), Historic Holmes Theatre (Detroit Lakes), Fairmont Opera House (Fairmont), North House Folk School (Grand Marais), Commonweal Theatre Company (Lanesboro), 826 MSP (Minneapolis), Cantus (Minneapolis), The Cedar Cultural Center (Minneapolis), Red Wing Arts (Red Wing), Paramount Center for the Arts (Saint Cloud), FilmNorth (Saint Paul), Forecast Public Art (Saint Paul), History Theatre (Saint Paul), Theatre Mu (Saint Paul), Walker|West (Saint Paul), GREAT Theatre (Waite Park), White Bear Center for the Arts (White Bear Lake), and Great River Shakespeare Festival (Winona). And it supports our largest arts institutions including the Children's Theatre Company (Minneapolis), Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Minneapolis), Minnesota Orchestra (Minneapolis), Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (Saint Paul) and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (Saint Paul).

During fiscal year 2026, the Arts Board supported 215 organizations through this program; combined grants totaled $17,641,247.

These organizations engage audiences and participants of all ages, nurture new artists and art forms, attract visitors, generate income for their communities, and enhance Minnesota's reputation as an exceptional place to live and work.

YEAR IN REVIEW

America250 – Minnesota Arts Grants

In 2026, our country commemorates its semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. The National Endowment for the Arts is one of many federal agencies spearheading the national America250 initiative. It provided special, one-time funding to state arts agencies, including the Minnesota State Arts Board, to support projects in each state that give Americans opportunities to experience and participate in the arts while celebrating our nation's history. America250 – Minnesota Arts Grants could be used to produce or present arts experiences that inspire Minnesotans to reflect on our past, showcase the rich tapestry of American stories, and honor key people and events in American history.

The Arts Board received 38 applications in this program requesting more than $177,000. It was able to award 13 grants, totaling $55,007. The following are just a few examples of those investments:

- **Drama Interaction** (Chaska) engaged Minnesota veterans in storytelling, music, and movement to honor America's 250th anniversary through workshops, a live performance, and video archive celebrating service, sacrifice, and national history.

- **Mask and Rose Women's Theater Collective** (Puposky) used its grant to present a 250th Birthday of Our American Republic celebration with a staged reading, a historical fashion show, and a patriotic sing along.





MASK AND ROSE WOMEN'S THEATER COLLECTIVE | PUPOSKY

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Borealis Chamber Artists** (Duluth) received a grant to present The American Road, a choral concert exploring American history through music, featuring works by Shawn Okpebholo that reflect diverse voices shaping the United States.

- **Folk School Warroad** (Warroad) received funding to offer four different workshops of historically accurate methods of an artistic skill.

Minnesota's regional arts councils

Minnesota has a two-tier public support system for the arts that includes the Arts Board and eleven regional arts councils. Together, the board and councils ensure that state dollars reach and serve all 87 Minnesota counties: **https://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/**

As directed by Minnesota Statutes, the Arts Board acts as fiscal agent for state funds, making block grants to each regional council. During fiscal year 2026, $12,879,510 was awarded to the eleven regional arts councils. With these funds, the councils together awarded 1,609 grants and provided programs and services tailored to the needs of their geographic regions.

A list of the eleven councils, the geographic areas they serve by county, and the amounts of their block grants can be found in the "Fiscal Year 2026 Block Grants to Regional Arts Councils" section of this report (pages 28-29). The section "Regional Arts Councils Fiscal Year 2026 Summary of Requests and Grants" (page 30) presents the number of applications received and grants awarded, as well as the total dollars requested and granted by the regional arts councils in fiscal year 2026.

FEATURED STORY



DAKOTA WICOHAN | MORTON

Dakota Wicohan

Dakota Wicohan is a Native-led organization based in Morton dedicated to preserving the Dakota language, transmitting traditional lifeways to future generations, and functioning as a vital intergenerational bridge to pass down cultural values, history, and identity. With a Cultural Expression grant, the organization conducted five hands-on adult cultural arts workshops focused on traditional Dakota artistic techniques and art forms: buffalo hide preparation, featherwork and regalia design, birchbark art and basketry, Indigenous pottery, and pipestone carving.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Partnerships I Service I Professional development

The Minnesota State Arts Board expands its capacity and extends its reach by working in collaboration with other agencies and organizations that share similar goals. The following are key partnerships that were in place during fiscal year 2026.

Percent for Art in Public Places

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

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation project cosponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Through Poetry Out Loud, high school students learn about great poetry through memorization, recitation, performance, and competition. Fiscal year 2026 was the twenty-first year that Minnesota has participated in the program.



POETRY OUT LOUD, Dr. Gwen Westerman, Minnesota Poet Laureate; Sophia Skuza Rivera, Aleena Ibrahim, Maeva Djossou at the 2026 Minnesota Poetry Out Loud state competition.

The Arts Board selected South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) of North Mankato to manage the Minnesota competition. SCSC is one of nine regional service cooperative agencies in the state. One of its key functions is to engage students and lifelong learners in academic pursuits. SCSC plans and facilitates many student academic enrichment events both regionally and statewide, reaching thousands of students annually. SCSC is well versed in competition procedures that result in fair play, organized and efficient delivery of services, and comprehensive communication to participants.

Students in twenty-seven schools participated in the program during the 2025-2026 academic year. Five regional competitions were held in February, based on the geographic location of the schools (northern, central, southern, and two metro).

Two students from each region advanced to the state competition, which was held in person on February 27, 2026, at Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center in Mankato. Sofia Skuza Rivera, a junior from Saint Paul Academy

YEAR IN REVIEW

and Summit School, was named the state of Minnesota's Poetry Out Loud champion. Aleena Ibrahim, a sophomore at Eastview High School in Apple Valley, took second place; and Maeva Djossou, a senior at Mayo High School in Rochester, took third place in the state competition.

Sofia Skuza Rivera went on to compete in the Poetry Out Loud national finals that were held in Washington, DC, in early May.

Public Benefits Research

The Minnesota State Arts Board is committed to ensuring that Minnesota residents and communities can participate in and benefit from the arts. While many of the benefits of the arts are intangible, the board strives to better understand those that are measurable. In fiscal year 2026, it carried out two large partnership research projects to evaluate the public benefits of the arts and create tools that grantees can use to measure their impact.

One project, completed in partnership with Wilder Research, focused on the ways that arts engagement contributes to positive youth development outcomes in children and young people. Youth development outcomes include a broad array of developmental aspirations, including interpersonal skills (such as communication and conflict resolution), professional skills (time management and critical thinking), and emotional wellness (such as self-esteem, confidence, and emotional regulation).

There are numerous ways arts programming can support positive youth development. Theater classes can build empathy and self-confidence. Visual arts can teach observation, analysis, and problem solving. Photography, filmmaking, and writing can help a young person develop their own voice and gain pride in their unique experiences or in their culture. Working with Arts Board grantees, the project developed tools for measuring youth development outcomes.



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE | MINNEAPOLIS



MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY | MINNEAPOLIS

YEAR IN REVIEW

The second project, completed in collaboration with Performance Hypothesis, focused on how arts activities help improve the health and well-being of participants. There is a growing body of national evidence demonstrating the impact of arts engagement on physical and mental health. The arts can also play an important role in addressing the negative health effects of social isolation and loneliness. Researchers from Performance Hypothesis worked with Arts Board grantees in nine distinct art forms (from choral music and pottery to therapeutic arts with licensed practitioners) to measure their impact on a range of health and well-being outcomes such as anxiety and stress reduction, belonging and social connection, mood, stamina, memory, recognition, and body awareness. The project also produced tools that artists, arts organizations, and other arts providers can use to measure health and well-being outcomes.

Statewide arts information

The Minnesota State Arts Board continues to utilize its Web site **(www.arts.state.mn.us)** as its primary communications vehicle. The site is designed to be a comprehensive source of information about the Arts Board and about the arts in general.

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

- Arts Board grant program details, application forms, and instructions
- Calendar of grant deadlines and grant review meeting dates
- Agendas, meeting materials, and minutes for board and committee meetings
- A list of current Arts Board members and short bios of each
- Lists of grantees for the current as well as previous years
- An interactive state map linking visitors to each of the eleven regional arts councils
- The Minnesota Arts Dashboard which tracks the status of key indicators related to the Arts Board's and regional arts councils' twenty-five year outcomes
- Program information including a map of public art that the State of Minnesota has acquired through the Percent for Art program, with information about the art and artists
- Facts about the importance and impact of the arts in Minnesota
- Links to national and state arts research and policy information
- Links to accessibility and ADA information and resources

A TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR ARTS LEGACY FOR MINNESOTA

Vision

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

In Minnesota, the arts define who we are. This is a place where people are transformed by high quality arts experiences and see the arts as essential to their communities. The arts are integrated into all aspects of our lives, connecting people of all ages and cultures, fostering understanding and respect. Arts are broadly understood to mean the products of creative expression produced by professional artists, arts organizations, and the creative expression practiced every day by Minnesotans of all ages, backgrounds, and vocations.

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

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

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

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

Guiding Principles

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

- STATEWIDE APPROACH – The needs and interests of the entire state will be considered when determining how best to allocate funds.
- DEMOGRAPHIC AND GEOGRAPHIC FAIRNESS – Minnesotans of all types, in rural areas and communities of all sizes, will recognize and experience the tangible results of the arts and cultural heritage fund. Special attention will be given to underserved areas or underrepresented groups.
- COMPREHENSIVE – A broad, inclusive, evolving definition of art will be used—from indigenous to emerging forms. The full spectrum of arts providers and arts disciplines will be considered when determining how best to serve Minnesotans with these funds.
- SUSTAINABLE – Some arts activities are meant to be one-time or short term; others are meant to exist and thrive over time. All are valuable and will be eligible for support. In the latter case, funds will be allocated strategically so that the activity or organization funded can be successful into the future, beyond the life of the arts and cultural heritage fund. Funds also will be used to create a sustainable climate in which artists can live and work.
- ANTICIPATORY AND FLEXIBLE – Decisions about how best to allocate funds will be reassessed on a regular basis and will adapt as needs and opportunities change.
- TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – Broad public input and engagement in decision making will be vital to produce the outcomes that Minnesotans' expect.
- ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP – Public funds belong to Minnesotans. The Arts Board and regional arts councils will use them in the most effective manner possible and will routinely report the outcomes achieved through the uses of the funds. The board and councils will act with integrity, ensuring that all constituents are treated in an ethical, fair, and consistent manner.

Goals and Key Strategies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

State of Minnesota		
General fund - FY 2026 appropriation		$7,798,000
General fund - carryforward from FY 2025		$318,690
Arts and cultural heritage fund - FY 2026 appropriation		$37,686,000
Arts and cultural heritage fund - carryforward from FY 2025		$2,200,602
Federal		
National Endowment for the Arts partnership grant		$1,087,138
Total Revenue		**$49,090,430**

EXPENSES

Grants - General fund		$6,944,007
Regional arts council block grants	$2,139,000	
Operating Support	$4,528,508	
Creative Individuals	$246,492	
America 250	$30,007	
Grants - Arts and cultural heritage fund		$36,070,466
Regional arts council block grants	$10,740,510	
Arts and arts access	$19,917,928	
Arts education	$4,050,017	
Arts and cultural heritage	$1,362,011	
Grants - Federal		$478,885
Creative Individuals	$418,885	
Cultural Expression	$25,000	
America 250	$25,000	
Sponsorship grants	$10,000	
Programs and projects		$253,148
Operations and services		$3,239,432
Total Expenses		**$46,985,938**

NOTES

FY 2026 unobligated funds, carryforward to FY 2027	
General fund	$374,807
Arts and cultural heritage fund	$1,447,798
Federal	$261,408
Unobligated funds, return to source	
Arts and cultural heritage fund, FY 2025 and earlier	$20,477
Federal	$2

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

FY 2026 Summary of Requests and Grants

	Number of Applications	Dollars Requested	Number of Grants	Dollars Granted
ARTS BOARD GRANT PROGRAMS				
Accessible Arts	41	$767,284	21	$390,615
America 250	38	$177,853	13	$55,007
Arts Education	288	$8,487,254	138	$4,050,017
Arts Experiences	453	$12,796,882	166	$5,011,386
Creative Individuals	455	$4,400,826	212	$2,068,565
Cultural Expression	192	$5,349,286	46	$1,387,011
Operating Support	215	$17,641,247	215	$17,641,247
Partnership Grant	1	$10,000	1	$10,000
Subtotal, Arts Board competitive grant programs	**1,683**	**$49,630,632**	**812**	**$30,613,848**
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL BLOCK GRANTS				
Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts and arts access	11	$8,455,665	11	$8,455,665
Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts education	11	$1,713,705	11	$1,713,705
Arts and cultural heritage fund, arts and cultural heritage	11	$571,140	11	$571,140
General fund	11	$2,139,000	11	$2,139,000
Subtotal, regional arts council block grants	**11**	**$12,879,510**	**11**	**$12,879,510**
Total, all applications and grants	**1,694**	**$62,510,142**	**823**	**$43,493,358**

A complete list of fiscal year 2026 grantees and grant amounts is available on the Arts Board website:
https://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/2026/index.htm

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCILS

FY 2026 Block Grants to Regional Arts Councils

Region 1	**Northwest Minnesota Arts Council**		
	Warren		
	Counties served: Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau		
	General fund block grant		$ 109,453
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant		$ 503,926
		Total	$ 613,379
Region 2	**Region 2 Arts Council**		
	Bemidji		
	Counties served: Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen		
	General fund block grant		$ 87,777
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant		$ 496,250
		Total	$ 584,027
Region 3	**Arrowhead Regional Arts Council**		
	Duluth		
	Counties served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Saint Louis		
	General fund block grant		$ 156,267
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant		$ 809,871
		Total	$ 966,138
Region 4	**Lake Region Arts Council**		
	Fergus Falls		
	Counties served: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin		
	General fund block grant		$ 125,684
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant		$ 669,827
		Total	$ 795,511
Region 5	**Five Wings Arts Council**		
	Staples		
	Counties served: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena		
	General fund block grant		$ 107,392
	Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant		$ 586,066
		Total	$ 693,458

Region 6E/6W/8 Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

Marshall
Counties served: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine

General fund block grant	$ 139,709
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$ 734,050
Total	$ 873,759

Region 7E East Central Regional Arts Council

Hinckley
Counties served: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine

General fund block grant	$ 105,260
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$ 576,305
Total	$ 681,565

Region 7W Central Minnesota Arts Board

Foley
Counties served: Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

General fund block grant	$ 169,336
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$ 869,715
Total	$1,039,051

Region 9 Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

Waseca
Counties served: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

General fund block grant	$ 123,178
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$ 658,353
Total	$ 781,531

Region 10 Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Rochester
Counties served: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona

General fund block grant	$ 191,991
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$ 973,455
Total	$1,165,446

Region 11 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

Saint Paul
Counties served: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

General fund block grant	$ 822,953
Arts and cultural heritage fund block grant	$3,862,692
Total	$4,685,645

Total, all regions $12,879,510

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCILS

FY 2026 Summary of Requests and Grants

Region	Regional Arts Council	Number of requests	Dollars requested	Number of grants	Dollars granted
1	Northwest Minnesota Arts Council	72	$508,640	67	$447,665
2	Region 2 Arts Council	207	$652,982	141	$394,520
3	Arrowhead Regional Arts Council	337	$1,356,206	174	$605,576
4	Lake Region Arts Council	107	$449,808	72	$442,440
5	Five Wings Arts Council	165	$662,638	124	$515,830
6E/6W/8	Southwest Minnesota Arts Council	166	$784,339	160	$744,341
7E	East Central Regional Arts Council	46	$352,901	45	$349,431
7W	Central Minnesota Arts Board	212	$1,239,017	130	$763,712
9	Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council	391	$827,995	310	$608,760
10	Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council	277	$1,023,622	119	$801,315
11	Metropolitan Regional Arts Council	1,273	$16,346,466	267	$4,032,429
Total		**3,253**	**$24,204,614**	**1,609**	**$9,706,019**

RULES CHANGES

The Minnesota State Arts Board did not propose new rules, repeal obsolete rules, or make amendments to its existing administrative rules (Minnesota Rules, chapter 1900) during fiscal year 2026.

COMPLAINTS / CONCERNS

The Arts Board's appeal process is outlined in Minnesota Rules, chapter 1900, section 1110. https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/1900.1110/. The process states "There is no right of appeal for disputes of decisions with respect to interpretation of review criteria. An appeal may be made only if it is asserted that the board, or its staff, or advisory panels, did not follow the policies and procedures as provided by this chapter."

The Arts Board received no appeals during fiscal year 2026.

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

FY 2026 Members

Eleven private citizens, appointed by the governor for four-year terms, comprise the Minnesota State Arts Board. The board must have at least one member from each of the state's eight congressional districts. The board meets every month to establish policies, monitor agency programs, and act upon grant recommendations.

During fiscal year 2026, the board or its committees met twenty-three times for approximately 50 hours.

The following individuals served on the board for all or part of the fiscal year 2026.

Mary Ann Aufderheide, Minneapolis
Former arts administrator
Term: July 2025 – January 2029
Congressional district: Five

Carol Bruess, Saint Joseph (*)
Social scientist, author, speaker
Term: January 2025 – January 2029
Congressional district: Six

Uri Camarena, Minneapolis (*)
Business consultant
Term: April 2024 – January 2028
Congressional district: Five

Michael J. Charron, Winona (*)
Former arts educator / higher education administrator, former state legislator
Term: April 2024 – January 2028
Congressional district: One

Richard Cohen, Saint Paul
Attorney, former state legislator
Term: July 2025 – January 2029
Congressional district: Four

Emily Galusha, Minneapolis (*)
Former arts administrator
Term: June 2023 – January 2027
Congressional district: Five

Philip McKenzie, Dilworth
Arts educator
Term: April 2024 – January 2028
Congressional district: Seven

Johanna Rian, Lakeville
Former arts administrator, former arts educator
Term: February 2026 – January 2027
Congressional district: Three

Michele Knife Sterner, Marshall (*)
Associate director of access, opportunity, success, Southwest Minnesota State University
Term: June 2023 – January 2027
Congressional district: Seven

Michael Sweeney, Wayzata
Former corporate executive
Term: February 2026 – January 2030
Congressional district: Three

Christina Woods, Duluth
Executive director, Duluth Art Institute
Term: February 2026 – January 2030
Congressional district: Eight

(*) *This individual served as an officer and a member of the board's executive committee during all or part of fiscal year 2026.*

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

Arts Board Members' Conflicts of Interest

During fiscal year 2026, board members declared conflicts of interest with the following applicants or grantees. If a member has declared a conflict of interest with an artist or organization being considered for a grant, the member recuses him or herself from discussing and voting on the grant recommendation.

Member	Conflict of interest with
Mary Ann Aufderheide	• Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
Carol Bruess	• Saint John's Boys' Choir
Uri Camarena	• Victoria Blanco
Michael J. Charron	• No conflicts
Richard Cohen	• No conflicts
Emily Galusha	• No conflicts
Philip McKenzie	• No conflicts
Johanna Rian	• Artistry (*)
Michele Knife Sterner	• Southwest Minnesota State University (*)
Michael Sweeney	• No conflicts
Christina Woods	• Duluth Art Institute (*) • New Native Theatre (*)

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

FY 2026 Grant Program Advisors

In order to ensure that its grant making is open and fair, and that it represents the diverse interests of Minnesotans, the Arts Board recruits volunteer advisors each year who review grant requests and make recommendations to the board. In fiscal year 2026, the following individuals contributed their time and expertise to the Arts Board's grant making process.

Accessible Arts

Ashley Bauer-Yuen	Maplewood
Selam Berhea	Saint Paul
Linda A. Bruning	Minneapolis
Cyd Haynes	Corcoran
Kelly Kautz	Eden Prairie
Sharon Mansur	Winona
Katie Pease	Esko
Lindsay Richins	Shakopee
Zola A. Rosenfeld	Minneapolis
Paul B. Rucker	Minneapolis
Melanie Schmidt	North Mankato
Davis R. Steen	Minneapolis
Michelle Thayer	Brooklyn Center
Xavier Thomas	Saint Anthony
Jill Zahniser	Saint Paul

America250 – Minnesota Arts Grants

Maxine Adams	Fergus Falls
Jane Olson Anderson	Thief River Falls
Holly Hacket-Rich	Duluth
Annamarie Hill	White Bear Lake
Jeff Prauer	Saint Paul
Mary Warner	Burnsville

Arts Education

Micah Amundsen	Rochester
Sam Aros-Mitchell	Minneapolis
Cheryl A. Avenel-Navara	Worthington
Betsy Bartholomew	Brooklyn Center
James W. Bartsch	Minneapolis
Maya J. Beecham	Maplewood
Kayla Boeckman	Saint Joseph
Dhana M. Branton	Minneapolis
Paige Brevick	Rochester
Gloria DeFilipps Brush	Duluth
Jian-Jun Chen-Edmund	Duluth
Joy M. Christenson	Princeton
Sara A. Cosgrove	Apple Valley
Christina A. Cotruvo	Duluth
Rachel Coyne	Lindstrom
Rudy Cronje	Saint Paul
Rachel Dahl	Chisago City
Robert D. Dante	Minneapolis
Reyna Day	Saint Paul
Casey Deming	Minneapolis
Sharon L. Elmore	Minneapolis
Anna Eveslage	New Ulm
Barbara J. Farland	New Hope
Kelly Foster Lundquist	Monticello
Carrie Frederich	Winona
Kristie E. Gaalswyk-Pomerenke	Truman
Betsy Gabler	Roseville
Casandra Garcia	Waseca
Janette Giles	Saint Paul
Isela Xitlali Gomez	Minneapolis
Wendy Grethen	Duluth
Sarah Gruidl	Hopkins
Heather Hamilton	Mankato
David A. Hamlow	Good Thunder
Renee Hammes	Bloomington
Rachael T. Hanel	Madison Lake
Joseph Hassler	Mapleton
Jennifer C. Heglund	Fergus Falls
Julia Heinen	Saint Paul
Monique Hernandez	Crystal
Youmei Hou	Bloomington
Abbey Jaeger	Burnsville
Catherine James	Grand Portage
Carla-Elaine Johnson	Saint Paul
Jacelyn P. Johnson	Plymouth
Ginger R. Juel	Duluth
Stephen Kingsbury	Marshall
Stephani LaMantia	Lakeville

Grant Program Advisors

Lauren Lange	Minneapolis
Mary Ann J. Laxen	East Grand Forks
Jean E. Louis	Paynesville
Ahmed Makaraan	Moorhead
Kim Matthews	Minneapolis
Joe McShan	Saint Paul
Nicole A. Montana	Minneapolis
Nora E. Murphy	Minneapolis
Peter Mutschler	Winona
Crystal Olson	Mankato
Tim Peterson	Minneapolis
Jennifer Putzier	Saint Charles
Cathy Rajtar	Maplewood
Carrie Robinson-Cannon	Rochester
Kathy Sanders	Bemidji
Kathryn Savage	Fridley
Dana M. Sikkila	North Mankato
Jane Sindelir	Baudette
Douglas Snapp	Burnsville
Jane Sultze	Rochester
Kristina Tiedje	Rochester
Jessica Vansteenburg	Bloomington
Yeeleng Vue	Minneapolis
Waabiigaagaagiikwebik	Laporte
Valerie Williams	Winona
Ross D. Willits	Roseville
Cindy Wilson	Elysian
Heather Wright	Elgin
Katelyn Yee	South Saint Paul
Rose Youngmark	New Hope
Joey Yow	Merrifield

Arts Experiences

Mick Alvarez Flores	Saint Louis Park
Eric Anderson	Minneapolis
Melodie Bahan	Minneapolis
Halie Bahr	Minneapolis
Tom Barna	Eagle Lake
Morgan L. Baum	Hutchinson
Terrell Beaudry	Saint Michael
Anna J. Becker	Minneapolis
Lisa L. Berman	Saint Paul
Esther Blevins	Minneapolis
Emma R. Bohmann	Saint Paul
Stephani M. Booker	Minneapolis
Holly R. Brown	Duluth
Maija Brown	Minneapolis
Kara Carmack	Minneapolis
Sunny Chanthanouvong	Elk River
Raj Chaudhary	Maple Grove
Judy A. Cooper Lyle	Minneapolis
Kenna Cottman	Minneapolis
Jon S. Dahl	Spring Valley
Holly L. Day	Minneapolis
Alice De Yonge	Pemberton
Robert M. Doyle	Aitkin
Lyle Elliott	Minneapolis
Rachel Engstrom	Golden Valley
Paola F. Evangelista	Saint Paul
Megan Fair	Wayzata
Erik A. Farseth	Saint Paul
Brigid Fitzgerald	Minneapolis
Siena Forest	Robbinsdale
Jessica L. Fraser	Columbia Heights
Rebecca Froehlich	Saint Paul
Judi Gay	Annandale
Cynthia A. Gehrig	Inver Grove Heights
Shirin Ghoraishi	Minneapolis
Peter Giebink	Minneapolis
Caroline N. Glawe	Minneapolis
Christine Goatley	Minneapolis
Anna Grabrian	Ironton
Robyn Gray	Little Falls
Frances Haight	Minneapolis
Sharon Hanifl-Lee	Hugo
Lydia A. Hansen	Rochester
Nick Healy	Mankato
Lona Hendricks	Cologne
Carolyn Hiller	Minneapolis
Kirk M. Hoaglund	Saint Paul
Kirby A. Hoberg	Plymouth
Ryana Holt	Saint Paul
Rebecca W. Horn	Winona
Sonja M. Jacobsen	North Mankato
Jenny Jenkins	Minneapolis
Sue Johnson	Brainerd
Camryn Jordan	Minneapolis

Grant Program Advisors

Caleb Kerkman	Minneapolis
Bryan Koulouris	Saint Paul
Jennifer A. Kramer	Minneapolis
Amoke Kubat	Minneapolis
Patrick M. Lichty	Winona
Mary Beth Magyar	Rochester
Anne G. Makepeace	Saint Peter
Brian J. Malloy	Grand Marais
Jane Martins	Eagan
Theresa N. McConnon	Saint Paul
Eileen McCormick	Roseville
Jeff Meyer	Moorhead
Eric Molho	Minneapolis
Annette M. Nawls	Rochester
Jenny Nellis	Morris
Tom Nelson	Cokato
Loren Niemi	Minneapolis
Jaclyn Nott	Minneapolis
Ana Perez	Saint Paul
Penny J. Perry	Duluth
Gary E. Peter	Minneapolis
Rebecca L. Petersen	Fergus Falls
Kenneth Piatt	Maple Grove
Nicole Plombon	Richfield
David P. Quady	Minneapolis
Scott E. Roberts	Faribault
Brian Rowe	Minneapolis
Lara Roy	Minneapolis
Phaedre Sanders	Saint Paul
Jake Spartz	Saint Paul
Peter F. Spooner	Duluth
Becca Stabler	Saint Paul
Eun-Kyung Suh	Fridley
Sara A. Tan	Minnetonka
Susan Tarnowski	Plymouth
Mary Jo Thompson	Minneapolis
Gayle Thorsen	Minneapolis
Lai Sze Tso	Mankato
Nese Tulay	Saint Paul
Jill Underwood	Minneapolis
Carli Vergamini	Duluth
Wendy Vidlak	Vadnais Heights
Kate St. Vincent Vogl	Plymouth
Liz Walker	Minneapolis
Patricia A. Walsh	Minneapolis
Michelle W. Wingard	Minneapolis

Creative Individuals

Carolyn A. Aarsvold	Alexandria
Silvana Agostoni	Minneapolis
Julie A. Ahasay	Duluth
J. Anthony Allen	Minnetonka
Cris Anderson	Minneapolis
Jill Anderson	Hopkins
Shari Aronson	Minneapolis
Racquel Banaszak	Minneapolis
Lynne C. Beck	Lake Elmo
Archie Bongiovanni	Minneapolis
Sandy Boren-Barrett	Maple Plain
David Bowman	Minneapolis
Darcy Brambrink	Laporte
Rachel B. Breen	Minneapolis
Robert L. Briscoe	Minneapolis
Jacob Burket	Lino Lakes
Amber Burns	Duluth
Anika Byrne	Saint Paul
Tim Byrns	Duluth
Paige Carlson	Minneapolis
Julie E. Censullo	Minneapolis
Caleb Christianson	Cohasset
Karley Colberg	Osakis
Amelia L. Colwell	Roseville
Nancy L. Cook	Saint Paul
Josie Cooke	Duluth
Mo Darwish	Lakeville
Taylan De Johnette	Minneapolis
Vincent W. DeZutti	Minneapolis
Katharine Eksuzian	Victoria
Jenna Erickson	Minneapolis
Kevin Fenton	Saint Paul
Kathy Fischer	Lake Elmo
Hannah M. Frick	Minneapolis
Catherine R. Friend	Red Wing
M E Fuller	Montevideo
Aaron A. Gabriel	Minneapolis

Grant Program Advisors

Mariel R. Garcia	Saint Paul
Susanna C. Gaunt	Duluth
Margo Gray	Side Lake
Sarah Green	Saint Paul
Yvette R. Griffea-Gray	Minneapolis
Jill Hamilton	Minneapolis
Nicole A. Havekost	Rochester
Jacqueline C. Hesse	Saint Paul
Lisa Higgs	Rochester
Steve Hirsh	Willow River
Chrissy Holm	Minneapolis
Lisa M. Horton	Duluth
Liz Houlton	Minneapolis
Carolyn J. Huber	Saint Paul
Alejandra E. Iannone	Columbia Heights
Monica Ihrke	Duluth
Jacklyn N. Janeksela	Duluth
Mary E. Johnson	Minneapolis
Mary P. Johnson	Shoreview
Patti Kameya	Saint Paul
Brooke Kanther	Burnsville
Beth Kellar-Long	Saint Paul
Johanna Keller-Flores	Saint Paul
Halee S. Kirkwood	Minneapolis
Laura Kissoon	Saint Paul
Ann Klefstad	Duluth
Julie A. Koehnen	Minneapolis
Emily H. Kretschmer	Mankato
Megan Krueger	Minneapolis
Kathleen Kvern	Minneapolis
Ren Lamott	Duluth
Dralandra D. Larkins	Minneapolis
Nic Lincoln	Minneapolis
Annie Lindenberg	Mankato
Anna Lindner	Winona
Dodie Logue	Delano
Shakun Maheshwari	Orono
Mary Jane Mansfield	Minneapolis
Marianne M. Manzler	Minneapolis
Dayna Martinez	Minneapolis
Frances Matejcek	Saint Paul
Charles V. Matson Lume	Saint Paul
Susan McLeod	Mahtomedi
Marissa McMeans	Burnsville
Megan O. McNinch	Saint Paul
Laura Migliorino	Minneapolis
Rebecca Mutrux	Minneapolis
L Nabang	Andover
Angelina Nguyen	Maple Grove
Sho Nikaido	Minneapolis
Katharine Nolan	Red Wing
John D. Noltner	Savage
Carolyn S. Olson	Duluth
Sarina Y. Partridge	Minneapolis
Roseanne G. Pereira	Minneapolis
Shelley Pierce	Mankato
Steve Pittelkow	Roseville
Ishwari Rajak	Minneapolis
Dawn M. Rossbach	Menahga
Lynaea Russom	Minneapolis
Holly Rutherford	Eden Prairie
Anne Rynearson	Northfield
Anne Saari	Minneapolis
Yukina Sato	Mankato
Patricia L. Schaber	Mahtomedi
Luverne G. Seifert	Saint Anthony
Anat M. Shinar	Minneapolis
Robert Sidenberg III	Minneapolis
Samantha Simonich	Minneapolis
Nicole S. Simpkins	Minneapolis
Ailee Slater	Mankato
Jon A. Solinger	Pelican Rapids
Mike Speck	Winona
Molly K. Stoltz	Saint Peter
Graham Sutherland	Minneapolis
Josh Thoreson	Hollandale
Jacob Timmons	Saint Paul
Tahnee Trenberth	Minneapolis
Moira I. Villiard	Minneapolis
Ling Wang	Lauderdale
Britt Waterman	Minneapolis
Elayna P. Waxse	Minneapolis
Wendy Weckwerth	Robbinsdale
Margaret Weidner	Mendota Heights
Larry Weinberg	Saint Francis
Lauren Wenner	Saint Peter
Phoebe West	Saint Paul
Lila R. Westreich	Minneapolis

Grant Program Advisors

Samantha Whipple	Red Wing
Vas L. Wojtanowicz	Rice
Sara Wrolstad	Saint Paul
Choua Yang	Fridley
Jolanta L. Young	Inver Grove Heights
Judith A. Yourman	Plymouth
Jake S. Yuzna	Minneapolis
Cameron A. Zebrun	Minneapolis
Nicole C. Zickefoose	Maple Grove

Cultural Expression

Tony Adah	Moorhead
Rebeka Alemayehu	Minneapolis
Siham Amedy	Moorhead
Stephenie B. Anderson	Fosston
Krista Anderson-Larson	Minneapolis
Gene Bird	Minneapolis
Crystal Boyd	Burnsville
Victoria A. Carpenter	Saint Paul
Becca Cerra	Minneapolis
Beth Dow	Minneapolis
Wesley Dunnagan	Northfield
Tina Dybvik	Minneapolis
Rolf C. Erdahl	Apple Valley
Irmak Ertuna Howison	Roseville
Abike Eyo	Saint Cloud
Susan A. Foss	Sandstone
Ritika Ganguly	Saint Paul
Sophia Gilbert	Saint Paul
Tracy Harris	Saint Paul
Sriram Iyer	Excelsior
Ayida Jlé	Minneapolis
Alissa Jordan	Minneapolis
Jamie Kalakaru-Mava	Bloomington
Jenna L. Kubly	Woodbury
Michele Lackey	Minneapolis
Jessiena A. Lake	Waverly
Charliey Libra	Minneapolis
Margaret Lindahl	Minneapolis
Arnee Martin	Saint Paul
Presley Martin	Minneapolis



SAINT PAUL NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK | SAINT PAUL



KAREN ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA | ROSEVILLE

Grant Program Advisors

Kelly McKay	Minneapolis
Brandon Plombon	Richfield
MaryLynn Pulscher	Minneapolis
Jacque Rosenau	Plymouth
Patty Ryan	Minneapolis
Jamie R. Schwaba	Winona
Riza Shahid	Minneapolis
Laurel Stinson	Red Wing
Suzanne E. Szucs	Rochester
Ashley Taylor-Gougé	Minneapolis
Kyle Thompson	Roseville
Sean Tsai	Saint Paul
Ntxhee Vang	Saint Paul
Dennis A. Whipple	Golden Valley
Cheryl Whitesitt	Brownsville
Gregory T. Wilkins	Mankato
Maryam E. Yusefzadeh	Minneapolis
Hayley K. Zacheis	Saint Paul
Linda M. Zelig	Roseville

Operating Support

Korma C. Aguh-Stuckmayer	Golden Valley
David Banjavic	Minneapolis
Molly Hayes Baril	Minneapolis
Dot Belstler	Andover
Susan Berdahl	Shorewood
Kathleen Blomquist	North Branch
Christopher Brown	Minneapolis
Mike Brown	Robbinsdale
Debra Collum	Chatfield
Tanya L. Gravening	Minneapolis
Janet Grove	Maple Grove
Abbey Guggisberg	Good Thunder
Heidi Haaland	Minneapolis
Emily Harring	Minneapolis
Scott J. Hebert	Duluth
Krista Hoitomt	Minneapolis
Deborah K. Jensen	Rogers
Rachel Joyeux	Saint Paul
Margaret J. Kelly	International Falls
Emily H. Kelson	Saint Paul
Brenda Langerud	Waterville
Zoe Malinchoc-DeVoe	Red Wing
David Marty	Grand Rapids
Kathrine M. McDowell	Battle Lake
Cait McGowan	Saint Paul
Tomi Oluwatomini	Saint Paul
Micah Ruelle	Minneapolis
Fresa Sanchez	Saint Louis Park
Karen Scott	Minneapolis
Becky Smith	Minneapolis
Sarah Stephens	Minneapolis
Kameron Q. White	Minneapolis
Erin A. Wojciechowski	Duluth
Michelle A. Wolfe	Blaine
Amy Wyant	Palisade



TU DANCE, Alvin Ailey Dance Event | **MINNEAPOLIS**

Grant Program Advisors

Operating Support, artistic evaluators

Melissa H. Brandt	Rochester
Hannah Foster	Minneapolis
Dawn Frederick	Saint Paul
Davi Gray	Minneapolis
Paul J. Hustoles	Mankato
Vaughan Judge	Waconia
Russ Kaplan	Minneapolis
Aaron R. Kerr	Saint Paul
Kim Konikow	Fergus Falls
Joe Lonsky	North Oaks
Shannon J. Lucas Westrum	Bemidji
Jeanette Lukowski	Alexandria
Anthony P. Marchetti	Minneapolis
Erika L. Martin	Minneapolis
Debi Martinson	Winona
Jonathan McNeill Hardy	Minneapolis
Darryl S. Murphy	Richfield
Aryca J. Myers	Minneapolis
Cortez L. Owens	Brooklyn Park
Esther B. Piszczek	Duluth
Erin Rafferty-Bugher	Saint Paul
Stevie Ray	Burnsville
Larry L. Retzlaff	Ham Lake
Avesa I. Rockwell	Duluth
Jacque Rosenau	Plymouth
Marynel Ryan Van Zee	Stillwater
Doug Sween	Rochester
William D. Venne	Minneapolis
Sabrina Wertman	Duluth
Nina Woerheide	Duluth
Nathan Wunrow	Saint Paul



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA | MANKATO

FY 2026 Grant Program Advisors' Conflicts of Interest

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

Accessible Arts

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Zola A. Rosenfeld	COMPAS, Inc.
Melanie Schmidt	Mankato Suzuki School of Music, Inc.
Xavier Thomas	FOCI Minnesota Center for Glass Arts

Arts Education

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Micah Amundsen	Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra, Inc.
James W. Bartsch	Elizabeth Hodson
Kayla Boeckman	Sauk Centre Art Lab; Mama Papaya, Inc.
Gloria DeFilipps Brush	Serenity Schoonover
Kelly Foster Lundquist	SOAR Regional Arts
Julia Heinen	American Choral Directors
Jacelyn P. Johnson	Hollywood Studio of Dance
Carrie Robinson-Cannon	Le Sueur-Henderson Elementary School, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
Kathryn Savage	Michael Gaughan
Waabiigaagaagiikwebik	Clear Waters Life Center, Pangea World Theater
Ross D. Willits	Evonne Bilotta-Burke, Artaria

Arts Experiences

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Anna J. Becker	Mary Welke
Stephani M. Booker	Vas Wojtanowicz
Judy A. Cooper Lyle	More than a Single Story
Peter Giebink	Second Shift Studio Space of Saint Paul
Christine Goatley	Jazz Access; Twin Cities Carifest, Inc.
Robyn Gray	Great River Arts Association
Nick Healy	Border CrosSing
Kirk M. Hoaglund	Lucis Luis Cardona
Ryana Holt	Eric Tretbar
Patrick M. Lichty	Great River Shakespeare Festival
Anne G. Makepeace	Square Lake Film and Music Festival
Brian J. Malloy	More than a Single Story
Annette M. Nawls	Rochester Chinese School

Creative Individuals

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Cris Anderson	Loren Niemi
Taylan De Johnette	Drew Arrieta
Steve Hirsh	Marie Olofsdotter
Jacklyn N. Janeksela	Karen Savage-Blue
Mary Johnson	Tia-Simone Gardner
Dodie Logue	Dana Sikkila
L Nabang	Lara Mimosa Montes
Sho Nikaido	Shun Jie Yong, Gudrun Lock
Shelley Pierce	Nate LeBoutillier
Ailee Slater	Brian Frink

Cultural Expression

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Tony Adah	Zeapoe Matalda
Wesley Dunnagan	Eric Broker
Sriram Iyer	Saint Therese Foundation
Ayida Jlé	LaTisha Jones
Jenna L. Kubly	Hmong Museum
Michele Lackey	East Side Neighborhood Development Company

Operating Support

Panelist	*Declared conflicts*
Molly Hayes Baril	American Craft Council
Kathleen Blomquist	Franconia Sculpture Park
Tanya L. Gravening	Full Circle Theater Company
Scott J. Hebert	Springboard for the Arts
Cait McGowan	Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

Staff

The following individuals served on the Arts Board staff during all or part of fiscal year 2026.

Chris Berry	Grants management systems administrator
Tim Brown	Percent for Art program assistant
Kaitlin Craven	Grant programs assistant
Keith Deckert	Director, finance
Jennifer Dodgson	Grant program officer
Taylor Erickson	Advisor recruitment coordinator
Sue Gens	Executive director
Mary Henry	Communications specialist
Kimberly Hocker	Information systems administrator
Lindi Holliday	Grant program officer
David Jacobsen	Data management assistant
Mary LaRoche	Percent for Art program administrator
Jamie Marshall	Grant program officer
Tom Miller	WebGrants manager
Jennifer Nasifoglu	Accounting officer
Jeffrey Niblack	Director, research and evaluation
Annie Schoonover	Grant programs assistant
Phillip Schramm	Program assistant
Tabatha Scobey	Grant programs assistant
Jillian Smith	Advisor recruitment coordinator
Megan Stalheim	Director, grants administration
Christin Urbanski	Grant programs assistant
Karl Warnke	Work sample coordinator
David White	Director, finance and grants administration
Adam Wiltgen	Grant program officer
Sarah Wojciechowski	Advisor training and support specialist

MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD

Minnesota State Arts Board
540 Fairview Avenue North, Suite 304
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Minnesota Relay 7-1-1
msab@arts.state.mn.us
www.arts.state.mn.us

(651) 539-2650
(800) 866-2787



MARYANN CLEARY | CAMBRIDGE



BRIGHTON McCORMICK | MINNEAPOLIS