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Final Report
For Fiscal Year 2008
(July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

Submitted to the
Minnesota State Arts Board
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is a group of dedicated professionals committed to supporting, nurturing and expanding the arts; knowing that the arts improve the quality of life in our region. Our purpose is to provide promotion, technical and developmental assistance and grants to non-profit arts organizations, community groups, schools and individual artists. The nine counties served are: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Nicollet, Martin, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan.

CORE VALUES

We value: Open Mindedness, Equality of All Art Disciplines, Promotion of Artistic Excellence, Accessibility to the Arts, Availability to Our Constituents, and Maximization of Constituents' Potential.

REGIONAL UPDATE

In the past population shifts have affected the availability of funding for arts experiences, since a major component of the regional funding, and the RAC Forum funding formula, is based on population. The 2000 Census Data identified 222,790 people living in the Region 9 area. This was only a 3% growth rate since the 1990 census. The nine-county area we serve is Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan. Blue Earth County remains the most populated county in the region with 55,941 residents. No other county has more than 30,000 people. The least populated county is Watonwan with 11,876 people. Mankato is the largest central city in the region with a population of 32,427. Three cities with populations over 10,000 include: Fairmont (10,889), New Ulm (13,594) and North Mankato (11,798). Two communities approaching this size include St. Peter (9,747) and Waseca (9,611). Four mid-size towns having populations ranging from 3,500 – 4,600 are St. James, LeSueur, Blue Earth and Sleepy Eye. The majority of other small towns range in size from 250 – 2,500 on average.

Small towns tend to focus on local events at the school, sporting events, and community concerts and plays. Many of the arts organizations in the region have been serving their communities for years. Thus, they may have received grants from the regional arts council for several years. Some arts activities are concentrated in the population hub cities of Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter. However, many art organizations and community groups in out lying towns are sponsoring arts events.

In assessing the number and types of art projects funded it is evident that several art disciplines are served more with our state funded grants. In Region Nine we are fortunate to have a large variety of musical organizations and activities, both vocal and instrumental. This represents the largest art discipline we review and fund through grant applications (about 50%). In a given year, the board will review about 85-90 applications. Theater performances compose about 20% of all funded activities and so do visual art projects and exhibitions, at 20%. Dance and literature projects are less common and represent about 5% each. Under-served areas continue to be dance, literature, media art and ethnic music and dance.

Several trends in the region have affected the availability of arts experiences for the residents. Small communities face obstacles as they struggle to improve their quality of life through the arts. There is a lack of recognition for existing arts organizations and difficulty in building an audience; there are only a few adequate facilities for performances and exhibits; limited public and private funding; lower family income; limited awareness of opportunities outside the community; and limited access to high quality, culturally diverse arts experiences due to lengthy travel time and lack of public transportation.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As defined in the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council's Biennial Plan for FY 2008 and 2009, the council's goals are identified in three categories: service, program and grants. The service goal is to increase the visibility of the arts and to ensure proper use of state and foundation funding in the region by encouraging citizen participation, providing technical assistance, planning, public information and administrative assistance. The program goal is to provide information and education to the council to help them address their own development. The grants goal is to provide a variety of funding opportunities which will promote artistic growth opportunities, organizational development, and exposure to quality arts experiences.

I. Service Goal

- A. To encourage participation through an active arts council. The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Board held seven meetings in FY 2008. Our annual meeting was held in August 2007. Board members continue to advocate for state arts funding by contacting their local legislators throughout the year. Several board members and staff attended Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in March 2008. Board members are familiar with arts activities in their community and county and are required to attend several PLRAC funded activities each year.
- B. To provide assistance to local arts organizations and artists to help them reach their goals. Brenda Flintrop, the Executive Director of Prairie Lakes provided technical assistance to several arts organizations and community groups for grant writing and organizational development throughout the year. Although many groups are becoming more structured, efficient and professional, some are experiencing board burn out, reduction in volunteers and economic decline in their communities. Small communities are losing businesses and jobs which affects participation and funding for arts activities. Several groups needed staff assistance regarding developing arts programs, coordination of activities within a community and formalizing their organizational structure.

In August 2007 Flintrop facilitated a Grant Writing Workshop for Artists; discussing the PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grants for \$1,000 and Fellowships of \$2,000. The PLRAC artist workshops encourage artists to make their first ever grant application. The personal interaction with artists enables them to understand how important it is to describe a project which will advance their career and professionalism. Also, the project must be completed within a year. A majority of applicants who attend a workshop, or seek staff technical assistance are successful in obtaining a grant. Flintrop also presented a Grant Writing Workshop for non-profit arts organizations & community groups in August 2007 for organizations applying for fall Art Project and PLRAC/McKnight Capital grants.

We see our artist grant programs as a stepping stone to other grant opportunities for our artists. Through my nineteen years as a regional arts council director, I've stayed in contact with many of these artists and continue to encourage them in their careers. Over the years several artists who received grants through the regional arts council have pursued grants with the MN State Arts Board and other foundations.

We utilize only McKnight funding to focus on the needs of our individual artists.

- C. To provide arts information to the general public. The printed quarterly newsletter was discontinued in FY 2004, due to budget cuts. It still is an excellent tool to communicate with our

constituents, and therefore we have continued an annual newsletter in July and an Arts Calendar of events that is emailed monthly to constituents. The newsletter includes general information about the council, PLRAC grant programs and recipients, and local arts calendar of events. The newsletters can be viewed on our website at www.plrac.org and the Summer/July 2008 Newsletter is included. (Attachment 1) The council is committed to increasing publicity for arts organizations. As noted above, grantees events are included in the newsletter and by news releases submitted to the local media when they receive a grant from Prairie Lakes. Our printed newsletter is made possible in July through an Insty Prints Grant, which was available to local non-profit groups. We were very pleased with this donation and our constituents were also very grateful.

Staff has continued to update the entire mailing list, which is about 1690. In July 2007 we again asked constituents to send us their email addresses, so we could keep in touch with them and also send them the Arts Calendar we email each month. There is a separate database of artists and arts organizations, schools and teacher contacts. The database for each of these categories is currently at: 440 Arts Organizations and Community Groups; 935 Artists; and 305 Schools. A printed version is available upon request to constituents. Staff has responded to many calls for program information and assisted people in locating artists, and statewide arts funding agencies and resources.

- D. To provide fiscal and program accountability to the State Legislature and the Minnesota State Arts Board. The FY 2008-09 Biennial Plan was submitted to the MSAB on 5/11/07. A Final Report for FY 2008 was submitted 9/22/08. Financial reports are prepared using the QuickBooks program and reviewed at board meetings. Our operating expenses are broken down into program and general support expenses and we have a chart of accounts that identifies State and McKnight revenue and expenses. The audit for FY 2008 will be available in October 2008 from Meulebroeck, Tauber & Co., Pipestone. An un-audited financial statement dated 6/30/08 is included. (Attachment 5) All state funds are encumbered as grants and are listed as an Accounts Payable.

II. Program Goal

- A. To provide information to the arts council for grant review and design of future programs and services for the local artists and arts organizations. Prairie Lakes conducts a needs assessment every four years to provide an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the region, as they relate to the arts, and to identify needs and problems that may be addressed by our regional arts council. We conducted our Needs Assessment Survey in FY 2005.
- B. To assess grant funding and organizations served. In assessing the number and types of art projects funded it is evident that several art disciplines are served more with state funded grants. In Region Nine we are fortunate to have a large variety of musical organizations and activities, both vocal and instrumental. This represents the largest art discipline we review and fund through grant applications (about 50%). Theater and visual art activities exist but are less available in all communities. In a given year, the board will review over 100 applications and theater and visual art projects each represent about 15-20% of the total. Dance and literature projects are less common and represent about 5% each. Under-served areas continue to be dance, literature, media art and ethnic music and dance. Grant maximums for the Art Project Grant Program were \$2,800 in FY 2008. The board philosophy is that the maximum needs to remain in this range in order to equitably fund the 45-50 applicants that normally apply in this grant round.

Summary of state funding for Prairie Lakes Regional Art Council:

FY 1999 - \$216,758 FY 2002 - \$208,170 FY 2004 & 2005 - \$142,442
FY 2000 & 2001 - \$213,612 FY 2003 - \$199,844 **FY 2006, 2007 & 2008 - \$143,175**

In FY 2008 Prairie Lakes awarded 83 grants for a total of \$127,865 (State funds \$93,865 & McKnight \$34,000). The grants ranged in size from \$150 - \$2,800; and about 37% of those activities focused on youth. Art Project grants \$85,465; Small Arts and Arts-In-Education \$18,900; PLRAC/McKnight Capital \$4,500; PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship \$10,000; and PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grants \$9,000.

C. To complete a needs assessment survey of arts organizations, community groups and artists. A total of 1017 surveys were sent out to individual artists, arts organizations and community groups that produce or sponsor arts activities in the nine county area. Using the current Prairie Lakes Arts Council database, 800 Artist Surveys were sent and 104 were returned (13% response). A total of 217 organization surveys were sent and 44 were returned (20% response). As an incentive for returning the survey Prairie Lakes offered gift certificates for artists and organizations. All surveys returned were put into two separate drawings to receive the certificates. Artists could win a \$25 gift certificate to an art supply store (6 @ \$25 each) and organizations could win a \$50 publicity certificate to a local newspaper (3 @ \$50 each).

Of the groups responding to the organization survey, 40% identified themselves as an arts organization and 39% as a community group. A majority of the organizations have been in existence for over 20 years (56%), while only 18% are under 10 years old. Regarding their activities, 23% produce their own events, 25% sponsor or present an event and 41% of the organizations do both producing and sponsoring of arts activities. Arts Organizations and Community Groups were asked if the reduced state funding to PLRAC and its programs had affected their organization; 66% responded yes and 27% responded no. How it affected them was broken down into categories. Primarily organizations said they will have to increase: membership/registration fees 32%, ticket prices 27%, and other 9% (a variety of items were listed). Reductions were more varied and are listed below. **The organizations said they had to reduce:**

- ◆ Publicity 30%
- ◆ Programming 18%
- ◆ Pay to director, organist, etc. 16%
- ◆ Number of performances 14%
- ◆ Scholarships 14%
- ◆ Other (items listed) 14%
- ◆ Classes 7%
- ◆ Staff 7%

Organizations were asked which grant programs/services they participated in and those ranking the highest were: 64% Sponsorship/Production Art Project, 18% Small Arts Project, 11% Arts-In-Education, 11% McKnight Art Project, 14% McKnight Capital, and 16% PLRAC Newsletter. The Operating Support grant was discontinued a couple years ago, but when asked 64% noted that it would help their organization and should be re-instated, along with 39% expressing support for a new Community Arts Education Partnership grant between schools and local arts organizations.

Organizations were asked what additional needs they have (frequent, occasional or no need) for a variety of development topics: Promotion and Marketing, Board & Volunteer Needs, Activity Planning, Coordination with other Organizations, and Technical Assistance. **A majority of those responding said they Occasionally Needed assistance with all of these topics.** Those listed as frequently needed, which seemed significant were: 55% increase audiences, 41% seeking business donations, 39% fundraising projects, 32% increasing earned income, 23% co-sponsoring events, 20% grant writing and 20% working with the media.

They were also asked what are the main obstacles to arts development in our region and the top five items were: 18% Insufficient public awareness regarding the positive economic effects of arts on a community, 15% Lack of public awareness as to the necessity of the arts in all our lives, 13% Insufficient foundation and corporate funding in the region, 12% The current economic situation of our region and local communities, and 11% Shortage of media coverage, local, regional and statewide.

New information was gathered on this survey regarding the use of the internet to obtain information. With the reduction in state funding we have relied more on the internet as a method to contact organizations and provide them with updated information. Although 84% said they had access to the internet and 73% have an email account, only 30% go on-line daily, 20% weekly and 20% monthly. Of those responding to the survey 66% have visited our website, 54% have downloaded an application form, but only 32% have looked at our on-line newsletter.

The Artist Survey provides valuable background information regarding artists' discipline, years of experience and training, exhibition and sales in the area. The level of participation in PLRAC sponsored programs and services were very good. About 59% of the artists responding to the survey said they've participated in the Regional Juried Art Exhibition, 23% in the Individual Arts Project Grant Program and 24% in a PLRAC grant writing workshop. Many artists also added comments on their survey form regarding suggestions for the regional art exhibition, reinstating a printed copy of the newsletter, and expressed positive support and praise for PLRAC's past efforts for artists.

Of the artists responding, 46% identified themselves as an emerging artist, 27% an established professional artist, and 22% hobbyist. Of those responding, 71% were female, 52% were age 40-59, and 33% were arts educators. The discipline breakdown was: 73% visual art, 10% music, 4% literature, 1% dance and 8% other. Artists supported the continuance of the regional art exhibition, artist project grants and workshops. Workshop topics that ranked the highest include 36% exhibition opportunities, 18% personal promotional skills-marketing, 18% creating a website and 16% grant writing.

New information was gathered on this survey regarding the use of the internet to obtain information. With the reduction in state funding we have relied more on the internet as a method to contact artists and provide them with updated information. Although 82% said they had access to the internet and 71% have an email account, only 47% go on-line daily (which is a higher percentage than the organizations), 23% weekly and 10% monthly. Of those responding to the survey 42% have visited our website, but only 33% have looked at our on-line newsletter, also only 13% have downloaded an application form.

III. Grants Goal

- A. To encourage all forms of art in the region. The council supported a variety of arts activities and art disciplines with grants in FY 2008. Copies of the grant guidelines and applications for the three state funded programs are attached. (Attachments 2-4)

In FY 2008 Prairie Lakes awarded 83 grants for a total of \$127,865 (State funds \$93,865 & McKnight \$34,000). The grants ranged in size from \$500 - \$2,800; and about 31% of those activities focused on youth. Art Project grants \$85,465; Small Arts and Arts-In-Education \$18,900; PLRAC/McKnight Capital \$4,500; PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship \$10,000; and PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grants \$9,000.

The data collection information on these grants was electronically transferred to the MN State Arts Board. The number of organizations participating in the councils grant programs is very steady from year to year. The arts organizations we work with in region nine are very stable with only a very few discontinuing programming or ceasing to exist. However, their growth is limited and primarily they continue similar programs.

A majority of arts activity in our region is music, both instrumental and vocal. Therefore about 50% of the grants awarded by PLRAC represent this discipline. Theater and visual art activities are the next most active and thus receive funding. For the last several years now community education, 4-H groups and libraries have sponsored and coordinated more youth art activities. Children's theater is very popular and several community education departments have sponsored Prairie Fire Children's Theater of Barrett, MN to present a children's play with local children.

For several years the board has addressed funding both established arts organizations and new activities. Therefore, in order to spread the funds out more and fund more arts activities and organizations the board has placed maximums on all grant programs and also recommends partial funding of grants, in some programs, as necessary. In general, the quality of arts activities presented in grant applications in our region is very high.

PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship Grant. This was a new program in FY 2008 and these grants provide professional artists with financial support that enables artists to further their work and their contribution to their communities. Funds could be used to support a broad range of study or activities, including continuation of work already in progress and exploration of new directions. Fellowship Grants of \$2,000 each were awarded to five artists, for a total of \$10,000. Ten artists applied for funding; and it was unfortunate that we did not have enough funds to fund all of them.

Ten Percent for Children Legislation. Under Objective A. of the Grant's Goal - we acknowledge that we funded arts programs intended primarily for children with our state funds. Although currently the state does not require that 10% of state funds will be distributed for this purpose, we have continued to document the number of grants and the amount awarded. From the lists below you will note that the symbol "♦" is noted behind the grant amount awarded for each organization that primarily benefits children. **Included in the state grants funded are 33 organizations/projects focusing on youth participation, totaling \$40,256.** We granted \$127,865 in FY 2008 and 10% represents \$12,786. Therefore, we can still document that more than 10% of our funding benefit youth. The youth activities that were funded focused on a variety of disciplines and activities including dance classes and performances, music classes and performances (both vocal and instrumental), children's theater, visual art classes; and artist residencies in the schools and field-trips to arts activities.

- B. To seek additional arts funding. Seeking additional funding was a priority this year and we successfully applied for and received grants to partially fund our 16th Annual Regional Art Exhibition in May 2008. Grants were received from the E.F. Johnson Foundation, Waseca; Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Lakefield; and Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation, Rochester. We continue to receive funding from the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis and administered the following grant programs: Capital, Art Project, Fellowship and Emerging Artist Project Grants, for a total of \$34,000. We prepare separate Final Reports for each private foundation. The McKnight Foundation is the only other source of re-grant funds. A full description of the exhibition is listed after C.

- C. To promote and fund rural arts activities in all of the region's communities. The council is sensitive to the needs of our established and emerging arts organizations. Several new arts groups, community groups and schools applied to our programs this year and all were funded. A majority of those grantees were in the Small Arts and Arts-In-Education category. Separate funds are set aside for this program with \$2,100 per county for a total of \$18,900.

16th Annual Prairie Lakes Regional Juried Art Exhibition

The 16th Annual Exhibition was held at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 S. Broad, Mankato; from April 30 – June 12, 2008. Overall, we estimate that about 750 people viewed the exhibition at the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato during the six week exhibition. This juried exhibit is an opportunity for emerging and established artists to display their work in a professional setting. As a result of our art exhibition artists are contacted by local art centers to exhibit their work in the future and by the public to purchase their work. In fact, a total of 12 pieces were sold to community members and businesses for a total of \$3,960.

A total of 241 works of art were submitted for the exhibition. The juror selected 106 pieces for display. About 190 people attended the opening reception from 1–3 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2008. Cash Awards of \$1,300 were presented to artists. Cash Awards included: 1st Place - \$200 and 2nd – 6th were \$150, \$125, \$100 \$75 and \$50 respectively. The ten Merit Award Winners received \$50 each, and the People's Choice Award received \$50. It should be noted that award winners selected by the judges reflect the diversity of artwork submitted ranging from acrylic, oil and watercolor paintings, drawings and photography to ceramics and sculpture. Award winner's names are listed in the Art Exhibition Brochure, which is enclosed.

Two pieces of artwork were purchased totaling \$800, with funding from the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation and Prairie Ecology Bus Center; and were donated to the Arts Center of St. Peter for their permanent art collection. A representative of the art center assisted in making the selections. Funds were cut by the E.F. Johnson Foundation in 2008 and therefore there were no purchase awards to the Waseca Art Center this year. We had to reduce expenses by 30% this year due to this reduction. This was detrimental to the exhibition this year and we hope that full funding will be awarded in 2009.

Bus stipends to local schools to attend the art exhibition were available in 2008 using E.F. Johnson Foundation funds. About 400 students and teachers toured the exhibition using the bus stipends and we estimate another 100 students from the Mankato area viewed the exhibit on their own. Nine schools requested information, but some of them ran into scheduling difficulties within the school and restrictions on doing any field-trips. It takes a lot of staff time to contact schools and coordinate these tours, but they are very beneficial to students and teachers. Seven schools from six different towns attended the exhibition and received bus stipends in May 2008. The principal and teachers were informed that this was a self-guided tour and they are required to bring several chaperones. Volunteers at the Carnegie Art Center provide a welcoming host, general overview of their facility and a brief summary of the regional art exhibition noting that it is a competitive show, which is judged and the top artists receive cash awards. The seven schools which received bus stipends were:

1. Eagle Lake School (46 students, grade 5)
2. LeCenter High School (50 students, grades 9-12)
3. LeCenter Elementary School (40 students, grade 5)
4. Loyola Catholic Int. School (52 students, grade 5)
5. Madelia Elementary School (52 students, grade 5)

6. Minnesota New Country School (*15 students, grades 6-12*)
7. St. Paul's Lutheran School (*21 students, grades 3-8*)

The Carnegie Art Center is paid a stipend for the use of their building and assistance in coordinating the exhibit. They also provide the experienced staff needed to hang the exhibit which can be very difficult, given the large number of works which must be displayed. Their art center volunteers also provide their time for the public viewing hours, Wednesday thru Saturday 1-4 p.m. and Thursday 1-7 p.m.

We paid a professional artist to judge the exhibition. He spent about seven hours reviewing the artwork and selecting the work to be displayed and those that will receive awards. The juror's comments on the exhibition were "I found the opportunity to jury the 16th Annual Prairie Lakes Regional Exhibition to be an engaging experience. It is an exhibition that celebrates a diverse range of media, scale, process and idea. My selections are based on three main criteria: 1) strong sense of craft (formal design elements, understanding in care of materials and presentation), 2) sense of "process and discovery" in the creation of the work and 3) depth and inventiveness of concept. Ultimately, I'm asking how do I find "meaning" in the work: do I find it memorable, challenging, surprising, thoughtful, stimulating and sensitive. I'm engaged by work that asks questions and doesn't give easy or obvious answers. I believe the work selected for this exhibition demonstrates a strong sense of "clarity" of process and concept while honoring mystery and ambiguity."

The juror was Wendell Arneson, Minneapolis. Wendell received his BA from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, his Art Education Certification from the University of Wisconsin, and his MFA from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Wendell Arneson has been on the faculty at St. Olaf College since 1978, specializing in painting (oil, acrylic & watercolor), drawing and color design. His works have been shown at places such the Toledo Museum of Art, Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis, Wichita Art Center, Rochester Art Center to name just a few. There are numerous corporate and public collections of his work found in businesses such as the Ford Motor Corporation, 3M Corporation and the First Bank Corporation.

Publicity included: news releases to all media in our nine county area; television promotion through "Community Update" on KEYC-TV, North Mankato; and two paid ads in Applauze and Centered magazines, Mankato. The free news releases sent to all media in the nine-county area has proved very successful for past art exhibitions. The Mankato Free Press article on 5/17/07 was also very good this year and they highlighted and interviewed two artists in the exhibit; and put on link on the Free Press website to view a slide show of artists work. Entry forms were sent to over 650 visual artists in our nine county region. **This exhibition is another tangible example of the many talented visual artists in our area and it represents the artistic diversity and quality of our rural artists.** We will continue to highlight the regional exhibition and the award winners in our newsletter and on our website, www.plrac.org.

FY 2008 Grantees: 83 grants totaling \$127,865

Art Project Grantees - \$85,465 (\$74,965 State & \$10,500 McKnight funds)

<u>Art Project Grants awarded in October 2007</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Arts Center of Saint Peter	Nicollet	\$2,800
Arts & Heritage Center, Montgomery	LeSueur	\$2,800
Bethany College, McManhan Hill Book Talks	Nicollet	\$1,830

Blue Earth Valley Concert Assoc.	Faribault	\$2,800
Bothy Folk Club	Watsonwan	\$2,070
Dance Conservatory of S. MN, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800 ♦youth
Fairmont Opera House	Martin	\$2,800
Mankato Area 77 Lancers	Blue Earth	\$2,800 ♦youth
Mankato Figure Skating Club	Blue Earth	\$2,500 ♦youth
MN State Univ., Mankato, Dept. of Music	Blue Earth	\$2,800
MN Valley Chorale, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
MN Valley Sweet Adelines, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
Musicorum, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
Saint Peter Choral Society	Nicollet	\$2,800
Waseca Arts Council	Waseca	\$2,800
Waseca High School Jazz Festival	Waseca	\$1,800 ♦youth

Art Project Grants awarded in March 2008

Arts N' More Festival, Amboy	Blue Earth	\$1,800
Blue Earth Town & Country Players	Faribault	\$1,800
Carnegie Art Center, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
City of St. Peter, River Crossings art fair	Nicollet	\$2,500
Cornstalk Arts Festival, Dunnell	Martin	\$2,500
Good Thunder Reading Series, MSU, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
Govenaires Drum & Bugle Corps, St. Peter	Nicollet	\$1,800
Lutheran Music Program, St. Peter	Nicollet	\$2,800 ♦youth
Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra	Blue Earth	\$2,800 ♦youth
Mankato Children's Chorus	Blue Earth	\$2,800 ♦youth
Merely Players Community Theatre, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$2,800
MN Agri. Interpretive Center, Farmamerica	Waseca	\$1,400
MN Gymanfa Ganu Assoc., Welsh Celebration	Nicollet	\$ 875
MN Over 60 Band, Gaylord	Sibley	\$2,800
New Prague Czech Singers	LeSueur	\$ 900
Project G.E.M., Lake Crystal	Blue Earth	\$2,800 ♦youth
Rock Bend Folk Festival, St. Peter	Nicollet	\$2,500
SMILES, Ctr. For Independent Living, Mankato	Blue Earth	\$1,800
Waseca Chamber of Commerce	Waseca	\$1,590 ♦youth
Waseca County Historical Society	Waseca	\$1,800

Small Arts and Arts-In-Education Grants – Awarded by County \$18,900

<u>Blue Earth County - \$3,245</u>
Amboy Area Community Theater (SA) \$700
Committee Against Domestic Abuse (SA) \$500
Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
Maple River High School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
Mankato Area Girl Scouts (SA) \$645 ♦youth

Brown County - \$2,100

New Ulm Suzuki School of Music (SA) \$700 ♦youth
Sleepy Eye Community Education (SA) \$700 ♦youth
Springfield Community Theatre (SA) \$700 ♦youth

Faribault County - \$1,200

DHS, Inc., Delavan; Poets & Storytellers (SA) \$700
United South Central Middle School, Kiester (AIE) \$500 ♦youth

LeSueur County - \$1,400

LeCenter Elementary School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
LeSueur-Henderson High School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth

Martin County - \$3,100

Fairmont Community Educ. & Recreation (SA) \$500 ♦youth
Five Lakes Elementary School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
Granada-Huntley-East Chain School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
Martin County West ECFE, Welcome (SA) \$500 ♦youth
Midwest All-Star Concert Band (SA) \$700

Nicollet County - \$2,600

Hillstrom Museum of Art, GAC, St. Peter (SA) \$500 ♦youth
MN Valley Music Teachers Assoc. (SA) \$700 ♦youth
St. Peter Area Children's Theater (SA) \$700 ♦youth
St. Peter Fiddle Contest (SA) \$700 ♦youth

Sibley County - \$2,855

Gaylord Public Library (SA) \$700 ♦youth
Henderson Chamber of Commerce (SA) \$700
Henderson Sauerkraut Days (SA) \$700
MN New Country School, Henderson (AIE) \$55 ♦youth
St. Thomas Oratory, Irish Festival (SA) \$700

Waseca County - \$2,400

New Richland-Hartland Elementary School (AIE) \$700 ♦youth
Waseca Community Education (SA) \$700 ♦youth
Waseca County Historical Society (SA) \$500
Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library (SA) \$500 ♦youth

PLRAC/McKnight Capital Grants (3 grants awarded – total \$4,500)

Dance Conservatory of Southern Minnesota, Mankato, \$1,500. To purchase a computer, printer, and fax machine. ♦youth

Martin County Preservation Assoc., Red Rock Center for the Arts, Fairmont, \$1,500. To purchase portable staging for performing arts venues held at the arts center.

Rock Bend Folk Festival, St. Peter, \$1,500. To purchase a laptop computer to conduct business and plan the festival as well as record music from the festival.

PLRAC/McKnight Fellowship Grants (5 grants awarded – total \$10,000)

Ann Judkins, North Mankato - \$2,000. Ann is a visual artist and her fellowship plan is to create unique professional quality photographs from an artistic point of view. The grant will allow her to purchase new camera equipment and create new merged artistic photographs which she plans to exhibit in local and regional galleries.

Amy Korteum, Mankato - \$2,000. Amy is a harpist who arranges, composes and records music; as well as performs extensively throughout the region. Her fellowship plan is to redesign her website to keep her

current audience base informed about performances, new releases, sound clips, and also give her a more powerful and up-to-date web presence.

John McKay, St. Peter - \$2,000. John is a concert pianist and his fellowship plan is to prepare and present a recital tour of the five-state area, which will include ten performances in the fall of 2008. The program will include works by Haydn, Brahms, Chopin and new composer Mortimer Barron. John will also include information in the recital programs that will educate the audience about the composer and his works.

John Rezmerski, Mankato - \$2,000. John is a poet and his fellowship plan is to complete a book of poems inspired by the classical *ghazals* form developed in medieval Persia and adapted for use in English by Robert Bly, Adrienne Rich, and others. He will use the time to research, write and consult with fellow poets and editors to develop this new work. He will also begin submitting some of the poems to magazines and anthologies.

Douglas Snapp, Mankato - \$2,000. Douglas is a jazz musician and composer, and trumpet is his main instrument. His fellowship plan is to study the different instruments used within a jazz rhythm section, piano, guitar, bass, and drums; which will include working with several musicians as mentors in these areas during 2008.

PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grants (9 grants awarded – total \$9,000)

Greg Abbott, Playwright, North Mankato - \$1,000. Greg will develop a full-length play by participating in workshops at the Loft and the Playwright Center in Minneapolis. Funds will be used for workshop fees and travel expenses.

Bayard Black, Visual art – photography, Mankato - \$1,000. Bayard will have an exhibit in April at the Raydiance Salon Gallery in Mankato. Funds will be used to print and frame photographs for the exhibit and for publicity.

Meredith Cook, Poetry, Blue Earth - \$1,000. Meredith will use funds to pay for editing and layout expenses to organize and prepare her poems for a manuscript for publishing. She will also create a CD of her reading the poems.

Shirley Ensrud, Poetry, Blue Earth - \$1,000. Shirley will attend the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival in New Jersey in September. Funds will be used for workshop fees and travel expenses.

J. Angelique LePetit-Johnson, Literature, Mankato - \$1,000. Angelique plans to complete a first working draft of her novel, *The Caulbearer*. Funds will be used for time to write and supplies.

Trudi Remund, Visual art – watercolor, Waseca - \$1,000. Trudi will participate in an exhibit in December at the Waseca Art Center and funds will be used to mat and frame paintings for the exhibition.

Allison Roberts, Visual art – textiles, mixed media, Mankato - \$1,000. Allison will create mixed media textile pieces and enter them into several exhibits in 2008. Funds will be used to purchase supplies, fabric and to produce a portfolio of her work.

Hal Walberg, Visual art – mixed media, North Mankato - \$1,000. Hal will create several large mixed media pieces for an exhibit in 2009. Funds will be used for wood, supplies, power planer for shaping wood surfaces, gallery exhibit fees and publicity.

Autumn Zander, Music, Janesville - \$1,000. Autumn is a pianist and will attend the Dalcroze Eurhythmic Workshop in Pennsylvania in July. Funds will be used for workshop fees and travel expenses. She will prepare a recital program in fall 2008.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GRANTS

In order to monitor and evaluate the grants for the year, a two step process of payment is involved for the Art Project grant program. Eighty percent of the grant is paid to each grantee one month prior to their

event. Once the project is completed and the Final Report is submitted and approved, the final 20% is paid. The Small Arts and Arts-In-Education grants are paid in full to each grantee one month prior to their event. The PLRAC/McKnight Capital, Operating Support, and Emerging Artist Grantees also receive 80% upon receipt of their contract. When the Final Report is submitted and approved, the final 20% is paid.

Grantees are instructed in their contract letter that any significant changes must be reported promptly, and that permission for changes or extensions must be requested through the Executive Director. If the changes represent a major change in direction for the project, the Executive Director will bring the request before the council for approval. Grantees are required to file a final report with the council 60 days after completing their projects. Final reports are reviewed and approved by the Executive Director if no discrepancies are noted. If discrepancies exist, the director will notify the executive committee and/or full board. Final reports are always available for review by council members, and may be brought to regular meetings for review. Board members and staff who have attended funded projects report on them at monthly meetings.

The Executive Director periodically reviews the grant files to see whether organizations have outstanding final reports. Should an overdue report be indicated, the Executive Director sends a reminder letter to the grantee. The staff sends additional letters or makes calls as needed to close the files of completed projects. Grantees are reminded of the responsibilities they share with the council for full accountability of public funds. If the Final Report is more than 6 months overdue the board has the authority to deny the final 20% payment. The contract with the grantee also states "If after an additional six months the final report has still not been submitted to the PLRAC, the organization will not be considered for funding for two years from the completion date of the project."

STAFFING

Executive Director: Brenda Flintrop, employed 19 years as Arts Council Director
Administrative Assistant: Cindy Lewer, employed 13 years as Admin. Assistant/Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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