NORTHWEST REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Purpose: To promote, develop and encourage artistic growth and excellence of arts organizations and individual artists in northwestern Minnesota by awarding funds and conducting programs and services.

Program Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - $52,596 and Interest - $543; McKnight Foundation - $8,988; RDC Tax Levy - $6,552, Miscellaneous - $2,148.

Re-Grant Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - $36,735; McKnight Foundation - $25,455.

Re-Grant Programs: State Funds: Production Assistance/Sponsorship; Artist in the Schools. McKnight Funds: Individual and Student Artist Grants; Small Capital.

Service Priorities: Direction setting, grants to organizations, grants to individual and student artists, Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit, information including website, newsletter, training/workshops.

Arts Highlights

Grant Program Summaries

Production Assistance/Sponsorship
From January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006, we re-granted $25,158 to 6 different productions and 12 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Ten of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 8,188 adults attended and over 1,120 youth participated.

Artists in the Schools Grant Program
In 2006, $10,010 was regranted to area schools. Seven projects were awarded serving 2,128 students. Five additional projects applied for grants, but were not funded due to lack of funds available.

Small Capital Grants
$2,965 was granted to arts organizations to purchase various artistic equipment including training DVD's. Two organizations received awards. Ten school districts received $1,000 each to purchase artistic equipment. Items purchased included art display racks, kils, video equipment, microphones, and music software.

McKnight Artist Grants
Six adult artists and eight student artists received awards this calendar year. In the Individual Artist category $10,000 was granted. In the Student Artist category $4,000 was granted. Most awards were for technical training.

Services and Technical Assistance

Web Site Development-Arts
Updated web pages for the arts to include on-line application forms, as well as downloadable pdf forms. Also added more information on arts organizations and artists. www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm

Newsletter
Northwest Arts continued to provide a list of our grants, as well as opportunities for artists, schools, and arts organizations. Three newsletters were printed and distributed to 950 arts constituents.

2007 Northwest Artist of the Year
Audrey Sandahl, formerly of Lake Bronson, was chosen as artist of the year to honor her lifelong achievements as a visual artist prior to her death in 2005. Sandahl was very involved in community art projects and the visual artist group Artists Unlimited. Sandahl was a singer, violin player, and a poet. As a visual artist she worked mainly in watercolor.

2007 Northwest Arts Advocate of the Year
Tom Siewski of Kennedy was chosen for his outstanding service as advocate for the arts in the region. Siewski's qualifications include his lifelong volunteer efforts with the 42nd Street Song and Dance Company of Kennedy and the Stephen Arts Council. He is engaged in all aspects of the theater and of the arts. He has been involved as director, actor, producer, stage manager, sound and light technician, and set designer for countless productions. He has assisted with senior recitals, art shows, photography contests, dinner theatres, children's theatres, comedies, major musicals, fund raisers, college scholarships, the list goes on and on.
Arts Economic Impact Study

Survey results for Northwest Minnesota were presented to the public during the NW Regional Art Exhibition artist reception at the Hallock City Hall on March 27, 2006. Over 200 people attended the event. Sheila Smith, Executive Director for Minnesota Citizen’s for the Arts presented the information to a captive audience.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition

Coordinated 2006 exhibit in Hallock at the City Hall from March 23-27, 2006. This included the jury process, registration, hanging, and artist reception. 124 pieces were on display for almost a week. $1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Frank Kelley of Grand Forks.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

Adult Award Winners
1st Prize: $500.00 LaVonne Forsberg, Thief River Falls: Painting
2nd Prize: $250.00 Carol Kankel, Red Lake Falls: Jewelry
3rd Prize: $100.00 Margaret Anderson, Lancaster: Painting
Merit - Drawing: $50.00 Irene Bertils, Crookston
Merit - Painting: $50.00 James Howard, Thief River Falls
Merit - Photography: $50.00 Barbara Hansson, Lancaster
Merit - Sculpture: $50.00 Jerome Fuglsang, Fertile
Merit - Ceramic: $50.00 Robin Foster, Red Lake Falls
People’s Choice: $100.00 Rock Bakken, Hallock

High School Student Award Winners
1st Prize: $150.00 David Stapleton, Fosston: Painting
2nd Prize: $75.00 Rachel Huderle, Warren: Photograph
3rd Prize: $50.00 Sarah Amundgaard, Warren: Photograph
Merit - Drawing: $25.00 Andrew Sourdifff, Ada
Merit - Painting: $25.00 Nakita Estling, Warroad
Merit - Photograph: $25.00 Amanda Timm, Thief River Falls
Merit - Mixed: $25.00 Anya Bailey, East Grand Forks
Merit - Digital: $25.00 Jocelyn Kraska, Hallock
People’s Choice: $50.00 Anya Bailey, East Grand Forks
PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE/SPONSORSHIP
- Ada Summer Children’s Theater $1,500.00
- Middle River Community Theater $1,000.00
- Roseau County Fair $1,320.00
- Fertile Area Arts Council $500.00
- Sandhill Settlement Hist. Soc. $1,270.00
- Association of the French of the North $2,000.00
- Kittson County Fair $1,600.00
- Valley Crossing Arts Council, Crookston $800.00
- City of Karlstad $1,895.00
- Crookston Community Theater $2,000.00
- Thief River Falls Arts Council $1,500.00
- Marshall County Fair $2,000.00
- Artists Unlimited, Lake Bronson $585.00
- Thief River Falls Arts Council $955.00
- Summer Arts Stages $2,000.00
- Summer Arts Stages $1,000.00
- Crookston Library $1,800.00
- Fosston Library Arts Center $2,000.00

ARTIST IN THE SCHOOLS
- Fosston School $750.00
- Fertile Beltrami School $1,800.00
- Greenbush Middle River School $1,185.00
- Roseau Public Schools $1,300.00
- Kittson Central Public School $1,195.00
- Oklee Public Schools $1,890.00
- Plummer Public School $1,890.00

SPONSORSHIP
- Crookston Public Library $2,000.00
- Summer Arts STAGES, East Grand Forks $1,000.00
- AFRAN, Red Lake Falls $655.00
- City of Red Lake Falls $1,125.00
- Clayworks, Red Lake Falls $1,700.00
- Roseau Convention Visitor’s Bureau $725.00
- Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Education Foundation $2,000.00

SMALL CAPITAL
- Stephen Arts Council $2,000.00
- Thief River Falls Comm Arts Council $955.00
- Thief River Falls School District $1,000.00
- Kittson Central School District $1,000.00
- Stephen/Argyle School District $1,000.00
- East Grand Forks School District $1,000.00
- Fertile Beltrami School District $1,000.00
- Crookston School District $1,000.00
- Climax-Shelley School District $1,000.00
- Warroad School District $1,000.00
- Norman County East School District $1,000.00

ADULT ARTIST FELLOWSHIP
- Sherrie Gulliat, Red Lake Falls $1,200.00
- Jill Kandel, Red Lake Falls $1,200.00
- Pat Dunning, Thief River Falls $1,200.00
- Stashenko Hempeck, Hendrum $1,200.00
- Joren Kandel, Red Lake Falls $1,200.00
- Dan Andree, Ada $4,000.00

STUDENT ARTIST TRAINING MENTORSHIP
- Amelia Schmitz, Red Lake Falls $500.00
- Elizabeth Balstad, Fosston $500.00
- Matthew Brinkman, Fosston $500.00
- John Peterson, Erskine $500.00
- Rachel Aker, East Grand Forks $500.00
- Amber Dyrdaahl, Fosston $500.00
- Jared Schaper, Argyle $500.00

Arts Council members Betty Pikop (standing) and Alice Hofstad (right) talk with Charlie Lindberg of Hallock who was volunteering at the Artist Exhibit guest book table and helping with the coordination of the exhibit.