Calendar Year 2007 Annual Report

Arts

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL

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

Program Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - $52,861 and Interest - $551; McKnight Foundation - $10,138; RDC Tax Levy - $4,364; Miscellaneous - $3,246.

Re-Grant Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - $34,980; McKnight Foundation - $35,380.

Re-Grant Programs: State Funds: Arts Project; Artist in the Schools. McKnight Funds: Adult Fellowship; Student Artist Grants; Small Capital; Hispanic Arts Initiative.

Service Priorities: Direction setting, Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit, information including website, newsletter, training/workshops, directory.

Arts Highlights

Grant Program Summaries

Arts Project Grant Program  680
From January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007, we re-granted $25,190 to 5 different productions and 10 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Five of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 4,150 adults attended and over 2,400 youth participated.

Artists in the Schools Grant Program  680
In 2007, $7,175 was re-granted to area schools. Six projects were awarded serving 2,000 students. One outstanding project involved bringing in a mosaic artist to the elementary school in Thief River Falls. Four large mosaic pieces are permanently on display in their school as a result of this wonderful experience.

Small Capital Grants  680
$4,260 was granted to arts organizations to purchase various artistic equipment including a digital piano and lighting equipment. Three organizations received awards. Eight school districts received $1,000 each to purchase artistic equipment. Items purchased included art paint brushes, display cases, kilns, microphones, and percussion instruments.

McKnight Artist Grants  680
Four adult artists and nine student artists received awards this calendar year. In the Individual Artist category $7,600 was granted. In the Student Artist category $4,500 was granted. Most awards were for technical training. Only 40% of the applicants in the adult category received funding.

Services and Technical Assistance

Increasing Visibility for the Arts  680
In 2007, the Arts Council officially changed their name to Northwest Minnesota Arts Council. This change brought about new letterhead for the arts program. Staff also continually updated the 65 web pages for the arts located at www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm. Three editions of our Northwest Arts newsletter were printed and distributed to 950+ arts constituents. Staff traveled to seven school districts to talk with students and teachers about our programs and services.

Artist of Northwest Minnesota Booklet  680
Collaborated with Region 2 Arts Council to conduct a call for entries for a marketing booklet for our visual artists. 34 artists applied and went through the jury process. The booklet will be formatted and printed in 2008.

Sesquicentennial Art Exhibit  680
The Arts Council applied to the Sesquicentennial Commission and they were awarded $5,000.00 to plan and implement an art exhibit in 2008 that will involve school students creating 150 pieces of new artwork on the 150 years of statehood for Minnesota theme. All the art will be created within 5" acrylic cubes. The artwork will be displayed from May - December 2008 and beyond. Galleries hosting the exhibit for two month intervals will include Northland CTC Gallery in Thief River Falls; Fosston Library Arts Center Gallery; Roseau Library Gallery; and East Grand Forks Library Gallery.
Arts continued

Artists Count Economic Impact Study  
Partnered with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts to survey artists in terms of their economic impact in Minnesota and their overall ability to afford insurance, etc. The results showed an alarming amount of artists who are not able to afford health insurance. Very few artists in our region are able to exclusively practice their artform as their career.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition  
Coordinated 2007 exhibit in Stephen at the Stephen Arts Center from April 9 - 15, 2007. This included the jury process, registration, hanging, and artist reception. 130 pieces were on display for almost a week. $1,700.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Luther Pokrant of Winnipeg.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:
Adult Award Winners
1st Prize: $500.00 Ivy Bailie, Fosston: (painting)
2nd Prize: $250.00 Rock Bakken, Hallock: (painting)
3rd Prize: $100.00 Jerome Fuglseth, Fertile: (carving)
Merit - Drawing: $50.00 Nick Reitzel, Karlstad
Merit - Painting: $50.00 Viola Kvasager, Oklee
Merit - Photography: $50.00 Pamela Altepeter, Crookston
Merit - Sculpture: $50.00 Carol Kankel, Red Lake Falls
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 Brittany Greenwood, EGF: (painting)
2nd Prize: $75.00 Alexy Johnston, Warren: (photo)
3rd Prize: $50.00 Christian Boe, Greenbush: (mixed)
Merit - Drawing: $25.00 Kaia Korynta, Fisher
Merit - Painting: $25.00 Angle Franks, Thief River Falls
Merit - Sculpture: $25.00 Daphne George, Warroad
Merit - Mixed: $25.00 Joshua Mercil, Crookston
Merit - Digital: $25.00 Melanie Dziengel, Kennedy
People’s Choice (tie): $50.00 Brittany Czapiewski, Oslo
People’s Choice (tie): $50.00 Brittany Ryba, Warroad
ARTS PROJECT GRANTS
Middle River Community Theater $2,000.00
Roseau Friends of the Library $1,930.00
Artists Unlimited, Lake Bronson $975.00
City of Roseau $700.00
Polk County Fair, Fertile $1,000.00
Association of the French of the North, RLF $2,000.00
Sandhill Settlement Historical Society, Climax $1,020.00
Fertile Area Arts Association $1,000.00
Campbell Library, East Grand Forks $1,100.00
Oak Crest Senior Housing, Roseau $1,675.00
Middle River Community Theater $2,000.00
Summer Arts Stages, East Grand Forks $3,000.00
Crookston Library $2,270.00
Fosston Library Arts Center $2,600.00
Thief River Falls Community Theater $1,920.00

ARTIST IN THE SCHOOLS GRANTS
Fosston School $600.00
Warren Alvarado Oslo School $1,075.00
Thief River Falls School $2,000.00
Crookston School $1,050.00
Roseau School $1,350.00
Roseau School $1,100.00

SMALL CAPITAL GRANTS
Crookston Community Theater $1,520.00
Norman County West School District $1,000.00
Win-E-Mac School District $1,000.00
Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District $1,000.00
Stephen/Argyle School District $1,000.00
Fisher School District $1,000.00
Greenbush-Middle River School District $1,000.00
Warroad School District $1,000.00
Fosston Library Arts Association $1,475.00
Thief River Falls Community Theater $1,265.00

HISPANIC ARTS INITIATIVE GRANTS
East Grand Forks Library $1,200.00
Stephen Arts Council $1,200.00
Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School $750.00
Crookston School $750.00

ADULT ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANTS
Mary Jane Doak, Crookston $4,000.00
LaVonne Forsberg, Thief River Falls $1,200.00
Jerome Fuglseth, Fertile $1,200.00
Mary Ann Powlowski, Roseau $1,200.00

STUDENT ARTIST TRAINING MENTORSHIP GRANTS
Tena Patterson, Alvarado $500.00
Emilie Olson, Alvarado $500.00
Julia Liebl, Ada $500.00
Alyssa Langaas, Greenbush $500.00
Sadie Hart, Hallock $500.00
Steven Douglas, Stephen $500.00
Travis Miller, Stephen $500.00
John Ahles, Winger $500.00
Katie Loe, Hendrum $500.00

2007 ARTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
Robin and Lorrie Foster, Red Lake Falls $500.00
for outstanding skill and research in pottery

2007 ARTS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD
Lee Hoekstra, Kennedy $500.00
for exceptional volunteer service in performing arts