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: Minnesota Legislature - $73,171 and Interest - $451; McKnight Foundation - $17,364; RDC Tax Levy - $6,697; Miscellaneous - $4,073.

Re-Grant Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - $34,415; McKnight Foundation - $22,830.

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

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Planning:

Legacy Amendment
In May 2009, the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund was established through funding from the Clean water, land and Legacy Amendment. This was due in part, to educating the public on the impact that the amendment would have on increased arts activity in our region. Arts Advocacy efforts with legislators to inform them of the importance of these funds to our region included a group of constituents attending Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol in February 2009.

Joint Retreat Sessions
Extensive planning occurred during several facilitated planning retreats between the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Regional Arts Council Directors in 2009. Results were a 25 year vision, strategies, and goals for the arts in the state of Minnesota. Fundamental items related to use of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund were also identified and defined to give guidance during planning. Public input meetings were held to gain feedback on the planning documents and direction for use of the funds.

Library and Prairie Public Planning Meetings
Arts Council staff attended and actively participated in planning meetings and meetings aimed at future collaboration between the Regional Libraries and Prairie Public Broadcasting. These Public Broadcastings and the Regional Library system will both receive a good amount of new funding through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment.

Minnesota's Historic Northwest
In 2009 our office assisted this group of eleven county historical societies with a few regional projects. They are compiling a traveling exhibit on churches for next year, and have secured their non-profit status in 2009. Arts Council staff attended several meetings related to new projects that will occur in our region with Arts and Cultural Heritage funds that are now available through the Minnesota Historical Society. Joint planning efforts and collaborative projects are being considered.

Grant Program Summaries

Arts Project Grant Program
From January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, we re-granted $23,600 to 5 different productions and 8 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Four of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 8,000 adults and over 3,000 youth were impacted by the grant activity.

Artists in the Schools Grant Program
In 2009, $10,815 was re-granted to area schools. Eight projects were awarded serving 2,500 students. Several artists from the Compass Roster came into our schools for writing and photography residencies. Other schools supported our area's Safari touring children's theatre week-long workshop and productions.

Small Capital Grants
$3,730 was granted to arts organizations to purchase various artistic equipment including: lighting equipment and safety/accessibility repair to a stairway area. Two organizations received awards. Six school districts received $1,000 each to purchase artistic equipment. Items purchased included: piano, camcorder, kilns, and musical instruments.

McKnight Artist Grants
Four adult artists and eleven student artists received awards this calendar year. In the Individual Artist Fellowship category $7,600 was granted. In the Student Artist Training Mentorship category $5,500 was granted. Most awards were for technical training.
Arts continued

Arts Council Planning:

Tax Exempt Status • • •
The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council applied for and received non-profit status with the IRS in July of 2009.

Working Group Meetings • • •
A new working group of members from the Arts Council and the Regional Development Commission are meeting to make recommendations on how the partnership between the Arts Council and the NWRDC needs to grow, or change to reflect new program directions related to Arts Legacy Funding and the evolving vision in Northwest Minnesota for Art and Culture development.

Services and Technical Assistance

Promotion and Increasing Visibility • • •
In 2009 the general public was continually informed through our 65+ page web site and our Northwest Arts newsletter (3 editions) reaching 850+ arts constituents. Staff conducted four grant writing and informational workshops in 2009. Several hundred Artists of Minnesota booklets were distributed. Our 150 Years of Statehood Cubed art exhibit was on display in a couple locations in 2009 and the catalog was sent to over 100 people.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition • • •
Coordinated 2009 exhibit in Fertile at their community center from April 20 - 26, 2009. This included the jury process, registration, hanging, and artist reception. 121 pieces were on display for almost a week. $1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Sandy Kaul of Bemidji, Minnesota. Award winning pieces by students and adults are pictured below.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

Adult Award Winners
1st Place $500 Sculpture by Robin Foster of RLF
2nd Place $250 Watercolor by Deb Aune of Gatzke
3rd Place $100 Painting by Nick Reitzel of Karlstad
Merit $50 Painting by Jean Ranstrom of Alvarado
Merit $50 Drawing by Frank Kehoombaush of TRF
Merit $50 Photograph by Bruce Flagg of Fertile
Merit $50 Sculpture by Jean Reek of Thief River Falls
Merit $50 Painting by Margaret Ehling of Red Lake Falls
People’s Choice: $100 Rock Bakken, Hallock

High School Student Award Winners
1st Place $150 Pottery by Kirsten Kleven of Alvarado
2nd Place $75 Mixed by Åryanna Ostgaard of Crookston
3rd Place $50 Mixed by Ashley Woolever of Crookston
Merit $25 Painting by Harlen Lundeen of Trail
Merit $25 Jewelry by Tena Patterson of Alvarado
Merit $25 Drawing by Sara Mercil of Mentor
Merit $25 Ink Drawing by Hannah Waswick of TRF
Merit $25 Photograph by Brandon Lien of EGF
People’s Choice: $50 Erika Knutson of Salol
**Arts Grants Listing for Calendar Year 2009**

**Arts Project Grants**
- Northland Community Technical College: $600.00
- Fosston Library Arts Center: $2,160.00
- Oakcrest Senior Housing, Roseau: $880.00
- City of Oklee: $2,000.00
- Fertile Area Arts Council: $1,050.00
- Association of the French of the North: $2,000.00
- Roseau Area Friends of the Library: $2,160.00
- Crookston Library: $1,000.00
- East Grand Forks Campbell Library: $1,080.00
- Middle River Community Theatre: $3,000.00
- Crookston Community Theatre: $2,620.00
- City of Karlstad: $2,050.00
- Thief River Falls Community Arts Council: $3,000.00

**Artists in the Schools Grants**
- Crookston School District: $1,770.00
- Tri-County School District: $1,275.00
- Roseau School District: $1,200.00
- Thief River Falls School District: $1,500.00
- Lancaster School District: $1,150.00
- Thief River Falls School District: $1,500.00
- Fertile-Beltrami School District: $935.00
- Kittson Central School District: $1,485.00

**Small Capital Grants**
- Crookston Community Theatre: $1,930.00
- Stephen Arts Council: $1,800.00
- Warroad School District: $1,000.00
- Fertile-Beltrami School District: $1,000.00
- Greenbush-Middle River School District: $1,000.00
- Marshall County Central School District: $1,000.00
- Norman County West School District: $1,000.00
- Win-E-Mac School District: $1,000.00

**Student Artist Training Mentor Grants**
- Shannon Balstad, Fosston: $500.00
- Anna Christenson, Kennedy: $500.00
- Brita Christenson, Kennedy: $500.00
- Abbey Kindall, Winger: $500.00
- Jessicah Sistad, Fosston: $500.00
- Ciera Goldsmith, Lengby: $500.00
- Haylee Pearce, Argyle: $500.00
- Travis Miller, Stephen: $500.00
- Kayla Jeffrey, Warroad: $500.00
- Larissa Krantz, Karlstad: $500.00
- Sara Beaudry, Alvarado: $500.00

**Northwest Artist of the Year Award for 2009**
- Gary Stegman, Crookston (visual art): $500.00

**Northwest Arts Advocate Award for 2009**
- Honey Olson, Ada: $500.00

**Individual Artist Fellowship**
- Karen Engevik, Roseau: $1,200.00
- Nancy Vraa, Red Lake Falls: $1,200.00
- Nancy Kasprowi, Roseau: $1,200.00
- Catherine Erickson, Middle River: $4,000.00