Voices for Art

April 2015

SMAC Artist Retreat April 24-25

Come to the historic Danebod Folk School in Tyler, MN on April 25 to be inspired at SMAC’s 2015 Artist Retreat. In addition to a full day of sessions on Saturday, join us the night before for networking and on-site overnight lodging.

You’ll be able to customize your retreat by choosing from two options for each session. Here are some of the opportunities and activities planned for the weekend:

- Discover practices for creating a powerful stage presence and finding your authentic voice with professional vocal coach D’Arcy Smith of The Guthrie Theatre.
- Learn techniques for creating detailed scratchboard art with Willmar artist Shalese Sands.
- Experience mindfulness with a combination of drumming and basic meditation with Marc Anderson of the M2 Foundation.
- Try your hand at printmaking and watercolor with Pam Blake, artist and educator from Tyler.
- Explore becoming a COMPAS Roster Artist in order to do residencies in schools and communities, with Emily Isenberg of COMPAS.

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SMAC scholarships available to attend Rural Arts & Culture Summit in June: Register Now!

The 2015 Rural Arts and Culture Summit (June 2-4, 2015 at the University of Minnesota-Morris) will gather artists, art organizations, rural-centric organizations, and community and economic development leaders to learn about creative people and places that have built their stories "from the ground up" and celebrate the imaginative and creative thinking that has helped to create vibrant small town cultures. Visit the Summit website to learn about presenters and sessions.

Early bird registration rates are available through April 22, 2015. *In 2013, the Summit sold out almost 6 weeks early. While the Summit has worked with the University to allow more attendees this year, they also expect even more interest, so sign up today at www.ruralartsandculturesummit.com/registration.*

A SMAC grant to attend the Summit is available, with a simple application form on the SMAC website, www.swmnarts.org. The SMAC grant will reimburse organizations or individuals for:

- The early bird registration fee
- Up to $75 per night for lodging
- Mileage at $.40/mile (carpooling is strongly encouraged to allow as many people as possible to participate)
- A $50/day stipend for participants who have to take time off work to attend.

Awards will be made on a first come, first served basis, so get your application in early. Funding is made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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UPCOMING SMAC GRANT DEADLINES

SMAC grants must be applied for online. Go to www.swmnarts.org for program guidelines, application tutorial, and the link to the online grant system.

April 1, 2015:
  Monthly Grants: Art Legacy Project Planning

April 10, 2015:
  Art Study Opportunity for Youth
  Earliest project start date: May 15, 2015

April 15, 2015:
  Prairie Disciple Award Nominations

May 8, 2015:
  Individual Artists, Round III: Developing & Established Career Artists only (no Legacy Career)

Southwest Minnesota Council’s programs, grant awards, & workshops are made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund, by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, and regional contributions.

EXTRA GRANT ROUND: Individual Artist Grants
Developing & Established Career Artists Only
(No Career Legacy)

Application Deadline:
May 8, 2015, 4:30 pm

Earliest Project Start Date:
July 15, 2015

SW MN Arts Council awards $24,750 to artists and organizations

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS: DEVELOPING GRANTS
These grants provide up to $1,500 to aid emerging artists at an early stage of their career development.

Edie Barrett, Ortonville, $1,500 for Lucite boxes to display her nest sculptures, and to create painted photographs on canvas.

Joanne Glor, Kandiyohi, $1,500 for equipment and classes to develop skills in a new medium, kiln-formed glass.

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS: ESTABLISHED CAREER GRANTS
These grants provide up to $5,000 to aid established career artists in the advanced stage of their career development with projects that will advance their career.

Lisa Bergh, New London, $5,000 to develop a large-scale sculptural installation for an upcoming solo exhibition at Normandale Community College in Minneapolis, to complete her new 2-dimensional series, “Postures”, and to update her website.

Brad Fernholz, Appleton, $5,000 to record and release a full-length album of original songs performed with his band, Man on the Moon.

James Graham, Hutchinson, $5,000 to create a new series of large paintings, themed “Time and Narrative”, for a show at the Water Mark Art Center in Bemidji.

Nikki Bettcher Erickson, Willmar, $4,850 to direct a production of “The Vagina Monologues”.

ART LEGACY PROJECT PLANNING GRANTS
These grants provide organizations with up to $2,000 to finalize the plans for a specific large-scale project or activity that will create or advance a strong arts legacy in Minnesota.

Willmar Area Arts Council, $1,920 to issue a request for qualifications, then a request for proposals, and then to select artists to paint traffic signal boxes on First Street (Business Hwy 71 & 23) in Willmar.
Free Workshop: “Evaluating Art Projects and Programs”

Need help with evaluating your SMAC-funded projects? Register today for a free SMAC-hosted workshop (available at multiple locations) and learn all about evaluation for art projects and programs. Led by Leah Goldstein Moses of The Improve Group, this workshop is focused on the why and how to do successful evaluations for arts organizations.

When we evaluate, we gain ideas to improve our services, stories to share with others, and results to use in reports. Arts programs have unique opportunities in evaluation: there are exciting arts-based methods and evaluation provides ways for different people to think about the arts. The session will be delivered in workshop style -- combine presentation, interactive activities and group consulting/problem-solving.

Participants should come prepared to discuss their own evaluation needs and questions. During the workshop, you will:

- Learn about evaluation and when and why it is used
- Determine when a logic model can help you and how you create one
- Choose between different methods, such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups
- Find ways to build on your arts experience to be creative and have fun with evaluation
- Streamline evaluation tasks so they can be integrated into other work
- Find ways to use evaluation results to support your organization

Workshop dates and locations include:

**April 22**
10:00 am—2:00 pm
Memorial Auditorium
714 13th St, **Worthington**

April 22
4:00—8:00 pm
Marshall-Lyon County Library
201 C St, **Marshall**

April 23
11:00 am-3:00 pm
Hutchinson Center for the Arts
15 Franklin St SW, **Hutchinson**

The free workshop includes a lunch/dinner networking opportunity. It is essential that you **register by April 17** to be included in the meal count. If you are not able to attend after registering, please contact the SMAC office immediately.

Go to [www.swmnarts.org](http://www.swmnarts.org) to register.

SMAC Prairie Disciple Award nominations due April 15

The Southwest Minnesota Arts Council is seeking nominations of arts advocates from the SW Minnesota region for its 2015 Prairie Disciple award.

The Prairie Disciple Award recognizes an individual who has been instrumental in promoting the arts, whose activities and involvement have substantially contributed to the arts in the 18-county area of southwestern Minnesota. The activities involved may have taken place within the past few years or be a lifetime of contribution. Last year, SMAC accepted nominations of teachers/educators only, but this year any arts supporter may be nominated.

Since the accomplishments of these individuals are often not widely known or appreciated, SMAC hopes to raise the profile of the arts in our communities and throughout our region by recognizing them publicly.

Nomination instructions and forms, along with a list of past recipients of the award, are available on the SW MN Arts Council website at [www.swmnarts.org](http://www.swmnarts.org). The nomination deadline is Wednesday, April 15, 2015.
PlaceBase Productions: Artists’ Story Swap, April 25

Following the SMAC Artist Retreat at Danebod Folk School in Tyler on Saturday, April 25, artists are invited to dinner (5:30 pm) and conversation (6:00-7:30 pm) about the state of the arts in their region.

This Story Swap Workshop is an opportunity for artists to explore, analyze, and advocate for the local arts culture. PlaceBase Productions, a theater company that works with local communities and commissioning partners to create unforgettable site-specific theater, hopes to take a full account of the state of the arts in your region, map the landscape of your arts community, and evaluate together what impact local artists have had on the growth and development of your region as a whole. They invite artists, arts and cultural organizations, city planners and leaders, business owners and members of chambers of commerce to explore together the role and impact of the arts in our public life.

In collaboration with the 2015 Rural Arts and Culture Summit, artists Ashley Hanson and Andrew Gaylord from PlaceBase Productions will facilitate the evening. They will record the conversation, make findings available locally, and incorporate findings into a theatrical performance about the state of the arts in Minnesota at the 2015 Rural Arts and Culture Summit. Find out more about their work at www.placebaseproductions.com and more about the RAC Summit at www.racsummit.org.

Join the conversation! Your voice is important for your community!

REGISTRATION
Contact SMAC at info@swmnarts.org or 507-537-1471 to register.

SMAC Artist Retreat, cont.

- Get your hands dirty while learning hand-built clay techniques with potter Jerry Deuschle of Luverne.
- Take time throughout the day to help create a collection of poems with Athena Kildegaard.

NEW THIS YEAR: Join us after the retreat for a meal and discussion with PlaceBase Productions about your experience as an artist in the region (separate registration).

The cost of the retreat is just $15 for a full day of workshops, networking opportunities, and meals, or $35 if you add on lodging. Go to our website to register: www.swmnarts.org.

ARTIST RETREAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 (optional)
6:00 pm Arrive / Check in
7:00 pm Artist Networking

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
8:00–9:00 am Registration / Breakfast
9:00 am Welcome/Introduction of Session Leaders
9:20 am Session I
10:50 am Break
11:10 am Session II
12:30 pm Lunch
1:15 pm MASC Performance: The Cagebirds
2:15 pm Session III
3:00 pm Break / Snack
3:30 pm Session IV
5:00 pm Wrap up / Networking
5:30 pm Retreat concludes/Optional Story Swap supper
6:00 pm Optional Story Swap conversation
New study shows impact of nonprofit arts & culture on SW MN economy

At a gathering in Willmar on March 20, Southwest Minnesota Arts Council (SMAC) and Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA) released information from the new Creative Minnesota report, focusing on the arts’ impact on Southwest Minnesota’s economy. Some highlights from the report:

- In addition to contributing to our state’s great quality of life, the nonprofit arts and culture sector is also a substantial industry in SW MN, generating over $7.3 million in total economic impact annually.
- 70 nonprofit arts and culture organizations support the equivalent of 208 full time jobs in SW MN.
- Over 117,937 people attend nonprofit arts and cultural events annually in the region.
- Compared to other regions of the state, SW MN has the largest percentage of attendees that are non-local, meaning that a larger percentage of people attending our regional arts events come from outside of the region, spending money that would otherwise not come to the area.
- Compared to a similar 2006 study, there has been significant growth across the state in almost every item measured, including the number of participating organizations.

All of the research developed by the Creative Minnesota team will be available at creativemn.org.

APRIL CALENDAR

*Indicates the project was funded in part with a grant from SMAC with funds provided by the McKnight Foundation, the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, or by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund.

*April 1 SMAC Grant Application Deadline: Art Legacy Project Planning. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm.

April 3-4 & 10-11 “The Story of Esther”, Spellbound Theatricals dinner theatre. April 3: 7:30 pm, April 4: 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm, The Vine, 2630 Broadway Ave, Slayton.
April 10-11: 7:30 pm, Howard Hotel & Conference Center, 102 S Main St, Howard, SD. Info at 507-393-0100 or www.spellboundtheatricals.org.

*April 9-12 "Annie Get Your Gun", Prairie Arts Continuum production, Business, Arts, & Recreation Center (BARC), 1012 5th Ave, Windom. April 9-11 7:30 pm, April 12 2:30 pm. Tickets available at the BARC office, or call 507-831-2375.

*April 10 SMAC Grant Application Deadline: Art Study Opportunity for Youth. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm.


April 10 SMSU/Community Band: “Sketches of Spain”, 7:30 pm, SMSU Fine Arts Theatre, 1501 State St, Marshall.


April 10-12 “Don’t Hug Me, We’re Married”, Renville County West School small gym, 301 NE 3rd St, Renville. Friday & Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 2:30 pm.

*April 11 SMAC Grant Review Panel: Art Projects Round III, 9:00 am, SMAC Office, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall.

*April 11 Kids’ Art Workshops with Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien, Rushmore Community Center, Rushmore. 5-8 year olds from 10:00 am to 12:00pm. 9-14 year olds from 1:00-4:00pm. Contact Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien at 507-360-6094.


*April 12 Riverspace Passageway Community Kickoff, 11:00 pm, New London-Spicer Senior High Art Room, New London. Local residents can meet the artists and learn how they can be involved in the project to create a large mosaic sculpture near the current Department of Natural Resources switchback trailhead that leads to the foot of the dam and the Crow River.
April 12 Artist Reception: Area Art Show, 1:00-4:00 pm, Nobles County Art Center, 407 12th St, Worthington.

April 12 juBELlant Celebration, 4:30 pm, First Lutheran Church, Marshall. 11th annual concert featuring area handbell choirs. Adult admission: food shelf item, students: free.

*April 15 SMAC Nomination Deadline: Prairie Disciple Award.


April 16 SMSU Men's Glee Club & Bella Voce (women's chorus): "Songs of the Seasons". 7:30 pm, First Lutheran Church, 100 Church St, Marshall.

April 17 & 19 Crow River Singers Spring Concert. April 17: 7:00 pm, First Congregational UCC, 31 Fourth Ave SW, Hutchinson. April 19: Peace Lutheran Church, 400 Franklin Street SW, Hutchinson.


*April 17-19 Prairie Arts Chorale: "Endless Night". April 17: 7:30 pm, Performing Arts Center at Redwood Falls High School. April 18: 7:30 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Montevideo. April 19: 4:00 pm, First Lutheran Church, Marshall. Additional concerts the next weekend. Information at www.prairieartschorale.org.

April 19 Stephanie Claussen, harp, 1:00 pm, KK BERGE Building, 807 Prentice St, Granite Falls. After the concert there will be a free private group lesson for 6 people. Email GraniteAreaArts@gmail.com to sign up. The first 6 individuals will be registered.

*April 21 Southwest Minnesota Orchestra: "The Romantics", 7:00 pm, Schwan Community Center for the Performing Arts (MHS), 400 Tiger Dr, Marshall. SMO performs music by Schubert and Tchaikovsky.

*April 22-23 Evaluation Workshops for Arts Organizations. Multiple locations: Worthington: April 22, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Memorial Auditorium, 714 13th St. Marshall: April 22, 4:00 - 8:00 pm, Marshall-Lyon County Library, 201 C St. Hutchinson: April 23, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Hutchinson Center for the Arts, 15 Franklin St SW. To register by April 17, contact SMAC at info@swmnarts.org or 507-537-1471.

*April 23 Colleen Raye, 7:00 pm, Hutchinson High School, Hutchinson. Singer Colleen Raye presents "An Evening at the Cabaret", Part of the Hutchinson Concert Association Concert Series. Information at www.hutchinsonarts.org/hutchinson-concert-association.

April 23 SMSU Chorale: "And the Muse Sighed", 7:30 pm, First Lutheran Church, 100 Church St, Marshall.


April 24 Artist Reception: Malena Handeen, 6:30-8:30 pm, KK Berge Gallery, 807 Prentice St, Granite Falls.

*April 24-25 SMAC Artist Retreat, Danedbol Folk School, Tyler.

*April 24 & 26 Prairie Arts Chorale: "Endless Night". April 24: 7:30 pm, Unity Christian Reformed Church, Prinsburg. April 26: 4:00 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Spicer. Information at www.prairieartschorale.org.

April 25-26 Link Union. Classic rock, country, pop, patriotic, spiritual, Celtic, and mountain music. April 25: 7:00 pm, Park Elementary School, 100 Glen St SW, Hutchinson, presented by Hutchinson/Glencoe Concert Association. April 26, 4:00 pm, Schwan Community Center for the Performing Arts (MHS), 400 Tiger Dr, Marshall, presented by Marshall Area Fine Arts Council. Info at www.hutchinsonarts.org and www.mafac.net.

*April 26 Prairie Winds Concert Band, 3:00 pm, Willmar Education Arts Center, 611 5th St SW, Willmar.

*April 26 Crow River Area Youth Orchestra, 4:00 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson.

April 27 SMSU Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 pm, SMSU Fine Arts Theatre, 1501 State St, Marshall.

*April 28 SMAC Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall.

April 28 SMSU Symphonic Chamber Winds, 7:30 pm, SMSU Fine Arts Theatre, 1501 State St, Marshall.

GALLERIES

*SMAC Art Gallery. 114 N 3rd St, Marshall. March 5-May 1: John Larson, woodfired ceramic sculptures. Visit the gallery Monday through Friday from 8:00 am-noon and 1:00 - 4:30 pm.

Barn Theatre Art Gallery. 321 4th St SW, Willmar. April 14 -May 12, “Fragile”, various artists. In conjunction with the play, “The Glass Menagerie”. Gallery Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. For more info, call 320-235-9500 or email info@thebarntheater.com.

Carnegie Cultural Center. 205 N Freeman, Luverne. Hours are Tues – Fri, 12 - 5 PM and Sat 1-4 PM. For more info, email cahr@outlook.com or call 507-283-8294.

Clay Coyote Pottery. 17614 240th St, Hutchinson. Hours are Mon - Sat 10 - 5 PM; Sunday Noon - 4 PM, or, call ahead for an appointment, 320-587-2599. Check out www.claycoyote.com or email Betsy & Tom at claypot@hutchtel.net.

*Hutchinson Center for the Arts. 15 Franklin St SW, Hutchinson. Gallery Hours: Mon –Thurs 10:00 am — 5:00 pm. Info at 320-587-7278 or www.hutchinsonarts.org.

*KK Berge Gallery (Granite Area Arts Council). 807 Prentice Street, Granite Falls. April 2—May 15: Malena Handeen, “Good Lookin Out”, paintings. Reception & Artist Talk April 24, 6:30-8:30 pm. Gallery hours Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Info at 320-564-4240 or www.facebook.com/GraniteAreaArtsCouncil.


Nobles County Art Center. 407 12th St, Worthington. April Area Art Show. Reception April 12, 1:00-4:00 pm. Hours: M-F 2:00-4:30 pm. Call 507-372-8245 for more info.


Ridgewater College Gallery—Hutchinson. Adjacent to Commons, 2 Century Avenue SE, Hutchinson. Info at www.ridgewater.edu or 320-234-8518.


Robert Remick Gallery/Cottonwood County Historical Society. 812 Fourth Avenue, Windom. Through April 25: Cottonwood County Student Art Show. Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 4 PM & Sat 10 - 4 PM. For more info, call 507-831-1134 or email cchs@windomnet.com.

Tokheim Pottery. 2057 361st Ave, Dawson. Visit www.tokheim-stoneware.com for more info about the gallery or call 320-769-2142 or email info@tokheim- stoneware.com.


*Willmar Education and Arts Center (WEAC). 611 5th St SW, Willmar. Info at 320-235-8560 or willmarareaartscouncil.org.

Memberships & Donations Received
February 19 — March 24, 2015
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SW MN Arts Council Membership Form

Join SMAC today and have your money doubled. The McKnight Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar any new or increased donations to SMAC.

Contributions are tax-deductible. Mail your membership donation to SW MN Arts Council, PO Box 55, Marshall, MN 56258.

Name/Organization ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ______________________
Telephone ___________________________ E-mail __________________________________

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Please consider making a gift to SMAC as a memorial or in honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.