



Fiscal Year 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Grants to Arts Organizations, Communities, Schools, and Individuals

Total: 118 awards and grants totaling \$475,340 were awarded to area organizations and artists through thirteen grant programs, including:

- **\$155,073 for 42 matching grants through our Art Projects Grant Program, \$42,219 for 4 Art Project Legacy Grants, and \$4,000 for 2 Art Legacy Project Planning Grants.**
- **8 Operating Support Grants totaling \$75,496**
- **1 Arts Organization Start-up Grant totaling \$1,050 to assist with start-up and obtaining 501(c) (3) status**
- **\$2,537 for 2 Arts Organization Development Grants, awarded for organizations to increase their long-term stability and capacity through organizational development and management projects**
- **\$70,081 for 10 Equipment/Facilities Improvement Grants, awarded for the purchase of equipment items and facilities improvement that will aid in the organization's capacity to serve the community through the arts**
- **1 Board Initiated Grant for \$2,500 to sponsor the SWWC Service Cooperative's Young Artists Conference**
- **\$46,228 to 14 area schools for artist residencies and arts related field trips through our Arts in the Schools Grant Program.**
- **8 grants were awarded to students through the Art Study Opportunity for Youth Grant Program for a total of \$3,758.**
- **24 individual artists were granted a total of \$66,898 for projects to further their careers as artists through the Individual Artist Programs for Developing Artists and Established Career Artists.**

Awards

SMAC awarded the Prairie Star Award for \$5,000 in 2018 to Travis Erickson of Pipestone. The Prairie Star Award acknowledges a person whose body of work best exemplifies the highest quality of art in the 18 counties of the SMAC region. It is awarded every other year. Travis Erickson is a fourth generation Dakota pipestone carver and quarrier who has been honing his artistic skills in this medium for nearly 40 years. He currently works at the Pipestone National Monument as a demonstrator for the Pipestone Indian Shrine Association. Born and raised in Pipestone, his nominator, Erica Volkir, said, "this is his home and his art reflects that as seen in his choice of animals, plants, and Native American symbols associated with the region."

SMAC awarded the Prairie Disciple Award for \$500 in 2018 to LeAnn Atchison of Clara City. This award is to recognize a person – this year, an arts educator – who has been instrumental in promoting the arts in the 18-county area of southwestern Minnesota. LeAnn Atchison has been teaching at MACCRAY for 35 years and counting. Her nominator, Melissa Sparks, said "LeAnn has reached out and touched the lives of all who entered her classroom, regardless of their

level of artistic ability.” She has fostered the development of many successful artists and arts educators, often serving as the catalyst for significant professional and personal contributions to the field.

Technical Assistance

- **SMAC hosted the inaugural Arts Organization Summit and Artist Gathering this year! The Arts Organization Summit** focused on helping organization members network and brainstorm as well as two special sessions: volunteer engagement and the possibilities of public art. **The Artist Gathering** provided artists with the opportunity to have professional photos of their work taken, a session on creating artist resumes/portfolio kits, and networking. SMAC staff also presented at both these events to help attendees understand grant opportunities and the technical support we provide. SMAC was able to offer these events for free to the members of our region. SMAC also provided opportunities and funding for members of arts organizations to attend a local session from Minnesota Council of Nonprofits on budgeting.
- SMAC continued to provide opportunities and funding for people of our region to attend **Arts Advocacy Day at the capitol** to speak with representatives and network with other arts advocates.
- **10 Grant Writing Workshops** were conducted at the SMAC office. Attendance for workshops totaled about 30 people.
- The **SMAC Artist Retreat** was held at the historic Danebod Folk School in Tyler with **64** artists attending. **12** workshop sessions took place: marbling techniques, creating an artist resume/portfolio kit, wood/chip carving, two sessions of letterpress printing, a session on one person theatre, the difference between popular mediums of paint, slam poetry, approaches to accents and dialects, felting, the benefits of writing for mental health, and opera on the prairie. There were also **2** performances at the retreat for attendees including a one man show by Kurt Schulz, *Old Herbaceous*, and a vocal performance by Anna DeGraff. As always, there was networking opportunities for regional artists and for the first time SMAC also facilitated a “pop up gallery” where attendees were invited to share, display, or sell their own art.
- **SMAC’s Annual Arts Celebration** was held in Windom at the River City Eatery, after a day of studio tours including the Cottonwood County History Center & Remick Gallery, the Business, Art & Recreation Center, and David Strom’s Studio. The event featured our Spirit of the Region raffle and jazz music by *Kindred Spirits*. 2017 Prairie Disciple Andy Kahmann was honored at the event. (2018 Prairie Star Travis Erickson and Prairie Disciple LeAnn Atchison will be honored at the celebration in September 2018 in Ortonville.)
- The **SMAC Art Gallery** provided **6** regional artists (all SMAC grantees) the opportunity to have a solo exhibit in an accessible space. Receptions and artist talks were held honoring each artist. Exhibits in FY 2018 included: Edie Barrett of Ortonville, Charles Freiss of Marshall, Lucy Tokheim of Dawson, Glen Bruns of Marshall, Barb Hawes of Marshall, and Gregory Harp of New London. **10** regional musicians were showcased as performers at the artist receptions as well.
- The **VOICES** newsletter was published online monthly and included a calendar of events, art opportunities and news items.
- **SMAC website** www.swmnarts.org provided up-to-date information on available grants, news, on-line grant forms, calendar of arts events, and links to arts resources.

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