



## Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

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*Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties*

## **ART PROJECT GRANTS**

### **Fiscal Year 2021 Guidelines**

**Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021**

*The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the Minnesota State Legislature and the State's arts & cultural heritage fund.*

**Deadlines:** submitted online by 4:30 pm

*A limited but equal budget is available per round:*

Round I deadline: September 9, 2020	Earliest project start date: November 1, 2020
Round II deadline: December 9, 2020	Earliest project start date: February 1, 2021
Round III deadline: March 24, 2021	Earliest project start date: May 1, 2021

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. auditions, rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.). **No funds can be expended prior to the project start date.** Funds spent before the project start date, such as a deposit on a contract, cannot be included in the grant project budget. **No advertising by the applicant organization can take place before the start date**, whether or not it will be paid for through the grant. However, posting basic information such as event dates is allowed. **Projects must be concluded no later than June 30, 2022.**

### **Program Intent & Eligibility**

The Art Project grant program is open to nonprofit to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in the region. Schools are not eligible to apply for Art Project grants – see Arts in the Schools grants.

Applicant organizations must be located within the eighteen counties of the SMAC service region (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine counties*) or on tribal lands within our service area. We acknowledge that this region occupies the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota people, who have stewarded these lands throughout the generations.

### **Art Projects may include, but are not limited to:**

- Community theatre productions
- Pre-packaged theatre (such as Prairie Fire or Missoula children's theatres)
- Projects or performances involving community choirs, bands, or orchestras
- Music or dance performances
- Art productions that tour area communities
- Visual art exhibits
- Readings by authors
- Environmental art
- Public art
- Arts festivals
- Art classes for community members of all ages (excluding projects in schools)

**In addition to the restrictions listed in SMAC's general grant guidelines, following projects are NOT eligible for Art Project grants:**

- Applications that are primarily for educational projects within a school system.
- Projects for which artists are required to pay excessive entry or exhibition fees in order to exhibit or perform in the project for which funds are sought.

**Before beginning an application, you are strongly encouraged to contact SW MN Arts Council to determine if this grant program is appropriate for your project.**

### **Grant Amounts**

**Art Project grants** are available for up to **\$7,000**. In fiscal year 2021, no cash match is required.

**Pre-packaged theatre projects** are eligible for up to **\$2,500**. In fiscal year 2021, no cash match is required.

**If you have received a SMAC Operating Support grant**, you may not include pro-rated general operating costs in the budget for any other SMAC grant program (such as this ART PROJECT grant program) that occurs during the same time period as the Operating Support Grant.

### **Fiscal Sponsors**

The Art Project grant program is open to nonprofit organizations as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code with Articles of Incorporation on file with the State of Minnesota or official units of city, county, or state government of the State of Minnesota. Any formal organization not meeting this requirement may apply through a fiscal sponsor.

A fiscal sponsor is an organization meeting the requirements listed above. A signed agreement spelling out the relationship between the applicant and the fiscal sponsor must be submitted with the application. A fiscal sponsor, if used, must sign the application and, if funded, sign the Grant Contract. The fiscal sponsor is legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the proper management of grant funds.

### **Review Criteria**

The grant review panel will score your application based on:

- the project's artistic quality and merit (50%)
- the impact on the participants and audience (22%)
- the applicant's efforts toward reaching the underserved through the project (14%)
- the ability of the organization to accomplish the project (14%)

Applicants will also be awarded one additional percentage point for each of the following criteria they meet:

- First time SMAC applicant
- Applicant organization led by or primarily serving BIPOC or LGBTQIA2S+ communities or people with disabilities
- Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year

The panel's evaluation scoresheet is available on the SMAC website. Read more about the grant review process in the SMAC's general grant guidelines.