



Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

www.swmnarts.org • 507-537-1471 • info@swmnarts.org

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 LEGACY 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 State of Minnesota's arts & cultural heritage fund.

Deadlines: submitted online by 4:30 pm

Round 1 deadline: March 3, 2021

Earliest project start date: April 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 Legacy Project grant program is open to nonprofit organizations to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts through large scale projects that will leave an arts legacy in southwest Minnesota. An art legacy project should provide sustainable arts access in the community, with a continuing impact over several years. Schools are not eligible to apply for Art Legacy 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.

Applicants may choose to first apply for an Art Legacy Project Planning grant to fund activities that are necessary for planning their Legacy project, such as requests for proposals from artists, gathering community input, determining available resources and costs, or researching the feasibility or sustainability of a project.

In addition to the restrictions listed in SMAC's general grant guidelines, following projects are NOT eligible for Art Legacy 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 Legacy Project grants are available for up to **\$20,000**. 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 LEGACY PROJECT grant program) that occurs during the same time period as the Operating Support Grant.

Fiscal Sponsors

The Art Legacy 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 (46%)
- the impact on the participants and audience (28%)
- the applicant's efforts toward reaching the underserved through the project (13%)
- the ability of the organization to accomplish the project (13%)
- the outcome evaluation plan for the project

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.