ART STUDY OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH 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. Grants to individuals are taxable income. Applicants who need further information are encouraged to contact a tax preparer.

Deadline:
4:30 pm, March 31, 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, 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 paid advertising by the applicant 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 intent of the Art Study Opportunity for Youth grant is to allow students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2021 to study their chosen art form with a practicing professional artist or attend an arts workshop, series of classes, or special training opportunity. This grant program is designed to aid in the development of young artists.

All arts disciplines are accepted. Artistic areas include: dance, literature, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts. Preference will be given to students who have some experience in their chosen art form.

The project must address specific training as opposed to unrestricted support. Standard weekly lessons (such as piano or voice lessons) are allowed only for those students who qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. Arts supplies costs are allowed for students attending a MN public arts high school.

Eligibility: The Art Study Opportunity for Youth grant program is open to students entering grades 5-12 in Fall 2021 who are permanent residents 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 must be a region resident for at least six months prior to submitting an application and remain a resident throughout the contract period.

Immediate family members of SMAC Board members and SMAC staff are ineligible to apply for this grant program.

The following are NOT eligible for Art Study Opportunity for Youth grants:
- Participation in a school or organization band or choir trip.
- Applications that support strictly commercial activities; projects intended for mass-market distribution or those that have profit as the primary motive.
• Projects that include publishing that is initiated solely by the applicant (i.e., vanity press)
• Credits or materials necessary to fulfill degree requirements for students.
• Equipment requests not specifically tied to the proposed project.

Grant Amount: Up to $500 in funding, no match required

Review Criteria
The grant review panel will score your application based on:
• the overall excellence of work and demonstration of exceptional talent (50%)
• evidence of serious commitment (25%)
• project's contribution to the student’s artistic growth (25%)

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.