

SW MN Arts Council

Grant Panelist Orientation

PART 1: SMAC & Its Funding Sources

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL

- *Mission.* The Southwest Minnesota Arts Council (SMAC) is a non-profit organization committed to promoting and encouraging the development of the arts in the eighteen counties of southwestern Minnesota by serving as a source of funds and technical services which enable local organizations, educational institutions, and individuals to sponsor, create, and promote the arts in their communities.
- *SW MN Arts Council is committed to:*
 - Supporting artists and arts organizations in creating, producing and presenting high-quality arts activities
 - Overcoming barriers to accessing high quality arts activities
 - Instilling the arts into the community and public life in our region
 - Supporting high-quality, age-appropriate arts education for residents of all ages to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts
 - Supporting events and activities that represent the diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this region
- *State Arts Funding System.* As one of the 11 regional arts councils covering all of Minnesota, SW MN Arts Council is part of the state arts funding system.
 - The regional arts councils and their partner, the Minnesota State Arts Board, are working toward the following goals for MN arts funding:
 - The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life
 - Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are
 - People of all ages, ethnicity, and abilities participate in the arts
 - People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding
 - The arts thrive in Minnesota
 - The regional arts councils work to make sure that MN arts funding gets to every corner of the state.
- *Service Region.* SW MN Arts Council serves the 18 counties of the Southwest Minnesota region:

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

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.

FUNDING

SW MN Arts Council's funding for grants comes from several sources:

- *Minnesota State General Fund*
 - Minnesota State General Fund dollars account for approximately 10% of SMAC's available grant funds.
 - These dollars are allocated to the state arts funding system by the State of Minnesota.

- *Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds*
 - Arts & Cultural Heritage or "Legacy" funds account for approximately 77% of SMAC's available grant funds.
 - In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, which increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent beginning on July 1, 2009 and continuing until 2034. This additional sales tax revenue is distributed into four funds: Clean Water; Outdoor Heritage; Arts & Cultural Heritage; and Parks & Trails.
 - The arts portion of the Arts & Cultural Heritage fund is divided between the MN State Arts Board and the regional arts councils. (Remaining Arts & Cultural Heritage funds are allocated to MN history, humanities, education, etc.)

- *The McKnight Foundation*
 - McKnight Foundation funds account for approximately 13% of SMAC's available grant funds.
 - These dollars are intended for grants for individual artists.

- *SMAC-Region Memberships & Donations*
 - SMAC receives membership dues and donations from individuals, organizations, businesses, cities, and counties in the region.
 - These funds are used to supplement the other funding sources above.