ART PROJECT GRANT: Canby Area Arts Council

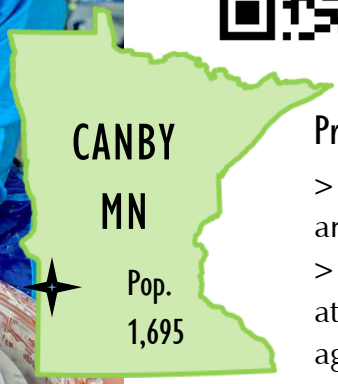
2023 Connect & Create

Requested funding for 8 Art Classes held in various accessible locations:

- "Play with Clay" Intro to Hand-building Pottery at Canby Central Park
- Intro to the Pottery Wheel at Canby Central Park
- Advanced Functional Wheel-Thrown Pottery at Canby Central Park
- Plein Air Painting at Lake Sylvan Park
- Intro to Watercolor Painting at Sanford Health Sylvan Court Long-term Care
- Intro to Watercolor Painting at Sanford Health Sylvan Place Independent Assisted Living
- Intro to Watercolor Painting at Canby Community Center
- Intro to Watercolor Painting at The Connection Youth Center

$5,119
Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds

WATCH THE IMPACT!



Project involved:

> 6 teaching artists

> 116 attendees of all ages

Southwest Minnesota ARTS Council

This arts funding allowed community members to come together, connect and participate in watercolor painting, Plein Air painting and pottery sessions for beginners to advanced including facility-bound elders. It has allowed Canby Area Arts Council to employ teaching artists from rural communities. We live in a geographically arts-challenged area as people would have needed to drive at least 4 hours one-way to find similar arts experiences.

ARTS IMPACT...

The Canby Area Arts Council's "Connect and Create" program provided opportunities in the spring and summer of 2023 for the public to take part in painting and pottery classes. Overall, the response was very positive, noted Art Council's **Sarah Bednarek**. "The impact it has on a community is profound in my opinion. In today's world where things can be so divided and gloomy, bringing people together on common ground is so important."

The arts council was formed back in 2012 by like-minded community members. "The intention was to bring the arts to the community," said **Joyce Meyer**, past chair of the council, adding that "arts access in a community is an important part of good quality of life."

The success of these programs is made possible by many individuals including artists, board members, community volunteers and grant funding from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. "The art materials are unbiased and adaptable and thanks to SMAC & CAAC, they are also accessible," Bednarek noted. Without the funding and support, most of these programs would not be available in rural communities.

"I hear so many times during our classes that we need more of this! It's consistently been on our SMAC grant surveys too," said Ms. Bednarek. "The feedback from the community is clear...we need MORE art!"

"In the grant-sponsored classes that I've attended or taught, I hear stories from folks about how they haven't done this in years, or since they were in school, and some are excited to try for the first time!" Sarah Bednarek mentioned. "Teaching the hand-building and intro to pottery classes has given me a sense of purpose in our community."

"The SMAC grant has allowed me to be a part of something bigger. Bigger than my own personal journey with my art. It has given my art, my skills, my experiences a purpose for the greater good. Connecting with community members on common ground has been art in and of itself."

The SW MN Arts Council proudly serves 18 counties in the rural communities of Minnesota.