



LRAC AWARDS EIGHTEEN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

FUNDED THROUGH LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION FROM THE ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND
AND IN PART THROUGH A MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATIVE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

The **Lake Region Arts Council**, Fergus Fall, MN announces the results of the Operating Support Grant Round held on February 20, 2024. \$98,000 was awarded to eighteen arts organizations throughout the LRAC nine-county region for their first of two years of operating support awarded in this grant round. This Lake Region Arts Council Grant Program is funded through legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund and in part through a Minnesota State Legislative general fund appropriation. All arts organizations in the LRAC nine-county region with annual operating expenses less than \$174,000 were invited to apply and were eligible to receive up to \$8,000 in a tiered funding system based on their average annual expenses.

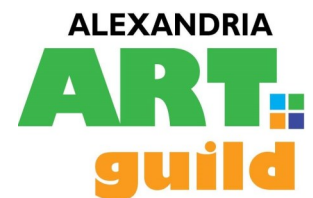
Act Up Theatre - \$4,000, Clay County

The grant will assist in funding operating expenses (advertising, marketing, postage, post office box, insurance, storage rental, etc.) and fund the expenses for services of the organization's accountant/certification monitor. Act Up Theatre provides musical performing opportunities to young adults with a focus on musical productions that create a more socially conscious community. Their mission is to empower artists and audiences to positively instigate social awareness and change through exceptional performing art.



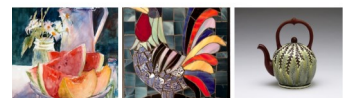
Alexandria Art Guild - \$4,000, Douglas County

The grant will fund ongoing expenses pertaining to the organization's marketing, website, and social media presence. Alexandria Art Guild works to bring the visual artists together to form a cohesive, collaborative and cooperative artist community in Alexandria, Minnesota and surrounding area. Their mission includes building and supporting the visual artist community in the Alexandria area, community collaboration, and providing members opportunities to successfully promote, display, and sell their art.



Art of the Lakes Gallery - \$8,000, Otter Tail County

The grant will help to pay part of the organization's part time employee's salary to free up time for artists and board. AOTL has become an Arts destination for tourists and summer people, as well as community members. The Gallery, Art & Craft Affair, and Studio Tour are part of AOTL's annual arts programming along with workshops, exhibits, and monthly art programs and demonstrations -- all open to the public.



Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra - \$8,000, Douglas County

The grant will underwrite the operational salary of the organization's Executive Director and maintain sustainable leadership by offering competitive pay for clearly defined work within the contexts of best practices for non-profit management. CLSO musicians are community members, students, and teachers from Alexandria and surrounding areas, students. This organization continues to strive for excellent music making and innovation within the classical music genre by supporting new, diverse, and local composers and their works.



Evansville Arts Coalition, \$4,000, Douglas County

This grant will fund a portion of the utilities for the organization's location, including insurance, electricity, and insurance premiums. Evansville Arts Coalition provides an intimate venue for professional musicians who bring quality performances to their audiences. EAC looks forward to provided their regular concerts include the First Friday performances, Open Mike nights, and special events.



Fargo Moorhead Choral Artists, \$8,000, Clay County

The grant will fund a portion of the salary for the Artistic Director to provide full seasons of choral experiences for the community and surrounding area. FMCA provides a musical outlet for the finest choral musicians in the region. The singers come from many walks of life and are dedicated to performing choral music with artistry and precision to enrich and enhance the artistic communities within Minnesota and North Dakota.



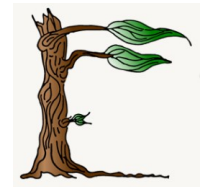
Gooseberry Park Players, \$8,000 Clay County

The grant will fund a portion of the to pay salary of Artistic Director for the coming season. Gooseberry Park Players is 6+ week summer theatre program that provide young people, ages 11 to 18, with a unique educational and multi generational summer theatre experience. It provides young people with opportunities to develop creative outlets through the experience of drama.



Grant County Prairie Wind Players, \$6,000, Grant County

The grant will fund a portion of annual insurance premiums, utility expenses, and building improvement expenses for Roosevelt Hall, the home of Prairie Wind Players, freeing up funds to be directly invested into support of their core mission. They will also invest in personal assistive listening devices for patrons of the organization. PWP has presented a range of theatrical performances including larger musicals, smaller cast comedies and dramas, improvisational arts, free 'open mic' events, and other special/custom performances only seen at Roosevelt Hall.



Prairie Wind Players

Henning Landmark Center- \$8,000, Otter Tail County

The grant will fund a portion of both the Director's salary and the utilities for the coming year. Landmark Center is located in a historic 103 year old home, serving as an arts retreat center, gallery and workshop venue, and a historic museum. Art projects have included Watercolor painting, Oil Painting, Rosemaling, Quilting, Hand stitching, Glass Blowing, Ceramics, Blacksmithing & Bladesmithing, wood-working, Reading group, Writers group, Kids Art Camp, and more.



Kicks Band of Fargo Moorhead - \$6,000, Clay County

The grant will pay for administrative staff expenses and liability insurance. Kicks Band provides high-quality jazz arts performances and education to the region. Since 2014, their mission has been to educate and perform big band jazz, taking it into the schools through high school artist residency collaborations and jazz education workshops. Their performances range from formal season concerts, summer park concerts, a jazz festival, and big band dances, and to their "A Journey through Jazz" history of jazz programs.



Lakes Chamber Music Society - \$4,000, Douglas County

The grant will pay for LCMS Music Director's salary, office rent, office supplies, and mailing, printing and postage expenses. Lakes Chamber Music Society is dedicated to bringing outstanding chamber music to the residents of rural central Minnesota. Our mission is to promote a continuing interest in the arts and to support the local student and adult community by presenting high-quality musical performances in the Alexandria area.



Perham Center for the Arts - \$8,000, Otter Tail County

The grant will support the ongoing expenses incurred by the organization by covering a portion of the insurance premiums for the Perham Center for the Arts. The Perham Center for the Arts was founded in 2011 and is housed in the former St. Stanislaus Church building in Perham, Minnesota. PC4TA promotes arts education, appreciation and experiences for the community and surrounding region while strategically preserving a landmark headquarters and hub of arts activity such as concerts, touring performances, exhibits, workshops and a summer arts festival.



Phelps Mill County - \$6,000, Otter Tail County

The grant will cover a portion of the manager and assistant manager's salaries for the annual Phelps Mill Festival in rural Otter Tail. The Festival combines high-quality arts and crafts for shopping, daily musical entertainment, and hands-on art activities for both children and adults attracting 20,000 each year (weather dependent). Festival grounds can accommodate up to 150 artists and there will be about 100 artist booths. Performances by regional musicians take place through the day at the stage area.



Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance - \$4,000, Stevens County

The grant will support rent and stipends for the organization's paid contractor. PRCA provides arts education, with a full roster of arts programming, artist exhibits; Art Share classes for all ages, and Prairie Arts Camp for children; hosting receptions for exhibitions, sponsoring both poetry and prose author readings, and occasionally organizing musical events. They also have a virtual gallery featuring the art works of their members.



Prairie Woodcarvers - \$1,000, Douglas County

The grant will pay for building use for monthly carving sessions for the organization. Prairie Woodcarvers' mission is to educate and provide knowledge in the art of woodcarving to people of all ages through demonstrations as well as workshops. They meet about once a month for carving sessions, in which they like to bring in an instructor and work on a designated project.



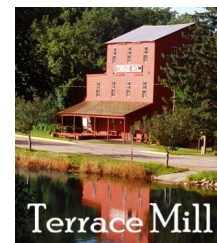
Red Willow Arts Coalition - \$6,000, Douglas County

The grant will fund a salary for their Program Director to streamline all activities of the organization. RWAC marked its thirteenth season of concerts in 2021, and will continue to produce weekly Thursday evening concerts in addition to a patriotic Independence Day concert. The concerts are held on the Douglas County Courthouse north lawn, and attract weekly audiences from 500 to well in excess of 1000. The children's play area and wide variety of genres provides an entertaining experience for the whole family.



Terrace Mill Foundation - \$1,000, Pope County

The grant will cover a portion of the annual insurance premiums. Terrace Mill's arts activities usually include a Saturday evening outdoor concert, the annual Children's Musical workshops and productions, and the annual Fall Festival.



Three Rivers Arts Council - \$4,000, Wilkin County

The grant will pay to retain an Arts Programmer to develop community projects, funding, audiences, arts partnerships and participation in consultation with TRAC board and arts supporters. The mission of the Three Rivers Arts Council is to increase awareness of, appreciation for and involvement with the arts in our community by seeking out artists, promoting art events and helping potential artists achieve their goals through community outreach, public relations and art education.



LRAC would encourage all eligible arts organizations to apply for the next round of Operating Support, which will be available for applications beginning in November of 2025. This program accepts grant applications from all nonprofit arts organizations in the LRAC nine-county region, which have art as their primary focus and have been providing arts programming for at least one year. Arts organizations may apply for general operating support, administrative staff, equipment upgrades, and capital improvements or any combination of these operating expenses for the coming year. Arts organizations with two year budget expenses averaging \$174,000 or less are eligible to apply to LRAC for funding.



The LRAC Operating Support Grant Guidelines are available at the LRAC website: LRAC4.org. Instructional videos for all grants are also available on demand.

For more information please contact Miranda Lape, Grants Manager, Lake Region Arts Council, 133 Mill Street S, Fergus Falls, MN 56537-2562, **Phone:** 218-739-5780 or 800-262-2787 **Email:** LRAC4@LRACgrants.org **Website:** LRAC4.org.

LRAC is a nonprofit art organization that provides grants, resources, and services to the nine county region; Becker, Clay, Douglas, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties. Their mission is to encourage and support the arts in West Central Minnesota.

