

F I S C A L  
Y E A R

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A N N U A L  
R E P O R T

# ARAC VISION

- The arts are integrated into the social, political, and economic fabric and identity of every community in the region. (Cultural Integration)
- Artists, arts organizations, and arts activities thrive and contribute to the regional economy. (Sustainability)
- Community members and audiences are arts literate. (Education)
- The Council utilizes an innovative rural arts model that ensures the arts are accessible throughout the whole region. (Leadership/Access)

# CORE VALUES

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council...

- will provide financial support, information, and encouragement to the arts community.
- values its responsibility to provide leadership to individuals, arts organizations, and communities.
- will communicate clearly and respectfully.
- will develop innovative programs and services to meet the needs of its expanding arts community.
- will advocate for the essential role of the arts in daily life.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council's mission is to facilitate and encourage local arts development. This mission statement grows from a conviction that the arts improve the quality of life in the region

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Fiscal Year 2016 was busy for the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. The Council held a board retreat in November, 2015. At the retreat, staff and members had the opportunity to work with a facilitator to develop strategies to work on the Council's strengths and weaknesses. The retreat focused on how to build on past successes and the culture change achieved during FY2015.

In December, 2015, the Council moved from its old home in the Marshall Professional Building on top of the hill to the Fitger's Building, situated on the eastern edge of Duluth's Downtown Arts District. This move was well received by everyone and places the Council back in the Duluth arts community, increasing our local public profile.

This last year the Council also recruited community members to serve on two of its grant review panels. By reaching out to individuals in the region, the Council is working to improve outreach and generate new partnerships to increase networking opportunities in the region.

ARAC is in the process of adding nine new members to the Board. Four new members joined us in July and the remaining positions present the Council with an opportunity to seek members who can help strengthen our mission-driven programs and increase demographic representation on the Board.

This annual report represents the accomplishments of the Council in FY2016 through collected data and documentation of funded activities. ARAC continued to demonstrate leadership in the delivery of grant programs and services vital to the vibrant arts community in the Arrowhead region. It was an eventful year in many ways.

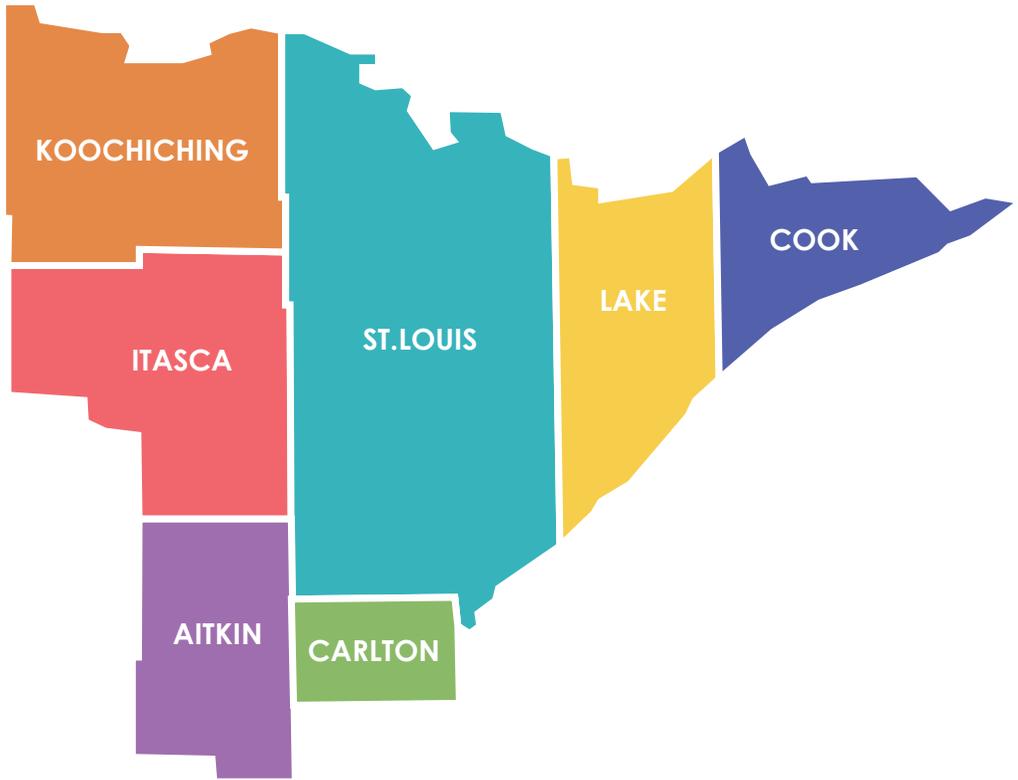
## BOARD RETREAT SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

**Vision Elements:** In order of importance.

- V1. Well-defined staff and board roles and responsibilities (37%)
- V2. Accessible grant programs to meet diverse regional needs (27%)
- V2. Strong financial and administrative health (27%)
- V3. Broad demographic representation on the Board (7%)
- V4. Increased external collaboration and partnerships (2%)
- V5. High public profile (0%)

**Strategies:** For board and committee development.

- SD 1: **Understanding, refining, and implementing Board and staff roles**  
Strategy 1: Refine the existing staffing structure  
Strategy 2: Refine existing board and panel job descriptions and training
- SD 2: **Developing a needs assessment to inform long-term planning**  
Strategy 1: Develop and distribute needs assessments  
Strategy 2: Create action plans for long-term stability
- SD 3: **Positioning ourselves in our environment**  
Strategy 1: Create 1, 3, and 5 year marketing and PR plans  
Strategy 2: Create a partnership and collaboration roadmap



## REGION POPULATION STATISTICS (2015 ESTIMATES)

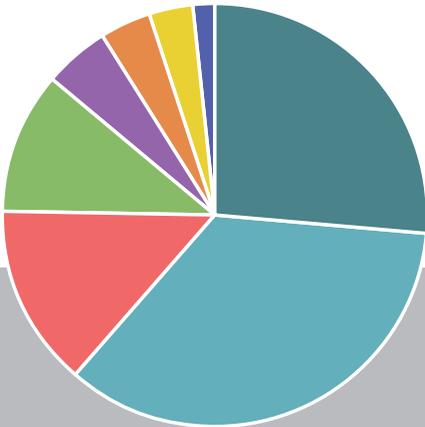
Total Regional Population:	325,803
Duluth City Population:	86,110 (26%)
Rural Population:	239,693 (74%)
People of Color	23,096 (7%)

# FY 2016 PROGRAM SUMMARY

There is much to be excited about in the data summary for FY16. Six of the seven counties performed at  $(+/-5\%)$  or above their percentage of the total population in awarded grants. People of color represent 7% of the region's population, but received 18% of individual artist grants. As a merit-based (not quota-based) granting agency, these positive and largely equitable statistics show the quality of artistry found across the Arrowhead, as well as the accessibility of the application process.

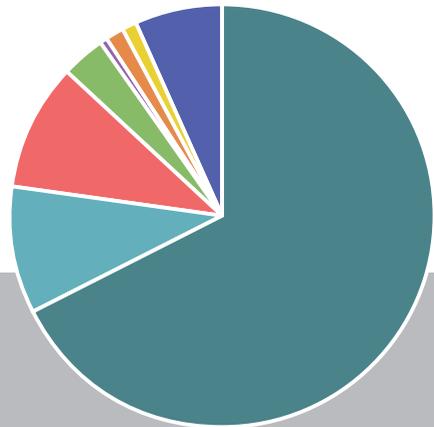
That said, the data also point to areas that may need attention. Carlton County and the Iron Range cities continue to struggle, and demand from Duluth artists significantly outpaces the rest of the region.

POPULATION



- Duluth
- St. Louis County (Rural)
- Itasca
- Carlton

GRANTS



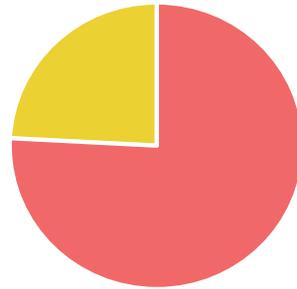
- Aitkin
- Koochiching
- Lake
- Cook

# ORGANIZATIONS

## FY 2015

108 applications received  
16 new applicants (15%)  
82 funded  
\$506,696 requested  
\$382,010 awarded

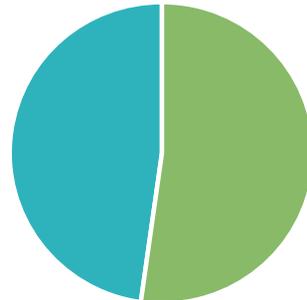
*76% of organizational applicants were funded*



## FY 2016

109 applications received  
30 new applicants (28%)  
57 funded  
\$614,875 requested  
\$326,270 awarded

*52% of organizational applicants were funded*



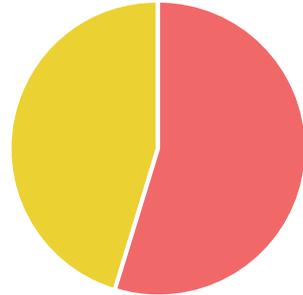
- More applications were funded in FY2015 because of a carryover of \$47,000 from FY2014.

# INDIVIDUALS

## FY 2015

215 applications received  
96 new applicants (45%)  
118 funded  
\$505,917 requested  
\$240,091 awarded

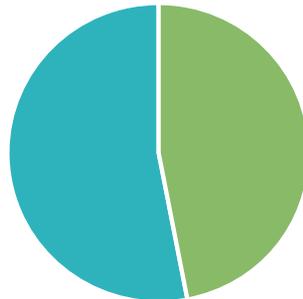
*55% of individual applicants were funded*



## FY 2016

206 applications received  
69 new applicants (33%)  
97 funded  
\$593,240 requested  
\$229,730 awarded

*47% of individual applicants were funded*



- More applications were funded in FY2015 because of a carryover of \$31,500 from FY2014.



## OF THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

	Total Applications Received	Total New Applicants	New Applications Funded
<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>St. Louis (Duluth)</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>St. Louis (Rural)</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Itasca</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Carlton</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aitkin</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Koochiching</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lake</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cook</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>42</b>

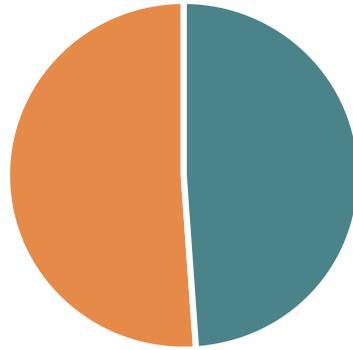
The data on this page shows the total number of applications received from each county in FY2016, the number of new applicants, and how many of their projects were funded.

The data in the following county summary pages focus exclusively on funded applications.

# OF THE APPLICANTS FUNDED

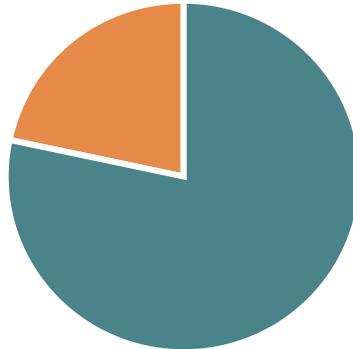
**Duluth Groups:** 28/57 49% +23%  
**Rural Groups:** 29/57 51% -23%

New Applicants: 13 23%



**Duluth Artists:** 76/97 63% +52%  
**Rural Artists:** 21/97 37% -52%

Artists of Color: 17 18% +11%  
 New Applicants: 29 30%



-  Received a higher percentage of grants than would be expected based on overall population.
-  Received an expected percentage of grants based on overall population.
-  Received a lower percentage of grants than would be expected based on overall population.

The overall picture of St. Louis looks very bright, but as you will see in the following pages, most of the grants awarded within St. Louis are going to artists and organizations in Duluth. St. Louis is a large county with a significant population outside of Duluth that includes the Iron Range cities. These smaller arts communities, on the whole, are struggling. Still, there are bright spots and opportunities for growth.

# ST. LOUIS (All)

Population: 200,431 (61%)  
 Grants: 119 (78%) +17

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 17/20	85%	+24%
Rural & Community Art Project: 7/20	35%	-26%
Arts Learning: 5/7	71%	+10%
Two Year Operating: 5/6	83%	+22%
Quick Start: 4/4	100%	+39%

Total: 38/57 +6%  
 New Applicants: 9

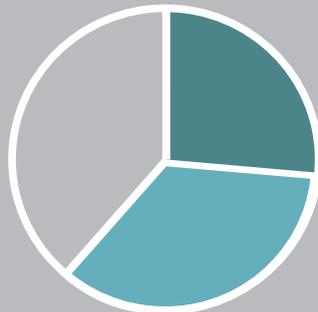
## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 29/32	91%	+30%
Technology & Equipment: 19/22	86%	+25%
Arts Learning: 3/4	75%	+14%
Fellowship: 6/7	86%	+25%
Quick Start: 24/32	75%	+14%

Total: 81/97 +21%  
 New Applicants: 24



POPULATION



GRANTS



# ST. LOUIS (Duluth)

Population: 86,110 (26%)

Grants: 104 (68%) +42

With three four-year colleges in the area offering arts-related degree programs and many longstanding and emerging arts organizations, Duluth boasts an ever-changing, dynamic, and diverse artistic community that is supported through a network of strong organizations offering a broad range of opportunities for artists of all levels.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 15/20	75%	+49%
Rural & Community Art Project: 0/20	0%	-26%
Arts Learning: 5/7	71%	+45%
Two Year Operating: 5/6	83%	+57%
Quick Start: 3/4	75%	+49%

Total: 28/57 +23%

New Applicants: 8

## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 26/32	81%	+55%
Technology & Equipment: 18/22	82%	+56%
Arts Learning: 3/4	75%	+49%
Fellowship: 5/7	71%	+45%
Quick Start: 24/32	75%	+49%

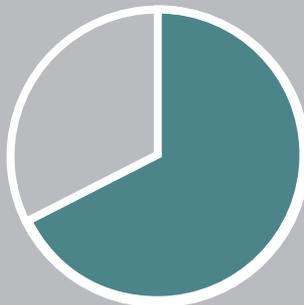
Total: 76/97 +52%

New Applicants: 24

POPULATION



GRANTS



# ST. LOUIS (RURAL)

Population: 114,321 (35%)

Grants: 15 (10%) -25%

Despite these tough numbers, there have been positive developments within the arts community in the past year. Applicants from Ely have worked collaboratively and seen significant success, receiving eight of the fifteen grants awarded in rural St. Louis in FY16. Events like the Cool & Creative Get-Together at the Minnesota Discovery Center have facilitated positive conversations about the role of the arts in community development. There has also been an increase in Board and Panel participation, with Board representation increasing from one to three.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 2/20	10%	<span style="color: red;">-25%</span>
Rural & Community Art Project: 7/20	35%	<span style="color: green;">+0%</span>
Arts Learning: 0/7	0%	<span style="color: red;">-35%</span>
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	<span style="color: red;">-35%</span>
Quick Start: 1/4	25%	<span style="color: red;">-10%</span>

Total: 10/57 -17%

New Applicants: 1

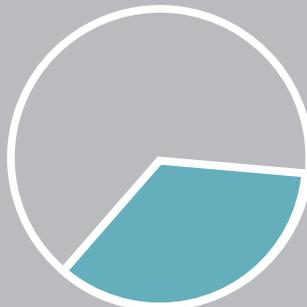
## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 3/32	9%	<span style="color: red;">-26%</span>
Technology & Equipment: 1/22	5%	<span style="color: red;">-30%</span>
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	<span style="color: red;">-35%</span>
Fellowship: 1/7	14%	<span style="color: red;">-21%</span>
Quick Start: 0/32	0%	<span style="color: red;">-35%</span>

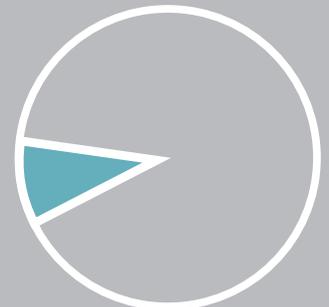
Total: 5/97 -30%

New Applicants: 0

POPULATION



GRANTS



# ITASCA

Population: 45,435 (14%)

Grants: 14 (10%) -4%

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 0/20	0%	-14%
Rural & Community Art Project: 6/20	30%	+16%
Arts Learning: 1/7	14%	+0%
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	-14%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-14%

Total: 7/57 -2%

New Applicants: 3

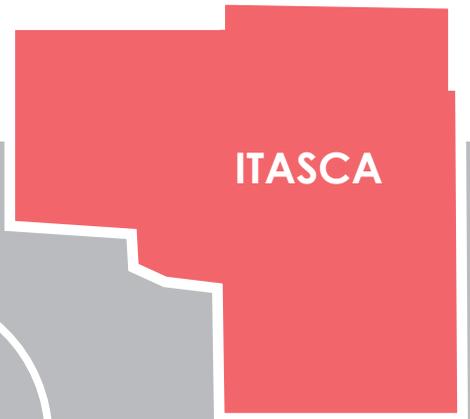
## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 2/32	6%	-8%
Technology & Equipment: 0/22	0%	-14%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	-14%
Fellowship: 1/7	14%	+0%
Quick Start: 4/32	13%	-1%

Total: 7/97 -7%

New Applicants: 3

Itasca's art community has seen impressive growth in recent years, with Grand Rapids cultivating a reputation as a state-wide arts destination. The region's second most populated county, Itasca is home to strong infrastructure of arts organizations, homegrown artists, and passionate advocates who recognize the valuable role of creativity in developing community identity.



POPULATION



GRANTS



# CARLTON

Population: 35,569 (11%)

Grants: 5 (3%) -8%

Carlton's proximity to Duluth sometimes leads it to be under-recognized as a place with a compelling and unique identity in its own right. Home to inspiring landscapes with deep histories, a strong Ojibwe community, a longstanding and distinctive rural film community, and a wealth of talented individual artists, Carlton has many opportunities for growth.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 0/20	0%	-11%
Rural & Community Art Project: 1/20	5%	-6%
Arts Learning: 0/7	0%	-11%
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	-11%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-11%

Total: 1/57 -9%

New Applicants: 1

## INDIVIDUALS

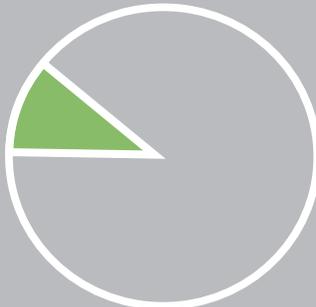
Career Development: 1/32	3%	-8%
Technology & Equipment: 1/22	5%	-6%
Arts Learning: 1/4	25%	+14%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%	-11%
Quick Start: 1/32	3%	-8%

Total: 4/97 -7%

New Applicants: 1

## CARLTON

POPULATION



GRANTS



# AITKIN

Population: 15,702 (5%)

Grants: 1 (1%) -4%

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 0/20	0%	-5%
Rural & Community Art Project: 0/20	0%	-5%
Arts Learning: 0/7	0%	-5%
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	-5%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-5%

Total: 0/57 -5%

New Applicants: 0

## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 0/32	0%	-5%
Technology & Equipment: 0/22	0%	-5%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	-5%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%	-5%
Quick Start: 1/32	3%	-2%

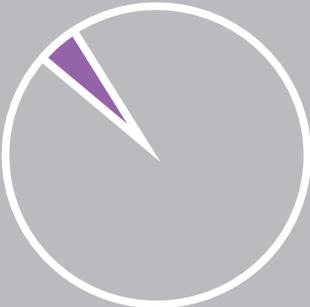
Total: 1/97 -4%

New Applicants: 0

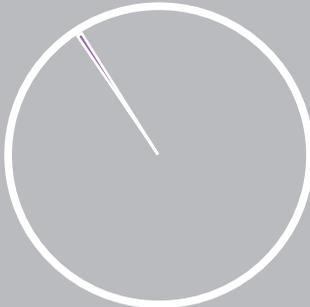
Aitkin's non-profit leadership has struggled through difficult and frequent turnover in recent years, and those struggles have adversely impacted its arts community. Aitkin's creative community would benefit from cultivating a more unified and inclusive network between its artists, groups, and community members as it looks to emerge from the turmoil of recent years. Filling the vacant Board position in Aitkin should be a priority in the coming year.

AITKIN

POPULATION



GRANTS



# KOOCHICHING

Population: 12,841 (4%)

Grants: 2 (1%) -3%

Home to the region's most geographically isolated communities, Koochiching's creative scene may be small, but it is also close-knit, community driven, and active – carving out a compelling and unique artistic identity around its remoteness. Filling the vacant Board position in Koochiching should be a priority in the coming year.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 0/20	0%	-4%
Rural & Community Art Project: 2/20	10%	+6%
Arts Learning: 0/7	0%	-4%
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	-4%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-4%

Total: 2/57 +0%

New Applicants: 0

## INDIVIDUALS

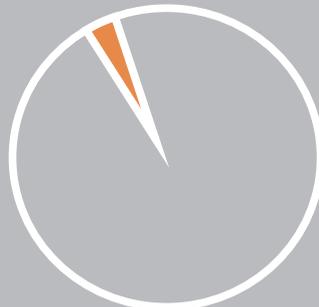
Career Development: 0/32	0%	-4%
Technology & Equipment: 0/22	0%	-4%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	-4%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%	-4%
Quick Start: 0/32	0%	-4%

Total: 0/97 -4%

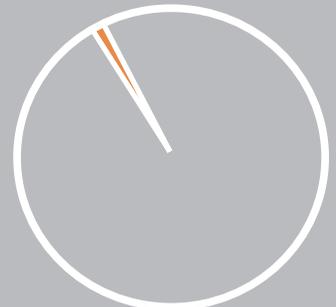
New Applicants: 0



POPULATION



GRANTS



# LAKE

Population: 10,631 (3%)

Grants: 2 (1%) -2%

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 0/20	0%	-3%
Rural & Community Art Project: 1/20	5%	+2%
Arts Learning: 0/7	0%	-3%
Two Year Operating: 0/6	0%	-3%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-3%

Total: 1/57 -1%

New Applicants: 0

## INDIVIDUALS

Career Development: 0/32	0%	-3%
Technology & Equipment: 1/22	5%	+2%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	-3%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%	-3%
Quick Start: 0/32	0%	-3%

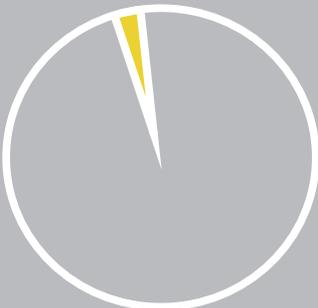
Total: 2/97 -1%

New Applicants: 0

Like the rest of the north shore, Lake county benefits from a steady flow of tourists and is home to a wealth of artistic talent. A county with plenty of room for creative growth, Lake would benefit from a more unified organizational network in cultivating its distinctive artistic identity.



POPULATION



GRANTS



# COOK

Population: 5,194 (2%)

Grants: 10 (6%) +4%

Though Cook is the region's smallest county, it packs a mighty artistic punch! Home to the strongest arts community on a per capita basis, Cook has a longstanding, deep, and vibrant arts community centered in Grand Marais that is supported by passionate locals, a steady flow of tourists, and a strong organizational infrastructure.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Art Project: 3/20	15%	+13%
Rural & Community Art Project: 3/20	15%	+13%
Arts Learning: 1/7	12%	+14%
Two Year Operating: 1/6	17%	+15%
Quick Start: 0/4	0%	-2%

Total: 8/57 +11%

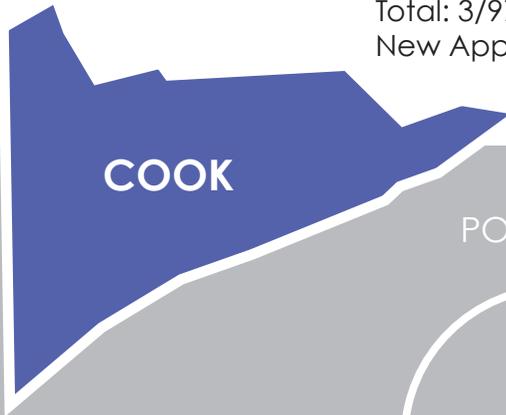
New Applicants: 0

## INDIVIDUALS

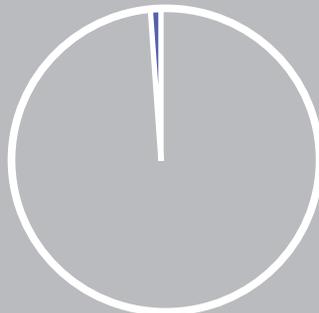
Career Development: 0/32	0%	-2%
Technology & Equipment: 1/22	5%	+3%
Arts Learning: 0/4	0%	-2%
Fellowship: 0/7	0%	-2%
Quick Start: 2/32	6%	+4%

Total: 3/97 +1%

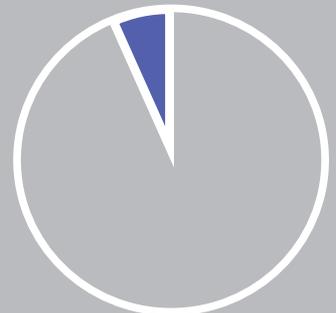
New Applicants: 1



POPULATION



GRANTS



# CREATIVE MN

Creative Minnesota is a new study conducted by Minnesota Citizens for the Arts in association with Americans for the Arts. Its purpose is to fill the gaps in available information about Minnesota's cultural field and to improve our understanding of its importance to our quality of life and economy. They make a centralized, concentrated effort to collect and report data about the creative sector every two years for analysis, education, and advocacy.

The study shows that, in addition to contributing to our state's excellent quality of life, the nonprofit arts and culture sector is also a substantial industry in the Arrowhead Region, generating nearly \$40 million in total economic impact annually. Creative Minnesota gives a snapshot of the health and impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations in 2013 by looking at their spending and audiences, as well as other indicators. Individual studies on Cook County, Duluth, Grand Rapids, and Virginia were also done. All of the research developed by Creative Minnesota is available at [creativemn.org](http://creativemn.org).

**MINNESOTA  
STATE'S ECONOMIC  
IMPACT**

**\$1.2 BILLION**

**ARROWHEAD  
REGION'S  
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**\$40 MILLION**



**GREATEST OF GREATER  
MINNESOTA**

**LARGEST** REGION GEOGRAPHICALLY  
**4TH LARGEST** REGION BY POPULATION  
**2ND** ONLY TO THE TWIN CITIES IN  
ECONOMIC IMPACT

## ARTS IMPACT ON ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARROWHEAD REGION



# PUBLIC RELATIONS



## Logo

Due to the sudden move, staff saw an opportunity to update the ARAC logo. Staff worked with intern Joni Van Bockel to give the logo a modern update.



## Holiday Cards

Continuing a new tradition begun in FY2015, holiday cards were commissioned from a regional artist and sent out to ARAC constituents and partners. This year's card was designed by Carolyn Olson from Duluth.



## Posters

Posters were designed this year by intern Hailie Lange, and are being used and distributed throughout the region. A general informative poster, as well as a customizable grant workshop poster, were designed to bring awareness of the services and funding ARAC provides.

The Council's Facebook page was increased by 674 'likes' in the past year, bringing the total to 2,165!

ARAC continued its campaign of advertising in publications throughout the region. This year's paid advertising was seen in print materials for:

- Duluth - Superior Film Festival
- Duluth - Superior Pride
- Duluth Art Institute
- Lake Superior Youth Chorus
- Itasca Orchestra and String Program
- Homegrown Music Festival

# WORKSHOPS

## GRANT WORKSHOPS



### OUTSIDE RESOURCES

ARAC also co-sponsored workshops by the following organizations:

**Minnesota State Arts Board, SpringBoard, and Creativity Among Native American Artists Initiative (CANAA).**

ARAC held sixteen grant writing workshops during FY16. These workshops were held by staff to familiarize constituents with the Council's programs and to offer regional artists and arts organizations technical assistance in submitting grant applications. These program-specific grant writing workshops were held in the weeks prior to application deadlines. Eight of the workshops were held at the ARAC office in Duluth. Workshops were also held in the following locations: **Aitkin,**

**American Indian Community Housing Organization (twice), Bigfork, Hibbing, Moose Lake, Silver Bay, and Virginia.**

Grants Manager Ashley Kolka also made an extended visit to International Falls for a series of individualized meetings and discussions with artists and community groups.

## GRANT WORKSHOPS

**16** workshops

**125** attendees



# ARROWHEAD ARTS AWARDS

On Friday, June 3rd, 2016, ARAC presented its 18th Annual Arrowhead Arts Awards in Grand Rapids. This event, the first held in the newly renovated Reif Performing Arts Center, recognized two individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts in the Arrowhead Region.

This year's **George Morrison Artist Award** was awarded to sculptor **Jeff Savage**. Savage resides in the Fond du Lac Reservation and has become internationally recognized for his sculptural forms. He has received numerous awards at the historical Santa Fe Indian Market and the Eiteljorg Indian Market. Savage's work appears in various public and private collections including the collection of the Smithsonian Museum and the Department of Interior Museum, Washington D.C.

This year's **Maddie Simons Advocate Award** was presented to arts advocate **Kathy Dodge**. Dodge is co-founder of Grand Rapids Arts, a non-profit dedicated to connecting artists and arts organizations to audiences in the Grand Rapids area, and is a founding member and Chair of the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission. She has served as a Greater Minnesota, At-Large Board Member for Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and as the executive director of the Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program, as well as working with local environmental and arts groups to pass the Legacy Amendment.

ARAC is proud to have individuals like **Jeff Savage** and **Kathy Dodge** in our region and look forward to their future contributions to the arts and community of the Arrowhead Region.

This year ARAC commissioned Cook County artists **Dan and Lee Ross** to make the awards.



# GRANTS AWARDED

## ART PROJECT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

### Arrowhead Chorale (Duluth)

To perform the Minnesota premier of a new work entitled *Te Deum*, by Carol Barnett. The Chorale will perform with Monroe Crossing, a nationally known Minnesota-based bluegrass group.

### Chester Bowl

#### Improvement Club (Duluth) †

To commission a public sculpture within Chester Bowl Park designed and created by artists Matt and Tonya Sell.

### Duluth Children's Museum (Duluth) † \*

To partner with local mixed-media artist Mary Plaster, who will construct an installation of puppets for the museum. Before being installed, the larger-than-life puppets will be presented in public forums with children performing as puppeteers. **(Pictured)**

### Duluth Superior Film Festival (Duluth) †

To host the 7th Annual Duluth Superior Film Festival, a 5-day event with screenings of numerous independent films, receptions, panel discussions, and workshops.

### Grand Marais Arts, Inc. (Grand Marais) †

To host an artist residency series offering five artists affordable space and time to create high-quality artwork in an environment that encourages experimentation and creative risk-taking.

### Lake Superior

#### Chamber Orchestra (Duluth) †

To present its 30th season with four concerts at Mitchell Auditorium, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. Two concerts will feature two soloists each, all four of whom are professional musicians residing in Duluth.

### Lake Superior

#### Chamber Orchestra (Duluth) †

To present three concerts as part of its 2016 summer season. Concerts will be presented at the College of St. Scholastica's Mitchell Auditorium.

### Lake Superior Youth Chorus (Duluth) †

To host an outdoor choral festival in Leif Erikson Park, Duluth. Previously called Harmony in the Park, this event was established by Minnesota Public Radio and will spotlight Echoes of Peace Choir, Lake Superior Youth Chorus, Twin Ports Choral Project, and a choir to be determined.



# GRANTS AWARDED

## **Lyric Opera of the North (Duluth) †**

To present a revised and updated version of the original comic opera *Les Uncomfortables*, in collaboration with Colder by the Lake, the company that originally produced the opera in 2001 and 2012.

## **Magic Smelt Puppet Troupe (Duluth) †**

To present the 6th annual Run Smelt Run Puppet Parade and smelt fry. Workshops will be offered for four weeks prior to prepare the puppets, masks, and costumes, and to recruit performers.

## **Matinee Musicale (Duluth)**

to present a concert at Mitchell Auditorium, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth featuring Karl Doty (double bass) and Liesl Doty (violin).

## **Matinee Musicale (Duluth) †**

To host Time for Three (Tf3), a crossover trio of two violins and a double bass, in concert in Duluth. Tf3 will also perform at Cloquet and Ordean Middle Schools, and Two Harbors High School.

## **Mesabi Community Orchestra (Virginia) †**

To collaborate with Voices of Reason and Two Rivers Chorale from St. Paul, MN, to perform the *German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms in Virginia.

## **North Shore**

### **Music Association (Grand Marais)**

To present the string group the Minetti Quartett, of Vienna, Austria, at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais.

## **North Shore**

### **Music Association (Grand Marais)**

To present Afro-Cuban band Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais.

## **Northern Lights**

### **Music Festival, Inc. (Aurora) †**

To present Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* which will tour to Aurora, Chisholm, and Ely.

## **Renegade Theater Company (Duluth)**

To produce the regional premier of Samuel D. Hunter's play, *The Whale*, which won the 2013 Lucille Lortel award for Best Play.

## **Renegade Theater Company (Duluth)**

To present the regional premier of *Marie Antoinette* by Guggenheim Fellow David Adjmi.

## **Ressl Dance! (Duluth) †**

To present Dances on the Lakewalk, a performance of site-specific dances with original choreography by Minnesota and California artists that will take place at Lake Place Park.

## **Spirit Lake Poetry Series (Duluth)**

To present a poetry series in autumn, 2015 and spring, 2016, featuring poets of national, regional, and local recognition. Featured poets include Julie Gard, Hieu Minh Nguyen, and Camille Dungy.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## RURAL & COMMUNITY ART PROJECT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance  
\* First-time Applicant

### Chalk.a.Lot (Two Harbors)

To host the 5th Annual Chalk.a.Lot sidewalk chalk festival.

### ElderCircle (Grand Rapids) †

To hold weekly workshops for emerging artists of retirement age culminating in an exhibition during the Grand Rapids First Friday Art Walk.

### Ely ArtWalk (Ely)

To present the 2017 Ely ArtWalk art festival.

### Ely Community Spring Musical (Ely) †

To present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at the Fine Arts Theater at Vermilion Community College.

### Ely Winter Festival (Ely)

To present the 2017 Ely Winter Festival Snow Sculpture Symposium. **(Pictured)**

### Free Range Film Festival (Wrenshall) † \*

To increase participation both from attendees and filmmakers at the Free Range Film Festival.

### Friends of B'nai Abraham (Virginia) †

To host a series of five musical programs during the spring, summer, and fall of 2016, featuring local and regional artists.



### Good Harbor

#### Hill Players (Grand Marais) †

To present its annual Summer Solstice pageant featuring small scale puppets and live music at the North House Folk School on the harbor in Grand Marais.

### Good Harbor

#### Hill Players (Grand Marais) †

To prepare and perform its annual Winter Solstice shadow puppet show.

### Grand Rapids

#### Area Male Chorus (Cohasset) †

To present Music Through the Years at the Reif Performing Arts Center with the Cold Spring Area Maennerchor.

### Grand Rapids Arts (Grand Rapids)

To commission a public mural by Leah Yellowbird, a local Anishinaabe artist.

### Grand Rapids Players (Grand Rapids) †

To perform The Music Man at the newly reopened Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## Icebox Radio

### Theater (International Falls) †

To present its 2016/17 podcast season and to increase its listener base.

### Itasca Choral Society (Grand Rapids) †

To perform *Blast from the Past, Music of the 50's, 60's & 70's* at the Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids.

### Mesabi Musical Theatre (Gilbert) † \*

To present *Crazy for You*, a new Gershwin musical, with eight performances scheduled at Mesabi Range College in Virginia.

### Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships (Mountain Iron)

To hold the 35th annual Minnesota State Old Time Fiddle Championships in Mountain Iron.

### Northern Lakes Arts Association (Ely) †

To present Tuesday Nite Live, an outdoor summer concert series bringing musical experiences to people throughout Ely.

### Rainy Lake Community Orchestra (International Falls) †

To host its annual Summer Strings Program, a weeklong mentoring workshop for regional strings players that will end with a public performance.

**(Pictured)**

### Sky Blue Jazz Ensemble (Grand Marais) †

To present *All Our Own Jazz*, a concert of all original jazz by a collaboration of ten Grand Marais musicians.



### VFW Post 1720 (Grand Rapids) † \*

To host a music series during the local First Friday Art Walks pairing the Sam Miltich and Friends jazz band with numerous special guest artists.

## ARTS LEARNING (ORGANIZATIONAL) AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

### Avalon Educational Institute (Duluth) † \*

To host a batizado, a traditional Capoeira event that showcases Afro-Brazilian movement and music traditions. The event will bring in some of the top masters in the country to share their knowledge of Capoeira with the Duluth community.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## City of Grand Rapids (Grand Rapids) † \*

To host photographer and teaching artist Wing Young Huie for a residency that will include a series of hands-on workshops and presentations with students and members of the business community.

## College of St. Scholastica (Duluth) †

To host a public African Cultural Festival featuring Sowah Mensah, a respected Ghanaian composer and educator, as well as John Frazier, an award-winning and innovative art historian. The event will include workshops that culminate in an evening concert with participants.

## College of St. Scholastica (Duluth) †

To support students from both Laura MacArthur Elementary School (LM) and CSS as they collaboratively create a mural for permanent installation in LM's main entrance. **(Pictured)**



## Lake Superior Youth Chorus (Duluth) †

To contract with Minnesota composer Eric Barnum to act as composer-in-residence for its 2015-2016 season. The experience will culminate in a performance of a commissioned work created specifically for the Chorus.

## Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative (Duluth) † \*

To support the Hillside Youth Theatre camp as it engages a team of experienced artists to offer a theatre experience for youth.

## North Shore

## Music Association (Grand Marais)

To present its annual Bluegrass Masters Weekend at Lutsen Resort. This event will feature jamming, workshops, and an evening concert. Renowned resophonic guitarist Mike Witcher will teach a full day of workshops.

## TWO YEAR OPERATING SUPPORT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

## Arrowhead Chorale (Duluth)

To support the addition of a grant writer, an assistant director, and a marketing manager, while focusing on visibility, marketing, and audience services.

# GRANTS AWARDED



## **Twin Ports Choral Project (Duluth)**

To help support staff salary, graphic design, and marketing.

## **Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community (Duluth) †**

To support a communications coordinator role for implementing a new marketing plan.

## **QUICK START FOR ORGANIZATIONS AWARDS SUMMARY**

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

## **Big Time Jazz Orchestra (Duluth) † \***

To update its website, develop and create professional marketing tools, expand outreach, and hire a part-time paid staff person.

## **Grand Marais Arts, Inc. (Grand Marais) †**

To help support a full-time administrative assistant and the expenses of integrating a new data management system.

## **Homegrown Music Festival (Duluth) † \***

To hire a marketing consultant and redesign its online presence, develop a program director position to oversee events happening outside of the yearly festival, and provide additional festival support with an office manager to oversee the physical office space during the festival.

## **All Black Zine (Duluth) † \***

To print the zine and host a release show featuring a number of local and regional artists at the Prøve Gallery in Duluth.

## **Mesabi Community Orchestra (Virginia) †**

To host a concert with the Orchestra's first annual concerto competition winners in Ely and Virginia. **(Pictured)**

## **Twin Ports Choral Project (Duluth) † \***

To attend American Choral Directors Association State Conference performance in Mahtomedi.

## **Valley Youth Center (Duluth) † \***

To co-sponsor a positive Hip Hop workshop series with Save the Kids from Incarceration in Duluth.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance  
\* First-time Applicant

### Robert Adams (Duluth) †

To prepare a show at the Duluth Art Institute for the fall of 2017.

### Kirsten Aune (Duluth) †

To support the creation of a dozen garments and four queen-sized quilts for an exhibition in November at the Duluth Art Institute.

### Andy Bennett (Duluth) †

To travel to Vietnam while conducting research and interviewing his father for a new book. He will then travel to the Association of Writers and Writers Programs conference in the spring of 2016 to show the manuscript to agents and publishers.

### Adam Booker (Duluth) †

To attend and perform at the 2016 European Bass Conference at the HAMU Conservatory in Prague, Czech Republic.

### Mary Bue (Duluth)

To record a 4-5 song EP at Nashville's Welcome to 1979 Studio and press her first vinyl EP. **(Pictured)**

### Joshua Bernstein (Duluth) † \*

To complete a volume of creative nonfiction essays for publication and share them at a public reading at UMD.

### Craig Blacklock (Moose Lake) †

To participate in Houston FotoFest, a portfolio review by top museum curators and gallery owners from around the world.

### Judy Budreau (Duluth) †\*

To support the completion of a novel and time with a writing mentor.

### Ben Cogger (Duluth) †

To build two open-back banjos for display at Rosewood Music shop in Duluth.

### Jeanette Cox (Ely)

To create a professional website for marketing works and coordinating workshops.

### Eric Dubnicka (Duluth) †

To support the creation of poster and CD album cover designs for *One Week Live* in Duluth along with the preparation of an exhibit of past works at the event.



# GRANTS AWARDED

## **Corey Gice (Duluth) † \***

To create a new album with the band Fearless Moral Inventory of Duluth.

## **Brett Grandson (Duluth) †**

To participate in a darkroom printmaking workshop with master printer Dana Sullivan to improve palladium and platinum printing skills, and also to perform public demonstrations at the Duluth Art Institute. **(Pictured)**

## **Paula Gudmundson (Duluth)**

To perform at the La Côte Flute Festival, in October 2016 in La Cote, Switzerland in a program titled La Flauta of Buenos Aires.

## **Julie Gard (Duluth) †**

To conduct an East Coast book tour to promote, publicize, and share work from her first book, *Home Studies*.

## **Marc Gartman (Duluth) †**

To assemble a group of artists to record a suite of new music and then make a short film of a live performance at Prøve Gallery, and to have new music recorded and distributed by Chaperone Records.

## **Shaunna Heckman (Duluth) †**

To record an EP of new works, distribute it to local radio stations, and debut it during a live performance.



## **Anton Jimenez-Kloeckl (Duluth) † \***

To record and produce a high quality follow-up full length record by Red Mountain.

## **Kristen Kaas (Duluth) †**

To study traditional Scandinavian Rya weaving techniques on the ridged heddle loom and create a collection of new woven tapestry pieces.

## **Brent Kustermann (Duluth) †**

To create and exhibit a body of new paintings for an upcoming exhibit at the Duluth Art Institute.

## **Paul Losik (Grand Rapids) † \***

To upgrade techniques and purchase equipment necessary to increase his efficiency in spindle turning for furniture making.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## Adam McCauley (Duluth)

To exhibit abstract paintings at the Duluth Art Institute and give an artist talk about motivations and ideas.

## Chris Monroe (Duluth) \*

To create a new series of art pieces based on Duluth locations where nature and civilization collide.

## Jamie Ness (Duluth) †

To create a series of music videos to accompany songs from his recently released album for online viewing and host a live screening.

## Karen Owsley Nease (Duluth) †

To have professional scans of works made for promotion and to update her website.



## Peter Pestalozzi (Ely) †

To create new works to update and improve the quality of his exhibition application portfolio.

## Katherine Sandnas (Hibbing) †

To create new collaborative artwork with Ruriko Miyamoto of Japan and to exhibit the works at the Bemidji State University's Talley Gallery. **(Pictured)**

## Laura Sellner (Duluth)

To create a new album of old and new works by Superior Siren at Sacred Heart Recording Studio in Duluth.

## Alberto Serrano Rivera (Duluth) †\*

To record a new album, with Brian Ring of Duluth, for the band A Winter Downpour. It will be released at two events in Duluth.

## Jean Sramek (Duluth) †

To create a character bible for the original web series *Old Lifty*, and to create three full drafts for episodes two, three, and four.

## Alisi Styles (Grand Rapids) † \*

To travel to the her birthplace of Fiji to interview and record tribal leaders and create a short film about the experience.

## Nicholas Sundahl (Duluth) †

To explore new techniques in filmmaking and develop a new short film in order to expand his portfolio.

# GRANTS AWARDED



## TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT AWARD SUMMARY

† Received Staff Assistance  
\* First-time Applicant

### Lucie Amundsen (Duluth) †

To purchase a Mac Book Pro, a printer, and a means to automatically back up her files to enable her to continue her career as a professional writer.

### Brian Barber (Duluth) † \*

To support the purchase of an Epson SureColor P800 Inkjet Printer, refill inks, and paper for creating fine art giclee prints.

### Jon Brophy (Duluth) \*

To purchase professional drafting and rendering software to assist in doing theatrical lighting design.

### Patricia Canelake (Knife River)

To purchase a new camera to improve documentation of paintings, to create images for a new website, and to take source photographs for future paintings. **(Pictured)**

### Angie Frank (Duluth) †

To hire a design company and photographer to build a website featuring her theatre work.

### Paula Gudmundson (Duluth)

To purchase Nasut Baroque and Renaissance flutes which will be used in the development of a concert series titled Klezmer Meets Tango.

### Brett Grandson (Duluth) †

To build an ultraviolet light box to make handcrafted photographic prints and double the size of the prints he is currently able to produce.

### Bryan Hansel (Grand Marais) †

To purchase two wide angle, fast, prime camera lenses to photograph low-light subjects.

### Dawn LaPointe (Duluth)

To purchase high quality filters for camera lenses to assist in creating longer exposure photographs in challenging light.

### Jakob Larson (Duluth) \*

To purchase a Universal Audio Apollo 8p recording interface to aid in studio and location recordings.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## **Michelle Matthees (Duluth)**

To purchase a new laptop, word processing software, a printer, and website domain hosting to support her writing career.

## **Catherine Meier (Duluth) †**

To purchase a new computer to aid in high-resolution drawing and animation video rendering.

## **Andy Messerschmidt (Ely) †**

To purchase a new computer and digital editing software to further an ongoing exploration of newer, computer based media.

## **Matthew Mobley (Duluth) † \***

To purchase a 150 year-old hand-carved European double bass to play with numerous bands at local and regional venues.

## **David Moreira (Duluth)**

To purchase an interactive pen display and professional graphics tablet to upgrade decade old technology for graphic design.

## **Dan Neff (Duluth) †**

To purchase a 12'' flat lapidary grinding wheel for use in glass working.

## **Carolyn Olson (Duluth) †**

To purchase a camera to take high quality photographs of paintings, drawings, and sculptures for use on her website and in exhibition proposals.

## **Jason Page (Duluth)**

To purchase a Zenmuse X5 camera and gimbal system for use in aerial video and cinematography work.

## **Troy Rogers (Duluth)**

To the purchase a multichannel portable recording interface and two pairs of microphones.

## **Laura Sellner (Duluth) \***

To purchase a Marshall acoustic guitar amp, Audiotechnica handheld microphone, and a laptop computer.

## **Mike Scholtz (Wrenshall) †**

To purchase a new computer for video editing and processing.



# GRANTS AWARDED

## **Matt Wasmund (Duluth) † \***

To purchase an audio interface, external hard drive, microphones, and microphone accessories to capture live recordings of original music pieces.

## **Kathy McTavish (Duluth) †**

To partner with Duluth Art Institute to provide a hands-on digital lab and workshop series to experiment, create, and share new media tools and processes.

## **ARTS LEARNING AWARD SUMMARY (INDIVIDUALS)**

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

## **Mary Plaster (Duluth) †**

To partner with Duluth Children's Museum to create public art activities exploring global harvest traditions and the North American monarch butterfly.

## **Lyz Jaakola (Cloquet) †**

To support the Oshkii Giizhik Singers Healing Circle to work with a group of women to teach them how to make hand drums so that they can, in turn, teach other women how to make hand drums. **(Pictured)**

## **Troy Rogers (Duluth) †**

To present a two week summer musical robotics camp for students in grade 7-12 in the Quad Cities and surrounding area.

## **FELLOWSHIP AWARD SUMMARY**

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant



## **Emily Derke (Duluth) †**

To create a new collection of basketry works, improve skills in aesthetic design and material use, and attend a 6-day willow basketry workshop.

## **Kimberlie Dillon (Duluth) †**

To purchase an English horn and pursue an in-depth study of reed making.

## **Elizabeth LaPensee (Duluth) †**

To create Thunderbird Strike, a 2D sidescroller game that merges Woodlands art, Anishinaabe stories, and engaging quick-paced game play.

# GRANTS AWARDED



## **Peter Pestalozzi (Ely) †**

To produce work based on a circumnavigation of Lake Superior by sea kayak.

## **Kip Praslowicz (Duluth) † \***

To photograph the Lake Superior Watershed and exhibit selected photographs in 2017.

## **Troy Rogers (Duluth)**

To compose new music for robotic instruments; perform robotic instrument upgrades, and document the process on video.

## **Leah Yellowbird (Grand Rapids) †**

To create paintings and a companion coloring book exploring medicinal plants.

**(Pictured)**

## **QUICK START FOR INDIVIDUALS AWARD SUMMARY**

† Received Staff Assistance

\* First-time Applicant

## **Robert Adams (Duluth) † \***

For visual art exhibition at Red Herring in Duluth.

## **Dan Anderson (Grand Rapids) †**

Travel funds to attend two film screenings at festivals in Arkansas and Louisiana, and a solo exhibition of his work in New Mexico.

## **Reggie Asplund (Duluth) † \***

For an exhibition of photography at Perk Place Coffee House in Duluth.

## **Kirsten Aune (Duluth) †**

To attend classes on textile repeats for creating yardage using silkscreen, as well as dyes and pastes with Katy Fischer at The Textile Arts Center in New York.

## **Robin Bellanger (Duluth) † \***

To participate in *Asemma: The Vessel of Connection* exhibition at AICHO in Duluth.

## **Vernal Bogren Swift (Bovey) †**

To participate in mentorship opportunity with glass artist John Nutter in Vancouver, BC.

# GRANTS AWARDED

## **Leif Brush (Duluth) †**

For solo lithography retrospective at Northern Printmaker's Alliance Gallery in Duluth.

## **Mary Bue (Duluth) †**

For music video post-production and funds to cover a DIY Musician Conference.

## **Chuck Haavik (Duluth) † \***

To produce a winter-themed collaborative book combining his poetry with the artwork of Aaron Kloss.

## **Naomi Christenson (Duluth) † \***

For inter-disciplinary show incorporating painting, costume, and dance at Duluth Art Institute.

## **Eric Edgin (Duluth) †**

To travel to Tillers International in Michigan to do a demonstration and exhibition on the art of coopering.

## **Paula Gudmundson (Duluth)**

To perform and present at the 44th Annual National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, California.

## **William Hurst (Duluth) † \***

For a photography exhibition at Red Herring in Duluth. **(Pictured)**

## **Tim Kaiser (Duluth)**

To perform at the Thingamajigs Music Festival in Oakland, California.



## **Elizabeth LaPensee (Duluth) † \***

To show digital art prints in the Re-Exhibition opening at Trepener Hall at Gimaajii Mino-Bimaadiziyaan in Duluth.

## **Robert LeMettry (Grand Marais) † \***

To attend ceramics workshop with Guillermo Cuellar at Grand Marais Art Colony.

## **Kathy McTavish (Duluth)**

To produce public projection installation for Hennepin Theatre Trust in Minneapolis.

## **Catherine Meier (Duluth) †**

To frame pieces for exhibition at MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids.

## **Stephanie Mirocha (Aitkin)**

For exhibit of artwork at the Sherburne County Government Center in Elk River. **(Pictured on next page)**

# GRANTS AWARDED

## David Moreira (Duluth)

To frame pieces for upcoming exhibition at Duluth Coffee Company in Duluth.

## Jamie Ness (Duluth) † \*

To purchase Shure PSM 300 in-ear monitors for live vocal performances.

## Cole Perry (Grand Rapids)

To participate in Centroamerica Cuenta 2016 in Managua, Nicaragua.

## Esther Piszczek (Duluth) †

For exhibition of drawings at Pizza Luce in Duluth.

## Wendy Savage (Duluth) †

To participate in *Asemma: The Vessel of Connection* exhibition at AICHO in Duluth.

## Mike Scholtz (Wrenshall) †

To attend Portland Film Festival in Oregon, for screening of his film, *Lost Conquest*.

## Jean Sramek (Duluth) †

To attend a screenwriting class at the Independent Filmmaker Project in St. Paul.

## Eun-Kyung Suh (Duluth) †

To attend Haystack Summer Workshop at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine.

## Jonathan Thunder (Duluth) † \*

To buy supplies and pay for studio time for upcoming exhibitions in Duluth and Minneapolis.

## Michelle Wegler (Duluth) †

IPad purchase to support artistic process.

## Tim White (Duluth) †

For photography exhibition at Duluth Art Institute.

## Melissa Wickwire (Grand Marais) †

To defray kiln set-up costs.

## Leah Yellowbird (Grand Rapids) † \*

To pay for worktime to finish 3 large paintings and organize the opening of my solo show at AICHO in Duluth.



## STAFF

Robert DeArmond  
*Executive Director*

Erin Turner  
*Operations/Systems  
Manager*

Ashley Kolka  
*Grants Manager*

Steve Wick  
*Office Coordinator*

Joni Van Bockel  
*Media Relations Intern*

Haliee Lange  
*Media Relations Intern*

Kellen Witschen  
*Media Relations Intern*

## BOARD

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*At-Large: Grand Marais*

David Beard, Vice-Chair  
*At-Large: Duluth*

Michelle Ronning, Treasurer  
*Lake County*

Dana Mattice, Secretary  
*Duluth*

Ann Russ  
*Cook County*

Tara Makinen  
*Itasca County*

Jan Carey  
*St. Louis County*

Jeanne Doty  
*Carlton County*

Erling Ellison  
*Aitkin County*

John Gregor  
*At-Large: Two Harbors*

Ken Bloom  
*At-Large: Duluth*

Candace LaCrosse  
*At-Large: Duluth*

Adam Guggemos  
*At-Large: Duluth*

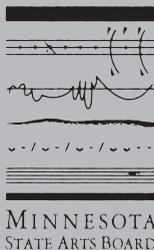
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THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION