



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

**Report on Impact of
Legacy Funding Appropriation
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021**
(2018 Minn. Laws, Chap. 2 Art. 4 Sec. 2 Subd. 8)

for

the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

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Submitted January 15, 2020

Minnesota Humanities Center Report on Legacy Funding from the 2019-2021 Biennium

The Minnesota Humanities Center received four direct appropriations totaling \$6,400,000 from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment during the 2019-2021 biennium.

This report includes detail on funds expended for each of the four appropriations from July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019. We anticipate funds will be spent by June 30, 2022 or left unrequested.

Programs and Purposes (page 4)

\$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,100,000 the second year are for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center.

Children's Museum Grants (page 6)

\$1,200,000 each year is for arts and cultural heritage grants to children's museums for arts and cultural exhibits and related educational outreach programs.

\$525,000 each year is for the Minnesota Children's Museum for interactive exhibits and outreach programs on arts and cultural heritage, including the Minnesota Children's Museum in Rochester; \$50,000 each year is to develop and fabricate a permanent STEM exhibit for the Minnesota Children's Museum of Rochester, which must be under a separate grant agreement from the grant agreement used to provide funding to the Minnesota Children's Museum; and \$625,000 each year is for grants to other children's museums to pay for start-up costs or new exhibit and program development. Funds are to be distributed through a competitive grant process. The Minnesota Humanities Center must administer these funds using established grant mechanisms.

Civics Programs (page 9)

\$100,000 each year is for grants to the Minnesota Civic Education Coalition: Minnesota Civic Youth, the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, and YMCA Youth in Government to conduct civics education programs for the civic and cultural development of Minnesota youth. Civics education is the study of constitutional principles and the democratic foundation of our national, state, and local institutions and the study of political processes and structures of government, grounded in the understanding of constitutional government under the rule of law.

Community Identity and Heritage Grant Program (page 10)

\$850,000 the first year and \$850,000 the second year are for a competitive grants program to provide grants to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Minnesota. The Minnesota Humanities Center must operate a competitive grants program to provide grants to programs that preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Minnesota or that provide education and student outreach on cultural diversity or to programs that empower communities to build their identity and culture.

Cultural Identity Grants (page 10)

Priority must be given to grants for individuals and organizations working to create, celebrate, and teach indigenous arts and cultural activities and arts organizations and programs preserving, sharing, and educating on the arts and cultural heritage of immigrant communities in Minnesota.

Hmong Cultural Heritage Grants (page 15)

Of this amount, \$250,000 the first year is for a grant to one or more community organizations that provide arts and cultural heritage programming celebrating Hmong heritage.

Somali Cultural Heritage Grants (page 19)

Of this amount, \$250,000 the first year is for a grant to one or more community organizations that provide arts and cultural heritage programming celebrating Somali heritage.

Programs and Purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center

Funds are appropriated for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center. The humanities remind us of where we have been, bring knowledge and insights to current life, and help us envision where we are going. The Minnesota Humanities Center collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame community conversations, build and deepen relationships, and bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have often been left out or marginalized.

MHC is committed to programs that are built with a diversity of people in communities across the state. During the 2019-21 biennium, the Humanities Center's Legacy Funded work will be divided in five priority areas:

1) K-12 Public Education; 2) *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* Exhibition; 3) Veterans' Voices; 4) We Are Water MN; and 5) Public Humanities.

(1) K-12 Public Education

Total: \$0

The primary goal of the Humanities Center's Education Initiative is to increase student engagement and success; the foundation is strengthening the teacher-student relationship. Drawing upon the multiplicity of experiences and cultures represented in schools, educators gain insight into how to engage every student authentically and respectfully.

(2) *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* Exhibition

Total: \$0

Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations is a traveling exhibition made in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit explores relationships between Dakota and Ojibwe Indian Nations and the U.S. government in this place we now call Minnesota. Legacy funds will be used to support a new statewide tour, educational resources, and community engagement activities throughout Minnesota in 2018-2019 in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and 11 sovereign nations.

(3) Veterans' Voices

Total: \$0

Drawing on the power of the humanities, Veterans' Voices changes the narrative of Veterans and honors their contributions. It empowers Veterans to speak in their own voices through plays, discussions, literature, and the Veterans' Voices Award. Veterans' Voices will recognize the next great generation and illustrate that the Veteran's voice is essential to the work of building our great democracy.

(4) We Are Water MN

Total: \$0

We are Water MN is a program and partnership with the Humanities Center, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota section of the American Water Works Association, and six greater Minnesota communities. Legacy funding will support *We Are Water MN* work for relationship building with existing partners and for community engagement events at the six Minnesota host sites. The 2020-2021 host sites are located in Chislm, Pipestone, Morris, Mankato, St. Paul, and Rochester.

(5) Public Humanities

Total: \$565.44

The Minnesota Humanities Center is dedicated to bringing informative, enlightening, and engaging events to the community, providing all Minnesotans opportunities to build relationships, listen to stories, and learn from one-another. A small amount of funds has been spent towards the implementation of the Community Partner Fund, a new grant program designed to build relationships between community organizations, leveraging the humanities to address community-identified needs and opportunities.

Program Management

Total: \$0

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding for program planning and management. This support includes work such as exploratory and planning meetings for new initiatives and program management of all our Legacy work.

Administrative Support

Total: \$133.31

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding to provide administrative support for Legacy-funded work. This support includes work such as financial management, reporting, technology, and website maintenance.

Amount Expended as of October 31, 2019

	Direct Expense	Administrative Costs	Total
K-12 Public Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Why Treaties Matter</i> Exhibition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Veterans' Voices	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>We are Water MN</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Humanities	\$565.44	\$0	\$565.44
Program Management	\$0	\$0	\$0
Administrative Support	\$0	\$133.31	\$133.31
Total	\$565.44	\$133.31	\$698.75

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Children’s Museums

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to children’s museums, including through a competitive grant process. A small portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective museums.

Minnesota Children’s Museum: Minnesota Children’s Museum Arts and Access Programs Year I

Recipient: Minnesota Children’s Museum

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to pursue three major initiatives between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020:

- New dynamic experiences at Minnesota Children’s Museum in Saint Paul
- Statewide initiative to engage communities in playful learning
- Changing and new experiences and access at Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester

Contact: Dianne Krizan
President
651-225-6008
DKrizan@mcm.org

Funding Amount: \$511,875

Start Date: 07/01/2019

End Date: 06/30/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Saint Paul

- 455,000 total visitors, 120,000 from Play for All
- Receive feedback from 3,000 visitors
- Implement changing experiences for Imaginopolis and Summer 2020
- Complete design for permanent gallery change in SAA
- Begin evaluation of Tot Spots in the museum

Statewide

- Identify partner(s)
- Develop play prompt concepts and details related to content, prototyping, locations, and installation
- Determine plan for implementation of play prompts in public spaces

Rochester

- Engage visitors in Southeastern Minnesota to build creative and critical thinking skills through play
- 26,000 total visitors, 4,000 through Play for All
- 452 free memberships distributed

Measurable Outcomes: In progress; no measurable outcomes reported to date.

Counties Served: Statewide; Olmsted; Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 5.5

Board Members: Paul Dzubnar, Chair of the Board; Michael Fiddelke, Chair Elect and Treasurer; Ann Ferreira, Secretary; Siyad Abdullahi; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Ken Brown; Tony Brown; James Burroughs II; Adrian Chiu; Steve Christenson; Elizabeth Cummings; Chad Dayton; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Lisa Posley Duff; Ray Faust; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Amy Giovanini; Abbey Godlewski; Suzette Huovinen; Julie Joyce; Jeanne Junker; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Phil Krump; John Marshall; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Gail Peterson; Elizabeth Rominski; Susan Oberman Smith; Cassidy Steiner; Katharine Tinucci; Robert Wollan; Dr. Drew Zinkel

Minnesota Children’s Museum: Rochester STEM Exhibit Fabrication Year I

Recipient: Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow us to identify and plan a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) exhibit experience, design and develop the exhibit, select a fabrication partner, and fabricate the exhibit components between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. The STEM exhibit will be designed to help children practice critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Contact: Dianne Krizan
President
651-225-6008
DKrizan@mcm.org

Funding Amount: \$48,750

Start Date: 07/01/2019

End Date: 06/30/2020

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

- Rochester museum gains experience developing exhibit that aligns with strategic framework
- One fully fabricated STEM exhibit

After the grant period, the exhibit will be installed and launched, providing hands-on STEM learning to an estimated 43,000 visitors each year.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress; no measurable outcomes reported to date.

Counties Served: Olmsted

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Paul Dzubnar, Chair of the Board; Michael Fiddelke, Chair Elect and Treasurer; Ann Ferreira, Secretary; Siyad Abdullahi; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Ken Brown; Tony Brown; James Burroughs II; Adrian Chiu; Steve Christenson; Elizabeth Cummings; Chad Dayton; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Lisa Posley Duff; Ray Faust; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Amy Giovanini; Abbey Godlewski; Suzette Huovinen; Julie Joyce; Jeanne Junker; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Phil Krump; John Marshall; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Gail Peterson; Elizabeth Rominski; Susan Oberman Smith; Cassidy Steiner; Katharine Tinucci; Robert Wollan; Dr. Drew Zinkel

Children's Museums (Competitive)

Information is not yet available as competitive process is still underway.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Civics Programs

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to civics organizations. A small portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective organizations.

Minnesota Civic Education Coalition Appropriations

Information is not yet available; named grantees will determine allocation amounts and begin projects and reporting in July 2020.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Cultural Identity Grants (Competitive)

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the American Indian and immigrant communities through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Identity funds will be distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020) and a fourth round in the second year of the legislative biennium (through June 2021). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants will be awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third round, the remaining funds will be awarded in larger amounts.

Round 1 Grants:

MIGIZI Microgrant

Recipient: MIGIZI

Project Overview: Begin to digitize 40 years of audio archives to enable future usage by American Indians and all Minnesotans.

Contact: Kelly Drummer
612-721-6631
kelly@migizi.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Chaz Wagner Microgrant

Recipient: Chaz Wagner

Project Overview: Ojibwe podcast broadcast via youtube, Itunes, Spotify, Facebook, etc. The Ojibwe Podcast would include oral interviews with local elders, community experts, activists, and Anishinaabe peoples of Minnesota.

Contact: Chaz Wagner
218-780-3755
Chaz706@yahoo.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Dakota Wicohan Microgrant

Recipient: Dakota Wicohan

Project Overview: Provide a fun, supportive and engaging opportunity for Dakota youth to learn the Dakota language and culture through weekly activity nights, which includes assisting with the planning and production of a monthly fun cultural lesson video for distribution on YouTube and social media.

Contact: Eileen O'Keefe
507-697-6272
eokeefe@dakotawicohan.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Telling Queer History/Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia Microgrant

Recipient: Telling Queer History/Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

Project Overview: IX and TQH will collaborate to support the immigrant members of IX who are also part of the queer community. We want to focus on this intersection because IX has a handful of members who embrace this identity and struggle for recognition within their Latinx community. IX will work with TQH to support the intersectional identities of IX members through their claiming of their narratives. This will be done at a December storytelling event of TQH, through IX members (and adding a cross-cultural element) as well as queer Hmong and Somali individuals sharing their stories publicly.

Contact: Rebecca Lawrence
Founder, Telling Queer History
612-423-4320
hello@tellingqueerhistory.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Bee Yang Microgrant

Recipient: Bee Yang

Project Overview: Composing and recording traditional Hmong song poetry now that I'm in the third phase of my life, focused on my responsibilities as an old man, a grandfather. I want to do an album of song poetry about the things I am leaving behind. My voice is not as young or as handsome as it once was, scarred by time and circumstances, I now sing with an older man's tones. But even this is valuable for the human experience.

Contact: Kao Kalia Yang
763-219-3401
kaokaliayang@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Round 2 Grants:

Artists Collective for Community Collaboration Microgrant

Recipient: Artists Collective for Community Collaboration (AC3)

Project Overview: AC3 will create two art-building workshops for indigenous youth and their families. The work itself will focus on the lives and stories of missing or murdered indigenous women (MMIW) in Minnesota. The workshops will be co-hosted with Anishinaabe Academy (AA) and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC). At both events, students, their parents, and their siblings will be trained in silk screening production, will manufacture printed fabric and paper arts together, and will be educated in Native American history, culture, and contemporary experiences.

Contact: Rory Wakemup
507-430-3768
Wakemup productions@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Oyate Hotanin Microgrant

Recipient: Oyate Hotanin

Project Overview: We will add to the number of American Indians presenting artistic work and ideas, and expand our audiences to promote a vibrant, honest American Indian world view in Minnesota by supporting 3 short term projects led by artists in our coalition: The January Buffalo Show, RedTalk Symposium, and Live At the Buffalo Show CD Audio Mastering and short run printing. In collaboration with Bryant Lake Bowl, Pangea World Theater and our ever-expanding network of artists we are building a community around authentic and unusual material, with this micro grant we will deliver 3 new, treasured projects in a short timeframe.

Contact: Laura LaBlanc
651-263-0739
laura@oyatehotanin.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Penumbra Theatre Microgrant

Recipient: Penumbra Theatre

Project Overview: Weathering, a new play in-progress written by Harrison David Rivers and directed by Talvin Wilks, explores the histories and health outcomes for mothers of color in America. To generate authentic voice and representation, Penumbra's developing deep engagement opportunities with Rivers and Minnesota's healthcare professionals/caregivers with help from black doula/midwife circles, and from this commission's two official sponsors, Regions Hospital and Healthpartners.

Contact: Nathan Young
651-288-6782
nathan.young@penumbrateatre.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen Microgrant

Recipient: Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen

Project Overview: A food memoir book with the working title of “Hand to Mouth: A Daughter’s Memory and a Mother’s Legacy of Vietnamese Food” about my complicated relationship with Vietnamese food and how cultivating that relationship over time influenced my desire to learn about my Vietnamese culture and family history. Woven throughout this three-part essay will be a story highlighting my mother’s experiences working in Vietnamese restaurants in the Twin Cities, as well as historical reflections on four Asian markets on University Ave and stories about the history of the buildings/locations before they became Asian markets. These Asian markets have all played important roles in the legacy of my mother’s cooking and the ability of refugees, like my family, from South East Asia to find food and ingredients that remind them of home.

Contact: Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen
510-282-7159
poetessanhhoa@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Additional microgrant have been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending signed agreements.

Round 3 Grants (Competitive)

Information is not yet available as competitive process is still underway.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Hmong Cultural Heritage Grants (Competitive)

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the Hmong community through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Heritage funds will be distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants will be awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third round, the remaining funds will be awarded in larger amounts.

Round 1 Grants:

Hmong Archives Microgrant

Recipient: Hmong Archives

Project Overview: Photograph all items of the Martha Kaufman-Zimmerman Collection of needlework and four archival boxes of objects from ca. 2000 to 2019 of Wat Tham Krabok with accession information and several hundred digital photos, and post them on our website so they may be viewed at any time and place. Publish books in Hmong and English with selected images and texts from our accession record, with additional information about common design elements and audio-video interview information. Record, transcribe, and translate video interviews with Hmong elders to record their childhood, education, arming, army, refugee, resettlement, and current stories, as well as knowledge of Hmong history, language, music, herbs, paj ntaub, customs, silversmithing, blacksmithing, and many other aspects of Hmong culture for future publications and other projects.

Contact: Dr. Brian Xiong
Board of Director
612-978-8359
brianvxiong@gmail.com

Marlin Heise
Board of Director, Archivist
651-621-5469
mlh1stpaul@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$4,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Tou SaiK Unites Microgrant

Recipient: Tou SaiK Unites

Project Overview: Unified Worldwide is a Hmong language Hip Hop project which includes songs accompanied by a curriculum. This is a journey to relearn Hmong language through writing lyrics. A strong focus of songs on this album are "message" and "content" to address social issues, reflect personal stories and preserve cultural identity. This album incorporates collaborations with Hmong elders who are masters of traditional instruments such as rab ncas (mouth harp), lub raj (flute) and xim xaus (violin).

Contact: Tou SaiK Lee
651-353-7497
tousaikunites@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Hnub Tshiab – Hmong Women Achieving Together Microgrant

Recipient: Hnub Tshiab – Hmong Women Achieving Together

Project Overview: Our book titled *Staring Down the Tiger: Stories of Hmong American Women*, provides a platform to tell stories of Hmong women—stories that are often left unheard. The collection of the stories in the book were developed during a writing retreat that provided emotional and technical writing support to nearly 30 women. The writing retreat was invaluable in helping non writers uncover and creatively share their stories. We are requesting \$5,000 to create a personal development workbook that will supplement the book offering readers their own virtual experience of the writing retreat. The workbook will be developed by the book's editor Pader Vang who has extensive experience in education, culture and clinical social work. The creation of the workbook is in response to the soft launch of the book.

Contact: MayKao Fredericks
651-321-4928
infoathmongwomenachieve@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Hmong Museum Microgrant

Recipient: Hmong Museum

Project Overview: Hmong Museum will spearhead a new pilot program around lost arts and sharing stories and knowledge passed on through oral tradition. The project will be around the practice and teaching of Hmong elder's knowledge and skill around a folk art activity, such as bamboo basket weaving.

Contact: Mai Vang
651-428-3979
info@hmongmuseumMN.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Round 2 Grants:

The SEAD Project Microgrant

Recipient: The SEAD Project

Project Overview: Our project aims to develop free online resources that teach Hmong language and culture to the public. First, printable literacy and cultural decks – for example, flashcards of the Hmong alphabet, or an overview of a prevalent Hmong tradition – available for download on our website. Our second resource include an interactive web app that teaches introductory Hmong language. Users gain literacy skills of consonants, vowels, and grammar, and can also engage in lessons that teach topics such as common greetings, introductions, survival phrases, pronouns, and more.

Contact: Chanida Phaengdara Potter
612-987-7313
chanida@theseadproject.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Hmong American Day Microgrant

Recipient: Hmong American Day

Project Overview: The Hmong American Day non-profit would like to collaborate with Hmong for Native Speakers courses in the Osseo School District at Park Center Senior High and at Osseo Senior High to provide a culturally relevant education. They would also like to help students tap into their cultural heritage through engaging activities that invite students to continue with their learning and sharing of Hmong language and culture: Students and families will contribute to a book that tells personal and cultural stories that could include the history of the Hmong people through individual and

family experiences. We would also like to integrate the art of storytelling along with actual artwork connected to Hmong culture and history.

Contact: Tzianeng Vang
651-239-3488
txiabneeb@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Additional microgrant have been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending signed agreements.

Round 3 Grants (Competitive)

Information is not yet available as competitive process is still underway.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Somali Cultural Heritage Grants (Competitive)

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to the Somali community through the competitive grant process. A small portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Cultural Heritage funds will be distributed in three rounds of competitive grants in the first year of the 2019-2021 legislative biennium (through June 2020). Over the course of the first two rounds, microgrants will be awarded — up to \$5,000 per award. During the third round, the remaining funds will be awarded in larger amounts.

Round I Grants:

Isuroon Microgrant

Recipient: Isuroon

Project Overview: In summer 2020 Isuroon will be piloting a new program, designed by and for young Somali people. The focus is on creating a space for Somali youth to discuss the realities of being a first- or second-generation immigrant with the compounding factors of their racial, linguistic, ethnic and religious identities. This space will provide resources on how to both heal and lead in and through the arts and nature.

Contact: Jeannette Lutter Gardella
Director of Educational Policy
612-886-2731
jeannette@isuroon.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 07/31/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Somali Community Resettlement Services Microgrant

Recipient: Somali Community Resettlement Services

Project Overview: The goal is to develop a “Basic Somali Language and Culture Class” curriculum. This course will be a tailored 20 – 30-hour training for people in the business community as well as Somali youth. Each class session will have an element of language and an element of culture.

Contact: Julie Olson
507-384-3553
julie@somalcrs.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 11/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Additional microgrant have been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending signed agreements.

Round 2 Grants:

Somali Parents Autism Network Microgrant

Recipient: Somali Parents Autism Network

Project Overview: A project that helps families express their feelings through poetry, sharing historical perspectives on disability within the Somali Community. We will invite school administrators, teachers, and community members and discuss the social stigma of disabilities and mental health through innovative strategies. In our parent to parent peer support, we have event nights where parents gather informally and express their daily barriers for the first half of the session, and then we go through resource sharing the second half of the session.

Contact: Deeqaifrah Hussein
612-532-3925
deeqaifrah@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Speaking Out Microgrant

Recipient: Speaking Out Collective

Project Overview: Ayeeyo Childcare Center is a Somali-American family's business. Ayeeyo staff and students expressed a desire to work with Speaking Out to create workshops that use storytelling and acting to center Somali stories, language and culture.

Contact: Tessa Flynn Henderson
612-799-3317
speakingoutcollective@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Multicultural Resource Center Microgrant

Recipient: Multicultural Resource Center

Project Overview: The city of Pelican Rapids has an International Friendship Festival nearly every year. They invite musicians and dancers from many of the nationalities that make up the town. The Festival is an opportunity for all the diverse peoples in this town to share their own cultures and their art. We would like to hire the Somali Cultural Museum's Dance Troupe to perform at the 2020 Festival. We also plan to run a Somali dance workshop the day after the Festival.

Contact: Abdullahi Hashi
763-614-6476
abdullahihasi17@gmail.com

Funding Amount: \$3,120

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Unite Cloud Microgrant

Recipient: Unite Cloud

Project Overview: For this project, we are partnering with a local Somali-owned business, Nori Cafe and Creamery. Nori Cafe and Creamery provides a space that bridges the gap between different cultures through events and an array of coffee, tea, smoothies and cold drinks. Starting this past June, they have hosted bi-monthly "Somali Language Nights" where a local member of the Central MN Somali community teaches Somali phrases to non-Somali community members. #unitecloud has promoted this event on our social media and the response has been fantastic! We have many community members asking when the next one is so they can put it on their calendar. Through this grant, we hope to be able to provide free food and drink during these nights to drive more neighbors to each event. We also want to increase the capacity for Nori to have these more frequency by paying a stipend to the organizers to be able to carve out time to do this important, bridge-building work.

Contact: Natalie Ringsmuth
404-422-0290
natalie@unitecloud.org

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 06/30/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Tusaalo Mentoring – Ubah Medical Academy Microgrant

Recipient: Tusaalo Mentoring – Ubah Medical Academy

Project Overview: Tusaalo Mentorship Program is an innovative program developed with the goal of connecting Somali youth with local Somali professionals through culturally-specific and school-based mentorship. In Somali, to be a "tusaalo" is to be an example, which is precisely the role we envision for Somali professionals. Focusing on 9th and 10th graders, our goal is to establish the foundations necessary for increased academic engagement and performance. Mentoring will allow students to explore, visualize and plan for post-secondary success and develop an appreciation for cultural traditions and community. Our programming will incorporate journaling, goal-setting, and workshops (career, creative writing, self-care, and personal development).

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Funding Amount: \$2,500

Start Date: 12/20/2019

End Date: 05/01/2020

Project in progress; information will be updated upon completion of interim and final reporting.

Additional microgrant have been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending signed agreements.

Round 3 Grants (Competitive)

Information is not yet available as competitive process is still underway.