Lake Region Arts Council, Fergus Falls, MN has awarded ten Career Development Grants a total of $18,000 at the May LRAC Grant Review that was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The Career Development Grants are funded by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through The McKnight Foundation funding.

**Vicky Radel, Visual Artist - $2,000, Traverse County**

Radel will use the grant to study painting with cold wax medium online with R. Crowell and J. McLaughlin for 1 year via Cold Wax Academy and attend an in-person workshop on abstract painting with Jodi Ohl. She hopes that the classes will help her with “developing layers with depth and textures and improving composition and use of color”.

**Timothy Cassidy, Metal Artist - $2,000, Otter Tail County**

Cassidy will purchase a used power hammer to enable him to create more and larger forgings for his sculptures. The equipment will allow him to build sculptures that include larger forgings than what he is “currently capable of making independently”, and enable him “to continue to build sculptures without relying on a studio assistant.”

**Mary Jo Wentz, Fiber Artist- $2,000, Otter Tail County**

Wentz will use the grant funds to study in a 5-day in-person immersion class to create a signature vest that can be worn 4 different ways and create using the nuno felting process. She anticipates that this workshop will “take me to the next step in felting, using wool as well as other fibers (ie., silk, cotton) to create wearable art.”

**Kandace Creel Falcón, Visual Artist - $1,800, Otter Tail County**

Creel Falcón will study with Cate White, a legendary Bay-Area narrative painter, to learn her somatic approaches and apply them to her own painting practice. The grant will allow her to meet once monthly for a full year (virtually) with Cate White to learn her techniques in “handling the energies that emerge while painting to strengthen resiliency”.

**Joshua Johnson, Pottery Artist - $2,000, Pope County**

Johnson will purchase clay and glazes to create new pottery pieces and introduce the pottery arts publicly in Glenwood. The supplies will be used for creating items for sale that can help support the expenses and costs of opening a studio, such as mugs, platters, bowls, vases, etc.
The LRAC Career Development Grant is a $2,000 grant, open to all applicants in the LRAC nine-county region: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties. The next round of the LRAC Career Development Grant will open on February 19, 2024. This grant program is funded by the McKnight Foundation and these grants may take place outside of the LRAC region.

In the summer of 2023, LRAC will be offering the Artist Quick Start Grant for individuals in the LRAC region. The Artist Quick Start grant will fund up to $1,000 per applicant for trainings, workshops, supplies, equipment, marketing, production, and time to create new work. The application will open July 3, 2023 and the deadline to apply is Thursday, August 3, 2023. Both the LRAC Artist Quick Start and the Career Development Grant are funded by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council with McKnight Foundation funding.

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

M.A. Papanek-Miller, Visual Artist - $1,970, Becker County
Papanek-Miller will document and photograph her current art works to create new digital images of her work for future exhibitions and related opportunities. She will purchase two dimmable photographic lights (kits with stands and soft boxes) and a medium format scanner to achieve high quality new digital images of her work.

Michele Anderson, Poet - $2,000, Clay County
Anderson will use the grant funds to create a series of 10 - 12 poems, compile them into hand-bound books, and leave them in public spaces. The poems will explore the impact of I-94’s construction in Otter Tail, Wilkin and Clay counties on the region’s families, land, and agriculture (including her own family’s homesteads in Rothsay and Downer), connecting personal narratives to the broader public narrative of this region.

Barbara Benda, Visual Artist - $1,980, Clay County
Benda will create a body of watercolor landscapes painted plein-air style throughout regions of Minnesota. She will use the grant funds to travel to Sugar Lake near Cohasset, MN, which is “known for having properties of clarity and effects from calcium carbonate, which produce aquamarine colors”.

Kathryn Olson, Visual Artist - $2,000, Otter Tail County
Olson will create a body of work featuring plaster casts of women’s torsos, embellished with plastic at the Precious Plastics Lab in Fergus Falls, MN. Olson hopes that the project will “highlight the complex relationship we have with plastic, the beauty of the human form and how all women - regardless of shape - are objectified”.

Elizabeth Gilbert, Author - $250, Becker County
Gilbert will use the grant funds to support one-on-one work with author Tommy Jenkins, to develop her recently-completed historical fiction book aimed at middle grade readers. She hopes that working one-on-one with a published author will result in helpful feedback on her novel including suggestions on how to rework it, improve character development, as well as the plot, sub-plots and the magical setting.

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