Investing In The Arts
In the 9-County Area

Arts Organizations,
Community Groups, and
Schools Grant Writing Workshop
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Grant funds

State Arts & Cultural Heritage 80%

Total Arts Grants

State General 15%

McKnight Artist funds 5%
The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council serves the artistic communities of the 9-county area of southcentral MN by

supporting the creation and presentation of diverse art forms, fostering equitable access to arts opportunities, and integrating arts and culture to enhance quality of life in our communities.
Equity and Inclusion

Prairie Lakes values an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community and this is reflected in our policies and programs for organizations.

We encourage applications from Arts groups and community organizations in these underserved areas. Arts activities that benefit:

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
People with Disabilities
Youth and Seniors
LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, etc.)
Organization Grants

Arts Organizations, Community Groups & Schools

- Arts & Cultural Heritage Grants, for Arts Programming
- Maximums – $9,000
- Arts & Music Festivals and Schools – $6,000

Community Groups & Schools

- Small Art Projects $2,500 and $4,000 for BIPOC Cultural projects.
- School Arts Projects $2,500
Youth Scholarships

Students:
- grades 7–12
- and 3–6

Timeline for all Grants:
- Projects must be completed within 12 months

- Youth Scholarship $300, grades 7–12
- Youth Scholarship $200, grades 3–6
- Deadline November 1
Grant Deadlines
Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

July 1 to April 1 - Small Arts Project & School Arts Project Grant, Monthly deadlines until funds are exhausted

August 1 - Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant

November 1 - Youth Scholarships grades 3-12

January 1 - Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant
About 90 Arts & community groups and schools are funded yearly.

Art Centers, Community Bands, Choirs, Dance Events, Youth Choir & Orchestra, etc.
About 100 Students Receive Youth Scholarships Annually, grades 3–12

Students primarily use their scholarship for dance lessons and music lessons in cello, guitar, piano, organ, string bass, viola, and violin. Also, visual art classes and theater.
FY 2024 Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant. For Arts programming, art exhibits & classes, choirs, dance, music and theater performances, literary events, public art, etc.

- Expenses for artist fees, publicity, rental, salaries, supplies, etc.

- Deadlines: August 1st or January 1st

- If your project does not fit this timeline: apply for a Small Arts Project Grant. Deadlines: 1st of each month
Disciplines: dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art, etc.

Eligibility: Non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) arts organizations, community groups, or units of government. Or groups can use a Fiscal Sponsor to receive funds.
Fundable Projects

- Those that create arts programming, performances or exhibit art
- For specific activities which advance the organization’s artistic development
- Contribute to the artistic life of the general community
- A one-time arts activity or program
Non-Fundable Projects

- Projects that have already begun, and debts have been incurred before the grant application is approved.

- Projects that are fundraising activities such as benefits, receptions, or if the intent is to donate the proceeds (earnings) to another non-profit.

- Projects that are essentially historical and lack a strong artistic component.
School Arts Project Grant

What types of activities are fundable?

- Artist Residency
- Arts Field Trip
- Live Arts Performance
- Mini-Workshop
Completing the online Application

Apply online: www.plrac.org
Apply online at www.plrac.org

Click on the teal “Applicant Login” button to access the online grant system.
Creating an Account

This is the login page you will be directed to create a new account.
Your Applicant Dashboard

- Click here from any screen to return to your Dashboard.
- Click here to start an Application.
- Current applications for your organization will be visible.
- Click this tab to view past grants for your organization.
- Edit your account & contact info. To edit your organization's info, contact PLRAC.
Writing a Compelling Narrative

- Explain more than the basics of the art project, date, location, etc.

- Talk about why this activity or event is important to the participants, audience or community.

- Express your passion for this art form, the people involved or the audience you hope to reach. Provide information about why this project is needed.
Organization Application Budget

Project Expenses
1. Artist(s) Fees
2. Artist(s) Travel and Expenses
3. Publicity
4. Rental Fees
5. Salaries or Wages
6. Expendable Supplies and Materials
7. Miscellaneous – List may include: royalties, piano tuning, insurance, telephone, postage, scholarships, etc.

Project Income
1. Cash
   a. Organizational funds committed or budgeted for the project
   b. List sources of grants other than the PLRAC request
   c. List estimated earned income/ticket sales & registration fees
2. Community Fundraising
3. Grant Request Amount $_____

Total Income for the Project should also equal Total Expenses
Organization Grant Review Criteria
(0–10 points for each)

1. Artistic Quality and Merit
2. Need for the Project
3. Ability of the Organization to Accomplish the Project
Grant Review Process

The Prairie Lakes Board reviews grants monthly at meetings. They live in & represent all 9-counties.

They will use the Grant Review Criteria to score and rank each applicant.

Applicants can attend the meeting, which is open to the public.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.
Notification of Awarded Grant

Organizations will be notified by email if they are funded in the days after the Board Meeting.

Grantees are required to attend a training meeting about their responsibilities.

Grant funds for organizations are provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and State General Funds.
Further Questions?

If you want to discuss a specific project idea with our staff

Please Email or Call our Office.

www.plrac.org

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