



# **Preliminary Biennial Plan Workplan Info March 2023**

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FOR EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
FY 2024-2025

*PART OF MINNESOTA'S STATEWIDE ARTS SYSTEM*

# ECRAC Priority 1

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- Provide technical assistance opportunities, arts information services to artists and arts organizations. This includes resources related to IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) and, as or if needed, to the pandemic.
- Strategies- Foster visionary, skilled arts leaders and organizations; Serve as a clearinghouse of information on best practices and successful programs for artists and organizations providing arts programming.
- Measurable Outcome - People develop arts skills or knowledge.

# Priority 1

## Tactics

- 1) Continue technical assistance workshops for organizations based on the needs.
- 2) Distribute arts resource information as needed and as requested.
- 3) Provide an arts information library area in the ECRAC offices.
- 4) Provide scholarships for opportunities such as the Rural Arts and Culture Summit (based on timing), Zoom subscriptions for artists and art groups, and IDEA and other training or resources.
- 5) Identify artists and organizations that would benefit and then facilitate skill-building workshops for business skills for artists and organizations. Examples are: Springboard for the Arts Work of Art; Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Programs; Forecast Public Art information; IDEA training.
- 6) Continue to work on the constituent database for delivery of arts information and public service announcements.
- 7) Promote ECRAC and continue and expand outreach beyond the arts community. Including, but not limited to, the newsletter Essential Arts, maintaining and updating the ECRAC website, advertising and sending public service announcements to regional media, and social media use.
- 8) Support the arts in Region 7E by sponsoring a regional arts calendar online.
- 9) Support the Mille Lacs Corporate Commission Entrepreneurship program as it relates to Region 7E artists.
- 10) Keep constituents updated on current issues and opportunities affecting the arts within the Region, State, and Legislature.

# ECRAC Priority 2

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- To offer grants to artists and organizations providing arts activities.
- Strategies- Provide a portfolio of grants to artists, skilled arts leaders, and organizations providing arts programming and services.
- Measurable Outcome- People develop arts skills or knowledge & People access arts experiences.

# Priority 2

## Tactics

- 1) Provide the ECRAC Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund grant programs for organizations and artists.
- 2) Provide the general operating support grant (Essential Arts) with ECRAC Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds.
- 3) Provide the Organization Art Project Small/Project Grant program with General Funds and supplemented by ACHF, if needed.
- 4) Provide the Resiliency Grant Program for artists and art organizations with ACHF for those artists or arts organizations that need one.
- 5) Provide the Art In Our Schools program, with General Funds and supplemented by ACHF, when needed.
- 6) Hold grant rounds for applications from individual artists for mid-career grants. (McKnight Funding)
- 7) Conduct the Essential Artist Award to fund professional artists on an annual basis. (McKnight Funding)
- 8) Conduct a scholarship program to fund special art projects for children in grades K-12.
- 9) Utilize the Minnesota State Arts Board information system database to track grant applicants and to report activity and track grantee outcomes.
- 10) Keep records of all grant activities and outcomes through grant file documentation.
- 11) Continue outcome evaluation of programs via grantee assessments from final reports..
- 12) Continue the online grant application system using Foundant Technologies.
- 13) Provide technical assistance to applicants in all funding program areas.
- 14) Continue to develop working relationships with underserved people, and organizations, within the region and continue serving disabled artists and patrons in the region as part of IDEA (inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility.) This includes leaning into art and justice.

## Priority 2

### Other Considerations

The FY 2024- 2025 applications and guidelines will be revised in August 2023 for clarification and streamlining in order to keep reducing application barriers. This includes updating the budget formats.

ACHF and State General Fund grant applicants with quotes for equipment \$750 and up, will be asked to provide at least 1 of the 3 required quotes from a Minnesota business, whenever possible.

Work samples are required from organization grants (eg. Music in the Parks will have music samples and not just artist resumes).

Artists grants of \$2,000 are ACHF funded with a required “open to the public” event at ECRAC to remove the barrier of finding an exhibit space.

Artists grants of \$3,600 are McKnight funded for mid-career artists.

ECRAC will work on a glossary of grant applicant and grant review vocabulary during this Biennium.

ECRAC will continue to articulate and improve measurable outcomes for the grant programs.

ECRAC will strengthen IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) as part of the grant review criteria for grant applications.

Research artificial intelligence digital equity and include questions in grant applications of how grantees are using technology.

ECRAC staff will share with grantees information on the types of art that constituents are interested in per the FY 2023 Needs Assessment.

# ECRAC Priority 3

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- Provide art exhibit space to artists and arts organizations.
- Strategy - exhibit regional artist's artwork and exhibit artwork in Region 7E.
- Measurable Outcome- People access arts experiences.

# Priority 3

## Tactics

- 1) Utilize the ECRAC Gallery to highlight the work of regional artists. This includes sponsoring the award winners of the annual regional art exhibit, IMAGE. This also can include multidisciplinary art events such as a Grantee Art Show.
- 2) Continuing the annual IMAGE Art Show for the 36 and 37<sup>th</sup> years using a larger conference room space to accommodate up to 175 artists.
- 3) Work with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to determine the feasibility of a band member art show at ECRAC and/or work with Mille Lacs Corporate Commission with artists seeking entrepreneurial skills. .
- 4) Maintain, monitor, and enhance the permanent ECRAC art collection. (McKnight Funds)
- 5) Provide tours of the art shows when requested.
- 6) Continue to arrange the use of the ECRAC display standards and pedestals for Region 7E artists and art organizations.
- 7) Promote ECRAC and continue and expand outreach beyond the arts community for the art shows.
- 8) Support the arts in Region 7E by exploring what other types of art events we can assist with in addition to visual art.
- 9) Research artificial intelligence to see how it is, or can/should be, included in art exhibitions and how best to manage.



# ECRAC Priority 4

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- Oversee all aspects of East Central Regional Arts Council administration.
- Strategies - Provide an accountable arts organization system and be responsible stewards of public and other funds.
- Measurable Outcome- The organization provides and develops capacities that advance the arts.

# Priority 4

## Tactics

- 1) Maintain 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
- 2) Provide for an annual audit of the ECRAC to be submitted to MSAB.
- 3) Review and update ECRAC ByLaws and finalize the Policy Manual including succession planning updates.
- 4) Provide staffing and administration for ECRAC (there are 2 current staff members and also utilize consultants as needed.).
- 5) Allow for ongoing board development including a day long retreat. Also, board and staff will participate in continued IDEA training.
- 6) Contract for services, as needed.
- 7) Maintain ECRAC office and gallery facilities in Hinckley.
- 8) Restart satellite office hours in other areas of the Region.
- 9) Assess and fulfill equipment needs for ECRAC.
- 10) Participate in the arts leadership activities including meetings and activities of the Regional Arts Council Forum and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Plus, updating constituents on Minnesota Citizens for the Arts activities and participate in the upcoming Creative Minnesota report.
- 11) Complete all necessary reports for the Minnesota State Arts Board and The McKnight Foundation.
- 12) Continue to work on board member recruitment and team building.
- 13) Trademark the ECRAC logo per best practices.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Legacy Grant for Individuals** -\$2,000 in ACHF  
October 1, February 1, & April 1 deadlines
- With a required open to the public event to be held at ECRAC
- Review Criteria: merit and artistic quality; ability of the applicant to accomplish the project; and demonstrated need for the project including underserved populations.
- Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must be any individual artist who is a permanent resident (for at least 6 months) in one of the five Minnesota counties of: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, or Pine. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age. The applicant must be an individual artist and not working on a collaborative project. In addition, artists are limited to one active ECRAC grant at a time.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Art Project Legacy Grant for Organizations** – in ACHF \$5,000 to \$20,000 October 1, February 1, & April 1 deadlines
- Review Criteria: merit and artistic quality; ability of the applicant to accomplish the project; and demonstrated need for the project including underserved populations.
- Eligibility Requirements: organizations, units of government, schools and nonprofits.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Resiliency Grants** - up to \$600 in ACHF with a rolling deadline of July 1 to June 30
- Review Criteria: merit and artistic quality; ability of the applicant to accomplish the project; and demonstrated need for the project including underserved populations.
- Eligibility Requirements: arts organizations or artists that have a need. With a required open to the public event that can be, at the least, accessible online.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Essential Arts (formerly known as Operating Support) Grant for arts organizations-** \$5,000 ACHF Funding March 1 deadline for a July 1 to June 30 grant period
- Review Criteria: artistic merit and artistic quality; ability of the organization to accomplish stated goals and objectives; and demonstrated need of the organization including ability to provide service for underserved populations.
- Eligibility Requirements: nonprofit arts organizations in Region 7E.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Small/Art Project Assistance Grant-** \$5,000 State General Fund with ACHF Supplementation, if needed
- October 1, February 1, & April 1 deadlines
- Review Criteria: The merit and artistic quality of the project, ability of the applicant or organization to accomplish the project; and a demand/need for the grant project or program in the community served including underserved populations.
- Eligibility Requirements: organizations, units of government, schools and nonprofits.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Scholarships for K-12 Kids** – up to \$600 in ACHF
- March 1 deadline
- Review Criteria: artistic quality and merit of the proposed project, and the student artist's goals and (age appropriate) artistic background.
- Eligibility Requirements: High school, middle school, or elementary school intending to enhance their artistic talents. The student must live in one the following Minnesota counties: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs or Pine. If the student is under 18 the parent will enter into the grant contract with ECRAC.



# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Art In Our Schools Grant** - \$5,000 State General Fund with ACHF Supplementation, if needed  
October 1, February 1, & April 1 deadlines
- Review Criteria: Artistic Quality and Merit; merit of the residency plan, including the artist or field trip schedule; community (open to the public) component; and ability of the school to accomplish the project

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Individual Artist Mid-Career Grants** - \$3,600
- October 1, February 1, & April 1 deadlines - McKnight Funding
- Those applications found to be complete and eligible are then reviewed according to the following grant review criteria: quality of the artist's work; quality of the proposed project; and the artistic resume.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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- **Essential Artist Award for Professional Artists** - \$9,000 March 1 deadline - McKnight Funding
- Review Criteria: include the artistic quality of the work samples submitted, and the merit and feasibility of the Essential Artist Award plan, and the ability to accomplish.

# ECRAC Grant Programs

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Please note that in the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota (FRACM) Policy Manual, as publicly funded programs, "RACs' regranting of state funds must maintain high standards of fiscal responsibility and be conducted in an open manner without discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, color, creed, religion, disability, gender, status with regard to public assistance, gender preference, marital status or political affiliation." ECRAC has always been committed to this responsibility and the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). In the context of ECRAC programming and services underserved or underrepresented populations are those represented by people and groups defined based on age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, culture and race.

# Other forms of assistance from ECRAC

- grant writing technical assistance, online grant info sessions, grant final report training, past approved grant application library, assistance with grant change requests
- providing information on other resources as needed
- providing information on IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility)
- Scholarships for Zoom subscriptions and various training reimbursements for artists and arts organizations
- Essential Arts e-newsletter and alerts
- ECRAC website
- at least 2 art shows per year
- art show display equipment rental
- arts library
- workshops for artists and art organizations (in person when allowable)
- referrals to other services or service providers
- and partnering even better with existing providers of services to underrepresented groups and community groups; ECRAC should have a focus on serving underrepresented groups/artists; and ECRAC should build more relationships with underrepresented groups and community groups. The ECRAC board of directors has made a commitment to overcoming bias and to building diversity and inclusion in grant-making and providing services.

**EAST CENTRAL REGION ARTS COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2024**

		General Fund	Arts &	Arts	Arts & Cult	McKnight	Other	
		2024 State	Access	Education	Heritage	Foundation	Funds	2024 Total
			2024 State	2024 State	2024 State			
<b>REVENUE</b>								
1	State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2024	\$105,260	\$478,186	\$89,652	\$29,895			\$702,993
2	State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2023		\$50,000	\$15,000				\$65,000
3	McKnight Foundation					\$50,000		\$50,000
4	Other Income						\$1,900	\$1,900
5	Interest	\$200	\$700	\$200	\$75			\$1,175
6	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$105,460</b>	<b>\$528,886</b>	<b>\$104,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$821,068</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
<b>Programs and Services</b>								
7	Grant Programs and Services							
a	ECRAC Art in Our Schools Grants	\$12,000		\$10,000				\$22,000
b	ECRAC Small/Art Project Grants	\$29,460	\$10,000					\$39,460
c	ECRAC ACHF Grants: Organizations and Individuals		\$288,386	\$94,852	\$29,970			\$413,208
d	ECRAC Mid-Career Artist Grants					\$28,500		\$28,500
e	ECRAC Essential Artists					\$18,000		\$18,000
f	Scholarships for Kids		\$3,000					\$3,000
8	Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	\$10,000	\$50,000					\$60,000
9	<b>Subtotal Grant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$51,460</b>	<b>\$351,386</b>	<b>\$104,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$584,168</b>
10	Nongrant Programs and Services							
a	Regional Art Shows	\$1,000	\$35,000			\$3,500		\$39,500
b	Workshops, tech assist, and trainings	\$1,000	\$10,000					\$11,000
c	Arts promotion, website, internet		\$12,500					\$12,500
d	Technical Assistance Scholarships for Individuals and Organizations		\$5,000					\$5,000
11	Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support**	\$16,000	\$70,000				\$1,900	\$87,900
12	<b>Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$132,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$155,900</b>
13	<b>Total Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$69,460</b>	<b>\$483,886</b>	<b>\$104,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$740,068</b>
14	<b>Fundraising</b>							<b>\$0</b>
15	General administration	\$36,000	\$45,000					\$81,000
16	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$105,460</b>	<b>\$528,886</b>	<b>\$104,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$821,068</b>
17	<b>SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2025 or (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

EAST CENTRAL REGION ARTS COUNCIL  
DRAFT PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2025

		General Fund 2025 State	Arts & Access 2025 State	Arts Education 2025 State	Arts & Cult Heritage 2025 State	McKnight Foundation	Other Funds	2025 Total
REVENUE								
1	State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2025	\$105,260	\$478,186	\$89,652	\$29,895			\$702,993
2	State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2024							\$0
3	McKnight Foundation					\$50,000		\$50,000
4	Other Income						\$1,900	\$1,900
5	Interest	\$200	\$700	\$200	\$75			\$1,175
6	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$105,460</b>	<b>\$478,886</b>	<b>\$89,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$756,068</b>
EXPENSES								
Programs and Services								
7	Grant Programs and Services							
a	ECRAC Art in Our Schools Grants	\$12,000		\$7,000				\$19,000
b	ECRAC Small/Art Project Grants	\$29,460	\$10,000					\$39,460
c	ECRAC ACHF Grants: Organizations and Individuals		\$238,386	\$82,852	\$29,970			\$351,208
d	ECRAC Mid-Career Artist Grants					\$28,500		\$28,500
e	ECRAC Essential Artists					\$18,000		\$18,000
f	Scholarships for Kids		\$3,000					\$3,000
8	Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	\$10,000	\$50,000					\$60,000
9	<b>Subtotal Grant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$51,460</b>	<b>\$301,386</b>	<b>\$89,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$519,168</b>
10	Nongrant Programs and Services							
a	Regional Art Shows	\$1,000	\$35,000			\$3,500		\$39,500
b	Workshops, tech assist, and trainings (Includes IDEA & COVID support)	\$1,000	\$10,000					\$11,000
c	Arts promotion, website, internet		\$12,500					\$12,500
d	Technical Assistance Scholarships for Individuals and Organizations		\$5,000					\$5,000
11	Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support**	\$16,000	\$70,000				\$1,900	\$87,900
12	<b>Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$132,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$155,900</b>
13	<b>Total Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$69,460</b>	<b>\$433,886</b>	<b>\$89,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$675,068</b>
14	<b>Fundraising</b>							<b>\$0</b>
15	General administration	\$36,000	\$45,000					\$81,000
16	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$105,460</b>	<b>\$478,886</b>	<b>\$89,852</b>	<b>\$29,970</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$756,068</b>
17	<b>SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2024 or (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



*Bears Aren't  
Blue*  
by Dustin  
Wayne

PURCHASE AWARD IMAGE 2022





for more information go to:

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**[www.ecrac.org](http://www.ecrac.org)**

