

ESSENTIAL ARTS NEWS

2018

February 9,

If you ever need to see ECRAC's grant funded events calendar go to [ECRAC Calendar](#) and, if you use google calendar, you can add it to your calendar too!

Valentine's Day heats up with Hot Metal Pour in Franconia

Finding something new to do on Valentine's Day isn't always easy.



You can take your significant other out for dinner, or to the movies, or for a ice skate, or a community play. There's a million ideas that have been done over and over, but, one of the most unique things you can do in the area is head on out to the Valentine's Hot Metal Pour at the Franconia Sculpture Park on Saturday, February 17 to really heat your Valentine's Day up.

Every winter for the last nine years, FSP has hosted a hot metal pour where iron artists cast metal sculptures from scratch blocks that are created by the anybody who is interested in the art. Participants were able to buy their own molds and attend workshops prior to the pour to give them a crash course in how-to on etching out the perfect message, symbols or shapes in their molds.

The actual metal pours on February 17, however, are for everyone. Iron artists Amber White and Tamsie Ringler give behind-the-scenes looks at their techniques and how they cast the sculptures, and they are open to a question-and-answer session so you can understand the art and the science that goes behind melting metal down into a beautiful lava-esque pool and turning it into a beautiful sculpture. The pair are two of the top experts in the state in the art, as White has a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota and is a master sculptor, and Ringler is a professor of sculpture and metal casting at the University of Minnesota.

The best part is the event isn't just for artists. "I only have one piece of advice for anyone who is nervous because they have little or no artisitc experience -- don't be!" said Alyssa Auten, the marketing and creative manager for Franconia Sculpture Park. "All artists start somewhere! We will demonstrate the subtractive process of creating scratch blocks and provide tools and drill bits while guiding you through the process. The best part is we have another metal pour in August, so community members can practice with another mold again the summer!"

Visitors will also get to see the metal poured at up to 2,700 degrees fahrenheit, and FSP estimates over 8,000 pounds of molten iron will be poured in one day by a group led by White and Ringler.

The event features more than just the iron pours, with the Sculpture Park providing a cozy warm fire to keep the freeze babies comfortable, as well as fresh hot cocoa and Mountain Mike's food truck with cheese curds, mini donuts and pronto pups. But more than all of that, FSP will provide visitors with a joyous atmosphere for you and your loved one to enjoy the unique experience together. Visitors can also check out the the sculpture park in its snow-covered state in the middle of our long winter.

Then whether or not you made a scratch block, make sure to come to the park on February 17th for this special event. For all the information go to www.franconia.org

This activity is funded through a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund.



NEXT GRANT DEADLINE is APRIL 1st!

Sign up to attend a grant information session.

East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) has scheduled upcoming grant information sessions for all artists, organizations, schools, community organizations, and non-profit organizations in the Region 7E area for art project grants. These sessions will include basic information about all ECRAC arts-related grant programs, as well as recent changes to the grant application processes. Individual appointments with staff are available immediately after the group sessions. These sessions will be held at the East Central Regional Arts Council office located at 112 Main Avenue South in Braham, MN.

If you have already attended a grant information session in the past, a refresher is always a good idea to keep you up-to-date with any new grant requirements and recent changes to the application processes.

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 1:00 pm

30 minute individual meetings are available after the above session at 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm upon request.

- Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 9:00 am

30 minute individual meetings are available after the above session at 10:00 am, 10:30 am and 11:00 am upon request.

Advance registration is required. To register, please call the East Central Regional Arts Council office at (320) 396-2337, or email info@ecrac.org.

Don't want to come to Braham? Check out the workshops online! Applying as an artist, for yourself? Go to: [ECRAC Grant Info Session for Artists 2018](#) Applying as an organization, school or unit of government? Go to: [ECRAC Grant Info Session for Orgs FY 2018](#)

Arts Advocacy Day is March 6

Join Arts Enthusiasts From Around the State!

On March 6, 2018 Minnesota Citizens for the Arts will bring hundreds of arts advocates from around the state to the State Capitol for "Arts Advocacy Day" to thank legislators for following through on the promise of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that dedicated funds to conservation and the arts. Last year 1000 arts advocates filled the capitol! For more information and to register go to: [Minnesota Citizen's for the Arts](#)



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For more information (320)396-2337

This activity is made possible by
The McKnight Foundation and also by the
voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative
appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

