

GRANTS FUNDED - FY 2023

Grants funded by the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) during FY 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023)



ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Organization Grant Program

\$5,000 to \$15,000 grants are available to organizations (501c3 nonprofits, units of government, schools, or groups that use a fiscal agent). Proceeds from the fund may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education, and arts and cultural heritage, and may be used in creating, producing, or presenting high quality arts projects.

Deadlines are October 1, February 1, and April 1.

East Central MN Pride received a grant in the amount of \$11,750 for their project, 2023 Pride Performers. During this project, the East Central Minnesota Pride will host the 18th annual Pride in the Park event in Pine City's Robinson Park on June 3, 2023. This free public event providing LGBTQ+ persons, other diverse audiences, their friends and allies an opportunity to create community and engage the broader community within a cultural context. The performing artists will be Mark Joseph and the American Soul as headliners, Jacob Mahon and the New Salty Dog and the Roxxy Hall band. Martino Mayotte, performing as Martina Marraccino, will perform as both MC and host short performances as opener, closer, and during band turnover periods throughout this free event. <https://eastcentralminnesotapride.org/>

Pine City Arts Council received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Art in the Park 2023. During this project, the Pine City Arts Council will host the 46th annual Art in the Park music events at Robinson Park in Pine City on Friday nights beginning on May 26th through August 18th. These twelve music performances will include the Pine City Jazz Band, Tim Hadler Band, Rubber Soul, Roxxy Hall Band, Whitesidewalls, Transit Authority, Monroe Crossing, Neighborz, White Bear Big Band, Phonics, Chris Kroeze, and Freeway Jam. Events are free to attend. <https://www.facebook.com/PineCityArtsCouncil/>

City of North Branch received a grant in the amount of \$10,505 for their project, North Branch Summer Music 2023. During this project, the City of North Branch will host their summer concerts in the park series in Central Park, 38780 8th Ave, starting on Tuesday June 13, 2023 and continuing on Tuesday evening's through July 25, 2023. The music performances will include the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra with Music Director and Conductor Manny Laureano, Emerson Avenue Band, 3rd Elephant, The Whitesidewalls, and Cindy Jo. These events are free and open to all. <http://www.ci.north-branch.mn.us/> 651-674-8113

Walker Methodist Levande received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Art Residencies & Older Adults. During this project, the Walker Methodist Levande will host four artist residencies to engage the assisted living and memory care residence. Artist Teresa Cox will teach artful memory stories during a weeklong intensive where participants will create mixed media drawing/collage story based artwork. Artist Anne McFaul Reid will teach watercolor painting. Shakun Mehawari will teach Impermanent Art, including Rangoli, Mandalas, and Henna. Artist Lucy Rose will teach paper collage. These residencies are open to the public. <http://walkermethodist.org> 612-827-8541

Franconia Sculpture received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Family Art Classes @ Franconia. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host six artmaking classes at the Driscoll Education Center located at Franconia Sculpture Park. These classes will be taught by local artists and include windchimes with Anna Lucia, Macrame Plant Holders with Samantha-Jean Wilson, woodblock printmaking with Max Hautala, inflatable sculpture with Don Porcella, curio domes with Emma Wood, and natural ink watercolors with Kim Boustead. Classes are open to the public and will be held on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm beginning in February and ending in June, 2023. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

City of Onamia received a grant in the amount of \$8,064 for their project, Onamia Celebrates 2023. During this project, the City of Onamia will host two summer events, "Onamia Days" in June and the "July 3rd Celebration" in July. Both events will include musical performances beginning with the Onamia Days celebration on June 9th with Stone Daisy, June 10th with Maddy Braun Band and the July 3rd celebration includes a performance by the Chad Edwards Band. All events are free and open to the public at Herington Park in Onamia. <https://onamiamn.com/> 320-532-3311

Unexpected Company Chorale received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Tuning Up! Vocal Workshops. During this project, Unexpected Company Chorale will host "Tuning Up! Vocal Workshops", a series of vocal performance clinics to Unexpected Company Chorale members and will be open to the public. Participants will work with artists Dr. Don Krubsack, Barbara McAfee, Teri Larson and Jane Anderson who will teach vocal techniques. The project will also include two Spring concerts and participants from the public who participated in the workshops will be invited to join Unexpected Company Chorale on stage for one of the songs from the workshop. <https://www.ucchorale.org/>

City of Pine City received a grant in the amount of \$14,500 for their project, Composing Music in the Park. During this project, the City of Pine City will install large scale musical instruments in Robinson Park, located in Pine City. The large-scale instruments will include both Jazz Combo chimes and Harmonic Chimes that will be permanently installed in the park and available for anyone to play. The City of Pine City will host a performance lead by local musician Adrienne Roubinek who will demonstrate the use of the instruments during the performance on June 22, 2023. <https://pinecity.govoffice.com/> 320-315-4885

City of Isanti received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Bluebird Amphitheater. During this project, the City of Isanti will host two theater events with the Prairie Fire Children's Theater at the Bluebird Amphitheater in Bluebird Park in Isanti. Local youth can sign up to participate in the production with a week of rehearsals culminating in two performances for Tom Sawyer, from June 18th – 24th, and Alice and Wonderland, from August 20th – 27th. The project will also include the purchase of a portable stage for the amphitheater to enhance the view of the performance for the audience. The performances will be open to the public and free to attend. <https://www.cityofisanti.us/> 763-444-5512

City of Mora received a grant in the amount of \$10,868 for their project, Mora's Music in the Park. During this project, the City of Mora will host twelve summer concerts to be held in Mora's Downtown Library Park on Thursday evenings during June, July, and August as well as a performance during September's Fall Fest on Saturday the 23rd. The performances include: the Whitesidewalls, Rock 'n' Roll; Skippin Stones - Folk, Acoustic Rock, Jazz, Mainstream Pop; Farmers Daughters, Country; The Everstrom's, Bluegrass; Samantha Grimes, American/Rock; Small Town Famous Rock/Pop; The Groove, Garage Rock/Rock & Roll; Chmielewski Fun Time Band, Polka; Tricia & the Tonnie's, Children's Music; Harper's Chord, Americana; Matt Hannah, Folk, Americana; and Poppa Bear Norton, Country. These events are free and open to all. <http://www.ci.mora.mn.us> 320-679-1511

Play Inc. Arts received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Something Rotten Projector. During this project, Play Inc. Arts will purchase a professional theatre projector for their 2024 Spring Musical Production of "Something Rotten". This Renaissance time period show entails detailed and complicated sets that are not easily built and are large and difficult to manufacture and maneuver. The projector allows the production cast and crew the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of the arts technology along with providing the audience and enhanced theater experience. "Something Rotten" will open on February 9, 2024 with performances ending February 18th. <https://playincarts.org/>

Friends of the Karl Oskar House received a grant in the amount of \$10,704 for their project, Sharing the Karl Oskar Story. During this project, the Chisago County Historical Society will be the fiscal agent for this project with the Friends of the Karl Oskar House. The project includes three artistic elements. The first are ten Nordic folk musical events throughout the summer including a Nordic Folk Music Jam by local musicians, and other performance featuring Scandinavian themed artists and performances. The second element will be the creation of an interpretive panel created by local design artist Alyssa Auten to share the emigrant story of Karl and Kristina Oskar. And the third element, a mural by MN mural artist Lilli Lennox, depicting the fictional characters of Karl Oskar and Kristina to be placed on the exterior of the workshop located on the grounds of the Karl Oskar House site in Lindstrom, MN. <https://friendsofthekarlooskarhouse.org/>

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community received a grant in the amount of \$10,780 for their project, In. Art Show 2023. During this project, the Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community will host the 8th annual "In. Art show" at the Hallberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, MN. The show will be open from July 11th to August 19th, 2023 with an awards ceremony on August 17th with judges Rurik Hover, DeeAnn Sibley and Christopher Harrison. Artists from Region 7E and surrounding areas are welcome to enter this show that will be open to the public free of charge. <https://www.wyomingcreativearts.org/> 651-272-5122

Franconia Sculpture received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, 2023 Music @ Franconia Series. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host their Music @ Franconia series highlighting musicians from MN and WI in the genres of indie, rock, americana, country, hip hop and salsa. The 2023 series will include four performances beginning June 4th with Salsa del Soul, July 1st with Pit Stop, Sawyer's Dream, and Dead Horses, August 12th includes Papa Mbye, Mike Kota, and Early Eyes and a final performance date of September 23rd featuring Dua Saleh. All musical performances are free and open to the public at Franconia's Amphitheater. In addition to the music, visitors to the park may also participate in free artmaking and sculpture park tours during these music events. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

City of Hinckley received a grant in the amount of \$12,800 for their project, Sweet Summer Sounds 2023. During this project, the City of Hinckley will host their summer music series Sweet Summer Sounds. This series includes eight outdoor concerts held at West Side Park in Hinckley. The 2023 performances include the Hinckley-Finlayson high School Choir and Band, Monroe Crossing, Dale Dahmen and the Polka Beats, Duluth Transit Authority, No Limits B-Sides, Pale Ales Bluegrass, The Arcades and Robby Vee Music Caravan. All performances are free and open to all. <https://hinckley.govoffice2.com/> 320-384-7491

Pine County Agricultural Society received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Pine County Fair Performances. During this project, the Pine County Agricultural Society will provide music events during the Pine County Fair from August 3 through August 7, 2023. Events will take place at the Pine County Fairgrounds in Pine City at the Bandshell and the Event Center. Music includes the Jugsluggers, Becky Schlegel and the High 48s, Millionaires, Elvis Tribute band, The Rose Family band, Duluth Transit Authority, Inside Strait, Freeway Jam, Neighborz band, Buffalo Head, Tim Hadler, Kenny Krona, Maddy Braun Band, Bluegrass Jam, On Tap, Willy Frietag, Five Minute Major, Nathan Fazer and Jolly Zuks. All events are free and open to all. <https://www.pinecountyfair.com/>

Walker Methodist Levande received a grant in the amount of \$9,500 for their project, Outdoor Concerts at WM Levande, Cambridge. During this project, Walker Methodist Levande, will host outdoor music events. Events will begin on July 31, 2023, with the Whitesidewalls performing for the National Night Out celebration. September 20, 2023, the Just Rite Country Band will perform for Harvest Festival, June 5th, 2024 will include a performance by the Emerson Ave Band and events will end on June 19th with 3rd Elephant during the Berry Festival. Concerts will take place outside in the Walker Methodist Levande parking lot and are open and free to the public. <http://walkermethodist.org> 612-827-8541

Mille Lacs County Agricultural Society received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project A Hands-On Approach. During this project, The Mille Lacs County Agricultural Society will host the Arts Garden with Jill Whitney-Birk and Erika Lynn Sawyer, providing hands on lessons in art making; Emotion in Motion with artist Leah Beack, an art experience involving splatter paint on canvas to the rhythm of music and movement; and the Blue Horse Theatre with Kelly Williams, Alyssa Adair, Dara Grimmer, and Jerusha Steirnert, a performance group involving the audience with art and horses to create artwork in front of a live audience. Each of these groups involve the audience in the creation of art, which is the theme of these arts activities at this year's Fair. The Mille Lacs County Fair will feature these events from August 9th through the 13th. All activities are free and open to all. <http://www.millelacscountyfair.com/> 320-420-1798

Franconia Sculpture received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for their project, Puppets in the Park Hayride. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host Puppets in the Park Halloween Hayride, a one-day autumnal celebration event on October 14, 2023. This event will feature masked giant puppeteer performers and theatrical musicians and dancers from “In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater” group wandering throughout the park and interacting with sculptures while park visitors walk or take a hayride through the park. In addition, visitors can look forward to a make-and-take mask workshop, a puppet selfie station, a candy scavenger hunt, face painting, pumpkin carving, a stilts lesson from an experienced instructor, and a Swedish heritage-inspired performance from the Flying Foot Forum Theater Company. This project will also include the purchase of a new camera to document the event, a Canon 6D Mark ii from Canon. They no longer have access to the camera they had been using. The event is free to the public with a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

ECRAC Essentials Support Grant Program

\$3,000 to \$5,000 grants are available to arts organizations. This grant program is not intended to fund any specific arts projects and/or events. Its purpose is to provide funding for organizations' existing ongoing arts expenses such as facility expenses, utilities, office or art supplies, equipment, organizational insurance, memberships, etc.

There is no match required for this program.

Annual deadline is March 1.

Old School Arts Center dba 210 Gallery and Art Center received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for their organization, 210 Gallery and Art Center Essentials Support Grant, Sandstone. 210 Gallery and Art Center's mission is to build and enrich their community through arts education, exhibition and performance. 210 Gallery supports the efforts of local and regional artists and provides a venue for public events. With the Essentials Support funds 210 Gallery will pay for the electric utility, property insurance and Directors and Officers insurance. With these funds taken care of it will free up other funding for 210 Gallery to better focus on their arts programs. <https://osacmn.org/> 320-216-7635

Pine Center for the Arts received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for their organization, Pine Center for the Arts Essentials Support Grant, Pine City. Pine Center for the Arts is committed to providing opportunities for all to create, learn and enjoy the visual, performing, and literary arts. Since 2008, Pine Center for the Arts (PCftA) has been an organization that has provided a partnership between the arts and the surrounding area. With the support of this grant the Pine Center for the arts will pay their general insurance, accountant fees, general publicity and marketing, telephone/internet expenses and utilities. With Essentials Support grant funding covering many of these expenses they will be better able to increase and enhance the art opportunities they provide to the community. <http://www.pinecenter.org> 320-629-4924

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for their organization, Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community Essentials Support Grant, Wyoming. The Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community will bring art to the community through monthly art shows and other events at the Hallberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, MN. With the operating grant they will be paying the gas, electric, insurance and advertising in two yearly community guides. This will free up other funds to invest in more arts related activities and improvement goals at the gallery such as working to increase attendance, increase awareness of the Art Center through advertising, and community outreach and improve the space for better display of artwork. <https://www.wyomingcreativearts.org/> 651-272-5122

Unexpected Company Chorale received a grant in the amount of \$4,038 for their organization, Unexpected Company Chorale Essentials Support Grant. Unexpected Company Chorale will provide educational music experiences for adult singers and audiences in the Chisago Lakes area and surrounding communities by enhancing member's musical talents and providing audiences with enjoyable and quality performances. Unexpected Company Chorale will use the Essentials Support Grant towards their Board and Officers and organizational insurance and the purchase of a director's portable podium. <https://www.ucchorale.org/>

ECRAC Small Art Project Grant Program

Grants from \$500 to \$5,000 will be made to organizations (501(c)3 nonprofits, units of government, schools, or groups that use a fiscal agent). A 1:1 match is required. 10% must be an assured cash match.

Deadlines are October 1, February 1, and April 1

Hinckley-Finlayson Public Schools IDS #2165 received a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their project, Monroe Crossing Concert. During this project the Hinckley-Finlayson Public Schools will host musical performance group Monroe Crossing on February 26, 2023 at the Hinckley Fine Arts Center at the Hinckley Finlayson High School. This event will be open to the public and tickets to attend will be \$5 for youth and \$10 per adult. <https://www.hf.k12.mn.us/> 320-384-6277

Franconia Sculpture Park received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for their project, Midsummer @ Franconia. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host a Midsummer Festival on June 17, 2023. This one-day art event will feature performances by both Minnesota-based and nationally-recognized artists Kristin Bauer, Natalie Brewster-Nguyen, Gabrielle Civil, Candice Davis, Quinn Dukes, Sean Noyce, Wang Ping, Lacey Prpic-Hedtke, and Suzanne Lindgren whom are tied to the land and the Swedish history of the region, as well as free hands-on artmaking linked to art and nature. The event will conclude with a participatory sunset observation and late-night sky viewing on the new moon in collaboration with Belwin Conservancy and the Minnesota Astronomical Society. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community received a grant in the amount of \$4,978 for their project, Kids Can Be Artists, Too!. During this project the Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community will host three community outreach events titled "Kid's Can Be Artists, Too!". This event invites youth to create their own paintings with paint, brushes and canvas provided by WACAC. Volunteer artists will be on hand to mentor youth if they like and or they are welcome to create on their own. The "Kid's Can Be Artist's, Too" events will take place during the Pride in the Park in Pine City on June 3rd, Wyoming, MN's Night to Unite on August 1st, and during the Stagecoach Days on September 16th in Wyoming. These events are free and offer creative fun for kids of all ages in public outdoor locations. <https://www.wyomingcreativearts.org/> 651-272-5122

Franconia Sculpture Park received a grant in the amount of \$3,400 for their project, 2023 Film @ Franconia. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host the Film @ Franconia series, a program the is focused on bringing people together to view artistic films at Franconia Sculpture Park. The film screenings are free and open to the public. The 2023 film series will highlight cult classic art films including Dark Crystal on June 3rd, The Shining on July 8th, and the 4th annual Franconia Film Festival on September 2nd, short films by Midwest artists. The film festival will be judged by Ginger Porcella, Peng Wu, and Hallie Bahn and the top three films will be awarded a cash prize. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

Kanabec County Historical Society received a grant in the amount of \$3,380 for their project Paul Kilgore Series. During this project the Kanabec History Center will host MN Author Paul Kilgore on September 21, October 12, and November 9th to present his stories detailing life in Kanabec County. The stories will include the Depression and Logging era, and the story of Mora's founder Myron Kent detailing his life and the mysterious murder of his wives. The events will be held at the Kanabec County History Center in Mora and will be free of charge to attend. <http://www.kanabechistory.org/> (320) 679-1665

Franconia Sculpture Park received a grant in the amount of \$2,167 for their project, Regional Juried Exhibition. During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will host a juried exhibition in their Mardag Gallery highlighting artist working in the St. Croix River Valley and East Central MN. Artists from this area may submit up to three works for consideration, at no fee, and selected artists will be invited to show their work at Franconia. Jurors and curators for the art show include Jessica Turtle and Esther Callahan. The opening reception will be Saturday, January 27, 2024, and will be free to attend. <http://www.franconia.org/> 651-257-6668

ECRAC Art in Our Schools Grant Program

Grants up to \$3,000 are available to schools. This program supplements the existing school arts curriculum with such projects as artistic residencies, arts related field trips, and special arts events or projects. Grants may be used to support all students and/or student groups such as drama club, art classes, entire grades, or gifted and talented students.

Deadlines are October 1, February 1, and April 1

Hinckley-Finlayson Public Schools ISD #2165 received a grant in the amount of \$3,000 for their project, Trisha and the Toonies. During this project Hinckley Finlayson Community Education will provide a performance of Trisha and the Toonies for all to enjoy. This event will be October 28, 2023 and is free to attend. <https://www.hf.k12.mn.us/> 320-384-6277

Onamia Public Schools/Community Education received a grant in the amount of \$2,733 for their project, Summer Beadwork: Regalia Sets. During this project Onamia youth will learn how to make beaded sets such as chokers, hair ties, barrettes, earrings, rings, medallions, and headbands to accompany and embellish PowWow regalia. Working with the students will be resident artist Charmaine Xianna Shivers. Students in fourth through twelfth grades will learn the fundamentals of creating beadwork/beaded objects, including designing, repairing, color coordinating, and beading techniques. The completed beadwork will be displayed at the Mille Lacs Band's annual PowWow in August of 2023, Onamia. <https://www.onamia.k12.mn.us/> 320-532-4174

ECRAC Resiliency Grant Program

\$600 grants are available to art organizations and individual artists. Proceeds from the fund may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education, and arts and cultural heritage, and may be used in creating, producing, or presenting high quality arts projects.

Deadlines are ongoing.

Shurika Kikuchi received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Obachan's Hands.

Catherine Colsrud received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Heterogeneous Disharmony.

Jordan Ottoson received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Art of 3Aion.

Old School Arts dba 210 Gallery and Art Center received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, New Location Grand Opening.

Sasha Wiczorek received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Exploring Practical Art.

Old School Arts dba 210 Gallery and Art Center received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Presidents Stew 2023.

Amanda Brewer received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Art Gallery Exhibition.

Fred Keller received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, The Skally Line in Sandstone.

Stacey Foster received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Writing in the Dark Workshop.

Stacey Foster received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, Writing as Healing Wrokshop.

Susan Foss received a grant in the amount of \$600 for their project, The importance of native Flora.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for Individual Artist Grant Program

This program provides grants up to \$1,000 to individual artists. Funds may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education and arts and cultural heritage, and may be used in creating, producing, or presenting high quality arts projects. All projects are required to have a community component as part of their project proposal.

Deadlines are October 1, February 1, and April 1.

Fred Keller received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for their project, New Songs by Fred Keller. During this project, the artist will create a collection of stories from his personal perspective, to create a new body of songs to perform in his local area of Pine County. The focus of these stories will be on Ojibwe women and People of color. The project will include a performance at the Pine County Museum in Askov on May 6, 2024 to showcase the new works of art through music.

ECRAC Mid-Career Artist Grant Program

Grants up to \$2,500 are available to individual artists. This program provides financial support to artists committed to personal artistic growth. Applications are encouraged from artists in all disciplines. The program funds specific art projects designed to enhance the artistic skills, artwork and/or the artistic career of the individual artist.

This grant program is funded by The McKnight Foundation.

Deadlines are February 1, and April 1.

Shawnda Schelinder received a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their project, Through the Looking Glass. During this project, the artist will create new glass works for an exhibition of "Through the Looking Glass – Reinterpreting Photography and Glass Art" at the Pine Center for the Arts in August 2023. These new works of glass art will be inspired by photos of photographer Brooke Zank. The project will include the purchase of supplies to create up to 8 new works of art to display as well as a kiln for the artist home studio that the artist can program to advance her techniques with firing her glass works of art. In addition to purchasing supplies and a kiln, the artist will also purchase books and an online workshop to learn new skills in fusing glass to assist her with this project.

Samuel Hines received a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their project, Classical Guitar Video Recording. During this project, the artist will work with recording studio Tanner Monagle Studios in Milwaukee, WI to create a video performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Violin Sonata #1 in G minor on classical guitar in the Fall of 2023. This 4-movement (Adagio, Fugue, Siciliana and Preseto) by Bach has been transcribed and adapted to guitar. This video performance will then be posted on the artist YouTube channel and shared on social media.

Dustin Wayne Lindell received a grant in the amount of \$2,492 for their project, RSM (Repetitive Subject Matter). During this project, the artist plans to complete six new works of art creating the same subject matter over and over again. The artists purpose of the project is to personally grow mindfulness relating to how careful project planning may be critical especially when a piece is professionally commissioned by a client. The project will include an event to display the new work at the Balance in Body Massage and Pain Therapy LLC, in Princeton MN on June 3, 2023.

Natalie Patera received a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their project, Experimentation and Creation of Glazes. During this project, the artist will experiment with her Brookefield down draft kiln to fire new work at higher temperatures of cone 10/11. This experimentation will include the purchase of clay and glaze materials that will allow for this higher temperature firing and for her work to reach full vitrification, a fully mature, dense and strong clay pot. The artist will also include a goal of creating an ancient pottery look to her current style and experiment with larger pieces of pottery creation.

Marie Brown received a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their project, Refining My Process for Wood Firing. During this project, the artist plans to make a body of functional pottery exploring different ways wood firing can further influence her work through surface color and texture. The artist will use the time to modify her current decorating style which is tailored for soda firing and find ways to let the wood firing process play a larger part in her new work.

ECRAC Essential Artist Award Grant Program

The Essential Artist Award program is designed to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding professional artists. These Awards will allow artists to set aside time to work, purchase supplies and materials, undertake advanced study (not related to a degree) or to pursue other career goals. Two \$8,000 Awards are available annually.

This program has a March 1 annual deadline.

Mary Ann Cleary received an Award in the amount of \$8,000 for their project, To Create Artwork in a Tonalism Style. During this project, the artist will create ten new artworks in pastel and/or oil influenced by tonalism. The artwork will be completed from studies or drawings done from life. The project will include research and study of tonalism so the artist can learn more about using oils in a tonalist method. She will attend a workshop by artist Deborah Paris titled "Painting the Tonalist Landscape" that will include the purchase of art supplies, books and framing for the new works of art. <https://www.maryanncleary.com/>

Ani Kasten received an Award in the amount of \$8,000 for their project, A New Body of Sculpture with Local Clay and Wood. During this project, the artist will develop a new body of sculptural work using clay dug in Franconia township, where she lives and works. The new ceramic sculptures will incorporate local driftwood, from the St. Croix River, Lakes Superior and other Minnesota waters. The clay and wood found locally are an inspiration to the artist and this award will allow her time to grow her artistic practice and focus on these experimental sculptural works outside of her regular studio work that will improve her vessel and object practice for future phases of making art. <https://www.anikasten.com/>

ECRAC K-12 Scholarship Program

Scholarship funding is available for specific art learning projects or programs for students currently in Grades K-12. Scholarships up to \$500 are available.

This program has a March 1 annual deadline.

B. P. received a scholarship in the amount of \$500 for their project, Metal Garden Art. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to purchase supplies he needs to build and weld garden art, specifically flowers and butterflies. The supplies include a welding helmet, gloves, rods, horse shoes, paint, rebar and panels. The artist will share his creations with the public during the local county fair as a 4-H student in July.

A. E. received a scholarship in the amount of \$200 for their project, Musical Theater Camp. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to attend the Play Inc. Arts Summer Youth Theater Camp. The artist will participate in the Junior Theater Troupe for grades 5-8 and will have exposure to musical theater, developing performing skills, and cultivating a foundation for the stage. Junior Theater Troupe goals include exposing students to theatre and the various aspects that go into creating a full scale musical production. Students will learn the basics of singing, acting, and dancing as well as other skills that can be applied off the stage. The student will have the opportunity to participate in three performances.

P. E. received a scholarship in the amount of \$250 for their project, Play Inc. Arts Summer Theater Camp. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to attend the Play Inc. Arts Summer Youth Theater Camp. The artist will participate in the Yeabo Players theater camp for grades 9-12. Students will work on refining their performance skills and grow as individual performers by developing their understanding of ensemble work, set construction, and technical work. Per will also learn about hair and makeup and costuming for the stage. The student will have the opportunity to participate in three performances.

S. E. received a scholarship in the amount of \$250 for their project, Play Inc. Arts Yeabo Players Summer Theater Camp. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to attend the Play Inc. Arts Summer Youth Theater Camp. The artist will participate in the Yeabo Players theater camp for grades 9-12. Students will work on refining their performance skills and grow as individual performers by developing their understanding of ensemble work, set construction, and technical work. Svea will also learn about hair and makeup and costuming for the stage. The student will have the opportunity to participate in three performances.

K. I. received a scholarship in the amount of \$500 for their project, Photography. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to continue with her interest in photography by purchasing a Canon EOS rebel T7. The new camera will allow the student to continue learning through the photography lens and capture memorable moments that the artist would cherish and share with others.

E. K. received a scholarship in the amount of \$500 for their project, Painting Supplies. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to purchase supplies and resources for painting outside of the classroom. The scholarship funds will help the artist purchase paint, hardboards, gesso, oil painting paper pads, paint brushes, a glass pallet, frames and other miscellaneous materials for oil painting.

A. M. received a scholarship in the amount of \$499 for their project, Cute Fur Face Animal Art Dolls. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to purchase art supplies to create animal art dolls. The art supplies include fabric, faux fur, sewing supplies, paint, paint brushes, and tools to create the dolls and storage supplies for everything. The student will work with her artistic mentor, artist Terri Huro, to learn about the use of these supplies and materials to create her art dolls and video of how to make the dolls for her 4-H presentation at the local county fair.

R. M. received a scholarship in the amount of \$425 for their project, Photography. During this scholarship, the artist wishes to pursue his interest in photography by purchasing a Fujifilm instax mini evo hybrid camera bundle that includes a camera, memory card and case along with 5 twin packs of film that will allow the student to take up to 100 photos. The camera allows for taking photos and editing them right on the camera before printing the photos. The student will work with his artistic mentor Terri Huro to learn photography techniques and help with questions about the camera and photography. The student will also enter his photography into the local county fair as a 4-H student in July.