

**PROTECTING ARTS FUNDING BY
PROMOTING THE BENEFITS OF
EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
LEGACY FUNDING**

Each year arts supporters are at the Minnesota State Legislature fighting to protect arts funding for the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils. You can help in this education process. This starts with advertising your project. You should get the word out with the paid ads that you proposed in your grant application. You should also always send out public service announcements. ECRAC has samples, if needed. You also need to invite your Legislators to your grant funded events.

The BEST WAY you can help protect arts funding over the next several months during your grant is to make sure you are educating your:

- AUDIENCES
- BOARD
- LOCAL LEGISLATORS

about how your Legacy funded grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council has helped you serve Minnesotans. Use your event programs, newsletters, emails, letters to the editors, and curtain speeches to make sure they all know how important this funding is to you!

Don't forget as part of your educational efforts:

1. The following samples should be revised for individual artist grants and for all various grant funded events and/or classes. This includes groups that receive operational support grants.
2. **You are required to use both the Legacy logo and the ECRAC logo on all of your grant funded promotional efforts. Also use the CURRENT ECRAC required funding credit line which is found in your grant contract, the Notification of Grant Award (NGA) in all of your promo pieces.**
3. Plan now to attend Arts Advocay Day at the State Capitol each year during the Legislative session. Go to <http://www.mncitizensforthearts.org/> to get the date and to register.

Here are some samples to help get you started:

**SAMPLE BRIEF ARTICLE FOR PROGRAM OR NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY FUNDED ARTS
ORGANIZATION:**

The (Your Organization) is very thankful and proud to have received funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council.

The activity that you are participating in today was made possible, in part, by this important funding.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund came into being as part of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that Minnesota Voters overwhelmingly passed in 2008.

Because of the work the State Legislature has done to direct this funding to the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Council System, it has ensured that this money is bringing access to the arts in every corner of the state.

We would like to thank Minnesota State Legislature, the East Central Regional Arts Council, and you, the voters of Minnesota for this funding!

**SAMPLE CURTAIN SPEECH TO BE ANNOUNCED
AT BEGINNING OF ALL LEGACY FUNDED EVENTS:**

Thank you all for coming tonight! We'd like to take a minute to acknowledge the unique opportunity we have in Minnesota for supporting the arts. (Your Organization) is very thankful and proud to have received funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through a grant from East Central Regional Arts Council.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund came into being as part of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, which was overwhelmingly passed by Minnesota voters in 2008. The effects of this fund are now being seen all over the state, and the [name of your performance or event] tonight is part of the return on the investment that Minnesotans are making in the arts.

However, establishing the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund did not, in itself, mean that artists and organizations would receive funding. It is because the State Legislature directed Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund dollars to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Regional Arts Council system that this funding has brought access to the arts to every corner of our state.

The State Arts Board and Regional Arts Council system was established to fund arts activities in the most efficient way possible, distributed widely and equitably throughout Minnesota.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minnesota State Legislature (introduce any Legislators that may be in attendance), the East Central Regional Arts Council (introduce any board members or staff in attendance), and you, the voters of Minnesota for making our work possible! Thank you!

SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Yesterday, I attended [performance or event] which received funding from an Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant from East Central Regional Arts Council. It's really great to see the return on the investment that we made in Minnesota when we passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008. We're lucky to live in a state that has the infrastructure to bring arts access to everyone. The State Arts Board and Regional Arts Council system has enabled so many organizations of all sizes to do new and exciting projects and serve citizens all over the state. I hope to go to many more performances funded by the Legacy Amendment over the next few years and participate in the activities that make Minnesota great.

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I'm so proud to live in a state that invests in a thriving cultural scene! With all the budget woes Minnesota has been having, I'm more glad than ever that we passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to protect the way of life that attracts people to this great state. Last night, I attended the [performance or event] which received a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council, and there are many other great events going on all around Minnesota. We in Minnesota have a long history of investing in cultural opportunity, and attracting tourists and businesses because of it! I hope the citizens of Minnesota will have more opportunities to invest in our state and our future!

ALSO NOTE:

Don't forget to document your promotional and educational efforts and include the documentation either in your grant final report or by sending it to grantinfo@ecrac.org, or director@ecrac.org. *this includes any YouTube videos or other Internet links.*