Creative Support for Organizations
FY 2021 Grant Program

Program Overview and Application Instructions

Application deadlines
Before 4:30 p.m. on August 24, 2020
-or- September 11, 2020

Application review begins
September 2020

Board approval of grants begins
October 2020

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Program Summary

Creative Support for Organizations program purpose
The global pandemic has brought about a profound change in the way that Minnesota arts organizations operate and serve their communities. The purpose of this grant program is to help arts organizations adapt to the changing environment in which they work. Grantees will be able to use funds to support people and activities that will be needed to stay relevant and connected to audiences, participants, students, or communities now and in the future. By using their creativity and connection to community, this grant program will help Minnesota arts organizations maintain their financial sustainability and long-term viability.

Program outcome
This program exists to support arts organizations as they adapt to a changing environment. Its intended outcome is that Minnesota arts organizations will maintain their connection to Minnesota residents and communities.

Review criteria
Proposals will be reviewed and scored, based on the degree to which the applicant meets the following review criteria. (36 points)
1. The applicant has a history of engaging Minnesotans in arts programming. (12 points)
2. The applicant has a feasible idea of how to continue connecting with communities in the arts. (12 points)
3. a. Underserved populations benefit from the applicant's programming. Underserved populations include demographic groups such as: veterans, greater Minnesota residents, individuals with disabilities, older adults, people of color, indigenous people, and other marginalized communities;
   b. Applicant board and staff are reflective of, deeply rooted in, and able to authentically express the experiences of underserved populations. (12 points)

Use of funds
Creative Support grants are flexible funds, to allow grantees to focus on their mission driven priorities. The following are a few examples, but not an exhaustive list, of how funds might be used:
- To develop and deliver alternative ways to meaningfully engage Minnesotans in the arts during the pandemic and after;
- To pay staff salaries or fees for artists, contractors, or collaborators;
- To seek professional development or training that enables planning or adaptation;
- To purchase supplies, equipment, or services needed to accomplish organization priorities.

Grant amount
The maximum grant amount is $15,000. The minimum grant amount is $5,000. No matching funds are required.

The board reserves the right to award full or partial support for proposed activities.
Who is eligible to apply?

1. A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt arts organization or an unincorporated arts group with a tax-exempt or public fiscal sponsor, that has received an Arts Board or regional arts council* grant in FY 2018, FY 2019, or FY 2020
   —or—
2. A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt arts organization or an unincorporated arts group with a tax-exempt or public fiscal sponsor, that is NOT a past grantee but is one or more of the following:
   a. An organization located outside the seven-county metropolitan area;
   b. An organization in which people of color or indigenous people comprise 50 percent or more of the board and staff;
   c. An organization in which people with disabilities comprise 50 percent or more of the board and staff, or the primary population served is people with disabilities.

* For a list of regional arts councils go to [http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/](http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/)

Definitions

- **Arts organization** - A nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that has an arts focused mission and for whom arts programming or services represents at least 60 percent of the organization’s annual operating expenses.

   In this program, public or private pre-K through 12 schools, colleges, and universities; radio and television stations; libraries; zoos; children’s museums; historical societies or museums; natural history museums; civic organizations; human service organizations; or other community service agencies do not meet the definition of arts organization.

- **Unincorporated arts group** - In this program, an unincorporated arts group is a collective of people who create and offer arts programming together for public benefit and maintain financial statements for group activities. The group cannot be any type of, or a program of, a business corporation, cooperative, limited liability, limited partnership, or nonprofit corporation.

- **Organization that serves people with disabilities** – In this program, an arts organization or unincorporated arts group with a fiscal sponsor whose purpose is to serve, educate, or elevate people with disabilities as artists, audiences, learners, or participants is considered an organization that serves people with disabilities.
All eligible applicants must:
1. Be physically located in Minnesota. The majority of an applicant’s arts programming, services, or activities must take place in Minnesota, and must primarily serve and engage Minnesota audiences and participants;
2. Have been in existence and actively providing arts programming in Minnesota for at least two consecutive years.
3. Have at least one paid staff person in a position of artistic or administrative oversight under normal circumstances. The paid staff person may be full-time or part-time, salaried or contracted.

An application will not be eligible if any of the following are true:
1. Artists are required to pay excessive entry or exhibition fees in order to exhibit or perform in the activities for which funding is sought.
2. Funds are requested for payment of debts incurred before the grant activities begin.
3. Funds are requested to support activities that are essentially for the religious socialization of the participants or audience.
4. Funds are requested to support activities in primary or secondary level parochial schools.
5. Funds are requested for activities that attempt to influence any state or federal legislation or appropriation.
6. Funds are requested to pay for capital costs, such as improvements, construction, property, or endowment funds.
7. Funds are requested to pay for equipment costing $5,000 or more.
8. The complete application is not received by the Arts Board before 4:30 p.m. on the application deadline.
9. The applicant has any overdue reporting requirements as specified in a previous contract with the board.
10. The applicant is not in compliance with any active contract with the board.
11. The applicant has been deemed ineligible to receive funding from the Arts Board or a regional arts council for noncompliance with a current or previous grant contract.
12. The applicant does not make all events open to the general public.
13. The applicant does not establish admission charges for the events, although it would be feasible to do so.
14. Funds are requested to start, match, add to, or complete any type of capital campaign.
15. Funds are requested to support activities that will not take place within the geographic boundaries of Minnesota.

Unallowable costs
The following activities do not make an application ineligible, but Creative Support for Organizations program funds may not be used for these purposes:
1. To support salaries or overhead of public or private schools, colleges, or universities;
2. To support academic credit producing activities or events which are primarily oriented to postsecondary students and the academic community;
3. For activities that take place outside of the grant period;
4. To solely purchase a work of art;
5. For benefits and fundraising events;
6. For any activity that violates federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or policies. Failure to comply with this requirement may cause the grant to be terminated and funds to be forfeited.
Grant period
Activities may begin after all required parties have signed the grant contract, or the grant period start date specified in the contract, whichever is later. The first round of awards will be approved at the October board meeting; grant contracts will be issued beginning in November 2020. Once awarded, grantees will have one year to use the funds.

Deadline
Applications must be submitted to and accepted by the online WebGrants system BEFORE 4:30 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

Deadlines for this program are August 24, 2020 and September 11, 2020. An organization or group may submit an application by the early deadline or the later deadline, but not both. The chances of being funded are the same for applications submitted by either deadline.

Application review
All Minnesota State Arts Board FY 2021 grant applications will be reviewed remotely by a team of individuals who have experience in the arts or in nonprofit management. Each review team will be designed to mirror the state’s geography and demographics. Reviews will begin in September 2020 and continue until all applications have been reviewed.

In order to increase demographic and geographic fairness, a funding priority has been set for the Creative Support for Organizations grant program. The intent is to help ensure that applicants from priority groups are able to equitably access public funding on behalf of their communities. The priority groups for the Creative Support for Organizations program are:
1. Organizations or groups located in greater Minnesota,
2. Organizations or groups in which people of color or indigenous people comprise 50 percent or more of the board and staff,
3. Organizations or groups in which individuals with disabilities comprise 50 percent or more of the board and staff or that exist to serve the disability community.

Grant funds will be allocated based on reviewers’ scores and funding targets for the three priority groups. The three priority groups will receive a percent of the grants awarded that is equal to or greater than their percentage of the applicant pool. The applicant’s primary area of activity—arts access, arts education, and arts and cultural heritage—will also be a factor in awarding funds.

Applicants must meet a predetermined minimum score for all review criteria in order to be considered for funding.
For questions or help

An application summary is on page 6; the application instructions begin on page 7. Please refer to these sections for detailed information.

For questions about eligibility or the content of the application, please contact:
Program Officers Natalie Kennedy or Rina Rossi at CreativeSupport-Organizations@arts.state.mn.us (651) 539-2671

For questions about the technical aspects of the application forms, or questions about electronic submission, please e-mail the Arts Board at apply@arts.state.mn.us

The following staff member may also be called regarding technical aspects, but e-mail is preferred.
Justine Pearson, WebGrants project manager (651) 539-2663

All staff members can be reached toll-free at (800) 866-2787
Application Summary

A complete application includes the following forms:

**General Information**
Select the primary and secondary contact person for the application (see page 7).

**Eligibility**
Certify that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria (see page 7).

**Outcomes**
State an outcome that the applicant will work to achieve and identify how it will be evaluated. The applicant outcome must support the following program outcome: **Minnesota arts organizations will maintain their connection to Minnesota residents and communities** (see page 8).

**Applicant Background**
Provide demographic information about the organization or group (see page 8).

**Artistic Engagement**
Provide examples of artistic engagement in one to three Web links or attachments (see page 8).

**Narrative**
- Select the category that best represents the ways in which the applicant will engage with communities: arts access, arts education, arts and cultural heritage (see page 9).
- Write a public statement (see page 9).
- Provide responses to address the three narrative questions. Applicants will have a maximum of 5,500 characters to complete the narrative (see page 9).

**Spending Plan**
Complete a simple line item form to show how funds would be spent in any of the following categories: compensation, materials/services, accessibility, equipment purchase, administration, and other (see page 10).

**Nonprofit and Fiscal Sponsor Information**
- Arts organizations will need to supply their IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (see page 10).
- Unincorporated arts groups will need to supply fiscal sponsor information materials.

**Populations Benefitting**
Provide information about the communities the applicant has served in the last calendar year (see page 11).

**Certifications and Signature**
The applicant must certify that all information provided is complete and accurate (see page 11).
Application Instructions

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the Program Overview and Application Instructions and then contact a program officer with any questions they may have.

All applicants are required to use the WebGrants system to apply and will submit all materials electronically. Resources for help navigating WebGrants are available on the Arts Board home page.

WebGrants registration
All applicants must be registered as users in the WebGrants system in order to apply to any Arts Board program. New users must register before they may begin an application. Registrants will receive a WebGrants user ID and password within one to two business days, which will also be used for subsequent WebGrants applications and grants management activity.

How to start an application
- Log in to WebGrants
- Select: Funding Opportunity
- Select: Creative Support for Organizations
- Select: Start a new application

Application forms
When preparing narrative text, applicants are strongly encouraged to work in their own preferred word processing format and then copy and paste text into WebGrants to ensure that work is saved properly. Avoid unnecessary formatting. Text limits are measured in characters, not words, and include spaces.

General Information Form
Primary contact is the person responsible for completing and submitting this application and is the liaison between the applicant and the Arts Board. Consider who should be receiving communications from the Arts Board throughout the grant period when selecting the application contacts.

Additional contacts: If more than one person will be working on the application/grant activities, select their names from this list.

Project title: This field will populate automatically.

Organization: An applicant organization should select its name from the drop-down list.

Eligibility Form
Indicate that the applicant has read, understands, and meets all listed eligibility requirements and is eligible to apply to this program; and that the applicant has read the Tennessen warning.
Outcomes Form

Applicant outcomes (150 characters)
State a distinct and measurable outcome that the applicant intends to achieve with the support that would be provided by this Arts Board grant. The applicant outcome must support the following program outcome: Minnesota arts organizations will maintain their connection to Minnesota residents and communities.

How will the applicant’s outcome be evaluated? (250 characters maximum)
Describe the method(s) the applicant will use to evaluate progress toward achieving the outcome.

Arts Board program outcome
This field will populate automatically.

For information about outcomes based evaluation, applicants may refer to Getting started with program evaluation, a resource guide published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

The proposed and actual outcomes, as well as the evaluation plan, will be posted on the Minnesota Legacy Web site.

Applicant Background Form
Information on this form is provided by applicants about the organization’s staff and board. The Arts Board uses this information to monitor its own efforts to reach all of Minnesota’s demographic groups.

The Arts Board will also use the information reported in this form to allocate funds, ensuring that priority groups—organizations led by indigenous people or people of color, organizations led by individuals with disabilities or that primary serve people with disabilities, and organizations based in greater Minnesota—receive a percentage of grants awarded that is equal to or greater than their proportion of the total applicant pool.

Artistic Engagement Form
The purpose of the artistic engagement form is to provide evidence of the applicant’s history of engaging Minnesota communities in the arts; this will help reviewers evaluate the first review criteria.

Examples of artistic engagement
Applicants may choose to include one to three Web links or attachments as examples of artistic community engagement. Examples might include Web sites, social media pages, documentation, or promotion of past arts programming or activities.

Attachments may be images (JPG files), text (PDF files), or audio files (MP3). For video, use the text box to provide a link.

When naming files or attachments
- Use only letters of the alphabet, numerals, underscores, or dashes.
• **Do not** use commas, periods, other punctuation marks, or special characters, as they may result in file corruption.

Note: Reviewers will be instructed to spend no more than 10 minutes reviewing examples.

**Notes about rights**

- The works and the rights to those works resulting from Arts Board grants are the sole property of the artist(s).
- Artists must not present the work of others as their own work. When adapting, incorporating, or significantly drawing upon others’ work, proper attribution is expected.
- The Arts Board may use submitted work samples in promotional materials and online.

**Narrative Form**

**Applicant activities**
Select the category that best represents the ways in which the applicant will engage with communities.

- **Arts and arts access** funds may be used to support Minnesota artists and arts organizations in creating, producing, and presenting high quality arts activities; to preserve, maintain, and interpret art forms and works of art so that they are accessible to Minnesota audiences; to overcome barriers to accessing high quality arts activities; and to instill the arts into the community and public life of this state.

- **Arts education** funds may be used to support age appropriate arts education for Minnesotans of all ages to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts.

- **Arts and cultural heritage** funds may be used for events or activities that represent, preserve, and maintain the diverse cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and arts organizations, represented in this state.

**Public statement** (250 characters maximum)
If the application is funded, the public statement will be posted on the Arts Board Web site and other locations. Write in a factual manner, in the third person, using complete sentences.
Example: ABC Arts Organization will develop plans to safely deliver programming.

**Narrative** (5,500 characters maximum)
Please respond to the following:
1. Provide information about the applicant’s history, artistic mission, and past programming.
2. How might the applicant remain connected to the applicant’s communities during the FY 2021 grant year? How is, or how will, community input be incorporated into applicant’s plans to remain connected?
3. a. Describe the demographic groups who primarily experience the applicant’s artistic programming;
   b. Describe how the organization’s staff and board are reflective of, rooted in, and able to authentically express the experiences of underserved populations. What percentage of the organization’s staff and board are reflective of underserved populations?
Spending Plan Form
In the narrative text box, provide an explanation for every line item with a dollar amount entered, or enter “N/A” if line item doesn’t apply.

- **Compensation:** Describe payments applicant expects to make to artists, other personnel, and any others who may be paid with grant dollars for planning, creating, teaching, performing, evaluating, etc.
- **Materials/Services:** Include costs for items such as art supplies, tools, online subscriptions, Internet/Web services, copyright fees, graphic design, CD printing, framing, etc.
- **Accessibility:** Include costs that may be incurred to ensure accessibility for populations with disabilities such as captioning, ASL, audio description, multi format materials, etc.
- **Equipment purchase:** Refers to the purchase of necessary items such as musical instruments, cameras, kiln, etc. Equipment purchase amount must be less than $5,000.
- **Administration:** Include only those indirect costs that are directly related to and necessary for the grant activities such as time and expenses related to accounting, processing payroll or taxes, etc.
- **Other:** Include other relevant expenses including promotion and marketing, rental of equipment or space that's not routinely occupied by the applicant, travel within the state of Minnesota, etc.
- **Total dollars requested:** The total dollars requested will calculate automatically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE EXPENSE DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compensation:</strong> Arts education coordinator partial salary $8,000; teaching artists $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials and services:</strong> Supplies for at-home art kits $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> ADA budget for accommodations (ASL, etc.) and adaptable arts tools $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment purchase:</strong> N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration:</strong> $1,000 bookkeeping salary and fringe benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other:</strong> $500 promotion, $500 in state delivery of at-home art kits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Applicants are encouraged to ask for what they need, between $5,000 to $15,000. The amount of the grant request will not create an advantage or disadvantage for the application.

Nonprofit and Fiscal Sponsor Information Form
- If the applicant is a 501(c)(3) organization, attach the applicant’s IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (PDF file).
- If the applicant is an unincorporated arts group that has not obtained an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) determination it must apply with a fiscal sponsor and provide fiscal sponsor materials.

Fiscal sponsor materials
- The fiscal sponsor agreement (attach as PDF file).
- The fiscal sponsor’s IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (attach as PDF file). If the fiscal sponsor is a public entity (such as a unit of state, local, or tribal government), this letter is not required.
• The fiscal sponsor’s legal name and contact information.

Fiscal sponsor agreement
Applicants who are required to use a fiscal sponsor must submit a fiscal sponsor written agreement that:
• Includes a description of the relevant responsibilities of both the applicant and the fiscal sponsor, and
• Is signed by both the applicant and the fiscal sponsor.

Applicants entering into fiscal sponsorship agreements are strongly encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities and to utilize best practices when entering into such an agreement. Visit the National Network of Fiscal Sponsors for information and resources.

Populations Benefitting Form
The Arts Board uses information entered on this form to prepare aggregate reports mandated by the National Endowment for the Arts, and to monitor its own efforts to reach all of Minnesota’s demographic groups. Information in this form will be used by reviewers to collect additional information about which key demographic groups the applicant typically serves.

Estimate the percentage of people engaged by the applicant in the previous calendar year who will identify with each of the listed demographic groups. These responses should refer to populations engaged directly, only include broadcast or online audiences and participants that were directly engaged in programming, not in marketing efforts.

• Age - Each person should be reported in only ONE category.
• Distinct populations - People may be reported in multiple categories.
• Geography - Each person should be reported in only ONE category.
• Race/ethnicity - People may be reported in multiple categories.

Certifications and Signature Form
A signature of a corporate official having the authority to enter into legal agreements on behalf of the applicant is required.

Minnesota law authorizes state government agencies to conduct transactions electronically. Minnesota Statutes 302A.015 defines an electronic signature as "an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record."

The names in the signature list are the applicant's registered WebGrants users. If the authorizing official's name is not in the list, register the authorizing official in WebGrants through the My Profile selection on the WebGrants main menu. Entering an individual's name in a signature box constitutes the individual's electronic signature. The signature certifies that all information in the application is true and correct. It also certifies that the applicant meets all the program eligibility requirements and intends to use the granted funds only for allowable purposes.
If an applicant receives an Arts Board grant that includes dollars from the State of Minnesota’s arts and cultural heritage fund, it must certify that it will only use those funds for the following purposes:

- To produce, present, or offer programs, projects, services, or activities in the arts, arts education, arts access, or arts that preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage;
- To support programs, projects, services, or activities that take place within the state of Minnesota;
- To support programs, projects, services, or activities for which measurable outcomes have been established, and a plan for evaluating the outcomes and results is in place;
- To supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding; and
- To underwrite only those administrative, indirect, or institutional overhead costs that are directly related to and necessary for the programs, projects, services, or activities that the applicant will offer with the arts and cultural heritage funds it receives from the Arts Board.

Legacy amendment statements

- This grant program exists because of an appropriation from the State of Minnesota’s arts and cultural heritage fund (ACHF). The Minnesota Constitution requires that arts and cultural heritage fund dollars must be used to supplement not substitute for traditional sources of funding. The Minnesota State Legislature passed a law that requires all recipients of ACHF dollars to ensure that they are in compliance with the constitutional requirement.

If awarded arts and cultural heritage funds, a grantee must be able to describe how this requirement will be met. Grantees will be expected to track and document how ACHF dollars are being used to supplement existing sources of funding and are not being used as a substitute for sources of funding the grantee has traditionally received.

The Arts Board defines “traditional sources of support” as: 1) grants received from the Minnesota State Arts Board or one of the state’s eleven regional arts councils that are funded with State general fund dollars, or 2) grants or appropriations from the State’s capital investment budget.

- The Minnesota State Legislature passed a law that arts and cultural heritage fund (ACHF) dollars must not be spent on administrative costs, indirect costs, or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for the specific projects or activities that will be funded with arts and cultural heritage funds dollars.

If awarded arts and cultural heritage funds, a grantee must track and be able to clearly document what portion of ACHF funds is spent on direct program or project costs and what portion of ACHF funds is spent on administrative costs, indirect, or overhead costs that are “directly related to and necessary” to carry out the programs or projects that are supported with ACHF dollars.

General program information

- Tenessen warning
  
The use of the information that an applicant provides to the Arts Board is governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13).
Any person who registers on the Arts Board’s WebGrants system, as an individual or a representative of an organization, agency, or group, must provide name, address, and additional contact information in order for the board to process grant applications. Failure to provide required information will prevent the applicant from being able to receive a grant from the Arts Board.

Members of the public may request to review, or receive copies of, any information that an applicant provides to the Arts Board. Arts Board staff and volunteers; authorized personnel from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor, Minnesota Management and Budget, and the Minnesota Department of Administration will have access to the data. Authorized personnel from the Minnesota Department of Revenue, the Office of the Inspector General, and Office of the Comptroller General of the United States may have access to the data. If a court issues an order requiring disclosure beyond the parties and purposes described here, the Arts Board will comply.

- All application materials submitted to the Arts Board become public data during the public meeting in which they are reviewed.

- Funding for this program is dependent on appropriations from the Minnesota Legislature for FY 2021. The board anticipates it will be able to award more than $7,000,000 through this grant program.

- Individuals and organizations that are awarded a grant will be expected to submit a final report after the grant period ends that explains what activities took place and what outcome(s) were achieved. The grantee also will need to provide a financial report that compares projected costs to actual costs and accounts for how state funds were spent.

- Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs of the Minnesota State Arts Board is provided to all individuals regardless of race, national origin, color, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in admission, access, or employment.

- Upon request, Arts Board materials will be made available in an alternate format.
Application deadline

Applications must be submitted to and accepted by the online WebGrants system BEFORE 4:30 p.m. the day of the deadline.

Deadlines for this program are August 24, 2020 and September 11, 2020. Applicants may apply to either deadline, but not both.

All forms including those that you feel may not apply to you must be opened and marked as complete before clicking “Submit.”

After the deadline, applicants will be alerted through the WebGrants system if there are issues with an application that require attention. To ensure that e-mail notices don’t go to a junk e-mail folder, enter the WebGrants e-mail address webgrants@apply.mnartsboard.com in your address book.

Although the WebGrants system will remain visible and accessible to users beyond the application deadline, the system is designed to prevent late applications from being submitted. At 4:30 p.m. on the deadline day, WebGrants will stop accepting applications.

The Arts Board will only accept applications that are submitted and accepted by the online WebGrants system before the 4:30 p.m. deadline and will not grant an applicant extra time after the deadline to submit an application. There are no exceptions.

When an application is successfully submitted, a confirmation will be sent to the applicant by e-mail. Applicants are strongly advised to save a copy of this e-mail as proof of their submission.

The Arts Board is not responsible for the failure of Internet service providers to accept or deliver application materials.

Any applicant that fails to submit all the required materials, or submits incomplete materials, will jeopardize the eligibility of its application.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The Arts Board receives many calls and e-mails on the last few days before, and especially on the day of, a deadline. It makes every effort to respond to all inquiries, in the order they are received, but depending on the volume, may not be able to do so.

Applicants that need assistance should NOT wait until the day of the deadline, and/or the last few hours before the deadline, to contact the Arts Board. Doing so may jeopardize your ability to submit an application before the deadline.
About the Minnesota State Arts Board

The Arts Board strives to ensure that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the arts. Its mission is to stimulate and encourage the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in the state.

Through its grant programs and other activities, the Arts Board works to achieve the following strategic outcomes:

- The arts are essential to a vibrant society
- The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life
- Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are
- People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts
- People trust Minnesota’s stewardship of public arts funding
- The arts thrive in Minnesota

The Minnesota State Arts Board is governed by eleven private citizens who are appointed by the governor. More than 250 individuals are appointed each year to review grant applications and help determine which applications will be recommended for funding.

The Arts Board provides financial support and services to encourage the creation, promotion, and appreciation of arts in the state. Arts Board programs are intended to reach out to all Minnesotans, regardless of geographic location, economic situation, age, racial/ethnic characteristics, or disability. Funding for Arts Board programs and services is appropriated by the State of Minnesota, with supplemental support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In addition, Minnesota’s eleven regional arts councils provide grants for arts activities in their regions. The Arts Board acts as fiscal sponsor to the councils, but each council has local decision-making authority over the state funds it receives. For more information about grant opportunities and programs specific to applicant’s region, please visit the Regional Arts Councils section of the Arts Board Web site: www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/

Minnesota’s arts and cultural heritage fund

In November 2008, Minnesotans passed the clean water, land, and legacy amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. As a result, over twenty-five years, three-eighths of one percent of the state’s sales tax will be dedicated as follows:

- 33 percent to a clean water fund,
- 33 percent to an outdoor heritage fund,
- 14.25 percent to a parks and trails fund, and
- 19.75 percent to an arts and cultural heritage fund.

Proceeds from the arts and cultural heritage fund “may be spent only on arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.”

Funding for this grant program is dependent on the Arts Board receiving an appropriation from the legislature from the arts and cultural heritage fund.