



ARTS & CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND 2023-2025 MHC GRANTEES

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2023-2025 CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS			
Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico (NMM)	\$47,317.00	Saint Paul	(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico will 1) develop internal capacity as they develop a "Mexican & Latino Museum of Minnesota". Key objectives include: 1) hire a consultant to support strategic planning; 2) hire an HR consultant; 3) hire a legal consultant; 4) website development.
African Economic Development Solutions (AEDS) aeds-mn.org	\$67,000.00	Saint Paul	African Economic Development Solutions will sustain and expand funding development team skills, this funding would support training, coaching, and overall support. The project has the following key objectives: 1) hire expertise to train staff on fund development planning; 2) grant writing training and support; 3) grant research; 4) grants management and reporting; 5) sponsorship fundraising; 6) grant application writing for humanities programs.
ASAL Charities asalcharities.org	\$18,334.00	Minneapolis	ASAL will enhance operations in three areas: 1) non-profit management; 2) grant writing and reporting; 3) fundraising strategy development. This project has the following key objectives: 1) train and assist staff on grant writing and reporting for non-profit management; 2) hire experts to conduct strategic planning, fiscal management, and community outreach training; 3) hire consultation to identify, monitor, and communicate fundraising campaign opportunities, grant writing, tracking progress, and project management.
Asian American Business Resilience Network (AABRN) aabrn.org	\$67,000.00	Minneapolis	The Asian American Business Resilience Network will enhance capacity building grant writing skills tailored for federal grants to effectively raise funding. This project has these key objectives: 1) train and assist staff on grant writing and reporting with emphasis on federal grant writing; 2) hire experts to conduct federal compliance training; 3) obtain consultation to develop, monitor, and communicate fundraising campaign including fundraising strategies and planning; 4) seek partnerships with organizations experienced in securing federal funding; 5) technology integration.
Asian Media Access, Inc. amamedia.org	\$24,990.00	Minneapolis	Asian Media Access (AMA) will embark on a capacity-building project aimed at cultivating individual donors from Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and the public, and encompasses a multifaceted approach



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			to enhance grant writing, reporting, nonprofit management, and fundraising capabilities. Key activities include: 1) train and assist board/staff on grant writing and reporting; 2) build internal expertise in grant writing and reporting by obtaining consultation and training from experts in Donor Solicitation.
Brownbody brownbody.org	\$52,500.00	Saint Paul	Brownbody will 1) expand fundraising through grant seeking and increasing revenue streams; 2) streamline operational practices; 3) build a strong foundation for deeper, more frequent, and consistent communication and engagement with MN communities.
Cow Tipping Press cowntippingpress.org	\$15,845.00	Minneapolis	Cow Tipping Press will 1) hire a consultant with STAR Services to undergo the process of becoming a Department of Human Services (DHS) billable activity; 2) consult with the Mobius Group to bring accounting and HR practices onto more automated platforms; 3) consult with Corvus North on best practices for growing donations from major gifts and family foundations.
Dakota Wicohan dakotawicohan.org	\$34,126.00	Morton	Dakota Wicohan will hire a consultant to 1) sustain success and growth; 2) train and empower staff; 3) foster leadership from within the community; 4) prepare for future challenges and opportunities.
Department of Public Transformation publictransformation.org	\$36,795.00	Granite Falls	The Department of Public Transformation will hire a Development Consultant to lead the Board and staff toward more sustainable and intentional fundraising strategies. Specifically, a consultant to teach skills in building annual giving programs, creating audit systems and policies, coach staff and board on effective fundraising strategies, and implement processes that can evolve as the organization continues to grow.
Duluth Art Institute Association duluthartinstitute.org	\$52,493.00	Duluth	DAI will hire consultation and training from a nonprofit expert in capacity building to 1) shape and execute a robust capacity building development strategy; 2) create a comprehensive approach to building sustainable support networks; 3) conduct stakeholder outreach; 4) develop and implement campaign strategies; 5) train staff and board members to write and report on grants.
Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts interactcenterarts.org	\$52,500.00	Saint Paul	Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts will 1) hire an Outreach & Communications consultant to work with staff to identify partners and opportunities for Interact artists with disabilities to present performances, arts exhibitions, and hands-creativity workshops throughout Minnesota; 2) create targeted outreach list; 3) create fresh messaging; 4) develop implementation plan; 5) facilitate training.



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Life House, Inc. lifehouseduluth.org	\$10,308.00	Duluth	Life House will develop an in-depth strategic planning process lead by Northspan Consulting to 1) develop a three-year strategic plan; 2) analyze contradictions; 3) create an action plan.
QUEERSPACE collective queerspacecollective.org	\$28,280.00	Minneapolis	QUEERSPACE will hire a grant writing expert consultant to 1) support grant prospect research to help identify potential funders; 2) train and assist the Development and Communications Director to review and update current grant materials and language to develop robust and effective grant proposals.
Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum somalimuseum.org	\$67,500.00	Minneapolis	The Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum will elevate board governance and staff development to ensure the museum's long-term sustainability, enriching the cultural landscape and fostering community engagement. This project has three key objectives: 1) stabilize operating revenue & financial systems; 2) develop a five-year strategic plan; 3) increase board governance and staff development.
StoryArk storyark.org	\$31,108.00	Minneapolis	StoryArk will hire nonprofit management experts who have a history of working with BIPOC led cultural organizations to develop new systems and processes and train Executive Director, Board, and staff, in 1) grant seeking, writing, and reporting; 2) creating strong evaluation measures; 3) building capacity and fundraising ability.
The Cedar Cultural Center thecedar.org	\$35,654.00	Minneapolis	The Cedar Cultural Center will 1) hire an expert on auditing overall fundraising strategies and systems; 2) work with staff to create an annual fundraising plan; 3) coach staff to build a culture of philanthropy; 4) coach the board on funding responsibilities; 5) create a job description for a Donor Relations Officer to implement recommendations; 6) carry out database migration.
Urban Roots MN urbanrootsmn.org	\$67,000.00	Saint Paul	Urban Roots will 1) hire a consultant to build the fundraising knowledge and capabilities of Urban Root's staff and leadership; 2) strategize for individual and major donor cultivation; 3) build capacity for increasing revenue stream, compile research on donors to guide skill-building and engagement



2023-2025 CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS GRANTS

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(Neo) Muralismos de Mexico (NMM)	80,000.00	Saint Paul	(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico will develop and launch new youth programming in partnership through Mankato Youth Camp (MN State University Mankato), Austin Area Children (Austin folk artist Flor Soto, City of Austin, Austin Area Arts, and Riverland Community College), Saint Paul's West Side (Wellstone Center, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, and local schools), and South Minneapolis (Lake Street businesses and organizations). Including a two-week camp, workshops, hands-on art activities, painting, papier-mâché, and public art.
Asian American Business Resilience Network (AABRN) aabrn.org	\$50,000.00	Minneapolis	This project includes support for two exhibit developments: 1) Highway 94 displacement of the Rondo neighborhood; 2) a 3D Asian Goddess Folktale exhibit.
Children's Museum of Southern MN cmsouthernmn.org	\$220,000.00	Mankato	This project includes new exhibit components and enhancements to help educate youth through the power of play, and provide art programs for children of all ages and abilities using adaptive art tools and sensory.
Childrens Discovery Center	\$180,000.00	Grand Rapids	This project will support new exhibit components, including an agriculture heritage exhibit, that will showcase the farming way of life and the importance of family farms for the country's food source. It includes workshops and hands-on learning in roles such as gardener, farmer, processor, seed agronomist, farmers market vendor, and consumer.
Duluth Children's Museum duluthchildrensmuseum.org	\$215,000.00	Duluth	This project includes several exhibit creations and enhancements; multilingual signage in English, Ojibwe, Spanish, and Braille, and support to the Children's Museum Educator program.
Great River Children's Museum greatrivercm.org	\$280,000.00	Saint Cloud	This project will produce content for the Headwaters exhibit including: 1) creation and content development of Meet Your Neighbor stations; 2) creation of two murals and a sculpture celebrating diversity; 3) new exhibit design in partnership with Stearns County History Museum; 4) design an art fence for the Outdoor Adventures exhibit.
Judy Garland Children's Museum judygarlandmuseum.com	\$127,581.00	Grand Rapids	This project will support new exhibit components and enhancements, provide admissions and transportation to underserved and diverse communities, and teacher-led programs for children that are sensory sensitive, in relationship with Autism Society of Minnesota.
Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum minisotamuseum.org	\$25,000.00	Benson	This project includes a new exhibit component that includes a variety of farm production machinery, diverse agriculture commodities, and livestock, and



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			provides an interactive learning experience about agricultural production and the art of manufacturing food for every culture.
Otter Cove Children's Museum ottercoveff.org	\$149,455.00	Fergus Falls	This project includes new exhibit components and enhancements; facilitating diverse workshops and performances for children and families, and four mini camps for children ages 6-12 during school/summer breaks.
Minnesota Children's Museum mcm.org	\$472,500.00	Saint Paul	This project includes new exhibit components and enhancements to help educate youth and expand outreach.
SPARK sparkrochestermn.org	\$150,000.00	Rochester	This project through field trips, community access events, museum-to-go, and free family passes, support programming that celebrates the rich and diverse community of Olmsted County.
The Works Museum theworks.org	\$321,964.00	Bloomington	The Works Museum will design, fabricate, and install a new exhibit with partners from Minnesota's East African, Hmong, and Latinx communities that forwards elementary education goals and celebrates Minnesota's rich cultural diversity.
WonderTrek Children's Museum wondertrekmuseum.org	\$280,000.00	Brainerd	This project will support a co-creative engagement program with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe children, families, and educators, highlighting the art, culture, and heritage of North Central Minnesota from the perspectives of Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe children.



2023-2025 CIVICS GRANTS

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100 Rural Women 100ruralwomen.org	\$17,500.00	Marcell	100 Rural Women will increase the number of Indigenous women, women of color, and underrepresented women in civic engagement through a mentorship program in collaboration with a tribal college by offering a 6-month community internship during the summer and fall of 2024, recruiting 4 to 5 Indigenous women interested in pursuing civic leadership positions.
ASAL Charities asalcharities.org	\$18,000.00	Minneapolis	ASAL Charities will enhance civic engagement within the East African community in the Twin Cities, honoring and celebrating its unique culture. "Empowering Voices" will integrate cultural nuances into civic education throughout twelve sessions focusing on the significance of voting, civic involvement, and active participation in civic life.
Legal Rights Center, Inc. legalrightscenter.org	\$18,000.00	Minneapolis	Legal rights Center, Inc. will provide a critical missing component to civics education for youth in our communities, ensuring they have the information and practical skills necessary to fully utilize their constitutionally protected rights. This project builds upon a foundation of existing "Know Your Rights" curricula to 1) develop curriculum around new topics; 2) develop zines, 1-page explainers, videos, and other new assets to be accessed digitally as well as circulated throughout schools and community spaces; 3) host a "Know Your Rights camp" and convening for Twin Cities youth.
Minnesota Legislative Society mnlegislaturesociety.org	\$20,000.00	Saint Paul	Minnesota Legislative Society will expand the Model Legislature program to Central Minnesota through St. Cloud State University by bringing in local elected officials to participate as legislators in the process. It will incorporate caucus meetings and involve students as lobbyists. The Model Legislature event engages students directly by: working in committees that mirror standing committees of the Minnesota legislature; debating, amending, and voting on bills in committee; debating and sending to the governor for the program.
Move for America move4america.org	\$95,000.00	Saint Paul	Move for America will engage youth ages 14-18 in interactive groups to increase participants' relationships across differences; interest in and understanding of civic engagement; media fluency and source evaluation. Through this project, youth will build the skills, knowledge, and relationships they need to be active, connected, and informed citizens.
Young Men's Christian Association of The North	\$40,000.00	Minneapolis	The YMCA Center for Youth Voice helps preserve Minnesota's strong civic cultural heritage by teaching



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(YMCA) ymcanorth.org			civic knowledge (law, democracy, government), skills, and traditions to the next generation. This project brings in diverse new participants and content for two experiential civics learning programs – Youth in Government (YIG) and Students Voting – by increasing access for youth who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), including those in Greater Minnesota and in rural areas. YIG allows students in grades 8-12 to prepare for and run a four-day model government. Students Voting allows K-12 students to vote in a realistic statewide mock election.
Youthprise youthprise.org	\$75,000.00	Minneapolis	Youthprise is partnering with Believe In What’s Possible to launch Turn Up to Turn Out, a youth-led project to increase youth participation in Minnesota politics through youth-led civic education and events.



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(Neo)Muralismos de México (NMM)	\$120,000.00	Saint Paul	This project includes: 1) the start of 10,000 ALEBRIJES -- the largest outdoor public art exhibit of "Alebrijes" in the world outside of Mexico. The exhibit will include 25-50 giant papier-mâché sculptures (ranging from 3 feet to 20 feet tall) of "alebrijes" -- colorful and fantastic creatures that represent the spirit world in Mexican culture; 2) a pop-up mobile museum with art exhibits, installations, and cultural activities in West and East Metro neighborhoods, as well as in the Greater Minnesota communities of Austin, Worthington, Mankato, Duluth, Red Wing, and includes 40-80 workshops throughout the state and 4-8 site-specific installations; 3) Public Art at Harriet Island with pop-up exhibits and temporary outdoor installations; 4) 10-20 community presentations of cultural traditions around the state; 5) develop 5-10 apprentice opportunities; 6) provide professional development opportunities with Minnesota-based Latinx artists.
826 MSP 826msp.org	\$85,969.00	Minneapolis	826 MSP will expand school partnerships in two keyways: 1) add a new 6-8 week in-school workshop program where 826 MSP staff and volunteers facilitate antiracist creative writing units in elementary and middle-school classrooms; 2) expand community engagement work through the addition of Whole-Family Workshops, in partnership with local schools and community organizations. This project uniquely preserves and honors Minnesota's cultural heritage by empowering BIPOC communities, facilitating antiracist humanities programming, expanding publishing models, exploring multimedia publications, and performance art partnerships with local museums or other organizations.
Andrea Manolov	\$24,930.00	Minneapolis	This project will preserve and facilitate public access to the Northland Poster Collective (NPC). NPC was a print shop in Minneapolis which operated from 1979-2009. The artists who ran NPC created art to represent identities and interests of Latinx, Black, Asian American, LGBTQIA+, and working-class people in Minnesota. This project includes the following activities: 1) digitize 300 posters created by NPC artists; 2) preserve the digital collection and make it publicly accessible through the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG) online archive; 3) conduct nine oral history interviews with



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			former members of NPC; 4) transcribe, process, review; 5) preserve each interview at the Minnesota Historical Society public archive in St. Paul; 6) create a project website that orients audiences on using the poster and oral history interview collections; 7) host a one-day community gathering event.
APIA MN Film Collective apiamfilm.com	\$150,000.00	Savage	APIA MN Film Collective will create a new program, the New Works! Lab, a season of new films created, produced, directed, and starring Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) filmmaking artists from Minnesota. We will showcase these films for our community to watch in the Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester, and Fergus Falls to include: 1) the production of 8 new film works by Asian Minnesotan filmmaking artists; 2) five screenings throughout the Metro and greater Minnesota; 3) hosting workshops led by filmmaking artists on writing screenplays, how to generate film ideas, and more.
ASAL Charities asalcharities.org	\$21,600.00	Minneapolis	ASAL Charities will empower Oromo elders and the wider Oromo community to preserve, celebrate, and honor our identity and culture. This proposal would fund both 1) an intergenerational culture-bearing training program and, 2) add a new cultural celebration component to the annual Ireechaa Festival.
Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA) aedamn.org	\$190,000.00	Saint Paul	This project, SEA Us Write & Design Fellowship, is an arts and cultural education program aimed at helping lower-income Minnesota Southeast Asian youth aged 16-18 develop as writers and artists. The program will provide creative writing classes and internships during summer breaks and after school, offering inclusive spaces and culturally relevant activities. Participants will have the opportunity to express themselves, develop leadership skills, and foster relationships with peers and positive adult mentors.
Asian Media Access, Inc. amamedia.org	\$23,742.00	Saint Paul	Asian Media Access will create a new cultural destination at the former St. Paul Sears parking lot, with a weekly Multicultural Night Market in Summer 2024.
Bemidji State University bemidjistate.edu	\$14,800.00	Bemidji	This project will help to expand the inaugural Diverse Texts Conference for educators. This conference was designed to promote literature representing diverse people and perspectives and provide workshops and sessions on guidance for



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			<p>integrating such texts in K-College classrooms. The expansion includes two author-speakers from the Red Lake Tribal Lands, books written by the authors for conference participants, a drumming performance, an authentic Anishinaabe meal, and a fireside event that includes oral storytelling that highlights Minnesota tribal experiences. The expansion project preserves and honors Native American heritage by showcasing cultural events for area educators.</p>
<p>Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization (CMCEO) cmceogroup.org</p>	<p>\$70,000.00</p>	<p>Saint Cloud</p>	<p>Central MN Community Empowerment Organization will revitalize the use of cultural and artistic expressions for the Somali youth of Minnesota to preserve and display their cultural heritage. CMCEO plans to promote patriotism and citizenship through cultural heritage where artists are trained to compose Somali creative arts and music. This will enable youth to learn their cultural heritage and creativity in an engaging environment. The project focuses on 1) training 100 young artists to compose and create Somali cultural and creative music and arts; 2) developing the skills of 20 female artists in the composition of Buranbur, a traditional Somali poetry form; 3) providing a platform for youth to express their cultural identity and engage in social dialogue; 4) preserving and honoring the rich cultural heritage of the Somali community in Minnesota.</p>
<p>Claudia Nascimento</p>	<p>\$99,086.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This project is a documentary film about the intercultural experiences of immigrants living in Minnesota. It features footage of live performances at the Southern Theater, followed by talkbacks with cultural leaders and scholars; and the voices of audience and community members, recorded in post-performance conversations and interviews.</p>
<p>Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) caalmn.org</p>	<p>\$200,000.00</p>	<p>Saint Paul</p>	<p>This project is a documentary and includes working in partnership with East Side Freedom Library (ESFL) and Vietnamese Social Services (VSS) and with Cambodian American Partnership (CAP) as a program partner with the collaborative aim to provide a platform for Southeast Asian women to share their experiences – preserving history, honoring more inclusively the lives impacted, and building awareness of these stories in Minnesota, of particular relevance for our state where Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and</p>



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			Vietnamese American communities established post-Vietnam War and continue to grow.
College of St. Benedict csbsju.edu	\$157,514.00	Saint Joseph	The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University (CSB+SJU), in partnership with the University of Minnesota Morris (UMM), will collect and analyze archival records and oral testimonies on Native American boarding schools in order to develop educational materials that promote truth and healing. The project includes: 1) archival research; 2) oral testimonies; 3) developing curricular materials from these archival and oral records.
COMPAS compas.org	\$46,500.00	Anoka	Minnesota Teaching Artists from African, Indigenous, Latinx, and/or Asian heritages, will develop & deliver community-inspired arts programs that teach an art form with roots in their cultural heritage. Artists will select the Minnesota community where their residency will be delivered, focusing on increasing access to the art form. Over the course of multiple sessions, participants will learn the art form’s cultural context, artists from that culture who have influenced it, and create the art form. The art and cultural learnings will be shared between participants from the various programs during gatherings and cultural exchanges for participants. They’ll also be shared during exhibits or performances for the hosting communities.
Cow Tipping Press cowntippingpress.org	\$67,500.00	Saint Paul	Cow Tipping Press works to change narratives on intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD)—in practice and in print. This project includes three long-desired initiatives aimed at increasing intersectional access and will provide: 1) one online class open to any Minnesotan with I/DD; 2) one in-person class in the Twin Cities that prioritizes BIPOC students; 3) one online or in-person class serving students in Greater Minnesota. For a total of nine new, responsive classes serving 90 adults from diverse populations in Minnesota’s disability communities.
Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičhiye (DIO) dakhota.org	\$249,234.00	Minneapolis	This project includes expansion of the Dakota dictionary database to include previously undocumented words and example sentences. The goal is to create a total of 5,000 expansion sentences. This project also includes new audio recordings of fluent speakers pronouncing words and reading example sentences. The project



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			integrates a learning platform into the existing dictionary app, which will allow users to study example sentences developed as part of objective one, as well as vocabulary available in the dictionary. The project is an integral part of the Dakota language speakers and learners.
Dakota Wicohan dakotawicohan.org	\$50,300.00	Morton	Dakota Wicohan will provide a transformative 16-week program aimed at empowering local Dakota youth by guiding them through the intricate process of crafting their own dance regalia outfits and provide dance lessons, tailored for 10-13 students (boys and girls), from the Lower Sioux Community. Upon completion of their regalia, the participants will be empowered to share their newfound knowledge and skills with the broader community. This sharing will be prominently featured at two local events - the Lower Sioux Powwow and the Redwood County Fair.
Donna Moseley	\$49,872.00	Minneapolis	This project will produce an Afrofuturist short film and allow collaboration with BIPOC creatives in Minnesota. The project aims to create a thought-provoking short film and expand the skill sets of BIPOC artists from various creative realms, including writing, directing, cinematography, editing, and post-production. The project includes: 1) educational outreach to filmmaking communities in Minnesota; 2) workshops; 3) exhibitions; 4) screenings.
East Phillips Neighborhood Institute epnifarm.org	\$192,000.00	Minneapolis	This project will share, celebrate, and preserve cultural heritage in the East Phillips neighborhood, paying mind to the high percentages of Indigenous, East African, African American, and Latinx communities. The project includes collaboration with elders and education institutions to develop a demonstration site plan that will provide workshops about cultural food, ceremonial medicines, and seed saving. The funding will provide venue and facilitation space, bring leaders and experts together to collaborate, assist with strategic planning, and compile data for future engagement.
ESHARA eshara.org	\$64,800.00	Moorhead	ESHARA will promote cross-cultural learning and dispel misconceptions by creating spaces for cross-cultural arts expression and community building: 1) plan and host Iftar Celebration in partnership with all ESHARA Partners, Moorhead Mosque, Inclusive Moorhead partners, elected



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			officials, and community leaders; 2) plan and host four community gatherings that incorporate and celebrate cross-cultural heritage, arts (primary dancing and singing), traditions, and food; 3) support community education on cross-cultural heritage.
Face to Face face2face.org	\$35,195.00	Minneapolis	Face to Face is a pilot project of a podcast program at day shelters for youth experiencing homelessness, SafeZone. The podcast programming will equip youth at Face to Face with the knowledge and skills to create, record, and edit professional-quality podcasts. Youth will select podcast topics and will act as their own storytellers. The resulting creation will be shared on public platforms, allowing for an equitable distribution of youth voice.
Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul mspfilm.org	\$154,000.00	Minneapolis	This project is for a new film initiative, "Images of Africa," that will regularly feature films from African regions, particularly those with the most significant representation in Minnesota. Images of Africa will put a spotlight on the African experience, storytelling, and contributions of a range of artists, most especially filmmakers, from African communities. This series will be showcased at The Main Cinema in Minneapolis, MSP Film's home venue, as well as other Twin Cities locations, including the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis.
Folk Will Save Us folkwillsaveus.org	\$72,034.00	Crystal	This project will support the inaugural season of the Culture Workers Collaborative (CWC), a cohort program for Minnesota culture bearers seeking to lead their communities in amplifying cultural heritage, building identity, and increasing cultural self-determination. Over the course of the program, culture bearers will 1) participate in 15 monthly professional development sessions; 2) carry out a series of 31 culturally diverse humanities activities that empower their communities in building identity and culture.
Friendship Academy of the Arts friendshipacademy.org	\$25,000.00	Minneapolis	Friendship Academy of the Arts will teach K - 8th grade students, their families, and the community, about the rich indigenous cultural history of Minnesota (past and present). Specific activities include: 1) cultural heritage workshops; 2) creating educational curriculum development modules focused on the history and contributions of diverse communities; 3) community cultural



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			festivals; 4) a humanities programming series of events including art exhibitions, literary discussions, and musical performances, reflecting Minnesota's cultural diversity, in collaboration with local humanities scholars and artists.
Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) fawkollektive.com	\$375,000.00	Saint Paul	Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) uses comedy to combat the dehumanization of Asian women. This project includes: 1) a tour performing throughout the state, particularly to rural communities with large Asian American populations; 2) provide workshop opportunities to equip communities with the tools to create their own comedic material; 3) produce two “super shows” in Minneapolis and Saint Paul (700+ audience); 4) allow digital production of five short films and distribution.
Giving Voice Initiative givingvoicechorus.org	\$50,000.00	Minneapolis	Giving Voice Initiative will establish a new, permanent chorus designed to meet the specific needs of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias (AD) and their care partners in the Hispanic/Latine community. We will grow our Minneapolis pilot and expand it, launching a new Spanish-language chorus with Indigenous Roots in St. Paul, creating greater access, awareness and connections in the East Metro Area.
Great Lakes Lifeways Institute greatlakeslifeways.org	\$25,000.00	Minneapolis	Great Lakes Lifeways Institute will expand and deepen their work, launching a series of seasonal, traditional harvest camps that are designed to initiate a long-term elder/youth apprenticeship program. The project includes five harvest camps each year, over two years, with the support of community partners, as well as smaller cultural gatherings around specific knowledge and traditional ways.
Green Card Voices greencardvoices.org	\$239,405.00	Minneapolis	This project, Ukrainian Voices of Minnesota, will uplift Ukrainian voices through story sharing (oral history recordings of 20 Ukrainian newcomer Minnesotans), exhibit production and touring of the first-person narratives, creation of an illustrated, bilingual graphic memoir by one of the Ukrainian storytellers, illustrated by a Ukrainian artist.
Healthy Community Initiative healthycommunityinitiative.org	\$108,774.00	Northfield	This project is a new initiative that will celebrate and teach art, culture, and heritage. It will be operated by PRIMETIME, an out-of-school time network that provides after school and summer activities at no cost for more than 2,500 youth



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			each year. Implementation of CULTUREtime will greatly expand arts & music impact while also launching a brand-new series of cultural activities that lift up the heritages of Rice County’s Somali, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ communities. This new avenue for cultural engagement and appreciation of the diverse backgrounds of Rice County families will be in the form of cooking classes, art & music activities, public events, and affinity groups.
Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota (HORA) hora-mn.org	\$11,020.00	Saint Paul	The Romanian Film Festival will provide an opportunity for Minnesota communities to gather in-person and experience art that speaks to the identity of Romanian and Eastern European communities.
Hispanic Outreach Program of Goodhue County hispanicoutreach.org	\$58,295.00	Red Wing	This project includes artist workshops for the Hispanic Community Outreach program. Workshops include: 1) puppet making; 2) paper mâché classes; 3) Guatemalan weaving classes; 4) mural and painting classes by Gustavo Lira, Mexican muralist/painter/sculptor/mosaic artist/ceramicist/art educator; 5) an Alebrijes workshop, with Aaron Johnson-Ortiz/Gustavo Boada. Johnson-Ortiz is a Latino cultural arts worker/organizer/public artist/muralist focused on workers’ struggles, immigrant rights, and Latino culture. Each workshop is expected to have 20-30 participants from local Hispanic and the wider community.
In Progress in-progress.org	\$71,250.00	Golden Valley	This project is a digital storytelling project dedicated to bonding communities and cultures through the telling of elders’ stories. The project is embedded in the idea that our elders are waterers - carrying history and knowledge that strengthens a community’s identity, and that through the sharing of their stories, we can understand and strengthen communities across generations and geographic location. The project will involve 30 persons from Indigenous, Hmong, Latinx and Somali cultures located across the state. Each community will produce artwork that will be exhibited collectively and toured within each participating community reaching an estimated live audience of 3,000, and online audience of 10,000.
Jena Holliday	\$20,000.00	Dayton	This project will create additional arts programming to extend a pilot project with some



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			new adjustments. Funding will 1) create additional workshop programming for in-person art class workshops; 2) help to expand into offering a set of new virtual workshops with accompanying art tool kits for students; 3) host a community style art activity table during local events and market.
Ka Ly Bliatia	\$24,900.00	Saint Paul	This project is a workshop series project aimed to preserve cultural heritage by transferring knowledge on HMong batik and indigo textile art, a traditional practice lost to HMong Minnesotans. Workshops will be led by Artist Ka Oskar Ly, and include HMong elders, youth, families, educators, and broader community members, who will immerse in the HMong batik practice. These sessions will provide valuable insights into shared oral history, symbolism, and techniques, emphasizing comprehension of the entire process and its cultural significance.
Kairos Alive! kairosalive.org	\$60,932.00	Minneapolis	This project collaborates with 1) Minneapolis Hawthorne Neighborhood Council (multi-cultural/intergenerational); 2) Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC), Richfield (neuro-divergent young adults); 3) an established network of 20+ senior centers and organizations serving people with developmental disabilities statewide (multi-cultural and intergenerational), such as Centro Tyrone Guzman (Latinx), Ecumen Prairie Lodge, Brooklyn Park, Wabasha County Developmental Achievement Center, Wabasha, and Adult Day Services, Bemidji; 4) community collaborations in Bemidji and New Ulm serving LGBTQ2S+ youth and their families. It includes a series of sixteen two-way interactive webcasts of music, song, dance and story participation with people and their associated intergenerational family/community members.
Karen Sieber	\$25,000.00	Saint Paul	This project will help support the creation of a digital exhibit, lesson plan, and public event, that explores the role of the infamous Black abolitionist, minister, and community leader, Moses Dickson, in leading formerly enslaved people to freedom, via Underground Railroad locations in Minnesota.
Katha Dance Theatre kathadance.org	\$88,936.41	Crystal	Katha Dance Theatre (KDT) will produce a mainstage program of three world premiere dance concerts to share the art, culture, and



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			<p>history of India through the art of Kathak dance – the 2,000-year-old classical dance style of North India. These productions will include the world premiere of GANGA – The Myth and Reality, the world premiere of PANCHATANTRA, and the world premiere of PRAKRITIR PRATISODH – Nature’s Revenge. The first will premiere in St. Paul, the second in Minneapolis, and the third will play in another Twin Cities venue (TBD). We will also tour GANGA to audiences in Greater Minnesota during the project period.</p>
<p>Lanesboro Arts lanesboroarts.org</p>	<p>\$45,000.00</p>	<p>Lanesboro</p>	<p>Lanesboro Arts will launch the Equitable Systems Change project for the Lanesboro Arts Gallery as a commitment to a thorough review and change of current systems and processes, based on detailed recommendations to align practices with equity values and more deeply serve BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ artists. This project was prompted by requests from BIPOC and LGTBQIA+ artists and includes the creation of 1) the Lanesboro Arts BIPOC Artist Advisory Committee; 2) creation of the Equity Exhibition Selection Committee; 3) help to launch an education program with the Lanesboro Public Schools, to provide four in-classroom educational opportunities.</p>
<p>Lower Sioux Indian Community lowersioux.com</p>	<p>\$137,550.00</p>	<p>Morton</p>	<p>This project will create enhanced and expanded capacity for Cultural Heritage expertise within the Cansayapi Cultural Department. This project will help to enhance the collection and protection of cultural artifacts and help to hire an archaeology firm to identify key areas for survey and investigation within the ancestral territories of the Mdewakanton Dakota (MN). The project includes hosting a series of tribal community events targeted for retired elders (knowledge keepers), college students (qualified skilled personnel) and other interested candidates. And 4-6 events over a 12-month period (like career day events) for applicants seeking a place within the Cultural Department.</p>
<p>Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area manyfaceswblarea.org</p>	<p>\$36,600.00</p>	<p>White Bear Lake</p>	<p>Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area will provide opportunities to listen, learn, reflect, and engage in conversations and actions that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. The theme, Many Faces: Many Expressions, will bring awareness to the heritage and traditions of our American Indian neighbors through a Wacipi; continues by highlighting stories of recent immigrants to our</p>



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			area through innovative artwork; and culminates by celebrating and building community through a multi-cultural festival.
Marian Hassan	\$121,394.00	Woodbury	This project, entitled Sing Again, aims to preserve Somali lullabies, originally passed generation to generation through oral tradition, by transcribing them in children’s lullaby book and creating website for resource-sharing and archival so that future generations of children can use them. Along with the audio and video recordings of these lullabies traditionally sung and shared on the project website, we will document our own journey as community researchers and artists, providing a template for future cultural communities interested in broader artistic collaborations and cultural preservation.
May Hang	\$39,259.00	Saint Paul	This project integrates traditional Hmong healing practices into modern lifestyles and empowers younger Hmong to embrace the wisdom of their ancestors for overall health and well-being. The main objectives are: 1) identify and describe Hmong healing practices for common ailments through a series of oral history interviews of Hmong elder practitioners; 2) preserve and pass down traditional Hmong healing practices with free community workshops engaging together in learning and practicing traditional Hmong healing rituals and producing a series of three, 2–3-minute, videos demonstrating each healing practice and its techniques; 3) connect with ancestral wisdom at the workshop through health lessons that compare and apply Hmong healing practices with that of similar western self-care modalities for common ailments; 4) empower Hmong families to live a well-balanced life including the daily use of traditional healing practices.
Maya Washington	\$24,500.00	Plymouth	This project will support a solo exhibition of new work at the American Indian Community Housing Organization’s AICHO Galleries in Duluth, MN tentatively scheduled to run from June 7- August 30, 2024. The presentation will include community engagement activities in the form of an artist reception, and public facing cultural workshops, discussions, and related programming. The work presented is a meditation on the artist’s creative practice before, during, and after the Global pandemic, and Global uprising of 2020.



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			Through photography, mixed media, video and poetry, the exhibition will chronicle the time period as witness but also grapple with changing perspectives in the aftermath of personal and universal upheaval.
Memorialize the Movement memorializethemovement.com	\$184,780.00	Minneapolis	Memorialize the Movement (MTM) will embark on an archiving and conservation project of the 1,000+ plywood panels in our stewardship from the Minneapolis Uprising of 2020 and beyond. Since the murder of George Floyd, MTM has collected and preserved the protest plywood murals created by community members, artists, and protesters that displayed their anger, pain, grief, and hope. These murals were used to board up storefronts and businesses all across the Twin Cities. After years of storing, exhibiting, and protecting these murals, we now hope to set out on a large-scale archiving project that entails photographing, cataloging, and doing in-depth research on every mural in our collection.
Midtown Greenway Coalition midtowngreenway.org	\$100,000.00	Minneapolis	Midtown Greenway Cultural Communities Murals Project will create a nearly six-mile-long outdoor art gallery of aerosol paintings along the historic Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis. The images will reflect and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the cultural communities who live, work, and play alongside the Greenway. Simultaneously, the project will uplift aerosol artists – a subculture who are frequently not recognized as legitimate artists – by giving voice to their experience, honoring their craft, and celebrating their culture.
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board minneapolisparks.org	\$41,135.00	Saint Paul	This project will provide access to theater programs in schools, recreation centers, and other youth serving organizations. The theater arts program will be for BIPOC youth ages 12-17 years old. The program will run for six weeks each season throughout the year plus (spring 2024, summer 2024, fall 2024, winter 2024, and spring 2025) for two hours per day, three days per week.
Minneapolis Public Schools mpschoools.org	\$60,300.00	Minneapolis	This project will support the newly developed Somali Heritage Language Program. Somali has rich oral traditions as foundational elements of language usage and development. As a less commonly taught language, Somali often lacks accessible curricula within mainstream publishing companies. It will specifically support the



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			development or continuation of projects at four school sites: Sullivan Steam Magnet, Lyndale Community School, Heritage Academy and South High.
Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society mnchinagarden.org	\$107,195.00	Saint Paul	Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society will create and promote a public garden as a multi-cultural learning experience to preserve and honor cultural heritage for all Minnesotans. The new pilot project will have two educational elements: 1) Partner with two public middle schools to develop curriculum materials, host field trips and design preparatory materials to help foster all of the state middle school student's collective understanding of the diverse art, culture and heritage demonstrated in the garden. 2) Create an interactive ArcGIS Map of the garden containing the curriculum level information and also explaining Hmong, Chinese and Dakota cultural symbols, structures and knowledge, with access for everyone. This involves partner school curriculum developers, materials, busses, cultural lunches, an ArcGIS map producer, A Survey Data Coder for map input, and a manager for the complex project.
Minnesota Museum of American Art (The M) mmaa.org	\$105,000.00	Saint Paul	This project supports Native artist residencies resulting in newly commissioned artworks by Dakota and Ojibwe artists for Here, Now: American Hi/stories of Land and Stars, a permanent collection show opening in September 2024, that is grounded in the lens of interconnectivity and deeply informed by Indigenous systems of knowledge. The new commissions will fill representation gaps in the collection and offer embodied land acknowledgments in the form of artworks.
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop (MPWW) mnprisonwriting.org	\$113,120.00	Minneapolis	This project will create a new, ongoing program: a “micro press”, that would publish the work of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated writers. The books published by the micro-press would allow audiences to see these writers first not as criminals but as innovative, gifted artists with a valuable perspective to add to the discourse.
Mong United Equality Association	\$128,440.00	Minneapolis	This project will create and publish a Hmong Leng children’s alphabet book and host a book release community event featuring traditional Hmong Leng music and clothes. The Hmong Leng dialect, also known as Moob Leeg, is an important branch



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			of the Hmong language spoken by Hmong in the United States, Laos, Thailand, and China.
More Than A Single Story, Inc. morethanasinglestory.com	\$78,300.00	Minneapolis	This project will provide a writer’s cohort that will advance the work of twelve Black writers working in multiple genres. The goals are to 1) deepen individual vision and artistic development; 2) create a cohesive community of writers to support and encourage each other’s work; 3) enrich communities of writers and readers with access to personal and cultural perspectives that will foster artistic growth, empathy, and collaboration.
Move for America move4america.org	\$85,500.00	Saint Paul	Move for America is a new initiative designed to preserve and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of Minnesota by fostering intercultural exchange and education. It will consist of a direct exchange program involving students from community and technical colleges in Minneapolis and Saint Paul (urban centers) and two rural counties: Otter Tail County and Lyon County. This project includes two full exchanges, each with 30-40 participants over two weekends. Culturally diverse groups from urban schools will spend one weekend hosting their peer group from a rural school, and vice versa, and 1) learn about local cultures; 2) participate in skill-building workshops to foster cultural understanding; 3) build strong relationships across cultural divides.
North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS) natifs.org	\$206,000.00	Minneapolis	This project is supporting programming expansion in the Indigenous Food Lab, located in Minneapolis, which includes a professional Indigenous kitchen. In June the organization will open a demonstration and training studio, Spirit Kitchen, offering fresh food. It will also offer Indigenous market curated retail products from Indigenous producers. This program will design one meal kit per month (15 months), to distribute at two schools (30 families each), to families of Indigenous students, with an accompanying live demonstration and video on how families can prepare meals together. Educational materials will be provided on Indigenous language, traditional uses and nutritional benefits of key ingredients, coloring pages, and other activities for families to do and learn together. The lab will welcome student groups to learn about Indigenous food, food as medicine, and do hands-on projects, including designing their own herbal tea blends



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			featuring Indigenous plants and herbs, while learning about traditional names and medicinal properties of each.
<p>North House Folk Schools northhouse.org</p>	<p>\$19,299.00</p>	<p>Grand Marais</p>	<p>This project will support Cook County’s border communities. The project will build upon the existing partnership between the Grand Portage Tribal Council, Grand Portage National Monument, and North House Folk School, to strengthen relationships and collaboration between the Band, Tribal residents, and broader Cook County by creating opportunities for community members to grow in their understanding of wild rice (manoomin), the crafting of traditional harvesting tools, and manoomin’s cultural significance in an effort to deepen the cross-cultural understanding around the importance of water quality and the efforts and advocacy of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to preserve this treaty reserved resource. This project recognizes the joint advocacy for clean water tribes have led in the treaty ceded territories of what is now called Minnesota (1858); their efforts advance clean water for every Minnesotan.</p>
<p>Oromia II oromiaII.org</p>	<p>\$212,751.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This project will create three videos (45–60 minutes each), produced in Oromo with English subtitles and voice over), to document the challenges and triumphs of first-generation immigrants, preserve heritage, affirm cultural identity, and introduce Minnesotans the Oromo community. The videos include: 1) Oromo Heritage – Customs and Traditions: Captures the richness, diversity, and significance of aspects of Oromo culture; 2) Oromo Pioneers in Minnesota - Preserving Heritage; 3) Cultural Mosaic - Oromos in Minnesota: A journey through regional cultures, cuisines, and religious variation within Oromia (showcasing rituals, clothing, jewelry).</p>
<p>Pan Asian Arts Alliance panasianartsalliance.org</p>	<p>\$24,990.00</p>	<p>Cottage Grove</p>	<p>This project involves the collaboration between Pan Asian Arts Alliance, Elluminance Era, Chinese American Chamber of Commerce-MN, Asian Media Access, Unity Dance Group, and other Pan Asian Arts groups. It is a first-ever collaboration between Asian-American performing and visual arts organizations. The project, "Asia Extravaganza," is a one-night festivity event to showcase Asian American youthful culture through dance, music and storytelling. It is set to</p>



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			illuminate Minnesota with the vibrant tapestry of Asian-American cultures through a grand concert event featuring local artists alongside an integrated experience by incorporating local vendors, ensuring the economic impact extends to cultural/creative businesses. This event will be a cultural celebration open to the public.
Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute ppgji.org	\$135,000.00	Saint Paul	The Writing for Justice and Cultural Preservation project creates space for the Somali diaspora, other African communities, and African Americans to create, re-imagine, and build a more just and inclusive world through the transformative power of storytelling and book publishing.
Privia Group, LLC. priviaco.com	\$88,936.41	Eden Prairie	The "Sabaidee Cultural Festival," spanning two days, addresses the marginalization of Laotian American communities by providing a platform for cultural expression, education, and community engagement. The festival will feature cultural activities, performances, and educational events showcasing Laotian heritage. Key components include traditional dance, art exhibitions, cooking demonstrations, and language workshops. A "cultural village" will allow attendees to explore and experience Laotian culture firsthand, creating an immersive cultural experience.
Public Art St. Paul publicartstpaul.org	\$126,300.00	Saint Paul	Public Art Saint Paul will propel new work forward on the 2nd Wakpa Triennial. The first Wakpa Triennial, 3 years in the making, presented in summer 2023 more than 110 artists in new work across artistic and humanities disciplines including sculpture, installation, video, poetry, music, painting, murals, paper-making, textiles, conversations, and other discussion and participatory programs.
Queer Voices	\$196,693.00	Minneapolis	Queer Voices helps to expand opportunities for LGBTQIA+ writers of Minnesota and enhance community-belonging through 1) apprenticeships (resume building, skill-setting, expanding networks, and capacity building); 2) two emerging and mid-career writers' retreats (16-18 participants); 3) hosting space at the Queer holiday market (community exposure for artists allowing the public to purchase from queer artists); 4) three panel discussions; 5) documentation of eight events the events listed. These resources will be distributed online, and



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			archives will be shared with Tretter Collection and the Minnesota Historical Society Press.
Regents of the University of Minnesota regents.umn.edu	\$172,004.00	Minneapolis	This project supports the Center for Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender, and Sexuality (RIDGS) Studies' Ethnic Studies Initiative, which is a multi-pronged, intrinsically collaborative project, aimed at building the infrastructure for K-12 schools and communities in Minnesota, to receive high-quality, culturally responsive Ethnic Studies instruction. This project includes the following activities: 1) developing an extensive database of curricular materials; 2) hosting professional development workshops for K-12 educators; 3) hosting events and externships to bring K-12 educators, staff, and community organizations together, to exchange ideas about how community knowledge can be brought into the classroom; 4) creating spaces to empower students to gather data and design ideas for ethnic studies coursework; 5) support licensure workshops made up of faculty, K-12 educators, and community members, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB); 6) organize and host a regional conference in the spring of 2025 to bring together Ethnic Studies practitioners from throughout the Midwest; 7) conduct an evaluation of the Saint Paul Public Schools' Critical Ethnic Studies course, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI), to gather data on the impacts of the course on students throughout their academic careers.
Rondo Community Land Trust rondoct.org	\$315,000.00	Saint Paul	Rondo Community Land Trust will formally weave the arts into cultural preservation. This project includes: 1) Populate a community archive by hosting scanning days for photos & objects. 2) Locate where historic murals were, who painted them, what stories they told & recreate aspects of them. 3) Map historical markers across historic Rondo, prioritizing Selby & engage artists to develop creative alternatives to standard plaques. From here, incorporate narration from community elders telling stories for a self-guided walking tour of Rondo. 4) Curate 2-3 rotating art exhibits at Golden Thyme focused on Rondo past and present. 5) Complete 3 murals depicting



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			historic Rondo’s cultural heritage. 6) Host 3 community events that showcase different arts forms (film, poetry, music, etc.)
Seeds4Hope seeds4hope.org	\$43,650.00	Little Canada	This project is a transformative initiative deeply rooted in values like curiosity, connection, and compassion. Storytelling Workshops will teach the art of storytelling emphasizing its role in cultural preservation and self-expression. Curriculum Development aims to create a comprehensive storytelling curriculum and integrate it into academic programs. Storytelling Events will provide a platform for participants to share narratives, fostering reflection and dialogue. A Digital Storytelling Repository will archive stories, essays, and narratives, making them accessible to a wider audience and contributing to research in the humanities.
Serpentina Arts serpentinaarts.com	\$71,179.00	Saint Paul	This project includes: 1) Storytelling through Identity Exploration and Narratives within a public sphere uses traditional methods of puppeteering and textile techniques to address contemporary issues; 2) Public Art On-Point On-Site is about transforming a public space to reflect community values; 3) The Power of Print uses innovative versatile contemporary print methods for making multiple statements; and 4) How to Navigate the Artworld even when you are in the Midwest. Each ENCUEENTROS theme will have a series of three events. Each of the themes will have workshops for artists of all levels Many of the ENCUEENTROS activities will include food or refreshments as it is an important cultural component for community building and helps to increase attendance.
Speaking Out Collective speakingoutcollective.com	\$200,000.00	Minneapolis	This project will expand the Truth Telling Series that collected, preserved, and shared suppressed Dakota and Anishinaabe histories through community oral narratives. The project will document untold and silenced narratives from Black Minnesotans in urban and rural communities to develop new and easily accessible curriculum for grades Pre-K-6, in partnership with numerous BIPOC scholars, elders, and community partners. The project includes a collaborative story collection. The stories will be collected, documented, and written. The curriculum will be tested in 16 classrooms and disseminated to at least 12 classrooms before released. The project includes a sing-along music video that will be used



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			in and out of the classroom through Vimeo and YouTube channels.
St. Catherine University stkate.edu	\$24,250.00	Minneapolis	This project is a fall 2024 exhibition of art created by self-identifying Latina women and non-binary, Latinx Minnesota-based artists with ancestral roots in Latin America. The exhibition is being co-curated by local visual artist, community muralist and educator, Zamara Cuyún, and William Gustavo Franklin, an independent art curator, educator and author of the recent volume, <i>Latin Art in Minnesota—Conversations and What’s Next</i> (Afton Press, 2023). Cuyún and Franklin are working alongside a group of foundational artists from Minnesota, including Carmen Gutiérrez-Bolger, Lynda Grafito, Marina Castillo, Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo, María Constanza Carballo, Selena Medellín, Deborah Ramos and María José Castillo, who will participate in the exhibition as well as the planning and programming for the show. This exhibition will be presented by the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery (CGM Gallery) at St. Catherine University (St. Kate’s).
St. Paul Civic Symphony spcsmusic.org	\$23,750.00	Saint Paul	St. Paul Civic Symphony will help to develop a multidisciplinary arts project for its free 2025 Children's Concert inspired by a recent publication, <i>The Rhythm of Somalia: A Collection of Songs, Stories, and Traditions</i> by Qorsho Hassan, Minnesota Teacher of the Year (2020), and music specialist Becca Buck, both educators at Gideon Pond Elementary, Burnsville. The goals of the project are: 1) expand the artistry of Somali youth at Gideon Pond Elementary, grades 4-5, through artist residencies in art, drumming and poetry that bring to life an original music composition by Minnesota composer Jan Gilbert based on a Somali folktale and performed by the SPCS; 2) increase understanding of Somali culture through an original composition for symphony orchestra that brings Somali musicians, artists, a narrator, and Somali youth as performers to the concert stage.
StoryArk storyark.org	\$25,590.00	Red Wing	This project will fund a Youth Executive Board (YEB) to create an anthology of youth stories and experiences that describe their identities, stories, and experiences. This anthology will include a variety of interdisciplinary art such as personal essays, poems, visual art, etc., and be a reflective and engaging multimedia project that highlights,



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			preserves, and celebrates the cultural heritage and identities of YEB members and empowers communities to build and preserve their identities. This anthology will include stories from program alumni, family members, and individuals involved in schools. Youth will be able to share about their own identities and culture while receiving professional development opportunities from community storytellers and editors to increase their skills and knowledge in storytelling.
<p>Telling Queer History tellingqueerhistory.com</p>	<p>\$100,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>Telling Queer History will support the collection and preservation of personal oral histories from LGBTQIA+ communities in rural Minnesota; historical research for our archives and LGBTQ+ history walking tours; and community outreach in greater Minnesota. This grant will also support the early development of a series of supplemental curriculum products detailing Minnesota LGBTQ+ history, creating a potential new earned revenue stream for TQH. These grant activities will allow TQH to impact audiences through storytelling, to educate and connect people across race, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic class who may otherwise share a more limited LGBTQ+ demographic.</p>
<p>The Givens Foundation for African American Literature givens.org</p>	<p>\$50,000.00</p>	<p>St. Louis Park</p>	<p>The Givens Foundation will host a African American Literary Conference, slated for April 2025, to explore emerging themes, trends, and issues in Black American literature. Our collaboration with the Archie Givens Sr. Collection of African American Literature will elevate the discourse, fostering critical engagement. 1) Public Forum: Engaging the general public, as well as emerging and established writers, scholars, critics, agents, publishers, booksellers, educators, and students. 2) Workshops and Panels: Featuring presentations and discussions to expand public knowledge and appreciation of Black Literature, with a focus on the impact of banned books and the evolving landscape of Black literary expression. 3) Collaboration: Leveraging the Givens Foundation's strategic partnerships with public schools and organizations to enhance cross-generational critical reading and writing habits.</p>
<p>The Great Northern thegreatnorthernfestival.com</p>	<p>\$74,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>The Great Northern will commission Mother Tongue, a new multimedia work from interdisciplinary Minnesota artist Mary Prescott. In</p>



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			<p>fall 2024, The Great Northern and Prescott will invite six local matriarchs from cultural communities represented in the Twin Cities (Hmong, Somalian, Indigenous, Mexican, Indian, Ethiopian, etc.) to a potluck meal. Each guest will bring a dish to share with the group that represents their heritage, telling the story of why it holds meaning for them personally. Through this project, The Great Northern will explore how cooking and family recipes can recover the lost legacies of immigrant women, particularly Asian women, whose cultures and histories have often been erased through misogyny, racism, displacement, and assimilation.</p>
<p>The Link thelinkmn.org</p>	<p>\$160,769.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>The Link will provide culturally specific programming to 12-15 youth that will participate a pilot expansion of the We Will Breathe program (incorporating a new Black History month initiative). We Will Breathe is a youth-led Racial Justice and Healing Initiative, where youth come together as a collective to develop a deeper understanding of themselves, their cultures, and their identities. Cohorts will meet twice a month over four months, totaling ten 3-hour sessions, and alternate between discussions at Circle of Discipline, spend time in the community, and engage in activities often inaccessible for young people of color and/or youth from low-income backgrounds. This grant will help support the Black History Month event by intentionally integrating the leadership and involvement of youth through the We Will Breathe program.</p>
<p>The Qalanjo Project theqalanjoproject.org</p>	<p>\$22,050.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This project, Silsiladda Soomaaliyeed, which in the Somali language describes the interconnectivity of the Somali people and culture, is a comprehensive cultural project by The Qalanjo Project aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Somali community through various artistic expressions in Minnesota. Silsiladda Soomaaliyeed will initiate visual arts programs, including: 1) traditional Somali painting, and contemporary art forms; 2) create a short-form film and media content geared at capturing the authentic Somali experience in Minnesota; 3) cultivate spaces for the community to engage with artistic practices; 4) host workshops and exhibitions that will provide a space for</p>



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			community members to explore and showcase their artistic expressions of Somali visual culture.
<p>The University of Minnesota umn.edu</p>	<p>\$129,182.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This project will be an exhibition that will present the work and perspectives of 20 Black and Indigenous women and femme artists through the lens of sovereignty and liberation at the Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD). Resist and Reclaim aims to amplify, expand, and add nuance to Minnesota’s cultural heritage by exploring the contemporary and historical impacts of the built and visual environments. Each artist will use varying forms of artistry such as screen printing, hand acrylic painting, fabrication, dye, crochet, cutting, shredding, beadwork, embellishments, and other 3D media on one of 20 second-hand denim jackets sustainably provided by b. Resale, a Black woman-owned thrift store. Denim jackets are used as a means to call back to liberation movements that used denim to highlight the issues of poverty of the Black working class and balance gender divides.</p>
<p>The Urban Village theurbanvillage.org</p>	<p>\$67,500.00</p>	<p>Saint Paul</p>	<p>This project is in phase two of our overarching Knyaw History Archive. Phase two of the archive will be focused on the collaborative work of supporting deep knowledge acquisition of our Knyaw youth of their history and homeland experiences. Phase two of this archive will provide training Knyaw youth in interviewing techniques, videography, video editing, and secondary source research. They will also engage focus groups in discussion with Urban Village staff on the understanding, impact, and importance of preserving culture through archival work.</p>
<p>Theater Mu theatermu.org</p>	<p>\$11,070.00</p>	<p>Saint Paul</p>	<p>This project will work with Ananya Chatterjea, Ananya Dance Theatre artists, Asian American puppeteers, and actors in a series of workshops to collaboratively devise a shared movement vocabulary and choreography rooted in non-Western movement traditions for the world premiere of FIFTY BOXES OF EARTH by Ankita Raturi in Theater Mu’s 2024-25 season.</p>
<p>Theatre Novi Most theatrenewimost.org</p>	<p>\$18,307.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This project is a direct artistic response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In fall of 2024, Theatre Novi Most will work with playwright Andrei Kureichik, dramaturg Wendy Weckwerth, director Vladimir Rovinsky and three community advisors to create a new play based on stories we</p>



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			have gathered in Story Circles across Minnesota. After the play is written the project will produce professional public readings of it at three sites in Minneapolis with supertitles in Ukrainian.
Tiwahe Foundation tiwahfoundation.org	\$105,023.00	Minneapolis	This project develops and implements an interactive facilitated curriculum for Indigenous leadership-in-action designed to empower Native peoples in Minnesota with traditional knowledge and concepts of leadership that were disrupted by the boarding school era and many other systemic efforts of cultural erasure. Through interaction with the course material and facilitated dialogue in online and in-person convenings, participants build culturally centered belonging and relatedness, develop skills for adaptation to change and personal growth, become active participants in independent and reciprocal relationships, and learn skills for identifying and sustaining opportunities for healing in themselves and others.
Twin Cities Film Fest twincitiesfilmfest.org	\$89,500.00	St. Louis Park	This project is a new initiative propelled from current programming. Twin Cities Film Fest will launch MNmicro Cultural Film Festivals. Instead of just celebrating national diverse voices with some Minnesota (40%) connected films during the 10-day festival, the new program will put a spotlight on diverse voices and cultures specifically through Minnesota exclusive films during their respective nationally recognized cultural heritage celebration months. A microfilm festival celebrating each culture and its legacy in our state will be presented through a selection of curated Minnesota films, with post film discussions with filmmakers and audiences and networking events.
Twin Cities Iranian Culture Collective twincitiesiranianculturefestival.com	\$32,680.00	New Brighton	This project includes a monthly series of “Persian Pop-up” events highlighting the cultural heritage of the Iranian culture in the diaspora today. Activities include: 1) a tour of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Persian collection; 2) poetry night; 3) movie night of the best Iranian short films; 4) A Taste of Iran dinner featuring a sampling of Iranian cuisine; 5) board games and storytelling evenings; 6) introduction to Persian dance classes; 7) a cooking class; 8) a visit to an internationally recognized artist studio, Katayoun Amjadi; 9) and more, including cultural celebrations sharing Iranian traditions and activities.



2023-2025 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
<p>Twin Cities RISE twincitiesrise.org</p>	<p>\$163,418.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>This dynamic initiative aims to honor the rich cultural heritage of Minnesota, drawing inspiration from the African American-led labor struggles that have shaped the state and linking history to the stories of today’s fight for economic empowerment. The project comprises two main components: 1) Legacy Gallery – The creation of the physical and online Legacy Gallery (composed of videos, photography, oral history recordings, paintings, and other media) will enable us to artistically capture and share the legacy of African American labor struggles and the stories of success of TCR alumni. 2) Story Circles – We will facilitate Story Circle events with key community partners to extend the project’s reach and showcase the results of the gallery. TCR alumni will share the stories collected during the research phase (the stories that build the Legacy Gallery), moderate lively discussions, and incorporate the audience's feedback into the project.</p>
<p>Twin Cities West Metro Asian Fair tcasianfair.org</p>	<p>\$24,900.00</p>	<p>Anoka</p>	<p>This project helps support the “Connecting the Community to Arts and Cultural Heritage at the 2024 Twin Cities West Metro Asian Fair” and will present new arts and cultural heritage programs. These new arts and culture heritage programs have two primary objectives: 1) to preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Minnesota; 2) to provide education and student outreach on cultural diversity through five new programs: Ethnic Attire Experience, Community Artist Demonstrations, Dance Showcase, Traditional Music Exhibitions, and Cross-cultural Tea Display.</p>
<p>United Way of Central Minnesota unitedwayhelps.org</p>	<p>\$256,058.00</p>	<p>Saint Cloud</p>	<p>This project involves collaboration with various organizations to enhance cultural connections, strengthen positive identity development, and provide enriching experiences for Black youth and families in Central Minnesota. Specific activities include 1) cultural heritage learning sessions and field trips; 2) a film festival honoring Black filmmakers and performers; 3) a Afrofuturist comic book workshop; 4) Boys & Girls Club art initiatives; 5) a Hip-Hop culture lab; 6) a Hip-Hop dance show; 7) educational support to cultural athletics and sports; 8) theatre production. The project is supported by United Way of Central Minnesota and is designed to provide a Black</p>



2023-2025 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			Cultural Heritage series of events, activities, and opportunities.
Walker West Music Academy walkerwest.org	\$105,166.00	Saint Paul	This project is comprised of a series of interrelated jazz activities, classes, and workshops, including: 1) Women in Jazz Ensemble (post-secondary students, ages 16-25); 2) introduction to jazz workshops; 3) Jazz jam sessions and rehearsals; 4) school residencies; 5) anti-oppression training/consultation for professional development and to educate, stimulate discussion, and increase awareness of oppressive gender systems; 6) panel discussions; 7) scholarship opportunities.
White Earth Land Recovery Project welrp.org	\$45,371.00	Callaway	This project will preserve and celebrate the Anishinaabe Art & Culture through a series of meaningful workshops. Each workshop (12 total), is designed to engage 10-12 participants, providing them with valuable cultural experiences and knowledge. The workshops include: 1) Anishinaabe Hand Drum Making with Young Men; 2) Anishinaabe Natural Medicines; 3) Anishinaabe Medicine Bags; 4) Moccasin Making; 5) Bandolier Bag Making; 6) Dreamcatcher Workshop; 7) Ribbon Skirt Making and Ribbon Shirt Making; 8) Women's Bear Bundle Workshop; 9) Beading a Daisy Chain with Youth; 10) Powwow Belt Making; 11) Men's & Boys Roach Making; 12) Jingle Dress Making.
Winona County Historical Society (WCHS) winonahistory.org	\$64,850.00	Winona	The Winona County Historical Society (WCHS) will partner with Engage Winona and The Joy Labs to create and launch a leadership circle from historically and currently marginalized communities, who will guide new exhibit development in collaboration with museum staff and exhibit professionals. Members of the leadership circle will co-design the leadership circle process, which will involve framing discussion questions, engagement plans, and exhibit content.
Wonderlust Productions wlproductions.org	\$49,920.00	Saint Paul	Wonderlust Productions will use stories gathered from people who live and work behind the scenes in downtown Saint Paul to create short, place-based, audio plays, peeling back the curtain on who and what really makes our city tick. Audiences will be invited to take a listening tour of the city by following an online map and QR codes displayed around town. Stories will be



2023-2025 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			<p>captured from small business entrepreneurs and parking lot attendants; eccentric lifelong residents and skyway walkers; late-night cleaning crews and utility personnel; police officers, sidewalk buskers and people asking for a few dollars to help get through the day; new immigrant communities and historically overlooked communities that have had a major impact on the city. The result will be a series of short, high-quality, professionally produced, multilingual audio plays that employ and highlight local artists while providing audiences with an experience that augments their conventional view of reality. The plays will be non-sequential, each one standing on its own.</p>
Ying Li	\$24,900.00	Eagan	<p>This project is designed to introduce the rich heritage of Chinese dance and music to communities in the Twin Cities and Rochester, fostering cultural appreciation and understanding. Through a series of classes and collaboration with other artists and community organizations, the project aims to engage diverse dancers, musicians, and audiences, and leave a lasting impact on both participants and the broader community through: 1) Dance Classes for All Ages; 2) Artistic Collaboration by performance through joint efforts with fellow artists and school organizations; 3) Performance Showcases at the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University in May 2025.</p>
Youth Leadership Initiative yli-mn.org	\$62,500.00	Minneapolis	<p>This project is an experiential-based program aimed at cultivating critical consciousness and social justice awareness in high school youth. Activities and experiences include: 1) A weekly program that is youth-led equips participants with frameworks, language, skills, and tools to comprehend their roles in the social change ecosystem, develop community asset maps, and practice components of Youth Participatory Action Research; 2) Action Teams empower youth to research, design, and implement action projects to tackle social justice issues they are passionate about; 3) Cultural Sessions provide a space for youth to explore, reflect, and share their cultural identities, as well as practice solidarity and empathy by learning from each other; 4) Alongside skills development, youth will also participate in presentations and workshops hosted by trusted community leaders, such as</p>



2023-2025 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			<p>healing through the arts or sharing dialogue with elders; 5) Monthly field trips across Minnesota that will offer immersive experiences at sites resonant with BIPOC community resistance and resilience, including Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, Sumner Field Housing Development, East Side Freedom Library, and Hmong Cultural Center; 7) Year-end showcase where youth share their projects and learnings with their families, friends and the broader community.</p>
<p>Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community zeitgeistarts.com</p>	<p>\$98,641.00</p>	<p>Duluth</p>	<p>This series is designed to build cross-cultural connections and understanding, and connections to the values of creativity and inclusivity. The specific arts and cultural activities included in this proposal include: 1) Underrepresented Visual Artist Series; 2) Theater production of POTUS 2) Theater production of Invisible Fences; 3) Minnesota Media Arts School (MMAS) Partnership with Underrepresented Communities; 4) Underrepresented Filmmaker Focus at the Minnesota Film Festival; 5) LGBTQIIA+ / BIPOC / Elder / Disabled Feature Storytelling Series.</p>



2023-2025 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
Asian Economic Development Association aeda-mn.org	\$14,500.00	Saint Paul	On December 11, 2023 a dedicated Hmong-American activist and leader, Tou Ger Xiong, was kidnapped and killed in Colombia. Tou Ger Xiong has dedicated his life to building bridges across cultures, speaking out against injustices to marginalized communities, advocating for active civic engagement among communities of color, and bringing people together through laughter. This grant aims to provide a space for the community to come together to collectively mourn the loss of Tou Ger Xiong. The community vigil will be a place where Tou Ger’s life and legacy can be remembered and celebrated with stories, music, videos, backdrops, artifacts to help the different community heal.
Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) thecentralneighborhood.com	\$18,350.00	Minneapolis	The crisis is the consistent loss of life experienced in the Twin Cities due to gun violence, addiction and systemic oppression of marginalized people. Within the last few weeks, we've seen a Black police officer gunned down on the job and a non-verbal child found dead. The impact on the Black community is that we're hurting and normalizing the trauma because we see it so often. Many have become desensitized or seek substances to numb their pain. This project will use music, journaling and community engagement to provide an outlet for folks to process their grief in a creative way to cultivate real healing.
East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) eastphillips-epic.com	\$17,650.00	Minneapolis	In May of 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a surprise visit to Smith Foundry, located in the East Phillips neighborhood. The EPA found nine violations of the federal Clean Air Act, including emissions of PM 2.5 and lead at levels two times higher than the state allowed limits. Since the results of this report were uncovered, EPIC has been organizing with community members and a coalition of partners to galvanize the local vitriol in a productive way. The report confirmed the community’s long-standing suspicions that the Foundry was polluting, harming, and even killing, East Phillips residents. After over a hundred years of environmental racism and social disregard, the Foundry is closing. Planned celebratory activities include: an opening ceremony with a Mexican-Indigenous dance troupe; a healthcare workshop which will provide 250 East Phillips households with free HEPA grade air filters; a community re-visioning activity in which community residents can work together to envision a greener, healthier neighborhood; and a land stewardship presentation led by experts in mycoremediation.



2023-2025 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
<p>Juxtaposition Arts juxtapositionarts.org</p>	<p>\$30,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>North Minneapolis has been dealing with a surge in gun violence and the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic, post pandemic. Three months ago, a tragic incident occurred when a community member was murdered on the Emerson sidewalk, right in front of Juxtaposition Arts' (JXTA) campus. This was the first murder on our campus in 20 years, marking a significant and distressing moment for our community. This crisis is compounded by existing social and economic disparities, which include high levels of poverty, limited access to quality healthcare, food desert and education, and systemic inequities. As a vital community institution, JXTA recognizes the urgent need for initiatives that provide safe, healing spaces where individuals can grieve, heal, and come together as a community. In response to these crises, Juxtaposition Arts is committed to creating a dedicated healing space that addresses both immediate emotional needs and fosters long-term community resilience and recovery. JXTA's Environmental Design Lab looks to create a healing pavilion on our campus, in the heart of North Minneapolis to make space for public healing and reflection.</p>
<p>Lyricality lyricality.org</p>	<p>\$14,000.00</p>	<p>Sauk Rapids</p>	<p>Saint Cloud is deeply divided by race and radicalized violence. The Saint Cloud library is perceived as the only true “commons” space where all people can feel welcomed and safe. This incident has brought up trauma amongst staff and the community, especially people of Somali and eastern African heritage. This project includes partnering with the Rainbow Wellness Collective, to offer five, 2-hour art making sessions, focused on creative writing, painting, collage-making, lyrical dancing, and drumming circles, at the library. The sessions would be facilitated by trauma artist-facilitators, supported by social workers and therapists, to share community resources for those who need support, and create a sense of safety and belonging at the library.</p>

2023-2025 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
<p>Asian Economic Development Association aeda-mn.org</p>	<p>\$14,500.00</p>	<p>Saint Paul</p>	<p>On December 11, 2023 a dedicated Hmong-American activist and leader, Tou Ger Xiong, was kidnapped and killed in Colombia. Tou Ger Xiong has dedicated his life to building bridges across cultures, speaking out against injustices to marginalized communities,</p>



2023-2025 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

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2023-2025 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

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2023-2025 DIRECT APPROPRIATION GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) spnn.org	\$94,500.00	Saint Paul	SPNN’s Media Education team will share resources with the community so they can tell their own stories through youth and adult programs. These programs focus on photography, audio and visual storytelling, and advanced cinematography skills.
MonkeyBears Harmolodic Workshop monkeybear.org	\$94,500.00	Minneapolis	Monkeybear’s Harmolodic Workshop (Est. 2016) supports Native, Black, IPOC in developing creative and technical skills in contemporary puppetry. Their projects include puppetry workshops, new theater pieces, stop motion puppetry, open studio work and sessions.
(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico (NMM)	\$94,500.00	Saint Paul	The majority of this funding will support NMM’s largest public art exhibit ever — “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World” — and promoting the associated artists and community art classes.
Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum minisotamuseum.org	\$47,250.00	Benson	Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum will be using funds to ensure all are equally able to join in and play. They will be using this funding for building improvements, including infrastructure for ADA accessibility.
Siv Yig Culture Center	\$37,800.00	Saint Paul	Through workshops, storytelling sessions, and community gatherings, the Siv Yig Culture Center will offer support for the elderly, Hmong language preservation classes, English classes, mentorship and leadership development, and cultural festivals and community events.
Urban Debate League (Augsburg) mnucl.augsburg.edu	\$170,100.00	Minneapolis	The Minnesota Urban Debate League (MNUCL), a program of Augsburg University, will expand their programs with a focus on middle school debate and the Spanish League Debate.
African Immigrants Community Services (AICS) aicsmn.org	\$37,800.00	Minneapolis	AICS is hosting "Hees iyo Fanka," a one-night event celebrating Somali music and culture through karaoke and live performances. The event aims to bring together the Somali community and broader Minneapolis public to foster pride in Somali heritage and promote cultural exchange. It will feature Somali karaoke and live performances by local artists and poets, showcasing the richness of Somali musical traditions. The event will encourage language preservation and provide an opportunity for community members to connect through the joy of music.
Art From the Inside artfromtheinsidemn.org	\$141,750.00	Maplewood	The Arts and Justice Pathways Initiative promotes healing and growth for justice-impacted communities in Minnesota through arts, wellness, and empowerment programs. It features art exhibitions by



2023-2025 DIRECT APPROPRIATION GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			incarcerated artists, evaluation of prison arts programs, and support for returning neighbors through the Creative Pathways program. The initiative concludes with a Justice and Healing Arts Summit, bringing together advocates, artists, and impacted individuals to explore criminal justice reform, reentry support, and sustainable resource networks.
Rondo Community Land Trust rondoct.org	\$94,500.00	Saint Paul	TBD



2023-2025 FESTIVALS GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
Asian Economic Development Association aedamn.org	\$27,500.00	Saint Paul	The 2025 Little Mekong Night Market (LMNM) will be a landmark summer celebration marking the 50th anniversary of Southeast Asian communities in Minnesota. This milestone event, held outdoors on Western Avenue at University Avenue and within the XIA Gallery at 422 University Avenue, Suite 14, St. Paul, MN 55103, will highlight the cultural heritage, arts, and culinary traditions that SE Asian Minnesotans have contributed to the state. Set in the vibrant Little Mekong Business and Cultural District, the free festival will transform the area into a lively hub for cultural exchange, artistic expression, and economic opportunity.
Hennepin History Museum hennepinhistory.org	\$43,700.00	Minneapolis	Hennepin History Museum (HHM) presents Hennepin Fest, a free music and cultural festival on May 31, 2025, at Minneapolis Washburn Fair Oaks Park. Celebrating community diversity, the festival features performances by women and gender-expansive artists who share personal and cultural histories through music, spoken word, and dance. A vendor village will showcase arts, crafts, jewelry, and food from local artisans, highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage. This event fosters community engagement and celebrates the vibrant traditions and identities of Hennepin County.
Vietnamese Community of Minnesota vietnam-minnesota.org	\$41,150.00	New Brighton	This festival will be filled with stunning cultural elements to tell that story, vibrant decorations featuring red and yellow graphics, symbolizing Tết. Images of spring flowers, firecrackers, and festive food will create a captivating atmosphere. Entertainment includes live music from talented local Minnesota artists, and performances, including traditional dances, songs, theater, and poetry, presented by Vietnamese organizations and our Southeast Asian partners: the Vietnamese School, Vietnamese Student Associations, Vietnamese Veterans, Laos Family, Cambodia Culture Center, and Hmong American Partnership. Funds provided by the MHC will support decorations, performances, cultural space, and security measures to ensure a successful event.
Afoutayi Haitian Dance, Music & Arts afoutayidmaco.com	\$24,000.00	Golden Valley	The three-day Afoutayi Haitian Dance, Music, and Arts Festival, set for April 2025, will immerse attendees in Haitian culture through ceremonies, workshops, performances, and community gatherings. Celebrating Haiti's heritage, it offers Minnesota's Haitian community and Afro-Caribbean cultural groups a space to connect, learn, and share. Timed to honor Papa Zaka, the Vodou spirit of agriculture and



2023-2025 FESTIVALS GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			community, the festival highlights Haitian traditions of unity and resilience. Events include a blessing ceremony, interactive workshops, live performances, language classes, and storytelling sessions. With adequate funding, this inaugural event aims to become an annual celebration of cultural connections in Minnesota.
Advance Thief River advancethiefriver.com	\$35,575.00	Thief River Falls	The Join Us Thief River Project promotes unity, cultural exchange, and community pride in Thief River Falls, a town with Scandinavian roots now welcoming Hispanic newcomers. Through storytelling, video, and art, the project highlights personal narratives, traditions, and shared values, fostering empathy and mutual understanding. Videos and art installations showcase residents' diverse experiences, while local students and their families engage in educational activities that build cultural awareness and strengthen community ties across generations. This initiative deepens connections, encouraging inclusivity and pride in the town's evolving identity.
Memorialize the Movement memorializethemovement.com	\$30,000.00	Minneapolis	Justice for George (JFG) is a pivotal community event by Memorialize the Movement (MTM) marking the fifth anniversary of George Floyd's death. Returning to Phelps Park, the 2025 JFG event reflects on the past while driving future advocacy for Black and brown communities. Spanning May 20-25, programming includes film screenings, a live play reading, mural tours, and activist panels. The main weekend showcases 2020 protest murals, live art, performances, food vendors, and interactive workshops, creating a space for collective grieving, resilience, and advocacy through art and community.
Indigenous Roots indigenous-roots.org	\$24,592.00	Saint Paul	"New Beginnings: Honoring Diversity, Connection, and Cultural Identity" is a community-focused series celebrating the Lunar, Purepecha, and Khmer New Year traditions. Through music, dance, storytelling, traditional foods, cultural arts, and interactive exhibitions, the project highlights the richness of each tradition while fostering cross-cultural learning and unity. By partnering with cultural groups and culture bearers, it empowers communities, reinforces cultural identity, and supports the preservation of Indigenous traditions through immersive and educational experiences.
Karina Kelton	\$24,000.00	Lake Elmo	Generaciones de Corazón: Generations of Hearts creates a supportive space for Latino families in Cimarron Mobile Home Park, a low-income



2023-2025 FESTIVALS GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			community in Washington County facing racism and isolation. Running weekly from February to May, this project gathers elders, parents, and children at the community center to bond through <i>repujado</i> (metal embossing), creating large art pieces that celebrate their heritage and culture. Led by a skilled Latino artist, sessions incorporate storytelling and traditions from Latin America, fostering family and community connections while providing a safe, inclusive environment for undocumented families. Funding supports art materials and artist facilitation.
<p>Oromo Diaspora Media oromodiasporamedia.org</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>In collaboration with several community partners, Oromo Diaspora Media (ODM) proposes to coordinate the production of a Spring 2025 Little Oromia Music and Dance Celebration. This dynamic event will be a collaborative effort, uniting diverse voices and talents to celebrate Oromo culture. ODM will work closely with the University of Minnesota Oromo Student Union and the Metro State University Oromo Youth Association to empower and actively engage young adults in the planning and execution of the festival. By involving youth organizations in key leadership roles, the festival aims to inspire the next generation of Oromo leaders, fostering a strong sense of cultural pride and ownership. This collaborative approach will ensure that the festival is vibrant, inclusive, and reflective of the energy and creativity of the Oromo youth community.</p>
<p>Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul mspfilm.org</p>	<p>\$28,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>The MSP Film Society or MSP Film will launch Cultural Heritage Days, a new series of dedicated events within the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival 2025 (MSPIFF) April 2-13, 2025. In partnership with community members, we propose to host four distinct Cultural Heritage Days at MSPIFF built around culturally specific films that focus on one particular population. Events will include speakers and panels, music, dance, art, poetry, performance and food. The project is intended to 1) enhance and deepen the audience experience around MSPIFF film programs, especially those reflecting Minnesota’s rich cultural heritage and 2) draw in new audiences.</p>
<p>Hmong Cultural Center of Minnesota hmongcc.org</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>Saint Paul</p>	<p>The Hmong Cultural Center (HCC) will implement the annual Minnesota Qeej and Hmong Arts Festival at Union Depot in May 2025, involving a Sunday of comprehensive programming to educate Hmong and non-Hmong about the Qeej instrument while also providing a forum for master performers & Qeej troupes from Minnesota & beyond to be recognized</p>



2023-2025 FESTIVALS GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
			for their skills. This is the fourth year this festival has been organized. The festival includes performances of other Hmong folk instruments including the two-string violin, flute and the ncas (mouthharp), performances of Hmong dance troupes (both traditional and modern hip hop styles) as well as cultural activities for children & Hmong food vendors offering food items for festival attendees to purchase.
Project FINE Inc projectfine.org	\$29,233.00	Winona	The Tastes of Winona project brings area residents together to connect through the preparation and sharing of traditional cultural foods. This series of eight community events will feature local refugees and immigrants as cooking instructors, leading participants in preparing dishes while sharing cultural presentations. Each event includes cooking, a shared meal, and information about the featured culture and cuisine. Held at the accessible Eagles Club with interpreters, childcare, and transportation available, the project fosters relationships and cross-cultural connections while ensuring inclusivity for all participants. Pre-registration is encouraged to accommodate attendees.
New Roots Midwest newrootsmidwest.org	\$22,500.00	Moorhead	This project celebrates the cultural heritage of African Americans and African immigrants, particularly Eastern Africans in Minnesota, by fostering connections through art, music, and storytelling. The festival highlights shared histories and traditions, featuring performances of traditional dances from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, alongside African drumming, poetry, and spoken word by local artists. Workshops on weaving, fabric dyeing, and beadwork, led by community artists, promote interactive learning. Storytelling sessions explore migration experiences and cultural preservation, while a culinary experience combines Eastern African dishes with African American soul food, complemented by exhibitions and a talent showcase.
Zeitgeist Center for Arts zeitgeistarts.com	\$10,000.00	Duluth	Zeitgeist’s Minnesota Film Festival (MFF) is a showcase of over 100 films, 40+ filmmakers, pitch competitions, networking events, panel discussions, cultural performances, and educational opportunities. It’s also one of the premier creative and cross-cultural events in NE MN each year. The 2025 festival is headquartered at the Zeitgeist Arts Building in Duluth, MN from March 19th - 23rd. Activities include festival management, housing and travel, events and ceremonies, educational panels, and a closing ceremony.



2023-2025 FESTIVALS GRANTS

Awardee	Award Amount	Location (City)	Project Overview
<p>Great Lakes Lifeways Institute greatlakeslifeways.org</p>	<p>\$30,000.00</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>Revitalizing Snow Snake: A Community Celebration of Identity and Winter Traditions is a two-day festival honoring Anishinaabe cultural heritage, highlighted by the 2nd Annual Intertribal Snow Snake Tournament. The event features workshops, storytelling, art, and community activities to celebrate the traditional winter game of Snow Snake and build connections across Minnesota. Funding supports educator and community workshops, mentoring in Snow Snake crafting and track-building, storytelling, a tournament, a cultural feast, and entertainment. This initiative fosters intergenerational learning, cross-cultural understanding, and greater access to outdoor education and Anishinaabe traditions for underserved communities.</p>
<p>DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) Festival</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>Duluth</p>	<p>The DEIB Festival, debuting in Spring 2025, is a Minnesota-based event celebrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. This pilot festival highlights underrepresented communities, including African American, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian (APIDA), and LGBTQIA+ cultures, through workshops, performances, art, and discussions. Featuring community leaders, artists, and educators, it fosters cultural exchange and unity. Key events include: Jan 29, 2025: Lunar New Year Celebration Concert, showcasing Asian heritage through music, dance, and cultural exhibits; Feb 2025: <i>Who's That?</i> Expanding the classical canon with works by Black and Haitian composers. Mar 2025: Inclusive vocal techniques workshop for trans and non-binary voices with Liz Jackson Hearn. Apr 2025: <i>When Music Speaks and Moves</i>, an interdisciplinary showcase of underrepresented artists. May 2025: Recording <i>Tropical Fantasie</i> by Haitian composer Justin Elie with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra.</p>