

Current Grantees (2025-2027)

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2025-2027 Biennium MHC Grants

158 Awardees; \$13,621,420.68 Awarded as of July 1, 2026

DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS GRANTEEES

(Neo) Muralismos de Mexico

Award Amount: \$94,500

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will lay the groundwork for Minnesota’s first Latino-focused museum and its large-scale exhibit, "MuralMania," celebrating the Mexican Muralist Movement and Latino arts, scheduled for 2027–2028. During this phase, 6–12 artists will be engaged in creating four mobile public art projects, with pop-up displays and virtual outreach connecting with thousands in-person and online.

Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts

Award Amount: \$94,500

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will provide high-quality musical theater classes and performances with professional instruction, customized scores, and full technical production, made accessible through the Lundstrum Scholarship Fund. The program fosters artistic growth, life skills, and confidence in students to prepare them for future stage opportunities while nurturing individuality and self-expression.

United Hmong Family

Award Amount: \$141,750

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a large-scale Hmong cultural event, with dance performances, competitions, exhibitions, and programming that will showcase traditional and contemporary dances, cultural artifacts, and community talent.

SoulTouch Productions

Award Amount: \$236,250

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Gordon Parks was one of the most influential photographers, filmmakers, composers, and writers of the twentieth century. Through photography and storytelling, Parks illuminated issues of civil rights, social justice, and human dignity. Funding will support the design and public engagement phase of a future memorial including three primary activities: 1) Memorial Concept Design; 2) Youth Media Arts, History, and Humanities Engagement; 3) Public Exhibition and Presentation.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTEES

Friends of Frog Tree Farm

Award Amount: \$47,100

Location: Verndale

Project Overview: Funding will expand the Rapid Response Cultural Healing Initiative in response to multiple gun violence tragedies affecting students and schools. The project will deploy culturally competent crisis teams, integrate arts-based healing in schools, support student-led cultural honoring art projects, and conclude with a land-based wellness retreat to help communities process grief and rebuild connection.

Dakota Wicohan

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location: Morton

Project Overview: Funding will support Dakota Omani – Journey to MakaTo, a four-year sacred horseback, running, and walking journey retracing the path from Birch Coulee to Mankato to honor the 38 Dakota men executed in 1862, and support collective remembrance and healing from generations of trauma.

Living Naturally Abundant

Award Amount: \$30,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support trauma-informed spaces for grief, healing, and connection. The project includes: 1) community healing dinners, 2) virtual circles, 3) youth engagement, 4) culturally grounded wellness practices, and 5) a collaborative mural honoring Elder Melvin Giles, a community leader in St. Paul.

Lotus Arts Center

Award Amount: \$27,825

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support Minnesota's Asian American community and provide culturally grounded spaces for stabilization, healing, and connection, through 1) community healing gatherings, 2) hands-on cultural arts workshops, and 3) a digital memorial, following immigration enforcement in Minneapolis — to help families process fear and grief and strengthen cultural identity.



Reviving Sisterhood (RISE)

Award Amount: \$21,570

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support healing circles for Muslim women and families in South Minneapolis impacted by immigration enforcement. The project includes: 1) healing circles, 2) a recovery workshop, and 3) a community memorial gathering.

Alight

Award Amount: \$50,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support a hybrid, humanities-based emergency response with small, community-led, in-person connection spaces where participants feel safe. The project will establish one culturally specific group for each of five communities (Somali, Ukrainian, Afghan, Oromo, and Sudanese) with each group participating in monthly workshop meetings over a four-month period, for a total of 20 facilitated sessions. Activities include storytelling, shared interpretation, memory, and cultural expression—to support connection and community recovery.

A&R Trainings

Award Amount: \$24,999

Location: Rosemount

Project Overview: Funding will support family healing conversations through interactive activities to acknowledge and assist in the grieving process, both for those separated during raids and those who made Minnesota their home after fleeing government oppression. Activities include cooking classes, education on coping skills and self-care or healthy living, virtual meal sessions, artistic poem writings, and providing resources for mental health care and food banks in Minnesota.

Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts

Award Amount: \$32,006

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support local Latinx artists to in creating a 3-part arts response to help the neighborhood grieve, heal, and find hope and connection. Activities include: 1) creating arts opportunities for families by delivering art kits to homes with materials and instructions, 2) a community mosaic and memorial mural, and 3) youth leadership programming.

Modula de Informacion de Recursos y Apoyo Mira

Award Amount: \$10,000

Location: Richfield

Project Overview: Funding will support culturally responsive and connective wellness activities to address chronic fear and the loss of access to community spaces in the community. Activities include eight online, interactive, bilingual sessions with trauma-responsive practices in health and wellness under stress. Other activities include nutrition education and healthy living cohort gatherings and creating birthday kits to facilitate grieving, coping, and healing.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS GRANTEES

Children's Museum of Southern MN

Award Amount: \$83,000

Location: Mankato

Project Overview: Funding will support the installation of three new exhibits: 1) Block Building, 2) Rethink Your Drink, and 3) Infant/Toddler Play Porch exhibits. Funding will also support enhancements to the new outdoor water play experience.

Children's Discovery Center

Award Amount: \$170,000

Location: Grand Rapids

Project Overview: Funding will support the design and fabrication of the Nature Play Gallery exhibit, which will combine the adventure of physical play with opportunities to grow confidence, resilience, and creativity for youth. This floor to ceiling treehouse exhibit was inspired by the Dakota, and will include motor sensory elements such as rope bridges, steps, ladders, slides, treehouses, discovery education, and a natural playscape for youth.

Duluth Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$190,000

Location: Duluth

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation and expansion of interactive arts and cultural exhibits that strengthen learning opportunities for children and families across Northern Minnesota, including: 1) Air Tube Scarf Launcher exhibit, 2) Icon Climber & Outdoor Play exhibit, 3) enhancements to Manoomin and Snowland exhibits, 4) Learning Lab Art Wall, and 5) Fossil Fun Displays and programming.

Great River Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$103,200

Location: St. Cloud

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of two new exhibits and provide free or low-cost youth programming. The Music exhibit will feature instruments and rhythms of East Asia, which will introduce children and caregivers to the world of music through partnerships with local instructors and organizations. The Music exhibit emphasizes social-emotional learning, cultural competence, and physical play for ages 3–9.

The second exhibit will represent facets of traditional Somali culture and programming where youth can learn about one another through experiential, play-based activities. Activities also include a Somali-narrated video introducing the museum to the community, with translation in English, Somali, and Spanish.



Children's Discovery Museum

Award Amount: \$200,000

Location: Grand Rapids

Project Overview: Funding will support the design, fabrication, and installation of a “Wizard of Oz” themed 18-hole, outdoor miniature golf course.

Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$53,750

Location: Benson

Project Overview: Funding will support the development and implementation of hands-on educational programming for youth. Students will explore agriculture, environmental stewardship, food systems, and sustainability through interactive exhibits and curriculum-based lessons. Programming will integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and storytelling to connect learners with the people, traditions, and innovations that shape Minnesota's rural communities.

Otter Cove Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$148,490.50

Location: Fergus Falls

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of arts and cultural programming to inspire creativity, celebrate community heritage, and bring learning opportunities to families throughout Minnesota, by 1) developing two new arts-themed On-the-Go lessons, 2) hosting art classes with community partners, 3) launching an artist-in-residency program, 4) enhancing The Makers Shop, 5) creating two new Change It Up exhibits, 6) hosting summer mini camps, 7) developing new cultural education lessons, 8) enhancing the Farm and Field exhibit, and 9) providing outreach to underserved communities through Community Play Days.

Minnesota Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$945,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will enhance learning experiences by updating exhibits, creating flexible galleries, and facilitating programming that support social-emotional development, early STEM learning, creativity, and imaginative play.

SPARK

Award Amount: \$102,000

Location: Rochester

Project Overview: Funding will support the Airwall Exhibit and Gather and Grow program. The Airwall Exhibit combines hands-on learning and exploration through air currents, provides cause and effect education, and builds fine motor control and coordination. Integrated art elements will guide movement inspired by indigenous storytelling. The Gather and Grow program will bring new programs to underserved families to participate in workshops, story times, cultural celebrations, and hands on learning.

The Works Museum

Award Amount: \$99,957

Location: Bloomington

Project Overview: Funding will support the I BELONG HERE exhibits and artwork, which will help children see that their experiences and viewpoints are seen and valued, by 1) working with a local muralist to create a large-scale art installation that reflects the community's voices on the exterior of the building, 2) building a multi-purpose outdoor gathering place for workshops and camps to teach about wind, soil, and water, to support youth education, and 3) engage students and families from schools in Bloomington/Richfield neighborhoods.

WonderTrek Children's Museum

Award Amount: \$200,000

Location: Brainerd

Project Overview: Funding will support the fabrication and installation of the following exhibits: 1) Water on the Move, 2) Mud!, 3) Wonder Workshop, and 4) Minnesota's Longest Picnic Table. Funding will also support the production of exhibit labels in Ojibwe language text and headers.



MUSEUMS, EXHIBITS, & COLLECTIONS GRANTEES

African Economic Development Solutions (AEDS)

Award Amount: \$300,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support artist residencies and exhibits, deliver interpretive programming, and train youth in digital heritage preservation. This project includes 1) exhibitions, 2) public dialogues, 3) storytelling, and 4) digital archiving, and will preserve African cultural heritage in Minnesota.

Green Card Voices

Award Amount: \$222,347

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the display of 100 unique immigrant and refugee voices through multimedia exhibits and storytelling programs, by using photography, illustrations, banners, and QR-linked audio stories, to preserve cultural diversity and foster cross-community understanding in Minnesota.

Hmong Museum

Award Amount: \$140,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Hmong culture bearers, experts, and community partners in creating a 3,000-square-foot immersive exhibit, “The Hmong Story: A Place to Call Our Own”, at the Pan Asian Center in Maplewood Mall. The exhibit will explore Hmong history from the American Secret War and their contributions in Minnesota through artifacts, elder oral histories, interactive digital experiences, and hands-on cultural activities such as traditional clothing and hemp weaving.

East Side Freedom Library

Award Amount: \$163,243

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the development and implementation of curriculum and programming that brings the Community Digital Repository’s archival collections of under-represented histories into use. This includes “Art ’n Archives” workshops for public school students resulting in public exhibits, community archiving workshops with partners like the Rondo Community Land Trust, and the processing and digitization of new collections highlighting 2SLGBTQIA, anti-violence, and local immigrant and cultural histories.

Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop

Award Amount: \$89,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support “The Walls Remember: Stories from Stillwater Prison”, a collaborative humanities exhibition developed by the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop (MPWW). The project explores the human and cultural legacy of the Minnesota Correctional Facility–Stillwater, one of the state’s oldest and most symbolically charged institutions, through newly created oral histories, writings, and visual works, by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Minnesotans.

Hennepin History Museum

Award Amount: \$37,211

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of an exhibit centered on a multi-generational Dakota family that explores water, land, and storytelling from the past to the present. In the exhibit, family members will share their perspectives as a family that never left Mni Sota Makoce after the U.S.-Dakota War, the experience will be enhanced by loaned objects and commissioned art works.

Native Skywatchers Inc.

Award Amount: \$127,106

Location: Maple Grove

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of an Indigenous-led, sound-based moving-image art installation, “Turtle Island Soundscapes – the Exhibit Experience,” that will inspire visitors to experience the sounds of Minnesota waters, land, and sky through the perspective of non-human inhabitants, such as turtles, birds, bats, and frogs. The exhibit will open at the Silverwood Art Center in St. Anthony, Minnesota. Additional activities include opening and closing events, a Youth Workshop, an Educator Resource Guide, and presentations at the Three Rivers Turtle Fest, French Regional Park.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

Award Amount: \$230,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support “RAICES E IDENTIDAD: Past, Present, Future”, a series of three Latino cultural exhibits in the Galeria de Arte Latina, and one traveling exhibit that celebrates Latino heritage through mixed media, film, and photography. Funding will be used to hire an Arts and Cultural Coordinator, engage local artists and educators, and offer bilingual discussions, workshops, and educational materials to foster pride, preserve traditions, and connect communities across multiple cities.

Ely Folk School

Award Amount: \$20,051

Location: Ely

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of an online collection of eight educational videos exploring the food and culture of the Iron Range through oral histories and cooking demonstrations. The project will preserve these stories digitally, highlight diverse community experiences, and serve as a learning resource for both longtime and new residents.

Dakota Wichohan

Award Amount: \$88,542

Location: Morton

Project Overview: Funding will support high-quality storage of displays (safeguarding fragile cultural items) and expand exhibit capacity.



FESTIVALS GRANTEES

Dance Projects by ME

Award Amount: \$50,000

Location: Cottage Grove

Project Overview: Funding will support the Minnesota International Dance Festival, celebrating cultural diversity by bringing together local and international artists to highlight immigrant communities through performances, workshops, and collaborative dance creation.

Walker West Music Academy

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a free, multi-part concert celebrating the rich musical legacy of Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood through performances, livestreams, and community discussions centered on African American traditions. The series fosters cultural preservation, accessibility, and cross-generational connection while amplifying artists and strengthening community engagement.

MSP Film

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of the "Culture Days" pilot program, celebrating Indigenous and Northern European communities at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Film Festival in 2026 and 2027, with film screenings and community events designed to bridge cultures, amplify underrepresented voices, and deepen audience engagement through art, conversation, music, food, and performance.

SEAD Project

Award Amount: \$82,800

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Colors of Southeast Asia Fest, a free, family-friendly event celebrating the resilience and cultural richness of Minnesota's Southeast Asian communities through performances, storytelling, food, art, and interactive experiences that foster intergenerational connection and community engagement. The festival will feature live performances, food vendors, artists, workshops, craft demonstrations, and community exhibits representing diverse Southeast Asian cultures including Lao, Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Filipino, Burmese, and Karen communities.

Department of Public Transformation

Award Amount: \$76,000

Location: Granite Falls

Project Overview: Funding will support the Granite Falls Film Festival, a free, two-day festival in 2027 at The YES! House, featuring Minnesota film screenings, workshops, artist talks, and community events. The festival will expand rural access to arts programming, support Minnesota filmmakers, and strengthen community connections through storytelling.

825 Arts

Award Amount: \$122,700

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Frogtown Arts Festival, a free annual celebration in Frogtown and Rondo that showcases local artists, cultural traditions, performances, workshops, food vendors, and family activities while highlighting the neighborhood's diverse communities. Expanded programming in 2026 and 2027 will add new stages, community art projects, cultural demonstrations, accessibility services, and youth activities.

West Broadway Business and Area Coalition

Award Amount: \$24,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the West Broadway Blues & Jazz Festival, a new festival in 2026 to celebrate North Minneapolis's musical heritage through live performances, local artists, food vendors, art installations, and family activities along the West Broadway corridor.

Indigenous Roots

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a month-long festival centered around the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, to honor significant milestones and bring together diverse Indigenous nations—to celebrate cultural abundance through ceremony, arts, and intergenerational exchange.

Mizna

Award Amount: \$55,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Mizna's Arab Film Fest, with expanded, free programming including an oral history zine, archival film curation, and student screenings.

Friends of Global Market, Inc.

Award Amount: \$25,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Midtown Arts & Music Festival, at Midtown Global Market, a free, two-day celebration along Minneapolis's Lake Street Corridor featuring live music, dance, art, workshops, and global food experiences that highlight the area's cultural diversity and community resilience. The festival will support local artists and small businesses while strengthening Midtown as a cultural and economic hub through inclusive, family-friendly programming.

Red Wing Arts

Award Amount: \$45,000

Location: Red Wing

Project Overview: Funding will support the Rooted in Words Festival, a humanities festival that celebrates poetry, spoken word, and storytelling through readings, workshops, performances, youth programming, and public art installations.

New Native Theatre

Award Amount: \$114,500

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Two-Spirit Powwow, a free Minneapolis gathering celebrating Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Native identity through dance, music, and community ceremony.

Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community

Award Amount: \$47,450

Location: Duluth

Project Overview: Funding will support the Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival, a five-day cross-cultural arts event featuring film screenings, pitch competitions, live performances, educational panels, and networking opportunities that bring together filmmakers, artists, and audiences from across the state to Northern MN.

The United Hmong Family, Inc.

Award Amount: \$220,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the multi-day Hmong International Freedom Festival, a gathering that celebrates Hmong heritage in Minnesota through performances, athletics, storytelling, and community engagement.



Oromo Diaspora Media

Award Amount: \$37,972

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Oromo Cultural Homecoming, a traveling cultural exhibit that will appear at community festivals throughout Minnesota. The exhibit will celebrate Oromo heritage and feature traditional clothing, artifacts, food, storytelling, dance, photography, and coffee ceremonies.

Music Mission

Award Amount: \$14,545

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Lakeside Guitar Festival, a free family-friendly music and arts festival featuring live performances, workshops, interactive installations, and community activities that connect diverse artists and audiences through inclusive cultural programming. Its 2026 expansion adds a third day focused on educational and artistic collaboration between Minnesota and Mexico, including exhibits, performances, and workshops led by internationally recognized artists to deepen intercultural exchange and community engagement.

Twin Cities Jazz Festival

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support free public programming through initiatives that improve accessibility, family engagement, artist diversity, and neighborhood outreach, including expanded outdoor spaces, a new interactive Family Zone, and community pop-up concerts, creating a more inclusive festival experience while supporting local artists, encouraging intergenerational learning, and bringing jazz performances to new audiences.

PCYC

Award Amount: \$50,035

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Capri Arts Festival, a free, community-centered celebration at the historic Capri Theater, that showcases Black cultural heritage through performances, visual arts, storytelling, and interactive programming designed for all ages and abilities. The festival will feature an expansion of programming in 2026 & 2027 including student-led historical projects, interdisciplinary artistic collaborations, and a centennial celebration honoring the Capri's lasting role in North Minneapolis and Minnesota's cultural history.



Freedom Day Festival

Award Amount: \$20,000

Location: Vadnais Heights

Project Overview: Funding will support the Freedom Day Festival, a free Juneteenth celebration that brings communities together through cultural performances, historical exhibits, food, art, and family activities that highlight African American history and Black contributions in Minnesota. The festival will feature an expansion of programming in 2026 and 2027 including new musical and cultural performances, educational exhibits, and community art projects.

Full Circle Theater Company

Award Amount: \$51,250

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the GROUNDSWELL: Circle Up Cultural Arts Festival, which brings together Hmong, Somali, Latinx, African American, and Indigenous communities through weekly multidisciplinary workshops, performances, and cultural exchange activities across Minnesota.

Tehor Tibetan Organization of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$24,000

Location: Finlayson

Project Overview: Funding will support an expansion of the Grassland Tehor Tibetan Cultural Festival held in Finlayson. The festival will feature Tibetan arts, storytelling, education, youth programming, and environmental stewardship activities designed to celebrate and preserve Tibetan culture in Minnesota.

Pan Asian Arts Alliance

Award Amount: \$49,800

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Arts of Healing Festival, a free two-day cultural event that blends traditional Asian healing arts, storytelling, and culture to engage families and communities in St. Paul. The festival promotes cultural literacy, intergenerational learning, and cross-cultural understanding by offering interactive demonstrations, educational programming, and accessible experiences centered on Asian heritage and healing traditions.

BIPOC Foodways Alliance

Award Amount: \$62,160

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support activities for the Immigrant Kitchen series, including food-centered events that bring together immigrant, Indigenous, and BIPOC home cooks to share traditional meals and personal migration stories.

Minnesota People of Color LGBT Pride

Award Amount: \$20,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the annual “Better Together” Festival, a free, family-friendly event featuring performances and programming that uplifts resilience and preserves LGBTQ+ history through music, art, and dance.

Westside Boosters Youth Athletic Club, Inc.

Award Amount: \$220,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Cinco de Mayo celebration, a major annual festival featuring live music, a parade, youth activities, and hundreds of local food and craft vendors that highlight Latino cultural heritage in Minnesota, including essential event operations like security, sanitation, and infrastructure.

International Festival of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$194,250

Location: Maplewood

Project Overview: Funding will support the International Festival of Minnesota in 2026, a two-day celebration at the Saint Paul River Centre featuring music, dance, storytelling, artisan markets, and international cuisine that highlight cultural heritage and inclusion, including artists, youth programming, and accessibility efforts.

Selby Ave JazzFest

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Selby Avenue JazzFest, a free full-day annual event in St. Paul celebrating live jazz performances, children’s activities, artist demonstrations, and local vendors.

Northfield Arts Guild

Award Amount: \$30,820

Location: Northfield

Project Overview: Funding will support the Rice County Fall Festival through the expansion of two existing October events into a combined regional celebration featuring visual arts, music, dance, theater, and family-friendly cultural programming across Northfield, Faribault, and Dundas. The project will bring together artists, local businesses, and cultural organizations to support regional tourism and highlight local, Indigenous, and multicultural artists.

MN Vietnamese Language School

Award Amount: \$16,500

Location: Roseville

Project Overview: Funding will support the 2027 Lunar New Year (Tết) Celebration—a free, full-day public festival featuring traditional Vietnamese music and dance performances, storytelling, student and parent presentations, cultural displays, and authentic cuisine. The event brings families and community members together to celebrate Vietnamese heritage in Minnesota.

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA)

Award Amount: \$38,067

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support activities for the Art-A-Whirl tour. This tour is the largest open studio tour in the country, drawing about 150,000 visitors to Northeast Minneapolis to explore over 1,000 artists through studio tours, performances, and interactive events across a three-day festival. Funding will expand free trolley and shuttle service in 2026 and 2027.

Rebound, Inc.

Award Amount: \$24,825

Location: Brooklyn Center

Project Overview: Funding will support the Excellence Festival, a two-day celebration of Black culture in Minnesota, centered on “Hip Hop as Social Justice,” featuring youth-led programming that blends music, civic education, wellness, entrepreneurship, fashion, and community dialogue. It includes workshops, performances, and interactive spaces designed to prepare young people for leadership and creative expression, culminating in events including a youth justice symposium, community activations, and a hip hop cypher.

India Association of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$20,000

Location: St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support IndiaFest, a free annual outdoor celebration held on the State Capitol Grounds that allows attendees to “Experience India in a Day” through performances, food vendors, nonprofit booths, a Bollywood Night dance celebration, and a large community marketplace celebrating Indian Independence Day and Indian heritage in Minnesota.

Marine Mills Folk School

Award Amount: \$45,000

Location: Marine on Saint Croix

Project Overview: Funding will support the Marine Mills Folk School Fall Festival, a free, one-day celebration of Minnesota’s folk arts and cultural heritage, which brings together artisans, musicians, poets, families, and community partners for demonstrations, performances, and hands-on activities.

Bloomington Pride MN

Award Amount: \$10,000

Location: Bloomington

Project Overview: Funding will support the “We Are the Rainbow”, an educational expansion of Bloomington Pride MN, which transforms civic spaces into a free, accessible installations featuring LGBTQ+ history exhibits, storytelling spaces, and live speakers with ASL interpretation. The project highlights Minnesota’s LGBTQ+ history through banners, film, and oral histories while preserving community stories and strengthening understanding of local LGBTQ+ heritage.

City of Delano

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location: Delano

Project Overview: Funding will support Delano’s Sesquicentennial, a year-long, community-led 150th anniversary celebration, featuring more than 150 events across 2026, that honor the city’s history, including Indigenous origins, railroad development, and local traditions through arts, education, and public programming. The celebration culminates in a community Jamboree with performances, historical exhibits, and family activities, alongside major signature events and concerts that highlight community identity, volunteer efforts, and shared heritage.

Arts Us

Award Amount: \$49,380

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Black eSTEAM, a youth-led event series that celebrates Black excellence and entrepreneurship, by connecting arts, culture, science, and technology through workshops, performances, exhibitions, and mentorship opportunities for youth ages 7–25. The program provides ongoing creative and educational programming led by artists and youth advisory groups, helping participants explore STEAM fields, showcasing their work, and building pathways toward education, careers, and economic empowerment.

Rondo Avenue Incorporated

Award Amount: \$80,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Rondo Days, an annual cultural festival founded to preserve the history and legacy of the historic Rondo community, featuring family-focused programming, youth activities, senior events, local artists, and live entertainment. The event takes place across multiple venues and includes the Kids Zone, Senior Brunch, and main festival at MLK Park, while supporting local vendors and artists through paid opportunities and celebrating community heritage and resilience.

Monarch Joint Venture

Award Amount: \$37,840

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support “Alebrijes and Monarchs,” a new bilingual, community-based arts addition to the Minneapolis Monarch Festival. Participants will contribute to the creation of alebrije sculptures inspired by monarch butterflies and themes of migration, transformation, and ecological stewardship.

Don't Call Me Josephine

Award Amount: \$97,740

Location: Crookston

Project Overview: Funding will support Ogimaawa Pow Wows, a new initiative in Crookston, MN, that will host pow wows in 2026 and 2027, celebrating Anishinaabe culture, language, and leadership through music, dance, storytelling, food, and community gathering guided by knowledge keepers and Native leadership.

Mid West Music Fest

Award Amount: \$7,000

Location: Winona

Project Overview: Funding will support the Mid-West Music Festival's Create & Connect activities. This is a free, family-friendly expansion of the festival that takes place in Winona's Levee Park, offering live music, student performances, workshops, and arts activities alongside local partners, nonprofits, and food vendors.

Somali Museum of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$75,000

Location: Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Somali Museum's "Culture in Motion" festival series, which celebrates Somali cultural heritage in Minnesota. The free, accessible events aim to engage over 2,000 participants and 60+ artists, including youth, while promoting cultural education, intergenerational participation, and community celebration across immigrant and refugee communities.

Hiddo Soor International Organization

Award Amount: \$55,000

Location: Brooklyn Center

Project Overview: Funding will support a traveling series of Somali Cultural Festivals across multiple Minnesota cities in 2026 and 2027. The festivals will work to increase awareness of Somali heritage and contributions across Minnesota by showcasing Somali music, dance, poetry, food, and visual arts.

Umunne Cultural Association

Award Amount: \$60,000

Location: Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Igbofest, one of the largest African cultural festivals in the United States. The free, multi-day event includes performances, youth cultural activities, and expanded programming aimed at preserving traditions, engaging younger generations, and strengthening community pride and cultural education in Minnesota.



ETHNIC MEDIA GRANTEES

Oromia II

Award Amount: \$69,300.00

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of two video documentaries (in the Oromo native language), that celebrate, support, and empower Oromo women and girls. The first documentary named, “Addooyee” or “Sisterhood”, is about a cultural support system for young teenage girls that serves to connect unmarried females to lifelong friendships before marriage.

The second documentary, “Siinqee”, will support Oromo women and their cultural, political, and economic roles in society. The Siinqee is a six-foot-long beautifully beaded stick presented to a girl by her mother before her wedding. It is a symbol of marriage in Oromo culture, but is also a ritual prayer stick, a symbol of women’s power, and used as a tool for conflict resolution.

Hmong Broadcasting Company LLC

Award Amount: \$68,000.00

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support key activities for a community storytelling series produced through a partnership between Hmong Broadcasting Company (3HBC), also known as 3HmongTV, and Uncover More Good. Key activities include identifying community storytellers and cultural practitioners, researching cultural topics, conducting interviews with elders and community members, filming storytelling conversations, editing completed programs, and distributing episodes through television broadcast and digital media platforms. Interviews will be conducted in culturally appropriate settings and, when appropriate, in languages spoken within the community, including Hmong and other Southeast Asian languages, with English accessibility when needed. Documentaries will address traditions, histories, preservation of language, music, and the history of refugee migration in Minnesota.

Xidig TV LLC

Award Amount: \$64,980.00

Location (City): Saint Cloud

Project Overview: Funding will support the production of 12-15 short storytelling video segments and 4-6 dialogue programs, featuring elders, youth, educators, community leaders, artists, historians, and local officials, and highlight the experiences and cultural narratives of Somali Minnesota, including: cultural identity, immigrant experiences, intergenerational storytelling, youth education, cultural traditions, and community history.

Somali TV of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$74,000.00

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support documentary activities that celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Somali Banadiri community, a minority group within the broader Somali population in Minnesota. Key activities include four interviews with Somali Banadiri artists to gather personal stories, storytelling sessions, filming artists for the documentary, editing, and documenting traditional songs and literature. The documentary will serve as a vital source in preserving the unique history and culture of the Somali Banadiri people and will be shared with school districts and community organizations.

Oromia Media Network

Award Amount: \$60,000.00

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support activities for eight documentaries from diverse members of the Oromo community, including elders, youth, women, entrepreneurs, artists, faith leaders, and civic leaders, and community screenings. The documentaries will address citizenship, immigration, belonging, and building bridges between generations with an emphasis on cultural memory and the interpretation of lived experiences, by connecting personal stories to those of refugee migration, identity, and belonging.

Santamaria Broadcasting LLC

Award Amount: \$68,000.00

Location (City): Richfield

Project Overview: Funding will support the creation of video content to share stories, traditions, and shared experiences that define the Latino community as it emerges from Metro Surge and highlights the rich culture, heritage, and contributions of Latinos in Minnesota, and how the community is recovering and rebuilding from the event. The content will include documentary films, a series of short videos, social media materials designed to connect audiences and amplify voices, shared at a public forum.

Native Roots Radio w/ FS NACDI

Award Amount: \$68,220.00

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the production of weekly radio segments and companion digital media focused on Indigenous language learning and cultural teachings. Programming will include a "Word or Phrase of the Day" segment introducing Dakota, Anishinaabe, and Ho-Chunk language in an engaging and accessible format. The project will also feature interviews with elders, fluent speakers, language teachers, historians, and cultural practitioners who will share stories,



language instruction, and perspectives on Indigenous history, traditions, and community life. Additional short audio and video features will highlight storytelling, seasonal teachings, cultural practices, and reflections on preserving Indigenous identity and heritage.



CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTEES

826 MSP

Award Amount: \$81,350

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the redesign and expansion of the Young Authors' Book Project by tripling the reach in 2026, by implementing simultaneous artist-led residencies across three school partners. The expansion includes recruiting and training three guest teaching artists, facilitating 12–16-week residencies featuring writing workshops, professionally publishing three youth anthologies, hosting a public literary festival, and engaging students in reading youth-authored texts from across Minnesota.

AMPERS

Award Amount: \$47,500

Location (City): Mendota Heights

Project Overview: Funding will support the production of twenty 90-second radio segments featuring authors from Minnesota's BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and other underrepresented cultural groups. Segments will air on 16 AMPERS community radio stations statewide, reaching more than 200,000 listeners. The program will heavily focus on BIPOC authors who have written books for children and young adults (PreK–12).

Ananya Dance Theatre

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a new 90-minute contemporary dance theatre work conceived/choreographed by Ananya Chatterjea for Ananya Dance Theatre (ADT). PREM ('love' in Chatterjea's native Bengali) focuses on weaving intimate stories of unexpected meetings across differences and proposing love as a methodology of organizing community, through produced performances, workshops, and an annual event.

Andrea Swenson

Award Amount: \$55,000

Location (City): North Oaks

Project Overview: Funding will support, “Cornbread: A Man and His Piano”, a statewide cultural education initiative built around the forthcoming documentary on James Samuel “Cornbread” Harris, Sr., a 98-year-old Minnesota music legend whose life story spans nearly a century of the state’s cultural, social, and artistic evolution. This project combines film, curriculum, and arts-based learning to illuminate a missing chapter of Minnesota music history, while giving students the tools to explore and express their own voices.



Art From The Inside

Award Amount: \$247,320

Location (City): Maplewood

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of humanities programs through four interconnected activities that form a continuum of cultural and creative opportunities bridging those impacted by incarceration with broader Minnesota communities. These activities include 1) a 12-week cohort focused on fostering healing and reconnection for participants through the Ritual4Return curriculum program, 2) arts and wellness programming in greater Minnesota correctional facilities, emphasizing cultural identity, storytelling through visual art, and mental-emotional wellbeing, 3) community pop-up exhibitions in libraries, cultural centers, galleries and educational institutions, and 4) a creative leadership lab to expand professional opportunities.

Bear Paws Cultural Art

Award Amount: \$15,500

Location (City): Hinckley

Project Overview: Funding will support workshops for the creation of the Ojibwe Pucker Toe Moccasins. Participants will learn techniques using beads, sequins, and bias tape to embellish pre-designed cuffs and tongues and develop meaningful connection to the craftsmanship of Ojibwe moccasins.

Brian Malloy

Award Amount: \$25,542

Location (City): Grand Marais

Project Overview: Funding will support educational activities for 'Minnesota's AIDS Generation,' aimed at providing education to Minnesotans about the AIDS pandemic. Activities include a two-hour educational presentation to the public and select institutions, the creation of a teacher's guide for use by secondary schools in Minnesota, and a witness memoir.

Brook LaFloe

Award Amount: \$23,000

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support 'pop-up' Indigenous skills workshops (beading, jewelry, powwow mobiles, etc.) that will be taught through a class & community setting. Workshops will be paired with cultural heritage events including Indigenous People's Day, the Native American Food Truck Festival, National Day of Awareness for MMIW, Rondo Days annual festival, and other major cultural festivals throughout Minnesota.



Cambodian American Partnership of MN

Award Amount: \$ 66,960

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will teach 25-30 Cambodian American youth about Cambodian art, folk dance, language, and the Cambodian heritage, empowering Cambodian-identified youth to explore and express their cultural identity through traditional dance, visual arts, language, and storytelling. Activities include teaching artists, art and costume materials, and will culminate in a public community event in the Twin Cities area.

Center for People and Craft

Award Amount: \$24,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support a six-artist residency program that brings together artisans and tradition-bearers to share diverse cultural craft practices in an urban setting. Each resident will lead multi-day programming including hands-on workshops, public demonstrations, open studio hours, and cultural talks, engaging community members across generations.

Center for Performing Arts Minneapolis

Award Amount: \$ 57,309

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of free to low-cost youth cross-cultural programming including six weeks for youth ages 8-15 consisting of a story-building theater camp, followed by a three-week camp on visual work, with a final performance and a public mural or mosaic.

Chris Stedman

Award Amount: \$24,800

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support 1) in-person oral history collection events, 2) the archiving of these histories at the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies, and 3) the creation of a narrative audio series utilizing them. The project explores Minnesota's history of mutual aid among LGBTQIA2+ people and allies from the 1980s to today, interpreting it for a contemporary audience and enriching the public's understanding of queer cultural practices and mutual aid in Minnesota.

Colleen J. Sheehy

Award Amount: \$37,025

Location (City): Shroeder

Project Overview: Funding will support historian research on Lamb's Resort in Shroeder, MN. Research will come from institutional collections on the North Shore: Cross River Heritage Center, Historic Cook County, Grand Marais Public Library, and include oral history interviews with Skip Lamb, family members, and other locals. Activities include two public programs, and the drafting of a book-length manuscript about the history of one of the last family-owned resorts on Lake Superior's North Shore.

Dakhota lapi Okhodakichiye

Award Amount: \$287,500

Location (City): Osseo

Project Overview: Funding will support The Dakota Language Newspaper Preservation & Revitalization Project. This project includes revitalization of one of Minnesota's most significant cultural treasures: lapi Oaye (The Word Carrier), a Dakota-language newspaper published from 1871–1939. Activities include the full digitization, preservation, and revitalization of these newspapers and returning them to Dakota communities and the people of Minnesota in accessible, culturally meaningful formats. The project will culminate in a two-day Dakota Language & Newspaper Gathering.

Dakota Wicohan

Award Amount: \$142,950

Location (City): Morton

Project Overview: Funding will support a yearlong series of interconnected cultural programs anchored in the Dakota seasonal cycle. Activities include 1) a fall Powwow at Birch Coulee Park, 2) a summer cultural youth camp for youth and families, 3) a winter Round Dance, and 4) a seasonal Foodways Program where youth will prepare and serve traditional Dakota foods for families and elders.

East Side Arts Council

Award Amount: \$9,900

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support an expansion of programming to include: 1) the creation of two gallery exhibits and artist lectures focused on early immigrants to Payne Avenue/Swede Hollow and Hmong immigrants to Saint Paul, 2) two pop-up culture workshops for youth focused



on Hispanic and African American cultures, and 3) a park poetry and music event including cultural poetry readings and music.

Ely's Historic State Theatre

Award Amount: \$67,500

Location (City): Ely

Project Overview: Funding will support Dibaajimowin: Indigenous Film Program, a series of three two-day events that use Indigenous-led films and interactive workshops to preserve cultural knowledge and provide firsthand learning experiences for students and community participants. Ely's Historic State Theater will lead this program in partnership with the Bois Forte Anishinaabeg Reservations, Ely Folk School, Fond du Lac Reservation, Waawaate Programs, First Nations Consultants, Minnesota North College, and Indigenous programs at 10 surrounding schools.

Feben-Talile Gobena, PhD

Award Amount: \$24,980

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the development of an Afaan Oromo Language Application to help preserve the traditional language of the Oromo people. Activities include 1) contracting with an application developer, 2) supporting the development of an Advisory group, and 3) hosting separate focus groups with youth and young adult cohorts to evaluate the application.

Firefly Center for Art & Wellbeing

Award Amount: \$105,895

Location (City): Fosston

Project Overview: Funding will support: 1) an Indigenous humanities event with in-person presentations with an Ojibwe author and scholar and traditional indigenous food and cultural teachings, 2) an Indigenous children's literature event at the Fosston Public Library, 3) a two-day cultural immersion in Mahnomen/Leech Lake with high-school students, and 4) a collaboration for Indigenous-centered programming with the Mahnomen Indian Education Department.

Folk Will Save Us

Award Amount: \$61,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the formal launch of FWSU's Culture Ambassadors Collaborative program (CAC). The CAC will support a group of 7 artists/culture bearers in developing culturally diverse humanities programming, including arts programming, which builds identity and increases cultural self-determination in their communities.

Franconia Sculpture Park

Award Amount: \$124,375

Location (City): Shafer

Project Overview: Funding will support new artworks and related programming activities for 'Taku Kagapi' (meaning 'to create an item'). Located on land historically used by Dakota and Ojibwe tribes, this project will honor Minnesota's Indigenous cultural heritage and collaborates with regional Dakota and Ojibwe artists and cultural bearers to provide free education, develop new public art, and build identity for communities in Minnesota.

Green Card Voices

Award Amount: \$125,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will preserve the stories of immigrants and refugees from 13 African countries, with a particular focus on Somali, Liberian, Oromo, and Nigerian Minnesotans. Activities include the development of a Bilingual Graphic Memoir, and the creation of the African Immigrant Voices of Minnesota Exhibit and Video Collection that will include 20 first-person video narratives from African immigrants and refugees.

Hennepin History Museum

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support consultation services for the repatriation planning of their American Indian artifacts collections and includes data management, planning, and relationship building with tribal reservation leaders and families.

Hmong Cultural Center of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a series of community-driven pop-up events designed to uplift, celebrate, and preserve the diverse cultural traditions represented in Moorhead and Clay County, including traditions of the Indigenous community, through storytelling, traditional art demonstrations, music, dance, artisan markets, cultural foods, and hands-on activities led by cultural leaders and community practitioners.



Hmong Early Childhood Coalition

Award Amount: \$63,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a new cultural humanities program that expands early childhood work into a structured, place-based experience rooted in Hmong storytelling, textile arts, music, movement, and nature exploration, bringing cultural learning outdoors to community-centered sites in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties.

Hmongtown Connections

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a full year of cultural activities including winter and summer night markets, arts and culture workshops, intergenerational storytelling, and seasonal performances. Activities include a Pan Asian Small Business Expo, a 2,600-square-foot immersive digital exhibit preserving Hmong cosmology, an Arts & Culture Workshop Series, and Year-Round Night Markets.

Immigrant Development Center

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): Moorhead

Project Overview: Funding will support the development of a new exhibit on Hmong Shamanism incorporating Shaman tools and a Shaman altar, including exhibit scripts, display panels, and a new school curriculum book. Activities include a new exhibit featuring numerous embroidered Hmong stories and flower cloths, including curation and development of labels for each embroidered artwork.

In Progress

Award Amount: \$42,700

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support Joy of Being, a digital storytelling initiative documenting and sharing the cultural heritage of LGBTQIA+ Minnesotans through photography, writing, audio, and video. The project will engage ten participants who will work with teaching artists to create original digital artworks and contribute to a permanent, publicly accessible digital archive, with two free public exhibitions in Saint Paul and Crookston.



Irreducible Grace Foundation

Award Amount: \$90,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a year-long, youth and elder-led project documenting and sharing the stories of Black Minnesotans through research, interviews, and artistic production at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center in Saint Paul. Youth participants will collaborate with elders to produce short videos, wood-burned portrait installations, educational activity books, four editions of a Hidden Black History book (4,000 copies total), and host community events including public dinners.

John Ngoc Nguyen

Award Amount: \$10,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a storytelling project documenting the experiences of Vietnamese elders in Minnesota through 20 interviews conducted in Vietnamese, with bilingual transcripts and a public gallery and reading at the Vietnamese Senior Care Center in St. Paul. Activities include writing workshops for university student groups and community members, focusing on nonfiction and oral history to strengthen intergenerational storytelling and cultural connection.

Karina Kelton Marin

Award Amount: \$23,000

Location (City): Lake Elmo

Project Overview: Funding will support Amor Eterno, a bilingual, intergenerational cultural heritage project that celebrates the life, music, and social impact of Juan Gabriel—one of the most influential figures in Mexican and Latino musical history. Activities include three public art and storytelling activities hosted at local libraries, followed by a large community concert night screening of Juan Gabriel's historic Bellas Artes concert.

Lanesboro Arts Center

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location (City): Lanesboro

Project Overview: Funding will support the Equitable Connectivity Initiative, a new project designed to expand the organization's equity-focused rural arts work. Activities include storytelling, education, and systems change contract revisions and design, building on the organization's existing equity work including BIPOC Artist Residency, anti-racism workshops, and advisory committees of BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and/or disabled artists.



Laurel School of Music

Award Amount: \$56,000

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of a new series of free Coffee Concerts and related school residencies, which celebrate and teach cultural identity through live music rooted in global heritage traditions. Funding will support performances and in-school experiences featuring a Latin American classical string ensemble, a Cuban string quartet, a Native American baritone, and other guest artists representing classical and folk traditions from India, Eastern Europe, Balkan, Slavic, and Romani communities.

Leech Lake Tribal College

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location (City): Cass Lake

Project Overview: Funding will support: 1) an arts mural expressing the Ojibwe culture, 2) teachings about Indigenous clothing including sewing instruction and a fashion show, 3) youth storytelling lectures on Ojibwe language, history, and literature, 4) mitten-making, 5) a two-day fall event with cultural teachings, 6) student trips to Red Lake Immersion School and cultural center, and 7) a wellness gathering honoring missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Legal Rights Center

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Legal Rights Center in documenting and preserving its 55-year history as a community-based legal organization founded by Black and Indigenous activists. The project will produce a mini-documentary and curated exhibition, alongside a series highlighting contemporary stories of legal empowerment. Activities include the expansion of the Know Your Rights program, including workshops, a youth summer camp, and monthly sessions focused on legal education, advocacy, and community organizing.

Lotus Arts Center

Award Amount: \$22,740

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the South Asian Cultural Arts & Storytelling Series, a community-centered humanities program designed to preserve and share traditional South Asian art forms and stories with Minnesotans. Activities include three culturally grounded workshops: 1) Embroidery workshop, 2) Mirror-Work Mosaic workshop, and 3) South Asian storytelling and Cultural Conversation workshop.

MacRostie Art Center

Award Amount: \$101,664

Location (City): Grand Rapids

Project Overview: Funding will support the following activities: 1) seasonal cultural activities led by Anishinaabe artists and culture bearers in Ball Club and Battle Point on the Leech Lake Reservation, 2) pop-up outreach activities for the Anishinaabe culture in collaboration with local artists, and 3) monthly meetings with local artists, culture bearers, and community leaders to collaborate on increasing cultural learning opportunities for the rural community.

Mankato State

Award Amount: \$134,000

Location (City): Mankato

Project Overview: Funding will support, All My Relatives, an educational initiative designed to preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Indigenous Nations of the Great Plains by creating six complete sets of interactive learning boxes for distribution across Minnesota. Each set contains 12 thematic boxes (72 boxes total), making this the first time these materials will be available for statewide use.

Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community

Award Amount: \$23,000

Location (City): Mendota Heights

Project Overview: Funding will support the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Language Restoration Program, advancing Dakota lapi through an intermediate-to-advanced language curriculum designed to build fluency among 20 learners. Activities include a three-month course focused on conversational fluency, cultural knowledge, and language immersion, culminating in a public graduation and honoring ceremony.

Mewinzha Ondaadiziike Wiigaming

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): Bemidji

Project Overview: Funding will support a pilot program to provide consistent access to Anishinaabe arts, teachings, and cultural practices as a pathway to wellness, identity, and community connection. Activities include a year-long series of 10 cultural gatherings alongside four Pride in the Arts showcases highlighting Native and 2S+/LGBTQ+ artists.

Milkweed Editions

Award Amount: \$28,830

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support a new four-part event series highlighting the stories, writers, and cultural contributions of Minnesota's immigrant and underrepresented communities. Each event will be developed in collaboration with community-based partners, featuring Hmong writers, Somali-Minnesotan writers, Mexican-American authors and artists, and broader immigrant experiences, with Legacy funding compensating participating speakers through honoraria.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Award Amount: \$39,340

Location (City): Chaska

Project Overview: Funding will support a multicultural art exhibition featuring work by nine Minnesota artists from Black, Indigenous, Latiné, East African, and Afro-Caribbean communities. The exhibition combines visual art, storytelling, and spoken words. The project includes three free community events with music, food, and engagement activities, with transportation provided to expand access.

Minnesota State Band

Award Amount: \$20,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of traveling musical performances for the Minnesota State Band to more locations, including community theaters, veteran's homes, schools, and tribal centers. Activities include 2-3 trips in 2026, including the Duluth region, Fergus Falls, Norwood-Young America, and Mountain Lake.

New Native Theatre

Award Amount: \$165,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a statewide initiative to develop and expand access to Native-led theatre in Tribal Nations, schools, and community spaces across Minnesota. Activities include commissioning two new one-act plays, developing them through workshops with Native artists and cultural advisors, presenting workshop readings and early performances, designing a portable tour-ready format, and building partnerships to support future statewide touring.



Nickolai Svetlov Podvin

Award Amount: \$93,450

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the Ukrainian Global Symphony Project, “Sights and Sounds of Freedom: Liatoshynsky Lives Again!” at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The aim of this immersive cultural experience is to unite the Ukrainian community and the rest of state by inviting Minnesotans to discover Ukrainian culture through music, dance, and visual art. The symphony will be performed by members of the Twin Cities Musicians Union, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Npaus Baim Her

Award Amount: \$22,925

Location (City): Cottage Grove

Project Overview: Funding will support a 21-week arts education program for Hmong youth (ages 15–18) led by Hmong artists, elders, and professionals. Up to 10 participants will engage in weekly workshops to learn traditional arts including paj ntaub embroidery, batik, and silver jewelry making, culminating in three completed projects: 1) a traditional skirt, 2) a handcrafted necklace, and 3) an original contemporary design incorporating Hmong techniques.

One Voice Mixed Chorus

Award Amount: \$40,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a school-based residency program led by LGBTQIA+ teaching artists that engage students in exploring identity, belonging, and representation through music and facilitated dialogue. The program will deliver residencies at six Minnesota schools with activities including classroom learning, guided reflection, collaborative rehearsals, and a culminating public performance.

Oromo Irreechaa Festival

Award Amount: \$12,347

Location (City): Richfield

Project Overview: Funding will support the Oromo Irreechaa Festival, a cultural celebration in Minnesota that shares traditional Oromo practices, including ceremony, music, dance, and food, with the broader community. The festival will expand programming by introducing two new elements: the Gubaa Mijiri bonfire ceremony, a traditional gathering of renewal not practiced locally in over 20 years, and 2) a youth soccer tournament designed to increase youth engagement and connection to cultural traditions.



Owámniyomni Okhódayapi

Award Amount: \$145,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of three core activities: 1) community engagement with the City of Minneapolis and four Dakota Tribal Nations to offer free or low-cost cultural and educational programming, 2) uplift and share Dakota history and culture with a wider audience, and 3) cultural and ecological community transformation work at Owamniyomni (St. Anthony Falls), a sacred Dakota place in the heart of Minneapolis.

Park Rapids Area School

Award Amount: \$11,500

Location (City): Park Rapids

Project Overview: Funding will support a pow-wow event at Park Rapids School to help Native American students feel welcomed and provide cultural education for all students and staff. Funding will also support the creation of a Native American Student Council to plan the event and provide cultural education throughout the school year.

People in Action

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a community festival on Lake Street that preserves and celebrates Somali arts, culture, and identity through music, storytelling, visual arts, youth programming, small-business engagement, and public humanities experiences.

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

Award Amount: \$106,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support a new community ballet program including an open mic poetry series providing youth with opportunities to create and perform original works that explore themes of personal identity, cultural heritage, and community connection. The poetry series will build upon the cultural legacy of Phyllis Wheatley, an enslaved person in Revolutionary America who became the first African American woman to have a book of her poetry published.

Picture Book Parade

Award Amount: \$24,900

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support several storytelling exhibits throughout Minnesota by BIPOC authors and illustrators that showcase the state's diverse cultures, including exhibits at the



Mall of America, Martin Luther King Day celebration, Rondo Days, and locations in Washington County and Woodbury, MN.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC)

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support activities for the Capri Theater's centennial celebrations including: 1) research and historical documentation, 2) content creation and storytelling events, 3) an online print publication chronicling 100 years of the Capri's influence, 4) a centennial documentary film capturing the Capri's history through personal accounts, and 5) planning and development of a live performance event to celebrate the anniversary.

Project FINE

Award Amount: \$77,000

Location (City): Winona

Project Overview: Funding will support Walk Around the World cultural exploration activities in three school districts across Winona County. Families will travel between stations representing various countries and cultures. Each station will have information, interactive activities, and additional educational resources tailored for various grade levels. Activities include the development of Walk Around the World stations, implementing the events, and providing materials for activities for students and families.

Project Sweetie Pie

Award Amount: \$60,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support a six-week community-based, cultural heritage and environmental program serving 10 teens across five community garden sites in North Minneapolis. Using the full circle of the food cycle to explore cultural identity, land, labor, history, art, environmental justice, and community self-sufficiency, activities will be guided by Native and Elders of the African Diaspora leadership and rooted in the Medicine Wheel philosophy.

Public Functionary

Award Amount: \$50,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the following activities: 1) film exhibition amplifying immigrant, Black, Indigenous, Hmong, Somali, Latinx, and other local perspectives on migration, memory, and community identity, 2) a Movement and Music exhibition in collaboration with 20 artists, 3) visual art exhibition exploring identity through painting, sculpture, and photography, and 4) solo exhibition featuring one artist's heritage through cultural storytelling with visual art.

Queermunity

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support activities for LGBTQ+ Minnesota: Past, Present, and Future, a statewide cultural heritage initiative led by Queermunity Collaborative, in partnership with CASTOR, to document, preserve, and share the lived histories, identities, artistic expressions, and intergenerational wisdom of Minnesota's 2SLGBTQ+ community. Activities include seven intergenerational talking circles and statewide oral history recordings, three zine-making workshops, and an educational drag and cabaret performance at the historic Mounds Theatre.

Red Wing Arts

Award Amount: \$128,500

Location (City): Red Wing

Project Overview: Funding will support the Dakota Culture Camp, a four-day Dakota led cultural and humanities immersion that will take place in October 2026 in Prairie Island and Winona. The camp is followed by an Elder guided Sacred Sites Tour to culturally significant sites including Prairie Island, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, Owamniyomni Okhodayapi, and Winona. All activities are led by Dakota Knowledge Keepers, language teachers, cultural specialists, and artists.

Sacred Bundle

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): Cass Lake

Project Overview: Funding will support a documentary series of the birth and development of two initiatives that will expand the mission of Sacred Bundle, a non-profit, native-led organization chartered by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The documentary will capture empowering communities to lead a good life, while preserving and celebrating the Anishinaabe culture.

Safe Summer Nights

Award Amount: \$24,500

Location (City): Mendota Heights

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of activities to reach families in Saint Paul neighborhoods, including neighborhood outreach, nutrition education, interactive STEM youth activities, resource tables, community safety and trust-building activities, outreach to local and state arts organizations, and cultural programming for youth including music, visual arts, and cultural activities led by community artists.



Saint Paul Neighborhood Network

Award Amount: \$43,900

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support a youth-led media arts initiative that uplifts the histories and lived experiences of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Immigrant elders in Minnesota. The project brings young people and community elders in collaboration, equipping youth with creative and technical storytelling skills while preserving narratives that are often underrepresented in mainstream media. Youth learn photography, audio production, and videography as tools to document and honor the rich cultural heritage of Minnesota's diverse communities.

Scandia Heritage Alliance

Award Amount: \$75,000

Location (City): Scandia

Project Overview: Funding will support creation of a public art mosaic celebrating Dakota, Ojibwe and Swedish cultural heritage in Scandia. Activities include artist consultation and collaboration, facilitation of community input, final design development and fabrication of the mosaic, and creation of an interpretive sign adjacent to the artwork that explains its meaning and cultural context.

Siengkane Lao MN

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location (City): Shakopee

Project Overview: Funding will support 1) an extension of programming for Lao traditional dance classes, public performances, and educational materials, and 2) a 50-year celebration event & activities for the East Saint Paul community including cultural activities, traditional Hmong song and dance performances, storytelling, cultural workshops, and a community meal featuring Indigenous foods.

Soul of Music Community Development

Award Amount: \$20,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support phase one of a pilot project for the Soul of Music Museum. This project includes the creation of a virtual museum and programming, with activities such as the creation of two Minnesota-centered exhibits, podcasts, streamed concerts, interviews, curated archival features, and a youth leadership program designed to teach youth how to conduct research, archiving, curation, and digital content creation.



Stairstep Foundation

Award Amount: \$55,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the Minnesota Soul celebration, highlighting the African American legacy of arts, music, craftsmanship, and community vitality in the State of Minnesota.

Taiwan Online Library

Award Amount: \$60,000

Location (City): Saint Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support 'Formosa Footprints: A 60-Year Journey of Freedom for Taiwanese Minnesotans', a documentary film project that will preserve and share a powerful, untold story of the state's history. The film will explore how a small community of Taiwanese students and immigrants found their voice in Minnesota.

Taste of Minnesota

Award Amount: \$150,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of humanities-centered storytelling, cultural content, and community engagement elements for the Taste of Minnesota, a multi-day festival celebrating people, cultures, performances, and food that define the many communities in Minnesota.

The Link

Award Amount: \$92,407

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support expansion programming of We Will Breathe, a culturally specific Racial Justice and Healing initiative for Black Twin Cities youth. We Will Breathe is a youth-led space where young people explore identity, deepen cultural understanding, and confront the impacts of trauma and oppression. Activities include new program additions, including two new cohorts in 2026, peer facilitators, and expanded programs. The curriculum will guide 20-30 youth through identity exploration, cultural grounding, and trauma deconstruction.

The Lower Sioux Indian Community

Award Amount: \$135,000

Location (City): Morton

Project Overview: Funding will support a year-long series of fifteen Dakota art classes throughout 2026, designed to preserve, revitalize, and celebrate traditional and contemporary Dakota art forms. Activities include instruction classes for quilling, beading, brain-tanning, quilting, and pottery;



introductory classes in painting, woodcarving, basket weaving, embroidery, regalia teachings, and other traditional arts; and a showcase gathering of artwork created through these sessions.

The People's Depot Film

Award Amount: \$140,000

Location (City): Minneapolis

Project Overview: Funding will support the completion of 'The People's Depot' and two screenings of the documentary. The 40-minute documentary centers around Indigenous women of the East Phillips neighborhood determined to keep their families safe from harmful air pollution and increase community awareness of historical harmful effects of various actions while providing education on public health.

Victoria McWane-Creek

Award Amount: \$16,000

Location (City): Fergus Falls

Project Overview: Funding will support creative writing workshops designed for Black rural Minnesotans. Rooted in dialogic reflection, the Black storytelling tradition, and Black creative expression, the workshops will create the conditions for participants to explore formative life experiences, distill lessons of resilience and joy, and begin drafting chapters for a personal Book of Life.

Walker West Music Academy

Award Amount: \$175,000

Location (City): St. Paul

Project Overview: Funding will support the expansion of performances, recordings, podcasts, and string education activities that preserve and amplify African American music and heritage across Minnesota. Activities include new performances by teaching artists, students, and community partners; expanded recording and digital music activities; increased podcast episodes sharing intergenerational stories and community history; and expanded instruction and performance opportunities for BIPOC youth in classical music.

White Earth Tribal and Community College

Award Amount: \$250,000

Location (City): Mahnomen

Project Overview: Funding will support a Youth Camp Series and Indigenous Internship Program centered around Indigenous and LGBTQAI+ communities. The project seeks to honor and sustain Minnesota's cultural heritage by centering Anishinaabe lifeways through immersive, intergenerational educational experiences. With a combined Youth Camp Series and Indigenous Internship Program,



the initiative supports cultural revitalization, strengthens identity, and expands access to traditional knowledge.