

FY 23 McKnight Interim REPORT QUESTIONS

Below are four answer boxes. Using a different box for each program, please describe in detail each individual artist grant program that McKnight supports. If you have fewer than four individual artist grant programs, disregard the additional boxes. In your description of each grant program, please include answers to the following questions: How many grant applications did you receive for this program in your last granting cycle? Of these applications, how many were funded? Are there any grants or processes identified for potential changes? Any surprises?

Artists Quick Start Grant Program:

Individual artists may request up to \$1,000 for such things as equipment, attending workshops, traveling to study with a master artist, or purchasing supplies. There is one grant round per year.

Grant applications received: 12

Number of applications funded: 8

Changes for FY23? The amount of an individual grant increased from \$750 to \$1,000. The total budget for this program will increase from \$4,500 to \$8,000. This is possible because the Artist of Color Cohort is offered every other year. There will be no Artist of Color Cohort in FY23, so a portion of its budget of \$13,334, will be added to the Artist Quick Start Grants and the Career Development Grant programs. In FY24 when the Artist of Color Cohort returns, the Artist Quick Start Grant individual amount will remain at \$1,000 but the total budget for the program will be reduced.

Surprises? That increasing the individual Artist Quick Start grant from \$750 to \$1,000 tripled the number of applicants. The Artist Quick Start program was not fully utilized in FY22, we only had 4 applicants, in FY 23 we had 12 applicants and were able to fund 8 requests. Increasing the amount proved to be a good response to the feedback from artists that, "That the amount of the grant, \$750, was not worth it for the amount of work it is to apply."

Career Development Grant Program:

Individual artists may request up to \$2,000 to develop their artistic careers. There is one grant round per year.

Grant applications received: 15

Number of applications funded: 10

Changes for FY23? The total budget for this program increased from \$14,000 to \$18,000. This is possible because the Artist of Color Cohort is offered every other year. There will be no Artist of Color Cohort in FY23 so a portion of its budget of \$13,334 will be added to the Artist Quick Start Grants and the Career Development Grant programs. In FY24 the Career Development Grant individual amount will remain at \$2,000 but the total budget for the program will be reduced.

Surprises? No surprises, but I feel it is important to underscore that the Career Development grant continues to be a very popular grant for artists in our region and the financial support is greatly valued by our artists.

Fellowship Program:

The purpose of this program is to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding individual artists in the region. Applicants may request \$5000 to support a broad range of study or activities that contribute to their career as an artist.

Grant applications received: 7

Number of applications funded: 1

Changes for FY23?

FY 20 and 21 Fellowship reviews met with some criticism from applicants. They did not feel it was a level playing field, because literary artists' work was not reviewed at the grant round and there are also problems with the three tiered elimination process. The current review process focuses on artistic quality which is only one of the three review criteria, which are; 1. Artists past endeavors, 2. Impact the Fellowship may have on the applicant's career and future directions, and 3. The difference the artist may make in the region as a result of the Fellowship.

FY23 New process: The new process was tested at the FY22 Fellowship review and was successful in addressing the concerns raised in FY 20 and 21. In FY 23 Board members will continue using the new process, which is, to review the work samples, written and visual, before the grant round. Like the Career Dev. grant, there would be no review of work samples at the grant round. Applications will be approved using the same three motions used in the Career Dev. Grant review. 1. Applicant eligibility, 2. Project eligibility, and 3. Motion to fund. After motion to fund, discussion will follow of how well the applications meet the rubric/grant review criteria. Each grant would be ranked on their ability to will meet the criteria and the highest ranked is funded.

Fellowship Review Criteria used to rank the grants would change to Artistic Skills, Artistic Creativity, Artistic Originality, Work samples, Artistic Commitment.

Surprises? None

Artist of Color Cohort, a pilot program in FY22 that provides a 10 month program for 3 emerging artists of color. This program will be offered every other year. The next year it will be offered is FY24. The McKnight funded Artist of Color Cohort is designed to alternate with LRAC's Legacy funded Artist Cohort. One year LRAC will offer the Artist of Color Cohort, the next year the Legacy Funded Artist Cohort. Alternating years, best optimizes staff time and LRAC's resources.

The Artist of Color Cohort will achieve two outcomes:

Artist of color will have greater access to resources. Program activities that achieve this outcome are:

- One on one career coaching and goal setting
- Professional 1-2 minute video for self-promotion
- The Artist Spotlight, where artists are featured in the LRAC newsletter, Facebook, LRAC
- Artist Registry and LRAC Solo Gallery
- Reserved registration for the 12 session Work of Art series by Springboard for the Arts,
- How to create a professional Bio/Artist Statement workshop
- Components of a professional website workshop
- Grant writing workshop
- Grant proposal proofreading and editing
- Professionally photographed samples of their work and artists of color will feel encouraged and supported in their artistic journey. Program activities that achieve this outcome are:
 - Monthly virtual Talking Circles, where members of the Cohort will share struggles, successes, ask questions and hear the stories of other artists who have successfully navigated the challenges of being an artist of color.
 - Mentoring with advanced artists on how to improve their skills, technique and how to address the intangible career obstacles/challenges they may face.
 - Participation stipend. We realize that economic hardship is a barrier for emerging artists of color. Cohort participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend based on activities completed, \$500 payed at the half way point and final \$500 on completion of the program.

Grant applications received: 3

Number of applications funded: 3

Changes for FY23? none

Surprises? FY22 was the first year this program was offered and we were constantly adjusting and learning as we went along. This first year we focused on recruiting Native artists since that is the largest population of color in our region. We found it was very important to have a person from the Native Community help us reach out to Native artists to let them know this program was available

to them and to encourage them to apply. Laura Youngbird was our community contact. She helped connect us with possible Cohort participants and offered valuable guidance about how to support emerging Native artists. Based on the satisfaction surveys from the participants, the overall response was the program greatly exceeded expectations. There were three things the participants would like more of and that was, help with grant writing, identifying more grant opportunities and more chances to interact with each other during the program. These suggestions will be addressed in the FY 24 Artist of Color Cohort.

Describe other activities, if any, that were supported by the McKnight grant during the grant period (e.g., gallery exhibitions, workshops, other programming, etc.).

The Springboard for the Arts Satellite Office:

Budget: \$10,200

LRAC uses the budget to subsidize Springboard for the Arts rural headquarters in Fergus Falls. Springboard's Rural Program serves our nine-county region, as well as rural artists and communities across the upper Midwest. Springboard's Rural Programs provide technical assistance, regional and national convenings, residencies, and training that help bring visibility, resources and support to rural artists, creatives, makers and culture bearers. Their work also supports rural community leaders and organizations to develop local systems and programs that bring artists into critical conversations, engagement and storytelling about the future of small towns, micropolitan cities, tribal communities, and other rural regions. This work is customized based on community needs, budget, and capacity.

Springboards financial contribution to the local programming in FY23 was approximately \$250,000, with an additional \$650,000 supporting the rural programs outside of LRAC's 9-County Region.

Over 258 local artists in LRAC's region were served this past year through the Fergus Falls office, and an additional 645 rural artists being supported through Springboard's rural programs state and region wide, totaling more than 900 rural artists..

Local Programs (taking place in LRAC's 9-county region):

Professional Development workshops and panels: 106 local artists

Resource Center and one-on-one Artist Career Consultations: 102 local artists

Guaranteed Minimum Income Pilot Participants: 25 local artists

People Place and Prosperity Artists Cohort: 5 local artists

Return to Normal Exhibit (partnership with Otter Tail Public Health): 5 youth artists (approximately 1000 visitors)

Sustainability Studios participants: 7 local artists (with approximately 120 participants)

Future Fossils Land Based Art Installations: 8 local artists (with approximately 2500 visitors)

Statewide / National Rural Programs

Rural Regenerator Fellows: 20 artists

Rural Futures Summit participants: 112 artists

Artists on Main Street Artists: 32 artists

Rural Placemaking Community of Practice participants: 30 people

Rural Connection Fund Participants: 20 artists

Professional Development Workshops and Panels participants: 99 artists

Presentation and Outreach All Programs: 85 people

Resource Center and one-on-one Artist Career Consultations: 247 artists

What have individual artists in your region been talking about? Are there common themes, opportunities, or challenges?

Artists are still recovering from the impact of COVID 19 on their ability to produce, exhibit and sell their art.

All three McKnight funded grant programs are very important to artists responding to the FY23 Needs Assessment Survey. One on one help for artists, more ways to network with other artists and help with promotion/publicity continue to be identified as high priority needs. Needs Assessment Survey respondents more frequently mention cultural focused support and opportunities as important.

Attachments

Title	File Name
Financial Report	financial_template (6).xls
Individual Artist Report	RAC-Individual-Artist-Report-LRAC FY22.xlsx

Files attached to this form may be deleted 120 days after submission.