



LRAC AWARDS FIVE ARTIST QUICK START GRANTS

FUNDED BY THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Lake Region Arts Council, Fergus Falls, MN has awarded five Artist Quick Start Grants a total of \$5,000 at the September LRAC Grant Review that was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. The Artist Quick Start Grants are funded by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through The McKnight Foundation funding.

Lisa Burns, Visual Artist - \$1,000, Clay County

Burns will use the grant to enroll in online classes offered by master portrait artists and to create new dynamic works for exhibition. Burns hope that the classes will allow her to “gain the confidence to participate in national art exhibitions and competitions and to provide portraiture services for local and regional art patrons.”

Timothy Wollenzien, Musician - \$1,000, Clay County

Wollenzien will use the grant to attend and participate in the 2024 International Euphonium Tuba Festival at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He “intend[s] to use the Festival attendance experience as a catalyst to do more solo and chamber music performance in my community.”

Vanessa Gallagher, Stained Glass Artist - \$1,000, Otter Tail County

Gallagher will use the grant funds to expand her artistic abilities through a mentorship with John Olesen, Glass Blower from Clitherrall, MN, focusing on the technique of blown glass rondels to incorporate in a one-of-a-kind body of work. She hope the mentorship “will help me define who I am as an artist and gain education for my resume so I may continue to create work and apply for future exhibitions and gallery entries.”

Lera Hephner, Digital Artist - \$1,000, Becker County

Hephner will use the grant funds to use digital design to create fabric with traditional Ojibwe Floral designs to be used for everyday wear and home decoration, and also for powwow regalia making. She hopes to “share how beautiful and unique Ojibwe Floral is with the world, and pass on my knowledge of our art to Ojibwe youth.”



“Colorization of Stuart” Varnished Watercolor, 2021, Lisa Burns



“Family Bouquet” Stained Glass, 2023, Vanessa Gallagher



“Summer Ojibwe Floral Motif” digital, 2023, Lera Hephner

Zoey Zachek, Photographer - \$1,000, Clay County

Zachek will use the grant funds to purchase a camera for digital/darkroom photographic work. She stated: “I truly believe that in any space, a beauty can be found, and I aim to continue pursuing that as a photographer for the rest of my days.”

The LRAC **Artist Quick Start Grant** is a \$1,000 grant, open to all applicants in the LRAC nine-county region: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties. The next round of the LRAC Artist Quick Start Grant will open on July 1, 2024. This grant program is funded by the McKnight Foundation and these grants may take place outside of the LRAC region.

In the spring of 2024, LRAC will be offering the **Career Development Grant** for individuals in the LRAC region. The Career Development grant will fund up to \$2,000 per applicant for trainings, workshops, supplies, equipment, marketing, production, and time to create new work. The application will open February 19, 2024 and the deadline to apply is Thursday, April 4, 2024. Both the LRAC Artist Quick Start and the Career Development Grant are funded by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council with McKnight Foundation funding.

For more information contact: Miranda Lape, Grants Manager

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LRAC is a nonprofit art organization that provides grants, resources, and services to the nine county region; Becker, Clay, Douglas, Ottertail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties. Our mission is to encourage and support the arts in West Central Minnesota.



“A Familiar Hug”, Digital Photography,
2023, Zoey Zachek

