



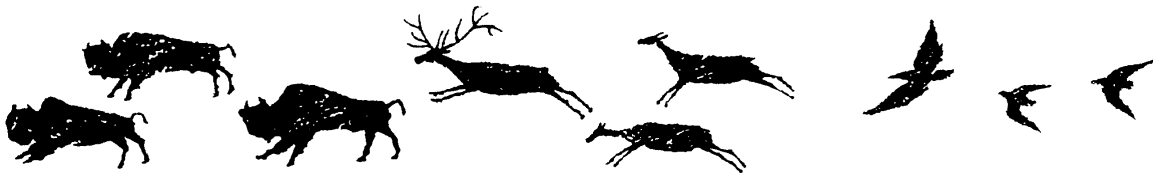
GOVERNOR
GREG GIANFORTE

STATE OF MONTANA

Governor's Budget
Fiscal Years 2026 – 2027

Cultural and Aesthetic
Grants Program

Montana Cultural Trust
Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee



Volume 7

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Report to the 69th Montana Legislature

<https://art.mt.gov/PDFs/CulturalTrustBudgetBook2627.pdf>

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October 28, 2024

Long-Range Planning Joint Subcommittee
State Capitol Building, Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

In accordance with 22-2-302 MCA, we respectfully submit the enclosed recommendations of the Cultural and Aesthetics Projects Advisory Committee (CAPAC) for the grant period fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Sincerely,

Krys Holmes
Executive Director

Tate Jones
Chair, Cultural Trust CAPAC

MONTANA'S CULTURAL TRUST

In 1975, the Montana Legislature set aside a percentage of the earnings of the Coal Tax to restore murals in the Capitol and to support other "cultural and aesthetic" projects. This unique funding source is a Cultural Trust, with money allocated every two years. Grant funds are derived from the interest projected to be earned on the Cultural Trust. The Montana Arts Council administers the program for the Legislature.

In 1983, the Legislature established a Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee with 16 members, half appointed by the Montana Arts Council and half by the Montana Historical Society. The committee reviews all grant proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Legislature, which determines who will receive grant funds.

Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee Members

Appointed by the Montana Arts Council:

- **Virginia Bryan**, Billings, arts coordination and literary arts specialist. Term: 2018-2026
- **Mary Callahan Baumstark**, Lewistown, visual arts organization and clay arts specialist and director of the Lewistown Arts Center. Term: 2018-2026
- **Troy Evans**, Roundup, visual artist, sculptor and furniture maker. Term: 2022-2026
- **Lee Ellen Hveem**, Billings, performing arts and organization specialist. Term: 2022-2026
- **Jennifer Jeffries Thompson**, Helena, history and education specialist. Term: 2022-2026
- **Bess Lovec**, Billings, performing arts, literature and education specialist. Term: 2022-2026
- **Susan Miller**, Bozeman, performing arts specialist, general director of Intermountain Opera Bozeman, former director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Term: 2020-2028
- **Ben Thiem**, Kalispell, performing arts and non-profit specialist. Term: 2022-2026

Appointed by the Montana Historical Society:

- **Jennifer Birnel**, Choteau, director of the Montana History Portal. Term: 2024-2028
- **Shane Doyle**, Bozeman, founding member Native Nexus, educational consulting specialist. Term: 2016-2028
- **Tate Jones**, Missoula, Chair, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History. Term: 2020-2028
- **Don Matlock**, Hamilton, Historic Preservation Review Board and former Director of the Montana A Cappella Society. Term: 2016-2028
- **Bruce Mihelish**, Lolo, Travelers Rest Connection and Travelers Rest State Park. Term 2024-2024
- **Peter Rudd**, Helena, preservation specialist and architect, Schlenker & McKittrick Architects, PC. Term: 2010-2026
- **Kristi Scott**, Great Falls, executive director of The Cascade County Historical Society/The History Museum. Term 2024-2028
- **Megan Sundy**, Missoula, grants and evaluation director for Humanities Montana. Term 2024-2028

**MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF CULTURAL & AESTHETIC PROJECTS
BUDGET**

	ACTUAL 22-23	AWARDED 24-25	PROJECTED 26-27
LINE 1 GRANTS	\$305,800	\$549,876	\$953,500
LINE 2 PERCENT CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	-21.67%	79.82%	73.40%
LINE 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL	38%	53%	67%
LINE 4 ADMINISTRATION	\$469,808	\$449,147	\$446,351
LINE 5 PERCENT CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR	-3.67%	-4.40%	-0.62%
LINE 6 PERCENT OF TOTAL	58%	43%	31%
LINE 7 RESTORATION OF CAPITOL MURALS & NICHES	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
LINE 8 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0
LINE 9 # GRANTS AWARDED	74	65	75

***SUMMARY OF CULTURAL & AESTHETIC PROJECTS
Budget***

The columns reflect summary activity for actual 22-23, awarded 24-25 & projected 26-27.

Line 1: Grants is the amount appropriated for grant awards in the agency's budget (HB9).

Line 4: Administration is the amount appropriated for administration costs in the agency's budget (HB2).

Line 7: Restoration of murals is the amount requested by the MT Historical Society for the purpose (HB9).

Section II. Criteria for Committee Recommendations & Definitions

The following criteria are used by the citizens' advisory committee to determine:

- if an application is eligible for funding,
- how an application competes against all others in a grant category, and
- the final set of funding recommendations to be presented to the Legislature.

Eligible Applicants

Any person, association, or representative of a governing unit may submit an application for funding of a cultural and aesthetic project from the income of the trust fund. The term "governing unit" includes state, region, county, city, town, or Indian tribe.

Examples include:

- county art or historical museums,
- cultural centers,
- public libraries,
- public educational institutions or school districts,
- state agencies,
- city arts commissions,
- parks and recreation departments, and
- tribal cultural or education committees.

Applications must be for cultural and aesthetic projects, including but not limited to:

- the visual, performing, literary, media arts, and folk arts;
- history, archaeology, archives, collections, research, historic preservation;
and
- the construction or renovation of cultural facilities.

Applicants are encouraged to serve rural communities, racial and ethnic groups, people with disabilities, institutionalized populations, youth and the aging.

Evaluation Criteria

From Administrative Rules Section 10.111.707

Committee recommendations to the Legislature of those projects which meet the evaluation criteria to the extent possible also must address the following considerations:

(a) taken as a whole, grants should assist the entire state;

(b) recognizing the special needs of access to cultural and aesthetic projects and services and the unique perspective, skills, talents and contributions of the wide variety of the people of Montana, the grants recommended, taken as a whole, should reflect and affirm that diversity, and as such, provide enrichment to the population at large.

These projects should encourage the expansion of opportunities for all Montanans to create, participate in, and appreciate the wide range of all cultural and aesthetic activities regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic origin, income, physical and mental ability, or place of residence; and

(c) a variety of different interests and disciplines within the eligible projects should be served and which also may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) service to local communities or counties, multicounty regions, and the state;
- (ii) service to urban and rural populations;
- (iii) special projects, operational support, and capital expenditures and
- (iv) single sponsors and those representing coalitions of a number of organizations.

Applications will be reviewed based on:

1. Unique programming or service provided.
2. Community value.
3. Feasibility.
4. Exceptional service to a priority area.

Definitions of Grant Categories

Organizations applied in the following grant categories:

Special Projects -

- specific activities, services or events of limited duration
- the expansion of on-going programs to meet defined needs
- projects which generate new sources of revenue

The Citizen's Advisory Committee developed a simplified application form to encourage applications from small communities and groups with little grant writing experience. All-volunteer organizations or those with no more than half-time staff wishing to request \$4,500 or less for a special project are eligible. These applications were reviewed separately from the majority of special project requests.

Matching Requirement: Generally, each grant dollar must be matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

Operational Support - These grants should neither reduce the applicant's fund-raising efforts nor support program budget, or staff expansion. The legislature will consider applications from:

- a. emerging cultural institutions--groups in the early stages of development which have been formally organized for at least two years with an on-going program and generally with paid professional staff;
- b. organizations with unusually high expenses and no local funding base, e.g., statewide service organizations;
- c. organizations which serve the entire state or a significant sub-state region;
- d. well-managed and established organizations confronting unforeseen emergencies;
- e. organizations recognized as essential to Montana's cultural life because of their excellent programming and longevity; and,
- f. organizations which provided a high ratio of cash match to their grant request.

Matching Requirement: Generally, each grant dollar must be matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

Capital Expenditure Projects -

- a. additions to a collection
- b. acquisition of works of art, artifacts or historical documents
- c. historic preservation
- d. construction or renovation of cultural facilities

Currently, capital expenditure grants are limited to 25 percent of all grant funds available.

Matching Requirement: Generally, each grant dollar must be matched with three dollars in cash or in-kind.

Definitions of Geographic Diversity

Urban — applications that primarily serve the cities of Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula.

Semi-Urban — applications that primarily serve Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Kalispell.

Rural — applications that primarily serve small communities and the surrounding area.

Statewide — applications that serve the entire state or have significant statewide importance. These include:

- statewide cultural service organizations that have a state-wide constituency within a specific cultural discipline,
- performing arts touring companies that perform in cities and small towns and,
- media productions that will be broadcast or widely available.
- projects or programs of state agencies

Grt #	Applicant Name	Community	Cat	Request	Recommend
2601	Billings Preservation Society	Billings	SP	\$20,000	\$12,500
2602	Chickadee Community Services	Missoula	SP	\$20,000	\$13,000
2603	Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture	Bozeman	SP	\$20,000	\$12,500
2604	Great Falls Public Library	Great Falls	SP	\$20,000	\$12,500
2605	International Choral Festival	Missoula	SP	\$20,000	\$13,000
2606	Mission Valley Live	Polson	SP	\$15,908	\$0
2607	Montana Jewish Project	Helena	SP	\$20,000	\$13,000
2608	The Extreme History Project	Bozeman	SP	\$20,000	\$13,000
2609	Working Quiet	Butte	SP	\$19,968	\$13,000
2610	Alberta Bair Theater	Billings	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2611	Alpine Artisans, Inc.	Seeley Lake	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2612	Alpine Theatre Project	Whitefish	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2613	Archie Bray Foundation	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2614	Art Mobile of Montana	Dillon	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2615	Arts Missoula	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2616	Bare Bait Dance	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2617	Billings Symphony Society	Billings	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2618	Bitterroot Performing Arts Council	Hamilton	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2619	Bozeman Art Museum	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2620	Bozeman Symphony Society	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2621	Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization	Butte	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2622	C.M. Russell Museum	Great Falls	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2623	Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery	Red Lodge	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2624	Carbon County Historical Society	Red Lodge	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2625	Clay Studio of Missoula	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2626	Cohesion Dance Project	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2627	Daly Mansion Preservation Trust	Hamilton	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2628	Glacier Symphony and Chorale	Kalispell	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2629	Grandstreet Broadwater Productions, Inc.	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2630	Great Falls Symphony	Great Falls	OS	\$50,000	\$12,500
2631	Hamilton Players, Inc	Hamilton	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2632	Helena Symphony	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2633	Hockaday Museum of Art	Kalispell	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2634	Holter Museum of Art	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2635	Humanities Montana	Statewide	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2636	Lewistown Art Center	Lewistown	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2637	MAGDA (Montana Art Gallery Directors Assoc)	Statewide	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2638	Mai Wah Society Museum	Butte	OS	\$20,046	\$13,000
2639	MAPS Media Institute	Hamilton	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2640	MCT, Inc.	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2641	Missoula Art Museum	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2642	Missoula Symphony Association	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2643	Missoula Writing Collaborative	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2644	MonDak Heritage Center	Sidney	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2645	Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras	Statewide	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2646	Montana Ballet Company	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500

Grt #	Applicant Name	Community	Cat	Request	Recommend
2647	Montana Dance Arts Association	Statewide	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2648	Montana Performing Arts Consortium	Statewide	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2649	Montana Playwrights Network	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2650	Montana Repertory Theatre, University of Montana	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2651	Montana Shakespeare in the Parks	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2652	Montana Youth Symphony	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$13,000
2653	North Valley Music School	Whitefish	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2654	Opera Montana (Formerly Intermountain Opera)	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2655	Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Great Falls	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2656	Park County Museum of Art	Livingston	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2657	Pondera Arts Council	Conrad	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2658	Preserve Montana	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2659	Queen City Ballet Company	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2660	Schoolhouse History & Art Center	Colstrip	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2661	St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival	Anaconda	OS	\$5,000	\$5,000
2662	Stillwater Historical Society	Columbus	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2663	Stumptown Art Studio	Whitefish	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2664	Sunburst Arts and Education	Eureka	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2665	The Myrna Loy	Helena	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2666	The Paradise Center	Paradise	OS	\$20,000	\$13,500
2667	The Roxy Theater	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2668	Tinworks Art	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2669	Verge Theater	Bozeman	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2670	Western Heritage Center	Billings	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2671	Whitefish Review, Inc.	Whitefish	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2672	Whitefish Theatre Co	Whitefish	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2673	Zootown Arts Community Center	Missoula	OS	\$20,000	\$12,500
2674	Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc.	Glasgow	CE	\$20,000	\$13,000
2675	Red Lodge Area Community Foundation	Red Lodge	CE	\$15,000	\$13,000
2676	Yellowstone Art Museum	Billings	CE	\$20,000	\$12,500
				\$1,525,922	\$953,500

2601 Billings Preservation Society, Billings

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Native American Artifact Exhibit Expansion

Short Description: Our Crow Warrior Shirt has been properly restored and conserved; now to expand the exhibit to include audio and visual interpretive elements and lighting.

Grant Use: Costs associated with building a permanent exhibit.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 6

Paid Staff: 1.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$471,572

Executive Summary

With our Crow warrior shirt preserved, restored, and enclosed in a custom museum-grade case (as funded by a previous C&A grant), we will now turn our attention to expanding the permanent exhibit to include interpretive material and lighting. Our first priority is the continued protection and preservation of the piece, which necessitates its location away from the normal tour path. We will facilitate supervised public access to this important material with trained staff and experienced volunteers. Interpretive material will be developed with resources such as the online Crow Language Consortium, Oly Hugs - drum maker, Aaron Kind of Chief Plenty Coups State Park, and others who have expressed interest and ability to foster Native American cultural opportunities. Signage depicting the process of restoration, the tradition of Crow warrior dress, and the materials and significance of such clothing will help us interpret what we know about the ways the Moss family interacted with local tribes during the period between 1892 and 1920. Language elements will include written text, spoken language, translation from Crow to English, as well as music and instruments. Interactive material such as drums, flash cards, recordings of speech and song, and touchable textiles will bring our stories to life and create a truly impactful experience for all. Proper lighting will aid safe viewing of the primary artifact as well as all related materials. These can be installed alongside the shirt on display in the Moss Mansion attic for supervised use but materials can also be occasionally moved as needed to locations along the museum tour path for easier access. Digitized files can also be created and shared in an online only exhibit that can be free to the public. While some subjects related to the interaction between Native Americans and western settlers are uncomfortable and difficult to explore, we are committed to telling true stories that illuminate the past and inform our future.

Mission

The mission of the Billings Preservation Society, symbolized by the Moss Mansion, is to inspire, to educate and to facilitate historic and cultural preservation activities for our community and for its future generations.

2602 Chickadee Community Services, Missoula

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: IndigiPalooza: A Celebration of Indigenous Creativity

Short Description: IndigiPalooza is a festival celebrating Indigenous creativity with special focus on storytelling through poetry and the visual arts.

Grant Use: MAC grant funds will support featured speakers' fees.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 5

Paid Staff: 0.2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$38,293

Executive Summary

The IndigiPalooza festival, taking place in Western Montana in summers 2025 and 2026, will kick off in 2025 with a keynote address by Joy Harjo (tentatively booked), the first Indigenous United States Poet Laureate, in a large venue such as the Wilma Theater or on the University of Montana campus. Activities will proceed throughout the next day at the Missoula Public Library, which offers its space free of charge. Potential features will be an Indigenous foods demonstration in the library's demo kitchen, panels of writers, a presentation on Indigenous entrepreneurship, an art installation, and a vending space for Native artists. The event will conclude that evening with another keynote by a significant literary figure or figures. In 2025, we hope to secure Chris La Tray for this role as the finale of his tenure as the 2023-2025 Montana Poet Laureate, possibly in conjunction with Indigenous poets laureate from other states. As we engage more deeply with the Native community to plan this event, more ideas may surface. We are securing funding to support Native artists: their speaking fees, travel including transportation and lodging, and gifts as part of a traditional protocol demonstrating respect when working with Indigenous people. We are also planning for the cost of the larger venue for the two evening appearances, promotional materials, and compensation for executive director, assistant, and our creative consultant. This particular grant application seeks to cover part of the speaking fees. We look forward to raising the remainder of the funds via individual donations and private foundation support.

IndigiPalooza will be a unique event in Montana, attracting artists and participants from across the state and perhaps nationwide. Chickadee Community Services, whose board is 100% Native, along with our creative consultant Chris La Tray (Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians), look forward to offering a dynamic creative experience for all who attend.

Mission

The mission of IndigiPalooza is to celebrate Indigenous artists and provide a free, public venue to showcase Native storytelling, poetry, visual arts, and more, to the broader Western Montana community and beyond. IndigiPalooza aims to fill a need not currently met by the various Native-focused events in our state, which typically exist in other arenas such as land use, health, and education. Yet Indigenous creative contributions are abundant and spectacular. Spotighting them not only aligns with the mission of Chickadee Community Services to support Indigenous education projects, but in this era of a burgeoning recognition via political, dramatic, and artistic accolades, IndigiPalooza will celebrate Native artists.

2603 Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, Bozeman

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Schools & Seniors in the Gallery: Engaging the Community with Visual Art Experiences 2025/27

Short Description: Schools & Seniors in the Gallery is a comprehensive art education program designed to engage and inspire community members of all ages from urban and rural communities with rotating fine art exhibits using visual thinking strategies.

Grant Use: Costs associated with exhibits and related education programming.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 12

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,121,223

Executive Summary

This project seeks to support and expand the Emerson's successful "Schools & Seniors in the Gallery" program. Established in 2003, the program connects Kindergarten aged youth through Collegiate aged students from throughout the south west Montana region to an enriching art experience. In September of 2017, we expanded to include senior citizens into the program. We are continually striving to increase participation by adapting our well-established program to best serve our entire community. Volunteer docents with extensive education and art backgrounds lead an inquiry-based tour through the Emerson's public galleries. This interactive tour places a premium on utilizing artistic vocabulary from the classroom, asking a logical sequence of questions to access and relate to the work, and to extract a story from the work that is both communal and personal. The tour concludes with a 60-minute hands-on art project that draws directly from techniques and ideas explored in the exhibits.

The project includes four "Schools & Seniors in the Gallery" focused exhibits during the grant period. The Cultural Trust grant supports exhibit fees including curation, marketing, didactics, maintenance, receptions, and artist honorariums, as well as project supplies, docent training, and busing to the gallery.

Mission

The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture's mission is to build community by promoting art and culture, set in a historic building.

To achieve this, the Emerson:

- Engages the public by hosting and curating exhibitions and programs of regional and national recognition
- Promotes arts education through its ongoing classes and outreach to public schools and the community
- Celebrates Bozeman's history through effective stewardship of its historic facility
- Offers the community a variety of spaces for studios, meetings, performances, receptions, classes, and other activities
- Leads the way in regional public art via citywide projects with lasting impact
- Works in collaboration with its tenants and other arts, cultural, and civic organizations to stimulate economic activity in Bozeman and to further its reputation as a regional destination.

2604 Great Falls Public Library, Great Falls

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Indigenous Programming and Engagement

Short Description: The goal of the Great Falls Public Library is to increase the number of Indigenous programs provided to the Great Falls community by inviting authors, artists, and public speakers to do free events for the benefit of cultural education for all.

Grant Use: Costs associated with visiting program leaders, including but not limited to travel and honorarium.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 5

Paid Staff: 31.6

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$2,606,164

Executive Summary

The Great Falls Public Library exists in Great Falls, MT to Connect People & Knowledge. We work hard day-to-day to make sure that the people of this community have access to information in an open and welcoming way. We serve all of Cascade County, which is 2,711 square miles with a population of 84,400 people as of the latest census. This population is incredibly diverse in race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomics, politics, and more. When we talk about the diversity within our community, it is easy to see why a library can be such an important place for growth, education, and community unity.

Our proposal for the Montana Arts Council Cultural & Aesthetic Projects is titled Indigenous Programming and Engagement. It is our hopes that receiving this grant for \$20,000 would help us grow our indigenous outreach and cultural education for all. We plan to use the funds to bring in native authors, speakers, artists, musicians, and educators on at least a quarterly basis to ensure that our community here in Great Falls can continue to grow, learn, and feel welcome. We believe that it is essential that we include cultural programming and events to meet our mission, and to encourage people of this community to join us as we learn together. Our guiding principals at the Great Falls Public Library are: Respect, Open Access, Customer Focus, Growth and Innovation, and Excellent Stewardship. Incorporating more programming to provide knowledge and information to the community about indigenous culture can easily be placed into each of our guiding principles. Respect the various cultures here in Montana, provide open access to information, welcome in all of our customers, grow as a community, and of course, be a steward for Great Falls. The Indigenous Programming and Engagement project is perfect for our diverse community and promotes the values of the MAC as well. Through public engagement, we can encourage creative potential and advance education through various forms of programs.

Mission

The Great Falls Public Library serves as a connection point; we empower the community and enhance the quality of life by providing individuals access to information and social, cultural, and recreational resources.

2605 International Choral Festival, Missoula

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: 2025 Montana International Choral Festival

Short Description: Biennial choral festival which brings renowned choirs from across the globe to perform for Montana audiences and engage with them in meaningful cross-cultural activities.

Grant Use: Provide rural audiences access to live choral music experience of MT International Choral Festival

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 150

Paid Staff: 1.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$172,858

Executive Summary

The Montana International Choral Festival (MICF), founded in 1987 in Missoula, Montana is one of a handful of world-class choral festivals that is non-competitive; and founded and continuously run by a dedicated group of community volunteers. The Festival is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by a diverse volunteer board, and dedicated to promoting artistic excellence, global understanding, friendship and goodwill primarily through the production of a four-day community festival event that connects musicians from diverse cultural traditions with regional audiences and local community hosts in rural America.

The 13th Montana International Choral Festival is scheduled for July 17-20, 2025 in Missoula. The Festival draws large audiences from around Montana and the Northwest. In addition to the full schedule of Missoula events, we work with outlying, rural communities to bring the Festival's inspiring choral music to audiences unable to travel to Missoula. To do this, we contract with a local transportation provider to bring choirs to these communities. This is expensive to do, thus we ask for your critical financial support for this outreach program.

So far, choirs from Germany, Uganda, Peru, Estonia, Georgia and Botswana have committed to perform in 2025; more are in the application process. Each choir presents a diverse repertoire of choral music from their country. Dressed in often vibrant, culturally representative costumes, they engage in meaningful cross-cultural experiences with the audience, some for a lifetime. Our goal is to bring international choirs into rural Montana to give superb choral performances to audiences who otherwise would not have this live opportunity; providing a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about different cultures, and to foster friendships with singers from these countries through public concerts, local home stays, and social activities. This grant would support free concerts to under-served and rural populations.

Mission

The Montana International Choral Festival, formerly known as the International Choral Festival, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting artistic excellence, global understanding, friendship and goodwill through choral music.

2606 Mission Valley Live, Polson

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$0

Project: Callaway Chamber Players Montana Tour 2026

Short Description: The Callaway Chamber Players is planning a concert tour of Western Montana in June of 2026.

Grant Use: Artist fees, airfare, per diem, rental car, venue rent.

Request: \$15,908

Volunteers: 0

Paid Staff: 0

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$0

Executive Summary

The Callaway Chamber Players Montana Tour will bring high-quality chamber music performances to four communities in Montana: Big Sky, Great Falls, Missoula, and Ronan. Each 75-minute concert will be followed by interactive elements like Q&A sessions and open rehearsals, designed to engage and inspire audiences. This tour addresses the scarcity of live classical music experiences in Montana, motivated by my personal journey growing up in rural Montana and the impact of early musical inspirations on my career.

Montana's vast and dispersed communities often lack diverse cultural opportunities. This tour aims to fill that gap with performances that showcase a diverse repertoire of classical chamber music. We seek to inspire audiences, particularly students, and foster a deeper appreciation for chamber music.

Big Sky: We will engage residents and visitors who appreciate high-quality music, building on the community's support for events like the Bravo! Big Sky Music Festival.

Great Falls: Partnering with Home Base Music LLC, we will offer performances to the local community and strengthen our relationship with this cultural institution.

Missoula: Focused on University of Montana music students, our concert will provide professional insights and inspire future musicians.

Ronan: Hosting a concert on the Salish and Kootenai reservation is extremely important to me.

This concert will offer a rare and enriching musical experience in an underserved area. This concert will be a partnership with Mission Valley Live, a local organization dedicated to bringing rich cultural experiences to Ronan and Polson.

The tour aims to inspire audiences, enhance cultural appreciation, support young musicians, and fill a cultural void in Montana's rural communities. We seek funding to cover performance costs, travel, and educational materials to achieve these goals and contribute to the state's cultural vitality.

Mission

The Callaway Chamber Players is a dynamic ensemble founded in 2022, dedicated to transforming the chamber music experience through innovative performances and educational outreach. Based in Columbus, Georgia, our group blends high-quality music-making with a commitment to cultural exchange and community engagement. With members from the U.S., Mexico, and Guatemala, we captivate diverse audiences with creative interpretations and inspire the next generation of musicians through masterclasses and festivals. Our mission is to enrich lives and expand the reach of classical music, one performance and one student at a time.

2607 Montana Jewish Project, Helena

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Montana Jewish Project Staff Support

Short Description: We seek support to help pay for new staff salaries for the Montana Jewish Project (MJP), a statewide cultural organization that works to counter antisemitism and build community through interfaith partnerships and educational activities.

Grant Use: Staff salary

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 30

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$197,286

Executive Summary

MJP is the first organization of its kind in Montana: a non-religious Jewish cultural center that serves the entire state.

MJP will use grant funds to transition its Executive Director from a volunteer to a paid position. A paid executive director will allow MJP to deploy its resources and volunteers more effectively. This will facilitate more robust fundraising efforts to make MJP more sustainable organizationally and provide greater opportunities for MJP to grow its suite of programs, which are currently at the limit of what an all-volunteer organization can manage.

MJP's programs—all of which are offered free of charge—demystify Jewish culture and share Jewish Montanans' deep roots in the state. This is particularly important in this era of rising antisemitism. Jews have lived in Montana since the gold rush, building businesses, participating in civic organizations and raising families in towns like Glasgow and Choteau and in cities like Butte, Helena, and Billings. Sharing this history with Jews and non-Jews alike challenges the pernicious myth of Jews as outsiders and promotes understanding and acceptance. These programs are often conducted in partnerships with local, regional, and national organizations. Upcoming statewide initiatives include

- Conducting oral histories with elderly Jewish Montanans, then using their reminiscences as the basis of an online exhibit and traveling public presentation.
- Distributing curriculum boxes on request to schools and youth groups with lessons focused on how Billings residents responded to an antisemitic incident in 1993. In 2022 and 2023, MJP sent over 80 of these free non-religious classroom kits around Montana; 60% went to rural communities, and 45% to towns on or bordering Indian reservations.
- Expanding its Speakers in the Schools program to share Montana's Jewish history with middle and high school social studies classes.
- Continuing to bring nationally renowned authors, filmmakers and musicians to Montana.

Mission

The Montana Jewish Project (MJP) fosters Jewish life and interfaith and community partnerships across the state from historic Temple Emanu-El (TE) in Helena. In 2022, MJP reacquired TE, Montana's first synagogue, and returned it to Jewish community ownership for the first time since 1935. Anchored in the rich history of Jewish life in Montana that this 133y-year-old synagogue represents, we bring Jewish traditions, education, and community gatherings to all of Montana. We collaborate with Jewish communities and congregations in every Montana city, with the many unaffiliated Jews across the state, and our non-partisan community and interfaith partners to counter rising antisemitism, and make learning about Jewish life, history and culture accessible. We are the only statewide Jewish organization in Montana.

2608 The Extreme History Project, Bozeman

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: The Story of Us: The Women who Shaped Montana Episodes 2 & 3

Short Description: A documentary series that showcases historic Montana women.

Grant Use: Costs associated with the production of the series, The Story of Us: The Women who Shaped Montana.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 15

Paid Staff: 1.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$125,744

Executive Summary

The Story of Us, the Women Who Shaped Montana is a captivating documentary series that delves into the untold stories of remarkable women who have left an indelible mark on the history of Montana. With a number of historic documentaries about the men of Montana, this film will feature and tell the stories of Montana women. Through compelling storytelling, archival pictures, interviews, and expert commentary, the documentary showcases the resilience, determination, and contributions of these unsung heroines.

Each vignette will begin by setting the historical context of Montana and the challenges the women faced in a predominantly male-dominated society. It then proceeds to highlight pivotal moments in each woman's life, providing insight into the struggles each woman faced and finally her triumphs and successes. Through personal anecdotes and historical accounts, viewers are transported back in time to witness the courage and tenacity of these trailblazers.

We produced the first episode of this Emmy nominated film in 2022. It featured the stories of Sarah Bickford, Maggie Smith Hathaway and Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. It premiered on Montana PBS on November 24 (Thanksgiving) of 2022, was nominated for an Emmy award in 2023, and continues to air on Montana PBS today. Because of the overwhelming success of this film, we have come to realize there is a hunger in our state for these stories. To build upon the pilot episode, we would like to develop two additional episodes (2 & 3) and new stories for The Story of Us series.

Our next two episodes will feature the stories of Rose Hum Lee, Helen Clarke, Rose Gordon, Ella Knowles Haskell and Fannie Sperry Steele.

Mission

The mission statement of The Extreme History Project is to make history relevant.

2609 Working Quiet, Butte

Category: Special Project

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Dear Butte: Writer and Musician Residency Program

Short Description: Dear Butte, operated by Working Quiet 501c3, is a no-cost residency program in Butte, MT, offering monthly stays throughout the year to national and international applicants.

Grant Use: Salary supporting 1 staff person

Request: \$19,968

Volunteers: 4

Paid Staff: 0

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$4,386

Executive Summary

THE PROBLEM: Lack of salary for the Executive Director of Working Quiet

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION: Special project funding from the Montana Arts Council will provide a first-ever salary for Christen Pickett, Working Quiet's Executive Director, ensuring she can continue to operate the Dear Butte residency program and related events.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Funding to support Dear Butte's administration will ensure its health, longevity, and ability to offer both a no-cost space to incoming artists as well as high-quality, donation-based community programming to the City of Butte.

Dear Butte opened its doors in January 2021, including with a direct financial investment from Mrs. Pickett. Since then, Mrs. Pickett has – without a dedicated salary – run the residency space while also organizing and executing the community programming. All revenue has gone towards the operational costs of running Dear Butte, which has become an internationally renowned residency program with applicants from throughout the US and Canada. Chosen residents are accomplished in their field and provide invaluable education and enrichment to Butte. The city has come to rely on the programming and community engagement provided by residents; now, Working Quiet seeks to ensure Dear Butte's future growth. A small salary for Mrs. Pickett will provide capacity for her to continue giving her time to this programming.

THE VALUE: Historically, Butte is an artistically underfunded city in a Montana; it also has a higher poverty rate than adjacent communities, compounding the difficulties in accessing and sustaining art entertainment and education. We must continue our efforts: without the residency space or community programming, we would leave an immense hole in our community. We request funding for Mrs. Pickett to be able to continue offering these activities – better equipping her to manage the residency space and community programming, and positioning her to implement and meet long-term expansion goals.

Mission

Working Quiet (a 501c3) operates Dear Butte, a single-family home in Butte, MT, which functions as a solitary, creative residency space for writers and musicians of any discipline. In being no-cost, Dear Butte removes class elitism from the creative process to promote equality in creative expression. As part of their residency, Dear Butte artists host relevant events for our community – including readings, workshops, and musical performance – and all on a donation basis; these events are a mainstay of community engagement, seeking to fill local deficits in artistic and educational programming, while providing the artists another no-cost avenue through which to extend their art to an interested audience.

2610 Alberta Bair Theater, Billings

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Alberta Bair Theater: Providing Cultural Vitality in the Performing Arts

Short Description: The Alberta Bair Theater continues 38 years of providing educational, engaging, and entertaining performing arts for Montanans of all ages.

Grant Use: Cost associated with visiting artists and educational outreach activities.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 140

Paid Staff: 11

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$2,954,125

Executive Summary

Serving as an important cultural anchor for south central Montana and northern Wyoming, Alberta Bair Theater (ABT) is the largest fully equipped performing arts venue between Denver and Spokane, drawing more than 120,000 people annually

Support from the Montana Cultural Trust enables the Alberta Bair Theater to fulfill its mission to provide education, enlightenment, and entertainment to the community. The theater provides cultural diversity to an underserved and geographically isolated population.

I appreciate the importance of a nonprofit organization staying true to its vision. ABT is guided by the commitment to continue providing quality programming, arts education, cultural diversity, community partnerships, and exceptional customer service to people living in Big Sky Country and beyond. Support from the C&A grant helps put the theater on stable ground to continue to entertain, enlighten, and educate the people of our region.

Jan Dietrich, Executive Director

Mission

The Alberta Bair Theater's mission is to bring the excitement of the performing arts to the Big Sky Country through quality programming, arts education, cultural diversity, community partnerships and exceptional customer service.

2611 Alpine Artisans, Inc., Seeley Lake

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Alpine Artisans' Cultural Arts Corridor in the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys

Short Description: Alpine Artisans' Cultural Arts Corridor consists of the In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Literary Festival, 2 Valleys Stage programs and in-school residencies, annual Tour of the Arts, after-school art and music classes, author readings and more.

Grant Use: Stipends for 2 Valleys Stage performers, Maclean Fest speaker fees and our student music classes.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 80

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$111,835

Executive Summary

Alpine Artisans Inc. (AAI) is a 33-year old membership organization of 250 dues paying artists and art supporters who work collaboratively to create a rich cultural environment that we call our Cultural Arts Corridor for the rural residents of the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys of Western Montana. AAI has responded to our region's geographical isolation and economic realities by building a multifaceted arts program to serve our residents and over 400 students in four rural schools.

AAI's particular strength is our ability to bring cultural programming to a community with over a 30% poverty rate that lives minimally 60-80 miles from any city and often cannot afford to attend and enjoy the cultural offerings of Montana's urban centers. Our work includes 1) 2 Valleys Stage, a major performing arts series featuring five community concerts along with dozens of annual workshops in our four schools with instruction by professional musicians and artists, 2) the Open Book Club author series, 3) Nature of Art 2-day fall workshop, 4) annual Loon and Fish Festival and Art Show, 5) Shakespeare in the Park, 6) our signature Tour of the Arts, a self-guided tour of over ten artist studios plus guest artists held each October, 7) our flagship In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Literary Festival, held biennially, 8) free art and music after-school lessons in Seeley Lake Elementary, and an ambitious Youth Grant and Scholarship Program funding private art and music classes, summer camps and higher education in the arts. This community's economy has been based primarily on the lumber industry and tourism. However this spring, Seeley Lake's largest employer, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, is closing, impacting over 100 local employees and their families. The resulting unemployment will also affect the local economy and the schools in innumerable ways.

Mission

Alpine Artisan's mission is 'to promote and preserve the arts in the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys of western Montana. We accomplish this goal through Arts Education, Outreach and Information Sharing. The vision of AAI's Cultural Arts Corridor reads: We envision a cultural arts corridor that fosters a creative learning environment, positive economic growth, artistic inspiration, and wilderness experiences anchored by the natural splendor of the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys, accomplished by an active and committed collaboration among artists, educators, businesses, and community leaders.

2612 Alpine Theatre Project, Whitefish

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Alpine Theatre Project FY6-27 Cultral Trust

Short Description: Alpine Theatre Project provides Flathead County residents and visitors with access to artistic excellence through professional theatre productions and theatre education featuring some of the most accomplished theatre artists in the nation.

Grant Use: Grant funds will be used to support ATP's ongoing professional and educational artistic programs.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 71

Paid Staff: 2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$730,636

Executive Summary

Alpine Theatre Project, Inc. (ATP) was founded with one philosophy in mind: geographic location should never limit a community's access to artistic excellence. Since 2004, ATP has brought theatrical production theatre education to Montana's Flathead Valley that is usually reserved for large metropolitan areas. Through our efforts, our community has seen the work of theatre artists who have performed in over 200 Broadway productions, and have won 5 Tony Awards, 9 Emmy Awards, 5 Golden Globe Awards, and 1 Academy Award. ATP has brought world and regional premiere productions to Montana residents including an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* starring Academy Award winner, Olympia Dukakis, *Stories by Heart*, conceived and performed by Golden Globe, Tony, & Emmy Award winner, John Lithgow, which enjoyed an acclaimed run of Broadway.

Alpine Theatre Project is also dedicated to creating the next generation's leaders, thinkers, and creators, by providing access to world class, professional theatre education. ATP does this through educational programs aimed at fostering confidence, creativity, and collaboration in local students regardless of economic or geographic circumstance. These skills are vital to success later in life: whether it's the creativity needed to confront life's challenges, the confidence needed to present one's self with conviction, or the collaboration needed to work toward a common goal. Since 2008, over 200 students from all walks of life participate each year in these programs. Inclusion is the hallmark of these programs. All students, especially those from disadvantaged economic environments and those with physical or mental challenges, are encouraged to participate, and no student is ever turned away.

ATP is requesting funds from the Montana Cultural Trust to continue these vital programs.

Mission

The mission of Alpine Theatre Project is to imagine without boundaries, to create vibrant professional entertainment and transformative arts education, to inspire the audience, artists, and next generation.

2613 Archie Bray Foundation, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Supporting community growth and enrichment at The Bray

Short Description: Support of operational stability, allowing The Bray to bring quality programming to the local and regional communities.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 23.8

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$2,157,571

Executive Summary

The Archie Bray Foundation respectfully requests funding for operational stability, allowing us to provide quality programming to the local and regional communities we serve. Through free exhibitions, lectures, school tours, community education, workshops, and other public engagement efforts the Bray aims to reach the wider community. The programmatic goals are to: 1) Attract high-quality ceramic artists to come to Helena; 2) Provide ceramics education to the local community; 3) Exhibit high-quality contemporary ceramics for the local community; 4) Support past resident artists and local ceramic artists with the availability of ceramic tools, materials and access to technical expertise.

Mission

For The Bray, the ceramic arts inspire creativity and connect people of all backgrounds and abilities through transformative encounters in the studio, in the classroom, at the table, and in the community. We are actively committed to promoting, celebrating, and sustaining the ceramic arts through the residency program, education, gallery, ceramic materials and technology, and community engagement on a local, national, and international scale. Our primary mission is to provide an environment and connection with other serious artists that stimulates creative work in ceramics.

2614 Art Mobile of Montana, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Operational Costs for Art Mobile of Montana

Short Description: Art Mobile of Montana takes an original exhibit of outstanding visual artworks by Montana artists to schools and other organizations anywhere in Montana, then provides presentations about the art and teaches hands-on art lessons for K-12 and all ages.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 0

Paid Staff: 1.2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$42,844

Executive Summary

Art Mobile of Montana (AMM) now in our 25th year is a cultural enrichment program serving from 5,500 to 12,000 people annually. AMM provides access anywhere in MT to contemporary, museum-quality original visual art. With our grant funds we make our services affordable for groups of any age. Primary targets are grades 6-12. We also serve assisted living and retirement communities, colleges, prison inmates, Hutterite Colony and Reservation schools, after school programs and home school groups. One of the AMM's most attractive features is that we come right to your door with our van and set up in your facility. We serve underserved communities and urban areas. Our visual art outreach program supplements school curriculum without replacing any teachers' responsibilities. Administrators or teachers are fully involved with planning as we integrate with school programs. Our teaching artists teach hands-on lessons and make presentations with interactive discussions about the art in our exhibit. We show a compelling diversity of art by Montana artists who are committed to and supportive of AMM and who welcome the opportunity to circulate their art statewide. We anticipate that our inclusion of Native American artworks will help preserve cultural and tribal traditions while educating non-natives about other cultures. Depending upon group size, multiple presentations and art lessons are available. We depend on grant funds that help to keep our services affordable. Art Teacher Leslie Snoke, CS Porter School, expressed how important the Art Mobile is to her school: "I love this program because even though we're in Missoula, it's still difficult to get all of the students to the Art Museum. I also like how intimate the presentations are and how students can see a variety of work in one place." Cleveland Lone Tree School has 9 students at 7 different levels: When the teacher asked for art lesson ideas our teaching artist referred her to a link to our lessons on our website.

Mission

The only program of its kind in Montana, this statewide service offers interactive presentations of curated exhibits, quality hands-on art lessons, and teacher education. AMM educates through art about the diversity of the human experience, culture, practices, customs, and history. AMM strengthens school programs by helping satisfy required mandate for art as a content area and providing opportunities for youth and adults to participate together in arts-learning through and about art. The annual traveling exhibits of 30 contemporary Montana visual artists' works, including Native American art, is accompanied with presentations by the artists and our teaching artist. We provide resources for about teaching art. Artworks enhance the exposure to exemplary artworks for all ages and cultures at any location, including the 7 Native American Reservations and Indian Reservation schools for the 12 federal and state-recognized tribes in Montana. Lessons satisfy MT State Standards for visual art.

2615 Arts Missoula, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Breaking barriers for Arts Missoula

Short Description: In a brief period, we have successfully leveraged new opportunities to enhance AM's impact and we are committed to sustaining this momentum and aim to double our positive influence on the community

Grant Use: Operating Support, focusing on growing our app and building out our membership structure.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 325

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$525,354

Executive Summary

Arts Missoula has been the local arts agency for Missoula since 1992, playing a crucial role in developing, supporting, and promoting arts and cultural activities in the Missoula community. As a valuable resource for artists, organizations, and the public, we are re-building our directories of artists, organizations, and venues on our website and in a new and very fresh app called Missoula Mosaic. This new app also includes artists resources, art calls, maps, scavenger hunts for art and more. We have significantly grown our weekly e-newsletter featuring local events with a keen eye on representing diverse and unique events.

Our programs include administering sister-city exchanges with Neckargemuend, Germany, and Palmerston North, New Zealand; organizing and promoting First Friday Gallery Nights; producing Missoula on Main on New Year's Eve which for over 30 years employs 100's of artists, technicians and venues and brings new audiences to the arts. we host German Fest, The Annual Arts and Cultures Awards and now, Dancing with Arts Missoula stars. We participating in local and national studies on the economic value of the arts. We actively advocate for the arts at the local, regional and national level activating our community to understand the profound impact the arts have on our economy.

Our relationship with the City of Missoula is growing. This year we've worked with Parks and Recreation on their strategic planning process by including artists providing workshops to initiate conversations about the communities usage of the parks system.

Additionally, we oversee the city of Missoula Public Art Committee and provide fiscal sponsorship for six community programs Sculpture Missoula, All City Jazz, Grow Music Missoula, Wheels on the Bus, No Joke Theatre and Indigenous Made Montana.

Arts Missoula has proven its worth to the city and county of Missoula and its residents, remaining a strong and stable organization through this period of significant growth.

Mission

Arts Missoula connects Art, Culture, and Community through Education, Advocacy, and Celebration.

2616 Bare Bait Dance, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Bare Bait Dance and the Westside Theater: devoted to expanding dance artistry in Montana

Short Description: Bare Bait Dance and its home venue the Westside Theater is seeking Operational Support to underwrite new and continuing dance productions and programming.

Grant Use: General operating support for Bare Bait Dance and Westside Theater

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 55

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$284,558

Executive Summary

Founded by and under the consistent direction by Joy French since its inception in 2011, Bare Bait Dance (BBD) is Montana's only full-season professional, contemporary-modern dance company. BBD was incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit in 2020 and a year later became manager and then owner of Missoula's Westside Theater. The Theater houses BBD's offices and a convertible performance/studio space with comfortable seating for 100 audience members. BBD and the Westside Theater programs offer a wide variety of opportunities for Montanans to engage with the art of dance. We are proud to be the premiere institution in the state with the sole focus of presenting dance to Montana audiences. Through our busy production season, we create paid jobs for dance performers and choreographers, inspire youth dance artists in our high school Apprentice Program, present regional and internationally acclaimed dance artists, and offer Montana audiences long-running dance performances to enrich their lives. The Westside Theater is an incredible resource for all Montanans. Movement artists from all disciplines have access to the venue with reasonably priced studio and theater space for teaching, rehearsing and performing. Our internal programming has also expanded dramatically in the last three years. As we enter our 14th season, we have added multiple weekly classes across a wide range of styles for both novice to advanced adult movers. Plus we are launching our REVEAL community workshop series to capitalize on esteemed dance artists touring our state and willing to share their talents with our community.

An Operational Support grant through the Montana Arts Council's Cultural & Aesthetic Projects initiative will help underwrite our programming and venue-related budget. We will continue to make dance available to local and regional audiences, keep the venue accessible for movers to learn and create, and inspire all Montanans to weave this exceptional art form into their everyday world.

Mission

Bare Bait Dance with Westside Theater commits to nurturing the development, education, and presentation of the performing arts in Western Montana, particularly celebrating dance and all movement arts.

2617 Billings Symphony Society, Billings

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Billings Symphony Operational Support

Short Description: The professional symphony of eastern Montana, in its 74th season, brings live music to the region through 25+ performances per year.

Grant Use: General Operation of the organization

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 100

Paid Staff: 10

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,662,236

Executive Summary

The Billings Symphony respectfully requests \$20,000 from the Montana Arts Council to continue our efforts of enriching lives through music. This funding will help support our concerts and Explore Music!, our education and community engagement component. The Billings Symphony is headquartered in downtown Billings and is the only professional symphony within a 130-mile radius. For 74 years, the Billings Symphony has received rave reviews of its Classic Series performances in recent years and has also expanded its season to include a new chamber-style series called the Sukin Series. The 100-plus member orchestra, 70-member chorale, and staff now produce an annual season of 10 Classic Series concerts, 7 Sukin Series concerts (a chamber/alternative series), and 2 chorale concerts from September through June of every season. The Free Family Series of 5 concerts is also a part of the annual performing season. The Family Series includes a children's concert, a family concert, school concerts, 2 Youth Orchestra concerts, instrument petting zoos, and the long-running popular Symphony in the Park, which attracts 10,000 attendees. As of July 1, 2022, the Billings Symphony took ownership of the Billings Youth Orchestra, which is now an established part of our Free Family Series. Under the direction and artistic vision of Music Director Anne Harrigan, the Billings Symphony also strives to extend the reach of live musical performances and engagement to include Montana residents who are geographically isolated and culturally underserved. Our education and community engagement division, Explore Music!, reaches over 37,000 people of all ages annually through outreach across the state. With a recent addition of a preschool program called Musical Storytime, the Billings Symphony is proud to say they reach people ages 3-103.

Mission

Mission Statement of the Billings Symphony: To enrich lives through music.

2618 Bitterroot Performing Arts Council, Hamilton

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: 2025-2027 Bitterroot Performing Arts Series

Short Description: The Bitterroot Performing Arts Series annually presents 6 world-class performing arts programs in Hamilton, MT.

Grant Use: Expenses associated with presenting the 2025-2027 Bitterroot Performing Arts Series

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 35

Paid Staff: 2.25

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$399,298

Executive Summary

The Bitterroot Performing Arts Council (BPAC) presents year-round performing arts programs in the Bitterroot Valley. Our signature programming is the six-performance Bitterroot Performing Arts Series presented each year between fall and spring in Hamilton, MT. The series focuses on bringing world-class artists from across many genres of music and dance, features cultural diversity, and is designed to appeal to all ages and demographics. Fall of 2025 will be the start of the 22nd season of the series, with over 140 performances to date.

Besides concert performances, visiting artists are asked to contribute some sort of educational outreach while they are in residence, and approximately one third of our artists perform some kind of outreach. These programs include student concerts, demonstrations, classes, and workshops. The outreach programs are organized by the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council and are offered at no cost to local students and other community members.

In addition to the Bitterroot Performing Arts Series, since 2022 the BPAC has expanded into year-round programming, including presenting several shows a year in Victor, MT, and an annual summer concert held at the Daly Mansion.

Mission

The mission of the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council is to bring our community together through the presentation of diverse performing arts experiences that enlighten, inspire, entertain, and educate.

2619 Bozeman Art Museum, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support for the Bozeman Art Museum

Short Description: The Bozeman Art Museum requests \$20,000 in operational support to underwrite ongoing programs and operations.

Grant Use: general operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 68

Paid Staff: 10.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$231,154

Executive Summary

The Bozeman Art Museum opened its doors on January 3, 2020 after working for 8 years to bring art programming to Montana through its exhibitions, classes, lectures and workshops. As there are no K-5th grade art teachers in the Bozeman Public Schools (with the exception of 2 schools), we are filling this need by teaching in 13 rural schools in Gallatin county and Park county (since 2017) having been told by Dr Priscilla Lund, from the education department of MSU that the greatest need for art instruction is in the rural schools. Our free classes afford students a 12 week program in skills based classical art instruction. Beginning in 2018 we added 270 home school students to this program. In the 2019 school year we taught 1,192 students, 2020 804 (reduced numbers due to COVID) and with our latest year-2023-having 1,485 students in 13 schools. We agree with Dana Gioia, in his commencement address to Stanford University: "The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society. We provide arts education so that we can have better teachers, doctors, engineers, mothers and fathers." Along with our school year program, we are teaching in local public libraries in the summer. We teach in Belgrade, Livingston, and Bozeman providing free skills based art classes to over 900 children. We also host art exhibitions throughout the year at our headquarters on Main street in Bozeman. We have been hosting world class artists teaching art workshops along with hosting lectures by artists, art historians and critics per year. We also added "Creative Aging" classes in three local nursing homes. We are working tirelessly to bring art and culture to southwestern Montana and look forward to expanding our program. We would be honored to have the Montana Culture Trust partner with us in our growth.

Mission

The Bozeman Art Museum's Mission is to inspire and foster creativity and a love of art through diverse and high-quality exhibits, programs, classes and lectures while our vision is to grow into an accredited museum where people of all ages can experience the transformational power of art. We value creativity, community, collaboration and culture. Not only does the museum enhance the quality of life of individuals, it adds to community vibrancy. We are working to provide art experiences in the visual arts for a potentially under-served population by focusing on rural communities and expanding our outreach to others in need. Ensuring public access to the arts not only enhances a community's vitality but extends to non-art industries such as tourism, economic and community development, educational programs, and health and human services. By cultivating an appreciation for and access to the arts, the Bozeman Art Museum is a powerful advocate for the public value of the arts.

2620 Bozeman Symphony Society, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Bozeman Symphony Orchestra Operational Support

Short Description: Support for the ongoing community education and engagement programming, and operations of the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 11

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$2,153,141

Executive Summary

The Bozeman Symphony was established in 1968 and has continually innovated and expanded its presence in Southwest Montana. The Bozeman Symphony Society presents a repertoire of symphonic and choral music performed for the benefit of individuals, students, and musicians residing in southcentral Montana.

In 2020, the Bozeman Symphony took a historic step forward by hiring Music Director Norman Huynh. Huynh brings tremendous vision to the Bozeman Symphony and has established himself as a conductor with the ability to captivate an audience through a multitude of musical genres. He is a recipient of the 2015 Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award for his work with the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra's Musical Explorer's Program and has been at the forefront of moving orchestral music out of the traditional concert hall into venues where an orchestra is not conventionally found.

Mr. Huynh has recently signed a 5-year contract extension and simultaneously launched our 5-year vision of the future, "Music that Moves Us". This effort will focus on expanding programming, enhancing education and community engagement initiatives, and bringing additional live performances to Bozeman and beyond. Our new vision for the future will help us reach broader audiences of all ages and backgrounds, better evaluate and deliver our programming, and bring patrons a new level of immersive musical experiences.

Our Community Education and Engagement efforts will be focused on bringing in new and non-traditional audiences, giving children a strong foundation of arts education and exposure, and expanding our rural programs to serve more communities.

Mission

To engage, unite, and uplift the human experience in Montana through music and the arts.

2621 Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization, Butte

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Butte Citizens for Preservation & Revitalization, Inc

Short Description: Butte CPR works to preserve historic buildings by awarding grants, promotes preservation through workshops, material salvage, and website engagement, and serves as a preservation advocate with local government, business, and civic groups.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 77

Paid Staff: 0.2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$30,861

Executive Summary

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization (Butte CPR) is seeking support for operational expenses in order to continue to grow our programs and serve our membership. Butte CPR's administrative coordinator position involves maintaining membership records and communications; creating our annual report and newsletters to members; interacting with the public on preservation matters; assisting with grants; coordinating projects and events; and attending and reporting on civic meetings (Historic Preservation Commission, Council of Commissioners, Urban Revitalization Agency). Your support for this position will allow Butte CPR's other revenue streams to be focused more directly on providing direct support toward our programs.

Butte CPR has an office space shared with another local nonprofit. The office is located at 27 W. Park Street in the heart of Historic Uptown Butte. Occasionally, we have the opportunity to serve people in-person seeking information about preservation projects and share information about Butte's architectural treasures.

Butte CPR has two significant programs: the Historic Improvement program, established as a preservation fund for building improvements, and the Story of Butte program, a website and free mobile app that allows users to explore Butte's unique history and architecture through curated, map-based, multimedia stories. These programs are in addition to our ongoing projects: salvage and sale of historic building materials, our annual Dust to Dazzle tour, and education and outreach on preservation topics.

In addition, we provide support to our affiliated non-profit subsidiary, Butte Historic Trust (BHT). For example, we have signed an interest-free loan of Butte CPR funds to finish BHT's current project, for which we expect to be repaid by the end of this year.

Operational support from the Montana Cultural Trust will enable Butte CPR to continue to fund the administrative coordinator position and to maintain its office space.

Mission

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization is dedicated to revitalizing Butte by preserving and protecting the town's historic cultural and architectural landscape. Our mission is to promote the preservation, reuse, and revitalization of historic buildings through education, advocacy, and financial assistance. We fulfill our mission by: organizing tours, including historic home renovation tours and online historical tours created for our website and app Story of Butte; offering hands-on workshops on historic preservation techniques; offering lectures, newsletters, and providing brochures on relevant preservation topics; advocating for sound historic preservation policy by attending and participating in historic preservation-related public meetings and informing our members and the public about issues of interest or concern; and providing financial support to citizens undertaking preservation projects through our Historic Improvement Program grants.

2622 C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: C.M. Russell Museum Operational Support

Short Description: The C.M. Russell Museum requests \$20,000 in operational support to underwrite ongoing programs and exhibitions.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 30

Paid Staff: 29.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$3,178,089

Executive Summary

The C.M. Russell Museum requests \$20,000 in operational support. The museum annually presents up to eight rotating exhibitions and maintains five permanent exhibitions. The staff cares for preserving over 12,000 objects in the permanent collection, encompassing fine art, artifacts, and archival materials, and managing artwork from over 500 lenders. We provide educational programs to support the collection through youth art classes, family events, adult lectures, symposiums, a summer outdoor series, and the annual "C.M. Russell is important because..." Fourth-Grade Essay Contest that collaborates with all schools in Great Falls and Cascade County. Most significantly, The Russell auction returned to its original location this year, breaking attendance projections and generating increased tourism income for Great Falls during Western Art Week. No small feat, this multi-day, multi-venue event is our most significant endeavor year after year. Operational support allows us to continue caring for our collection and masterpieces, sharing the body of work with the public through enriching exhibitions and programs, and keeping Montana History rooted in Montana through the knowledge of C.M. Russell.

Mission

The mission of the C.M. Russell Museum is to share, educate, and celebrate Charles M. Russell's art, life, and legacy, the art of his contemporaries, and all Western and Indigenous art and culture that reflects Russell's spirit.

2623 Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery, Red Lodge

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Operational Support FY25-27

Short Description: Seeking operational support so staff can work to develop good customer relations with visitors and artists as well as assist with public programming, exhibitions, and special events.

Grant Use: General Operating support associated with staffing and maintaining our organization.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 30

Paid Staff: 1.75

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$185,638

Executive Summary

The Carbon County Arts Guild requests a C&A Trust grant for operational support that will enable us to maintain and develop cultural programs annually for visitors and community members of all ages. The C&A grant will also help us to continue to offer emerging & established artists a venue to display and sell art in Red Lodge. Specifically, grant funds will empower us to have staffing needs met so we can maintain the galleries, coordinate art education outreach to rural schools, offer scholarship opportunities, as well as provide workshops, art camps, gallery talks, special events like the Labor Day Arts Fair which helps to boost the economic needs of our community.

A C&A grant will also enable CCAG to once again be properly staffed & open to the public year-round. Artists appreciate CCAG being open all year because of the opportunity for more art sales. The community likes the Guild to be open year-round because we provide a creative outlet through workshops and classes. Tourists and seasonal residents who visit throughout the year find inspiration and joy by purchasing regional art that captures a memory of their stay in Red Lodge or Montana from a non-profit organization.

We have moved to attract a broader audience by developing a store page on our website & re-structured the annual Art in the Beartooths fundraiser so there is an in-person component and an online presence. These projects take staff attention and as stated above, a C&A grant would give us the financial tools we need to have appropriate staff to address and maintain this addition.

It is our goal to continue to develop partnerships with local and statewide organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association, Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Roosevelt Center, Red Lodge Carnegie Library, Red Lodge Ski Mountain & Golf Course as well as the MT Art Gallery Directors Association, MT Arts Council, Studio Art Quilts Associate MT/ID Chapter, and Tippet Rise.

Mission

The Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery provides access to art, supports artistic expression, and encourages creative experiences for the enrichment of our communities.

2624 Carbon County Historical Society, Red Lodge

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Operational Support for the Carbon County Historical Society & Museum

Short Description: Carbon County Historical Society & Museum (CCHSM) operational support of the all aspects of the Museum building.

Grant Use: General operating support.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 10

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$96,776

Executive Summary

The Carbon County Historical Society & Museum (CCHSM) requests operational support from the Montana Cultural Trust Grant program in the amount of \$20,000 to help with the daily operations and payroll of the Museum. CCHSM is a small rural organization that owns and operates the Carbon County Museum in Red Lodge, Montana. The museum is located in a three-story historical brick building which is listed on the National Historic Register and also within the Red Lodge Downtown Historical Commercial District. The museum contains the collections of the history and culture of Carbon County, Montana. Museum staff and volunteers run the day-to-day functions of the organization that includes collections, archive and data managements, accessioning, membership and fundraising, volunteer recruiting and coordination, engagement of visitors, operations of the museum mercantile, and development of programming. This grant will provide operational assistance in the help with paying of electrical, water, heating, security, phone and internet costs and other operational functions that are needed to properly maintain all aspects of a 110 year old building.

Mission

Our mission is to preserve and communicate the history, both human and natural, of Carbon County, Montana and our surrounding area.

2625 Clay Studio of Missoula, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Clay and Community - The Clay Studio of Missoula

Short Description: To provide access to ceramic arts experiences, education and resources to the Missoula, MT region

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 117

Paid Staff: 6

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$476,153

Executive Summary

Founded in 1998 by former University of Montana students, The Clay Studio of Missoula (CSoM) was established to fill a void in Missoula's growing community—the need for a comprehensive ceramic center where classes could be held and where serious but less established ceramicists could access studio space and professional quality equipment at a reasonable cost.

CSoM has grown significantly over the past 26 years, expanding our footprint to accommodate increased arts programming in our community, and provide more services and space for artists to come work. This includes our residency program, where artists focus on developing artwork, gain valuable technical skills and experience, and integrate into Missoula's creative community. CSOM offers facilities and workspace to artists in the region and provides classes and workshops year-round in two classrooms. We have a gallery that hosts exhibitions that are open and free to the public. Exhibits mainly feature emerging artists, regional ceramics and our sales gallery provides opportunities for regional makers to show and sell their work.

As we are the only non-profit art center focused solely on clay in the Missoula area, we are committed to increasing access and engagement within the regional community we serve. This includes collaborating with service organizations working with underserved populations so we can most effectively provide arts experiences to individuals whose opportunities are limited.

Managing accessible resources in ceramics comes at a great cost, including equipment, area needed to house space and facilities, and high energy expenses. Because costly equipment and the proper management of it is essential for us to achieve our mission, we have an increasingly large amount of funds to secure every year. Cultural Trust funding will bolster operating expenses, ease fundraising pressures, and allow CSOM to do the good work we do by creating accessibility to ceramic art experiences in our community.

Mission

The Clay Studio of Missoula is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, education and provision of resources in the ceramic arts.

2626 Cohesion Dance Project, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Cohesion Dance Project's Dance and Arts Outreach Program

Short Description: Providing performance opportunities and dance/arts education to people of all ages and abilities, in communities and schools across the state.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 35

Paid Staff: 3.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$242,812

Executive Summary

CDP is requesting Cultural Trust grant funding for operational support of its community outreach programming, providing professional dance performance and arts education to individuals and communities across the state. Three aspects of this programming include: 1) an annual school matinee performance of CDP's flagship production, "Shira Greenberg's Nutcracker on the Rocks" (NOTR), providing a unique opportunity for school-aged youth, including at-risk and disadvantaged youth, to experience a live, professional theater production showcasing an integrated cast of all ages and abilities at the Helena Civic Center, something many of these youth never get the chance to experience; 2) movement and arts outreach classes across the state, for infants to older adults, including specifically designed classes for adults and youth with developmental disabilities, conducted in schools (preschool through college), alternative learning centers, special education classrooms, community centers, senior living facilities, group homes, community service organizations, residential treatment centers, and in CDP's home studios when needed; and 3) movement arts residencies and performances led by CDP's annual Spring Guest Artist-in-Residence. The above activities will be implemented by CDP's professional dance educators along with visiting guest artists specifically trained to provide dance/arts education to a broad spectrum of ages and abilities. To make these projects feasible and accessible for participating individuals and groups, all of CDP's programming is provided at minimal to no cost for participants. With a focus on at-risk youth, low-income families, and people with disabilities, who are often not afforded the same opportunities as others, support from the Cultural Trust will help CDP reach these greatly underserved populations and communities to provide meaningful and enriching life experiences.

Mission

Cohesion Dance Project (CDP) is a non-profit dance production company with a mission to create engaging performances and integrated educational experiences that enrich, inspire, and unite the community through dance. CDP envisions a community with an expanded understanding of inclusion and acceptance of dance as an art form that fully embraces people of all ages, abilities, experiences, and backgrounds. Since 2012, CDP has grown, diversified and flourished, providing contemporary dance training for community dancers, professional artists and people with disabilities, staging multiple professional performances each year, and conducting school and community outreach through movement arts education for people of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities and special needs. CDP also administers the Cohesion Center, a facility that has become a community resource where artists and dance, fitness, and theater groups conduct classes, share performances, and display their art.

2627 Daly Mansion Preservation Trust, Hamilton

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Operating Support for the Daly Mansion

Short Description: This grant supports the important day-to-day operations of the Daly Mansion as administered by the Daly Mansion Preservation Trust.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 100

Paid Staff: 4

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$411,315

Executive Summary

The Daly Mansion is a historic landmark that preserves the legacy of "Copper King," Marcus Daly, a prominent figure in Montana's history and the development of the region's mining and economic industries. Supporting the maintenance, restoration, and public operation of the Mansion honors his legacy and the contributions of the Daly family to Hamilton and Montana, celebrating their impact on local history and the community's development. The state of Montana owns the Mansion grounds and property; however, the Daly Mansion Preservation Trust (DMPT), which operates the facility for the public benefit, receives no regular support from the state. The Daly Mansion Preservation Trust requests \$20,000 to support the year-round programming the Mansion provides to local, regional, and statewide audiences. That programming regularly includes guided tours, school outreach and field trips, lectures, educational events, and community collaborations that celebrate our community's wide range of arts and culture. The Daly Mansion - filled with antiques, historical documents, and photos - is a beloved heritage site in the Bitterroot Valley, drawing over 10,000 visitors during the summer high-tourist season and reaching thousands more via special events and school tours. Four paid employees and 100 regular volunteers coordinate the bustling activities at the Mansion. The property, a National Trust for Historic Preservation site, is a source of pride for our region, stimulates the local economies of Ravalli and Missoula counties, and is one of the most visible and heavily trafficked tourism sites in western Montana. Supporting the operation and management of the Mansion as a community landmark promotes cultural enrichment, boosts tourism and economic development, fosters community pride, and ensures that this significant piece of local history is preserved and accessible to future generations.

Mission

The Daly Mansion Preservation Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the Daly Mansion, its buildings, grounds and the history they convey. It is a center for education, cultural and community activities.

2628 Glacier Symphony and Chorale, Kalispell

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Music for All

Short Description: Glacier Symphony provides Music for All throughout the year including a wide variety of symphonic music performances, youth music experiences, and community outreach programs including Heartstrings.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 60

Paid Staff: 6

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,067,425

Executive Summary

Glacier Symphony Orchestra and Chorale (GSOC) respectfully requests \$20,000 from the Montana Arts Council Cultural Trust to support operating expenses in the 2025 - 2027 fiscal years.

Glacier Symphony performs every month of the year for audiences in the Flathead Valley and beyond. 18+ dedicated orchestra and chorale musicians from the local area and across western Montana work diligently to prepare, rehearse, and perform exceptional music appealing to diverse groups. At the heart of GSOC's impact is its deep roots in the community. For over four decades, GSOC has been offering regular performances that showcase local talent. This commitment has developed local skill, fostered pride among performers, and ensured consistently exceptional experiences for audiences.

In addition to 24 concert performances each year, GSOC offers several smaller musical events (Soloist Spotlight Series), Youth Music Experience programs, and community outreach programs including Heart Strings (music for healthcare, memory care and senior living facilities.)

Mission

The mission of the Glacier Symphony Orchestra and Chorale (GSOC) is to provide a diverse range of excellent musical and educational experiences in Northwest Montana which will entertain, inspire, challenge, and educate students, musicians, and audiences.

2629 Grandstreet Broadwater Productions, Inc., Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Grandstreet Theatre FY24-26 Cultural Trust Grant

Short Description: Grandstreet Theatre seeks General Operating Support to continue our annual mainstage production season, after-school theatre education program, and annual summer camp.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 300

Paid Staff: 12

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,187,198

Executive Summary

Grandstreet produces seven to eight mainstage productions annually in our 200-seat beautiful turn-of-the-century Romanesque granite church and is also home to a nationally recognized theatrical education program welcoming over 350 students a year. Focused on the needs of the Helena community, Grandstreet offers high-quality theatre at an affordable ticket price for the Helena community featuring community members and artists and provides outstanding theatrical education for children and adults. In the upcoming years, we are working towards opening our doors even wider and exploring new opportunities to build relationships with the residents and businesses in the Capital region. As we near our 50th anniversary, we are reflecting on our half-century legacy in Helena and considering how to honor our past and meet the future, developing new artists and audience members, and ultimately working in service of the people of Helena.

As a performance-based non-profit, Grandstreet is still recovering from the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. The increased costs of goods and labor combined with shifting audience behaviors are specific challenges to our community theatre. General Operating Support through the Cultural Trust will help us continue to stabilize our footing and maintain our vital public services to local artists, patrons and students in the Helena area.

Mission

Grandstreet Theatre is a community-powered theatrical organization working to elevate the human spirit and brighten Helena, Montana through live theatre and theatrical education. Grandstreet produces eight mainstage productions annually in our 200-seat historic building and is also home to a nationally recognized theatrical education program. For almost 50 years, Grandstreet Theatre has provided Montana's capital region with opportunities to experience and participate in locally grown, sustainable, world class theatre.

2630 Great Falls Symphony, Great Falls

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support for the Great Falls Symphony

Short Description: This grant award will be used to support the general operations of the Great Falls Symphony Association-- a nonprofit arts organization that has been serving Great Falls for over 64 years.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$50,000

Volunteers: 250

Paid Staff: 16

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,170,309

Executive Summary

The Great Falls Symphony Association is an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural organization, incorporated in 1959, that offers a variety of live symphonic and chamber music within its mission to make Great Falls a better place through music. The Great Falls Symphony includes a 65-member professional Orchestra, an 80-member Symphonic Choir and a professional resident chamber ensemble, the Cascade (string) Quartet. The Great Falls Symphony Orchestra presents a 10-concert classical series every year and plays host to a variety of guest artists and resident composers. The Cascade Quartet presents 8 chamber concerts annually in Great Falls. They also tour Montana and the United States, performing and hosting workshops and educational programs. Two Youth Matinees and a free Family Matinee are presented each season and have served well over 120,000 students from the public, private and home schools in a 100-mile region around Great Falls.

A Youth Orchestra program was established in 1996 under the umbrella of the Great Falls Symphony Association that supports a Youth Orchestra, a String Orchestra, and a Youth Chamber Music Program. Over 100 talented young musicians grades 6-12 from Great Falls and surrounding areas participate in the program every year. Cultural Trust operational support grant funding will help support these rich and diverse mix of programs include orchestra, choral, chamber and educational programs which reach up to 40,000 people annually.

Mission

The Great Falls Symphony is dedicated to making the Great Falls community a better place to live through music.

2631 Hamilton Players, Inc, Hamilton

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Hamilton Players Operational Support

Short Description: This request is for support for the day-to-day administration and operation of Hamilton Players, Inc., a 168 seat community theater with year round programming.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 268

Paid Staff: 2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$231,438

Executive Summary

Hamilton Players, a 168-seat community theater, requests \$20,000 for operating expenses. Studies show the arts are essential to the health of a community; they strengthen the economy, drive tourism, benefit local businesses, improve academic performance, spark creativity and innovation, and improve the sense of individual and community well-being. Hamilton Players' programs allow Ravalli County and its visitors to experience, create, appreciate, and be educated through performing arts events. Each year, these events include 4 full-stage plays/musicals, 4 reader's theaters, up to 32 weeks of K-12 education, 2 off-site productions, and an abundance of community outreach experiences and unique local collaborations. They maximize their outreach by providing tickets to at-risk and marginalized populations through community partnerships. Most recently, Hamilton Players has expanded their neurodivergent outreach with specialized classes and collaborations with autism specialists.

Hamilton Players is led by a capable, experienced Executive Director with an advanced degree in nonprofit administration and a dedicated, hardworking Board of Directors. It has a core of over 250 volunteers and advisors who make the programming possible, and assessments are built into the programming to ensure it constantly improves its scope and execution. The combination of regular assessments, outstanding organizational leadership, and a first-class volunteer faction positions the Players perfectly to provide essential, high-quality arts experiences.

Hamilton Players is proud that over 75% of its \$225,000 budget is generated by patrons, demonstrating the widespread regard that the community has for the programming and services. A \$20,000 grant from the MT Cultural Trust would enhance Hamilton Players' ability to provide inspiration and cultural advantage to Ravalli County residents, regardless of their age, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, income, or physical/mental abilities.

Mission

Hamilton Players' mission is to enrich our community by inspiring and educating through the performing arts.

Hamilton Players, Inc. is a non-profit arts and education organization that honors diversity and provides inclusive opportunities to community members of all ages. We offer a safe environment to learn, improve, and apply theater skills to nurture a lifelong appreciation for the arts. To accomplish this, we will:

1. Provide opportunities for community members to learn, improve, and apply their skills.
2. Provide a safe, comfortable, and functional performing arts facility.
3. Educate local students in the theater arts.
4. Contribute to the cultural and economic health of the community.
5. Foster an appreciation for the theater arts among community members of all ages.
6. Partner in the community to strengthen a sense of inspiration, wonder, and/or personal growth through the performing arts.

2632 Helena Symphony, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Investing in Artistic & Audience Growth

Short Description: The Helena Symphony will connect the community with music and be integral to life in the region through current programs, expanded access to symphonic music education, and investment in underserved art forms such as fully-staged opera.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 150

Paid Staff: 7.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,178,044

Executive Summary

The Helena Symphony (HSO) is seeking general operating support in the 26-27 grant cycle. The Helena Symphony is the oldest year-round performing arts organizations in Helena, reaching 30,000 individuals annually from across Montana and surrounding states with captivating performances and education opportunities like the Masterworks Concert Series, Symphony Kids, the Annual Youth Concert, and Symphony Under the Stars. In the HSO's strategic plan released in 2022, the HSO outlines the goals, priorities, and strategies that will foster meaningful growth and engagement over the next 5 years. "Looking to the future, the vision for the Helena Symphony is to make a meaningful economic, educational, cultural, and social impact on the region." The work included in the scope of this proposed grant includes the growth of Symphony Kids, the presentation of fully staged opera, the programming of Montana premieres and works by underrepresented or contemporary composers, and the continued development of far-reaching performances like the Annual Youth Concert and Symphony Under the Stars. Through the operational support provided by the 26-27 Cultural Trust cycle, the Helena Symphony intends to continue operations of established programs like the Masterworks Concert Series and Symphony Kids, while continuing to evolve these programs where there is a demand from the community. The HSO will write and implement original Symphony Kids concerts to supplement the current repertoire and add additional performance elements as audience demand has risen significantly over the last year. The HSO will also cement opera as an annual focal piece of the Season including double performances and professional stage design, lighting, and vocalists. Finally, the HSO will continue to invest in dynamic and fresh programming that create space for contemporary and underrepresented composers and will provide new and returning HSO audiences with performances that are unique to the Helena Symphony.

Mission

The mission of the Helena Symphony is to engage, enrich, transform, and inspire lives through music. This mission is realized through the Helena Symphony's core values of artistic excellence, financial sustainability, organizational viability, education, inclusivity, and community engagement.

2633 Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Continuing the Artistic Legacy: Art Programs at the Hockaday Museum of Art

Short Description: We are seeking funds to continue and improve our quality free and low-cost educational and community art programs both in-person and online.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 200

Paid Staff: 4

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$430,448

Executive Summary

Hockaday Museum of Art is dedicated to enhancing community access to art through a diverse range of free and low-cost educational programs and community activities. Hockaday's initiatives, which span in-house, off-site, and online platforms, are designed to make art and cultural education accessible to all demographics, including underserved groups. Hockaday's offerings include opportunities for education, cultural appreciation, and continued engagement with the arts

- o Rotating, year-round art and cultural exhibitions.
- o Collaboration with indigenous tribes to provide educational and cultural classes.
- o Free programs tailored for senior citizens.
- o Year-round field trips, classes, and programs for K-12 students, including those from area schools, rural schools, and homeschool groups.
- o Continuing education workshops for artists.
- o Open access days to promote community involvement and cultural appreciation.
- o Reduced or free admission for seniors, college students, veterans, active military, and youth under 18.
- o Partnerships with area schools to enhance art education.
- o Virtual exhibitions, live video talks and field trips for those unable to visit in person, bringing the museum's offerings to a broader audience.
- o Online family arts activities designed to engage families in creative endeavors from the comfort of their homes.
- o Continuing enhancement of online resources to offer enriching art experiences remotely.
- o Commitment to providing outstanding educational and inspiring exhibits that draw from both historical and contemporary art.
- o Ongoing projects and programs that align with the museum's mission and support creativity within the community.

Hockaday's dedication to providing accessible and inclusive educational programming and its continuous adaptation to meet the evolving needs of the community underscore its commitment to fostering a culturally rich environment. The request for operating support aims to sustain and expand these vital programs.

Mission

Our mission at the Hockaday Museum is to enrich the cultural life of our community and region, and preserve the artistic legacy of Montana and Glacier National Park.

2634 Holter Museum of Art, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Regenerative Operational Support for Holter Museum of Art

Short Description: The Holter Museum of Art seeks regenerative support for its ongoing, innovative art and cultural education programs for all ages and audiences, with the aim to celebrate the power of art, in all its forms and expressions, to transform lives.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 7.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$728,289

Executive Summary

The Holter Museum of Art seeks Operational Support to sustain & expand our youth programs, including school tours, ATAC (Afterschool Teen Arts Council), AFS (Art for Survival), and ArtFeeds. With support from individual donors, St. Peter's Health, Mountain Pacific, private foundations, & public grants including the Cultural Trust, these programs continue to grow and reach more area youth and disadvantaged adults.

We currently partner with area schools to bring in one grade per year to the museum for tours led by our docents, which include interactive creative activities relating to the exhibits the children see. In 2023/2024, 1000+ 3rd graders from the Helena Public School district toured the museum during the school year.

ATAC is geared to youth (some at-risk) who want to develop artistic skills & engage in leadership and community opportunities. Through projects with the Holter and in the community, they learn about communication, teamwork, and working in the arts as a profession. ATAC teen Bolotsky said, "Being able to connect with other kids like me - artsy, creative and social justice oriented has been an important part of my high school years. At the Holter, I don't have to worry about feeling lost because I am home in this incredible creative space."

AFS was formed in 2017 in response to teen suicide, a serious community issue in Helena where 7 deaths occurred in a short span of 5 years. The museum stepped in to bring artists & students together weekly to help teens use the arts to work through personal & social issues. One teen said, "Art for Survival is my second therapy for the week. But here, I control what happens. I can write or draw or create anything. I have role models and peers who I relate to."

ArtFeeds is a program for middle school students akin to Art for Survival. This program allows participants to work with artists exploring ways to use visual arts to help navigate life while expressing in a space shared with peers.

Mission

At the Holter Museum of Art, we aspire to be a beacon of artistic excellence through innovative exhibitions, inspiring creativity in our educational programs, and forging meaningful connections between artists, artworks, and our community. Committed to showcasing both established and emerging artists, we aim to be a vibrant hub that celebrates the power of art, in all its forms and expressions, to transform lives.

We do this best through our Core Values: Exhibiting Excellence, Preservation & Innovation, Education & Engagement, Collaboration & Partnerships, Stewardship & Sustainability. We believe that art is for ALL, welcoming people from all backgrounds to engage in our programs and exhibits and celebrate the rich artistic and cultural tapestry of our community and world.

2635 Humanities Montana, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Rural MT Conversations & Speakers in the Schools

Short Description: Trained facilitators lead programs on current affairs, untold histories, Native cultures, literature, and more at schools, libraries, state parks, civic organizations, museums, and other public venues at little or no cost.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 17

Paid Staff: 6

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$902,607

Executive Summary

Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools offer programs statewide, providing local nonprofit organizations – schools, museums, libraries, civic and professional organizations, churches, and other groups – with interactive humanities programs. Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools were created to address Montana’s vast size and widespread population, which make it difficult for Montanans in remote, rural areas to have access to enriching humanities opportunities. These programs also serve to fill the gaps in financial resources necessary to bring speakers to institutions throughout the state. Humanities Montana underwrites program expenses (travel, per diem, and honoraria) for speakers and facilitators and ensures that all programs are of the highest quality. Local sponsoring organizations match these costs with in-kind planning, coordination, publicity, meeting space, and, when possible, a modest \$75 copayment (schools are not asked for copayment).

Humanities Montana provides updated content and professionally trained speakers who are experts in their fields such as civics, journalism, history, Native cultures, literature, and other humanities topics. Our speakers travel to the presentation site, assist teachers or institutions with curriculum development when needed, and provide engaging humanities content. The Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools catalogs offer 58 presenters with over 68 unique programs. Humanities Montana speakers travel to every county in Montana with an average of 64% of programs in rural communities and 24% of programs in tribal communities. C&A funds will be used to continue to expand programming in rural and tribal communities.

Mission

For over 50 years, Humanities Montana has been serving Montana’s multicultural communities through stories and conversation. We offer experiences that nurture imagination and ideas by speaking to Montanans’ diverse history, literature, and philosophy.

2636 Lewistown Art Center, Lewistown

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Operating Support for the Lewistown Art Center

Short Description: The Lewistown Art Center provides art and art education in Central Montana.

Grant Use: Operating expenses

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$51,021

Executive Summary

The Lewistown Art Center has operated continuously in Central Montana since 1971, offering arts education to all ages, providing contemporary exhibitions, and supporting cultural events in Central Montana. In August of 2023, after a series of financial set backs, the LAC Board made the difficult decision to drastically reduce services in Central Montana while reevaluating the structure of the organization. While this discernment is ongoing, the LAC has been able to meet its mission to promote and provide engaged access to the arts, arts education, and cultural events in Central Montana with...

... Youth Art Education in schools and remotely! The LAC partnered with Lewistown Public Schools in 2023-24 to provide after-school art education in three elementary schools. This is important because there is no dedicated art teachers at these elementary schools, and with scholarships and onsite instruction, there were very few barriers to participation. Additionally, the LAC constructed remote art education crates that were distributed to one rural school (Winifred elementary students) and 6 home school families. We look forward to doing these programs, at a minimum in 2024/25, and hope to increase our programming in years to come!

.... Exhibitions in the Central Montana Medical Center that are free to all! The LAC partnered with the Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) to host quarterly exhibitions of contemporary art including works by Rosanna Mecklenburg, Kate Loose, KellyAnne Terry, and a local group of artists and writers who host an annual exhibition, Verbal Visual.

.... Montana Shakespeare in the Parks! The LAC is the only sponsor of these beloved performances in Lewistown and in Utica, so Central Montana residents enjoy not one, but two plays each summer.

Mission

The Lewistown Art Center's mission is to promote and provide engaged access to the arts, arts education, and cultural events in Central Montana.

2637 MAGDA, Montana Art Gallery Director's Assoc, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Connecting and Enhancing the Art and Culture of Montana

Short Description: Bringing together the artistic and cultural communities of Montana and the northwest region through curation, collaboration, and camaraderie.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 5

Paid Staff: 0.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$71,217

Executive Summary

MAGDA was established in 1972 to provide professional development opportunities for all arts professionals and ensure equal access to the arts for all communities. The two mainstays of MAGDA's service are a traveling exhibition program and an annual professional development conference. The traveling exhibition program has a significant impact by achieving multiple goals. It fosters connections between members, shares best practices for exhibition curation, supports educational and cultural programming, and promotes Montana artists. Institutions located in rural areas, with limited staff and funding, can choose to host an exhibition that provides value to their community with little to no prep work or financial strain. MAGDA approves exhibitions of great educational value, artistic merit, and professional curation to ensure people living in all corners of the state can access the amazing art and cultural opportunities that abound.

MAGDA's professional development conference brings together arts professionals from across the region to learn, share, and be inspired. It is important to build upon best museum practices and ensure all arts professionals have the training to assist them in creating inclusive and accessible facilities for the public. Above all else, we value the importance of access to the arts for all, especially those in rural and underserved areas. Our network connects cultural leaders from urban and rural areas, both well-funded and under-funded, with traditional and contemporary backgrounds. This allows for the exchange of ideas, mutual understanding, and ethical practices. Strong cultural foundations lead to more supportive societies. For over 50 years, MAGDA has supported its members with programs that increase access to the arts. We take pride in contributing to the well-being and empowerment of the people and professionals in Montana and the surrounding region.

Mission

The mission of the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association is to serve the non-profit museums and galleries of Montana, and artists, by offering high-quality art exhibitions and professional development training. The organization is dedicated to supporting and developing public interest in and knowledge of the cultural resources and heritage of the State of Montana.

2638 Mai Wah Society Museum, Butte

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Operational Support for Montana's Chinese History Museum

Short Description: The Mai Wah Society in Butte seeks operational support for the Mai Wah/Wah Chong Tai buildings, museum, and society-serving programs.

Grant Use: Docent's salary, office and gift shop expenses, and communications--more than half our budget.

Request: \$20,046

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 0.25

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$16,062

Executive Summary

The Mai Wah Society celebrates and preserves Butte's and Montana's Chinese heritage. Public outreach includes operation and maintenance of the Mai Wah/Wah Chong Tai building, built in 1899/1909, and leading prominent community celebrations such as the Chinese New Year parade and the Qing Ming ("Tomb-Sweeping") festival. We also host book signings and author celebrations, develop and deliver public lectures with groups such as the BSB Archives and Library, and support research and public outreach projects such as documentary films.

We rely on a very active volunteer board, members, donations, museum entry fees, gift shop sales, and--last but not least--the Montana Cultural Trust to support operations. We recently received and managed more than \$200,000 in federal and matching funds to complete a full exterior "bricks & mortar" renovation. This led to extensive national and international press coverage, and post-Covid visitation significantly increased. Total 2023 revenue was about \$20,777 and expenses about \$15,766. Our largest single operational expense was \$6,042 for a part-time summer docent. Other major operations included the newsletter (\$1,659), business fees (\$2,297), and gift shop operations (\$2,322). Operational support allows our board members and other volunteers to focus on developing and delivering programs instead of focusing only on fund-raising. Volunteer contributions range from custom tours for groups such as the Mansfield Center (UM) and local schools, to representation in national groups such as the 1882 Society, to popular public activities such as the annual Chinese New Year parade and reception. Operational support from the Cultural Trust also materially assists in freeing up funds to develop new and improved museum exhibits.

We run a tight fiscal ship and leverage every dollar of operational support to deliver greater value to the people of Montana and to other visitors from around the U.S. and around the world.

Mission

Mai Wah Society Inc. was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 1991 to preserve materials, support research, and educate the public about the history, culture, and conditions of Asian people in the Rocky Mountain West. The Chinn family, historical owners of the Mai Wah/Wah Chong Tai building, deeded the property to Mai Wah Society Inc. We are unique in Montana and regionally: no other regional museum tells the story of Chinese on the urban mining frontier. The major role of Chinese settlers was largely erased from the history of Montana and neighboring states. The Mai Wah Society collects and preserves artifacts, hosts exhibits, and supports research and publications of scholarly and popular interest. The historic Mai Wah/Wah Chong Tai building is operated as a public museum about the history of the Chinese in Montana. This building is in the heart of Butte's historic Chinatown, once home to the largest Chinese population in Montana.

2639 MAPS Media Institute, Hamilton

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: MAPS Media Institute

Short Description: MAPS Media Institute provides free-of-charge, year-round professional media arts workshops for youth ages 13-24 across three out-of-school time programs in Fort Belknap, Lewis & Clark County, and Ravalli County.

Grant Use: The funds will be used for general operating support.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 30

Paid Staff: 9

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$568,913

Executive Summary

MAPS offers year-round classes at our brick-and-mortar studios in Fort Belknap Indian Community, Lewis & Clark County (Helena), and Ravalli County (Hamilton). We also facilitate satellite workshops in tribal and rural communities across Montana. Our hands-on, project-based classes and workshops are free for youth and families, primarily serving ages 13-18, with specific seminars for young adults aged 18-24. MAPS fosters a safe, inclusive space where youth can express themselves, explore new possibilities, and build the social-emotional and technical skills to thrive. We prioritize outreach to low-income, rural, and Native Indigenous communities that often lack access to quality arts education.

MAPS curriculums, designed by a licensed MT educator, align with national Media Arts standards, MT core subjects standards, and MT Indian Education for All Essential Understandings. Classes are taught by professional artists with MT Class 4 educational licenses.

MAPS Key Activities

Media Arts Education: After-School, weekend and a 6-week Summer program provides classes in filmmaking, graphic design, music production, and new media.

2. Community Showcases: Quarterly exhibitions of students' work.

3. Community Projects: Engaging youth in projects that address community issues, promote social awareness, and encourage civic engagement

4. Student Engagement and Support: Field trips to conferences, film festivals, and training sessions, as well as provides recovery credit and dual credit.

5. Staffing and Professional Development: Teaching artists with expertise in various media are continually recruited and receive ongoing professional development in cultural competency, trauma-informed instruction, and restorative practices.

Through these activities, MAPS aims to nurture a resilient, caring, confident, creative, and engaged next generation of Montanans, as empowering youth to tell their stories through media arts can catalyze individual and community transformation.

Mission

Established in 2004 in rural southwestern Montana, MAPS Media Institute is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit with a mission to "empower, inspire, and prepare Montana's next generation for future success through professional media arts instruction, engaging community service, and compassionate mentoring." Originally named Media Arts in the Public Schools, MAPS empowers, inspires, and prepares youth (ages 13-24) across rural, tribal, and urban Montana through hands-on, professional media arts education. Our programs bridge compassionate mentoring, digital literacy, career exposure, civic responsibility, and cultural uplift, enabling students to strengthen communication skills, engage with multimedia technologies, and gain practical, real-world abilities that prepare them for college, career, and personal success.

2640 MCT, Inc., Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Missoula Children's Theatre: Vibrant Theater Experiences for All Montanans

Short Description: Montana programming, including weeklong theater residencies via touring throughout the state and in-Missoula theater programs for youth and community productions.

Grant Use: General operating support for Montana programs

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 451

Paid Staff: 119

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$5,354,625

Executive Summary

We respectfully request a grant to support in-Montana programs. Short Descriptions follow:

TOUR

During 2023/2034, we completed 109 Montana tour stops, visiting, for ex., Eureka, Twin Bridges, Valier, Ennis, Geraldine, Roundup, and Broadus and partnering with a local org everywhere we go. Our actors tour in pairs, driving trucks that carry scripts, scenery, costumes, make-up, and tech for one of our original children's musicals. The only missing piece is the actors, which is where thousands of young Montanans come in. Auditions are on Monday, 50-60 local kids are cast, and they perform for the community on Friday or Saturday. The following are representative constituent comments re program benefits:

Dutton/Brady Schools: "The skills learned during the week are life skills they will benefit from throughout their lives."

Sunburst Arts & Education in Eureka: "MCT supports the well-being of our families and fosters connection."

Thompson Falls Schools: "A student with a language impairment had a large role. She did a FANTASTIC job and has more confidence as a result."

Augusta After-School Program: "We do not offer theater, drama, speech or music. MCT gives students a chance to experience theater."

MISSOULA

YOUTH SERIES: These give parents peace-of-mind. They know their kids are doing something fun & educational in a safe environment.

- Seven weeks of summer day camps & spring break day camp
- Performing arts summer camps on Flathead Lake
- After-school production classes
- Day-long programs when schools are closed (e.g., federal holidays)
- Theatre for Young Audiences -- in 2024, CHARLOTTE'S WEB!
- About 1,000 annual participants + 100s attend performances.

COMMUNITY SERIES

- Four musicals, one drama. Upcoming for the holidays: A CHRISTMAS STORY!
- Two sensory-friendly performances; all tickets are comped!
- 451 volunteers
- Almost 20,000 tickets

Mission

Empowering children and adults through theatre education and performance to develop lifelong skills while enriching communities worldwide through live productions.

NOTE: As of June 1 2024, the start of MCT FY25, after much internal discussion and many talks with community stakeholders, we concluded that having one mission, unifying everything we do, would be less awkward and less confusing than having two missions, one for Missoula Children's Theatre and one for Missoula Community Theatre. We made slight changes to our mission statement (see above) to better encapsulate our the whole organization. Our programming has not changed.

2641 Missoula Art Museum, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Expand MAM's Art for All Initiatives

Short Description: Support for MAM's ongoing operation

Grant Use: General operating support.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 150

Paid Staff: 10.7

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,044,931

Executive Summary

MAM is a fully accredited, fully accessible public museum that serves as the region's only free museum devoted to contemporary art in a 350-mile radius. MAM's annual attendance ranges from 26,000-35,000 visitors with an additional 50,000 annual engagements garnered through offsite and touring exhibits, website, online programs, and virtual outreach offerings.

Since its inception, MAM has maintained an unwavering commitment to provide FREE access to contemporary art and arts education and programming –for all ages- throughout Montana. For nearly 50 years, MAM has engaged audiences, artists, students, and Montanan's at large, creating a beloved space to see art and share in a rooted sense of community. Expanding our robust education offerings of free programs to serve underserved and underrepresented communities through outreach has been a growing commitment at MAM, especially since the pandemic. Our motto—Free Expression//Free Admission—expresses our commitment to a democratic, community ethic and allows the access to art for a rural, economically challenged populations across the state.

MAM maintains a commitment to diverse representation, perspectives, and dialog so as to help build a better, more equitable world. We is committed to elevating and creating space for Indigenous art and artists. MAM seeks art that matters and builds cross cultural dialogues around it. MAM works strategically to remove barriers to entry by engaging people of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and interests to be represented in exhibitions, engage with contemporary art, foster their creativity and catalyze civic engagement.

We honor the importance of art to a healthy and engaged community, and we seek to leverage the museum space to foster connections between artist and audience, art and ideas, and people, place and culture.

Mission

MAM serves the public by engaging audiences and artists in the exploration of contemporary art relevant to the community, state, and region.

2642 Missoula Symphony Association, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Missoula Symphony Association (MSA) - General Operational Support Funds Request

Short Description: MSA is seeking funds for general operating support for our 2025-26 & 2026-27 concert seasons.

Grant Use: General Operational Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 7

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$911,287

Executive Summary

MSA seeks grant funds to support our mission in the Missoula community. The Missoula Symphony Orchestra has been in existence for 70 years, providing essential cultural experiences for residents in Western Montana. We pride ourselves on programming diverse symphonic music from composers of all races, gender and backgrounds, offering discounted pricing for students and seniors, as well as growing education programs.

We feature eight concert events each year, including 6 subscription concerts, a Family/Youth Concert and a free outdoor concert in the summer. Our Foundation and Corporate supporters allow us to offer free concert programs to area youth & their caregivers. We provide 2 educational Youth/Family concerts for over 2000 students in Missoula and surrounding counties every year. We offer a free concert series at the Missoula Public Library, and its branches in rural areas in the summer. We perform side-by-side with the Missoula Youth Symphony annually and provide music coaches to local schools to teach in the classrooms. We also offer our Student Night @Dress Rehearsal program which provides a free opportunity for students to hear our concerts and interact with guest soloists & Music Director Julia Tai.

MSA has grown to an operating budget of over \$900,000. It employs a full-time Music Director, Executive Director, Director of Operations and Patron Services Director as well as a part-time Development Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Chorale Director, 2 Librarians & a Social Media Coordinator. While we have generous support from patrons & businesses, we rely on grants to keep up with inflation & increasing costs. We don't own our performance facility so must pay rent to the University of Montana, for use of the Dennison Theatre. The cost of living has increased drastically, which means we need to pay our staff and orchestra musicians at an increased rate. Additional costs have also increased from sheet music rental, printing, to computer software costs.

Mission

The mission of the Missoula Symphony Association shall be to assure cultural enrichment essential to the quality of life in the Missoula area by providing live symphonic and choral music of the highest quality. The Symphony shall provide musical growth and development for its performers and the community.

2643 Missoula Writing Collaborative, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Missoula Writing Collaborative: Youth Writing Residencies Across Montana

Short Description: Missoula Writing Collaborative Operational Support

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 20

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$325,680

Executive Summary

For the last 30 years, Missoula Writing Collaborative (MWC) has provided creative writing residencies in more than 35 public schools across western Montana. These 12 week residencies teach students in rural, tribal, and town schools to learn to love to write. We are requesting operational support for the valuable work our staff do every day to ensure for the delivery of our programs. Our current staff consists of a full-time executive director and three part-time employees: a program director, an artistic director, and a residency coordinator. This \$20,000 request and matching funds would help support our staff, who do the hard work of administrating our vital programs.

MWC's creative writing residencies teach Montana students about about the power and possibilities of language. We employ more than 10 professional writers who serve more than 2,100 students each year in schools from Superior to Drummond, Darby to Lincoln, and beyond. Writers share published work with students, then coach them to write and read their work aloud to live audiences. Students have the chance to fearlessly write about their lives while learning to write clearly and vividly. Classroom teachers report an increase in student literacy after the close of our residencies. We see students grow their pride and confidence: at the close of each residency, students stand and proudly read their poetry for packed rooms of families and community members.

While our central focus is creative writing residencies, we also offer summer camps for children and writing classes and workshops for adults. To continue to bring successful, valuable programming to Montana, MWC staff secure private and public funding, support writers-in-residence, coordinate and communicate with schools, curate writing curriculum, organize summer camps and adult writing classes, and more. Our people ensure for the health of our programs, which aim to build communities of hope and compassion through writing, across Montana.

Mission

We partner with schools and communities to teach the imaginative power of language. We embrace creativity, empowerment, inclusion, and excellence. We build communities of hope and compassion through writing.

2644 MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: MonDak Heritage Center Operations, Programs, and Exhibits

Short Description: The MonDak Heritage Center connects local arts, culture, and heritage to visitors and the community through programs, exhibits, and collections preservation.

Grant Use: Funds will be used for general operating support of art, culture, and history programming.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 32

Paid Staff: 2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$117,200

Executive Summary

The MonDak Heritage Center (MDHC) requests \$20,000 in grant funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 & 2026- 2027 to support museum operations and art and history programs and exhibits. Located in Sidney, MDHC is the premier art, culture, and history resource in Eastern Montana, serving residents and students in Richland County, Sheridan County, Dawson County, and Western North Dakota, as well as national and international tourists. MDHC showcases local and traveling art exhibitions, features exhibits on local and regional history, maintains a research library and archives, holds educational and cultural programs, and brings art and history to kids and adults through art classes, history lectures and workshops, and other types of outreach and programming. Grant funds from the Cultural Trust will help MDHC maintain operations and connect community members and visitors to art, culture, and history through these different programs, exhibits, and resources. In doing so, Cultural Trust funds will give residents and visitors a deeper understanding of our local community and Montana. Grant funds allow the MDHC to improve the quality of life in the region and help attract and retain workers and families to Sidney and Eastern Montana by providing the area with quality arts, history, and cultural programming throughout the year. Funds allow the MDHC to continue to provide opportunities for people to engage in learning, discussion, and growth through art, culture, and history in Eastern Montana.

Mission

The mission of the MonDak Heritage Center is to engage, educate, and inspire our community by preserving and contributing to the area's arts, culture, and heritage.

2645 Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras

Short Description: Support for state-wide programs which strengthen Montana symphonies to better, more efficiently serve their communities

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 0.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$51,864

Executive Summary

The Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO) has been partnering with Montana's symphony orchestras for the past four decades to ensure all Montanans have access to beautiful and inspiring music. We provide critical networking, resources, and professional development opportunities to our seven member symphonies across the state through a bi-annual conference, webinars, and monthly online meetings. We facilitate regular communication, promote sharing of resources and ideas, and provide inspiring professional development opportunities to our membership.

In addition to serving as the collective voice of Montana's symphonies, MASO directly contributes a third of our annual budget to increase their capacity to provide youth programs and outreach to rural communities. In a normal concert season, we reach over 120 rural communities and approximately 32,000 audience members of all ages through these programs. Our bi-annual Young Artist Competition supports and promotes the next generation of young musicians by awarding cash prizes and an opportunity to perform as a soloist with one of our symphony orchestras during their regular concert season. This is part of our work to ensure the long-term future and success of orchestral music in our state.

Finally, MASO dedicates \$3,000 annually toward purchasing scores and parts for a shared music lending library available to our members. This saves them a combined amount of approximately \$30,000 in music rental fees each year.

Because of these programs, and MASO's continued advocacy for orchestras in our state, we have proven ourselves to be a critical link connecting and supporting Montana's symphony orchestras.

Mission

The mission of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras is to encourage, promote, and assist in the development and maintenance of quality musical programs throughout Montana. Our vision is to enrich and elevate Montana's communities through the finest symphonic music and ensure the long term future of orchestral music in the state.

2646 Montana Ballet Company, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Montana Ballet Company - Operational Support

Short Description: Montana Ballet Company enriches southwest Montana with three vibrant branches of programming: our renowned classical ballet Academy, captivating year-round live performances, and dynamic community education and engagement initiatives.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 250

Paid Staff: 4

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$626,580

Executive Summary

The Montana Ballet Company (MBC) requests operational support for FYs 26-27 to continue fostering an active performing arts and education presence in Montana. We believe in the transformative power of the performing arts to bring people together, spark creativity, and drive innovation within our community.

Our organization serves the community through three dynamic branches of programming: a classical ballet Academy, year-round performances, and community education and engagement. Our reach extends far beyond our immediate locale, with Academy students traveling from Yellowstone National Park Gateways and Helena, and audience members coming from across Montana, neighboring states, and even coast to coast.

At the heart of our organization is MBC's Academy, where we train over 400 students annually, ages 2 and above, in the art of classical ballet, a 100% growth in the past 2 years. The Academy's Whole Dancer Series promotes holistic health, wellness, and creativity, engaging physical therapists, nutritionists, counselors, and Pilates instructors to work with our dancers. Our Adaptive Dance program for children with Down syndrome is now in its 8th year, exemplifying our commitment to inclusivity.

MBC's full season of performances showcases original productions and international guest companies. Highlights include our annual Nutcracker in collaboration with the Bozeman Symphony, a winter production featuring original work by local artists, the annual CONNECTIONS performance, and various performances at Sweet Pea Festival.

Our education and outreach programs are designed to connect diverse community members to the magic and healing power of dance, music, and theater.

We continually strive for artistic excellence and integrity, and support from MAC will help preserve our 40-year legacy while allowing us to evolve and innovate. MBC is dedicated to enhancing the cultural fabric of Montana, ensuring a thriving community through the performing arts.

Mission

MBC's mission is to present the highest caliber dance performances, offer the finest quality training, and provide meaningful access to the arts, enriching the minds and spirits of our community of dancers and audience members alike.

2647 Montana Dance Arts Association, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Montana Dance Arts Association Operational Support

Short Description: MDAA is a statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the dance arts in Montana for persons of all ages and abilities through workshops led by professional guest artists, and its scholarship, teacher fellowship, and student choreography programs.

Grant Use: Grant funds will be used for general operating support.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 57

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$102,294

Executive Summary

MDAA is a unique organization serving students, teachers, and artists. Montana is geographically and culturally isolated from the rest of the dance world and there is a need for cost-effective means to enhance the art form and provide access to high-quality dance training. MDAA meets this need through semi-annual workshops taught by guest artists from across the country. Fostering technical excellence in training and providing artistic challenges are the focuses of these workshops. For many students, MDAA is their only exposure to the world of dance outside of Montana. Through its scholarship program MDAA acts as a steppingstone for young dancers seeking a career in dance by awarding scholarships to attend professional summer programs throughout the US. MDAA provides in-state dance training to students from families who do not have the means to place their children in dance classes. Through the Elenita Brown Scholarship Fund, requiring a desire to dance and financial need to apply, children ages 3-18 can reap the benefits a dance education offers. MDAA inspires creativity in student choreographers with support from the Donna Jewell Choreography Prize. Student choreographers are given the opportunity to have their choreography adjudicated by professional guest artists. Each year a student choreographer is awarded funds to help further their dance education. Many teachers are isolated, therefore, the peer support and educational opportunities MDAA offers are invaluable. MDAA members are kept current on dance trends through classes offered at these workshops. Every workshop includes time for teachers to share teaching techniques and styles, fundraising ideas, and studio policies and procedures. MDAA awards teacher fellowships, making it possible for members to further their training and enhance their craft of teaching. MDAA provides training for teachers to work with people with disabilities and the elderly, and at times, works directly with these populations.

Mission

Montana Dance Arts Association (MDAA) is a unique organization whose mission is to advance the art of dance for Montana students and educators by providing high quality training opportunities and dance experiences.

2648 Montana Performing Arts Consortium, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Rural Consortium Operational Support

Short Description: Consortium operations include providing a statewide block-booking conference, juried showcases, website, member directory, online member portal, Presenter Development program, workshops, and technical support.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 7

Paid Staff: 0.25

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$51,874

Executive Summary

MPAC's annual Artist Showcase and Conference is an important resource for Montana's performing arts sector. It raises the quality of programming for presenting organizations while also minimizing booking expenses. It simultaneously provides performers with increased tour opportunities in the state. This weekend-long event draws 18-20 organizations and 18-25 artists and managers representing a variety of genres. Participating organizations fill all or most of their seasons with artists introduced through the conference. Most MPAC member organizations are volunteer-run and cannot budget for the expense of sending representatives to other regional booking conferences. Consequently, MPAC provides a crucial link between rural communities and an international array of professional artists. For artists, it offers the chance to promote their shows, meet potential bookers, connect with peers, and learn about the touring potential and audiences in Montana.

The Presenter Development Program assists rural non-profit organizations with promotional expense support. This aid allows small organizations to focus their limited resources on bringing diverse, quality performances to their venues, schools, and other community centers. These communities include at least 33 rural Montana towns and associated school districts. Supported activities are public performances in a series format and community outreach activities.

In FY24, MPAC made membership available online for the first time. Artists, organizations, and associate groups who are eligible for membership may now use this option to join MPAC, engage with the member community, and access benefits. The online dashboard provides access to a member directory, block-booking alerts, and conference registration. Over the next 2 years MPAC will develop additional resources focused on grant opportunities for members, artist funding or residency opportunities, member event listings, and a directory of past showcase applicants.

Mission

The Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) is a non-profit coalition of Montana and regional performing arts presenting organizations and artists. Founded in 1981, MPAC's mission is to:

- Promote and encourage the touring and presentation of the performing arts throughout Montana in a professional and cost-effective manner.
- Provide support and technical assistance to non-profit performing arts presenters, presenting communities, and artists.
- Foster a favorable climate for both artists and presenters in Montana and promote, cultivate, and amplify the vibrant, innovative, and powerful presenting culture in Montana communities.

2649 Montana Playwrights Network, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Montana Playwrights Network Operational Support

Short Description: MPN requests assistance to meet operating costs such as rent and utilities for the Helena Avenue Theatre, and selected personnel and printing costs associated with MPN programs.

Grant Use: Operating costs for MPN facility. Plus, artist stipends & costs for marketing and event programs.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 40

Paid Staff: 0

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$49,221

Executive Summary

While the Montana Playwrights Network (MPN) serves individuals and organizations from statewide communities, it primarily operates out of its home facility, the Helena Avenue Theatre (HAT) in Helena. As the organization's largest expense, maintaining this facility in support of MPN operations and other organizations that contract to use the HAT for their own events, MPN is responsible for paying rent, utilities and operating costs such as insurance, internet connection, and website services. MPN purchases and maintains all facility equipment and supplies, and engages qualified independent contractors for selected operations at the HAT. Although MPN relies heavily on volunteers for its governance, management, services and projects, it also contracts with performers, speakers, presenters, directors and technicians and personnel such as consultants, teachers, designers and historians. Additionally, MPN pays for organizational and event marketing, print materials and website management. It also supports a variety of projects in partnership with local organizations such as the Lewis & Clark County Library, and brings creative or educational projects to the HAT through partnership with MPN members and organizations from communities outside of Helena.

Financially, MPN is supported by grant funds that are mostly project-based. Other financial support comes from philanthropists, individual donors, sponsors, businesses, and income from box office receipts generated through MPN main events, special services, classes, and HAT rentals. It also receives modest, annual membership dues from individuals, and arts and educational organizations such as theatre companies and schools.

If MPN were fortunate to receive this Cultural Trust grant to support a portion of its operating costs, grant funds would be applied to pay HAT rent and utilities, event marketing and printing costs, and selected stipends for contracted personnel engaged in MPN projects and services.

Mission

Incorporated in 2016 as a state-wide, 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, the Montana Playwrights Network's purpose is to highlight the creation and sharing of stories about and for Montanans. Its mission supports the development of playwrights, storytellers, writers, performers, and their creative works. MPN offers conferences, public performances and other events to facilitate creative self-expression and cultural enrichment through applications of Story principles. MPN makes its home facility, the Helena Avenue Theatre in Helena, available to organizations and individuals to present their own events. MPN particularly supports the cultural expression of Native communities in non-native environments.

2650 Montana Repertory Theatre, University of Montana, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Montana Repertory Theatre Educational Programs

Short Description: Montana Rep's Education Programming places a focus on arts education for middle and high school students across Montana.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 3

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$209,903

Executive Summary

Montana Rep's Educational Outreach Tour is a full theatrical production with accompanying interactive workshops. The program is offered to Montana schools every year. A company of actors and teaching artists travel with a full set and technical equipment to 40-45 Montana communities each year, reaching thousands of Montana students annually. A new play is commissioned specifically for the program, from source material based on school curriculum. The tour offers the students not only entertainment, but entertainment that is directly applicable to the students' education. One of the guiding principles of the Educational Outreach program is to offer arts and arts education to any school or community that wants to provide such opportunities for their students. This frequently requires special financial arrangements and sliding scales for the many schools that do not have ample funding. The Rep is committed to bringing live theatre and theatre education to the rural and underserved populations of our state. In recent years, amid the challenges of the pandemic, Montana's understaffed and underfunded schools were unable to facilitate the established MT Rep residency. In order to continue offering an educational arts experience to Montana students, the educational programming has been converted to and offered as a streaming experience. The Rep looks forward to a return to in-person residencies in the following year.

Mission

Mission:

Montana Repertory Theatre stands at the cross-section of educational and professional theatre, producing work that celebrates, engages and challenges the people of Missoula and the state of Montana.

We believe:

The needs of our staff and the artists we hire should be centered in everything we do.

Cost should never be a barrier to art.

Everyone who works for us should be compensated fairly.

Every member of our community deserves to see themselves and their stories represented on our stages.

Providing educational opportunities is integral to our work.

In a community-focused theatre – by, for, about, and with the people who live here.

The new works we commission should be supported to full production.

Our systems and our biases should be constantly examined and challenged to ensure the good of everyone, to correct the wrongs of our past, and actively fight against injustice now and in the future.

2651 Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Operational Support

Short Description: This request supports Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' three annual tours: Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Summer Tour, Shakespeare in Schools Fall Tour and Montana Shakes! Spring Tour.

Grant Use: General Operating Support for the 2025 & 2026 seasons

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 130

Paid Staff: 6

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,183,539

Executive Summary

General operating support for Montana Shakespeare in the Parks' (MSIP) for the fiscal years 2026-27 covers all three of MSIP's major touring programs, which bring live professional theatre and educational workshops to over 42,000 people in underserved communities, at no cost to communities.

These programs include MSIP's flagship program Shakespeare in the Parks, which tours to 65 primarily rural and underserved communities each summer. In its 53rd season, MSIP's 2025 summer tour will present Shakespeare's "Henry V" and "As You Like It." MSIP also offers the use of its summer stage to local arts organizations and performance groups, youth groups, and local individuals in its communities prior to the evening's Shakespeare performance, as a method of elevating and inspiring appreciation of local artists across Montana.

Shakespeare in the Schools program brings a one-day residency to 50 middle and high schools, consisting of an 80-minute production along with educational activities that help reinforce the relevance of Shakespeare's themes to students' lives. A post-show talkback takes place between actors and students, allowing them to discuss everything from plot and themes to what it's like to pursue a career in the arts, followed by 45-minute workshops designed to deepen students' understanding of the play through theatrical games and exercises. This program is specifically tailored to meet many of Montana's Common Core Standards in Literacy Arts for grades 6 through 12.

Our Montana Shakes! program is a hands-on tour designed specifically for young learners in 60 elementary schools. With a 35 minute original play that blends themes from Shakespeare's stories with issues and ideas the young learners are facing, followed by a talk-back and afternoon of lively educational workshops, MSIP cultivates appreciation of the performing arts and inspires creative expression in its youngest audience members.

Mission

The mission of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is to engage and enrich both rural and underserved communities with professional productions of Shakespeare and other classics and, through educational outreach, to inspire creative expression and appreciation of the arts in young audiences.

2652 Montana Youth Symphony, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Montana Youth Symphony

Short Description: Accessible and elite summer music training program for young Montana classical musicians.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 25

Paid Staff: 0.25

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$99,994

Executive Summary

The Montana Youth Symphony (MYS) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose primary aim is to provide free-of-charge intensive music training for young Montana musicians. The cornerstone of our organization's efforts is a one-week gathering each summer of a symphony orchestra comprising musicians from Montana or studying in Montana who are roughly 16-25 years of age. During this week, the musicians work together to prepare an end-of-week concert with professional musicians from Montana and beyond. The conductor of the concert is Sir Donald Runnicles, music director of the Grand Teton Music Festival (GTMF) and one of the preeminent conductors active today. It is no exaggeration to state that he is among the top dozen (or fewer) most in-demand conductors, with current and previous positions with the Atlanta Symphony, Deutsch Oper Berlin, Dresden Philharmonic, and the Scottish National Symphony. Sir Runnicles' participation is one component of a partnership between the MYS and the GTMF. The MYS travels to Jackson, WY to hear a performance of the GTMF orchestra and to work with the world-class musicians there in sectionals and rehearsals. The MYS fundraises throughout the year to enable participation in this week-long festival to be totally free of charge to musicians. We provide housing, meals, transportation, and a stipend to offset lost wages and travel to the festival. As part of these fundraising efforts, MYS hosts chamber music recitals throughout the year across Montana. Performers on these programs are participants in the summer program so this is another way to accomplish our mission: providing opportunity to musicians and uplifting Montana audiences through performances of the highest calibre. A new partnership between MYS and the Tippet Rise Arts Center will see chamber performances of MYS musicians there in the future. Our no-cost program is totally unique in the state and region. We seek operational support through the Cultural and Aesthetic Trust Grant program.

Mission

The Montana Youth Symphony strives to unite young musicians, provide them opportunity, and celebrate their achievement with Montana. We cultivate the value of excellence and a spirit of cooperation in young musicians and are committed to the principles of access and comprehensive inclusiveness. Building upon the long tradition of excellence in music education in the State of Montana and with the support of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, the Montana Youth Symphony aims to provide generations of young musicians with an opportunity to return home to perform in their home state. It is our hope that performances by the Montana Youth Symphony will uplift and inspire audiences statewide, through performances of the highest caliber

2653 North Valley Music School, Whitefish

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: North Valley Music School Cultural Trust FY26-27 (C&A) Application

Short Description: North Valley Music School programs and operational support.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$523,555

Executive Summary

Music is an essential part of the human experience and a vital cultural expression for individuals and society. Studies show that youth who start music education before age 8 are more hopeful about the future; adolescents are more likely to make positive contributions to society and less likely to engage in risky behaviors later in life (Ilari, *Front. Psychol.*, Jan 2023). Additionally, for adults, social isolation and loneliness are serious public health concerns. Music engagement can strengthen social connections and reduce loneliness (Van Dyke, *Int J Environ Res Public Health.*, Jan 2023). North Valley Music School believes everyone should have access to the life-changing power of music. It seeks to address these needs by offering enjoyable, high-quality music programs for all.

For over 25 years, NVMS has provided music programs in Northwest Montana. To expand access to the cultural experience that is music, NVMS continues to diversify music programs to interest and engage as many people as possible. Programs include private lessons, group classes, ensembles, workshops, summer camps, and more. Supportive services include scholarships, outreach to schools and the community, an Instrument Lending Library, and virtual options.

Program and operational funds requested via the Cultural Trust grant will ensure continuity of service and expand opportunities for residents to participate in and appreciate Montana's musical resources. Enrollment numbers, exit surveys, and formal and informal feedback will measure impact and outcomes. Throughout PY 25-27, NVMS anticipates impacting 1200 students through private lessons, 600 students through group classes, 600 community members through workshops, and many more via outreach programs.

NVMS's funding request is \$20,000 for the two-year cycle directly funding programs and operations.

Mission

North Valley Music School enriches Montana communities through music education, appreciation, and performance by offering musical opportunities for all.

2654 Opera Montana (Formerly Intermountain Opera Association), Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Support for Opera Production, Education, and Arts-Based Community Programs

Short Description: Opera Montana produces professional opera and musical theater productions with artists from around the world, provides music education to Montana students, brings Veterans together to share music in the Veterans Chorus, and makes opera accessible.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 150

Paid Staff: 3.75

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$749,898

Executive Summary

Opera Montana (OM, formerly Intermountain Opera Bozeman) is seeking \$20,000 to help underwrite the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 seasons. As the only fully professional opera company in Montana, we are uniquely positioned to offer programs based in the arts that meet the needs of our community. We work with artists from all over the world to bring high-caliber, professional opera to Montana, and are committed to ensuring that the programs we create are serving Montana residents all across our state.

The funding from Montana Arts Council will provide general operating support for the variety of programs that comprise Opera Montana. In keeping with the original vision of the founders (Pablo Elvira, Robert Stivanello, Verity Bostick, and Mrs. Robert W. Martin), OM continues to produce a full season of world-class opera productions. This includes a new or lesser-known work in the fall, a winter musical, and a classic grand opera in the spring. We hire artists from all over the world to bring high quality, professional opera and musical theater to Montana.

The motivation for our rebrand to Opera Montana is to be known as Montana's opera company. Our statewide reach began with "Wheels of Harmony", the music education tour launched in April 2023. "Wheels of Harmony" is unique in its commitment to highlighting Indigenous artists and bringing opera, classical music, and works by contemporary Native composers to schools across the state.

We are continuing to expand the ongoing Opera Montana Veterans Chorus program with free voice lessons for Veterans and more performance opportunities. We are working to grow our free ticket program "Opera For All", bringing in new community members. For example, in the 2024-2025 season we will offer a number of free tickets to the Spanish-speaking community for "Maria De Buenos Aires", the first Spanish language opera in OM's history. We work with community partners for all of our programming to build lasting relationships and positive impact.

Mission

Opera Montana inspires and creates community and collaboration through world-class opera, musical theater, and educational engagement.

2655 Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support

Short Description: Financial support to sustain museum art exhibition programming, historic building facility, free admission, and free art classes.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 130

Paid Staff: 7.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$771,173

Executive Summary

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art (The Square) is requesting operational support funding to sustain free admission for all, free art programming, exhibition programming, and historic building facilities care. The Square has grown substantially over the past five years. The Curated exhibitions, catalogue publications for exhibitions, four free art programming for vulnerable community members, exhibitions of underrepresented Native American artists, growing acquisitions into the permanent collections, and historic building improvements meet The Square's mission. As the only Contemporary Art Museum in North Central Montana The Square provides important and meaningful connections for all Montanans. The Historic Building that houses The Square is on the National Historic is one of the most beautiful and largest facilities in Great Falls and requires continual maintenance and upgrades for ADA Accessibility.

The Square is a repository for the past, present and future artwork through a permanent collection of art spanning the 1930's-today of over 1200 works of regional art. Free art programming (Veterans Art Class, Senior Art Class, 3rd grade tours, free workshops visiting artists workshops and lectures, Adults and youth with Disabilities classes) serves as a catalyst for community members throughout Central Montana to make a meaningful connection to the arts and to create expressive art in all modalities in a safe and creative environment. Free admission for all is necessary for The Square to provide because most community members have low or moderate income, and the institution would struggle to serve our most vulnerable community members if a fee was required for admission.

As The Square continues to expand and grow its outreach, grow the permanent collection, maintain and rehabilitate the facility and grounds, and increase free art class participation and offerings, operational support is a necessity.

Mission

Our Mission

To inspire and promote contemporary arts through exhibitions, collections, events, and education in a historic setting.

Our Vision

To connect the community with culture and contemporary art.

Our Values

Respectfully supports diversity, equity, and inclusion where all voices are heard; Create opportunities for diverse guests to make a meaningful connection with the Arts; Engage a diverse population by collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting art; Inspire artistic expression and understanding through educational programming; Support contemporary artists by providing opportunities for them to develop, create, and exhibit new work; and preserve the significant historic building.

2656 Park County Museum of Art, Livingston

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: General Operations Support

Short Description: General Operations funding for the Danforth Museum of Art to connect the past and future of Livingston through art exhibits, community art education, and permanent art installations.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 10

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$97,265

Executive Summary

Established in 1974 as the Danforth Gallery, Park County Friends of the Arts Inc. (DBA The Danforth Museum of Art) was the defining center for the Livingston art community. In 2016, 42 years after its establishment, Park County Friends of the Arts closed the Danforth Gallery and dedicated itself to preserving the community's artistic heritage. The result is today's vibrant Danforth Museum of Art, a micro fine arts museum with the mission to celebrate the legacy of Livingston's arts community and expand engagement with art through exhibitions, community education, and the permanent collection.

As a rural community, Livingston faces major gaps in art access and art education opportunities when compared with larger metropolitan areas. General operating support will fund Danforth's growing and evolving role in our community and continue to support our calendar of art exhibits in 2025 and 2026. Our core programs include:

Celebrating Livingston's Diverse Art Culture & History:

Located in a designated historic building in the heart of downtown Livingston, the Danforth Museum of Art connects the past and future of our community through art exhibits, community education, artist residencies, and permanent art installations.

Inspiring Curiosity, Learning, and Creativity:

Our new Education and Outreach Program is creating opportunities for youth art access and education in Livingston public schools, creating opportunities for connection and expression, and offering youth a meaningful stake in our shared history and future.

Engaging our Community in Shared Art History:

Livingston is known for its vibrant artistic community, yet Danforth is the only art museum in Park County and the surrounding area. Our museum is uniquely community-based and artist-led, offering unique opportunities to engage our community in our shared history. The Danforth is featured in the annual Livingston ArtWalks and partners with the America's Foundation.

Mission

To celebrate the legacy of Livingston's arts community and expand engagement with art through exhibitions, education, and the permanent collection.

2657 Pondera Arts Council, Conrad

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Operational Support

Short Description: This grant will be used for operational support for continued enhancement of the arts in rural communities within Montana

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 28

Paid Staff: 1.75

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$117,538

Executive Summary

The Pondera Arts Council provides cultural enrichment opportunities to north central Montana residents in their historic Orpheum Theatre/Weigand Auditorium and other local venues. These grant funds will be used towards general operating expenses, providing continued support for quality entertainment and cultural development in north central Montana. This grant will allow PAC to continue offering live performances and first run movies as well as programs targeting youth and adults that enhance their exposure and involvement in the arts. From an economic standpoint, operational support assistance will ensure that PAC can also continue to offer part time employment for nine individuals. Current employees include students, persons with cognitive and physical challenges, and senior citizens. The costs associated with basic operations such as utilities, insurance, maintenance, and inspection fees for safety equipment (fire suppression) continue to increase dramatically. The programs the Pondera Arts Council sponsors that are free or at low cost to the public are often underwritten by accessing reserves to meet expenses. PAC considers that these programs are an important offering to community residents in order to keep the arts alive in the minds of community members and reach those who can not afford to access arts programs. Performances and movies bring people to Conrad from all over north central Montana and beyond which in turn provides an economic benefit to local businesses. Grant funds will have a multiplier effect of providing economic stimulus to a rural Montana community. As important as the economic benefit is the sense of shared cultural experiences and community which are brought about by participating in and/or attending these performances and programs, in addition to improving the cultural quality of life of area residents and the community as a whole.

Mission

The Pondera Arts Council is dedicated to bringing affordable quality live entertainment and cultural events to Pondera County, including showing select movies.

2658 Preserve Montana, Statewide

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Investing in Montana Through Historic Preservation

Short Description: General operating support that will strengthen Preserve Montana's mission to protect and celebrate the cultural heritage of Montana's rural communities.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 50

Paid Staff: 4

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$560,494

Executive Summary

Preserve Montana (PMT) is requesting operational support to ensure its statewide impact, especially in Montana's rural communities. For more than 35 years, PMT has worked alongside Montana's people to protect their diversity of places, spaces and stories. With a small but mighty staff, and dedicated volunteers, much has been accomplished to achieve this mission. PMT surveyed more than 800 rural schools in all 56 Montana counties to aid in their preservation like the Broadwater County's McMaster School, provided technical assistance to stewards of historic properties to bring new life to them like the Winnett ACES, and researched and shared the histories of Montana's under-represented communities like Virginia City's Black community. In 2024, the PMT Trades Corps was launched to train a new generation of skilled tradespeople to rehabilitate historic properties across Montana. Profound effects come from this important place-based work, including strong local economies and resilient communities. In 2023, PMT's executive leadership changed for the first time in more than two decades. The majority of PMT's revenues are restricted to specific projects, making it challenging to cover costs of day-to-day operations, ensure organizational sustainability and provide assistance across the state. Operational support from a C&A grant would help PMT achieve organizational stability during a time of transition and invest more resources to protect and celebrate Montana's rural heritage.

PMT is proud of its accomplishments and recognizes that greater impact is achievable through dedicated operational funding. As a statewide organization, PMT covers a lot of ground, and with a small staff and operational budget, its reach across the state is not as expansive as it could be. With support from a C&A grant to help cover operational costs, program staff will have more time and resources to make bigger impacts where it matters most--in Montana's under-resourced rural communities.

Mission

Preserve Montana protects the historic places, traditional landscapes and cultural heritage in Montana.

2659 Queen City Ballet Company, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Queen City Ballet Company Operational support

Short Description: We request funding for operational support to continue to develop future artists and leaders through the platform of classical ballet training and performance opportunities that enrich the Helena and surrounding community..

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 200

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$98,206

Executive Summary

Queen City Ballet Company (QCBC) and Conservatory have been leading forces in the Helena arts community since 2001. We are seeking operational support to sustain and expand our impactful work in continuing education and development of aspiring dancers through professional productions, community outreach and leadership training through classical ballet training. At the core of QCBC's offerings are our professional performances, which include a diverse repertoire of classical and contemporary ballets. Our annual performance season features the beloved Nutcracker, and new works that inspire our dancers and audiences. These high-caliber productions highlight the technical and artistic talents of our dancers and provide cultural enrichment to our community. Our commitment to dance education is exemplified through our National Honors Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) chapter. The NHSDA program fosters artistic excellence, leadership skills, and community involvement and we are the only chapter in the state of Montana. This prestigious program recognizes and nurtures exceptional dance students, offering them a structured curriculum that includes mentoring, assistant teaching, teacher training, leadership skills, and community involvement. QCBC's community outreach initiatives are designed to educate and make dance accessible to everyone, regardless of age, background, or ability. Our outreach events include field trips to our performances, children's book readings, performances for summer camps and participation in collaborative community arts events such as the anti-bullying Kindness Project performance and Helena Education Foundation's Carnival Classic. Operational support is crucial for the sustainability and growth of QCBC and support from the Cultural Trust will ensure we can continue to inspire and educate the next generation of dancers and audience members, while creating kind leaders and enhancing the cultural life in Montana.

Mission

Queen City Ballet Company is dedicated to developing dancers and pursuing artistic excellence by presenting exceptional professional classical ballet, contemporary dance performances, training, and education programs that enhance the cultural life of Helena.

2660 Schoolhouse History & Art Center, Colstrip

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Schoolhouse History & Art Center Operational Support - Educational - Performing Art

Short Description: Preserving Education, Cultural Opportunities, and Promotion of our history in rural Colstrip and the surrounding communities.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 150

Paid Staff: 1.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$123,464

Executive Summary

The Schoolhouse History & Arts Center (SHAC) is located in Colstrip, MT, the heart of Coal Country. A rural community with a population of 2,037, Colstrip is home to the only arts center in Rosebud County. SHAC has a reach throughout the entire county, a large part of which comprises the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Over the last 25 years, SHAC has created robust programming, for individuals of all ages and from all walks of life, to advance education and revitalize the community through involvement in the arts. These programs include gallery talks and tours, arts education outreach, and arts-centered family events, among many other things. Through these programs, SHAC is helping to develop the creative potential of nearly 4,000 individuals each year. The generous funding received by the Montana Arts Council allows SHAC to continue this work and keep the arts present in Rosebud County.

Mission

The Schoolhouse History & Art Center is established to provide the opportunity for cultural events, arts education and promotion, and to encourage and preserve the culture and history of Colstrip and the surrounding area.

2661 St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival, Anaconda

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$5,000

Project: Sponsorship Support for Two Summer Music Festival Concert Seasons.

Short Description: The Applicant operates a five concert series each summer and is requesting sponsorship support for one concert per year in 2025 and 2026.

Grant Use: Pay the fee of the artist(s) performing a concert at STSMF for one concert in each of 2025 and 2026.

Request: \$5,000

Volunteers: 14

Paid Staff: 0

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$24,763

Executive Summary

The Applicant is requesting funding as a form of sponsorship support for one summer concert in 2025 and another in 2026. The Music Festival (hereinafter referred to as STSMF) which has successfully operated for 29 years, is feeling the effects of inflation and needs some limited form of financial assistance to continue its concert series into the future. Our concert venue at St. Timothy's Chapel, which is rented from the Presbytery of the Yellowstone, is limited in size and STSMF cannot substantially increase the size of its audience. Admission prices have been increased but each increase is accompanied by the loss of some patrons thereby reducing our capacity to increase revenues.

Mission

The Mission of St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival is to bring to Montana audiences, musicians of regional and national renown.

2662 Stillwater Historical Society, Columbus

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Museum of the Beartooths Operations

Short Description: Preserving Stillwater County's History for Future Generations

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 41

Paid Staff: 2.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$130,921

Executive Summary

The Stillwater Historical Society (SHS) respectfully requests \$20,000 in operational support for the Museum of the Beartooths (MoB) in Columbus, Montana, the county's only museum. SHS strives to make MoB visible, professional, and sustainable. The MoB fills an essential role as the cultural and historical center for Stillwater County residents and visitors.

MoB is currently not funded by Stillwater County; operations are 70% funded by memberships, memorials, gift shop sales, and fundraising events. Approximately 30% of the operating budget is funded through grants. MoB partnered with the Town of Columbus and Stillwater County to carry out the community historic preservation program for Stillwater County and the City of Columbus. SHS also partnered with Stillwater County to house historic county records and make them available to the public.

Residents, descendants with ties to the area, and local businesses have been generous with donating artifacts and archive material, donations and volunteering. To continue serving students, researchers, and visitors, this important educational resource must have sources of funding such as the Montana Cultural Trust to continue to maintain the enthusiasm, momentum, and viability to carry the history of Stillwater County into the future.

Mission

The mission of the Stillwater Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the rich history, art and culture of the Stillwater County area, through the Museum of the Beartooths.

2663 Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Stumptown Art Studio: Supporting A Vibrant Art's Community

Short Description: Operational support of our ongoing art related programs and community art projects

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 125

Paid Staff: 13

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$445,228

Executive Summary

For the 2026/2027 fiscal year of this Cultural Trust Grant, Stumptown Art Studio plans the following:

- * to add an ADA accessible classroom and community space to our existing location
- * to continue pursuing public art installations in collaboration with community members, the City of Whitefish, and local schools and organizations
- * to serve a broader audience of at-risk youth and individuals with special needs (through the expansion of our outreach programs & ADA accessible classroom space)
- * to support local emerging artists through gallery space, classroom and equipment access, and exhibitions

Mission

Our mission is to provide a place where children and adults may come to express their inherent creative natures; to learn about the world of art and its capacity to make whole the individual, enriching the community and beyond.

2664 Sunburst Arts and Education, Eureka

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Developing Cultural Opportunities

Short Description: To continue to find ways to enrich our communities in northwest Montana through a variety of arts events and programs

Grant Use: general operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 39

Paid Staff: 0.38

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$46,747

Executive Summary

Sunburst Arts and Education is a community-based nonprofit organization that has consistently worked hard to enhance the arts in north Lincoln County communities. In 2020, when it was not possible to offer an indoor winter concert series, Sunburst began an outdoor summer series that year which has steadily grown. Our first summer concert in 2024 featuring the Celtic band Tra le Gael, had over 120 people attend! Three years ago when Eureka high school was unable to stage their annual play, a group of young people asked Sunburst to assist them to make a theatrical production happen. With Sunburst volunteers helping to get a license and backing tracks for a Broadway musical, and doing fundraising with the young people, this collaboration resulted in a wonderful performance of "Be More Chill". High school students and Sunburst volunteers continued to work together. Their fifth show this past spring had packed-houses for two incredible performances! Nine years ago a Sunburst volunteer approached the Eureka post office to ask if it was possible to hang an art exhibit there that would rotate every month. That post master there agreed, and soon post offices in Trego and Fortine asked if they could be included in the art rotations. A few years later, the public library in Eureka also joined and then the Logan Health clinic in Eureka. Now every month, volunteers hang art in these five Tobacco Valley locations featuring local artists' work - everything from paintings, to mini quilts, to woodblock prints, to sketches, to photographs. This is how Sunburst responds to the communities and how going forward we hope to continue to do this and more. Our valley is growing with more people moving in. There are interests in different types of music, various classes, exhibits and workshops. With one part-time staff and a strong cadre of volunteers, Sunburst is hopeful to expand arts offerings in northwest Montana if there is funding to help us make all of this happen.

Mission

Sunburst Arts and Education facilitates meaningful connections through sharing art, music and theater which evoke joy and build community. Sunburst also provides educational opportunities to enrich lives, by nurturing curiosity and self-improvement.

2665 The Myrna Loy, Helena

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support for High-Impact Arts and Culture Programs

Short Description: Helena's premier arts organization brings high-impact artistic and cultural activities to students, neighborhoods, individuals, and communities in the Helena area.

Grant Use: Costs associated with visiting artists

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 42

Paid Staff: 8

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$749,186

Executive Summary

The Myrna Loy (TML) is one of the premiere rural arts organizations in the West, and has shaped the creative life of Helena since 1976:

- TML presents award-winning films, dance, music, theater, and performance pieces of all genres to Montana audiences to experience together as a community.
- TML's powerful education programs bring renowned musicians, performers, and teaching artists into local classrooms to teach, lead workshops, and expand the creative potential of Montana students and teachers. We create high-impact workshops, training sessions, residencies, and other arts experiences in a wide variety of settings including ALL Helena Public Schools, Intermountain Children's Home, Shodair Hospital, the alternative high school (PAL), tribal groups, and other places of need.
- TML nourishes the arts statewide by supporting tours of culturally significant groups and performers, making it more affordable for smaller communities to experience world-class arts.
- TML supports local and regional artists directly through grants, commissions, performances and exhibits.
- TML collaborates with local city governments, businesses, and nonprofits of all kinds to bring the power of the arts into many different needs and situations.
- Our creative placemaking projects have revitalized neighborhoods like The Rodney Street district in Helena.
- Our "Myrna Soundstage" YouTube program highlights Montana artists for all the world to see for free and is always available on demand.

The Post-Covid Era has brought significant changes to our neighborhoods, public schools, and other organizations. Some of these changes particularly affect young children, families, and 55+ adults. This project helps TML target those needs in particular, helping us bring the life-expanding power of the arts to students, young families, and older adults. This operational support will help further The Myrna Loy in this work as we continue to adjust to the large upheavals in the arts and education field.

Mission

The Myrna Loy inspires the creative spirits of central Montanans by presenting innovative films, live performances, and other arts; supports local artists in their work; and fosters a lifelong love of the arts through education and enrichment for all ages. Housed in a transformed century-old granite jailhouse, this community-fired culture center brings the arts into the center of community and civic life, for citizens from preschoolers to seniors in care facilities. We believe art transforms everything.

2666 The Paradise Center, Paradise

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,500

Project: Pursuing Artistic Horizons: Enhancing Adult and Youth Art Programs in a Frontier County

Short Description: Our project seeks to expand the availability and improve the quality of visual and performing arts programs in Sanders County, MT (a Frontier County with less than six residents per square mile).

Grant Use: Direct support of enhanced and expanded youth and adult art programs (50%); Center O&M (50%)

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 65

Paid Staff: 0.25

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$256,255

Executive Summary

We have established a firm foundation for the various art programs we offer at The Paradise Center. We are reaching an adult and youth population previously unserved. A Cultural Trust grant would allow us to carefully expand the breadth and quality of our offerings. As our project title suggests, the grant would support us in helping adults and youth in our frontier county pursue their artistic interests, talents, and potential.

Since 2016, we have raised funds (and volunteered countless hours) for the infrastructure supporting our existing programs: ADA compliant bathrooms, access ramps and limited use/access passenger lifts, pianos, modular stage, audience risers, A-V equipment, stage lighting, easels, projectors, potters' wheels, tables, glass and ceramic kilns, and many other items. The programs are made possible by volunteer staff (some instructors are paid modest fees), donations, grants, and our Board's commitment to the importance of these programs by subsidizing these offerings. Our art programs, however, do not pay for themselves as we attempt to keep fees and tickets affordable in this economically challenged county.

Building on our existing structure, grant support will allow us to carefully expand and improve the quality of our offerings over a two-year period while keeping them affordable to participants. We propose to increase direct spending in each of our art program areas. For example, better scripts can be licensed, stage sets can be more realistic, youth art camp and classes can be expanded, more youth can participate with scholarships, more visiting performer outreach events can be scheduled at local schools and senior facilities, master classes can be offered, and, most importantly, we can better publicize the existence of these programs to a larger audience. We also propose to use grant funds to help defray the ongoing operational and maintenance expenses (utilities, insurance, repairs) that must be paid for these programs to be offered.

Mission

The Paradise Center is repurposing the 114-year-old school as a community, visitors, and arts center for residents and visitors to Sanders County, a frontier county of 12,000 and less than six persons per square mile. Art programs for youth and adults have been few in this rural county. The Center addresses this shortcoming with both visual and performing arts programs: Tapestry, the performing arts including visiting performers and the Paradise Players, our own theater group; Mosaic, the visual arts including the Art on the Walls display of works by local artists at our hospital, the annual Artists in Paradise show of local artists, art classes offering painting, fused and stained glass, pottery, photography, and other courses; and Anthology for creative writing, lectures, and films. Kaleidoscope provides programs especially for youth: summer arts and music camp; Spotlight on the Arts, profiling local children each month in the county's weeklies; and the Art on the Walls Student Show.

2667 The Roxy Theater, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Roxy Theater, Missoula's Historic Non-Profit Community Cinema

Short Description: The Roxy Theater provides year round cinematic and cultural programing including nightly new releases and monthly independent, foreign and classic films, theater, and community events.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 122

Paid Staff: 18

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,498,118

Executive Summary

The Roxy Theater is Missoula's non-profit community cinema and a vital, contributing member of Montana's cultural fabric. The Roxy provides access to powerful arts experiences, educational programs, and community events. The Roxy is a key contributor to the ongoing cultural revitalization of Missoula and beyond, bringing in cinematic events that would otherwise not show in Missoula. The Roxy produces over 2,900 shows annually including collaborations with over 200 Montana nonprofit, educational, arts, university, business and cultural organizations. More than 75,000 visitors attended Roxy programs in our last fiscal year. Made possible by over 2,000 members and individual donors. Cultural Trust funding will provide operational support for The Roxy Theater to ensure that a wide variety of unique and diverse programing continues to be available at the Roxy.

Mission

The Roxy Theater seeks to make the world a better place through the power of cinema, education, and community.

2668 Tinworks Art, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Tinworks Art Operating Support for 2025 & 2026 Exhibition Seasons

Short Description: Tinworks Art seeks two years of general operating funds to support its programming focused on the history of clay in Montana (2025) and the legacy of 19th century artist Edmonia Lewis and her brother, Bozemanite Samuel Lewis (2026).

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 0

Paid Staff: 7.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,012,807

Executive Summary

Founded in 2019, Tinworks Art began presenting art exhibitions in a former tin warehouse in northeast Bozeman and by 2022, the energy of artists and art had taken hold. Rather than being developed, the two-acre site became the permanent home for Tinworks Art, bringing artists and community together in meaningful ways.

In 2023, Tinworks hired inaugural Director, Jenny Moore. With Moore's leadership, Tinworks is establishing itself as a distinct arts space rooted in experiences of the American West. Her curation of the 2024 exhibition explores the forces that have shaped the land of the West. It features a new ecological work by Agnes Denes and art by James Castle, Layli Long Soldier, Lucy Raven, Stephen Shore, Robbie Wing, and artist-in-residence Wills Brewer.

From our beginning, Tinworks has been committed to local partnerships, hosting performances by choral, theater, and dance groups often aligned with the season's theme. This year, we introduced our first series of weeklong kids' art camps and a series of artmaking workshops led by Montana-based artists.

Tinworks' 2025 exhibition season will focus on the history of clay in Montana and the influence of regional ceramic practices on contemporary art. In 2026, Tinworks will partner with MSU for an exhibition that explores the legacy of artist Edmonia Lewis and her brother, Bozemanite, Samuel Lewis. Tinworks will showcase new installations by contemporary artists inspired by Lewis' biography and art practice.

Tinworks Art believes in the transformative power of art, centering artists and connecting communities. We kindly request your consideration for two years of operating support for our 2025 and 2026 seasons. Your contribution will directly impact our ability to continue delivering exceptional art experiences and support contemporary artists in their creative endeavors, ensuring that access to art remains a vibrant and vital experience for all Montanans.

Mission

Bringing together artists, their work, and community in evolving spaces, Tinworks is the place where art meets the American West.

2669 Verge Theater, Bozeman

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Using theater to improve mental health and community wellbeing.

Short Description: For 30 years, Verge Theater has offered opportunities for our community members from all walks of life to use the theater arts to process hardships, build resiliency, increase their mental health, and connect with shared experiences.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 500

Paid Staff: 2

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$295,087

Executive Summary

Community theaters hold a special place in America's arts landscape. We foster a strong sense of local identity, generate artistic opportunities, spur local economic development, and bring cultural experiences to places that might otherwise lack access. Verge Theater has been the Gallatin Valley's home for community theater for the past 30 years by nurturing a culture of inclusion, everyone who comes to see a show, performs on stage or takes a class is met with open arms. Verge envisions a world where everyone has equitable opportunities to engage in a diverse and inclusive theater and arts community that nurtures self-awareness, compassion, and connection. The foundations of a healthy and thriving community.

Mission

Verge Theater's mission is: To create and offer arts education and offbeat, thought-provoking, heart-inspiring theater that is empowering and accessible to all members of our vibrant local community.

2670 Western Heritage Center, Billings

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support, Western Heritage Center, Billings.

Short Description: Operational Support for the Western Heritage Center, Billings, Yellowstone County.

Grant Use: General operating support and programming.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 20

Paid Staff: 4

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$362,000

Executive Summary

Since 1971, the Western Heritage Center (WHC), a history museum and interpretive center in Billings, has served Montana residents and travelers with original changing exhibits, an extensive outreach program, and a collection of oral histories, historic photographs, and 40,000 items donated by the residents of the Yellowstone River Valley. Operational support provides funds for maintaining the historic 1901 Parmlly Billings Library building, our home base, and to offer high quality traveling exhibits, public presentations, school programs, and public events at low or no cost. WHC is one of six professionally accredited AAM (American Alliance of Museums) museums in Montana.

Mission

The Western Heritage Center shares and interprets the stories of the Yellowstone River Valley and the Northern High Plains. Our vision is to inspire and grow a sense of place and belonging to our community.

2671 Whitefish Review, Inc., Whitefish

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Whitefish Review

Short Description: Whitefish Review explores the landscapes of the human condition, our connection to the natural world, and illuminates how the confluence of art and science alongside the complex issues of our planet and people is vital for the health of all beings.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 20

Paid Staff: 1

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$85,009

Executive Summary

Whitefish Review seeks operational support to assist with the printing and publishing of our nationally-acclaimed literary journal and continue to expand art and literary events. Across 28 issues, more than 20 volunteer Montana editors and readers have worked tirelessly to curate our journal.

Interviews with creative thinkers who have a connection and love for Montana (including David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel, Tom Brokaw, and Michael Keaton) have resonated with national audiences, enticing readers to re-think what a literary journal can do. Our team has deep Montana roots and works with a steadiness of purpose—a work ethic and ethos, through good days and bad—moving forward to publish each issue with the goal of always becoming better. As readers, writers, and editors, we are always asking, “What’s at stake here?”

We need operational support to keep the presses rolling. Paper expenses, as well as shipping and handling, keep increasing. We also desire to increase the number of events we offer and the honorariums we pay artists and writers. We continue to expand the reach of our work through online archives, but our print journal remains the lifeblood of our operation.

We are very honored to have recently passed a milestone. Since 2007, we have published over 1,000 artists and writers, with about half of the work coming from Montana. While publishing work from famous voices, we also discover new, emerging voices.

Mission

Our mission at Whitefish Review is to publish art, interviews, poetry, and vital stories of fear, desire, celebration, and hope—the whole package of the human experience—while also celebrating the natural environment and inspiring action for a healthier planet. We believe that art, like food, is vital for our health and survival. Our publishing projects and literary events aim to bring more beauty into the world. While publishing new work from famous writers, our editors also work tirelessly to discover new, emerging voices, featuring first-time published writers on the same pages and at our events. The power of art and literature can help foster more awareness and a culture of open-mindedness, compassion, and inclusiveness among individuals and groups with diverse views and backgrounds. We believe all writers and artists have a powerful voice for change and are crucial for the continued development of healthy people and healthy communities.

2672 Whitefish Theatre Co, Whitefish

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operating Support for Whitefish Theatre Co., a community theatre

Short Description: Whitefish Theatre Co. requests operating support funds that will help to finance increasing costs of producing mainstage plays throughout the year, as well as help to maintain our facility for our programs.

Grant Use: General operating support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 468

Paid Staff: 5.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$576,301

Executive Summary

This grant request is for operating support for the Whitefish Theatre Co. (WTC), a community theatre who has provided high quality theatre, music, and dance to a broad geographic area for the past 46 years. Funding will be used in 2 areas of general operation: 1) assist with rising costs of producing 5 mainstage plays each year; and 2) help maintain our home, the O'Shaughnessy Center, for our programs and programs of other community groups. As ticket sales only cover 40% of our expenses, WTC has an increasingly large amount of fundraising to accomplish each year. Having funds that we can put towards operating expenses, which are often difficult to fundraise for, will ease those fundraising pressures and allow WTC to focus on bringing a diverse array of cultural events to our community. Costs for producing 5 mainstage plays each year continue to rise, including significantly higher costs for play rights and scripts, increased costs for show director and stage manager stipends, higher costs for set and costume materials, and the need to replace or repair theatre tech equipment such as wireless microphones. Funding for our facility assures that our community arts building can be maintained into the future for both WTC and many other community organizations, such as Feat x Feet, Whitefish Ballet, and Northwest Ballet, that rely on the building on a weekly basis. Since 1978, WTC has grown from a small theatre into a performing arts organization that is vital to the arts of Northwest Montana. By contributing to our operating expenses, funding from the MT Cultural Trust will allow us to maintain sound finances, continue to offer affordable ticket prices, offer free outreach performances for rural students, at-risk youth, and seniors, and maintain our organization as a tourist draw, all facets of improving the cultural life of our community.

Mission

The mission of the Whitefish Theatre Company is to initiate, develop and nurture the diverse passions of the community through the production and presentation of outstanding performing arts programs and projects.

2673 Zootown Arts Community Center, Missoula

Category: Operational Support

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Operational Support of the Zootown Arts Community Center

Short Description: The Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC) cultivates community through accessible arts experiences for all.

Grant Use: General Operating Support

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 100

Paid Staff: 12

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,050,158

Executive Summary

The Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC) is a nonprofit community art center with a mission to cultivate community through accessible arts experiences for all. Our building consists of dedicated art classrooms, a public print shop, a music and recording studio, three galleries (one dedicated entirely to artists 18 and under), a walk-in Paint-Your-Own-Pottery and DIY clay hand-building studio, an artist shop featuring local makers, a well-stocked completely free community art supply closet, an interactive play area for children, both private and shared artist studios, a public conference room, and a 175 seat black box theatre equipped with a modular, handicap-accessible stage, a green room, a custom-built sound system, and professional theatrical lighting equipment. We provide monthly gallery receptions for youth and adults, year-round high quality arts education and host a plethora of different community events including film festivals, local and touring music shows, locally produced plays, stand-up comedy, Pride events, educational artist talks and panel discussions and more. Arts experiences are essential to fostering community connections as well as supporting individual mental health. The only community arts center of its kind in Montana, the ZACC continues to provide connectivity, experiences, and arts education to our ever-growing community with passion for our mission, flexibility and ingenuity. ZACC operating expenses are numerous and we rely on a combination of fee for service, fundraising, grants, and donations to make ends meet, pay artists and staff and building expenses. We humbly request \$20,000 over a two year period to support our ever-increasing costs for providing essential arts programming for thousands of people per year.

Mission

The Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC) cultivates community through accessible arts experiences for all.

As Missoula's non-profit arts community center, we support local and regional visual artists, performing artists, musicians, families and the community at large by being a safe, open, inclusive space where all community members and visitors can comfortably create, learn, collaborate, and thrive.

2674 Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc., Glasgow

Category: Capital Expenditure

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Mechanical Improvements Project

Short Description: Upgrades to Historic Fort Peck Theatre mechanical systems and additional infrastructure repairs and preservation.

Grant Use: Cost associated with infrastructure and utility improvements to support the HVAC modernization.

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 250

Paid Staff: 1.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$334,441

Executive Summary

For over 50 years, the Fort Peck Fine Arts Council has been dedicated to enriching the cultural life of northeastern Montana through music, theatre, dance, and art at the historic Fort Peck Theatre. Our foremost mission is to preserve this architectural and cultural gem, which we acquired from the Town of Fort Peck in 1986. Since then, we have focused on maintaining and restoring the theatre according to a carefully planned long-term strategy.

We are seeking \$20,000 to support critical upgrades that will enhance the theatre's infrastructure. This project will continue the focus on modernizing the mechanical systems in the main theatre and backstage areas. We plan to install advanced air-cooled variable-refrigerant flow (VRF) units and natural gas-fired heating systems to improve climate control, boost energy efficiency, and reduce peak season operational costs.

Additionally, we will begin revitalizing the original heating system in the front-of-house areas to improve comfort and preserve the theatre's historic character. The upgrades are expected to increase maintenance and operational expenses with increased utility costs in the winter as well as added the expenses towards the preservation and infrastructure projects that can now be completed during the production off-season.

Our priority will also include repairing aged plumbing, doors, and lighting to ensure the theatre remains a welcoming and functional venue. These enhancements are crucial for maintaining the theatre's integrity and supporting its continued use as a vibrant community resource.

Your support will enable us to advance these essential improvements, ensuring that the Fort Peck Theatre continues to be a cherished cultural landmark and a hub for the arts in our region.

Mission

The mission of the Fort Peck Fine Arts Council is to save and preserve the historic Fort Peck Theatre; to entertain through the arts, especially the performing arts; to educate and encourage youth in the arts; and to provide a forum for local and regional artists.

1. To save and preserve the historic Fort Peck Theatre
2. To educate and entertain through the arts, primarily the performing arts
3. To encourage youth in the arts
4. To provide a forum for local and regional artists

2675 Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Red Lodge

Category: Capital Expenditure

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$13,000

Project: Roosevelt Center East Entrance Restoration

Short Description: The Roosevelt Center East Entrance Restoration project will return the exterior and interior of the historic main entrance to its original design.

Grant Use: Capital support for the Roosevelt Center restoration project.

Request: \$15,000

Volunteers: 0

Paid Staff: 3.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$270,098

Executive Summary

The Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (RLACF) requests \$15,000 from the Cultural Trust grant program to engage an experienced mason and roofer to restore the Roosevelt Center's former front entrance to its original form. RLACF is rehabilitating the old Roosevelt School building and its grounds into an art, cultural, community, conference, and educational center. The Center consists of two buildings, the historic building built in 1921 and an addition, constructed in 1990. The original front entry is designated as a key exit for emergencies and will be restored for the safety of visitors and to retain the building's historical character. RLACF will complete the project by removing the mortar and repointing of the brick, replacing brick as needed, rebuilding scuppers, and removing and replacing the entry roof on the exterior. Special attention to the restoration will include properly adhering to the roof flashing to avoid future water damage. The interior work will address the water damage by stuccoing interior walls and replacing ceiling stucco. The mason has noted that the damage to the substrate from water and age is unknown until the old stucco is removed and infrastructure assessed. The Center's transformation has developed through numerous community meetings, a Citizens' Institute on Rural Design workshop in 2016, and a historic preservation pre-design workshop with the Historic Preservation Alliance Roadshow to create the final design and a Preliminary Architectural Report was completed in 2017. As a rural community without significant financial resources, using the phased-in approach allows use of the building while continuing construction projects. This \$37,115 phase will complete the exterior building components and allow RLACF to focus on the completion of the interior renovations and thereby opening the third floor of the 1920s side of the building for arts and cultural business incubation rental space and community use of the lecture hall.

Mission

RLACF's mission is to connect people and build community by catalyzing change and sharing resources to build a strong, vibrant, resilient, inclusive community. The Roosevelt Center is an extension of RLACF's Robust Arts, Culture and Environment initiative to catalyze the community to fully develop and embrace its sense of place regarding art, culture, and the natural environment.

2676 Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings

Category: Capital Expenditure

Funding Amount Recommended by Committee: \$12,500

Project: Providing a Welcoming Space at the Yellowstone Art Museum Through Building Maintenance

Short Description: This funding will be used to replace seven of twenty-two failing heat pumps which help maintain the temperature of the 37,000 SQFT Yellowstone Art Museum building.

Grant Use: Costs associated with replacing YAM's failing heat pumps, part of the museum's HVAC system

Request: \$20,000

Volunteers: 70

Paid Staff: 21.5

One-Year Organizational Expenses: \$1,824,428

Executive Summary

This funding will go toward the replacement of seven failing heat pumps, which maintain the temperature of the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) building. Preserving YAM's assets by maintaining our facilities is essential to the stewardship of one of the most prominent and most visible cultural destinations in the Billings region. We must maintain a safe and sustainable space for artwork to be exhibited, community events to be held, and museum business to be conducted. YAM has been working through a multi-year improvement plan for the 37,400 SQFT main building, portions of which date from 1998, 1916, and 1884. All but one of the museum's twenty-three heat pumps are 25 years old and failing, and we plan to replace seven each year for three years.

YAM was established as a contemporary art museum in 1964. It serves Billings, Yellowstone County, and the surrounding areas. It attracts tourists with exhibitions, special events, and a robust art education and public programming slate. One of YAM's many educational partnerships is the nearly 60-year-running Art Suitcase program with Billings Public Schools, which reaches thousands of children annually. YAM is among the 3.5% of museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. With a permanent collection of more than 3,500 works of art from all historical periods and an emphasis on artists working in Montana and the American Northwest who were a part of the artistic vanguard of their time, YAM offers ten exhibitions a year, balancing pieces from the permanent collection with temporary loans, and solo and group exhibitions. YAM strives to be an excellent partner to local and regional artists by providing exposure, inspiration, networking, and financial opportunities. It is a cornerstone of Billings Cultural Partners. YAM's four primary goals are: 1) increase access, 2) engage the community, 3) achieve sustainability and 4) preserve assets.

Mission

The Yellowstone Art Museum exhibits, interprets, collects, and preserves art for the enrichment, education, inspiration, and enjoyment of all.

Section V. Cultural Trust Fiscal History

This section contains a synopsis of the fiscal history of the Cultural Trust including information about the size and growth of the corpus, the earnings received, and the annual amounts awarded to organizations.

The Corpus:

The Cultural Trust was established in 1976, with 2/3 of 1% of the coal tax to be set aside for Cultural and Aesthetics purposes per MCA 15-35-108—the amount “must be allocated to a trust fund for the purpose of protection of works of art in the capitol and for other cultural and aesthetic projects. Income from this trust fund account, excluding unrealized gains and losses, must be appropriated for protection of works of art in the state capitol and for other cultural and aesthetic projects.” From \$93,000 that first year, the trust reached a high of \$7.5 million in fiscal year 1997, before \$4 million was transferred to the historical society for the purchase of Virginia City. Over the years, other coal tax receipts were diverted from the corpus—see Diversions and Lost Interest below. \$3.4 million was transferred back at the beginning of fiscal year 2006. Governor Schweitzer recommended and the 60th Legislature (2007) approved replacing the \$.5 million still due from the Virginia City purchase plus an additional one-time-only transfer of \$1 million in HB 9.

At fiscal year-end 2024, the trust fund corpus was \$16.5 million. This number is the fund balance and includes both long-term investments and STIP. The corpus is growing with the addition of about \$483,000 in coal tax receipts every year, based on the average tax receipts for the last three years.

Earnings:

The earnings and corpus size by year are lined out on the charts that follow. Interest rates began to drop in FY 2005 from 6.4% and will continue to drop to a projected 4.3% by the end of the coming biennium, according to the Board of Investments (BOI).

Cultural Trust History of Earnings and Corpus Table: Page V-3

Requests and Grant Awards:

To reduce the number of applications, starting in the 95 biennium the Citizen's Advisory Committee requested applicants to submit only one application, unless the second application were for a Challenge Grant for Endowment Development. There have been no Challenge Grants awarded since the 1999 biennium.

The average grant awarded was \$40,136 in FY82-83 and has, except for one biennium, decreased every biennium to a current average grant of \$12,713. This translates into \$6,357

per year, as these are two-year grants. Funding is recommended 75 applications for the 2026-2027 biennium.

The total in grant funding distributed grew initially from \$50,000 in FY78-79 to a peak of \$1.3 million in FY86-87, when the amount available for grants began to drop again.

Revenue shortfalls have caused grant reductions as follows: 23.8% in 1995, 3.26% in 2001, 2.36% in 2003, 12.9% in 2007, .63% in 2009, 22.3% in 2011, and 26.7% in 2015. The C&A Advisory Committee met in October to set grant amount recommendations for HB9. The revenue estimates available from the BOI projected \$954,000 available for grants and the committee used this amount to suggest award amounts.

The amount of money available for grants is approximately 73% higher than it was last biennium. The projected FY 26-27 grant funds available are 20% higher than they were two decades ago, during the 2007 biennium.

Coal Tax Revenue and Shortfall History by Biennium Table: Page V-4 and Cultural Trust Reversions and Shortfalls Since 1995 Table: Page V-5

Diversions and Lost Interest:

Since 1994, nearly one million dollars of coal tax receipts have been diverted from the Cultural Trust for other purposes. These diversions of the tax, plus the \$3.9 million loan to purchase Virginia City, have resulted in lost interest of around \$1.1 million net. A chart follows which shows a picture of the total diversions, plus the interest lost on the diversions. The \$1 million OTO restored by Governor Schweitzer brought the Trust back to where it would have been had the diversions and transfer to purchase Virginia City not taken place.

Charts and Tables: Page V-6

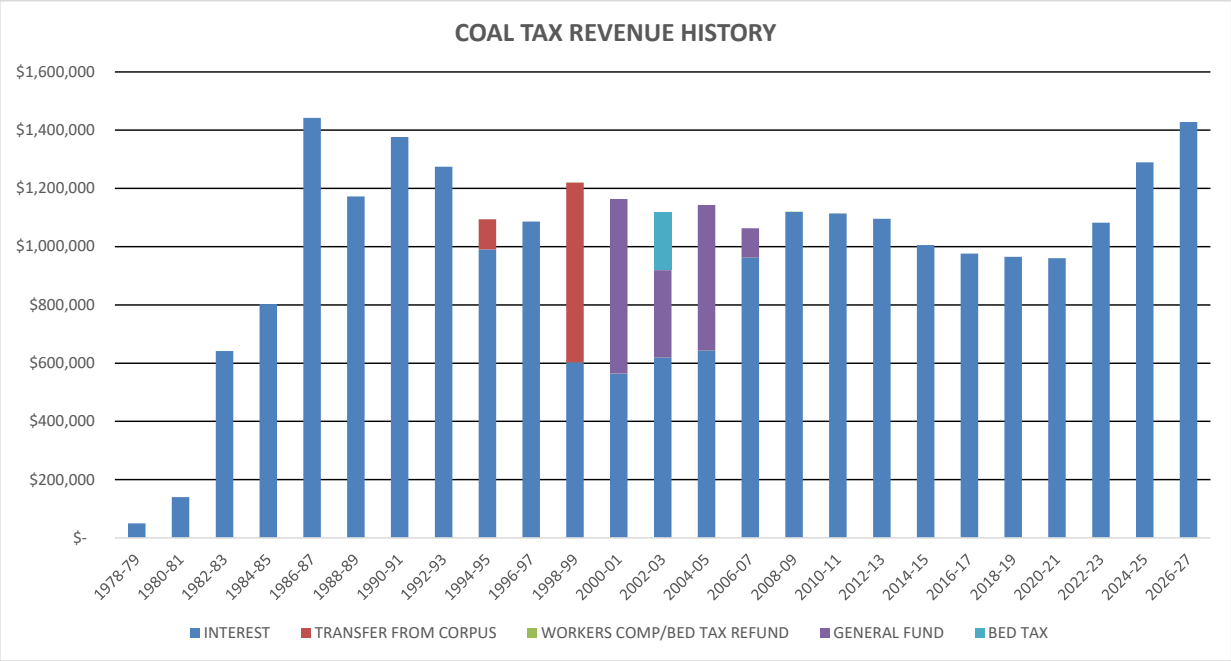
MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL--COAL TAX REVENUE HISTORY BY BIENNIUM

11/1/2024

	INTEREST	TRANSFER FROM CORPUS	WORKERS COMP/BED TAX REFUND	GENERAL FUND	BED TAX	TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE
1978-79	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000	
1980-81	\$ 140,000					\$ 140,000	180%
1982-83	\$ 641,680					\$ 641,680	358%
1984-85	\$ 802,914					\$ 802,914	25%
1986-87	\$ 1,441,942					\$ 1,441,942	80%
1988-89	\$ 1,172,220					\$ 1,172,220	-19%
1990-91	\$ 1,376,286					\$ 1,376,286	17%
1992-93	\$ 1,274,749					\$ 1,274,749	-7%
1994-95	\$ 990,158	\$ 103,673				\$ 1,093,831	-14%
1996-97	\$ 1,086,282					\$ 1,086,282	-1%
1998-99	\$ 602,920	\$ 616,678	\$ 235			\$ 1,219,833	12%
2000-01	\$ 563,652		\$ 169	\$ 600,000		\$ 1,163,821	-5%
2002-03	\$ 619,486		\$ 167	\$ 300,000	\$ 198,575	\$ 1,118,228	-4%
2004-05	\$ 644,017		\$ 166	\$ 499,150		\$ 1,143,333	2%
2006-07	\$ 962,739		\$ 135	\$ 100,275		\$ 1,063,149	-7%
2008-09	\$ 1,119,540		\$ 128			\$ 1,119,668	5%
2010-11	\$ 1,113,734		\$ 172			\$ 1,113,906	-1%
2012-13	\$ 1,095,367					\$ 1,095,367	-2%
2014-15	\$ 1,005,610					\$ 1,005,610	-8%
2016-17	\$ 976,450					\$ 976,450	-3%
2018-19	\$ 965,392					\$ 965,392	-1%
2020-21	\$ 960,675					\$ 960,675	0%
2022-23	\$ 1,082,650					\$ 1,082,650	13%
2024-25	\$ 1,289,930					\$ 1,289,930	19%
2026-27	\$ 1,428,000					\$ 1,428,000	11%

TOTAL	\$	23,406,393	\$	720,351	\$	1,172	\$	1,499,425	\$	198,575	\$	25,825,916
% OF TOTAL		90.63%		2.79%		0.00%		5.81%		0.77%		100.00%

***Does not include carryforwards/MHS and A&E transfers



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL--COAL TAX REVENUE AND SHORTFALL HISTORY BY BIENNIUM

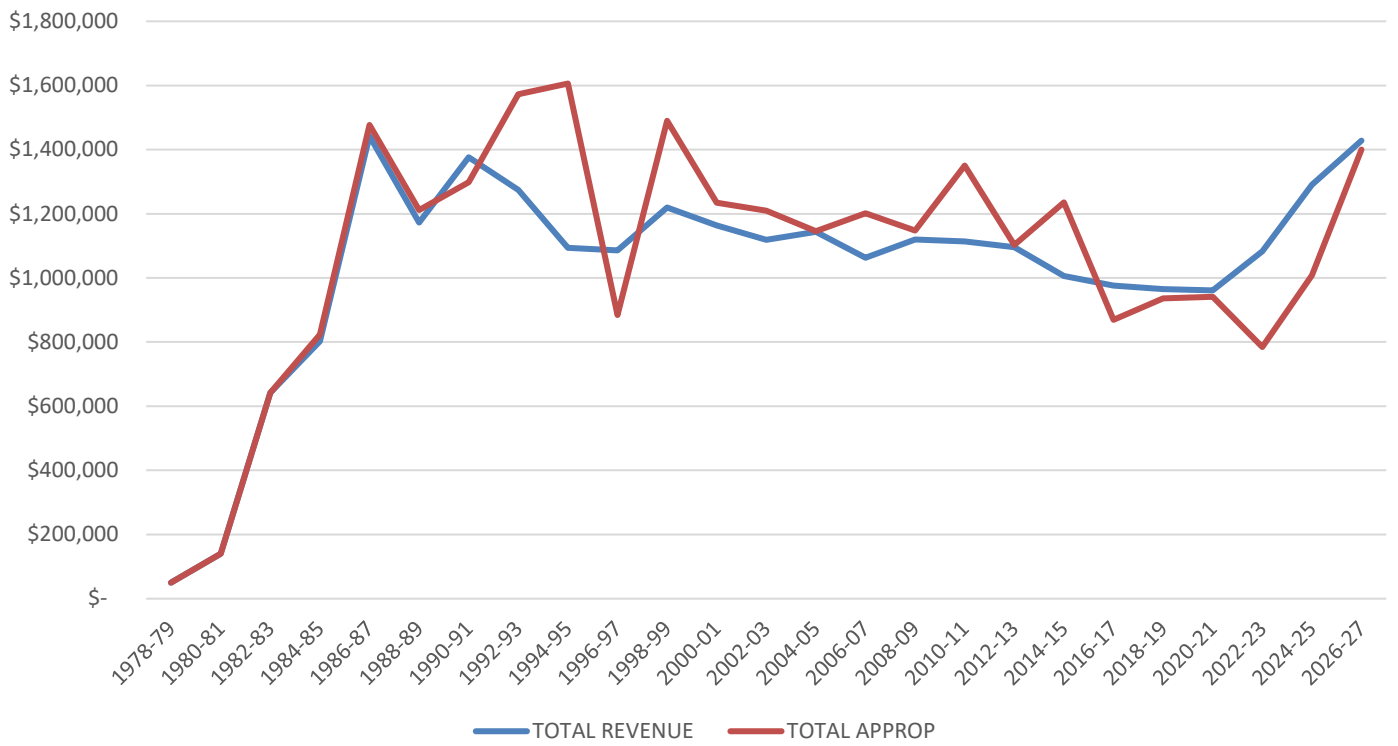
11/1/2024

	INTEREST	TRANSFER FROM CORPUS	WORKERS COMP/BED TAX REFUND	GENERAL FUND	BED TAX	TOTAL REVENUE	% CHANGE	TOTAL APPROP	DIFFERENCE	REVERSIONS	SHORTFALL/ CARRYFORWARD	% OF TOTAL APPROP
1978-79	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ -			
1980-81	\$ 140,000					\$ 140,000	180%	\$ 140,000	\$ -			
1982-83	\$ 641,680					\$ 641,680	358%	\$ 641,680	\$ -	\$ 39,638	\$ 39,638	6.18%
1984-85	\$ 802,914					\$ 802,914	25%	\$ 823,479	\$ (20,565)	\$ 12,775	\$ (7,790)	-0.95%
1986-87	\$ 1,441,942					\$ 1,441,942	80%	\$ 1,476,511	\$ (34,569)	\$ 62,397	\$ 27,828	1.88%
1988-89	\$ 1,172,220					\$ 1,172,220	-19%	\$ 1,211,817	\$ (39,597)	\$ 112,527	\$ 72,930	6.02%
1990-91	\$ 1,376,286					\$ 1,376,286	17%	\$ 1,298,788	\$ 77,498	\$ 114,127	\$ 191,625	14.75%
1992-93	\$ 1,274,749					\$ 1,274,749	-7%	\$ 1,572,850	\$ (298,101)	\$ 41,611	\$ (256,490)	-16.31%
1994-95	\$ 990,158	\$ 103,673				\$ 1,093,831	-14%	\$ 1,605,936	\$ (512,105)	\$ 48,064	\$ (464,041)	-28.90%
1996-97	\$ 1,086,282					\$ 1,086,282	-1%	\$ 884,206	\$ 202,076	\$ 32,203	\$ 234,279	26.50%
1998-99	\$ 602,920	\$ 616,678	\$ 46			\$ 1,219,644	12%	\$ 1,489,453	\$ (269,809)	\$ 72,666	\$ (197,143)	-13.24%
2000-01	\$ 563,652		\$ 169	\$ 600,000		\$ 1,163,821	-5%	\$ 1,234,939	\$ (71,118)	\$ 39,818	\$ (31,300)	-2.53%
2002-03	\$ 619,486		\$ 167	\$ 300,000	\$ 198,575	\$ 1,118,228	-4%	\$ 1,209,375	\$ (91,147)	\$ 11,142	\$ (80,005)	-6.62%
2004-05	\$ 644,017		\$ 166	\$ 499,150		\$ 1,143,333	2%	\$ 1,145,473	\$ (2,140)	\$ 19,725	\$ 17,585	1.54%
2006-07	\$ 962,739		\$ 135	\$ 100,275		\$ 1,063,149	-7%	\$ 1,201,295	\$ (138,146)	\$ 18,075	\$ (120,071)	-10.00%
2008-09	\$ 1,119,540		\$ 128			\$ 1,119,668	5%	\$ 1,148,033	\$ (28,365)	\$ 22,584	\$ (5,781)	-0.50%
2010-11	\$ 1,113,734		\$ 172			\$ 1,113,906	-1%	\$ 1,350,094	\$ (236,188)	\$ 32,865	\$ (203,323)	-15.06%
2012-13	\$ 1,095,367					\$ 1,095,367	-2%	\$ 1,102,544	\$ (7,177)	\$ 13,480	\$ 6,303	0.57%
2014-15	\$ 1,005,610					\$ 1,005,610	-8%	\$ 1,235,515	\$ (229,905)	\$ 5,000	\$ (224,905)	-18.20%
2016-17	\$ 976,450					\$ 976,450	-3%	\$ 869,748	\$ 106,702	\$ 10,725	\$ 117,427	13.50%
2018-19	\$ 965,392					\$ 965,392	-1%	\$ 935,960	\$ 29,432	\$ 3,104	\$ 32,536	3.48%
2020-21	\$ 960,675					\$ 960,675	0%	\$ 941,103	\$ 19,572	\$ 8,100	\$ 27,672	2.94%
2022-23	\$ 1,082,650					\$ 1,082,650	13%	\$ 784,608	\$ 298,042	\$ -	\$ 298,042	37.99%
2024-25	\$ 1,289,930					\$ 1,289,930	19%	\$ 1,008,023	\$ 281,907	\$ -	\$ 281,907	27.97%
2026-27	\$ 1,428,000					\$ 1,428,000	11%	\$ 1,399,851	\$ 28,149	\$ -	\$ 28,149	2.01%

TOTAL \$ 23,406,393 \$ 720,351 \$ 983 \$ 1,499,425 \$ 198,575 \$ 25,825,727 \$ 26,761,281 \$ (935,554) \$ 720,627 \$ (214,927) -0.80%
 % OF TOTAL 90.63% 2.79% 0.00% 5.81% 0.77% 100.00%

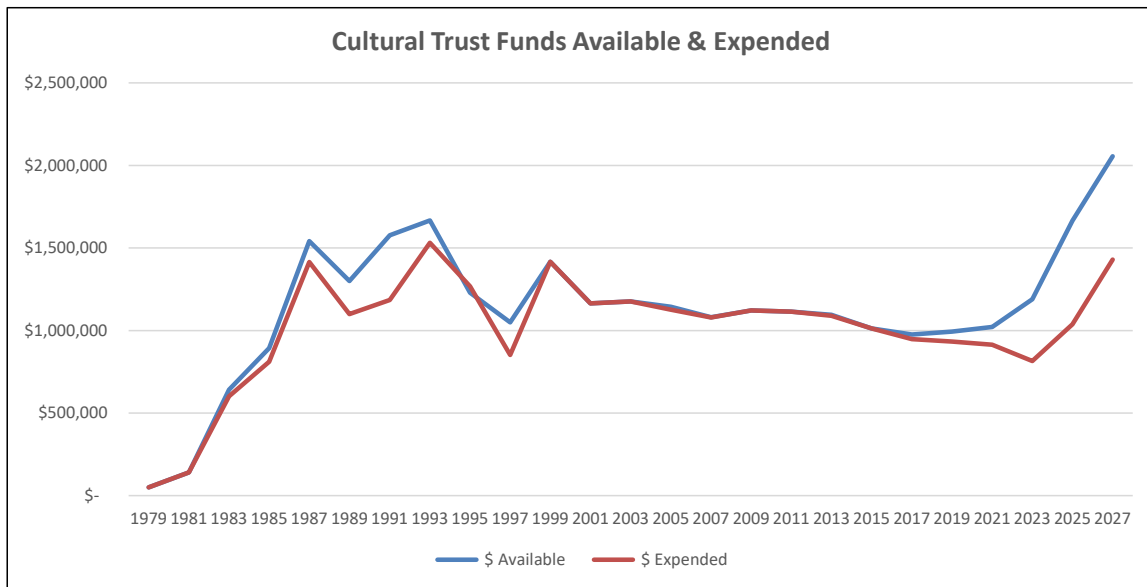
***Does not include carryforwards/MHS and A&E transfers

Cultural Trust Revenues and Appropriations



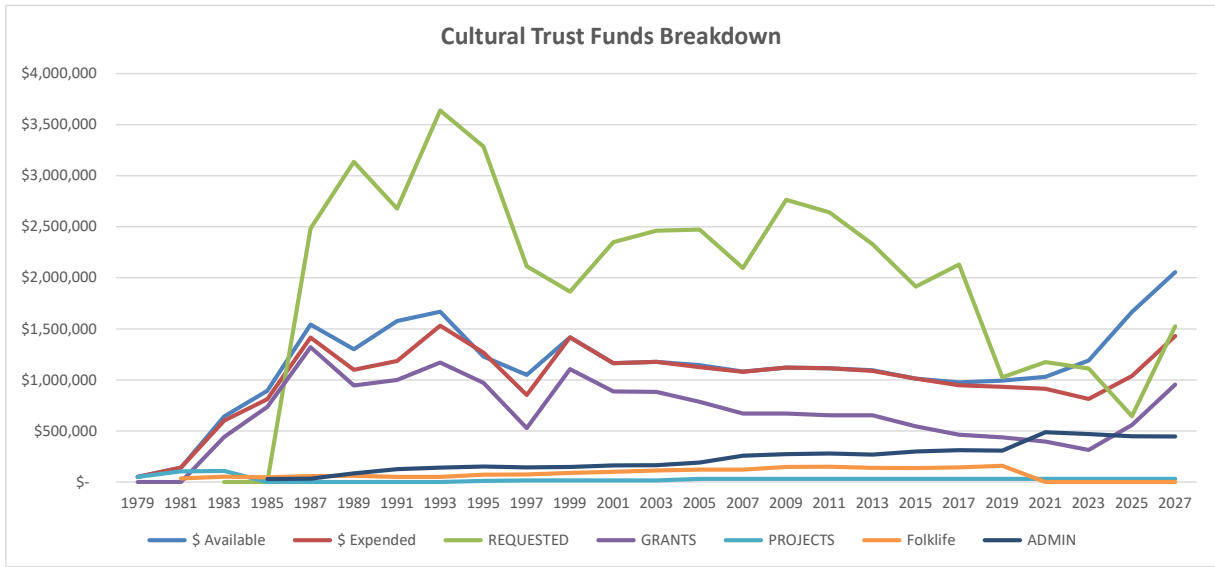
Cultural Trust Funds Available & Expended

Biennium	\$ Available	\$ Expended	% change	
1979	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		
1981	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	180%	
1983	\$ 641,680	\$ 602,042	358%	
1985	\$ 893,760	\$ 810,704	39%	
1987	\$ 1,541,865	\$ 1,414,114	73%	
1989	\$ 1,299,971	\$ 1,099,290	-16%	
1991	\$ 1,576,967	\$ 1,184,661	21%	
1993	\$ 1,667,055	\$ 1,531,239	6%	
1995	\$ 1,229,647	\$ 1,266,973	-26%	
1997	\$ 1,048,956	\$ 852,003	-15%	
1999	\$ 1,416,787	\$ 1,416,787	35%	
2001	\$ 1,163,822	\$ 1,163,906	-18%	
2003	\$ 1,176,633	\$ 1,176,517	1%	
2005	\$ 1,143,448	\$ 1,125,748	-3%	
2007	\$ 1,080,849	\$ 1,079,451	-5%	
2009	\$ 1,121,066	\$ 1,121,066	4%	
2011	\$ 1,113,906	\$ 1,113,906	-1%	
2013	\$ 1,095,367	\$ 1,089,064	-2%	
2015	\$ 1,011,912	\$ 1,012,336	-8%	
2017	\$ 976,026	\$ 948,286	-4%	
2019	\$ 993,132	\$ 932,968	2%	
2021	\$ 1,020,839	\$ 913,503	3%	
2023	\$ 1,189,986	\$ 814,608	17%	
2025	\$ 1,665,308	\$ 1,038,023	40%	AWARDED
2027	\$ 2,055,285	\$ 1,429,851	23%	RECOMMENDED
Totals	\$ 28,314,267	\$ 25,327,046		



Cultural Trust Funds Available & Expended

Biennium	\$ Available	\$ Expended	REQUESTED	GRANTS	PROJECTS	Folklife	ADMIN	% change	
1979	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		\$ -	\$ 50,000				
1981	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000		\$ -	\$ 105,000	\$ 35,000		180%	
1983	\$ 641,680	\$ 602,042	NA	\$ 441,704	\$ 108,489	\$ 51,849		358%	
1985	\$ 893,760	\$ 810,704	NA	\$ 736,790	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 28,914	39%	
1987	\$ 1,541,865	\$ 1,414,114	\$ 2,482,982	\$ 1,320,401	\$ -	\$ 59,000	\$ 33,300	73%	
1989	\$ 1,299,971	\$ 1,099,290	\$ 3,135,596	\$ 944,490	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 84,400	-16%	
1991	\$ 1,576,967	\$ 1,184,661	\$ 2,678,817	\$ 998,752	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 125,509	21%	
1993	\$ 1,667,055	\$ 1,531,239	\$ 3,638,854	\$ 1,169,469	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 141,116	6%	
1995	\$ 1,229,647	\$ 1,266,973	\$ 3,285,067	\$ 970,458	\$ 12,000	\$ 71,389	\$ 151,500	-26%	
1997	\$ 1,048,956	\$ 852,003	\$ 2,114,287	\$ 527,517	\$ 15,000	\$ 74,219	\$ 143,523	-15%	
1999	\$ 1,416,787	\$ 1,416,787	\$ 1,863,576	\$ 1,104,928	\$ 15,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 148,369	35%	
2001	\$ 1,163,822	\$ 1,163,906	\$ 2,350,017	\$ 887,067	\$ 15,000	\$ 99,600	\$ 162,239	-18%	
2003	\$ 1,176,633	\$ 1,176,517	\$ 2,460,935	\$ 883,272	\$ 15,000	\$ 112,600	\$ 165,645	1%	
2005	\$ 1,143,448	\$ 1,125,748	\$ 2,472,265	\$ 784,425	\$ 30,000	\$ 121,600	\$ 189,723	-3%	
2007	\$ 1,080,849	\$ 1,079,451	\$ 2,097,103	\$ 671,081	\$ 30,000	\$ 121,600	\$ 256,770	-5%	
2009	\$ 1,121,066	\$ 1,121,066	\$ 2,763,915	\$ 671,804	\$ 30,000	\$ 147,000	\$ 272,263	4%	
2011	\$ 1,113,906	\$ 1,113,906	\$ 2,640,360	\$ 654,550	\$ 30,000	\$ 149,361	\$ 279,995	-1%	
2013	\$ 1,095,367	\$ 1,089,064	\$ 2,328,862	\$ 652,819	\$ 30,000	\$ 138,224	\$ 268,021	-2%	
2015	\$ 1,011,912	\$ 1,012,336	\$ 1,915,339	\$ 546,300	\$ 30,000	\$ 137,286	\$ 298,750	-8%	
2017	\$ 976,026	\$ 948,286	\$ 2,130,853	\$ 463,607	\$ 30,000	\$ 142,320	\$ 312,359	-4%	
2019	\$ 993,132	\$ 932,968	\$ 1,026,408	\$ 436,667	\$ 30,000	\$ 158,885	\$ 307,416	2%	
2021	\$ 1,029,839	\$ 913,503	\$ 1,173,844	\$ 395,781	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 487,722	4%	
2023	\$ 1,189,986	\$ 814,608	\$ 1,112,817	\$ 314,800	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 469,808	16%	
2025	\$ 1,665,308	\$ 1,038,023	\$ 645,876	\$ 558,876	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 449,147	40%	AWARDED
2027	\$ 2,055,285	\$ 1,429,851	\$ 1,525,922	\$ 953,500	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 446,351	23%	RECOMMENDED
Totals	\$ 28,323,267	\$ 25,327,046	\$ 45,843,695	\$ 17,089,058	\$ 695,489	\$ 1,914,933	\$ 5,222,840		



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL
 CULTURAL TRUST
 REVERSIONS AND SHORTFALLS SINCE 1995

YEAR	ORIGINAL AWARD - HB 9	SHORTFALL	REVERSIONS	REVISED AWARD	% SHORTFALL
1995	\$ 1,332,255	\$ 317,091	\$ 34,564	\$ 980,600	23.80% ACTUAL
1997	\$ 567,720	\$ -	\$ 32,203	\$ 535,517	0.00% ACTUAL
1999	\$ 1,141,084	\$ -	\$ 36,155	\$ 1,104,929	0.00% ACTUAL
2001	\$ 958,100	\$ 31,216	\$ 39,818	\$ 887,066	3.26% ACTUAL
2003	\$ 916,130	\$ 21,631	\$ 11,142	\$ 883,357	2.36% ACTUAL
2005	\$ 804,150	\$ -	\$ 19,725	\$ 784,425	0.00% ACTUAL
2007	\$ 792,925	\$ 102,369	\$ 18,075	\$ 672,481	12.91% ACTUAL
2009	\$ 698,770	\$ 4,383	\$ 22,584	\$ 671,803	0.63% ACTUAL
2011	\$ 885,400	\$ 197,377	\$ 32,865	\$ 655,158	22.29% ACTUAL
2013	\$ 666,299	\$ -	\$ 13,480	\$ 652,819	0.00% ACTUAL
2015	\$ 758,650	\$ 202,894	\$ 5,000	\$ 550,756	26.74% ACTUAL
2017	\$ 384,995	\$ (89,337)	\$ 10,725	\$ 463,607	-23.20% ACTUAL
2019	\$ 440,000	\$ -	\$ 3,104	\$ 436,896	0.00% ACTUAL
2021	\$ 423,381	\$ -	\$ 8,100	\$ 415,281	0.00% ACTUAL
2023	\$ 314,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 314,800	0.00% ACTUAL
2025	\$ 558,876	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 558,876	0.00% AWARDED AND PROJECTED
2027	\$ 953,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 953,500	0.00% RECOMMENDED
	\$ 12,597,035	\$ 787,623	\$ 287,541	\$ 11,521,871	6.25%