

# VOICES

~ July – August, 2007 ~

THE PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL, INC.

## Bob Whitney – SMAHC Prairie Disciple for 2007

We are proud to present **Bob Whitney** as the SMAHC **Prairie Disciple** for 2007. Bob is a great supporter of the arts as well as a remarkable musician. He has been an inspiration to many people in the Willmar area and throughout the SMAHC region. He has touched many over the years with his strong advocacy for the arts.

Bob hails from NW Iowa, near Sioux City where he grew up on a farm. Bob spent his early years enjoying work and play on the farm. When he was around 5 years old, he began what would be a long career of music practice and performance. He began studying piano and later, the saxophone. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, his mother gave him a birthday present of a year's guitar lessons. He couldn't get enough of the guitar and would practice hours on end.

Bob attended Dana College in Blair, Nebraska to study music. He fell in love with the mystery and sound of the oboe and switched his study from the saxophone to the oboe. He became very adept at playing various music instruments and today, he plays the guitar, violin, saxophone, oboe, flute, and piano. He received his Bachelor degree in music and in 1995, he received a Master of Music degree from St. Cloud State University .

Bob worked for a number of years in advertising. He & his wife Jeanne purchased and operated Ye Olde Mill Inn, a seasonal resort on Green Lake for 15 years, where they conducted nightly sing-alongs for campers and lake residents. In 1995, they purchased Nelson Music, moved it to the present location and renamed it Whitney Music.

Bob is currently involved in several music organizations as a performer, including the Prairie Winds Band and the Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra. He was the Musical Director of orchestra for many years. He is also a member of two smaller groups, the Green Lake Blue Grass Band as guitar and fiddle player and the Off The Cuff jazz combo where he plays saxophone and guitar.

His contributions to arts organizations in the Willmar have been many. He helped organize a multi-cultural guitar chorus in the Willmar area which performed a concert with a guest guitarist. He has been active as a board member on the West Central Concert Series and is a faithful supporter of the Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee! festival. He was instrumental in the organizational development of the Willmar Area Symphony Orchestra. He served as their president and wrote grants to help them receive their 501(c)(3) status and develop a fund raising campaign. He volunteers regularly for groups interested in arts development. He joined the SMAHC Board in 1996 and was a very active board member for 8 years serving on the long range planning committee, the executive committee and the grant guideline review committee. Bob Whitney truly epitomizes the spirit of the "**Prairie Disciple Award**."

Bob has been inspired and encouraged by many people in his life, including his parents, his high school and college teachers, friends and area musicians. He cited Dr. Chet Sommers and Dave Eliason as two examples of how musical leaders make you stretch your talents and abilities. Bob has also encouraged many who have come across his path. He teaches woodwind instruments as well as guitar and violin. And he has been a great advocate to many through his involvement in the arts.

Bob is a devoted family man. His wife Jeanne serves on the SMAHC Arts in Education and Communities grant panel. They have three children, Ann, Jonathon, and Clair, two grandchildren, Mae Anna and Autumn, and are expecting two more grandchildren in the Fall.

Read more about Bob Whitney – "A Q & A with Bob Whitney" on the SMAHC website: [www.smahc.org/bob\\_whitney.htm](http://www.smahc.org/bob_whitney.htm)

**Be sure to join us on October 13 at the SMAHC Annual Celebration when we honor Bob Whitney and present him with the award.**

**Next issue we will feature Dan Rieppel, 2007 Prairie Star.**



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# News

## NEW LONDON COUPLE OPENS ARThouse GALLERY IN HOME

ARThouse is a residential, phantom exhibition venue specializing in contemporary art and ideas founded by contemporary artists and New London residents Lisa Bergh and Andrew Nordin.

Andrew and Lisa left Milwaukee, WI to move to the small town of New London, MN in the summer of 2005. While they love the small town lifestyle, there was something they missed from their former urban existence – the contemporary art centers, museums and galleries. In an effort to fill this void and share their enthusiasm for the visual arts, they decided to paint their living room white and take out the furniture to create a gallery in their home. They hope to host three to four one night only exhibits a year.

“Our inaugural exhibit will feature the work of Minneapolis artist Jonathan Whitney. Jon is originally from New London and has been working and exhibiting his work in the Twin Cities area for over 10 years. He holds a BFA from St. Cloud State and served as the director of Gus Lucky Gallery in Minneapolis. For his exhibit at ARThouse, Jon will be presenting a video installation, ink drawings on plexiglass, and temporary helium sculptures in our front yard. Jon’s work is consistently poetic, ephemeral and beautiful. He has a profound ability to combine non-traditional art materials, complicated ideas and personal narratives with a subdued, minimal but compelling voice”, said Andrew.

“Jon’s work is the perfect example of what people can expect to see when they come to ARThouse. Exhibits at ARThouse will focus on presenting artwork that explores the ideas and themes being examined in the contemporary art world. We are committed to exhibiting emerging and mid-career artists from throughout the Midwest who typically show in more urban, experimental venues. Our October 2007 exhibit will feature the work of Scott Stulen, Associate Curator with the Rochester Art Center. And in April of 2008 we will present Chicago based artist Ashley E. Towne.”, said Lisa.

ARThouse is located at 117 1<sup>st</sup> AVE NE New London, MN. The first exhibit for ARThouse will feature the work of Minneapolis artist, Jonathan Gomez Whitney. A free and public reception for the artist will be held on July 28, 2007 from 5-9 pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to view the exhibit, meet with the artist and enjoy light snacks and beverages. The first 15 visitors to the reception will receive a door prize -- an ARThouse tradition! Additional information about ARThouse and its upcoming events is available at [www.arthousenewlondon.com](http://www.arthousenewlondon.com).

ARThouse  
117 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
New London, MN 56273  
354-3432  
[www.arthousenewlondon.com](http://www.arthousenewlondon.com)

## “Ask Greta”

### *Do you have any hints about writing a grant?*

Grants are only available to artists, non-profit organizations, community groups, schools and units of government that are in our 18 county service area: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties.

Once your grant application is submitted, it is essentially in competition with many others. You are responsible for double-checking the accuracy and completeness of your application before you mail it in.

I’m eager to work with you in putting together your application before you submit it, but remember that your request for help must come well in advance of the deadline date. I often have meetings scheduled in or out-of-town.

To ensure that your application has the best possible chance at being funded, read and follow the directions in the grant guidelines. To help you, here are some of the most common errors that I see on grant applications:

- There are no calculations justifying where the budget figures came from.
- The budget figures don’t add up correctly; budget figures are not rounded off to the nearest dollar.
- The applicant doesn’t understand that “INKIND” means “no cash has traded hands.” In-kind means donated things, time, services.
- The application is not typed or is typed with a bad ribbon. When it is copied for the board and panel, they have a really hard time just reading the words on the page.
- The project proposal is not understandable. (Before you submit the grant, get a friend to read it to see if they can understand it.)
- One or more questions are left blank on the Application Form.
- Applicants don’t include work samples from the artists involved in the project. This means that there’s no way to evaluate the artistic merit of your project. You must include slides, brochures, video tapes, audiotapes, promotional material ... something that points to the artistic quality of the artists involved in your project.
- Applicants don’t include resumes for the principle people involved. You must submit a resume for your project director, as well as for any artists who are getting paid. Other people significant to your project should also submit resumes.
- You can download your grant application into Microsoft Word, and fill it out online. Remember that if you delete or add lines, or use the “enter” key you may change the page format and it will not print out as you see it on the screen. Applications can not be submitted on-line.

Remember, if you are taking the time to write a grant, take the time to do it well. DOUBLE-CHECK EVERYTHING ON YOUR APPLICATION.

Good luck and be sure to call me with your questions. –Greta

*Adapted from article by Terri Widman, Region 2 Arts Council.*



# Does Your Organization Present Concerts?

Then this SMAHC Conference is for you!



## Come and discover...

- ⇒ Marketing tips
- ⇒ How to find performers
- ⇒ Ticket Sales – series only versus tickets at the door
- ⇒ Contracts
- ⇒ Artist Showcase: Special appearance by Jazz Duo  
Pete Lothringer & Ross Anderson

Special Guest Tom Proehl, newly appointed Executive Director of the Minnesota State Arts Board, will talk about new State Arts Board programs that you may be eligible to apply for and will present a session on contracts. Before joining the Arts Board, Proehl served as general manager and then managing director of The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Proehl is a native of Moorhead, Minnesota.

This conference is especially designed for concert associations, presenters, arts councils, and community organizations who book (sponsor) performers in their communities.

**Monday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - YMCA, 200 South A Street, Marshall**

FREE! We'll even provide supper and reimburse your mileage costs. Go to [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org) for registration details.



## Did You Save The Date?



The 33rd SMAHC Annual Celebration is coming fast. The date is Saturday, October 13. The location is the Marshall Golf Club in Marshall, Minnesota.

We will have all the traditional fixings of this wonderful gala event including great food, terrific entertainment, lively auctions, fantastic costumes (optional—but we hope you'll wear one!), friendship and fun!

**DON'T MISS IT!** More information will be posted on the SMAHC website soon!

## Local Author and Historian Amy Narvestad Remembered

Born on April 18, 1912, in Canby and living a vibrant life as an author, editor, historian, mother, and wife in Yellow Medicine County, Amy Narvestad passed away in June of 2007 at the age of 95.

Together with her husband Carl Narvestad, Amy wrote several books including the histories of Yellow Medicine County, the Granite Falls Power Plant, the Valdres Samband, the Centennial of Granite Falls, and numerous local family histories. They were also active in several Norwegian-American groups, the local church, the educational system, and were long-time members of SMAHC. Carl passed away in June of 2003.

## SMAHC ANNOUNCES \$10,634 IN GRANT AWARDS

The Board of Directors voted on May 29, 2007, to award a total of \$10,634.00 in grant money for regional arts activities through the following two SMAHC programs: **The Arts in Education and Communities Grant Program and the Individual Artist Study Opportunity Grant Program.**

Five awards were made in the **SMAHC/McKnight Arts in Education & Communities Program**. With funds appropriated by the State Legislature and the McKnight Foundation, this program provides matching grant awards of up to \$2,500 for artist residency activities, up to \$750 for pre-packaged theater residencies and up to \$600 to aid in field trips to qualified arts exhibitions and performances. The most recent grant award recipients in the SMAHC/McKNIGHT Arts in Education & Communities program are:

- **Nobles County Art Center, Worthington**, \$1,402 for a Steve Turner Residency.
- **Big Stone Arts Council, Ortonville**, \$2,500 for a Marilyn Lindstrom community mural residency.
- **City of Walnut Grove, Walnut Grove**, \$2,500 for artist workshops during the Walnut Grove Family Festival.
- **Fine Arts Council of Tracy, Tracy**, \$2,482 for an In-Pulse Residency.
- **Yellow Medicine East Community Ed, Granite Falls**, \$750 for a Prairie Fire Theater Children's Theatre Residency.

Two awards were made in the **SMAHC/McKnight Individual Artist Study Opportunity Grant Program**. With funds appropriated by the McKnight foundation, this program provides up to \$500 for specific study opportunities for artists of all ages from all disciplines at any stage of their career. The two recipients in the SMAHC/McKnight Individual Artist Study Program are:

- **Kent Forrest Kelly of Windom**, for a Fiddle Camp in Blessington, Ireland
- **Joyce Young of Hutchinson**, for an Art Workshop with Rose Eden

Contact the SMAHC office at (507) 537-1471 or toll free at 1-800-622-5284 for information on grant guidelines or applications, or email at [smahcinfo@iw.net](mailto:smahcinfo@iw.net). Grant forms are also available from the SMAHC website: [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org)

# July/August Calendar

## Ongoing Exhibits and Events

**The WEAC Gallery** - Willmar Education and Arts Center will present the works of Lisa Bergh. The exhibit will run from June 25th to July 27th. The Photography of Marti Carlson-Twite and Charlotte Pearson will be on exhibit from July 30 to August 31. WEAC is located at 611 Fifth Street SW, **Willmar**. Call (320) 231-8560 for more info.

**Clay Coyote Pottery Spring Open House**, Normal gallery hours are Monday through Saturday 10-5 and Sundays noon to 4, 17614 240th St. **Hutchinson**; for more information, email: Betsy or Tom at [claypot@hutchtel.net](mailto:claypot@hutchtel.net); Website: [www.claycoyote.com](http://www.claycoyote.com)

**Fine Arts Council of Tracy Art Gallery, Etc Coffee Shop** in downtown **Tracy**; During the month of July, Ancestral Art featuring work back to the 1800s; During the month of August, Garrett Mayer, photography exhibit; open M-F 6:30am-5:00pm and Sat. 7:30-4:00pm; 507-629-3114;

**Nobles County Art Center**; June 4 through August 31 features the permanent collection. Normal hours are Monday through Friday from 2 PM to 4:30 PM; 407 12th St., **Worthington**. For more information, email [jbunge@noblearts.org](mailto:jbunge@noblearts.org)

**Marshall Area Fine Arts Council (MAFAC)**, June 26—July 28, Pearl Ziegenhagen Exhibit; July 31 to Sept. 1; Robert Schwan Photography Competition and Exhibit, 109 N. 3rd St., **Marshall**. 507-532-5463. Hours: Tues-Fri 11-4:30 pm & Sat 11-2 pm. Website: [www.mafac.net](http://www.mafac.net)

**Buffalo Fish Fine Art Gallery**, June 7th—July 21, Abstract paintings by Shawn McNulty and Hand Blown Glass by Bonnie Hinz; Hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday-Saturday; 776 Business Hwy 71 North, **Willmar**. [www.buffalofishfineart.com](http://www.buffalofishfineart.com)

**Java River Café in Montevideo** hosts a new art exhibit every month. They also provide a venue for musicians, poets, and performers; 210 S. 1st Street, **Montevideo**; Visit their website to read more - [www.javarivercafe.com](http://www.javarivercafe.com)

**Crow River Arts Gallery**, The Hutchinson Mall, **Hutchinson**; Gallery hours are from noon to 3 PM, Tuesday through Saturday or by appointment. Call 320-587-0899 or visit their website: [www.crowriverarts.org](http://www.crowriverarts.org)

## July Calendar

**July 1 Gateway to the West Artfest** East side of Gary Legion Hall, **Gary, SD** located on the border 15 miles northwest of Canby, MN.; 9 AM to 5 PM; This is a juried show; For Information and application, contact Joyce Meyer, [rjmeyer@itctel.com](mailto:rjmeyer@itctel.com) or call 507-277-5684

**July 2 & 3 Two Pastel Workshops** by Nancy Rose at the Marshall Area Fine Arts Center 109 N. 3rd Street, **Marshall**. July 2 & July 3; 9am to noon and 6pm to 9pm. Call 532-5463 for more information

**July 6,7 & 12-14 (7 p.m.) and 15 (2 p.m.) Grease**, by

the Marshall Area Stage Company, at the Schwan Community Center for the Performing Arts, **Marshall**; MASC webpage: <http://marshallareastagecompany.org>

**July 7, 14, & 21 Walnut Grove Family Festival**, 11 am to 6 pm, **Walnut Grove**; activities for all ages. Free Admission but there may be a small charge for some events. Call (507) 859-2358 or email [wqfamilyfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:wqfamilyfestival@yahoo.com)

**July 9 thru 14 Calumet Children's Theater-Missoula Children's Theater in a production of Snow White**; performed at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center, **Pipestone**; For more information, email [dhansen110@mchsi.com](mailto:dhansen110@mchsi.com) or call 507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787; website: [pipestoneminnesota.com/artscenter/](http://pipestoneminnesota.com/artscenter/)

**July 11-14, 18-21, 25-27 I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change** at the Barn Theater, **Willmar**. For ticket information call the Barn Theatre office at (320) 235-9500 or visit <http://www.thebarntheatre.com/>

**July 13-14 Worthington International Festival** at the Nobles County Government Plaza in Downtown **Worthington**; For more information, visit <http://www.wgtn.net/Festival/schedule.htm>

**July 14 & 15 Clay Coyote Pottery & Gallery Summer Open House and Picnic** Saturday 10-6 and Sunday noon to 5; 17614 240th St., **Hutchinson**; For more information, email [claypot@hutchtel.net](mailto:claypot@hutchtel.net) or call 320 587 2599 or 888 737 4014; Their website address is [www.claycoyote.com](http://www.claycoyote.com)

**July 21 Art in the Park** in Festival Park in downtown **Jackson**; 9am to 6pm; call (507) 847-3867 for more information on being a vendor

**July 22-27 "Splash Party"** sponsored by FACT (Fine Arts Council of **Tracy**); live music poolside, food provided, time for adult and child swimming, games for kids with playground, 4 pm to 7 pm. Call Marge Robinson at 507-629-3114. There is a minimal fee.

**July 22-27 Summer Dance Camp** sponsored by the Prairie Dance Alliance, at Southwest Minnesota State University, **Marshall**; open to dancers ages 7 to 21. For more information, email [camp@prairiedancealliance.org](mailto:camp@prairiedancealliance.org) or visit <http://prairiedancealliance.org/>

**July 26-28 (7:30 pm) and 29 (2:00 pm) Disney's "High School Musical"** presented by the Adrian Community Education, 510 Oklahoma Ave, **Adrian**; call (507) 483-2232 for more information.

**July 26-28 Sound of Music** at the Lake Benton Opera House, **Lake Benton**. 8:00 PM. Matinee on July 29th at 2:00PM. The July 26th performance is a dinner theater. For more information, email [markw@itctel.com](mailto:markw@itctel.com) or visit [www.lakebentonoperahouse.org/](http://www.lakebentonoperahouse.org/)

**July 28 Artists' Clearance Sale at Buffalo Fish!** Buffalo Fish Fine Art, Bus Hwy 71 N, **Willmar**; July 28 10am-2pm; Outdoor Sale by Local Artists -

# Calendar/Opportunities

Original Art, Prints, Recycled Art Supplies and Frames, and Jewelry - Everything Under \$100! Email: [allison@buffalofishfineart.com](mailto:allison@buffalofishfineart.com); Website Address: [www.buffalofishfineart.com](http://www.buffalofishfineart.com)

**July 28 Keepers Traditional PowWow**, sponsored by the Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers, **Pipestone**. 12 pm to 7 pm. For more information, call (507) 825-3734 or visit [www.pipekeepers.org/](http://www.pipekeepers.org/)

**July 28 Jonathon Gomez Whitney** will be the featured artist at the inaugural exhibit at ARTHouse, 117 1st Avenue NE, **New London**; 5-9 PM reception for the artist See the article on page 2; email: [arthouse@arthousenewlondon.com](mailto:arthouse@arthousenewlondon.com) or visit [www.arthousenewlondon.com](http://www.arthousenewlondon.com)

## August Calendar

**August 1 Art Projects/Local Arts Development deadline** See the SMAHC website for details on this and other grants [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org)

**August 1-4 Sound of Music**, Lake Benton Opera House, **Lake Benton**. 8:00 PM. Matinees August 4-5, 2:00PM. Dinner Theater August 1st; [markw@itctel.com](mailto:markw@itctel.com) or visit [www.lakebentonoperahouse.org](http://www.lakebentonoperahouse.org)

**August 3-4 (7:00 pm), 5 (2:00 pm) Once Upon a Mattress** by the Prairie Oasis Players, at the MCC Auditorium, 2420 28th Street, **Slayton**; call (507) 866-0385 for more information

**August 4 SMAHC Board Strategic Planning Meeting**, 9-3, YMCA, **Marshall**.

**August 6 SMAHC Conference** designed for concert associations, presenters, arts councils, and community organizations who book (sponsor) performers in their communities. 5:30 pm– 9 pm, YMCA, **Marshall**. Visit the SMAHC website for more details: [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org)

**August 9-11 Bye Bye Birdie** presented by the Hutchinson Theatre Company; 7:00 PM, at Hutchinson

High School, 1200 Roberts Rd. SW, **Hutchinson**; Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$8 for children; for more information, Email: [claypot@hutchtel.net](mailto:claypot@hutchtel.net) or call 320 587 2599; Website Address: [www.hutchtheatre.org](http://www.hutchtheatre.org)

**August 11 & 12 Threshing Show** Minnesota Machinery Museum, **Hanley Falls**; [agmuseum@frontier.net.net](mailto:agmuseum@frontier.net.net) or visit [www.mnmachinerymuseum.com](http://www.mnmachinerymuseum.com)

**August 15, Arts in Ed & Communities and Individual Arts Study Grant Writing Workshop**. Call SMAHC for more information and to register for this workshop, 1-800-622-5284

**August 15-18, 22-25 Moon Over Buffalo** at the Barn Theater, **Willmar**. For ticket information call the Barn Theatre office at (320) 235-9500 or visit <http://www.thebarntheatre.com/>

**August 22 SMAHC & MN State Arts Board grant workshop for Individual Artists in Willmar** (location TBA); call or email SMAHC to be put on mailing list for further information: [smahcinfo@iw.net](mailto:smahcinfo@iw.net); 1-800-622-5284

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Red Rooster Fine Art Show** sponsored by the City of Dassel, Red Rooster Committee, **Dassel**; Artist entry forms due Aug 11; art entries due Aug 25; Exhibit open Sept 1-3. Opening reception Sat, Sept 1st, 1-3pm, exhibit continues Sept 2nd, 2-5pm, Sept 3rd, 9am-4pm. Cost: \$10 artist entry fee - up to three pieces. The exhibit free to public. For more information, email [robert@wildestudios.com](mailto:robert@wildestudios.com) or call 320-275-3403

**mnartists.org Calendar** Statewide calendar of arts events. Enter your own events for free. Find a performance around the corner or across the state as well as the dates for classes, exhibitions, films concerts, shows readings and theater. Visit [www.mnartists.org/calendar](http://www.mnartists.org/calendar)

*Opportunities Continued on Page 6*

## *What's Happening? ...Get it in VOICES*

...in the arts and/or humanities in your area that you would like to publicize?  
Submit upcoming events for the September/October VOICES by **August 15, 2007**.

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Times: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsoring Organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Admission: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person for inquiries: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone & e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Description of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

# News

## Songs From The Tall Grass

Coming to Cokato and Dawson in September

On Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., the theater companies of Hutchinson, Litchfield and Dassel-Cokato are bringing a very special musical theater event, *Songs of the Tall Grass*, to the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center. The Dawson Boyd Arts Association is bringing *Songs of the Tall Grass* to the Memorial Auditorium in Dawson at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 23, 2007.

*Songs from the Tall Grass* is a story from America's heartland that follows a homestead family in the 1860s as they make their way up the ladder of life. Seen through the eyes of a modern-day NARRATOR - who breaks the fourth wall and seamlessly travels between the past and the present as he unearths his own journey of discovery - *Songs From The Tall Grass* is based on diaries and journals from the 1800s and incorporates songs from the time that have been beautifully updated for a modern ear. As the NARRATOR guides us, we follow the FATHER, MOTHER, DAUGHTER, SON and BABY as they begin their journey to a new land that both confounds and replenishes. Their desire for the 165 acres of free land the United States government has offered puts them at odds with the emotional, physical, and psychological price of this boon from Uncle Sam. Vast, open prairie contrasts sharply with dark, one-room, windowless houses made of sod; the thrill of land ownership plays heavily against the death of an infant and then a mother; bountiful crops give way to the robber baron railroads, unforgiving weather, insect infestations, and the "Red Buffalo" prairie fires.

Punctuated by a gaggle of CHILDREN who offer a delightful view into prairie life - everything from Buffalo Bounce, a jumping game played on dead, swollen buffalo; to laundry day routines and schoolboy pranks - *Songs From The Tall Grass* delivers poignant, yet often hilarious observations of homestead life - observations which not so surprisingly, mirror our own modern day struggles.

Like a hooked rug from the past, *Songs From The Tall Grass* weaves an interlocking collection of stories that bring immigrant pioneers from worlds apart in direct contact with FUR TRAPPERS and NATIVE AMERICANS. At the junction of these diverse civilizations, beauty and grace are defined by a sincere hope for the future. Interspersed with songs such as, "It Never Pays To Fret and Growl," "Be Kind To The Loved Ones At Home," and "I Love Thee" (sung in the original Cherokee language it was written in), *Songs From The Tall Grass* speaks in a voice from the past that can be clearly heard in the present. Ending with "A Hundred Years From Now" - a powerful song with prophetic lyrics that were written in 1899 and asks what the world will be like in 100 years - *Songs From The Tall Grass* leaves audiences laughing, crying, and feeling empowered by the past - as well as hopeful about the future.

Tickets for the Cokato performance will be available for patrons on August 20 and for the general public on August 27 at the following locations: Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce (320-587-5252); Litchfield Community Education Office (320-693-2354); and Dassel-Cokato Community Education Office (320-286-4100, ext. 1020). For additional information, contact Colleen Compton at the Dassel-Cokato Community Education Office. For information on tickets for the Dawson performance call their box office at 320-769-2955 x 246.

Submitted by Betty Nielsen, Hutchinson Public Schools with additional information added by SMAHC staff.



### Opportunities Continued from Page 5

**The Big Read** The purpose of The Big Read is to encourage literary reading. Big Read grants, ranging from \$2,500 - \$20,000, are available to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. Read more about The Big Read at: <http://www.neabigread.org/>

**MNArtists.org** is a free online database of Minnesota artists and organizations from all disciplines. It offers to Minnesota-based artists a central gathering place on the Web. Read more at: [mnaartists.org](http://mnaartists.org)

**Open Dialogue XI: Global Connections to Cultural Democracy**, a national multicultural conference on art and diversity that will convene in Denver, Colorado, from July 12

through July 15, 2007. Read more about this event at: <http://www.westaf.org/>

**Open Minnesota Percent for Art Artist Registry** The registry is a collection of resumes and work samples of visual artists in all disciplines who would like to be considered for public art commissions and purchases. There is no fee to join. To learn more, [www.percentforart.us/](http://www.percentforart.us/)

**Minnesota Sesquicentennial Grant Program** a grant program for communities and organizations to create Sesquicentennial activities that are meaningful to local residents. Visit their website for more information: [www.mn150years.org/grants.html](http://www.mn150years.org/grants.html)

**\*\*Visit [www.smahc.org/calendar.htm](http://www.smahc.org/calendar.htm) for the latest events.**

# Artists Count Reveals Big Economic Impact of Artists

## Study Shows Artists Are Twice as Likely to Go Without Health Insurance

A new study of artists in Minnesota released as a part of Arts Advocacy Day by **Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA)**, **Springboard for the Arts** and **The Minnesota Crafts Council** has mixed news for Minnesota's artists. **The Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council** was a partner in the study.

First, the good news. The study identified nearly 20,000 full-time, part-time, and retired/hobbyist artists throughout Minnesota who have an annual economic impact of \$205 million dollars. Artist expenditures support nearly 6,000 full-time jobs and deliver \$24 million in state and local government revenue. Added to the results of last year's *The Arts: A Driving Force in Minnesota's Economy*, our artists, non-profit arts and culture organizations and their audiences have a \$1 billion annual economic impact.

The bad news is that artists had generally low incomes, 35 percent had no retirement plan and artists were twice as likely to go without health insurance than other Minnesotans.

"We believe this is a conservative estimate of the number of artists in our state. Artists are a contributing factor to the economies and communities of every region of Minnesota, but we were dismayed by the high rate of the uninsured," said Sheila Smith, Executive Director of MCA.

**Artist Count** also looked at artist participation in civic life, including voting and volunteering. Minnesota artists are highly active and engaged in their communities, with

81 percent reporting that they volunteer at least once each month, and 82 percent reporting they "always" vote.

"This important report clearly demonstrates that Minnesota's artists are major contributors to our state's economy, our quality of life and an energy that attracts investment. This should make policy makers and citizens realize that a healthy environment for artists and arts organizations only benefits our communities and keeps Minnesota a vibrant and exciting place to live," said Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4<sup>th</sup> District).

Just as we look for ways to insure that our communities are "hospitable" places for businesses to locate and thrive, we must make certain that our artistic resources are nurtured as well. To retain this important community resource and attract more individual artists to live and work in Minnesota we need to improve the quality of life for individual artists and recognize them for the economic and cultural contributions they make to this state.

### Some recommendations of the study included:

Support increased funding at the local, state and national level for individual artists and the organizations that employ and assist them.

- Demand that public art be a part of new building projects in your neighborhood, county and state.
- Attend local dance and theatre productions, buy local art and see local bands.
- Enroll your child in art classes, music lessons, or an after school theatre program. Take a class or attend a workshop to create your own art and explore your own creative passions.

**Artists Count: The Economic Impact of Minnesota's Individual Artists** demonstrates that investment in the health and vitality of individual artists and their artwork yields significant economic benefits in every region of our state. A full copy of the report and other interesting information can be downloaded from MCA's website at [www.mncitizensforthearts.org](http://www.mncitizensforthearts.org).

You can read more about the findings of the Economic Impact Study as it pertains to the **SMAHC region** on our website: [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org)

### New & Renewing Members April 20, 2007 – June 21, 2007 (Continued from page 8)

Bonnie & Roger Van Moorlehem, Minneota  
Glen & Jackie Herfurth, Montevideo  
Carol Westberg, Montevideo  
Lois L. Oberg, Montevideo  
Jay & Merideth Brown, Montevideo  
Colette Powers, Montevideo  
Jerry & Pam Logue, Mountain Lake  
Gossman Pottery, Bill Gossman, New London  
Shelley Cords-Swanson, Odin  
Rural Homeopathy, Ann Herdina, Olivia  
Pipestone Performing Arts Center,  
Pipestone

Calumet Players, Pipestone  
John & Caroline Buckley, Sr., Redwood Falls  
Tatanka Arts, Redwood Falls  
City of Redwood Falls, Redwood Falls  
Verna & Howard Patrick, Spicer  
Betty Burmeister, Spicer  
Patricia Kazarow, St. Peter  
Viola Knott, Tracy  
Marge Robinson, Tracy  
Jo Anne Kratzke, Wabasso  
City of Walnut Grove, Walnut Grove  
Jacob & Ruth Polta, Willmar

The Glass Cutter, Eunice Buchanan,  
Willmar  
Susan Mattson, Willmar  
Engan Associates Architects, P.A., Richard  
Engan, Willmar  
Willmar Area Arts Council, Willmar  
Dale & Kim Friesen, Windom  
Friends of the Windom Library, Windom  
Business, Arts & Recreation Center, Windom  
Nobles County Commission, Worthington  
City of Worthington,  
Curtis & Shirley Pietz, Worthington



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**Board members are needed for Jackson, Lincoln, Swift & Rock Counties. If you are interested in representing one of these counties, call Greta.**

**Has your membership expired?** If your address label shows that your membership has expired this will be the last issue of **VOICES** you will receive in the mail. Please use the form at the bottom of this page to **renew your membership now**. If you prefer to receive **VOICES** via email, subscribe at [www.smahc.org](http://www.smahc.org) or contact the SMAHC office.

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Chippewa..... Nancy Strand	Lyon ..... Linda Grong	Renville..... Chuck Brown
Cottonwood..... Cathy Peterson	McLeod ..... Kurt Schulz	Rock ..... Open
Jackson..... Open	Meeker ..... Danielle Rodgers	Swift..... Open
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Lac qui Parle ..... Luanne Fondell	Nobles ..... Margaret Hurlbut Vosburgh	At-Large..... Ruth Ascher
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**New & Renewing Members April 20, 2007 – June 21, 2007**

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Cecilia Davis, Evansville	KleinBank, Madison	Betty and John Wanke, Milan
Greta & Michael Murray, Ghent	Judi & Jay Brown, Marshall	Gail Perrizo & Tom Guttormsson, Minnesota
Gene and Sharon Sannerud, Granite Falls		

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**SMAHC Membership Form**

**Join SMAHC today!** This is really the best time to become partners in developing the arts in southwest Minnesota. Your membership is tax-deductible. Call 800-622-5284 or mail your annual membership to **SMAHC, 1210 East College Drive, Suite 600, Marshall, MN 56258.**

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 County \_\_\_\_\_

<b>LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIPS:</b>	\$500.00 + Benefactor	\$99.00 - \$50.00 Supporter
	\$499.00 - \$250.00 Patron	\$49.00 - \$ 25.00 Contributor
	\$249.00 - \$100.00 Sustainer	Business & Organizational memberships starting at \$50.00

Thank You!