

A note from the East Central Regional Arts Council

If you are appreciative of this grant award, thank somebody!

We urge you to make a phone call or drop a note of thanks to the Governor, your State Senator, your State Representative, and/or all three. The funding for this East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) grant program comes directly from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. Below is a list of the Region 7E legislator's names and addresses. We have checked the legislators (Senator and Representative) for your area. A sample letter is on the back for your convenience.

You'll want to:

- ◆ Inform them that you are a recipient of the ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant program.
- ◆ Tell them the arts are important to the quality of life in east central Minnesota.
- ◆ Thank them for their continued support of the arts in the State's budget.
- ◆ Share with them how you've involved the community in your Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund project.
- ◆ Invite them to your event and during the event be sure to thank them! ECRAC does have a sample curtain speech to use during your event – contact us for it when you are ready.

LEGISLATORS – REGION 7E as of January 8, 2013 - Don't forget to send ECRAC a copy of your letter.

☐ <i>Senate District 11</i>	Senator Tony Lourey 125 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155-1206 (651) 296-0293 sen.tony.lourey@senate.mn	☐ <i>District 11B</i>	Representative Tim Faust 40459 Cloverdale Road Hinckley, MN 55037 (651) 297-9001 rep.tim.faust@house.mn
☐ <i>Senate District 15</i>	Senator David Brown 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Capitol Building, Room 205 St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 (651) 296-8075 sen.david.brown@senate.mn	☐ <i>District 15A</i>	Representative Sondra Erickson 509 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155-1206 (651) 296-6746 or 800-709-0578 rep.sondra.erickson@house.mn
☐ <i>Senate District 31</i>	Senator Michelle Benson 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Capitol, Room G-24 St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 (651) 296-3219 sen.michelle.benson@senate.mn	☐ <i>District 31A</i>	Representative Kurt Daudt 487 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155-1206 (651) 296-5364 or 800-710-7642 rep.kurt.daudt@house.mn
☐ <i>Senate District 32</i>	Senator Sean Nienow Capitol Building, Room 120 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 (651) 296-5419 sen.sean.nienow@senate.mn	☐ <i>District 32A</i>	Representative Brian Johnson 31840 Lakeway Drive N.E., Cambridge, MN 55008 (651)297-9010 rep.brian.johnson@house.mn
☐ <i>Senate District 39</i>	Senator Karin Housley 207 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 - 1206 (651) 430-0400 or 1-800-788-1329 sen.karin.housley@senate.mn	☐ <i>District 32B</i>	Representative Bob Barrett 413 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155-1206 (651) 296-5377 or 888-296-7463 rep.bob.barrett@house.mn
☐ <i>District 39A</i>	Representative Bob Dettmer 473 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-4124 rep.bob.dettmer@house.mn	<i>ALL State of MN</i>	Governor Mark Dayton Office of the Governor -130 State Capitol 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 201-3400 or 1-800-657-3717 mark.dayton@state.mn.us

When writing . . .

DO:

- ◆ Use the correct address and salutation, e.g., Dear Senator (name), or Dear Representative (name), or Dear Governor (name).
- ◆ Type or write your letter clearly. If your letter is not easy to read, it could be discarded. Be sure to include your return address on the letter.
- ◆ Be specific. If possible, give an example of how the issue affects your district.
- ◆ Use your own words and stationary. Legislators feel that personal letters, rather than form letters, or emails, show greater personal commitment on the part of the writer, and therefore carry greater weight.
- ◆ Be brief. Choose a few bullet points that are direct and succinct. However, include enough information to explain why you are writing and why you appreciate their support for the arts.
- ◆ This can also be tailored as a thank you to the ECRAC board members.

Sample Thank You Letter

Date:	March 1, 2013
Correct Address:	The Honorable (Full Name) Minnesota State Senate (or Minnesota House of Representatives) 200 State Capitol Building 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Salutation:	Dear Senator (or Representative) Last Name:
Issue:	The North Star Art Center is the proud recipient of a grant through the East Central Regional Arts Council's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant program. We would like to personally thank you for your support of the arts and help in getting the arts written into the State of Minnesota's Constitution. Because of the \$7,500 grant award from the ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant program our organization was able to hold an exhibition of local potters and ceramicists at our new exhibition space. This exhibition focused on traditional ceramic techniques and primitive firing methods. It showcased 12 established and emerging artists from the region whose work varied in scale, form and function but was linked in theme. Approximately 525 people from 20 surrounding communities came to the opening reception and artist lecture last month and we expect the same turnout for the closing reception and poetry reading next week. We also have educational programs ongoing throughout the exhibition that target youth in the region and so far over 800 students from 14 different schools have been able to experience the work and learn about the artistic processes involved.
Restate issue/Anticipation of continued support:	
Identity:	This activity would have been difficult, if not impossible, without support from the ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant program. Thousands of volunteer hours went into this regionally supported exhibition. The opportunity for local people to be part of an exceptional arts experience that links visual artwork with poetry and history is just the beginning of the long term positive effect our organization will have by highlighting the high quality arts in the region. The North Star Art Center's mission is to be a vibrant force in our community by showcasing local artists and by providing opportunities for active participation in the arts for our community members. We have added you to our mailing list and will keep you up to date on our activities. We thank you again for doing your part to build strong rural Minnesota communities and families and hope that you will continue your support of the arts in the future. Thank you. Sincerely, Your signature here Your name and address

Source: *Minnesota Citizens for the Arts; Advocacy Handbook*