

## County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant—Competitive [Fact Sheet]

### **Background**

In 2011, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to spend \$1.4 million in Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds in state fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for a competitive grant program **“for the development or enhancement of county fair facilities or other projects or programs that provide access to the arts, arts education, or agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage programs.”** 2011 Laws of Minnesota, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 10.

### **Program Objectives**

- To ensure all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in the arts, arts education, and in programs that preserve and promote Minnesota’s agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage.
- To increase exposure to, and preserve, the diversity of cultural heritages that make up Minnesota’s history and culture.
- To promote and highlight artistic excellence and exceptional programming, administered by state and local organizations and by individuals.
- To engage new audiences by removing barriers—whether they be geographic, economic, related to age, racial/ethnic characteristics, disability—to access the arts, arts education, and programs that preserve and promote Minnesota’s agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage.

### **Timeline**

- Proposals **mailed, emailed, or delivered in person** must be **received** by the MDA no later than **4:30pm on Monday, February 13, 2012**
- Grantees will be notified by April 16, 2012
- Contracts will be mailed to grantee by May 1, 2012

### **Requirements**

- Funded activities must **directly relate to** the development or enhancement of county fair facilities or other projects or programs that provide access to arts, arts education, or agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage programs.
- Funded activities must supplement traditional programming and not substitute. Grant money must supplement the fair’s budget to undertake **a project that goes above and beyond what traditional financial sources allow and does not supplant, replace or substitute portions of the regular budget.**

### **Funding**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is charged with distributing, through a competitive grant program, approximately \$1.4 million of Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds to the state’s 95 county fairs in state fiscal years 2012-2013.

Applications will be reviewed in three different categories: **Construction and Capital Improvement; Event Enhancement; Programming.** Fairs can submit applications for all three categories, but may only be awarded one grant. On the application, grantee can rank their first, second, and third project priorities.

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### **MDA Contact**

Applications may be submitted via mail, in person, or by email to:

**MN Department of Agriculture  
Marketing and Development Division  
Attn: Emily Murphy  
625 Robert Street North  
St Paul, MN 55155  
Email: [Emily.Murphy@state.mn.us](mailto:Emily.Murphy@state.mn.us)  
Direct Line: 651-201-6648**

For questions regarding the grant program or completing the application, please contact Emily Murphy using the contact information listed above.

**Answers to all questions regarding the application will be provided on the following site:** [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/countyfair/cfcompetitive.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/countyfair/cfcompetitive.aspx)