



November 10, 2011

Dear Fair Representative,

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is administering two new grant programs to the state's county agricultural societies. Funded by revenue raised by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant—Equal Share application was distributed to county fairs in September. **Today, you are receiving information regarding the County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant—Competitive program.**

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.)

Applicants may submit one proposal in **each** of the following three categories, **Construction and Capital Improvement, Event Enhancement, Programming**, but may only **be awarded one grant**. **Applications must be received by the MDA no later than 4:30pm on Monday, February 13, 2012.** Award recipients will be notified by April 16, 2012.

General program information regarding the County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant—Competitive is detailed in the **Request for Proposal (RFP)**. Also enclosed with this correspondence are a one page **Fact Sheet** and a **Questions and Answers** document.

Items not included with this correspondence are the application, application checklist and application instructions. When available, these forms will be posted to the MDA website at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/countyfair/cfcompetitive.aspx> and emailed to each of the state's 95 county fairs. For fair representatives without email access, the information will be mailed.

Please do not hesitate to email me at **Emily.Murphy@state.mn.us** with questions regarding the County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant—Competitive. Because this is a competitive grant program, answers to questions will be provided on the MDA's website for all applicants to access. If you do not have access to email, feel free to call me at **651-201-6648** with your question and I will post my response to the MDA's website.

Thank you for your dedication to Minnesota county fairs and our state.

Sincerely,

Emily Murphy
State Program Administrator, Intermediate

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