

Creative Communities
July 18, 2018
Mineland Reclamation
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Mary McReynolds, Jan Carey, Anita Provinzino, Maggie Holmes, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Vicki Tuscan, Drew Digby, Kathy Dodge, Sonja Merild, Shawna Kishel and Sara Ferkul

Drew started the meeting by giving a description of the grants that were awarded from the Cool & Creative Get Together. The grants were chosen by a panel of 4 individuals.

- The MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids was awarded \$3,250 to support “Regional Artist Professional Development” in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission, Grand Rapids Arts, and the Downtown Business Association.
- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra was awarded \$2,000 to support, “MSO goes to the Market!” which is to provide ensemble performances and an information table at farmer's markets in Ely, Tower, and Virginia.
- Two Harbors Area Arts and Events was awarded \$2,750 to support the Creation of a new arts and events nonprofit organization serving the Two Harbors Area.
- The Biwabik Area Civic Association was awarded \$5,000 to support the creation of Bavarian Village Market Chalets.
- Molly Olson of Ely was awarded \$2,000 to support “Reflections on Water: a multimedia dance performance” centered around the unifying theme of water. These performances, scheduled for August 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Theater at Vermillion Community College, will feature live music as well as photos, video, poetry, and 2D visual art.

Thus far Drew has received at least 2 progress reports from each of the grantees and he has done multiple site visits or attended planning sessions. He will be completing a final report for the Bush Foundation.

There was discussion about if we will continue to have a Cool & Creative event each year. It was mentioned that the Rural Arts & Culture Summit will be taking place in October 2019, Thursday through Saturday. The specific dates have not been chosen as of yet.

Based on the feedback from the Cool & Creative follow up survey, attendees enjoyed the networking and building connections with other artists. Vicki mentioned that in the twin cities there is a group of artists that meet once a week at a café as a way to stay connected. Could we replicate this over the next year until after the Rural Arts and Culture Summit? During that year we can promote the summit and it will bring area creatives together.

At the next meeting there will be an update on the Rural Arts and Culture Summit and also do a review of the positives and negatives of the Cool & Creative event to see where we can make adjustments.

Next meeting will be in approximately one month.