

a new angle

ARTS DEVELOPMENT
IN THE SUBURBS

2002

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

appendix 2

Directory of Suburban-based Arts Organizations with Annual Budgets Exceeding \$50,000

Afton Historical Society Press

P.O. Box 100, 3321 S. St. Croix Trail, Afton, MN 55001, 651-436-8443

The Afton Historical Society Press, founded in 1994, publishes fiction and nonfiction books that celebrate the region's heritage and culture. It also presents art exhibitions and is involved in television documentaries. Publications include *The Shape of Things: The Art of Francis Lee Jaques*; *Seth Eastman: A Portfolio of North American Indians*; and *Ralph Rapson: Sixty Years of Modern Design*. Its first public television documentary, *Death of the Dream: Farmhouses in the Heartland*, was coproduced with Twin Cities Public Television.

American Museum of Asmat Art

3510 Vivian Ave., Shoreview, MN 55126-3852, 651-287-1132

Founded in 1995, the museum is dedicated to the study, preservation, and presentation of the culture and spirit of the Asmat people, a seminomadic people of southwestern Indonesia. The gallery features a rotating exhibition from the museum's collection. Audiences include school tours, gallery visitors, members, and volunteers.

Ancestral Trails

255 Riverwoods Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-894-5556, 612-822-3042

This multicultural organization promotes understanding of Native American culture and history. Vehicles include public art billboards, an interactive website, and youth education workshops.

Angelica Cantanti

11141 Drew Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431, 952-884-1179

Six children's choirs (totaling 330 members) are led by professional directors. Choirs rehearse weekly after school, currently in many different venues, and perform throughout the metro area. In 2000, the audience at 60 concerts totaled 28,753.

Anoka County Arts Alliance

1452 Ward Lake Drive, Andover, MN 55304, 763-434-3132

The ACAA is a membership-based local arts agency that promotes awareness of and support for visual and performing arts in Anoka County. It produces a directory of Anoka arts organizations, provides calendar listings to area media, serves as an advocacy network for the arts, and takes an active role in the arts component of the Anoka County Fair.

Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts

6666 East River Road, Fridley, MN 55432, 763-574-1850

The center occupies historic Banfill Tavern in a county park on the Mississippi River. It houses a variety of arts activities in Fridley, including visual arts classes, writers programs, and music events. The building is county-owned and the county pays for its general operating expenses and maintenance. A nonprofit organization runs the center and its programs, and raises funds for programming. The center has an artist-in-residence program and a visual art gallery.

Bloomington Art Center/Nine-Mile Creek Theater

10206 Penn Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431, 952-563-4777

BAC provides classes in the visual and theater arts, exhibitions by professional artists from throughout the Upper Midwest, and through its

Nine-Mile Creek Theater provides community actors of all ages an opportunity to participate in quality productions staffed by professional technical personnel. Two thousand people participate in classes annually, and 326 artists teach classes or exhibit at the center. Three thousand persons attended Nine-Mile Creek Theater productions, and 44,400 people saw visual art exhibitions at the gallery or its two off-site spaces.

Bloomington Civic Theatre

10119 Girard Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431, 952-881-4300

This organization specializes in contemporary musical theater, performing shows such as *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, and *A Chorus Line*. In 2000, the group did 41 performances, serving 185 artists and 3,973 audience members.

Bloomington Fine Arts Council

2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431, 612-978-1542

Founded in 1991, the council acts as an umbrella organization for eight local arts groups, including Bloomington Medalist Concert Band, Normandale Choral Society and NOTE-able Singers. The Bloomington Medalist Concert Band performed for 12,200 audience members at 19 performances in the year 2000. The Normandale Choral Society performed seven concerts for an audience of 3,050, while the 16-member NOTE-able Singers show choir entertained 2,060 seniors and other community members through 18 performances.

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431

For more than 40 years, BSO has provided adult musicians weekly rehearsals and regular concert performances. BSO presented eight concerts in 2000, with 3,025 persons in the audience, plus the Bloomington Summerfete outdoor festival concert attended by 42,000 people.

Caponi Art Park

1205 Diffley Road, Eagan, MN 55123, 651-454-9412

Opened to the public in 1987, Caponi Art Park is an outdoor sculpture garden and learning center. It offers summer camps for children and an annual

Summer Performance Series, as well as sponsoring arts group residencies and original works. There were 14 performances in 2000, and the park was used by about 3,500 people.

Chamber Music Minnesota

5841 Cedar Lake Road, Suite 112, St. Louis Park, MN 55416, 952-593-1215

The group produces an annual series of televised chamber music programs — *Music da camera* — for public and educational viewing, reaching households across the United States. It also produces educational study materials to accompany the programs, which are used in classrooms and through libraries.

Chanhassen Dinner Theater (for profit)

P.O. Box 100, Chanhassen, MN 55317, 952-934-1500

Chanhassen is the largest dinner-theater complex in the United States, a 90,000-square-foot theater/restaurant complex built in 1968 on what was once a cornfield. Since its founding Chanhassen has produced more than 160 plays for more than 6 million people. The theater complex includes four theaters ranging in size from 160 to 600 seats, employs 250 people, and serves 200,000 guests a year.

Continental Ballet Company

3600 W. 98th St., Bloomington MN 55437, 952-837-3844

A classical ballet company in the European tradition, CBC is both a professional dance company and a school for aspiring dancers. CBC performs throughout the metro area, including at the T.B. Sheldon Auditorium in Red Wing and O'Shaughnessy Auditorium in St. Paul. It averages 20 concerts annually, reaching an audience of 12,000. More than 100 artists are involved as teachers or dance company members.

Cross Community Players

P.O. Box 735, Osseo, MN 55369

Cross Community Players was incorporated in 1998, but it took root in 1980 when a local church began a theater program to bring community together through the arts and to raise funds for the local food shelf. The theater still has a relationship with the food shelf. It receives many community in-kind

donations in exchange for donating excess revenue to the food shelf and sponsoring food drives with audience members. The theater presents two productions a year with an audience of about 5,000.

Dakota County Arts and Humanities Council

3981 Lexington Ave. S., Eagan, MN 55123

This volunteer-run community arts organization operates out of ART HOUSE, a city-owned facility. It provides summer activities for young people as well as visual arts classes and music. It partners with Eagan Parks and Recreation in the summer on the Art Trailer and reaches hundreds of children in city parks in areas with primarily low-income housing.

Dakota Valley Symphony

1200 Alimagnet Parkway, Box 4, Burnsville, MN 55337

Dakota Valley Symphony was formed in 1986 to perform and provide music for residents of the south metro area. The 60-member orchestra performs in area churches, schools, public buildings, and parks. It frequently premieres new work by Minnesota composers.

Exultate

P.O. Box 22314, Eagan, MN 55122, 651-707-0727

Exultate, founded in 1996, is a chamber ensemble of 35 to 40 singers and 16 to 20 instrumentalists. Performances throughout the metro area reach 2,000 people a year.

Edina Art Center

4701 W. 64th St., Edina, MN 55435, 612-915-6600

The art center makes creative visual arts facilities available to people of all ages and abilities. Facilities include a media arts studio, photography equipment, and pottery equipment. Art exhibits occur throughout the year. The center also offers adult and youth classes. In 2000, more than 7,000 people took classes, about 5,000 used center facilities independently, and approximately 20,000 viewed the seven exhibits.

Harvest Moon Community Farm

14363 Oren Road N., Scandia, MN 55073, 651-433-4358

Harvest Moon, founded in 1998, encourages children and families to explore the arts and nature in a rural environment. The primary arts program is an annual summer Create & Cultivate Art Camp at which about 60 children study performing and visual arts related to the natural world. The farm also has an after-school program for children and cultural camps for teens and adults.

Hopkins Center for the Arts

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343, 952-979-1100

This city-owned facility opened in 1997. It serves as a site for both education and arts presentations. The center has two theaters, a visual arts gallery and classroom, and a dance studio, as well as rehearsal and meeting spaces. It is the artistic home of Stages Theatre Company and Hopkins School District 270's arts-based community education programs. The center's nonprofit arm, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Inc., presented nine professional performing arts events and 11 visual arts exhibitions in its 2001-02 season.

Jewish Community Center of Minneapolis Cultural Arts Department

4330 S. Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3700, 952-381-3416

The Cultural Arts Department has been presenting arts programming for more than 30 years, incorporating a broad range of artistic disciplines related to identity and issues in contemporary Jewish culture. The center has a 300-seat theater, a 600-square-foot art gallery, an artist studio, a dance studio, and two visual art workrooms.

Lake Alimagnet Center for the Arts

1200 Alimagnet Parkway, Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-431-4155

The art center is a city-owned facility that houses four of Burnsville's arts organizations — Applause Theater, Burnsville Area Society for the Arts, the Dakota County Historical Society, and the Dakota Valley Symphony. The building was formerly a residence and is located on a park-like property near a lake. Except for limited art classes, the facility does not accommodate performances or rehearsals.

Lakeshore Players, Inc.

4820 Stewart Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, 651-426-3275

Lakeshore Players is a community theater founded in 1953. It presents a six-play season serving adults and children in its own building. It also offers summer programming for youth that focuses on acting classes and play production at other community venues.

Lakeville Area Art Center

20195 Holyoke Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044, 952-985-4640

Lakeville's art center celebrated its grand opening in fall 2001. The downtown center offers its own programming, including visual arts and young people's activities, and it also provides performing space for area arts groups.

Library Foundation of Hennepin County

12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305, 952-847-8634

The nonprofit Library Foundation serves as the main resource for the many arts programs of the Hennepin County library system. Major activities include the One World program and the popular Pen Pals author lecture series, which drew approximately 2,000 people last year.

Lyric Arts Company of Anoka

420 East Main St., Suite 101, Anoka, MN 55303, 763-433-2510, extension 104

Lyric Arts was founded in 1995 to offer family-friendly music and theater productions such as *Stuart Little*, *Cinderella*, and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The company aims to nurture artistic appreciation and reaches out to youth and seniors. Eight productions in 2000 served an audience of 12,000, utilizing 277 on- and offstage artists and 800 volunteers.

Minnesota River School of Fine Art (for profit)

190 S. River Ridge Circle, Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-890-4182

The school is a nondegree-granting institution that develops the artistic skills and judgment of full- and part-time visual art students. The school emphasizes painting techniques, methods, and materials of European naturalism and expressionism. The school also offers classes and workshops in pottery and sculpture, rents studio space to visual artists, and houses a visual art gallery.

Minnetonka Center for the Arts

2240 North Shore Drive, Wayzata, MN 55391, 952-473-7361

Minnetonka Center for the Arts offers visual art classes and workshops for students of all ages and abilities. The facility includes a gallery, the only publicly accessible foundry in the region, as well as ceramics, painting/drawing, photography, and fiber arts studios. The center also has a café.

Music Association of Minnetonka

18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka, MN 55345-4114, 952-401-5954

This umbrella organization counts almost 300 performers of all ages in its nine ensembles, including the Minnetonka Chamber Choir, Symphony Chorus, and Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. The ArtsCenter of Minnetonka houses the organization's offices, rehearsal, and performance facilities.

Old Log Theater (for profit)

P.O. Box 250, Excelsior, MN 55331, 952-474-5951

The metro area's oldest continuously running theater opened as a summer stock theater in a log stable in 1940. In 1960 a 655-seat theater was built for year-round operation. The theater has entertained more than 6 million people.

Plymouth Playhouse (for profit)

2705 Annapolis Lane, Plymouth, MN 55441, 763-553-1600

Plymouth Playhouse produces musicals and comedies for all ages at its 210-seat theater that is part of a hotel/restaurant complex in Plymouth.

River Valley Arts Council

P.O. Box 22, Stillwater, MN 55082, 651-439-1465

RVAC was founded as a grassroots arts council to serve the greater St. Croix Valley and all of Washington County. It produces a quarterly newsletter, hosts visual arts exhibitions, and delivers artist-in-residence classes in area schools. RVAC partners with the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council as a local arts facilitator and coordinates MRAC's Community Arts Grant Program for Washington County.

Rymer-Hadley North Suburban Center for the Arts

1910 County Road B West, Roseville, MN 55113, 651-604-3750

Private and group instruction in instrumental music, voice, and theater.

St. Croix Concert Series

P.O. Box 2202, Stillwater, MN 55082, 651-430-3528

An annual series of performances at Stillwater High School auditorium featuring such groups as the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Juilliard String Quartet, targeted to families in the greater St. Croix Valley area.

St. Croix Valley Boy Choir

P.O. Box 344, Stillwater, MN 55082, 651-917-8175

The choir provides opportunities for boys to learn vocal technique and perform choral music as part of three different choirs. Most performances are in Washington County and western Wisconsin. The groups also tour frequently.

Stages Theatre Company

Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343,

952-979-1111

The company produces an annual season of plays by and for young people and their families in a professional theater environment. Productions are at its primary home in the Hopkins Center for the Arts and a second producing home at FAIR School in Crystal. Stages also offers classes and training opportunities for young people at the Hopkins site and throughout the western metro area.

Studio 61 (for profit)

313 E. 2nd St., Hastings, MN 55033, 651-438-3488

This gallery also sells art supplies and framing. In a unique partnership with Hastings Community Education, Studio 61 provides the classroom space and visual arts instructors for community ed's programming, classes, and summer youth activities.

Valley Chamber Chorale

P.O. Box 352, Stillwater, MN 55082, 651-430-0124

The chorale produces concerts of classical, contemporary, sacred, and popular choral music with professional instrumental accompaniment. The chorale also commissions and presents new choral work.

White Bear Center for the Arts

2228 4th St., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, 651-407-0597

The center is located in the city-owned Armory building in downtown White Bear Lake. It offers extensive visual arts classes serving more than 1,000 students a year, presents juried art exhibitions, and participates in community celebrations and arts activities.

World Voices

8833 Hidden Oaks Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

The 40-member Twin Cities chorale celebrates global cultures through choral music, performing throughout the metro area. World Voices was founded in 1996.

Youth Ballet Company/Minnetonka Dance Theatre & School

2806 Hedberg Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305, 952-937-1387

This organization develops young dancers through annual performances of *The Nutcracker* and two spring concerts. It also has a troupe of dancers who perform at community sites, nursing homes, and senior centers to ensure that physically and economically challenged people have access to dance. The total audience annually exceeds 30,000.

about

the Author

Carolyn Bye has been the executive director of the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council since 1993. Before that, she worked for several Twin Cities arts organizations, including the Guthrie Theater, Film in the Cities, Penumbra Theater, and the Playwrights' Center. She has been a consultant to foundations and nonprofit organizations and, for the last five years, has worked with the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute assisting leaders of nonprofit organizations with personal and organizational renewal. Bye earned a bachelor's degree in theater and a master's in arts administration, both from St. Cloud State University. She lives in Shorewood.

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