



► FISCAL YEAR 2023

Return on Investment Report Minnesota



I want to express my sincere thanks for your continued partnership with Arts Midwest to amplify creativity across Minnesota.

Fiscal Year 2023 was full of growth for Arts Midwest. We unveiled a new brand, website, and strategic direction that envisions Midwestern creativity powering thriving, entrepreneurial, and welcoming communities.

Our work, the results of which you'll see reflected throughout this report, takes place across three pillars:

- **Support:** We invest in efforts that use creativity to connect people, ideas, and solutions.
- **Inform:** We share data and ideas to support Midwestern communities in being more visible, sustainable, and interconnected.
- **Celebrate:** We honor the people, places, and creative organizations that compose the Midwest.

In FY2023, we funded Minnesotan arts organizations through grant programs like the GIG Fund and resumed in-person World Fest tours for the first time since the pandemic. We convened Folk and Traditional Arts practitioners, State Arts Agency leaders, and provided the field with free, practical resources through our online Ideas Hub. We launched the Creativity News Desk, amplifying stories about arts and creativity in the Midwest, and announced our first set of awards for Midwestern creatives.

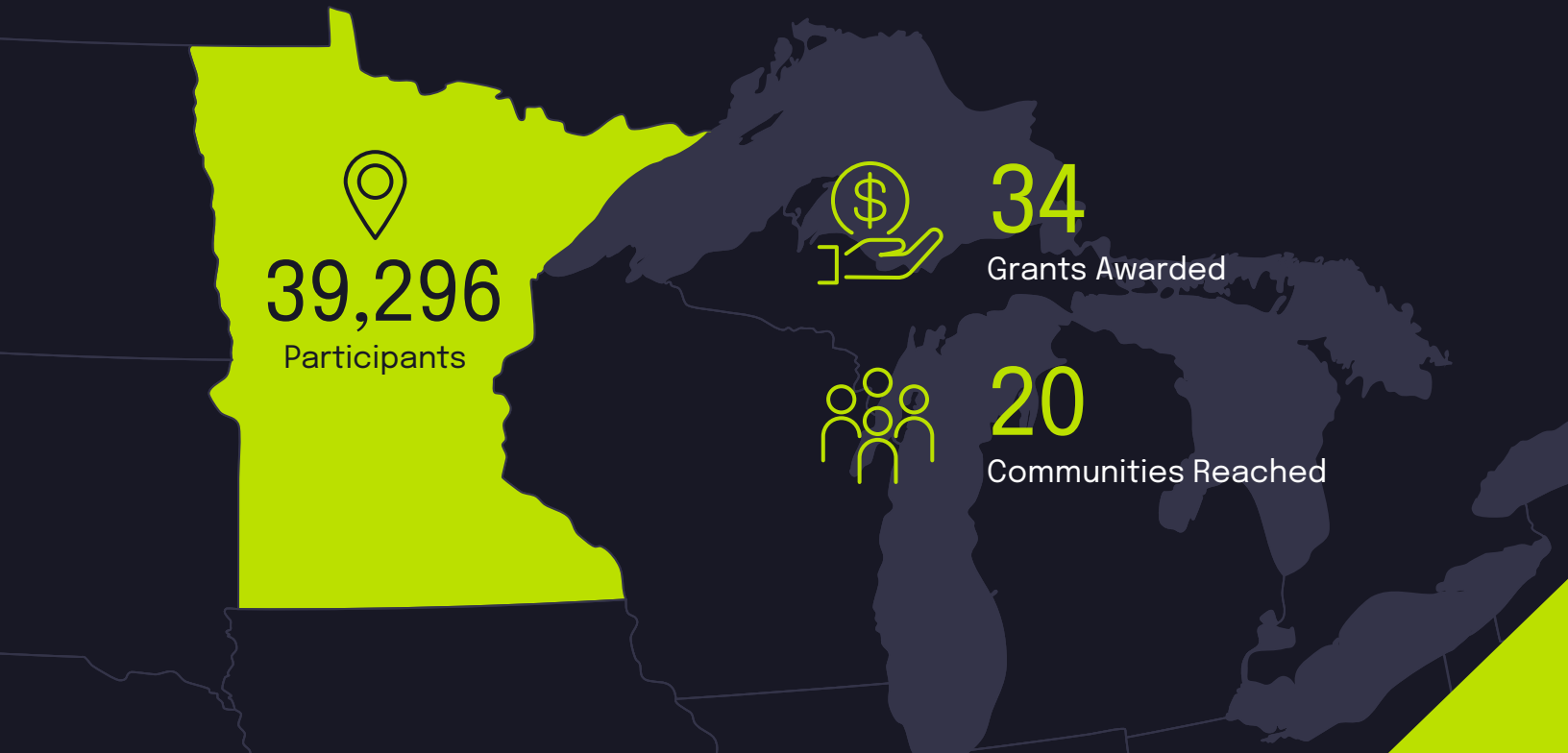
Looking back at FY2023, we're proud to report a 826% return on investment to Minnesota. We thank you for your support and look forward to our continued journey together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torrie Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Torrie Allen
President & CEO, Arts Midwest

Minnesota At A Glance

FY23: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



\$34,620
State Dues



\$320,560
Returned

826%
Return On Investment

See the last page of this report for a full breakdown of our FY23 investment in Minnesota.



Open Eye Theater's performance of "Loch Ness: The World's Largest Freshwater Musical" at the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis, MN, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo by Joel Sass.

We invest time, funds, and resources in organizations that advance creativity in Minnesota.

<p>GIG Fund</p> <p>We distribute grants through the GIG Fund that support creative projects and educational events in the Midwest. These flexible funds help organizations present artists in their community by supporting programming and touring costs.</p>	<p>28 Organizations Supported</p>	<p>\$95,500 Awarded</p>	<p>20,931 Participants in Minnesota</p>
<p>NEA Big Read</p> <p>We partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to deliver the Big Read. The Big Read provides grants to organizations that bring communities together to read and discuss a book.</p>	<p>3 Organizations Supported</p>	<p>\$57,900 Awarded</p>	<p>13,774 Participants in Minnesota</p>
<p>Special Initiatives - Minnesota</p> <p>We provided support for strategic initiatives and projects in Minnesota, including fundraising and programming for a land art festival hosted by Franconia Art Center taking place across a four-state region, and a general operating grant to Great Northern Festival to support their fundraising activities.</p>	<p>2 Organizations Supported</p>	<p>\$37,500 Awarded</p>	
<p>Special Initiatives - Regional</p> <p>The Midwest Arts XPO is a new arts conference created by Heartland Performing Arts, Inc., a coalition of Midwest arts presenters, agents, managers, and artists, following the discontinuation of the Arts Midwest Conference. To support the work of Heartland Performing Arts, Arts Midwest supported the organization with a one-time grant as start-up funding.</p>	<p>1 Organization Supported</p>	<p>\$13,889* Awarded</p>	<p>* Represents 1/9th of a \$125,000 grant</p>



Storytelling showcase hosted by Oasis Central Minnesota for community members at Great River Arts in Little Falls, MN, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo by Rose Surma.

We support convenings, community artist residencies, and resource sharing opportunities in Minnesota.

<h3>World Fest</h3> <p>Through World Fest, we tour musicians to Midwestern communities to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences. In FY23, World Fest artists engaged with communities in Wisconsin through in-person residencies and a one-time grant.</p>	21 Events	1,746 Participants	\$10,000 Awarded
<h3>Creativity News Desk</h3> <p>The Creativity News Desk amplifies stories about the power of arts and creativity in the Midwest. We commission stories from writers, photographers, videographers, illustrators, and podcasters across our region. We also support partnerships, grants, and learning opportunities for the media field.</p>	9 Stories Featuring Minnesota	2,840 Users in Minnesota	
<h3>Ideas Hub</h3> <p>We added eight new resources to the Ideas Hub, an online collection of free, curated articles and tools that help creative leaders foster growth within their organizations.</p>	8 Resources Added	3,239 Users in Minnesota	
<h3>Filling the Well</h3> <p>We launched five new episodes of Filling the Well, a podcast created to nourish, provoke, and inspire artists and arts leaders. Season Two features creatives and culture bearers living and working in rural areas.</p>	7 Minnesota Guests	4,200 Listeners Across Region	
<h3>National Leaders of Color Fellowship</h3> <p>We partnered with the other United States Regional Arts Organizations for this transformative leadership development experience that aims to establish multicultural leadership in the creative and cultural sector.</p>	1 Minnesota Participant		

We provide opportunities for staff at our partner State Arts Agencies to connect, learn, and give feedback.

State Arts Agency Connections

We hold semi-annual SAA Executive Director summit meetings, bi-monthly video calls, and regular check-ins about our programs and grants. These conversations invite our members to discuss challenges and opportunities facing them, share ideas and resources, and consider future strategies for action.

Folk and Traditional Arts Activities

We held a virtual networking session and invited representatives from each of our states to connect with peers and access professional development at South Arts' Folklife in the South Conference. We plan to continue inviting feedback from our State Arts Agency partners as we build future Folk and Traditional Arts opportunities.

Accessibility Support

We provide State Arts Agency accessibility coordinators with funding to attend the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD®) conference.



Community engagement on a mural by Pablo Kalaka as part of Indigenous Roots' work in St. Paul, MN, supported by the GIG Fund. Photo courtesy of Indigenous Roots.

FY23 Grants Awarded

Grant Opportunity	Organization	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	826 MSP	Minneapolis	5	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	American Composers Forum	Saint Paul	4	\$20,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	An Opera Theatre	Minneapolis	5	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Anderson Center at Tower View	Red Wing	1	\$2,500
NEA Big Read	ArtReach St. Croix	Stillwater	4	\$20,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Circus of the Star	St. Paul	4	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	City of Rochester Music Department	Rochester	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)	St. Paul	4	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Ely's Historic State Theater	Ely	8	\$4,000
World Fest	Fairmont Opera House	Fairmont	1	\$10,000
Special Initiatives - Minnesota	Franconia Art Center	Shafer	8	\$12,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	1	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Grassroots Culture	St. Paul	4	\$2,500
Special Initiatives - Minnesota	Great Northern Festival	Minneapolis	5	\$25,000
Special Initiatives - Regional	Heartland Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	\$13,889
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Historic Holmes Theatre	Detroit Lakes	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Indigenous Roots Cultural Art Center	Saint Paul	4	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Interact Center for Visual and Performing Arts	St Paul	4	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project	Minneapolis	5	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Mask and Rose Women's Theater	Puposky	8	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	Chaska	6	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Minnesota Marine Art Museum	Winona	1	\$2,500

Grant Opportunity	Organization	City	Congressional District	Grant Amount
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Mizna	St. Paul	4	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	New York Mills Regional Cultural Center	New York Mills	7	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Oasis Central Minnesota	Little Falls	7	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Open Eye Theatre	Minneapolis	5	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Open Eye Theatre	Minneapolis	5	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	PROVE Gallery	Duluth	8	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Fall 2022	Ragamala Dance Company	Minneapolis	5	\$2,500
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Red Eye Collaboration	Minneapolis	5	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	The Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts	Red Wing	1	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Twin Cities Jazz Festival	Maplewood	4	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	Watermark Art Center	Bemidji	8	\$4,000
GIG Fund - Spring 2023	White Bear Center for the Arts	White Bear Lake	4	\$4,000
NEA Big Read	White Bear Center for the Arts	White Bear Lake	4	\$17,900
	34 Organizations	20 Communities		\$214,789

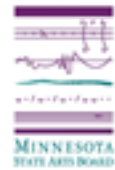
Arts Midwest leverages public and private dollars to bring services to our states.

Grants + Investments	GIG Fund	\$95,000
	NEA Big Read	\$57,900
	Special Initiatives - Minnesota	\$37,500
	Special Initiatives - Regional	\$13,889
Programs	World Fest	
	Programming Costs	\$71,264
	Grants	\$10,000
	Creativity News Desk	\$28,202
	National Leaders of Color Fellowship	\$2,243
Services	Folk and Traditional Arts	\$0 Minnesota did not attend the Folklife in the South Conference
	Accessibility Support	\$3,500
Total services and grants		\$320,560
FY23 State Dues		\$34,620
Services and grants in excess of dues		\$285,940
Return on Investment		826%

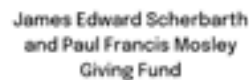
National Endowment for the Arts



State Arts Agencies



Foundations, Corporations, and Other Government Funders



Arts Midwest's activities are made possible by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature general fund.

Thank You

If you have questions about the information in this report, or if you would like more information about Arts Midwest's programs and services, please contact:

Anne Romens

Vice President

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Cover: Arlene Fairbanks and Jessica Travis of Fire Mountain Fabric and Supply in Brooklyn Park, MN look at their new fabric inventory with their teenage children, as covered in a Creativity News Desk story. Photo by Jaida Grey Eagle.