



# MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

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**TO:** Education Interim Budget Committee  
**FROM:** Tatiana Gant, Director, Montana Arts Council  
**DATE:** August 24, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Quarterly Status Report

In compliance with HB 632, the Montana Arts Council (MAC) offers the following on the status of American Rescue Plan resources.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) allocated \$754,500 to MAC from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) with a performance period ending December 31, 2022. As of this memo, all funds have been awarded and some payments have been processed.

MAC's ARPA response provided up to \$10,000 awards to artists for projects and activities and up to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations for operation expenses. The spring 2022 deadlines brought in 269 applications totaling \$2,140,000 in requests. MAC put significant effort into reaching remote and rural communities, performing artists, and artists and audiences identifying as veterans, disabled, and Native Americans. As a result, 47% of the artists' applicants were making their first request for public arts support.

A panel of citizens vetted the applications and recommended 238 applicants as worthy of funding for a pool of eligible projects totaling \$1,911,456. MAC identified 89 applicants that met funding priorities and awarded \$757,602 to ARPA projects.

After fully committing its funding, MAC informed OBPP of the unmet need of 149 applicants and \$1,153,854 of highly qualified projects. Artists and arts organizations have significant hurdles to recover from pandemic losses and rebuild creative opportunities. MAC will continue to work with the Governor's Office to direct any resources that become available to the cultural sector.

The press release on awardees has been posted to the State of Montana Newsroom: [The Arts in Montana Receive \\$757,602 in Relief Funding \(mt.gov\)](#)