

LEGACY FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES RESULTS IN A BETTER MINNESOTA

Regional Public Library Systems Legacy Request

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) support an appropriation of \$2,500,000 annually from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for Regional Public Library Systems and \$125,000 annually for The Minnesota Center for the Book.

Minnesota's 12 Regional Public Library Systems have been the fortunate recipients of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund since 2009. Statewide more than **28,302 programs, classes, and projects** in partnership with arts and cultural organizations, independent artists, historical societies and community organizations have been offered with a total of **2,320,615 participants!**

During 2020, libraries successfully adapted Legacy funded programming, classes, and projects and:

- **Improved the quality of life for individuals and fostered community engagement.**

"Good activity for all ages to do together. Grandparents and grandkids! Everyone made a piece of artwork that they were proud of."—Lake Agassiz Regional Library patrons created an art piece using a legacy-funded take and make kit.

- **Provided programming that is both free and responsive to local community needs.**

"These online learning programs have been so important to us during the pandemic."—parent of a preschooler who participated in a writing workshop presented by Taylor Public Library, North Mankato, a member library of the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative.

- **Created opportunity for innovation through the arts.**

Ramsey County Library pivoted an in-person art installation into a series of video recordings. One participant commented, *"I loved hearing from both the author and the artists about the process of creating this exhibit. . . The discussion filled out so much about the story and images - way more than just going and seeing the exhibit would have been."*



- **Expanded cultural awareness, developed a sense of history, and strengthened connections between communities and local artists.**

"[I appreciated] the energy, positivity of all the authors, the facilitator. Their perspectives built a wider common vision of who we are, where we are in time and space. That place of intersectionality."—Viking Library System participant in a virtual author panel discussion with the One Book | One Minnesota title, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

- **Showcased Minnesota's rich historical and cultural stories.**

"Enjoyable evening that enhanced our Minnesota knowledge and left us wanting more!"—Kitchigami Regional Library System legacy-funded event participant.

Regional Public Library Systems are great **Legacy partners**. **356 branch and member libraries** means free Legacy programs are available to residents throughout the State of Minnesota.

Equal access to arts, history, and culture through the 12 public regional library systems.

#MNLibrariesLead

