SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS
IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS
2017/2018

Cris Anderson Productions, Minneapolis, MN
In support of an independent public television documentary about 83 year-old Danish-American master fiddler and button accordion player, Dwight Lamb.

Folklore Village, Dodgeville, WI
In support of a series of summer hands-on workshops that highlight Scandinavian traditional arts at the Folk School at Folklore Village.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA
In support of creating a Scandinavian Handcraft Club for Kids that will teach the basics of rosemaling and weaving based upon the success of the model established by Vesterheim’s Whitling Klubb.

The Cedar Cultural Center, Inc., Minneapolis, MN
In support of the participation of Swedish folk rockers Høven Drøven at The Cedar’s three-day 10th Annual Global Roots Festival. Høven Drøven will also lead at least one educational activity, workshop, or discussion in the local Somali community each day during the festival.

2017/2018 Award total: 4 Awards
Arts Midwest, Minneapolis, MN
In support of the participation of Norwegian musician Unni Boksasp and her ensemble at the 2019 Arts Midwest World Fest. The ensemble will conduct week-long residencies in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin; Dubuque, Iowa; Red Wing, Minnesota; Pierre, South Dakota; and Dickinson, North Dakota.

Dawson-Boyd Arts Association, Dawson, MN
In support of artists' fees and travel expenses for Scandinavian Folk Music Infusion!, a series of workshops and performances of Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American traditional folk music for elementary and high school music students as well as for adults and senior residents in rural western Minnesota.

Finlandia University Finnish & Nordic Studies Program, Hancock, MI
In support of Pelkie: A Century of Finnishness in the American Northwoods, a documentary film project detailing the folklife and history of Pelkie, a Finnish-American farming and logging community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Museum of Danish America, Decorah, IA
In support of Nordic-American Culinary Arts: Documentation and Video Project, which will document traditional Nordic culinary arts within the Nordic-American communities of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The documentation will be available in Nordic archives in the region and will also be incorporated into a traveling exhibition.

Nisswa Stämman, Brainerd, MN
In support of Nisswa Stämman 20th Anniversary Nordic Folk Artist's Workshops, a series of workshops celebrating, augmenting, and preserving Nordic traditional music and dance in which nine tradition-bearers from the Nordic countries and four U.S. masters will teach two two-hour workshops.
Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture c/o Folklore Village, Madison, WI

In support of Scandinavian Folk Arts in the K-12 Classroom, a one-day professional development workshop that will introduce educators to Scandinavian-American traditional artists, offering insights on the cultural life of their communities and providing tools for identifying and integrating local culture resources into their curricula.

2018/2019 Award total: 6 Awards

2019/2020

ASI Lilla Spelmanslag, Minneapolis, MN
ASI Lilla Spelmanslag will promote traditional Swedish folk music through a variety of folk music exchanges that will take place both in Minnesota and in the Swedish provinces of Skåne, Småland, and Dalarna. The intent of these exchanges is to strengthen the youth "Lilla lag" fiddle-playing program and to share this type of Swedish folk music vis-à-vis public performances and concerts with local communities in Minnesota.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA
Vesterheim will pilot a new and robust intergenerational program using three different platforms: free hands-on programming geared toward families one Saturday per month; a series of four 2 to 3-hour family folk art workshops; and an intergenerational family folk art camp in August.
New York Mills Arts Retreat (dba New York Mills Regional Cultural Center),
New York Mills, MN

New York Mills Regional Cultural Center will sponsor a week-long residency for Kardemimmit, a four-woman Finnish ensemble who sing and play the kantele, the Finnish national instrument. The residency will encourage broad public awareness and understanding of traditional Finnish culture, heritage, and skills through music and dance and will involve the New York Mills and Menahga public schools and Finn Creek Museum as well as a number of senior centers and will culminate in a public performance.

Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis, MN

As part of the 12th Annual Global Roots Festival scheduled for September 21-23, 2020, the Cedar Cultural Center will feature Tuuletar, a vocal performance group consisting of four women from Finland who incorporate beatbox rhythms into traditional folk songs. The group is proud to be pioneering a new musical genre called “Vocal Folk Hop.” The Cedar will pair Tuuletar with local Hmong-American hip hop artist and community activist, Tou Saiko Lee. Lee will host the group at community events and encourage Hmong communities in Minneapolis and Saint Paul to take part in musical exchanges.

Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI

In August 2020, the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) will host a public celebration of the Upper Midwest’s rich Scandinavian heritage in conjunction with its forthcoming exhibition “Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890-1980.” MAM’s three-day Scandinavian Festival will represent traditions of each Nordic country as they are practiced in the Upper Midwest and immerse audiences of all ages in authentic Scandinavian art, food, and culture.

2019/2020 Award total: 5 Awards