

**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

2018/2019

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

2020/2021

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Vermillion, SD



The Dalesburg Midsummer Festival has a 150-year tradition of celebrating Scandinavian and rural heritage in southeast South Dakota. This year they will bring together the Dalesburg Spelmanslag and Jærv, a music group from Sweden. With attendees from four states, the Festival helps build folk arts community networks, heritage celebration, and community engagement.

Daneville Heritage Museum, Viborg, SD

The Daneville Heritage Museum proposes to develop a series of educational and community programs focusing on Scandinavian heritage and culture. Programs would include workshops on cultural practices such as traditional Scandinavian cooking and sewing, where participants will be invited to showcase their culinary and folk costume designs at the museum's monthly potluck and folk dancing celebration, as well as "Scavenger Hunt Book Club," featuring Danish and Scandinavian books for school-age children, in the Viborg area.

The Daneville Heritage Museum will also create a video series from these programs that can be shared and disseminated online (i.e., on YouTube or the museum's Facebook page) and provide the opportunity for cultural enrichment in the community and surrounding local area.

Midwest Institute of Scandinavian Culture, Inc. (Norden Folk), Eau Claire, WI



The Tour of Traditions at the 48th annual Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop will be held from February 19-21, 2021, at Beaver Creek Nature Preserve near Fall Creek, Wisconsin. This annual workshop will give at least 20 students the opportunity to engage hands-on with Nordic folk art traditions, such as rosemailing and flat-plane wood carving. All Nordic folk arts workshops will be taught over a weekend by master folk artists in the region and will create a space for students to experiment with folk art traditions and build community through shared interests in the Nordic languages and folk arts. The goal of this workshop is to foster a budding curiosity and understanding of traditional folk arts while also giving students the skills to continue folk art traditions in their own home communities.

Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, IA

The Museum of Danish America will stream their traditional Danish midsummer Sankt Hans Aften celebration, held on June 23, to both onsite and online audiences. The goal of this community project is to keep Sankt Hans Aften a relevant tradition in the contemporary lives of community members in the Midwest as well as a broad audience of Danish-Americans interested in participating and celebrating Danish culture and traditions.

Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley, WI

Norskedalen will provide virtual educational programming and videos for folk arts within their heritage-class offerings. Online courses and workshops will include various folk arts traditions, such as Hardanger, needlework, baking, lefse, and rosemailing. It is the goal of Norskedalen to encourage the passing of folk arts skills from one generation to the next. Doing so through an online platform will allow generations to collaborate in virtual learning and in-person mentoring critical to the preservation and cultivation of traditional culture.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND

St. Olaf Lutheran Church will offer a series of workshops to teach introductory ale bowl carving to youth and adults.

This community project will involve participants with strong ethnic ties to Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and build upon Nordic traditions of folk arts bowl carving that foster community building. This project will focus upon three different audiences: 5th graders and their parents; 7-9th graders; and the communities of Devils Lake, Lakota, and Leeds, each of which have strong Nordic roots. Pastor Paulson sees these folk arts workshops as critical to perpetuating and celebrating community life.

Swedish Heritage Society Foundation, Swedesburg, IA

The Swedish Heritage Society Foundation will host the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Swedish-American Museum in a 2-day intergenerational event held in June 2021. The celebration will include a variety of events and workshops that showcase traditional Scandinavian (mostly Swedish) culture. Events will include performances from a Swedish band (TBD) and other Swedish folk music groups as well as demonstrations of Swedish folk art, folk music instruments, cooking, dancing, weaving, and heritage-tracing workshops. This 30th Anniversary Celebration intends to draw an audience of 200-400, engage the community of the Swedesburg Commercial Historical District, and perpetuate the cultivation of Swedish folk culture and tradition.

2020/2021 Award total: 7 Awards