



**SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS
IN THE UPPER MIDWEST**

**GRANTS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS
2022/2023**

**FINLANDIA FOUNDATION TWIN CITIES, BOYS OF AMERICA
Northfield, MN**

Finlandia Foundation seeks support to cover the travel expenditure associated with the musical tour of Boys of America (Ameriikan Poijat), a Finnish American brass septet. The Boys of America will tour the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the homestead of many Finnish immigrants and their descendants and, over the course of their tour, they will perform in a variety of locations in the region, including Aura Town Hall, Mass City Hall, and retirement centers. Performances will include repertoires specifically written for Finnish septets by Leevi Madetoja, Toivo Kuula, and Jean Sibelius, and will end with Finnish folk dancing music. Through their performances, Finnish American folk music will be shared and bolstered for a variety of generations and groups.

**FinnFest 2023
Duluth, MN**

FinnFest 2023's folk arts component requests support of the participation of Nordic folk artists, public folklorists, and filmmakers in a folklife festival modeled after the Smithsonian Institution's folklife festival. Through a variety of panel discussions, concerts, film screenings, plays, exhibits, local tours, and workshops, among other programs, this festival seeks to showcase Finnish, Finnish American, Sámi, pan-Nordic, and Upper Midwestern cultural traditions that demonstrate the dynamic nature of folk arts. FinnFest 2023 will take place from July 26-30 in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC).

**Ironwood Theatre, Inc.
Ironwood, MI**



Ironwood Theatre will produce their Fall 2023 program entitled "Kantele Juhla: Old Traditions and New Innovations," a festival showcasing the Finnish kantele from its creation to its mastery. During this festival, there will be public recitals and concerts with the kantele and educational workshops on playing and building the kantele. By incorporating K-12-targeted programming for Hurley and Ironwood area schools alongside performances, this four-day festival will encourage the appreciation of Finnish community

identity and reintroduce the kantele, a lap harp that is still taught at many Finnish schools, to multiple generations in the Ironwood community.

**North House Folk School
Grand Marais, MN**



To celebrate its Sätergläntan Craft Institute's 100th anniversary, North House Folk School will partner with ASI and Sätergläntan on a variety of programming to advance awareness and appreciation of the practice of traditional Nordic handicraft in the Upper Midwest. This grant will support the participation of Nordic folk artists in North House's four-day session of immersive traditional craft courses. Covering specialized intermediate and advanced skills, the Sätergläntan folk artists will help cover skills that are hard to find in the US and further Nordic handicraft education. Additional program components will include the Sätergläntan delegation's traveling to the Nordic Center to connect with the Scandinavian community in

Duluth, a series of three webinars, and an American delegation traveling to Sätergläntan in Sweden.

**West Denmark Heritage Council
FROM—Barron, WI**

Haugaard's West Denmark Fiddle School seeks support for a cello instructor from Scandinavia to participate in the 2023 Fiddle School. In direct response to the growing number of pupils interested in playing the cello, pupils at Haugaard's West Denmark Fiddle School showcase their work in two public performances that bring Danish and other Nordic and Scottish music to the local community. Because Haugaard and other instructors introduce the historical background and geographical context of the music performed, these two public performances provide the local community with Danish musical and cultural traditions, which connects the participants to the people in and around the area of Luck, Wisconsin.

2022/2023 Award total= 5 Awards