

# 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

