

SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan

Key Cities: Mankato, North Mankato, St. Peter, Waseca, Fairmont

226,659	Region's 2004 population
4.41%	Region's percentage of state's population in 2004
123	Number of arts and culture organizations surveyed in this region
28%	Percent of this region's organizations that responded
10	Number of arts and culture events whose audiences were surveyed
647	Number of individual audience member surveys collected

Regional Highlights:

Region 9 stands out from the rest of the state in a few interesting ways. First, it has the second highest percentage of audience members who reside within the region (81.8%), and the third highest total attendance to arts events (572,208). These figures show that Region 9 is doing an exceptional job of providing attractive arts and culture activities to its residents, keeping people in the region to spend their arts and culture dollars rather than venturing out of the area. The region also had the third largest number of arts and culture organizations responding to the survey, and recorded 1843 volunteers donating time to these organizations.

Participating Arts and Culture Organizations:

1877 Peterson Station Museum, Peterson. * Amboy Festival of Music and Arts * Arts & Heritage Center, Montgomery * Arts Center of St. Peter * Blue Earth County Historical Society, Mankato * Blue Earth Town & Country Players * Curtain Call Theatre, Montgomery * Fairmont Opera House * Generations Theatre Company, New Prague * Good Cooks Dance Company, Mankato * Good Thunder Reading Series, MSU Mankato * Gouvernairs Drum and Bugle Corps, St. Peter * Gustavus Adolphus College-Fine Arts Programs, St. Peter * Hymnus, Inc., New Prague * JazzMN, Inc., Mankato * Kolacky Days, Montgomery * Mahkato Mbdwankanton Assoc., Mankato * Mankato Area Arts Council * Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra * Mankato Children's Chorus, St. Peter * Mankato Riverblenders, St. Peter * Mankato Symphony Orchestra * Merely Players Community Theater, Mankato * Minnesota Over Sixty Band, Gaylord * Minnesota Valley Chorale, Mankato * Minnesota Valley Chorus Sweet Adelines, Madison Lake * Minnesota Valley Music Teachers Assn., St. Peter * Minnesota Valley Sommarfest, St. Peter * Musicorum, St. Peter * New Prague Arts Council * New Ulm Suzuki School of Music * Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, Waseca * Project GEM, Lake Crystal * Rock Bend Folk Festival, St. Peter * Saint Peter Choral Society * Sibley County 4-H Federation, Gaylord * Traverse des Sioux Library, Mankato * Trimont Area Historical Society * Upper Midwest String & Chamber Music Conference, Mankato * Waseca Arts Council * Waseca Chorale * Wendinger Band & Travel, Inc., New Ulm *

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Regional data collection conducted by: Cindy Lewer, Brenda Flintrop

Study Partners

This project is a collaboration of the **Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota** (RAC Forum) and **Minnesota Citizens for the Arts** (MCA) www.mtn.org/mca, principle partners, with major funding provided by **The McKnight Foundation**. Additional partners include the **Twin Cities Performing Arts Research Coalition** (PARC) project funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, and **Minnesota Arts Communicators**. Twelve studies were conducted statewide. The year-long study was managed by MCA, while each of the state's eleven regional arts councils coordinated audience surveys and will host the data release events in their own regions. **Americans for the Arts**, the study's national partner, created the economic models for the twelve studies, one for each region and one for the statewide study, and also provided secure web-based surveying tools.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) purpose is to provide promotion, technical and developmental assistance and grants to non-profit arts organizations, community groups, schools and individual artists. PLRAC serves Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties. PLRAC is one of eleven regional arts councils in Minnesota who provide grants and services to nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists on a regional basis. Funding for these services is provided by the Minnesota State Legislature, The McKnight Foundation, and other private sources. Contact PLRAC at 507-833-8721, plrac@hickorytech.net or www.plrac.org.