



Library Legacy Request Regional Public Library Systems Backgrounder/Talking Points

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.

Background:

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; **to preserve arts and cultural heritage**; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Regional Public Library Systems are one of many entities who have been the fortunate recipients of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund since 2009. Every two years, it is the responsibility of library advocates and the library community to approach the MN Legislature and the Legacy Committee to secure continued funding for the next biennium.

Legacy Funding is important to Regional Public Library Systems because:

- Legacy programs in public libraries improve the quality of life for individuals and spark community engagement.
- Legacy programs in public libraries provide free and equitable access to arts and cultural experiences and educational opportunities for ALL Minnesotans.
- Legacy programs in public libraries provide opportunity for creativity and innovation through the arts.
- Legacy programs provided by public libraries expand cultural awareness, develop a sense of history, and create connections between communities & local artists.
- Legacy programs have drawn citizens into the library resulting in more awareness of the services offered by public libraries.
- Legacy programs in public libraries support Minnesota artists, historians, authors and more.
- Legacy programs in public libraries showcase and highlight Minnesota's rich historical and cultural stories of our state.

Regional Public Library Systems are great Legacy partners because their 356 branch and member libraries enable free Legacy programs to be available to residents throughout the State of Minnesota.



LEGACY FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES RESULTS IN A BETTER MINNESOTA

Support equitable access to arts, history, and culture through the
12 public regional library systems.