

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BEMIDJI AREA ARTS ENDOWMENT FUND
SEEKS GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS**

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April 10, 2026 (Bemidji MN) – The Bemidji Area Arts Endowment (BAAE) online grant application will open May 1 and close June 1. BAAE is a fund in the family of funds at Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

Nonprofits a 30-mile radius of Bemidji, Minnesota may apply for grants of up to \$1,500 to support art-related projects. Applications will be accessible online starting May 1. Grants are designed to foster and support artistic endeavors that enrich the local community and enhance cultural experiences.

Eligible nonprofits are encouraged to submit their project proposals through the user-friendly online portal available on Northwest Minnesota Foundation’s website at www.nwmf.org under the Grants page, once it is made available on May 1. The online BAAE application process aims to streamline submissions and provide equal opportunities for all qualifying organizations dedicated to promoting the arts.

Grants to be awarded through the BAAE Arts Project 2026, grant round are paid directly from the BAAE fund held at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

The **Everett Wilimek Endowment for Orchestral String Studies fund** is also opening its grant round. This fund was established by the Everett Willmek family to honor his memory, his longtime love of music, and his dedication to young musicians. The fund will provide two \$500 scholarships for young people from the Bemidji area, ages 8 to 15, to study violin, viola, cello or bass, including but not limited to costs for lessons, training, and instrument rental. Scholarships will be determined upon need.

“Supporting arts and culture is vital for community growth and engagement,” said Bev Erickson, chair of the BAAE Advisory Board. “We are delighted to offer grants to nonprofit organizations who share our passion for artistic expression and community enrichment.”



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Applications will be reviewed and selected by the BAAE Advisory Board members who have backgrounds in various business and artistic areas, ensuring that chosen projects reflect the diversity and creativity of the Bemidji area. Grantees will be notified of their selection by email in July, with funding also being disbursed in July at a grant reception to be held at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

For more information on eligibility criteria, application guidelines, and submission details, please visit Northwest Minnesota Foundation's website at www.nmf.org on its Grants page.

BAAE's mission is to foster a vibrant, inclusive artistic environment where creativity can thrive.

Northwest Minnesota Foundation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.