

Culture & Tourism Grant Program

Program Description

Culture & Tourism grants assist projects that support arts, culture, history, tourism and recreational activities, enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.

Results

Documented results for FY24 as of **January 9, 2025**.

Projects

Table one below provides an overview of project funding across fiscal years 2024 (FY24), 2025 (FY25), 2026 (FY26) and 2027 (FY27), including the number of grants awarded, total agency investment, total project investment and leverage calculation.

Table 1.

Project Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Budget	\$600,000			
Number of Grants Awarded	33			
Total Agency Investment Amount	\$595,000			
Total Project Investment Amount	\$3,462,030			
Leverage	4.8:1			

Key Impact Measures

Table two below provides an overview of key impact measures across fiscal years 2024 (FY24), 2025 (FY25), 2026 (FY26) and 2027 (FY27) projects, including total number of tourism projects, parks and recreation projects, arts, culture and history projects, communities served and funding partners.

Table 2.

Key Impact Measures	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Tourism Projects	8			
Parks and Recreation Projects	17			
Arts, Culture & History Projects	8			

Key Impact Measures	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Communities Served	22			
Funding Partners	79			

Fiscal Year 2024 Grants

Table three below provides an overview of the grantees, their project descriptions, location, agency and total project investments.

Table 3.

Grantee	Project Description	Location	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Adaptive Wilderness Within Reach	Purchase ADA compliant kayak launch and gear at Birch Lake	Ely	\$16,000	\$47,993
Biwabik Township	Construct new pickleball court	Biwabik Township	\$15,000	\$58,376
Biwabik	Replace and upgrade electric service at campground - Phase 1	Biwabik	\$30,000	\$60,000
Bovey	Construct new hockey rink	Bovey	\$25,000	\$69,000
Chisholm	Resurface and update playground for accessibility at Memorial Park	Chisholm	\$25,000	\$200,752
Coleraine	Upgrade playground to be ADA compliant	Coleraine	\$30,000	\$101,263
Dorothy Molter Museum	Create ADA compliant spaces – Phase 2	Ely	\$2,500	\$5,033
Ely	Install scale model of United States Forest Service sea plane and mural at pocket Park	Ely	\$17,000	\$44,944
Ely's Historic State Theater	Improve equipment to meet ADA standards	Ely	\$5,000	\$10,671
Embarrass Region Fair Association	Upgrade equipment and facility at Timber Hall - Phase 1	Embarrass	\$14,951	\$31,457
Friends of the Parks, Inc.	Resurface asphalt under skating rink and construct new pickleball court at recreation area	Cook	\$20,000	\$109,550

Grantee	Project Description	Location	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Goodland Township	Construct new amenities for community park - Phase 2	Goodland Township	\$13,000	\$52,964
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council Business Committee	Construct new playground at community center	Grand Portage	\$30,000	\$856,000
Greenwood Community Recreation Board	Construct new pickleball courts	Greenwood Township	\$15,000	\$126,157
Hibbing	Purchase portable stage trailer for events	Hibbing	\$22,000	\$120,000
International Wolf Center	Support digital marketing campaign	Ely	\$15,000	\$31,617
Itasca County Family YMCA	Construct outdoor, age friendly fitness circuit	Grand Rapids	\$15,000	\$124,630
Jim Gillach Memorial	Landscaping, seating and signage at pickleball courts - Phase 2	Aurora	\$17,000	\$40,428
Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center	Build shelter for commercial fishing exhibit	Knife River	\$30,000	\$69,149
La Prairie	Upgrade Park – Phase 1	La Prairie	\$26,500	\$55,875
Lake Vermilion Cultural Center	Upgrade space and equipment	Tower	\$25,000	\$66,030
Lincoln Parent Teacher Organization	Purchase adaptive playground equipment	Hibbing	\$25,000	\$575,000
MacRostie Art Center	Renovate pottery studio	Grand Rapids	\$7,500	\$15,275
McKinley	Replace playground equipment at community park	McKinley	\$15,000	\$111,631
Mesabi Fit Coalition	Develop large outdoor field area	Mountain Iron	\$25,000	\$89,526

Grantee	Project Description	Location	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Mesabi Musical Theatre	Support Ruthless! musical performances	Hibbing	\$2,000	\$35,410
Minnesota Children's Press	Restore John Beargrease mail carrier historical reference, construct kiosks for Grand Marais' Letteracy Park and support digital web campaign	Grand Marais	\$12,500	\$38,000
North House Folk School	Enhance exterior at welcome center	Grand Marais	\$18,000	\$47,500
Northern Lakes Arts Association	Support musicals, youth theatre camps and concerts	Ely	\$10,000	\$92,645
Pike Township	Renovate recreational facilities and playground at town hall	Embarrass	\$15,849	\$43,040
Save Our Ship Inc.	Build infrastructure to house Leif Erikson Ship	Knife River	\$25,000	\$71,196
Truman Blakesley American Legion Post 432	Upgrade and install new recreational amenities at campground	Freeley Township	\$25,000	\$50,372
Two Harbors Curling Club	Replace and install new carpet	Two Harbors	\$5,200	\$10,546