



Executive Summary: *Lake Agassiz Regional Library*

Reporting Time Period: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Total Number of Programs Held: 63 programs at 326 locations

Total Attendance: 20,248

Total Number of Partnerships: 46

In-Kind Staff and Partnership Contributions: \$34,850.65 (\$18,770.21 In-Kind Staff, \$16,080.44 Partnership Contributions)

The amount of staff time necessary to present each program varies, but local library directors estimated that between 5 –12 hours are required from staff for each program.

Program Highlights:

Briefly describe two to three programs sponsored locally which can be used as exemplary examples in a statewide report. Please list outstanding outcomes, partnerships, unique locations, great stories, quotes, etc. If you have promotional materials and photographs, feel free to attach them, too.

Three programs held in the LARL region during the most recent Legacy year were particularly successful in terms of customer response and tie-in to the intent of Legacy funding:

- a) Julie Johnson & the No Accounts
- b) Down on the Farm Author Eric Bergeson, and
- c) The Minnesota Crime Wave

Julie Johnson & the No Accounts

A total of 622 citizens attended one of 13 performances given by Minneapolis-based Julie Johnson & the No Accounts. Over-all rating for the programs was 4.9 out of 5.0 (excellent).

Unique locations: the Norman County Fair and the Hendrum Fire Hall.

Outcomes: Program attendees were able to learn about Minnesota history while listening to flutist Julie Johnson (flute and bass flute), and the No-Accounts (Doug Otto on vocals and guitar, and Drew Druckrey on guitar, resonator guitar, vocals, and mandolin). The group reinterprets folk music from the old North Woods and Minnesota pioneer songs, looking for the Upper Midwest's equivalent to the South's rich roots tradition.

When asked what they liked best about the program, comments ranged from: Everything (15 people) and the variety of music (10 people) to "the variety of music, stories, history of songs" and "that they not only played the music, but they also explained it and where it came from". "The music was fun, beautiful, there was originality of arrangements, as well as the skill of the musicians, the variety of music, and the blending of voices & instruments – all excellent!"

Great Quotes: Attendees noted that the presentations "stretched our music experience". Julie Johnson and her band are very talented musicians who play a variety of instruments, offer a high quality experience, and not only was the music described as "fabulous", it was presented in a fun, educational style.

LARL has tried to stay with Minnesota-based groups and this group fit that bill. Those attending were able to hear regional music that was fun but also taught about Minnesota's rich musical heritage. Participants noted that the experience "broadened our knowledge of Minnesota folk songs! Attendees noted that they appreciated the exposure to different music and instruments – the cultures of different music and where the beautiful music has come from. The programs were a combination of history, music, and culture.

Down on the Farm with Minnesota Author Eric Bergeson

418 individuals attended 15 presentations by Minnesota author Eric Bergeson. Over-all rating for the programs was 4.91 out of 5 (excellent). Eric writes a weekly column called *Down on the Farm* which is published in 22 newspapers in Minnesota and North Dakota, is the author of five books and owns Bergeson Nursery in his hometown of Fertile, MN (in the LARL region). Eric discussed the ups and downs of small town life in an entertaining talk.

Outcomes: When asked what they liked best about the programs, attendees responded:

- *Eric's knowledge and humor (noted by 24 people)
- *local history (12 people)
- *history in general (16 people).

The "down home" approach & ease of delivery were cited as especially appealing to those who attended. In some cases, Eric added music (he plays the piano) which was an added treat. Eric has a gentle, down-home wit & connection with people. He also shares his great exuberance about small towns. His talks are educational and entertaining. Attendees said they appreciated his "easy talking style that involves those attending into his story".

When asked what they learned from the presentation, attendees said they were entertained while they learned about local history. A sidelight was also learning more about how to get a book published. Eric was noted as “not only entertaining and humorous but a good storyteller as well”.

The Minnesota Crime Wave

90 individuals attended a total of 5 presentations by the Minnesota Crime Wave – which consists of mystery writers Carl Brookins, Ellen Hart, and William Kent Krueger. Programs attendees were invited to learn tips and tricks to writing mystery novels and to learn about publishing their work. Over-all rating for the programs (on a scale of 1 being poor and 5 being excellent) was 4.85.

Outcomes: those in attendance at the programs said they appreciated the opportunity to meet real writers – in person! The regional system received numerous requests for more Minnesota authors. Several attendees said they learned about not only the writing process but what authors focus on – location, values, motives, etc. One attendee said they expected to be encouraged about their own writing and that expectation was met. There were also several people in attendance who were looking for more authors to read, and they appreciated learning more about these particular authors.

It was the success of author programs such as this which influenced LARL’s decision to focus on a “Minnesota Author Series” in the next round of Legacy funding. Meeting Minnesota authors up close has been a special treat for residents in our small towns (most with populations under 1,000) who don’t have the opportunity to meet authors up close, learn about the writing craft, and ask questions about the writing process.

	Annual Budget	Reporting Period Total Expenses	Partner Financial Support	
			Actual \$\$	In Kind
Administration (2.5% max)				
Staff	5,638.57	5,638.57		
Overhead				
Statewide Initiative Participation	22,554.29	22,554.30		
Multi-Regional Programs				
Region-wide Programs	132,000.00	290,287.98	8,005.44	2,075.00
Local Programs	65,350.04	22960.22	2,000.00	4,000.00
Subgrant Program		-865.15		
Regional Public Library System Total	225,542.90	340,575.92	*	10,005.44

*- LARL carried \$115,033.02 of FY2010 funds over to FY2011. The \$115,033.02 from FY2010 and the full \$225,542.90 from FY2011 were fully expended in FY2011.

2011 Annual Report due on Friday, September 30, 2011 to
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