

# **Connecting Minnesotans to Our Arts and Cultural Heritage**

A Report on Minnesota Public Radio's 2013 Projects Supported by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013









#### Letter from Minnesota Public Radio President Jon McTaggart



The Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund elevates culture, honors our heritage and enhances quality of life throughout Minnesota, while making an impact in the lives of individual Minnesotans. From the students of Lincoln Elementary School in Bemidji visited by Ojibwe Anishinaabe musician and educator Lyz Jaakola, to the Minnesota choral groups featured on Classical MPR's all-choral-music web stream, to the students from across Minnesota whose first published writing was on the Local Current Blog-we've seen those effects up close. Support from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund in 2013 made it possible for Minnesota Public Radio to improve access to arts and cultural heritage, showcase local artists and strengthen arts education for Minnesotans from all walks of life in communities across the state. On behalf of MPR's Board of Trustees, statewide

staff, generous sustaining Members and loyal listeners, I want to thank the citizens of Minnesota and the Legislature for making this support and the impact it creates possible.

This support helps us fulfill our mission "to enrich the mind and nourish the spirit, thereby enhancing the lives and expanding the perspectives of our audiences, and assisting them in strengthening their communities." We are grateful and pleased that in 2013 we again had the opportunity to apply our mission to deliver on the constitutional mandate "to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."

Today more than 95 percent of all Minnesotans live within the broadcast range of a Minnesota Public Radio signal, and 900,000 of them tune in to our regional radio broadcasts each week. Hundreds of thousands more access our websites, digital and mobile services, use our social networks and attend our live events. Our commitment to serving the people of Minnesota runs deep, and in 2013 the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund allowed us to create meaningful and transformative experiences for residents statewide: 20,000 schoolchildren in 11 counties experienced educational presentations from classical musicians; 700 stories were shared on-air and online to showcase a diverse spectrum of Minnesota arts events and artists; and 1,200 Minnesota musical artists were featured on-air, online and through live events.

Since the passage of the Legacy Amendment in 2008, we have witnessed how the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund nourishes the rich arts and cultural environment that makes our state such a desirable place to live and work. With every Minnesota artist featured and every cultural activity made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, we see evidence of an investment that is contributing to our state's long-term vitality.

We're so fortunate to live in a state that values its arts, its history and its cultural heritage, and MPR remains committed to broadening and deepening that value for citizens across the state through all our services. In addition to our gratitude for the citizens and state government that make Legacy funding available, we also are grateful for the many organizations and individuals who partner with us on our Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund projects. We are committed to continued collaborations and experiences that will preserve, celebrate and engage citizens with Minnesota's vibrant arts and rich cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jon McTaggart PRESIDENT AND CEO MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

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To alleviate printing costs, this report will be submitted online and available at MPR's website. The estimated cost of preparing this report (as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.197) is \$612.00.

#### **Grant Overview**

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution. The amendment created four funds, one of which is the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). The ACHF receives 19.75 percent of the sales tax revenue resulting from the Legacy amendment to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.

Minnesota Public Radio is a proud recipient of ACHF investment. Each January, MPR is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing its ACHF activities and expenditures. This report covers MPR's programs and projects conducted in calendar year 2013 and supported by the following grants from the ACHF:

- MPR Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 June 30, 2013) \$1,134,535
  - Grant from the Public Radio Competitive Grants Program (Minnesota Laws, 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6)
- MPR Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014) \$1,485,000
  - Grant administered by the Department of Administration (Minnesota Laws, 2013 Regular Session, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6)

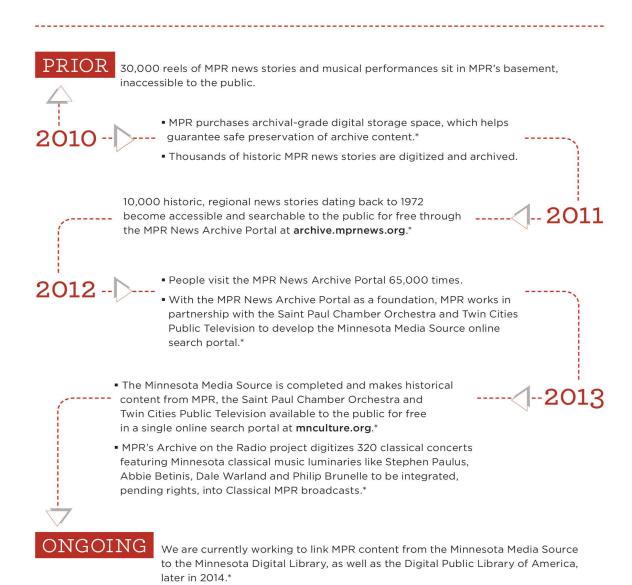
In 2013, MPR's ACHF projects benefitted Minnesotans by:

- Serving Minnesotans statewide with a wide range of arts and cultural heritage content easily accessible by broadcast, digital and live event platforms acting as a megaphone for artists and a window into the art world for audiences;
- Engaging Minnesotans with the state's local music scene from our established and worldrenowned classical ensembles to our home-grown emerging rock musicians;
- Highlighting the ways Minnesota's increasingly diverse population is reflected in and influencing our statewide arts and culture fabric;
- Expanding citizens' knowledge of Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage and fostering stronger community connections with artistic and cultural resources and experiences;
- Inspiring Minnesota students by showcasing their talents;
- Introducing new resources to support classical music education in Minnesota's classrooms and to enhance teachers' repertoire for meeting education standards;
- Preserving and connecting rich archives of historical arts content held by MPR, Twin Cities Public
   Television and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; and
- Collaborating with various individuals, groups and organizations to strengthen the depth, scope and reach of MPR's programming and projects.

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR PRESERVATION: DEVELOPING AN ARCHIVE OF



Since 2010, support from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has helped MPR and its partners make thousands of news stories, musical recordings and other cultural assets from Minnesota's history available and searchable to the public for free. The timeline below shares highlights from the process.



\*Activity funded by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

# **Supporting Music Education for Minnesota Students**



Thank-you note from a student at North Park Elementary School in Columbia Heights.

Lyz Jaakola, an Ojibwe Anishinaabe musician and educator, sings and offers cultural insight at Lincoln Elementary School in Bemidji. (Joe Ahlquist)

Through the Class Notes: Artists program, Classical MPR brings Minnesota performing musical artists directly into Minnesota schools and provides music teachers with supporting materials designed to fulfill required education standards. Classical MPR's education specialist works directly with the performers to integrate those standards into their presentations. At the end of each artist's visit, every student receives a CD that includes performances from the visiting artist along with the work of other performing artists from Minnesota.

In 2013, seven Minnesota musical artists made educational presentations to a total of more than 20,000 schoolchildren across the state. Musicians performed and made presentations at 42 schools in 11 counties, and more than 18,000 students received CDs of music from Minnesota classical musicians.

#### From a music teacher at Cedar Island Elementary School in Maple Grove:

"I noticed the students who are also Native American really perk up with pride when they realized that this was matching their culture... One second-grade girl asked, "Where can I take lessons to learn to sing Ojibwe?"... This specific program on Ojibwe music filled a precise void in MN music education. Having this experience gave me (a 30-year music educator) the tools I needed to meet the state standard."

# **Highlighting Diverse Minnesota Artists**



Oromo-American Minnesotans perform traditional dance moves from their homeland in Ethiopia at the launch of the Dressing Oromo exhibit at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. (MPR/Nikki Tundel)

Minnesota Mix is a multimedia project that examines the way youth and ethnic diversity are influencing Minnesota arts. In 2013, Minnesota Mix showcased a Mexican-American photographer, a Japanese behavioral artist and a Muslim clothing designer. It introduced listeners and website visitors to the country's only Sami-themed coffee shop and the world's only Somali history and culture museum, both located in Minneapolis. Minnesota Mix also highlighted the cultures and customs of a wide range of communities across Minnesota, including Hmong, Oromo, Czech, Brazilian and Indian. The stories in the Minnesota Mix series are consistently among the most viewed and the most shared pieces on the mprnews.org website.

# Audience response to the *Minnesota Mix* story "<u>African exhibit finds home at American Swedish</u> Institute":

"My name is Merga. I am an Oromo-American [resident] here in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. I have read your report about the Oromo nation who has lived under a colonial rule of the Ethiopian Empire since the mid 1880s. [This story] brought some enlightenment to introduce the Oromo culture and Oromia to entire world... I personally would like to thank you."

# Showcasing the Work of Minnesota's Student Musicians

In addition to inspiring Minnesota students about music, Classical MPR exposed some of Minnesota's most talented young classical musicians to a large statewide audience through the third annual Minnesota Varsity competition in 2013. The showcase for high school musicians drew 92 submissions from 30 counties in Minnesota. Fifteen semifinalist artists were selected to have their performances professionally recorded by MPR engineers. In addition, four semi-finalist composers participated in a Mentorship Day with composer Carol Barnett under the auspices of American Composers Forum, which administers the composition category of Minnesota Varsity in



The Drevlow siblings from Thief River Falls. Brett and Brianna, 2011 Minnesota Varsity participants, accompanied their brother, Brayden, in the 2013 Minnesota Varsity competition and now attend Concordia College in Moorhead. (Submitted photo)

partnership with MPR. Finally, Classical MPR broadcast the live performances of five finalist artists, as well as the work of two finalist composers, from the stage of St. Paul's Fitzgerald Theater.

Support for Minnesota Varsity from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has helped leverage significant private funding, which will help MPR continue offering this fun, friendly competition into the future.

#### The Drevlow siblings from Thief River Falls:

Brianna: "Being able to play with my brothers has provided some of the most memorable Minnesota Varsity experiences. We spent countless hours practicing together to prepare these pieces! It helped us all decide to pursue music performance in college and to collaborate more often."

**Brett**: "One of my favorite experiences with Varsity would include the number of doors that have been opened for me. I have made numerous contacts around the world as a result, that have taken me from Minnesota and North Dakota to Brazil and Italy."

Brayden: "I enjoy playing piano concertos as a soloist with symphony orchestras, and the Minnesota Varsity experience helped open that door. I was able to play the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 1 last year with my high school orchestra and with the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra. This past summer, I worked with Brianna and Brett to record our first CD. The Minnesota Varsity experience helped us to realize that we should collaborate. We recorded 13 traditional church hymns and did our own arrangements for piano, double bass and violin."

# Minnesota Student Writers Highlight Local Musicians

The Local Current Blog is a multi-platform cultural barometer that explores the rich and diverse Minnesota music scene. Highlighting bands, events and venues throughout Minnesota, the blog features a dedicated reporter who regularly posts online and is featured on the air. In 2013, the Local Current Blog posted videos and in-studio performances throughout the year and published 420 text features. More than 1,000 artists were mentioned on the blog in 2013; 300 had in-depth features from blogger Andrea Swensson, and 400 more artists were included in shorter features.

New to the Local Current Blog in 2013, The Current engaged college students from across Minnesota to write posts on the local music scenes in their communities. The Local Current published a total of 25 posts written by 13 student writers representing ten different Minnesota colleges and universities.



Luke Muyskens, Saint John's University (Submitted photo)

#### Luke Muyskens,

#### Local Current student writer from Saint John's University:

"The college contributors program has helped to ease my nervousness [about graduation] by allowing me the experience of publishing my work and receiving positive feedback... I've been given some article ideas as well as the freedom to pitch my own pieces, all of which have been interesting and fun to research and write... It was exciting to see my second article make the top 23 most shared/commented articles of the year, and having a large number of people read my work instilled in me some confidence to placate my pre-graduation fears."

#### KT Lindemann,

#### **Local Current student writer from University of Minnesota, Morris:**

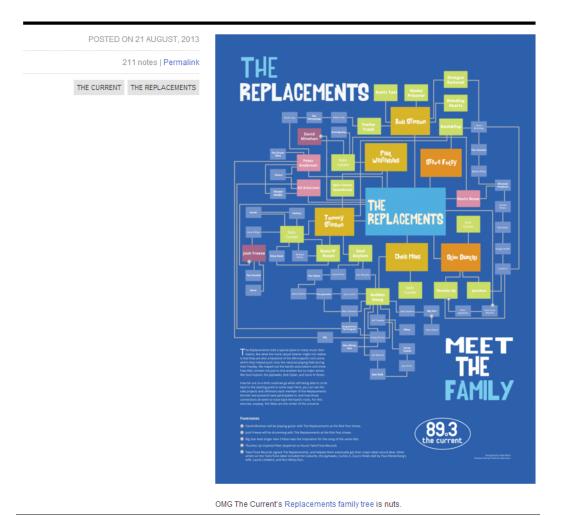
"Being a college contributor has been an incredible springboard for my personal and career goals. By compiling local release previews every week, I get the chance to promote and connect with local artists, often up-andcoming artists who wouldn't have been otherwise covered by most media outlets. Minnesota has such a rich artistic culture, notably so in music—from the Replacements and Bob Dylan to the rap group playing their first record release show at the 7th Street Entry. The College Contributors program allows me to be a part of that culture—a liaison between talented artists and the fans who will grow to love them, and I'm extremely grateful for that. Every day, I am grateful. As a bonus, the college contributor program puts me in a group of undergraduate writers who have had their work—gasp—published. Writing for The Current will certainly be a jewel on my resume, but more importantly, it's been an avenue for my passions and my Minnesota pride."



KT Lindemann, University of Minnesota, Morris (Submitted photo)

# **Spotlighting the Influence of Minnesota Musicians**





The Minnesota band The Replacements holds a special place in many music fans' hearts. But what the casual listener might not realize is that The Replacements are also a keystone of the Minneapolis rock scene, which they helped push onto the national playing field during their heyday. To help Minnesota music fans get up to speed on the band's impact and legacy, the Local Current Blog created and posted this Replacements family tree in August 2013. The tree immediately became popular online and was shared thousands of times nationwide through Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter and other social media sites. It was also featured by NPR Music, *City Pages* and other blogs, amplifying the influence of Minnesota artists to an even broader audience across the state and nation.

#### Additional ACHF Activities

#### **HIGHLIGHTING MINNESOTA ARTISTS**

#### **CLASSICAL MPR'S CHORAL STREAM**

Choral music is a treasured art form in Minnesota communities, and MPR recognizes this vital piece of our local culture. Classical MPR's choral web stream gives audiences 24/7 access to great professional choirs, college choirs, amateur choirs and church choirs. In 2013, MPR's Choral Stream featured 22 Minnesota choral ensembles, conductors and composers in an effort to share Minnesota choral culture with the world.

#### **CLASSICAL BROADCAST PERFORMANCES**

Listeners throughout the state rely on Classical MPR as their window into the rich musical community that calls Minnesota home. From live broadcasts of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra heard in Worthington, to conversations with artists made available in Cook County, listeners are eager to connect with the strong musical culture of their state.

In 2013 Classical MPR Broadcast Performances highlighted a wide range of smaller Minnesota ensembles. Dedicated staff traversed the state identifying and recording concerts of regional importance for later broadcast. From the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, to the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, to the Minnesota Beethoven Festival in Winona, in 2013 Classical MPR made 91 recordings of Minnesota artists for broadcast and offered real-time broadcasts of 11 additional live performances—greatly increasing the number and diversity of ensembles that Minnesotans can hear on-air.

#### **LOCAL CURRENT**



Minnesota musician Caroline Smith and her band perform in The Current studios. (MPR/Nate Ryan)

The Local Current project expands MPR's role as a hub for Minnesota music. There is almost nowhere else that audiences can turn, in any medium, to be immersed as thoroughly in the rich local music scene of Minnesota than Local Current. Using the existing Local Current brand, in 2013 MPR leveraged ACHF funding to showcase the work of more than 1,200 local musicians through on-air, online and onstage projects. The Local Current project includes the following:

#### **LOCAL SHOW**

As a showcase for local talent, <u>The Local Show</u>— a two-hour show that airs on The Current every Sunday evening—hosted 31 in-studio sessions and conducted 37 interviews with Minnesota musicians in 2013. By the end of the year, Minnesotans had been exposed to more than 400 unique regional artists on *The Local Show* playlist.

#### **LOCAL CURRENT STREAM**

Beyond the radio and stage, Local Current has been successful engaging a younger demographic with local music through a deep and accessible digital portfolio. With its 24 hours per day, 365 days per year online stream of Minnesota musicians, the Local Current Stream received an average of 21,000 stream requests per month in 2013. Two hundred sixty-eight Minnesota artists had more than 270 new albums and singles added into rotation. ACHF funding makes the stream accessible to all Minnesotans online, allowing local artists to be heard in areas where they have not yet been able to tour or where The Current is not broadcast.

#### **LOCAL CURRENT BLOG**

As another valuable online resource, the Local Current Blog (featured on page 9) posted 420 written features, as well as additional videos and in-studio performances, throughout the year. Three hundred artists had in-depth features from blogger Andrea Swensson, and 400 more artists were included in smaller features. The Local Current Blog also served as the go-to news source for the local music scene, covering events such as the audience response to Duluth trio Low's surprising 27-minute, one-song set at Rock the Garden in June and the City of St. Paul's plans to renovate and reopen the historic Palace Theatre. By focusing on a range of activities that showcase regional artists across many platforms, the Local Current project seeks to leverage ACHF funding to connect the largest number of local artists to the largest possible cross-section of Minnesotans.

#### MINNESOTA SOUNDS AND VOICES



In 2013, Minnesota Sounds and Voices featured woodcut printmaker and artist Charles Beck, who is known for capturing dramatic sky colors and drawing inspiration from the landscape of Otter Tail County. (MPR/Ann Arbor Miller)

With online and on-air activities made possible through ACHF funding, MPR News has spearheaded a unified effort to showcase Minnesota artists through both in-depth profile journalism and current-events reporting. Acting as a megaphone for artists and as a window into the art world for listeners, we highlighted Minnesota artists, arts and cultural events, trends and information through a variety of multimedia series.

Profile reporting – such as the Minnesota Sounds and Voices series or Minnesota Mix (featured on page 7) – raises public awareness of the arts by showcasing Minnesota's cultural iconography. Focusing reporting through such diverse lenses as age, ethnicity, immigration status, tradition and skills, this reporting gives listeners in-depth insight into the intersections of ideas that make up culture and the arts in Minnesota. This deep focus serves as an amplifier for projects, initiatives, individuals and events that are deeply representative of Minnesota arts and culture.

In 2013, MPR's profile reporting brought listeners the focused exploration of a wide range of topics – from the artistic, such as this profile of Charles Beck, a 90-year-old master woodcut artist in Fergus Falls; to the cultural, such as this profile of Sakinah Mujahid, a military veteran and director of Sisters Need A Place, a small shelter in Minneapolis focused on Muslim women; to the historical, as in this report about Jim Rock, a Dakota who has worked to preserve the 27-acre Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, home to a cave the Dakota Indians call Wakan Tipi, or sacred house.

#### STATE OF THE ARTS BLOG

Beyond profile features, current-events reporting for the arts is an equally critical element to fostering and maintaining a dynamic and engaged arts and cultural tradition in Minnesota. Every week, listeners have multiple opportunities on MPR's airwaves and websites to hear and read about the exhibits, shows, lectures and events put on by local artists.

The State of the Arts Blog, for example, has created a must-read, first-read for arts news and trends. With more than 500 posts published in 2013, this daily coverage represented happenings from the broadest possible spectrum of artistic endeavors - dance, film, literature, photography, theater, music, fine art, pop art, digital art, performance art, experimental art and everything in between.

In addition to the State of the Arts Blog, Art Heroes highlights Minnesotans who have chosen to use their artistic talents to make the world a better place. These artists commit themselves as community leaders day in and day out to transform their communities through their art.



Art Heroes featured Roger and DeAnna Cummings, who founded Juxtaposition Arts in 1995 and continue to teach and train young people in the arts while employing them as apprentices to work alongside professional artists. (MPR/Jennifer Simonson)

#### **ART HOUNDS**

The Art Hounds series, an on-air and online feature that asks Minnesota artists what shows, installations, performances or exhibits they are looking forward to over the next week, is another example of the timely, eclectic reporting that drives audience participation. Featuring more than 150 artistic performances, openings or events in 2013, the breadth of coverage of this artist-voiced series is unparalleled among major media organizations in the state of Minnesota and provides valuable exposure for local artists.



Minnesota Sounds and Voices featured a story about Hmong American women's flag football. (MPR/Jennifer Simonson)

The benefit for Minnesotans from this coverage, supported by ACHF funding, is increased information about arts and culture activities. Greater awareness of events, people and trends leads to more arts participation, which in turn increases the viability of Minnesota artists earning a fair wage for their work. With more than 530,000 statewide weekly listeners on the MPR News service alone<sup>1</sup>, and more than 2 million monthly page impressions through its website<sup>2</sup>, MPR stands uniquely positioned to be a principal driver in increasing exposure for artists.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MINNESOTA **STUDENTS**

#### **PLAY IT FORWARD**

In addition to the Minnesota Varsity (featured on page 8) and Class Notes: Artist projects (featured on page 6), in 2013 Classical MPR executed the fourth iteration of Play it Forward, a campaign to solicit donations of used instruments directly to Minnesota schools. Working with school teachers and administrators, MPR used its on-air and online channels to promote the need for instruments in schools, telling individuals how to connect with their local schools to put their old instruments in the hands of students. Schools from Detroit Lakes to Hibbing and Rochester to Buffalo participated; a total of 112 Minnesota students received donated instruments to support their musical education.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All data © Nielsen Audio, Jan-Nov 2013, Persons 12+.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WebTrends, Mo. Avg. 2013.

# Appendix 1 – Financial Report

### Fiscal Year 2013 (July 2012-June 2013)

	Budget					Total
Project	Amount	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Expended
Café Europa	\$14,350	\$0	\$0	\$13,638	\$1,200	\$14,838
Classical Broadcast						
Performances	\$167,772	\$14,893	\$33,657	\$38,645	\$49,472	\$136,666
Classical MPR						
Education Initiative	\$116,998	\$27,274	\$23,135	\$31,600	\$45,371	\$127,380
Local Arts and						
Culture Features	\$443,815	\$106,668	\$114,238	\$111,638	\$115,161	\$447,705
The Local Current	\$236,906	\$40,541	\$64,915	\$73,889	\$71,242	\$250,587
Minnesota Archive						
Partnership	\$154,694	\$37,698	\$40,225	\$38,604	\$40,833	\$157,360
Totals:	\$1,134,535	\$227,074	\$276,170	\$308,014	\$323,278	\$1,134,536

# Budget, Fiscal Year 2014 (July 2013-June 2014)

	Estimated Budget
Project	Amount
Highlighting MN Artists	\$891,088
Live Event Art Experiences	\$161,783
Preserving Classical Music	
History	\$117,617
Supporting Music Education	\$314,512
Total:	\$1,485,000

Appendix 2 – Details and Outcomes

Project	Significant Dates	FTE Positions - FY13	FTE Positions - FY14	Measurable Outcomes - Calendar Year 2013
Café Europa	12/1/12 - 1/30/13	0.00	0.00	6 Minnesota musical artists and ensembles featured in one live event in January 2013 More than 950 attendees
Classical Broadcast Performances	7/1/12 - 12/31/13	1.90	2.69	More than 20,000 weekly listeners 59 Minnesota musical artists and ensembles in 7 counties recorded for broadcast 11 live classical performances broadcast in real-time
Classical MPR Education Initiative	7/1/12 - 12/31/13	1.61	2.17	20,000 students in 11 counties reached 7 Minnesota artists participated 42 schools participated 112 used instruments donated to schools More than 250,000 weekly listeners of Minnesota Varsity
Local Arts and Culture Features	7/1/12 - 12/31/13	5.20	5.59	More than 100,000 weekly listeners 582,916 stream requests 550 blog posts 293,319 page views More than 600 stories shared online and on-air
Minnesota Archive Partnership	7/1/12 - 12/31/13	1.54	1.33	320 concerts digitized 194,092 page views
The Local Current	7/1/12 - 12/31/13	3.75	4.30	256,598 stream requests 31 Minnesota artists/groups recorded 420 blog posts 839,238 page views About 14,000 weekly listeners 9 live events with total attendance of more than 13,000

**Sources:** Listenership data © Nielsen Audio, Jan-Nov 2013, Persons 12+. Page view data from Webtrends 2013. Stream request data from StreamGuys 2013.

#### OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

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Year denotes beginning of current term or current consecutive terms.

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#### Robert Pohlad (2013)

The Pohlad Companies

#### James T. Prokopanko (2010)

President & CEO

The Mosaic Company

#### Paul Reyelts (2002)

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The Valspar Corporation

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Founder

The Geek Squad

#### Jean Taylor (2013)

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#### **Samuel S. M. Wai** (2010)

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(1999-2008)

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**Spencer Stuart** 

#### Glen D. Nelson, MD (2001-2013)

**GDN** Holdings

#### **William Pearce** (1988-2007)

**Community Leader** 

#### **Addison (Tad) Piper** (1986-1995)

(1999-2008)

Retired Chairman & CEO

Piper Jaffray Companies, Inc.

#### **Robert J. Sivertsen** (1968-2005)

Community Leader

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#### Joanne Von Blon (1975-1983) (1986)

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#### William H. Kling

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