

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund



legacy amendment 2024 annual report
Minnesota Session Laws-2023, Chapter 40, Article 4,
Section 2, Subdivision 6



Report Date
January 15, 2025



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Siengkane Lao MN (SKLM) started because of a Lao group who had refugees and immigrants in the USA. Both of their goals were to not only connect with their roots and heritage, but to think bigger and go beyond preservation. Throughout history, people have danced for social, cultural, and theatrical reasons.



The purpose of the dance class is to provide a platform for youth and adult Lao Americans to connect to their roots through the different types of art in the culture by providing a safe environment where they can learn, practice and gain experience.

Our dance education strives to inform and encourage students to appreciate and participate in various aspects of dancing, including creating, performing, choreographing, and responding to dance. Students learn the craft of choreography, giving them an opportunity to become creative artists, as they practice using a variety of choreographic tools and devices. A wide range of dance styles and techniques are studied, from traditional dances to highly evolved classical or modern techniques.



Lao cultural performance by SKLM Teen and Kids groups during the Mid-Autumn Festival, Landmark Center, St Paul, MN.



m DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION

GRANTEE BOARD OF DIRECTOR

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GRANTEE

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PROJECT APPROPRIATION

Administering Agency: This grant is a pass-through grant administered by the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Project: Lao traditional dance class.

Project Funding: FY24-25 is for a grant to Siengkane Lao MN to create cultural arts projects and to preserve traditional performances.

Project Duration: First year (FY24), project began on October 25, 2023 and concluded on June 30, 2024. This report covers activities performed during State Fiscal Year 2024.

Project Full Time Equivalents: 0.53 FTE funded over full project.

Project Information: This project is designed to support the Art, Culture, and Heritage of the Lao communities living in Minnesota.

Project Expenses During Fiscal Year 2024

Insurance - \$1,944.00
Space Rental - \$3,600.00
Salary - \$27,672.00
Student Items - \$6,577.74
Equipment - \$1,578.98
Food, Beverage, Office supply - \$5,024.76
Performance - \$1,700.00
Total expenses - \$48,097.48

The next phase of the Siengkane Lao MN will be completed with a Fiscal Year 2025 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant. No subgrants will be solicited or awarded from this grant.



SKLM kids perform during Lao New Year 2024
Buasavanh Hall, Brooklyn Park

BE OPEN TO LEARNING NEW THINGS

At SKLM Dance Class, we set core values that our entire students follows. We believe in always doing our best and not have any time to worry about what isn't working out. During the dance class, we keep focus on having fun and students will need to Be Open to Learning New Things, dancing for beginners entails a lot of new dance moves and terminology. This may be intimidating and uncomfortable at first as a new person in the class, but when the students go in with an open mind and eagerness to learn, they will do great and have fun doing it.

MEASURED OUTCOMES

Lao Traditional Dance Class achieved the proposed outcomes.

Dancing is more than a skill, talent, or expression; it is also a way to learn. In every step, a dancer learns a lesson or two about life, and these lessons can extend beyond the walls of the dance studio. In total, SKLM has served 44 participants since the beginning of the project.

Here are some of the life skills that we produced through out the FY24:

1: Teaches Teamwork and Accountability

Every dancer has experienced being part of a team at least once in their lives. Working in a group may look simple from the outside, but it takes a lot of practice and coordination to appear as one. When joining a corps, everyone needs to learn to work together and understand each other to create a harmonious relationship on stage. That involves attending every rehearsal, focusing every time they practice, and applying what they have learned for a great performance day. It is all about both individual and group effort.

2: Increases One's Responsibility

Dancing is not all about being good on the dance floor. It is also about being responsible and hardworking. Skill can always be learned and improved upon. What sets a dancer apart from others is their hard work and dedication to what they do. A responsible dancer knows the importance of arriving on time and doing the proper before beginning class or rehearsal. They must know how to listen to their instructor and adjust as needed.



*SKLM adults perform during Lao New Year 2024
Brookdale Library, Brooklyn Center*

MEASURED OUTCOMES (CONTINUE)

3: Helps Improve Determination

Dancers continue practicing until the day of the performance. They know that it is not just about the performance. It involves letting the body get used to the tiredness and difficulty of the choreography. It is staying persistent despite the urge to finish fast and go home to get some rest. A real dancer is always determined to perform their best in every class, rehearsal and performance.

4: Lets People Stay Creative

Besides expressing one's feelings, message, or desire, dancing improves a person's creativity by letting them express movement on their own during rehearsal. Dancers do not only dance what they've learned but they also need to listen to the music and let their bodies do the talking. Many dancers also become choreographers. Building a whole new work or simply teaching other people to dance is already a creative process.

5: Teaches Flexibility

Flexibility in dancing is not only about being able to stretch the body parts. It is learning to adapt to any changes until the whole cast finds a cohesive way to present their concepts. It is learning how to dance for multiple instructors wanting different things. It is the flexibility to balance emotions, cognitive flexibility, and social interaction when performing. Finally, it is learning to balance the frustration and grace every time you make mistakes while performing.

Conclusion

There is more to Lao traditional dance than simply the dancing. It may be a hobby for some, but it is a lifestyle for many. These are a few of the valuable life lessons that dancing teaches its students.

Every student dancer grows not just as a skilled dancer but as a disciplined, responsible, and creative individual in this world. We bring out the best in students by bringing out the dancer inside.



*Naga Head Casting Ceremony
Temple in St. Paul*

Through out the FY24, our student were achieved for the following:

1. Improve oral, written, and critical thinking skills
2. Learn how to conduct research in dance and performance
3. Learn how to write about performances
4. Learn how to put performance in a cultural, historical, or theoretical context

MEASURED OUTCOMES (CONTINUE)

Technique/Artistic Perception, Achieved.

1. Learn to process, analyze and respond to sensory information through the language and skills unique to dance.
2. Demonstrate increased movement skills, concentration and physical control in performing movement for artistic expression.
3. Learn to discriminate and use a wide range in the used of time, space, and energy.
4. Learn to memorize and reproduce long movement sequences.

Choreography/Creative Expression, Achieved.

1. Learn to use choreographic principles and processes to express perceptions, feelings, images, and thoughts through dance, working alone, with a partner, or in small groups.
2. Learn to manipulate the elements of dance, shape, space, time and energy, to create short studies that demonstrate development as well as a beginning, middle and end.
3. Learn to create and perform dance works of art showing proficiency in investigating complex thematic materials, universal themes, and incorporate simple dance performances, e.g.: music, lighting, scenic design, costuming and analyzing how these will affect the performance of the work.

Community Outreach, Achieved.

1. Students have a heightened sense of community, cultural sensitivity and respect through community-based performances and teaching dance.
2. Students have a heightened sense of commitment towards civic duty/community involvement as future teachers, performers, or workers in community agencies.
3. Students have a heightened sense of the impact of their performing on community audience members.



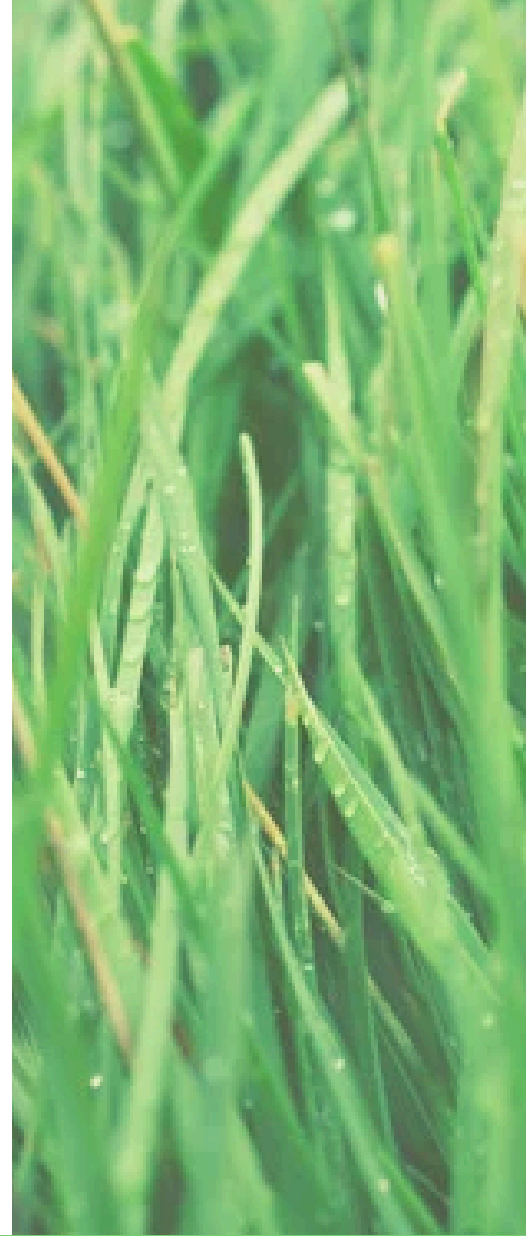
*SKLM groups perform at the
MN Dragon Boat Festival
Phalen Lake, St. Paul*



THANK YOU!

Through the support of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Siengkane Lao MN is able to :

- Provides support services that needs within the Lao community and promotes the well-being of children and families.
- Maintain the culture and heritage of the Lao Community.



Sanghadana Offering Ceremony, Sawatdee Restaurant, Bloomington



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