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Council to award grants in February

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The 15-member Montana Arts Council will meet in Bozeman February 24 and 25 to act on requests for MAC grants for cultural programs in Montana for the fiscal year starting July 1970.

The council's chairman, Dean Charles W. Bolen of the University of Montana School of Fine Arts, said the full council will allocate funds to orchestras, theaters, galleries and other arts organizations and projects on the basis of recommendations of appropriate advisory committees. These committees, comprised of specialists in various areas of the arts, have reviewed all applications.

"All the requests have merit and are for modest grants," the chairman said, "but the number of projects that the council can support is limited by the amount of federal matching money available. For example, for the current fiscal year the council received requests for more than $124,000 but was able to disburse only $36,363, the amount of the National Arts Endowment grant to each state.

"President Nixon's strong endorsement of the National Arts Endowment appropriation request, now before the Congress, encourages us to hope that the states will receive larger federal matching grants for the next fiscal year. When Congress acts, grantees designated at the February MAC meeting will be notified of the dollar amounts of their grants."

Dean Bolen stressed that the MAC grants to organizations are not to be confused with National Arts Endowment grants to individuals. The latter (more)
may or may not require matching money but they never involve state funds. They are given directly to individual artists who show exceptional ability. Recipients of these federal grants have included painters, sculptors, composers, writers, choreographers, film makers and researchers in the arts.

He said that the MAC does not select recipients of individual grants but that Edward G. Groenhout, Missoula, executive director of the MAC, can supply information and help to persons interested in applying.

He added that Groenhout is also available to provide counsel and technical aid to Montana arts organizations requesting such assistance.

In addition to the chairman, members of the MAC are Mrs. William Cordingly and Mrs. Eleanor Logan, both of Great Falls; Robert Q. Crebo, Mrs. Blanche Judge and David Shaner, all of Helena; Earl Dahlstrom, Moore; Robert Fehlberg, Mrs. Dorothy Nelstead, Lyndon Pomeroy, and Mrs. Joseph Sample, all of Billings; Skulasson Moe, Poplar; Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, Kalispell; Harold Rose, Bozeman, and Mrs. Boyd Taylor, Butte.