



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst
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DATE: December 17, 2009
TO: Leanne Heisel, ELG Members
FROM: Cathy Duncan, LRP Analyst, LFD
RE: Historic Preservation & Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program

CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC GRANT PROGRAM

Quick Facts

- o The Cultural and Aesthetic Grant Program (C&A) is administered by the Montana Arts Council.
- o The Director of the MAC is Arlynn Fishbaugh, phone (406) 444-6546.
- o The C&A program is established in Title 22, Chapter 2, part 3, MCA, and was developed for the protection of works of art in the State Capitol and other cultural and aesthetic (C&A) projects.
- o Projects in the C&A program are funded with the investment earnings from a statutory trust, which is built with and receives coal severance tax revenues.
- o The C&A trust receives a statutory 0.63 percent of coal severance tax revenues and the interest and earnings from the trust support the grant activities of the program.
- o In the current biennium, interest and earnings from the trust were estimated to be \$1.3 million.
- o Interest and earnings in the 2013 biennium are expected to be similar to the amount estimated for the 2011 biennium.
- o The total grant appropriation for the 2011 biennium was \$885,400 and funded 97 grant awards.
- o The administrative costs of the grant program are also funded with the trust interest and earnings.
- o Grants are provided in five categories including Special Projects less than \$4,500, Special Projects greater than \$4,500, Operational Support Projects, Capital Expenditure Projects, and "Challenge Grants".

- o Grant applications are reviewed by a 16-member committee, the Cultural and Aesthetics Project Advisory Committee, eight of whom are appointed by the Montana Historical Society and eight appointed by the Montana Arts Council. This committee submits funding and ranking recommendations to the legislature, and the legislature makes all final funding decisions.
- o The Montana Arts Council has no ranking, recommendation, or decision-making authority over any of the grants.
- o In addition to the projects in the table below, the Cultural Trust provides operating and special project support for historic preservation organizations such as the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society, the Carbon County Historical Society, the Western Heritage Center in Billings, the World Museum of Mining, the MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney, the Montana Preservation Alliance, the Montana Historical Society, and many others.
- o The C&A grants program funds historic preservation projects in 2011 biennium in the capital expenditure category. Some examples are:

Project Name	Project Sponsor	Bien	Total Cost	Grant Request	Grant Authorized	Past Grants (cumulative)
Condition Assessment & Repair of Moss Mansion	Billings Preservation Society	2011	\$535,883	\$54,926	\$12,000	\$13,526
Windows Restoration- Repair	Meagher County Historical Assoc.	2007	\$66,326	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Roof, Siding, & Basement Renovation	Liberty Village Arts Center & Gallery	2007	\$49,500	\$12,375	\$6,900	\$17,775

Summary

C&A grants have provided a portion of the funding for historic preservation projects in the past. However, the funds available for these grants and projects are limited.