



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON | LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX REQUEST

CENTER FOR THE ARTS EXPANSION

The Center for the Arts is a premier arts and culture destination in the south metro – home to a diverse group of professional and community arts organizations.

The 32,000 square foot facility, attached to Bloomington Civic Plaza, provides performing and visual arts programming and lifelong arts learning opportunities that engage the region’s most talented artists, student performers and everyone in between. With venues such as the Schneider Theater, Black Box Theater and Inez Greenberg Gallery, the center is a regional magnet for artists and audiences to create and enjoy a wide variety of enriching arts experiences.

REGIONAL IMPACT:

The Bloomington Center for the Arts is a major creative hub and central to the sustainability and growth of the regional creative economy. According to CreativeMN.org:

- Regional economic impact of Bloomington’s arts and culture organizations and their nonprofit audiences in 2020: \$12.1 million.
- Number of arts organizations driving this economic impact: 25 arts organizations.
- Number of attendees of arts events in Bloomington: 282,560, including 81,945 youth.

There are seven resident arts nonprofits in the facility:

- **Artistry** is serving an increasingly diverse audience of more than 80,000 people annually. It is experiencing unprecedented critical acclaim by engaging the region’s most talented artists.
- **Bloomington Symphony Orchestra** and its 75 musicians seek to add performances and rehearse at the center.
- **Medalist Concert Band** has 70 members and seeks a professional caliber rehearsal space and additional performing opportunities.
- **Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs** is an award-winning children’s choral program with six ensembles serving hundreds of singers in grades K - 12.
- **Continental Ballet Company** performs classical ballet to the delight of audiences in Bloomington and beyond as they tour throughout the state and region. It also maintains an extensive training program designed to engage children, teens and adults of diverse backgrounds in the art of classical dance.
- **Bloomington Chorale** is a growing and vibrant 64 singer adult mixed chorus that provides high quality, non-audition choral opportunities.

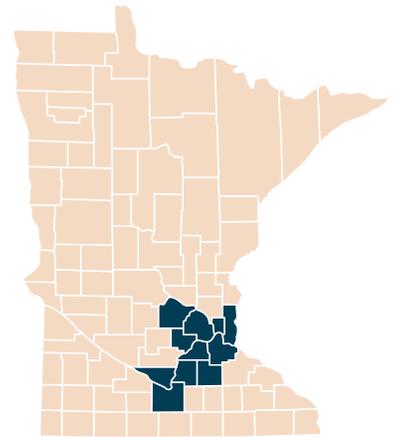
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS SEEKING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO HAVE VOTERS CONSIDER 0.50% LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR 20 YEARS TO HELP EXPANSION OF THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$33 MILLION PLUS INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS.



Artistry’s customers come from the upper Midwest and across the United States.



- **NOTE-able Singers** is a women's show choir with members from across the metro area. Membership is increasing and they seek additional opportunities for public performances at the center. In the past 18 months membership has doubled and performances have increased by 30 percent.
- **Additional arts and cultural partners include:** touring performance groups, local arts nonprofits, and visual and performance artists who also have thriving, ongoing relationships with the Center for the Arts. They offer classes, activities, performances and events in our spaces. Twenty years after it opened, the Center for the Arts is bursting at the seams. An expansion of the center would leverage the facility's resounding success as a regional destination for artists and audiences. It would also foster greater engagement in the arts and provide opportunity for a more diverse range of artists and art forms in a prime and increasingly diverse south suburban setting.



GOALS FOR CENTER FOR THE ARTS EXPANSION:

- State-of-the-art concert hall with seating for 300 to 500 people.
- Retrofitting the Schneider Theater to improve the quality of the live theater experience.
- Rehearsal space designed to accommodate large bands, orchestras and choirs.
- Enhanced entryway with improved accessibility.
- On-site café serving arts audiences.
- Secure equipment storage and support space.

QUESTIONS

For more information, contact Center for the Arts Manager Leah Hughes at 952-563-8881 or lhughes@BloomingtonMN.gov.

SERVING RESIDENTS ACROSS THE TWIN CITIES REGION AND BEYOND

Pictured here are the counties where the seven resident arts groups of the Center for the Arts either provided programming (served participants in other areas) or drew audience members and students from for programs at the center in 2021.