Art for Everyone
Local experts tell us which nonprofits are improving arts access for all Minnesotans—and how you can help.

- Central Corridor: The Light at the End of the Track
- Holiday Shopping with a Charitable Twist
- Who Inspires Us: Reatha Clark King
BuzzWorthy

A Nonprofit to Know

A Hopeful Place
Saint Paul’s Center for Victims of Torture helps survivors thrive.

Since 1985, The Center for Victims of Torture has helped restore the health and humanity of more than 23,000 men and women who have endured suffering that’s difficult for many of us to imagine. “Our name conjures images in the listener that are very hard to contemplate,” says Pete Dross, CVT’s director of policy and development. “People have an almost visceral reaction to the word ‘torture,’ and they don’t want to think about it.”

That’s why visitors to the CVT’s St. Paul Healing Center—which offers tours to the public twice a month—are often surprised to hear how upbeat the interdisciplinary teams of physicians, therapists, social workers and psychologists are about the direct services they provide to some 250 clients every year. “It’s a very hopeful place when you understand the work here in the context of healing,” Dross says. “The worst things that can happen to a human being have already happened to our clients, and when they come here, they get better.”

The CVT works to create a world without torture, and its reach extends well beyond Saint Paul: The organization shares its evidence-based torture rehabilitation efforts in training programs around the world, while also providing torture triage in Africa and the Middle East. Since 1999, efforts have included providing mental health services to refugees of Sierra Leone’s civil war, serving Somali refugees in Kenya’s Dadaab camp, and creating a healing project for Iraqi refugees in Jordan. —Laura Billings Coleman

3 WAYS TO HELP:

Spread awareness by inviting a CVT speaker to come to your school, church or service club. Make your request at cvt.org.

Contribute baskets of food and toiletries for CVT clients who are seeking political asylum and don’t qualify for public services.

Attend the Restoring Hope Breakfast fundraiser Oct. 9 in Minneapolis. Contact nradtke@cvt.org or 612-436-4820 to attend.

Learn More!
Snap this tag to see Minnesota Philanthropy Partners’ video about The Center for Victims of Torture. Need the app? Go to get.neoreader.com on your smartphone to download the free app. Find more Nonprofits to Know™ videos at mnp partners.org/nonprofits_to_know.
Expanding Arts
Minnesota’s vibrant arts scene should be available to all.

By Carleen Rhodes
President and CEO of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners

We’re fortunate to have such a vibrant and diverse arts community in Minnesota. From one of the largest fringe festivals in the country to the world-renowned Guthrie Theater to sculpture parks and gardens to our many community art fairs, there truly is something for everyone.

You’ll find that energy and diversity in this edition of MNSights. We’re excited to share with you a sampling of nonprofits that are bringing the arts to more audiences of varying interests and backgrounds. There are outlets for at-risk teens to turn their stories into film, opportunities for artists with disabilities to show their work, and groups that bring Shakespeare to people who otherwise would have almost no interaction with the arts. It’s certainly not the arts as usual in Minnesota. You’ll also find the 18 nonprofits that local experts most frequently cited as working hard to expand access to the arts.

I’m proud of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners’ support of the arts through our affiliates. The Saint Paul Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation and Mardag Foundation have a history of making art happen together. They have helped make the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts a Minnesota icon. Today, they are key supporters of ArtsLab, an innovative program that helps small arts organizations adapt and grow their leadership.

Each affiliate foundation also maintains its own priorities and supports those interests through its individual grantmaking. The Saint Paul Foundation supported the arts and humanities with 16.3 percent of its total grantmaking budget in 2011, which included some multiyear grants. Separately, our statewide affiliate Minnesota Community Foundation has focused its work on the Arts Learning Xchange, which gives arts groups the support needed to grow their audiences.

I hope you enjoy this lively issue. Be sure to turn the page to our by-the-numbers look at the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, which is expanding light rail between the Twin Cities. With the holiday season approaching, we also include tips for how you can “give to the max” and bring a charitable angle to your holiday shopping. I know I’ll use that article when I shop for gifts.

Worth a Read

The book: “Class Warfare: Inside the Fight to Fix America’s Schools,” by Steven Brill
Suggested by: Brad Brown, executive director of Social Venture Partners Minnesota
Why Brown recommends it: “The ‘two steps forward, one step back’ progress of education reform can be demoralizing, but I took great hope from Brill’s book, which is very anecdotal and an extremely engaging read even for those of us who aren’t on the front lines of reform. Despite pursuing differing strategies, all reformers share the bone-deep belief that every child can learn, and they are proving it true every day in both charter and district schools.”
Central Corridor Collaboration

Three years after construction began, there’s light at the end of the track: Testing of the Central Corridor light rail line is just one year away, with passenger service set to begin in 2014. The new line has given rise to many partnerships, including the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, an affiliate of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners. This group of 13 local and national funders works to make sure the Central Corridor benefits nearby residents, businesses and neighborhoods. A quick look at the corridor and the collaborative:

- **40,000+** — The projected number of daily weekday riders by 2030—similar to the population of Mankato.
- **36** — Minutes it will take to travel between downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul on the new line, with trains running every 10 minutes during peak times.
- **5** — Number of funders from outside Minnesota involved in the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, cumulatively contributing $4.1 million.
- **$3.27 million** — The investment being made by two of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners’ anchor affiliates—The Saint Paul Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation—in the Funders Collaborative between 2008 and 2013. Both are founding partners of the collaborative.
- **280,000 ↑ 374,000** — The current number of jobs located in the five major economic hubs being connected by the Central Corridor (the two downtowns, University of Minnesota, Midway and the Capitol area) vs. the number of jobs projected by 2030.
- **3 out of 23**: ↑ Number of stations on the line that were made possible in part by funding from the Funders Collaborative, in order to make the line accessible to more neighborhoods.
- **19** — Cuisines represented in restaurants along the corridor, including Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Cuban, Russian, Somali and Israeli.
- **700+** — Small businesses located along the corridor outside of downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul.

 BuzzWorthy

BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2012

MN SIGHTS        FALL 2012

The current number of jobs located in the five major economic hubs being connected by the Central Corridor (the two downtowns, University of Minnesota, Midway and the Capitol area) vs. the number of jobs projected by 2030.

Lab 4 out of 23:

↑ Number of stations on the line that were made possible in part by funding from the Funders Collaborative, in order to make the line accessible to more neighborhoods.
**FACES & PLACES**

On April 23, The Saint Paul Foundation celebrated the recipients of the 2012 Facing Race Ambassador Awards.

† Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman greeted F. R. Bigelow Foundation trustees Louise Jones and Judy Kishel at the Great River Gathering on May 10.

† Minnesota Philanthropy Partners Vice President Ann Mulholland talked with event speaker Diane Ragsdale at the July 10 Arts Learning Xchange forum.

† Minnesota Philanthropy Partners President and CEO Carleen Rhodes and Racial Equity Manager Rowzat Shipchandler met with Jim Rettew (center), one of three Minnesota Idea Open Challenge III champions.

† Dan Engstrom, Barbara Coffin, John Shepard and Carrie Jo Snort gathered at the April 24 Challenges and Choices event focused on protecting the Mississippi River. The Saint Paul Foundation and Minnesota Community Foundation helped sponsor the event.

**GREAT GIVING**

Birthday Wishes
The New Ulm Area Foundation, an affiliate of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners, turns 25 this year. To celebrate, it’s awarding three special grants in 2012:

$20,000 to the City of New Ulm to develop Kiesling Park on the grounds of a historic site from the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, which marks its 150th anniversary this year.

$25,000 to Brown County Historical Society to create a new U.S.-Dakota War exhibition featuring hundreds of stories, artifacts, photos and replicas.

$15,000 to the new Grand Center for Arts & Culture to create a gallery space on the second floor of the historic Grand Hotel.

Minnesota Philanthropy Partners now offers Special Giving Opportunities for fundholders who access their funds online.

**HISTORY LESSON**

A PIONEERING SAINT PAULITE
Nearly 65 years ago, Annie Paper took a leap of faith by bequeathing $5,000 to a fledgling foundation that had yet to see its first donor. It was money well spent, as The Saint Paul Foundation has since grown into the largest community foundation in the state. A Russian émigré and mother of six whose husband ran steel distributor Paper Calmenson, Annie Paper left a legacy that still shapes her adopted hometown today: Grants from her fund have totaled 12 times the value of her original gift, supporting causes such as children’s rights and immigrant assistance.
**Talking points**

Do you know someone who works tirelessly to promote racial equality in Minnesota? Nominate them for The Saint Paul Foundation’s annual Facing Race Ambassador Award. This special recognition honors those working to create more racially equitable communities. Check out FacingRace.org this fall to learn more.

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**BuzzWorthy**

**Fast Facts**

- **103:** Number of applications Minnesota Community Foundation received for its first-ever Transformational Fund grant.
- **28:** Employees at AchieveMpls, the first grant recipient.
- **705:** Paid internships AchieveMpls helped arrange for Minneapolis students in 2011.

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**Moving On Up**

The Transformational Fund helps nonprofits think big.

For many nonprofits, day-to-day logistical concerns can get in the way of long-term planning for future growth. But a new grant created by Minnesota Community Foundation with funding from Tom Grossman and his family aims to help change that.

The unique, custom-designed Transformational Fund offers a $500,000 grant that a Hennepin County nonprofit can use to ratchet up its infrastructure and expand its scope. “The goal is to help an organization get to a place that is more powerful,” says Ann Mulholland, vice president of grants and program for Minnesota Philanthropy Partners.

The first recipient, AchieveMpls, was announced in April after a three-month competitive process with more than 100 applicants. With the funding, AchieveMpls will rework its strategic vision and invest in infrastructure, technology, fundraising capacity and leadership to further its mission of college and career readiness for students in Minneapolis public schools. The grant will also allow AchieveMpls to hire a director of measurement and accountability to ensure its work is making a meaningful difference. CEO Pam Costain says the funding was the catalyst for AchieveMpls to think about more sustainable ways to run the organization. “This grant will help us make changes quickly and decisively,” she says. “More important, when we’re successful, we won’t be dependent on this grant. We’ll be able to [do the work] on our own.”

Gifts designed to promote infrastructure growth and long-term outcomes are relatively rare within the philanthropic community, but they provide a vital complement to smaller, targeted gifts. Minnesota Community Foundation is excited to offer another Transformational Fund grant. Learn more at mncommunityfoundation.org/transformational_fund. “This grant gives nonprofits the permission to dream big,” Mulholland says. —Erin Peterson

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**5 WAYS TO GIVE TO THE MAX**

In the span of just a few years, Give to the Max Day has become Minnesota’s biggest online fundraiser. Last year, more than 47,000 donors gave nearly $13.4 million to 3,972 nonprofits via GiveMN.org. Five ways you can be part of this year’s Give to the Max Day on Nov. 15:

1. **Make a donation at GiveMN.org.** It’s amazingly easy, whether you log on from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

2. **Work with your favorite nonprofit to create a matching grant that challenges others to give.**

3. **Solve your holiday-giving dilemmas with GiveMN.org giving cards.** Your loved ones and friends can then choose the nonprofits they want to support.

4. **Set up a fundraiser page at GiveMN.org for a cause that’s close to your heart, then spread the word to friends and family.**

5. **New this year:** If you have a donor advised fund with The Saint Paul Foundation or Minnesota Community Foundation, use it to make a donation at fundaccess.mnpartners.org.
What Would Minnesota’s Police Chiefs Do with a $10,000 Donation?

Richard Wyffels  
Alexandria  
“We have provided bicycle patrol to Alexandria for more than 20 years. Currently, we work with various community organizations and business partners to hold ‘bicycle rodeos’ and safety talks. I would use this funding to broadly expand our interaction with all involved. I would like the police department to bring these events to our citizens’ neighborhoods rather than them coming to us.”

Dan Delaney  
Pipestone County  
“There are several hours of unsupervised time for adolescents after school. $10,000 would be used for a new program. Deputies could provide alternatives for these kids by supervising and instructing horseback riding, sports, arts, maybe even a cooking class—any activity that might spark an interest in healthy living. This would also give kids a chance to meet deputies in a non-authority environment.”

Scott Peterson  
Windom  
“We would use such a gift to install surveillance cameras at our city parks. In the past two years, our parks have received extensive vandalism. It’s hard to identify suspects. Surveillance cameras would assist our agency in solving these crimes.”

Michael Davis  
Brooklyn Park  
“We would apply that money toward our community engagement initiative, particularly the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. We have an activity center at Zanewood Rec Center where we run a number of programs—helping kids find jobs, a safe place for recreation, homework help, mentors. The money could refurbish that room and make it more user-friendly.”

Lynne Bankes  
White Bear Lake  
“I would like to purchase two to four portable speed-limit signs. They are solar powered and completely movable to locations where citizens feel speeding is a problem. The speed-limit signs require little maintenance, and they are a reminder to folks of how fast they are traveling on our city streets. Self-correction is preferred to speed enforcement.”

Ken Maloney  
Pipestone County  
“We have provided bicycle patrol to Pipestone County for more than 20 years. Currently, we work with various community organizations and business partners to hold ‘bicycle rodeos’ and safety talks. I would use this funding to broadly expand our interaction with all involved. I would like the police department to bring these events to our citizens’ neighborhoods rather than them coming to us.”
WHO INSPIRES US:

Reatha Clark King

Minnesota Philanthropy Partners President and CEO Carleen Rhodes talks with the retired president of the General Mills Foundation about her impoverished upbringing, her path to success, and how our civic-minded state can become even stronger.

Edited by Heidi Pearson

Carleen Rhodes: You grew up in rural Georgia in the 1940s working in the cotton fields and on your aunt’s farm. Were there lessons from those years that really influenced you?

Reatha Clark King: I learned to love working hard. From my illiterate grandmother, I learned at an early age that if anything is worth doing, it’s worth doing well. And as an avid Baptist churchgoer, I learned that caring for others was important for my spiritual development as well as my community’s well-being.

CR: Part of your preparation for life started when you were 4 years old, in a one-room school that Mt. Zion Baptist Church hosted. How did that spark your love of education?

RCK: We had a tremendous teacher named Miss Florence Frazier who was a role model for all of us. She was well spoken, fun and very observant of us young people. In that one-room schoolhouse with seven grades being taught by one teacher, I learned leadership skills by helping the younger kids learn their ABCs and multiplication tables.

CR: You were high school valedictorian and went to Clark College at a time when not a lot of women—especially women of color—went to college. What helped you get on that path?

RCK: It was a desire for better work with better pay. And Miss Frazier raised expectations for me to try different fields as a woman. Women were told back then that we shouldn’t study the sciences or commit ourselves to long periods of study, because we should be looking for a husband. Miss Frazier helped me believe in myself to pursue a degree in chemistry.

CR: You’ve been a chemist, a professor, president of Metropolitan State University, and then head of the General Mills Foundation for 14 years. How did the earlier stages of your career prepare you to lead one of the nation’s foremost corporate foundations?

RCK: Chemistry requires an analytical style that really lends itself to philanthropy. As a college president, I learned the importance of outreach and connecting with partners. From the business world, I fine-tuned my accountability. And in each of my various careers, I learned about stewardship and the responsibility that comes with being entrusted with key resources. With every role, I’ve had the privilege of adding qualities that have helped me as a philanthropic leader.

CR: Minnesotans are so proud of our tradition of philanthropy. What do we need to do to make it even stronger?

RCK: I think there are some key principles to keep in mind: 1) Use our resources to catalyze progress. 2) Work toward total engagement of the community, including new ethnic groups. 3) Be activists and leaders. I use the word “activist” mildly; I don’t think resources should be used to lobby other people. But philanthropists have a knowledge base that allows them to see further into the future than others, and I don’t think there’s anything wrong with

THERE’S MORE!
To watch more of Reatha Clark King’s interview, go to get.neoreader.com on your smartphone to download the free app, then snap this tag.

Reatha Clark King’s Full Life: 2 sons 14 honorary doctorate degrees
picking up the phone and saying, “We’ve got to do something about this.”

**CR:** What philanthropic causes are important to you and your husband, Dr. N. Judge King?

**RCK:** Our favorite causes are education, youth services, health, and arts and culture. We also donate to causes that promote civic engagement, conversations to improve the quality of life for all people, and especially for new Americans and immigrants. In our state, the Minnesota Council of Churches does wonderful work in this area.

**CR:** You have such passion for education and philanthropy. What else do you care about?

**RCK:** My husband and I both enjoy sharing, and that’s one quality that’s bonded us through more than 50 years of marriage. Sharing is a spirit I developed early on in my impoverished community. When the woman next door came over to see if she could borrow some eggs, we’d share anything extra we had. Sharing is what philanthropy is all about.

“This interview has been edited and condensed.”
Minnesota has long had a thriving arts and culture scene, one that’s boosted by talented artists, engaged audiences and hundreds of nonprofit arts organizations. These nonprofits aren’t just dedicated to making compelling art; they’re also committed to the idea that art has the power to enrich everyone’s lives and is therefore a public good to which everyone should have access.

These nonprofits work hard to make sure that artists, art-making and arts resources are available to all Minnesotans, regardless of economic status or physical ability. They help people who need art in their lives bridge the sociocultural forces that, consciously or not, can make that connection difficult.

To identify these standout organizations, Minnesota Philanthropy Partners teamed with philanthropic-research company Philanthropedia to ask local experts which nonprofits are significantly increasing access to arts and culture in the state. (For more data, see myphilanthropedia.org.) Minnesota’s arts organizations rely heavily on individual giving, and these are some great organizations to consider if you want to invest in the arts.
If You Want to Support …

Social Change

Consider: Intermedia Arts
“Multi” is the word that best describes Intermedia Arts, a unique arts center in south Minneapolis that is multidisciplinary, multicultural, multilingual and multidimensional. Its mission is to “be a catalyst that builds understanding among people through art,” which means that in addition to supporting the work of artists through classes, programs and grants, it is deeply committed to the idea that art can facilitate real social change.

Intermedia’s most visible offerings have included its B-Girl Be festival celebrating women in hip-hop, and Indy, which gives at-risk teenagers the guidance and resources to create their own independent films. But there are dozens of programs in a variety of artistic disciplines, from the GLBT reading series to the Indigenous Voices performance series. The center’s Creative Community Leadership Institute also provides professional-level training for artists and community leaders to help them work across sectors to address the social, economic and environmental issues affecting our communities.

Upcoming event: In November, the Viva Soul Power! pop-up performance kitchen will serve up delicious dinner and entertainment in the spirit of Day of the Dead.

How you can help: Volunteer to usher for a theater event or serve as a prep cook for this fall’s performance kitchen.

If You Want to Support …

Broadening Access to the Arts

Consider: Ten Thousand Things
Before the general public sees its plays, this theater company performs at prisons, homeless shelters and community centers, sharing entertainment, interaction and insight with audiences who have little or no access to the arts. The idea is to bring theater to the people and, just as important, not dumb it down. Indeed, Ten Thousand Things does a heady mix of classics (Shakespeare, Euripides) as well as hard-hitting contemporary plays and musicals.

In each case, the theater hires some of the Twin Cities’ finest actors and executes the plays with minimal props and little or no scenery. Instead, the company relies on the pure art of acting and the infinite power of imagination. The Star Tribune recently named the theater’s founder, Michelle Hensley, as the best theater artistic director in the Twin Cities, and she continues to prove herself worthy of the honor by producing brilliant plays, in ever-more imaginative ways, for some of the most disenfranchised people in our society.

Upcoming show: Shakespeare’s “Measure for Measure,” which looks at the difficulty humans have administering fair justice, plays through Oct. 21.

How you can help: Join the Dragon’s Circle of donors ($1,000+), and you’ll be invited to see prison performances (closed to the public) and dine with the artistic director.

18 High-Impact Nonprofits
The Minnesota nonprofits that were most frequently cited by experts in the Philanthropedia survey as having high impact in providing access to the arts:

1) Springboard for the Arts, springboardforthearts.org
2) Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, mncitizensforthearts.org
3) Mixed Blood Theatre Company, mixedblood.com
4) Intermedia Arts, intermediaarts.org
5) VSA Minnesota, vsamn.org
6) COMPAS, compas.org
7) Ten Thousand Things, tenthousandthings.org
8) In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, hobt.org
9) Walker Art Center, walkerart.org
10) Pillsbury United Communities, puc-mn.org
11) Mu Performing Arts, muperformingarts.org
12) Juxtaposition Arts, juxtaposition.org
13) Bedlam Theatre, bedlamtheatre.org
14) Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, interactcenter.com
15) Forecast Public Artworks, forecastpublicart.org
16) Northern Clay Center, northernclaycenter.org
17) Project SUCCESS, projectsuccess.org
18) TU Dance, tudance.org

*This nonprofit has been reviewed by the Charities Review Council and meets the organization’s Accountability Standards.
Consider: Forecast Public Art
Forecast seeks to extend the reach of public art to create meaningful engagement between the arts and communities. Since 1989, it has published the world’s leading journal of contemporary public art, the Public Art Review, read by thousands throughout the United States and in 20 countries. Forecast’s grant program also assists emerging and mid-career Minnesota artists, and the group offers consulting services and project management to communities and organizations that want to improve their public spaces.

Most recently, Forecast helped present three art pieces at the 2012 Northern Spark, a 24-hour festival of public art that included more than 200 sculptures, installations and events in the Twin Cities. Among them was Forecast-supported artist Tamsie Ringler’s “Car Dreams,” a one-night installation that challenged viewers to rethink their relationship with private transportation.

Notable projects: Greater Minnesota
Forecast projects include the Sanford Center’s terrazzo floor in Bemidji and the stained-glass window at John Marshall High School in Rochester.

How you can help: Subscribe to Public Art Review, which is published by Forecast twice a year.

Consider: VSA Minnesota
Since 1986, VSA Minnesota has worked to ensure that people with disabilities can access the creative arts. The group believes that art enhances life in every sphere—from career choices to education to personal growth—and that everyone has a right to engage in the arts. In addition to helping Minnesota organizations improve arts access for people with disabilities, VSA also helps artists with disabilities exhibit and perform their art. It supports festivals, residencies and a wide variety of arts programming statewide.

The Arts Ambassador Program is one of VSA Minnesota’s many outreach programs. Arts Ambassadors are professional artists with disabilities who visit schools to speak with students about the many possibilities that artists with disabilities have—an empowering and encouraging lesson about overcoming adversity and meeting life’s challenges head-on.

Notable news: Artwork created by Humboldt Senior High School student Mazin Hasabelarsoul (who has Andermann Syndrome) during a VSA residency was chosen to represent Minnesota in a national touring exhibition. He was honored at a congressional reception in Washington, D.C.

How you can help: Volunteer to serve on a VSA Minnesota committee, help with art installations or publicize upcoming events.

Consider: Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
It’s no secret that Minnesotans are among the most culturally and artistically literate people in the country, and for that we owe some thanks to our grassroots advocacy traditions. Since 1975, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts has been reminding the state legislature that we value the arts and the rights of all Minnesotans to be involved in them.

This statewide coalition had a major role in passing the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008—the most ambitious arts and culture amendment in the nation’s history. The amendment ensures that state funding for the arts continues and helps preserve Minnesota’s cultural heritage. MCA also works in numerous ways to organize local artists, educators and the general public to advocate for arts-related causes, from federal arts funding to tax policies to getting arts education in all Minnesota schools.

Notable project: MCA has been partnering with Conservation Minnesota and Explore Minnesota to host Legacy Destination Weekends in a different town each month, inviting visitors to experience arts and outdoor projects funded through the Legacy Amendment.

How you can help: Join MCA every February for Arts Advocacy Day, when hundreds of arts supporters go to the Capitol to tell legislators why the arts are important to them.
Expert Advice

JEFF PRAUER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Why he enjoys working in nonprofit arts: The arts are an incredibly powerful and wonderful way for humans to express themselves, and I am convinced the arts make the world better.

Local nonprofit everyone should know about: Juxtaposition Arts, which provides opportunities for young people in North Minneapolis to do hands-on visual arts projects.

How to help: Because it’s so challenging for arts organizations to get “ink” in the daily newspapers or other media coverage, social media word of mouth is extremely valuable. If you see a performance, exhibition, concert, etc., that you really liked, you should tweet about it and post it on Facebook.

VICKIE BENSON, ARTS PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Why she enjoys working in nonprofit arts: I am regularly exposed to incredibly innovative and bright people in the arts world. I believe that artists, arts organizations and artistic communities make Minnesota the vibrant place it is.

Local nonprofit everyone should know about: I couldn’t pick a favorite in Minnesota—they are all favorites.

How to help: Often, smaller organizations need volunteers. If there is an art form that you really like, look for an organization that resonates with you and see what you can do to help.

ERIK TAKESHITA, SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER FOR LISC TWIN CITIES

Why he enjoys working in nonprofit arts: I have seen firsthand the power of art to change people’s lives and to tap into people’s passions in ways that surprise, delight and empower them.

Local nonprofit everyone should know about: Pillsbury House Theatre is doing amazing work in south Minneapolis. I particularly like the way they are incorporating art into the various social services they provide.

How to help: Buy a ticket and show up at events. If you like it, tell friends, neighbors and family. There are so many rich new things happening in our community. Take a risk and go outside your comfort zone.
Questions about Giving with Retirement Assets

By Kara McGuire

It’s not unusual for philanthropic-minded people to think of their favorite charity as a near and dear friend—one they want to provide for even after death. Whether you have millions in savings or a more modest nest egg, retirement assets are a common method for making posthumous gifts. A few questions to ponder as you plan ahead:

1. **WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER IT?**
   Tax benefits, for one thing. When money is withdrawn from an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b), income tax needs to be paid by the owner or inheritor of the account. However, charities don’t pay income tax, so when a charity receives retirement assets, it can use the entire amount to support its mission. Giving retirement assets to charity also reduces your taxable estate dollar for dollar. Estate tax exemptions are currently $1 million for Minnesota and $5.125 million for federal, although the federal rate may fall to $1 million in 2013.

2. **HOW DO I GIVE RETIREMENT ASSETS TO CHARITY?**
   The simplest: Name a charity as a beneficiary on your retirement plan. It’s so easy that it can be done without the help of an attorney or financial advisor. Setting up a charitable remainder trust, which provides a person income to live on but passes what’s left to charity upon death, is another option. Estate-planning attorney Stuart C. Bear of Chestnut Cambronne P.A. says donor advised funds are another popular method. You can set one up with a community foundation and choose to fund it from a retirement account upon your passing. You can direct the foundation on how to grant money from your fund after your death, or your heirs can work with the foundation to make recommendations to grant to specific charities, which keeps them involved in the philanthropic process.

3. **CAN I LEAVE AN INHERITANCE AND FUND A CHARITY?**
   Yes. An estate-planning attorney can help determine the most tax-efficient way to do both. Roth IRAs (which aren’t taxed at withdrawal) or life insurance policies are common tools for leaving an inheritance to loved ones. It’s also possible to earmark some of your retirement assets for charity and other assets for family. Typically, the simplest way to do this is to create separate retirement accounts for each purpose.

4. **HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED IN ORDER TO GIVE RETIREMENT ASSETS?**
   There is no set amount. However, attorney Tara Mattessich of Larkin, Hoffman, Daly & Lindgren Ltd. says it’s good to keep in mind that some retirement plans require you to specify a percentage rather than dollar amount to donate, so for small gifts—or ones for which you’d like to set a dollar amount—it may be easiest to name the charity in your will.

5. **WHO CAN I CONSULT FOR MORE INFORMATION?**
   An estate-planning attorney is a good bet. If you have a financial advisor or accountant, they can also help craft a plan that makes sense for you and your heirs. Community foundations are also expert resources in planned giving strategies.

To learn more, contact Minnesota Philanthropy Partners at 651.224.5463 or info@mnpartners.org.
Smart Shopping
How to add a charitable slant to your holiday gift list.
By Kari Ruth

Around this time of year, I used to eagerly await the Sunday newspaper as a kid. The advertising circulars grew thicker and more colorful as December neared, serving as a wish list for kids like me dreaming more about receiving than giving. My motto was ‘tis the season for joy—and receiving the latest toys and gadgets ensured a season of mirth.

In adulthood, my role has reversed, and I far more enjoy being the giver than the receiver. There is no shortage of gift ideas, either. From the still-colorful toy catalogs to the infamous Neiman Marcus Christmas Book with its drool-worthy gift feature for the loved one who has everything (except a speedboat or custom-built library), I can find ideas for all ages and budgets—even catalogs devoted to gifts for Fido.

What I’ve found more difficult to unearth is a single catalog of ideas that give back. It’s always nice to find a gift that has a shelf life that lasts beyond the return policy—and one that benefits more than the receiver. With that spirit in mind, I’ve put together my own mini giving book featuring a handful of high-impact gifts designed to help you please a variety of tastes—and causes—this holiday season.

Help the trendsetter in your life make a fashion statement with meaning. Roozt (roozt.com) is the go-to boutique of the mission-minded, offering eco-friendly and ethical brands. I’m all over the stunning WeWOOD watches, made primarily from remnant woods like those used in violins and flooring. Not everyone can rock a timepiece made of maple, but those who do will love knowing that for every watch purchased, a tree is planted by American Forests.

For foodies, you can’t go wrong with a gift subscription to Love with Food (lovewithfood.com). Subscribers receive a box of gourmet goodness each month, and for every purchase, Love with Food donates a meal to a local food bank. Recipients can fight hunger while sampling snacks like artisan marshmallows, goat’s milk caramel or raspberry olive oil.

When you shop the unique handmade gifts at Global Goods Partners (globalgoodspartners.org), you support a growing workforce of entrepreneurial female artisans in 20 developing countries. Peruse lushly embroidered totes (even a dog carrier bag!), luxe scarves, colorful ornaments and dreidels, and adorable knit toys. I like how you can shop quickly by category, country or producer.

You can also pay the giving spirit forward with a Blessing Basket. Your purchase of a gorgeous hand-woven basket helps lift an individual out of poverty—permanently. Founded by a female entrepreneur who experienced the blessings of friends and family during a personal crisis, the Blessing Basket Project pays its artisans higher wages than many similar programs. Pick up a basket at Whole Foods or shop online at blessingbasket.org.

Even your holiday cards can have a charitable end result. Order from specially designated collections at oh-so-chic Tiny Prints (tinyprints.com), and your purchase can help fund the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes or other nonprofits.
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