

Artspace will visit Crookston in April

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By: Herald Staff Report, Grand Forks Herald

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A group in Crookston has announced the receipt of \$5,000 to cover the cost of the visit April 14-15, which would include a tour of the community and potential sites and buildings.

There also would be a community presentation, a focus group meeting for artists and arts organizations, focus groups and public meetings for finance leadership and civic leadership and working lunches and dinners, a news release said.

Artspace would help Crookston understand the space needs of artists and arts organizations, including economic considerations, and will provide a summary of their findings for potential development in Crookston within 30 days after its visit.

This could result in the possible redevelopment of one or a number of historic Crookston structures, a news release said.

The Artspace grant follows an earlier Legacy grant award of \$7,000, which is to be used to study the reuse of the Cathedral building as a possible center for the arts.

Public participation and comments will be important to the success of the Artspace visit. People can comment and follow the project through www.ourcrookston.blogspot.com and/or contact members of the core project group: Dan Johanneck, Wayne Melbye, Joyce Johnson, Sandy Kegler, Sonja Spaeth, Jim Kent or Kay Hegge.

The \$5,000 grant for the Artspace visit comes from the Laura Jane Musser Fund, a fund to encourage collaborative efforts to strengthen rural communities in economic development, business preservation, arts and humanities, public space improvements and education.

The fund puts a priority on projects that bring together community members and institutions; provide opportunities for community members to work together; have measurable short-term outcomes within the first 12 to 18 months; include community members in all phases of the process; and work to make positive changes.

Artspace gives feedback about the feasibility of creating a major multipurpose arts facility development related to the project concept, market need, suitability of the site, the potential to fund and sustain the project, and local leadership.