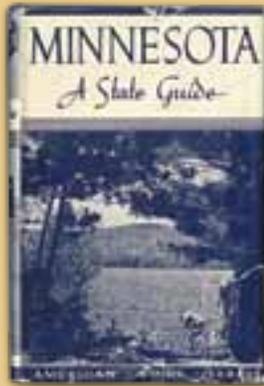


**T**WO YEARS AFTER PROMISING “relief, recovery and reform,” President Franklin D. Roosevelt redoubled his efforts to stimulate the economy and reduce the staggering unemployment rates with his “Second New Deal.” Created in April 1935 and funded by Congress in July, the

Works Progress Administration (later renamed the Work Projects Administration) hired millions of the nation’s unemployed to work on projects throughout the U.S. The WPA legacy remains visible throughout the state today, as we celebrate the project’s 75th anniversary.

Seventy-five percent of employment and expenditures went toward public facilities and infrastructure such as roads, dams, sewers, public libraries, and utilities. Other programs were designed to educate and train

adults and to clothe and feed children. One of the most enduring and popular WPA programs was the Federal One Project, which employed actors, dancers, writers, musicians, and artists to perform, create new works of art, and teach. (Only seven percent of the WPA budget went to these well-known activities.)

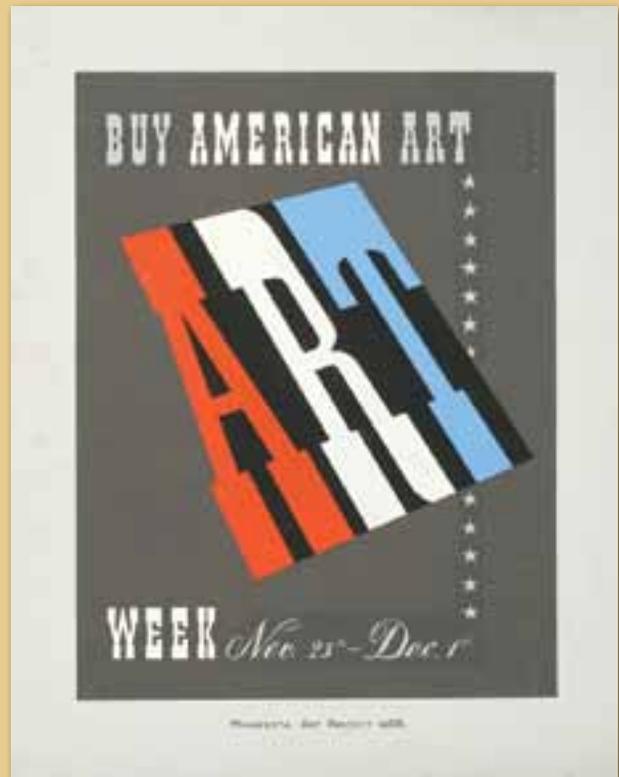


*Minnesota: A State Guide*, compiled and written by the Federal Writers Project staff, published by New York’s Viking Press in 1938, and still in print as *The WPA Guide to Minnesota*.

All objects and images are in MHS collections; object photographs by Eric Mortenson/MHS.

By the early 1940s, more than 8.5 million Americans had been hired and \$11.4 billion dollars spent. Minnesota received \$260 million, had projects in every county, and employed tens of thousands of workers. Notable examples of their efforts include the Minneapolis Armory, the scenic overlook on Sibley Memorial Highway in Mendota, the auditorium in Willmar, and structures at Lake Bronson State Park in northwestern Minnesota.

—Brian Szott, curator of art



Poster, silkscreen on crescent board, ca. 1940. Gift of the Bob and Pat Kennedy Crump family



Workers repairing sidewalks, Faribault, July 1936



Plaque from an unidentified project, now in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society



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