

## Five nonprofits receive awards from Community Foundation

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The event's theme, "Celebrating our Creative Economy," included ideas from a 2007 presentation at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center by Richard Florida, an author and professor who talks about the "creative class." Florida passed along "The Four T's," and the community foundation presented awards based on talent, technology, tolerance, territory and overall achievement.

Awards went to groups that had received a grant from the community foundation in 2007. Each group received \$2,000.

The winners included Art Works Expo, a conference held in 2008 that brought more than 300 local arts, business and civic leaders together to collaborate on local economic growth. This branched into other initiatives, including the Twin Ports Regional Arts Alliance.

Samantha Gibb Roth used a food analogy to talk about what is happening with the group.

"The Duluth Superior district's development community is creating creative clusters in the community," she said. "We're cooking up something healthy and rich, invigorated with an arts-infused theme. Local residents and business leaders are creating creative hot spots."

The Northspan Group, Inc., won the award for technology with its Web site [northlandconnection.com](http://northlandconnection.com), which is billed as "The Northland's portal for economic development information." The site boasts 1,000 unique visitors a month.

The award for tolerance went to the Copeland Community Center, which has expanded its annual Hmong New Year celebration.

The Minnesota Land Trust received the award for Territory, for their work with the North Shore Critical Landscape Protection Initiative. The group has more than 115 acres on the North Shore marked for growth and conservation.

The overall achievement award was given to Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, for an initiative that is known world-wide as “The Duluth Model.” The approach incorporates community institutions in helping to stop domestic violence, shifting responsibility from victims.

Linda Riddle, the executive director of DAIP, said her group is focused on young people.

“[Our mission] is to treat and nurture every child so that they grow up to be a person who would never think of hurting another person,” she said.