

Pert Near Sandstone is a blue-grass band based in the Twin Cities. The lead singer is Justin Bruhn. He is the son of Larry Schermerhorn and JoAnn Bruhn, both of whom grew up in Vergas. Larry still owns property on Long Lake. The band is well-known regionally and has also toured in Europe. Please check their website for more information about them.

The Vergas Arts Club has been in contact with their agent about performing in Vergas this summer. Three dates have been offered: Saturday, June 8 at the downtown Shops & Hops event; Wednesday, July 3 at the Long Lake Park; or Saturday, August 10 at Looney Days prior to the main band. The agent has said Pert Near wants to perform in Vergas but is waiting to choose a date based on when their European Tour will be scheduled.

The cost will be \$5000 with no additional expense like mileage or lodging. The Arts Club currently has \$3500 in their checking account. In addition two individuals have agreed to contribute \$1000 and \$500.

There is an opportunity to get a Projects Grant from the Lake Region Arts Council for up to \$3000; which, if received, would help the Arts Club not to drain its checking account. Applicants for the Project Grant must be a public entity (like a city or school district) or a non-profit (501c3) organization. The Vergas Arts Club is not a public entity, nor does it have 501c3 status.

The Lake Region Arts Council grants coordinator, Miranda, said the City of Vergas could be the applicant for the Project Grant, then “hire” the Vergas Arts Club to produce the Pert Near Sandstone event. Carol Albright has agreed to write the grant. Any or all Council members and/or the City Clerk can sign onto the LRAC website to follow the process. There is no cost to the City except the time it takes to deposit the grant money and then write a check to the Vergas Arts Club to distribute the grant money. The applicant (City) is required to provide 20% matching funds for the grant, which will be paid by the Vergas Arts Club.

This appears to be a win-win situation for the City to bring in more people of all ages to Vergas by promoting the arts; for the Vergas Arts Club to keep its funds in tact while producing a public event; and for the residents of Vergas to be exposed to the blue-grass style of music.

The deadline for the grant application is Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Will the City agree to be the LRAC Project Grant applicant?