

TO TRANSFORM PUBLIC SPACES AND INDIVIDUAL LIVES



BUT IT IS NEVER SILENT AND CANNOT BE IGNORED BECAUSE IT ALWAYS



---- AND WHEN TOLD WELL IT CAN LIGHT DARK CORNERS ---BECAUSE IT GETS BEHIND THE SURFACE TO CHANGE MINDS AND ULTIMATELY

CHANGES EVERYTHING

WE BELIEVE ART IGNITES CHANGE

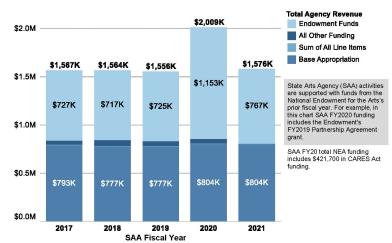
MuralArtsProgram

Dakota | Council on the

North Dakota Council on the Arts

Kim Konikow, Executive Director Searle Swedlund, Chai Independent Agency

STATE ARTS AGENCY FUNDING HISTORY



STATE FUNDING DETAILS

FY2021 Base Appropriation:	\$804,342
FY2021 Line Item Appropriations:	\$5,000
FY2021 Total Legislative Appropriation (base + line items):	\$809,342
FY2021 Per Capita Legislative Appropriation:	\$1.06
Total Appropriation Change FY2017 to FY2021:	1.4%
Total Legislative Appropriation as a Percentage of General Fund Expenditures (FY2020 data available):	0.033%

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FUNDING DETAILS

FY2020 Partnership Agreement Grant:	\$766,800
FY2020 Other Endowment Funding:	\$0
FY2020 Total Endowment Funding:	\$766,800

All FY2021 legislative appropriations figures are current as of August 2020 unless otherwise noted above.

Base Appropriation: State legislative funds allocated to the state arts agency. Excludes funds transferred from other state departments/accounts and other sources of nonstate or non-Endowment revenue.

Line Item Appropriations: State funds designated for specific organizations but passed through a state arts agency's budget. All Other Funding: Includes state funds beyond appropriations as well as earned income, private contributions, non-Endowment federal funds, and any other private or miscellaneous funds. Data not available for FY2021.

Total Agency Revenue: Includes the base appropriation, line items, Endowment funding and all other funding.

General Fund Expenditures: State general funds support the general operation of state government and consist of revenues accrued from broad-based taxes, fees, interest earnings and other sources.

Partnership Agreement Grant: This Endowment grant supports agency activities that align with the Endowment-approved state plan, with allocations for Poetry Out Loud, Arts Education, Arts in Underserved Communities, and Folk and Traditional Arts Partnership (optional). Poetry Out Loud and Arts Education allocations include Endowment program funds beyond the 40% designated by law for state and regional agencies

Other Endowment Funding: Includes restricted funds such as grants for disaster relief or other designated purposes.

October 2020 National Endowment for the Arts / NASAA North Dakota Council on the Arts

Kim Konikow, Executive Director Searle Swedlund, Chair Independent Agency

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

North Dakota - "The Peace Garden State"

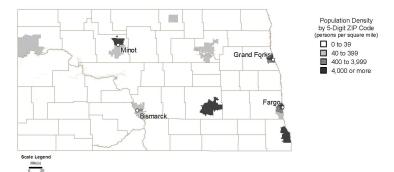
State population: 762,062 Population rank (out of 50 states): 48 5-year population change: 1.1%

Capital city: Bismarck (pop. 73,529) Largest city: Fargo (pop. 124,662) Number of counties: 53 Land area: 69,001 square miles Land area rank (out of 50 states): 17 State senate districts: 47 State house districts: 94 Congressional districts: 1

Number of school districts: 221 Number of public schools: 522 Number of students (preK-12): 111,658

race, refers to persons with origins in Latin American or other Spanish

cultures. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino may be of any race.



STATE CHARACTERISTICS

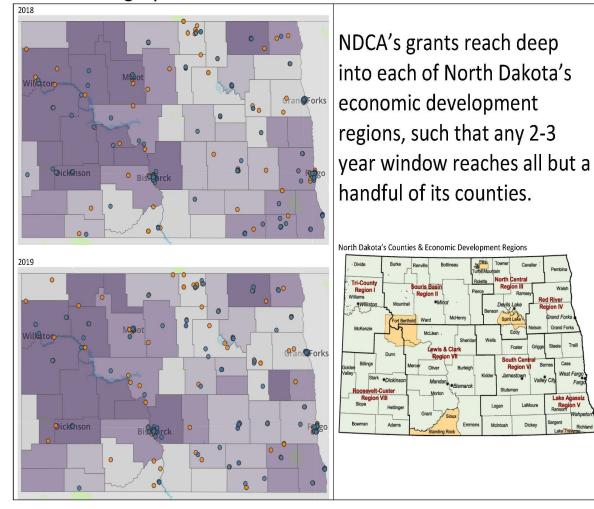
Median annual household income:	ND \$63,473	U.S. \$60,293	Population by Age:	ND	U.S.
Population below poverty line: Unemployment rate:	10.9% 9.1%	14.1% 13.3%	School-aged (5-17 years): Senior citizen (65+ years):	16.1% 14.6%	16.5% 15.6%
Arts and cultural employment: Arts and cultural share of GDP:	3.1% 2.8%	3.4% 4.5%	Population by Race/Origin: Asian:	1.4%	5.4%
Households with primary language other than English:	6.1%	21.5%	Black/African American: Native American/Alaska Native: Pacific Islander:	2.7% 5.2% 0.1%	12.7% 0.8% 0.2%
Veteran population:	8.1%	7.5%	White/Caucasian:	85.0%	61.1%
Urban population:	50.5%	86.0%	Hispanic/Latino origin*:	3.5%	18.7%
Rural population: Population with a disability:	49.5% 10.8%	14.0% 12.6%	* Hispanic/Latino, which the U.S. Census co		

Data Sources: Legislative appropriations and revenue data are drawn from standardized budget surveys submitted annually to NASAA by each state. Demographic figures are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Lotor Statistics, National Endowment for the Arts, National Center for Education Statistics, National Association of State Budget Officers, The Council of State Governments and The World Bank. Data is the most recently available from each data source. All was data collected between July and August 2020.

October 2020 National Endowment for the Arts / NASAA

North Dakota Council on the Arts Phone: 701-328-7590 • Website: https://www.arts.nd.gov/ Regional Affiliation: Arts Midwest

NDCA's Geographic Reach



NDCA's grants reach every economic strata of the state



Sources Criefs data from NAXAA using state and spency Final Descriptive Reports. Demographics from LS. Carraw Bureau, 2016-2018 or American Community Survey Shore Indiness. Note: Actify location denotes on yrg and funded only (hy Multiple actify) locations on be associated with one award. To before explain the scope and databation of the SAA's burding, these chart include both grant awards and actify locations. Note: American Community's Survey populations are aggregated as of the courty's location.

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN NORTH DAKOTA



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

NORTH DAKOTA ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR'S PERCENTAGE OF U.S ECONOMY (Artists, University Arts, Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS BS 4.5% OF NATION'S GDP & 5.1 MILLION JOBS 9

The U.S.Bureau of EconomicAnalysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a \$878 billion industry, representing 4.5% of the nation's GDP-a larger share of the economy than construction or education services.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.

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FUNDIN

	\$878 BILLION	Arts & Culture Sector
%	\$790.4 BILLION CO	nstruction

\$246 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: U.S. exports generate a \$29.7 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

ND ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 2.8% OF STATE'S GDP & 14.035 JOBS

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes \$1.45 billion to North Dakota's economy representing 2.8% of the state's GDP-a larger share than some other industries in the state. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.





\$3.1 BILLION Construction

\$0.17 BILLION Education Services

BONUS: In 2017, ND arts and culture compensation grew by 3.57%.

NUMBER OF ARTS-RELATED BUSINESSES AND JOBS (Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

Nationally 673,656 businesses employ 3.48 million people who are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts. Based on Dun & Bradstreet data, this means that 3.9% of all businesses and 1.9% of all employees are connected to the creative industries.

Source: Americans for the Arts. Creative Industries, 2017.

ARE INVOLVED IN THE OF THE ARTS

In North Dakota, 1,267 Arts-Related Businesses employ 6,000 people.

- In Burleigh County, 212 Arts-Related Businesses employ 1.249 people.
- In Cass County, 360 Arts-Related Businesses employ 2.071 people.
- In Grand Forks, 129 Arts-Related Businesses employ 815 people. Source: Americans for the Arts, Creative Industries, North Dakota report, 2017.

ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OR DISTRIBUTION **OFTHEARTS**

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates \$166.3 billion in economic activity annually that supports 4.6 million jobs and generates \$27.5 billion in federal, state, and local government revenue.

Spending by arts audiences generated \$102.5 billion to local businesses.

Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, 2017.



DRIVER OF OUR NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL ECONOMY.

In 2015, nonprofit arts organizations in the state generated \$110.1 million in economic activity annually that supported 3,861 jobs and generated \$9.6 million in state and local government revenue.

 In the Bismarck-Mandan Region, nonprofit arts groups generated \$22.1 million in economic activity. Audiences of 783,606 people added another \$19.1 million in related spending for a total of \$41.2 million for the region in 2015, and this generated \$3.5 b in local and state government revenues. Source: Americans for the Arts Arts & Economic Prosperity5, Bismark Mandan Region and ND reports, 2017.

ART IS A

DRIVER OF JUST ONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

So how much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for theArts (NEA)?

Congress has proposed allocating \$162.25 million to the NEA in FY 2020, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just 49¢ per capita, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over \$13 billion in federal tax revenue back to the treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with \$1 per capita!

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2020. Read: "Funding The Arts is Good For the Nation,"The Hill, 2015.

What about North Dakota-how much does state government budget to the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) each year?

In FY 2020, the state allocated \$809.342 to NDCA. The Council also received \$731,200 in federal NEA funds, which they re-granted funds to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. Another 3 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling \$130,000.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2020.

Read: "National StudyFinds NDArts a Strong Economic Driver," Kaley Schwab, My ND Now, 2017. The article is based on thiseconomic impacts tudy that shows the arts mean business!

"The arts give people hope, joy, and a sense of belonging. They teach discipline, persistence, and grit. They bring beauty to the community and make it a place worth living! We love seeing our young musicians learn from each other and believe all have the right to participate." -Northern Valley Youth Orchestras, Grand Forks





THE ARTS UNITE US AND ENHANCE THE VITALITY OF NORTH DAKOTA. THE PEACE GARDEN STATE

The Art for Life Program seeks to improve the emotional and physical health and wellness of elders in care facilities, as well as those living independently, through intensive art and artist interaction.

NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) citizens." As stated in their strategic plan: North Dakota for all who live or visit here:

> Learn more here.

MEET SOME NORTH DAKOTA ARTS ART IN NORTH DAKOTA **ADVOCATES**

- Justin Anderson is Executive Director of Minot Area Council on the Arts. >More
- . Dayna Del Val is the President & CEO of The Arts Partnership, which is an arts organizational awardee from the Governor's Awards for the Arts 2017. > More
- Kim Konikowis Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. > More
- . Paul Noot is the Co-Director of the Bismarck Downtown Artist Cooperative, 2017 awardee of the Governor's Awards for the Arts in the category of arts in education . > More
- · Jessie Veeder is a Plains singer/songwriter and the Program Director of the Long X Arts Foundation as well as an Individual awardee of the Governor's Awards for the Arts 2019. >More

- The Department of Tourism can introduce you to North Dakota'sVibrantArt Scene here.
- · NDCA highlights the partnership between the arts and state government in five critical areas. See the video here.
- The Guide to North Dakota Art and Cultural Destinations was compiled by the North Dakota Council on the Arts providing a comprehensive listing of arts organizations, cultural centers, galleries, and artist studios that you may easily access and add to your vacation plans here.

NORTH DAKOTA ART ORGANIZATIONS

Dakota West Arts Council artscapitaLorg Empire Arts Center empireartscenter.com Long X Art Foundation longxarts.com Minot Area Council on the Arts minotarts.org North Dakota Council on the Arts nd.gov/arts The Arts Partnership, Fargo theartspartnership.net

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- . Start a cultural tour of the state in Fargo, where the Plains Art Museum features regional contemporary artwork, American Modernism, and Native American works. And visit Aptitude, The Arts Partnership's amazing artist studios in West Acres Mall!
- · Head west on Interstate 94 to Jamestown for the National Buffalo Museum and the Arts Center for its art exhibitions that change monthly, including a summer series in the square along with a farmer's market.
- . Continue west to the Belle Mehus Auditorium in Bismarck for Broadway shows, concerts, rodeos. and comedy, the Capital Gallery and the Bismarck Art Gallery & Gallery Association.
- In New Rockford, you can go to the Dakota Prairie Regional Center for the Arts for high quality theater.
- . Out west in Watford City is the Long X Art. Foundation in the brand-new Roughrider Center, which also houses the high school.
- The James Memorial Preservation Society in Williston has art exhibits and classes. The town is also know for its Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild and it Woodworkers Club. Straddling the border between ND and Canada the
- International Peace Garden offers the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts that attracts students of all ages for classes in Dance, Creative Writing, Painting, Drawing, Theater, and

To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, Click Here.

NORTH DAKOTA ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org/join CALL US: 202.371.2830 x2067



Todownload this fact sheet, "WhytheArts Matter in North Dakota,"with corresponding resource links, visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/StateFactsheets.

3/27/2020

FY 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan

Our Core

Mission

The North Dakota State Legislature created the North Dakota Council on the Arts "to ensure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and will play an evermore significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens." Our purpose is to bring that commitment to life.

We strengthen the creative capacity of North Dakota for all who live or visit here: honoring our cultural traditions, empowering excellence and innovation, inspiring arts and culture opportunities for all.

What We Do

As a state arts agency, our role is to support creators, art providers, and participants. We use grants, convening, education, and partnerships to:

- · Seed new ideas and activity
- Build resilient capacity for the long-term

To do this well, we must balance our investments:

- With organizations, artists, educators, and communities
- For broad geographic reach with deep engagement
- That sustain ongoing work and build new capacity
- · For flexible response to ongoing and emerging needs

Beliefs & Values

Inspiring our mission are these deeply held beliefs:

- Art tells our stories individually and as a state
- Art, culture and creativity, by and for the community, have the power to:
 - Inspire and enhance lives
 - Build community and transform its spaces
 - Lift up, heal, and unite across divides
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society

We hold ourselves accountable to the people of North Dakota and the trust placed in us. Because of this we:

- Pursue excellence and innovation in all things
- · Pursue cultural equity throughout the state
- · Engage our state through fair and transparent processes

Vision 2030

A North Dakota in which all can experience arts and culture. All can participate; all are welcome; and arts and culture thrive.

Strategic Direction

Art & Creative Process for All

Goal 1 Working toward a North Dakota in which all can experience arts and culture – diversity of tradition, of genre, of exposure. All can participate. All are welcome.

Vibrant Communities

Goal 2 Regions, cities, communities, and networks across the state appreciate the power of the arts. They use that power to enhance the vitality of North Dakota. They celebrate the vibrant communities that result, each with arts. creativity and culture at their core.

Thriving Arts Ecosystem

Goal 3 NDCA, communities, organizations, artists, and educators thrive in an interdependent, mutually supported, system. Each has resilient capacity aligned for impact.

Excellence & Innovation

Goal 4 NDCA models excellence and innovation for the field. It sustains its gains through selfreflection, evaluation and continuous improvement. Its innovative partnerships open doors to greater influence and impact, increase its efficiency, and leverage its resources.

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503 701.328.7590 • <u>www.arts.nd.gov</u>

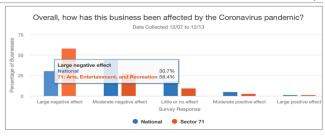


COVID-19 Check in - Fall 2020

Arts & Culture is at risk across the country.

The economic impact of Covid-19 on the arts and culture sector is devastating, across the country. It is one of the hardest hit sectors overall.

Small Business Pulse Survey: Arts & Entertainment Sector, portal.census.gov/pulse/data/



North Dakota's arts and culture sector has been hit hard.

Organizations have lost revenue. That loss among 48 grantees exceeded \$3.8 million (up from \$1.4 million in June). Approximately 2/3 of this amount has been absorbed by program cuts, but long-term operations are also affected and causing staff cuts. "We must re-program, and be creative for lack of better words, to continue being self-sustainable and bring the income to needed to stay open and meet our goals. Bills still need to be pay and staff needs to get paid." (NDCA Grantee)

The sector has and may continue to lose jobs.

Nationally we see sustained rise in sector unemployment. www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-Outlook-Week-of-1.4.2021.pdf

We know North Dakota's sector will lose jobs. Early studies of the pandemic estimated 91% at risk. covid-tracker.mckinsey.com/vulnerable-jobs/industry-occupation

A	ts, Enter	tainm	ent, and	
R	ecreation	:		
Т	tal empl	oymer	t: 5,346	
S	ector job	at ris	k: 4,86 8	3
9/6	of secto	rjobs	at risk: §	919

Now we see	e select grantees	projecting	those	losses.

Projected Staffing Levels >	Full time	Part time		
FYE 2019	109	209		
FYE 2020	100	159		
FYE 2021	75	124		
Resulting Losses Expected >	9-34 lost	50-85 lost		

Table 2: Artist Labor Force, Quarter III (July-September) 2019 and 2020.

Artist Labor Force	2019	2020
Total, 16 Years of Age a	and Older	
Employment	158,226	146,504
Unemployment	5,377	13,670
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	8.5%
All Artists		
Employment	2,483	2,260
Unemployment	95	-
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	-
Art Directors, Fine Artists,	Animators	
Employment	242	249
Unemployment	5	25
Unemployment Rate	2.1%	9.3%
Actors		
Employment	34	26
Unemployment	11	28
Unemployment Rate	24.7%	52.3%
Dancers and Choreogr	raphers	
Employment	24	6
Unemployment	3	8
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	54.6%
Musicians, Singers, and Rel	ated Workers	
Employment	236	151
Unemployment	3	56
Unemployment Rate	1.1%	27.1%
 Employment and unemployment measured in thousand Current Population Survey. Analysis by the National End. 		or Statistics.

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 6 | Bismarck, ND 58503-0649 PHONE: 701-328-7590 | FAX: 701-328-7595 | www.arts.nd.gov

The risk to their survival is real, and they are anxious to get back to normal.

When asked about their plans for 2021 and the cash flow available to survive the year, many speak of maintaining current levels of work or even returning to pre-covid activity. But, their cash position and flow underscore that this is what they have to have to survive whether realistic or not.

	Available cash to continue at current flow			
Plans for the coming year	0-3 months	3-6m	6-12m	> 12m
Merging with or otherwise combining with another organization	1			
Further reducing from current level of activity		2	3	
Maintaining current level of activity	3	6	7	2
Returning to pre-covid activity	6	4	9	5

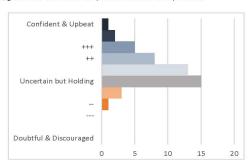
"I am certainly concerned about the long-term ramifications of this situation on audience numbers. Will people return to the theater, how long will it take to return to pre-covid numbers, etc?" (NDCA Grantee)

The ND arts sector is indefatigable, remaining confident in the face of uncertainty.

When asked about morale and their hopes for the future, grantees remain on the positive side of the spectrum

"We are moving forward with plans for both winter and summer programming. Winter programming will be virtual while summer program is being planned to be done in person. Hoping for the best!" (NDCA Grantee)

"My goal is to continue to be a working artist in ND. I have always been able to support myself as a business owner and artist but Covid has hit us all so hard. Mentally it is super tough because jobs don't exist. They literally shut down our theaters. I make sure I write, create and work on my original show every day to keep moving forward: however, This is not a hobby to me, it is a career. ND is a wealthy state and has funds for times of emergency. This IS an emergency. Somehow they should support us!" (NDCA Grantee)



And they credit NDCA and CARES act funding as important supports.

Arts and culture leaders are grateful for NDCA's support during the covid-crisis. In the words of grantees:

"NDCA has stood up for artists in this difficult time. For that I am grateful as a minority artist."

"Thank you for all of your support to the organizations you work with!"

"The arts are still vitally needed, but it is really difficult to do them in isolation."

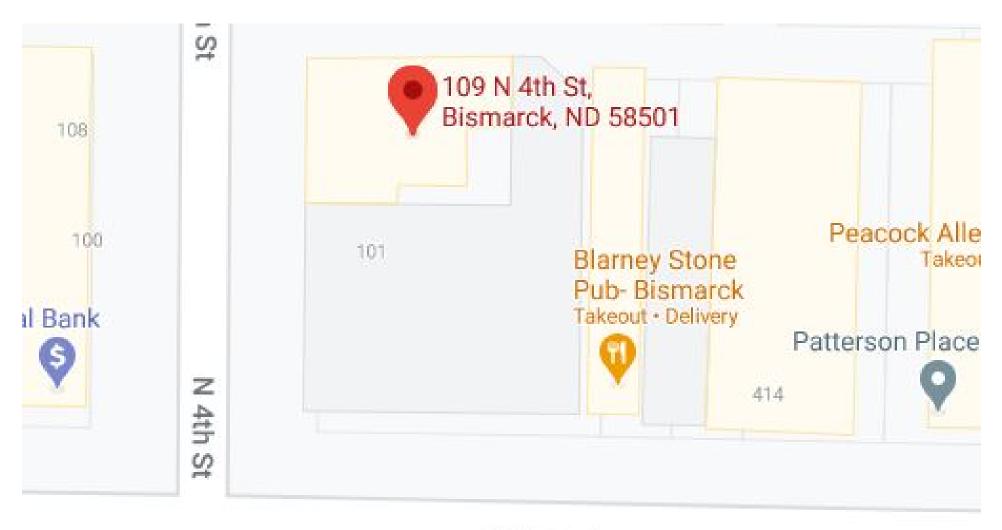
"Thanks to the CARE act program funds through the NDCA."

These organizations are small businesses in cities and towns across the state – in all 8 regions. They represent all arts and culture disciplines – visual, music, museum, theater, literary, opera, dance, and multidisciplinary.









E Main Ave



NDCA requests the following budget changes to the Executive Recommendation

1) Restore Cuts Made to Grants Line Needed to Meet Budget Submission Guidelines - \$69,842

Restore Special Projects grant program (\$50,000) and reduction to Community Arts Access grant program (\$19,842) made to meet 5% general fund reduction required.

1) Optional - Add FTE and funding for Administrative Assistant II- \$92,325

- Add one FTE (bringing NDCA's total from 5 to 6) and \$92,325 of general funds so NDCA can
 move its long-time part-time temp, performing ongoing work, to a full-time, regular position.
- If approved, NDCA would relinquish its temporary position and combine the additional funds
 with its current part-time temp funds to hire the full-time Administrative Assistant II. This is
 less than the requested Optional Funds requested for the Executive Budget submission.

We Are Connected. . .



LAST FTE CHANGE, COVID:

NDCA has operated with <u>five FTE for the past 20 years</u>. (Prior to that, NDCA had more employees at 5.5 FTE.) COVID brought about additional CARES funds for NDCA to distribute, over \$1.2 million dollars; contractors are necessary to fill the gaps, some at a very high cost. This should be handled in-house.

KEY DUTIES PROPOSED:

An Administrative Assistant II for NDCA will be responsible to:

- Be knowledgeable about all NDCA grant programs and communicate with the public via phone, email, and in person.
- Administer grant cycles in NDCA's online grants system and work with grant applicants on accessing the online system and understanding the online applications.
- Follow-up with applicants and grantees about applications and final reports concerning missing or overdue data, accuracy of budgets, location of grant activities, beneficiary information, etc.
- Assist in arranging grant review panels and providing them access to the online grants system.
- Prepare correspondence to grantees, including award letters, Grant-at-a-Glance documents, etc., as well as other business correspondence.
- Maintain NDCA's grants database by recording data necessary for annual reporting to the federal government recording required information about grant activities, awards, and payments.
- · Assist with mailings, mail merges, and group emails, including keeping group lists up to date.
- Assist with agency events.
- Assist with NDCA records management and retention duties.
- · Cover the many administrative duties that the current staff takes care of.
- Necessary application and documentation tracking related to CARES distribution of funds.

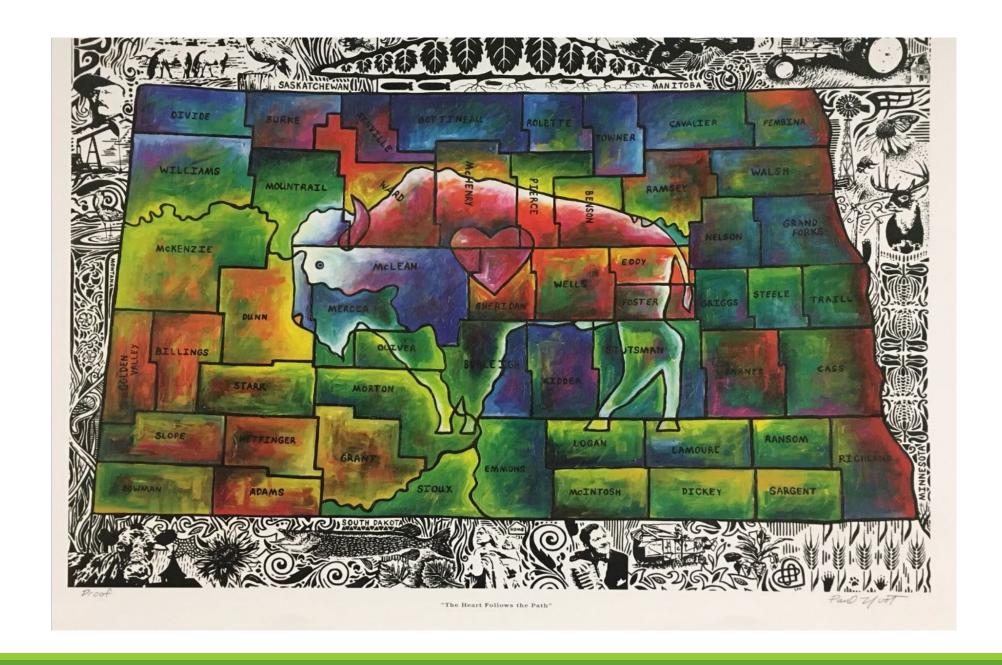
OPERATIONAL IMPACT:

NDCA is one of a very few agencies that does not have an administrative support professional. The addition of an Administrative Assistant would allow existing NDCA staff to work more efficiently in their areas of expertise. For instance, staff will be able to better:

- Research the best ways the arts can serve the citizens of our state.
- Develop innovative programs such as NDCA's Art for Life program.
- Aid those in the state as they implement new and creative ideas to address local concerns.
- · Identify and foster new partnership opportunities through site visits throughout the state.
- Serve North Dakotans with special needs, including underserved and those with disabilities.
- · Document and foster the folk and traditional arts that once flourished in our state.
- Refocus NDCA's website in a clear, well-designed and easy-to-navigate format, to reflect NDCA's goals
 and energy.
- Manage NDCA's financial resources to have the greatest impact.
- Ensure continued compliance with state and federal guidelines.
- Implement NDCA's Strategic Plan, which is being created with input across the state.
- Facilitate CARES Relief Funds for ND citizens.



A vision of North Dakota; mosaic created by artist Molly McLain, from participant's post-it notes and drawings at the 2019 Statewide Arts Convening.



1/7/2021

To: Kim Konikow, Executive Director North Dakota Council on the Arts 1600 E. Century Avenue Bismarck, ND 58503

From: Walter Piehl, Jr.

11000 86th St. SE

Minot, ND 58701

Becky P <beckymp08@gmail.com>

I write this not only in support of continued <u>support</u>, <u>but</u> increasing funding for the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

The NDCA has brought a host of Arts programming to rural North Dakota in ways that had only been available in our larger cities prior to the Councils inception 50 plus years ago.

We all have witnessed the enrichment of rural and city lives in ND with the NDCA offerings. Their work has nourished and filled a void in all of our communities, especially those that are rural and have small school systems.

Our culture and heritage have benefited greatly through their work. A current example of that is the Governor's Cultural and Heritage Award given to Rex Cook of Dickinson, ND. Rex's life as a respected and admired cowboy, rancher and artisan represents the preservation and celebration of one aspect of our history, that of Western Americana.

All areas of the arts and culture need to be encouraged and preserved for future generations. The NDCA is the premiere statewide institution best equipped to continue this noble task.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



3315 University Drive, Building 5 Bismarck, North Dakota 58504 701.255.3285 | www.uttc.edu

January 5, 2021

Kim Konikow Executive Director 1600 East Century Avenue, Ste. 6 Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Ms. Konikow:

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) strongly supports the North Dakota Council on Arts work to educate North Dakotans about the various mediums of art in addition to the more traditional forms of paintings and sculpture. We have especially appreciated the support provided to offer public school educational offerings at the UTTC International Powwow Youth Day where over 1,000 fourth grade children from 20 school districts have learned directly of the various art forms found in the culture of local Native artists dancers and singers. Artists were able to share the history of various dance forms and songs and how they relate to the oral traditions of our people through direct interaction on our campus.

The Bismarck/Mandan communities are located on the traditional homelands of the Mandan and Hidatsa; thus, your support for the arts also allows for education to the public of important history for the area. Along these lines, we very much appreciated the support for the cultural presentation during the ribbon cutting ceremony of the UTTC Bookstore and Art Gallery. The Art Gallery will be a resource for local artisans to sell and display their work for purchase by the public as well as an important collaboration with the North Dakota Historical Society for the tourism industry. UTTC will also be hosting the Train the Trainer program in partnership with the Native American Development Center and the First People's Fund now rescheduled for late spring.

All the past and upcoming projects are important to recognizing various forms of art that relate to the diverse history of Bismarck, Mandan, and North Dakota. The North Dakota Council on the Arts is more than a granting agency, you are a community partner that is strengthening the reach and understanding of the arts through strategic collaboratives. I have very much appreciated working closely with you and am confident your future efforts will continue to have a significant impact across North Dakota. We are very excited to witness and be a part of this important work. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at president@uttc.edu or by telephone at (701) 255-3285.

Sincerely,

god would

Leander R. McDonald, PhD President

"Leadership begins here"