

March 24, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee;

North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) requests \$1.6 million from the reallocation of unspent Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) moneys being considered in [HB1395](#).

Based on NDCA's calculations, we would be able to offer additional operating support grants to about 30 Federally recognized nonprofit arts and culture organizations. We were not able to fully fund these groups with our original CRF allocation last year. These larger nonprofits are still in need of reimbursement for operations expenses incurred during the COVID pandemic. They have documentation from expenses incurred due to the pandemic, and will be able to provide even more prior to December 31, 2021, given that re-openings need to be carefully measured to State and Federal guidelines.

The impact on these organizations and their communities has been devastating over the past year. It is our role as a state agency to offer as much assistance to arts and culture groups as might be available through all sources.

I will be available via TEAMS during Friday's committee hearing on HB1395 to answer any questions you may have regarding this request.

Respectfully,



Kim Konikow

Executive Director