



March 6, 2023

Dear Chair & Members of Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for all that you do for the State of North Dakota! Your service to the citizens of this great state deserves recognition and admiration.

I was born and raised in Dickinson and have dedicated much of my adult life in the Fargo area. The western and the eastern parts of the State both have so much potential. Because of our mutual love of North Dakota, I know we both have a vision of sharing our culture, environment, communities, and amenities to as many people as possible and presenting ourselves with the pride that we feel.

To make us more competitive in attracting tourists to boost our economies and residents to fill our thousands of open positions, a dramatic increase in support for quality-of-life amenities is needed. A solution to this is in our hands – through this appropriation from the State and through individual philanthropy. North Dakota's cultural amenities like our museums, zoos and like organizations can take a giant leap forward through generosity and vision. This is why I would like to encourage you to consider supporting the Destination Development Fund appropriation.

At Plains Art Museum specifically, an organization that I lead as Director & CEO, we have a vision for the future. Our *Connecting Campaign* will expand and unify our campus, including the Museum and our Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity, allowing us to increase the number of people that we attract to the region by tens-of-thousands each year. More art, more interactivity for families, more classes – it is all possible with the fulfillment of our vision. With investment, we are poised for growth.

Thank you again for all that you do, and for considering this tremendous investment in our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Maus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew J. Maus, Director & CEO
Plains Art Museum
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