

2013 State Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



State Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Memorial Hall was filled with people, music, and holiday cheer as the 2013 State Christmas Tree was lit during the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the State Capitol on December 9th.

The lighting is sponsored every year by the Office of the Governor, the North Dakota Council on the Arts and Capitol Facility Management.

Wooden ornaments were chosen as the theme for this year, but ornaments were also of the designer's choosing. Over 360 ornaments were donated from individuals, 4-H groups, Girl Scout Troops, daycares and elder care facilities across the state, and they were joined by other previously submitted ornaments to adorn the tree.

Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple were joined by Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley and his wife Kathleen in readings, remarks and the official lighting of the tree.



David "White Thunder" Trotter



Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple



Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley and his wife Kathleen



Joel Gilbertson

Music was provided by the Bismarck High School Brass Quintet under the direction of Melinda Halverson; Joel Gilbertson, pianist; and the Mandan Maestros Choir under the direction of Kerri Hess-Bolte and accompanist Rebecca Slagel.

The audience, led by David "White Thunder" Trotter, and accompanied by Joel Gilbertson, sang Christmas carols as well.

The tree skirt was handmade by members of the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota.

Various holiday cookies, hot apple cider and coffee were served after the ceremony and were enjoyed by all!

~ All photos courtesy of Popy Mills, NDDOT.



2013 State Christmas Tree



Governor and First Lady visiting with local a 4-H group



Bismarck High School Brass Quintet, directed by Melinda Halverson



Mandan Maestros, directed by Kerri Hess-Bolte, Rebecca Slagel, accompanist

Four New Board Members Appointed to NDCA

The North Dakota Council on the Arts announced the addition of four new board of directors. Brad Bachmeier of Fargo, Terry Jelsing of Rugby, Dr. Richard Johnson of Devils Lake, and Sarah Regan Snaveley of Bowman were all appointed to serve on NDCA's board of directors effective August of 2013.

NDCA welcomes Brad, Terry, Richard and Sarah, and gives a sincere thank you to our departing members, Karen Anderson, Wayne Beyer, Rex Cook, and Walter Piehl, Jr., for their time and efforts displayed during their appointed terms.

The NDCA's board consists of eight members - one from each of the state's regions, and one member-at-large, each of whom is appointed by the governor for a five-year term. More information on each of the board members as well as the regions they represent is available on the NDCA's web site at www.nd.gov/arts/aboutus/board.html.



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NDCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Troyd Geist, Folklorist
- Amy Schmidt, Public Information Officer
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NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



From the Top

David "White Thunder" Trottier
Chairman, North Dakota Council on the Arts

The Arts, the Holidays, and the New Year

It is that wonderful time of year when everyone seems to have a smile on their face and a great attitude about life. Greeting each other with cheerful hello's and happy wishes. Going to or attending one of the many social gatherings that seem to occur this time of year. There are so many things in life that make it so worthwhile and give us plenty to be thankful for, especially here in the great state of North Dakota. We are still the envy of the nation and our economy is the strongest it has ever been.

It also brings the opportunity to attend any choice of many performances, whether they are in our children's schools (from kindergarten through college) or any other event to celebrate the season. I urge you to attend one, or as many of the performances as you can. Cheer for the performers and encourage the youngsters as they test the waters of the performing arts, whether they were asked to try it, or they look forward to it and already love it!

It is a special time of year for everyone, and many times in my life I have asked why we can't keep these feelings that seem to inspire us, inhabit us, influence us, and take us over at this time of year. Oh, I know not everyone feels the same way, this time of year can be hard for some people, but so many are filled with joy that it makes it such a wonderful time of year. A year ago I buried my own sister Deanna. So don't be afraid to let the feelings of this time of year have some space in your inner being, and don't be afraid to let it continue to reside in that space into the New Year. There is a house several miles outside of Rugby that keeps their Christmas lights up well into the new year and I applaud them for trying to keep that special feeling and spirit alive as long as possible.

And of course, a big part of all of this is ... the arts. As I have stated before there is almost no one on this earth that does not have some form of art in their lives. This time of year it is the work of the artists that have designed the special clothes we wear, the gifts we give, and the paper we wrap them in. And of course I for one, have always appreciated the artistry of the creations that come out of peoples kitchens! Some things almost too pretty to eat (but I eat them anyway)!

So go to a concert or a show, cheer and clap loud for the performers, give gifts, wrap them nice, and have another cookie for me! When you're celebrating and go for that second cookie just say, "This one's for Dave!" Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas, and the best to all of you for the coming year!

Help NDCA increase our Facebook Fans and promote your images as well!

Help the North Dakota Council on the Arts increase our Facebook presence by "liking" our page and encouraging others to do so as well!



NDCA is looking for images to share on our Facebook page. We would like to update our "cover" photo once every few weeks. Please submit your images of visual, performing and literary artwork; artistic events and exhibits; artist residencies; or anything else that expresses the joy, value and importance that the arts have in our state, along with a brief description to comserv@nd.gov. NDCA cannot guarantee that all images provided will be used. This promotion is open to North Dakota images/events only (some exceptions may apply). If you have questions you can e-mail comserv@nd.gov, or call (701) 328-7594.

"LIKE" NDCA at <https://www.facebook.com/NDCouncilontheArts>

Limited Quantities of NDCA's 7th Annual Special Edition Ornament Still Available



Limited quantities of NDCA's seventh annual Special Edition Ornament are still available for purchase. The Wooly Girls of Wales, ND, were commissioned by NDCA to create a one-of-a-kind, hand-felted wool ornament. To create this ornament, the sheep were shorn, the wool was washed, hand dyed, carded and felted. The sheets of hand felted wool fabric were then cut and sewn into this original Wooly Girls design.

This ornament offers the opportunity to purchase a unique, hand-made Christmas decoration and/or gift, while investing in the arts across the state. Limited quantities will be available for \$25.00 plus tax (includes gift box, shipping additional). \$11 from each ornament can be used as a tax-deductible donation to the North Dakota Cultural Endowment Fund, as proceeds will benefit this Fund, which was created to provide artistic opportunities for citizens throughout the state of North Dakota. For more information on the Wooly girls visit www.woolygirls.com. To purchase the ornament call (701) 328-7590.

Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains public radio series and CD premiered on Thanksgiving Day

The national award-winning publication "Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains" has been adapted for radio—in a collection of narratives about lutefisk at Christmas, eerie ghost stories, folk medicine, and the tall tales that abound during hunting and fishing seasons. The series premiered on Thanksgiving Day on Prairie Public's weekday radio show, "Main Street," and will continue through the upcoming year on "Main Street" and NPR news magazines "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

"What better place for folklore than radio?" said Bill Thomas, Prairie Public's director of radio. "Sundogs and Sunflowers" is a beautiful book, and what a bonus to hear these pieces of folklore orally, the way they were passed around in the first place, in the original dialects and accents. They are perfect for a car ride across the prairie - or to listen to while cooking, preferably something like knoephla soup, frybread tacos, or krumkake."

The book was compiled and edited by Timothy J. Kloberdanz, Professor Emeritus, North Dakota State University, and Troyd A. Geist, Folklorist, North Dakota Council on the Arts, and produced by the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Prairie Public partnered to produce the radio series and accompanying CD.

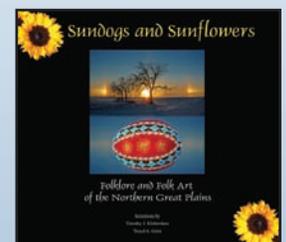
Geist explains that the production team coupled many of the folklore segments with field recordings of traditional music played by musicians who, at the time, were in their 70s, 80s, and even 90s. The audio includes humorous Norwegian dialect songs like "Vinter Undervare" sung to the Christmas classic "Winter Wonderland," folklore about the Norwegian masked juleboking tradition, and Michif fiddle tune "Road to Batosh," which sets the stage for a story about the devil and the fiddle.

Kloberdanz said a couple of the stories were collected more than thirty-five years ago, but when they were performed in the studio, they seemed as fresh and vibrant as ever. "The stories sounded like ones you would hear in a North Dakota bar or a small-town cafe today," he said. "Folklore has a special magic all its own. We tried to capture some of that timeless magic in these recordings. And I think we succeeded." Kloberdanz said one of the real gems in the series is "The Weatherlore Song," which includes nearly a dozen weather rhymes that deal with things like goose bones, hog spleens, onion skins, signs for rain, and even a tornado. "These old rhymes seemed to cry out for someone to sing them and set them to music," he said, "so Debi Rogers, a folk musician from Bismarck, ND, bravely accepted the challenge. She did an absolutely amazing job of finding just the right melody for each of the different weather rhymes."

Co-producer and editor Ashley Thornberg likens the radio series to painting images with words. "This project was all about giving voice to tales we all share, to stories passed from generation to generation," she said.

To order this or other Prairie Public CDs, contact: Prairie Public, 207 N. 5th St., Fargo, ND 58108-3240, (701) 241-6900, or www.prairiepublic.org/shop. The cost of the CD is \$14.84 plus tax and shipping.

To order the publication upon which this CD and radio series is based contact: North Dakota Council on the Arts, 1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503, (701) 328-7590, or www.nd.gov/arts. The book is \$34.95 plus tax and shipping.



Plains Art Museum one of six North Dakota recipients of a Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant

The Bush Foundation announced in December the award of a \$200,000 Community Innovation Grant to the Plains Art Museum. The Museum's project, Public Art and Community Engagement, was one of 34 programs to receive grants from the Foundation, which received 618 grant applications from within Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota for this round of funding. Funds from the grant will be used to increase the vibrancy of the urban cores of Fargo and Moorhead through demonstration public art projects (including the Defiant Gardens program), exhibitions, a symposium, community meetings, and workshops. The Bush Foundation's Community Innovation Grant program supports organizations working to create or implement an innovative solution to address a community need or opportunity. The innovation must be developed through community problem-solving – inclusive, collaborative processes focused on making the most of community assets – and be more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches. The program is part of the Bush Foundation's effort to enable, inspire and reward community innovation.

The Bush Foundation will award more than \$4 million to 34 organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography, through its Community Innovation Grant program. North Dakota had a total of six recipients. To learn more visit www.bushfoundation.org/community-innovation/grants/2013Grantees.

Poetry Out Loud State Competition Finals March 3rd

On Monday, March 3, 2014 high school students from across the state will participate in the *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals in Bismarck. The winner of this competition will advance to the National Finals in Washington, DC in April 29-30, 2014, where \$50,000 dollars in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded. All Poetry Out Loud State Finals events are free and open to the public. For more information contact Rebecca Engelman at (701) 328-7593, via e-mail at rengelman@nd.gov; or visit <http://ndpol.weebly.com>.

Dakota Stage Hiring Full-time Artistic Director

Bismarck-Mandan's only community theatre is looking to grow its artistic staff in 2014. Dakota Stage is seeking a dynamic Artistic Director to join the community theatre in the next phase of its growth. The full-time Artistic Director is the prime steward of the company's artistic vision and must lead the main stage season and summer children's theatre selection and execution, manage creative teams, drive donor and patron cultivation and provide for a long-term sustainable programming plan with an aim for the highest quality artistic product within the organization's financial capacity. Bachelor's degree in a related field required. Evening and weekend work required. Flexible scheduling and excellent potential for growth. Annual salary with additional commissions and stipends available through grant and program work.

E-mail resumes and cover letters to execdir@dakotastageltd.com no later than Friday, January 31, 2014.

New Artists in Residence Rostered Artists

The North Dakota Council on the Arts announces four new Artist in Residence rostered artists: Markus Tracy of Henderson, NV (visual arts); Robert Kramer of Bismarck, ND (media, and music); David Paukert of Michigan, ND (visual arts); and Mimi Brown and Ben Clifton of Valley City, ND (media, and music).

Artists represented on the Artist-in-Residence Roster have successfully undergone a peer panel review process that evaluates their artistic and instructional abilities as they relate to artists working in a school residency program. The roster is a resource guide for communities searching for qualified professionals to conduct residencies in schools and other educational settings. The information contained on the roster is provided by the artist and provides basic information about the residency they offer. Artists on the roster represent the following disciplines: dance, folk, literature, media, music, theatre and visual arts. Artists provide students the environment to develop critical thinking skills, help build confidence, share their ideas with others, and be involved in the creative process. The Artist in Residence program provides matching funds for schools and other non-profit organizations to bring artists into North Dakota schools and communities to conduct residencies of three days or longer. To learn more about NDCA's rostered artists, visit www.nd.gov/arts/arts_ed/roster.html.

North Dakota Artist's Works Exhibited at the Capitol



The North Dakota Council on the Arts, along with the offices of Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, are exhibiting the works of Cooperstown artist Gretchen Baird-Kottke at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of January, February and March.

Kottke's works will be on display in the Governor's ground floor and first floor offices, the First Lady's fourth floor office, and the Attorney General's first floor office.

Gretchen Baird-Kottke was born in Bemidji, Minnesota in 1942.

Kottke works predominantly in oil painting. Kottke's work centers on the truth that all life has one thing in common: that our Earth is the home to all life as we know it and that the prime goal for each of us should be to put ourselves in "unison with the Earth's natural order." Even though much of the work is figurative, the figures are intended to reflect the isolation felt when there is disruption from the natural order of things.

She studied art at Jamestown College and the University of North Dakota. She has had solo exhibits in Fargo and Grand Forks, ND. Kottke has been invited to, and exhibited in many

group shows throughout her career. In 1994, Kottke returned to her home town of Cooperstown, ND. She opened the GK Art Gallery that featured regional artists. The gallery closed in 2003. She continues to live in Cooperstown where she makes art and is a partner in the firm of Renaissance Engineering and Testing, Inc.

To learn more visit <https://www.facebook.com/gretchen.kottke>; or contact Gretchen directly at (701) 797-7678; e-mail: gkgallery@invisimax.



North Dakota Artist's Works to be Exhibited at the Capitol



NDCA, along with the offices of Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, will be exhibiting the works of Towner artist Andrew Knudson at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of April, May and June.

Knudson's works will be on display in the Governor's ground floor and first floor offices, the First Lady's fourth floor office, and the Attorney General's first floor office.

Artist Andrew Knudson is a born and raised North Dakotan, and his strong roots and love of the northern plains reflect strongly in his artwork. From modern working cowboys to a vast array of wildlife, Andrew is a part of each drawing and painting he completes. And like most award winning artists, Andrew works from experience. He is a former Champion Rodeo Cowboy and is now an avid outdoorsman, taking all of his unique experience to heart to someday transpose them to paper or canvas.

"My most popular work for the past several years has been my oil paintings on turkey feathers. They are hand-painted with small, soft brushes, then matted and framed under glass to ensure their longevity. They are primarily wildlife images, but I paint anything on a feather by request. Past custom feather paintings have included portraits, cars, buildings, rodeo images, and a lot of dogs. They start with 8X10s priced at \$100 and go up from there in size and price to full tail fans." Each piece is an original, and all are signed and numbered #1 of 1."

Andrew works out of his "Plains Perspective Studio/Gallery" in Towner. He specializes in custom artwork in any medium, from portraits to murals. For more information visit www.plainsperspective.com; or you can contact Andrew directly at (701) 537-5343, or e-mail: andrewknudson@hotmail.com.



Oil on leaves



Feather painting



NDCA's Art for Life Program



As part of their fiber art work with elders in the Art for Life Program, The Woolly Girls bring chicks and lambs to the elder care facility to bring smiles and memories of growing up on the farm. Image courtesy of the Northern Lights Arts Council, Langdon, ND. Photo permission granted by care facility and resident.

The connection between art and health is a fast-growing, fairly recent area of emphasis and research that is spreading across the United States. By contrast, the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) has worked in this area for some time. Through the NDCA's *Art for Life Program*, our state was one of the first to explore and develop an arts/health nexus in a sustained and systemic way, specifically with regard to people in elder care facilities.

Over a two-year period, 1999-2000, the NDCA placed folk artists to perform in nearly every elder care facility in the state. Powerful anecdotal stories surfaced about the impact of those presentations on the elders. For example, an Alzheimer's patient, who was often unresponsive and averse to being touched, danced with her husband during a concert. Another woman, almost completely immobile and confined to a wheelchair, was observed tapping her finger to the beat of the music.

Additional positive anecdotal information was generated in 1999 from the public demonstration

requirement of a \$2,000 NDCA Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant to Lila Hauge-Stoffel and Mary Seim. That public demonstration was held at the elder care facility where Mary worked. Lila (a professor of art and traditional textile artist), Mary Seim (an activities coordinator and traditional artist), and Troyd Geist (the folklorist with the NDCA) recognized these powerful examples. However, they also wondered if the arts' impact with regard to health could be quantifiably measured.

Dr. William Thomas, a physician in New York, conducted medical research with elders in long term care facilities. That research resulted in the identification of the "Three Plagues" (loneliness, boredom, and helplessness) that, in a very real measurable way, negatively affects the physical and emotional health of our elders. In response, he developed an approach to institutional care called the Eden Alternative that is used throughout the country as a therapeutic model to counter the negative effects of loneliness, boredom, and helplessness. Building on that study, the NDCA wanted to know if extensive, long-term arts and artist interactions would influence the Three Plagues, and, thus by extension, improve the emotional and physical health of our elders.

So, in 2001-03, the NDCA (with Troyd Geist, Lila Hauge-Stoffel, Mary Seim, and Pioneer House, an elder care facility in Fargo) conducted a \$57,000 therapeutic arts pilot study with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Assessment tools were designed to quantifiably measure the effects of extensive folk,



Woven "Tree of Life" or "Family Tree" textile made by elders with the guidance of traditional artist Lila Hauge-Stoffel at an elder care facility in Jamestown, ND, in 2009 as part of the Art for Life Program with the Jamestown Fine Arts Center.

fine arts, and artist interactions with regard to the sense of loneliness, boredom, and helplessness experienced by the elders. Over that two-year period quilters, storytellers, Swedish Dala painters, potters, watercolor artists, and more, worked with the elders. The final assessment of the study pointed to a marked improvement in all three areas. The results of this study are discussed in the NDCA's publication *Art for Life: The Therapeutic Power and Promise of the Arts*.

The subsequent quantifiable and anecdotal information was then utilized by the NDCA to obtain funding from the North Dakota state legislature to expand the pilot project into a program to improve the lives of elders by addressing the Three Plagues with art. In the program, the NDCA supports local arts agencies who partner with local artists and local elder care facilities to conduct arts residencies and activities with the facilities' residents and their families. The program began in 2008 in three communities: Jamestown, Langdon, and Pekin (working alternately with McVille and Lakota).



The hands of an elder in an elder care facility working on a felted mural residency conducted by textile artists The Woolly Girls. Image courtesy of the Northern Lights Arts Council, Langdon, ND.



Traditional Swedish "Stages of Life" Dala painting by folk artist Pieper Bloomquist of Grand Forks, ND. Pieper, who is also a nurse, has done several such paintings with elders in multiple communities in the Art for Life Program. She engages the residents not only in the process of the artwork itself but also in generating discussions with the elders about their experiences during their various stages of life.

NDCA's Art for Life Program (continued...)

By 2014, the *Art for Life Program* will involve nine local arts agencies working with approximately fourteen elder care facilities in eleven communities: Ellendale, Enderlin, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Langdon, New Rockford, New Town, Pekin (with McVile and Lakota), and Wahpeton.

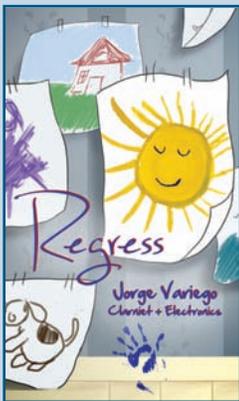


A spear fish decoy painted by a 103-year old resident of an elder care facility in Jamestown, ND. The spear fish presentation and workshop was conducted by folk artists Rick and Connie Whittier in 2013 in Jamestown, ND. Photo courtesy of the North Dakota Council on the Arts, Troyd Geist.

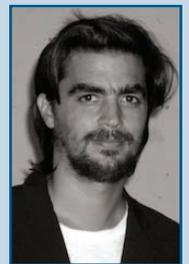
In 2013, recognized as a national leader in this effort of combining the areas of arts, health, and aging, the NDCA was asked to participate in a national “best practices” effort involving thirteen states. This “Communities of Practice” project is supported in partnership between the National Center for Creative Aging and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional articles about the impact of the *Art for Life Program* will appear in future newsletters and press releases: stories about elders becoming more responsive, interacting with others, and better able to make decisions; stories about a woman on her deathbed sharing a moment through a storytelling project; a lonely elderly man with children to finally call his own through a theater activity; a community that comes together to honor U.S. military veterans through a quilting project; and a woman suffering from cancer and depression coming out of her shell – all these and more through the *Art for Life Program*.

Jorge Variego, recipient of a NDCA Professional Development Grant, records internationally-distributed CD



Through this grant Jorge Variego attended master classes and recorded a CD at the Centro Mexicano para la Musica y las Artes Sonoras (CMMAS) in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. As a North Dakota faculty member, the experience acquired in an international institution, had an undeniable impact in the quality of his teaching, both in the realm of composition and performance (his two areas of expertise at Valley City State University). This project was a unique opportunity for Jorge to improve his personal and professional qualities as a creative artist. Those factors will ultimately expand his own knowledge and contributions to VCSU and its community.



Jorge Variego

The final product was a CD recording and was the ultimate condensation of a huge amount of work by a music artist and this project provided that concrete benefit to Jorge. The CD is to be distributed in South America, USA and Europe, thus expanding the international outreach of VCSU, and also stimulating the collaboration between North Dakota-based artists and educational institutions from other countries. To learn more about CMMAS, visit <http://cmmas.org>. For more on Jorge visit www.jorgevariego.com.

The following review by Art Lange was published in the September 2013 edition of *Fanfare* magazine: REGRESS, Jorge Variego (cl, bcl, computer), CMMAS (no number) (50:21)

“They say you can’t tell a book by its cover. That’s certainly true of this release, which sports a colorful illustration of childlike drawings pinned to a wall, suggesting that the music contained within would be suitable for a toddler’s naptime or a birthday party sing-along, when in fact the program consists of highly sophisticated and challenging electroacoustic works by Argentinean composers ranging in age from 72 to 30-something. The album title too, I suppose, is meant to be taken with the same ironic grain of salt, since the music is hardly indicative of a regressive approach to composition—although the concept does come out of a tradition of instrument-plus-tape or -electronics that includes another, pioneering Argentinean composer, Mario Davidovsky. This is clarinetist Variego’s second solo disc; the first, *Necessity* (Albany), was called “an impressive, audacious debut” by Michael Cameron in *Fanfare* 34:1, while in the same issue Raymond Tuttle admitted it was “terrifically interesting” but primarily to “clarinet nerds” and other “unusual” listeners. The jazz implications of Variego’s own piece, *Ornet* (2012) –computer-generated piano and percussion accompanying the bass clarinet’s breath-and-reed-distorted tone and out-of-synch lines—reveal no audible relation to the punning reference (to jazz innovator Ornette Coleman) of the title.

Valley City State University and the North Dakota Council of the Arts, both of which partially funded this recording, deserve kudos for their support of such fascinating, adventurous music. And I agree with Michael Cameron, Variego is an artist to watch.” ~ *Art Lange*

Angels of the Muse Spreads Music to Underserved, Isolated Audiences



Sonja Holmgren performs at Friendship Inc. on behalf of Angels of the Muse, a local nonprofit that looks to bring music to underserved populations. Image courtesy of Kris Kerzman, The Arts Partnership

(Article reprinted with permission from Kris Kerzman, *The Arts Partnership*, ARTSpulse, November 21, 2013)

Picture a music venue. Think of the people there, standing and sitting, singing along to their favorite songs and maybe getting up to dance. Chances are, what you're picturing is a far cry from the setting for the latest concert by Sonja Holmgren. On a cold, rainy Friday afternoon, she brings her acoustic guitar into a board room at Friendship, Inc., an organization that provides residential resources and personal care to people with special needs in the Red River Valley. Since these people don't have access to those venues you might be imagining, Holmgren comes to them.

As she works through her set of American standards, country songs and the occasional Christmas carol, the atmosphere of the board room is replaced with the atmosphere of a concert arena. People sing along and dance. Holmgren chatters with the 20 or so people in attendance, asking for help with lyrics to Dolly Parton's "Jolene" and cracking jokes about the awful weather.

Dori Leslie, Friendship, Inc.'s chief operating officer, said Holmgren's frequent appearances are enjoyed by both her staff and people they serve. "We find that entertainment is very healthy for the people who we support," Leslie said. "And bringing someone in like this is wonderful. We find singing and music a universal language for everybody, whether they have a disability or not."

Holmgren's performance was made possible by an organization called Angels of the Muse, a non-profit operating in Fargo-Moorhead since 2004 with the goal of bringing music to under-served populations who would otherwise have little or no access to it. Participating musicians play at sites such as the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Dakota Boys Ranch, Nokomis Childcare Center and the YWCA. "We wanted to serve these isolated populations that never get to hear good music," said Jack Schauer, founder and coordinator of Angels of the Muse, who patterned the organization after Bread and Roses, a large non-profit in California.

Over the years, he's worked with folk, jazz, blues and rock musicians, placing them into sites on a monthly basis. "We get such good responses from every place that we perform," he said. "That keeps us going. If people ignored what we did, it would be difficult to keep motivated." Schauer said that keeping musicians involved and securing funding has been challenging for Angels of the Muse. He's working to expand fundraising efforts into the business community and is always looking for performers willing to help.

Aside from the site concerts, Schauer also organizes a showcase of Angels of the Muse performers at the Spirit Room a couple times a year. A singer, songwriter, and guitarist himself, he said they got a "fantastic reaction" to the last showcase in October and are looking to build on that success. Holmgren said she "can't imagine not doing it," and her benefits of playing for such a unique audience go far beyond the small stipend she's paid. She hopes those benefits will help the group expand. "It's kind of a calling, I guess, and it's for such a good cause," she said, adding that she also loves the opportunity to meet and talk to people. "I play at Churches United for the Homeless, and I swear it's my favorite place to play. There can be anywhere between 50 and 150 people that come and go through there. It's a big venue, which is one reason I like to play there, and I think they're the best audience. They always want to talk to you, and it can be so interesting. They come from all over the country." "Those people don't get entertainment, and they can't afford to go anywhere," she added.



Candy Swank (left) and Friendship Inc. staff member Heather Kujava dance to music by Sonja Holmgren. Image courtesy of Kris Kerzman, The Arts Partnership

Taube Museum hiring Flexible Part-Time Gallery Manager

The Gallery Manager reports to the Executive Director regarding the operations and management of the Taube Museum of Art. The Gallery Manager will be required to accomplish the following tasks: Greet and welcome guests; exhibition installation and removal; assist with fundraising, office duties, and membership; assist with Taube Museum publicity; assist with Museum Gift Shop; maintain the appearance of the facilities; and complete any additional tasks at the Director's discretion.

To apply call (701) 838-4445 or e-mail the Taube Museum of Art at taube@srt.com. To learn more about this position visit www.taubemuseum.org/help_wanted.htm.

Paul Noot & BHS Art Students Create Ornaments for National Tree



Some of the 2013 ornaments created for the state tree.

Paul Noot and Bismarck High School 11th and 12th grade Art III/IV students were chosen to design and create the ornaments for North Dakota's tree for the 2013 National Christmas Tree display in President's Park in Washington, D.C. Noot and his students join local artists and youth from each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia who were selected to design and create 24 ornaments for their respective state or territory tree.

"It is an honor to be selected because it gave my students an opportunity to showcase their talents to the rest of the country and it gave them a chance to reflect on the great state that they live in," said Paul Noot, the lead artist.

North Dakota's ornaments were designed and created by the students. Their inspiration came from historical sites, farming industry, oil industry, national parks, state symbols and ethnic groups of North Dakota. The students tried to capture the spirit of what North Dakota meant to them. The students learned a great deal working with an artist/educator and the various aspects of meeting deadlines and the commitment involved in the entire process. The students are truly honored to have created the ornaments for the 2013 North Dakota tree. For more information visit <http://thenationaltree.org>.

Quilt for Cure

Quilt for Cure is a high-school student led charity project. The founding member, Siddharth Gupta after volunteering at the American Cancer Society, was moved by the pain that cancer patients have to endure. He made it his top priority to do whatever he could to ease the tribulation that cancer patients go through. Siddharth and his parents (both doctors at Essentia) met with Troyd Geist, NDCA's Folklorist several times (Siddharth's sister, Ishika, is in NDCA's apprenticeship program managed by Troyd). Troyd asked him to think of something long-term, personal, and impactful and spoke to them about a quilt program. After hours of brainstorming and many notebooks of paper, *Quilt for Cure* was born.



Quilt by Cdm Robert and Opal Saddoris

Troyd said, "I gave some contact information to Siddharth, and he took off with the idea. He raised \$14,000 (\$7,000 in donations and then \$7,000 in match from Essential) and obtained 250 donated quilts to distribute to cancer patients in North Dakota and Minnesota. He now is looking at setting up a non-profit organization to keep this going in our area. Impressive!"

"I made a web site and started asking people and spreading the word - donations and quilts started coming in - then a domino effect from that. All of the Cancer patients at Essentia Health Fargo, Wahpeton, Park Rapids and Duluth and we are on the verge of covering all of Fargo, Grand Forks, and all of Minot. It's not just quilts like this that are being donated, students are also making tie blankets. When they're complete they're putting special messages on them such as 'Stay Strong' and 'Keep Fighting.'" said Siddharth.

Every year 30,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in North Dakota and Minnesota. That's 30,000 people who have to endure the disastrous effects of chemotherapy, one of which is intense shivering. Along with intense shivering, those patients have to spend cold restless nights at the hospital away from their loved ones. *Quilt for Cure* is a beacon of hope for all of the cancer patients out there. Sometimes something as simple as a quilt is enough to bring a smile on a person's face, or a sense of hope for the future. *Quilt for Cure* allows anybody to show their feelings to the thousands of patients in the region.



Quilt by Patty Johnson



Quilt by Kristina Schlecht

Some testimonials from quilt recipients: *The Quilt for Cure project is a fantastic concept! These quilts will not only warm the body but will rekindle a sense of strength, inspiration and fortitude to the soul. Thank you so much!!! ~ Robert P.; Thank you so very much for the beautiful Quilt. It brightened my day! If the world had more people like you it would be a better place. I bet your parents are very proud! Thank You ~ JoAnn M.; Quilt for Cure what a wonderful project. While receiving one of my last treatments I was so surprised when I received my afghan — it was beautiful. The warmth of it I feel comes from the love that was put into it while being made. Thank you so much. ~ Pearl L.; and I miss my mother so much who passed away. The quilt you gave her is giving me some comfort because I sleep with it now. ~ Karen M.*

The goal of *Quilt for Cure* is to provide as many quilts and blankets to cancer patients. A little warmth and comfort goes a long way in patients' fights against cancer. Anybody with a little time and some sewing supplies can help donate. The many active traditional quilting guilds in North Dakota and Minnesota can also help. To learn more or to donate, visit <http://www.quiltforcure.com>.

Local Calls to Artists

Artists Celebrating Christ: Call to artists to enter the annual art event. ACC, Artists Celebrating Christ is a unique inter-denominational event uniting Christian artisans from across the nation at the University of Mary's Benedictine Center March 27-30, 2014. All art forms accepted. Registration forms are available at www.accartshow.com and are due February 1, 2014. Please contact Shannon Wirrenga at (701) 400-2815 or info@accartshow.com for more information.

Red River Watercolor Society 21st National Juried Watercolor Exhibition: RRWS 21st National Juried Watermedia Exhibition takes place June 16 - July 26, 2014. Juror/Workshop Instructor is Michael Reardon. Awards include: \$1,250; \$1000; \$750, plus more. For a prospectus send a #10 SASE to Anne Kaese, 3420 Birchwood Ct. South, Fargo, ND 58104-6226; or visit www.redriverws.org. Deadline is April 4, 2014.

2014 Fargo Film Festival

March 4-8th are the dates for the 14th annual Fargo Film Festival. This is the premier film festival in the state of North Dakota. It takes place at a variety of locations in the Fargo-Moorhead community, with the Fargo Theatre as the festival's home base and venue for the majority of screenings. For more information contact the Fargo Theatre at (701) 239-8395 or visit www.fargofilmfestival.org.

10th Annual Custer Stampede Buffalo Art Auction

The Custer Stampede Buffalo Art Auction committee is seeking artists for the 10th Annual Custer Stampede Buffalo Art Auction, an exciting community visual arts event held in Custer, SD and the surrounding Black Hills. This event draws thousands of people to Custer and the Black Hills as they peruse the area in search of buffalo art. This is a great opportunity for an artist to connect with the public. All artwork submitted for consideration must be original work that has not been and will not be reproduced. Application materials are due January 21, 2014. Please see submission requirements at www.custerstampede.com/images/pdfs/10th%20Annual%20Custer%20Stampede%20Artist%20Application%20Form%20-%20TT%20&%20FF.pdf.

VANS Custom Culture 2014 Contest

Registration Opens: January 6, 2014. Americans for the Arts announced that they will be partnering again with VANS on its 2014 Custom Culture Contest. This national contest offers high schools from all across the United States the chance to compete for a \$50,000 grand prize to support their art programs. A total of 2,000 registrations from U.S.-based public or private high schools will be accepted; registration closes on February 14, 2014. Registered schools will receive four pairs of blank sneakers to be customized in four themes—Art, Music, Action Sports, and Local Flavor—and submitted to Vans by April 7, 2014. Vans staff will select a group of 50 semifinalists (10 schools per region, five total regions), and public voting online will narrow this group of 50 down to the final five who will receive an all-expense paid trip to New York City in June 2014 where the grand prize winner will be announced.

For more visit www.vans.com/customculture, or www.artsusa.org/networks/arts_education/vans.asp.

Artists International Program

USArtists International provides support for American dance, music, and theater ensembles and solo artists invited to perform at significant international festivals anywhere in the world outside the United States and its territories. For a copy of program guidelines visit www.midatlanticarts.org/funding/pat_presentation/us_artists/guidelines.html. To access the revised 2014 application, visit <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net/login.aspx?PIID=147&OID=21>. The final application deadline for the 2014 program cycle is: April 18, 2014 for projects taking place between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. For questions, e-mail brigid@midatlanticarts.org.

Unsigned Only Music Competition

Unsigned Only is a unique music competition designed for solo artists, bands, and singers all over the world who are not signed to a major label record company or any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, or imprints. The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded \$10,000 in cash (plus additional prizes) and one-on-one mentoring by an elite group of record company executives. First Place and Second Place winners will also be selected in each category. First Place winners in each category will receive \$1,000 in addition to other prizes. Second Place winners will also receive prizes. All prizes are listed on the Prize page.

The entry deadline is March 13, 2014. For more information visit www.unsignedonly.com.

NDCA Awards \$71,989 in Grants Statewide

The North Dakota Council on the Arts completed its Fall grant rounds for Fiscal Year 2014. \$71,989.35 was awarded in six different grant programs: Artist in Residence, Community Arts Access, Professional Development, Presenter Support, Special Projects, and Teacher Incentive. All applications were evaluated by grant review panels and all awards were subject to approval by the NDCA's board of directors. General descriptions of the different grant programs, complete guidelines and application instructions for these, and other NDCA grant programs, are available on NDCA's web site at www.nd.gov/arts; or by calling NDCA's office at (701) 328-7590.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

CITY	SCHOOL NAME	ARTIST NAME	GRANT AMT
Bismarck	Grimsrud Elementary PTO	Ali LaRock	\$1,700
Bismarck	Highland Acres Elementary School	Ali LaRock	\$1,700
Bismarck	Pride Manchester House	Spirit	\$997
Bismarck	Rita Murphy Elementary School	Ali LaRock	\$2,320
Bismarck	St Mary's Elementary School	Monte & Emily Yellow Bird	\$2,320
Casselton	Central Cass Public School	Steve Stark	\$1,958
Devils Lake	Devils Lake Public School	Wendy Klug	\$2,966
Fargo	Oak Grove Lutheran School	Ben Clifton & Amelia Brown	\$3,390
Fordville	Fordville-Lankin Public School	David Paukert	\$835
Forman	Sargent Central Public School	Wendy Klug	\$1,698
Glen Ullin	Glen Ullin Public School	Robin Reynolds	\$816
Jamestown	Jamestown Fine Arts Assoc	Northern Plains Dance	\$5,000
Langdon	Langdon Area School District	Guillermo (Memo) Guardia	\$840
Mayville	Northern Lights Art Gallery	Jane Kalmbach	\$1,531
Roseglen	White Shield School Dearbail	Finnegan & Robin Slater	\$2,545

COMMUNITY ARTS ACCESS

CITY	ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT AMT
Fessenden	Wells County Fair Association	\$2,000
Gwinner	Gwinner Arts Council	\$1,500
Hazen	Hazen Arts Council	\$1,750
Milton	The Little Star Theatre Association	\$1,750
Wahpeton	Circle of Nations	\$2,000

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FY14 Fall to date)

CITY	ORGANIZATION/ARTIST NAME	GRANT AMT
Bismarck	Angeline Dasovick	\$500
Bismarck	Elizabeth Pickett	\$475
Bismarck	Erin Paulson	\$475
Bismarck	Joan Eckroth-Riley	\$500
Cando	Cando Arts Council, Inc.	\$500
Fargo	Fargo Theatre Management Corp.	\$500
Fargo	Kay Beckermann	\$300
Lincoln	Melinda Halverson	\$500

PRESENTER SUPPORT

REGION/CITY	ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT AMT
Bismarck	Dakota Media Access, Inc.	\$2,000
Dickinson	Dickinson State University	\$1,750
Fargo	North Dakota State University	\$2,000
Fargo	Red River Valley Woodcarvers	\$2,000
Grand Forks	UND Writers Conference	\$2,000
Jamestown	University of Jamestown	\$1,674
Moorhead	Minnesota State University-Moorhead	\$1,200
Moorhead	Nordic Culture Clubs	\$2,000
Wahpeton	Three Rivers Arts Council	\$2,000

SPECIAL PROJECTS (FY14 Fall to date)

REGION/CITY	ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT AMT
Linton	Linton Public School	\$1,000
Bismarck	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$1,000
Grand Forks	Global Friends Coalition	\$1,000
Fargo	Fargo Public School District	\$512.50
Minot	Frozen Fingers Music Association	\$1,000

TEACHER INCENTIVE

CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER NAME	GRANT AMT
Bismarck	Highland Acres Elementary School	Shannon Chaussee	\$300
Bismarck	Pioneer Elementary School	Jody Netzer	\$300
Bismarck	Pioneer Elementary School	Kristy Fleck	\$300
Bismarck	Sunrise Elementary School	Andrea Frovarp	\$300
Bismarck	Sunrise Elementary School	Lisa Walter	\$300
Bismarck	Sunrise Elementary School	Teresa Zaremski	\$300
Bismarck	Sunrise Elementary School	Vickie Pomonis	\$300
Grand Forks	Lewis and Clark Elementary School	Kristin Spradlin	\$295.32
Grand Forks AFB	Carl Ben Eielson Elementary School	Kathleen Pedersen	\$295.53
Hazen	Hazen Elementary School	Lori Pederson	\$300
Hazen	Hazen Elementary School	Margaret Volk	\$300
Kenmare	Kenmare Public School	Merry Feldman	\$300
Kenmare	Kenmare Public School	Peggy Balvitsch	\$300
Kenmare	Kenmare Public School	Terese Skjordal	\$300
Lisbon	Lisbon Public Schools	Kari Webb	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Amy Larson	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Ashley Griffey	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Carla Crockett	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Shila Wahlstrom	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Sue Zimbleman	\$300
Minot	Sunnyside Elementary	Teal Leraas	\$300
Minot AFB	Memorial Middle School	Holly Eidsness	\$300
Newburg	Newburg United School District	Ashton Halone	\$300
Newburg	Newburg United School District	Jessica Marsh	\$300
Newburg	Newburg United School District	Kate McDonald	\$296
Roseglen	White Shield School	Patricia Marquard	\$300

DUNS Number Now Required!

All organizational applicants who apply for a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts are now required to register for a DUNS number online before receiving any grant funds. The process for registering is simple and easy and only takes a few minutes. To register visit www.artsusa.org/information_services/research_services/creative_industries/004.asp.

NDCA Grant Deadlines Approaching

Application deadline dates for the North Dakota Council on the Arts grants are approaching. Artist-in-Residence, Community Arts Access, Presenter Support and Teacher Incentive grants must be submitted online by **April 1, 2014** for programs taking place between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. The draft review deadline is March 15, however the Teacher Incentive draft review deadline is now March 1st.

STE[A]Mc TEAMS Grant Program applications must be submitted online for year one applicants by **April 1, 2014**; and for year two and three applicants by **June 1, 2014**.

Individual Artist Fellowships program for Traditional Arts, Dance, and Theatre final grant submission deadline has changed, **it is now May 1, 2014** for activities taking place July 1-June 30.

The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship applications must be postmarked by **May 15, 2014** for project periods of July 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.

Also, a reminder that the Professional Development and Special Projects grant applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be submitted no later than four (4) weeks prior to the start of the event. Early submission of applications is recommended since grant funds are limited and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Early submission is strongly encouraged for all programs. All grants (with the exception of the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship) must be completed and submitted via NDCA's online grant system at <http://northdakota.cgweb.org>.

Complete descriptions of the grant programs, guidelines, and how to apply are available through NDCA's web site at www.nd.gov/arts, and click on "Grant Programs." For general grant questions, or if you need assistance with the online grant system, please call NDCA's office at (701) 328-7590.

~These grants are supported by the North Dakota Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding is contingent on availability of funds.



ARTS NORTH DAKOTA

Dear Supporter of the Arts,

I am continually impressed by the passion and talent exuded by artists of all ages within our state. These artists are supported by dedicated patrons and numerous arts related organizations. North Dakota is not often considered a major player on the arts and culture scene. I love to challenge visitor perceptions of our state by showing them the impressive arts community in which we live. I also encourage locals to look closer at the great art offerings right in their own backyards. Arts North Dakota (AND) has the pleasure of speaking with many great artists, patrons, and supporters from across the state. North Dakotans have a hunger for the arts and our organization's desire is to support organizations and individuals in feeding that hunger.

AND would like to build a strong group of partners and supporters that we can continually inform about the arts. We invite you to choose how you might collaborate with us:

- FREE - Visit www.artsnd.org for a dynamic snapshot of arts news in the state and across the nation.
- FREE - While there, sign up for our newsletter to get occasional messages about arts news.
- FREE - Visit www.arttalknd.com, a new website, to view various arts resources. You can also create or join a conversation about arts related topics.
- FREE - "Like" us at www.facebook.com/artsnd to get periodic arts and advocacy related posts.

Another low-cost way you can support AND is by becoming a member. Who are members of AND? AND members are dancers, artists, patrons, actors, business owners, organizations, audience members, musicians, collectors.... and the list goes on... and on... and on...

If you are reading this message you are more than likely a great prospective member of Arts North Dakota. If you have a passion for the arts, are an artist yourself, or simply want to support the promotion of arts and culture, AND is for you. We keep our annual dues low. The more members we have the stronger our voice is in the fight to support the arts. If you join AND, you won't get a bumper sticker, coffee mug, or even a cheap pen with our logo on it. What you will get is the knowledge that you are part of a group dedicated to the arts and our gratitude for supporting the arts in North Dakota. Visit www.artsnd.org to become a member.

However you choose to participate, we hope that you will consider joining us in our mission of advancing the arts in North Dakota! Thank you for all YOU do for the arts. YOU make the difference for the arts in North Dakota and together WE can activate change. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me at director@artsnd.org.



www.artsnd.org
director@artsnd.org

Arts North Dakota
PO Box 1911
Dickinson, ND 58602

Be sure to check out MyNDArts.com!

MyNDArts is North Dakota's most comprehensive cultural calendar covering all of the regions in the state! The ultimate goal is to increase participation and to strengthen the arts and culture ecosystem in our state.

- Some of the the site's features include, but aren't limited to:
- ~ Visually appealing graphic design
 - ~ Faster and more user-friendly search engine
 - ~ A more comprehensive statewide artist/performer directory
 - ~ Enhanced mobile experience with Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest sharing/commenting
 - ~ Foursquare check in.

NDCA encourages artists and arts organizations to enter their information and events. Artists can create profiles without charge – a great way to get information online free, especially if you do not have a web page.

MyNDArts.com is helping North Dakotans discover all the arts events happening in their communities! To learn more visit www.myndarts.com.



Join us on facebook

"Like" the North Dakota Council on the Arts on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/NDCouncilontheArts; or click on the Facebook link at www.nd.gov/arts.

Be sure to "Like" Art=Work as well! To learn more about Art=Work visit www.ndcpd.org/artequalswork; Facebook page is www.facebook.com/ArtEqualsWork.

e-Prairie Arts – sign up today

e-Prairie Arts is an electronic newsletter that supplements the three issues of *Prairie Arts*. Distributed via e-mail, each edition contains statewide and national news, opportunities for artists and arts administrators, calendar information, links to informative and helpful web sites and much more.

To receive e-Prairie Arts, send an e-mail to amschmid@nd.gov.

House Passes Budget Framework; Senate to Consider

In December, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (332-94) to approve a framework that would provide some relief from the automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The bill has gone to the Senate. Though the bill is not a formal budget for fiscal year 2014, its passage is an important step for Congress because it sets caps on discretionary spending at \$1.012 trillion for the current fiscal year. The legislation calls for a \$45-billion reduction in the sequester for FY2014, to be split evenly between domestic discretionary and defense programs. The House's decision to reduce the sequester for FY2014 is significant because it means there will be less pressure on Congress to slash funding for federal agencies.

Once the budget spending cap is established, members of the House and Senate can negotiate a formal budget for the remainder of FY2014. They must do so before January 15, when funding for the federal government is set to expire. It is during this later process that funding levels for all federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, will be established.

~ December 13, 2013 National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Legislative Alert by Isaac Brown, Legislative Counsel

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and NEA Release Preliminary Report on Impact of Arts and Culture on U.S. Economy

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently released prototype estimates from the new Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA). This is the first federal effort to provide in-depth analysis of the arts and cultural sector's contributions to current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP), a measure of the final dollar value of all goods and services produced in the United States. According to these new estimates, 3.2 percent -- or \$504 billion -- of current-dollar GDP in 2011 was attributable to arts and culture. In comparison, BEA's estimated value of the U.S. travel and tourism industry was 2.8 percent of GDP.

"The positive value of arts and culture on society has been understood on a human level for millennia. With this new effort, we are now able to quantify the impact of arts and culture on GDP for the very first time. Better utilizing this type of knowledge and information is part of the Department of Commerce's 'Open for Business Agenda,' through which we are seeking to provide more transparency and data to enhance decision-making, create more value, and better understand and grow our economy," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

"Art and culture is a significant part of the U.S. economy. Not just its contributions of ideas and creativity to the innovation economy, but also as an important part of the labor force and our country's GDP," said NEA Senior Deputy Chairman Joan Shigekawa. "The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account is an unprecedented resource for detailed, reliable data on the economic value associated with arts and cultural activity."

The ACPSA is the latest in a series of BEA satellite accounts that complement BEA's core industry economic accounts with detailed data on industries such as travel and tourism, healthcare, transportation, and research and development. Satellite accounts are supplementary estimates that do not change the official U.S. economic accounts, including GDP. Rather, these satellite accounts provide greater detail than in the U.S. economic accounts and allow analysis of a particular aspect of the economy, such as arts and cultural production. BEA, a unit of the Commerce Department, produces statistics on the U.S. economy's performance. For key findings and additional information, visit <http://arts.gov/news/2013/us-bureau-economic-analysis-and-national-endowment-arts-release-preliminary-report-impact>.

State of the Re:Union

A new program on NPR is interested in hearing real stories from rural people about rural places. The State of the Re: Union will profile small towns and communities by attempting to get to the heart of what it means to live in rural America. This is an opportunity to talk about what is happening in our communities, why our young people leave and also return, what we hope for the future, and how we're making a difference. Share your story. Why do you live in rural? Why did you return? Why is your community important? **What's the ONE thing you want a national audience to know about your rural America?** Let's fill up those airwaves! To learn more visit <http://stateofthereunion.com/the-one-thing>.

March 24 is Arts Advocacy Day and Nancy Hanks Lecture

Arts Advocacy Day: Hosted by Americans for the Arts and cosponsored by 85+ national arts organizations, National Arts Advocacy Day is the largest gathering of its kind, bringing together a broad cross section of America's cultural and civic organizations. Grassroots advocates from across the country come to Washington, DC to meet with their members of Congress in support of issues like arts education policy, the charitable tax deduction, and funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. What's at stake in 2014? Between tax reform, budget battles, and education reauthorization, support for arts and arts education is facing many challenges on Capitol Hill this year. As Congress and the administration grapple with ever-changing policy proposals, it is imperative that arts advocates come to Washington, DC to make sure the arts thrive, and to make their voices heard! Strategize with experienced advocates during an interactive role play session on how to make the case for the arts and arts education to your members of Congress. For more information visit www.americansforthearts.org/events/arts-advocacy-day.

The 27th Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy: Acclaimed *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd will deliver the lecture. The Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy is a leading national forum for arts policy intended to stimulate dialogue on policy and social issues affecting the arts. It is held each year on the evening before Arts Advocacy Day at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. For more information visit www.americansforthearts.org/events/nancy-hanks-lecture.



Maureen Dowd

March, April Arts Observances Planned

National Youth Art Month is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. The focus of this month is to convey to the public that art education develops self-discipline, self-esteem and a sense of pride in self expression. Observed since 1961, more information is available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Art_Month.

National Poetry Month is observed every April to bring together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American cultures. For more information, visit www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41.

Jazz Appreciation Month has been designated in April by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, in cooperation with various music education groups and organizations. To learn more, visit www.smithsonianjazz.org.

The Big Read Applications are Due January 28, 2014

The Big Read is accepting applications from non-profit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2014 and June 2015. The Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read receive a grant, promotional materials, access to online educational materials, training resources and opportunities. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected.



The Big Read announces the addition of two new titles to The Big Read Library this year: *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* by Dinaw Mengestu; and *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka.

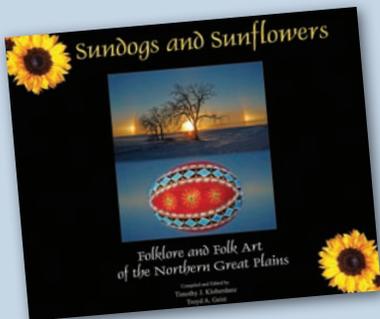
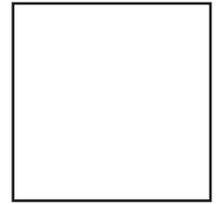
To review the guidelines and application instructions, visit The Big Read web site at www.neabigread.org.

2014 VSA Playwright Discovery Competition

Call for Scripts! Middle and high school students are invited to explore the disability experience—in their own life, the lives of others, or through fictional characters—by writing a script. Writers with and without disabilities are encouraged to submit a one-act script for stage or screen. Entries may be the work of an individual student or a collaboration by up to five students. The competition has three divisions. One winning script is selected in each of the Primary, Junior and Senior Divisions. A select number of Senior Division winners' scripts will be chosen for a Millennium Stage performance as part of the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage festival. Application deadline is April 28, 2014. To learn more about the competition and to apply, visit www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/programs/playwright_discovery.cfm.

Prairie Arts

North Dakota Council on the Arts
1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 6
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503-0649



CDs and publications available at NDCA

The recently published *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, is one of several books and CDs available from the NDCA that highlight North Dakota's diverse cultural traditions. To purchase, call (701) 328-7590 or mail orders to: North Dakota Council on the Arts, 1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503-0649. For mail orders, add 6 percent tax and \$3 for shipping/handling.

CDs and Recordings

Each CD is \$15.95 (with the exception of *Sundogs and Sunflowers*)

- *Spirit Woods, Traditional Stories and Songs of Forests and Trees*
- *Achikadidi, Traditional Ma'di Music of Southern Sudan and Northern Uganda*
- *Un de' che cha pi: The Way We Are*, by Mary Louise Defender Wilson
- *Faerie Harp*, by Debi Rogers and Sue Bicknell
- *At the Fiddler's Knee*, by Dick and Lisa Barrett
- *My Relatives Say, Traditional Dakotah Stories as told by Mary Louise Defender Wilson*
- *The Elders Speak: Dakotah and Ojibway Stories of the Land*, told by Gourd Woman and Eagle Heart
- *Morning Star Whispered, Traditional Stories and Flute Music*, by Keith Bear
- *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, by Timothy J. Kloberdanz and Troyd A. Geist. \$14.84

Publications

- *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, by Timothy J. Kloberdanz and Troyd A. Geist. \$34.95 (shipping \$4.25)
- *Faces of Identity, Hands of Skill: Folk Arts in North Dakota*, by Troyd A. Geist. \$15.95
- *From the Wellspring: Faith, Soil, Tradition – Folk Arts From Ukrainian Culture in North Dakota*, by Troyd A. Geist. \$15.95
- *Iron Spirits*. Editors Nicholas Curchin Vrooman, project director, and Patrice Avon Marvin. \$10.95
- *Prairie Patterns: Folk Arts in North Dakota*, by Christopher Martin. \$25
- *Sister Rosalia's Lace*, by Christopher Martin. \$3
- *Art for Life: The Therapeutic Power and Promise of the Arts* (free)