

## 2015 State Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony



Memorial Hall was filled with people, music, and holiday cheer as the 2015 State Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony took place at the State Capitol building on Tuesday, December 8th.

The ceremony is sponsored every year by the offices of the Governor and the First Lady, the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), and Capitol Facility Management.



Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple

Bell ornaments were chosen as the theme for this year, but ornaments could also be of the designer's choosing. 306 new ornaments were donated from individuals, 4-H groups, Girl Scout troops, day cares and elder care facilities across the state. They were joined by previously donated ornaments to adorn the tree.

This year's tree was a 26 foot, pre-lit, artificial tree - a first for the state 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.

Music was provided by the Bis-Man Melodious Brass led by Jennifer Flores; Joel Gilbertson, pianist; and Kantorei of Central Dakota Children's Choir (CDCC) under the direction of Jim McMahon.

Christmas carols were sung by the audience, led by Emcee for the evening, NDCA Board Chair David "White Thunder" Trottier, and accompanied by Joel Gilbertson.

Refreshments were served after the ceremony and were enjoyed by all!

~ All photos courtesy of Poppy Mills, NDDOT.



2015 State Christmas Tree



David "White Thunder" Trottier



Joel Gilbertson



Bis-Man Melodious Brass



Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley and his wife Kathleen



Kantorei of CDCC

## Mary Louise Defender Wilson is the first ever North Dakotan to be awarded USA Fellows recognition

The United States Artists (USA) recently announced the 37 new USA Fellows for 2015. Representing nine creative disciplines, each USA Fellow receives an unrestricted \$50,000 award and recognition as one of America's most accomplished and innovative artists. This award will support their artistic practice and professional development, opening up exciting creative possibilities through the transformative power of unrestricted financial support.

Mary Louise Defender Wilson, of Flasher, is the first ever North Dakotan to be awarded a USA Fellows recognition. She plans to use the fellowship money to preserve native dialects by visiting Dakotah and Lakotah Sioux communities where Wicheyena, Isanti and Teton are spoken to record buffalo stories in those languages.

The North Dakota Council on the Arts would like to congratulate Mary Louise Defender Wilson on her USA Fellows 2015 award and recognition! (continued on page 3)



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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" Trotter  
Chairman, North Dakota Council on the Arts

## "Art is a nation's most precious heritage"

This year we celebrate 50 years of the National Endowment for the Arts. It was 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act. It states, "While no government can call a great artist or scholar into existence, it is necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to help create and sustain not only a climate encouraging freedom of thought, imagination, and inquiry, but also the material conditions facilitating the release of this creative talent." On September 29 of that year, the National Endowment for the Arts – a new public agency dedicated to strengthening the artistic life of this country – was created. States were encouraged to create their own state agencies and Councils on the Arts and Humanities and in 1967 the North Dakota Council on the Arts was created. In 2017 we will be celebrating 50 years of our existence. And by existence, I mean service to the citizens of our state by granting millions of dollars to facilitate, promote, and perpetuate the arts.

At the signing of the bill in 1965 President Lyndon Johnson remarked, "In the long history of man, countless empires and nations have come and gone. Those which created no lasting works of art are reduced today to short footnotes in history's catalog. Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves, and to others, the inner vision which guides us as a Nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish."

This is also true for us in our state. North Dakota has some remarkable artists that have gained national reputations. I have had the honor of meeting many of our state's most gifted people through the course of my service on the State Arts Council. People that represent the best of the many cultures that reside in our state. People that have dedicated their lives to their art and people that have dedicated their lives to facilitating the arts. I only wish I had the means to make my collection larger!

We recently shot a video for the NEA 50th Anniversary and it is available on YouTube under the title, "United States of Arts: North Dakota" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2P1cl1N0dLM>). We have so much to be proud of in our state in so many areas of what we do, including the arts.

I have always been proud to call myself a native North Dakotan, and I hope all of you with North Dakota roots, whether deep seeded or newly planted, can feel the same thing. The arts, for all the people all the time.

## e-Prairie Arts - sign up today

*e-Prairie Arts* is an electronic newsletter that supplements the three annual printed 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 web sites, and much more.

To receive *e-Prairie Arts*, send an e-mail to [amschmid@nd.gov](mailto:amschmid@nd.gov).

**Join NDCA on** 

"Like" the North Dakota Council on the Arts on Facebook!  
Visit [www.facebook.com/NDCouncilontheArts](http://www.facebook.com/NDCouncilontheArts); or click on the Facebook icon at [www.nd.gov/arts](http://www.nd.gov/arts).

## Mary Louise Defender Wilson is the first ever North Dakotan to be awarded USA Fellows recognition (*continued*)



Mary Louise Defender Wilson

This year's awardees were selected from over 400 nominated artists living in the United States and US Territories and were chosen by panels of expert peers in each artistic discipline. The USA Fellowship honors innovative, accomplished artists at all stages of their careers for their fresh perspectives, unique artistic vision, and impact on their field in the following disciplines: Architecture & Design, Crafts, Dance, Literature, Media, Music, Theater & Performance, Traditional Arts and Visual Arts.

With its signature Fellowship program, USA celebrates the breadth of American artistic practices from coast to coast, cultivating a creative ecology that is diverse in age, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. Since their inception in 2006, United States Artists have awarded nearly 450 artists with over \$21 million in support.

"Mary Louise Defender Wilson is a Dakotah and Hidatsa traditionalist and storyteller who grew up amongst a family of storytellers. She learned these ancient narratives as a child and as an adult, and at the age of 85 continues to share them with her community, our state, and our country. She is highly regarded and decorated traditional storyteller. The stories she tells speak to the human experience. Those ancient narratives continue today because they are just as relevant now as they were in centuries past – love and hatred, joy and sadness, unity and separation, peace and violence, truth and the desire to be better human beings. Mary Louise is a North Dakota treasure, and with this recent recognition, one of the nation's most competitive and prestigious awards in the arts, she is now solidified as a national treasure. Mary Louise is the first person ever from the state of North Dakota to be honored with this award, and the first person ever in the nation to be recognized with this award in the art form of storytelling," says Troyd Geist, Folklorist with the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

To learn more visit [www.unitedstatesartists.org/fellows/?tag=2015](http://www.unitedstatesartists.org/fellows/?tag=2015). To read more about Mary Louise Defender Wilson, visit [www.unitedstatesartists.org/fellows/2015/mary-louise-defender-wilson](http://www.unitedstatesartists.org/fellows/2015/mary-louise-defender-wilson).

## North Dakota artist's works on exhibit at the Capitol



The NDCA, along with the offices of Governor Jack Dalrymple, First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, are exhibiting the works of Grand Forks artist Sandy Brandt at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of January, February and March. Brandt's work is 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.

Artists looking to represent their region with art work placed in the Capitol can submit a brief resume along with photographs or slides of their work to the North Dakota Council on the Arts, 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503. Artists are selected for quarterly display.

Sandy Brandt is currently the Program Director for the Lutheran Social Services Healthy Families program. She has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood/Elementary/Special Education from the University of North Dakota. Brandt also has a Master's of Science in Education from Vanderbilt University/George Peabody College for Teacher's and a Master's of Arts in Counseling from the University of North Dakota.

Brandt's early interest in photography began well before she received her first camera on her 12th birthday. Armed with black and white film and a Brownie camera, Brandt set out to capture the outdoors using natural light and creativity. Through the years she has traveled many back roads in the predawn hours, dodging potholes and getting soaked in the rain in pursuit of the perfect shot that captures the simple beauty of the world around us each day.

Since 2009, Brandt has been competing in photography competitions and has taken a number of Grand Champions and Grand Champions reserves as well as numerous first, second and third place ribbons for both black and white as well as color photography. She is known for her unique perspective of the North Dakota landscape and capturing remnants of passing times. She has art work in numerous states and provinces and most recently placed 13 award winning photographs at the Lutheran Social Services headquarters in Fargo. Brandt resides in Grand Forks, ND. Additional information and images may be found at [www.waitforlight.com](http://www.waitforlight.com).



# State News

## ***Yggdrasil: The Norwegian-American Carvings of Gaylord “Guy” Paulson exhibition***

The North Dakota Council on the Arts secured a permanent art gallery at the State Historical Society of North Dakota’s (SHSND) Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, ND. The NDCA, in partnership with the SHSND, uses this gallery space to highlight the arts and artists of North Dakota.

The second exhibit through this partnership, will open in late January, 2016. This exhibit, titled *Yggdrasil: The Norwegian-American Carvings of Gaylord “Guy” Paulson*, will be on display for one year. The exhibit will feature traditional carvings such as *tine* boxes, tankards and a *kubbestol* (Norwegian stump chair).



Gaylord “Guy” Paulson lives and creates in Fargo, North Dakota. His grandparents and their seven children, including Guy’s father, left Norway in 1904 seeking land and opportunity. Guy was born in 1937 to Kristian and Evelyn Paulson and was raised on a farm and ranch in Philip, South Dakota, near the Cheyenne River Breaks. It was from there that Guy’s grandfather and uncles cut Rocky Mountain Juniper trees to make fence posts for their land in the western part of the state. Settled predominantly by Norwegian-Americans, the area was named Haakon County after the popular Norwegian King Haakon VII.

Guy began his education in a one-room schoolhouse, attended high school, went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree, Master’s Degree, and eventually a Doctorate in Biochemistry. He worked for more than 30 years as a research scientist studying drug metabolism in animals at the USDA Metabolism and Radiation Research Laboratory in Fargo. Yet his informal education, that of Norwegian woodcarving, spans over 40 years. He learned from books, trial and error, and especially by associating with other carvers.

Guy was the driving force behind the building and carving of a full-scale replica of the Hopperstad Stave Church of Vik, Norway, in Moorhead, Minnesota. Stave churches, defined by the use of vertical posts, originally were built in the 1100 and 1200s near the end of the Viking Age in Scandinavia. The documentary about the building of that church, “Building a Dream: The Moorhead Stave Church,” will be available for viewing at the Heritage Center in association with the exhibit. In addition, a publication featuring Guy’s work, and the work’s place within a Norwegian-American cultural framework, is being developed to accompany the exhibit and copies will be available at the exhibit this spring.



All Yggdrasil images © NDCA, images by Troyd Geist, NDCA Folklorist

## NDCA announces appointment of Board Vice Chair



*Dr. Lana Schlecht*

The North Dakota Council on the Arts is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Lana Schlecht of Ellendale as Vice Chairman of its Board. Schlecht has been serving on NDCA's board of directors since August 2012.

Dr. Lana Schlecht was an art major at UND before veering off into dentistry. Lana and her husband, Warren, farmed near Gackle for a time until Lana graduated from dental school. She is a graduate of CM Russell High School in Great Falls, Montana, Jamestown College and University of Nebraska Medical Center. Lana has been active in many arts activities through life. She has taught various community classes in weaving, water color and embroidery and had a design chosen by Governor and Mrs. Link for the Governor's residence dining chairs. She has had her paintings displayed in the Capitol building twice.

She currently serves as Vice-president of the Ellendale Area Arts Council. The council sponsors community events, concerts, art shows and children's theater.

Lana practiced dentistry at Dakota Dental Care for 30 years and still does some charity dental projects. She is also on the Board of Directors for Dickey Rural Networks, on the Board for Economic Development in Ellendale, serves as City Health Officer, is past president of the North Dakota Dental Association and is active in Christ the King Lutheran church. Warren has retired from teaching English and Science at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale. They have three children: Kristina, Lincoln and Ryun and six exceptional grandchildren. Lana enjoys unusual travel experiences, reading and gardening.

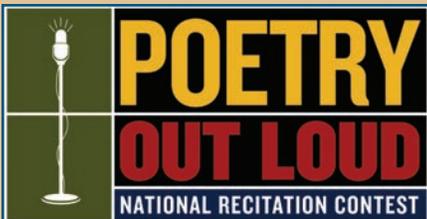
The NDCA's board consists of nine members - one from each of the state's regions, and one member-at-large, each of whom is appointed by the governor for a five-year term. Additional information on each of the board members, as well as the regions they represent, is available on the NDCA's web site at [www.nd.gov/arts/about-us/board-of-directors](http://www.nd.gov/arts/about-us/board-of-directors).

## North Dakota artist receives NACF Regional Artists fellowship award

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) announced its 2015 Regional Artist Fellowships for the Upper Midwest for the second consecutive year. Seven Native artists in the fields of Traditional Arts and Visual Arts have been selected for the award. A call for entries was released and applications were reviewed by a panel of art professionals with an in-depth knowledge of the region's Native history and cultures. This year's Fellows are from tribes in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Regional Artist Fellowship recipients receive a monetary award that supports the completion of a project and pursuit of professional development, both of their choice, within the Fellowship term. Sculptor Bennett Brien (Native Citizenship: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa) received an award in Visual Arts. Brien lives and leads a humble life in rural North Dakota. He teaches art at the local community college and creates magnificent sculptures with rebar. During his Fellowship period, he will build a sculpture for his hometown in Belcourt.

To learn more visit [www.nativeartsandcultures.org/programs/fellowship-program](http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org/programs/fellowship-program).

## Poetry Out Loud State Competition finals set for March 14th



Beginning this January, over 3,000 North Dakota high school students and teachers will be participating in the National Poetry Out Loud Program (POL).

POL, an oral recitation program, funded by the North Dakota Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), builds on the recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as demonstrated by the slam poetry movement among our youth. By incorporating memorization and performance in the classroom, POL sets the stage for students to deepen their understanding of figurative language, word relationships and the nuances within word meanings. In addition, students learn about great poetry, explore their literary heritage, and gain confidence in public speaking skills. POL classroom materials are provided at no cost by NDCA to participating schools.

On Monday, March 14, 2016, winners of the school-level competition will participate in the Poetry Out Loud State Finals at the State Heritage Center in Bismarck. The winner of the state-level competition receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school also receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The first runner-up receives \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. A total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends is awarded annually at the National Finals. 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](mailto:rengelman@nd.gov); or visit <http://ndpol.weebly.com>.

## Plains Art Museum announces new Director/CEO



Andy Maus

The Plains Art Museum recently announced the selection of their new Museum Director and CEO, Andy Maus. Andy brings a wealth of museum leadership, as well as a deep, long-term connection to the Museum. Some may remember Andy, as he held a number of important roles with the Plains

Art Museum just a few years ago. From 2006 to 2010, Andy served as the Director of Education, Curator of Public Programming, and Curator.

Among many achievements during those years, Andy spearheaded the development of business and program plans for the Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity, and established an innovative partnership with MSUM for programming in the museum's Hannaher's Inc. Print Studio.

Andy began working at Plains Art Museum while he was still in college, and says the experience gave him a deep appreciation for the vital role a museum can play in its community.

Andy is originally from Dickinson, N.D., and is also a proud alum of Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art in 2002 and a Master of Science in Public Administration / Nonprofit Management in 2011.

Since 2010, Andy has been the Executive Director of the Minnesota Marine Art Museum (MMAM). Under his leadership, MMAM secured funding for two major gallery expansions, increased gallery visitors by 32%, achieved record membership, and received more than \$330,000 in grant support for artist programs, education and exhibitions.

A quote from Maus: "Having worked at the Plains Art Museum for more than six years earlier in my career, this is a dream opportunity for me to lead the organization that inspired my love of museums. It is also an opportunity to return to the community that I consider home. I am eager to begin to work with the philanthropic community, artists, and the museum's staff and board to make Fargo-Moorhead the economic and cultural center of the Dakotas and Western Minnesota."

After wrapping up his duties in Winona, Andy will be joining the Plains Art Museum on January 25, 2016.

## State Historical Society awards Cultural Heritage grants

The State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) has awarded more than \$198,000 in Cultural Heritage Grants for 2016 to 20 eligible organizations and homeowners throughout the state. A maximum of \$20,000 was available per grant. "These grants provide a rare funding source for our county and local museums and other organizations to develop visibility, usability, and viability in their communities," said Claudia Berg, director of the SHSND. "As educational organizations, keepers of local history, and heritage tourism partners, these grants have become important sparkplugs that energize these groups to preserve, document, and present North Dakota's heritage on the landscape where history happened. North Dakota legislative support is very much appreciated as we continue to support these statewide efforts."

A few of the grant awards include: the Ellendale Historical Society received an award of \$1,600 for the documentation and development of an exhibit at the Coleman Museum; the Fargo Parks District received an award of \$2,000 to support the 2016 German Folk Festival; the Gorge Art Council received an award of \$10,000 for exterior improvements to the historic Walhalla Theater; the Greater Grand Forks Community Theater received an award of \$19,718 for the continuing tuck pointing of the historic Fire Hall Theater; and the James Memorial Arts Center located in Williston received an award of \$1,250 for the tuck pointing of an area on the southeast corner of the historic building.

For more information visit <http://history.nd.gov/pressroom>.

## Fargo foundation recipient of a 2015 Bush Prize



The Impact Foundation, a non-profit organization from Fargo, was recently awarded \$287,000 through a Bush Prize for Community Innovation grant. This grant will help to advance the Impact Foundation's charitable mission.

Impact Foundation has developed a fundraising framework that uses training, coaching and networking to equip nonprofits to become exceptional at raising money for their missions. Impact Foundation also created Giving Hearts Day, a statewide day of giving with matched funding that has annually increased participating organization's fundraising an average of 20%. Through fiscal hosting services, Impact provides the administrative support necessary for start-up nonprofits that work on creative solutions to complex community issues.

Impact Foundation's efforts have significantly raised awareness of philanthropic giving across North Dakota, built the capacity of nonprofits statewide and resulted in millions of new dollars given to nonprofit organizations. The Bush Prize for Community Innovation honors and supports innovative organizations with a track record of making great ideas happen. Winners receive a package of recognition, including a flexible grant of 25% of the organization's last fiscal year budget, up to \$500,000. At least one Bush Prize is awarded in each of three areas they serve: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. To learn more visit <https://www.bushfoundation.org/grants/bush-prize-community-innovation>.

## A historic art discovery a decade in the making

By: Kayla Cote, Cote Creative, LLC, Minot, ND, May 20, 2015

On a warm spring day, a piece of local art history was brought to light in Minot, ND. Two complete strangers at a garage sale struck up a conversation on the topic of art as an incredible story unfolded. James (Jim) Lozensky and I spoke on art related matters, I was excited to tell Jim of my recent small graphic design and creative business startup, Cote Creative, LLC. Jim then told a story about how he had acquired a unique artistic find upon purchasing his home in Antler, ND. He found works of art, along with eleven boxes of bronze clay. Artist, Shari Hamilton, was the creator of the work. I was very interested in his story and asked if he would bring the work to Minot and he agreed.

Jim and I planned a time and place to meet in Minot; I also spoke to Terri Aldrich, director of Minot Area Council on the Arts (MACA) about what I had encountered. Terri informed me she had known Shari and her work. Both of us were enthusiastic about the find and agreed to have the art brought to the MACA office, located in the lower level of the Artspace building in downtown Minot. On May 20th, 2015 Jim brought the art to the MACA office where the three of us unveiled the historic discovery. Jim had acquired the pieces approximately ten years ago when he purchased his property in Antler. He had kept them in storage until meeting me earlier this spring.

Terri was excited because of her connection with Shari. Years ago when Terri was involved with the Souris Valley Danish Society, she was part of a group that selected Shari as the sculptor to create the Hans Christian Anderson sculpture, which currently resides in the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot. "I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Shari to see some of her work," expressed Terri. We unwrapped the work to unveil the remarkable talent that was hidden from view for the last decade. A variety of work was revealed, from a watercolor painting dated 1978, to clay relief sculptures from 2002. We were all overwhelmed with excitement as we unveiled part of North Dakota's history.

The story of why the work was left to begin with is a mystery. "She was married to the gentleman I bought the property from. The story went he worked at the border patrol office then he decided to go back to where he was from in the state of Washington. All of this was left in storage, along with 11 boxes of bronze clay," Jim explained. He went on to say he had been trying to contact her over the years to let her know he had the art. Both Jim and Terri believe Hamilton currently resides in Utah and plan to attempt to contact her about the discovery. For the time being, Jim and his wife agree to temporarily lease the work for display at the MACA office. Currently a few of her pieces are still available for viewing during normal business hours.



## Caravanserai in Grand Forks

*Caravanserai: A place where cultures meet* is a cultural engagement program launched by Arts Midwest on behalf of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations with support from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. This groundbreaking initiative intends to open and expand the dialogue between American communities and contemporary Muslim societies using the arts as a point of entry. The North Dakota Council on the Arts contributes to the Arts Midwest programs taking place in North Dakota. The North Dakota Museum of Art will host *Caravanserai, American Voices: Ronnie Malley & Zeshan Bagewadi* on January 17 – 23, 2016; and will host *Caravanserai, American Voices: The Reminders, MaMa2, & DJ Man-O-Wax* on April 3 – 9. For more information visit <http://www.caravanserai-arts.org/calendar>.

## NDANO 2016 Nonprofit Leadership Conference

The North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO) is holding their Nonprofit Leadership Conference on June 1-2, 2016 at the Ramada Hotel in Bismarck, ND. This year's keynote is Kim Klein, renowned fundraising professional from the Klein and Roth Consulting Firm. Klein is an internationally-known trainer, speaker and author, respected for her ability to deliver information in a practical, down-to-earth and humorous way. The conference hotel is the Ramada Hotel located at 1400 E Interchange Avenue in Bismarck. Double rooms are available for \$99 a night plus tax until May 10. To reserve a room at the conference rate call (701) 258-7000. Registration will open in March 2016. For more information call (701) 258-9101 (Bismarck) or 888-396-3266; e-mail [info@ndano.org](mailto:info@ndano.org); or visit [www.ndano.org/training/nonprofit-training.html/event/2016/06/02/ndano-2016-nonprofit-leadership-conference/110610](http://www.ndano.org/training/nonprofit-training.html/event/2016/06/02/ndano-2016-nonprofit-leadership-conference/110610).

## NDCA congratulates The Arts Center in Jamestown on their recent NEA grant award

In its first 50 years, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded more than \$5 billion in grants to recipients in every state and U.S. jurisdiction, the only arts funder in the nation to do so. To inaugurate the next 50 years of funding, the NEA will award millions in support of projects, with major funding going to the Art Works program.

“These projects, from all over the nation, will make a difference in their communities,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu. “We know from experience as well as through hard evidence that the arts matter and these projects will provide more opportunities for people to learn, create, and experience the value of the arts in so many different ways.”

The Jamestown Fine Arts Association Incorporated (aka The Arts Center) in Jamestown, ND, received a NEA Art Works grant in the Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works category in the amount of \$15,000. This grant will support a multidisciplinary festival to celebrate the opening of the new Arts Park. The association will work in collaboration with the community and Northern Lights.mn, a media-oriented nonprofit based in Minneapolis, to design the inaugural festival program. The program may include performances, a storytelling contest, and visual arts installations.

Art Works grants focus on the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields. In this first round of fiscal year 2016, the NEA will award 996 grants totaling \$26,401,500 to organizations in 48 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, and Guam. For more information visit <https://www.arts.gov/news/2015/27-million-awarded-arts-projects>.



## NDCA grant updates: approaching deadlines, increases to awards, and implementation of new online system

Application deadline dates for the North Dakota Council on the Arts grants are approaching. Artist-in-Residence, Community Arts Access and Presenter Support grants must be submitted online by **April 1, 2016** for programs taking place between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. STEAM Teams Grant Program applications must be submitted online for year one applicants by **April 1, 2016**; and for year two and three applicants by **June 1, 2016**. The Individual Artist Fellowship program for **Music and Literature** grants submission deadline is **May 1, 2015** for activities taking place July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship applications must be submitted online by **May 15, 2016** for project periods of July 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017. To access NDCA's new online grant system, or to view grant availability, please visit: <https://nd.culturegrants.org>.

Also, a reminder that the Professional Development, Special Projects and Teacher Incentive 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.

Thanks to increases to NDCA's grants funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the **Professional Development** grant maximum award has been raised from \$500 to \$1,000; the **Special Projects** grant maximum award has been raised from \$1,000 to \$1,250; the **Community Arts Access and Presenter Support** grants have increased the minimum request from \$1,000 to \$1,250, and increased the maximum request from \$2,000 to \$3,000; the **Artist in Residence** has **changed the 50/50 match to a 70/30 match for instate artists**, and leaves a 50/50 match for out of state artists; and the **Folk and Traditional Arts** program has **added \$7,500** to the grant budget from the state, and an **additional \$5,000** from the NEA.

**PLEASE NOTE** that NDCA has transitioned to a new online grant system and application process. **Schools and teachers wishing to apply for the Artist in Residence, Teacher Incentive, or STEAM Team, or any other grant program in partnership with a school or school district, must contact the Arts in Education Director, Rebecca Engelman, at [rengelman@nd.gov](mailto:rengelman@nd.gov) for detailed instructions before starting the online application.** For all other applicants, detailed application instructions are available on NDCA's website at [www.nd.gov/arts/grants](http://www.nd.gov/arts/grants).

If you have questions or concerns regarding NDCA's new online grant system, or would like additional information call (701) 328-7590. **Thank you for your patience through this transition period.**

*~These grants are supported by the North Dakota Council on the Arts, a state agency, through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and an appropriation from the North Dakota State Legislature. Funding is contingent on availability of funds.*

## North Dakota teen finds creative outlet in blacksmithing

*Article by, and reprinted with permission of, Tracy Frank, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead*

Like many teen girls, Elva Berg likes to draw and dreams of becoming a fashion designer. Unlike other teens of either gender, she has learned the art of blacksmithing and sells her pieces at shows and festivals. "I like to blacksmith because it's something unique and out of the normal of everyday teenage society," she said. "I don't like to fit into normal teenage society. I like to stay out of the box."

The 15-year-old, who lives near Cavalier and is home-schooled, first tried her hand at blacksmithing two years ago. She was watching a blacksmith work at a pioneer show and he asked if she wanted to try it. "I just fell in love with it," she said. "It just felt right." "It is definitely different," said Kathy Berg, Elva's mom. "It's not something I would have ever thought of her getting involved in."

Elva learned a lot at pioneer shows. She also experimented on her own. Then last winter she was able to take lessons with Dean Hagen of Hagen Blacksmithing in Maddock, with the help of a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. "I can make forks, knives, candle holders, jewelry, anything really," she said. "One of my favorite things to make is a heart made out of a horseshoe. I also like to do jewelry pieces and artistic work, like fancy candle holders."

Blacksmithing comes easily to Elva, she said. Even techniques considered advanced, she said she found to be simple. "We have been told by a few people that she seems to have a natural gift for it," Kathy said, adding that her daughter has always been artistic and creative. "I'm really glad she's finding something that she enjoys doing," she said. One of Elva's favorite creations is a triple cross made of nails she donated to Big Pembina Lutheran Church in rural Langdon.

"Our family has a lot of history in that church, and about a year or two ago the original church burned down, and just as a symbol of our family's past, I wanted to donate something to the new church," she said. When people see her working, Elva said most don't realize she's a teenager. "I think it's important that people step out of everyday life and try something new," she said.

*~ www.inforum.com/shesays/3857486-hervoiced-nd-teen-finds-creative-outlet-blacksmithing*

## Powerful art reminds of the sacrifices of veterans

*Article by Ryan Laughlin, reprinted with permission of WDAZ-TV*

It's important not to forget the sacrifices that have been made and the continuing suffering for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"My Veterans Day today started off a little shaky," Ellen McKinnon, a case worker for homeless veterans said. "At 2:09 with a phone call... and a suicide." McKinnon is a soldier in her own right, she may not say so, but she's fighting a battle to get homeless veterans the care they need. "This year I'm proud to say that we have some veterans that were previously homeless that are now housed," McKinnon said.

She now displays a traveling art exhibit. On this day it was in Pekin, ND. The art is made by veterans many of them homeless and for a lot of them it's the only way they express themselves. "I think it helps people to express themselves. Or even to purge some feeling that they may have," McKinnon said. "Maybe when nobody is around they can just do it on their own. And nothing is right or wrong it's just their expression of something."

It's a group in Grand Forks called, Team Red White and Blue, whose mission is to enrich the lives of American veterans, decided to bus a group

of veterans out to Pekin to see the art. "It's like you can connect with somebody that you may not have thought you can connect with," said Cathy Peterson a veteran herself and a member of Team Red White and Blue. "And each piece of art whether it's poetry, painting, drawing, a mask, tells a story." Stories that remind us what today is all about. Stories like veteran Bruce Mitchell's. Both of his parents also served in the armed forces.

"My number was coming up and my best friend in high school and I we enlisted rather than being drafted," Mitchell said. "We graduated from high school and he went into the Army and I went into the Air Force. He, unfortunately, went Vietnam in those last days and never came home. I wouldn't say it's really guilt that I feel, but more, I wish we could have been together because maybe I could have done something for him."

It is stories like Mitchell's that live-on in the art that was displayed. More importantly, those stories remind us of why we're thanking our country's heroes today.

*~ www.wdaz.com/news/north-dakota/3881193-powerful-art-reminds-sacrifices-veterans*

## ***NDCA awards \$74,131 in grants statewide***

The North Dakota Council on the Arts completed its Fall FY16 grant round. \$74,131.77 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](http://www.nd.gov/arts); or by calling NDCA's office at (701) 328-7590.

### **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>SCHOOL NAME</b>	<b>ARTIST NAME</b>	<b>GRANT AMT</b>
Bismarck	Centennial Elementary School	Katherine Adams	\$997
Bismarck	Light of Christ Catholic Schools - Cathedral School	Lisa Arnold	\$2,763
Bismarck	Light of Christ Catholic Schools - St. Mary's Grade School	Katherine Adams	\$1,400
Bismarck	Pride Manchester, Inc.	Debi Rogers	\$1,113
Bismarck	Saxvik Elementary School	Ali LaRock	\$2,548
Casselton	Central Cass Schools	Anna Jacobson	\$3,195
Langdon	Langdon Area Elementary School	Anna Jacobson	\$1,288
Mandan	Roosevelt Elementary School	Jane Kalmbach	\$1,674
Minot	Bishop Ryan Catholic School	NDStrong (Eric Thoenke & Matthew Maldonado)	\$3,745

### **COMMUNITY ARTS ACCESS**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b>	<b>GRANT AMT</b>
Bismarck	VSA Arts of North Dakota	\$950
Fargo	Angels of the Muse	\$600
Fargo	CHARISM	\$1,720
Fessenden	Wells County Fair Association, Inc.	\$3,000
Forman	Forman Community Club	\$2,100
Gwinner	Gwinner Arts Council (Gwinner Jr. Players)	\$1,300
Kindred	Kindred Lutheran Church	\$3,000
Milton	The Little Star Theatre	\$2,100
Rugby	Heart of America Concert Series	\$3,000

### **PRESENTER SUPPORT**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b>	<b>GRANT AMT</b>
Bismarck	Bismarck State College Foundation	\$3,000
Bismarck	Dakota Media Access, Inc.	\$3,000
Bismarck	Dakota Woodturners	\$3,000
Fargo	Red River Valley Woodcarvers	\$3,000
Fargo	Red River Watercolor Society	\$3,000
Fargo-Moorhead	Minnesota State University Moorhead	\$2,000
Fargo-Moorhead	Nordic Culture Clubs	\$1,250
Grand Forks	University of North Dakota	\$1,500
Jamestown	Jamestown Choralaires	\$3,000
Minot	Minot Commission on Aging (Minot Senior Coalition)	\$600

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FY16 to date)**

<b>REGION/CITY</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL NAME</b>	<b>GRANT AMT</b>
Adrian	Miranda Letherman	\$1,000
Bismarck	Joan Eckroth-Riley	\$900
Bismarck	Maria Roll-Schlecht	\$1,000
Bismarck	Nicole Cook	\$900
Cando	Cando Arts Council, Inc.	\$813
Minot	North Dakota Art Gallery Association	\$950
New Rockford	Dakota Prairie Regional Center for the Arts	\$1,000
Wales	Anna Jacobson	\$500
Washburn	Gwen Hall	\$600

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS (FY16 to date)**

<b>REGION/CITY</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b>	<b>GRANT AMT</b>
Grand Forks	Valley Middle School	\$763
Maddock	Maddock Opera House Association	\$1150
Minot	Frozen Fingers Music Association	\$1250
Minot	Minot Public Schools	\$800

**TEACHER INCENTIVE (FY16 to date)**

CITY	SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER NAME	GRANT AMT
Bismarck	Northridge Elementary School	Amber Augustadt	\$470.97
Dickinson	Dickinson State University	Lisa Daniels	\$600.00
Fargo	Fargo School District	Mary Dalzell	\$597.00
Newburg	Newburg United School	Amy Evans	\$313.80
Newburg	Newburg United School	Kate McDonald	\$302.00
Newburg	Newburg United School	Taylor Owan	\$379.00

## Local calls for entry

**Bismarck Downtown Artist Cooperative (DBAC)** has a call to artists for a February 5-March 26, 2016 exhibition “Sketch to Skin.” This exhibit will feature art inspired by and for tattoos. All forms of art acceptable except photography. Artists can submit sketches designed for tattoos, sculptures, paintings, adobe illustrations, etc. Entry fee is \$5 for one, \$8 for two entries. No entry fee for supporting or full members. **Deadline is January 30, 2016.**

The **Red River Watercolor Society National Show (RRWS)** has a call for entries for the 23rd National Watermedia Exhibition. The show takes place May 19-September 4, 2016. **Deadline is February 1, 2016.** Juror/workshop instructor is Tom Francisconi. Top Awards are \$1,250; \$1,000; \$750 and more. For a prospectus mail a #10 SASE to: Diane Harrison, 2842 Lilac Lane N, Fargo, ND 58102; or go online at [www.redriverws.org/Wordpress](http://www.redriverws.org/Wordpress), or at [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org).

**Artists Celebrating Christ** is calling artists to enter their Christian-themed art before **February 15, 2016.** The event dates are April 14-17, 2016, and is hosted by the University of Mary. For more information visit [www.accartshow.com](http://www.accartshow.com), e-mail [info@accartshow.com](mailto:info@accartshow.com) or call (701) 400-2815.

Calling all artists, vendors, and performers. The North Valley Arts Council is now accepting applications for the **2016 Grand Cities Art Fest.** The event is June 11-12, 2016 and is held in Downtown Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN. Applications are available to download online at [www.novac.org](http://www.novac.org). Please contact our office at (701) 772-3710 or e-mail us at [info@novac.org](mailto:info@novac.org). **Deadlines are as follows:** artist, emerging artists and food vendor applications: **February 26, 2016** (all artist applications must include \$15 jury fee); entertainment application: **March 25, 2016.**

## National calls for entry

The **Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, (ARTS) in partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation (PARKS)** will commission one artist or artist team to design, fabricate and install site-integrated, outdoor artwork for the new Westlake & Lenora Park, located in Seattle’s Denny Triangle neighborhood at the intersection of Westlake Ave and Lenora St. (2100 Westlake Ave.). This call is open to professional artists residing in the United States. The selected artist or artist team will receive a commission of \$110,000 to design, fabricate and install the artwork. The **deadline is 11p.m. on January 12, 2016** (Pacific Standard Time). For more information visit [https://www.callforentry.org/festivals\\_unique\\_info.php?ID=3102&sortby=fair\\_name&apply=yes](https://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=3102&sortby=fair_name&apply=yes).

**The Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency Program** is an opportunity for Canadian and American artists to be inspired by the natural beauty and the human history of the Chilkoot Trail. In its sixth consecutive year, this program is a unique wilderness backpacking trip, across an international border, passing through Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (Alaska) and Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site (northern British Columbia). The program is a partnership between the Yukon Arts Centre, Parks Canada and the US National Park Service. **The deadline is February 1, 2016.** For more information e-mail Katie Newman, Marketing Director Yukon Arts Centre, at [katie.newman@yac.ca](mailto:katie.newman@yac.ca) or call 867-393-7108.

**2016 VSA International Young Soloists Competition** now open for entries. Calling all musicians with disabilities between the ages of 14-25. The competition is open to soloists and ensembles, domestic and international applicants, and musicians of all genres. Winners receive \$2,500, perform at the Kennedy Center, and participate in exciting professional development activities. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org/IYS](http://www.kennedy-center.org/IYS). Application **deadline is February 10, 2016.**

**“Chaos” National Juried Exhibition 2016 at the Arc Gallery** is seeking works that depict chaos. What does chaos mean to you? The creative spirit often spins out of control. Is chaos something you fear, create, or control? The **deadline for submission is February 21, 2016.** To learn more call (415) 298-7969 or visit [www.arc-sf.com](http://www.arc-sf.com).

The **San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA)** is pleased to have Patricia Watts, founder and west coast curator of Ecoartspace, as juror for Blue Marble. Blue Marble refers to the spectacular color image of planet Earth taken with NASA’s Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer. The theme for this exhibition welcomes artists who delve into subjects, themes, and motifs that have to do with our planet. Contemporary original 2D and 3D work in any media, including paintings, prints, drawings, photography, sculpture, and fine craft produced within the last two years is appropriate. **Entry deadline is March 19, 2016.** For more eligibility and submission requirements please visit [www.sloma.org](http://www.sloma.org).

**Art Makers** is seeking artists in all mediums for a new online and store front gallery. Emerging, established and serious hobbyists welcome to submit. **Open deadline.** No fee. For more information visit [www.artmakers2016.com](http://www.artmakers2016.com) or [artmakers1516@outlook.com](mailto:artmakers1516@outlook.com).

# Arts North Dakota



Dayna Del Val, president  
of Arts North Dakota

Hello, art makers and art supporters. What a gorgeous autumn we have had! I hope you were able to get out and about in your communities and support and enjoy the arts.

Get signed up for the one-day, state-wide Arts in Action conference Monday, March 7, 2016, in Fargo at Plains Art Museum. This is a follow-up to the very successful March 2015 arts conference in Bismarck. We are bringing in USDA Rural Development

Director, Ryan Taylor, to talk about how his program can assist the arts in rural communities and Jim Clark, executive director of the Henry Clay Foundation, formerly of LexArts in Kentucky. Jim has also been heavily involved with Americans for the Arts and has an extensive background in advocacy work. Finally, we will have a Q & A panel with elected leaders from around the region to talk about how they like to connect with constituents and what we can do to keep the arts on their radar. Of course, there will be time to network and connect with each other as well. Please don't be put off by the price—bringing in top people and having a full-day of learning, eating and connecting costs money; this will be worth your time and dollars, I promise.

By now, many of you have heard of the *Adopt a Legislator* program. If you are still pondering it, let me encourage you to get signed up. If you have signed up and haven't yet reached out to your elected person, let me encourage you to do that as soon as you can. This is such a wonderful, grassroots way to begin to put faces and stories to why the arts matter in every pocket and corner of our state. Please take advantage of this excellent program; we'll be with you every step of the way and you'll enjoy getting to know your elected leaders. If they don't support the arts with their votes, I believe this personal connection can begin to remind them of how the arts have mattered in their own lives and of the economics the arts bring to their communities.



Arts ND board member Tania Blanich and I attended the second and final ArtsLab session in Sioux Falls in October. We met with a number of fabulous groups from around our state and from South Dakota and Iowa, we learned a great deal about board responsibility from the session convener, and we walked away with a better understanding of the direction we want to move Arts ND. Special thanks to the North Dakota Council on the Arts for funding this program and for selecting Arts ND to participate.

Please welcome new board member Tim Lamey to Arts ND. Tim is a photographer in Fargo who has spent considerable time shooting the "18 areas of extraordinary interest" in Western North Dakota, so he has a great appreciation for the state beyond the Red River Valley.

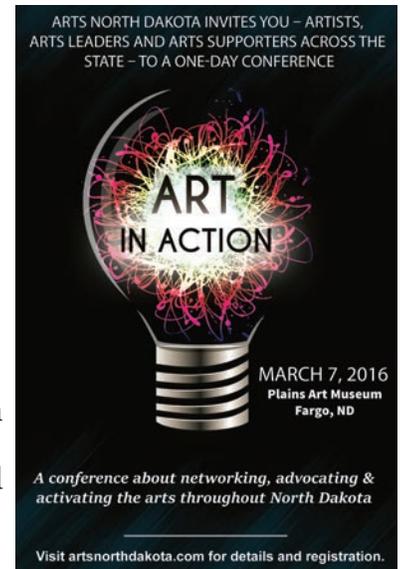
Let me also take this time to say goodbye, and thank you, to outgoing Arts ND board members Pattie Carr, the former board president, Eileen Walsh, Leighann McKenzie, Esther Hockett and Chris Moe.

As always, if you are interested in the work that Arts ND is doing, I invite you to reach out to executive director Josh Nichols or me. We are happy to talk with you and find a way to get you busy doing the work we are about—connecting with people about why the arts matter in our state!

Happy holidays—I hope you consider spending a portion of your gift dollars on local or state-made art. I also hope you remember your favorite arts nonprofits in your end of year giving as well.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in March if not before!

Dayna Del Val, Arts ND board president  
[dayna@theartspartnership.net](mailto:dayna@theartspartnership.net)



Join us in  
advancing the  
arts in North  
Dakota

BECOME A MEMBER AT [ARTSND.ORG](http://ARTSND.ORG)

# National News

## NEA Selects Jax Deluca as new Director of Media Arts



Jax Deluca  
Photo by Kevin Kline

The National Endowment for the Arts announced that Jax Deluca will join the NEA as the director of media arts beginning on January 11, 2016. Deluca will manage NEA grantmaking in media arts and represent the agency to the media arts field. Deluca joins the NEA after her tenure as executive director of Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center in Buffalo, NY, a nonprofit serving western New York state which promotes innovation in media arts through access, education, and exhibition. At Squeaky Wheel, Deluca has overseen major expansion efforts, including fundraising, new jobs and media equipment, an updated youth media arts curriculum, and relocation into new, upgraded facilities. She recently

completed a three-year tenure as a grant reviewer and advisory panelist to the New York State Council on the Arts Electronic Media and Film program. Deluca is an adjunct media arts instructor for the State University of New York at Buffalo State College, and a practicing digital media artist and co-founder of Flatsitter media arts collaborative in Buffalo, NY.

“Jax Deluca brings solid experience working on both the grant making and fundraising sides, and she has a clear commitment to making media arts accessible to diverse audiences,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “We look forward to Deluca’s fresh energy and ideas for media arts at the NEA.”

“For the past decade, I’ve been working in the field to connect artists, community organizations, and audiences with the resources and opportunities to create, experience, and engage with film and digital media in its many forms, old and new,” said Deluca. “It is with much honor and enthusiasm that I accept this opportunity to join the team at the National Endowment for the Arts and further serve the media arts community in this new capacity.”

Deluca received a bachelor’s degree in Expanded Media with a minor in Fine Arts from Alfred University.

The National Endowment for the Arts offers grants for a range of media arts projects. Media arts, as defined by the National Endowment for the Arts, includes screen-based projects presented via film, television, radio, audio, video, the Internet, interactive and mobile technologies, video games, transmedia storytelling, and satellite as well as media-related printed books, catalogues, and journals.

Recent grants include support for the Indianapolis Film Festival, an online multimedia destination for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, support for the radio program “Afropop Worldwide,” preservation of videos from the 1970s New York television show “Cinema Forum,” and support for a documentary on Alabama artist and musician Lonnie B. Holley. In FY 2015 alone, the NEA awarded \$6 million to 134 media arts projects across the country.

~ <https://www.arts.gov/news/2015/nea-selects-jax-deluca-new-director-media-arts>

## NEA expands Military Healing Arts Partnership

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced the expansion of the NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership, its collaboration with the Department of Defense (DOD) to integrate art therapy into patient-centered health care at military facilities.

This effort began in 2011 at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland and later expanded to Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Now it is growing its roster of professional art therapists in order to increase the amount of therapeutic writing, visual arts therapy and music therapy available.

The NEA announced the expansion in honor of the U.S. Department of Defense’s (DOD) Warrior Care Month and after NEA Chairman Jane Chu spoke at the DOD’s Healing Arts recognition event. To learn more visit <https://www.arts.gov/partnerships/nea-military-healing-arts>.

## NEA Big Read now accepting applications



The NEA Big Read is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2016 and June 2017. NEA Big Read is a national program that broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

Organizations selected to participate in the program receive a grant (\$5,000-\$20,000), access to online training resources and opportunities, digital guides, and promotional materials. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected. The application deadline is by 4:00

p.m. CST on January 27, 2016. To review the Guidelines and Application Instructions, visit the NEA Big Read website at [http://www.neabigread.org/application\\_process.php](http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php).

## Save the date for the 2016 Arts Advocacy Day

Join arts advocates from across the country on March 7-8, 2016 in Washington, D.C. for the annual Arts Advocacy Day and make your voice heard! Arts Advocacy Day brings together a broad cross section of America's cultural and civic organizations, along with more than 500 grassroots advocates from across the country, to underscore the importance of developing strong public policies and appropriating increased public funding for the arts by meeting 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.

Arts Advocacy Day is your opportunity to receive crucial advocacy training from experts in the field and then put that training into practice. Hosted by Americans for the Arts and cosponsored by 85+ national arts organizations, National Arts Advocacy Day is the largest gathering of its kind. To learn more and to register visit <http://www.americansforthearts.org/events/arts-advocacy-day>.

## Best businesses partnering with the arts in America



Every year, Americans for the Arts, through its Business Committee for the Arts (BCA) program, recognizes ten (10) businesses of all sizes for their exceptional involvement with the arts that enrich the workplace, education, and the community. These companies set the standard for excellence and serve as role models for others to follow. The honorees are celebrated each fall at the BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America gala in New York City, NY.

Nominations are due January 8, 2016. To learn more about BCA10, and to nominate a local business, visit <http://www.americansforthearts.org/events/bca-10>.

## 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is accepting applications for the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.

The twelve award-winning programs this year will each receive \$10,000 and an invitation to accept their award from the President's Committee's Honorary Chairman, First Lady Michelle Obama, at a ceremony at the White House.

After-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs are encouraged to apply. To access the online National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards application visit: <http://www.nahyp.org/how-to-apply>. Completed applications will only be accepted via the online process, and are due Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 5:00 p.m. PST.

## Comments from Americans for the Arts on the *Every Student Succeeds Act*

~Americans for the Arts' Arts Action News, December 10, 2015

On December 10th at the White House, Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts joined other education leaders in applauding the end of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) era and welcoming a new path for the American educational policy landscape. This new law holds great promise for restoring arts education as central to the school day and in the lives of students and our nation's future workforce.

For 14 years, from 2002 to 2016, NCLB policies resulted in many unintended consequences to schools, teachers, and students across the country. It demanded accountability steps that resulted in a hyper-focus on testing in a few subjects, leaving other core academic subjects—like the arts—to be reduced, or in some places, abandoned. The bill signed on December 10th removes this onerous element of NCLB and provides support for a well-rounded education, with all the arts disciplines represented, to be realized throughout the country. Key arts education priorities include: Dedicated funding for arts education through the “Assistance for Arts Education” grant program; Inclusion of the arts in the “Well-Rounded Education” definition with over a dozen references in the bill ensuring, among other things, that the arts continue to be eligible for Title I funds—the largest federal funding source to local educational agencies and schools; and Integration of the arts in STEM programs – recognized in the field as “STEM to STEAM.”

For the arts, this law means that states must invest in new arts education learning standards and resourcing of arts education to encourage creativity in our nation's classrooms. For education providers, we must seek to provide all students with an education that is shared and coordinated between classroom teachers, arts specialists, and community partners. Because of the national networks fostered at Americans for the Arts—including local arts agencies, arts service organizations, and more—communities are well positioned to take on this shared delivery approach.

Read more from Americans for the Arts staff detailing the arts education provisions in the new *Every Student Succeeds Act* at <http://blog.americansforthearts.org/2015/12/02/%E2%80%9Cwaiving%E2%80%9D-goodbye-to-no-child-left-behind>.

## NEA upcoming grant deadlines

The NEA funds projects only. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities. Projects do not have to be new. Excellent existing projects can be just as competitive as new activities. Projects do not need to be big either; we welcome small projects that can make a difference in their community or field.

**Art Works:** To support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Matching grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required. **Art Works** deadlines: step 1 - submit SF-424 to *Grants.gov*, February 18, 2016; and step 2 - submit materials to NEA-GO, February 25, 2016 to March 3, 2016. **Art Works: Creativity Connects** deadline: step 1 - submit SF-424 to *Grants.gov*, March 3, 2016; and step 2 - submit materials to NEA-GO, March 17, 2016 to March 24, 2016.

**Challenge America:** To support projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Matching grants are for \$10,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required. Deadlines: step 1 - submit SF-424 to *Grants.gov*, April 14, 2016; and step 2 - submit materials to NEA-GO, April 28, 2016 to May 5, 2016. For more information on organizational grants visit <https://www.arts.gov/grants/apply-grant/grants-organizations>.

**Creative Writing Fellowships** in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. Non-matching grants are for \$25,000. Upcoming deadlines is March 9, 2016. For more information visit <https://www.arts.gov/grants/apply-grant/grants-individuals>.

## March and April art observances

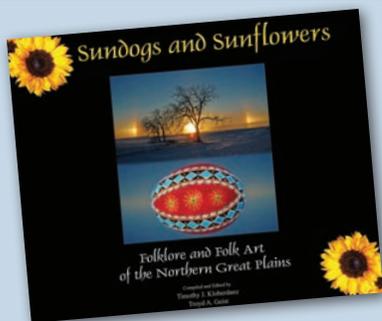
**National Youth Art Month** is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. The focus of this month is to convey to the public that art education develops self-discipline, self-esteem and a sense of pride in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

**National Poetry Month** was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 and is held every April. It is the largest literary celebration in the world with schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets celebrating poetry's vital place in our culture. To learn more visit <http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>.

**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 <http://americanhistory.si.edu/smithsonian-jazz>.

## 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
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